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Earth First!

February 2, 1991

Vol. XI, No. III

THE RADICAL ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNAL

BRIGID ISSUE

THREE DOLLARS

An Air of Unreality

BY MICHAEL ROBINSON

Here in Boulder, Colorado, there's talk of war. Somewhere far away, in an arid land by a turquoise sea, countless two-legged primates face each other warily, with their hands free to operate gargantuan machines that will cause massive death to those on the other side of a line.

In this college town where the Great Plains meet the Rocky Mountains, thousands of people have mobilized to oppose the war. They're marching, preparing for civil disobedience, talking of "revolution." They're upset and disoriented. As one friend of mine put it, "There's an air of unreality. I can't believe this is happening. I thought war was obsolete."

I can understand this reaction. Many of us know soldiers stationed in the Gulf. The war, if it comes, will be cataclysmic. As Rep. Nancy Pelosi, Democrat of California, pointed out, the war will also be an ecological catastrophe in the biologically rich waters of the Persian Gulf. Given the effect of off road vehicles on the biota of the arid Western United States, certainly the thousands of tanks in Saudi Arabia are already decimating the plant and animal nations there.

Some of my strongest personal memories are from age nine, when I was living in a suburb of Tel Aviv, in Israel. That was 1973, and I can still remember the air raid sirens on Yom Kippur, the holiest day in the Jewish calendar, as Egyptian and Syrian bombers approached the city. They never got there, but the feeling of a community under the gun, the memory of grieving neighbors who lost their 18-year-old sons, is embedded under my skin.

But there's a greater tragedy going on, and humans as a species are the aggressors in this, not the victims. That's why I don't feel any more upset than usual about the Persian Gulf — it's just another front in a much larger war against life on this planet.

People are already dying for oil. Millions of bird people and thousands of otter people, clam people, salmon people, kelp people, people whose names and attributes I don't even know, died for oil in Prince William Sound two years ago. Grizzly bear people in Montana are dying for oil, as roads invade their homeland. Millions of rainforest people — plants and animals (including humans) — will die in Ecuador if Conoco blasts exploratory roads into a national park. Hundreds of thousands of caribou people are poised to die for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). And here's something to consider: Not one caribou, salmon or kelp ever voted Republican or drove a gas guzzling car for a frivolous reason, unlike many of the soldiers in the Persian Gulf.

The war is here, invading our homes. I've seen it in Bowen Gulch at 10,500 feet, carved into the side of Bald Mountain in the ancient Kalmiopsis, on the cow-burnt banks of the San Francisco River in the holy Gila.... The war is in Alaska, where warm wolf blood melts the snow as a shotgun-rigged plane, loaded with pelts, takes off to search out another of the dwindling packs that still survive.

I live in an air of unreality too, but over the years it has become real. The dissident communities of our country are gearing up to oppose a war, and rightly they should. But when the marches are over many will drive home. And where will the protesters be when the Senate votes to destroy ANWR, when Conoco employees tamp down dynamite at the edge of the rainforest, when the local BLM office approves a few more cows over the hill?



The War At Home

BY MICHAEL LEWIS

ANWR: Just When You Thought It Was Safe...

Just as world peace seemed inevitable a year ago, so it seemed with the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. In the wake of the Exxon Valdez, we thought we had a breathing space to rally our forces for the big push for development in two or three years.

Now the Alaska congressional delegation, such as it is, has seized on Bush's War against Iraq once again to raise the cry for oil development in ANWR "to keep the United States free from dependency on foreign oil." Senators Ted Stevens and Frank Murkowski, and "Congressman for all Alaskans (except most of us)" Don Young, have introduced bills into that Great National Asylum for the Helpless in

Washington to open ANWR to oil exploration and speed up the process of destroying the Coastal Plain.

"The Exxon Valdez is behind us," said Bill Van Ness, a lobbyist for the Arctic Slope Regional Corp, which could reap billions from the opening of the refuge in which it owns substantial mineral rights. Exxon has spent millions in slick media ads to show the world that Prince William Sound has emerged unscathed from its dunking in North Slope crude. All of course with an eye to Washington, and a pat on the back for a job well done.

But all may not be as well in the Capital as the oil maggots would hope. Despite war rhetoric warning of a threat to "our" oil, opposition to opening ANWR has not com

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EARTH FIRST!

NO COMPROMISE IN THE DEFENSE OF MOTHER EARTH!

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Howdy from the Big Sky Country...

As members of the new editorial collective of Earth First!, we have taken over the task of producing this newspaper. At the outset of our tenure, we'd like to be clear about how we're approaching things. Because the we of "we" is ambiguous, being constantly changing, we do not intend to set forth a philosophical position, but rather to give a sense of the perspective from which we'll be working.

We cannot continue to claim that the paper is simply an independent voice within the Earth First! movement; if it were so it would yet be a voice so loud that others could scarcely be heard. We are committed to giving voice to all parts of radical environmentalism, as we affirm the value of all parts of the natural world. Let the soft rolling of pebbles be heard beneath the roar of the waves. We will attempt to give a place for the whole movement to speak to and for itself. The paper will not be a voice of radical environmentalism; it will be a chorus, and not a very disciplined chorus either, singing pastorals in one key; it will be like a rainforest at dawn, like a prairie creek at eventide. Let our voices rise, mingle, blend where they will and set each other off by contrast; alarming, inquiring, celebrating, demanding. Let us be wild.

This chorus has a value beyond the interesting harmonies it may produce. It should help to evaluate and hone our strategies for defending the wilds. To do this, articles need to critique the tactics they discuss. We should be beyond the point where we need peppy action glorifications for morale. It is important both to evaluate our work and to learn how to criticize and take criticism without being hostile and defensive. Hence while we will not waste space on bickering and infighting, we will emphasize evaluation. We will hold nothing and no one (including ourselves)

REVOLUTIONARY LETTER #40

(for Emmet Grogan)

if the power of the word is anything, America, your oil fields burning your cities in ruins, smouldering, pillaged by children your cars broken down, at a standstill, choking the roads your citizens standing beside them, bewildered, or choosing a packload of objects (what they can carry away) if the power of the word lives, America, your power lines down Eagle-eyed lines of electric, of telephone, of radio transmission toppled and rankling in the fields, setting the hay ablaze your newspapers useless, your populace illiterate wiping their asses with them, IF THE WORD HAS POWER YOU SHALL NOT STAND AMERICA, the wilderness is spreading from the parks you have fenced it into, already desert blows through Las Vegas, the sea licks its chops at the oily edges of Los Angeles, the camels are breeding, the bears, the elk are increasing so are the indians and the very poor do you stir in your sleep, America, do you dream of your power pastel colored oil tanks from sea to shining sea? sleep well, America, we stand by your bedside, the word has power, the chant is going up

—DIANE DI PRIMA

exempt from the most ruthless criticism. Nothing is sacred, save the land.

This paper remains committed to the priority of the earth first. We will not subjugate or compromise our position to accommodate social agendas, nor to avoid conflict with the tenets of the dominant paradigm, such as the sanctity or right of private property. Nor will we place the earth second to our public image; it is not the success of something named "Earth First!" that matters, it is the earth.

While the values of the wild are at the heart of our project, this paper will not be primarily about wilderness and biodiversity. It will be about defending wilderness and biodiversity. The paper will be geared toward prompting action to save the wilds, and will include conservation biology as a means of supplying the depth of background that makes defense of particular issues so much stronger. It will have discussions of various wilderness defense tactics, both legal and illegal, ranging from outrageous actions to the equally important mundane daily work of protecting wild things. It will include other discussions relevant to activists, concerning such topics as police surveillance and harassment, general organizing, and low impact living. And it will include visions, poetic and prosaic, of experiences of the wild, our true source of livelihood.

We are working in anticipation of a major change in humanity's niche, as things cannot long continue as they are. We don't know what form this change will take, but our goal is to preserve as much of the diversity of life on the planet as we can until then, and work to ensure that what comes next will not pose the threat to worldwide life that this era has. It seems important

to keep this in mind, and be ready and welcoming of the change, even if it means our end. When the power lines fail we will stop printing the paper. It should no longer be necessary. Until then, we will do all we can to give this movement a way to make itself stronger, and bring us towards that rebalancing.

This is how we view the paper we work for. *Earth First!*, of course, will be made primarily by its contributors. We welcome everyone to send us material, or failing that, themselves. Editorial staff positions of one and two issues are available for anyone interested in having a hand in producing *Earth First!* Longer term positions will be filled at the 1991 Round River Rendezvous. If you can't bear to abandon your local struggles and join us in Missoula, send whatever you can.

As an editorial staff we will try to help contributors clarify their writings so that the paper will be accessible to all and clear and incisive as well. We are looking for articles, poems, notices, artwork, and stories that are directly connected to the defense of biodiversity and wildness. They should be concise, informative, self-critical, and visionary. We're not really interested in self-aggrandizement, personality clashes, or in rehashing old squabbles, but if you send LOTS of accompanying photos or graphics, and you send them three weeks before publication dates (solstices, equinoxes and cross-quarter days), we will probably look favorably upon even the most inane drivel. If you have the good sense not to trust our editorial competence or intentions, please read the description of the Blank Wall section at the center of the paper. You see, it's really all up to you.

—EARTH FIRST!
EDITORIAL COLLECTIVE

EARTH FIRST! Brigid February 2, 1991 Vol. XI, No. III

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Although we do not accept the authority of the hierarchical state, nothing herein is intended to run us afoul of its police power. Repugnant Assholes can just go to hell.

Submissions are welcomed and should be typed or carefully printed, double spaced, and sent with an SASE if return is requested. Electronic submissions are even better, either on Macintosh disks or via Econet (send to "earthfirst"). Art or photographs (black & white prints preferred, color prints or slides OK) are desirable to illustrate articles and essays. They will be returned if requested. Please include explicit permission to reprint slides. Due to our tight budget, no payment is offered except for extra copies of the issue.

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SCHEDULE

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Subscriptions or questions should be sent to: Earth First!, POB 5176, Missoula, MT 59806

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All letters will be printed, unless they are a travesty. We will print a representative sample of letters expressing the same views. Contact us if you feel your opinion was not expressed. Type or neatly print and double-space your letters. Indicate if you wish to remain anonymous. Send letters to POB 5176, Missoula MT 59806. The opinions expressed here represent only their authors, and are not official positions of the Earth First! journal staff or movement.

Dear SFB

The letter in the Yule issue of the *EF! Journal* regarding timber sales in roadless areas of Fremont National Forest presents a unique opportunity for concerned citizens. This is exactly the situation where tree spiking can have its greatest benefits with least risks.

The Roadless Areas are listed in the USFS memo by the Fiscal Year in which they are scheduled for cutting. People familiar with the region of those willing to do a little research, can obtain maps of the forest and protect those RA's by spiking the trees. Ideally, this should occur before any roadbuilding of even surveying is underway. The spiking should be well publicized with notices (anonymous!) sent to the USFS offices, the media (including *EF!*) and prospective timber buyers. The presence of spiked trees in timber sale areas will reduce their commercial value and hopefully turn off potential bidders.

By spiking trees many years ahead of their scheduled sale a number of advantages are realized. Little money has been invested in surveying, roadbuilding, etc. so the authorities have less incentive to go ahead with a timber sale. It's more difficult for the Freddie's to locate spiked trees and without easy road access they are less likely to search for spikes. Timber buyers have not committed resources to the area and it may be easier for them simply not to bid on a risky proposition. Also the chances of you being encountered and risking dealing with the police state are very slim.

So, consider a backpacking trip into Fremont National Forest this year and don't forget to bring along the spikes. Be sure to read *Ecodefense* first and take *all* necessary precautions.

Dear *EF!*,

I note with some bewilderment that we have been dropped from the list of International Groups. Perhaps it is due to lack of activity, but as you can see from the enclosed clippings we have been rather tied up lately, or rather locked up (Norco Bike Guards to be precise). We do apologize for our lack of movement, but it took the police some time and two sets of bolt cutters to get us off, and although we were not arrested we were "interviewed" by National Security and Intelligence. (Our

version of the FBI, same suits but more polite).

EF! can expect continued inactivity on our part in the future. Several of us are thinking of taking a few weeks off to rest at the local detention center and sponge room and board off of our Ministry of Corrections, flagrantly taking advantage of their kind invitation extended to us when we met some real nice Police Officers on a logging road last year. On Jan 21st we are going to go drop in on the offices of a major EcoFucker Corporation and just sort of hang (or rather dangle) around. Basically *EF!* Ottawa is just another Middle of the Road Group, in fact we are currently training people to join a bunch of Indians for a Middle of the Logging Road Jamboree and PowWow this spring; none of that radical stuff for us.

20/20 hindsight. In this alleged grassroots, non-hierarchical non-organization it would have been nice if someone, anyone, had consulted the bulk of the non-membership prior to taking steps that launched us irrevocably onto the current course; a reader survey card or something to that effect. Too late now; best of luck to all and keep on doin'....

EMBARGOED: The *EF!* sent us \$\$\$ for James Bay II activities. At the request of some of the Cree who were very bored with the long nights and nothing to do except watch the dozers we made a substantial donation to the local Reading Center. Unfortunately one of our number sort of screwed up and sent multiple copies of a single Ned Ludd publication instead of a nice selection of Sierra Club books. I'd like to write and straighten it out, but the name and address has been lost. Oh well, hopefully they won't be too disappointed.

Earth First!, er...Wild Earth!, ah...First Wild?, !Wild First?!, Me First! Earth Earth &&&, Live First or What? Viva Zapata? (estan locos! esos ambientalistas)

—MIKE KAULBARS

I just about lost it when I saw Canyon Frog's disgusting cartoon on the back of *EF!* — who needs this outrageous, degrading, divisive, sexist (bad - cliched) "art?" Certainly *EF!* does not. Nor do any of us. Know there'll be a change with you-all doing the newspaper.

— Nancy

Keep it up!

Offensive, snarly, radical politics forever. But please, no more stereotypical comic portrayals of women's bodies — women are not all big-breasted long-haired skinny creatures. Its a dangerous image us American men are wed to.
—David W., Roxbury, Mass.

Friends:

I am confused, disappointed, and angry about the disintegration of Earth First. Although I have worked many years for mainstream environmental organizations, Earth First! has been the voice of my heart and soul. My work — and that of many others — has been to press within the system for land and ecosystem protection. Maybe it's been a mistake because the whole system need changing. Maybe not.

Working within the system means compromise, triage, and incremental gains in the midst of great losses; it is the process of painting miniatures when the mural is being blasted with buckshot. On a personal level working with the system tears my guts out because I am mad for wild country and see that we are not winning. But while *EF!* was there nudging evolution, speaking for the whole mural, and advocating (as much as anarchy is advocacy) the big changes, the work of sandthrowers like me -I thought -had the value of slowing down destruction.

Anymore I'm not so sure. Jousting with bureaucrats, as I do, is a worthwhile diversion only if an army is mounting outside the castle walls. Anybody there? Or did they all drink cyanided kool-aid?

There is a certain dignity to bull elk in rut pissing on themselves, on each other, and rolling in puddles of their own making. But at least there seems a point to their actions. Its less clear to me why *EF!* is pissing all over itself these days. Is it a New Age pastime? Please keep in mind as we roll in it that there are more than 150 proposals moving forward to cut trees and build roads in Idaho roadless areas in the next 5-7 years. You know better than I what's happening elsewhere.

Now I get an invitation to choose between (or choose both) the new, improved, bolder-than-bold (but sensitive) *EF Journal* and the new, politically unpalatable (but visionary) *Wild Earth Journal*. What are you guys talking about? Anybody there?

I don't give a damn for the social agendas which seem to be the basis for distinguishing between the journals. Give me something to grab onto! I've had enough rhetoric and opinion and information; what happened to the wisdom? Tell me that to ask meekly for Wilderness is to beg denial, and offer something bold. And, with apologies to Thoreau, if you offer castles in the air, then let's work on building foundations under them.

Unfortunately, I have become cynical, Machiavellian, and brutally pragmatic in the past few years. Offer me some hope. Tell me how we can undermine the status quo. I am troubled by the rock star approach coming out of Missoula and by the slim odds of anything I care about at all coming out of Canton. Can either of you even see Utah or Idaho from there?

Please spare me the pseudo-intellectual "ecologists" endlessly quoting each other in justification

of their latest opinion. (May they suffocate in their own perfect vacuum.) Roll up your sleeves and get into the fray. Know what you're talking about and invite debate of public land issues.

OK, you asked for my money not my advice. Here's 20 bucks for each of you. Don't spend it pissing on one another. Thank you for all your hard work on behalf of wild country in the past.

All my best, Prince of Spuds

Dear Earth First!

I'm waiting to see if the real Earth First! is going to stand up. What I've seen mostly so far is wilderness first. This reinforces my own particular bias but certainly does not help me to think clearly. The earth is a marvelous metaphor for the Whole. If we kept that in mind, we would not be in danger of splitting off into this or that fragment first. The presumption of the Whole first would have an upgrading influence on the entire *EF!* publication which would give us more for the trees which must be felled for its newsprint.

Under the wilderness first theme, an exasperating amount of fuzzy thinking erupts. Take the popular notion of misanthropy. These are times that require a great deal of criticism of humanity, but misanthropy goes way beyond self-criticism. Can one be genuinely anti-human or hate any particular form of life and still love life in its essence or wholeness? Sages say no, and we do well to consider their counsel. By selectively hating parts, we often fall into the self-indulgent tragic hero role, a pose that defeats its often noble goals.

In our refusal to embrace the whole, to be true Earth First'ers, we become part of the problem. The same finger that points at the Freddie's or loggers should also be pointing at ourselves. I'm not suggesting that we cease our activism until we are older and wiser, but it would be intelligent at least NOT to presume we are acting wisely. Act in humility always, not in the arrogant assumption that we know what is wise. There is a chance that intelligent action, not energy-dissipating reaction, would come out of that.

Another popular point of view that is harmful to the earth is focusing on population reduction as the ONLY useful form of consumption control. In the last issue of *EF!*, the article "Trillions" suggested that if only we would reduce the earth's population to ten million, we could keep our self-indulgent energy-consuming lifestyle. Even if we had 100% effective, universally-used birth control starting now, such reduction in population could not happen in our lifetime. To pretend that we don't need to cut our consumption drastically, only to forego having children, allows us to live in a fantasy world while we pull the real world down with us.

I'm hoping that the new *EF!* will promote thinking about ways to live without creating divisions between human and everything else. This would be a call to a more intuitive and holistic mode of thinking, since brain thinking is fragmented thinking. But then, that is where the real power of the Earth First! movement lies — thinking of the Whole first.

— Jim Rich, Hillsboro, Kansas

more Letters on page 24

Times Beach Burner Gets OK

BY ORIN LANGELE

Senior US District Judge John Nangle, ending 1990 on a foreboding note, cleared the way for an \$80 million plan to burn dioxin from the contaminated ghost town of Times Beach, MO, and 27 other sites from the state. Environmentalists fear that what some say will be the world's largest incinerator, which authorities say is temporary, will become a permanent fixture due to its location in the middle of America and access of major rail and interstate highway systems.

On November 7th, voters dramatically raised their voices in opposition to the incinerator in a non-binding referendum. Despite the vote of the citizens, the EPA and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources can now proceed to award Syntex Agribusiness the money it says is needed for the construction and operation of the incinerator.

The St. Louis *Post-Dispatch* reported last year that a plant in Verona, MO, (now taken over by Syntex Agribusiness) made Agent Orange, a defoliant used by the US military to destroy jungle cover and crops in Vietnam. Syntex claims otherwise, claiming the Verona plant produced hexachlorophene, a disinfectant. Whatever the truth in this matter, dioxin, a toxic substance and unwanted byproduct, that was produced in that plant forced the evacuation of 2300 residents of Times Beach when a waste oil dealer, Russell Bliss, mixed waste oil with dioxin and sprayed the contaminated substance on Times Beach's unpaved roads to keep dust down in the early 1980's.

If it is not enough to have the supposed world's largest incinerator and the potential dioxin dump of America in Missouri, the facts get

bleaker. The incinerator would be built in the floodplain of the Meramec River. By the time it reaches Times Beach the Meramec is already polluted with chemical runoff by farming and just plain civilization itself. The river produces drinking water for almost a quarter of a million humans before it reaches the Mississippi River. Since no Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has been done to evaluate the dioxin burner's potential effect, no one knows for sure the hazards and contaminants it could produce in the water and air.

Enter EF! and the Pink Mucket (*Lampsilis abrupta*), a federally endangered mussel of the Meramec Valley region that has the potential to resign from the planet's realm if the incinerator is activated, according to a prominent Missouri malacologist (one who studies mussels), who says that mussels are filter feeders that cannot tolerate silty water that could occur with the construction and firing of the incinerator that is scheduled to burn over 100,000 tons of contaminated soil, the residue of which could possibly end up in the Meramec. At this point EF!ers are considering filing suit against the EPA concerning the possibility of the demise of the Pink Mucket and eight other threatened or endangered species candidates that inhabit this diverse habitat.

With the cry of "Pink Muckets Forever" and "If voting could change things, they'd make it illegal," EF! will continue to fight the purveyors of destruction with its usual no compromise stance. As an EF!er summed up the entire Times Beach debate, "maybe they should send it back to the corporate executives who produced it."

Fun Acts on the Shawnee

BY ORIN LANGELE

In early December of 1990 Forest Service officials announced to the press that trees were spiked in the Fairview timber sale area of the Shawnee NF in southern Illinois. Large nails and steel spikes were found in dozens of hardwoods in the area and the FS speculated that the spiking apparently occurred several months prior.

In a related incident FS officials said they recovered a couple of boards with large nails sticking through them that had been buried in the main access road at Fairview in September. The boards were discovered after puncturing tires on a FS vehicle and a contractor's grader. No one has claimed responsibility for the sabotage and Earth First!ers deny any knowledge of the spiking. EF!ers have always maintained the position in the Shawnee of neither condemning nor condoning acts of monkeywrenching. Rene Cook, a local EF! organizer, said the act was probably committed by an individual acting alone.

Shawnee NF authorities should be getting used to drastic action concerning timber sales in one of the smallest National Forests. It is rumored that locals took out their ire on two logging skidders that went up in flames a couple of years ago, and in November of 1989, the Murphysboro District Ranger Station was heavily damaged: windows were smashed, three fires were set, and a FS pickup truck was broken into and its seat burned and a two-way radio stolen. Despite an investigation by the FS and the FBI, no one has been arrested in that matter although EF!ers from as far away as St. Louis were questioned.

Court OKs Tree Slaughter

On November 28th, the 7th US Court of Appeals in Chicago lifted an injunction that prohibited logging in the Fairview area. EF!ers maintained an 80-day blockade this summer until the court issued the injunction on September 5th. Tom Buchele, of the Chicago law firm Jenner and Block, was responsible for filing the motion on behalf of the local Regional Association of Concerned Environmentalists (RACE). On December 18, Buchele went to the US Supreme Court in an effort to halt the below cost travesty.

Clearly the local populace of Southern Illinois is against the cutting, as over 11,000 petitions were signed pleading for the survival of this ecosystem. Since the judicial system refuses to listen to the pleas of people, much less the cries of the forest and its inhabitants, EF!ers have been maintaining a vigil at the Murphysboro Ranger Station monitoring the FS and its activities. EF!ers claim this vigil is necessary because armed FS personnel from four states allowed a small portion of Fairview to be cut last September in defiance of a federal law.

In a humorous note concerning the vigil, IL state police have banned signs by the protesters that read, "Honk if You Love the Shawnee!" District Ranger Larry Burkhart complained that the ensuing horn blasts impeded his duties. After EF! complied with the ban, horn honking continued by passers-by.

Other Shawnee Timber Sales Cancelled

Rod Sallee, the rotund Shawnee Supervisor who was honored by "wanted posters" all over Southern Illinois last year, announced the withdrawal of the Northwest (the largest sale ever planned in the Shawnee) and Mc Cormick Hill timber sales due to opposition by the public. It must be stated that EF!'s direct-action encampment last summer and legal maneuverings by RACE made timber buyers leery of pursuing further contracts. One timber buyer told an EF!er that he thought timber harvesting in the Shawnee would not be profitable, as lawyer and legal fees were mounting due to the EF! presence.

To add credibility to EF!'s "Shawnee Summer" Tom Haggerty, Shawnee PR man, stated in the St. Louis *Post-Dispatch* that, "I think EF! by virtue of its rather direct tactics stimulated public discussion among people who hadn't spoken loudly before about our timber practices." To add fuel to EF!'s green fire, the *Southern Illinoian* endorsed RACE's and EF!'s stance for a moratorium to end all logging until further research is done. In an editorial they said they did not approve of EF! tactics but acknowledged that the encampment was responsible for bringing the issue to light. The Sierra Club then got off its proverbial ass and appealed the Whoopie Cat timber sale. A stay was granted.

Shawnee Defenders Face the Legal System

Although many EF!ers were arrested and face fines or possible jail sentencing due to their participation



Earth First! unfurls a banner aimed at Syntex Agribusiness. The banner was later taken down by a local cop who said he was a caretaker for the land. Langelle photo.

in defense of wilderness, biodiversity and justice, a couple of cases stand out for observation. On October 5th, Jan Wilder-Thomas, Randall Thomas and John Wallace appeared in federal court to face charges of entering a closed sale area. Thomas and Wallace were both found guilty and charged a \$1 fine. The judge said he had to follow the law but that he must also serve justice. He then compared the FS to a big fat elephant swatting at an annoying gnat (EF!) and trying to squash it. Wilder-Thomas, on the other hand, was also found guilty but received stiffer fines. She was ordered by the court to pay a \$150 fine plus court costs, and was charged an additional fine of \$10 for littering (not unlike Arlo Guthrie and the Alice's Restaurant Masacre). Wilder-Thomas home schools her three children and the judge said he was sending a message to others and to her children that you just can not go around breaking laws without paying for them.

Another Shawnee defender, Steve Taylor, was found guilty of blocking a bulldozer and interfering with a FS officer during the blockade. Taylor acknowledged his guilt, but through the advice of his federal public defender, Phil Kavanaugh, he plead the necessity defense. Kavanaugh argued that Taylor's act of civil disobedience was necessary to stop what he said was a larger crime by the FS, that of violating federal regulations governing forest management. Kavanaugh condemned the FS for not conducting environmental studies to determine the effect timber harvesting would have on the inhabitants of the bioregion and argued that removing the trees could also contribute to global warming. The public defender compared Taylor to famous lawbreakers in US history whose actions have been vindicated: The Boston Tea Party uprising, the Underground Railroad, and proponents of women's suffrage and civil rights. Eventually, Taylor was fined \$25 on each count. Although Kavanaugh was determined to take Taylor's case to the Supreme Court, Taylor's sentence did not include any jail time, which complicated the appeal and the decision was made to accept the fines.

The Game Isn't Up.

In January of 1991, a special federal FS agent attempted to question a participant in Shawnee Summer. The Earth defender in question was asked to show up at the campus police station at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. Once there he was immediately read his Miranda rights, whereupon he refused to answer any questions without an attorney present. After some badgering the special agent gave up and allowed the "suspect" to leave. But the very next day the FS agent called the next day to tell the Shawnee Summer participant that if he didn't cooperate, the FS would make it very hard on him. This was not enough to shake the resolve of the person in question. Rumors from the FS are that the FS desperately wants to get some people and make examples out of them.

For updates on the whole Shawnee scene, contact Rene Cook of Shawnee EF! at RR6, Box 397 Murphysboro, IL 62966. 618-684-4332.

Allegheny: Freddies Up to Their Usual Tricks

BY CROTALUS HOMIDAS

October 22, 1990

Allegheny Biodiversity!, a radical environmental group formed out of the wreckage of Three Rivers EF!, did their first action, as part of the national day of protest against the USFS. Three of the group's founders, Joe Morrison, Dan McArty and Andrew Wiesburd, arrived at the headquarters of the Allegheny National Forest in Warren, PA, for their 8 am appointment with the Forest Supervisor, David Wright, to find the streets approaching the office lined with log-hauling trucks and a "welcoming party" of more than a hundred loggers waiting outside the front door. A violent confrontation was avoided due to the fact that the loggers were told (by elements within the FS) to be on the lookout for a band of tree-spiking hippies, and what with being clean-shaven, short of hair and without tools, the three were simply able to wade through the mob and go inside.

