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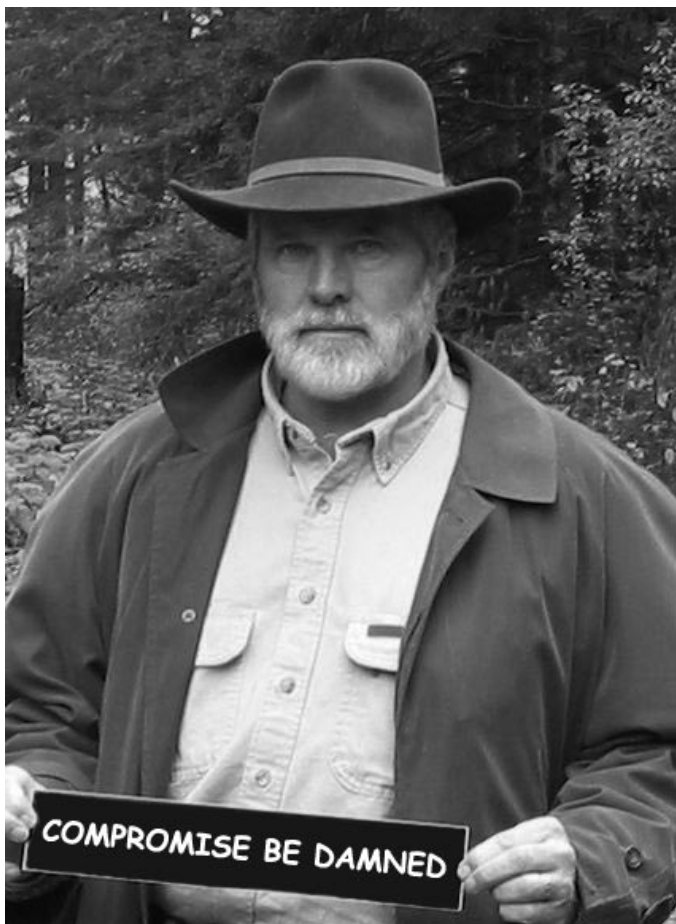
Native Forest Council

STUMPS DON'T LIE



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Speak Truth to Power — Do the Right Thing — Nothing Less!

The truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help me God. There's a lot of talk about conservatives, religion and God these days, but nobody ever talks about the plain truth, just doing the right thing — even when it comes to something as crucial as saving life on Earth.

All too many politicians are corporate-owned and operated, and do whatever their loudest constituents and richest campaign contributors tell them to. All too few show any genuine outrage at the destructive immorality of a small portion of corporate America — the industries who rape and pillage Nature, the very lungs of our planet — to make a buck, regardless of what it costs the rest of us.

The honest truth is that humanity needs trees to survive. Trees shade our ground, create topsoil, clean the air and help the land attract, hold and filter water. The trees and their roots purify the water as the rains fall. Clean streams keep millions of aquatic and other species alive. The cycle is perfect.

But there's another cycle that's killing them. Politicians make it easy for industry to make fast money by strip-mining our national forests. Corporations take that gift and turn it into profits for investors. Their profits then go to their political lackeys' campaign coffers and the cycle continues.

The only ones left out of the cycle of corporate-funded politics are you and I... and Nature.

Nature was never meant to cope with this cycle of destruction. Still, no matter what, Nature will heal itself over time. The question is whether or not humanity will be able to survive.

Every day, our future is sold off in pieces. Logging in our national forests happens because the Forest Service gives away our nation's once-rich heritage. Big Business has become expert at rigging the system, creating or finding the loopholes that get them big profits. They win — you lose. We fight for an environmental law here, they chop down thousands of native cathedral trees there. They take a precious national forest, breathing and alive, and turn it into a wasteland of slash, logs, wood chips and pulp.

You know this equation is wrong. All Americans want their land, air and water healthy. Most people simply aren't aware of the corrupt game that is stealing their future from them.

In the worst of corporate culture, morality takes a back seat to profitability. For too long, big green groups across America have given up the moral high ground. Sadly, they ignore the loss of our once great Constitutional Democracy. Liberty & Justice have been replaced by abusive and malignant corporate power, and too many of our allies continue to bet on loser parties and politicians no one really supports in the first place. While they are giving lip service to grand notions of defending the Earth, national forests are strip mined, polar ice caps are melting, rising water temperatures are creating killer storms, greenhouse gas pollution is continuing to increase, and the specter of human extinction looms ever closer. They fall in to a game of good cop / bad

cop, trading in our clean air, land, and water for quick, short-term "wins." For an example of this, please take a look at the green "victories" in the Great Bear Rain Forest shown on pages 8 and 9.

Finally, more and more people are realizing that the time has come to demand Zero Cut and end the capitulate and compromise model. Not another tree removed or destroyed! Global warming is upon us and happening faster than anyone anticipated. Report after report, study after study, are sounding the alarm we, and others long before us, have been broadcasting for decades.

This land IS your land, not the corporations'. Never forget it. Act for what's right, even if they call it "unreasonable." When it comes to survival, there is no such thing as compromise. Either we work to preserve life on this planet, or we are working to eradicate it.

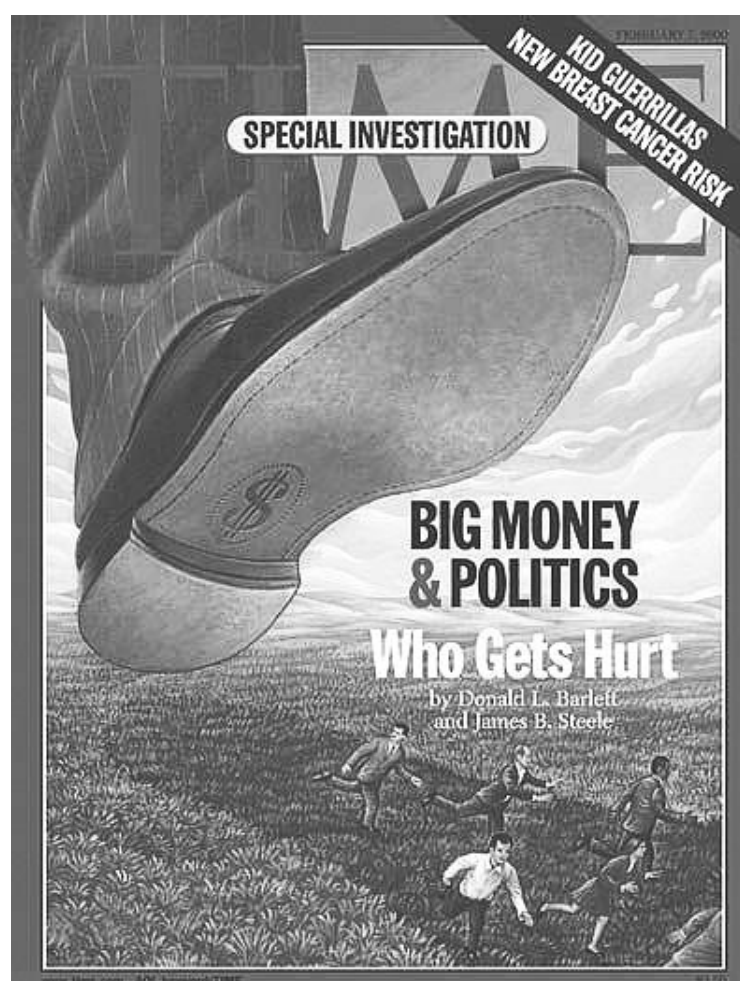
There is no more middle ground to stand on (as so much has been logged, grazed, mined and drilled into oblivion!) We have neither the time, energy nor resources to waste. The time has come to take a stand. It's now or never: your life, land and liberty depend on it. Join the Native Forest Council, and help us hold the hard line!



In times of chaos lies great opportunity, and we certainly have the dire times and political chaos. Never forget that we have the power — that each of us has this power, this power of one — and that when a few of us act together that power can magnify and impossible dreams come true.

Big dreams inspire our souls. Big fights get lots of excitement and attention. So let's dream big; fight hard for what's right and nothing less.

Tim Hermach,
President



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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 or send an email to Tim@forestcouncil.org.

Inspired? Incensed? Impressed?
Please write:
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Brett Cole
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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 must not be incompatible and that current public land management practices are probably 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

BLM Seeks Increase in Herbicide Use

The BLM has proposed to triple the amount of land on which it uses herbicides in the Western United States.

The area sprayed in Western Oregon would increase to 70,000 acres annually, up from the current yearly rate of 21,000 acres, under the plan in a vegetation draft environmental impact statement.

Bush Suspends Environmental Rules on Gasoline

In a misguided effort to control rising gas prices, President Bush has ordered a temporary suspension of environmental rules for gasoline production, and halted for the summer the purchase of crude oil for the government's emergency reserve.

After promising to investigate any possibilities of price-fixing or "anticompetitive, anticonsumer conduct," the Bush administration responded days later, saying it sees no direct evidence of profiteering by big U.S. oil companies.

More Trees and Jobs go to China

A new trade agreement between the U.S. and China will make it easier for logs to be sold in China. The Alaskan Department of Natural Resources helped broker the trade agreement, which will allow Alaska logs to be fumigated in Fujian Province in eastern China.

Alaska annually exports about \$100 million worth of trees to Asia. China's demand for imported wood has grown since the country enacted deforestation measures that have curbed the domestic timber supply.

Water Officials' Authority Upheld

The California Supreme Court upheld the authority of the state's water boards over that of Division of Forestry in response to the Division of Forestry's attempt to exempt Pacific Lumber from complying with rules requiring them to monitor the effects of logging on streambeds.

Healing



Mountains

16th annual
Heartwood Forest Council
and
6th annual
Summit for the Mountains

Memorial Day Weekend
May 26-29, 2006

Cedar Lakes Conference Center, Ripley, WV
(38 miles north of Charleston, WV)

We invite you to co-sponsor or attend this important event, which will focus on ending the devastation of mountaintop removal coal mining.

For more information on OVEC and Heartwood's Healing Mountains Conference, please go to www.heartwood.org

Here's How You Can Help!

With less than 5% of our nation's native forests remaining, countless species teetering on the brink of extinction, and the increasingly devastating impacts of climate change, it's no surprise that many of us feel helpless...

But we at the Native Forest Council want you to realize that there has never been a better time to wake the American people, draw a green line in the sand, and create widespread and lasting change throughout our nation! The time has come for a new consciousness that acknowledges the vital importance of protecting and preserving the natural systems we depend on for our very survival.

The first step is to do no more harm and protect and preserve the remaining intact ecosystems existing in our country: the reservoirs of life found on publicly owned lands.

Since these lands already belong to us, we've already won more than half the battle. And the only thing we need to put us over the top is your help.

Here's just a few of the things you can do to change the world:

- Become a volunteer or intern at Native Forest Council. There is an endless array of exciting and challenging projects just waiting for some fresh energy to move them forward. This is a wonderful opportunity to become a vital member of our team of passionate and dedicated people, committed to protecting what is every American's birthright: our public lands and water.

- Help distribute Native Forest Council's quarterly, the *Forest Voice*. Be an active part of educating the public about environmental and political issues that no responsible American should be ignorant of.

- Make sure everyone you know votes, even if it's for "none of

the above." With 60% not voting, it's no wonder politicians' actions are not dictated by the public.

- Make connections among teachers and professors, from kindergarten to college, to help disseminate Native Forest Council's *Google Earth* DVD and powerpoint presentation "*Native Forests are Not Tree Farms*." The powerpoint is the first step in our process of developing "The Honest Education Campaign," which is an environmental science curriculum to be implemented into public schools nationwide. Our goal is to provide honest information to counteract the lies of "Project Learning Tree" and other corporate "educational materials" which are just industry propaganda disguised as education and are currently polluting the minds of our children.

- Get out and witness first hand the wonders of the natural world. There is no better inspiration to motivate someone to fight for the survival of our planet than walking beneath the towering trees, listening to the music of the clear running stream and breathing in the sweet smells of the forest.

- Write, call, fax, or email your elected officials. Politicians all too often complain that they don't get much public input. Don't let them hide behind idle excuses. Give them an earful! Remind them that public lands provide us with the basic necessities of life such as pure water, clean air, rich topsoil and a livable climate. Demand they stop treating these treasures as if they were only the feeding trough of dishonest and destructive extraction industries.

- Raise or contribute money for the Native Forest Council. Donate a car, boat, plane, property, real estate or hard-earned money to help us continue our long-term work to save what's left of our public lands and stop further harm to our living life support system.

Leave a Legacy for Life!

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Spotlight: Tim Young

by David Divelbiss

Native Forest Council is happy to welcome Tim Young, our newest grassroots organizer, to the Seattle Chapter.

In addition to his many years of experience in social and environmental issues, Tim's wisdom and dedication have given much needed guidance and motivation to all of us at Native Forest Council's Seattle Chapter.

At age 83, Tim has seen more of the world than the average person would see in two lifetimes. He was born to British parents on November 6, 1922 in Bombay, India, where Tim's father worked for the Bombay Steam Company. Nearly immediately, Tim's travels began.

Tim's father retired from the Bombay Steam Company and moved to Florence, Italy, where he invested in a real estate company in 1927, before moving back to England for a job in the Falkland Islands in 1929.

At age 10, Tim enrolled in a school on the Isle of

Wight, where his emphasis was on art and carpentry without examinations. While enrolled, Tim vacationed in the Lake District and the New Forest which "wetted his taste for the forests" and inspired his love of nature.

In 1939, as a graduation present, Tim's father sent him on a trip to Newfoundland, where he was hiking when World War II broke out. Upon his return, Tim had planned to study agriculture, but with the onset of war, agricultural colleges exclusively enrolled women to work the farms of England. So plans changed and later he shipped off to South Africa where he spent a full year on a farm. At this farm, Tim discovered a library of psychology books and became fascinated with the human mind and body.

By 1942 he would have preferred to study at a university; however, recognizing the need to defeat Hitler and the Third Reich, but having an aversion to guns and armies, Tim joined the South African Medical Corps to care for the wounded.

