

Forest Voice

Summer 2001

A Publication of the Native Forest Council

FREE

ENERGY CRISIS?

Shortage of Energy?
Or Leadership? p. 2

W's Energy Plan:
What it Means for
Our Public Lands p. 11

Why (and how)
Conservation Works p. 15

The recent precipitous drop in George W. Bush's approval rating is by no means the worst news for the White House. After all, presidential approval ratings tend to have more ups and downs than a roller coaster filled with manic-depressives.

No, what should have Karl Rove and Karen Hughes waking up in a cold sweat in the middle of the night are the recent polls showing not just that the public overwhelmingly supports energy conservation efforts over the massive build-up of new power plants but that Republicans do as well. By a ratio of more than two-to-one.

And a core group of disgruntled Republicans are not just ritually shaking their heads—They're speaking out. "It's a shame that a conservative administration had to be badgered into talking positively about efficiency," says Jim Scarantino, executive director of Republicans for Environmental Protection.

The group rails against the energy plan's "lack of an aggressive energy efficiency strategy"—a failure that repudiates a Republican tradition dating back to the days of Teddy Roosevelt, who put conservation at the heart of his agenda and his legacy.

"The movement for the conservation of wildlife," Roosevelt wrote in 1916, "and the larger movement for the conservation of all our natural resources, are essentially democratic in spirit, purpose and method."

One hundred years after TR took office, a defiantly conservative administration has sent to Congress a plan that is so pathetically indifferent, even hostile, to conservation it does not even address the single biggest and most obvious step we can take to conserve energy: increasing auto fuel-efficiency standards.

The Bush plan merely recommends further "study" of the issue — traditionally the junkyard for change and innovation — sidestepping the need to require SUVs and pickups, which now account for nearly 50 percent of the vehicles sold in America, to meet the same mileage requirements as cars.

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Conservation

Our Leaders Fiddle While the Public Turns

(continued from cover)

Instead, in an effort to soften his hard-earned “let them drink arsenic” image, the president has taken to photo-op environmentalism. Like his recent wide-eyed walk through a Department of Energy showcase of energy-saving devices, including a state-of-the-art cell phone charger.

“When you multiply the number of chargers plugged into people’s walls all across America,” the President enthused, “one can begin to realize significant savings all across the country.” By golly, one certainly can. One can also recommend “further study.”

After the tour, Bush grandly announced over \$85 million in grants aimed at encouraging the development of technologies linked to renewable energy. Sure it sounds good, but the problem is the grants simply restored the \$85 million in funding for renewable energy the president had previously recommended cutting.

The other problem is that \$85 million is a drop in the bucket compared to the roughly \$1.36 billion in tax incentives, credits and deductions handed out to his buddies in the coal, oil and gas industries. These, apparently, did not need further study.

And to put in perspective just how frivolous the size of the grants are, California alone has set aside ten times as much, \$850 million, just in monetary incentives for consumers who purchase energy efficient appliances.

As Alan Noguee of the Union of Concerned Scientists put it: “Energy efficiency and renewable energy could replace nearly 1,000 of the 1,300 new power plants that President Bush says are needed to meet increasing energy needs. America does not face a shortage of energy supplies, just a shortage of vision, leadership and determination to provide clean and affordable energy.”

Despite the Bush administration’s highly effective effort to conserve its very limited supplies of vision, leadership and determination—and despite widespread skepticism about whether there really is a power shortage—the public has responded beyond all expectations to the call for conservation.

In California, ground zero for the current energy crisis, conservation efforts have reduced demand for electricity for the second month in a row. Electricity use in June was down over 12 percent from last year, following an 11 percent drop in May.

Not surprisingly, Governor Gray Davis—who has spent much of the last few months dithering while the energy crisis burned—rushed to take credit for the drop in energy usage. As if he’s

been running up and down the state, turning up thermostats and turning off light switches.

Of course, the alternative to being a one-man switch-flipping brigade would be finding a way to spark the public’s imagination—but when it comes to sparking the public’s imagination, Gray Davis is no Gary Condit.

While there’s no doubt consumers are looking to avoid mammoth power bills, the fervor with which they have embraced voluntary conservation efforts can’t be explained solely on grounds



by Arianna Huffington

Despite the Bush administration’s highly effective effort to conserve its very limited supplies of vision, leadership and determination, the public has responded beyond all expectations to the call for conservation.

of self-interest. In fact, it demonstrates the depth of the American people’s untapped reserves of commitment to the public good, even when their leaders are clearly entirely tapped out.

It is truly ironic that one of those on the cutting edge of consumer conservation is W himself, whose ranch in Crawford, Texas, has been described as “an environmentally sensitive showplace” designed with “state-of-the-art energy efficiency.” The house is filled with energy-saving devices, while the ranch’s lawn and fruit orchard are irrigated with recycled water. He’s acting locally, he just can’t think globally.

One can’t help but wonder: Is this a deeply felt personal commitment of W’s that, at the national level, is overwhelmed by his even more deeply felt commitment to his friends and donors in the energy industry?

Isn’t it time that Bush starts preaching to the nation what he practices back at the ranch? ■

Arianna Huffington is a nationally syndicated columnist and author of eight books. To find out more, or to read her columns, visit her web page at www.ariannaonline.com.

Editor’s Note: In this edition of Forest Voice, we’ve included several stories about Bush’s energy plan and conservation. Why? Because oil, coal and natural gas drilling directly affect America’s public lands. For more information, visit www.forestcouncil.org.

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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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Native Forest Council

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

The mission of the Native Forest Council is to provide visionary leadership and to ensure the integrity of public land ecosystems, without compromising people or forests.

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News and Views

Find more on these stories at www.forestcouncil.org

Bush Appoints Conservation Foes

Some are in office; others await confirmation. So far, almost all of Bush's nominees are lawyers or lobbyists for the very industries they will oversee. In July, the Senate confirmed Steven Griles to serve as deputy secretary of the Interior Department, putting an energy industry official second in command at the agency. Awaiting confirmation as head of the Forest Service, Mark Rey has long worked for the timber industry. Linda Fisher, nominated for EPA Deputy Administrator is a former chief lobbyist for biochemical and pesticide manufacturer Monsanto. For a complete list and the latest news on confirmations, visit www.forestcouncil.org.

Industry Poses as Indigenous Group

Arctic Power, an oil industry front group, is running a misleading ad featuring a native Inupiat who supports drilling in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. No Gwich'in, native people, who have lived in the area known as ANWR and depended on caribou for centuries, appear in the advertisement. The Gwich'in are deeply concerned that development in ANWR will keep the caribou from their calving grounds and reduce the herd. To see the ad and learn more about Arctic Power, visit www.forestcouncil.org.

"Crisis" Increases Conservation



The rolling blackouts weren't as severe as predicted in California, and experts say the energy "crisis" may be over. Below average summer temperatures helped to ease energy needs, but statewide conservation efforts are largely responsible for preventing energy problems. The state energy commission reports that total demand for power was down 12 percent this June compared to last year. In response to predicted power shortages, the state launched educational campaigns and implemented rebate programs to encourage the purchase of energy efficient appliances and the use of alternative energy sources, such as solar power. California also offered conservation incentives to large energy consumers.

Citizens Take a Stand Against Fee Demo

On July 7 near Ouray, Colorado, more than 100 members of the Western Slope No-Fee Coalition faced roadblocks and armed forest rangers when they demonstrated against a new Forest Service Fee Demo area: a site on public lands where citizens must pay to enter. The Coalition, a diverse mix of hikers, fishermen and off-road enthusiasts, opposes the fees because they represent double taxation, commercialization of public lands and discrimination against low-income citizens.

Poll: NW Opposes Cutting Old Growth



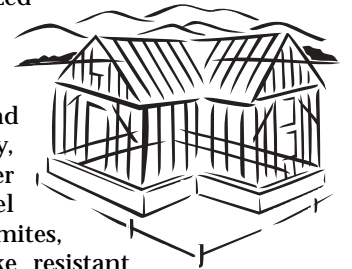
A recent poll commissioned by Northwest environmental groups found that 75 percent of people living in the Northwest want to see an end to logging of old growth in our national forests. The poll, which was conducted by Davis & Hibbitts Inc. of Portland, showed consistent numbers across party lines and in rural communities traditionally dominated by the timber industry.

Study Says Federal Logging Not Needed

The Framing Lumber Composite Price, a broad measure of price movement in the lumber market, has dropped this year making increased logging contradictory to market demand. According to *Random Lengths*, an industry newsletter, the average price for lumber in June 1996-2000 was \$392 per thousand board meter compared to \$365 to in June 2001. The current price of lumber is about 15 percent less than the trend of prices in the industry. This relatively cheap price for lumber and structural panels, combined with steady housing starts and production, show that the industry would benefit from closing mills rather than increasing log supply.

