

# Forest Voice

SPRING 2001

A Publication of the Native Forest Council

FREE

## Would You Pay Someone...

## To Rob You?

**P**aying someone to steal from you. Sound ridiculous? Every day, US citizens are forced to pay for the theft and destruction of their publicly owned lands. With the tax season not far behind us, now is a good time to think about how your hard-earned dollars are being secretly used and abused by the corporate lackeys in Congress and the White House. How do the government and these big corporations get away with it? There's no accounting at all for what is lost. Honest financial records of the public assets we lose simply don't exist. The scale of the corruption makes the S & L bailout look like chump change. It's nothing short of treason, though few dare to call it that.

In some ways, it's hard to put a price tag on our mountains, forests, rivers and streams. But everyone can agree, they're worth more than nothing! As this degradation continues to affect our daily lives in more tangible ways, the value of this living life-support system becomes more apparent. How much is clean air worth? What about water? As these resources become more scarce, they are worth more. Ultimately, they are worth every penny you have. Yet the federal agencies that manage public lands often account for them as having no value at all!

#### **Two Weeks Pay: Hand it Over**

According to an exhaustive 1998 study by *Time* magazine, corporate welfare costs every American at least two weeks' pay. That's right, take nearly half of one monthly paycheck and kiss it goodbye. Uncle Sam used it to subsidize dishonest and destructive corporations in the form of tax breaks, infrastructure, pollution cleanup and other subsidies. As if that weren't enough, a portion of these subsidies goes to the very corporations that are destroying America's public lands — a living public asset that belongs to us as part of our national heritage.

*continued on page 2*

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# Paying Them to Rob You?

by Executive Director Tim Hermach

(continued from cover)

## The Theft Of Public Lands

Logging has severely degraded or destroyed more than 95% of our nation's forests. Public lands grazing has ravaged an area the size of Oregon, California, Washington and Idaho combined. Mining is the top toxic polluter in the nation. More than 12,000 miles of rivers and streams and 180,000 acres of lakes have been contaminated. Flooding and erosion across the country have become increasingly extreme.

## And We Pay Them For This?

The government admits the federal timber program costs the American taxpayers more than \$1.2 billion per year. And that's a conservative estimate. The real costs in lost resources add up to hundreds of billions more. Mining subsidies run about \$3.5 billion per year. Since the 1872 Mining Law became law over \$240 billion worth of minerals from public lands has been given away to the mining industry with zero return to the taxpayer. Since 1945, taxpayers have subsidized grazing on public lands at a cost of about \$200 million per year.

## Why It Continues

Bad accounting is one reason the theft of public lands continues. I've had accountants tell me that they would lose their licenses and go to jail if they cooked the books the same way as the Forest Service. Through cost write-offs, deceptive accounting and fraudulent bookkeeping, they create the illusion that they are making a profit. For example, they count the financial value of a tree as nothing. Zero dollars. I'd be happy to argue with anyone about just how much a tree is worth. But we can all agree it's something more than zero! And how do you measure the value of clean air, water and soil? These basic elements of life become very expensive as they become more scarce. At some point, they are worth every penny you have! As tycoon Ted Turner says, "It's hell being rich on a dead planet!"

But our greatest challenge is education. After learning that they pay for the destruction, most taxpayers are surprised. Then outraged. Why would we pay for someone to destroy our national parks and forests, wildlife refuges and preserves controlled by the Bureau of Land Management? First, many Americans simply don't know that it's happening. The dishonest industries that rely on subsidies and cheap access to public lands spend millions of dollars to deceive the public and protect their image. There's no conspiracy; it's simply a matter of their power and self interest. The federal bureaucracies that



The great American stickup: US taxpayers foot the bill for the destruction of their publicly owned lands.

control public lands also have financial incentives to continue business-as-usual on our publicly owned lands. Finally, the politicians responsible for this taxpayer scam depend on campaign funds from the corporations you and I subsidize.

They win. We lose.

But the truth is on our side, and the facts speak for themselves, simply and directly. And that's why we continue to publish the *Forest Voice*. With every American who discovers the truth, we get one step closer to our goal: total protection of America's public lands.

Help us spread the word. Pass along your *Forest Voice*. Drop me a line and I'll send you copies to distribute. Someone you know thinks we're all about saving frogs and snails? Ask them how they feel about giving away two weeks' pay. Oh, and mention that scientists have recently discovered frogs that might just hold the cure for heart attacks. And, once you have their attention, don't forget to talk about clean air, water and soil. You see, this isn't just about saving plants and animals.

It's also about saving a species that's more endangered than it might care to believe: the human species. Your help can make the difference.

Call, click or write to join the fight ■

## Forest Voice

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**Submission Guidelines**  
We welcome unsolicited submissions that address issues relevant to public lands protection and support the Native Forest Council's mission. If you would like us to return your work, please include a SASE.

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History is filled with ordinary people who, despite all odds, fought for what was right and won. Victory, though, often came too late for these prescient heroes to see it.

## Native Forest Council

Native Forest Council is a nonprofit, tax deductible organization founded by a group of business and professional people alarmed by the destruction of our publicly owned lands. We believe a sound economy and a sound environment need not be in compatible and that current public land management practices are devastating to both.

The mission of the Native Forest Council is to protect and preserve every acre of publicly owned land in the United States.

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# News and Views



## Forest Council Drafts Legislation

Native Forest Council has started drafting the text of *Forever Wild* legislation, and a member of Congress has agreed to sponsor the bill. Currently, our staff is working with consultants, congressional staff and attorneys to develop ironclad legislation that will provide complete protection for America's national parks and forests, wildlife preserves and reserves that are controlled by the Bureau of Land Management.

## Idaho Judge Blocks Roadless Protection

On May 10, the Federal District Court for the state of Idaho blocked the Forest Service from implementing the Roadless Area Rule. The roadless plan, developed during the Clinton Administration, would provide meager protection for only some roadless areas in our National Forests. A group of pro-logging organizations filed suite with the Idaho court, claiming that protecting these areas will harm forests and that two million citizen comments was an insufficient level of public input.

## Bush Energy Task Force Shrouded in Secrecy

The Bush Administration's energy task force meets in secret, shares no documents and won't explain any policies to the media. However, according to an April 16 report in *The Washington Post*, there are few secrets about the Bush energy policy: More oil, gas and coal; more refineries, pipelines and power grids. Officials familiar with the meetings, the *Post* reported, say the task force is looking at nuclear power and increased drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.



## Democrats Also Fighting Finance Reform

The McCain/Feingold/Cochran Bill passed the Senate on April 2, despite efforts of both Democrats and Republicans to defeat the campaign finance reform bill. Until this year, democrats were united in their supposed commitment to limiting corporate soft money. However, as the bill became closer to reality and Republican support grew, more and more Democrats opposed the bill. Opponents included US Senator John Breaux (D-LA), who in 1997 called campaign finance reform "our number one priority." Without the GOP to blame, though, many house Democrats are fighting to save their campaign coffers. The bill faces obstacles in the House, including opposition from Majority Whip Tom DeLay (R-TX). The first challenge reformers face is getting time scheduled for debate on the House floor. To learn more, visit [www.commoncause.org](http://www.commoncause.org).

## New Forest Service Chief — Same Old Policy

On March 27, US Forest Service Chief Mike Dombeck opted for early retirement, citing the Bush Administration's focus on resource extraction, rather than conservation. Dale Bosworth, who oversees 25 million acres in 12 national forests and four national grasslands in Montana, Idaho, North Dakota and South Dakota, will replace him. As a regional forester, Bosworth helped develop lackluster roadless rules and planned salvage logging sales and other clearcuts in the name of "ecosystem management."

## NAFTA: Corporations = Sovereign Nations

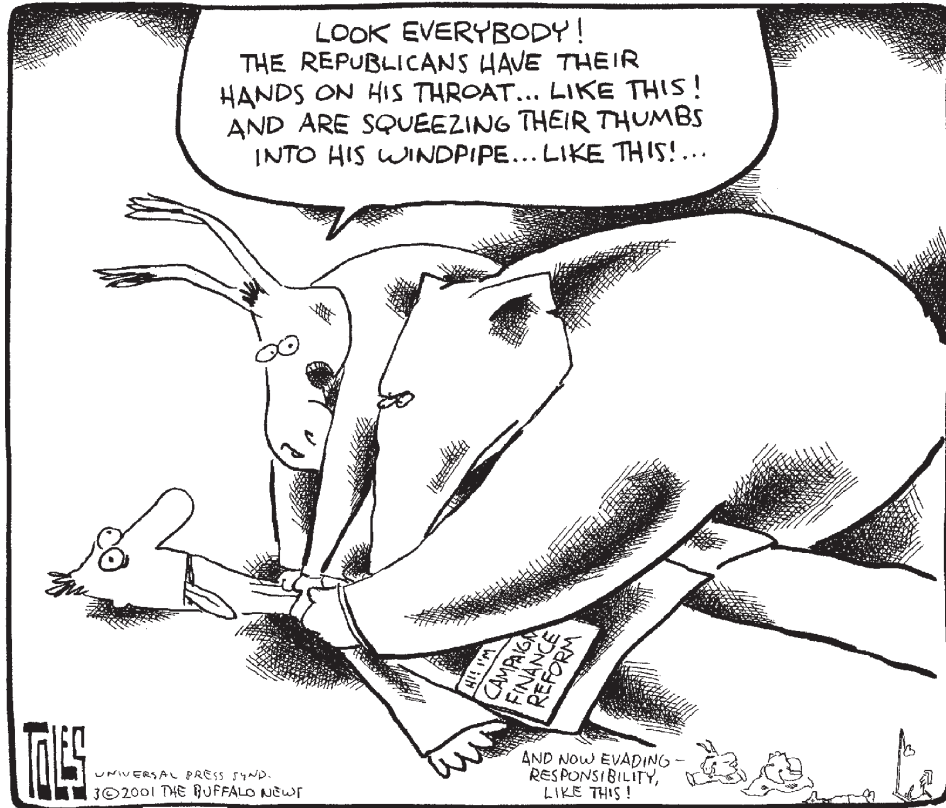
An April report in *The Nation* explains how a little-known provision of the 1993 NAFTA agreement gives corporations the same sovereign power as nations. It was given little attention at the time, but Chapter eleven established a system of arbitration for foreign investors to make injury claims against national governments. As the number of claims grows, it's becoming clear that the rule gives corporations power over governments, even within their own national borders.

