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# Forest Voice

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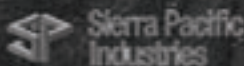
Weyerhaeuser



Audubon



Association of Oregon Loggers



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## The State of The World?

Looking at the state of our world, it's hard not to get depressed sometimes.

Environmental degradation, theft and destruction is rampant and corporate crime is out of control. The Millennium Assessment, a new report issued by 1,300 leading scientists is telling us that we've already trashed the planet too much and that our children and grandchildren may not be able to survive, let alone have a world that's better than the one we inherited.

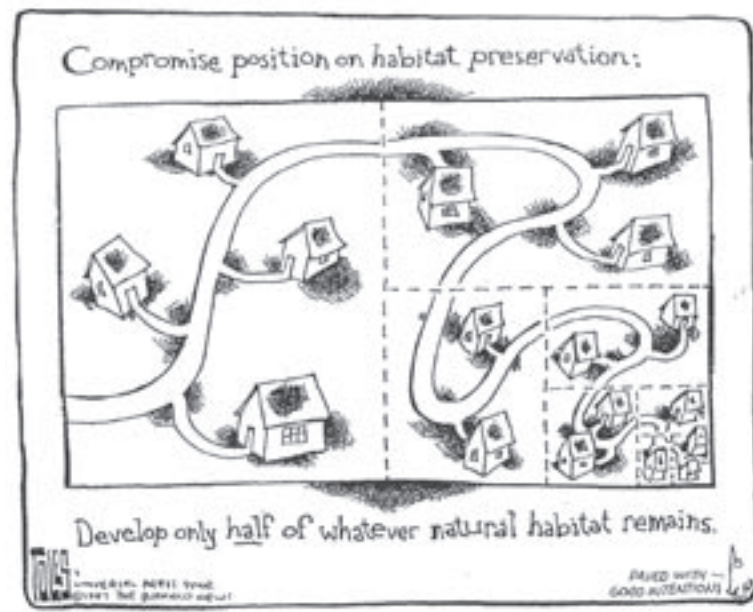
The mega-billion dollar crimes of Arthur-Anderson, Enron, Worldcom, AOL/Time Warner and others are just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to dishonest and immoral corporations hurting America. The very worst are bribing politicians and destroying nature to make a fast buck while firing workers, gutting pensions, moving money offshore and paying little or no taxes. Without strong Government regulation, rather than aiding and abetting, corporate America certainly has no incentive to stop its dishonest, destructive and immoral ways. Only a nation of sheep and collaborators lets them get away with it. Let's not be sheep.

Today both political parties are listening to industry instead of the public. There are many reasons for that, but the one that hurts me the most is that the national environmental groups have deluded themselves into believing that bad Democrats are better than bad Republicans, so they rush to give cover to the Democrats when Democrats sell out nature. We should all understand basic Politics 101: if you praise your friends for doing bad things, what do you expect your enemies to do? The mainstream environmental groups, by sending a signal that it is ok for Democrats to give away almost everything, make it easier for Republicans to take the rest away.

There are too many excuses and rationalizations by our side, talking about the "Death of Environmentalism" when they should be talking about how they killed honor and integrity, abandoned moral values and principles, and forgot what it was like when they used to stand for something other than selling out, cutting deals, appease and compromise politics. They call their losses "victories."

With your help the Native Forest Council will lead the way back to moral sanity, clarity and purpose by continuing to set an example of simply and clearly standing for something – do no more harm and save what's left. Just saying no to all the destructive forest "compromises," exposing all the sell-out political officials of both parties, and leading us back to a time when the American people measured success and failure by what really happens to our forests, not by whether the red team or the blue team is doing the damage.

If we look back at World War II, perhaps we can learn from the example of Neville Chamberlain. Chamberlain was the British Prime Minister who is still known in Britain as the man who made the consequences of appeasement famous. In a series of efforts to avoid war, Chamberlain repeatedly gave in to Hitler's demands, including allowing Germany to annex a small part of Czechoslovakia that Hitler claimed should be part of Germany. The reward for his appeasement was Hitler's annexation of the entire nation of



The inevitable result of compromise

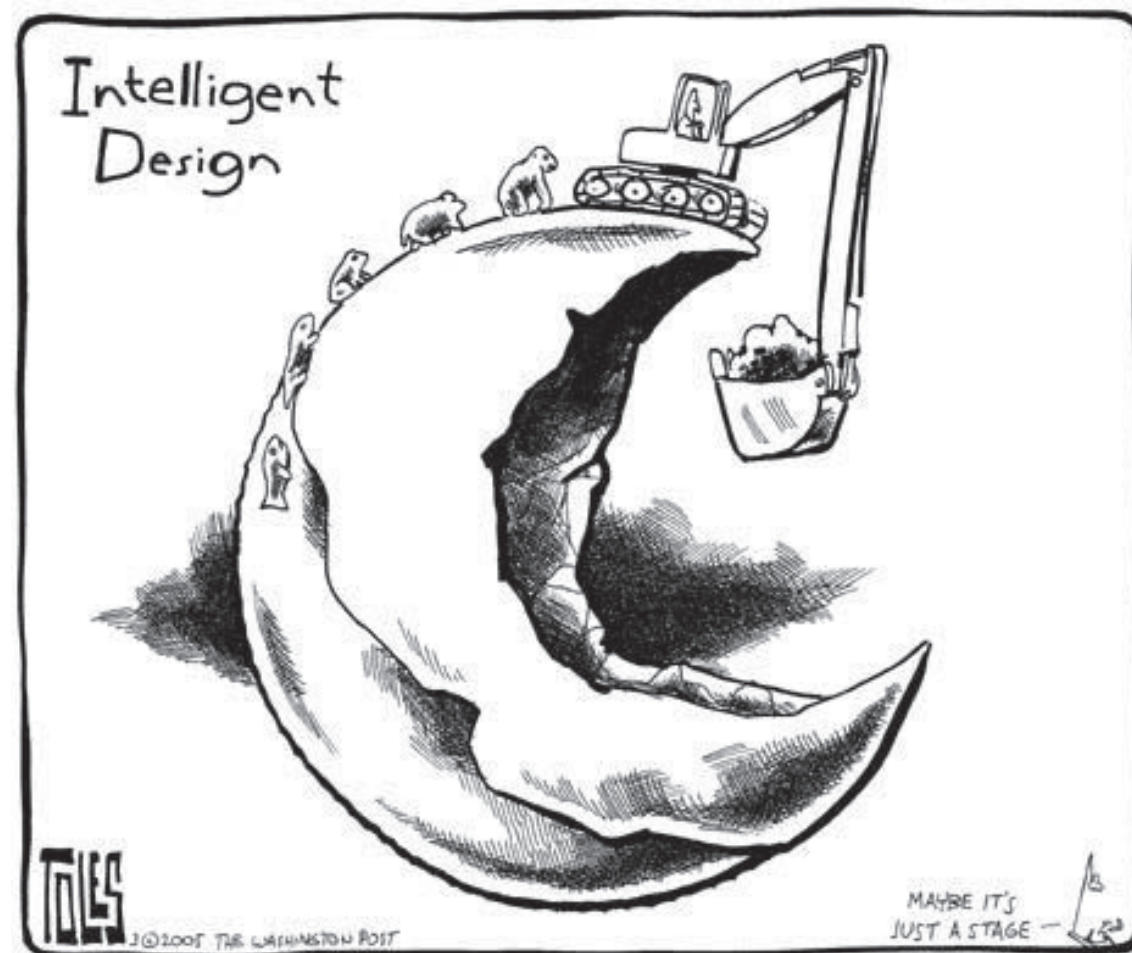
Czechoslovakia and his invasion of Poland.

Much like Hitler in the 1940s, industry will dishonestly promise anything to get what they want. We have to stand up to them, put our foot down, and say NO! We have to let them know that our children's future is not theirs to destroy. We have to take America back!

Although it can be depressing, there is hope. People are standing up for what is right and making progress. As Moisha Blechman's letters on the next page shows, a group of people in New York state stood up against dishonest and illegal corporate activity and won. Joan Norman was willing to face arrest to stand up for the forests. Joan Norman didn't sit down at the table, crafting deals with an industry that promises to only take some of our forests. No, she stood up for what she believes in, for what she knows is right. In this issue, we also profile Martin Litton and Wangari Maathai, who have both overcome "insurmountable" odds to stand up for what they knew was right.

It's time for all of us to stand up for what we know is right, speaking truth to power. We can continue to fight for what is right. We can make our Honest Education curriculum available to children across the nation. We can continue to educate people through this paper. We can continue to assist special projects such as the book on St. Lawrence Cement [see page 7] that helped those organizations inform the public about what the company was really doing, and helped them achieve victory in their struggle to save their community. With your help I can continue to meet with people across the country to educate and motivate those who are willing to stand with us and fight for our nation's survival. In short, working together, we can make America great again.

If you are already a member of the NFC, we thank you for your on-going patronage. If you are not yet a member, we invite you to join us.



## Forest Voice

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**No Thanks**  
All those who feel it's OK to cut deals that leave us with less native forests and clean water.

**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.

**Inspired? Incensed? Impressed?**  
Please write:  
Native Forest Council  
PO Box 2190  
Eugene, OR 97402



## Native Forest Council

The Native Forest Council is a nonprofit, tax-deductible organization founded by business and professional people alarmed by the wanton 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 potentially catastrophic 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

## NFC in the Public Eye

As well as numerous public engagements and radio interviews, Tim Hermach recently spearheaded two panels at the 23rd Annual Public Interest Environmental Law Conference, "A Line in the Sand: Zero Cut, Forever Wild, and Wild Forest Sanctuary" and "Building a Winning Team." Tim was also interviewed for the May 2005 issue of *Ode Magazine*.

## Another Spill in the Arctic National Wildlife Reserve

As the Bush administration nears its goal of drilling in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, an industrial spill in a North Slope oil field in March offers a glimpse of what's in store.

A pipe leak discovered at the Kuparuk oil field, the slope's second largest after Prudhoe Bay, released an estimated 111,300 gallons of "produced water" onto the frozen tundra. Produced water is water that has been separated from the mixture of crude oil and natural gas that comes out of oil wells.

This is not the first such incident. In July 1989, nearly 39,000 gallons of crude oil were spilled. In March 1997, 758,000 gallons of diluted seawater were spilled. The latter doesn't sound particularly bad, but salt is every bit as devastating to delicate tundra plant life as crude oil.

## Eco-Tour Winner Chosen

The winner of Native Forest Council's rafting eco-tour giveaway is Melinda Welton of Nashville, Tennessee. Melinda will receive a free guided trip for up to 12 people on Oregon's wild McKenzie river with Outdoor Ventures.

Due to the overwhelming response to our giveaway, we decided to work with river company Outdoor Ventures to provide rafting eco-tours to NFC supporters. If you are interested in joining Native Forest Council on one of our eco-tours, please call us at 541-688-2600 or send us an email at info@forestcouncil.org.

## New Bankruptcy Law

On April 20, President Bush signed into law a dream bill for credit card and financial service companies that will land millions of American families in debt slavery. Rather than being able to file for Chapter 7 bankruptcy and make a difficult new start, families and individuals will be placed on long-term payment plans to credit card companies, companies that will take their houses, their cars, their child-support payments, and their paychecks.

The new law also holds provisions making small businesses more exploitable than large businesses. Businesses with less than \$2 million in debt will have six months to file a reorganization plan. After that period, the company's

creditors can submit reorganization plans for the business. If no plan is filed within 300 days, the bankruptcy case can be dismissed or converted into a Chapter 7 liquidation.

Larger businesses, by contrast, will have 18 months to file reorganization plans.

## Haida Nation Seizes Weyerhaeuser Logs

British Columbia's Haida Nation has seized more than \$50 million in timber from Weyerhaeuser for alleged breach of contract.

The Haida claim that Weyerhaeuser violated five of the six provisions they agreed to in a 2002 accord between the Haida, forestry workers and Weyerhaeuser.

## New Rule Opens Forest to More Roads

The last acres of roadless areas from the Clinton Forest Plan were opened to possible logging, mining and other commercial uses by the Bush administration on Thursday [5 May].

It is now up to state Governors to submit petitions within 18 months to stop road building on some of the 34.3 million acres where it would now be permitted, and the law does not require the federal government to follow the advice of the governors.

## Failed Bid for Land Swap Costs Taxpayers 6 Million Dollars

Eugene, Oregon businessman Aaron Jones' highly touted Umpqua Land Exchange Project is winding down next month after a decade of effort and with little to show - except the expense of \$6 million in federal taxpayer money.

Critics said Jones' idea of creating an experimental computer system to plan swaps of forestland between private companies and the federal government in western Douglas County was misguided from the start.