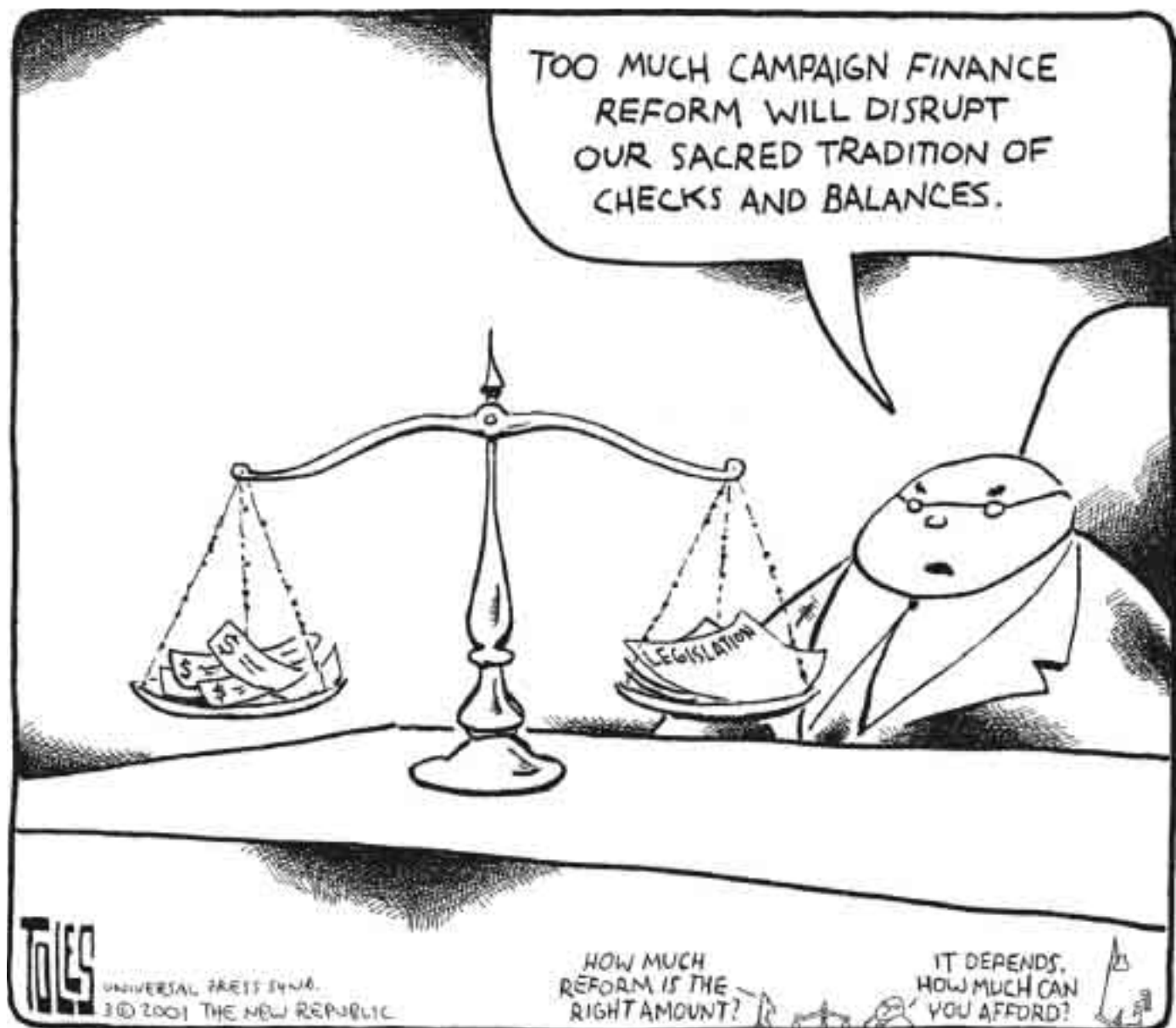
Use of Wood Alternative Growing

According to a report in the *LA Times*, entire communities in Southern California are being constructed with steel paneled homes and nearly 50 percent of homes in Hawaii have steel frames. Lightweight, galvanized steel studs are now being used to frame homes. Steel panels are becoming popular because of increasing costs of lumber and the decline in lumber quality, caused by tendencies of lumber from smaller trees to warp. Steel paneling is resistant to fire, termites, dry rot and is more earthquake resistant than wood.



House Nixes Campaign Finance Reform

On July 12, the House tabled the campaign finance reform bill. Partisan finger pointing continues. Twelve Republicans joined Democrats in voting 228 to 203 to table the bill rather than debate it. Approved by the Senate in April, the bill would ban unlimited donations to political parties and put new constraints on political advertising by advocacy groups. Supporters continue their work to bring the bill back and force a vote.



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Wyoming's Red Desert

By Benjamin Scott

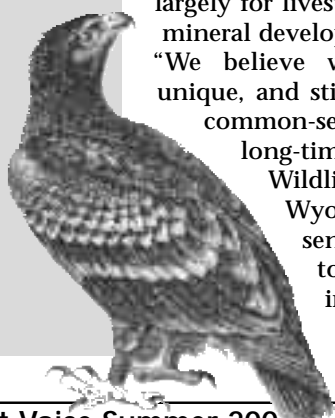
Rich in rare species and striking geological formations, the Red Desert is one of the largest unfenced areas outside Alaska. But oil drilling threatens the Jack Morrow Hills Area, a section of the Red Desert managed by the BLM.



The Red Desert is a historical and biological treasure. Pioneers on the Oregon Trail used the Oregon Buttes, above, to mark the halfway point between Independence, Missouri and the Pacific Ocean. Native Americans still cherish these hills as a spiritual place. The sagebrush steppes are a stronghold for the Sage Grouse, a species whose stunning mating rituals are only matched by their loyalty to their mating grounds. Massive elk herds find sustenance in the high-country sagebrush during the snowy winters, and in the summers find relief in the oases of North America's largest active field of sand dunes.

Desert Wildlife

The Jack Morrow Hills Area is home to more than 350 species of wildlife, including 10 endangered species and 14 more that are close. The sagebrush of this high desert is a stronghold for the sage grouse, and Wyoming has more than any other state. They have returned every year for centuries to the same mating grounds, called *leks*, to strut, puff and squawk in courtship. But their numbers are plummeting fast due to habitat destruction. The majority of the proposed drilling would take place directly in many leks. The area is also known for its big game, providing elk, mule deer and pronghorn antelope with "crucial habitat": land that biologists consider the determining factor in a species' ability to survive. Some Wyoming hunting groups oppose oil and gas activity in the Core Area (see map at right) because of the proven impacts on the only elk herd known to exist in a sagebrush habitat. The area also has one of the most diverse and numerous raptor concentrations, including golden eagles, great horned owls, kestrels and the endangered ferruginous hawk.



Thriving with Life, Threatened by Oil

The soaring plateaus and striking geological formations of the Red Desert were landmarks of great importance to the early pioneers of the American West. Thousands who endured the hardships of the Oregon and Mormon Pioneer Trail looked to the formations of Steamboat Mountain and Oregon Buttes to help guide them west.

But their historic journey also left striking scars on this fragile land: Their wagon tracks can still be seen a century later. Today, mining, drilling and off road vehicle use in the Red Desert leaves scars that our great grandchildren will certainly recognize.

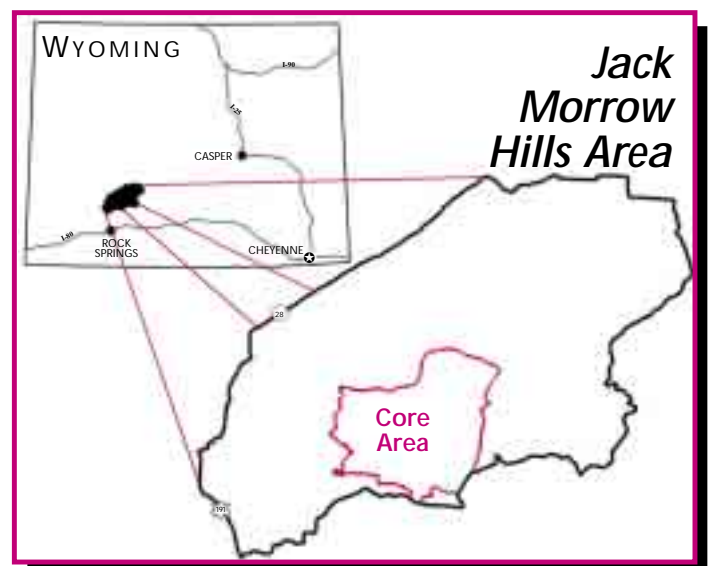
The Jack Morrow Hills Area is a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) planning area that makes up a vast part of the Red Desert, and is one of the largest unfenced areas outside of Alaska. Spanning more than 622,000 acres, the area is home to one of the most diverse and healthy concentrations of raptors. The rock formations that inspired pioneers are still hallowed spiritual grounds for Native American tribes such as the Shoshone. The sagebrush steppes are one of the last strongholds for the Sage Grouse, a spectacular bird that is dependant on uninterrupted sagebrush habitat, and whose mating struts and calls are one of wildlife's greatest spectacles. The high plateaus and shifting sand dunes, including the largest active dune field in North America, provide crucial habitat for a healthy but threatened elk population.

Human disturbance, especially from oil and gas drilling and off road vehicle use, poses the largest threat. Drilling activity began as early as the 1900's, and by 1922, oil tycoons had tapped into productive oil fields. Conservation has taken a backseat to productivity, despite the impacts observed by the BLM. According to Biodiversity Associates, an independent environmental auditing group, "The BLM has not prioritized protecting wild places or conserving sensitive species on public lands in Wyoming. Instead, BLM has managed public lands largely for livestock and to maximize oil, gas, coal and other mineral development."

"We believe we can protect the Red Desert's fragile, unique, and still undamaged Jack Morrow Hills region with common-sense conservation," said Craig Thompson, a long-time member of the Wyoming and National Wildlife Federations and resident of Rock Springs, Wyoming. "As these are public lands, the public sentiment that persuaded former Secretary Babbitt to better protect them should continue despite industry petitions to ramp up development."

To date, the Red Desert has suffered the effects of 80 years of resource extraction, and is now targeted for more. As of late 1997, 153 wells penetrated the area, which does not include failed and abandoned attempts, according to the BLM. The delicate plant and animal species that have survived thus far are facing even greater threats today: Big Oil plans to drill as many wells in the Red Desert in the next 13 years as they have drilled in the last century, according to the *High Country News*. And off-road vehicle use in the JMHA is growing fast, with over 3,200 users last year alone, compounding the impacts of machinery waste and noise on wild plants and animals.

Despite these impacts, the Red Desert is still very much intact. The 1967 Wilderness Act defines wilderness areas as those that are still "untrammelled by man." Within the JMHA there are already seven separate areas totalling 117,000 acres that are currently designated as Wilderness Study Areas. Groups such as the Wyoming Outdoor Council have also identified another 116,000 acres that could become wilderness, a valuable resource for the 10,000-plus hikers, hunters, bird-lovers and other visitors that enjoy the area each year. A preservation plan, including a solution to the conflict with existing drilling rights, is quickly becoming a realistic goal. According to Mac Blewer of the Wyoming Outdoor Council, "Designation of the JMHA as a National Conservation Area is an idea that BLM officials and Wyoming congressional representatives are open to." ■



Clearcuts: Mt. Hood National Forest

“I do not intend...

... that our natural resources shall be exploited by the few against the interests of the many.”

Theodore Roosevelt

Join Native Forest Council

Certifiable?

by Ed Dorsch

Certified lumber is a great idea. But so far, it isn't doing much for the forests. Ambiguous criteria, industry greenwash (sometimes with the blessing of "environmental" groups) and a failure to address underlying policies that encourage cutting all make "green" lumber little more than cosmetic conservation for those who can afford it.

Like coffee, cocoa, tea and other consumer goods, lumber is now available with an environmental seal of approval. The two most prevalent labels, the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Sustainable Forest Initiative (SFI), represent two extremes of the "green" timber spectrum.

The FSC began accrediting cutting operations in 1995. Based in Oaxaca, Mexico, this international organization includes small timber companies and some environmental groups. Over the past two years, large retailers such as Lowe's and Home Depot (in some cases, due to pressure from the public) have started carrying FSC-certified lumber.

But other certification groups have joined the fray, creating an alphabet soup of acronyms and conflicting claims. The SFI was started by the American Forest and Paper Association to give Big Timber its own green label. But the SFI label is pure corporate greenwash; Forest watchdogs call it the "same old forest industry" label, and timber companies as irresponsible as Maxxam and Pacific Lumber have been certified by SFI. This fall, SFI will launch a \$25 million advertising blitz to promote its brand of eco-friendly lumber. FSC is responding with its own extensive promotion campaign, featuring actor Pierce Brosnan.