## New Staff Member Takes It To The Streets

This April, Justine Cooper joined the Native Forest Council staff as volunteer coordinator. In addition to more than a decade of environmental activism, Cooper is an experienced volunteer coordinator, radio broadcaster and film editor. Since starting, She has hit the road (and the sky) traveling across the country to organize volunteers, expand support for *Forever Wild* and begin building a network of grassroots activists committed to public lands protection.

## Mountain Top Removal Debacle Exposed

In the latest issue of *Audubon*, Ted Williams uncovers the tragedy of mountain top removal mining in Appalachia. Thanks to a volunteer Cessna pilot, Williams was able to see what few others (because of industry efforts to hide the mines) have seen. In the article, Williams describes this method of taking coal from the mountains as "taking the mountains from the coal." Mountain "range removal," as Williams calls it, destroys the landscape and poisons water supplies. Williams vividly describes how "the most diverse and productive temperate forest on earth gave way to sprawling brown ulcers strewn with black piles of slate spoil and dingy pits full of half-frozen slurry." For more information, and to read the full article, click on the *Audubon* magazine link at [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org) and check out the "Incite" section.



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3-19-01

# River of Grass

by Ed Dorsch

Teeming with temperate and tropical plants, Florida's Everglades National Park is the only subtropical preserve in North America. But this national treasure is threatened. Sadly, The slowest river in the world has been forever altered by one of the most subsidized industries in the world: Big Sugar.



A vast "river" of grass, stretching 40 miles across, flowed all the way from Lake Okeechobee to Florida Bay, 100 miles to the south. The imperceptible slope of the land (about 1/4" per mile) carried overflowing water from the lake to the sea so slowly that a single drop could evaporate and fall back into the "river," repeating the cycle six times before it reached the sea.

## Bald Eagle

*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*

Nine months out of the year, our national bird is a common sight in the Everglades National Park. More than 350 different species of birds have been seen at the park, including species of wading birds, birds of prey and land birds.



## America's Only Subtropical Preserve

**S**panning the southern tip of Florida, The Everglades National Park is the largest subtropical preserve in the US. Home to many rare, exotic and endangered species, it covers 1.5 million acres.

The Park is a delicate paradox: Native plants and animals thrive in a place inhospitable to most North American species, but they are also very particular. By increasing phosphorous levels, for example, sugar farmers upstream have wiped out the meandering rivers of sawgrass, which have quickly been replaced by cattails. This, in turn has killed large numbers of wading birds that cannot nest or hunt: one piece of this fragile, complex web affects all of the others.

This fragility is also why the park features such a diverse patchwork of ecosystems: sawgrass prairies, mangrove and cypress swamps, pinelands and hardwood hammocks. A slightly different elevation, water salinity or soil content means an entirely new landscape, each with its own plants and animals. Known for its rich bird life, the park is home to large wading birds, such as the roseate spoonbill, wood stork, great blue heron and a variety of egrets. Two endangered mammals, the Florida Panther and the manatee, can be found in the park, as well as endangered birds, reptiles and an unfortunately long list of others. It's also the only place in the world where you can find alligators and crocodiles living side by side.

The Everglades National Park was established by President Truman in 1947, thanks to the persistence of architect Ernest Coe and others who fought to save what was left of the river of grass. To the north, the Big Cypress National Preserve covers 729,000 acres. The preserve was established in 1974, largely to

protect the watershed of the Everglades National Park. To the east, Biscayne National Park features islands, coral reefs and the longest stretch of mangrove forest on Florida's eastern shore.

At the same time the federal government was taking steps to preserve these national treasures, however, it was also subsidizing their destruction. Water diversion, pollution and the disruption of river flows have devastated The Everglades.

As park biologist John Ogden says, "We once had an ecosystem that we called the Everglades. Now we have a very big wetland out there, and we still call it the Everglades. But it's not." Perhaps, some day, it will be again.



The Everglades National Park covers 1.5 million acres along the southern tip of Florida.

## Everglades History

### 3000 BC

Receding ocean exposes vast limestone plains to heavy rain. Subtropical plants thrive in low-nutrient soil. Cypress swamps and hardwood forests start to develop.

### 1700s

Sugar becomes the New World's most lucrative export. In the *Triangle of Trade*, ships take sugar to England, goods to Africa and slaves back to the sugar plantations.

### 1800s

Congress gives 20 million inland acres of Florida wetlands to the state in an effort for "reclamation" of the swamplands, which the state claims are "worse than worthless."

### e.1900s

Crews begin dredging the Everglades swamps. Florida's population on the coast increases tenfold and promoters promise a "cane grower's paradise."

### 1920

Four huge canals run from Lake Okeechobee to Florida Bay, 100 miles to the south, draining the swamps and forever altering the flow of water: a delicate cycle.

### 1930

As the Florida population explodes, sugar farmers soon realize the exposed swamp muck was not nutrient-rich, as they'd been told, and was not suited for cane.

### 1930-1939

By adding phosphorous and nitrogen and breeding new strains of cane, farmers finally grow cane in Florida, at a great price: economically and ecologically.

### 1934

The persistence of architect Ernest Coe and others pays off, when Congress agrees to designate the Everglades National park to protect the "river of grass."

### 1947

President Truman opens the Everglades National Park. Ironically, the government continues as the regions chief despoiler, forever altering the flow of water.

### 1959

Cuban revolution cuts off sugar imports and Big Sugar is born. Cane acreage expands tenfold and sugar, big money and big politics start to become intertwined.

## Fragile Mosaic

**M**ore than 6,000 years ago, the Atlantic Ocean receded slightly, exposing vast limestone plains, in what is now southern Florida, to heavy rains. It was an inhospitable environment, but a select number of subtropical plants thrived in the low-nutrient limestone soil. A vast "river" of grass, stretching 40 miles across, flowed all the way from Lake Okeechobee to Florida Bay, 100 miles to the south. The imperceptible slope of the land (about 1/4" per mile) carried overflowing water from the lake to the sea so slowly that a single drop could evaporate and fall back into the "river," repeating the cycle six times before it reached the sea. Thanks to the federal government and Big Sugar, though, all that has changed (see *Not So Sweet* at right).

### A Diverse Patchwork

- Marine/Estuarine:** Seagrass on the marine bottom shelters fish and sustains the food chain that supports all higher vertebrates in the bay. The hard bottom areas are home to corals and sponges.
- Mangrove Forest:** Mangroves thrive in tidal waters, where freshwater from the Everglades mixes with saltwater. This estuary system provides crucial habitat for shrimp and fish, as well as wading birds.
- Coastal Prairie:** An arid region of salt-tolerant vegetation periodically flooded by hurricane waves and buffeted by heavy winds. Succulents and other low-growing desert plants thrive in the harsh conditions.
- Freshwater Marl Prairie:** Bordering the deeper sloughs are large prairies with marl sediments, a calcareous material that settles on the limestone. The marl allows slow seepage of the water but not drainage.
- Freshwater Slough:** The deeper and faster flowing center of a broad marshy river, moving 100 feet per day. Tree-islands called hammocks or heads dot this vast landscape, which channels life-giving waters from north to south.
- Cypress:** Deciduous conifers that can survive in standing water, cypresses often form dense clusters called cypress domes in natural water-filled depressions.
- Hardwood Hammocks:** Hammocks are dense stands of hardwood trees that grow on natural rises of only a few inches in the land. They appear as teardrop-shaped islands shaped by the flow of water in the middle of the slough.
- Pinelands:** The most diverse habitat in the Everglades, pine forests boast more than 200 varieties of tropical plants. Pines root in crevices where soil collects along the jagged bedrock.

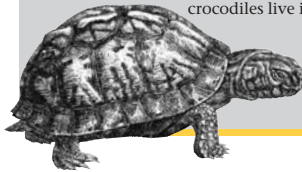
### Park Facts

- Largest designated wilderness east of the Rocky Mountains.
- Largest continuous stand of sawgrass prairie in North America.
- International Biosphere Reserve, World Heritage Site and Wetland of International Importance.
- One of the most endangered parks in the United States.

### Box Turtle

*Terrapene carolina*

In the fresh water marshes and ponds of Everglades National Park, you can find striped mud turtles, peninsula cooters and Florida red-bellies. If you are walking through the pinelands or hammock you're most likely to find a Florida box turtle. More than fifty species of reptiles and amphibians live in the park, the only place in the world where alligators and crocodiles live in the same habitat.