Tim's travels throughout the war took him throughout the middle east to Syria, Egypt, Israel, and Iraq. He saw the war come to a close while serving as an ambulance attendant in Italy.

Following World War II, Tim moved home to Britain, where he began to study medicine for a career in psychiatry. He graduated from St. Thomases Hospital in London 1953. While completing his internships, Tim met his first wife, Diana. Shortly after marriage, they had their first daughter, Sarah.

In 1956, Tim and Diana moved to Newfoundland where Tim worked in a cottage hospital, and they

had their second daughter, Lynn, before moving to Omaha, Nebraska in 1958, where Tim completed a psychiatric residency. There, Tim and Diana had their son, Tim W.H., and youngest daughter, April.

Finally, in 1962, they moved to Washington State, where, until 1992, Tim worked mainly in the private practice of psychiatry before becoming more active in social and environmental justice.

Tim's love of the environment is evident in the hobbies which he so enjoys: hiking, skiing, swimming, sailing, and kayaking, and spending time with his children and grandchildren. Currently, Tim lives on the very sailboat which he navigated all the way around Vancouver Island in 1999.

After so many experiences, it would seem easy to just relax and enjoy these hobbies. Tim realizes, however, that the world is rife with unjust war and inequality, that so many of our wild places at risk for logging, mining, drilling, and that the reality of increasing global climate change may very well kill off our future generations.

According to Tim, "What I dislike the most about the current administration is George Bush's arrogant sense of entitlement despite his lack of qualification to lead the United States." Its easy to see why, because Tim is the exact opposite. At 83, Tim is fighting to preserve our public lands for future generations.

"I'd love to spend life sailing, but knowing what is happening, its impossible to just indulge myself and not fight back."

Amen, We're glad Tim's fighting on our side.

The Disunited States of America

A book review
by Jurriaan Kamp
Ode Magazine
www.odemagazine.com

Looking a half-century into the future, a maverick businessman warns that America may fall apart as a nation. He believes the U.S. can avoid this fate — but that it will require some radical steps now.

In 1950 the United Nations had 50 members. Today there are 191. The vast majority of these new countries came from Africa, Asia and Europe. Only three countries (Surinam, Guyana and Belize) out of the 141 new ones came from the North and South American continents.

These are interesting facts to Juan Enriquez, an American businessman, bestselling author and former Harvard academic. In his new book, *The Untied States of America* (Crown, 2005), Enriquez warns of the coming disintegration of the United States and explores how that will affect the nation's status as the unparalleled superpower.

This is a challenging, controversial subject at a time in history when American power around the world appears supreme. The Soviet Union no longer stands as a military, political or economic rival now that capitalism has triumphed over communism. While America is increasingly affected by the fast economic rise of China, this challenge doesn't appear to threaten America's leadership in global politics. Americans dominate the world community today in the same way as the British did a century ago. But that comparison also contains a warning.

In the beginning of his book, Enriquez presents readers with an experiment. Imagine you're a member of the British cabinet in 1905. A world map hangs on the wall of the elegant conference room in Number 10 Downing Street delineating the greatest empire that has ever existed: an area encompassing nearly 30 million square kilometers (11.5 million square miles), 20 percent of the

world's land and nearly one-quarter of the total human population. The question is: How will the world look in 50 years—in 1955?

What would you have thought? Would Britain's territory expand? Stay the same size? Would there have been someone who could have conceived that the British Empire would completely fall apart between 1905 and 1955? That British territory would only comprise some 250,000 square kilometers (97,000 square miles) in 1955?

Imagine asking George W. Bush the same question now, in 2006. How will the United States look in 50 years? How many stars will the American flag have? Still 50? The chances of finding a prominent politician in Washington today who could imagine the disintegration of the United States seem miniscule. But readers of Enriquez's book realize it is in fact quite probable that America in 2056 will not be the same powerful country it is today. Based on a great deal of historical, financial, political and cultural data, Enriquez convincingly demonstrates that the future does not bode well for the unity of the United States.

The U.S. national debt, topping \$8 trillion, is a troubling illustration of the fact that the United States is squandering its future.

While the title and the subject of his new book don't immediately indicate it, Enriquez is driven by his love of science. Enriquez set up the Life Sciences Project at the Harvard Business School, is chairman of Biotechnology, a venture-capital fund specializing in biotechnology, and author of an earlier book on the same general subject, *As The Future Catches You*.

That short biography explains why Enriquez was in attendance at the conference, "Celebrating a

Decade of Genome Sequencing." This international summit on DNA research, genetics, biochemistry and biology took place in December at the University of California, San Diego, which heads global research in this field. Even the casual visitor quickly becomes aware that this is where the future of energy, food, health and computer science, and therefore of society itself, is generated, largely separate from politics, the media and ordinary citizens. The conference illustrates the crucial role prominent scientific research plays in a country's future success and its economic wealth. In the numerous PowerPoint presentations given by authorities in many fields, it becomes clear that technology offers enormous opportunities for the future, and that it is easy for some societies to miss the boat.

Enriquez knows that countries that emphasize the importance of science will be the future leaders. And he sees that the United States—despite, for example, the leading position of the University of California, San Diego—is increasingly losing ground. He believes this is a sign of America's waning strength. "The future depends on how you treat people today," he says, noting that the performance of the U.S. in this regard is not particularly great.

The U.S. national debt, topping \$8 trillion, is a troubling illustration of the fact that the U.S. is squandering its future. "From time immemorial, the last thing a government does is drive the country to bankruptcy," Enriquez observes. "You cannot spend five to six percent more than the country earns every year without serious consequences. It is not inconceivable that the U.S. will be running out of money."

It can be said that the U.S.' per capita debt level, at around \$27,500, is acceptable relative to that of other leading industrial nations in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). But the U.S. appears far different than other Western OECD nations when you look at other economic and social statistics. Enriquez mentions a few: The minimum wage has fallen by

37 percent since 1968 in terms of real dollars; 11 percent of Americans don't have enough to eat; in 2000 the federal government spent \$2,106 on each American child while spending \$21,122 on each person over age 65. Enriquez cites research indicating that if the U.S. government maintains its current policies, nearly half the budget will be spent on senior citizens by 2016. Hence his question: Do you invest in the future or in the past?

Within two generations, 40 percent of the American population will be comprised of African-Americans and Hispanics. Both groups continue to lag far behind whites and Asian-Americans in the educational system. Few graduate from college and even fewer get advanced degrees or become scientists. Countries like Finland, Iceland, Japan, Sweden, Denmark, Norway and Singapore are already surpassing the U.S. when it comes to scientific research. This causes Enriquez to say that without making significant investments in education for African-Americans and Hispanics — who will make up almost half the population by mid-century — America cannot maintain its current prominence in the sciences.

Not only is the U.S. failing to make vital national investments, it is allowing the national debt to increase as the Bush administration believes it can lower taxes at the same time as spending \$200 million a day on the wars in Iraq and in Afghanistan. Enriquez warns: "They spend everything trying to protect what they have today."

Enriquez is also seriously concerned about the conceit that characterizes current American politics. A lot of what the government does, he says, speaks of its conviction that "our way is the only way." This attitude goes hand in hand with an unhealthy blending of science and religion. "Religious beliefs are being manipulated to win elections," he observes.

A sound balance between science, religion and ethics forms an essential foundation for the healthy development of any society, Enriquez believes. He is convinced that within this balance, attention to science determines a country's future level of wealth. He mentions that the British discovered DNA back in the 1950s and that British scientists laid the foundation for cloning. "But they failed to translate that science into business. They considered it inappropriate, unethical, to earn money

on science. Just look where British science is now. Societies that make their football stars rich and their scientists poor are doomed."

A lot of large companies have broken into smaller units since the 1960s because they could no longer prove to their shareholders that the whole was worth more than the independent parts. Juan Enriquez predicts minorities will soon be asking nations the same questions. What is the benefit of this structure? Does this country represent our interests in the best way? "And those are questions that are hard to answer."

The Bush administration believes it can lower taxes at the same time as spending \$200 million a day on the wars in Iraq and in Afghanistan

Borders are extremely abstract. You can't see them from space. Only islands have clear geographical boundaries. Countries are not natural structures and they are therefore kept together by flags and national anthems. Or—in Enriquez's view—by "myths." And the power of those myths goes as far as the next generation wants to believe in them. In other words: If the American dream comes true for ever-fewer Americans, the unity of the United States will come under increasing pressure. This is the point at which questions will naturally arise about whether there are other possible configurations that would give citizens a better shot at fulfilling their dreams.

But isn't America a stable country? Wasn't it founded based on one language and a clear set of principles? Enriquez delicately points out that the same was true for the United Kingdom, which is increasingly devolving into the separate nations of England, Scotland and Wales; and for Spain, where Basques and Catalans are hacking away at national unity. And, pointing to the history of the United States, he adds: "If the parents can split, the kids can split."

The early signs of American disintegration are already apparent, according to Enriquez. In the state of Vermont there is a small but serious separatist movement and a declaration of independence is being drawn up. States in the northeastern U.S. have formed an alliance to carry out the Kyoto climate agreement, which the Bush administration refuses to sign. And guess what's been the motto on Texas license plates since 2004? "It's like a whole other country." Texas earlier announced that all the state's schoolchildren would not only be saying their pledge of allegiance to the American flag, but to the flag of Texas. Finally, in an opinion poll, 42 percent of Texans came out in favour of more political autonomy for Texas as long as it could be arranged within the confederation of the United States.

Then there's California, the seventh-largest economy in the world, where a large part of the population—including many Republican supporters of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger—are extremely displeased with Washington's current conservative politics. California's independence is the subject of frequent jokes at parties and gatherings of the intelligentsia.

Native Americans are also stepping up demands for attention to the historical injustice that caused them to lose their land. Several current court cases are ongoing, for example, involving native peoples' claim to one-third of the land in the state of New York. Over the past 20 years, Australia, New Zealand and Canada have seen discussions about returning seized lands to na-

tive peoples as well as adjustments of the Terra nullius principle (that European pioneers appropriated no man's land). It's hard to imagine the United States will be spared a revisit of its history regarding Indian peoples. During his presidency, Bill Clinton already made excuses for the "illegal occupation" of Hawaii.

Enriquez adds another ticking time bomb in a P.S. to his book: "If slaves performed \$40 million worth of unpaid labour between 1790 and 1860, reparations would be around \$1.4 trillion."

In support of his thesis about American disintegration, Enriquez points to the example of the European Union. The economic umbrella of the EU makes it much easier for smaller entities to be independent. Broader trends of globalization also offer small countries advantages they didn't have. Despite their diminutive sizes, Singapore and Hong Kong, as well as Luxembourg and Switzerland, have been able to develop into extremely successful economic entities.

After making this sharp — and when it comes to the United States, gloomy — analysis, it is remarkable that Juan Enriquez writes at the end of his book that he doesn't want to be a preacher of doom. "My desire is simply that citizens... realize what they have, what they are doing and what they might do differently if they wish to avoid what so many have already gone through."

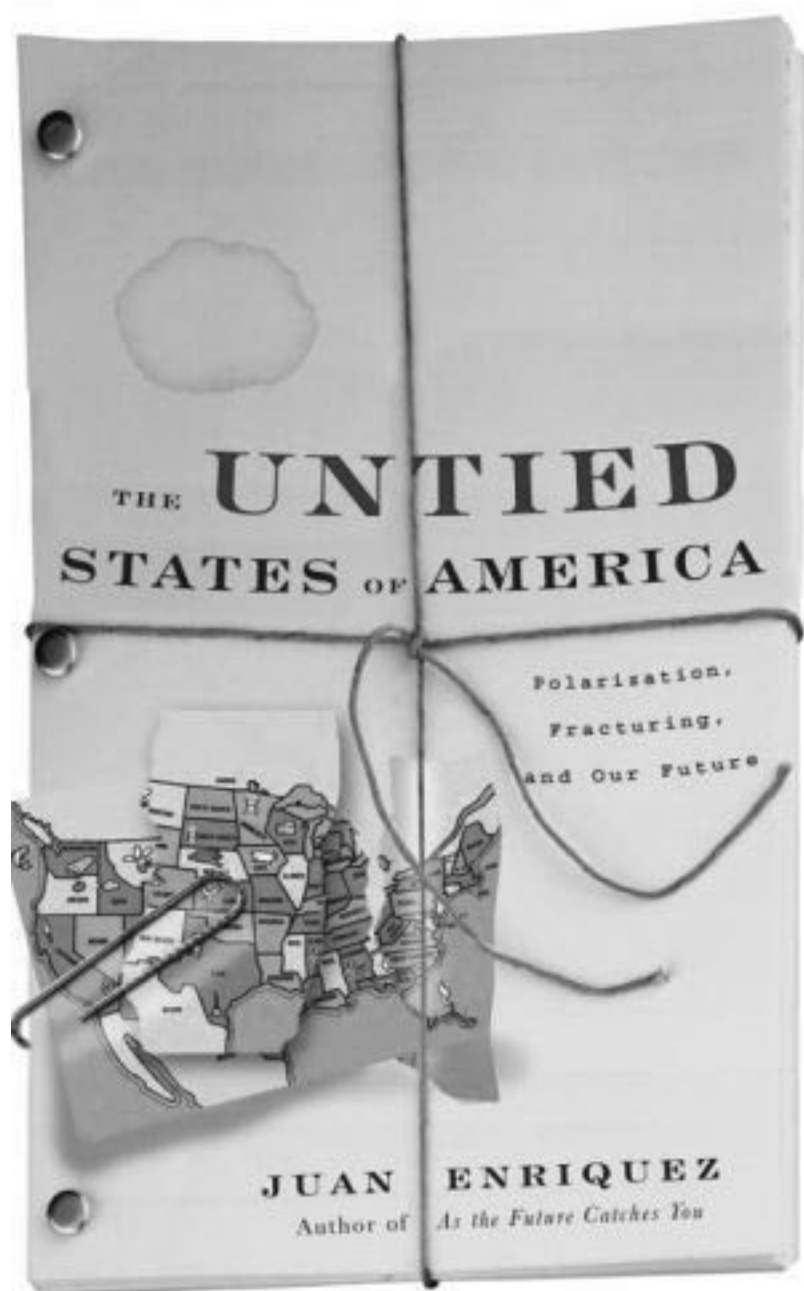
Throughout *The Untied States of America*, Enriquez offers suggestions for policy reforms which continually emphasize focusing on science and education for minorities as well as special-needs groups. Why should the Netherlands, for instance, be a leading global flower grower and trader when the climate is more suitable in other parts of the world? Dutch success stems from knowledge—from specific, constant attention to science, and research and development. Enriquez points to Finland, which grew to become a digital superpower in the space of a single generation. And Iceland, which has expanded into a leading technological power thanks to massive investments in education. "You can build a great country when you change education and surf the waves of technology. You can make and unmake countries in months."