"It really seemed like a boondoggle to us," said Janine Blaeloch, director of the Western Land Exchange Project watchdog group in Seattle. The government "gave them \$6 million to design and run their model. This is taxpayer money, and it's just gone down the tubes."



# LETTERS

From: Moisha Blechman  
Date: 24 April, 2005

Splendid news in New York State. The proposal by St. Lawrence Cement, the second largest cement maker in the world, to build a vast industrial complex in the Hudson River Valley, was decisively shot down by the New York State Department of State. The DOS denied it "consistency" to its "federally approved" and "enforceable" Coastal Policies which means that the Army Corps of Engineers may not issue its permit. The DOS detailed how the many consequences of "intense industrialism" is incompatible with public parks, public access to the river, enjoyment by the public of the river and its beautiful coasts, burgeoning cultural activities, tourism, protection of the many historical properties and a healthy condition for the many small businesses of the region including the value of real estate.

The DOS even admonished the city of Hudson to "immediately" create a waterfront zone to encourage broad public use of its waterfront for farm markets, boating, museums etc. It further suggested that the city option the waterfront property of St. Lawrence Cement for further public enjoyment which would preclude any possibility of industrial use ever. The

ruling is effectively a vision for the Hudson River Valley as a whole, beyond this particular project, that emphatically rejects "intense industrialism."

What did it take? Six years of relentless hard work at every level. In the last few months we generated 14,000 letters to the DOS. Nearly two dozen organizations coordinated their strategies and resources for maximum effect. Writing the book: St. Lawrence Cement, Understanding the Impact demonstrated our seriousness and was an important tool in mobilizing broad support. That book would never have seen the light of day except for a timely loan from the Native Forest Council.

From: Moisha Blechman  
Date: 25 April, 2005

Today we learned that SLC withdrew its application for all the other permits and will not appeal the DOS decision. We won!!! This also means that all the other projects of this nature for the Hudson Valley are dead in the water! They do plan to beef up a bit their Catskill plant across the river. As yet I do not know what that consists of or what input the public may have.



[Editor's Note: The fact that we're destroying ourselves I first read in WorldWatch in 1988. Carl Sagan told it to me in 1991. And as usual more studies were ordered. This is just the latest report from the latest stall tactic. TGH]

# The State of The World?

by Steve Connor

Planet Earth stands on the cusp of disaster and people should no longer take it for granted that their children and grandchildren will survive in the environmentally degraded world of the 21st century. This is not the doom-laden talk of green activists but the considered opinion of 1,300 leading scientists from 95 countries who will today publish a detailed assessment of the state of the world at the start of the new millennium.

The report does not make jolly reading. The academics found that two-thirds of the delicately-balanced ecosystems they studied have suffered badly at the hands of man over the past 50 years.

The dryland regions of the world, which account for 41 per cent of the earth's land surface, have been particularly badly damaged and yet this is where the human population has grown most rapidly during the 1990s.

Slow degradation is one thing, but sudden and irreversible decline is another. The report identifies half a dozen potential "tipping points" that could abruptly change things for the worse, with little hope of recovery on a human timescale.

**"We are spending earth's natural capital, putting such strain on the natural functions of earth that the ability of the planet's ecosystems to sustain future generations can no longer be taken for granted"**

Even if slow and inexorable degradation does not lead to total environmental collapse, the poorest people of the world are still going to suffer the most, according to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, which drew on 22 national science academies from around the world.

Walt Reid, the leader of the report's core authors, warned that unless the international community took decisive action the future looked bleak for the next generation. "The bottom line of this assessment is that we are spending earth's natural capital, putting such strain on the natural functions of earth that the ability of the planet's ecosystems to sustain future generations can no longer be taken for granted," Dr Reid said.

"At the same time, the assessment shows that the future really is in our hands. We can reverse the degradation of many ecosystem services over the next 50 years, but the changes in policy and practice required are substantial and not currently under way," he said.

The assessment was carried out over the past three years and has been likened to the prestigious Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change - set up to investigate global warming - for its expertise in the many specialisms that make up the broad church of environmental science.

In summary, the scientists concluded that the planet had been substantially "re-engineered" in the latter half of the 20th century because of the pressure placed on the earth's natural resources by the growing demands of a larger human population.

"Over the past 50 years, humans have changed ecosystems more rapidly and extensively than at any time in human history, largely to meet rapidly growing demands for food, fresh water, timber and fibre," the reports says.

The full costs of this are only now becoming apparent. Some 15 of the 24 ecosystems vital for life on earth have been seriously degraded or used unsustainably - an ecosystem being defined as a dynamic complex of plants, animals and micro-

organisms that form a functional unit with the non-living environment in which the coexist.

The scale of the changes seen in the past few decades has been unprecedented. Nearly one-third of the land surface is now cultivated, with more land being converted into cropland since 1945 than in the whole of the 18th and 19th centuries combined.

The amount of water withdrawn from rivers and lakes for industry and agriculture has doubled since 1960 and there is now between three and six times as much water held in man-made reservoirs as there is flowing naturally in rivers.

Meanwhile, the amount of nitrogen and phosphorus that has been released into the environment as a result of using farm fertilizers has doubled in the same period. More than half of all the synthetic nitrogen fertilizer ever used on the planet has been used since 1985.

Abrupt changes are one of the most difficult things to predict yet their impact can be devastating. But, is environmental collapse inevitable?

"Clearly, the dual trends of continuing degradation of most ecosystem services and continuing growth in demand for these same services cannot continue," Dr Reid said.

"But, the assessment shows that over the next 50 years, the risk is not of some global environmental collapse, but rather a risk of many local and regional collapses in particular ecosystem services. We already see those collapses occurring - fisheries stocks collapsing, dead zones in the sea, land degradation undermining crop production, species extinctions," he said.

Between 1960 and 2000, the world population doubled from three billion to six billion. At the same time, the global economy increased more than six-fold and the production of food and the supply of drinking water more than doubled, with the consumption of timber products increasing by more than half.

Meanwhile, human activity has directly affected the diversity of wild animals and plants. There have been about 100 documented extinctions over the past century but scientists believe that the rate at which animals and plants are dying off is about 1,000 times higher than natural, background levels.

"Humans are fundamentally and to a significant extent irreversibly changing the diversity of life on earth and most of these changes represent a loss of biodiversity," the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment says.

The distribution of species across the world is becoming more homogenous as some unique animals and plants die out and other, alien species are introduced into areas in which they would not normally live, often with devastating impact.

"In other words, the species in any one region of the world are becoming more similar to other regions.... Some 10 to 30 per cent of mammals, birds and amphibians are currently threatened with extinction. Genetic diversity has declined globally, particularly among cultivated species," the report says.

Poor people living in dryland regions are at the greatest risk of environmental collapse. Many of them already live unsustainably

- between 10 and 20 per cent of the soil in the drylands are eroded or degraded.

So what can be done in a century when the human population is expected to increase by a further 50 per cent?

**"We simply must establish policies that require natural costs to be taken into account for all economic decisions"**

The board of directors of the Millennium Assessment said in a statement: "The overriding conclusion of this assessment is that it lies within the power of human societies to ease the strains we are putting on the nature services of the planet, while continuing to use them to bring better living standards to all.

"Achieving this, however, will require radical changes in the way nature is treated at every level of decision-making and new ways of co-operation between government, business and civil society. The warning signs are there for all of us to see. The future now lies in our hands," it said.

Asked what we should do now and what we should plan to do over the next 50 years, Dr Reid replied that there must be a fundamental reappraisal of how we view the world's natural resources. "The heart of the problem is this: protection of nature's services is unlikely to be a priority so long as they are perceived to be free and limitless by those using them," Dr Reid said.

"We simply must establish policies that require natural costs to be taken into account for all economic decisions," he added.

"There is a tremendous amount that can be done in the short term to reduce degradation - for example, the causes of some of the most significant problems such as fisheries collapse, climate change, and excessive nutrient loading are clear - many countries have policies in place that encourage excessive harvest, use of fossil fuels, or excessive fertilization of crops.

"But as important as these short-term fixes are, over the long term humans must both enhance the production of many services and decrease our consumption of others. That will require significant investments in new technologies and significant changes in behavior," he explained.

Many environmentalists would agree, and they would like politicians to go much further.

"The Millennium Assessment cuts to the heart of one of the greatest challenges facing humanity," according to Roger Higman of Friends of the Earth.

"That is, we cannot maintain high standards of living, let alone relieve poverty, if we don't look after the earth's life-support systems."



Washington Post, 4 January, 2004

# Is It Time For A Corporate Death Penalty Act?

by Karyn Strickler

George W. Bush recently announced that he was going to end asbestos damage lawsuits; limit medical malpractice suits; and ban class action lawsuits of all sorts. Its part of his high priority, tort reform plan.

Instead of Bush's proposed tort reform - depriving ordinary folk of reasonable settlements in cases of severe harm and making the rule of law meaningless - Timothy Hermach, president of the Native Forest Council, proposes a Corporate Death Penalty Act.

Regardless of your position on the death penalty, when an individual murders someone, they know that they may face the death penalty. While it is badly administered, the death penalty is supposed to be a deterrent.

**Why not hold the individuals behind corporations that poison, harm and kill people accountable the same way we do for individuals who commit murder, deliberately or otherwise?**

Juan Alvarez, the man who recently abandoned his car on the train tracks in Glendale, California, injuring hundreds and causing the death of 11 people in a train derailment, has been charged with murder. Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty, which can only be used in exceptional circumstances in California, because Mr. Alvarez knew, or should have known that his actions could be lethal.

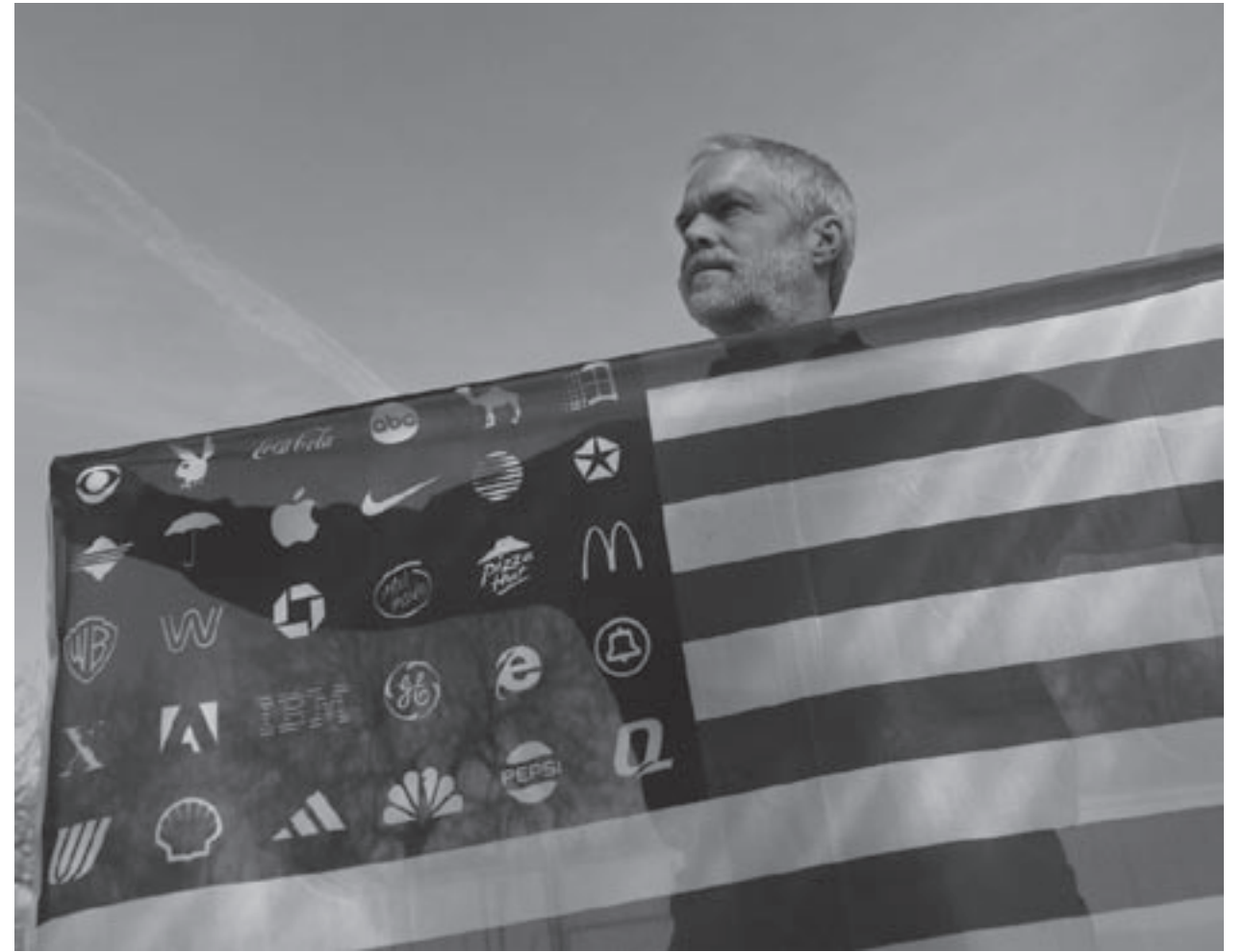
Corporate leaders kill people regularly, often consciously, with personal impunity. Why not hold the individuals behind corporations that poison, harm and kill people accountable the same way we do for individuals who commit murder, deliberately or otherwise?