While on the inside they met with the entire management team, and registered their objections to current management practices, which are turning the 510,000 acre forest into a heavily-roaded black cherry tree farm containing between 10,000 and 100,000 oil wells. The three presented the management team with a set of alternative management guidelines under which the forest could be restored to its native state, that of a climax hemlock, beech and red maple northern hardwood forest.

Getting out of the office proved more interesting. The attempt to get the environmentalists out the back door and into a waiting FS van was nearly thwarted as the District Ranger, who was about to take the three on a tour, fumbled for the keys to the truck, the loggers came racing around the building, and the FS cops, who were supposedly there to protect the environmentalists, stood on the sidelines videotaping them instead, as an increasingly hostile verbal exchange ensued between the timber beasts and the "tree-fags." At last the keys were found, the arrival of the media prevented the loggers from reaching a consensus to overturn the van, and the gang of three were off on their tour. AB!, having found an arrest-free way of shutting down logging operations forest-wide for at least half a day, is sure to be back in Warren for another party, though next time Andrew says he's going to bring a chainsaw.

November 20, 1990

Rager Mountain, lying on Laurel Ridge just north of Johnstown in central PA, represents one of the last relatively intact tracts of woodlands in central Pennsylvania. For the past year and a half the Committee to Preserve Rager Mountain and a number of PA EF!ers have stood in the path of Bethlehem Steel, Lyme Timber and MB Energy, who have joined together in an unholy alliance that seeks to stripmine the east face of Rager Mountain.

To date, the opposition to this

project has involved forcing the state Department of Environmental Resources, Bureau of Mines and Reclamation (sic!) to adhere to the letter of the law in handling the application to strip the mountain, and preparing and submitting a counter application to have the 10,000+ acre east face, including the entire Laurel, Red and Wildcat Runs watersheds declared unsuitable for stripmining. Since the CPRM petition was first filed, it must be dealt with before any action can be taken on the application to strip the mountain.

The DER produced a "technical study" of the CPRM petition which glossed over countless well-documented factors, any one of which ought to be sufficient under the law to keep the strip miners off the mountain forever. A public hearing regarding the CPRM petition was held on November 20th, and it went as well as can be expected considering that the DER and stripminers are actively conspiring to defuse public opposition to the project and proceed with the mining as soon as possible.

This is an alert to any and all who are able to get to PA on fairly short notice. We expect that only part of the mountain will be declared unsuitable for strip mining. The rest will be put up for grabs, permits will be applied for and granted rapidly and piece by piece, forcing numerous separate legal appeals, and the strip miners will try to start work as soon as permission is given and before appeals are filed, and will try to continue work between court decisions. We are confident we can beat them in court, and in the process get the DER out of the strip mine regulating business once and for all, but we expect to have put our bodies on the line to keep irreparable harm from being done to the mountain. Now is the time to get on the phone tree to be informed when the shit hits the fan.

Opposition to the proposed strip mine has not only given the mountain and its inhabitants a new lease on life (including the endangered Eastern Woodrat) but has also provided the inspiration for the creation of numerous groups which are now actively opposing strip mines, landfills, resorts and other atrocities in the region. For more info or to sign on, call Mike at 814-535-2278, or Joe at 412-531-7705.

As a final note, 8,100 acres of Rager's east face is owned by Lyme Timber, who, together with an assortment of sub-contractors, have been mucking up much of the mountain in their quest for large oaks. They continue to do so, but not without some significant opposition. In the past year approximately \$100,000 worth of logging equipment has met an untimely end on Rager Mountain. Pity, no?

In between these two dates I had the pleasure (?) of attending the EF! activists conference in Boulder, CO. To editorialize briefly, if you want to "drop out" of EF! out of a sense of personal loyalty to certain

former EF!ers, that seems to be a perfectly valid reason for doing so. If, on the other hand, you want to do so because you believe EF! has become something that can be dominated and led, and that it is being led down an anthropocentric and compromising path, that EF! no longer represents the cutting edge and last line of environmental defense, then I am afraid that you are mistaken, are deceiving yourself, or have been deceived. EF! is EF!ers, and a recent hard look at a cross-section of the movement has this activist convinced that reports of the death of EF! are premature.



Ecotrans - Collective & Individual Action

BY LISA HENRY

What's neon orange, takes long coffee breaks, shovels gravel from one place to another, and mercilessly stops logging trucks on highways and backroads across Mendocino County? If you guessed Caltrans — those earth raping road crews who have been ravaging the mountains, streams and soil of Northern California on a never-ending quest to put a four-lane freeway all the way to Oregon — look again. The familiar clenched fist logo on the back of the bright orange vest is the giveaway. It's Ecotrans, the EF!/IWW sponsored direct action wing of Caltrans, fighting valiantly to keep the trees up and the logging equipment down.

Ecotrans' first mobilization was the day before election day, and we managed to shut down all operations for the day at a logging site near Willits, where a fellerbuncher was pulling out an amazing million board feet of timber per day, 24 hours a day, 6 days a week. The action began at 7am as the 23-person Ecotrans crew converged on the logging road and immediately unpacked shovels, picks, lunch boxes, coffee cups, "loose gravel" signs and walkie talkies, and drove a truck full of gravel down to the logging road. The Ecotransvestites got busy filling potholes, taking coffee breaks, leaning on their shovels or wandering about aimlessly. They worked cheerfully but nervously for the first half hour. So far no logging trucks had shown up, unusual for a site halfway between a highway and a fellerbuncher.

Finally, five empty trucks drove past on their way to the logging site, but stopped in a bunch to talk to each other nearby. I was afraid they were planning a little "direct action" on us involving shovels and Ecotransers' heads, but we learned from listening to their conversation over a CB just what was going on. "Someone" had entered the logging site the night before and placed notes on all the equipment, including the 'buncher, warning drivers to check all their engine fluids for dubious additives. Although no fluids were actually spiked, the logging crews would have to spend the entire day draining and replacing engine fluids, so all logging was called off for the day.

The empty logging trucks turned around to go back to the highway, only to meet up with the Ecotrans crew in their vests, hardhats and boots, industriously filling up potholes with gravel while another group just as busily removed all the gravel that had been shoveled into the potholes.

Another group from Ecotrans went up to the truck drivers and offered them coffee and donuts. One curious truck driver asked Anne Marie who she was and when she replied, "Ecotrans," he asked why Caltrans wasn't there. "They can't — there aren't any more workers at Caltrans," she replied. "Why?" asked the confused trucker. "Because Caltrans found out how to make shovels stand up by themselves." The trucker erupted in laughter.

After conversing in a mob with several of the truckers about the usual topics — overcutting, sustainable forestry, corporate greed, saving timberworker jobs, "ecoterrorism" — the trucks were allowed to pass by an Ecotranser who flipped a slightly altered Caltrans sign from "STOP clearcutting" to "SLOW the overcut."

Although this action succeeded in shutting down logging for the day with no arrests, and we sure had fun doing it, many of us had bad feelings about the tactic of placing phony notes warning of supposed sabotage on logging equipment. This tactic was also used at the Sequoia action during Redwood Summer. One member of our Ecotrans crew was a long-time logger turned eco-warrior, and he told me about the disposal system for engine fluids used by many logging crews. "They just dump it on the ground, put a little dirt over it, and nobody knows the difference." In the case of the fellerbuncher this means 250 gallons of diesel and 250 gallons of oil — a heavy price for the forest to pay for a one-day shut down.

The decision to place the note on the logging equipment was made by one individual, without the knowledge of the Ecotrans demonstrators. This person did not take into account the danger in which his actions placed the demonstrators. Steve Okerstrom, owner of the logging equipment, is one of the meanest gyppo's in the pirhana-stocked backwaters of Mendocino County. He has a particular grudge against Earth First! because three of his fellerbunchers have mysteriously burned in the woods, albeit with no help from us, and because we successfully climbed his prize fellerbuncher at the Redwood Region Logging Show last spring. Last summer Okerstrom advised his loggers to carry arms against our non-violent demonstrators. We made it through this demo okay because of our ability to get along with the truckers (the cuteness factor). But Steve Okerstrom's angry appearance at our action later in the day sent chills down the spine of those who knows what he is capable of doing.

Of lesser concern, but still worth noting, is the fact that his individual action prevented the 23 Ecotransers from being able to block the logging operation as they had planned. The sab job didn't shut down operations for much longer than the blockade would have. But it deprived the group of the satisfaction of doing what they came there to do.

There are two lessons I would draw from this. One is not to mix individual monkeywrenching with group actions unless the group agrees to it. The Ecotransers took a calculated risk blocking Okerstrom's logging operation, and that risk did not include incurring his wrath for a same-day sab job. Take whatever individual risks you want in the woods at night, but don't attach your action to an unsuspecting group.

The second suggestion I would make is to abandon the tactic of false notes altogether, or at least use it very rarely. If you are going to stir up a hornet's nest like Okerstrom (and there are lots more just like him out there), you had better do something effective. It's easy to glory in the short-term sense of individual power this type of monkeywrenching may bring. But the long-term health of the forest and movement would be better served by acting collectively at public actions and thinking strategically in individual ones.

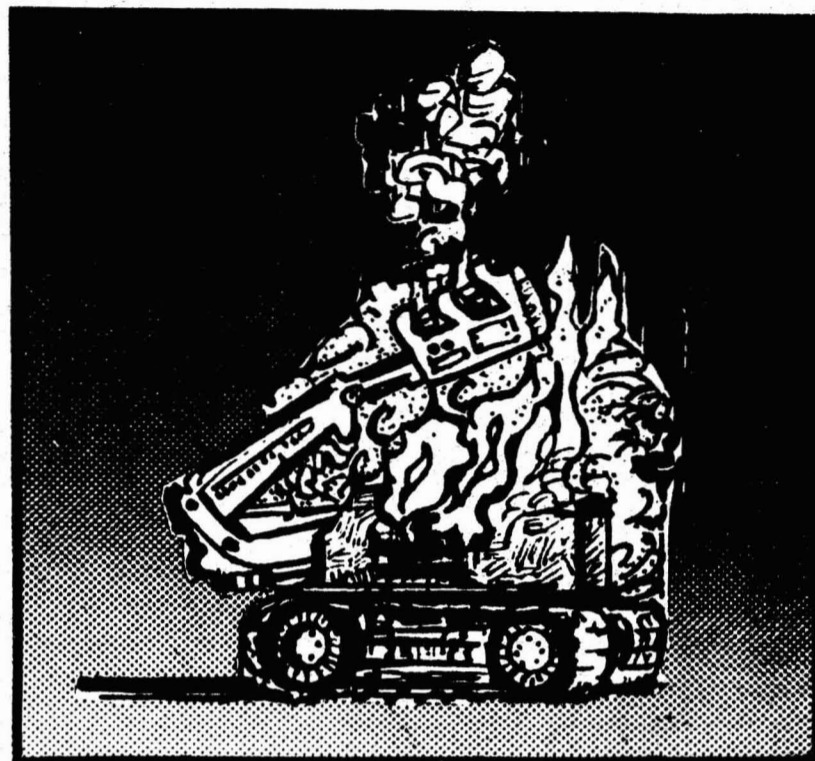
Fellerbuncher Flambeau

A third \$700,000 Okerstrom fellerbuncher — the Pinto of logging equipment last seen ripping out baby redwoods near Daughtery Creek — went up in flames in December, apparently of its own volition.

This third mechanical self-immolation will most likely be recorded as an "Act of God," as were the last two fire-damaged Okerstrom fellerbunchers, proving that God is indeed on our side.

Asked if He had intervened in human affairs to torch this pricey piece of logging equipment, God replied "Of course it was an Act of God. Okerstrom isn't insured for equipment damage."

—ECOTOPIA EARTH FIRST!



Headwaters Saved!

The voice of Gaia rang loud and clear at the Board of Forestry circus in Sacramento, CA, on Jan 9th. Two timber Harvest Plans for Headwaters Forest, the LAST REDWOOD WILDERNESS, were denied in a hard-fought battle which pitted Ecocide, Inc. (Pacific Lumber Co.) against seriously wounded Mother Nature. Although Mother Nature could not make it personally due to injuries received from overconstruction of roads and buildings, she sent an abundance of messengers to convey her words. In the end some of her words even began to trickle out of the mouths of the once-zomboid Board members, as statements such as "I think the issue is whether or not to save the Forest [rather than the Marbled Murrelet or private property "rights"]," and "I think we should save it" filled the air. Of course it took most of the day to permeate the corporate loyalty of the clowns who ran the circus, especially after the ill-fated attempt by PL's lawyer to pick apart the law until it fit PL's argument for destruction. But once the legal spewage was thrown around enough to realize that it was unlikely that a valid lawsuit could be filed by PL, the Board decided once again to deny these Plans.

Although only two Plans that consisted of 600 acres of the 3,000 acre grove were denied at the time, it is highly unlikely that any other plans in the grove will be considered for approval because of adverse cumulative impacts. In order to avoid the destruction of the Ancient Redwood Ecosystem, EF! proposed that the Headwaters Wilderness Complex be implemented to preserve the biodiversity of this majestic forest. The Wilderness Complex is a proposal for a wilderness preserve of the Headwaters Forest and surrounding areas extending to the Pacific Ocean, covering approximately 90 - 100,000 acres of PL and other land. Since the Board has yet to adopt a conservation approach (ha,ha), the Wilderness Complex will not be implemented, according to one Board member.

What is most likely to happen is that the state will purchase Headwaters with a grant and sell it to an interested conservation group. Of course putting the last Redwoods Wilderness in the hands of the government is a scary situation because land controlled by our "leaders" has a tendency to develop strange components: roads spring out of the soil, fences and picnic tables emerge, and parking lots with an overabundance of domesticated creatures become plentiful. In other words, Primeval Forests are transformed into parks. If this occurs, the biodiversity of Headwaters will be destroyed. Whether Headwaters becomes a Wilderness area or a park depends on the group that purchases it. One thing is for sure, however. Headwaters may be safe for now, but the struggle is far from over. Stay tuned.

—BRIAN WYATT

Corporate Fall: We Know Where They Live!

BY ECOTOPIA EARTH FIRST!

The idea of Corporate Fall was to bring the protests right to the posh offices and lavish homes of the people who are actually responsible for the slaughter of the planet. We would disrupt their habitat just like they disrupt the habitat of the marbled murrelet and pacific salamander. To quote Utah Phillips — "The earth is not dying, it's being killed. And the people who are killing it have names and addresses."

The Corporate Fall campaign began September 17 at a hastily called rally in Ukiah, right after L-P leveled Osprey Grove (see Nov. 90 *EF! Journal*). Fifty EF!ers showed up to demand "L-P out of Mendocino County!" and to serve notice on the corporados that the next time they saw us it would be closer to home.

EF! COMES TO HOUSTON

Corporate Fall surfaced next in Houston, Texas, September 27, when 150 demonstrators shouting "Stumps Suck!" invaded Maxxam's corporate headquarters. The crowd included a 10-foot tall walking redwood tree, several strange animals, and people carrying huge photos of Hurwitz with the caption "Today Trump, Tomorrow Hurwitz." Charles Hurwitz himself tried unsuccessfully to get a court injunction to stop the demo because Darryl Cherney was coming and he might strap a body bomb to himself and blow up the Maxxam building. Charlie was last seen cowering under his desk with his fingers in his ears.

HOT TUBBING AT HARRY'S

After moonscaping half of Mendocino County, busting the worker's union, shipping logs to Mexico, and murdering millworker Fortinado Reyes in the Ukiah mill, L-P president Harry Merlo was a prime target for Corporate Fall. So on Oct. 15, fifty EF!ers and IWW Local #1 members descended on Merlo's secret Shangri-La at 3400 Scaggs Spring Rd., just outside Healdsburg. When we found only a puppy there to greet us, we couldn't resist ambling down the long driveway to see how the rich and infamous live and play.

Harry's digs were modest, with tennis courts, stables, and a private lake. Inside the house, stuffed big game were tacked to walls, perched on furniture and used as rugs, glaring trophies of Merlo's war against the earth that includes animals as well as trees and people.

When Harry didn't show for lunch, we IWW-EF! luncheon guests made



Hot-Tubbing at Harry's: Oh What Fun!

ourselves at home, conducting ourselves with impeccable manners and good cheer for the 45 minutes it took for a ranch hand to summon the Law. Some picnicked on Harry's deck while others sunned themselves in his lounge chairs or soaked in his hot tub, singing "I'm just wild about Harry...." All the while inspirational Earth First! music blared from the world's biggest bullhorn, mounted on the roof of a tiny car, in the method used by US Army troops to flush out General Noriega from the Vatican Embassy in Panama last year. Banners were strung on Harry's gate, road, and hillside listing his corporate crimes and declaring "Merlo the Murderer" and "Harry Repent." As a more lasting reminder to Merlo, some of our more literate associates spray painted "Death to Corporate Greed" in Harry's driveway.

After at least an hour of such merrymaking a sheriff's helicopter finally



A Tree's-Eye View of a Fellerbuncher.

Preserve Appalachian Wilderness

EASTERN WILDERNESS NETWORK

Greetings Ecological Extremists, Wilderness Warriors, Forest Fanatics, Galan Guerrillas, Bio-regional Radicals, Feral Femynists, Nature Ninjas, Subversive Shamans, and mainstream reformers,

On Dec. 7-9, sixty grassroots wilderness activists from up and down the East, from Canada to Florida, from the mountains to the sea, gathered together at Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania to discuss the future of biocentric activism in the East.

For too long Eastern Deep Ecologists have been isolating themselves from each other and directing their attention westward for guidance. The problems inherent in this became increasingly apparent with the rise of factionalism within the Earth First! movement. As far as we here in the East were concerned, we couldn't give a hoot as to who got "The Name" (well, yeah, we were concerned with what we'd do with all our T-shirts, and with the fact that there weren't no way in hell we were gonna come up with a better name than EF!, but for the most part...), but we had work to do. It was time for the East to unite and become a major front in the Deep Ecological Movement. We may not have a great deal of political commonality with the West Coast, but we do with each other, and the question as to whether or not we were biocentric never even crossed our minds.

The PAW conference in Pennsylvania was a great success. There are an astounding number of cutting edge activists in the East doing some outstanding work.

Now that many of us have met and consolidated ideas, its time for us to move forward. Encouraged by the results of the PAW conference/round table, I have decided to forgo my appointment as co-editor of the New Earth First! Journal and stay here in the East, organizing Eastern activists full time (in addition to holding down a day job, I suppose). What I am hoping to establish is a network for Eastern Activists so that we can keep track of each other, keep in contact, share our resources and raise bucks.

In the next month I plan to produce the first *Preserve Appalachian Wilderness*. The newsletter will detail the work of Deep Ecologists throughout the East and direct the public towards groups in their area, as well as allowing us to share our knowledge with each other. The newsletter will give short summaries of issues and actions and tell readers where to go to get more involved (i.e. you) if they choose to do so, as well as having some larger articles on top priority issues such as James Bay, Big Virginia Wilderness, Preserving Southern Appalachian Ecosystems and the Northern Forest Land Studies, as well as an essay or two on deep ecology, poems, stories, cartoons, directories, Q&A columns, legal advice, articles on Conservation Biology, and the establishment of a PAW resource Library. PAW Advisory Committee:

John Davis, Dave Foreman, Jasper Carlton, Ned Mudd, Paul Watson, Benjamin White.

The newsletter and the establishment of a central network will also aid in raising funds for Eastern wilderness projects.

The American Public has become increasingly aware of the misuse of our nation's wildlands over the past few years. People throughout the East have a special place in their hearts for our remaining wildlands here. The time has come to inform them of the necessity of preserving what we have left and restoring what we have lost. The East is the new frontier! We will free the wild and then spread westward, reclaiming the land for its own evolutionary integrity! It's time we joined together and set the terms of the debate.

The PAW network will help us contact other activists, lawyers, and biologists who can provide assistance in your work. Its time to bridge the gap between conservation biologists and activists. No more silent voices in the labs and universities. No more uninformed activists in the streets, trees, logging roads, and planning meetings. We will also be working with Save America's Forests, a no compromise lobbying group in Washington DC. They will provide us with information about what's going on in DC so we can put pressure on our senators and congresspeople, and they will help out in teaching us how to be effective lobbyists in the ugly and oppressive bastion of corruption and evil known as our capitol.

The PAW network will establish non-profit status in the near future and direct overdue funds and resources to decentralized local groups from Canada to Florida and out to the shore, as well as keeping us in touch with each other and disseminating information. It doesn't cost anything for activists or groups to become members of the PAW network (although there will be a fee for armchair activists — time or money or both, depending on what your willing to give).

It doesn't matter if your group chooses to keep the EF! name or not, and we will in no way be disavowing our roots. It's still No Compromise in Defense of Mother Earth. Our work will continue to be decentralized and grass roots autonomous. The Network will be a ball of arrows pointing outward, not inward.

What I need from you is all the information you've got on past projects and successes, as well as your past and current newsletters, contacts, and information on current projects so that they can be included in the newsletter (send whatever you can on Mac disks if possible). Also send any ideas, suggestions and reactions AS SOON AS POSSIBLE! so we can get underway. THE TIME IS NOW! in fact, it is long overdue, and I'm sure y'all can use the \$\$ as bad as we can.

For All Things Wild,
Buck Young, Preserve Appalachian Wilderness, PO BOX 52A, Bondville, VT 05340

Lessons from Mt. Graham

BY ERIK RYBERG

Success

Deny it if you must, but Mt. Graham has lost a sizable portion of its relict spruce-fir habitat and EF! opposition to the cutting was ineffective. An Endangered Species, the Mt. Graham Red Squirrel has lost to telescope developers a significant piece of its critical habitat; a forest which has survived, barely, since the Pleistocene is now gone; roads have been built, foundations laid, articles written, and the end, it seems, is near.

Arizona's Mt. Graham, for those who don't know it already, is a sky-island ecosystem which rises over 10,000 feet above desert floor and which at its summit, contains botanical species common to British Columbia and the coast of Alaska. Its island biogeography — or biological isolation — makes it particularly ill-equipped to withstand violent disruption. Most agree that the large telescope complex planned for the area constitutes such a disruption, and most of us at AZEF! are deeply saddened by the clearing of trees that took place last October amid widespread opposition.

I however maintain that sadness is not the appropriate response either to telescope construction or to our failure to halt that con(de)struction. I prefer instead a sort of pragmatic, enraged confusion.

It confuses me that such a clear and obvious violation of the Endangered Species Act ever could occur. And it both confuses and disturbs me that after EF! had done so much, after we tried so many avenues, after we laid bare our entire bag of tricks, the cutting still took place. Direct Action received a debilitating blow on Mt. Graham, and this article comes from my belief that we need to be more honest with ourselves in recognizing and confronting our defeats in order not to repeat them.

Right now the mountain is snowed in, Red Squirrel vs. University of Arizona is in court, and it's a good time, I think, to reflect upon this long and significant campaign, to consider how we can avoid botching the next one. Some of us, close friends of mine among them, do not agree that this campaign was a failure; they point to the "energy" of the activists, the monumental odds, the likelihood that next year's actions will be even bigger. Perhaps so, but I have to think that they merely go to heroic lengths to avoid admitting defeat even as an entire mammalian population is extinguished. I have to dissent and to question if stronger "energy" and "bigger" demonstrations will ultimately put a stop to this and other projects. In short, I wonder if employing the strategies of 60s civil rights and anti-war protests is the most effective way to proceed. So, in the interests of reflection, allow me to offer this account of the last days of the spruce-fir forest which until October 2 occupied the tip of Mt. Graham, and you may draw your own conclusions.

Sometime toward the end of September the Mount Graham Preservation Camp received word that the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals had ruled that due to numerous procedural improprieties the entire Mt. Graham telescope project needed to be reviewed to determine its legality. The court set a December date for the review and ruled that construction on the mountain must cease until that review was concluded. We at the Mount Graham Preservation Camp quickly demonstrated our agreement with the court by getting outrageously drunk and practicing a wide variety of unspeakable and unruly acts.

But on Friday, September 28, after most of us had left the camp, the court mysteriously and suddenly reversed its decision prohibiting construction. The University of Arizona was thus legally permitted to continue construction despite the fact that such construction might irreversibly damage the Red Squirrel's critical habitat, a not very subtle violation of Section 1536(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act: "Each Federal Agency shall insure that any action... is not likely to... result in the destruction or adverse



TREE-CONTEMPLATING SELF-DEFENSE

Are There Any Radicals near Chicago?

modification of habitat [of the species in question]."

Shortly after this new decision we learned that the U of A would have cutting crews on the mountain no later than the next Tuesday, October 2. People began to arrive on the mountain, with more alcohol than ever, as was proper.

At the campfire that night, I commenced the lumbering task of working through my brain the question of why the U of A would take the trouble to haul a cutting crew all the way up Mt. Graham just to hack to death an 11,000 year old ecosystem when a few months down the road they might have to abandon their entire project. Why, I pondered, was it so important to cut those trees down now, just as the first snows appeared, instead of saving trouble and possibly money by waiting to see if the court ruled in their favor?

It was only after many beers that it finally occurred to me we were not dealing with rational people here, we were dealing with a small minority of crazed fanatics hell-bent, bound and determined to impose their perverse vision of the future on an entire planet. Maybe even on other planets. These were radical astronomers, unhinged lunatics who would stop at nothing to achieve their criminal ends, freaks who had no mind for costs, no time for talk of balance. I jumped to my feet, shouted my revelation for all to hear, and other people around the subdued fire quietly nodded to me and said yes, this had occurred to them, too.

With a few heroic exceptions, the Mt. Graham campaign had been waged with propaganda, mostly directed at the uninitiated. Fliers were handed out to the tourists visiting the mountain, letters to editors were written, ingenious and theatrical demonstrations took place at the Smithsonian (a backer of the telescope project) and elsewhere. We tried to put discourse to work to slay the scopes, and Tucson EF! in particular did a brilliant job publicizing the project. But the night of October 1st, the facts remained: a big chunk of squirrel habitat was about to become a parking lot. Was the problem that not enough people had heard about the issue? Had we used the words or something?

One way or the other, alternatives to discourse were being discussed that night, I perceived.

Sure enough, morning revealed plugged culverts, jammed gates, pulled survey stakes, and "HABITAT" sprayed in gigantic letters across a section of mountain which had been blasted away to accommodate the road. Two activists were caught erecting a haphazard medicine wheel atop the mountain and were cited for trespassing.

These actions were all dismissed by the University as "juvenile hijinks." At the time, I preferred instead to call the actions "passionate gestures of contempt." It was simply too painful to think that we were losing sleep to commit the equivalent of hubcap theft in the face of a project which threatens a species extinction — but it did cross my mind.

That evening I made an illegal visit to the top of the mountain to survey it one final time before the workers came to remove its trees. On my way to the trail I passed a backhoe with four flat tires. A bit further on the road was a hole several feet deep running the entire width of the road. And roofing nails — hundreds of them — lay pointing straight into the air. Rebar road spikes protruded from puddles. Enormous barricades, one after the other, had been erected in the road, the last of which was so big it appeared to me to be made of uprooted oak trees, fifteen ton boulders, station wagons, pieces of the moon. It was a powerful and glorious thing to see, that jagged pile of rubble, a gigantic heap of opposition.

The events of the following days — the arrests, the work delays — have already been documented (EF! Journal, Nov, 1990). But I wonder if this sequence of events has properly been pondered, if it has been adequately been considered just how pathetic and futile our efforts have been. It took just three hours for the crew to dismantle and pass the barricades, spikes, and locked activists, and the forest was felled soon after. The eight people who were arrested were each convicted and given \$700 fines despite eloquent and supremely competent representation by a lawyer who volunteered his time.

These activists faced a court in which the cops lied on the stand, in which the prosecuting attorney's closing remarks contained abundant inaccuracies regarding defendants' testimony, in which the judge did not even bother to pretend she was considering the merits of the case before issuing her sentence.

The convictions wrapped up a chapter — not the last chapter, certainly — of the Mt. Graham campaign. Our attempt to preserve the forest atop Mt. Graham was a resounding, conclusive, terrifying failure.

It is despairing to confront the fact that our best and most deliberate, committed efforts can become only fruitless, expensive gestures. But the prevailing response, which is to celebrate "work slowdowns," to predict widespread future success based on present failure, to contemplate joyfully the "education" our actions give those in power, to congratulate ourselves for our courage and the strength of our convictions, I believe that all of these are acts of self-deception.