If the American dream comes true for ever-fewer Americans, the unity of the United States will come under increasing pressure

His most creative—and most politically unfeasible—solution for the United States involves a change in voting rights. In order to rectify the imbalance between the older and younger generations, Enriquez suggests giving parents voting rights on behalf of their underage children. This would mean that a family with four children and two adults would have six votes. The change would put an end to current policies that appropriate the most money to older people because they have the most votes. "If the votes of underage children counted, it would lead to investments in their interests. In good schools. The question is how much support there would be for going to war when the children would be sent off as soldiers."

That last suggestion embodies the bold message of *The Untied States of America*. The future success of a country begins by paying attention to how we fulfill the long-term wishes and interests of its citizens today. These citizens of today determine the economic power of tomorrow. Economic power lies at the roots of the current superpower status of the U.S. Juan Enriquez points out that this economic superiority is swiftly being consumed with a policy of arrogant international politics and decadent consumerism. Such a policy has destroyed superpowers throughout history, Enriquez warns as the proverbial voice crying in the wilderness. But the information and ideas he outlines here do offer a pragmatic alternative to the Disunited States of the future.

Juan Enriquez: *The Untied States of America: Polarization, Fracturing, and Our Future*
Crown Publishers



Betting on Losers

Big Greens and Beltway Politics

by Joshua Frank

As business and environmental groups attempt to influence government environmental decisions, only one side consistently comes out on top. You don't have to dig too deep into campaign contributions to see who hands over more money to candidates and both major political parties. Oil and gas companies hand over millions more dollars to special interest groups and presidential campaigns than do environmental organizations. And their investments pay off quite well. Rarely is there an environmental victory that comes out of Washington. On contrary, big oil companies win time and again. Certainly there are not many policy wonks that keep an eye on Washington who would deny that campaign contributions influence public policy.

If anything, the Republicans have been the best mobilizers of environmentalists by rallying people against their policies

This may well be the ill fate of the environmental movement — attempting to play ball with the big boys in Washington. Will they ever be on par with the likes of Enron or others who virtually write our environmental and energy legislation year after year? It has long been my belief that the Sierra Club and rest of the big environmental groups, along with the Democratic Party itself, do the most harm to environmentalism. It's not the Republicans. If anything, the Republicans have been the best mobilizers of environmentalists by rallying people against their policies, even though many of the same policies were present during Democratic administrations.

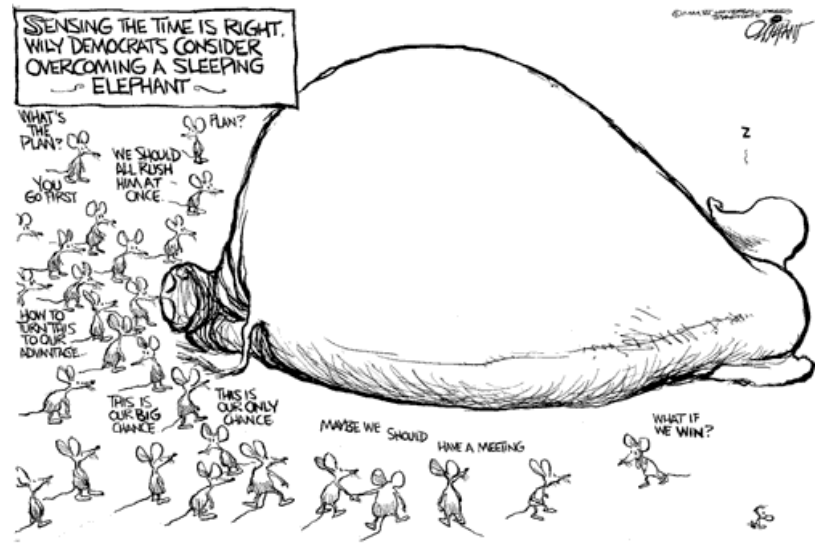
As these groups consistently pander to the Democratic Party, they simultaneously refuse to hold the Dems' feet to the fire despite their gross inadequacies (and betrayals). During the 1990s, President Clinton signed the bill containing the Salvage Rider as well as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), both of which blatantly undermined environmental policies in the U.S. and set the stage for Bush's own forest plan and trade

platform. Nary a word was said by environmental groups about such egregious legislation that was proposed during Clinton-time, but all were up in arms over Bush's plans. And why is that? As the Democrats have let the Sierra Club and others through their front doors, they have effectively closed their ideals behind them, holding these groups hostage inside a corrupt political system. Environmentalism has consequently become less about action and more about DC power plays. Could you ever imagine any big enviro group turning their back on a Democratic candidate, despite the candidate's actually (horrible) environmental record?

Lesser-evil politics prevail.

And this is why the Republican anti-environmental policy initiatives are most successful. Not only are they pampered (along with the Democrats) by big industry; they also face little in the way of opposition from their Democratic counterparts. And it is not just about big money. Certainly the big gas and oil companies can hand out more loot than environmentalists — that's not even an issue — but they can also play the political game better and always have. Environmentalists find few, if any, allies in Washington. This isn't just because they aren't donating enough cash or endorsing the right candidates — all the candidates are the wrong candidates. Period. Environmental politics should be about principle. It should be about who can bring about the greatest change. Politics in Washington is so utterly corrupt that environmentalists would do better by turning their backs on the parties and sleaze that consistently go against their interests.

That is why public participation in drawing up environmental legislation fails so dramatically and so often. It isn't the public that the two big parties have in mind; it's the industries that fatten their campaign coffers. In Oregon 22,000 public comments were submitted to the US Forest Service about the proposed logging of Biscuit national forest last year. Even though the anti-logging comments far outnumbered the pro-logging comments, you know who won outright. It wasn't the public. And who is going to hold these folks

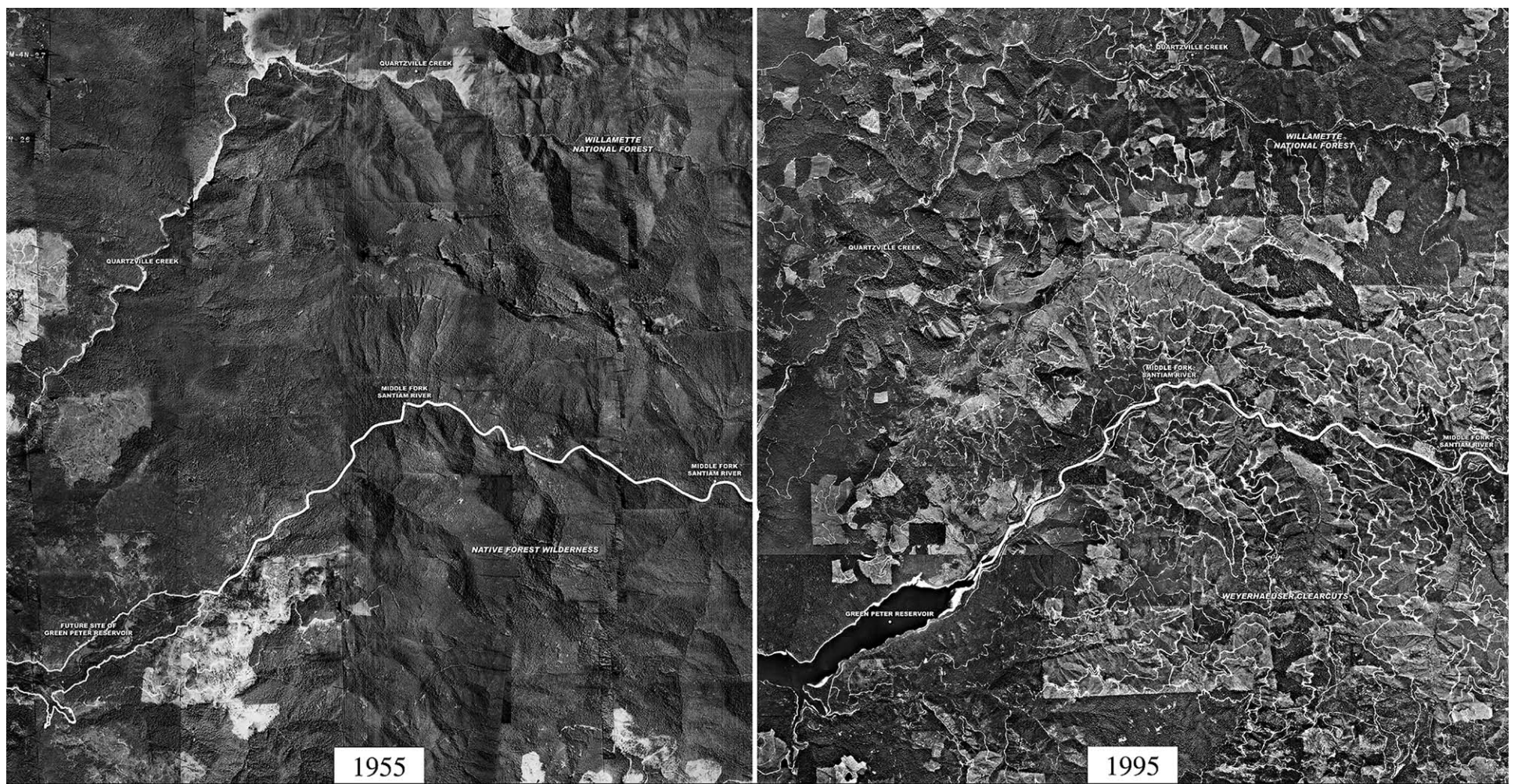


accountable? Surely not the Democrats who supported the legislation, two of whom (Sen. Wyden and Feinstein) actually rewrote it for President Bush, along with Mark Rey who wrote Clinton's brutal Salvage Rider. The Sierra Club, who so gallantly and emphatically endorse candidates every election season, will still prop up the Democrats as the least worst of the two parties in Washington. And until they break down the stodgy gates that entrap them in Washington, environmental policy will continue to be manipulated by big business.

When will they listen if environmentalists support them just because they aren't Republicans?

When will Democratic leaders begin to heed the advice of environmentalists, if environmentalists support them sans specific demands? When will they listen if environmentalists support them just because they aren't Republicans? As long as the big environmental groups in Washington go along as they have for the past two decades, nothing will ever really be accomplished environmentally in Washington, no matter how much money any of enviros hand over to the Democratic machine.

Joshua Frank edits the radical news blog www.BrickBurner.org and is the author of *Left Out! How Liberals Helped Reelect George W. Bush*, published by Common Courage Press (2005). Josh can be reached at BrickBurner@gmail.com.



The Middle Santiam River, in the Cascades East of Sweet Home, Oregon, only 48 years ago ...

After 40 years of "Forest Management" by Weyerhaeuser and the Forest Service

Earth to ELF: Come In, Please

by Judith Lewis
LA Weekly

Does the radical environmental group really exist? When the American Civil Liberties Union this week released a new batch of documents obtained from the FBI verifying that the federal agency has been monitoring domestic environmental- and animal-rights groups, it was only the latest evidence of government working on behalf of the anti-environmentalist industry and property-rights advocates to, as one of those advocates put it in 1992, “destroy the environmental movement.” It’s an effort that’s been under way since the 1980s, using various tactics from intimidation to slander. Only recently have the anti-environmentalists hit upon their most promising idea yet: Linking environmentalism to terrorism.

before anyone can donate money to an organization, that organization has to in fact exist. When it comes to the ELF, that’s a hard case to make

One of the FBI documents contains a complaint from the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals about a speech given by FBI agents at a meat-packers’ convention claiming it is “commonly believed” that PETA funneled money to the Earth Liberation Front; another contains an FBI memo instructing its agents not to use phrases like “it is commonly believed” in that context. Another memo seems to accuse Greenpeace of “Suspicious Activity with a Nexus to International Terrorism,” but nearly everything else in the document has been blacked out.

This peculiar new brand of anti-environmentalist propaganda dates back several years, but it got a significant media boost on May 18, 2005, when John Lewis, FBI deputy assistant director for counterterrorism, told the Senate Committee on the Environment and Public Works about environmentalists working in underground “cells” whose vandalism has caused more than \$100 million in property damage since a Vail ski resort went up in flames in 1998. “There is nothing else going on in this country... that is racking up the high number of violent crimes and terrorist actions,” Lewis asserted.

A little more insight into Lewis’ comments can be gained by looking closely at who invited him to testify — the chair of that Senate committee, James Inhofe, the Oklahoma Republican who coasted into office more than a decade ago on petroleum, real estate and agribusiness largesse. A year earlier, Inhofe had submitted to Congress a 30-page report on the “incestuous” political operations of groups like the League of Conservation Voters. This time, he asked his fellow legislators to investigate even further: Isn’t it likely that these groups, the Animal Liberation Front, the Earth Liberation Front and Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty, have been bankrolled by more prominent organizations, many of them enjoying tax-exempt status?

“Just like al Qaeda or any other terrorist organization,” Inhofe said, “ELF and ALF cannot accomplish their goals without money, membership and the media.”

But before anyone can donate money to an organization, that organization has to in fact exist. When it comes to the ELF, that’s a hard case to make. Inhofe is getting a lot of help making it, though: Since Lewis gave his speech, several reporters, including Ed Bradley of CBS’ 60 Minutes, have come forward to warn us that Earth First!-like radicals, lumped in with the animal-rights activists who free minks from farms and monkeys from labs, have become the No. 1 domestic terror threat the nation faces today.