Confused? So is the average consumer. At least half a dozen additional acronyms now muddy the waters. And, if you've read this far, you already know more than most consumers about certified lumber.

Changing the way forests are managed is laudable, but "alternative" consumption absent broad (and enforceable) policy change does little to save forests.

For one thing, it's far too easy for corporate America to add a fresh coat of green paint to its operations than to change their behavior. Change the packaging, add a new label and it's business as usual. Conspiracy? Hardly. Maximizing profit is part of every corporate mission statement. They will do everything in their power to increase consumption. If consumers want green lumber, then industry will find a way to satisfy that market. And, under current political and economic policies, it's more cost-effective to create an ecologically minded image than to change what really happens in the forest. And so Big Timber will inevitably



find a way to give its operations a green sheen: quasi-nonprofits, capitulating environmental groups and brilliant packaging and advertising campaigns.

What's the solution? Certification could help, but only in the context of broader policy changes, reduced consumption and active promotion of alternative building materials and fiber sources. We must hold industry accountable for all the costs the public pays for it to cut our forests. We must ban the export of raw logs. And we must stop subsidizing dishonest, destructive corporations with taxpayer dollars. Viable alternatives, particularly for paper and pulp, already exist, but must compete with heavily subsidized timber companies that help themselves to publicly owned assets. Make the free market truly free, and paper made from trees will go the way of whale oil and the horse-drawn carriage.

Finally, legitimate certification should be carefully controlled by a united coalition of conservation groups and scientists committed to a clear set of principles: Certified wood is not grown on public lands; It does not come from old growth forests, clearcuts or monocrop tree plantations; It is never used for wood chips or paper; And partial certification of forests is never an option.

Until we unite such a group and refuse to compromise, certification will continue to protect industry from environmentalists, instead of protecting the environment from industry. ■

Learn more at www.forestcouncil.org

Certification could help, but only if used in the context of broader policy changes, reduced consumption and active promotion of alternative building materials and fiber sources.

Alphabet Soup: What the Labels Mean

by Gordon Kelley

Forest certification began in the early 1990's, with the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). More than a decade later, relatively few consumers know about certified lumber. And, with half a dozen or more labels on the market, even fewer can sift through the labels—an alphabet soup of acronyms.

What, exactly, makes timber "green?" Like organic foods, the best way to know what you buy is to know who grew it. Easier done with tomatoes than two-by-fours. Organizations involved in timber certification claim to encourage environmental, social and economic sustainability in forest management. These aren't easy claims to prove. Or measure. Several competing certification systems define these goals and certify producers. All are voluntary. No government in the world requires timber producers to become certified.

To prevent dishonest companies from slapping a label on uncertified wood, organizations try to keep a paper trail that tracks wood from the cut to the hardware store. As organic produce certifiers have learned, though, monitoring every step of the production process is nearly impossible. And it's much harder to track plywood than produce.

Certifying organizations, like FSC, are in charge of who gets to put their label on wood products. These certifying organizations must themselves be accredited by a third party. Certification organizations may have their own standards for certification which must be approved by the accrediting organization before they can put their stamp on the wood.

Forest certification policy is currently being developed by FSC for U.S. national forests. Although federal forest certification would help expand the certification movement, there is considerable debate about whether the long-term risks are worth the potential benefit.

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)

The FSC is the only worldwide timber certification scheme for all forest types and plantations and has received endorsement from organizations such as the World Wildlife Federation, Friends of the Earth and Greenpeace. The FSC accredits certification organizations that comply with FSC principles: respecting national laws, respecting indigenous people's rights to manage their lands, protecting forests from illegal harvesting, not harvesting in excess of permanently sustainable levels and protecting water quality and forest ecosystems. Certification organizations accredited by the FSC include SmartWood and Scientific Certification Systems.

Green Tag Forestry

Green Tag Forestry was created by the timber industry as a response to the high costs associated with assessments and audits required by certifying schemes such as FSC. There was a sense that the FSC was too "habitat-oriented" and left more trees standing than "necessary." Green Tag Forestry certified forests are managed according to most of the FSC's components, but have more industry-friendly rules about chemical use, cutting larger trees and clearcuts than FSC. Green Tag Forestry manages forests according to criteria such as stability of ownership, reforestation, community relations, road construction and economic viability.

The American Tree Farm System

The American Tree Farm System certifies its members as meeting the standards and guidelines of sustainable forestry established by the American Forest Foundation. Its standards for managing forests include an emphasis on growing renewable forest resources and encouraging "public understanding of all benefits of productive forestry." Timber companies and member forests are required to implement forest management practices that supposedly enhance the health and productivity of the woodland while addressing the effect of their forest practices on fish and wildlife. American Tree Farm System forest management practices are designed to consider biodiversity on a landscape or watershed scale. The American Tree Farm System is the largest certifier of private forest lands in the United States.

Pan European Forest Certification (PEFC)

The Pan European Forest Certification Council certifies that forest products come from forests managed according to the Pan European Criteria on the protection of European forests. The criteria include the following: maintenance of forest ecosystem health, maintenance of sustainable wood production, conservation and enhancement of biological diversity and maintenance of the protective functions of soil and water in forests. The criteria specifically include public participation in public policy and decision making on forests. PEFC is a certification organization but not an accrediting body like FSC. ■

This list is provided for information purposes only. Native Forest Council does not endorse any of these certification systems as accurate or endorse any logging on public lands. We assert that all publicly owned lands should be protected and restored.

What, exactly, makes timber "green"? Today, there are at least six certified wood labels available on the market. We've explained four of them to help interpret (some of) the acronyms.

Native Forest Council Annual Report 2000

The Native Forest Council is dedicated to the preservation and protection of all publicly owned natural resources from destructive practices, sales and all resource extraction.

The year 2000. Arguably, the beginning of a new millennium; One of the strangest elections in our nation's history; And a major shift of power in the White House. Last year was a year of change—both for the country and for Native Forest Council. Though we face a powerful adversary, Bush's anti-conservation policies have galvanized national support for our mission. From the day he was inaugurated, the gloves were off. The Bush administration has launched an all-out war against public lands. We face new threats, but the Bush administration's assault on the environment has also bolstered the resolve of our faithful friends and renewed a fighting spirit among conservationists.

For Native Forest Council, 2000 was a year to plant seeds for the future. By expanding distribution of the *Forest Voice*, our web site and our Forever Wild educational speaking tour, we found tremendous support for public lands protection. With the lifetime bequest of Council member Helen Johnson (please read our memorial in the Winter 2001 issue of *Forest Voice*), we have been able to add four new staff members and acquire new technical tools for media and activism. And we are planning to take full ownership of our national office in Eugene, Oregon.

With care and attention, this expansion of infrastructure will foster future growth and make Forever Wild not only a possibility, but a reality. As we finish the first half of 2001, the seeds of 2000 are already beginning to take root. Thanks to you, we are growing. ■

2000 in Review

- ◆ Education
- ◆ Legislation
- ◆ Litigation
- ◆ Growth

Education

This year, the Native Forest Council had a strong presence in the national media. Forty-four news features from across the country included the Council and thirty-four newspapers and television stories cited us as a source. These included *USA Today*, Fox News, the *Washington Post* and the *Christian Science Monitor*. Also, the book *American Environmental Leaders, from colonial times to the present*, by Anne Becher featured Executive Director Tim Hermach. Our membership continued to grow and we increased the national distribution of the *Forest Voice*.

In August, Hermach spoke about the importance of protecting public lands at the Shadow Convention in Los Angeles. The event, which highlighted critical issues ignored at the partisan conventions, featured a diverse list of speakers including Reverend Jesse Jackson, New Mexico Governor Gary Johnson, Senator Russ Feingold and Dorris "Granny D" Haddock. Also Council Representative Robin Smith, a former EPA scientist and national park ranger, conducted a nationwide Forever Wild educational speaking tour.

This year, we worked to produce environmental education resources for schools. Council representatives attended the National Science Teachers Association Convention in Florida. As one of only two noncorporate groups at the event, we distributed information and spoke with teachers about developing accurate environmental curricula. Two hundred forty-nine teachers signed up to join our new web-based environmental education center. This network will help teachers share and develop ideas and lesson plans for conscientious environmental education.

Litigation

In 2000, the Council participated in two lawsuits, both to stop logging on national forests. In the first suit, we joined hotel owners, fishing enthusiasts and others whose livelihood depends on the forests. This coalition of individuals and organizations demanded an end to the federal timber program on the grounds that the Forest Service must, by law, use our public lands for the "highest and best use." The second suit addressed the Northwest Forest Plan, revealing that spotted owl populations have been declining at levels much higher than originally mandated in the plan, in violation of the law.

Legislation

We developed two drafts of a Forever Wild bill. Council staff and attorneys are working to edit the bill so it may be introduced into Congress.

Growth

In 2000, we continued to grow as an organization, while staying true to our roots as a membership-focused organization. For the third straight year, we received the majority of our funding from individuals, not big foundations. For the second time in as many years, members of Working Assets voted to award the Council a generous gift. We also established the Helen Johnson Fund. With the lifetime bequest of this loyal supporter, we have been able to expand our staff, technical infrastructure and activism tools. Thanks to the steadfast support of members like you, it looks as if 2001 will also be a year of growth and success, with every day, week and month bringing us closer to making Forever Wild a reality. ■



Forest Council Staff: Top (left to right): Intern Zaid McKie-Krisberg, President Timothy Hermach, Associate Editor Jessica Brittsan, Editor/Vice President Ed Dorsch, Administrative Assistant Craig Nielsen. Bottom (left to right): IT Coordinator Peter Watkins, Technology Intern Hidetoshi Haruna, Administrative Assistant Deborah Ortuno, Webmistress Sara Olsher. Not Pictured: Assistant Editor / Webmaster Ben Scott, Executive Assistant Erica Langbecker, Legal Consultant Rick Gorman, Forester Roy Keene, Intern Gordon Kelly.

2000 Highlights

- Increased membership and national distribution of our newspaper, the *Forest Voice*.
- Featured in 44 news stories across the country.
- Cited as a source in 34 national newspapers and television news programs.
- Executive Director Tim Hermach spoke at the Shadow Convention, an alternative to the Republican and Democratic party conventions, in Los Angeles.
- Conducted national Forever Wild educational speaking tour.
- Attended the National Science Teachers Association Convention to fight corporate influence on environmental education.
- Established a web-based environmental education network for teachers, parents and students to share and develop ideas and lesson plans for conscientious environmental education.
- Participated in two lawsuits, both to stop logging on national forests.
- Developed two drafts of Forever Wild legislation.
- Built coalitions with labor and religious groups committed to the environment.
- Provided support to grassroots campaigns for public lands.

Tublitz Joins Council Board

Neurobiologist Nathan Tublitz is the newest member of the Council's board

Reaching into a large tank with a long plastic tube, Nathan Tublitz gently pokes a small, resting cuttlefish. It's brown and white—just like the rocks it is resting on.