The idea seems kind of whacky, until you consider the fact that, in a capitalist society, making money reigns supreme, even if doing so kills someone - or thousands of people - as in the case of Dow Chemicals Union Carbide plant in Bhopal.

Russell Mokhiber and Robert Weissman of the *Multinational Monitor* (www.multinationalmonitor.org) named Dow Chemical among its top 10 worst corporations of 2004 because, as they say:

The world's largest plastic maker, Dow purchased Union Carbide in 1999. At midnight on December 2, 1984, 27 tons of lethal gases leaked from Union Carbide's pesticide factory in Bhopal, India, immediately killing an estimated 8,000 people and poisoning thousands of others.

Today Dow Chemical owns Union Carbide and in



Tim Hermach is Executive Director of the Native Forest Council

Bhopal, at least 150,000 people, including children born to parents who survived the disaster, are suffering from exposure-related health effects such as cancer, neurological damage, chaotic menstrual cycles and mental illness. Dow refuses to take any responsibility.

Should not Dow's denial of corporate responsibility be put to the test of a criminal trial? If convicted, shouldn't those responsible pay the ultimate price for such a horrific crime?

**Corporate killers rarely see the inside of a jail cell, let alone face real consequences for their deplorable behavior.**

Also making the top 10 Multinational Monitor list for 2004 is the drug company Merck which makes the infamous drug Vioxx, generically known as rofecoxib.

The Associated Press reports that Dr. David Graham, a Food and Drug Administration drug safety official wrote in an article published in the British medical journal, the *Lancet*. "An estimated 88,000 - 140,000 excess cases of serious coronary heart disease probably occurred in the U.S.A. over the market life of rofecoxib."

Dr. Graham also concluded, "The U.S. national estimate of the case-fatality rate (fatal acute myocardial infarction plus sudden cardiac death) was 44 percent, which suggests that many of the excess cases attributable to rofecoxib use were fatal."

That's between 38,720 and 61,600 people who likely died from taking Vioxx.

Merck says it pulled the drug as soon as it saw conclusive evidence of the drug's dangers, but Dr. Graham says that Merck knew of the adverse effect of the drug four years before they took it off the market.

If Vioxx was on the market four years after its ill effects were known, profit was the likely motive. *The Times of London* reports that Vioxx was one of the most heavily-promoted drugs for patients with arthritis, bringing in sales worth \$2.5 billion a year.

A Corporate Death Penalty Act, properly enforced,

might deter tobacco companies, for example, from making profits by soliciting five thousand young people, age 12-17, to try cigarettes for the first time each day. Within days or weeks of the first cigarette, symptoms of nicotine addiction appear, according to the American Legacy Foundation.

Tobacco Free Kids says:

The 1998 legal settlement between the states and the tobacco companies prohibited the tobacco

companies from taking any action, directly or indirectly, to target youth in the advertising, promotion or marketing of tobacco products. Nevertheless, tobacco companies have increased their marketing expenditures by more than 84 percent to a record \$34.8 million a day, according to the Federal Trade Commission. Much of this marketing is still targeted at kids.

One of the tobacco industry's most outrageous new tactics is the introduction of candy-flavored cigarettes: R.J. Reynolds has launched a series of flavored cigarettes, including a pineapple and coconut-flavored cigarette called Kauai Kolada and a citrus-flavored cigarette called Twista Lime.

Deliberately hooking children on their poisonous product is the only way for executives, board members and shareholders to continue to make profits. Twelve hundred people die every day - that's 438,000 annually - as a result of tobacco use or being exposed to second-hand smoke. Tobacco Free Kids reports that more than five million children alive today will die prematurely from smoking-related illnesses.

What's really whacky is that our society allows this to continue. It is breathtaking in its consequence. Its immoral, corrupt, depraved - and its perfectly legal. Corporate killers rarely see the inside of a jail cell, let alone face real consequences for their deplorable behavior.

In business school, Tim Hermach was taught that his mandatory prime directive as a manager was to maximize shareholder values, regardless of consequences - that there were no moral or other deterrents.





Corporations rip out the forests which are the lungs of the Earth, providing us with topsoil to grow our food, air to breathe and water to drink. They destroy the wetlands which are the kidneys of the Earth, providing flood control and keeping our water clean — all in the name of the more money.

Extractive industry believes the earth and its ecosystems are more valuable when sold in pieces, instead of being left in the intricate tapestry that sustains life.

In his history of Shell Oil Company, "Riding the Dragon: Royal Dutch Shell & the Fossil Fire", Jack Doyle documents hundreds of cases of human rights violations, pollution, injury and death caused by the company and its leaders (See [www.shellfacts.com](http://www.shellfacts.com)).

In May, 1994, Doyle says Shell agreed to pay a fine of \$3 million to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, for federal safety violations and to pay multi-million dollar wrongful death settlements to the families of dead workers killed from a fire at their Belpre, Ohio, plant.

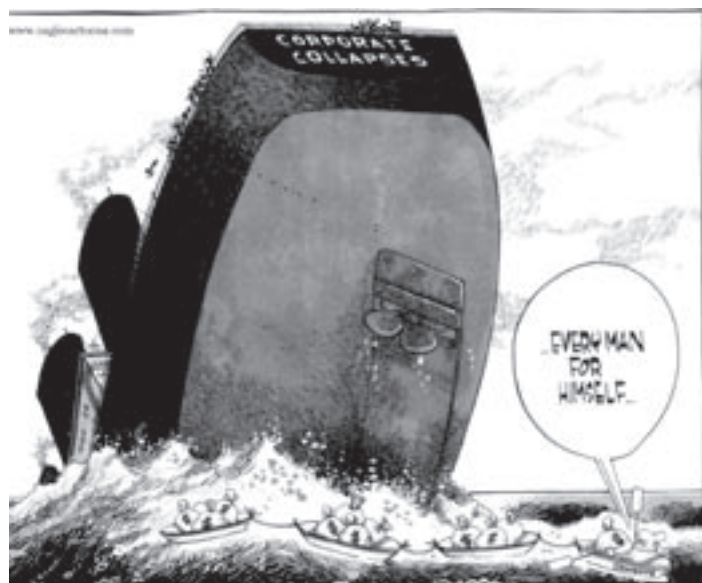
The fire spread to a nearby chemical storage tank area, touching off an explosion and ferocious chemical fire, causing four of the big tanks to burn and lose millions of gallons of chemicals. Four workers were killed in the incident and 1,700 people evacuated. The leakage from the site pollutes the Ohio River with a 22-mile plume of ethylene dibromide, killing fish and forcing downstream municipalities to seek alternative water supplies, according to a timeline at [www.shellfacts.com](http://www.shellfacts.com).

Shell claims to be moving beyond fossil fuel economy, the economy that is driving global warming to the point of no return and jeopardizing life on earth. But the *Multinational Monitor* reports that, in fact, they continue to secure long-term contracts that tie them to the fossil fuel economy, with all of its geopolitical hazards, all of its human rights abuses and all of its

environmental destruction.

Corporate biographer Jack Doyle told the *Multinational Monitor*, corporations are not controlling the full costs of their operation, and we are picking up the tab for their externalities in form of disease, illness, lower immunity, altered reproduction, birth defects, cancer. That's a mortal trespass, an unforgivable transgression that must be stopped. They need to be prosecuted.

The Corporate Death Penalty Act could provide that every member of the board of directors and executives of a corporation who knew, or should have known about the likelihood of their product or services to cause death, will be subject to the death penalty if their decision results in the death of an individual or group of individuals.

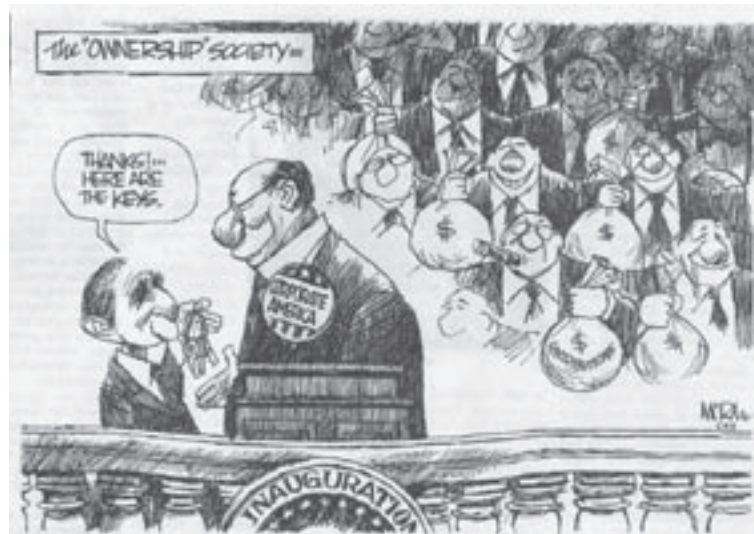


Tim Hermach says, "as long as "we the people" fail to hold corporations accountable for their destructive criminal behavior, then it's our fault as much as theirs. Indeed, as long as we continue to allow the corporate officers and senior executives to personally profit from their dishonest and deadly decisions that harm and degrade life, land and liberty, then the value of not only our America citizenship but of our very lives will continue to decline and, like a nation of complacent cows, we will deserve it. It's up to us."

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Mr. Hermach raised his hand and, in an attempt to expose the absurdity of the theory said, "You're telling me that we must kill the goose and take two gold eggs today rather than take care of the goose and allow it to give us one gold egg daily, for the rest of its life. Under your corporate accounting and profit theory, I should kill you and sell your organs for \$100,000 on the open market, because you're worth a lot more dead than alive, when figured in today's dollars."

That's obviously not legal, but it is certainly the principle upon which extractive industry operates.



For more information on corporate crime and punishment, we recommend the following:

Program on Corporations, Law & Democracy — <http://www.poclad.org>  
 Corporate Crime Reporter — <http://www.corporatecrimereporter.com>  
 Multinational Monitor — <http://multinationalmonitor.org>  
 Public Citizen — <http://www.citizen.org>  
 Commercial Alert — <http://www.commercialalert.org>

Native Forest Council — <http://www.forestcouncil.org>  
 CERES — <http://www.ceres.org>  
 SEC EDGAR Database — <http://www.sec.gov/edgar/quickedar.htm>  
 Interfaith Center of Corporate Responsibility — <http://www.iccr.org>  
 Public Information Network — <http://www.endgame.org>

## Eleven Steps to Curb the Corporate Crime Wave

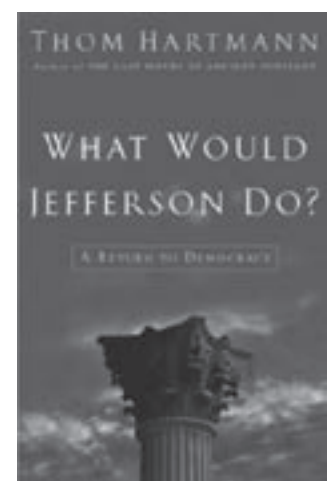
by Robert Waldrop

1. The stockholders and management of corporations convicted of felonies should lose their right to vote and run for public office.
2. A registry should be maintained in each area of criminal corporations, and any corporation convicted of a felony should be required to register with the local police. A notice should be sent to all of their neighbors that a criminal corporation is taking up residence in their locality.
3. Criminal corporations should lose all corporate welfare benefits and government contracts.
4. Criminal corporations should be required to make weekly visits to parole officers, and their stockholders and management should be subject to random drug tests (either urine or hair).
5. Criminal corporations should not be allowed to operate within 500 yards of a school, church or library.
6. Criminal corporations should be required to place the phrase "A criminal corporation" on all advertising, signs and vehicles as a public warning.
7. If criminal corporations violate the terms of their parole, their stockholders and officers should go to jail.
8. In addition to the fine on the corporation, the personal assets of stockholders should be forfeited for their criminal negligence and lack of oversight.
9. The increasing number of lawless corporations calls for stricter penalties. Bring back the death penalty for corporations. In this context, the 'death penalty' is the closure of the corporation, the forfeiture of its assets to its victims and/or the government and the winding up of its affairs by a court appointed receiver.
10. Stockholders and management should be required to wear monitoring bracelets for the duration of their parole, and may not travel outside of their jurisdiction without a written pass from their parole officer.
11. The stockholders and management of criminal corporations may not associate with the stockholders and management of other corporate felons, and are forbidden to keep and bear arms.