For context, some journalists have relied on questionable sources such as Ron Arnold, the self-published author of several books on the envi-

ronmentalist threat, including the 1997 *Ecoterror: The Violent Agenda To Save Nature — the World of the Unabomber*, a book written just a year before the notorious Vail fire.

Arnold is widely known for founding the “Wise Use” movement, which seeks to open all public lands to grazing, drilling and mining. He has been enviobaiting for nearly 20 years. In 1992, he told *Nightline* that Wise Users “intend to destroy the environmental movement once and for all”; the same year, he declared to Bill Lambrecht of the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* that, “If people believe that there are endangered species, or, if it matters if there are, then they should put up their own money to save them.”

Arnold also runs an organization called the Center for the Defense of Free Enterprise with a pro-gun activist named Alan Gottleib who once declared environmentalists “the ultimate bogeyman” in his PR campaign on behalf of Wise Use. Together, they have worked hard to build the case that the thing they’ve dubbed “ecoterror” is sweeping the country. Recently, with newly toned-down rhetoric, Arnold told the *Portland Press Herald’s* John Richardson, reporting on a graffiti incident at the Plum Creek Timber Co., “You’re a little late [getting hit with ecoterrorism] in Maine.” Arnold will also label incidents ecoterror without so much as an incriminating phone call. In an interview with Fox News, Arnold gave his definition: “The first thing you look out for is, is there some protection-of-nature motive behind it? In other words, if there’s a wild area or a scenic area or something that’s not far from it, that gives you the first clue.”

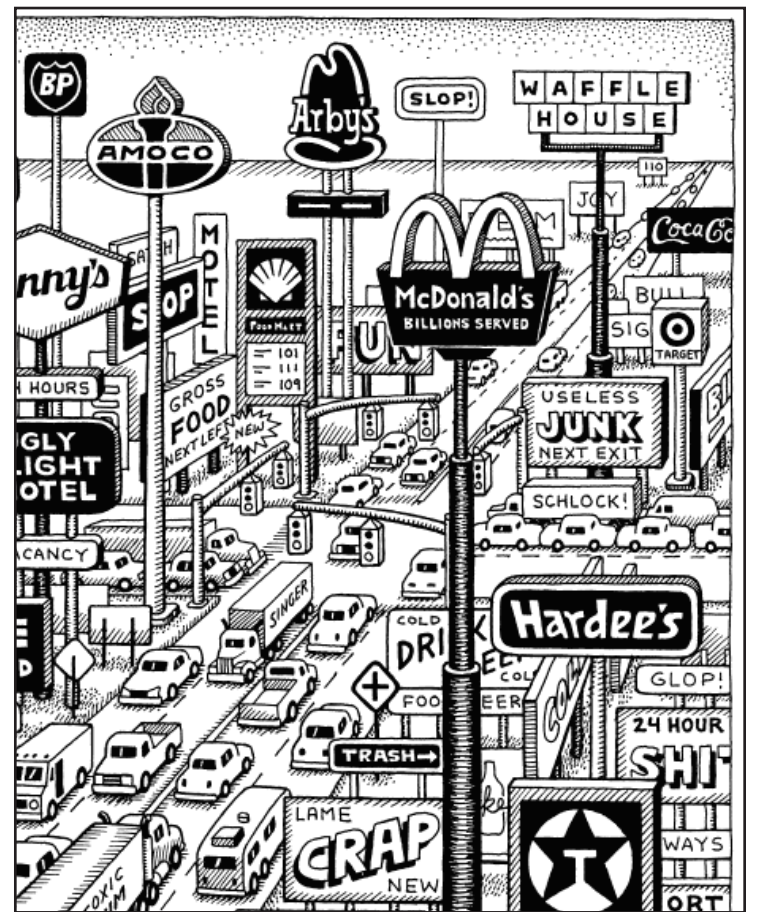
And finally, the campaign to link environmentalism to terrorism has been aided by an ever-shifting cast of self-appointed ELF “spokespeople” such as Leslie James Pickering and Craig Rosebraugh, who claim to have had connections to the group (“only anonymous and one-way,” Pickering told me). “I’m not going to fucking argue with you about whether ELF exists,” spat Pickering, who now runs a “community organizing” group called Arissa, with a half-built website advertising Pickering’s self-published book on the ELF. “I’m not interested. My politics have changed and I don’t comment. Why don’t you ask the Sierra Club if [the Elf] exists?”

When I answer that the Sierra Club has only commented on acts of arson and violence to distance themselves from those acts, Pickering said, “Fuck the Sierra Club,” and hung up.

If acts of property damage in the name of environmentalism and animal rights didn’t exist, they would have been wise to invent them.

In December, six people in three states were arrested in connection with “ecoterrorist” and animal-rights crimes. Pickering says they’re “all ELF actions,” but the court-appointed lawyer for one of the suspects, Chelsea Gerlach of Portland, Oregon, said she’s never had anything to do with the ELF. After reviewing his client’s charges, he remarked that he was waiting to hear whether she’d also be linked to the disappearance of Jimmy Hoffa.

In August 2003, FBI agents harassed Pomona resident Joshua Connole in connection with the vandalism of a West Covina Hummer dealership on no evidence at all and against Justice Department orders. Last month, he was awarded \$100,000 in damages. The man who was later convicted of the crime, William Cottrell, denied any association with the ELF, although media roundups of “ELF attacks” still include him.



Many incidents tied to the mysterious ELF ultimately unravel to be nothing of the kind. Law enforcement quickly attributed a Maryland fire last December that destroyed a housing development near a sensitive wetland to the ELF, but it turned out to be the work of a disgruntled security guard grieving the loss of one of his twin sons. Three high schoolers in Virginia, described in news accounts as “self-identified” ELF members, were recently convicted of conspiring to burn some cars. Their affiliation with the ELF? One of them read about it on the website www.earthliberationfront.com — a blatant front for advertising, owned by Andrew Riegler of *eMailmachine.net* (“Real People. Real Deals.”) with click-through ads for Viagra and repossessed cars. No one pretends it has anything to do with any real-life organization — except Inhofe, who refers to the site in his Senate speeches as evidence that advertisers contribute to ELF’s activities.

You could call the FBI surveillance a colossal waste of public resources

And no wonder: Inhofe has been well served by the myth of ELF, as has Arnold, whose Wise Use agenda has long been frustrated by successful court battles and public-relations campaigns run by traditional environmental and animal-rights groups. If acts of property damage in the name of environmentalism and animal rights didn’t exist, they would have been wise to invent them.

The documents the FBI has released so far, most of them heavily edited accounts of monitoring activities directed at Greenpeace and PETA, may be just the tip of the surveillance iceberg. “The reason we have the documents on PETA and Greenpeace is because we asked for them,” says Ben Wizner, an attorney with the ACLU. “There have also been requests by local environmental groups around the country. They’re trickling out. And I expect that because of these revelations there will be more groups that want to see their FBI files,” he said.

You could call the FBI surveillance a colossal waste of public resources, but Wizner thinks it’s worse than that: Also in the documents obtained by the ACLU is a memo about a source planted within Greenpeace informing the agency that recent law-enforcement efforts have already damaged morale.

“If people think that if they attend a protest against logging or the war they’ll have their name in a file labeled ‘terrorist,’ that could stifle expression and dissent in this country,” said Wizner. “And that would be tragic.”

Great Bear Hug: Environment is the Loser in an Agreement Reached Over B.C.'s Last Rainforest

by Lawrence Solomon
Financial Post
Friday, February 10, 2006

The British Columbia government, B.C. resource industries and environmentalists on both sides of the border struck an agreement earlier this week to take down or otherwise exploit almost three-quarters of the Great Bear Rainforest, one of the world's largest and last remaining intact temperate rainforest. More remarkably still, the environmentalists are cheering.

Under the agreement, the B.C. government and the environmentalists have co-operated to put together an attractive financial package for industry...

"A huge victory" exclaimed Greenpeace. "An incredible conflict-to-consensus story," declared Sierra Club. "This innovative rainforest agreement provides a real world example of how people and wilderness can prosper together."

In truth, we have a real-world example of how industry can squeeze government for subsidies to extract resources from wilderness areas that would otherwise remain untouched, with environmentalists the catalyst that precipitates the environmental despoliation.

Under the agreement, the B.C. government and the environmentalists have co-operated to put together an attractive financial package for industry, and all parties will now lobby the federal government for further subsidies. More provincial subsidies will follow, the amount to be negotiated, as is any determination of how much wilderness will actually be protected.

The agreement — really an interim step in a process 10 years in the making, with several more

years ahead — couldn't come too soon for industry. To stop foot-dragging on this deal, needed by wood-product consumers to keep feedstocks full and the cost of wood low, NorskeCanada, B.C.'s largest consumer of forest products and the world's largest producer of telephone directories, intervened directly in a letter to Premier Gordon Campbell last year: "I am writing to add the voice of our company to those you have already heard from to urge you to move forward... prior to the upcoming Provincial Election," urged NorskeCanada president and CEO Russell Horner.

The industry's efforts paid off with this week's historic deal. With the help of all concerned, the remote Great Bear Rainforest, until now uneconomic and all-but-inaccessible for most kinds of economic development, has been put into play: "When we work together, we can produce meaningful benefits for everyone concerned," an enthused Reynold Hert, Western Forest Products CEO, told the press.

Premier Campbell was also enthused. The central and northern coast of his province has mostly been unused wilderness, save for the coastal wolves, goshawks, spirit bears and other animals that sport there. Now, he will put this part of the province to work. As his Ministry of Agriculture and Lands reported the deal in a backgrounder under the theme "Jobs and the Economy, Environmental Management," a key element in the province's new vision for its coast is the "promotion of stability, certainty and long-term resource use." As the cherry on top, the Premier also knows the way is clear to making the now-protected spirit bear the mascot of the Vancouver Olympics, without fear of embarrassment.

The losers in the deal are the environmentalists

The losers in the deal are the environmentalists — Greenpeace, Sierra Club, Rainforest Action Network and ForestEthics — who have unwittingly been outmaneuvered at the negotiating table. The



David Suzuki Foundation, originally co-operative, to its credit turned critical when the consequences of the negotiations became evident.

Helping industry and government promote the subsidization of remote resource extraction, and helping to snooker the environmentalists, is a new enviro-industrial concept called "Environment-Based Management." EBM, intended to base decisions on the social and economic needs of resource-dependent communities as well as on environmental factors, is now employed in aid of resource extraction worldwide. Japan uses EBM to justify its whaling industry. EBM B.C.-style will not only promote uneconomic logging in the Great Bear Rainforest, it will even allow mineral exploration and mining in the region's new biodiversity areas.

These mineral lands constitute more than half of the so-called "protected areas" the agreement establishes. As further example of the little environmentalists can show for their years of coziness with the forestry industry, the industry has needed



A pristine view of the Great Bear Rainforest contrasted with a nearby location that has been clearcut.

Photo: Brett Cole. Wild Northwest Photography



to make only trivial concessions on lands containing merchantable timber. In effect, industry will now get subsidies for giving up next to nothing, and will also receive the blessings of Greenpeace et al as it carries on with its removal of old-growth species.

In effect, industry will now get subsidies for giving up next to nothing, and will also receive the blessings of Greenpeace et al as it carries on with its removal of old-growth species.

The success by industry and government in getting the environmentalists to sign on is all the more remarkable in light of what seemed to be impossible-to-ignore benchmarks. The Great Bear Rainforest is the name of the Canadian portion of the West Coast temperate rainforest. In the more northerly U.S. portion, a region in the Alaskan Panhandle that is topographically and ecologically similar, the United States Forest Service in 1999 protected — rather than opened up — approximately 80% of the rainforest from development.

The Canadian timber industry also needed to convince environmentalists to overlook one other detail: the findings of the independent scientific panel they themselves had helped establish. Known as the Coast Information Team, this multi-year, multi-million-dollar government-funded study concluded that as much as 70% of the Great Bear Rainforest needed to be protected to conserve the habitat of its large mammals. Yet the environmentalists accepted a proportion of protected land so low they can have no assurance that important habitats will be protected.

In a way, the environmental outcome is hardly surprising. In other attempts by environmentalist to negotiate agreements with government and industry, environmentalists have invariably come up short. In this case, the environmentalists have not only been worn out by the endless negotiations, they also faced enormous pressure from backers — mostly U.S. foundations — that put up an astonishing \$60 million to seal a deal and wanted to see results.

A Suzuki Foundation report last year on the emerging agreement, which has not materially changed in the interim, lists the results:

“The proposed land-use agreement for the area would leave:

- 80% of critical Kermode [spirit bear] habitat unprotected [from logging and other forms of development]
- 65% of the most-intact and highest conservation value ecosystems unprotected
- 86% of the timber harvesting land base unprotected
- 77% of cedar old-growth forests unprotected
- 65% of the most productive salmon rivers unprotected.”



Clearcutting in the Great Bear Rainforest.

Victory?



Great Bear Rainforest: Saved

Take ten years of difficult, dangerous, and at times, heartbreaking work. Add thousands of activists from around the world — some who sent emails, some who stood on the blockades, some who voted against destruction with their wallets.

Some who were beaten, some who were sued, some who were arrested. Today it added up to victory. Common sense has prevailed and one of the world's treasures, the Great Bear Rainforest, is saved from destruction.

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Excerpt from Greenpeace website, declaring the Great Bear Rainforest saved.

Perhaps Not

The Great Bear Rainforest made international news when the B.C. government, along with First Nations, environmental groups and the forest industry, have drafted a plan to protect a portion of it. That's good news for science and good news for the people who depend on the health of this ecosystem for their livelihoods.

The story is only partially complete, however, as discussions are still underway as to what kind of logging will take place in the parts of the Great Bear outside the protected areas. This is critical because unprotected areas make up more than 70 per cent of the land base and contain the majority of salmon streams and much of the best wildlife habitat.

- **David Suzuki**
 excerpted from *Two Lost Worlds Give us Hope*
 Science Matters



Brett Cole, Wild Northwest Photography

Does Post-Fire Logging Make Ecological or Economic Sense?