"See that," says Tublitz. As the fish undulates up from the bottom of the tank, its soft, gel-like body turns white. The cuttlefish's chameleon-like ability to perfectly match its surroundings is one of the complex behavioral responses Tublitz studies as a neurobiologist at the University of Oregon. With a wide grin across his bearded face, he turns back to the tank, disturbs another resting fish and declares the cuttlefish to be the "coolest" of all invertebrates.

Tublitz, the newest Native Forest Council board member, has a Ph.D. in zoology and neurobiology and is a professor at the University of Oregon. He works with simple and complex invertebrates examining how behavior is generated and modified dependent upon internal and external conditions. He wants to figure out what's behind the brain's ability to adapt behaviors for even the smallest changes in environment.

Along with his research and teaching, Tublitz is involved in several environmental and educational organizations. He is the

Tublitz, the newest Native Forest Council board member, holds a Ph.D. in zoology and neurobiology and is a professor at the University of Oregon.

president of the Eugene Natural History Society, and a co-founder of the Camas Education Network, a group that educates school children about science through hands-on restoration of wetlands. He also co-founded the Coalition for a Healthy Lane County, a new organization working to build coalitions between local environmental and social justice groups to increase impact on the community. He runs the University of Oregon Science Outreach Program, which reaches 2,000 grade school children each year. Tublitz frequently travels to England, where he is the director of a nonprofit organization working to make biology more visible throughout the world. He is also the president of the University Senate. When asked how he has the time to do it all, Tublitz simply smirks and shrugs his shoulders as if it's a secret.

Tublitz's reasoning for being concerned about environmental conservation is simple. "I'm a biologist," he states abruptly as if no other explanation is needed. "All natural systems are dependent upon interaction between organisms and some of the largest ecosystems in the world are our forests," he says. "As a biologist I know that we don't have a world unless we maintain our forests."

Leaning back in his wooden desk chair, Tublitz explains that science is an integral part of his activism. "For an environmental position to be successful, it has to argue from a position of strength," he says. "Strength comes from understanding your factual basis. One needs to know the limitations and power of the facts they are presenting."

Tublitz brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the Council, about science as well as community nonprofit organizations. His expertise and energy will be a valuable addition to the Forest Council board. ■



In Focus: Council Members Peg and Rick LaMartina

In 1990, Peg and Rick LaMartina headed west from their home in Wisconsin to see the “big trees.” But the trip to Olympic National Park was bittersweet. While amazed by the size of the trees and diversity of native Pacific Northwest forests, they were devastated to see the vast clearcuts scarring the land.

“I’m sure my mouth dropped open. It was hard to believe, really. There’s nothing that even comes close in Wisconsin,” says Peg describing her reaction to her first glimpse of the “big trees.” What they saw on that trip galvanized their commitment to forest conservation.

Peg, 43 and Rick, 48 live on a permaculture cooperative in rural southwest Wisconsin, where ten families live on 130 acres, sharing equipment and appliances—and trying to live off the land as much as possible. Some of the land is used to grow food, some is sustainably logged for firewood and some is slated to remain untouched. Peg is a foster care provider for a developmentally disabled man and Rick is a nature photographer. The LaMartinas joined Native Forest Council in 1990 and have been sending a ten-dollar gift, every month, without fail. They are humble about their giving and the dedication they express through their devout consistency.

“We may not be able to give a lot to our causes, but we strongly believe that if everyone gave some, a lot could be done,” says Rick. They say their largest contribution to conservation is their choice of lifestyle: simplicity and preservation of the paradise they find in nature.

Peg’s love of wilderness started when she was a child. Her family spent many lazy, summer afternoons on her grandfather’s farm in southeast Wisconsin. There were Indian mounds on the

not a sedentary person. [With photography] I could do art, and I could be in the field and I could be moving,” says Rick. “There’s a number of times I tried to give it up because it’s very expensive and it just kept coming back to me.” Experiencing the beauty and power of nature and sharing that experience with others is what motivates Rick as a photographer and a conservationist. “Nature is so much to be enjoyed,” says Rick. “That feeling I get from being in nature, if that could be given to people who view my work or inspire them to go out and experience that or see what I saw, I think that would be the ultimate for me.” In 1995, after being laid off from his job as a social worker, Rick seized the opportunity to make his photography a full time job. “I thought: It’s now or never. I’m going to try to make a go of it,” he says. Since then, he and Peg have been working to establish a viable photography business; This was their first breakthrough year.

Peg and Rick have been involved in many activities to protect the environment, but reflect on their trips west when asked why they remain so dedicated to the Native Forest Council. “I want to be part of saving the last of our wild areas, the last of the big trees,” says Peg. This commitment, and the commitment of so many others, is what keeps Native Forest Council—and conservation—alive. ■



Council Members Peg and Rick LaMartina

“We strongly believe that if everyone gave some, a lot could be done.”



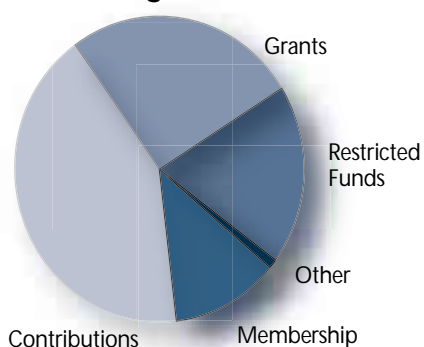
Silent Sentry by Rick LaMartina. His photography company, Earthtones Photography, can be found on the internet at www.lamartinaphotos.com.

land and a stand of old oaks and hickories with branches low enough to climb, she recalls. “It was a place where you could use your imagination,” says Peg. Now, she goes to the woods not only for recreation, but to find a spiritual connection and to discover examples of the balance she seeks in life. “[Trees are] an example that there’s some sort of creator. Whatever your religion is, there’s something larger than us,” she says. “I never feel more alive than when I’m around places where there are big trees or wilderness.”

Art is Rick’s outlet for the inspiration he finds in nature. His first medium was Realist landscape painting, until 1975, when a friend gave him a 35-millimeter camera. With the camera, he found a way to combine art, nature and hiking. “I’m

2000 Financial Report

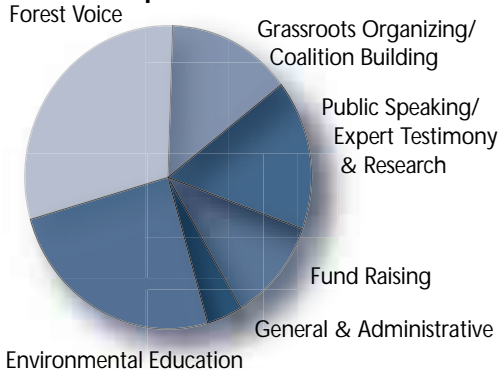
Funding Sources



Revenue/Support

Membership	12%
Contributions	42%
Grants	26%
Restricted Funds	19%
Other	1%

Expenses



Expenses

Environmental Education	25%
Forest Voice	30%
Grassroots Organizing/Coalition Building	14%
Public Speaking/Expert Testimony & Research	16%
Fund Raising	11%
General & Administrative	5%

“A society that will trade a little liberty for a little order will lose both, and deserve neither.”