We too often, I think, over-dramatize our sacrifices (arrest, for instance), and we overestimate the power of "energy" or "spirit" or "truth," or some other imaginary entity. To do this is willfully to deceive ourselves, to cloud our vision, and possibly to blind ourselves to some of our options. We need finally to recognize that there are already mechanisms in place which will see to it that our moral indignation and righteous civil disobedience will be impotent. I suggest (and it is a humble, self-conscious, nervous sort of suggestion) that we commit to reflect and to confront in a deep and thoughtful way where we are and what, precisely, we can do.

If "yes," then the earth needs YOU! Two of your "neighbors" want to create a mega-ski resort in prime griz habitat in the South San Juans. In the southwest corner of Colorado, the East Fork valley is slated to be forever changed by the "need" for another mammoth ski resort.

Who are the villains in this project? Well, of course, the US Forest Service. The applicant for the permit is East Fork Joint Venture, which is owned two-thirds by Dan McCarthy and one-third by the Balcor Company (a subsidiary of Shearson-Lehman Hutton, which is a subsidiary of American Express).

What can you do? USE YOUR IMAGINATION! McCarthy is located at 9933 Lawler Avenue in Skokie, IL (zip: 60077). His phone is

708-673-1171. Balcor's headquarters are located at 4849 Golf Road in Skokie (same zip). The president of Balcor, Thomas E. Meador, has a phone number of 708-676-6929.

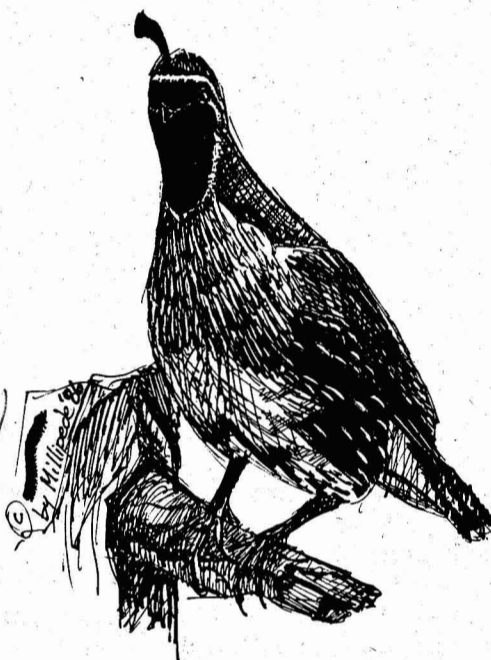
At last report, Balcor is looking for a second round of investors to help fund the required wildlife studies. If you can get a copy of the Prospectus, send it to us! Balcor has been famous for misstatements and lies.

Another idea: McCarthy was recently in court. He had to appear in the 1st District Illinois Appeals Court on 12/19/89. The case is called Jutta B. Stone v. Daniel F. McCarthy. Get a copy of the judgement.

Don't feel frustrated in your efforts to help if you don't live near Chicago... perhaps you know someone who does! There's always the opportunity to contact any Shearson-Lehman Hutton and/or American Express office to encourage the corporation to "do the right thing": purchase full interest in East Fork Joint Venture and begin native species restoration in the East Fork valley.

Send news of any "dirt" you dig up, any actions you do, any ideas that you have, etc, to us. We appreciate \$\$\$ for the legal defense fund, too (the AMEX 17 were arrested inside a Colorado American Express office building in November... all but three still face charges). Write us for more info, etc. Be careful out there!

—Colorado EF!, Box 1166, Boulder, CO 80306



Rattlesnake Roundup



A peculiar ritual has taken root in some Texas towns over the last forty or fifty years, and now it rolls around every spring along with the wind and the dust. It's called the Rattlesnake Roundup, a kind of circus where wild rattlesnakes are gassed out of their dens, teased and manhandled, skinned and eaten, all for the amusement of the paying spectator. Rattlesnakes have been vilified in Texas folklore for so long that rattlesnake abuse has become a cherished tradition, ranking perhaps just behind driving a pickup on the list of "Texas Things To Do." Nothing beats killing a rattler to make a fellow feel like he's accomplished something special, and if you kill a whole bunch of them at once, and eat 'em and wear 'em and make money on it too, so much the better. Rattlesnakes seem to personify everything in nature that is frightening and dangerous, yet in mankind's relentless battle against the wilderness they are an enemy well defined and easy to destroy. The rattlesnake roundups are a symbol, or a symptom perhaps, of our deteriorating relationship with the natural world.

Texas collects the most rattlesnakes, and Sweetwater is Texas' largest roundup, so the Sweetwater roundup is the most logical one to try to shut down. In 1989 and 1990, about 8 folks showed up to protest.

That's not enough to make the media sit up and take notice.

We can shut the rattlesnake roundups down if enough people come out to Sweetwater next year to protest. Enough protesters will get the kind of publicity needed to convince the Texas Parks and Wildlife and Texas Legislature to impose some regulations concerning the collection of these reptiles.

I am organizing the third annual Rattlesnake Roundup protest in Sweetwater and, with your help, it could be a decisive year for the future of Diamondback Rattlesnakes, and other animals that live in holes in the ground, here in Texas. I urge everyone to please come to Sweetwater on Saturday, March 9, 1991, and Sunday too, if possible, to help stop this barbaric practice. I offer free primitive camping in the hill country south of Sweetwater, camaraderie with like-minded people, and a chance to make a real difference in the way Texas treats its wildlife resources. Please contact me with your plans to attend: Bob Sears, Rt. 2 Box 42, Wingate, Texas, 79566 (915) 743-2531

Phone calls or letters of protest should be sent to: Texas Parks and Wildlife, 4200 Smith School Rd., Austin, Texas 78744 (512) 389-4800 Attn: Catrina Martin.

—ROBERT SEARS

SAN FRANCISCO RIVER

After five days behind bars
I am back on sacred soil,
with those piñon-terraced patios
edging away like wild rice patties
escaped from some Eastern painting,
and grown and twisted and engreened.
Yes, and the little river that cannot make up its mind,
having none, or perhaps having a body that is all mind...
I do not know...

There were those constant lights and vile smells,
men reeking of civilization.
There was the paved basketball court,
with stars caught behind steel, more distant than dreams.
There were dreams that I choked down like bitter coffee.

And this morning to be woken by wild turkeys!
To see a coyote running down the river.
To know that beyond sight
the mesas unfold further into this land
that is deeper than desire, and more satisfying.
To know that I am alive.

Swivelling into darkness,
this river day flowing through late November...
Cliffs I will not climb,
and prickly pear that will ripen tomorrow, when I am gone.
The owl that makes no sound as she passes by...

To be so tired in the legs and the chest.

To walk on this shore, one body in this infinite life...
To live deep in this giant breath, exhaling out the millennia...
To be here alone, barely noticed, never forgotten.

—MICHAEL ROBINSON

A Call to Action

Because they own a 1/3 interest in the Development of the East Fork of the San Juan River in Colorado; because that ground is sacred; because that ground is a roosting site of the pregrine falcon, and a proposed site for the reintroduction of the wolf and the grizzly; because they held 17 environmental educators hostage to a double felony charge in the Denver jail, and just because:

PLEASE CALL AMERICAN EXPRESS 1-800-528-4800

*and talk to them about environmental destruction
militant unionism
boycott
and anything else you see fit.*

I say: what are you gonna breathe, drink, eat when it's all dollar\$?

...for the ones outside

BY ROBIN LOCKSLEY

The arrest of seventeen activists at the American Express offices in Denver marks a new relationship of our movement with the law. Many of these activists were among our most experienced, comfortable in precarious situations. Yet they were all unprepared for the arrests, which came without warning and without "due cause." Most arrests are probably like that, after all, but it is new to the movement as a whole. It takes you off guard.

We have always been prepared for arrest only in specific cases, where we deliberately break laws and are open and public about it. We have not been prepared for the general possibility. Sudden arrests often come, when they do, during obviously illegal behavior. We have been set up for such arrests, and the Arizona 5 are now facing charges arising out of FBI entrapment. But as we are vulnerable to being set up, so too are we

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vulnerable to being arrested without cause. This is a common experience among serious resistance groups, and the Amex 17 case shows that the authorities do consider us that now, and we had best prepare ourselves for the consequences.

It is important that we understand the function of the law and the police. We are told as we grow up that the police are there to enforce the law. But the police are really more fundamental, and the law details only some of their responsibilities. The police system enforces both the written letter of the law and the "spirit" behind it, which we call the dominant paradigm. Police are the armed guards of mercantile economy and the ideology of power. When they protect us from loggers and other adversaries, it is only to protect the interests of those in power. They have no innate concern for us, and it is both foolish and dangerous to expect police protec-

tion, as activists in the Adirondacks and the redwoods should have recently learned. We should rather expect their aggression. In deliberately opposing ourselves to the dominant economy and ideology, and announcing it, we declare ourselves enemies of the police. By our daily lives we violate the spirit of the law, if not always its letter, and we should not be surprised when we are arrested out of the blue.

Yet we are. It seems outrageous to us, because, even understanding intellectually that the basic purpose of law is to justify and secure plunder, we still have an ingrained belief in justice. Justice in Euro-American culture is all about the "equitable" division of wealth (taken from the earth) and human rights (over the earth); it is the lubricant of the humanist machine. It is no contradiction that the Justice Department is the branch of the government

continued on next page

Can Jail be Funny?

BY MIKE STABLER

I was one of the five women and twelve men arrested for allegedly handing out flyers, talking with employees, etc...! ...at the American Express office in south Denver. We wanted the employees to be aware that their company was determined to destroy a vital part of the South San Juan bioregion by building a mega-ski resort. Felony charges were too good for us....

One of the first things that happened after our arrest was going through a medical screening. My holding cell was right next to the nurse's station, so I could faintly hear my fellow alleged felons getting interviewed. I only listened during THE DRUG QUESTIONS. They went like this:

Nurse: "Do you use street drugs?"

EF'er: "No." (although one guy did say "No [snicker]")

Nurse: "Do you use alcohol?"

"Sure."

"What type?" . . . (And what did every Earth First!er answer???)

"Beer!!"

Nurse: "When was the last time that you used 'Beer'?"

"Oh. . . I don't know. . . what time is it?"

They also asked about our religion. Because I wanted good food, I said that I was a Kosher Hindu. It didn't work. The food was horrible, which made our protest fast much easier. I haven't fasted before, so maybe you can answer a few questions for me. Like, do you have to brush your teeth during a fast? And why do they call it a fast when it lasts *so long*?!? When I got out of jail and broke my fast, what do you think I ate? . . . FAST food...it's full of empty calories...(ba-dump-bump).

Part of the jail process was getting rid of my smelly old clothes and getting a lovely prison ensemble. It was all orange — for felons — with darling plastic sandals. I found out that a red outfit is the only more severe color — it's for murderers. But when I first asked what the difference was between the orange and the red outfits, a witty guard answered "Oh, about 10 to 20...." "Haw, haw, haw, that's a good one, Boss!!," I exclaimed.

While in prison — which the cops refer to as "the housing unit" — part of my attitude was to try and do some consciousness-raising among the other prisoners. Not only did I talk about Earth First! and radical environmentalism.... I also brought up feminism.

For instance, we were watching "Donahue" on TV when a commercial came on for "New and Improved All Tempa-Cheer." I said how stupid the commercial was, showing only women with orgasmic expressions washing clothes. A guy next to me indignantly said, "Well, I don't wash no clothes!" I tugged on his shirt and said "That's because you've got someone here to do it for you!"

When any of the other prisoners found out why we were arrested, the conversation usually went like this: "You got arrested for *what*?!?! Handin' out flyers?!?! That ain't no *felony* — let me tell you what a *felony* is..." and they proceeded to tell rather interesting stories.... They'd also give advice, like, "The next time you get arrested for second-degree burglary, at least steal somethin'!"

Jail is not all laughs, though. The judge pointed this out when he accidentally said that one of us was charged with "trespass, disorderly conduct, and the destruction of a police officer." After the laughs died down, he turned to us and strongly stated that he did not mean to reduce the seriousness of the matter.

And it is serious. You say "jail," and you say concrete and locked doors. You say "felony," and you say "a long time..." for trying to stop the heart from being ripped out of the San Juans.

Please continue to be supportive!!! Not only do we need it — so does East Fork — and so does the Earth. Earth First!

Donations can be sent to Colorado EF! POB 1166, Boulder, CO 80306.

that wages war most openly (that is, with guns and truncheons, not just economic sanctions) on its enemies. It's enemies are those who do not live wholly under the yoke of the dominant paradigm, subjugating their physical, emotional and intellectual life to the labor of transforming the earth into commodity, profit and waste. (The intellectual life is the least important and the system will readily tolerate those who oppose it intellectually but support it physically and emotionally.) Its enemies are all those who do not live like whites, and upon them it levies the force of its daily violence and the oppression of its prisons.

The arrests in Denver have created in those who still believe in Justice a sense of outrage, and in others of us a shock of horror. The shock comes from the rude awakening from our dream of justice and from our unpreparedness. The horror of prisons, which is their greatest power, comes from the recognition that arrest could happen to us at any time, as it happens to black men, for instance, and that the law will not protect us because we have chosen to oppose the basic tenets that underlie it, and so put ourselves beyond legality: outlaws.

That we have chosen enmity is remarkable among the enemies of the dominant paradigm. Most of those we will meet in jail, if we are so unfortunate as to fall deeper into the jaws of justice than a carefully planned civil disobedience holiday, never experienced a sense of choosing the "life of crime" that brought them there. Yet they are as much political prisoners as are we. They are imprisoned for their economic choices — theft (gathering) rather than toil, prostitution, scams— even if there were no alternatives; for the color of their skin; for their failure to resist commodities (drugs and alcohol); or for violence, especially if it is against the police or the ruling class. The machinery of dominance does not find criminals, it makes them, and then it submits them to its violence. Some people, a lot of people, are born into this. Their is little choice for them, and the little there is, by going straight and becoming a dirty shade of white, involves great destruction of cultural and psychic background. But for most of us white activists the choice is still wide open, and may be reconsidered in light of our growing understanding of what we are in for.

The weight of that choice is now painfully apparent. Many of us made it intellectually, and coming out of comfortable backgrounds, without a sense of what it entails. We are beginning to understand that in opposing the dominant paradigm we become a target of its power, which might be called wrath or hatred were it not so dispassionate. The police can, without too much effort or justification, arrest us at any time, making us criminals and subject to the terrible censure of the good citizenry. We may die in jails, probably ignominiously rather than gloriously, set up, vilified, maltreated. This is what the choice of fundamental resistance to tyranny, ecological and otherwise, implies.

It is understandable then why some people, confronted by the spectre of government goons, are mitigating their resistance and choosing not to oppose the basic paradigm of power but only certain phrases of its articulation. This is generally acceptable and should not land them in the dungeon, at least not for too long. But for others of us retreat no longer seems possible; the new glimpse of Power and the dangers it holds for us only affirm the necessity of opposing it absolutely, albeit with more caution. But how, how can we continue in face of the horror?

In part, by accepting it. Not condoning or affirming it but just acknowledging that it exists. Much of the horror comes from unsuccessfully struggling to deny that we are almost helplessly in the grip of an awful Power. Yet all that that Power can ultimately do is kill us. Once we are prepared for that then its squeeze is much less horrible or disabling; we are even in some sense, free of its grasp. Because once we accept the worst they can do to us, which is murder (and death is their horror, remember, not necessarily ours) whether by sudden violence, or, as they say, a thousand pinpricks, then anything short of it is likewise acceptable and as it loses its horror for us it loses its power for them. Because their power is not in the actual acts of violence

by which they abuse those in their prisons; it is in the horror of this by which they control everyone else. Prisons are not made for prisoners; they are made for those of us outside.

I knew this once. I did something hard and was prepared to die for it. When the cops came, I chatted with them and laughed and I didn't even hate them anymore, because they couldn't do anything to me. If I lived then I would live through however long in jail, three weeks, six months, years, and go on. It would be much more than if I died the next day, so it was alright. This stunned the cops; I don't think they had ever been so powerless, not because they couldn't grab me, but because they couldn't make me fear or hate them. I was free.

I am no longer, though now I can move about in the world more easily. It is harder to be constantly prepared for death when it seems so unlikely, when life goes daily on. It may require constant danger or daily meditation, like monks sleeping in their coffins. I have slipped back into an assumption that life and liberty belong to me. I dread the police car, which I know can take either one. And yet I don't quite believe it, don't quite really believe that I, me, could die in infamy or anonymity in a prison cell, or a weedy lot. I do not want to accept these possibilities, which is foolish, because I know they are real. So I am denying truth, and it wears and weakens me.

For us to go on strongly, in the face of the force of oppression that can be leveled against us, we will have to give up two possessions that have encumbered us and hampered our ability to fight the machine. These are life and liberty, we have to give them up as possessions, in recognition that they may be taken violently from us at any time. We can continue to travel with them as companions, companions we will fight to defend, but ones with whom we know we will part. We can thus allay the fear and horror of dispossession by which we are controlled, and our hands will be free to do the work they need to. It is likely our companions will stay with us just as long as they would have had they been possessions.

REVOLUTIONARY LETTER #49

Free the Arizona 5
 Free Katya Komisaruk
 Free seven million starving in Pakistan
 Free all political prisoners
 Free Leonard Peltier
 Free Soledad brothers
 Free Martin Sobel
 Free Sacco and Vanzetti
 Free Big Bill Haywood
 Free Sitting Bull
 Free Crazy Horse
 Free all political prisoners
 Free Billy the Kid
 Free Jesse James
 Free all political prisoners
 Free Nathan Hale
 Free Joan of Arc
 Free Galileo & Bruno & Eckhart
 Free Jesus Christ
 Free Socrates
 Free all political prisoners
 Free all political prisoners
 All prisoners are political prisoners
 Every pot smoker a political prisoner
 Every holdup man a political prisoner
 Every forger a political prisoner
 Every angry kid who smashed a window a political prisoner
 Every whore, pimp, murderer, a political prisoner
 Every pederast, dealer, drunk driver, burglar
 poacher, striker, strike breaker, rapist
 Polar Bear at San Francisco zoo, political prisoner
 Ancient wise turtle at Detroit Aquarium, political prisoner
 Flamingoes dying in Phoenix tourist park, political prisoners
 Otters in Tucson Desert Museum, political prisoners
 Elk in Wyoming grazing behind barbed wire, political prisoners
 Prairie dogs poisoned in New Mexico, war casualties
 (Mass grave of Wyoming gold eagles, a battlefield)
 Every kid in school a political prisoner
 Every lawyer in his cubicle a political prisoner
 Every doctor brainwashed by AMA a political prisoner

Why is it so hard to do this, why is it so hard to accept what we know and understand to be the way of the world? When I hear of some new environmental outrage I often say, "No, no really now," but I should hardly be surprised. Perhaps there is a fear that in recognizing and acknowledging what is going on we legitimize it (an idea we may learn from international politics). This only leads to the rather confused (and hence less powerful) tactic of opposing something that we don't admit is happening. So we don't really believe we can stop it (say, the permanent destruction of the redwoods, or the cutting of one Doug-fir grove) but can afterwards claim success for our work because we never quite articulate what was going on and so never admit how much we are losing.

I think that all our tactics and campaigns are useless unless we admit what's going on and connect them to it. What is going on is the systematic and irrevocable destruction of life, of the real world we live in and all we know, by the ideology and machinery which somehow hate it as their basic principal, and which are frantically set on its absolute destruction and are accelerating it as fast as they can. Environmental destruction necessitates the destruction or suppression of cultures — pools of life — that value anything besides limitless growth and human advance or that cannot keep up with their responsibility to consume ever more. Those we meet in prison are there for their failure, as we are for ours, to follow the rules of the game, which is the law. The paradigm of dominance is not merciful. It is now sending thousands of people to their deaths, as it does routinely, to protect resource depletion economy and adjust the balance of power among oppressors. So long as we continue to absolutely oppose the civilization of destruction we will be subject to its vengeance. If we accept this, understanding that our deaths are only what we are in fact working towards, and at the same time staying careful enough to keep going for a while, then we may yet be able to defeat it and give life a chance to continue. But it's going to be hard.

Every housewife a political prisoner
 Every teacher lying thru sad teeth a political prisoner
 Every indian on reservation a political prisoner
 Every black man a political prisoner
 Every faggot hiding in bar a political prisoner
 Every junkie shooting up in john a political prisoner
 Every woman a political prisoner
 Every woman a political prisoner
 You are political prisoner locked in tense body
 You are political prisoner locked in stiff mind
 You are political prisoner locked to your parents
 You are political prisoner locked to your past
 Free yourself
 Free yourself
 I am political prisoner locked in anger habit
 I am political prisoner locked in greed habit
 I am political prisoner locked in fear habit
 I am political prisoner locked in dull senses
 I am political prisoner locked in numb flesh
 Free me
 Free me
 Help to free me
 Free yourself
 Help to free me
 Free yourself
 Help to free me
 Free Jesse Helms
 Help to free me
 Free President Bush
 Free Manuel Lujan
 Free them
 Free yourself
 Free them
 Free yourself
 Free yourself
 Free them
 Free yourself
 Help to free me
 Free us
 DANCE

adapted with permission from Diane di Prima's Revolutionary Letters

Oil

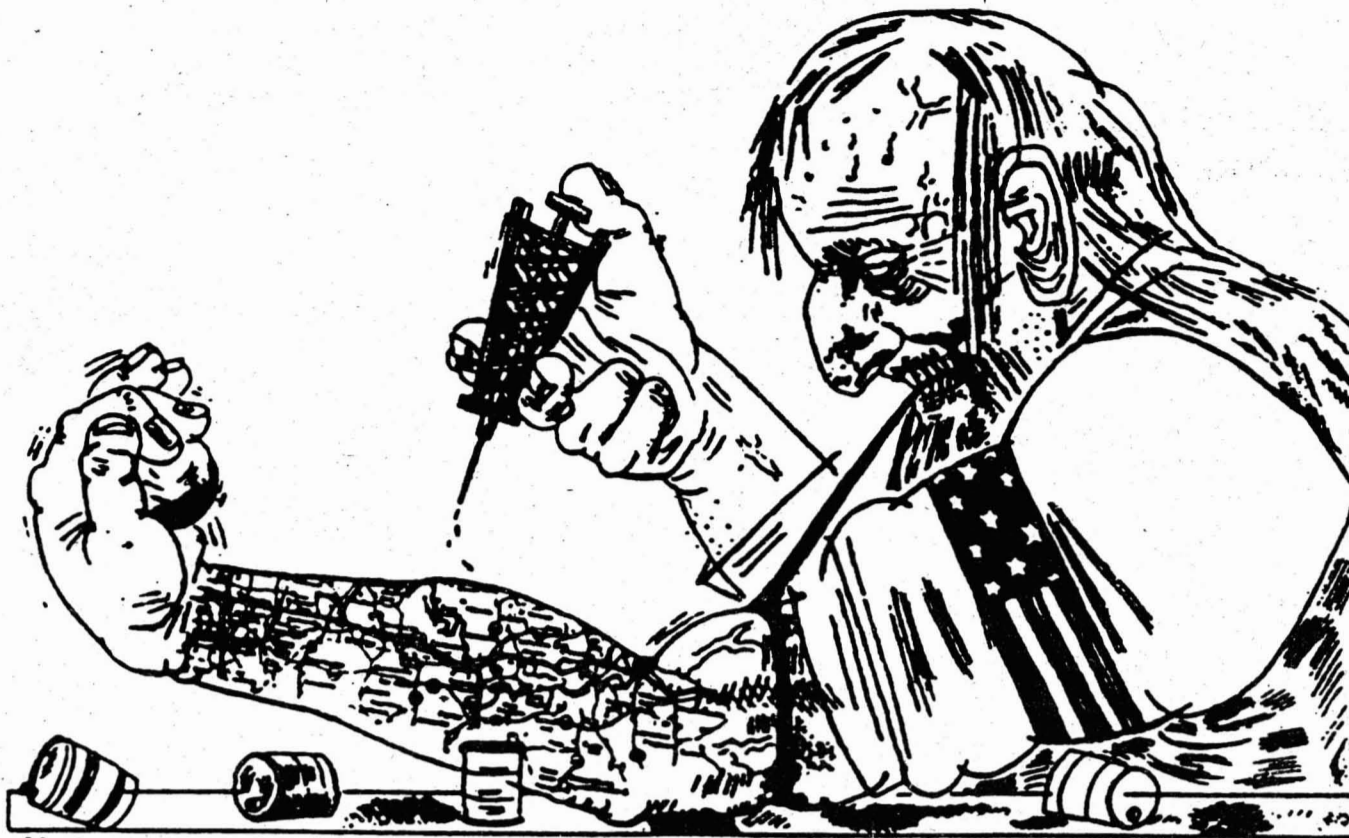
More Dead Otters...

The preliminary results of the US Fish and Wildlife study on otters rehabilitated after the Exxon Valdez oil spill are in. So far, 23 of the 45 sea otters implanted with radio transmitters following the Exxon Valdez oil spill have died. In all, over 1,000 otters were found dead after the oil spill and 357 were captured alive. 132 of the 357 died during treatment, 197 were released to the wild, and 28 were placed in aquariums such as Sea World in California.

In the controversial program, surviving sea otters were surgically implanted with radio transmitters to track their movements over the winter following the oil spill. The results bring increasing controversy to the practice of surgical intervention in animals already stressed by exposure to toxic crude oil, and the subsequent handling and cleaning procedures.

The sea otters of Prince William Sound have suffered enough from the effects of the oil spill. Everything possible needs to be done to study the effects with minimal impacts to the wildlife which bear the burden of recovering and surviving in the aftermath of human greed.

—Alaska Wildlife Alliance, Dec. '90



Martin Koziowski

The Bright Side of War

BY CABEZA DE VACA

Cynics, yeah. "Repugnant motherfuckers," maybe. So we're not surprised the US wants to wag its big weenie all over Iraq, bomb some stuff, generally wreak death and destruction. We know oil's been used as a strategic weapon for a long, long time... (detritivores, that's what we are! Sucking out the soul of dead things...)

Okay, so we're not all that surprised to hear that oil fields, torched and burning out of control, *may* cause global cooling, small-scale (?) nukeyalar winters, a shredded ozone, and acid rain from the carbon dioxide, smoke and toxins released.

But goddamnit, we're still shocked. Shaken right down to our bones, lying bleached in the tracks Gen. McArthur left in the Mojave. O.k., so these oil wells go kapoof all at once and no one can figure out how to put them out for a while... what else?

Waaaaal, you got this real fragile desert ecosystem all fucked up from half a million people scattering their sewage and solid waste hither and thither (a minimum of 10-12 million gallons of sewage a day, they say). Not to mention all them twenty-two-ton tankers toolin around, pulverizing annual and perennial plants vital to desert regeneration—even dormant annual seeds are likely to be pounded to death or else buried so deep they can't germinate when the rare desert rains arrive. Oh, and guess what? Well, these atmospheric science nerds studying the African Sahel and deserts in Rasjasthan, India have discovered that a combination of vegetation removal, surface disturbance and increased dust concentration in the atmosphere can disrupt the rainfall cycle and can tip the balance into—you guessed it—*irreversible* decline.

The deserts of north and north-eastern Saudi Arabia—already much

abused and degraded, according to one Saudi wildlife specialist—sustain a population of small mammals, including jackals, hares and sand cats, insects, reptiles and birds (Large mammals such as oryx and gazelles were hunted out years ago.). So much for them.

But along the Tigris River there's all these chemical warfare production plants, which of course empties into the Persian gulf. If any of the storage bunkers are hit, the fallout will kill just about every living thing in its path. We coulda guessed that. But did you know that there's a large network of marshes and wetlands at the rivermouth that are "absolutely crucial" to the international migration of birds between Africa and Europe? Yep, one to two million birds, representing 125 species, winter in the gulf, and another 113 species pass through it. Not to mention green turtles who nest primarily on the gulf's islands, dugongs (manatee-like mammals) who use the gulf as their extreme western range, and gobs of other species we know nothing about.

You know, the gulf is already incredibly stressed—it contains more oil than any other body of water in the world, they say. So chemicals released from the warfare production plants into the gulf will, they say, wipe out large populations of all these animals and others throughout the hemisphere.