Betting on Biscuit by Matthew Koehler

It's rare to find two diametrically opposed sides using the same exact poster child to support their views. However, that's essentially what's developed over the past few years as the logging industry have locked horns with conservation groups and scientists in a battle over so-called "healthy forests" policy and the future of America's public lands following wildfires.

That "same exact poster child" is the 2002 Biscuit Fire that burned nearly 500,000 acres in the Siskiyou Wild Rivers Area of southwestern Oregon's Siskiyou National Forest. The Forest Service's subsequent Biscuit "Fire Recovery Project" approved cutting down 19,000 acres of ancient forest reserves and roadless wildlands in a forest of global ecological significance.

"Charred Moonscape?" On Biscuit, Reality Takes Backseat to Rhetoric

Natural fires have been an important part of the Siskiyou Wild Rivers area for hundreds of thousands of years. The fire-enriched Siskiyou region has more conifer species than any other temperate-zone forest in the world, and has been identified by scientists as one of the most important ecosystems on planet. In other words, not exactly the ideal place for industrial logging of ancient forest reserves and roadless wildlands.

Unfortunately, listening to some people, you'd be led to believe that the 2002 Biscuit Fire laid waste to everything in its path. While referred to repeatedly by the logging industry and their supporters as catastrophic, devastating and unnatural, the reality is that 84% of the Biscuit Fire area was either unburned, or burned at low to moderate intensity.

...the reality is that 84% of the Biscuit Fire area was either unburned, or burned at low to moderate intensity

Yet, this reality hasn't prevented Senator Gordon Smith (R-OR), who incidentally has received \$643,363 in campaign contributions from the logging industry during his senate career and was one of the major supporters of the so-called "Healthy Forest Restoration Act," from declaring in a recent opinion piece that "Today, nearly half the Siskiyou National Forest remains a charred moonscape."

In fact, since Senator Smith apparently believes that he gets a free pass from reality, he has enough confidence to boldly use the Biscuit Fire and the botched Biscuit "Fire Recovery Project" as the poster child for his Orwellian-inspired "Forests for Future Generations Act."

This bill has a companion in the House, the so-called Forest Emergency Recovery and Research Act from fellow Oregon Republican Congressman Greg Walden (\$165,646 in logging industry campaign contributions since the 2004 election cycle). These bills would essentially fulfill the logging industry's wish list by providing all the bells and whistles for more industrial logging in our nation's public forests that weren't initially provided in the Bush administration's Healthy Forest Initiative or previous laws passed by the GOP-controlled Congress such as the Healthy Forest Restoration Act.

Specifically, these bills use natural and essential ecosystem functions such as wildfire, insect and disease outbreaks, and windstorms to put old-growth forests and roadless areas at risk from logging and roadbuilding. They create an expedited process for logging after fires which scientists conclude is the worst kind of logging, polluting streams and hindering forest recovery; allow the

Forest Service to divert funds from fire protection programs to pay for logging projects. They also eliminate meaningful public participation for post fire logging projects and remove protection for imperiled wildlife by waiving requirements of the Endangered Species Act.

A Hard Look at the Biscuit "Fire Recovery Project"

The Forest Service, logging industry and some politicians have used buzz-words such as forest restoration, fuel reduction and community protection to justify the Biscuit Fire Recovery Project, one of the largest public lands logging projects in U.S. history.

During the summer of 2004, Siskiyou National Forest Supervisor Scott Conroy signed a record of decision for the Biscuit recovery plan which called for logging 370 million board feet of trees from 30 square miles of the Siskiyou National Forest. That's enough trees to fill 74,000 log trucks lined up for over 600 miles. That's over 20 times more than the annual logging levels on the Siskiyou National Forest during the past decade.

To make matters worse, 90% of all acres proposed for logging are within the watershed of the spectacular National Wild and Scenic Illinois River a source of clean water for wild salmon and pride and tourism dollars for local residences and businesses.

A number of conservation groups filed suit to stop the misguided industrial logging in the Siskiyou Wild Rivers Area, but federal District Court Judge Michael Hogan — a longtime supporter of logging old-growth forests in the Northwest — has, not surprisingly, sided with the Forest Service and logging industry at every turn.

Local resistance to the Biscuit logging plan intensified in October 2004 when logging officially started, and reached a fevered pitch in early March 2005 when over 60 citizens were arrested for peacefully blocking the road to Fiddler, one of the Biscuit sales.

Local scientists and activists have also done an excellent job of monitoring the negative impacts of the Biscuit logging and providing the public and the media with graphic photos of the destruction caused by industrial logging, which, to even a casual observer, clearly demonstrates that post-fire industrial logging has absolutely nothing to do with forest restoration or recovery.

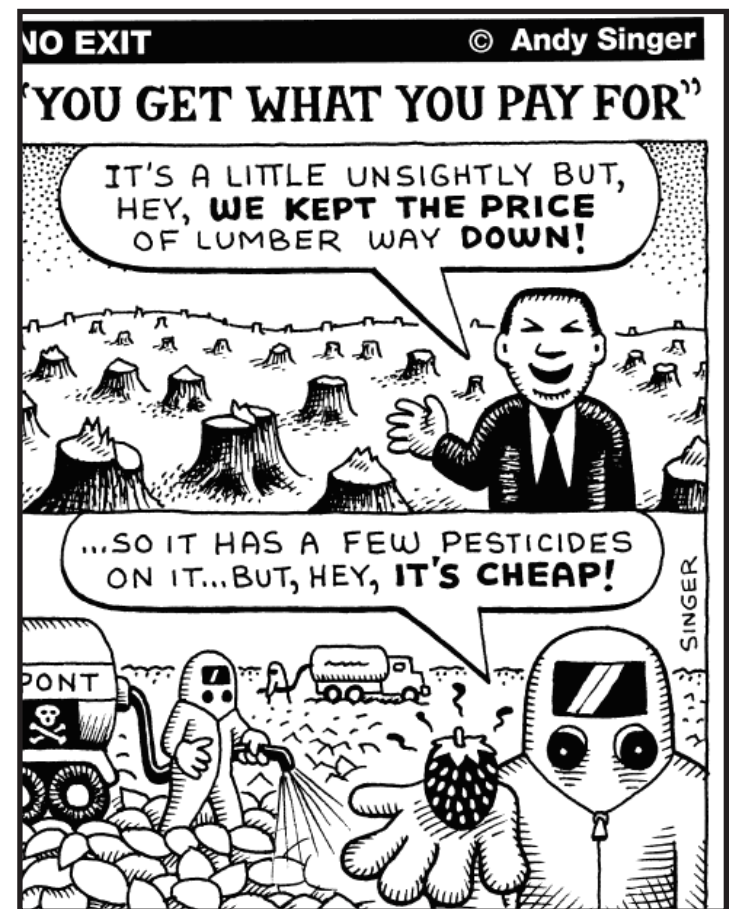
More problems with the Biscuit Logging Plan surfaced in August 2005 when it was reported that an error by the Forest Service resulted in loggers mistakenly cutting over 300 trees in the pristine Babyfoot Lake Botanical Area.

Jack Williams, who was actually supervisor of the Siskiyou National Forest from 1999 to 2001, told the Eugene *Register-Guard* that it wasn't just an intrusion by loggers that troubled him. It was an especially poor form of logging. "When you start at the trailhead for the botanical area, you're in the middle of what looks like a clearcut from the 1970s."

That's really an amazing statement if you stop and think about it. Here we have the previous Forest Service Supervisor for the Siskiyou National Forest saying that this "kindler, gentler" industrial logging, which Senator Smith, Congressman Walden and the logging industry repeatedly claim is needed to restore our public forests, actually "looks like a clearcut from the 1970s."

New Year, New Information

The the New Year has certainly been ushered in by a series of developments concerning the Bis-



cuit logging project and the larger issue of post-fire logging and restoration.

A new study by researchers at Oregon State University in the area burned in the Biscuit Fire found that post-fire logging may actually hinder forest regeneration and increase fire risk, something that conservation groups have argued for years.

the U.S. Forest Service lost more than \$9 million in taxpayer funds logging the Biscuit Fire

In far reaching Associated Press article about the new study, Jerry Franklin, professor of forestry at the University of Washington and one of the authors of the Northwest Forest Plan, stated, "This [study] is very consistent with my testimony [on Walden's salvage logging bill last year], which is that salvage almost never makes a positive contribution to ecological recovery."

Then, on January 12, more bad news for supporters of industrial logging following wildfires rolled in when it was reported that the Forest Service lost more than \$9 million in taxpayer funds logging trees burned by the Biscuit Fire.

Can We Get Some Censorship Please?

To make matters even more interesting, it was revealed that some of the more outspoken pro-logging professors at Oregon State University's College of Forestry (which receives about 10% of its funding directly from a tax on logging) wanted the nation's top scientific journal to withhold publishing an Oregon State study critical of post-fire logging.

Donald Kennedy, *Science's* top editor and a former president of Stanford University, said there is no chance the research will be suppressed.

"They're trying to rewind history," Kennedy told the *Oregonian*. Kennedy also said the OSU professors, who contend the research is misleading, can respond to the study once it's published. "That's the way scientists handle disputes, not by censorship."

I shared this new information contained in the *Oregonian* article with some colleagues who are themselves professors at a school of forestry at a public university in the West. Upon reading the article, and having been following the situation at OSU, one of the professors wrote back with this response, "We all need to be aware that our freedom as scientists to publish our findings can be threatened at any time, especially as more and more funding for Universities come from private

sources. We need to be ever vigilant and supportive of one another when it looks like censorship may occur.”

Yet the Biscuit Bluff Continues

With Congress back in session, you can bet that Senator Smith and Congressman Walden will be hard at work making sure that the millions of dollars that the logging industry have provided them and other members of Congress in campaign contributions don't go unrewarded.

In fact, undeterred by the graphic visual realities of the Biscuit logging project and new scientific studies, Congressman Walden's office sent out a glowing press release announcing that Walden's "Forest Recovery Legislation," has "earned broad

support from local governments, conservation groups, forestry professionals, educators and more than 140 members of Congress from throughout the nation" and that the "Forest Emergency Recovery and Research Act aims to dramatically improve the environmental health of federal forests after [wildfire]."

salvage almost never makes a positive contribution to ecological recovery."

Hmmm... Strange that Congressman Walden's press release didn't mention a word about the new studies about the Biscuit logging or express con-

cern about attempts at censorship coming from the Dean of the Oregon State University School of Forestry. That free pass from reality must be nice.

Matthew Koehler writes from Missoula, Montana, where he is the director of the Native Forest Network, which currently has a lawsuit pending against the Forest Service's Biscuit Fire Recovery Plan. He enjoys spending time hiking and cross-country skiing through the "charred moonscape" forests of the Northern Rockies. He can be contacted at www.nativeforest.org.



Logging Study Prompts Political Two-Step

by Cat Lazaroff
Policy Press Secretary
Earthjustice

Over the last couple of weeks, a refreshing amount of attention has been paid to an often misunderstood issue: that logging after a wildfire does more harm than good. In fact, most natural disturbances that damage or destroy trees — such as fires — are normally followed by an equally natural resurgence in affected areas. New vegetation springs up in the wake of the old, and wildlife takes advantage of new habitat and food sources created by downed trees. The recovery of Yellowstone National Park after the severe fires in 1988 has been well studied and is a perfect example of how adaptive nature really is.

Yet a bill now before Congress would rush through destructive logging projects in the wake of fire, flood, hurricane, insect infestation, and a wide variety of other natural disturbances. The bill (H.R.

4200), introduced by Oregon Republican Congressman Greg Walden, assumes that the only appropriate use for a damaged tree is to chop it down and turn it into lumber. Yet study after study has shown that in fact, removing downed trees interferes with natural, healthy forest regrowth and threatens clean drinking water.

Most recently, a team of scientists and graduate students from Oregon State University and the Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry in Hawaii published a study in the prestigious scientific journal *Science* finding that allowing trees to regenerate naturally works as well or better than logging and replanting, and that leaving burned areas undisturbed may reduce the risk of future fires. The *Science* study was based on an examination of logging in the area burned by the catastrophic Biscuit Fire in southwestern Oregon in 2002, the very fire that Walden tries to use as a poster child for his legislative efforts.

The researchers found that while hundreds of new seedlings per acre took root in the first two years following the fire, subsequent "salvage" logging projects killed more than 70 percent of the tiny trees. The logging project also left behind piles of highly flammable debris, increasing the chances that fire would sweep through the forest again.

While providing valuable information for proponents of natural forest recovery, the new study would likely have landed with barely a ripple, were it not for the astonishing actions by professors at OSU's College of Forestry, who sought to block or delay the study's publication. As first reported by the *Oregonian*, nine professors from OSU and the Forest Service contacted the editorial board of *Science* and asked that the post-fire logging study be withheld until it could be revised to address their concerns about purported "flaws."

"We believe that the peer review process failed as a quality control measure in this case," the critics wrote. But the *Science* editors disagreed, having already put the study through their own stringent review.

Given that OSU's College of Forestry gets about 10 percent of its funding via a tax on logging it's not surprising that the critics' opposition raised some suspicion. A variety of news stories and editorials lambasted the forestry college for its perceived attempt to stifle inconvenient scientific findings. The Dean of Forestry wrote an open letter to the college's students and staff, apologizing for the actions of the study's critics.

Perhaps the controversy would have died there. But a week later, the Bureau of Land Management pulled its funding for the final year of OSU's three-year study of post-fire logging, claiming that publication of the article in *Science* had violated certain protocols governing research programs. The researchers demonstrated that they had, in fact, followed the rules, and BLM was accused of making a political decision about scientific research. OSU's provost and the president of the university's faculty senate called on BLM to restore the funding, and to support the researchers' freedom "to express themselves without fear of censorship."

But the final nail in the coffin of BLM's decision came when Rep. Jay Inslee (D-WA) called on the

inspector general at the Interior Department to investigate BLM's motivations in freezing funding for the OSU study. Inslee, a member of the House Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health, warned that, "there's no such thing as a democracy that silences scientific research." BLM capitulated on February 7 and restored the funding.