-Thomas Jefferson

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Julia & Bryan
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Cordann &
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David Rosensthal
Jennifer Rosenthal
Brian Ross
Judy H. Ross
Steven Orzack &
Ariane
Cherbuliez
Walter & Carol
Otto
Laurie Overbay
Bill & Janice Owen
David K. Owen
Gary & Karen
Paccagnini
Alan Packer & Lisa
Warr King Packer
Carl Page
Sarah Paggiolotti
Kelli Painter-
Pasquioti
Carol J. Paoli
Terrence Paret
Pete Pastertz &
Kathleen
Boutin-Pasterz
Patagonia
Sabine Pater
Glenn & Dorothy
Patterson
Mark D. Pauli
Kim Paulson
Pieter Paulson
Carl Payne
P. Pilar Pedersen
Roderick Pedersen
& Zoe Francesca
Lucille F. Pedler
Jeffrey A. Pepp
Chuck C. Pergiel
Fionna Perkins
Betty Perlman
David Peterson
Frederick Pettit
David & Joanne
Phillips
David Pickrell
Michael & Olivia
Pierce
William & Karen
Pierce
David Piery
Ron Pike
Gene Pisaneschi
Steve Podratchivi
Sandy Polshuk
Karen Pollach
Wilbert &
Mabel Pool
Scott Pope
Paul Poresky &
Gail Mueller
Gerald Porter
Joseph & Robert
Posey
Lawanda Potter &
Kevin Burns
Bryan Potter
Michael Powelson
Perry J. Powers
Premena
Debra & Diethild
Price
Harold Price
Patricia Prinz
Progressive
Investment
Management
Joseph Pruett
Patricia Morrill
Hedwige
Michael & Candace
Mueller
Fred N. Puzyr
R.E.M.
Sue Racansky
Jeffrey J. Radice
John Radscheid
Dr. Paul Raether &
Dee Ann
Richard
Rick Balsdon &
Pam Hillstrom
Todd & Michele
Rambasek
Gene Ramsey
Adrienne Randol
Mark Raskin
Michael & Ken
Raspiller
Holly Rawson
Dr. Perry G. &
Carol A. Rawson
Anonymous
Kevin Raymond
Don Redell
Dane F. Reed
Jesse J. Reeder
Lucy Reid
Catherine M.
Reinhart
Flip Reisinger
Robert Remington
David Reynolds
Dennis G. Rice
Anonymous
Anna Marie Rider
Anonymous
Carroll & Martha
Ritter
Dr. Louis River III
& Jacqueline
Rivett-River
Nancy Solomon &
Darby Robertson
Linda Robertson
Mark Robinowitz
Adina W.
Robinson
Steven Robinson &
Janice Cuny
Daniel & Jana
Rocheleau
Nick & Beila Rodin
Marya C. Roddis
John H. & Elinor J.
Rodgers
Richard I. Rofsky
Dr. J. Speed Rogers
Margaret Rogers
Philip Rogers
Society of
Ron & Karen
Rohman
Julia Elaine
Romberger &
Kevin De Pew
Dr. Lawrence Rose
Mary S. Rose
- Gerhard & Susan
Steger
Jim Stehn
Stem Family
Alan Stein
Amy Steiner
Samuel & Lisa
Stember
Andrew Rothgry
Steven V. Ruddell
Harold & Judy
Rudolph
Alece Runge
George H. & Sue B.
Russell
Margaret W. Russell
William & Bernice
Russell
Laura Russo
Jennifer Sachs
John Saemann
Paul Safar &
Sylvia Halley
Peter Safar
David Salesin &
Andrea
Lingenfelder
Jane Salisbury
George Salzman
Jeffrey & Babette
Sanders
Karla Sandstrom
Brian & Lisa Santo
Frances L. Sargent
Dr. George Saslow
Tom Scannell
Drs. David Schaal
& Juanita
Jeffrey A. Pepp
Eric & Tanya
Schairer
Mary Schanz &
Benjamin
Watkins
Marianne
Scharping
George C. &
Joyce K.
Schelling
George & Janet
Schemm
John S. Schendel
Alan A. Schick
Erich F. Schimps
Ingeborg Schipull
Ed Schlegel
Daniel J. Schmidt
Irene Schmidt &
Brian Werner
Dr. Lee M. &
Linda Schmidt
Heidi Schor &
Daniel Winkler
Alan & Christa
Schorn
John V.
Schraufnagel
Ingrid Schuff
Jake Schwartz
Maylie Scott
Robert Segal
Teresa & Selmanoff
Shonnie &
John Scott
Mary Sempert
Joseph & Eleanor
Sendrowski
Paula Shapiro
Carol J. &
Stephen K.
Shapiro
Sandy Shea
Greg Sheets
Jim & Margaret
Sheldon
Allen W. & Wynne
Shelton
Lansing Shepard
Sbeirt &
Sallie E. Shippen
Linda L. Shockey
Kenneth Shults &
Kendall Kic
Craig Siegel
Mark Siemens &
Jacque Travis
Michael &
Rispiller
Eliot & Dorothy
Silverman
Bernard & Carrie
Silvermail
John P. Thornton
Jennifer Tibbey
Roderick & Debra
Tirrell
David & Tary
Tobin
Peter Toll
Daniel & Mika
Tolson
Sofala & Christine
Towner
Geraldine Smith
Perry Smith
William E. Smith
Laurie Snell
Lawrence A. Snell
Herschel Snodgrass
& Zan Tewksbury
Warren Solar
Nancy Solomon &
Arlene Stein
Kirsten Sommer
Gale Soss-Wallach
Carol L. Soth
Kurt Sparwasser
Spear, Leeds, &
Kellogg
Ellen Spear
Robert F. Spertus
Geoffery St. Clair
Peggy St. John
Richard J.
Stanewick
Andrew Stanger
Robert Stanger
State Historical
Society of
Wisconsin
Chris Stebbins
& Company
William K. &
Carol I. Steele
Mary Lee
Steffensen
- Valerie A.
Vanderheyden
Vanguard
Charitable
Program
Vermont School
Law Library
Ray Verzasconi
Gary & Donna Via
Michael Vickerman
& Pamela Wiesen
Lucille Vinyard
Steve &
Linda Vogel
Edward Von
Bleichert
Marcia Voronovsky
Tom Waegenbauer
Waggoner Creative
William Wagner
James Wakefield
Marilyn Wall &
Mike Fremont
Catherine J.
Walling
Nancy Walpole
Duane Walraven
Ray Walsh
Bernie C. Walters
William Walton
Mike Wanderer
Frank Wann
Dr. Nancy E.
Warner
Mary L. &
Richard L.
Warren
Ronald W. Watson
W. Earl Wear
Scott Weaver &
Curvin Carbaugh
Michael Webb
Phyllis Weih
Dr. Christian
Weisser
Lawrence S. Wenk
Wentworth, Hauser
& Violic
James Werner
Jerrt Werner
Frederick M.
Westcott
Emily Westerman
Willard T. & Evelyn
Wheeler
Andy Whipple
Julie White
Mildred White
Kathleen Whitlock
& John Ewer
Carrie Widger
Doug W. & B.J.
Wiegand
Sarah Wielesek
Anneoc
Wiersema
Rachel Wiese &
Michael
Silverberg
Wildwoods
Foundation
Jon Wilhelm
Beth S. Willging
Brenden Williams
Glen R. Williams
Robert & Karen
Williams
Lloyd T. & Lucia E.
Williams
Willits
Environmental
Center
Vincent P.
Wilmarth
Richard C. Wilson
Brian D. Wilson
Doris R. Wimmer
Judith A. &
Michael Wink
Farrell Wint
John & Jill Winter
George & Jane
Withers
Stephen &
Kathleen
Witter
Richard Wolber
Betsy Wolfston
Joann M. Wonders
Jerry G. Wood
Elaine I. Woodruff
Steve & Wiletta
Woodson
Doug E. Wright
Mike & Mary Jo
Wuest Murphy
Les Wylie
Priscilla H. Yates
Susan & John
Yatsky
Joanne Yatvin
Margaret & John
Yatvin
Jeannie Yeats
Susan Yee &
Greg Haskins
Jeannette Yen
Patrick Young
Stephen & Ellen
Young
Margaret Yovan
William &
Bridget Zale
Elisabeth Zall
Lisa Zandberg
David Ziemann
Robert G. Zoellmer

Thank You

Thanks to your support, we're continuing to lead the fight for your publicly owned lands.



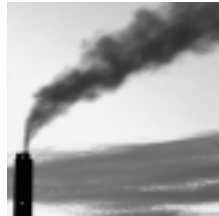
The Bush Energy Plan

by Gordon Kelley



“What people need to hear loud and clear is that we’re running out of energy in America”

—President Bush



In his second week in office, President Bush established the National Energy Policy Development group to develop a national energy policy. As expected, the report favors production over conservation, proposes widespread regulatory rollbacks and calls for increases in oil production, nuclear power and mining. The plan offers corporations a wealth of tax breaks, subsidies and incentives to increase pollution and greenhouse gases.



Ignoring significant technological breakthroughs in efficiency and alternative energy production that have occurred in the past two decades, the plan is a policy for 1975, not 2001. Focusing on consumption and centralized energy sources, the plan presents a clear and present danger to the environment, including America’s public lands, which the administration wants to open for oil and gas production.

What the Plan Would Do

- Alter regulations to permit energy exploration on currently protected public lands, including all Clinton-created national monuments, the Outer Continental Shelf and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR).
- Build 1,300-1,900 new power plants in the next 20 years: more than one per week.
- Build the first U.S. nuclear power plants in 20 years and review the law that bans reprocessing of used nuclear fuels.
- Ignore a report on three years of work by a government-led energy efficiency program that emphasizes conservation in favor of recommendations of economists at the Energy Department who predict a much greater need for fossil fuel supplies.
- Violate International Law. If the plan is enacted, it would place the United States clearly in breach of its obligations under the U.N. Climate Convention which President Bush (senior) ratified in 1992. The treaty requires industrialized countries to develop plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels.
- Severely cut funding for research and development of energy-efficient technology.
- Promote an international trade and investment deal that increases production of oil and gas overseas and restricts countries’ ability to protect their environment.
- Require environmental regulatory actions to be considered in light of their energy impact and expedite the permitting process for new energy projects on public lands.

What the Plan Means For Public Lands

Bush said he will consider “all public lands” for energy development, including any of 19 monuments designated by Clinton. Possibilities include natural gas drilling in Hanford Reach on the Columbia River and logging in the Cascade-Siskiyou forests of Southern Oregon. Utah’s spectacular Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument’s rugged, wild Kaiparowits Plateau is again at risk of coal mining. Oil companies have already applied to drill in Alaska’s Copper River Delta. Oil exploration in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is one of the most controversial elements of the Bush agenda.



Although Americans consume more than a quarter of the world’s oil, we have only about three percent of the entire world oil supply, even including Alaska. If we drilled for all the oil under the United States, we would still be far short of meeting our energy needs—and we would have spoiled some of our most valuable, scenic and wild public lands. An economic analysis by the Wilderness Society found that even if we did drill in our national monuments, the meager resources extracted wouldn’t reduce prices of gas or electricity.

Resource Economist Dr. Peter Morton, who is based in The Wilderness Society’s Denver office, analyzed U.S. Geological Service data for 15 national monuments overseen by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in the West. “Assuming the companies would extract only those resources that would yield a profit, these 15 places probably would provide just 15 days’ worth of oil and one week’s worth of gas,” Morton said. “If, as the Bush administration has suggested, we turn the oil industry loose in Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument in Montana, for example, we could expect to extend the nation’s oil supplies by one hour. Not only would this drilling fail to meet our energy needs, it would also tear up some of the most beautiful lands in America.”

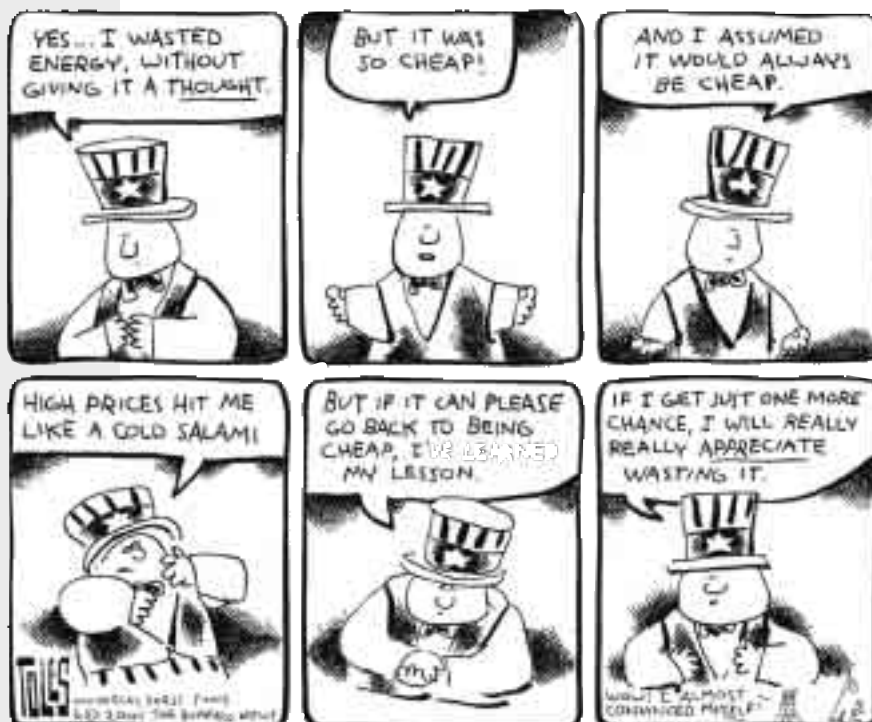
The Bush plan would also expand the Renewable Energy Tax Credit to allow biomass power generation from forest products to qualify. Energy plants using biomass will be able to utilize all sizes of trees, making it economical for timber companies to “clearcut” our forests in the name of renewable energy.

“Conservation may be a sign of personal virtue, but it is not a sufficient basis for a sound, comprehensive energy policy.”