Aaaaaarghhhhhhh! had enough? Well hold on buckaroos, there's more! Once all those wells and tankers and pipelines and shit are blown up, we get mo' massive die-offs. Joni Seagher of the Villiage Voice sez: the gulf is a shallow, virtually enclosed sea, with very slow circulation and water replacement rates. Prince William Sound has a flush-out cycle of approximately 28 days; the Persian gulf has a flush-out cycle more in the vicinity of 200 YEARS! How's that for graphic?

Alaska National Wildlife Refuge

continued from page 1

pletely rolled over dead. The House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee and the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, where new ANWR development bills will first appear, have changed since Exxon's boo-boo. More Democrats have been added to both panels, most of whom are on record as opposing drilling in the refuge or have backgrounds that suggest they will not support such activity.

"I'm not happy with the committee changes," said Senator Murkowski, bringing smiles to Alaska's environmentalists.

Meanwhile in Alaska, concern is rising over anew threat to ANWR and the Arctic Coastal Plain: too much interest. Over the last two seasons, concerned environmentalists in rubber rafts have outnumbered

oil executives in their jet helicopters visiting ANWR for a look at wilderness threatened with oil exploration.

The tundra of the far north is an exceedingly delicate ecosystem. Traces of man's presence last for decades, if not hundreds of years. Even the light footed environmentally aware have an impact on this country as they seek to save its pristine beauty.

It may be necessary to declare ANWR a no-technology zone, or even a no-non-Native zone in order to preserve its wilderness qualities. ANWR just may test our resolve to let the wilderness exist for its own right, whether or not we have the opportunity to experience physically its unique beauty.

Seein' Green

by PENTKOWSKI



WAR? THANK GOD! NOW PERHAPS WE CAN GET BACK TO BUSINESS!

Kills

...Loons, Eiders, Cormorants, Sea Lions, Murrelets, Deer, Mink, Scoters...

The US Fish and Wildlife Service, in pursuit of the federal government's claim against Exxon Corp., has been killing seabirds, dunking them in oil, throwing them out to sea, and then radio-tracking them to see where they end up. This "study" is supposed to help the government develop a formula for determining how many individual animals died but weren't recovered as a result of The Big Spill in March 1989. Federal agencies paid private consultants \$600,000 to "collect" over 350 seabirds, including murrelets, scoters, auklets, cormorants, ancient murrelets and common eiders.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game is conducting two studies of its own: one to determine long-term effects of oil ingestion by wildlife, and another to determine hazards to people who might eat wildlife from the spill area. Since the Exxon Valdez spill, the state has so far killed 219 sea ducks, three mink, four river otters, 17 stellar sea lions (now listed as threatened under the ESA) 28 harbor seals, and 32 Sitka black-tailed deer for these

tests. They are prepared to "make further collections" if more information is needed.

Officials with both the federal and state agencies have been busy assuring the public that these studies are necessary for damage assessment in building their case against Exxon (!!!!!!!). Of course, we can't know the results of these studies as information regarding the case is being kept secret until trial. All we are told is that this time the dead and oiled wildlife is OK because it's government business, it's been approved by multiple departments and agencies, and besides, Exxon will pay.

So what about the thousands of dead birds and animals in the government's deep freeze? The argument against using Exxon-dead birds and animals is that they are, well, too dead. The frozen evidence has lost its buoyancy, making it impossible to track and find, and/or the tissue has decomposed too much to be of use.

—KIM BEHRENS, *Alaska Wildlife Alliance Newsletter*, Oct.-Dec. 90.



Swedish protestors stopping trucks. The banner says, "long-distance freight should go by train" (more or less).

Earth First! Challenges Interstate System

The cumulative impacts of the entire US Interstate System on natural diversity has never been adequately analyzed. A separate piecemeal environmental impact statement is usually prepared for each new section of the system. Rarely has there been any follow-up to determine the real impact of roadways and associated development activities on natural diversity.

To solve this problem the Earth First! Biodiversity Task Force has petitioned the US Dept. of Trans-

portation to prepare a comprehensive EIS to address the impact of the entire Interstate Highway System on all candidate and listed Threatened and Endangered species and their ecosystems. The EIS process must also include actions to prevent continuing or future harm, killing or harassment of these species, pursuant to the provisions of the Endangered Species Act. Cumulative impacts must be addressed as well. This one will probably end up in court. Stay tuned ecodefenders!

Die, Cars, Die! You Have No Future!

In Switzerland, pollution from cars led to the first resistance in the late seventies. People blocked streets and demanded a reduction in car traffic. Since then there have been protest demonstrations against cars in most cities. On the political level there have been attempts to ban the dirtiest cars, introduce catalyzers, close certain streets, reduce maximum speed, and to improve public transportation. But it is not enough.

Attacking the car has opened many possibilities for struggle, both individual and collective. In Zurich, groups calling themselves *Rust* or *Basta* slash tires, smash windshields, scratch car bodies, and firebomb car showrooms. Almost every week such incidents of sabotage are reported. Stickers showing a burning car and the slogan "Cars have no future" have appeared. Cars are burnt at demonstrations, not only to use them as barricades, but because they're cars. In 1988, there were demonstrations in many cities when smog situations became particularly serious. In Geneva, squads of angry demonstrators pulled car drivers out of their vehicles, gave them bus tickets and led them away. Does "habeas corpus" apply to people circulating in "civilian" armored vehicles or much more to those who have to live near busy streets? Whose freedom is more important?

The increasing refusal of cars has caused a unique phenomenon in the political sphere of Switzerland: for three years there has been a Swiss Car Party defending car traf-

fic. This party has one seat in the national parliament and gets from 5-10% of the vote in cities and cantons (states). It's one of the most successful parties of the last few years, only matched by the Greens who get a few per cent more. Actually, there is a symmetry between the gains of the car party and those

of the Greens. The program of the car party is right wing, its rhetoric fascist. Its president, Dreher, even proposed — jokingly(!) — to put all car haters against a wall and machine gun them. On other occasions, he proposed using flame throwers. The traditional right wing parties are a bit embarrassed,

mainly because the car party has led to a radicalization of the Right. The Right is also embarrassed because the car party reveals many secrets of the capitalist organization of life: that cars mean "freedom" (so much for this), that cars are "fascist" (and so can rightfully be attacked by any democrat without bad conscience), and that without the car the system must collapse (a good hint for us).

Since the car has become a political item in Switzerland, you can't just park it, drive it, or wash it any more as before. You are politically active in doing so. The car is an ideal enemy: it's everywhere, quite vulnerable, and visible. Individuals can contribute too the struggle on moonless nights, neighborhoods can block streets and get rid of planned (or actual) parking lots. The car is a big organizer against the system. No cars also mean: we want to put together the different aspects of life again. We don't want to self-deport ourselves twice or more per day to those places capitalist planners have assigned us to cars and computers, which are forms of self-isolation in the field of communications, are the vulnerable links, hinges, and connections of the parts of the system. In this function, these two technologies of oppression are destructive — be they less polluting than today and yielding 100 miles per gallon (as a French prototype does). —Cars and computers simply don't bring us together.

From: *Midnight Notes*.

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Pedal Power

BY UNLEASHED

The day the bombs began to fall on Iraq, protesters took to the streets, stopping traffic and impeding business-as-usual. Some protesters were fueled by simple outrage, by the desire to manifest opposition in any way at all. Many protesters, however, were in the street specifically to link the war directly to biodiversity's old nemesis: oil consumption.

The war in the Persian Gulf brings into focus the connection between imperialism, militarism, ecocide, and the prevailing American way of life. "This is a life-style war — kill your car" a banner proclaimed. In this light, driving becomes an act of aggression. And if driving is aggression, then walking and bicycling becomes subversive activism. The Pedal for Peace move-

ment is a living expression of this, arising simultaneously in communities across the US. Riders' bikes and backs display such messages as, "boycott oil," "pedal power," "get a clue — get a bike," "oil addiction kills all life," and the ubiquitous "No Blood for Oil."

Hard-core activists are in it for more than just a ride. Jenny Jones of Portland says, "When you drive a car you're sending someone to die just so you can stay lubed and gassed up." Conrad Mellish, aggressive bike and punk-rocker from St. Cloud, Minnesota, echoed Jones' sentiments, "War, ecological destruction, industrialism and oil addiction, that's part of the syndrome called 'old world disorder.' The true new world order arrives on a bike."

Sab the Bastards!

BY SKWATTER ROT

"BWAAAPPP!!!" The airhorn blast filled Jackass Canyon for 30 seconds, bouncing noisily off the ridges, before dying in the flat. Two out of shape California Department of Fish & Game (CDFG) wardens protecting the hunter, got out of their trucks, in a surprise move, and gave chase to the two saboteurs for one half an hour before turning back out of breath. Meanwhile, a lifeless, barely legal (3/4 horn curl being legal) desert bighorn ram was dragged through the dust by a butt-ugly, scum trophy hunter, the blood of a sloppy, two shot kill staining the desert floor.

HUNT SABOTAGE

Our motto is "Sab the bastards!" and the basic premise is to sabotage and prevent a hunter's kill with a variety of tactics, evade capture, and make it back to camp to enjoy a beer, a great dinner, and do it all over again the next day.

Hunt sabotage is pure back country action; grueling, frustrating, and empowering all at once. We don't spend long hours joking with the press. We don't march in circles with picket signs. Our action is for the animals and their habitat. It's very simple.

Since the California-based Hunt Saboteurs approached its first hunt sab four years ago in the Mojave Desert, it has evolved into a highly competitive turf war that is a metaphor for the battle to protect the Earth. In the field, we are outgunned, out-vehicled, out-financed, and out and out harassed by state and federal agencies, and by the hunters themselves. We're continually assaulted, shot at, imprisoned, detained, chased, and flipped off. The animals we protect, more often than not, die at the hands of a human with a high powered rifle - a most unnatural predator.

Then why the hell do we do it? Because, despite the tragedy and the intensity, we have a helluva lot of fun. The hunt sab community that has evolved over the past four years has only grown closer and stronger. We're a mishmash of political agendas, environmental concerns, and social backgrounds, yet everyone is comfortable working together. Our most important strength is the ability to work effectively under stress. Going into the field day after day on five hours of sleep would not be possible without good folks, good cooks, and god jokes. We've never claimed to be perfect, and we've sure got our problems, but we're only getting better at working them out.

Hell, we're proud of our close-knit community and if sometimes our enthusiasm over it rubs people the wrong way, too bad. Many of us believe (and what keeps many of us coming back year after year) that any real change affected on this planet is gonna come through community building (either that or mass suicide).

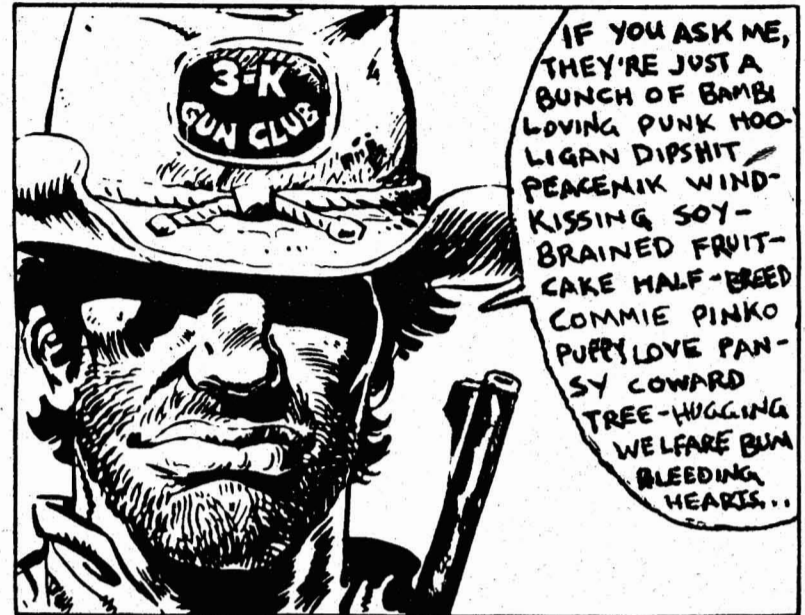
We also do it because it's training. Hunt sabotage is sustained, hardcore, back-country anarchist boot camp. Saboteurs hike in the dark, pre-dawn hours to cover large areas of rugged terrain, not to return till after the sun has set. The goal is to find hunters without detection, follow them, and sabotage a kill by our presence or by blowing airhorns. With each year, we have become better at tracking, evasion, escape, and intimidation. The wardens and rangers themselves admit we know the hunt areas better than they do.

And if those reasons aren't good enough, we do it because of the intimate relationship we have with the animals & area being protected.

BIGHORN SHEEP HUNT

The scene of the slaughter is the Old Dad Mtn., Kelso Peak, and Marble Mtn. ranges of the eastern Mojave Desert in southeastern California. The area is named for the Mojave Yucca (*Yucca schidigera*), an elevation-particular plant dotting the landscape with its stiff, spiked leaves that are a danger to all. The desert floor is home to Joshua Trees cholla, prickly pear, cat's claw, and a variety of other flora. The curious kangaroo rat often invaded

lectured, questioned, followed, warned, and ticketed (for raptor feather possession) by space aliens from Planet Badge. One saboteur was trapped by undercover BLM special agents and permanently ejected from the hunt area without being charged with a crime as he was attempting to pursue hunters that had a lengthy head start. That same day, the hunt area was declared a crime scene for a couple of hours and closed off to all because of the attempted sab described at



our camp at night in search of morsels of food. Jackrabbits to eagles, tarantulas to burros, all reside in the Mojave in addition to the Nelson desert bighorn sheep.

The Nelson bighorn, the smallest of the bighorns, now numbers 370 across the southwest and the hunt area is home to approximately 300. Fully protected except for two weeks in December, the bighorns inhabit the high ridges jutting from the desert floor.

The hunt was initiated four years ago under the guise of overpopulation, but, in reality, the high concentration of bighorn are the fault of mismanagement, a scarcity of mountain lions, and artificial water guzzlers (which act as wildlife magnets and offer popular places to hunt).

The main force behind the management of overpopulation is the Society for the Destruction of Bighorn Sheep and a compliant Bureau of Land Management. The Society is primarily responsible for setting up the guzzlers and giving the area the feel of a game preserve. In addition, they provide guides for hunters. This form of population control has had a tremendous effect on the elder population. We've watched the number of hunting tags drop from nine to five as the population of mature sheep has nose-dived under the dual pressures of some natural mountain lion predation along with the unnatural trophy kills.

Besides population control, another so-called reason for the hunt is fund raising. The first tag is auctioned off - this year the low life paid \$39,000. The first year it went for \$76,000. Every penny of that and more has gone into mismanagement and law enforcement. The hunt is absolutely unnecessary and heavily impacts a fragile habitat already overworked by ORVs and low flying air force jets (sheep were not intimidated by sabber's airhorns as a result).

This year's hunt sab was typified by heavy harassment from the CDFG and BLM. We were detained,

this article's beginning, while the real victim of the crime was carved up for a wall mount by state biologists.

This year was our most effective sabbing in the field as saboteurs found and followed hunters every day. During the first week of hunting only two bighorns died (one of them, happily, was a predator kill) despite numerous sabber vehicle problems and difficulties in locating one Marble Mtn. hunter. The hunt ended the second weekend as the last yahoos made their kills, some personally escorted by wildlife cops. We'll be back again next year.

TULE ELK HUNT

For the past two years in late October, Hunt Saboteurs have occupied Wilson Valley, home to a couple of hundred tule elk, once the primary ungulate species of California. Pre-gold rush populations topped 500,000 as the elk occupied the rich grazing lands and marshes of northern and central California before being wiped out in a slaughter reminiscent of that of the bison. Reduced to one breeding pair in the late 1800s, they were protected until 1989. The 2700 elk left are all cousins and perhaps the saddest result of tule elk hunts is the elimination of the healthiest animals. After starting it as a trophy hunt, the CDFG quickly patched its propaganda and made it a meat





hunt the next year.

The Wilson Valley region, cut by Cache Creek, is a healthy ecosystem of dense chaparral and oak woodland, containing a rich variety of wildlife. The elk, says CDFG, are overpopulating the small habitat they have been squeezed into, landlocked between ranchers and gun clubs after nearly 100% of their original habitat has been developed or stolen. The hunt itself, located near Clearlake, California, is spread over state, federal, and private land (a massive gun club holding) in an area too immense for 20 people to cover.

In spite of the area involved, we have seen the most success at Cache Creek, saving 8 out of 15 the first year. This fall's hunt had its difficulties, including the most intense harassment we have yet experienced. All the state land was declared closed for the duration of the hunt. With the CDFG shadowing our every move, our movement into the closed areas was greatly restricted, leaving only two BLM canyons as legal passageways to the most heavily hunted areas. In addition, we found few hunters as we scoured the entire area. We later determined that the CDFG had told hunters to stay away for the first two weeks. They then extending the hunt an extra week without announcing it to the public until after the hunt had begun.

This surprise move hit us hard and we were unable to sab the added last week because of taxed resources and a lack of bodies. Most of the elk kills happened after we left. CDFG's slimy tactics were a tribute to our effectiveness. We kicked their butt in the field the year before, so they changed the rules to take our advantage away. We'll see them again next year, too.

OTHER HUNTS

1990 was our most active year of hunt sabotage to date. In July several people travelled to Colorado to monitor and bring attention to a senseless slaughter of thousands of prairie dogs. Hunt Saboteurs tackled an October Cascade elk hunt in southern Oregon, receiving death threats and infuriating hunters to new levels.

In August, a Tule elk hunt of 30 animals trapped on a small marsh called Grizzly Island in the Sacramento Delta resulted in over 20 arrests. Using a motorboat and Zodiac, saboteurs snuck onto the island, declared off limits by the CDFG for the hunt, only to be chased down by late morning. The flat island, cut by canals, offered scant cover, and an excess of agents on ATVs and trucks caught most of the activists, while the six elk slated for death that weekend were mowed down in a matter of hours.

The 12 saboteurs charged with misdemeanor trespassing later received ridiculous sentences to dis-

courage any further activity in that county - fines and retribution of \$550, 60 hours community service, and three years county probation. The hunt continued the following four weekends without any active sabotage. We realized our ineffectiveness in terrain which hid neither saboteurs nor elk.

A weekend youth deer hunt in northern California during September was also besieged by problems when the hunt area was closed and largely inaccessible to saboteurs. Two people were arrested, while the kids shot everything that moved, maiming many more deer than they killed.

Standing out among these other hunts was our first attempt at the seasonal black bear hunt across much of California. We picked one weekend to try our luck and get a feel for the tactics we would need to employ in the future. That weekend provided a wealth of information as we went in unannounced and disguised as deer hunters.

The nature terrorists were out in force. Hundreds of the slob, almost exclusively deer hunters, were violating every hunting code, blasting away from their pickups and trashing the place with their beer cans. Thinking we were dog-loving deer hunters, one bear hunter smiled and chatted with us as we scented his dog's noses, but we have a long way to go with bear hunts - there are

thousands of miles of roads to cover.

Early in 1990 near the end of winter, a few Hunt Saboteurs travelled to Montana to join other Earth Firsters in stopping the slaughter of bison outside of Yellowstone Park. Unfortunately, we found ourselves under the money-laden banner of the Fund for Animals, but we were able to stop the kill at three.

This winter finds Hunt Saboteurs/Earth First! holed up outside West Yellowstone for the duration of the hunt, monitoring the herd closely and prepared to intervene, which seems imminent as bison migrate closer to the park's imaginary border (see bison article).

CONCLUSION

The name Hunt Saboteurs often seems to cause strong feelings to rise to the surface, but let's make something clear - Hunt Saboteurs are first and foremost for the liberation of the Earth and all its wild inhabitants. We fight hunts just as timber sales are fought. Some people seem over-ready to believe we are a macho-infested gathering of out of control hormones. We're not. What we are is a direct action oriented group of individuals strongly dedicated to the community we have struggled to build. We monkeywrench hunts.

We have made many mistakes over the past four years, but they have only made us stronger and more experienced. We know there are hunts we're not ready to approach for a variety of reasons, but the actions of Hunt Saboteurs and anti-hunting groups have sparked a nation-wide debate on hunting that goes considerably deeper than animal rights. We're up against the same wall, chipping away at the mortar the same as other protectors of the earth. We will occupy the killing fields until all the slob hunters are dead and buried. Remember: conserve hunters, shoot one today.)



Utah's Unfriendly Skies

Dixie Forest Supervisor Hugh Thompson announced in December that the Dixie has conducted an Environmental Assessment (EA) on the aerial hunting of coyotes by the Animal Damage Control (ADC). Thompson states that the purpose of the project is to reduce predation of domestic sheep when they are placed on the Dixie. SUWA has submitted a formal appeal, including a request for a cost benefit analysis. Their request for a stay has been granted while a decision on the EA is pending.

According to estimates by John Alcock, evolutionary biologist at the University of Arizona, expenditures by ADC average roughly \$215 to kill each coyote in Arizona. At the same time, lambs are valued at only \$85 per head (see "The Cost of Coyote Meat," *Wilderness* magazine, Spring, 1990). Because ADC's weapons are limited to less costly atrocities such as snares, traps and poisons, this dollar amount probably understates the per coyote cost using aerial gunning techniques. Thus, the economics of the Utah proposal are dubious at best.

Two groups have joined in the fun as interveners to the appeal: the Southern Utah/ Northern Arizona of Western Public Lands Users (boo) and the Sierra Club (yay). Being an intervener means you get thirty days from the date of your "intervention" to submit your comments. It also delays the Freddie's from making their decision - in this case, it lengthens the stay against hunting coyotes from the air. Kem Rait, issues coordinator for SUWA, feels that Dixie regional forester Stan Tixier is going to push through the decision more quickly than usual, since aerial hunting must be done in the winter, when little lobo may be easily tracked. Soon may be as soon as the end of January, so get your comments in NOW.

SUWA has requested that the Forest Service, instead of implementing aerial shooting of coyotes, move sheep grazing allotments away from areas of high predation and require closer supervision of herds by the permittees. The EA is available from Hugh Thompson, Forest Supervisor, Dixie National Forest, 82 North East, P.O. Box 580, Cedar City, UT 84721. Tell Mr Thompson how you feel about another unjustifiable subsidy to the livestock industry. If you wish to be an intervener on SUWA's appeal, write TODAY - NOW - to Regional Forester Stan Tixier, 324 25th St., Ogden, UT 84537. Request that you be placed on the appeal as an intervener, stating in short form your reasons for doing so. Include your legal as well as moral objections to the EA.

For more information on the issue, or for intervener questions, call Ken Rait at the Salt Lake City SUWA number: 801-532-5959.

—SOUTHERN UTAH
WILDERNESS ASSOCIATION
(SUWA) Fall newsletter

Why Are Wild Bison Still Being Killed?

Yellowstone National Park (YNP) straddles corners of Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho in the midst of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. You can find the Park easily enough on a map — the raggedy square at the juncture of these three states. On the ground, the park boundary is well demarcated for vast stretches by mile upon mile of clearcuts, especially along the Targhee Forest boundary.

The bureaucrat's mind pictures the Park in very much the same way, an outline on the map and the boundary a line of clearcuts on the ground. The rest of the surrounding lands they categorize as private, wilderness, or "multiple use." Rarely does the "E" word escape the bureaucrat's mouth. The outlines of the ecosystem are too difficult to see, and to many, it is only the invention of a few wild-eyed environmental radicals disguised as conservation biologists whose intent is to interfere with their particular agency's agenda for the lands under its control.

Bureaucrats don't like the ecosystem idea. It makes them think too much and it takes them away from the simple commodity extract formulas of the agencies. Ecosystem means they cannot turn forests into tree farms, habitat into game farms and cattle allotments, and watershed into water production and storage components. Here is the underlying cause for the Yellowstone bison slaughters and resulting controversy, and here is where we need to start defending the intrinsic right of wild bison to be wild bison.

The controversy has been labeled many things by many groups and agencies. Depending on who you talk to and who happens to be listening, it could be an anti-hunting, anti-cow, animal rights, states rights, brucellosis, public safety, or "cultural gap" issue. However, the heart of the issue and the critical basis of the controversy is the integrity of the Greater Yellowstone

Ecosystem, and the issues must be addressed as such. Bison are shot because they are attempting to inhabit their entire ecosystem. Since most of this range is public land and historic bison range, the bureaucrats have little justification for the killing.

The bureaucrats, as they have always done, are attempting to deny the legitimacy and existence of the ecosystem, while at the same

They didn't know what to do, so they did nothing; that is, they killed no more bison that year. It was clear to the state: Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (MDFWP) had to change policy. Not change it substantially, but enough to protect it from adverse public opinion.

To do this it is attempting to shift the onus of bison control to federal agencies, demanding that



time systematically destroying it through clearcutting, abusive wildlife manipulation, and industrialization of the public lands (tourism, oil and gas, livestock grazing, *ad nauseum*). Today the bison are under siege, tomorrow the wolf, yesterday the grizzly bear. Add to those three species the overpopulation of ungulates such as elk and you have the wildlife picture for the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

Politics and Policy of Bison Control

After the March 1990 intervention, the state was reeling from the national outcry against the hunt.

the National Park Service (NPS) and the Forest Service take more active roles in the bison kill, and take more of the heat as well. The three agencies are preparing a long term plan and an Environmental Impact Statement. While the EIS is being prepared, they put together an Interim Plan so they can keep killing bison.

Under the recently approved interim plan the Park wardens will kill the cow bison; Montana Department of Livestock (MDL) will capture the calves, cut their genitals off and sell them to the highest bidder at auction to pay for the murdering of their mothers; and MDFWP will continue to sponsor "hunts" of the

bull bison. Fund for Animals (FFA) filed suit in Montana District Court against the entire gamut of agencies, lost and are appealing. This new policy is termed a stop-gap measure because of the "desperate" situation the bison have created. The long term plan, still two years away from completion, is a joint venture of the State of Montana, the National Park Service, and the Forest Service (where they are trying to come up with their own pseudo-ecosystem management plan for the Yellowstone bison).

The State of Montana is trying hard to cover its ass by spreading misinformation on the threats to life, liberty, and property that bison pose. It is running a smear campaign against the animal to justify the state's bison eradication program. One of the strangest arguments the cattle industry and their MDL is that of the "nuisance bison." On this line of reasoning, bison need to be controlled because they are, oh, I don't know, maybe giant prairie gophers or something. You know, a pest. MDL talks grimly about the coming onslaught of bison up the Madison River, as if they are giant radioactive ants from a 50s sci-fi horror movie. Bureaucrats also list the "threat to human safety and property" that the bison pose, mostly because they knock down an occasional fence or two, and get ornery around people who harass them. They state that uncontrolled bison populations will overrun the state and destroy the cattle industry by tearing down fences and by generally just existing. This argument can be made about almost any large mammal, and in terms of crop and feed "depredations," elk are much more likely to cause damage. These arguments for bison slaughter are weak, and not worth much time.

Bison, Brucellosis, and Cows

The Siamese twins of Montana state agencies, MDL and MDFWP, claim that bison must be controlled

Chronology

During the 1860s the bison that inhabit the Yellowstone River valley just north of the Park are exterminated. Those on the northern range of the Park itself are gone by the early 1890s. In 1902, in an effort to augment the native remnant population of about 50 bison within the Park, rancher herds of bison are introduced into the northern range and Mary Mountain areas of the Park.

During the 1930s there is an NPS policy shift toward more "natural" management; still, there is a culling of herds on a semi-regular basis to meet "carrying capacity." Consequently, the maximum population of 1,477 in 1954 is reduced to 397 by 1967.

In 1966, management policy shifts to allow natural regulations to occur to the maximum extent possible, meaning no active manipulation by NPS. From 1968 — 1978, a Boundary Control Program is in effect allowing NPS to kill bison. The goal — to protect cattle bordering the park from brucellosis. In 1978, Dept. of Interior forbids NPS personnel to participate in lethal bison control.

1978 - 1984: Increasing numbers attempt to leave the park. State wardens escalate bison

killings outside the boundary.

1985: The Montana legislature passes law adding bison to the list of game animals, and allows for a year-round hunting season. The legislation is passed to allow for the control of brucellosis transmission from bison to cattle. The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (MDFWP) interprets this to mean they have to facilitate the killing every bison that crosses into Montana, despite the fact that they never bother to prove that the disease can be transmitted in the wild, and do not bother with any sort of environmental review of the policy as required under the Montana Environmental Policy Act.