## Not So Sweet

**P**aul Roberts' comprehensive expose of Big Sugar (*Harper's*, November 1999) is a rather lengthy piece of journalism: more than 11,000 words. But it takes a lot to explain how the US government continues to pay more than a billion dollars per year, so one of the most subsidized industries on earth can continue growing sugar cane where it was never meant to grow — and trash the Everglades in the process.

According to Roberts, Big Sugar and Big Government go hand-in-hand. The federal sugar program adds five cents to every pound of sugar sold and the politicians who back the subsidies are rewarded handsomely: \$13 million from 1990-98, says Roberts, with tens of millions more pouring into the campaign coffers of local officials. Nearly every acre of cane is irrigated with tax-supported pumps, dikes and canals that keep the cane fields from turning back into swampland.

And sugar cane wasn't meant to grow on swampland. At the turn of the century, what little sugar was produced domestically was grown in Hawaii and Louisiana. Some was produced from beets grown in the Midwest. During the 1920s, however, farmers flocked to Florida hoping to grow cane. Their first attempt failed. Building four massive canals, the federal government diverted water from Lake Okeechobee straight to the sea, exposing swamp muck that they presumed would be fertile. They were wrong.

To make things worse, Florida was too cool for cane. These fragile swamps were suited for growing one thing: saw grass. By adding nitrogen and phosphorous to the soil and cross breeding cane that could grow in the cooler climate, sugar farmers had moderate success. Almost as an afterthought, says Roberts, the bottom third of the swamp was preserved as the Everglades National Park. But it wasn't until 1959, when the Cuban revolution ended sugar exports from the island nation, that Big Sugar boomed in Florida. By the mid-60s, cane acreage — as well as profits — had grown at an astounding rate. So had the ties between Big Sugar and Big Government. Good thing for Big Sugar, because it takes a lot of government money to keep this "business" afloat.

A dry land crop, cane needs irrigation, but won't tolerate flooding. It grows best when the water table is two feet below the surface, but Everglades is two feet *above* the surface. The everglades ecosystem oscillates heavily: Dry winters expose millions of shallow pools, trapping fish for wading birds and providing temporary nesting sites. Wet summers bring trillions of gallons of water that the grasslands filter as it flows to the sea. With time, tax dollars and extensive environmental harm, Big Sugar and government engineers have forever altered this sensitive life-support system. The two biggest problems are phosphorous and the natural flow of water.

Turning the upper third of the Everglades into cane farms has severed the swamps from Lake Okeechobee. While the lower glades are parched, the upper glades are drowning. When the lower glades are drained, the exposed soil oxidizes, releasing natural nutrients that blow away or float off in the rain. These nutrients, combined with additional phosphorous used to fertilize sugar cane, causes eutrophication: New plants grow quickly, then die. Decomposing plants suck oxygen from the water, killing the algae that fish eat. Sawgrass is gradually replaced by cattails, making it impossible for native birds to land, nest or feed. The only solution may be to turn the sugar crops back into swamp. Even with cleanup costs estimated at \$8 billion, it would be cheaper than continuing the federal sugar program. As Roberts quotes James Bovard of the Cato institute: "Paying lavish subsidies to produce sugar in Florida makes as much sense as creating a federal subsidy to grow bananas in Massachusetts."

But stopping Big Sugar hasn't been easy. In 1988, the US Attorney in Miami sued the state of Florida for failing to enforce its own water regulations. Big Sugar couldn't get the case, or the attorney, thrown out. So they spent millions to discredit the research and won. In 1991, after the state agreed to cut phosphorous levels, Big Sugar filed three dozen lawsuits to keep it from happening. The sugar industry gave millions to election campaigns in 1992, republican and democrat alike, and was handsomely rewarded with a Clinton "restoration" plan that suspended state water standards, capped industry costs and left taxpayers with the cleanup bill. By 1996, Florida citizens fought back with a statewide initiative, but were defeated by Big Sugar's \$23 million campaign. In 1995, the Congress took a stab at stopping subsidies, and, again, sugar dollars won, ending reform of the Farm Bill.

There's so much more to the not-so-sweet story; contact *Harper's* and get a copy of Roberts' article: [www.harpers.org](http://www.harpers.org) ■

### Florida Panther

*Felis concolor coryi*

These large, tawny cats are actually a subspecies of mountain lion, an animal that was once a common sight in much of the United States. The Everglades National Park is home to the Florida Panther and the manatee, two listed endangered mammals. Endangered species found in the park include reptiles, birds, butterflies and insects.



### Aren't You Native Forest Council?

Obviously, the Everglades National Park isn't a forest. But the Council is working to protect all of America's publicly owned lands. This includes national forests and parks, wildlife preserves and areas controlled by the Bureau of Land Management.

The story of Big Sugar and the Everglades is all-too-familiar: They take what belongs to us, destroying a natural life-support system, and the government forces us to pay them to do it.

Right now, the Council is working to pass legislation that will protect the Everglades — and all 650 million acres of our nation's mountains, forests, rivers and swamplands. Recently a member of Congress has agreed to sponsor a Forever Wild bill. Look for updates in the future, or visit our website: [www.forestcouncil.org](http://www.forestcouncil.org).

### Learn More Online:

- [www.cato.org](http://www.cato.org)
- [www.dep.state.fl.us](http://www.dep.state.fl.us)
- [www.floridasportsman.com](http://www.floridasportsman.com)
- [www.forestcouncil.org](http://www.forestcouncil.org)
- [www.harpers.org](http://www.harpers.org)
- [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)
- [www.miamisci.org/eco-links/everglades/](http://www.miamisci.org/eco-links/everglades/)
- [www.alligator.org](http://www.alligator.org)
- [www.opensecrets.org](http://www.opensecrets.org)

#### 1963

Army Corps of Engineers finishes its "masterpiece": 1,400 miles of canals and levees and the largest pump in the world end the natural flow of the Everglades.

#### e. 1960's

The "river of grass," 40 miles wide and 100 miles long, is controlled by the government. Alligator and wading bird populations decline dramatically.

#### 1988

US Attorney sues Florida for failing to enforce its own water standards. Big Sugar spends millions to try to get the Attorney disbarred and discredit the research.

#### 1991

State officials make a break with Big Sugar and agree to reduce water pollution levels. Big Sugar files three dozen lawsuits to keep the regulations from taking effect.

#### 1992-93

Big Sugar pours millions of dollars into the campaign coffers of Republicans and Democrats alike. It's money well-spent: Sugar executives get direct access to Clinton.

#### 1994

Clinton's Interior Secretary unveils *Everglades Forever Act 3*, written primarily by sugar lobbyists. The bill lets sugar off the hook and sticks taxpayers with a cleanup bill.

#### 1995

Frustrated with Clinton and corporate welfare, a group in Congress tries reform through the farm bill. Big Sugar stops it with \$2 million and a fake grassroots campaign.

#### 1996

Clinton's "restoration" applies only to areas outside sugar farms. Mainstream "environmental" groups back Clinton. Many others oppose him.

#### 1996

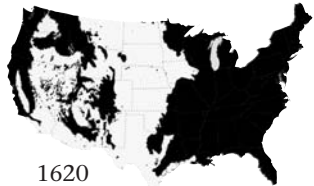
Big Sugar spends \$23 million to defeat Florida ballot initiative that would make polluters pay for water cleanup. *Sun Sentinel* editorial calls it a "triumph of misinformation."

#### Today

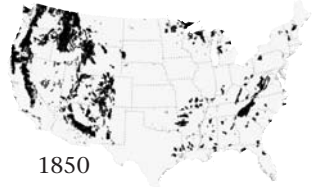
Half of Florida's original wetland no longer exists. Many species are at risk of being lost forever. The Federal Sugar Program costs taxpayers \$1,400,000,000 every year.

“Excuse me, I think you’ve made a mistake. Those can’t be pictures of our **NATIONAL FORESTS** ... Are they?”\*

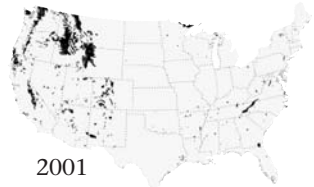
Your National Forests:  
Then and Now...



1620



1850

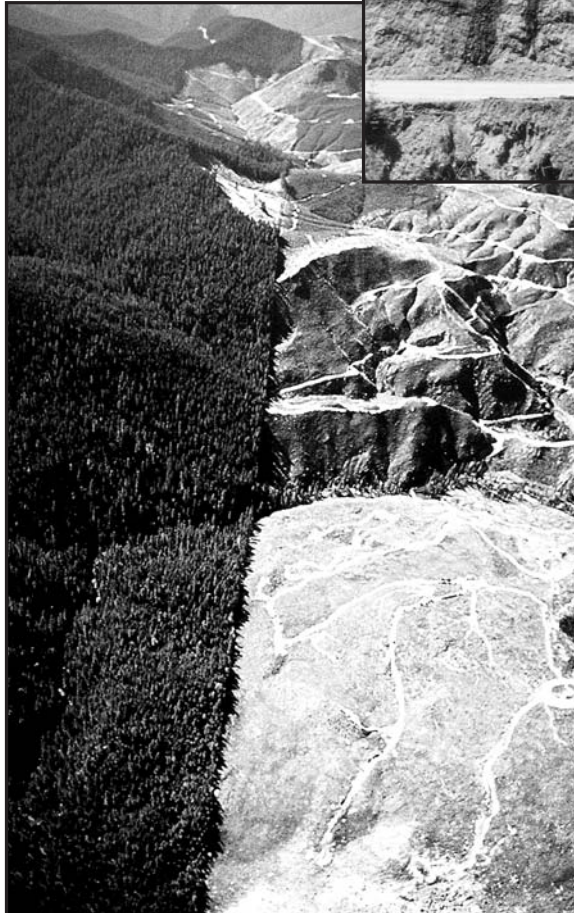


2001

Photo by Daniel Dancer



Photo by Michael Williams



Mt. Hood National Forest. Photo by Tim Hermach

“YES, these really are **YOUR** National Forests.”