—Vice President Cheney

A Better Solution

As Californians have learned this summer, the best solution is simple: conservation. According to the Union of Concerned Scientists, increasing mileage standards to 40 m.p.g. for cars and light trucks would save more oil than we get from Persian Gulf imports, the Arctic Wildlife Refuge and California offshore oil drilling combined. The savings of 1.5 million barrels of oil a day is more than double the estimated daily output of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The U.S. Department of Energy agrees, saying that increasing the fuel efficiency of automobiles by only three miles a gallon would save more oil within ten years than could ever be extracted from the Arctic refuge. The best way individuals can help combat the Bush energy plan’s threat to our public lands is to write to their representatives in Congress. Bush and Cheney need congressional approval to pass their energy plan. Let your voice be heard in Washington. Let your government know that our national monuments and wilderness areas are far more valuable preserved for future generations, not developed for their relatively insignificant fossil fuel potential. Tell them not to revise or weaken our national monuments, and not to release our wilderness study areas to the oil industry. ■ Learn more at www.forestcouncil.org



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Find Your Representative:

Web: <http://thomas.gov>

Phone: The Capitol Switchboard (202) 224-3121

Secretary Gale Norton
Web: www.doi.gov/secretary/
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240
Phone: (202) 208-3100

President George W. Bush
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500
president@whitehouse.gov
Fax: (202) 456-2461
Phone: (202) 456-1414
www.whitehouse.gov

Who's in Charge?

Use this guide to federal agencies to become more active, more aware of the public lands around you and more familiar with how the system works.

Native Forest Council is fighting to save what's left and restore what's been lost on approximately 650 million acres of publicly owned lands. America's mountains, forests, rivers and streams were set aside for the enjoyment and health of U.S. citizens. And for future generations.

Sadly, the agencies entrusted to protect and preserve these increasingly valuable natural treasures are neither protecting the public's property nor preserving nature. The bureaucrats charged with "managing" public lands have managed to hand much of these public assets over to corrupt corporations. And they pay them to do it with taxpayer dollars. Who's in charge here, anyway?

It's complicated. The lands we focus on include national parks and forests, wildlife refuges and areas controlled by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Federal agencies control each of the four, and each bureaucracy has its own style and leadership structure. We hope this guide to federal agencies helps you become more active, more aware of the public lands around you, and more familiar with how the system works.

America's Publicly-Owned Lands



National Treasures

Some of our most well-known public lands. For a complete list, visit Native Forest Council online: www.forestcouncil.org

National Parks

Arches
Canyonlands
Crater Lake
Denali
Grand Canyon
Sagharo
Shenandoah
Yellowstone
Yosemite
Zion

BLM Areas

California Desert
Diamond Craters
Iditarod National
Historic Trail
Lake Vermillion
Little Vulcan
Mountain
Red Rock Canyon
Steens Mountain

Wildlife Refuges

Arctic
Havasu
Cedar Keys
Wolf Island
Tamarac
Medicine Lake
San Juan Islands

National Forests

Allegheny
Bitterroot
George Washington
Olympic
Rocky Mountain
Sequoia
Superior
Tonto
Willamette

National Park Service

Manages 378 areas covering 83.6 million acres: national parks, preserves, monuments, seashores, rivers, trails and other sites.

President George W. Bush

U.S. Department of the Interior: Secretary Gale Norton

Assistant Secretary, Fish, Wildlife and Parks: Joseph Dodridge (acting secretary, unknown when Bush will appoint new one)

National Park Service Director: Fran Mainella (appointed by Bush, not yet confirmed by the Senate)

National Park Service Regional Offices (AK, Northeast, Midwest, SE, Intermountain, Pacific West)

Units of the National Park System (Glacier National Park, Mt. Rushmore, etc.)

Contact

Director Fran Mainella
National Parks Service
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240
(202) 208-6843
www.nps.gov

Bureau of Land Management

Manages 264 million acres of public lands located primarily in the 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM is also responsible for wildfire management and suppression on 388 million acres.

President George W. Bush

U.S. Department of the Interior: Secretary Gale Norton

BLM Deputy Director: Nina Rose Hatfield

BLM Regional Offices

(AK, AZ, CA, CO, Eastern States, ID, MO, NV, NM, OR, UT, WY)

Contact

Deputy Director Nina Rose Hatfield
Bureau of Land Management
1849 C St. NW
Washington, DC 20240
(202) 208-6731
www.blm.gov
nina_hatfield@blm.govwww.blm.gov

E-mail general questions: winfo@blm.gov
E-mail comments: wocomments@blm.gov
Electronic Reading Room: www.blm.gov/nhp/efoia/index.htm

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Manages the 93 million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System of more than 520 National Wildlife Refuges and thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. Under the Fisheries program it also operates 66 National Fish Hatcheries, 64 fishery resource offices and 78 ecological services field stations.

President George W. Bush

U.S. Department of the Interior: Secretary Gale Norton

Acting Deputy Director: Marshall P. Jones

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Offices (Pacific, Southwest, Great Lakes - Big Rivers, Southeast, Northeast, Mountain-Prarie, Alaska)

Units of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Migratory bird sanctuaries, fish hatcheries, wildlife refuges, etc.)

Contact

Deputy Director Marshall P. Jones
Main Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Room 3012
Washington, DC, 20240-0001
marshall_jones@fws.gov
(202) 208-4717
www.fws.gov
Refuge Visitor Guide: (800) 344-9453

Department of Agriculture (USFS)

Manages 192 million acres of national forests and rangelands. Manages Food Stamp, School Lunch, School Breakfast, and the WIC Programs. USDA is responsible for the safety of meat, poultry and egg products. They also regulate and monitor the use of biotechnology for agriculture.

President George W. Bush

Secretary: Ann M. Veneman

Chief of the Forest Service: Dale Bosworth

Units of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, Foreign Agricultural Service, Food Safety and Inspection, etc.)

Contact

Secretary Ann M. Veneman
U.S. Department of Agriculture
14th & Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20250
E-mail: agsec@usda.gov
(202) 720-2791

Chief Dale Bosworth
Forest Service
U. S. Department of Agriculture
Sidney R. Yates Federal Building
201 14th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20250
dbosworth@fs.fed.us
(202) 205-1661

Conservation and Children

By Erika Finstad

There's a war in our schools today. Sadly, it's over the minds of our children. Multinational corporations spend millions to shamelessly promote their agenda and teachers, starved for resources, use their books, videos and curricula. When teachers dare to present the side of conservation, they often face angry parents, school boards and communities. If we adults are so confused, then what about our children? And what are well meaning parents to do?

First, leave the children out of the war. As with so many things we adults must face, certain environmental issues are best left to the adults. We must shelter our children from many adult aspects of life, revealing new layers of the truth as they become mature enough to handle them. Young people are growing up fast enough. Let's not play into corporate America's claims that we are filling growing minds with gloom and doom.

That said, we must do something. When they tell our children that clearcuts help forests, that plastics are ideal to burn and dump in landfills and that offshore oil drilling helps the fish, parents and teachers can't remain silent. After all, we love our children. That's why we're so concerned about conservation.

So here's a secret: They can figure out most of this on their own. We parents and teachers just have to show them the way. Turn off the television, put the video games in the closet, hand

them a little shovel, walk to the park or get into the woods. Children have a natural affinity for the environment, even if it's the bugs in your back yard. With proper stimulus and guidance, they will grow to understand that taking care of the Earth is really about taking care of themselves.

Unplug children (if not literally, then figuratively) from the world of instant consumption. Water doesn't just appear from the tap. Pencils and paper used to be trees. And eggs don't come from the supermarket! Each of these discussions (and I'm sure you can think of many more) will lead to question after question, and a greater understanding and respect for the natural world. Do you know where your water comes from? Take a day with your child to figure it out. Then go there. You don't have to overwhelm children with global crises to foster an understanding that everything is interrelated. Share a sense of wonder with the natural world and respect and stewardship will follow. Handle the big questions with all the grace and mystery that you use to deal with all those other adult topics, and you'll do fine. ■

Erika Finstad (MA, Education) is a sixth grade teacher and a member of the Native Forest Council Advisory Board. She has taught in public, private and Waldorf schools in the United States and India. To learn more about this issue visit www.forestcouncil.org

With proper stimulus and guidance, children will grow to understand that taking care of the Earth is really about taking care of themselves.



Charcoal drawing by Jacob Janin age 11

Resources

Here are some resources we hope enlighten and inspire your kids as they head back to school.

Education Resources

Center for Environmental Education CEE

This organization offers great environmental literature not only for children but also adults.

Acorn Naturalists

www.Acor-group.com

This site offers resources for the trail and classroom. Acorn Naturalists offers a huge array of educational tools, field guides, science and nature books, activity guides, games and toys.

Books

The Lorax by Dr. Seuss

A poignant tale of industrial society's lack of regard for natural things.

Slime, Molds and Fungi by Elaine Pascoe

A great hands-on book educating kids about the importance of fungi and molds to our environment, including activity suggestions and tips.

The Great Kopok Tree by Lynne Cherry

The tale of a logger's nap under a tree in the Amazon rainforest colorfully illustrates the vast life support system the tree provides.

I Took a Walk by Henry Cole

Asks have you ever sat quietly near a stream or in a meadow and just looked and listened? Encourages curiosity about and the discovery of natural surroundings.

Mother Nature Nursery Rhymes by Mother Nature and Maeno

Short, inspiring nature poems.

Brother Eagle, Sister Sky: A Message from Chief Seattle

An illustrated speech by the Chief tells children to love and respect every creature on the earth.

Just a Dream by Chris Van Allsburg

A child dreams about a future Earth devastated by pollution and learns to take personal responsibility for his contribution to that future.

The Big Book for Our Planet by Ann Durrell

Stories, poems and nonfiction with environmental themes.

The Singing Creek Where the Willows Grow: The Nature Diary of Opal Whiteley by Benjamin Hoff

Hoff unearthed this diary of a child genius raised in pioneer-era Oregon, which details her interactions with the natural world, and its importance to us all.

A Kid's Guide to Social Action by Barbara A. Lewis

A source book for strategies of how to make social change. Teaches about legal and governmental systems and how to access them.

Living in the Environment by G. Tyler Miller

This is a textbook that every teacher should have. Read by over two million students at more than half of the nation's colleges and universities, this best-selling book helps readers to appreciate, understand and sustain the environment.

Places to look for books

The Nanny's Web

<http://www.nannysweb.com>

This is a source for used, out of print and rare children's books. The site has a great search engine that can help you locate environmental children's books.

Sunflower Books

<http://www.sunflowerbooksetc.com>

A great resource for environmental children's books.