Winter, 1988-89: 569 bison from the northern Yellowstone herd are killed during control hunts. This is during a particularly harsh winter following the drought and fires the summer before. The bison have been following migration routes out of the Park which they have apparently relearned or never quite forgot since their numbers were decimated in the late 1800s. They are also now aided by winter use roads and snowmachine trails. The killings receive national media attention and cause much outrage in the general public and from conservation and animal rights groups. Local newspapers even get

uncomfortable with the attention, with a Missoulian editorial even going as far as advocating that the killings should be stopped because of the bad PR that could hurt the tourism business. There's extensive documentation of the killings by the Fund for Animals and the media, but no actions are taken to stop the slaughter.

Winter, 1989-90: A mild winter combined with the radical reductions in the northern forest herd the year before keep bison with the Park most of the winter. However, in March, a small group of about 25 bison from the Mary Mountain herd begins to move along their usual route down the Madison River toward Spring calving grounds with the Gallatin National Forest outside of the Park boundary.

A week later, Montana game wardens escort three hunters, a substantial media entourage, and a peanut gallery of local gawkers to the herd, now five miles outside of the Park. Ten Earth Firsters and a Fund for Animals representative confront the hunters and their game warden "guides." The hunters eventually shoot three bison after an extended confrontation with the activists. The game wardens are physically and verbally abusive during the whole episode. The killings and the activist/

continued from previous page

because "the transmission of brucellosis from bison to cattle could wipe out the ranchers cash crop, ruin the fertility of the ranchers cows and bulls, and bankrupt families that have ranches outside of Yellowstone for years." Almost brings tears to your eyes, doesn't it? The simple truth is, however, that bison don't have to die to protect "rancher's livelihoods." As a matter of fact, brucellosis transmission from bison to cattle has never been documented in the wild. As a matter of fact, the bison are killed miles from the nearest cows, and months in advance of when cows may be present in the area. As a matter of fact, the bureau-fats don't even know how many bison carry the disease (many test positive for having been exposed, but the assumption that all of these animals can transmit the disease has never been proven).

There may be some risk of brucellosis transmission from wildlife to cattle, but no one knows the actual risk. Instead of trying to determine what this risk might be, and rationally attempting to manage it in a way that would allow the bison to exist, MDL *et al* run around babbling like the Sen. Joe McCarthys of the wildlife world. What needs to be assessed is the proposal to vaccinate cattle thought to be "at risk" from brucellosis, and changing cattle allotments and grazing times (or just getting rid of the damn cows on public lands) to avoid contact with birthing bison and the fluids remaining on the ground after a birth or an abortion. The problem is that the ranchers would incur a greater cost if they had to take some responsibility for protecting their cattle from brucellosis, which cuts into profits and their rights as Americans to abuse wildlife and wildlands in the name of the almighty dollar and the sacred cow. By the way, it costs nearly \$1.50 a head to vaccinate against brucellosis.

The cattle people must be made to fend for themselves. The protection of their cows must be their

responsibility. Vaccinate the goddamn things! They're all pumped up with dope anyway, so what's another shot or two?

The Big Hunter Thing

Some groups and individuals, including the big-hunter types, are trying to make the bison control actions a hunting issue. The state itself declares that the bison shoot is really a control action. The NRA *et al* (the God, guns, 'n' greasy gobs of guts guys) are going crazy because this is the first "hunter rights" issue to come up in Montana. Meanwhile, the livestock lobby is rubbing its hands in glee at having made hunters into their "whipping boys" in the bison controversy. The hunting lobby already has, and will continue to make itself look cruel and stupid by sticking its nose into this.

This controversy is also an opportunity to expose MDFWP's complete bias towards production of "shootable" commodity animals rather than ecosystem protection and natural diversity. Elk hunting is the big money maker for state game agencies, resulting in an underlying bias against the bison because they compete with elk for winter range. But elk also carry brucellosis. The bureau-fats figure that 1.5% of the northern elk herd may carry it, or around 2100 animals. Over 50% of the bison population is alleged to carry brucellosis, or approximately 1500 animals (a high side estimate). So do you detect something strange here? It couldn't be a double standard based upon bad science and a truly malicious cultural bias, now, could it? If you are at all familiar with the sportsman hard-on for killing elk you'll know this is a big reason for the hunting boys to want less bison, especially if you're the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and just spent millions buying ELK winter range on the northern side of YNP.

The arguments against free-roaming bison are so narrow-minded, profit-oriented, and anthropocentric that it's easy to get sucked in and argue them point for

point. No matter how pissed off we get by the simplistic, greedhead reasoning of the bureaufats and livestock interests, we must always return to the basic no-compromise demand: bison have an inherent right to exist, without fences and without imaginary restraining lines. Without bullets and without bullshit. Plenty of people are waiting in the wings to offer all sorts of compromises: purchasing winter grazing lands, and fencing that; selling off "excess" bison to reservations; developing birth control (yech) for the bison, *ad infinitum*. Out of a deep respect for biodiversity, and with a clear vision of wholeness for the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, we must stand firm: Let the Bison Roam Free!

What You Can Do

To express your outrage, contact one of the agencies involved with bison management. You have three to choose from: 1) Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Director K.L. Kool, 1420 6th Ave., Helena, MT 59620; 2) USFS-Gallatin NF, POB 130, Bozeman, MT 59771; 3) Yellowstone National Park, POB 168, YNP, WY 82190-0168. Points to mention: wild bison are an integral part of the GYE, and the agency's failure to recognize the park as a larger part of the ecosystem is an outrage and will not be tolerated!

Get on the Freddie's mailing list for bison stuff, like the upcoming DEIS, by writing to Yellowstone.

Write letters to the governor of

Montana: Stan Stevens, Governor, Office of the Governor, Helena, MT 59620.

Boycott Yellowstone Park and write or call to tell them why. Telephone (307) 344-7381 extension 2303 or 2209.

Boycott the beef industry — don't eat beef! Livestock grazing may be the most ecologically destructive practice in North America today.

Spread the word. Urge family and friends to write these people, and to boycott Yellowstone, Montana, and the beef industry and tell them why.

A couple of other suggestions on how to become involved are:

— Read over Capt. Paul Watson's article about Canada's Wood Buffalo Park in the *EF!* Journal, November 1990 for inspiration.

— Send money!!! People are poised to intervene in any control actions near West Yellowstone, MT... and as always, it costs bucks to do this stuff, so send greasy dollars to: BISON! POB 7891, Missoula, MT 59807.

— This campaign is in need of serious activists who would be willing to come to Montana possibly to intervene. Contact the above address.

For more detailed information about Brucellosis, Bison, and bullshit bureaucratic bumbling contact Bison! A limited number of full-color handscreened posters of the bison kill design are available for organizing or for a twenty dollar donation.



The wily hunter warily stalks his elusive prey. G.B. photo.

Chronology, cont.

hunter/warden confrontations receive extensive nationwide coverage. John Lilburn is charged with hunter harassment, Mary Yarns with assault for allegedly smearing blood on the face of one of the hunters, and Lee Dessaux with two counts of assault for allegedly punctuating his comments to a hunter with the tip of a ski pole. All cases are still waiting to be tried as of January, 1991.

May, 1990: The scoping document is published for the long term bison plan. Comments received on this document strongly support allowing the bison to roam freely. 49% of the responses favor no control, and 80% want cattle vaccination to be used as a means of avoiding brucellosis transmission. The final EIS is due by 1993. A summary of initial comments is available from Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks.

Fall, 1990: Montana game wardens are instructed to not reveal the locale of the control actions or even whether control actions are taking place. MDFWP personnel say the secrecy is to protect the right of the hunters to kill the bison in "peace."

October, 1990: An interim bison control plan is published by MDFWP, the Park Service, and the

Forest Service. This is a stop-gap plan to allow the agencies to kill bison while the long-term plan is being developed. This plan calls for the Park to assist in the control efforts with Park Rangers shooting cow bison and assisting the Montana Department of livestock in the capture of bison calves. The calves would be tested for brucellosis, those testing positive would be shot. If they were "clean", they would be sold at auction into captivity. The cow bison meat would be donated to charities for food relief. As with many agency documents, the Environmental Assessment on this plan is just for show. Park spokesperson Joan Anzelmo tells a bison activist that the agencies had already finalized their plan well before the public comment period is over.

November 10, 1990: Three bison are shot by hunters under "a new plan by the Park Service, Forest Service, and MDFWP." This is the same interim plan which is supposedly still in the process of being written, and which cannot yet be legally implemented.

November, 1990: Activists mobilize to oppose secrecy in the field, and the control actions in general. Activists track wardens in the West Yellowstone area 24 hours a day to ensure complete disclosure of agency actions.

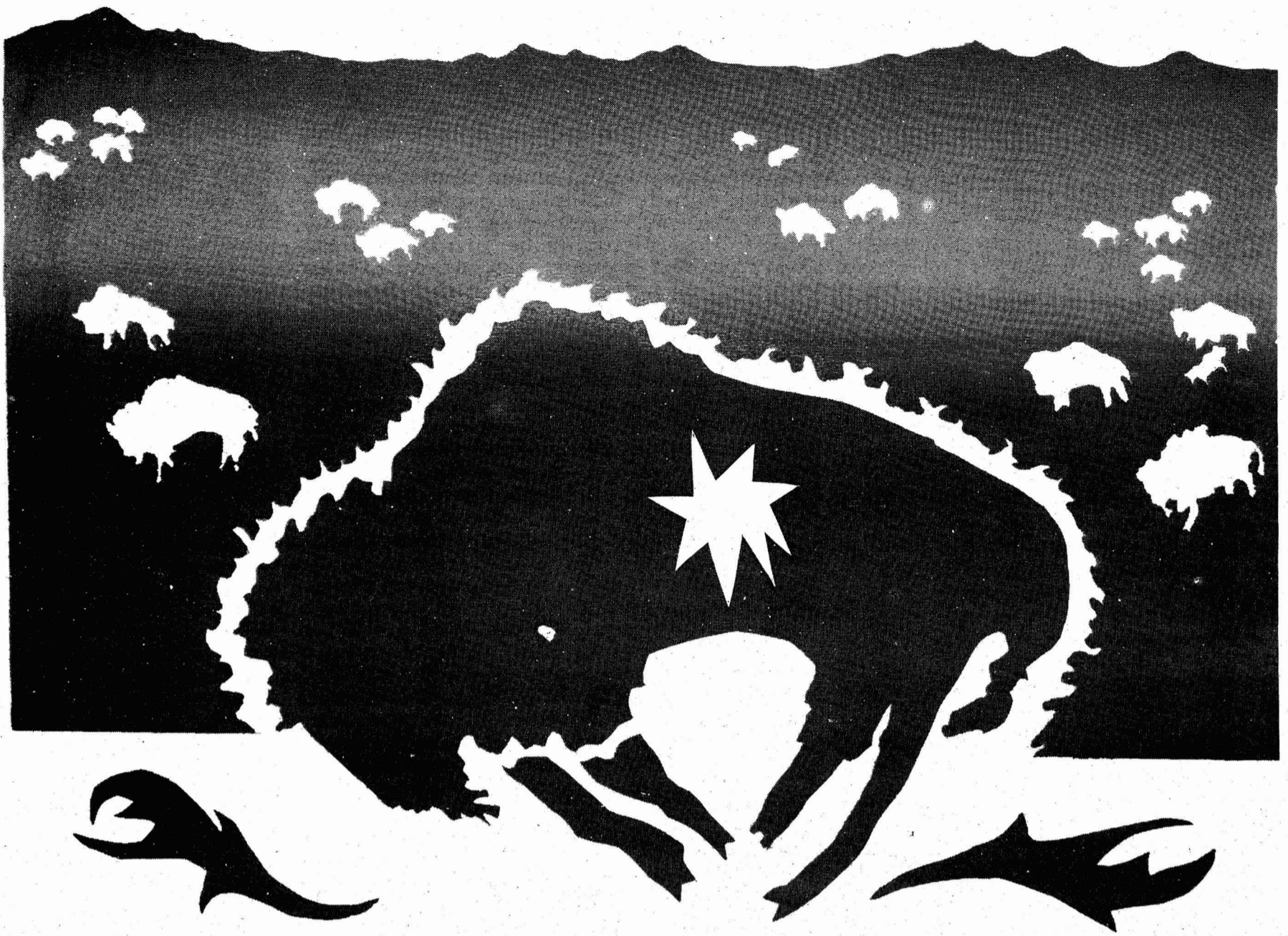
December 2, 1990: Three activists discover and photograph a control action where two "hunters" are assisted by 11 wardens and sheriffs in the killing of two bull bison.

December 4, 1990: The decision to go ahead with the interim control plan is finally made public. Fund for Animals files suit against the three agencies, saying that the Environmental Assessment for the plan violates the National and Montana Environmental Policy Acts.

December, 1990: MDFWP adopts regulations for the 1990-91 bison season according to the interim control plan. This sets the stage for more bison killings. Some hunter groups oppose the regulations because there are not enough "hunter opportunities." MDFWP states that wardens, not private hunters, will be used to kill bull bison if it appears that bison activists will be present.

January 15, 1991: Fund for Animals request for a temporary hold on the killing of bison is thrown out by a Federal District Court Judge.

Now: Bison activists are poised for action in the West Yellowstone area, monitoring the activity of slow, stupid beasts near the Park border. They're watching the movements of the bison as well.



Give me a Home Where the Buffalo Roam

In case anyone needs to state it again, the West is an arid place. It is not a good place for cows. Cattle originated in the mild, moist climate of northern Europe. They like water. They don't like predators. So to accommodate cows — an alien, non-native species — we have manipulated the entire ecological fabric of the west. And what have we gotten for our efforts?

Well, not very much beef — at least not for the amount of land involved. All the federal public rangelands in the West, an area as large as the 14 eastern seaboard states combined, only accounts for 2% of the meat produced in the Nation! According to 1989 Department of Agriculture statistics, Georgia, a relatively small eastern state, produces more beef cows than a huge "ranching" state like Montana. The reason is simple. It rains in Georgia. In the West we basically live with droughts most of the time punctuated by a few wet years.

Because of aridity it takes a lot of space to grow a cow here. And the more space you use, the more it costs you in basic expenses like fencing, water developments, and the like. Of course, most ranchers don't actually pay for these things — we do — through a variety of government welfare agencies like the Soil Conservation Service, BLM and Forest Service.

But even with all that help, it's tough to make a living out here — ask any whining rancher. You'd think that with all the complaining about how difficult it is to make a profit, it would dawn on these people that they perhaps are using the wrong animal in the wrong place.

But lack of productivity is not the only folly of grazing cows in the West. It has also cost us our riparian zones — the wet, lush areas beside waterways. These zones are important habitat for some 75% of all western species from beaver to waterfowl. Yet according to a recent GAO report, livestock grazing has devastated an estimated 80-90% of the riparian zones on federal rangelands. In many places, lush streams have been transformed into desert wastelands.

We have also had many of our streams sucked dry to irrigate pastures, in order to emulate what happens in Georgia without a single water diversion. And taxpayers pay for most of these water projects to boot — over \$500 million last year

BY GEORGE WUERTHNER

fish-dependent species, from bald eagles to otters, is part of the cost as well.

And because cows are too stupid to fend for themselves, we have killed off most of the larger wolves, grizzlies, coyotes, bobcat and mountain lion, receive no compensation from the livestock industry for our loss.

And cows, being the poorly adapted animals they are, cannot compete against other herbivores, so the livestock community wages a constant war against other grazing wildlife. Bison were removed from the plains long ago and ranchers won't let them come back — even on public lands. Prairie dogs, once numbering the billions, are reduced to a pittance of their former numbers due to poisons. With the reduction of these animals, many other species dependent upon them have also declined, from burrowing owls to black-footed ferrets. The poisoning still goes on.

But wildlife is not the only thing to suffer. Most western rangeland communities are in less than healthy condition. In spite of fifty years of range "management" by range "specialists" (read lackey to the livestock industry), nearly 16% of the public range and an even greater amount of the private range is in poor ecological condition — read pulverized. Sixteen percent of 263 million acres of western federal rangelands is still an area bigger than all of New England and New York together! And yet range managers optimistically shrug off criticism by telling us that things are "improving." Well maybe. The air in L.A. is improving too, but it will still kill you to breathe it.

Most of this so-called improvement is simply the result of less cows. And it would not be unreasonable to suggest that having no cows would be even better. With no cows, our public lands could support bison. Plus more elk, antelope, bighorn sheep, and just maybe even a few wolves.

Without cows healthy riparian zones would reappear, along with water in our streams and fish in that water. And the public wouldn't have to pay to fence riparian zones on our public lands

control to kill off native wildlife to benefit non-native alien species. And we wouldn't need to chain, burn, poison, seed and manipulate the entire ecological fabric of our rangelands so private individuals can make a profit at public expense.

What would the public lands of the West be like without cows? Well, they just might be a home where the buffalo roam and the deer and the antelope play. Sounds pretty good to me.

BISON RELEASE POEM

Bison bison bison bison
 All I can think about are bison.
 There are wild bison being killed
 as they try to leave the Park
 and move into their homeland.
 There are also trees being cut,
 mountains mined,
 rivers dammed, seas polluted,
 houses bulldozed and burned down,
 wars brewing,
 lands laid waste;
 But all I think about are bison.
 I have watched them die.
 They crowd out other thoughts
 sweeping in hordes
 darkening the horizons of my plain mind,
 trampling me.
 I am grazed now, bison, I am trampled.
 Go now, to other horizons
 and I will recover for you.
 I release you
 from the park of my psyche. Go now
 spread into your domain.
 Pour across the minds of all people
 Fill their thoughts with your thundering image
 Roam through conversations
 until the society of people shakes
 with your hoofbeats,
 and helplessly, joyously, welcomes you
 back again.
 O Bison,
 Return.

—DUFF



THE GRIZZLY BEAR REVIVAL SHOW:

Grizzly Bear Task Force Rocks the West Coast

In a 7-week extravaganza of intermittent passion and torpidity, the Earth First! Grizzly Bear Task Force brought word of peril in Grizzly Bear country to 15 cities on the West Coast. I was chief organizer, fundraiser and spewer of facts. Lone Wolf Circles served as medicine show maestro and prime motivator. Joe Wheeler, drumming and percussion wizard from Santa Fe, braved the entire tour as well, bringing most of the musical instruments and weaving the shows together with rhythm.

All of the shows included a talk and slideshow on bears, lots of free literature, Lone Wolf's Earthpoetry, and some form of live music, usually tribal jams which often inspired the audience to frenzied gyrations. The idea was to draw more people by doing dance shows, then hit 'em with messages about Grizzlies and the plight of wildness everywhere. We also sought, via Wolf's irresistible urgings, to bring out the wild spirit lurking in the most faded, jaded city dweller. I made squawking attempts to vocalize some songs I wrote about bears and succeeded in at least piquing the audience's interest enough that they stuck around.

The tour started with a depressing show in Seattle, but Orcas Island in the San Juans gave us a real boost, with a rocking show there in the Oddfellow's Hall (appropriately) that featured the inimitable Dana Lyons and other local musicians. A berserk drive to Republic got some of us there 45 minutes late for the show in the Malodome but we pulled it off and made a visit to the Replicans which included homebrew consumption and much-needed sleep. In Olympia we were joined by the Stone Biscuit Band of Eugene, who played five shows with us altogether. The shows with the Biscuits included some of their original music and

numbers worked out with Wolf and Joe. This was a far cry from my mostly-solo tour last year: a four-piece electric rock band, full electric sound, drums, percussion, vocals, and lots of ranting and raving and dancing heathens.

In Oregon we played Portland, Corvallis, Eugene, Williams and Ashland. The only way we knew we got any publicity in Portland was because the Skinheads called in a bomb threat. In Corvallis we were out-competed by Balafon, a hot marimba band, so we scurried off to Ashland to lose ourselves in the Halloween melee. Williams, on the edge of the Kalmiopsis Wilderness, proved to be a veritable volcano of energy. Something clicked there. Was it the full moon? Was it the 50-foot yurt where we did the show? Was it the local herbs and beverages? Whatever, the frenzy was high, and the show mutated into a jam session which went on half the night!

And so it went for the entire tour! Emotionally and financially rollercoasting up and down, we spread news of the Great Bear's plight along the west coast. Roadweary and desperate we finally rolled into Santa Cruz, there to spend several days enjoying the coast, watching pelicans, seals, sea lions and surfers, slouching at Dennis Davie's, lurking in coffeehouses and on the pier. Following a TV interview in Salinas and a radio show at UC Santa Cruz we put on the final show of the tour at the Pacific Cultural Center. Assorted crazies from the Bay came to enliven the event including Jake Jagoff who was bound for Down Under the next day. Jagoff brought a huge length of kelp which became the favorite dance partner at the show. To celebrate we migrated after the show to a secluded beach where we swilled toxic substances. Hungover, I boarded the bus early the next day for a 34-hour trip back to the Wild Rockies, not believing I had survived until I actual arrived home.

But the Bears are Ever Fewer!!



Yellowstone EF! Appeals Hyalite Timber Sale

Hyalite Canyon, a spectacular U-shaped glacial canyon which issues from the Hyalite Peaks into the Gallatin Valley near Bozeman, Montana, is the most heavily used recreation area in National Forest Region 1. Lower Hyalite has already been heavily logged and roaded by Plum Creek Timber and the Gallatin National Forest. Road density is 500% of that allowed in the Gallatin Forest Plan. Hyalite is also home to many species of wildlife and is particularly important to Elk. Bald Eagles, Grizzly Bears and Gray Wolves may inhabit Hyalite now or in the near future.

Despite all this the Gallatin has proposed logging 3 million board feet in Hyalite, much of it "salvage" from blowdowns. The logging would require 6 miles of new road and reconstruction of about 18 miles. Bozeman District Ranger Bob Dennee claims that plans to close several existing roads would offset the impacts of new road construction. But "closed" roads would remain open to some forms of motorized recreation, and Forest Service road closures have a history of ineffectiveness. Only one mile of road would be ripped and revegetated. Some of the logging would be directly adjacent to an inventoried roadless area in South Cottonwood Canyon and indeed, the Lousetown area proposed for logging is roadless, though not inventoried as such under RARE II. Naturally, clearcutting would be the primary harvest method. No biological evaluation has been prepared for this sale, nor has there been any consideration of impacts on possibly present Threatened or Endangered species. The area is considered by the Forest Service to be unoccupied by Grizzly Bears, even though occasional use by Grizzlies has been documented. Nor have the Freddie considered cumulative impacts of

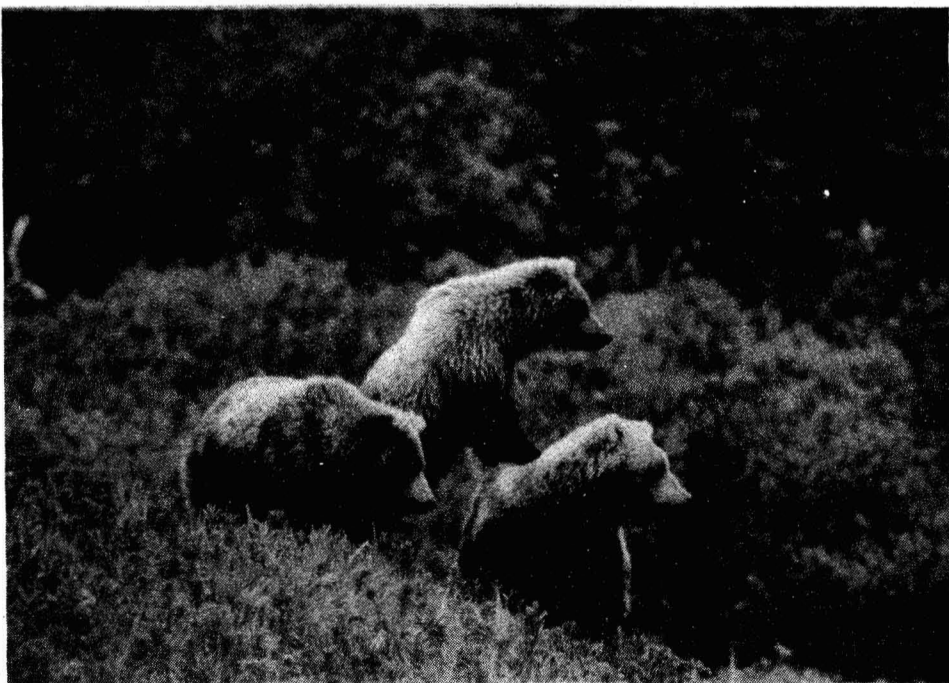
adjacent Plum Creek clearcuts and roads, nor of the heavy increase in recreational traffic resulting from the winter plowing of the main access road now occurring.

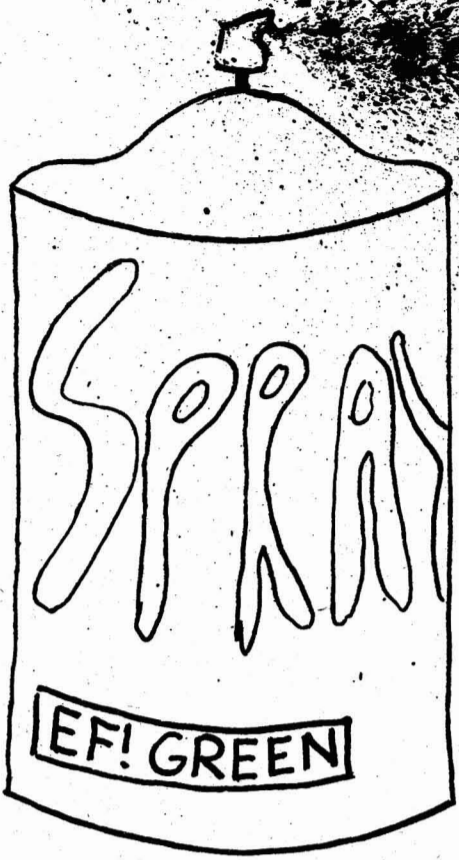
This timber sale has generated quite a bit of local controversy, partly due to the importance of Hyalite as a recreational area, partly due to the large number of environmental groups based in Bozeman. A recent public meeting on Hyalite, organized by local conservationists, drew nearly 80 people. And now come the appeals, just when the Gallatin is changing supervisors. Kick'em when they're down, you bet! Yellowstone EF! is one of several appellants, including the Greater Yellowstone Coalition (GYC), American Wildlands, and Montana Ecosystems Defense Council. Disappointingly, the GYC appeal offers the Freddie a compromise which would include some clearcutting!

Issues raised by Yellowstone EF! hinge on important issues raised in our 1989 appeal of the Gallatin Forest Plan. Cumulative Impacts, Threatened and Endangered Species, and Visual Quality are the main points of contention. All of these issues were raised in our Forest Plan appeal, but no decision has yet been issued by the Chief of the FS on this appeal. As usual, the FS is months late, while the public is required to do everything in a timely manner, or you are S.O.L. We may have to take legal action to force a decision on this appeal we worked so hard on and which now languishes in Washington. A decision by the Chief is likely to grant us at least some concessions, thereby freeing us from raising those issues every time the Gallatin proposes a project.

Meanwhile we are going to stop this timber sale. Help Yellowstone EF! keep watch over this important National Forest! send contributions to: Yellowstone EF!, Box 6151, Bozeman, MT 59715.

—Phil Knight





NATIONAL SACRIFICE ZONE
 box 65 Myra, WV 25544

Folks,

I think the worst environmental news of the year has gotten scant, if any, media recognition. In 1989 the population boomed in the U.S. when 4.02 million births occurred. All the hoopla over recycling and stronger pollution restrictions doesn't mean shit when we're dumping more little screaming eco-rapers onto the planet than ever before. It's easy to forget our impact on the land when we in the U.S. are importing so much food and goods that we don't even witness our impacts. Our affluent country has its niggers around the world slaving for our coffee, sugar, tomatoes, machines and other useless trinkets while those folks should be growing their own just as we should. But if we tried surviving on our own resources we would realize how limited our resources are, especially with so damned many of us. When you get into working the land for your food, clothes, shelter, you'll realize how degraded the environment has become and you'll vomit at the waste our society creates. You might also cry for all the local extinctions we've lately caused and I hope you'll damn sure quit cranking out babies.