\* And this really is a quote from an audience member at one of Native Forest Council's presentations. She was so astounded by these photos, she actually thought we mixed up our pictures of public and private land.

Think the government wouldn't think of doing this to your Forests? Think again.



A new family in the White House and already the "honeymoon" is over. Or did it even begin?

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# Bush: The First 100 Days

## Bipartisanship? All bets are off.

Environment? The gloves are off. The Florida recounts are past tense and the Bush Administration is swinging hard. Here's an update of important moves made by Bush during his first 100 days in office:

## EPA Rescinds Limits on Arsenic in Water

Christie Whitman, the Bush-appointed head of the EPA announced that the agency intends to withdraw plans to place new limits on arsenic in drinking water. On March 20, the agency caved in to pressure from the mining industry, going public with its plans to ignore a rule to reduce permissible amounts of arsenic by 80 percent. The ruling leaves in place standards established in 1942.

## Bush Breaks CO<sub>2</sub> Promise

During his campaign, Bush promised to regulate carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) as a pollutant contributing to global warming. On March 13, he took that promise back, bowing to pressure from the coal and oil industries. Bush ordered Christine Whitman, head of the EPA, to refrain from capping carbon dioxide emissions and said he did not consider it a pollutant.

## Bush Team Postpones Roadless Plan

Shortly after being sworn into office, Bush put a stop to any new rules being printed in the Federal Register, effectively stopping a ban on roadless areas and new monuments created by President Clinton during his last days of office. Though the roadless plan was weak and the rules regulating monuments were toothless, Bush is showing his true colors.

## Open Season for Big Oil on Public Lands

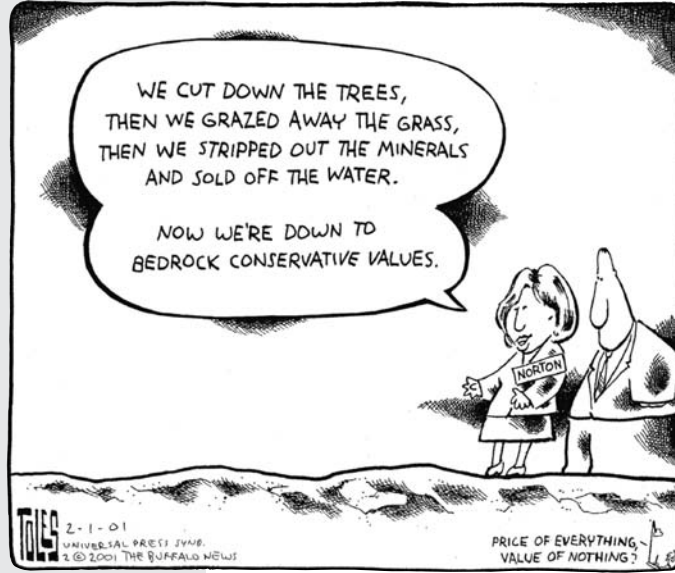
It would take congressional action to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, but Bush's regulatory agencies can open other public lands to drilling with the stroke of a pen. While we fight to save ANWR, Bush is encouraging federal agencies to open other public lands to oil drilling. Possible sites are located in Alaska, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado and Michigan.

## Activists' Tool Targeted

An underhanded detail added to the White House budget proposal would effectively eliminate a part of the Endangered Species Act that allows citizens to sue the government for acting too slowly to save species. This provision, used dozens of times by conservationists, would give Interior Secretary Gale Norton sole discretion over protecting endangered species. It would also prevent the Department of the Interior from spending any money to enforce the results of such a suit, making a legal victory or judgement essentially meaningless.

## Drilling in the Alaska Refuge

Since taking office, President Bush has declared, several times, that drilling the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is one of his highest priorities (see the Spring 2001 *Forest Voice* or visit [www.forestcouncil.org](http://www.forestcouncil.org) for more information). Public outcry against drilling ANWR has been overwhelming. This March, more than 500 leading US and Canadian scientists asked Bush not to change the law that protects the refuge. As of our press date, legislation to protect ANWR had not passed Congress.



# Presidential Honeymoon? Forget It!

The first 100 days of the George W. Bush Administration

**January 3:** President-elect vows to "allow oil companies access to the wildlife refuge" in the Arctic. *New York Times*.

**January 20:** Bush orders all federal agencies to propose no new regulations, withdraw all new regulations that had not been published in the Federal Register by that day and postpone, for 60 days, any new regulations that had been published. *New York Times*.

**March 14:** Bush announces his administration will look at "all public lands" for energy development, noting particularly that national monuments can accommodate drilling rigs. *The Register Guard*, Eugene, OR.

**March 16:** Bush Administration proposes suspending the ban on road building and logging in the federal forestland roadless areas. *The Register Guard*.

**March 19:** Interior Secretary Gale Norton defends the Bush Administration plan to open national monument for fuel exploration stating that "some lands may have been included within those monuments that are more appropriate for other uses." *The Oregonian*.

**March 21:** President Bush's Interior Department announces its intention to reverse requirements that mining operations post a bond equal to estimated cleanup costs. *Sierra Club*.

**March 22:** Bush Administration suspends new mining regulations that would have better protected taxpayers and the environment from impacts of irresponsible mining pending administration review. *Denver Post*.

**March 28:** The Bush Administration states that the United States has no interest in implementing the Kyoto Protocol addressing global warming. *Washington Post*.

**April 5:** Bush Administration releases a report detailing its plan for a domestic energy policy that includes aggressive development of federal lands. The energy plan is dependent upon traditional energy sources, such as oil, coal and nuclear power, instead of renewable energy sources. *USA Today*.

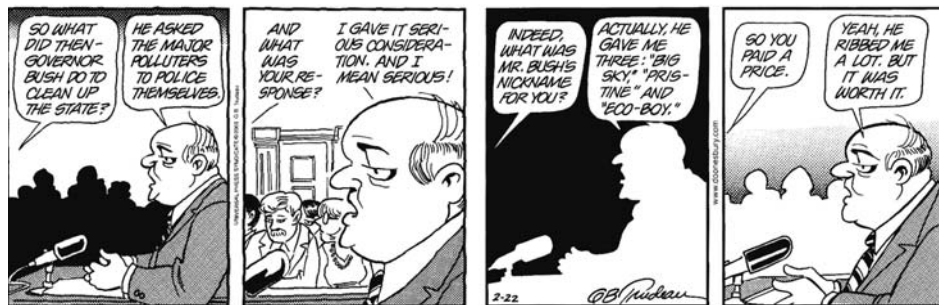
**April 11:** The Bush Administration has opened discussions to end lawsuits filed against the ban on snowmobiles in Yellowstone and Denali National Park. *South Florida Sun-Sentinel*.

## Bush/Politics on the Web

- [www.counterpunch.org](http://www.counterpunch.org)
- [www.dnc.org](http://www.dnc.org)
- [www.doonesbury.com](http://www.doonesbury.com)
- [www.essential.org](http://www.essential.org)
- [www.forestcouncil.org](http://www.forestcouncil.org)
- [www.georgewbush.com](http://www.georgewbush.com)
- [www.hightower.org](http://www.hightower.org)
- [www.opensecrets.org](http://www.opensecrets.org)
- [www.prorev.com](http://www.prorev.com)
- [www.rep.org](http://www.rep.org)
- [www.rnc.org](http://www.rnc.org)
- [www.thedrudgeport.com](http://www.thedrudgeport.com)
- [www.txpeer.org/Bush/](http://www.txpeer.org/Bush/)
- [www.ucomics.com/tomtoles/](http://www.ucomics.com/tomtoles/)
- [www.vote-smart.org](http://www.vote-smart.org)
- [www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov)