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM) of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

www.pym.org/library/lists/envichil.htm

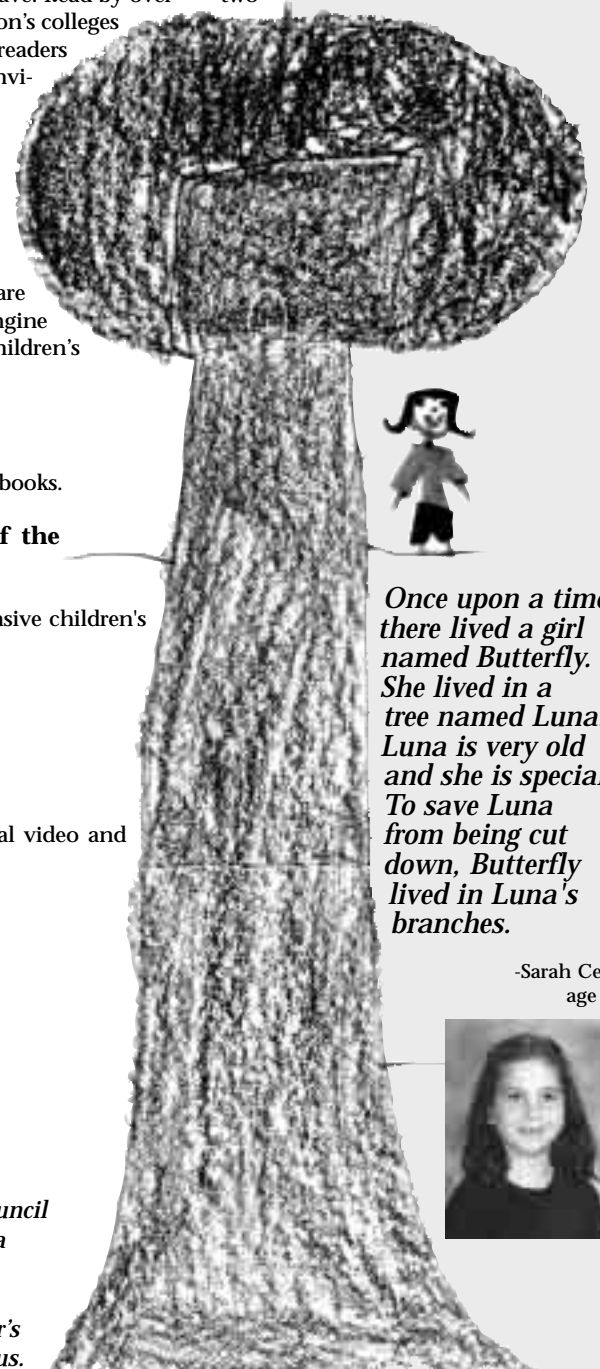
A listing of various book lists including extensive children's environmental books and activities.

Video and CD ROM

Video Point

www.videoproject.org

Independent social justice and environmental video and CD ROM resources for kids and adults.



Once upon a time there lived a girl named Butterfly. She lived in a tree named Luna. Luna is very old and she is special. To save Luna from being cut down, Butterfly lived in Luna's branches.

-Sarah Cell
age 6



Thanks to Council member Sylvia Goodman for sharing her granddaughter's artwork with us.

Kids on the Web

Finding Internet resources for children can be a daunting task. Many times sponsors and hidden agendas are hard to detect. Here are a few sites we found that provide good information and fun, educational games.

Children of the Earth United
www.childrenoftheearth.org
Fun activities, information and clubs

Forest Conservation Portal
www.forests.org
Kids link with lots of books, activities and resources

Kids for Saving the Earth
www.kidsforsavingearth.org
Kid's resources and action networks

National Association for Humane and Environmental Education
www.nahee.org
Lots of games, reading material, clubs and links

Fire Used to Justify Cuts

By Jessica Brittsan

If it seems like fire seasons are worse than they used to be, it's because they are. Each year fighting fires on public lands costs taxpayers millions. And, over the past decade, fire seasons have continued to get worse. Ironically, this fire suppression is a large part of the problem.

To date, this year's fire season has not been as severe as last year—one of the worst in history. This year has, however, been the deadliest fire season since 1994 (though current drought conditions mean the worst may be on its way). On July 10, the Thirty Mile Fire in Washington's Okanogan National Forest, a small, seemingly minor fire, spread quickly due to excess fuel in the area, killing four fire fighters. Flare-ups and catastrophic fires have become common throughout much of the West. Fire suppression, over-logging and monocrop tree plantations have exacerbated drought conditions that currently exist throughout much of the West. "We've created the potential for catastrophic fires where they hadn't been before," said Jerry F. Franklin, program director for the University of Washington's College of Forest Resources in an interview published in the *National Journal*.

The severity of recent fire seasons has prompted forestry officials to reevaluate the nation's forest fire policy. Motivated by public pressure, forest management policy generally focuses on protection of structures rather than forest health. Unfortunately, this prevents the natural fire cycle from clearing underbrush and removing small trees. Before fire suppression was a widespread policy, low intensity fires naturally cleansed the forests every five to 30 years, allowing larger trees to survive burns. However, the forests have grown dense and clearcuts replanted with single species crops eliminate natural firebreaks. These conditions combine with harsh weather patterns and extreme drought to create fires that consume vast expanses of land and cost taxpayers millions to fight.

After last year's season, Congress allotted an additional \$1.6 billion to hire additional fire fighters, buy new equipment and implement long and short-term forest management plans. The current short-term plan focuses on suppression of fires and preventative measures around developed areas. According to a recent report in the *National Journal*, Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth says he recognizes the health problem in the nation's forests. He is currently developing a long-term, active management plan in accordance with a 1999 General Accounting Office report. The report, which states that roughly 40 million acres are at risk for catastrophic fire, advocates thinning of timberlands on much of the 455 million acres under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service and the BLM. "Active management, to me, could be prescribed burning or [mechanical]



Before fire suppression, low intensity fires naturally cleansed the forests of underbrush every 5 to 30 years, leaving larger trees intact.

Motivated by public pressure, forest management policy generally focuses on protection of structures rather than forest health.

thinning," Bosworth told the *Journal*. "And in some cases, it may include some logging." Restoring forests to natural conditions by thinning, using either controlled burns or logging, will cost at least \$12 billion and will take decades to complete.

One of the most controversial methods of thinning is salvage logging, the extraction of burned logs for sale on the commercial market. Often, thinning projects are used as an excuse to log areas that would otherwise be off-limits. The result? Indiscriminate cutting of both small and large (fire resistant trees). Industry officials say salvage logging helps forests recover, and believe the government should be allowed to sell what it cuts as a way to offset costs. Yet many believe that the influence of commercial timber sales clouds the Forest Service's motivation for harvesting burnt areas. Also, timber salvage operations, which many times involve clearcutting, can damage soil and leave areas vulnerable to invasive species. Forestry officials are currently debating which restrictions to implement for large-scale thinning operations.

All sides agree, preventative and restoration measures must be taken in our national forests to bring them back to health and to prevent the risk of disastrous fires. The Bush administration is aggressively removing Clinton-era bans on logging and roadless regulations, and will likely favor broad discretion for forest managers rather than strict uniform regulation for thinning practices on federal lands. The public must demand a better national fire policy to repair the damage done by a history of mismanagement. ■

To learn more about public lands fire management visit www.forestcouncil.org

Paperless Paper Trail

Soon after President Bush's inauguration, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service changed its website to reflect a new administration. Thanks to the diligence of Caroline Kennedy at Defenders of Wildlife in Washington DC, and the reporting of writer Terry Allen, we have a record of what was added and what was deleted. The changes, published in *The Nation* and Harper's say quite a bit about the new administration (strikethrough text was deleted, text in bold was added):

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is the most pristine unit in the National Wildlife Refuge System. Oil and gas exploration and development in the Refuge would permanently and irreversibly:

~~Destroy the unique wildland values of a world-class natural area; Disrupt ecological and evolutionary processes in one of the most pristine conservation areas in the North American Arctic; Diminish the Refuge's scientific value as a benchmark for understanding these processes; Damage the biological and ecological integrity of the entire Refuge.~~

One hundred thirty-five species of birds are known to use the area, including numerous shorebirds, waterfowl, loons, songbirds, and raptors. ~~Oil development in the Arctic Refuge would result in habitat loss, disturbance, and displacement or abandonment of important nesting, feeding, molting, and staging areas.~~

One species of bird that could be greatly impacted by oil development notable example is the snow goose. Large numbers of snow geese, varying each year from 15,000 to more than 300,000 birds, feed on the Arctic Refuge's coastal tundra for three to four weeks each fall. They feed on cottongrass and other plants to build up fat reserves in preparation for their journey south, eating as much as a third of their body weight every day. The rich vegetation of the coastal tundra enables them to increase fat reserves by 400 percent in only two to three weeks.

Snow geese feed on small patches of vegetation that are widely distributed across the Refuge's coastal tundra, so a large area is necessary to meet their needs. They are extremely sensitive to disturbance, often flying away from their feeding sites when human activities occur several miles distant. ~~Oil exploration and development would displace snow geese for areas that are critically important to them.~~

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Hostile—but unsuccessful—takeover. While timber giant Weyerhaeuser managed to place three dissident directors on Willamette Industry's board of directors, it did not gain enough control of the corporation to force a \$5.5 billion bid for hostile takeover.



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Solutions: Listen to Grandma

By Benjamin Scott

Down the Drain



The U.S. energy system is about 2% efficient, wasting 98% of the energy produced

- Economist Paul Hawken

Efficient buildings can save as much as 50% in energy costs.

- Economist and author Paul Hawken

Installing fluorescent lighting, sealing ducts and using energy-efficient appliances can provide up to 40% return on your investment over just two years.

- www.energyloans.org

Hot water is the third-largest expense for U.S. households, much of which pays for storing hot water while it's not in use.

- www.doityourself.com

According to the Department of Energy, just three trees, properly placed around the house, can save an average household between \$100 and \$250 in heating and cooling costs annually.

- www.doe.gov

Small appliances leak more than \$1 billion worth of electricity per year while they are turned off, because they leak electricity while in "standby" mode. Best to unplug them.

- Environmental News Network

If the state of California gave half its residents energy-efficient light bulbs, the state would save roughly \$375 million worth of electricity. They would cost roughly half the value of the power saved, making for a 100 percent return on investment.

motherjones.com

Learn more
www.forestcouncil.org
www.enn.org
www.energy.gov
www.energyloans.org
www.aceee.org

Every time I sat in my grandmother's kitchen, I learned something about conservation. Lettuce from the garden was rinsed in an old wooden bowl filled with cold water. That water was later boiled for the potatoes. Then it was allowed to cool, diluted with more water, and used in the same garden that grew the lettuce. A gallon later, six people were fed and the garden was still growing.

Grandma had a knack for saving water, electricity and heat. She learned these during the Great Depression. She didn't think of them as skills, though. It was just plain common sense. Brokaw's "Greatest Generation" learned perhaps the most effective (and most simple) environmental act: thrift.

Without that attention to conservation, our recovery from the Depression would have been impossible. Two generations later, energy consumption in the United States has ballooned as our population and economic output has grown. And it is no surprise that the strength of our economy (measured by our Gross Domestic Product, or GDP) is as dependent on our thrift as we are on the Earth for energy.