Robert Waldrop is the director of the Archbishop Oscar Romero Catholic Worker House in Oklahoma City. <http://www.justpeace.org>

## Books to Read, Movies to Watch

### What Would Jefferson Do? by Thom Hartmann



When the Founding Fathers were searching for the best and fairest form of government, they studied the models of Athenian democracy, the Roman republic, and the Iroquois Confederacy and created what is now called a modern liberal democracy. Today, 81 nations can be described as fully democratic. Yet in numerous countries around the world democracy has failed or is tottering, and in the United States its principles are increasingly under siege from corporate and other forces. Americans pride themselves on their democracy, but today's legislative process often no longer reflects the vision of the Founders.

In *What Would Jefferson Do?*, Thom Hartmann shows why democracy is not an aberration in human history but the oldest, most resilient, and most universal form of government, with roots in nature itself. He traces in particular the history of democracy in the United States, identifies the most prevalent myths about it, and offers an inspiring yet realistic plan for transforming the political landscape and reviving Jefferson's dream before it is too late.

Thom Hartmann is the host of a nationally syndicated radio show, *The Thom Hartmann Program*, and the award-winning author of fourteen books. He lives in Montpelier, Vermont, and can be found on the Internet at [www.thomhartmann.com](http://www.thomhartmann.com).

### The Corporation

The Village Voice  
June 21st, 2004

Sergei Eisenstein dreamed of producing a Joycean epic based on Marx's *Das Kapital*. Albeit more prosaic, *The Corporation*, written by Joel Bakan and directed by Mark Achbar and Jennifer Abbott, fulfills part of that project—even if, as in some orthodox traditions, its analysis never utters its presiding deity's awesome name.

A leisurely, never boring, grimly amusing, and not entirely hopeless disquisition on the contemporary world's "dominant institution," this Canadian documentary ranges from third-world sweatshops and Monsanto petrochemical atrocities to the targeting of kiddie consumers and U.S. corporate collusion with Nazi Germany. The catalog of outrage is nearly inexhaustible: Corporations succeed in patenting new life-forms and privatizing rainwater in Bolivia. The destruction of the World Trade Center doubles the price of gold overnight. ("In devastation there is opportunity," one broker excitedly exclaims.) So-called corporateresponsibility is merely a tactic. Right-wing economist Milton Friedman agrees with left-wing historian Howard Zinn that the profit motive



rules—and it naturally follows that multi-national profits trump national interest.

The filmmakers zero in on the fact that, thanks to judicial interpretation of the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, corporations have the same legal status as individual persons. In a particularly brilliant argument, they apply the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders to demonstrate that, judged by human standards, the corporation is by nature psychopathic—self-absorbed, irresponsible, manipulative, and unable to empathize or feel remorse. The corollaries to this institutional person are those individuals who, at least in their social roles, embody the inhuman logic of the system: liberal CEOs, proud corporate spies, cheery specialists in undercover product placement, the scary behavioral psychologist who advises toy companies how to maximize and exploit the power of a nagging child.

Noam Chomsky, the subject of Achbar's *Manufacturing Consent*, is the movie's main voice; other expert witnesses include Michael Moore (who gets the chance to revisit his battle with affable nemesis Nike CEO Phil Knight) and Ray Anderson, the CEO of the world's largest commercial carpet manufacturer, who underwent a green conversion after reading a book. Imagine that! The Corporation — which won an audience award at Sundance — has an infectious faith in education. To that end, the filmmakers make effective use of old industrial training films, while their script explains such venerable concepts as surplus value, reification, and repressive desublimation without actually using the terms.

### Gangs of America by Ted Nace



Corporations are the dominant force in modern life, surpassing even church and state. The largest are richer than entire nations, and courts have given these entities more rights than people. To many Americans, corporate power seems out of control. According to a Business Week/Harris poll released in September 2000, 82 percent of

those surveyed agreed that "business has too much power over too many aspects of our lives." And the recent revelations of corporate scandal and political influence have only added to such concerns.

Where did this powerful institution come from? How did it get so much power? In *Gangs of America: The Rise of Corporate Power and the Disabling of Democracy*, author Ted Nace probes the roots of corporate power, finding answers in surprising places.

A key revelation of the book is the wariness of the Founding Fathers toward corporations. That wariness was shaped by rampant abuses on the part of British corporations such as the Virginia Company, whose ill-treatment killed thousands of women and children on forced-labor tobacco plantations, and the East India Company, whose attempt to monopolize American commodities led to the merchant-led rebellion known as the Boston Tea Party.

Because of such attitudes, the word corporation does not appear once in the United States Constitution. At the Constitutional Convention, all proposals to include corporations in that document were voted down by delegates. Corporate attorneys persisted in seeking legal protections for their clients by means of sympathetic court rulings, but until the Civil

War such attempts largely failed.

After the Civil War, the tide quickly turned, as lobbyists secured key changes in corporate law and as corporate attorneys won a series of decisions from an increasingly pro-corporate Supreme Court. Nace recounts the key figures who engineered the "corporate bill of rights," in particular two brilliant strategists: railroad baron Tom Scott and Supreme Court Justice Stephen Field. The book explores in depth the bizarre intrigues that resulted in the infamous "corporations are persons" ruling of 1886, and how that ruling affected the subsequent development of Supreme Court doctrine.

Nace charts the growth of corporate power through the Gilded Age, including the bloody repression of organized labor and the rise of social Darwinist thinking among American elites. He recounts how that expansion came to a halt under the New Deal, as organized labor gained legal protections, social Darwinism fell into disrepute, and Franklin Roosevelt asserted a vision of American society that placed democratic limits on corporate power. To many observers, it seemed that the corporate Frankenstein had finally been tamed by "countervailing power."

*Gangs of America* describes the expansion of corporate legal empowerment onto the global stage through international agreements such as the North American Free Trade Agreement, which boosted the legal powers of corporations to the level of sovereign nations. The book pays special attention to recent events, including campaign finance reform, the financial scandals of 2002, and the growing movement to redefine the corporation and limit corporate power.

Ted Nace worked as a researcher on electric utility policy for the Environmental Defense Fund and as staff director of the Dakota Resource Council, a grassroots group seeking to protect farms and ranches from strip mines and other energy projects. In 1985, he founded Peachpit Press.

### St. Lawrence Cement

Understanding the Impact

Published in response to St. Louis Cement's proposed factory in the city of Hudson in Columbia County, New York.

If permitted to operate, the St. Lawrence Cement complex would burn 250,000 metric tons of coal per year in order to maintain a heat of over 2650 degrees Fahrenheit in the kiln. The finished product would be 2.6 million tons of cement and nearly 20 million pounds of toxic pollutants a year, including PM2.5, dioxin, lead, mercury, NOx and SO2.

The book details all relevant facts and the impact of the project on health, natural and biological resources, historical and aesthetic resources, and economic resources of the region. The book is being distributed through all kinds of stores and relevant organizations such as Hudson River Sloop, Clearwater, and Hudson River Heritage.

The book was published in part through the help of a grant from the Native Forest Council. For some information on the effects of the book, please see the Letters section on page 3.



# Inside the Big Biscuit

by Roy Keene

September, 2002

Entering into the land of fire, I come under the spell of a glowing amber cloud. The bright blue day fades into dull red and ash falls like dirty snowflakes. A pungent mist of burning cedar and myrtle fills my lungs. I drive through smoldering gullies, past charred, smoking trees, and skirt fumaroles where Biscuit still burns.

Cresting a ridge, the breeze shifts and lifts a fog of smoke, allowing startling views into thousands of acres. Far from creating a wasteland, fire returned much of this forest to a state closer to its natural self... a mosaic of trees, meadows, and savannahs. And there are supernatural territories where fire transformed elements back into rock and carbon. No wonder big fires provoke the same fears in us as they did our ancestors. The communities threatened by Biscuit weren't consoled by politicians, economists or scientists. Nope. They were calmed by the firefighters who scraped, burned, and sweated to redeem forest homes from a fiery judgment.

**Salvage logging is the most destructive part of every burn I've visited. What irony to use the old French word "salve", meaning to save or heal. Call it like it is... "pork" logging.**

Washing like a wave of flame across the landscape, the same fire has purified a forest corrupted by a century of human management.

Within days after the blaze passed over, blades of native grass spear up through the ash. Oaks, toasted black above ground, push green shoots up from below. Woodpeckers flit through burned trees, feasting on larva exposed under heat curled bark. Grey squirrels scamper about, hoarding windfalls of roasted acorns. A pair of golden eagles cruise the ridge, dropping occasionally to capitalize on the rodent feeding frenzy.

In these mountains for 35 years, this is the first

## Keep Dishonest Corporations and Bush from Bashing the Biscuit

by Roy Keene

September 2002

A Message sent to Southern Oregon environmental groups by Native Forest Council's forester, Roy Keene, in September of 2002 as Biscuit cooled.

Salvage logging Biscuit will be timber industry's first test for Bush's "Forest Plan". Keeping Bush from bashing Biscuit will take a fight, not a compromise.

I spent weeks in the burn to get a feel for what's at stake. My opinions are based on 30 years of wilderness activism in Southern Oregon and a strong knowledge of timber, logging practices, and the region's timber industry. I framed my strategy concepts around Sun Tzu's classic assessments:

### The Weather

Salvage logging isn't "scientific", "forest management", or "economically sensible"... it's plunder. The Biscuit burn offers industry an enormous opportunity to steal premium public timber for less money per MBF than chip wood. Count on their hirelings to find cause to salvage log in Biscuit's roadless areas and LSRs. Expect quick moves, possibly an end run around the courts.

Environmentalists tempted to negotiate salvage logging shouldn't underestimate the administration's ability to play "bait and switch", the big dollars involved, industry's greed, the potential for forest degradation, or our movement's inherent inexperience with timber issues and logging operations. With a huge volume of

time I've felt the forest breathe.

The Siskiyou is an old forest that began with lichens and ferns clinging to the rocks that rose from an ancient ocean. Renewed often by fire, it has been through early succession many times. Fire is an essential part of its life cycle, how it refreshes itself through its generations. Though Biscuit waxed hotter than it might've had we not suppressed fire, the scorched trees and burned stands will reconstitute themselves.

Indeed, the real danger to this forest isn't fire, but more roading and logging in the name of "salvage". Salvage logging is the most destructive part of every burn I've visited. What irony to use the old French word "salve", meaning to save or heal. Call it like it is... "pork" logging.

Logging in Biscuit would target "dead or dying" timber on steep, thin soiled slopes that bake-off every summer. Many of these older trees, established during a 17th century cooling period, must now regenerate in a dramatically warmer climate. Even the "gentlest" logging will disturb duff, reduce shade, accelerate erosion, increase fuels, spread disease, and sow weeds to compete for scant moisture. Logging will condemn many sites to brush fields for centuries more.

If we must "help" heal burns, there are opportunities that are far more benign than more taxpayer supported logging. For a culture weary of corporate plundering, true salvage would be a socially refreshing and ecologically welcome change.

Concerned about the forest, friends ask me what they can do. "See it when it cools!" I exclaim, "And remember... only you can prevent salvage logging."

*Roy Keene has lived and worked throughout the forests of Southern Oregon for 35 years. He founded Public Interest Forestry, an organization dedicated to sane forestry.*

*Roy has served as the Native Forest Council's Forester and advisor since 1991.*

scorched timber to "sweeten the pot", conceding to logging even small trees is like trusting a rottweiler to eat only the carrots out of the beef stew.

Industry will sponsor salvage proposals for Biscuit coated with academic candy. They'll say that expedient logging will prevent waste, maintain forest health, prevent reburn, secure needed timber supplies, replace Treasury funds, and bolster employment. We should proactively parry their salvage thrust by exposing their lies and the pork to a citizenry weary of both well in advance.

Bush's zeal to circumvent laws to raid resources, whether they be forests or oil, may backfire. His moves to log Biscuit, coined "the gentle giant" by fire savvy media, could be deflected into political embarrassment.

### The Terrain

Creating or supporting a prudent post fire strategy for Biscuit is about place. Would-be strategists should spend time in the burn. Visit places where life was volatilized, hear the whisper of the spirit forest. Climb ridges where burned knobcones blossom and contemplate their promise.

Only a small portion of the fire burned in the managed (matrix) forest. Most of it burned through LSRs, roadless and wilderness areas, leaving behind significant volumes of scorched but valuable timber. Any "treatments" in these wild acres could have disastrous ecological and biological effects on the forest.



## Q&A with Roy Keene

Will charred trees and forests recover without logging or reforestation?

Absolutely.