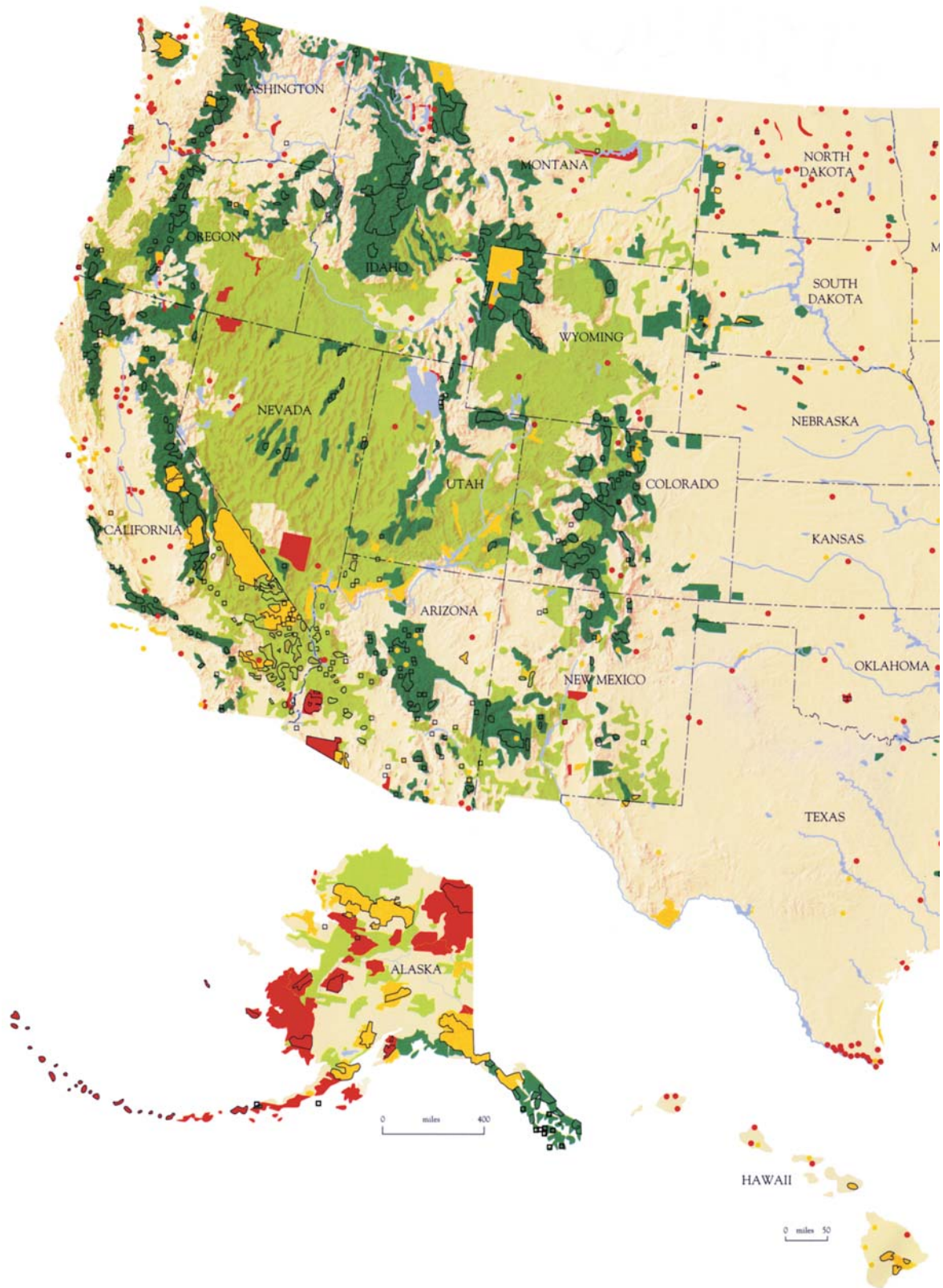
## Doonesbury

BY GARRY TRUDEAU



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# Threatened: America's











# Publicly Owned Lands



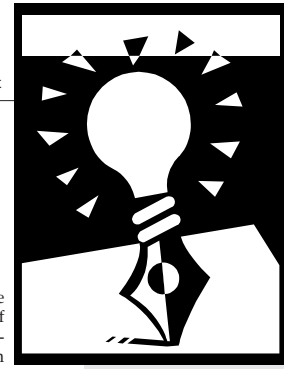
## MAP LEGEND

Area larger than 22,500 acres		Area smaller than 22,500 acres	
	Wilderness area		Wilderness area
	National Park System		National Park System
	National Forest System		National Forest System
	National Wildlife Refuge System		National Wildlife Refuge System
	BLM		BLM

# Head to Head

Readers Express Opposing Views on Education and the Environment

The Fall 2000 issue of *Forest Voice* ("Who's Teaching Our Children?") exposed how corporations promote their agenda in schools, often under the guise of environmental education. It also sparked controversy among our readers, including a teacher and two industry advocates who sent in their two cents worth.



## High School Teacher

Thanks, Native Forest Council!

Wow!

I just got my hands on the *Forest Voice*.

I found the article about environmental education to be very eye opening! I was trained as a research scientist while in graduate school. I started out working for the department of health, then I made the decision to go to the classroom because I think that is where we need to get people interested in making a difference in their environment.

I have discussions regularly with my students and they always respond with a "Why didn't anyone else ever tell us this before?"

I have been in the classroom for three years and I am horrified with the attitude of most of the other science teachers. I think part of the problem is that science teachers should have a BS in their subject matter. Too many of them have a teaching degree and couldn't really tell you about the real science. I have discussions regularly with my students and they always respond with a "Why didn't anyone else ever tell us this before?" I have freshmen who have never heard of Rachel Carson or *Silent Spring*. I teach freshmen through seniors and will never cease to be amazed at what they have not learned much less been exposed to by the time they reach my classroom.



I attended my first National Science Teachers Association Conference in St. Louis and also picked up many free things because as you know, teachers will take anything free. I found much of the free stuff to be very disturbing. Although, among those free things was the *Forest Voice*. What great stuff!

Ironically, while I was at the conference, a substitute teacher pulled a video from my department's video collection on the Exxon oil spill. When I watched the movie for discussion with my class, I was absolutely horrified! It painted a very benign picture of the incident, and all those scientists wearing their Exxon lab coats. . . . Needless to say, I reshewed the video after having a discussion with my students regarding the idea that they should always question the sponsor regarding anything they see.

It turned out to be a wonderful lesson and discussion. I was horrified to find that our department library is loaded with such "stuff." I found your article very interesting and very needed. I will pass it along to my fellow teachers and hope it isn't met with a cold shoulder.

Keep up the good work. I'm joining Native Forest Council!

Thanks,

I am teaching your children  
Laurie Hart

## The Corporate Reps

Mr. Hermach,

In the Fall 2000 issue of *Forest Voice* (The Corporate Takeover of Environmental Education), the description of business participation in environmental education overlooked examples of beneficial partnerships between industry and environmental groups. There are many examples and we would like to share just one.

Through an independent and copyrighted curriculum designed solely by Oregon Trout, their Salmon Watch program is designed to provide both classroom and field exposure to middle and high school students. The curriculum is science-based and focuses on the needs of native salmon and healthy watersheds. Once grounded in the basics of watershed health and salmon life patterns, students are introduced to the difficult questions of balancing natural resources and human needs — questions they will be called upon to answer in their lifetimes. The program is funded by contributions from public agencies, private donors and local businesses; the field trips are supported by a well-organized diverse pool of teachers and trained community volunteers.

Teachers are informed professionals. As experts in education, they can determine the quality and usefulness of various curricula provided by outside sources and independently determine their teaching plans that best suit their classroom. Teachers know the importance of developing student's critical thinking skills and understanding different perspectives around an issue.

Your description of business participation in environmental education overlooked examples of beneficial partnerships between industry and environmental groups.

We agree with the author's recommendations for parents and teachers to review sources of environmental education materials, research different viewpoints and develop their own conclusions. We believe it is also important to pursue community partnerships that can expand students' education opportunities.

In addition to the enhanced student experience, partnering builds relationships between organizations and encourages open communication. Organizations, agencies and businesses that take cooperative and objective approaches to education will best help students develop important skills for determining the future of our communities and their resources.

Jim Stark

Director Environmental Education  
Weyerhaeuser Company

Bill Smiley

Director of Education  
Oregon Trout

## Corporate Polluters Target Kids. Again.

The National Science Teachers Association held its 2001 national convention in St. Louis Missouri. Once again, Native Forest Council was there to present the truth about public lands. And, once again, corporate America showed up in full force to fill teachers' tote bags with pro-industry propaganda, disguised as "environmental education."

When the Forest Council attended its first NSTA Convention (the largest of its type in the world) last year, we were outraged. Corporate flacks handed out slick classroom materials claiming that global warming was a myth, plastics were great for the environment and clearcutting helps forests. Further research led to a cover story in the *Forest Voice*, and subsequent versions were printed in *Utne Reader*, *High Country News* and *PR Watch*. Native Forest Council began building a network of teachers interested in learning more and distributing the *Forest Voice* to more teachers and schools.

This year, 3,600 exhibitors (most corporate-backed) once again hawked their lies. Standing at my booth, my daughter and I distributed *Forest Voices*, posters and articles. I was a bit daunted; just two rows from my booth, Michael Sanera, co-author of the anti-environmental book *Facts Not Fear*, was peddling his political sewage. Overwhelming? Yes. I confronted Sanera, questioning whom he worked for and why. Did it make a difference? Certainly a small one. At least they know they cannot continue with impunity. And the teachers will know that there are many of us who question this pseudo-science they peddle our kids.

More important, as a teacher, I connected with other teachers. A growing body of educators are also starting to question the industry charlatans. Native Forest Council will be there with ideas for teaching kids the truth about what is happening to America's publicly-owned lands. And we'll be at the NSTA's 50th anniversary convention next March in San Diego.

-John Borowski

**"Ironically, while I was at the conference, a substitute teacher pulled a video from my department's video collection on the Exxon oil spill. When I watched the movie for discussion with my class, I was absolutely horrified! It painted a very benign picture of the incident..."**

-Laurie Hart, high school teacher

**A growing body of educators are also questioning the industry charlatans. And Native Forest Council will be there with ideas for teaching kids the truth about what is happening to America's publicly owned lands.**

# George W. Bush's America

## How the High Priests of Capitalism Run Roughshod Over Fears for Planet

by Julian Borger and Terry Macalister

Exxon's executives appear to hold sway over a man who once dreamed of rivaling their success but failed as an oil man and had to settle this year for becoming president of the United States

The home of global capitalism can be found just outside Dallas. Set in the midst of a sprawling industrial park, it is a huge, squat pink stone edifice, with a sloping black roof like a rustic villa, but a villa made for giants.