Vince Packard

Tired of seeing computer-generated text stacked in neat little columns? Feel like your bioregion gets elbowed away from EF! editorial attention? Wish that you could have a creative influence on the journal, but aren't lucky enough to live in Montana (or able to move here for a while)? Don't despair. Just send us enough material to fill up the center section of the journal. It's a Blank Wall, and you get as many cans of spray paint as you want

We will not edit the Blank Wall. It is your space to fill and arrange as you desire. You will be completely responsible for anything you print on your pages. Lay it out if you want to, or take advantage of whatever expertise we may be able to offer. It's up to you.

Tell us when you want to fill your Blank Wall, and you will get your chance when your turn comes around, unless another group needs the space for a particularly urgent issue.

TIRED OF OBJECTS
 THAT VEER & FLUTTER?
 TRY "THROWING BRICKS"



Why?

- 1) High Density
- 2) High Penetration
- 3) Brightly Colored

WITH A GRIP SO RIGHT
 YOU'LL BE TEMPTED
 TO RETRIEVE THEM!!!

(available from Green @
 Black—inquire through
 this newspaper or from
 informed street thugs.
 Training available up-
 on request)



Gold Liberation Front

Seven thugs in black, wearing (imitation) gold nugget armbands make their way through the crowd. Weilding bricks and clubs, they force their way onto the stage, throwing off the bewildered MC.

"We are the GOLD LIBERATION FRONT! And we bring you this message: Gold is an endangered species! There is almost no gold left in the wild today! The crowd is confused, are minerals protected by the Endangered Species Act?"

"Nearly all the remaining gold on earth is living in captivity, in inhumane, brutal maximum security facilities around the country."

November 1st in Prescott, Arizona- a rally to save Granite Mountain, slated to be stripmined for gold. Granite Mountain is a beautiful place and many climbers and nature lovers have gathered in the town center to show their support for the mountain and resistance to the plan.

"Many humans have an outdated, strange idea that gold exists for the benefit and enjoyment of humans. BUT THEY ARE WRONG!...

Humans have tracked, hunted, and trapped gold from the darkest corners of the earth. Everywhere gold has hidden, and everywhere humans have found it, grabbed it, and dragged it out of the wild, maimed and twisted. Mutilated into gross geometric shapes, it is locked away, never to see the light of day again. Never to see the sun it loves.

Listen closely, listen with your heart and you will hear the tortured cries of gold imprisoned all over the earth. Gold has an inherent right to live wild and free. And yet gold continues to be the most persecuted of all species on Earth. We are gathered here to protest REDCO's (the villain) desire to rape and murder one of the last tribes of gold on earth. We must not let REDCO capture this last stand of OLD GROWTH GOLD!"

The crowd is cheering wildly. Of course gold is protected as an endangered species, how could it not be?

"We must join the fight to keep the gold free! Two henchmen come forward: FREE THE GOLD!- KEEP IT WILD! The crowd is worked into a frenzy. FREE THE GOLD!- KEEP IT WILD!...FREE THE GOLD!- KEEP IT WILD! The chant continues as the excited crowd spontaneously marches to the Forest Service office, (many carrying bricks) to offer their opinion.

The Gold Liberation Front is a mostly clandestine organization. They have been known to search out captured gold wherever it is to be found- in jewelry stores, under beds, and on the manicured hands of urban yuppies- in order to liberate it back into its natural habitat. The GLF is growing day by day. Wherever there is injustice, wherever gold is made to suffer, wherever bricks are available, the GLF is on the prowl.

FREE THE GOLD! BY DEATH'S HEAD BAT

Act Like an Earthquake comes to you violently and unpredictably --but when it does we know you love to get it. Thanks for waiting. All inquiries & letters may be addressed to: P.O. Box 12896 Albuquerque, NM 87195

ADVICE

Readers speak on wilderness

Dear Abby: The devastation of Earth's pristine wilderness corresponds to a flattening and impoverishment of our own wildness of spirit. Just as civilization transforms living nature into dead commodities, so are we daily subject to this process in the form of work, consuming and submitting to authorities. And, bored with this paycheck-to-price-tag docility as we may be, what can we really do about it?

In between the nightmares of my boring routines (and when the boss isn't looking), I dream of an Earthly Eden, of a life rich with experience, where spontaneity, festival and play characterize daily living. I wish for the fulfillment of my deepest longings and dreams, for genuine human community and a clean, healthy Earth on which to dwell.

Sometimes... when it all seems like just too much to take any more... I imagine unleashing my frustrations in a celebration of subversion, smashing machinery and computers, ignoring authority figures, and dancing with friends on the ashes of burned down factories. Abby, am I insane?

Dear Sane: Definitely not! The urge to dismantle civilization brick by brick is rooted in our most irreducible desires for reconnection with the nature we've been denied.

From the destruction of the ancient cities of the Fertile Crescent to the sacking of Rome, from the Mayan abandonment of their great temples to the current disaffection with modern techno-industrial society, people have repeatedly turned away from the heir-archival work pyramid of civilization—"Leviathan" as it has been called—in favor of the sweet freedom only real wilderness offers.

Your assessment of wilderness destruction and of the everyday is right on the mark.



Ed Abigail-Van Buren

They are inseparable phenomena, and no change in one can occur independently of the other. My advice: If you truly desire wilderness, then trust in the wildness of your true desires!

Dear Abby: Months ago, you gave me a piece of advice that changed my life. When I was at my wits end, considering suicide, my life devoid of hope or promise, you encouraged me to seek out my own true nature, and begin looking for fulfillment, not in some abstract "future", but in the promise of renewal that comes with each day. Most importantly, you showed me that I was actually responsible for my own self-repression!

Well, I didn't go to work today. And I'm not going tomorrow! For me, all that dull employment is now replaced by the search for full enjoyment. I can't tell you how good it feels to be free from the work-buy-consume-die treadmill that this society has us all on. No wonder we feel dead all the time!

Some of my friends have quit too, and word is getting out... We're going to remake this world, Abby, and life will not be as we now know it. The revolution of living differently begins with each of us each day. Why wait? People of the world, be wild!

Dear Wild: Right on! As one writer has put it, "Suffering is the sickness of constraints. An atom of pure delight, no matter how small, will hold it at bay. To work on the side of delight and authentic festivity can hardly be distinguished from preparing for a general insurrection!"

Confused by society's mass of conflicting illusions? Wondering how you can resist? For Abby's list of publications to help de-mystify daily life, write Dear Abby P.O. Box 2962 Bellingham, WA 98227

Misanthropic, I beg to differ by grey nixie

Despite being labelled "anthropocentric" by many traditional Earth Firsters, I believe I may be the most misanthropic individual in Earth First! In other words, I am not participating in Earth First! to be the life of the next beer party or to become your best friend. I do volunteer labor with EF!, in profound disgust for his-tory, progress, and their accelerating rates of carnage, for the sole purpose of building an effective international political/social/economic direct action movement to further the slim chances for the continuance of an organic presence on the planet Earth.

In pursuit of that goal, I manage to piss most folks off, often, if I get the chance, and I hope they all go commit ego-suicide for the good of Gaia; they will not be missed. But given that there are 5 billion of us abhorrent creatures on this poor planet currently, I have realized that I must create hierarchies of hatred to be most effective in persecuting the egos of those I most despise.

Here are some of the people who I most detest at the current moment:

1) Earth Firsters who own and drive cars -- except for Karen Pickett because she does so much, takes no credit, and is generally less offensive than most.

2) First world men whose lifestyle is absolutely dependent upon the economic and physical genocide of third world people, who have political opinions that blame the death of the planet on those very same peoples who are experiencing the overpopulation frenzy that always follows colonization and genocide.

3) Misanthropes who chronicle the exploits of fellow misanthropes while "forgetting" to mention Karen Pickett, Judi Bari, Helen Matthews, Sequoia, Joanne Dittersdorf, Sage, and virtually every other woman who has participated in the collective misanthropy. In other words, "misogynists in a Miss Anthropy's pseudonym."

4) Dave Foreman who failed to visit Judi Bari in Highland Hospital during the summer of '90, though he was in the Bay Area (it is rumored).

5) Stupid, spoiled, white boyz who "organize" in San Francisco's Mission district without communicating with Latino community groups.

6) Writers who contend that Gaia is so bloody stupid that she considers the 20 million + diagnosed HIV cases in Africa to be more grievous enemies than the handful of oil executives she has neglected to assassinate. Also those who respond blankly to the phrase "blaming the victim."

7) A movement to defend biodiversity which neglects to defend certain ubiquitous wild behaviors such as homosexuality and bisexuality which occur in all sex-differentiated species, yet are stigmatized in some.

8) The Earth First! Journal editor who wrote me that though my ideas are "noble," "democracy just doesn't work." (and I thought they loved the Boston Tea Party-- that marvelous all-white-men-in-fake-Indian-garb event).

9) All other Earth Firsters who ignored my critique of our embarrassing lack of national decision making process.

10) Privileged white paranoids, who thought this was a safe struggle.

11) Privileged white blabbermouths, who still think its a safe struggle.

12) Machos who openly suggest that anyone too stupid to prowl around the USA in a car, drinking beer and at least Talking about spiking trees, really is expendable.

13) The Earth Firster who explained to me that Earth Firsters are "the white blood cells of the planet," and that I am probably too timorous a soul to join; after all, "EF'ers are born, not made" (as are Aryans and all other master races).

the able-bodiedists, the spiritually blind, those too arrogant to confront their classism, those who think heroic suicide is anything but a bother to the survivors, the joiners, the followers, the ones who are afraid of free discussion, the elitists, etc.

Clearly, proximity breeds contempt. You can imagine what I had to say about college kids, and worse, college professors in Reagan's Amerika, the yuppies of Greenwich Village, or the egotistic Yippie! men with who I used to mingle... Repugnant motherfuckers, every single one.

But if anyone is interested in actually evolving some political direction out of the murky primordial depths of our misanthropic hatred, please let's commence... (Who do we off first?)

MONTANORE PROJECT THREATENS

©1990 BY DONALD H. KERN

The Kootenai National Forest, in collusion with the Noranda Minerals Corporation and several state agencies, is now in the process of preparing a Final Environmental Impact Statement on the Montanore Project, a proposed underground copper and silver mine, along with "related facilities." These rape-related facilities include a mill to process the ore, a tailings impoundment, water disposal areas, access roads, and a 16-mile 230 kilovolt electrical power transmission line to the project site. The mine, mill and related facilities would be located in Lincoln County, approximately 18 miles south of Libby, MT, and directly adjacent to the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness Area.

Just as you would expect, many of the concerns raised during the scoping period have been generally ignored, and the agencies have instead focused on only a few issues which drove the development of the alternatives and the evaluation of impacts. The analyses contained in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) fail to address the complex problems associated with the construction of a major mining facility less than one-half ground mile distant and directly under a federally designated wilderness area.

Several conservation groups and individuals have continually argued the validity of the claim under which Noranda submitted its application. The Wilderness Act of 1964 closed the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness Area to further mineral exploration on January 1, 1984. As of that date, Borax had drilled only two test holes and collected a small number of surface samples. Despite the fact that these samples showed little more than slight mineralization, the Forest Service determined that the claims were valid and that Borax was entitled to continue drilling and exploring inside the wilderness area past the Wilderness Act deadline.

Because the Forest Service also considered ore which was attributable to extralateral rights, it ignored the fact that ore lying outside of the boundaries of a claim cannot be used to establish "discovery," and in doing so, it violated both the 1872 Mining Law and the Wilderness Act by allowing Borax to continue mineral exploration after December 31, 1983. This additional, and illegal, exploration work led to the discovery of a low-grade copper/silver ore body inside the wilderness in 1985/1986.

In late 1988, Borax sold its interest in this dubious mineral claim to Noranda Minerals Corporation, a Canadian mining conglomerate. That same year, Noranda began to gather preparatory data, and on March 7, 1989, the company submitted its application for an operating permit to the Kootenai National Forest and the Montana Department of State Lands (MDSL). On October 10, 1990, the Kootenai National Forest, the Montana Department of State Lands, the Montana Department of Health and Environmental Sciences (DHES) and

the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), in close cooperation with the Noranda Minerals Corporation, released a draft(y) EIS for public review and scrutiny.

The Montanore Project is huge in scope and design. The mine as proposed by Noranda would produce 20,000 tons of ore per day, or 7 million tons per year over an anticipated production life of 16 years. The DEIS predicts "an expected ore extraction rate of 60 to 70 percent," with an estimated 112 million tons of tailings left behind after the 16 years!

Pre-production development would include two parallel adits (horizontal mine shafts), each 26 feet wide by 26 feet high and 13,000 feet long, in addition to two percolation pond areas along lower Ramsey Creek, a tailings impoundment site in Little Cherry Creek, and roads providing access to the facilities. Apparently assuming that approval of the project is all but assured, Noranda is currently constructing an additional 18,000-foot ventilation adit from a private land site along Libby Creek (Noranda Minerals Corp., 1989). In total, the proposed project area comprises 3,221 acres, not including a 988-acre transmission line corridor. Almost 40 percent, about 1,225 acres, is proposed for "surface disturbance" in the project area alone. This does not include the mine itself, which will tunnel in from an elevation of 2,800 feet along the Fisher River to nearly 8,000 feet elevation under the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness Area. Was this the intent of the Wilderness Act of 1964?

Let's take a look at some of the more substantive issues involved.

Water Degradation PERMIT???

On December 1, 1989, the Water Quality Bureau of the DHES notified Noranda of its determination that the Proposed Plan of Operation would violate the Montana Water Quality Act. On December 13, 1989, Noranda submitted a Petition for Change in Quality of Ambient Waters. According to the DEIS, in order for any of the proposed alternatives (other than the No-Action Alternative) to be viable, Noranda must secure a waiver from the state's nondegradation policy (DEIS, Pg. S-6). This policy states that any Montana waters whose existing water quality is higher than established standards must be maintained at the higher water quality unless the potential polluter [Noranda] affirmatively demonstrates that the lowering of the water quality is necessary for essential social or economic development. It also states that any new pollution source to high quality waters must "provide the degree of waste treatment necessary to maintain that existing high quality." This is very important to remember, because neither Noranda nor the DEIS propose such treatment!

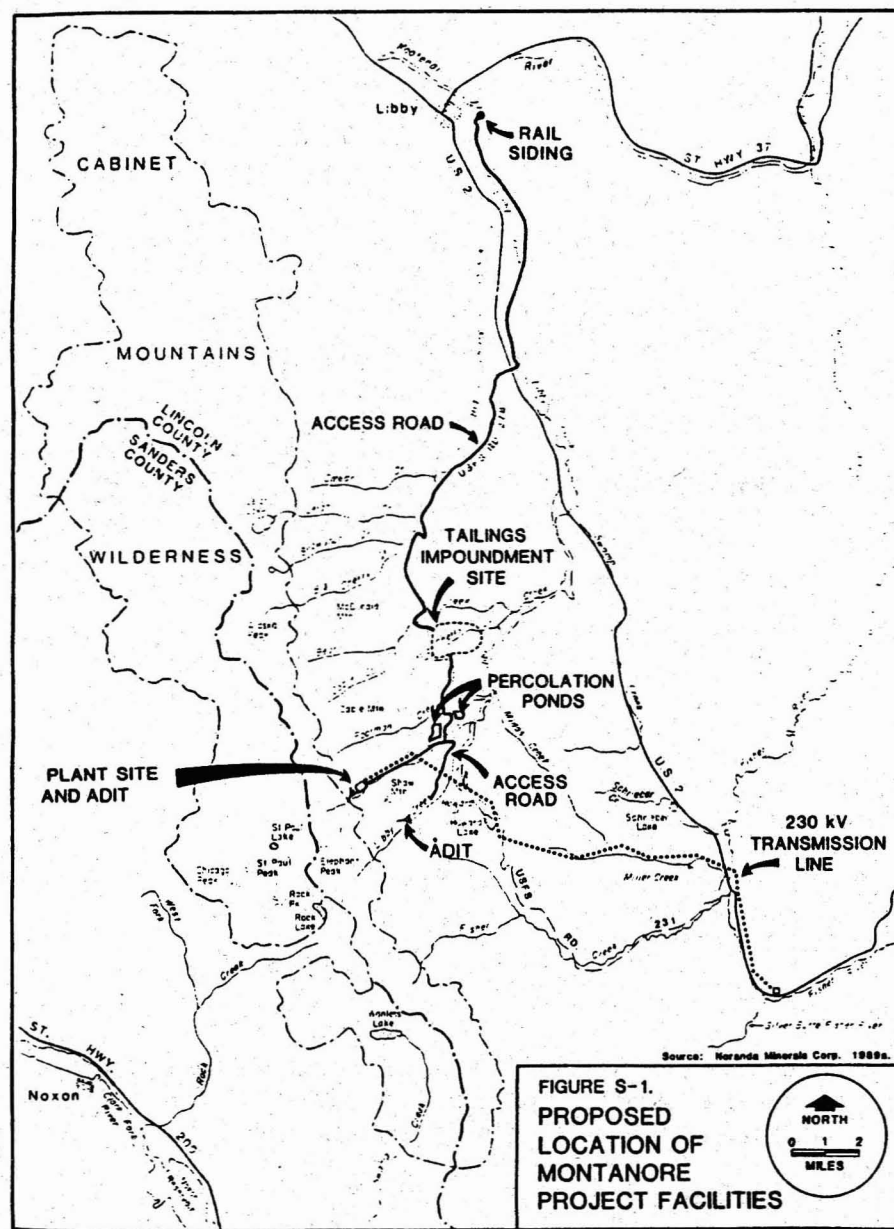
In order to receive a waiver, the applicant must also prove that the lowering of the water quality will not affect current or future beneficial use of the water. The only thing

that Noranda's Petition for Waiver demonstrates is that being allowed to pollute would be convenient and economically beneficial (read: HUGE PROFITS). In its Petition for Waiver, Noranda stated that a No Action ruling by the Water Quality Bureau "would result in Noranda Minerals Corporation not developing the Montanore Project." However, in a subsequent court proceeding, Joe Scheuering, a former Noranda Project Manager, testified under oath that what Noranda really meant to say was that if the Bureau takes no action on the petition, then Noranda "would not develop the project as proposed."

Obviously Noranda's original statement in its Petition for Waiver was intended as an economic bluff designed to bully the Water Quality Bureau into approving the petition. Not only is Noranda's petition statement a bald-faced lie, but it

streams are classified as suitable for everything from drinking to the propagation of salmonid fish species, while an A-1 classification denote even higher water quality. With this information in mind, why would anyone advocate an activity which has the demonstrated potential to release heavy metals and acid mine drainage into these pristine waters?

The silver/copper ore which would be extracted from the mine consists primarily of sulfide minerals. Sulfide minerals also would occur in waste rock from the mine (DEIS, Pg. 190). Noranda's own chemical analysis of rock samples (never revealed as to type of test, number of samples, etc.) taken during drilling indicates several toxic metals would be present in the natural rock materials used for fill and in the tailings. These same materials would be used in the con-



also effectively proves that Noranda has failed to consider all viable options, especially environmentally sensitive alternatives which would satisfy the non-degradation water policy but would be too cost ineffective to justify a questionable mining project in a depressed metals market.

According to the DEIS, "The Kootenai River Basin includes some of the purest waters in America; concentrations of dissolved chemicals are among the lowest in Montana. Streams in the project area are classified by the DHES as B-1 streams...Streams in the wilderness are classified as A-1 streams..." B-1

streams are classified as suitable for everything from drinking to the propagation of salmonid fish species, while an A-1 classification denote even higher water quality. With this information in mind, why would anyone advocate an activity which has the demonstrated potential to release heavy metals and acid mine drainage into these pristine waters?

construction of the tailings impoundment dam. Toxic metals found in Noranda's analysis include arsenic, chromium, copper, lead, silver, and zinc. Lead concentrations as high as 28,600 parts per million, 25 times the state water quality standard, have been identified in samples from the barren zone (Noranda Minerals Corp.).

The barren zone is a layer of "waste rock" which lies between the two suspected ore bodies. The DEIS goes on to conclude that "Disposal of the barren zone waste rock at the surface could generate acid mine drainage. Since it is not possible to quantify this release accurately, it is

WILDERNESS AREA

not known if aquatic life or downstream water use would be affected. Use of the barren zone waste rock in the construction of the tailings impoundment dam would make mitigation difficult should significant impacts result." (DEIS, Pg. 191) This information is quite interesting in light of the fact that the tailings impoundment dam is virtually destined to fail.

Both the DEIS and the mine application reveal that their estimates for the acid-producing potential of the waste materials are nothing better than wild guesses. The "barren zone" rock could be a source of acid mine discharge long after the mine closes, yet the public is expected to okay the project without being told with any reasonable certainty what the environmental impacts will be. Sound familiar? Read on.

Tons and Tons of SLIME

The proposed tailings impoundment area is about five miles northeast of the plan site, in the Little Cherry Creek watershed (DEIS, Pg. 33). In actuality, the tailings impoundment dam will straddle the entire watershed, eventually rising to a height of 380 feet and holding an estimated 100-120 million tons of metal, nitrate, and process-chemical-laden tailings. Little Cherry Creek itself would be permanently diverted around the impoundment site, and an elaborate system of diversion ditches would be built around the impoundment site to divert water away from it. That's the plan, anyway.

In reality, an entirely different scenario is likely to unfold. Noranda's plans for the construction, maintenance and reclamation of the tailings impoundment site are contingent on a wide variety of variables, including natural and enhanced evaporation, seepage, percolation, and perhaps most importantly, an extensive system of pressure relief wells to prevent upwelling from artesian conditions, which dominate the groundwater hydrology of Little Cherry Creek. The entire reclamation plan for the tailings impoundment site is predicated on a program of continual grading and contouring in order to facilitate proper drainage and consolidation of the "slimes" (fine textured goo which results from the mixing of tailings and water). The DEIS states that "Complete consolidation of the slimes would probably take several months to several decades...". This rather vague estimate demonstrates that neither Noranda nor the reviewing agencies have any idea of when or if the tailings slimes will ever dry out. In fact, seepage control and dam stability plans virtually assure that the tailings impoundment site will never dry out. (Maybe they're hoping the Ghostbusters will appear to dispose of the slime).

Artesian upwelling, combined with surface runoff, will collect in depressions scattered on the impoundment surface (DEIS, Pp. 39, 226-227). Eventually these depressions will become "continual re-

charge points" for the impoundment. As long as these areas remain wet, they cannot be regraded. As long as they remain ungraded, they will remain wet. And as long as they remain wet, the impoundment site cannot be reclaimed (Libby Placer Mining Co., DEIS Comments, P. 3). Noranda is obligated by law to reclaim the land it disturbs. The plan they propose will clearly not meet this obligation. The impoundment will be a chronic source of metals pollution for a very long time after the mine closes.

The buildup of pressure from both beneath and above the tailings impoundment dam will completely destabilize the area. Slumps and landslides are likely to occur either in or adjacent to the dam. Dr. Donald Reichmuth, a professional engineer, land surveyor and hydrogeological consultant from Bozeman, MT has conducted an independently-commissioned study of the tailings impoundment site. In referencing myriad failures of other similar structures, Dr. Reichmuth comments that "Often these failures resulted in great financial losses and people being killed. Certainly failure of this proposed tailings dam would threaten not only interests immediately downstream but could easily disrupt the entire lower Libby Creek Drainage. At minimum, the tailings would reach Libby Creek and cause significant environmental damage to the creek." In concluding, he states "There is no practical way to guarantee that long term stability could be maintained in the dam structure. The slow buildup of subsurface water pressures will lead to dam failure." Not a pretty picture, yet the Noranda eco-rapers would like us to believe that their fantasy reclamation will work.

Mitigating the Road to Extinction

Perhaps the most callous assumption of the DEIS is the blatant and arbitrary dismissal of the indigenous wildlife and its habitat as something which can be totally ignored and "mitigated" in the future. The Forest Service uses the word "mitigate" to cover up a forest full of wrongs in every EIS it produces, and it shouldn't surprise anyone that the entire premise of the Montanore DEIS is based on mitigation. Unfortunately, mitigation is not an acceptable substitute for protection, even though the DEIS would have us believe so. With few exceptions, nowhere is this more evident than in the Cabinet/Yaak Ecosystem. No less than 43 species of special concern have been identified in the Montanore Project Area. This list includes four endangered species (northern Rocky Mountain wolf, woodland caribou, bald eagle and peregrine falcon) and the grizzly bear, listed as threatened by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Several "candidate species" which are being considered for listing also live in the Project Area.

Concurrently, there are several sensitive fish species which are known to occupy waters in the Project Area and adjacent waters

downstream, although their existence is barely acknowledged in the DEIS. Bull trout is a management indicator species and state species of concern, yet it too is given minimal consideration in the DEIS, despite its need for critical habitat which would be destroyed by the Montanore Project.

The Kootenai National Forest's handling of the sensitive Coeur d'Alene salamander is further proof of insufficient research into populations and habitat requirements of threatened and/or endangered species. Although the salamander is considered a sensitive species by the Kootenai NF, and is considered endangered by some experts, the DEIS indicates that no significant effort was made to search for or record occurrences of this species.

The Cabinet/Yaak Ecosystem is one of seven ecosystems delineated as essential to the future recovery of the threatened grizzly bear. The current Recovery Plan calls for an eventual population of 70 bears in order for the grizzly population to be considered genetically viable. Even if this optimistic population were achieved, it would still require augmentation in order to maintain genetic variability. (The USFWS recently wrestled approval from the locals to "introduce" two bears into the population.) Since the Cabinet/Yaak Ecosystem is isolated from other "island" populations, and because the boundaries of this "island" are continually shrinking due to activities such as timber harvesting, roading and mining, it is highly unlikely that the bear will ever be considered as "recovered" in this ecosystem. The Montanore Project can do nothing but contribute to what seems to be the intentional extinction of the grizzly bear and its habitat.

At present, a reduction habitat effectiveness of 26 percent has almost brought the Cabinet grizzly bear population to extinction, based on research compiled by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks from 1983 through 1987 (Kasworm and Manley, 1988). Current grizzly bear mortality in the Cabinet/Yaak Ecosystem is not accurately known, but is thought to be high (Knick and Kasworm, 1989), and with increased human activity caused by the Montanore Project, the potential for human-caused mortality through removal or illegal kills is likely to rise exponentially (Martinka, 1982).

Language contained in the DEIS speaks for itself. "Considering that the proposed [Montanore] Project would increase mortality risk 26 percent above the current situation, and decrease habitat effectiveness another 10 percent (over one-third the current impact), the threat to recovery appears significant and adequate mitigation is essential. Despite the fact that the model has not been calibrated, it must be assumed that any increase in mortality risk or decrease in habitat effectiveness could result in serious consequences for the grizzly bear given the current precarious state of the population." As if to add insult to injury, the DEIS also states "The [grizzly bear] model is not good at predict-

ing indirect impacts." With this information in hand, I find it hard to believe that any amount of mitigation could compensate for the direct and indirect loss of grizzly bears which will be attributable to the Montanore Project. When the wholesale destruction of habitat is considered (approximately 1,174 habitat units lost), the absurdity of this entire project becomes preeminently clear, and although Noranda has proposed elaborate mitigation measures, the adequate funding for these measures is currently not available, and probably never will be (DEIS, Pg. 216).

In light of evidence presented in and acknowledged by the DEIS, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's attempts to prematurely delist the grizzly bear and designate it as "recovered," "an increased risk of mortality and temporary displacement" (DEIS, P. 219) is not acceptable under any circumstances, and most certainly not in the name of corporate profit and resource exploitation.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

The public comment period for the DEIS is over. Before turning away in disgust, however, consider this: the Freddie's don't have the guts to stand up to major corporations anyway, and will probably push through some sort of EIS, no matter how lame. Stopping the Noranda project requires going beyond the USFS.

Probably the only hope for stopping Montanore is through the Montana Water Act. Noranda must get its water quality degradation permit before being able to go through with the project. Re-read the above section on water quality, and then write a letter to the Montana Board of Health and Environmental Sciences, c/o Montana Dept. of Health and Environmental Sciences, Cogsell Bldg., Helena, MT 59620. Let them know exactly what you think.

In addition, get your name on the mailing list to receive the final EIS, development-oriented though it may be. Write Kootenai National Forest, Bob Thompson, 506 Highway 2 West, Libby, MT 59923.