Many trees like older Doug fir and ponderosa pines burned up to 90% of their bole are recovering. Old snags, surviving from the fires of 1938, survived Biscuit and are still standing as habitat for raptors and woodpeckers.

Logging interrupts natural recovery process by disturbing soils, spreading pathogens, and removing trees needed for shade and moisture. Logging puts forests at fire risk by increasing slash at ground levels.

### Won't we lose money if we don't log?

Hundreds of millions of dollars could have been saved by letting Biscuit burn instead fighting fire. Rain laid the fire down, not helicopters with water buckets or crews watching the blaze at a safe distance.

Logging Biscuit involves "cherry picking" the most valuable trees like cedars and sugar pines. Sold as culls at a fraction of true value, trees are yarded with helicopters at a cost far in excess of Forest Service receipts. That's why their own analysis showed returns going "red" as logging increased. If accounting of "salvage" logging in previous Siskiyou fires like Silver is an indicator, logging Biscuit will cost taxpayers over a \$1000 per acre.

### If logging doesn't help the forest and cost the taxpayers more money, then why are we logging?

The "plunder politics" started when timber corporations raised millions for Bush's re-election. Now, his administration and elected representatives are paying industry's donations back with interest.

Most of Biscuit's logged timber, purchased at a fraction of value, will leave the area. Most of it will be minimally processed and shipped overseas. We will pick up the tab. It's the same politics that increased oil company profits while we pay more at the pump.

### The Discipline And Leadership

Counteracting a Republican-reinforced industry's tough forest moves will be a new challenge for conservationists grown used to Clinton's easy compromises. Successfully protecting Biscuit from destructive salvage logging will boil down to a timely and disciplined hard ball game, not a hacky sack session. How we approach this inevitable conflict, the manner in which we resolve it, and the outcome on the land can set standards for many fires to come.

The stakes with Biscuit are high, so let those who would take the lead, lead well.

### The Way

The way is unity. People burdened to protect the burn should come together, coordinate our talents and moves, get collectively ahead of industry's PR curve, and focus our resistance. Unified, we might keep Bush from bashing Biscuit.



Three "leave trees" that were remarked for cut at the Briggs Cedar Sale.

## Industry is Stealing the Crown Jewels — Environmental Groups are also to Blame

100 Years of Compromise by environmental and Democratic sellouts have damaged, desecrated or destroyed much of our National Forests, rivers, and streams. As David Brower repeatedly said, too many environmental groups find themselves negotiating the terms and conditions for rape rather than mounting passionate, principled fights in opposition to ALL rape. If they did so, even were they to lose, they would still advance their cause and communicate their message to the public and ultimately, learning from their defeats coming back stronger every time, they would win their principled fight for the environment, for the earth, and for humanity's survival.

It takes moral courage and integrity to save what's left. Teddy Roosevelt did it over 100 years ago. In 1942 FDR was still doing it. Even one of Oregon's big timbermen, Nels Hult, said it in 1948, 'We've cut too much.' Yet for the past 50 years it's been national, regional and even local environmental groups that are aiding and abetting unconscionable yet rampant industry logging in one "deal of shame" after another. That's right. Sadly, the 28 eco-groups listed below are the crack in our dike, the weak link in the chain. Do we blame the Rottweilers when they eat all the meat out of the stew? No, we blame those who opened the door and let in the dogs.

The 28 groups said that some logging was okay. These groups know very well that regardless of the laws or industry's promises to the contrary, their logging is generally dishonest and looks like war, a scorched Earth of rape and pillage logging. As usual, these groups claimed that the Biscuit was politically unstoppable, a done deal and alleged they had to cooperate to make the bad forest logging plan better. Not only did the groups' leaders agree not to oppose unlimited "hazard

tree" removal, supposedly at the request of Oregon Democrats, Sen. Wyden, Rep. DeFazio and their funders, they further proposed a "reasonable" amount of "salvage logging." Instead of being satisfied or grateful, industry took their capitulation as weakness and more than doubled the planned logging to 370 million board feet — talk about acts of negligence, moral insanity, malfeasance, treachery and treason.

They know better, but they keep doing it over & over again. It makes us wonder whose or what side they're on. Our "victories" are temporary — while our losses are permanent.

- They know the logging industry is usually dishonest, greedy and destructive.
- They know the Forest Service is a dishonest, rogue agency that cannot be trusted.
- They know if we give an inch, they take a mile.
- They know even one crack in the dike is bad.
- They know logging is not good for the national forests, rivers and streams.
- They know roads and logging removes shade and leaves the forests hotter, drier and more flammable.
- They know logging is not profitable if the inventory costs, losses and damages are honestly and fully costed, that the public pays far more in costs and losses than industry takes in profits; and that logging represents a massive and destructive public subsidy.
- They know industry has an established plan for sabotaging citizen protection efforts called Divide & Conquer (see sidebar, pg. 9).
- They know because it's a long and established history of environmental capitulations with an aggressively belligerent industry's greed, dishonesty and destruction. We lose, the forests, rivers and streams lose — only industry wins.

It was bad enough that nobody opposed unlimited logging of "hazard trees" but these 28 environmental organizations went even further and signed on to the "Siskiyou Restoration Plan," advocating for a "modest" amount of logging in the Biscuit burn area. The Native Forest Council strongly opposes ALL logging in all burn areas, and rejects industry's claims that the only way to heal a burned forest is to cut it down (regardless of the number of groups they persuade or the number of "studies" they buy).

Audubon Oregon	Klamath Forest Alliance	Siskiyou Chapter, NPSO
Audubon Society of Corvallis	Lane County Audubon Society	Siskiyou Regional Education Project
Deer Creek Association	National Environmental Trust	Smith River Alliance
Defenders of Wildlife	Native Plant Society of Oregon	Smith River Project
Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs	Northcoast Environmental Center	Soda Mountain Wilderness Council
Friends of Del Norte	Oregon Natural Resource Council	The Wilderness Society
Friends of the Illinois River	Pacific Rivers Council	WaterWatch of Oregon
Headwaters	Portland Audubon Society	World Wildlife Fund
Illinois River Kayak Association	Rogue Valley Audubon	
Kalmiopsis Audubon	Siskiyou Audubon	

## It's Not Just Here, Either... But in British Columbia Too

Thanks, great message, Stand-up for Old Growth Forests and Protest the Weyerhaeuser AGM.

Here in coastal British Columbia, RAN created and participated in an envirocrat coalition (Rainforest Solutions Project) that is not at all opposed to extirpating the old growth timber in the Great Bear Rainforest. RAN and its partners Forest Ethics, Sierra Club and Greenpeace want their names on an agreement so much that they are willing to legitimize continuing old growth liquidation in BC's coastal public forests. We are at a tipping point here. BC's grassroots environmentalists want to constrain Weyco and the rest of the industry to the second growth timber and force them out of the remaining coastal old growth.

The only thing worse than Weyco's incremental trashing of our remaining original forests is the saccharine US enviro booze cruise apologists hand wringing over how to sound both pro-forest industry and pro-environment. Their dilemma, did they ask industry for enough iconic pristine monuments in exchange for consigning the last of our old growth

to the maw of Weyco exploitation. Yankee Enviro Go Home!

Your predilection for negotiating, advertising and fund-raising on win-wins makes you tractable heroes with the forest industry here, but you keep low-balling the ask and selling out the coastal old growth forests.

The only thing keeping the old growth on the forest industry dinner table in BC is the US enviros, their BC employees and their idiotic aristocratic US foundations.

Take your money and your negotiations home and let us get back to mau-mauing the bastards. Resistance works. Do it yourselves, and you might find fewer wanton nazis in your government.

Michael Major  
Victoria, BC

**"No man survives when freedom fails, The best men rot in filthy jails, And those who cry 'appease, appease' Are hanged by those they tried to please."**

- Hiram Mann

why we lose?

## DIVIDE AND CONQUER

It's important to be aware of the means by which those in power subvert radical groups using indirect means -- this is particularly common with activist groups, where overt police and military action can't be brought to bear against the activists without drawing considerable bad press. The following "divide and conquer" strategy shows how PR flaks classify activist personalities, and how they manipulate them. In this case, they're focusing on environmental groups, but it can be applied to any social issues groups.

<http://www.cat.org.au/o4a/sabot.html>  
(excerpted from Toxic Sludge is Good for You! by John Stauber and Sheldon Rampton)

### Dealing With Idealists

Since at least the days of Aristotle, practitioners of the art of rhetoric have understood that an endorsement from their opponent carries more persuasive power than anything they can say themselves. The public relations industry therefore carefully cultivates activists who can be coopted into working against the goals of their movement. This strategy has been outlined in detail by Ronald Duchin, senior vice-president of PR spy firm Mongoven, Biscoe and Duchin. A graduate of the US Army War College, Duchin worked as a special assistant to the Secretary of Defense and director of public affairs for the Veterans of Foreign Wars before joining Pagan International and MBD. In a 1991 speech to the National Cattlemen's Association, he described how MBD works to divide and conquer activist movements. Activists, he explained, fall into four distinct categories: "radicals," "opportunists," "idealists," and "realists." He outlined a three-step strategy: (1) isolate the radicals; (2) "cultivate" the idealists and "educate" them into becoming realists; then (3) coopt the realists into agreeing with industry.

According to Duchin, radical activists "want to change the system; have underlying socio/political motives" and see multinational corporations as "inherently evil.... These organizations do not trust the... federal, state and local governments to protect them and to safeguard the environment. They believe, rather, that individuals and local groups should have direct power over industry.... I would categorize their principal aims right now as social justice and political empowerment."

Idealists are also "hard to deal with." They "want a perfect world and find it easy to brand any product or practice which can be shown to mar that perfection as evil. Because of their intrinsic altruism, however, and because they have nothing perceptible to be gained by holding their position, they are easily believed by both the media and the public, and sometimes even politicians." However, idealists "have a vulnerable point. If they can be shown that their position in opposition to an industry or its products causes harm to others and cannot be ethically justified, they are forced to change their position.... Thus, while a realist must be negotiated with, an idealist must be educated. Generally this education process requires great sensitivity and understanding on the part of the educator."

By contrast, opportunists and realists are easier to manipulate. Duchin defines opportunists as people who engage in activism seeking "visibility, power, followers, and, perhaps, even employment.... The key to dealing with opportunists is to provide them with at least the perception of a partial victory." And realists are able to "live with trade-offs; willing to work within the system; not interested in radical change; pragmatic. The realists should always receive the highest priority in any strategy dealing with a public policy issue... If your industry can successfully bring about these relationships, the credibility of the radicals will be lost and opportunists can be counted on to share in the final policy solution."



David Porter



# A Caution Against Small Tree Logging

by Jon Rhodes  
Conservation Hydrologist

For anyone considering or following the course of promoting small tree logging, I suggest considering a course correction if you care about complete forest ecosystems, including embedded aquatic resources.

The removal of small trees causes the same sort ecological damage as the removal of large trees. Most of the negative effects of logging (soil damage, erosion, noxious weed spread, consequent damage to aquatic systems) are NOT a function of the size of trees removed.

Small tree logging involves the same suite of damaging activities (elevated use, reconstruction, and construction of landings and roads, groundbased yarding, etc.) as any other type of logging with one difference: very damaging ground-based logging is the assured method due to economic factors.

Since timber volume is inversely related to tree diameter in a cubic fashion, many, many more small trees must be logged per increment of timber volume, resulting in far more disturbance per increment of timber volume than with large trees.

There's still no good field evidence that the mechanical removal of smaller trees has any ecological benefits and/or consistently reduces fire severity under a wide range of conditions. Even

*For more information, see:*

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## Oregon State Timber Board Membership in Violation of State Law

Sub Chapter: STATE BOARD OF FORESTRY  
Statute: ORS 526.009

**4) No more than three members of the board may derive any significant portion of their income directly from persons or organizations that are subject to regulation under ORS 527.610 to 527.770, 527.990 (1) and 527.992.**

Current Membership:  
**Barbara Craig**, an attorney for Stoel Rives law firm in Portland  
**Chris Heffernan**, a rancher and farmer, owns North Slope Natural Resources tree farm  
**Diane Snyder**, Executive Director of the nonprofit Wallowa Resources in Enterprise  
**William Hutchison**, Portland Attorney  
**\*Stephen Hobbs**, OSU forestry professor  
**\*Jennifer Phillippi**, Cave Junction Timber Company  
**\*Larry Giustina**, Timber Executive  
**\*These members have filed 2004 State of Oregon Annual Verified Statements (OAVS) of Economic Interest that discloses financial interests, relationships or pecuniary interests with timber.**

In addition it appears the following members have significant timber interests which puts the board out of compliance with Oregon law:

**Barbara Craig** is an investor in a business that buys and sells timber and

timberland and a partner in Stoel Rives LLP. Stoel Rives LLP represents many of the state's largest timber interests. Ms. Craig has personally represented some of these clients, including Longview Fibre Company.