It is the headquarters of Exxon Mobil, and it houses a plush management suite that is known across the energy industry as the "God Pod," with the reverence befitting a corporation which last month emerged as the most profitable in the history of human endeavor.

It is no exaggeration to say the decisions made here in Irving, in this high temple of private enterprise, will shape the future of the planet.

Exxon Mobil, which trades in Britain as Esso, does not believe in the certainty of global warming — It casts doubt on evidence that industrial emissions of greenhouse gases are raising temperatures. And not only is it skeptical, it has conducted an aggressive and expensive public relations operation to challenge scientific orthodoxy on the subject, as part of its battle to halt international efforts to put an expensive cap on the smokestacks.

Now a new Republican government, elected with the help of \$1.2 million from Exxon Mobil, has abandoned the centerpiece of those international efforts, the Kyoto treaty on global warming. The Bush Administration, staffed from the president down by former oil executives, has also ruled out plans to limit US emissions of carbon dioxide in the foreseeable future.

The exact link between campaign contributions and the subsequent acts of an administration can only be guessed at. But Exxon's critics argue that the behemoth's assertive embrace of any scientific evidence against global warming — however anecdotal or dubious in origin — has lent it a credibility it does not deserve. It has also given President George Bush "cover" for his rejection of Kyoto.

The mood in Irving in the new Bush era is confident, even jovial. But it is equally clear that its executives have been put on their guard against complacency. Exxon Mobil (born of a mega-merger in 1999) has, to say the least, an image problem.

In Australia, the first ever conference of the world's green parties yesterday agreed to launch a boycott against Exxon and other US oil companies. They want to "send a message" to the companies on the role they allegedly played in getting Mr. Bush elected.

"We know we have a giant target painted on our chests," said Ken Cohen, Exxon Mobil's head of government relations and public affairs. Consequently, the company has decided to emerge from its customary insularity and mount something resembling a charm offensive.

And that is presumably why the outer gates of the God Pod were opened last week, and two of the corporation's vice presidents were deployed to explain why Exxon Mobil remains dubious about global warming and how it is nevertheless cleaning up its act the free-market way.

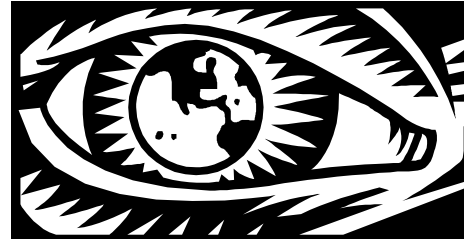
Mr Cohen and Frank Sprow, in charge of safety and environmental health, both insist that Exxon Mobil's position has been misunderstood. Rather than denying the existence of global warming outright, they argue, Exxon Mobil is simply pointing out the room for error in such an ever-changing and unpredictable phenomenon as climate, and urging caution.

"You really can't bring human influence out of the noise of natural variability at this point," Mr Sprow said. "Science is a process of inquiry... I'd like the answer tomorrow afternoon but it may be a decade before the science really gets crisp, because there's so much fundamental information that has to be worked on."

Even though the science may not be rock hard, Mr Sprow said, Exxon is working on alternative energy sources, such as low emission fuel cells for cars, and cutting down emissions in its refineries. It spends \$12 million a year researching means of reducing carbon dioxide emissions, and has so far managed to reduce its own output by 3%.

These arguments have not convinced the corporation's enemies in the green camp. It is big enough and controversial enough to have galvanized an entire environmental movement, Campaign Exxon Mobil, devoted to keeping it under surveillance.

The campaign's spokesman, Peter Altman, argues that the vaunted \$12 million in carbon dioxide research is a fairly paltry share of the \$17 billion net income Exxon Mobil earned last year. Furthermore, he said, whatever beneficial effect that money might have is more than outweighed



by the corporation's role in undermining the accepted wisdom that global warming is a real threat.

Other oil companies, such as BP and Shell, have crossed the barricades. At its annual general meeting on Thursday, BP will come under pressure from green activists who have laid down formal motions calling on the company to switch more resources to the development of renewable energy sources.

However, Exxon Mobil has kept up the fight on climate change, going out of its way to support maverick skeptics whose conclusions agree with its own.

"The big difference with Exxon is that it spends a lot of time and money in getting that message across," Mr Altman said.

In particular, the Exxon chairman, Lee Raymond, has referred approvingly to a 1998

petition apparently signed by 17,000 scientists questioning the evidence for global warming. However, it later emerged that the petition had been circulated by a certain "Oregon Institute for Science and Medicine," an obscure body of eccentric views whose headquarters turned out to be a large tin shed.

The petition had been disguised as the work of the National Academy of Sciences and it had been "signed" by such authorities as Ginger Spice and the fictional doctors from the sit-com M.A.S.H.

The controversy, Mr. Sprow said, had arisen from unfortunate misunderstandings. Mr Raymond had not sought to claim the Oregon petition as definitive, but only to raise provocative questions about the nature of climate change science.

Mr. Sprow is urbane and sophisticated. He insisted repeatedly that Exxon is not "in a state of denial" to global warming. However, on two vital issues, it is clear that Exxon's position remains unchanged.

It does not have faith in the dire warnings issued this year by the UN-appointed International Panel on Climate Control (IPCC) and it is vigorously opposed to the Kyoto treaty.

In its latest assessment of the threat, the IPCC found "new and stronger evidence that most of the warming observed over the last 50 years is attributable to human activities." The panel, which consulted about 2,000 scientists from 100 countries, predicted that the earth would heat up between 1.4 and 5.8 degrees celsius over the next century, with potentially catastrophic results.

The report was presented as a scientific consensus, but Exxon challenges that claim. It points to the role of political appointees on the IPCC in selecting and summarizing scientific evidence. The same sort of people were promoting a bureaucratic solution to the problem embodied in Kyoto.

Mr Sprow argued that there is little likelihood of Kyoto being implemented by the majority of industrialized countries, and that it would hardly make a significant difference to long-run greenhouse gas emissions even if they did.

For Exxon, these are both reasons to dump the treaty. For Kyoto's supporters, however, they are all reasons to put the treaty (which would require a seven percent drop in US emissions between 1990 and 2012) into effect quickly and then move beyond it.

By poking spanners into the works, the environmental lobby believes, Exxon is helping delay concerted action to stave off global warming and the chaos it may wreak with the climate.

"Exxon is grasping at straws," said Kert Davies, the director of Greenpeace's US global warming campaign. "They're looking for everything they can do to reposition the existing knowledge on global warming from fact to theory."

Even before its current public relations drive, Exxon has had remarkable success in making its influence felt.

But perhaps more importantly, Exxon's executives appear to hold sway over a man who once dreamed of rivaling their success but failed as an oil man and had to settle this year for becoming President of the United States ■

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# Wisdom the Real Shortage

By Paul Hawken

There is a humorous Sufi story about Mulla Nasrudin, who is crawling on all fours late at night under a streetlight outside his house. A friend wanders by and asks him what he is doing and Nasrudin tells him he is looking for his lost house keys. After joining the fruitless search for some time, his friend turns to him and asks him exactly where he lost them. Nasrudin points to the backyard of the house. His friend is incredulous and wants to know why they have been searching in the front yard near the street. Nasrudin says: "Because this is where the light is."

The purpose of the tales of Nasrudin is to reveal how the mind creates illusions, which then pass for reasonable behavior. In the US there is the illusion du jour: We are running short of energy and need more. Not only has California hit the wall, but there are ominous warnings from New York City right

across the country that we may have entered a new period of energy deficits with all the suffering that will entail: inflation, economic stagnation and joblessness. Perish the thought; let's drill for oil.

The proposals to drill in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, though it is one of the world's most climatically hostile locations, seem "reasonable" in this light. If it is scarcity that determines something's value, then what is scarce is not oil or even energy, but the wisdom to use it wisely. Instead, we are the most profligate with respect to energy use. If that wisdom could be found in an oil well or vein of coal, America would be the wisest country in the world. How wasteful are we?

Imagine a water tank that supplies a growing town in an arid region. The water is filled by a well that draws from an aquifer, but the tank is old and leaky as are the pipes that carry the water into the hamlet. For every hundred gallons of water that goes into the tank, only two gallons gets to the village's inhabitants. The rest is lost at the tank or on the way. With new houses being built and more families arriving, the town is running out of water, and people are complaining. The mayor proudly announces that he is going to dig a new well a thousand miles away and pump it across the desert to their water tank and calls on his city council to appropriate these needed funds so that the town does not suffer economically. Everyone applauds. He is a hero.

This is the way we deal with energy in the U.S. Measurements of energy — calories, BTUs, kilowatt-hours — are ways to indicate the amount of work a given amount of oil, gas and electricity can accomplish. In the US, for every 100 units of energy that we introduce into our economic system nearly 98 units are wasted. That's right, we are two percent efficient. Building a pipeline in the fragile environment of the arctic circle to deliver oil that will not arrive for another ten years and would only supply 180 days of total US consumption will only do one thing: satisfy the Senators of Alaska and the CEOs of oil companies. It will do nothing for US energy security.

What President Bush has completely overlooked are the proven alternatives that greatly increase the productivity with which energy is used. There are now a plethora of innovative productivity techniques that can reduce energy consumption fifty-fold greater than the purported supply of oil in ANWR, and they are cheaper, more effective and create more jobs.