The senior Democrat on the subcommittee, Rep. Tom Udall (D-NM) urged Rep. Walden not to move his logging bill forward until subcommittee members had a chance to fully review the new evidence raised by the OSU study. Walden capitulated, announcing that he will hold a field hearing to review the study. You can expect Walden to try to use the hearing to change the "spin" on the OSU study and reinforce the "log first, ask questions later" approach that underlies his own ill-conceived legislation.

Earthjustice is a non-profit public interest law firm dedicated to protecting the environment.
www.earthjustice.org

Leave Forests Alone After Fires

The March 28 full-page ad in *The Register-Guard* from the timber industry's Project Protect supporting Greg Walden's logging bill, House Resolution 4200, used two photos labeled "healthy forests." As a fire ecologist, it is clear to me that both photos feature natural forests that had burned in the past and recovered without logging.

Nearly all forests in the Pacific Northwest regenerate after fire. Not surprisingly, the ads did not feature clearcuts with roads and stumps - which would have presented an accurate picture of what Project Protect promotes.

Contrary to what the timber industry and industry shills such as Walden would have you imagine, logging after a burn is analogous to ripping off the scabs of a burn victim. It hinders forest regeneration. Fire performs important ecological functions that human logging does not emulate.

Fires recycle nutrients, and the smoke kills some forest pathogens, increasing the health of unburned trees. The snags created by fires continue to play an important role in forest ecosystems. Snags from fires provide a long-term source of nutrients. When they fall to the ground, they create natural sediment traps.

Snags are home to the more than one-third of bird species that are cavity-nesters. When they fall into streams, snags provide stream channel stability and create habitat for fish.

The best way to create healthy forests is to leave burns alone to regenerate naturally. Walden's bill is nothing more than another attempt by the timber industry to turn our public heritage forests into private timber farms for industry.

GEORGE WUERTHNER
Eugene, OR

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Photo: Joe Fontaine — National Geographic

“Redefining Progress and Victory”

by Karen Coulter and POCLAD
PIELC Presentation 2006

What do “progress” and “victory” mean today in activist struggles? Progress in any real sense is certainly hard to detect. The question is, why are all major decisions out of our hands? Who is deciding to start and continue a futile and imperialist bloodbath in Iraq and give the contracts for rebuilding what the U.S. conquerors have destroyed to U.S. corporations like Halliburton, rather than to Iraqi workers? Who is deciding to privatize national parks and sell off parts of our national forests? Did you see some big public fervor to privatize social security? No, but it was on the agenda of the Business Roundtable, an institution leveraging the power of 200 leading U.S. corporations.

In whose name was the so-called USA “PATRIOT” Act authorized to eliminate our civil rights and who created the fiction of the “War on Terror” to justify it? And what is our response to all this? More marches and rallies with too few people? Lobbying a bought-off Congress, jumping through regulatory hoops distracting us from the real perpetrators, staging yet another tree sit without noticing that the vast majority of tree sits are not stopping the forest from being cut down. All defensive maneuvers to protect what little we still have, but its worse than running a treadmill going in circles and never moving forward because we’re continually losing ground—losing rights, the commons, peoples’ lives, species’ ability to exist.

We need to realize what power and authority we posses, and how we can use it.

And who defines progress and victory? I read the newsletter of a peace group that declared victory because a certain number of people showed up for their demonstration and some got arrested and hauled away. However, this group has held many such demonstrations and nothing has changed; the Oakridge Nuclear weapons laboratory — the target of their protest — continues to operate as usual.

Other false victories include getting access to an elected representative, getting the Forest Service to write an Environmental Impact Statement instead of an Environmental Assessment, getting a corporation to agree to a voluntary code of conduct. What’s wrong with this picture? At the end of the day, corporations, tools of the wealthy minority, are still governing us. Our minds are still colonized so that we accept the walls of our prison and can’t even conceive of what lies beyond the regulatory system, the corporate system, the electoral fantasy.

We in the Program on Corporations, Law and Democracy (POCLAD) have been thinking out on this since at least 1998. As we wrote back then, “Perhaps you remember thinking this about your past campaigns: If only we had gotten a thousand more letters in the mail, more experts at the hearings, better press coverage, more people at the demo... we remember. But now we see that even with these ‘if onlys,’ corporations would still be in charge. This is because the political and legal culture has been diverting activists from political



arenas where people can define issues and make the rules; where win or lose, it is clear that the struggle is about who’s in charge—corporations or people.”

What if the Constitution empowered people to define corporate institutions as subordinate?”

As we have pointed out, at the beginning of this country, it wasn’t like this. Corporations were clearly subservient to the people, chartered to serve the public welfare, with strict limits on what they could and couldn’t do. Corporations could not lobby public officials or have any voice in politics; they couldn’t merge with other corporations to amass greater wealth and power. They had a narrowly defined mission such as building a bridge, a limited time to accomplish their publicly defined mission, and then they were dissolved and their assets re-distributed. That’s how self-governing people define and control the institutions they create to serve them. However, after the Civil War, corporate CEOs and lawyers met with judges behind closed doors through the judicial review process, without a shred of Democracy involved, and gave corporations the rights intended for people under the Constitution’s Bill of Rights. When the legal briefs had settled, as Richard Grossman puts it, the federal courts were persuaded to take jurisdiction over corporations away from state courts that were closer to the corporate harms caused and those injured by them; reinterpret the commerce clause to undermine state authority; apply the 14th amendment meant to protect the rights of freed slaves to corporations giving them due process of law, the privileges of citizens and protection against takings of property; broaden the definition of property to strengthen corporations’ governing powers; create the judicial injunction against worker strikes; and restrict corporate law to internal relationships within the corporate entity instead of keeping accountable the relationship between corporations and the people. As Richard points out, “corporations had also:

- shaped law school philosophy and curriculum
- rewritten legal history
- set the stage for creation of federal agencies designed not to challenge corporate constitutional authority, but to serve as barriers against citizen anger and regulate public protest.” (Richard Grossman, p. 153 “Seattle Journal for Social Justice,” “Wresting Governing Authority from the Corporate Class: Driving People Into the Constitution”)

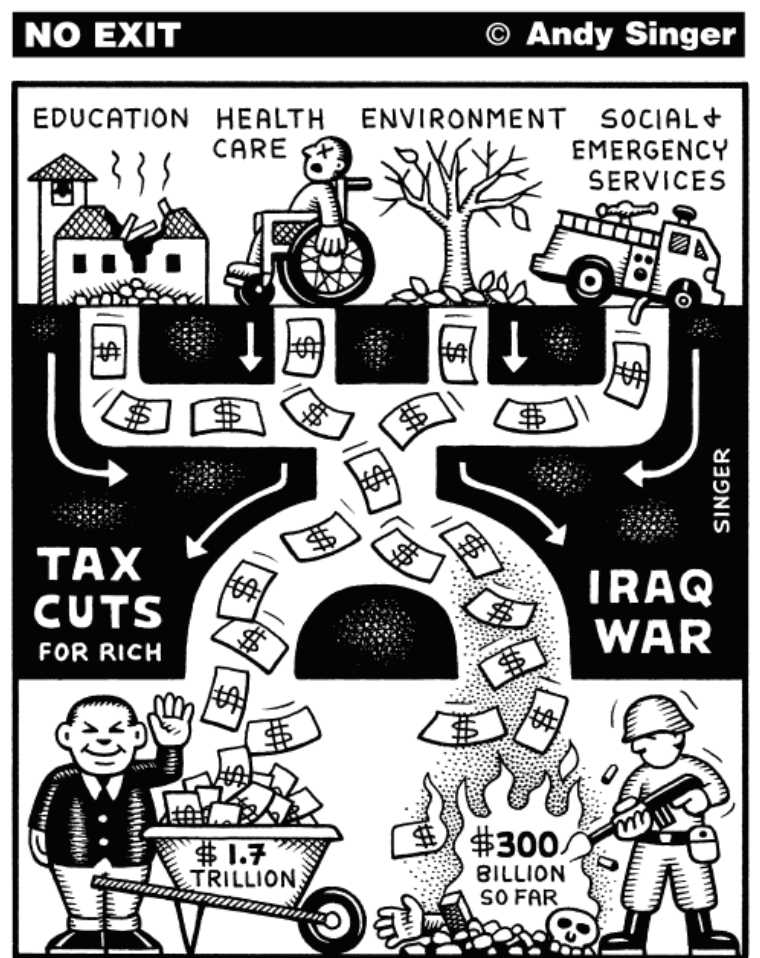
Grossman also wrote, “Today, it is considered legal, and culturally acceptable, for corporations to endow chairs and special programs in universities, create and fund think tanks, give charitable contributions to secure the silence or the support of civic groups, assist the two dominant political parties to maintain control over candidates, and generally limit political debate.”

Institutions like the Business Roundtable, the Heritage Foundation, the Trilateral Commission, and the Council on Foreign Relations are used to leverage corporate power, unify and implement the corporate consensus and govern us. The current tightening of the noose around our necks by the Bush administration is simply a logical extension of this process. Such collusion of a national government and corporations is known as fascism. The longer we let corporate power dictate our laws, policies, wars and internal surveillance, the less liberty and political rights we will have, the less ability to resist

what is now becoming every bit as bad as a science fiction Orwellian “Big Brother” state. The World Trade Organization, International Monetary Fund and World Bank take this model and impose it on the rest of the Earth, bringing us all down with a doomed prescription for ecological disaster, poverty, war, dictatorships and loss of cultural diversity and self-governance. It is our responsibility as citizens of the host country of this cancer to find a real cure, not “feel good” placebos.

So how do we find our way out of this mess? First, it helps to investigate the root causes, the history, and ask meaningful questions, like: “What is property? Who decides if it’s public or private? How did other generations (and cultures) decide? How did corporate leaders get their decisions on investment, production and jobs to be regarded as private?” (Engage US, pp. 2-3)

Let’s ask sane visionary questions, too, such as: “What if, tomorrow, the law of the land advantaged human, community, and place rights over corporate elites? What if the Constitution empowered people to define corporate institutions as subordinate?”



How do we get there? Jane Anne Morris, another of my colleagues from POCLAD, clearly shows that the way forward is for us to rewrite Defining Law. As she explains: “Corporations are artificial creations that are set up by state corporation codes. These state laws, plus a bunch of court cases, form the basis for the notion that corporations have powers and ‘rights.’ This law is Defining Law.” Regulatory agencies fail to protect the public because “we have allowed corporate lawyers to write the Defining Law of corporations. This law bestows upon corporations powers and rights that exceed those of human persons and sometimes of government as well... as long as we stick with Regulatory law and leave Defining Law to corporate lawyers, we’ll have corporate government.” (Jane Anne Morris, “Help! I’ve Been Colonized and I Can’t Get Up”, DCDD, p. 11)

So what are some of her ideas for rewriting the Defining Law of corporations? In keeping with past laws controlling corporations in the U.S. we should at least do the following: prohibit corporations from owning stock in other corporations; prohibit corporations from being able to choose when to go out of business; make stockholders liable for a corporation’s debts, prohibit corporations’ participation in the democratic process; make sure corporations have no Constitutional rights; and prohibit corporations from making civic, charitable or educational donations. That would be progress—at least back to limits that were imposed at the time of the founding of this country.

As Grossman points out, "We need to realize what power and authority we possess, and how we can use it to define the nature of corporations, so that we do not have to mobilize around each and every corporate decision that affects our communities, our lives, the planet." (Richard Grossman, "Can Corporations Be Accountable? Part II, Rachel's #10, p.1, 8/6/98)

Along the way, we need to expose and dismantle the system of corporate governance—the network of institutions leveraging corporate power, directly running the U.S. government and imposing global corporatization. George Draffan wrote a guidebook to these institutions called *The Elite Consensus* which gives you all you need to know to start the process of exposure, discrediting and dismantling. Global protest has made a good start by discrediting and maiming the WTO and the Free Trade of Americas trade negotiations.

We need to build on this gain by disabling all the U.S. based institutions acting as arms of corporate governance, such as the Business Roundtable.

We are not being socially responsible or civically accountable when we play in corporate arenas by corporate rules. "Sovereign people do not beg of, or negotiate with, subordinate entities which we created. Sovereign people define all entities we create. And when a subordinate entity violates the terms of its creation, and undermines our ability to govern ourselves, we are required to move in swiftly and accountably to cut this cancer out of the body politic." (Richard Grossman, Rachel's "Can Corporations be Accountable, Part II, p. 2)

Communities need to reject the idea that business corporations are private; municipalities should enact local ordinances defining corporations and corporate behavior within their jurisdictions and

people must organize to act like self-governing citizens and instruct any elected representatives to cease aiding and abetting corporate rule. We must abolish corporate personhood. We need to ban things that harm the Earth, like genetically engineered organisms, not just label them or insist on the "right to know" what is killing us. We need to protect the Commons from privatization, not attach monetary value to it. We need to step down from our white privilege, learn from other movements internationally like the Argentinean popular assemblies and worker-owned factories and the Venezuelan Bolivarian Misiones that divert oil money toward meeting the people's needs for education, housing and food. We need to do the basic grassroots organizing in this country that it takes to build a real mass movement that cuts across issue, class and race lines and learn what it means to exercise real international solidarity. Then, maybe we'll see some real victories.

It's Capitalism Or A Habitable Planet You Can't Have Both

Our economic system is unsustainable by its very nature. The only response to climate chaos and peak oil is major social change

by Robert Newman
The Guardian

There is no meaningful response to climate change without massive social change. A cap on this and a quota on the other won't do it. Tinker at the edges as we may, we cannot sustain Earth's life-support systems within the present economic system.

Capitalism is not sustainable by its very nature. It is predicated on infinitely expanding markets, faster consumption and bigger production in a finite planet. Yet this ideological model remains the central organizing principle of our lives, and as long as it continues to be so it will automatically undo (with its invisible hand) every single green initiative anybody cares to come up with.

There is no meaningful response to climate change without massive social change.