According to the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy, we have reduced our energy use per unit of GDP by 42 percent between 1973 and 2000. During the same time period, our GDP itself increased 72 percent. Without thrift, we would have dumped "at least \$430 billion on energy purchases" down the drain. And the opportunity for us to become more efficient has never been better, or easier, than it is today.

Today's energy "crisis" can't be solved by production. According to economist and writer Paul Hawken, "for every 100 units of energy that we introduce into our economic system nearly 98 are wasted" (see "Wisdom, the Real Shortage," *Forest Voice* Spring 2001). Producing more energy, while operating at two percent efficiency, is like toiling to fill a bucket permeated with holes.

Painless Conservation

Dick Cheney says it's a nice idea, but it's not much of an energy policy. The corporations that want to drill on public lands say that conservation groups want to take us back to the stone age. However, as Californians have learned this summer, conservation can make a big difference. Here's a few simple steps (and, no, you don't have to live in a cave).

Kitchen

- ✓ Use cold water when running a garbage disposal.
- ✓ Compost your waste.
- ✓ Run the dishwasher only when it's full. If it has an energy-saving setting, or a short cycle/air dry option, use it.
- ✓ When rinsing your vegetables, save and reuse the water.
- ✓ Fix leaky faucets (one drop/second = 200 gallons/month!)
- ✓ Defrost your fridge. Keeping the frost down to a ¼" or less can save five percent or more of the energy used.
- ✓ Pack your fridge full. Dead air space makes it work harder.
- ✓ Freeze extra bread, or pack with rolled up newspaper.
- ✓ Keep your fridge at the optimum temperature: 10 to 42°F in the fridge and 0-5°F in the freezer.
- ✓ Vacuum the coils of your fridge at least twice a year, more if you have pets.
- ✓ Use heat-producers (oven, etc) in the evening or at night.
- ✓ Don't bother preheating your oven for "non-precise" foods, such as casseroles, roasts, pizza or anything broiled (breads, cakes, cookies and such do need "precise" temperatures). Put the food in as the oven heats up, and then turn off the oven 5 minutes before it's done. Trusting the time in the recipe is also helpful: you lose 20 degrees for even a quick peek.

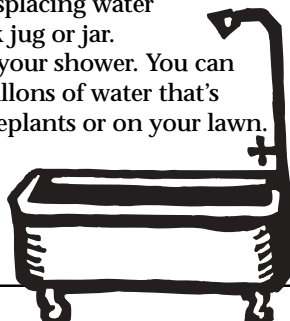


Cooling/AC

- ✓ Use fans to circulate air around the house instead of turning up the AC.
- ✓ Set your AC to a reasonable level. You can save 5-10% of the energy used for every two degrees higher.
- ✓ Cool only the rooms you need during the day.
- ✓ Change air filters in your AC often. Dirty filters can add 5-10% to energy costs.
- ✓ Use the earth's daily cycle: Early in the morning and late in the evening, open up the house and use your fans to circulate the cool air through your house.
- ✓ Close blinds and shut windows to keep out the heat.
- ✓ Don't turn your thermostat lower than usual to "quick-cool" the house. It simply doesn't work. Constant cool, conservation and good circulation are the keys.

Bathroom

- ✓ Trim five minutes off that 15-20 minute shower.
- ✓ Reduce the impact of flushing by displacing water in your toilet tank with a brick, milk jug or jar.
- ✓ Reclaim the "warm-up" water from your shower. You can capture anywhere from five to 25 gallons of water that's great for use in the garden, for houseplants or on your lawn.
- ✓ Install low-flow showerheads.
- ✓ Take more showers than baths.



Conservation isn't complicated, and it isn't anything new. Today, even President Bush is talking conservation. Grandma called it common sense.

Grandma's philosophy of thrift didn't end with the lettuce. It filled her home, from the clothesline to the dishwasher. And sure, eventually Grandma's faded lime-green dishwasher was replaced with a sparkling energy-star super-efficient model. Such investments in household energy systems (including everything from insulation to light bulbs) make a difference.

But if you're still leaving lights on in the basement, windows open while the heat is on, and sprinklers running in the noonday sun, then it's time to follow Grandma's lead. Make some basic changes in your home and your habits. Here are some simple ideas. Grandma would simply call them common sense. ■

Yard

- ✓ Sweep your driveways and walkways with a broom (not a hose).
- ✓ If you must water your lawn, try to keep it to less than 1" of water per week. A tin can will measure the amount of water your lawn gets from rain and your irrigation.
- ✓ Don't water in full sun, when as much as 30% of the water can be evaporated.
- ✓ Consider a lawn alternative. Talk to a local gardening specialist about ground covers native to your area that use less water. In addition to saving on water, you'll save on mowing.



Laundry

- ✓ Run cold water laundry loads; clothes get just as clean.
- ✓ Wash full loads of laundry only.
- ✓ Use a clothesline.
- ✓ If you must, use your dryer during off-peak times.

General

- ✓ Fix leaky faucets: One drop/second = 200 gallons/month!
- ✓ Turn your water heater to 120°F or "low."
- ✓ You've heard it already: replace your regular (incandescent) light bulbs with compact fluorescents. And you also know that their initial cost is quickly recovered in energy savings. But beware of disposal. These great bulbs contain mercury, and must be disposed of properly.
- ✓ Insulate your walls to a minimum rating of R-19 and ceilings to R-30.
- ✓ Seal leaks around windows, doors and anywhere electrical or plumbing fixtures penetrate walls.
- ✓ Seal leaky ducts on your forced air heating system
- ✓ Have your furnace or boiler tuned up every two years.
- ✓ Change your furnace filter every four to six weeks in winter.
- ✓ Set your thermostat back to 55-60° F or lower at night.
- ✓ Insulate your water heater & all hot water pipes.

Renters

- ✓ Your landlord may not be willing to buy new appliances, but you do have the right to live in a properly-maintained home: Pipes should not leak, weatherstripping should be in good condition, and windows should not have cracks.
- ✓ Remember: If you buy efficient lightbulbs, you can take them with you when you leave.

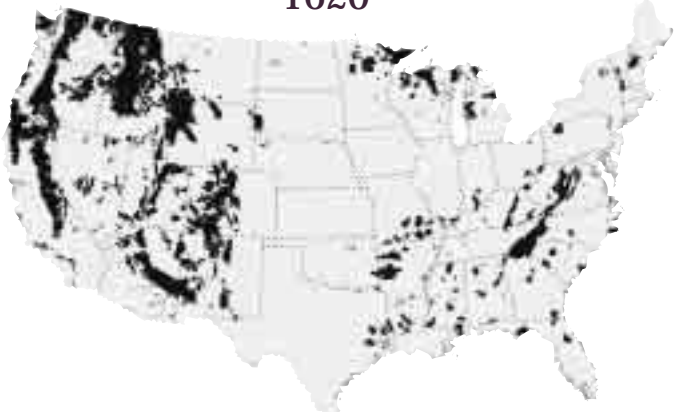
Caveat: Dispose Fluorescents Correctly

Compact fluorescent bulbs bring great savings, and a growing hazard. Unfortunately, these energy savers contain mercury and other heavy metals that are fatal. The National Electrical Manufacturers Association has estimated that over 600 million fluorescent lamps are disposed of in the United States each year. If discarded improperly, these heavy metals can end up in our water supply. So don't just toss them in the landfill with your other trash. Contact your local waste management companies to find out how you can prevent contamination of our food and water supply through proper disposal.

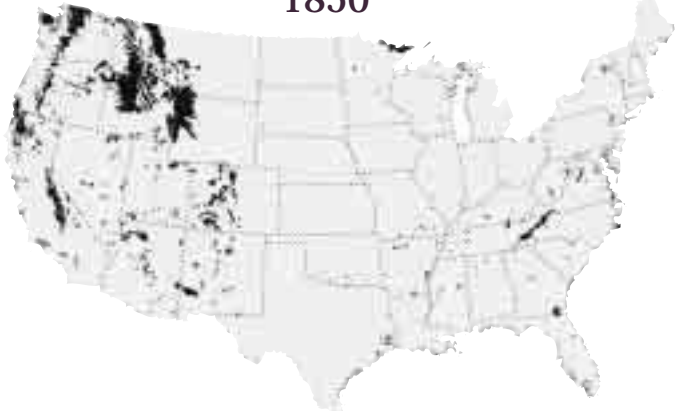
America's Forests, Liquidated



1620



1850

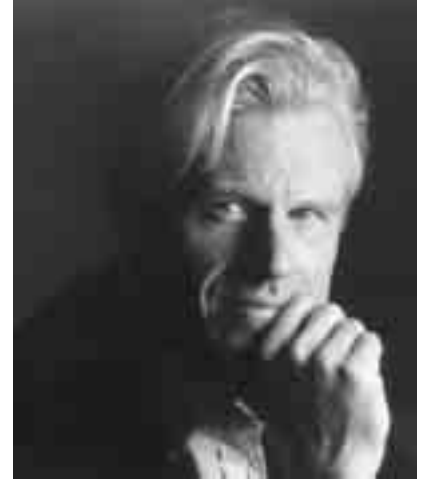


1998

Source: Forest Conservation Council, 1998

"Thanks to the Native Forest Council's diligence, the concept of saving our forests by stopping the chainsaws has moved from the radical fringe to a realistic goal."

Ed Bergley Jr.
Actor & Preservationist
Native Forest Council Advisory Board



"Native Forest Council has done more to alert the nation's public, to nationalize and move the primeval, native forest issue forward, than any other organization I know of."

David Brower (1912-2000)
Executive Director, Sierra Club: 1952-64
Founder, Friends of the Earth
Founder, Earth Island Institute
Native Forest Council Advisory Board

"The work of the Native Forest Council is not just good work; it is absolutely essential to the future of life on Earth."

The Very Reverend James Parks Morton
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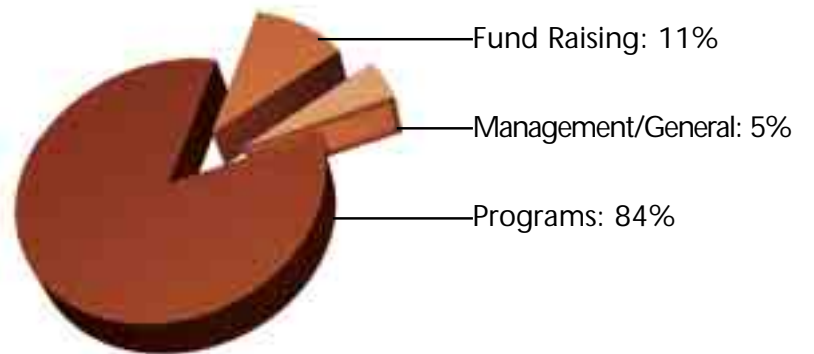
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