If the USGS estimates are correct, there is a 95% chance that the ANWR will provide about 1.9 billion barrels of oil starting in 2011. That would run the cars in the US for about three months. Improving fleet mileage 0.4 mpg in our light vehicles would accomplish the same objective with the important exception that it would cost consumers less.

These savings are just the tip of the iceberg. US fleet mileage is currently 24 mpg, a 20-year low. Hybrid electric cars now appearing in show rooms will triple that figure. Current models such as the Toyota Prius get 48-mpg city/highway combined. There are now over 350,000 on the road here and abroad. VW is already selling a car that gets 78-mpg and is said to have a 200-mpg car available in 2003. The Big Three are testing family sedans that will head for production in the next three years that exceed 70 mpg. Another way to think about this is that we can create the equivalent of about 30 Arctic Refuge oilfields in

Detroit with good engineering. It takes bad politics to exploit only one.

Before we get a drop of ANWR oil, we will be driving electric cars powered by fuel cells. These cars, whose emis-

sions are hot water vapor and oxygen, have an extraordinary secondary use: They are mobile power plants with 5-10 times the total power output of all our nuclear and coal plants. Parked cars can feed electricity into the grid, thereby forever eliminating the need for dirty, large, centralized power plants.

In buildings, manufacturing, processing and construction, similar savings abound. The mindset that made cars with one percent energy efficiency created our buildings and cities too. With relatively low-tech methods including new glazing, proper siting, efficient lighting and passive heating and ventilation, we can create state-of-the-shelf, quiet, thermally comfortable buildings that are a visual delight. These buildings save 30-50% over conventionally built structures that are too hot, too cold, too drafty, too noisy and not so great to work in. Integrating green buildings with new urbanist planning and layouts can further reduce traffic, noise, energy and waste by equal amounts.

In industry, huge cost and energy savings can be attained as we move away from the petrochemical-dependent reactive chemistry that produces a witch's brew of toxic compounds, which are permeating our environment. New enzymatic techniques not only promise safer compounds, but low-temperature manufacturing that can reduce energy costs by 90%.

The possibilities for energy efficiency in all aspects of industry are almost overwhelming in their diversity and possibility. The good news is that these savings are made of tools, products and services that can be created everywhere in the US. They do not depend on oilfields, large capital investment or putting critical environments at risk.

President Bush's energy policy will reward what a few senators and oil executives want, but not what the American people want. People are not clamoring for the destruction of a sensitive arctic habitat, for more greenhouse gases, for climatic instability or the wanton disregard of the traditional home of the Gwich'in people. What Americans want is security, jobs, stable prices and an intelligent energy policy. Ignoring the leaky water tank on the hill cannot attain this.

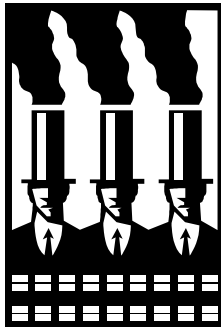
Of course, 100% efficiency is impossible according to physical laws. But America could have a goal of 10% efficiency, an objective that would allow robust economic growth while reducing overall energy use by two-thirds in the next twenty years, a goal that would lead us away from the oil age, an age whose end is inevitable.

The oil age is ending, not because we are running out of oil, but because we have a better idea. The Stone Age never ran out of stones either. We are on the threshold of a profoundly different economy with respect to energy use. The continued governmental subsidy of coal and oil, whether in Alaska or Virginia or Kentucky or any other state whose senators have seniority, is a sure-fire way to hobble America's competitiveness.

We lead the world in so many areas of technology. We can do it with energy too. Mark Twain said, "You can't see if your imagination is out of focus." To focus the imagination of a nation, a country that is economically strong and environmentally conservative, requires just one quality: leadership out of the oil age, not halting backward steps into it ■



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What Americans want is security, jobs, stable prices and an intelligent energy policy. Ignoring the leaky water tank on the hill cannot attain this.

■ There is a 95% chance that the ANWR will give us about 1.9 billion barrels of oil, starting in 2011.

■ Improving fleet mileage 0.4 mpg in our light vehicles would accomplish the same objective, and would cost consumers less.

■ The US energy system is only 2% efficient.

■ High-efficiency buildings can save 30-50% in energy costs.

■ We can create the equivalent of 30 Arctic Refuge oilfields with better cars.



Paul Hawken is an environmentalist, educator, lecturer, entrepreneur, journalist, and best-selling author. He is known around the world as one of the leading economic thinkers and advocates of ecologically sound businesses.

His books, articles and public lectures have influenced hundreds of companies to change their operations and become more environmentally friendly.

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# Forest Council Staff Spotlight

Michael Hendrix



Council office manager Michael Hendrix recently left Oregon for Colorado to work on an archaeological dig in Mesa Verde National Park — and continue outreach work for the Council.

When Michael Hendrix came to work for the Native Forest Council last June, we knew we were getting a dedicated professional, but we had no idea we were getting a professional fondue chef as well.

Hendrix was a Jack of All Trades: front office helmsman, research sleuth, problem solver and web page steward. He fielded phone calls with tremendous aplomb, took care of our volunteers and — most importantly — kept the rest of us from taking ourselves too seriously.

And he made a pretty mean fondue.

No office envelope stuffing party was complete without a spread of extraordinary breads and his secret recipe, made-from-scratch fondue. Sadly, the recipe remains his secret.

When Michael Hendrix came to work for Native Forest Council last June, we knew we were getting a pro, but we had no idea we were getting a professional fondue chef.

After graduating from the University of Oregon with a degree in Archeology in June 2000, Hendrix began working in our Eugene, Oregon office, helping coordinate operations and keep the staff smiling with his unconquerable humor.

Applying the research skills he learned as an archaeology student, he helped unearth crucial information about public lands issues for the Council: Oil drilling, legislative riders and legislative process. Thanks to his indefatigable curiosity and stubborn attention to detail, the Council was able to provide current information on important issues.

Hendrix enjoys snowboarding, hiking, home brewing and, of course, cooking. Like several others in the office, he was a dedicated bike commuter, braving Oregon's winter rains to get to work without using fossil fuels.

Michael and his wife, Maggie, live in Cortez, Colorado, where Michael has started working on archeology field studies at Mesa Verde National Park. The archeological sites found in Mesa Verde are some of the most famous and best preserved in the nation. An astronomy buff, Hendrix will be studying the relationship between the stars and the beliefs of ancient cultures.

He will also continue his work with the Council as a Regional Representative, building relationships with federal public lands agencies, distributing copies of the *Forest Voice* and working as an advocate for our publicly owned lands.

But he will be sorely missed here in Eugene. Hendrix is one of a kind. He's also one of the hundreds of Native Forest Council volunteers and staff members across the nation who are working to save America's public lands.

Now, if he would only tell us that fondue recipe ■

## I WANT YOU



TO HELP SAVE  
PUBLIC LANDS

### Native Forest Council is looking for citizens committed to saving publicly owned lands.

If you are independent, self-motivated and you are dedicated to saving what's left and restoring what's been lost, contact us now.

Remember, you don't have to live in Oregon — or even the US! We have staff members and volunteers across the nation who contribute what they can when they can. Don't just get mad, do something.

Join a national group of hard-working professionals fighting to save what's left and restore what's been lost.

### Currently seeking:

- Activists
- Attorneys
- *Forest Voice* distributors
- Designers
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# A Lifetime of Activism

Carl J. Nelson: Poet, Harley Rider, WWII Vet — And Native Forest Council member.

By Benjamin Scott

The road that eventually brought Carl Nelson to the Native Forest Council started with a shiny, rumbling Harley Davidson in 1937. Nelson grew up on a farm near the small town of Medford, Wisconsin, and moved into town after graduating from high school.

"In a couple of years I had saved up enough money to buy that Harley - the first one they ever made with an overhead cam." During the summers of 1937 and 1938, Nelson rode cross-country, through Louisiana, the Sierras of California and as far south as Mexico City. During these trips, Nelson was moved by the magnitude of the American wilderness, an expansiveness captured in the poems of Yeats and Byron: works that had moved him to write his own poetry.

By the time he returned from his travels, the country was gearing up for World War II. In 1940, Nelson says he "did what many young men were doing. I enlisted because I knew I would be drafted eventually." Nelson achieved the rank of 2nd Lieutenant and became an instructor at Quantico, VA for two years. He also earned his wings, "which I received the day after the war ended," he says. Nelson counts himself lucky to never have been involved in combat.

"I was an instructor for two years, and many, many of the boys I met never came home," including his entire squadron of Martin Torpedo Bombers. "I had stopped flying only two weeks before. You've heard of those five bombers that were lost in the Bermuda Triangle? There would have been six had I kept flying."

Soon after leaving the Marine Corps, Nelson married Janet, his wife now for 57 years, and entered the University of Minnesota, but then entered the Chicago Theological Seminary. During this time, he also bought 200 acres near his boyhood home in Wisconsin. Nelson graduated from the Chicago Theological Seminary in 1949, having focused his graduate thesis on the nature of divinity and its relationship to democracy.

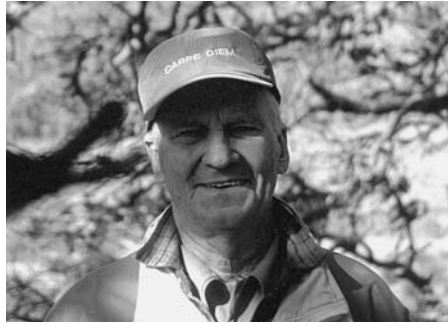
"The Creative Power, whatever you want to call it...is within the whole of creation, is within everything," he said, "All human beings have this creative power in them. Thus, democracy is the logical political development from this concept," he recalled.