Things are looking up at the EF! Foundation. After a period of lean times during which we were unable to fund many of the worthwhile projects submitted to us, we're up and running again. We have a renewed commitment to vigorous fundraising and sending help to projects of an educational nature devoted to getting across the message of ecocentrism. Our administrative costs are much lower than similar organizations, typically eight percent or less of our total contributions.

We're able to provide a tax deduction for contributors who file a US tax return. If you need a deduction, your contribution to any Earth First! educational activity (including the new journal) should be sent to us. It may be either unrestricted or earmarked for a specific project. We'll see that it gets where it's needed. If you're unconcerned about tax deductions, your contribution may of course be sent directly to the beneficiary.

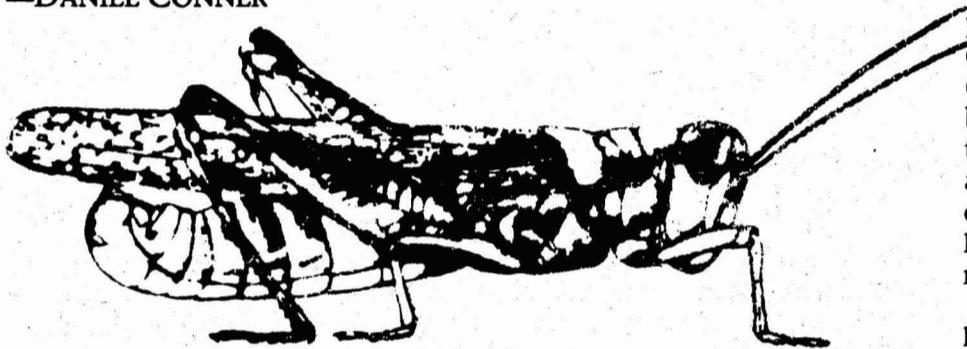
Current Board members:

- Ed Grumbine, Santa Cruz, CA (president)
- Dave Parks, San Francisco, CA (vice-president)
- Bill Devall, Trinidad, CA (secretary)
- Mike Roselle, Washington, DC (acting treasurer)
- Daniel Conner, Missoula, MT (legal counsel)
- Trudy Frisk, Kamloops, BC
- Richard Grossman, Somerville, MA
- Randy Hayes, San Francisco, CA

Myra Noss of Corvallis, OR, is our administrative support. We meet every month or two by conference call, and face-to-face every year or so at a suitable location.

Our 1990 Annual Report is in the works and our 1989 report is yours for the asking. Send donations and project proposals to: EF! Foundation, POB 1683, Corvallis, OR 97339, or call Myra at 503-752-7639. If you want to submit a proposal and haven't done so before, ask for a copy of our proposal guidelines.

—DANIEL CONNER



Dear Shit For Brains,

Those of us who piss and moan about the presence of livestock on public lands, and/or work toward the elimination of those hooved locusts from public lands, and yet still eat beef or mutton, are being deadly hypocritical. One need not be a scholar of economics to understand that our consumeristic practices lends power to whatever industry's goods we purchase!

I am not speaking as an animal rights advocate (though I understand all and accept some of those arguments). It's much bigger than that; it's environmental wrongs! Livestock grazing presently may well be the most ecologically destructive practice on North America, or for that matter on Earth. Besides, I'm not sure where I stand regarding the shooting of cows to expedite the goal of "cattle free by 93" (the point was well made that nothing, not even dead cows on the range, is wasted in nature). So, all you macho types need not fear that the bunny huggers syndrome is wrecking havoc on my perception here.

Secondly, I don't limit this hypocrisy to eating livestock grazed on public lands. Livestock ranchers on private lands are as much to blame for the continued demise of the wolf in northwest Montana as are public lands ranchers. And that's only one example of how private lands livestock operations are environmentally destructive.

Next, I understand and acknowledge the importance of look-

ing at the connection between eating other types of animal products and environmental degradation. Likewise, I acknowledge the notion of eating lower on the food chain as a means of helping alleviate some of the environmental pressure our over-population has created understandably, both of these could be fuel for the fire. However, I was, and am here, choosing to only focus on the negative impacts free ranging livestock has on wild places and things. As a sole argument, it can confidently stand on its own four legs.

And lastly, I acknowledge that I may be seen by others as guilty of my own accusations, as I myself am battling a love of dairy products and leather hiking boots. No doubt that my screaming outward is also, to some degree, a screaming inward.

So why share all this? It is a challenge to us all to look at our habits. I love EF!ers for our idealism, and I'm not asking anyone to be too reasonable or perfect. Hell, hypocrisy runs rampant in our culture, and I'm as guilty as anyone else. But the anti-livestock grazing advocate who still eats beef or mutton touches a real special nerve in me. This is one situation where a person's love for, and thus unwillingness to give up, a habit so intimately connected to environmental destruction cannot be overlooked merely because s/he speaks out against that particular destruction.

For a bit of perspective (should you not yet be convinced that you

Paint Balloon Inflator

Design: The paint balloon inflator is a simple-to-make and easy-to-use tool. Made of common materials, it operates on compressed air. Using a closed vessel, air is forced into one opening. The liquid (paint, dye) in the vessel is pushed out into the waiting balloon. **Use:** Now what can you do with a balloon full of paint?

Assembly: Gather the following items:

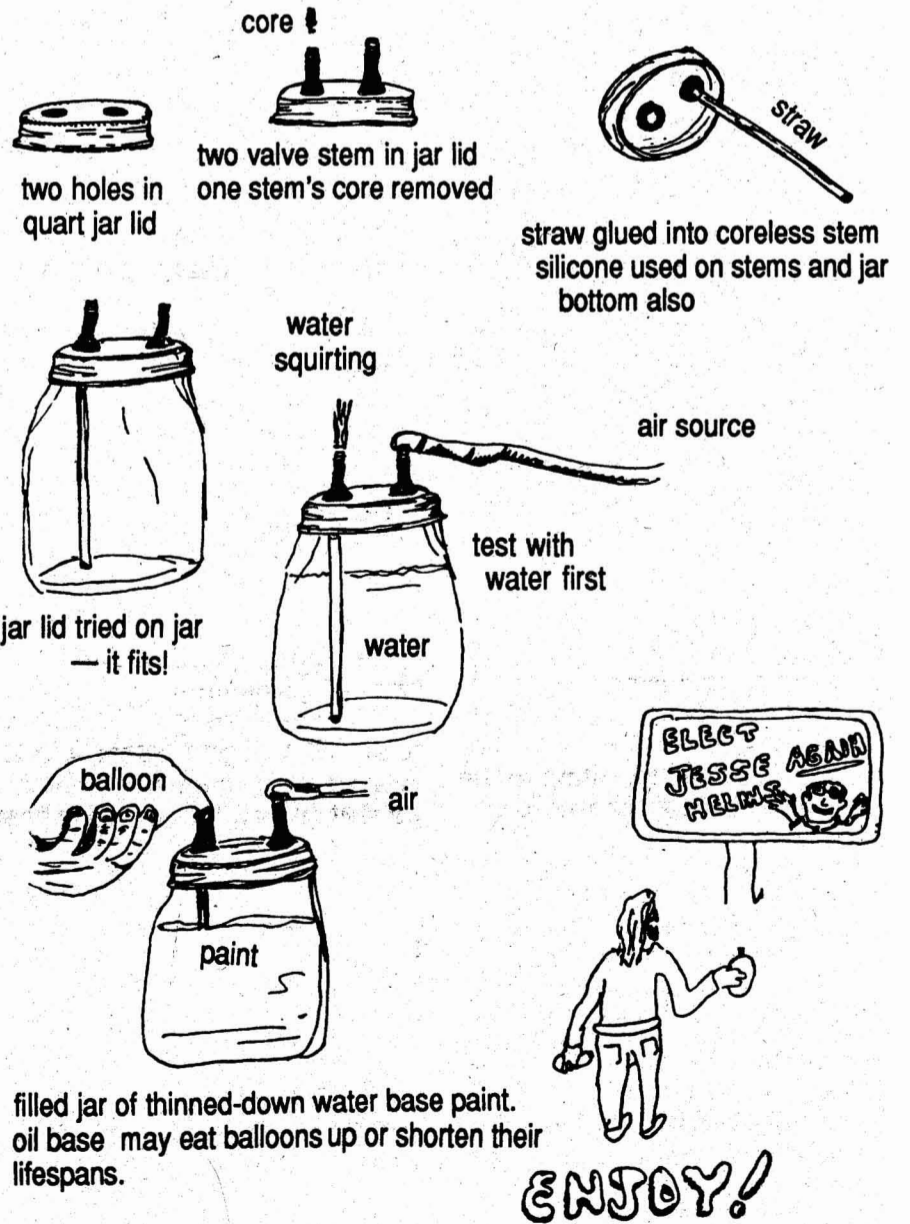
- One quart jar — you need the lid too!
- Plastic straw
- Two automotive tire valve stems, any length — any automotive outlet should have them. Don't pay more than \$1.25 a piece.
- Silicon glue or caulk
- A tool to make two 1/2" or so holes in the jar lid (drill, spike, round file, metalcutter, whatever)

Make two holes in the jar lid so that the tire valves fit snugly in them; don't make the holes too big. Be sure to make the holes far enough away from the center so that the lid still screws on. Once the valves are in the lid tightly, take the valve core (the air valve in the rubber stem) out counterclockwise of one valve stem only.

Cut the straw so it will barely reach the bottom of the jar from the lid, and insert it into the coreless valve stem. Get your silicon and glue the straw in place. While you're getting your fingers messy, smear some silicon between the stems and bottom of the lid. Let it dry a while, say 15-20 minutes.

Now screw the lid on the jar. Does it still fit? It needs to be airtight. Now take the test: Take the lid off, fill the jar with water (for test purposes only). Put the lid back on. Hook air source to the valve stem with the core still in and try to inflate the jar. Water should stream out of coreless stem. Good job! Empty water, fill with paint, put balloon on exit stem and inflate and enjoy.... Use thinned down water-based paint. Oil base paint may eat balloons up or shorten their lifespans.

—THE MAD ARTIST



should give up eating dead cow or sheep), ask yourself the following question. Would you feel comfortable about owning a redwood deck just because you attended Redwood Summer, or would you be comfortable in a pair of stonewashed jeans while occupying a bulldozer at the Jemez pumice mine? Food for thought...

—Tom Skeele, Bozeman, MT

Dear SFB,

You guys need to quit worrying about the FBI and get back to the forest.

I'm sorry to see the old Journal go and I'm totally against EF! doing anything but working to help the earth. Forget social justice — if we do right by the earth, we'll be doing the social justice thing too. If there's no earth, social justice is dead anyway.

Let's get back to the basics.
— Gil Hayes, Memphis, Tennessee

Hi, folk. Can't wait to see the new EF! Journal. After eleven of my submissions (100%) to the old editorial junta were rejected for publication, I gave up trying. For me, the Journal was a sometimes useful, yet non-participatory, discouraging and lopsided voice of the EF! movement. While everyone I organize with claims to disdain heterosexism, racism, sexism and classism, the Journal— until the clear-as-mud discussion of late— offered no apology for those particular glaring shortcomings.

I hope to see the new Journal take some measures to maintain itself as a representative voice of this diverse movement and not become the monoculture of one sectarian point of view. Even though the latter is more efficient, and a lot easier. To that end, I hope to see a clear explanation of the process for choosing and rotating the editorial collective.

Will we have editorial elections? Can the readership impeach editors? Will a variety of ethnic, socio-economic, international etc. points of view be represented by the editorial board? These are serious concerns.

No longer can the resistance to the Empire— that necrophiliac society which seeks to replace all life with accumulated profit and toxic refuse— be adequately represented solely by straight, white, middle and upper class, educationally privileged, usually male, U.S. citizens. The Earth First! movement has grown beyond that.

We can no longer with straight faces discuss returning to sustainable lifestyles without consulting the indigenous elders who yet survive, and listening to their voices. We can no longer speak to African concerns without appealing to the indigenous peoples of that continent, to hear their concerns about their habitat.

We are growing out of our arrogant Eurocentric androcentrism and into a fuller, deeper biocentrism. I applaud that growth. But I'd like to see it happen faster. We cannot win on behalf of all life without opening our eyes to the beautiful diversity of life both within and outside the human species.

I would love to see the Journal facilitate a continuing discussion of practical democratic (decentral-

ized) process in our movement and of outreach to other resistance movements. I happily offer my address as the mailing address of a clearing house on EF! process & outreach concerns. I will be glad to collate and organize the material— suggestions, experience, concerns, critiques from EF!ers nationwide and internationally into a coherent column or columns for the Journal.

¡Viva La Vida!
—Nixie, 2261 Market St #432, SF, CA 94114

Dear Earth First!ers

In the December issue you ran an article on the fight between activists defending a grizzly habitat and American Express who plans on building a ski resort in the San Juan Mountains. "East Fork." It sounds like the people organizing in behalf of the wilderness are catching an awful lot of shit for their troubles.

Boycotts are good but I would think that most of us Earth First!ers don't deal with American Express cards anyway. However there is an easy and fun little agitation we can do to assist getting a message along to the money people at Express.

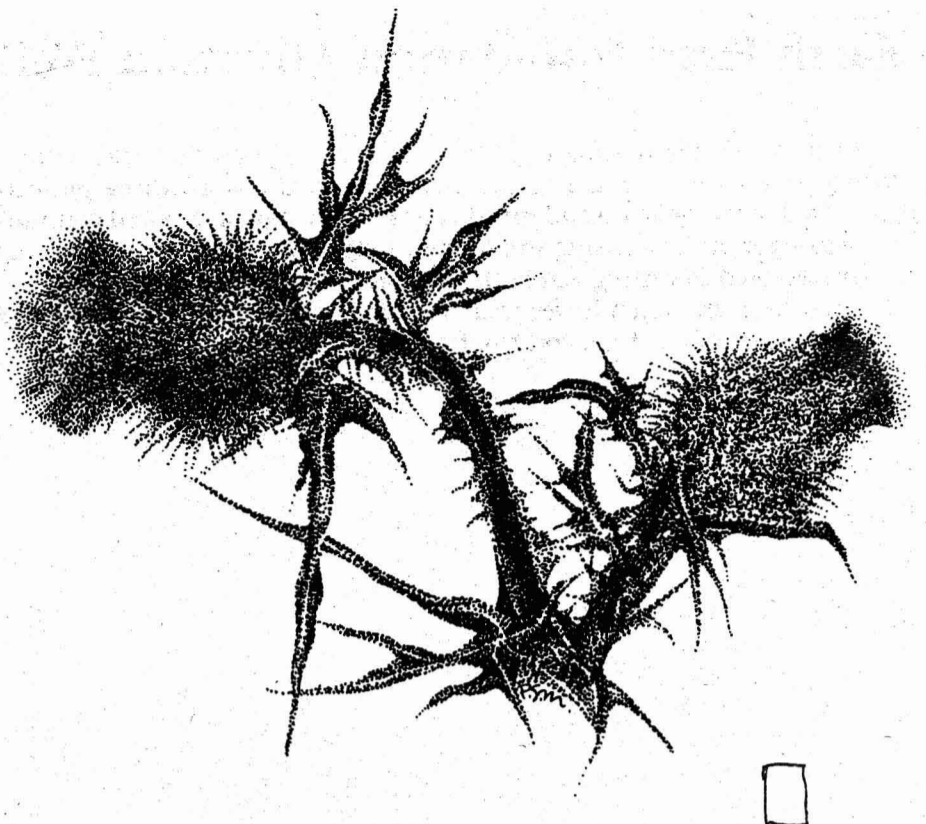
One can pick up American Express card applications almost anywhere. They are prepaid so you don't need a stamp. Simply write on the inside from something like "stop East Fork" or "save the grizzly's" or whatever your imagination comes up with and *mail a couple each day* to American Express. I do it for P.E.T.A. all the time. It's fun! They get thousands of messages against the ski resort and get to pay for it to boot.

So Y'all reading this, go pick up a bunch of applications today.
— Skvcloud, Mansfield OH

Dear SFB,

Please tell Margaret Hayes that we here in the Wild Rockies appreciate a city slicker from the Gross Apple spreading the word about the Wild Rockies National Land Act (WRNLA). It's gonna take folks from all over this over developed continent we've invaded showing support for a five state, multi ecosystem wilderness proposal to get it to become law (one of the few laws I can live with). However, the following is something Ms. Hayes neglected to share with us.

In a recent meeting here in the heart of the Wild Rockies, it was pointed out that letters to two people in particular would be a wise investment of our time. They are Representative Bruce Vento (D-MN; National Parks and Public Lands Subcommittee Chair-occupant) and Senator Dale Bumpers (D-AR; Public Lands, National Parks and Forests Subcommittee Chair-occupant). These two "gentlemen" could kill this pup before it even gets out of subcommittee (should it get that far), and they need to hear from all of us. Vento and Bumpers have little to lose at home politically by supporting a wilderness bill in a far away region like the Wild Rockies. Letters from you would be especially valuable if you live in either MN or AR, as no politician wants to look bad in the eyes of her/his voting constituents. Get the picture?! Write to them at US House of Reps; DC 20515 and US Senate; DC 20510 (respectively). Let's keep the Wild Rockies wild! For All Things Wild And Free,
—Scott Toby Bedder



Why I am not a Misanthrope

BY JUDI BARI

In the last *EF! Journal* (Yule, 1990), Chris Manes responds to the question "Why are you a misanthrope?" by saying "Why aren't you one?" After all, humans have a 10,000 year history of massacres, wars, ecocide, holocaust, etc., so the burden of proof is on us non-misanthropes.

I would like to respond to Manes' challenge, and my answer has nothing to do with humanism, anthropocentrism, or the belief that humans are a "higher" life form. Unlike Murray Bookchin, I reject that claim from the git-go. I believe in biocentrism, and think that all life forms are equal. I agree that human population is totally out of control. And I am as appalled as any misanthrope at the havoc that humans have wreaked on the natural world.

But I disagree with Manes' conclusion that the problem is "humankind." You cannot blame the destruction of the earth on, for example, the Quiché tribes of Guatemala or the Penan of Malaysia. These people have lived in harmony with the earth for 10,000 years. The only way you could identify the earth's destroyers as "humankind" would be to exempt such people from the category of "human." Otherwise you would have to admit that it is not humans-as-a-species, but the way certain humans live, that is destroying the earth.

Manes briefly acknowledges that these ecologically sound human cultures exist, but he dismisses them as trivial because "the fact is most of the world now mimics our dissolute ways." This statement completely ignores the manner in which "most of the world" was forced to abandon their indigenous cultures or be destroyed. You cannot equate the slave and the slave-master. Only after massacres, torture, ecocide and other unspeakable brutality did the peoples of the world acquiesce to the conquering hordes with their culture of greed and destruction.

Technocratic man, with his linear view of the world, tends to see tribal societies as earlier, less evolved forms of his own society, rather than as alternative, simultaneously existing methods of living on the earth. The presumption is that, given time, these cultures would somehow be corrupted like ours. But there is no evidence whatsoever that these ancient civilizations would have changed without our violent intervention. So it is not humans, but industrial-technocratic societies, that are destroying the earth.

In the same manner that misanthropy blames all humans for the crimes of the industrial/technocratic society, so does it blame all humans for the crimes of men. The list of atrocities for which Manes condemns the human race — massacres, wars, ecocide, holocaust — are not the work of women. Of course a few women can be found and paraded out who participate in the male power structure. But by and large, throughout history, wars and atrocities have been the territory of men. And the societies that engage in them have been run by men, in the interest of men, and against the interests of women. By categorizing as "human" traits which are actually male, misanthropes are being androcentric (male-centered) instead of biocentric (life-centered) as they claim to be. Vandana Shreeva of the Chipko movement in India put it best. She said the problem is not humans. It is white, technocratic men who are destroying the earth.

So misanthropy is not a form of humility, as Chris Manes says. It is a form of arrogance. By blaming the entire human species for the crimes of white, technocratic men, Manes conveniently avoids any real analysis of who is responsible for the death of the planet. Not surprisingly, Manes himself is a member of the group that most benefits from our consumptive society — privileged white urban men.

If the purpose of philosophy is just to play mind games, then misanthropy can be seen as provocative or enticing. But if the purpose of philosophy is to help us analyze the crisis we are in so that we can try to find solutions, misanthropy fails. It preserves the status quo by refusing to distinguish between oppressor and oppressed. It goes against one of the basic instincts of all life forms, preservation of the species. And, without contributing anything of value to an analysis of the problem, it alienates us from the people we need to work with to bring about change — people whose ideas are grounded in reality and experience, not in college textbooks.

Barbie Dolls

The big news in Oregon these days is that Barbie has joined the ranks of the environmentalists. A Mattel Toys commercial featured the ageless plastic doll asking her admirers how to make the world a better place. She suggested that we "keep the trees from falling, keep the eagles soaring."

Didn't know the old gal had it in her? Neither did the Oregon Lands Coalition, a logging group which charged that Mattel and Barbie had pandered to a movement out to shut down "the engines of this country" and had exposed children to the "preservationists'

radical agenda."

In the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, loggers are taking a swing at another Barbie - Yellowstone National Park's Superintendent. They are taking issue with the "Vision for a Greater Yellowstone," an unimaginative document developed by the agencies responsible for protecting the GYE. Claiming that the Vision Plan serves only the preservationists, loggers are blasting Barbie for backing the study. We EFlers in the GYE aren't surprised at all by Barbie's involvement in the Vision Plan. He's always been a real doll. —AP, Bozeman Chronicle



Gila NF Citizens to Regulate Freddie's?

The citizens of Catron County near the Gila National Forest in New Mexico are hopping mad, and by golly, they aren't gonna take it any more! No longer will they stand idly by while timber harvests are cut back because of the southern spotted owl. Reductions of livestock grazing permits because of a multi-year drought will no longer be accepted meekly and without resolve. Those preservationist Freddie's had better watch out, because Catron County has passed ORDINANCES Regarding USFS Regulation of public lands permittees WHICH WILL hold the USFS at fault if they ever impose cut-backs, restrictions, or alterations in a permittee's lease w/out first giving them careful and considered notice. The ordinances would also eliminate any fault at the hands of permittees, should

they find themselves in violation of said regulations.

For the time being, the ordinances remain a paper barrage, one which local Forest Service officials are ignoring. But if and when Catron County citizens TRY TO UTILIZE their new rules in the battle over Section A of the Rangeland Improvement Act, the USFS may have to take legal action.

Should you care to share your opinions, write to John Baldwin, Ranger Sub-staff, Gila National Forest Office, Reserve, New Mexico, 87830. To receive your very own copy of what may be the first attempt to pass local laws on federal land, call the Catron County Clerk, 505-533-6400, and ask for the newly-passed ordinances on Forest Service land.

Extinct Species Act?

The Inspector General of the Department of the Interior found that the federal government's species protection program is so mismanaged that hundreds of species face extinction without any Federal effort to conserve them. According to the report, 34 species have gone extinct since 1980 without even being listed. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimates that an additional 600 known and 3000 probable endangered or threatened species should also be listed. The report cites money (!?!) as the culprit, estimating that \$4.6 billion would be necessary to carry out the mandate of the Endangered Species Act. (Eliminating the cut and roadbuilding on public lands would recoup these funds many times over while offering maximum protection at no cost....)

—Appalachian EF!



Endangered Species... ACT!

Do it now.
Do it always.
But join us the last week of March as we act together.

We will speak for the vanishing ones.
We will make their cries heard.

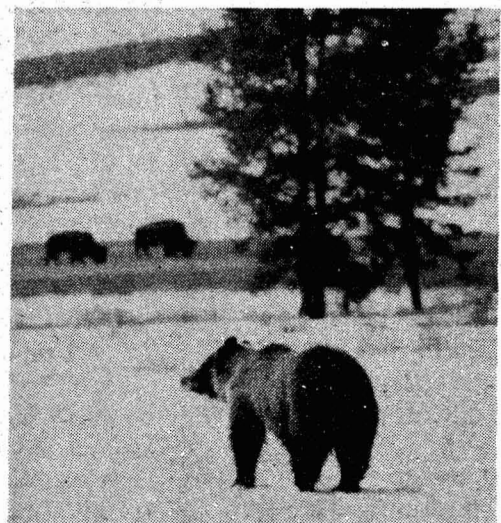
Humans are killing the innocent wild things
— to extinction—

Humans with names and addresses are doing it out of greed,
Others are doing it out of ignorance.

Help us educate.
Help us act.

If you can feel their pain,
Help them...

Call (505) 873-0299



Eco-rapers buy out Fish and Wildlife Service

US Fish and Wildlife Service will permit an experimental "round-up" of 100-500 Stephen's kangaroo rats, an animal listed under the ESA. The kangaroo rat would otherwise prevent federally-sponsored development from destroying its habitat in southern California. Relocated kangaroo rats will of course be monitored to see if they re-establish themselves in the new areas. If FWS deems the experiment (termed a "habitat conservation plan" or HCP) successful, we can expect housing developers, pipeline companies and dam builders to propose additional relocations of the species.

Already California's administrative "success" in getting FWS to agree to relocate the Stephen's kangaroo rat has spawned a similar proposal in Nevada. The Mojave populations of desert tortoise were listed as threatened in April 1990, after FWS was threatened with litigation. The listing action has affected real estate speculation and housing development around Las Vegas, which is surrounded by high-quality tortoise habitat. FWS is

now considering an HCP to trade development of federally-owned tortoise habitat in the Las Vegas area for potential habitat "improvements" on BLM land in other parts of Nevada.

Jasper Carlton, coordinator of the EF! Biodiversity Project says "no HCP has ever led to the recovery of any endangered species in the wild... allowing economic and political considerations to preclude the mandated recovery of an endangered species. . . is illegal under the Endangered Species Act."

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Regarding the ESA, HCPs in general and the Stephen's kangaroo rat, write John Turner, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, DC, 20240. Regarding the tortoise and development of lands around Las Vegas, you can write Bill Radke, Office of Endangered Species, BLM, Washington, DC 20240. EFlers living in the affected area should contact the Austin Texas group for their expertise on HCPs and protection of endangered species.

—Arizona EF!

Environmental Assessment of ADC

Usually when the Animal Damage Control (ADC) program requests permission to slaughter wildlife on land administered by one of its fellow federal agencies, the obliging Freds give the go-ahead without making much ado. But this year, for the first time since 1982, the bureaucrats at the Beaverhead National Forest have decided to consider the impact of ADC's war on the wild. Citing local concern and national controversy as reasons necessitating further consideration, they are preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) on ADC activities in their neck of the woods. A draft of the EA is now on the desk of the Forest Supervisor (not a place I'd like to spend much time).

Unless it is revised, the EA will present three alternatives:

- 1) No action, no critter control (Huzzah!)
- 2) Allow ADC to do "preventative control", making the range safe for livestock prior to their arrival this summer, prioritizing non-lethal control but also authorizing lethal means such as culling, shooting, aerial hunting, trapping, and snaring.
- 3) Allow ADC only to respond to confirmed losses (dead livestock).

If everything goes smoothly for ADC, the Freds will put the EA out, take a little public comment, select alternative 2, and the Animal Death Corps thugs could be out killing as early as April. To make their road a little rockier, get a copy of the EA and tell them what you think. If you don't want to wade through the bureaucratic bullshit, just tell them you support no control and no restrictions on wildlife. Write to: Supervisor, Beaverhead National Forest, 610 N. Montana, Dillon, MT 59725

New Sagebrush Rebels

They're back...and even though supporters claim no connection to the Sagebrush Rebellion of the seventies and early eighties, the agenda of the Western Public Lands Users, Western State Caucus, People for the West, The Center for the Defense of Free Enterprise, and other so-called "wise-use" or "multiple-use" groups is just as scary and unhealthy as it ever was.

In addition to their traditionally slimy techniques (a December meeting in Las Vegas was closed to reporters) and worn-out slogans ("People who want public lands kept open for public use"), these coalitions of ranchers, miners, lobbyists, industry, and high-level state government figures have been able to develop such an active constituency they have been able to affect national television and introduce outrageous legislation. In September of 1990, they were organized enough to convince all of the sponsors for Ted Turner's documentary "Rage Over Trees" to pull their support. (Turner aired the show anyway, at a loss of \$100,000). Senator Steve Symms of Idaho has sponsored a measure channeling a portion of gasoline tax dollars into ORV trail-building projects. Certainly, this is only the

beginning (or re-energized continuation).