Much discussion of energy, with never a word about power, leads to the fallacy of a low-impact, green capitalism somehow put at the service of environmentalism. In reality, power concentrates around wealth. Private ownership of trade and industry means that the decisive political force in the world is private power. The corporation will outflank every puny law and regulation that seeks to constrain its profitability. It therefore stands in the way of the functioning democracy needed to tackle climate change. Only by breaking up corporate power and bringing it under social control will we be able to overcome the global environmental crisis.

On these pages we have been called on to admire capital's ability to take robust action while governments dither. All hail Wal-Mart for imposing a 20% reduction in its own carbon emissions. But the point is that supermarkets are over. We cannot have such long supply lines between us and our food. Not any more. The very model of the supermarket is unsustainable, what with the packaging, food miles and destruction of British farming. Small, independent suppliers, processors and retailers or community-owned shops selling locally produced food provide a social glue and reduce carbon emissions. The same is true of food co-ops such as Manchester's bulk-distribution scheme serving former "food deserts."

All hail BP and Shell for having got beyond petroleum to become non-profit eco-networks supplying green energy, but fail to cheer the Fortune 500 corporations that will save us all and ecologists are denounced as anti-business. Many career

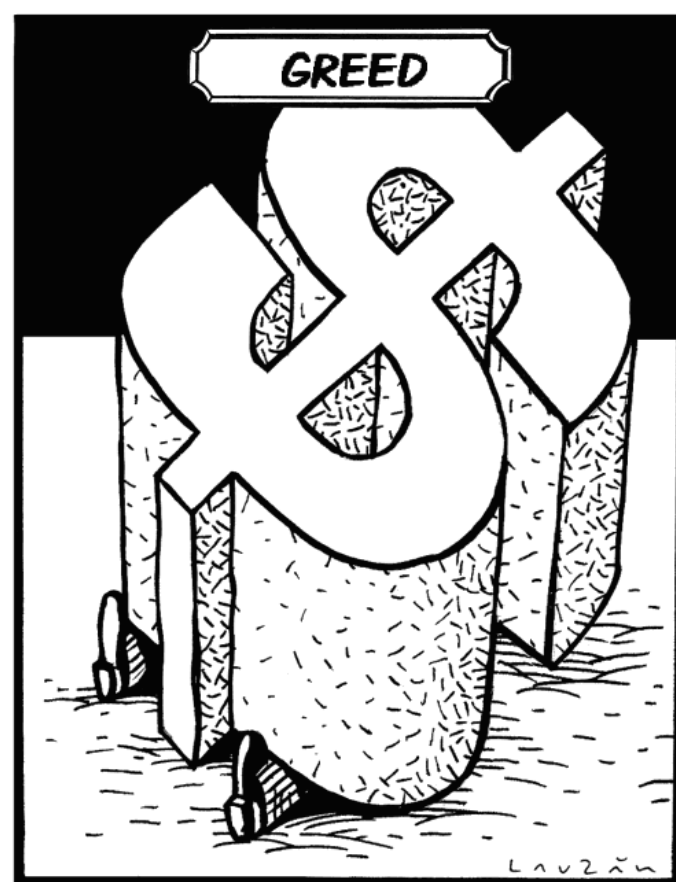
environmentalists fear that an anti-capitalist position is what's alienating the mainstream from their irresistible arguments. However, is it not more likely that people are stunned into inaction by the bizarre discrepancy between how extreme the crisis described and how insipid the solutions proposed? Go on a march to the House of Commons. Write a letter to your MP. And what system does your MP hold with? Name one that isn't pro-capitalist. Oh, all right then, smartarse. But name five.

We are caught between the Scylla and Charybdis of climate change and peak oil. Once we pass the planetary oil production spike (when oil begins rapidly to deplete and demand outstrips supply), there will be less and less net energy available to humankind. Petroleum geologists reckon we will pass the world oil spike sometime between 2006 and 2010. It will take, argues peak-oil expert Richard Heinberg, a second world war effort if many of us are to come through this epoch. Not least because modern agribusiness puts hundreds of calories of fossil-fuel energy into the fields for each calorie of food energy produced.

Catch-22, of course, is that the very worst fate that could befall our species is the discovery of huge new reserves of oil, or even the burning into the sky of all the oil that's already known about, because the climate chaos that would unleash would make the mere collapse of industrial society a sideshow bagatelle. Therefore, since we've got to make the switch from oil anyway, why not do it now?

Solutions need to come from people themselves. But once set up, local autonomous groups need to be supported by technology transfers from state to community level. Otherwise it's too expensive to get solar panels on your roof, let alone set up a local energy grid. Far from utopian, this has a precedent: back in the 1920s the London boroughs of Wandsworth and Battersea had their own electricity-generating grid for their residents. So long as energy corporations exist, however, they will fight tooth and nail to stop whole postal districts seceding from the national grid. Nor will the banks and the CBI be neutral bystanders, happy to observe the inroads participatory democracy makes in reducing carbon emissions, or a trade union striking for carbon quotas.

There are many organizational projects we can learn from. The Just Transition Alliance, for example, was set up by black and Latino groups in the US working with labour unions to negotiate alliances between "frontline workers and fenceline communities," that is to say between union members who work in polluting industries and stand to lose their jobs if the plant is shut down, and those who live next to the same plant and stand to lose their health if it's not.



We have to start planning seriously not just a system of personal carbon rationing but at what limit to set our national carbon ration. Given a fixed UK carbon allowance, what do we spend it on? What kinds of infrastructure do we wish to build, retool or demolish? What kinds of organizational structures will work as climate change makes pretty much all communities more or less "fence-line" and almost all jobs more or less "frontline"? (Most of our carbon emissions come when we're at work).

To get from here to there we must talk about climate chaos in terms of what needs to be done for the survival of the species rather than where the debate is at now or what people are likely to countenance tomorrow morning.

If we are all still in denial about the radical changes coming — and all of us still are — there are sound geological reasons for our denial. We have lived in an era of cheap, abundant energy. There never has and never will again be consumption like we have known. The petroleum interval, this one-off historical blip, this freakish bonanza, has led us to believe that the impossible is possible, that people in northern industrial cities can have suntans in winter and eat apples in summer. But much as the petroleum bubble has got us out of the habit of accepting the existence of zero-sum physical realities, it's wise to remember that they never went away. You can either have capitalism or a habitable planet. One or the other, not both.

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Booth Fire Smoke Screen

An attempt to unravel some peculiar facts regarding the Booth Fire.

by Russ Taylor

I have to be perfectly honest about this. Were it not for my experiences during a five-day llama trip into the Eight Lakes Basin of the Mt. Jefferson Wilderness in August of 2002, I might not have been motivated to investigate events of August '03, events attendant to the visit that George W. Bush made to the state of Oregon in that peak-of-summer month.

The 02 llama trip involved my three brothers, two of whom live back east and had little experience of Oregon wilderness. In addition, there were six very fine llamas, one wonderful blue merl Great Dane doggie named Mel, and last, but certainly not least, a superb Bend-based outfitter named Barrett Dash.

My own relationship with Cascade mountain forests was already well established and profound. I have seen some beautiful places along the way, but for sheer soul-stirring, heart-wrenching beauty beyond description, nothing I've seen matches the native forests of the Cascades. Nothing.

How strange it is, then, to live among so many people who are indifferent to the fate of the last remaining very small piece of what God Almighty put here, and in the company of more than a few who can think of nothing better than to completely and utterly destroy these last few precious remnants by whatever means they deem necessary.

It was designed to make it possible for the timber industry to grab the last 4% of standing native forest in America.

As any long-time observer of the western scene will tell you, fire, deliberately set (aka arson) has long been a favorite. It's what we call out here the "light it, fight it, log it" syndrome. This has happened hundreds of times over the decades with the attendant crime rarely investigated or punished. But the fire season of 02 provided two splendid examples, both involving very large and destructive wild fires. One, in Colorado, was adjudicated the work of a female Forest Service employee. The other, in New Mexico, was found to be the work of a BLM fellow who was (the pathetic irony of it) to some extent or other, of Indian ancestry.

It's a wonderfully utilitarian concept, this light it, fight it, log it deal. If things are a tad slow economically in your neck of the woods you just set it on fire. You are then paid to fight the fire, and, after the fire is out, the Forest Service or BLM will allow the "salvage logging" of the burned forest, even in forests where logging had been "banned" by the so-called Northwest Forest Plan. The truth is that a

good deal of flat-out logging goes on while the fire is still burning, done in the name of creating fire breaks. Some of it is legit, most of it not.

The fire that was set about 200 vertical feet upslope from a certain point above the Square Lake Trail on August 19, 2003, was no ordinary, run-of-the-mill LIFILI (light it, fight it, log it) fire. No indeed, this one was set to provide an appropriate Karl Rove photo-op backdrop for the policy speech Bush was to give August 21 in the nearby resort of Camp Sherman. A speech designed to boost the prospects of HR 1904, aka the so-called Healthy Forests Restoration Act.

If you are to really understand what happened here you have to grasp the following: Had HR 1904 become law as it stood on August 19-21, with its language intact, it would have been the death-knell for every remaining stick of native forest, east or west of the Cascade crest. This was not my analysis. I'm not a lawyer, so I queried one of the top enviro attorneys in northwest Oregon, Susan Jane Brown of the Pacific Environmental Advocacy Center (PEAC). What I have written above is what she told me.

Hence, this fire of August 19, 2003, which we now call the "Booth Fire" was the LIFILI fire to end all such. It was designed to make it possible for the timber industry to grab the last 4% of standing native forest in America.

And so, on the very warm afternoon of August 19, at a set of GPS co-ordinates just a few Marine One helicopter minutes from the prospective Bush speech venue of Camp Sherman in the Bend/Sisters area of Central Oregon, at a point just below ridgecrest on a south-facing forested slope, a plume of smoke appeared. We know this beyond any doubt or dispute thanks to a nameless boater on Big Lake, due south of the aforementioned ridgeline, who snapped a photo of that smoke plume. The Booth Fire, which would later combine with a second fire (Bear Butte) that started within three hours of the Booth Fire, had begun. Once combined, the two fires were known as the "B&B Complex" fire. It would burn over 90,000 acres of public forest, most of it in the Mt. Jefferson Wilderness. It was on its way into the Santiam and Breitenbush canyons and would very likely have taken both, including the town of Detroit, had it not been for an unseasonably wet and cold series of weather systems that swirled down off the Gulf of Alaska in the first week of September '03. It was only the heroic efforts of hundreds of wildland fire fighters that kept Camp Sherman and other Metolius River basin tourism sites from incineration. The Eight Lakes Basin of the Mt. Jefferson Wilderness, site of the llama excursion, and home of forested terrain of unimaginable beauty, was not so fortunate.

So here it was, just two days before the arrival of a so-called President. A man who had appointed a former timber lobbyist, Mark Rey, to run the U.S. Forest Service. A man who personally received \$1.6 Million from Oregon timber companies on one day during the '00 presidential campaign. A man who was about to tell the country that it was, per HR 1904, necessary to cut down the remaining native forest to save it from "catastrophic wild fire." A man very much in need of a major forest fire in the vicinity of the speech venue for the obligatory photo-op backdrop. Here was the fire. How very convenient it was.

So convenient in fact that many Oregonians were convinced that it was far more than happenstance. According to the legendary Santiam Canyon mountain-man George Atiyeh, savior of the Opal

Creek valley forest, "not one logger or front-line Forest Service person I know disagrees with the idea that these fires were set for the benefit of George W. Bush and his so-called Healthy Forests Initiative." Those were Atiyeh's words to me during a phone conversation we had while the fires were still burning. As Atiyeh does know every single one of the loggers and Forest Service folk in that area, it was a remarkable statement.

It was only the heroic efforts of hundreds of wildland fire fighters that kept Camp Sherman and other Metolius River basin tourism sites from incineration.

Then there was a woman from Salem, Oregon, (her name is known to me but I will not publish it here for sake of her peace of mind) whom I spoke with several weeks after the fire succumbed to those early September rains. She and a party of three other women and three dogs had hiked into Square Lake on the afternoon of August 18, the day before the Booth Fire began.

According to her account, they were hiking eastward, toward the lake at a point just west of the point on the Square Lake Trail directly below the Booth Fire origin site when they saw two young white males hiking briskly back toward the trailhead. She described these men as being very "clean cut" and "office boys impersonating hikers." They were wearing sneakers and carrying antique 1970s era external frame backpacks that were EMPTY. Moreover, they not only refused to stop to chat, they refused even make eye contact. They were moving fast, "on a mission." The four women and their canine accompaniment continued to their campout at Square Lake and spent a peaceful night of August 18 under a spectacular star-choked sky. The following day dawned clear and warm. When the fire erupted that afternoon, it was shielded from immediate visual detection by the ridgeline. By the time the fire crested the ridge it was moving quickly toward the lake, driven by a brisk west-to-east wind. As the women watched with growing alarm, the fire engulfed the trail that was the only escape route they knew of.

Had it not been for the courage and initiative of an unnamed wildlands fire fighter, the subsequent official "investigation" of the fire would likely have been a homicide investigation as well. But, thankfully for the four women and their dogs, this brave firefighter knew of a "fishermans' trail" that led directly from Oregon Route 20 to Square Lake. Fearing that there might be people trapped at the lake, he double-timed it up the trail, reaching the four trapped women with no time to spare. They barely escaped with their lives.

According to the woman (one of the four) who related this harrowing tale to me, the women and dogs were taken to the first-responder staging area on Route 20 where there was considerable discussion per the cause of the fire. The word this woman heard repeated again and again by first-responders, including a contingent of law enforcement officers, in total agreement with George Atiyeh and his logger/forest service acquaintances, was arson.

So, what of the above mentioned "official investigation"? Well, there indeed was one, conducted by an entity known as the Central Oregon Arson Task Force (COATF) which is comprised of law enforcement people representing The Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Oregon Department of Forestry, and local law enforcement. The problem with this constituency is (as any intellectually honest Oregonian will tell you), all of these agencies have strong ties to the Sacred Timberbeast, aka the timber industry. And, given that this was the LIFILI fire to end all such, it would be idiotic to expect people with strong industry sympathies to render a fair finding.