**Diane Snyder**, is the Executive Director of Wallowa Resources — a nonprofit. This nonprofit reports that in 2004 they assisted in securing capital from 12 parties, created a new company, Community Smallwood Solutions, a timber processing business through its for-profit subsidiary Community Solutions, Inc. (CSI). CSI is an equity partner in the timber processing business.

**Chris Heffernan**, who owns North Slope Hay Co., also owns North Slope Natural Resources. Heffernan was honored in November 2003 as Oregon Tree Farmer of the Year for the sustainable management of North Slope Natural Resources, a tree farm. This is not listed on Heffernan's Annual Verified Statement of Economic Interest. A news article put out by Oregon Small Woodlands Association points out that Heffernan harvested 1.2 million board feet on his North Slope Ranch.

protection measures, and, instead, exacerbates the impacts of roads via elevated road use.

Yes, big trees and roadless areas are important — I've published journal papers addressing both, including authoring one of the first two peer-reviewed publications to call for the complete protection of roadless areas greater than 1,000 acres (Rhodes et al., 1994) (I was a peer-reviewer and contributor to the other: Henjum et al., 1994). But roadless and large tree protection won't even keep the dreary situation static; it certainly won't be enough to restore native trout and water quality, which are in dire straits (Henjum et al., 1994; Kessler et al., 2001).

It is entirely likely that even if all remaining roadless areas and big trees are protected that wildland ecosystems will continue their downward spiral ecologically, if small tree removal accelerates and there is little progress on reducing grazing and road impacts.

A final piece of advice: The odious practice of machine piling has made a unfortunate comeback in the current climate of fuels hysteria on public lands. Nothing short of paving, roads, and landings cause more severe havoc to soils and hydrologic processes, plus far more acres are typically affected by machine piling than affected by roads and landings. This practice needs to be eliminated.

Stay at 'em... rest assured that I am doing the same.



## Planter of Hope

by Kieran Cooke  
Financial Times

It's an African laugh. Generous, deep, infectious, body shaking.

Wangari Maathai, the Kenyan environmentalist known as Africa's "Forest Goddess", is recalling the moment when, late last year, she received a phone call telling her she had been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

"I was at home, in Nyeri. I was shaking and crying all at once. I remember thinking it could not get any better than this - only maybe in heaven." A pause for another round of laughter. Eyes are wiped. Dress and headdress are readjusted.

In the late 1970s Wangari Maathai founded the Green Belt Movement, a loose-knit organization mainly made up of village women. Over the past 30 years the Movement has been responsible for planting between 20m and 30m trees in Kenya and elsewhere in Africa. In recognition of her work, Maathai has become the first African woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize.

"I looked out at Mount Kenya - the mountain that has inspired me so much. Then I rolled up my sleeves and did what I love to do. I dug a hole and "

We are sitting in the offices of the United Nations environmental programme on the outskirts of Nairobi. With its security fences and large, well tended grounds, the UN compound is a tranquil oasis, isolated from the chaotic - often dangerous - tempo of life in the Kenyan capital.

UN staff crowd around. Maathai, a youthful looking 64-year-old, is a celebrity, a source of pride for Africa, particularly its women. She beat a record of more than 190 Nobel nominations - including the Pope and Hans Blix, the UN weapons inspector - to win the peace prize.

"Please, just one more photo," begs a group of fluttering bureaucrats. More laughter; more of that gentle prodding and kneading of flesh that is so much part of social interaction in Africa.

For a short while, as people drift back to their offices, we are left relatively undisturbed. When the prize was announced, Professor Maathai - she has degrees in biological sciences from universities in Kenya and in the US - was relatively unknown outside Africa. Why did she think she won?

"I think there's increasing recognition of how peace, democracy and the environment are all interlinked," says Maathai. "We have to manage resources like water, forests, land and oil: if not we will lose the fight against poverty and then there will be no peace.

**"When we started planting there were many who said we were mad. It took a long time to convince people that women could improve their environment without technology or financial resources."**

"This is a matter of life and death. The Nobel committee, in recognizing the work we are doing here, has made a wonderful decision."

There's a tough streak behind Maathai's jovial exterior. For much of the past 30 years she's been at war with Kenya's male dominated political establishment.



In tandem with her environmental campaigns she's also been fighting for women's rights. Along the way, she has made plenty of enemies - and her personal life has suffered.

In the 1980s Matthai's marriage ended in divorce: at the time her husband described her as "too educated, too strong, too successful, too stubborn and too hard to control."

Maathai says it's always the women in Africa who carry the main burden of poverty and conflict.

"We see our children dying in the fields, we see the future slipping away. I've been calling on Africa's leaders, who are mostly men, to make sure resources are exploited for people's benefit, to help them out of poverty, ignorance and disease.

"We've been waiting for men to change. We women have an important role in challenging them to be responsible to us and to our children - to stop sending them off to die on the front lines."

Maathai was born in the uplands of central Kenya. It was once a lush territory full of forests. Colonial settlers and later native farmers cut down trees and cleared the land for cattle ranches and homesteads.

As a young student, Maathai developed an interest in biology. She won scholarships to study in the US. In 1971, she became one of the first women in east Africa to hold a PhD.



"It's such a different country now to the one I grew up in. In Kikuyu - my mother tongue - there's no word for desert. Yet today much of our land is parched. Growing food is becoming more and more difficult."

There's another pause as a group of UN officials come to shake hands.

The Green Belt Movement was founded in 1977 in Maathai's backyard in Nyeri, north of Nairobi. The aim was to produce sustainable wood for fuel use as well as combating soil erosion.

"Vegetation was disappearing at an alarming rate from my area. Droughts became more frequent. Rivers were drying up. People were going hungry."

Kenya, once renowned for its fertile soils, now faces a growing threat of creeping desertification, particularly in its most northern areas. Recently Maathai has been trying to settle a series of bloody disputes in the country between nomads and farmers. More than 30 people are believed to have died in recent weeks.

"These people keep animals but they have to go further and further to find grazing. They don't have enough water for stock and so, as people become more desperate, clashes break out."

Statistics vary but some experts say that as much as 90 per cent of Kenya's natural forest cover has been lost over the past century.

"When we started planting there were many who said we were mad. It took a long time to convince people that women could improve their environment without technology or financial resources."

The first time Maathai came to the notice of officialdom was in 1977 when she marched into the forestry ministry in Nairobi and demanded 15m seedlings to plant trees. "I smiled and they gave me what I wanted," she says.

**"We have to manage resources like water, forests, land and oil: if not we will lose the fight against poverty and then there will be no peace"**

Maathai - who had been arrested several times in the course of campaigns to stop illegal logging in forest reserves, much of it by businessmen associated with [former President] Moi's Kanu party - received death threats, and along with her three children, fled to Tanzania.

When she returned to Kenya she was imprisoned after forming a women's group to protest about the torture of political opponents of the Moi regime. In 1992, in the course of a hunger strike, Maathai was beaten unconscious by police.

"Every time you provide leadership, every time you speak out, you expect you may suffer for what you believe in," says Maathai.

What she describes as the long dark years of Moi's reign came to an end in 2002 when, in general elections, the government of Mwai Kibaki was swept to power. Maathai, who had won a parliamentary seat by a landslide, was appointed deputy environment minister. The woman who for years had been the scourge of Kenya's cosy political establishment now finds herself a part of the power structure.

"Being a minister makes life easier," she says, a smile playing across her broad face. "I'm able to educate my colleagues - the men have to take me seriously now."

Asked recently whether she would like to be Kenya's president Maathai said there was, at present, no vacancy. She then added, with a familiar laugh - "The sky's the limit. I never say never."

In Kenya, Maathai still has enemies, particularly among sections of the business community associated with former president Moi.

Critics accuse Maathai of talking first, thinking afterwards. It will not be long, they say, before Maathai - like one of her trees - outgrows her government role. Maathai shrugs.

"I'm trying very hard to be a good member of government. The important thing is to deliver on promises and push the environmental agenda." She says that whatever happens, she will continue digging holes and planting trees.

"I love trees, I love the colour. To me they represent life and they represent hope. I think it's the green colour." There's more laughter as she climbs into her jeep. "I tell people I think heaven is green."



Maathai began her work by planting a Nandi flame tree.



# Joan Norman

## Tell Them to Come With Fire in Their Bellies

In Southern Oregon in the summer of 2002 a strike of lightning set off a forest fire that stretched across the heart of the Siskiyou Wild Rivers area. This was the largest fire in North America in a long time. The Forest Service scientists dubbed the fire the “Biscuit Fire.” These same scientists quickly pointed out that the Biscuit Fire, like the Yellowstone Fire, performed needed biological functions.

Within months, the Bush administration, led by Mark Rey, began planning the largest logging project in Forest Service history. The Biscuit logging operations (deceptively titled the Biscuit Fire Recovery Project) encompasses about 20,000 acres (31.25 sq miles) and a proposed cut of 372 million board feet — equivalent to 74,400 logging trucks. This includes about 9,000 acres (14 sq miles) of “protected” old-growth reserves. The Biscuit logging project is the first Forest Service timber sale to threaten roadless areas and would leave just 1.5 legacy trees (“snags”) per acre — a virtual clearcut. Many of the trees tagged to be cut are not dead; rather their outer bark is scorched. Many of the trees are part of late-successional stands (very old, very big trees). The soil of the area is so fragile and unique for the area and climate that clearcutting will guarantee the demise of thousands of rare plants and animals. It would also mean the degradation of fragile rivers still supporting salmon.

The four lawsuits filed to stop the massive logging operation have failed to still the saws.

On March 7, 2005, logging in an old-growth reserve began near Baby Foot Lake in the Kalmiopsis in the Fiddler timber sale. People from around the Pacific Northwest went to the area and blocked logging trucks from crossing a bridge. There was another blockade at the bridge on May 9. On the morning of March 14, 2005, a group of women dressed in black blocked the bridge that allows entrance to the Biscuit. The women were wearing black in mourning for the trees. They were determined to be the voices for the trees. Among the 20 women arrested that day was Joan Norman. Joan is a 72-year-old woman who has been an activist for over 30 years. On March 7 she was arrested for blocking the same bridge that leads into one of the most botanically diverse national forests on the North American continent. Ellen O’Shea interviewed Joan on March 13 at the Siskiyou Forest Defenders camp near Selma, Oregon, the day before she was arrested a second time at the bridge, this time joined by 19 other women.

**Joan:** There are only 5% of the native old-growth trees left in the United States. They are clearcutting paradise; they are doing it in spite of a legal injunction. The courts don’t work against evil anymore. It’s time to stand up. Whatever rules and laws that civil society once had are now gone. This is the time we have been waiting for, we knew it would come, and we are the ones we have been waiting for. Yes, the people to rise up!

**Ellen:** You mean we need to get some fire in our bellies?

**Joan:** There is some fire in many of the people here. I see it in the eyes of the young activists. It is such a thrill to see the energy and passion of those younger than me. It reminds me of the early days of being an activist. We were so clear about our purpose and our resolve.

**Joan, what “thing” were you trying to end? You mean the Vietnam War? Where did you start as an activist?**

**Joan:** Why, I went with the freedom

riders to the South. I went to Alabama to stop the lynchings and to let the people be free. I went to Montgomery, Selma and Birmingham. I started out with members of a church. We took a bus from California to the South. I walked with Martin Luther King, Jr. The thing we wanted to stand up to then was the destruction of the diversity of people in this nation. The slavery, racism, and violence toward people of color. The thing we are fighting today is much the same, only we are trying to defend the diversity of the whole world, of life on Earth. We need all of it to not just survive, but to thrive as a peaceful, loving people.

**Ellen:** So here you are in another Selma. Selma, Oregon instead of Selma, Alabama, another place to fight for diversity. Joan, you are on an interesting journey.

**No, I am not afraid. I am 75 years old. Do you know what this culture has in store for me, an old woman?**

**Joan:** Yes, it has been a very interesting journey. You know I once was very rich. I married a man who became very powerful. He helped to invent the microchip. He made a lot of money, and he lost his way. I was once the wife of a rich corporate industrialist. I had a big house where many fancy parties were held for the other rich corporate industrialists. I did my wifely duties so that we could keep our money. I was a Republican. I came from a Republican lineage. I was born in an oil town in Oklahoma. I was born into a culture that trashed the Earth, enslaved the Earth to extract wealth.

One day the fire grew in my belly. I knew that the way we lived was wrong. The people around me were mean. I had dreams. Then I began to pay attention. John Kennedy was running for president then. I was so inspired by what he said to us, to all the people. He spoke directly to the people. I stopped being a republican and joined JFK’s election campaign. I brought democrats, working people, into my big house. I put on fundraising events to get JFK elected. After JFK was assassinated I tried to help get Bobby Kennedy elected. I met Bobby Kennedy. I was inspired by his words and actions. And, then they assassinated him too.