It was during his first job as a minister in Wellesley, MA, that he began to work for human rights. "There was a lot of discrimination in housing, against the black and Jewish people there, so we rallied our entire congregation to help make fair practices."

They formed a grassroots group called the Wellesley Fair-Housing Practices Committee, which eventually did succeed in helping eliminate some of the housing discrimination. "I actually ended up with a wonderful black woman for my next-door neighbor, which never would have happened before."

Over the years, Nelson continued to travel, published three books of poetry and fought more battles: for human rights, democratic practices and the environment. He marched with Dr. King in Selma, Alabama, and protested capital punishment, nuclear proliferation and the Vietnam War while living in Eugene, Oregon and later, in Wausau, Wisconsin.

After he retired, Nelson and Janet began to travel, forgoing the Harley for a tiny trailer called a "Scamp," which became their second home while exploring the beauty of the southwestern deserts and the lush forests of the Pacific Northwest, among other places. "It was amazing to see how these places had changed [since my trips on the Harley]," he says. "The sprawl. The houses. They had just eaten up everything."



At 85, Native Forest Council member Carl Nelson is still traveling the country with his wife, working on his fourth book of poetry and fighting to save America's public lands.

So Nelson became increasingly involved with public lands issues, which he believes are intrinsically connected to human rights issues.

"You work on human rights and have a sense of democracy and equality. The whole universe is intertwined and interdependent, and you can't have your human rights apart from your animal rights or your [environment] or anything...it's all interrelated," he explained.

By 1976, the 200 acres that he had bought decades ago in Wisconsin for \$1,300 had become so valuable (thanks to the same urban sprawl he fought), that he could no longer afford the taxes. This land was more than just a treasured family retreat; it was also a watershed important to the nearby community. So Nelson struck a deal with the Forest Service, who would buy the land and preserve the ecosystem. He founded the South Twin Lakes Conservation Society to help make sure that the Forest Service preserved the land as he intended.

Fighting for what is right takes a lot of energy, and Nelson has learned that "It's awfully easy to have burn-out." Staying inspired is one of the reasons he has enjoyed working now with Tim Hermach, director of the Native Forest Council. "You get a charge out of talking with Tim - and that's what we all need."

At 85, Nelson is still fighting for the preservation of America's lands. The South Twin Lakes Conservation Society is working to keep a high-voltage power line from cutting through quite near the very piece of land that Nelson sold to the Forest Service. And he is still traveling with his wife Janet, visiting their grandchildren, and working on his fourth book of poetry ■

And though I do accept  
evil, death, and dissonance,  
let me not capitulate.

Let me not bewail the evil that besets me,  
nor sulk that dissonance should mar the perfect chord,  
nor succumb while yet alive to rigor mortis.

Let me dedicate myself  
to tip the scale toward the side of life;  
let me add my mite to the treasury of good;  
let me increase, if just a bit, the beauty on the earth.

From the title poem of *Eternity Can Wait*,  
by Carl J. Nelson

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# Solutions: The Power of One

by Ed Dorsch

History gives us countless examples of citizens who, against all odds, changed our laws, our society and our lives. Change didn't come easy for them either. Sometimes, it did not even come during the lives of those leading the charge. But it did happen.

Save public lands? Every last acre? Impossible! It's easy to find reasons why it won't work. It's harder to get to work and find reasons we will succeed. Without a doubt, saving our nation's mountains, forests, rivers and streams will (like most worthy efforts) take some hard work. And some faith. When I was working with social justice groups in El Salvador during the early nineties, someone asked a clergyman how he could keep on working, despite the horrible things that had happened — and continued to happen — around him. His reply? Faith is not based on results.

Steadfast faith — a belief in a cause despite overwhelming odds and the immediate results that you see — has always been a necessary component for change. But we don't need to rely on faith alone. History gives us countless examples of dedicated citizens who, against all odds, changed laws, society and lives. Change didn't come easy for them either. Sometimes, it didn't even come during the lifetimes of those leading the charge.

But it did happen. So much of what we take for granted today was the result of a long and difficult struggle: suffrage for women and African Americans, basic labor rights (including what we now take for granted as the “weekend”) and freedom from legal slavery.

At the time these struggles began, achieving these changes seemed impossible. Many doubted it could happen. And these skeptics sounded prudent, while the instigators of change seemed radical — even dangerous. But the courage of those who questioned the status quo, bolstered by conditions so unbearable that the public had no choice but to join the fight, created the momentum to make change happen.

Such momentum is building among those who want to preserve our public lands — America's living life-support system — for the sake of future generations. The effects of squandering our source of clean air, water and soil, without accounting for the lost resources, are becoming all-too-apparent. They simply cannot be ignored. As we continue to build awareness, unite unlikely allies and rally the people of the United States and the world, a sea change becomes possible. This sentiment will not build in a linear fashion, but will grow exponentially, as momentum shifts and the balance shifts to conservation.

Still lack faith? Read these three stories (and there are hundreds more) of “ordinary” people who fought against extraordinary odds, against so-called common sense. And won. Criticized for being too radical. Threatened. Reviled. Even jailed and fined. These great Americans were heroes because they were able to look beyond one lifetime and stand up for what was right ■



Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton led the fight for women's suffrage. Neither lived long enough to vote.

## Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony

Stanton met Anthony in 1851. Together, they spent the next 50 years fighting for women's rights. Neither lived to vote in her own country, but Stanton and Anthony led the struggle for women's suffrage. They began fighting for legal reform in New York State, opposing unfair divorce and property rights laws. Anthony organized women from across the state, delivering speeches that Stanton wrote. After the civil war, they began to focus on the root cause of inequality for women: a lack of the right to vote. They published the *Weekly Revolution* in New York City and, in 1869, formed the National American Woman Suffrage Association. In 1872, Anthony defiantly cast a ballot in the presidential election. After her arrest and conviction, she refused to pay the \$100 fine. The 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, which granted women the right to vote, was not adopted until 1920. During their lifetimes, they were considered dangerous radicals — even criminals. But Stanton and Anthony were brave leaders who changed the very nature of our democracy.



Mardy and Olaus on the Murie ranch in Moose, Wyoming, circa 1957. Photo courtesy of the Murie Family and the Murie Center.

## Olaus and Margaret Murie

Olaus and Margaret “Mardy” Murie fought tirelessly for wilderness, helping stop dams in Glacier National Park and Dinosaur National Monument, and working to create Grand Teton National Park and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Their testimony was pivotal in the passage of the Alaska Lands Act, and the Wilderness Act of 1964.

The Murie homestead became a nexus of the conservation movement, where conservationists and scientists from all over the world would come for inspiration and wisdom. The ranch became a pseudo-headquarters for the Wilderness Society while Olaus was director from 1945-1962. It was also there that much of the Wilderness Act was drafted.

But Olaus never lived to see that victory, succumbing to illness only months before the passage of the act that remains the most powerful protection for publicly owned lands. Mardy has carried on their torch to this day, continuing to fight for our nation's wilderness.

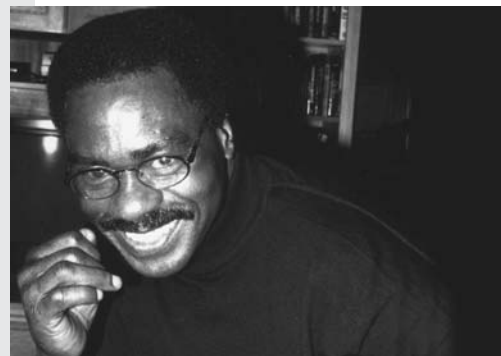
## The Hurricane

Rubin “Hurricane” Carter was a middleweight boxer well on his way to becoming world champion when he and a friend were wrongfully convicted of a triple murder in his hometown of Paterson, NJ in 1966.

After eight years in prison, Carter published an autobiography. In 1980, Lesra Martin, a 15-year-old from the Brooklyn ghettos who had been adopted and taught to read by three Canadians, found a copy of Carter's biography by pure chance: the book had been out of print for more than a year, and it was the first book Martin ever read. He and the members of his new family were so motivated by the story that they spent the next five years fighting for Carter's freedom.

In 1985, the efforts of this grassroots campaign were rewarded. Federal appeals judge H. Lee Sarokin set Carter free, saying Carter's trials had been “based on racism rather than reason, and concealment rather than disclosure.”

Carter is now living in Canada, and serves as the executive director of the Association in Defense of the Wrongly Convicted, a group he formed in 1993 “to reduce the likelihood of future miscarriages of justice and, second, to review and, where warranted, attempt to overturn wrongful convictions.”



“Hate got me in here. Love's going to bust me out.” Thanks to one boy who wouldn't give up, Rubin “Hurricane” Carter was set free after being convicted for a crime he did not commit. Today, Carter works to help the wrongfully convicted.



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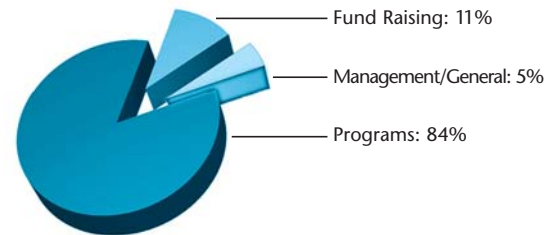
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