Even so, the COATF's preliminary report did *not* rule out arson. It did, however, say that due to three reasons, it was more likely to have been the result of a "lightning holdover" per a thunderstorm that had passed over the fire origin area on August 4, *fifteen days* before the fire burst forth.

Unfortunately for the COATF and their apologists, the three reasons they adduced as to why it was not likely arson are absurdly easy to debunk. Indeed, all three are outright fabrications.

The first reason cited has to do with the alleged remoteness of the fire origin site. I first hiked to the site in November of '03 in the company of storied central Oregon environmentalist, Michael Donnelly. Michael, like myself, is a middle-aged (high side of 50) white male. It took the two of us just about 30 minutes, traversing snow covered slopes, to reach the fire origin area. If you happened to be a paraplegic pacific salamander, this might be considered remote. Otherwise, not.

The second reason is a pale echo of the first. The report makes some remark about the physical difficulty involved in reaching the fire origin site. Again, if you happen to be that very impaired four-legged amphibian, it would be difficult to get from the trailhead on Route 20 to the fire origin site, located 200 vertical feet directly above the Square Lake Trail. Otherwise, not.

If you happened to be a paraplegic pacific salamander, this might be considered remote. Otherwise, not.

The third reason as to why this fire was not likely arson is that there was supposedly no easy escape route for the arsonist. First, this assumes that the perp walked to the fire origin site and "tossed a match." A timed incendiary would have been more likely, an MO which completely obviates this lame third "reason." But let's assume it was someone going to the site on the afternoon of August 19 and lighting a fire. Difficult to escape? Absurd! A quick glance at the remarkable photograph taken by the boater on Big Lake shows why. A brisk west to east breeze was moving the fire away from the route the arsonist would have traversed to reach the site. True, the fire would eventually "back-burn" against the wind but it would have been no problem for the arsonist to backtrack westward, well ahead of a fire being blown eastward.

Yes, as stated immediately above, a timed incendiary would have been much more likely than the "match toss," and according to information brought forward by fearless "retired" wildlands firefighter Rebecca French, that was what was indeed found shortly after the fire moved out of the area of origin.

According to Ms. French, she was at the Sisters fire camp a few days into the fire, talking to her firefighting colleagues. According to Rebecca, the word all over camp was that a "detonation device" (aka timed incendiary) had been found. When she approached a female Forest Service supervisor with this information, the Forest Service woman "became extremely defensive and would not let

me speak." When Rebecca returned to camp on the following day, it was as though the detonation device talk of the day before had never happened.

Ah yes, rumor and conjecture, I hear the reader murmur as she/he takes in the preceding. So, let's go back to the COATF "conjecture" that the Booth Fire was due to a lightning strike on August 4 that had "held over" or "hidden out" for 15 days before bursting forth on that fateful afternoon of August 19. I consulted with a Forest Service fire expert (who's identity must remain undisclosed for reasons obvious to anyone who has lived here in "Timber Country"), and I was informed that in order for a lightning "holdover" to be successful, the key variable is the presence of moisture at the site of the alleged lightning strike. Indeed, the two most famous lightning holdover situations both occurred in the Coast Range of Oregon and Washington, a bio-region much wetter than what we have in the Cascade Mountains, especially east of the Cascade Crest. It's noteworthy that the Booth Fire origin site is indeed east of the crest and on a south-facing slope. South facing slopes are well known, all other variables such as precipitation being equal, to be drier than forests on north facing slopes as the south facing slopes receive sunlight year-round at this latitude, while north facing slopes do not.

Well now, given that moisture is the key variable in determining the likelihood that a fire was due to lightning holdover, the COATF folks picked a bad summer. The summer of '03, according to NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) was, in fact, a "50-year drought summer." I obtained the official NOAA precipitation and temperature records for the Sisters Ranger District of the Deschutes National Forest. The rainfall in that area from January 1 of '03 up to the alleged lightning strike date of August 4 was an amazingly low 3.94 inches. But the real rub is this: According to my Forest Service fire fellow (and yes, there are more than a few lower-eschelon Forest Service folks who have NOT sold out to the Sacred Timberbeast and will sometimes risk their careers in service to truth, may God bless them), the thing to look at per likelihood of lightning holdover is what are called "thousand-hour fuels." Simply put, if an area has been more than 1000 hours without rain, there is little to no likelihood that sufficient moisture is present to sustain a holdover.

So, what was the official NOAA precipitation situation for the Sisters Ranger District of the Deschutes National Forest in the three months preceding the August 4 lightning event? It was this: There had been *no rain recorded for 54 days* prior to August 4 and *just .04 inches in the 67 days* prior to August 4. Moreover, in addition to being very very dry it was very very hot that summer. The week immediately preceding August 4 was a nearly unbroken series of 100+ degree days. It was so dry that you could have lit that forest afire by, as we like to say, "looking at it too hard." Hit it with a two million-degree lightning bolt and the likelihood would be, not a 15-day "lightning holdover" but an instant conflagration.

Consider as well that the Booth Fire origin site lies within sight



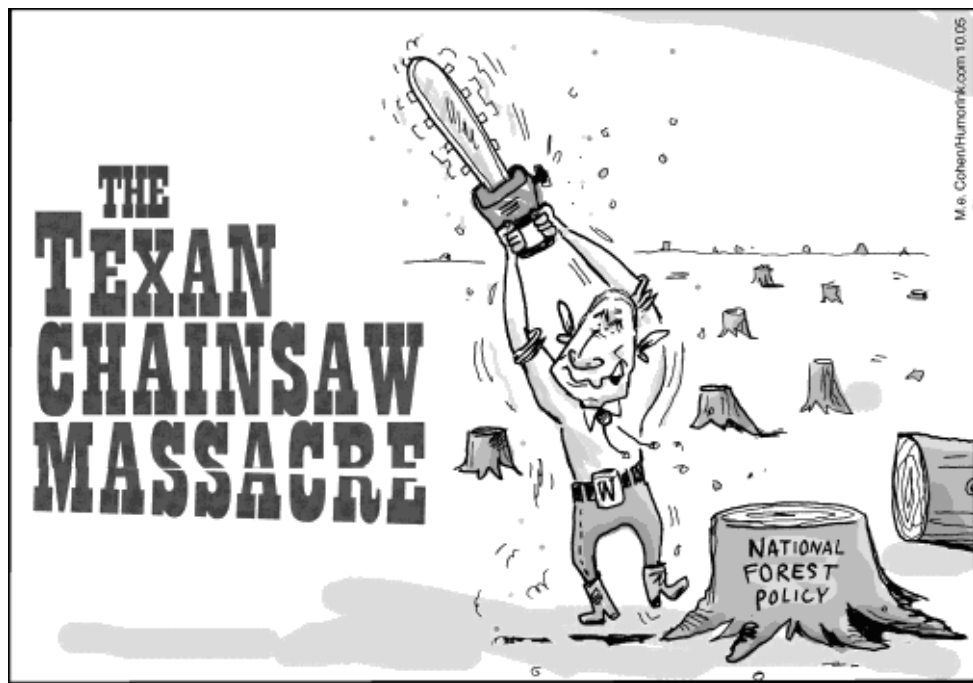
of the major east-west highway that passes just to its south. August is the peak-of-traffic month and many of the people on that road at that time of year are locals with an acute awareness of what wildfire can mean for their lives and property. We are asked to believe that this "holdover" fire smoldered for 15 days within sight of the eastbound lane of the major highway and no one noticed anything. Sure.

But, the foregoing begs a very important question: Did any lightning strike the fire origin site on August 4? Impossible to know you say? Not quite. Unknown to most Americans, we have in this country something called the National Lightning Detection Network which is administered by a company in Arizona called Vaisala Corp. For the sum of \$250 (donated by a kind tree-hugging Portlander who wishes to remain anonymous) I obtained a Vaisala "Fault-Finder" report for the GPS co-ordinates of the fire origin site. I used the COATF's GPS numbers (which I confirmed in June of '04 while visiting the site). The Vaisala Fault-Finder map, which was the key item in their report, is, no pun intended, striking. It shows that no lightning struck within .75 mile of the fire origin site. I then took it a step further and had the Vaisala data reviewed by Dr. Martin Uman, Professor Emeritus, University of Florida, considered one of the top three people on planet Earth in the field of lightning detection. I have a letter from Dr. Uman in which he says that it is "extremely unlikely" that any lightning struck the fire origin site.

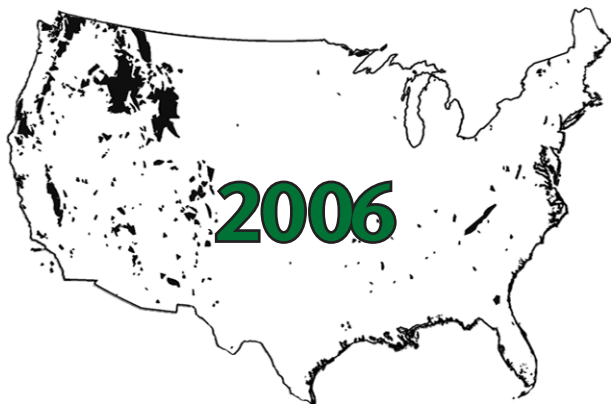
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There is just one thing indisputable here and that is this: Barring a confession by a conscience-stricken perp (not likely) we may never know for absolute certain what caused the Booth Fire. However, I maintain that if we present the foregoing facts to any dozen (a jury of 12 good and true Americans) countrymen/women residing outside the domain of the Sacred Timberbeast, they will likely conclude, contrary to what the COATF found, that the Booth fire was most likely an arson fire set for political/economic purpose.

Unfortunately for the truth and the little remaining native forest, it is unlikely that any fair-minded official investigation will ever be done, especially now that timberwhores like Congressman Greg Walden and Brian Baird have offered a bill, (HR 4200) which if passed into law, will make it possible to summarily log any arson-burned forest outside the paltry few acres of forested "wilderness" and the national parks. Unfortunate, too, for the American taxpayers who will, per usual, be subsidizing the destruction of the very last of *their* national forests, and most unfortunate for future generations of Americans who will be totally denied the majesty and magic of what the great Apache Scout/Shaman Stalking Wolf called the "Temples of Creation."



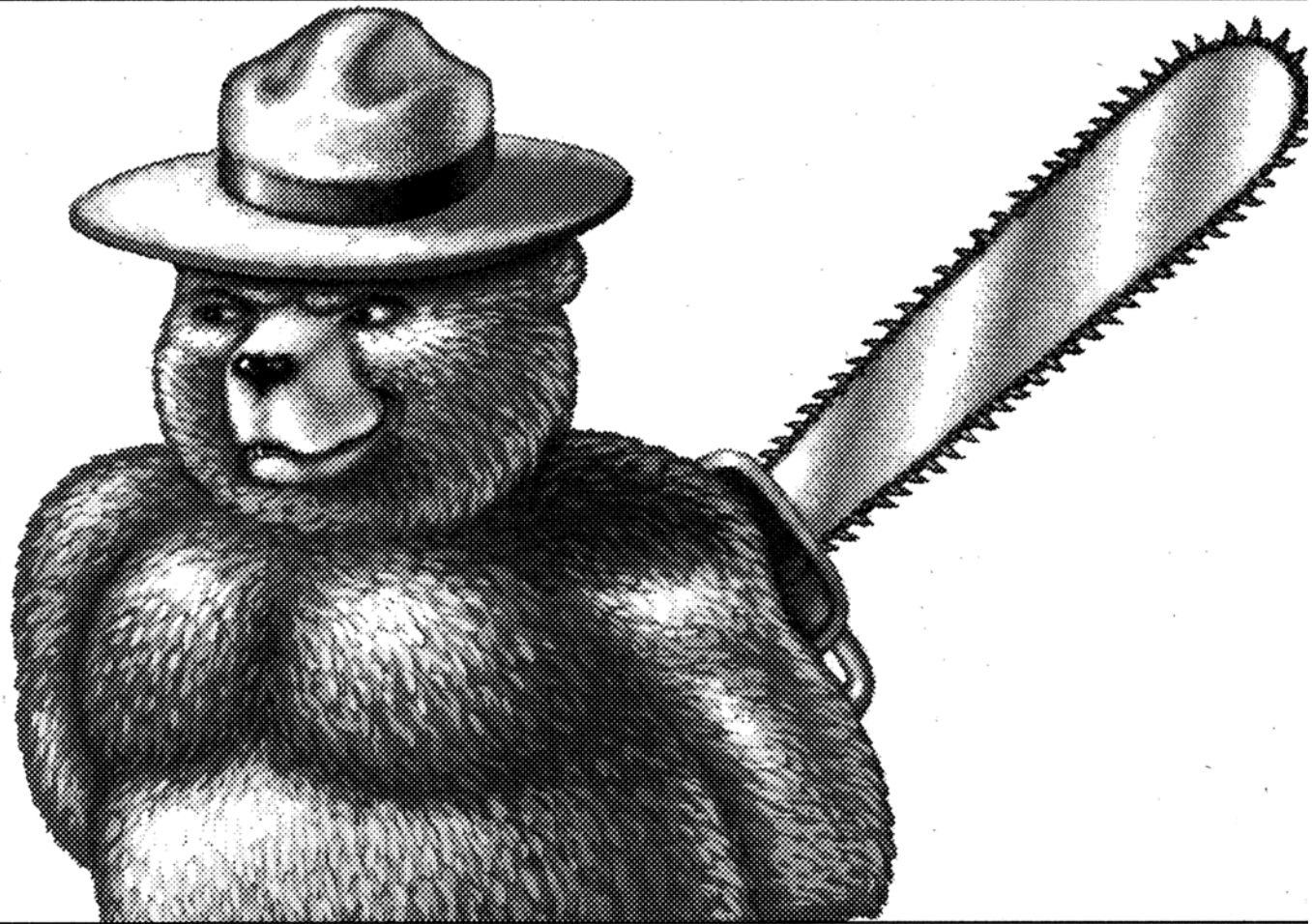
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