All this brought much turmoil to my world. My husband was still a Republican, and I was spending more and more time with the everyday people of this country. The working class. I left everything I knew. I sold everything that was left to me after I left my husband and the corporate world. I lived small, and I joined in to defend the Earth and its people against the war against the people and the natural world.

I have been arrested over 100 times standing against injustice. After the civil rights struggle in the South, I joined the protests against the Vietnam War. I saw the genocide against the people of Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos, and I jumped in with both feet. I was at the WTO protests in Seattle in 1999, I went to Washington, DC, to stop the G8 and the WTO takeover of the world. I have been in the streets with the best of them. I have lived for 30 years in a community of freedom riders. I lived in a motor home for 12 years and traveled to where I was needed. I had my own kitchen, my own first aid station, my few books and my passion for freedom and justice.

I was at the Nevada Test Site protests. I stood beside the true heroes of this country. I stood by them at Fort Benning to protest the School of the America’s, the place where international terrorists, death squads are trained.

**Ellen:** Aren’t you afraid to go to jail? What is it like there?

**Joan:** Like I said I have been to jail over a 100 times. And, no I am not afraid. The food is gray, the walls are gray. The jailers are not as mean as the cops who arrest you are. Once you get in the jail, there are rules, but the jailers usually are not mean. They are just doing their jobs the best they can. I look at it like some crazy comedy. They are doing what they think is necessary, and I am doing what I think is necessary. We just don’t agree on what is necessary. The people in the jails are mostly working poor struggling to survive. They are in jail for all sorts of crazy things, some big things but mostly small things. These people are kept so distant from the rest of America, they don’t even know we care. When I am in jail, I educate. I listen to the stories and I pass these stories on to people wherever I go.

The meanness comes when we are arrested. One of our group who was arrested on last Monday had his arm dislocated by a sheriff’s deputy. And to answer your question, NO!. No, I am not afraid. I am 75 years old. Do you know what this culture has in store for me, an old woman? They will wait for me to be sick at the end of my life and then strap me

to feeding tubes, pump deadly drugs into me, put me on a machine to make my lungs go up and down, and wait for me to die. I am not bound to go out that way. No, I would rather go out in a blaze, defending the world I love. I will be on the front lines someday and my soul will know the time to go, and I will just leave. I will make that decision. Knowing this, I am not afraid. I am more afraid that my grandchildren will think I did not try hard enough to leave them a legacy of peace, and a world worth living in. I don’t want them to know the beauty of trees by looking at a book. I want them to be able to walk among 800-year-old trees and know that is our destiny. That is where we have to get back to.

**Ellen:** What goes through your mind when you know you must resist, and you may be arrested. I mean, what kind of mind set do you have to have to be arrested.

**Joan:** I know when it is time. I just know when we are supposed to stand up, you know, have a backbone. We can’t let these people who have no social consciousness rule the world. Their appetite for war and greed are insatiable. If we let them take our peace, our air, our water, the sky, the trees, the plants, we will be lost. We cannot live without these gifts to us. These things are our true national... no, not national, planetary treasures. They belong to all living things on the planet.

When it comes time to resist, I just do it. I sit down, and I don’t move. I don’t talk. I sit down, and I hold my own sovereign space and self in that spot. I am fighting the good fight. I am just like Tar Baby in that story about Brer Rabbit and Tar Baby. I am just like Tar Baby. I go limp, and I don’t resist. I let them arrest me.

On Monday, May 7, they came and removed me from the bridge I was blocking by carrying me in my chair to the edge of the sheriff’s vehicle. They put me down there and thought I would stay put. Then the officers went off to arrest someone else. I got up and moved my chair back to my space. My sovereign space. An officer yelled, “Hey! you are not supposed to do that! Get back over where I put you.” I just laughed. People have been trying to get me to be where they put me all my life. I have a right to stand up against evil and I will.

I am not afraid to say my truth. Once I was up in a tressit and a logger came to the tree and he yelled up at us, “Why don’t you get a job?” And, I yelled down to him “ I do have a job, defending the forest is my job.” And, then I said to him “What kind of job do you have? Cutting down the forests? I like my job better than yours.”

And the logger just walked away.

**Ellen:** Tell me more about the “good fight.” How do you know what is the good fight?

**Joan:** The good fight? Well, the good fight is different for each person. My good fight has been about resisting injustice wherever I find it. I find it in unusual places. Early on, the good fight for me included fighting for the right for women to control their own bodies, their own fertility. The state needs to stay out of women’s bodies. That is part of the good fight for me.

Right now, the good fight for me is making sure the natural world is not destroyed by greed.

This fight to save the forests came to me through my grandson. I was not much of an outdoors person. I had never had a chance to live and explore a truly wild place. My grandson lived on the edge of a forest. He was a beautiful child. He spent from early in the morning to nightfall exploring the forests. I was concerned about this. I thought he was in the forest to get away from his family. I talked to him. I said I was afraid he would get lost, but instead he was found.

He said “Grandma, it’s so beautiful and amazing in the forest, you have to come with me so I can show you.” So, I went with him. It was hard for my old bones and joints. I had to try and keep up with him. He was so excited to be showing me this pure, beautiful world he had found. He was



Third world colony behavior — Exporting America’s trees.

so excited that someone in his family would go with him. I had to try to go up these steep paths and over logs on the trail, but I did. And what he showed me was just so amazing. I saw it the first time through the eyes of a child. We should all go into the forest with young children. They see it like it is meant to be seen. With the innocence of a being still connected to the Earth. They see it the way humans lived it for thousands of years. I cannot explain in words what my grandson taught me. I can only say that you cannot read about nature and wild places, you have to go there. And, once you do, no threat of jail will keep you from preserving it. The wild places are the last place on Earth that we have to remember our heritage and show us our legacy. We need to stand up and protect these places. This is why, at this time of my life, after all I have tried to defend, I am a forest defender.

I lived in cities, and I never went to the woods. No one I knew went to the natural places. We just went from store to house to work. We created gardens and lawns and tried to bring some natural beauty to our homes, but it wasn’t the same. We never saw the intense beauty of the forest, or desert or wild ocean places. We watched it on TV. But to live in it, be in it, it is so much different than seeing it in a book or on TV. It changes you to be where it is wild. It reminds you that it is time to wake up.

**I am not bound to go out that way. No, I would rather go out in a blaze, defending the world I love.**

**Ellen:** It is amazing to sleep on the ground, feel the earth breathing through you, and look up at the sky at night and see the millions of stars. Last week Mt. St. Helens erupted and many people stopped what they were doing in the city to look at the ash plume rise into the sky. It was a good reminder that nature is very powerful too. As we become less wild, and more domesticated, we won’t know how to survive if and when this artificial world ends.

**Joan:** Well, it will end. That is the prophecy. When I went to Hopi Land I learned about a prophecy. Here look at the back of my shirt. The prophecy is on the back of my shirt.

“When the Earth has been ravaged and the animals are dying. A tribe of people from all races, creeds, and colors will put their faith in deeds. Not words to make the land green again. They shall be known as the Warriors of the Rainbow. The protectors of the environment.”

We are truly the ones we have been waiting for.

**Ellen:** You spoke today about personal sovereignty and the individuals right to stand against injustice. Can you explain this concept of personal sovereignty?

**Joan:** We are sovereign people. We are self-contained. There is a light in you that came into you when you were born. In this light lies your purpose for being here. Your job is to let your light shine on what is around you. When we stand up against unjust laws and rules and regulations we need to make sure that we are letting that pure light shine. We are not cogs in a corporate machine. If we connect with that light, we will know the right way to live on his great planet.

When I was in jail with young people, I tried to teach this concept. I tried to teach the difference between individuation, where people run around and act selfishly and destroy everything, and learning to know the reason you came to this life and letting your internal light, your sovereign light shine on the work you came to do in this life.

We have a very unjust legal system right now. It all started in 1896 when our government gave corporations personhood. The few people who wrote these laws of corporate personhood were a Supreme Court judge and his robber baron friends.

The Boston Tea party was about fighting this corporate takeover of the world resources and people. The revolutionaries wanted to keep the corporates and monarchies out of this new country. They had pretty much taken over all of Europe. People were starving; the forests and natural lands were being decimated in Europe. The air was foul from burning coal; sewage ran in the rivers of London and other large cities in Europe. This is the legacy of greed. This is what the corporates want to spread over the whole world.

**Ellen:** They must have some plan to save their own. Maybe, like in Huxley’s “Brave New World,” the rich will build domed cities where the atmosphere is controlled, and they will be able to breathe. The rest of us will be left to try to survive in a wasteland.

**Joan:** I don’t think they have a plan. They are not deep thinking, forward thinking people. They are out of touch with everything living and natural. Everywhere they look they see enemies, people who want to keep them from the present moment of greed and consumption. They want profits now. They don’t think about five or ten years or 100 years from now. We need to adopt a different way of acting and being and stand up. The biggest challenge to people of good consciousness now is to get people to stand up, to stop being afraid and stand up.

**Ellen:** What will you do now, here in the Siskiyou’s? What kind of a stand do we need to take right now?

**Joan:** We are here for the duration. There are many local women here and dedicated men who love the Earth and love the peace. We are just a few now, but we are growing, and we will not sit by as paradise is turned to stumps. We need people to come here and help us defend this place. They are cutting the big trees just beyond this camp. Everyday, seven days a week they are cutting down the trees. They don’t care that we had a legal injunction to stop the cutting. We can’t just sit here and let it happen. Tell the people, where you are from, it’s time to get some backbone and some fire. Where was that fire?

**Ellen:** Fire in our bellies.

**Joan:** Tell them to get some fire in their bellies and come to this gate to paradise and help us defend it. Tell them to come. I will be here.

*Ellen O’Shea is a Portland, Oregon, area Social Worker and social activist. She is a contributor to www.portlandwriters.com and the Portland Indymedia project.*



Joan Norman sitting on the Green River bridge, shortly before her arrest. Lesley Adams - www.kswild.org



## A Lifelong Activist's Last Fight

# Martin Litton is determined to save our nation's giant sequoias. At 87, he's a force to be reckoned with.

by Kevin Fedarko

Sequoias can reach heights of 325 feet and live up to 3,200 years. Logging threatens to diminish the number of trees, old and young.

Martin Litton has spent half a century fighting to save our national treasures.

High in California's Sierra Nevada mountains, there's a place where immense, fluted columns of wood soar into the air like arboreal skyscrapers. From a distance, they appear impossibly graceful. Walk closer, though, and you can see that these forest patriarchs have weathered some savage beatings. Their tops have been sheared by lightning and wind, while the trunks are blackened from wildfires that tried to consume them more than 1,000 years ago.

Rooted in the middle of this grove of giant sequoias stands a man who also bears the scars of battling forces more powerful than herself. His face is lined with wrinkles. His blue eyes water with age. His back is stooped by the weight of his 87 years. Ask a question about something he deems to be self-evident, however, and Martin Litton will erupt with a white-hot, fire-breathing ferocity.

**Walk closer, though, and you can see that these forest patriarchs have weathered some savage beatings.**

"You're not serious?" he growls when I ask, somewhat flippantly, what's so special about these enormous sticks of wood. "You really want me to answer? OK, here it is: What we have to let people know is that these trees don't exist anywhere else in the world. And if we destroy them, as our government is proposing to do, then we will never, ever, see anything like these forests again."

In the annals of wilderness activism, Litton is a unique force. Through his roles as senior editor of *Sunset Magazine*, board member of the Sierra Club and founder of the first guiding company to

run wooden dories through the Grand Canyon, Litton took a leading stance in major conservation crusades. He was a key player in saving Dinosaur National Monument and in establishing Redwood National Park. In the early '60s, he pushed the Sierra Club to wage a fight against two dams that would've profoundly damaged the Grand Canyon. When the dams were stopped in 1968, it signaled that the environmental movement had come of age.

As he nears his 88th birthday, Martin Litton is girding for the final fight of his life: to save the last unprotected tracts of giant sequoias.

Sequoias are among the oldest living things on the planet. They can reach 325 feet — exceeding the height of the Statue of Liberty and have survived for up to 3,200 years. Called "the noblest forests of the world" by John Muir, these trees were logged so heavily in the 19th century that there are fewer than 1,000 left whose diameter surpasses 20 feet. People assume that all sequoias are protected, but this is not the case. Though a third grow within three national parks in the Sierra Nevada's (Kings Canyon, Yosemite and Sequoia), nearly half are cared for by the Forest Service, a branch of the Department of Agriculture that quietly began clear-cutting in the sequoia groves in the '80s — until Litton and a handful of other environmentalists sued to stop them.

Those efforts were instrumental in pushing Bill Clinton to establish Giant Sequoia National Monument in April 2000, declaring that "no portion of the monument shall be considered suitable for timber production." Clinton, however, failed to put the sequoias under the aegis of the National Park Service, which is entrusted with protecting our natural wonders and manages 73 national monuments. Instead, to soften opposition, he turned the new preserve over to the Forest Service, which is focused less on preservation and more on economics.

Last January, the Forest Service, now run by Mark Rey, a former timber-industry lobbyist, released a plan for managing the monument. The plan, which



Martin Litton talks to Tim Hermach and William Blair

took three years to design, will enable commercial timber companies to cut a large number of trees-up to 7.5 million board feet per year, including young sequoias-up to 30 inches in diameter. The Forest Service, whose mission includes public safety, justifies this action in the name of controlling wild fires. "The people of this agency dearly love these trees," says monument supervisor Art Gaffrey. "We all agree they are treasures, and we are dedicated to maintaining their health."

Sequoia activists don't buy any of this. Eight environmental groups, plus California Attorney General Bill Lockyer, are calling for Gaffrey to scrap the plan. (At press time, no decision had been made on an appeal.)

**They lied on all counts, with potentially deadly consequences.**

Martin Litton, who has set up an organization to protect the trees, is demanding a more radical solution: an end to the Forest Service's stewardship of the monument, if these forests are to be saved," he declares, "the monument and the sequoias within it must take their rightful place among the treasures within our National Park system. I haven't got much time left, but this is a fight I will wage as long as I'm alive."



To learn more about Martin Litton's efforts to protect the sequoias, visit [www.sequoiaforestkeeper.org](http://www.sequoiaforestkeeper.org) or write: Sequoia ForestKeeper, PO Box 2134, Kernville, CA 93238.

## Quitters Never Win

Civil-rights, suffrage activists didn't give up, and neither should environmentalists

by Martin S. Kaplan

This piece is adapted from a speech given before the Alliance for Global Sustainability last month at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, Mass. The full speech, "Reflections on Sustainability and Universities and Whether Environmentalism Has Died" can be found at <http://www.grist.org/comments/soapbox/2005/04/01/kaplan/index1.html>

The environmental community is in turmoil over "The Death of Environmentalism," the challenging essay released by Michael Shellenberger and Ted Nordhaus last fall. Their thesis is that the environmental community has "strikingly little to show" for its efforts over the last 15 years and that environmental leaders are not articulating a vision of the future commensurate with the magnitude of the crisis facing us.

Remarkably, the two charge that environmentalism is "just another special interest."

Former Sierra Club President Adam Werbach has contributed his own indictment of environmentalism, calling for the end of a separate environmental movement and the creation of a new progressive movement uniting all of those who can agree on a broad set of progressive values, only one of which is the environment. And New York Times columnist Nicholas Kristof recently joined the attack, asserting that Shellenberger and Nordhaus are right that "modern environmentalism, with all of its unexamined assumptions, outdated concepts, and exhausted strategies, must die so that something new can live."

I suggest that these four individuals are arrogant, self-indulgent, and wrong in blaming perceived failure on those who have sought change, rather than on those who have opposed it.

Given their philosophy of causation and responsibility, I suppose in the 1850s, these four would have blamed the failure to abolish slavery on the abolition movement rather than the slaveholders and the economic interests tied to them. Perhaps around 1900, they would have blamed the failure to achieve women's voting rights on the strategy and tactics of Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, rather than on men who controlled the society.

Not one of these denunciations of the environmental movement includes any equivalent attack on the entrenched opposition of the economic interests that sell oil and whose outputs include mercury and arsenic. And I find it quite outrageous that the phrase special interest has been transmuted from reflecting those who have a financial benefit at stake to those who are pursuing a goal of benefiting the entire society rather than themselves individually. This misuse of the phrase flies in the face of the way in which it was used during the Progressive Era at the beginning of the 20th century.

Their thinking provides no recognition of the



tipping-point paradigm. Remember that after many years of little progress, the civil-rights movement in America blasted through the crises of the early 1960s to success, and we have also seen remarkable social change in relatively short time frames on issues relating to women, gays, and culture.

The conservation movement is only 100 years old and the environmental movement perhaps 50 years old. We are fortunate indeed that Shellenberger, Nordhaus, et al. did not evaluate the status of other historical movements midway in their terms. Perhaps these four individuals, lacking a historical perspective, have given up too early.

Martin S. Kaplan is an attorney in Boston and New York and an adviser to environmental funders, including the V. Kann Rasmussen Foundation.

## Children for an HONEST Education Campaign

by John Borowski

### Honest Education: Lesson Plans

by John Borowski, Science Teacher and NFC Environmental Education Coordinator

The objective of this lesson is to tie together concepts that influence ecosystems. By teaching thematically, you can use this primer and video to teach a variety of concepts.

For example: Forests in the Pacific Northwest have a unique geology, having formed after the last ice age, 12,000 years ago. Aleutian Lows in the winter bring a climate of ample rain; the ocean's latent heat provides a gentle climate and years of forest succession have developed wonderful soils! Thus, forests are more than trees! (pic) This enables you to make connections that lead to more exciting classes, the tying in of concepts and making the material more relevant.



#### LESSON ONE:

Do an overview of an ecosystem. Why are there deserts in one area and forests in another? This is a great opportunity to discuss abiotic (nonliving factors) features that determine the type of animals and plants in a given area. These features mostly include temperature and rainfall. Give them a landform map of the United States and ask them why the prairies are located where they are in comparison to the Pacific Northwest's forests (pic2)



Society's five million school-aged children represent our nation's most treasured and valuable resource: the foundation of a sustainable and civil future.

This generation of children is now being targeted by powerful interests, who look to manipulate their education, manufacture their values, and flood our schools with educational materials that are no more than attempts to debunk environmental concerns and push corporate agendas.

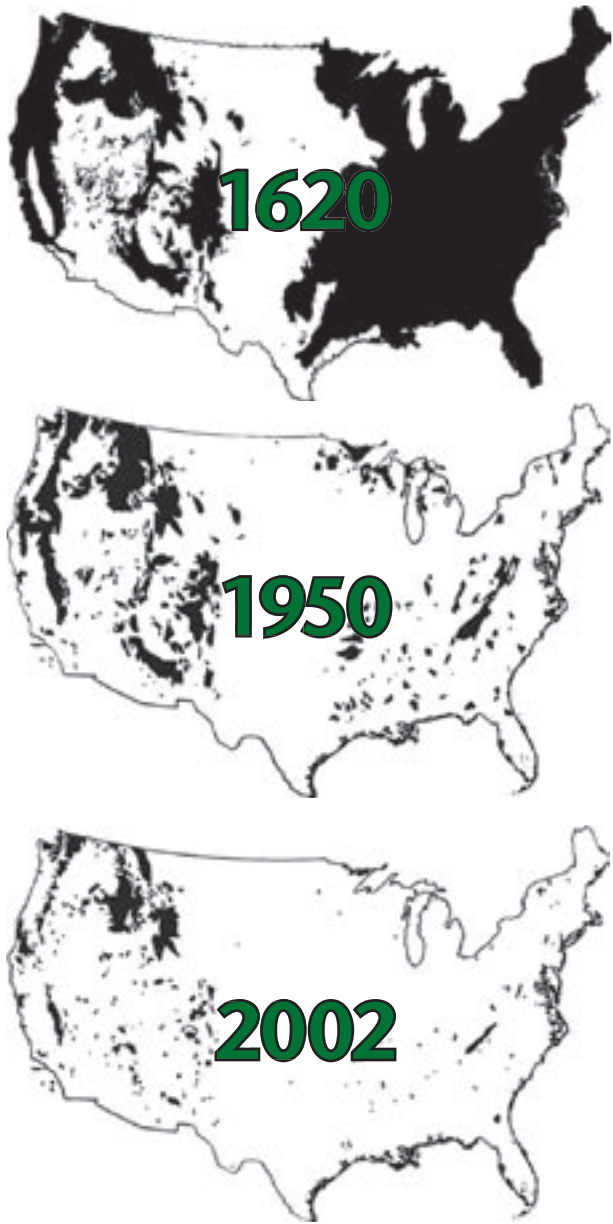
Environmental education, in particular, is under full-scale assault. Multinational corporations are designing and distributing environmental curricula that is professionally produced, easy to use, often free, and incredibly biased in the favor of industry. The Children for an HONEST Education Campaign looks to expose this little discussed public issue, provide teachers and their students with scientifically sound alternatives to utilize in the classroom and raise a call to arms, in the name of our children. The objective of this flood of corporate sponsored teaching materials is simple: protect industries that despoil the planet and put the brakes on the emergence of environmental awareness among young people. Surreptitious public relations campaigns and deceptive advertising are battling for the hearts and minds of our children. And schools, those sacrosanct places of civic learning, are the last and relatively commercial free places in our society, and must not be for sale. No community, let alone society, can consider itself moral and robust if its children are pawns for profit. We sincerely ask you to join ranks with us.

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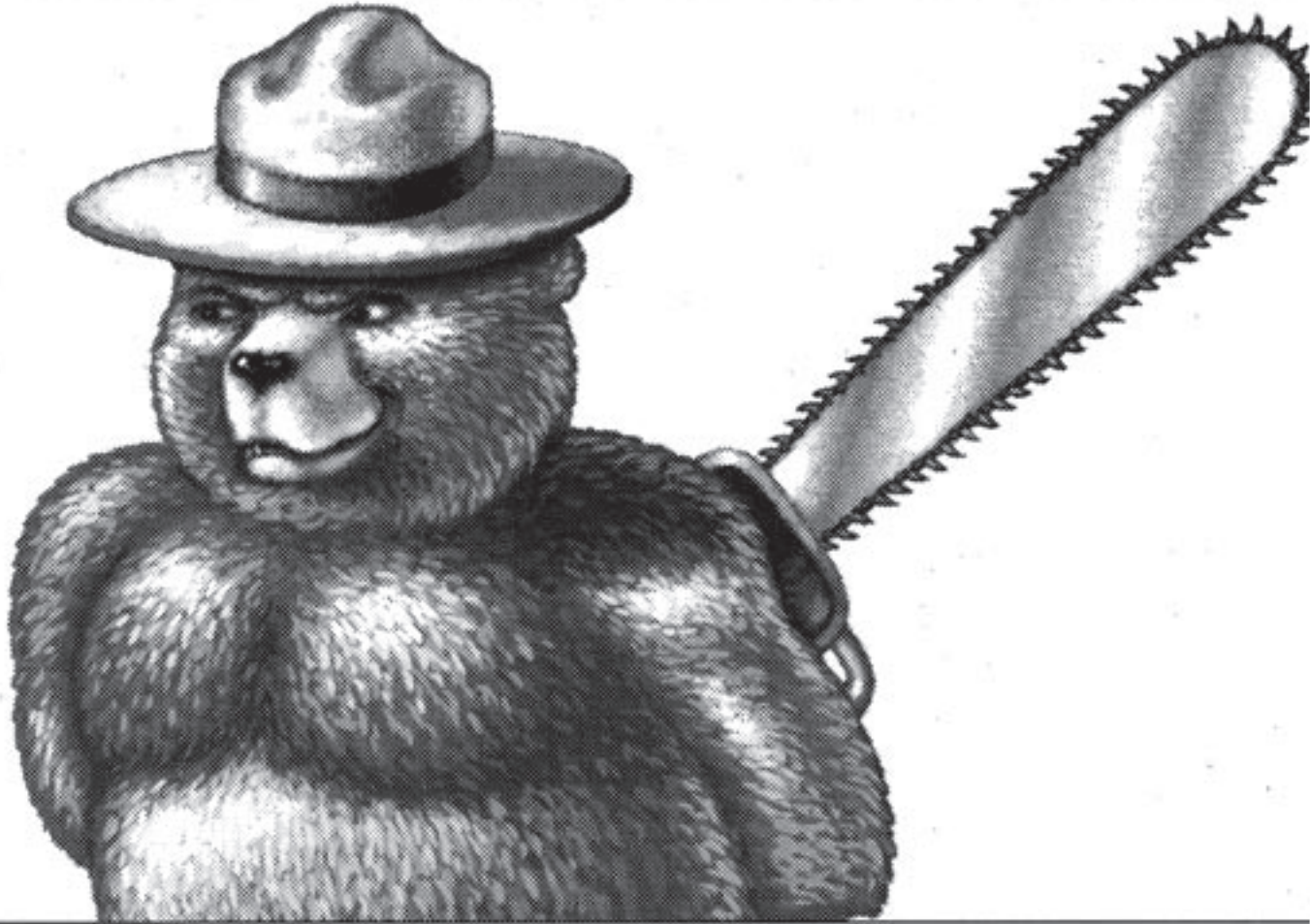
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