The effectiveness of the newly invigorated "multiple abuse" movement lies in the same field as the environmental movement: grassroots involvement and action. Group meetings are springing up all over the west, both in cities and in small towns. Rep. Morris Udall (D-AZ) calls it "sharing ignorance," but the meetings do serve to get people riled up against wilderness preservation.

Don't let these unwise users speak for your community. Keep an eye on the "Local events" corner of your paper. Attend the meetings. Speak up for wilderness, or be a silent infiltrator, and act on the information. In case you are not worried enough about this recycled evil oozing in from the far right, here's a partial list of "wise use" supporters (so go get 'em): American Farm Bureau, National Rifle Association, Blue Ribbon Coalition, National Council for Environmental Balance, Wilderness Impact Research Foundation, Mountain States Legal Foundation, Motorcycle Industry Council, National Assoc. of Mining Districts, Exxon Co. USA, Senators Symms and McClure (Idaho), Thurmond (South Carolina), Helms (North Carolina), Stevens (Alaska), and Rep. Burns (Montana). (Bozeman Chronicle, San Francisco Examiner)

Drilling

In an internal memo leaked to the press, titled "Proposed Strategy for Mitigating Persian Gulf Situation," the Forest Service discussed weakening the environmental review process for drilling on public lands, as well as the right of the public to comment and appeal, giving drilling "the same urgency and management attention as fire." The memo specifically mentions the North Slope (Alaska) and the Rocky Mountain Front in Montana.

Badger-Two Medicine Oil

The Lewis and Clark Natl. Forest in Montana has disclosed its intent to drill the Badger-Two Medicine area despite overwhelming public opposition. The Badger-Two Med., eastern extreme of the Wild Rockies, borders the Bob Marshall/Glacier Natl Park complex and is sacred to the Blackfoot people. It is also critical habitat for wolves, griz, peregrine falcon, bald eagle and rare plant species.

The Forest Service has pulled a "no jeopardy" and will trash the place, although it estimates there is less than *one-half of a percent chance* of finding a commercially viable well there. Contact Wild Rockies EF! for more information.

Black Bears Reclaim Missouri Habitat

Over one hundred and forty years ago Missouri was home to a large number of black bears, specifically in the Ozark region of the state. Habitat destruction due to

overharvesting of the indigenous hardwoods led to the disappearance of this mammal. During June and July of 1990, the Missouri Department of Conservation received about 40 calls from the public reporting sightings. It is estimated that between 20 to 25 bears are regaining their place in the bioregion.

Black bears began reappearing in Missouri when bear populations in Arkansas began to increase following that state's 1958 black bear stocking program. Some bears crossed over into Missouri and gained footholds in the state's southwest region.

"There's a perception that bears are dangerous and present a problem to livestock," says Missouri Department of Conservation fur-bearer biologist David Hamilton. "That's not true. They are shy and like seclusion. They don't think of humans as a source of food [author's note: unfortunately] and they can adapt to people."

—Yippin' Coyote

Attila Strikes Greece

The Greek periodical *Nature and Ecology* has bestowed, with great success, the 2nd Attila Anti-Prize upon the Public Electric Company (DEH). The Attila Anti-Prize is awarded to the person or organization, public or private, that was most responsible for the ravage of nature and the environment in Greece, and for the aggravation of the ecological crisis over the past year.

About 30 members of the organizing committee of EFAP, the Greek Antihunting Initiative, together with a committee of residents of Aliveri (a city which has suffered a lot at the hands of DEH), broke into the office of the governor of DEH, Mr. Gross, and handed him the anti-prize, which this year consisted of 10 kg of radioactive ashes from the DEH workshop in Aliveri and 70,000 signatures of people who protested against the construction of the dam in Valia Calda.

Nominations and public voting for the third Attila Anti-Prize are already completed and the "winner" will be announced when he, she, or it receives the anti-prize in a public scoffing session.

Korn Kob Pit

The Korn Kob Mine is an open pit copper mine being proposed by A.F. Budge Mining, Ltd. on the East slope of the Santa Catalina Mountains in lovely Buehman Canyon. According to the mining company, the heap leach operation would cover about 100 acres, with the open pit itself covering about 60 acres. Core samples taken from the site over the past ten months are currently being analyzed to determine the economic feasibility of going into full production. We've heard that the preliminary results are favorable.

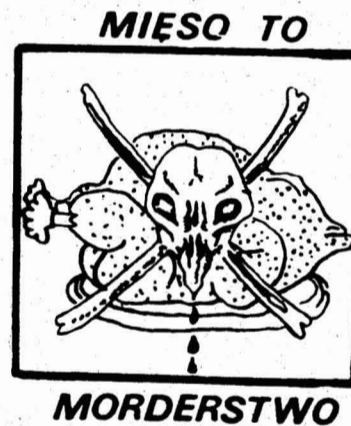
Buehman Creek, just below the mine site, is a unique riparian area containing a gallery sycamore-cottonwood-willow forest, extensive multi-aged stands of saguaros and a rich diversity of plant and animal species. This vital riparian area contains a species of Leopard Frog

which is already stressed and not doing well regionally. The Gila Top minnow was introduced into the perennial stretch of Buehman Creek in 1982, and the Desert Pupfish was introduced in 1989. Buehman Creek drains into the San Pedro just a few miles down from the mine site.

Heap leaching is a hydrometallurgical process used for copper recovery from moderate to high grade ores. The process involves placing layers of ore in heaps and spraying it with a sulfuric acid leaching solution which then percolates through the ore by gravity. This solution containing dissolved copper drains into a pond and is then pumped to the plant for metal recovery. The Korn Kob mine may include 4 heaps, 2 open pits, and one plant. Three of the heaps and one pit will be on Forest Service land. They expect to process 12 million tons of ore over a 10-122 year period.

Potential problems and concerns include: contamination of the groundwater and Buehman Creek from mine wastes and overflowing of leaching ponds adverse affects to nearby springs and the Creek from groundwater pumping, compliance with water quality standards and NEPA, the adequacy of the reclamation plan to restore wildlife habitat and scenic values, and the general impacts on the natural environment, wildlife and scenic values (the mine site is visible from the Guthrie Mountain Trail) while the mine is in production.

—AZ. EF!



(Meat is Murder)

didja know? "Those all American standbys — a thick steak, a juicy burger — are coming under attack as never before. Vegetarians, once a fairly passive population, have grown fangs. They've become outspoken against the clogged arteries of a gluttonous nation, the massive exploitation of animals and the looming destruction of the environment.

The National Cattlemen's Association bristles at what it sees as a smear campaign." from USA Today, 9/10/90.

Nice Cups

GALS! "A must for outdoor winter activities. Luxuriously soft, warm bra cup liners!! Specially treated BEAVER!" from an ad by Kosher (?) Inc., Greeley, CO., in a recent issue of the *Trapper and Predator Caller*. Git out them fangs, then.

A Howling from Texas to Alaska

This is a look at issues facing wolves in five areas: two areas that I've never written about before and two that have only had slight coverage. I chose to cover these four areas partly because the wolves there (or not yet there, as the case may be) need our help, and partly as a growing effort on my part to increase familiarity with the wolf-related issues across as much of the continent as possible. The fifth area, Alaska, though covered before, is included because of the urgency and timeliness of the information. So, consider this an unusual disgusting plea for help.

I and the wolf advocates who work with WAN would be most appreciative of any and all information that you come across regarding wolves. In particular, we're always interested in receiving articles, announcements and action alerts concerning wolves. WAN's financial resources are small (hint hint), and sometimes we don't hear about issues in time to do much about them. So, any time you can send WAN information, it will be a great help. We will know more than we did, and will be more able to react to the issue in a timely manner, and with a real strong punch. In the meantime....

Minnesota

The word from Minnesota is that an announcement may be coming soon in the Federal Register which would outline the exemption of some communities in northern Minnesota from Zone 1 guidelines of the Eastern Timber Wolf Draft Recovery Plan. Zone 1, as outlined by the recovery plan, is the area in Minnesota where complete protection should be afforded the wolf. Ron Refsnider, of the USFWS Region 3 endangered species program, told me that the idea of exempting one or more communities from their present Zone 1 status is the result of a recent recovery team meeting, and that it is only one of many proposals and recommendations concerning possible exemptions presently in front of Regional Director James Gritman.

Correcting Simple Oversights

Refsnider said these proposals are an effort to "correct simple oversights" made by the recovery team in establishing the boundaries for various zones in Minnesota in the draft recovery plan (approval on the final plan is expected within a few months). There are five zones outlined in the

plan. Zones 1-3 represent primary, or critical, wolf habitat, Zone 4 delineates a peripheral range, and Zone 5 is the rest of Minnesota where, as Refsnider put it, wolves shouldn't be and "are more trouble than they're worth."

According to Refsnider, these simple oversights were the inclusion of towns and other developed areas as part of Zone 1, and were done so for reasons of convenience. He listed three towns, Ely, Isabella and Winton, as likely candidates for exemption. Refsnider said it is unlikely that wolves would wander the streets of Ely, the deduction being, though he never said it, that therefore Ely need not be considered part of the wolf's critical habitat. However, he was quick to add that no one knows if fewer or more towns, or areas extending outward from these three towns, will be included in an official proposal until the regional director makes his decision.

What he did acknowledge was the fact that if these exemptions do occur, residents of those areas who lost "property" (namely dogs and livestock) to "problem wolves" could instigate "control measures" upon one or more wolves thought to be responsible for the crime of property damage. In plain English, this means that wolves could be killed in areas where they have been fully protected, and this ultimately means more dead wolves. In 1989, the good people at the Animal Damage Control program, under contract with the USFWS, killed 80 wolves under the same scenario. This number is likely to increase each year. Wolves are already subjected to these control measures in Zones 2 - 5, and the establishment of areas of exemption in Zone 1 means more trouble for the already threatened population.

Pay Backs Are A Bitch

A bit of history might well lead you to see the age-old "you scratch my back and I'll scratch yours" phenomenon occurring here (though politics being what they are, nobody who knows is likely to say for sure). And again it involves the estimable L. David "wolf" Mech (see *EF!* 11/1/89).

There has been a strong, and successful, push (in which Mech was actively involved, and he is now the Vice Chair on the Board of Directors) for the creation of an International Wolf Center in Ely (known as the jumping off point for the

BWCA and Quetico wilderness areas), and just last year the state of Minnesota appropriated \$1.2 million for the Center's construction. The problem with this center is three-fold: 1) it will attract more people to an area where wolves have survived because of the lack of humans; 2) the Center, among other concerns, is providing weekend programs in which participants are flown around on aerial "safaris" to watch wolves and howl in an effort to try and communicate with the "elusive creatures"; 3) this influx of people will add to the already damaging cumulative impacts upon wolves from snowmobile and ORV use, logging, mining, and the abominable Animal Damage Control program which occur in the recovery area.

Not so oddly, the state's head of finance and the state's chair of the appropriations committee (i.e.: two people involved in granting state appropriations) are both "Iron Range legislators," the area encompassing northeast Minnesota, of which Ely and all of Zone 1 are a part. Karlin Berg of HOWL, the most active and demanding of local groups trying to protect the wolves in the Northwoods, sees the legislators' support for the Center as a porkbarrel deal in the form of tourist dollars for their constituents. She feels that the state legislators helped pave the way for the appropriations more for the political gains made than for their love of wolves or wilderness (they opposed the creation of the BWCA).

Berg, by stating that, "When you get money from the devil, you owe something," feels that the payback for this favor won't end with increased dollars for the community of Ely. She sees the USFWS's not-yet official proposal for area exemptions as another back-scratch for the Center's funding. And it seems to make sense. Locals don't like losing their domesticated "Fifi's" to their pets' wild cousins, and so Mech (who greatly benefitted from the state's funding, and who is a powerful mover and shaker within the Eastern Timber Wolf recovery team) and others may be returning the favor by pushing for exemptions.

What You Can Do:

These type of concessions are unfortunate reminders that the fate of the wolf is far more a political issue than one of biology. Thus, wolves need our support more than ever. Refsnider gave me no sense of when Regional Director Gritman might make a decision. If he decides in favor of any exemptions, a public comment period will follow an announcement in the Federal Register. There is no need to wait to tell Gritman how you feel about the potential exclusion of any area within the wolf's critical habitat from the total protection requirement. Write him at Federal Bldg, Ft. Snelling, Twin Cities, MN 55111. Also, write to the International Wolf Center (c/o Vermillion Community College, 1900 E Camp St., Ely, MN 55731) and tell them that the last thing wolves in the Northwoods need is an onslaught of eco-tourism in the name of public education.

Big Bend

Big Bend National Park, located along the state's southwest border with Mexico, is named after the "big bend" in the Rio Grande. It encompasses 775,346 acres, and is considered part of the Chihuahuan Desert. Ranging in habitats from desert to riparian to mountains reaching 7,835 feet in elevation, Big Bend is home to over 600 animal and more than 1,000 plant species. The diversity of the biological community found within its perimeter is one of the reasons why it has been selected as a World Biosphere Reserve.

The Greater Big Bend

Big Bend is bordered by another 327,638 acres of state wild lands. These state lands include the Big Bend Ranch State Natural Area (215,000 acres) and the Black Gap Wildlife Management Area (112,638 acres), which, along with the national park, comprise the largest tract of public land in Texas.





Big Bend National Park Area. Source: National Park Service

This acreage on the north side of the Rio Grande actually makes up less than half of the wild public lands in the Big Bend area. The Dead Horse Mountains, on the eastern edge of the park, is the northern extension of a mountain range complex that includes both the Sierra Del Carmen and the Sierra Fronteriza. These two *Sierras* are both south of the international border, and the Mexican government is considering them as part of a proposed national park. Although the boundaries of this proposed park are not definite, the park would encompass somewhere in the vicinity of 1.2 million acres. They are separated from the public lands north of the border only by the Rio Grande, and these public lands together total over 2 million acres; the "Greater Big Bend" (or "Bigger Bend").

A wild area of this size is considerable room to allow for natural processes, which is much of the reason behind the smaller Big Bend National Park's wonderful diversity. However, both Big Bend's and the Greater Big Bend's inherent diversity is incomplete for lack of one of its top predators, the Mexican Wolf. The last confirmed sighting of a wolf in the region was in 1970, when two wolves were killed just north of the park. The park's characteristics comply with the criteria for recovery as laid out in the Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan, yet no real concerted effort has been made, until this past year, to re-establish wolves in the park, or anywhere in Texas for that matter.

No More Ping Pong

Much of this inertia was likely the result of resistance on the part of the state of Texas, whose Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) vetoed a USFWS proposal to study potential reintroduction sites in Texas in 1986. Unfortunately, the USFWS all too frequently considers state level opinions when deciding upon whether to pursue wolf reintroduction in an area, and has used the excuse that Texas isn't interested in wolf recovery not to fulfill its mandate.

Meanwhile, a Texas law that prohibits private individuals from releasing pet wolves into the wilds of the Lone Star State was misconstrued by some to mean that Texas had outlawed reintroduction efforts by anyone — thus why bother to pursue it? This legal misconception on the part of some wolf activists may have added to the abovementioned inertia. However, even if Texas had passed a law prohibiting wolf

reintroduction, the reality is that under Section 6(f) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) any state law that in effect prohibits the implementation of the ESA is void. The ESA supersedes all other wildlife regulations regarding a threatened or endangered species. The lesson behind this scenario is that the ESA is a powerful piece of legislation of which we should take full advantage.

Within the past year the situation has improved dramatically, although we're a long way from seeing wolves in the wilds of Texas. But if things continue as they are, Big Bend will be the first area in Texas to be complemented with the return of Lobo. The Mexican Wolf Coalition of Texas deserves the credit for much of this momentum. The Coalition has focused on ending what the group's president, Elizabeth Sizemore, calls a ping-pong game between the state and the feds regarding who's stopping who and who's responsible for what. The Coalition has also asked the USFWS and the NPS to initiate an EIS concerning the reintroduction of wolves to Big Bend.

Although the state hasn't done an about face on their anti-wolf veto of 1986, it is now at least not resisting the idea. Ann Richards, the state's new governor, wrote a pre-election letter to the Coalition stating that she felt Texas needed a Parks and Wildlife Board that would focus on issues like preserving and propagating endangered species, as well as addressing the destruction of their habitat (people in Texas should hold her accountable for this). Andrew Sansom, the new director of TPWD, told Sizemore that the Department wasn't standing in the way of the USFWS. He also said that he would like to hold a roundtable discussion on returning predators to the wilds of Texas sometime this spring.

This leaves the impression, which has been the reality all along, that it's the federal agencies' (USFWS and NPS) responsibility to hang up the ping-pong paddle and get on with the recovery of the Mexican Wolf in Texas (and elsewhere). Unfortunately, \$300,000 slated for conducting an EIS on wolf reintroduction at White Sands Missile Range (see *EF!* 9/22/90) and elsewhere in the southwest didn't make the cuts in this year's appropriations bill. Although the NPS says it is not opposed to wolves in Big Bend, it doesn't seem willing to initiate its own feasibility study. But now is a perfect time for it to do so. The Park's

Statement for Management is out for review, and at present makes no mention of the potential for re-establishing the Mexican Wolf in the park.

What You Can Do:

Earth First!ers and other no-compromise wolf advocates can do a lot right now not only to give this effort a big push, but also to help infuse it with more vision. We can begin with the question, "Why stop at the boundary of Big Bend?" As I mentioned before, the Park is bordered by a state park (Big Bend Ranch State Natural Area) one-third its size, and a wildlife management area (Black Gap Wildlife Management Area) one-sixth its size, and the mountains and surrounding lands that make up a proposed Mexican national park of up to 1.2 million acres. Each area has its own obstacles to overcome before it can be included as part of a viable recovery plan.

Big Bend Ranch was recently bought by the state, and the TPWD is presently developing a management plan for the Natural Area which might include the allowance of livestock grazing. Residents of Texas ought to push the state to develop a management plan for Big Bend Ranch that places priority on natural processes, excludes livestock grazing, and addresses the idea of working with Big Bend NP on wolf reintroduction in the Big Bend area.

The Black Gap area is managed as a big game wildlife area, and the state presently kills mountain lions in an effort to protect the ungulates (mostly white tail deer, mule deer, and the newly reintroduced bighorn sheep). Again, Texas residents should put pressure on the TPWD to change its management of Black Gap to allow the presence of mountain lions, and hopefully, in the near future, wolves. Send comments concerning Big Bend Ranch and Black Gap to Director Andrew Sansom, TPWD, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 77874.

Most importantly, write to the Big Bend Superintendent Jim Carrico, and tell him to include plans for the return of the Mexican wolf in the development of the park's revised statement for management. Also, tell him to put pressure on the USFWS to begin an EIS concerning wolf reintroduction in the park, and to create a deadline by which the USFWS should have begun the EIS process. And while you're at it, write to the USFWS Regional Director in Region III (Mike



Spear, 500 Gold Ave, SW. Albuquerque, NM 87103) and tell him that, along with areas in New Mexico and Arizona, you support the return of wolves to the Big Bend area, and thus he ought to get on with it. Letters to your congressional delegates, as well as USFWS, asking for money to carry out an EIS are important. And lastly, please write to Mexico's president (Presidente Carlos Salinas de Gortari, Palacio Nacional, Mexico, DF Mexico) in support of the national park proposal in the Mexican state of Coahuila.

Washington

It could be justifiably stated that the least manipulated free roaming wolf population in the US exists in and around the North Cascades of Washington. At present, there are two confirmed breeding dens, one in the Ross Lake National Recreation Area and the other in Okanogan National Forest (see *EF!* 9/21/90). There may be a third pack in the Glacier Peak Wilderness area, or one of the other packs may have moved south. No estimates exist of overall wolf numbers in Washington.

Documentation of these wolves' return to their former range in the northcentral part of the state, presumably by migrating south from British Columbia, has only occurred within the past nine months. Their return transpired without the assistance of any state or federal recovery plan, and without the piles and files of research and documentation and years of public process that the less fortunate Mexican, Red and nearby populations of Gray wolf have been subjected to. The little research and public process that has occurred with the wolf's return in mind has, at best, only affected them by affecting — for better or worse — the protection of their habitat.

The Innocence Of Babes

In many respects, these wolves represent the innocence of the newborn, in that they've not yet learned about the pain and control our civilized culture thrusts upon the wild ones. These wolves are unaware of, and seemingly unaffected by, all the ideals (mandated wolf restoration) and realities (the political ramifications of recovery

plans) we initiate because of our hope for their return. So far, these returning natives are most likely just going about their instinctual, predatory behaviors.

And while it may be nice to spend time reveling in the fact that these wolves returned on their own, without the assistance or manipulation of our mighty recovery plans (frequently referred to by some as recovery prevention plans), basking in such ideal thought for too long will likely cause the very same wolves increased human-imposed pain and control. Such impositions will affect their instinctual behaviors by teaching them to react to our imaginary recovery zone boundaries and very real control programs.

At this point the innocence vanishes. These wolves, by the very nature of being wild, already have to deal with enough natural checks and balances, habitat loss, and poaching. The last thing these predators need are the additional constraints we humans will place upon them because we don't want their renewed presence to threaten our livestock, kill off our big game, carry away our fondest pets, or limit our access to public lands. Therefore, wolf advocates need, starting now, directly to affect the process of establishing a recovery plan. For already much talk amidst the great wildlife managers of the not-so-real world has taken place concerning the issue of how to MANage these returning residents. Now is the time to make ourselves heard about how not to manage these wolves.

The Lesser Of Two Evils

In particular, both the USFWS and the Washington Department of Wildlife (WDW) have been discussing what sort of recovery plan they should adopt for the wolves in the North Cascades. Two possibilities have emerged. One idea, which is likely to be the official stance of the USFWS, is to amend the Northern Rocky Mountain Wolf Recovery Plan (NRMWRP) to include the North Cascades. The other strategy, which the state unofficially favors, would result in a separate recovery plan that could include far more than the North Cascades. Jeff Haaf of Fish and Wildlife Enhancement for the USFWS in

Olympia told me that Region 6 (USFWS), because it is involved in the already existing NRMWRP, is technically the lead agency, and thus will make the decision about whether to amend the NRMWRP or create a separate plan. He said that this decision won't occur until the NRMWRP is up for review in 1992.

While accepting the premise that any recovery plan will outline management requirements based on political considerations more so than biological ones, the separate plan strategy is the lesser of two evils. And regardless of whether these wolves are to be managed under the NRMWRP or a separate document, all of the Cascades, the Olympics, the Selkirks and the Okanogan Highlands should be included as recovery zones for the Gray Wolf.

The USFWS will likely favor amending the NRMWRP to include the North Cascades, presumably because it would place the management of wolves under the same recovery document according to genetic similarities (as has been done with the grizzly bear). This is idealistically pure, but the management strategies for these various populations should be different as both the ecological and political dynamics in the northwest are very different from the northern Rockies.

The social and political climate in Washington state is far more friendly toward the wolves than in the northern Rockies. For one, the number of livestock interests is significantly lower, and most of the ranchers are to the east of the Cascades. Secondly, the majority of the state's population and political power is located in urban areas on the west side of the range, and has thus far been receptive to the idea of more wolves.

We ought to take full advantage of these differences. As I've mentioned before, the USFWS almost always lays undue importance upon the public and political opinion of the state(s) geographically affected by the wolf's return. However, this is one situation where that may be a benefit for the wolf. It would be extremely detrimental for the wolves if our efforts to assist their recovery in the Evergreen State was connected to the quagmire that the NRMWRP continues to experience. Furthermore, by connecting the North Cascades situation to the NRMWRP, the likelihood of also including the Olympics, Okanogan Highlands and the Selkirks as recovery zones within that recovery plan is slim.

The idea of including the Okanogan Highlands and the Selkirks in a recovery plan along with the Cascades and the Olympics, and not as part of the NRMWRP, may seem out of place. This may seem especially true given the present push for a new view of the Wild Rockies as a large bioregion, which under most geographic breakdowns includes both the Selkirks and the Okanogan Highlands. And true enough, the Selkirks are part of a potential travel corridor for the natural wolf recolonization of Central Idaho from British Columbia. However, the Selkirks are not considered part of either of the two nearby



recovery zones in the NRMWRP. Besides, the likelihood of getting the Selkirks (and for that matter, the Okanogan Highlands) attached to a Cascades recovery plan is as good, if not better than, as having the NRMWRP amended to include them. And lastly, it makes as much, if not more, sense for these two areas to be included with the Cascades and the Olympics, when considering the coordination of both species and habitat protection that should be pursued with British Columbia.

Drugs And Dogs

In the meantime, the USFWS wants to monitor the wolves' activities to establish their status and distribution as the first step in developing a management plan for the wolves. It is presently seeking funds to do so. This brings up two other concerns: the use of collars for research and the presence of dogs in the wolf's habitat.

The WDW took full advantage of the wolf's return, and last summer asked for enough money to start a survey project. Those funds are allocated by the USFWS, and the allocations, particularly for grizzly research, have recently been one tenth to one sixth of what was asked for. The WDW has gestured that if it doesn't get enough money to do it right (regarding wolf research), it'll return the money and not do it at all. Some people feel that such a scenario would be a blessing, while others feel it would be bad for the wolves.

There is something to be said for research, as it can help give clout behind efforts to protect the critter and its habitat. However, we should always be concerned about both the type and amount of research. Should the WDW start up any type of wolf research in the Cascades, the Wolf Action Network and others are adamantly opposed to the use of transmission collars because it entails drugging the wolves so that humans can handle them. Mitch Friedman, of the Greater Ecosystem Alliance, feels that howling and camera-triggered bait stations are plenty sufficient. He said that the reason the bait stations haven't worked for grizzly bear research is because there hasn't been enough of them, nor has there been adequate on-sight refrigeration for the bait, making it difficult to replace the bait.

Dogs are another potential problem that should be addressed. They frequently are host to a disease called canine parvo virus, an infectious disease that can kill wolves by starvation. Parvo is one of three factors thought to be responsible for the decline in the numbers of wolves on Isle Royale in Lake Superior. There is a concern in the Cascades that both dogs in nearby campgrounds and those used as hounds for hunting may someday pass parvo onto these newly returned natives. Last summer, dogs were restricted from the Ross Lake National Recreation Area, and although I'm not sure if that restriction still stands, it is a good start. Dogs, both as pets and as hunting hounds, ought to be restricted from throughout the regions where their wild cousins now live.

What You Can Do:

All things considered, we ought to be supporting the WDW's stance. By the time you read this, the department, though it is presently waffling, may have already decided officially to support the idea of a separate plan. Either way, it would be a positive step to let them know you support the separate plan strategy. Write to Harriet Allen, Threatened and Endangered Species Coordinator (WDW, 600 N Capitol Way, Olympia, WA 98501). Also, tell her that the Olympics, the Okanogan Highlands and the Selkirks should be included in this plan. Ask her to put gobs of pressure on the USFWS to pursue a separate plan, especially considering the sensitivity that the feds have to the state's opinion. Also, tell her that although research could be beneficial for the wolf's return, you are opposed to the use of radio transmission collars. If the WDW wants to research the wolves, they should demand enough money to use only cameras and howling as a means of monitoring.

Likewise, and even moreso, the USFWS needs to hear the same about any potential recovery plan, as it is the lead agency in the recovery effort. Write to Jim Michaels, Endangered Species Program, USFWS, 2625 Parkmount Lane, SW., Bldg B., Olympia, WA 98502. Include in your letter

to him, if you feel this way, that the USFWS should come up with enough money to research properly, spending money on personnel and camera stations rather than fancy telemetry equipment. Also, ask him to push the other federal land management agencies in the Cascades to close off wolf-inhabited areas to their domesticated cousins. And lastly, tell him that any Steering Committee the USFWS establishes to work on a recovery plan should include at least one strong, non-agency wolf advocate (WAN's preference is someone from the Greater Ecosystem Alliance). And you may want to send copies of this letter to your congressional delegates, Secretary of the Interior Lujan, and USFWS Director Turner.



Colorado

(This section was written by Michael Robinson. If you are interested in helping Colorado EF!'s efforts for wolf recovery, contact Michael at POB 12243 Boulder, CO 80303)

Depending on whom you ask, the last wild wolf in Colorado was killed in either 1943 or 1970, although occasional unconfirmed sightings of wolves occur today. Wolf biology in Colorado is equally uncertain. The buffalo or plains wolf would have lived on the eastern plains of the state, although there is some question whether or not the buffalo wolf was actually a separate sub-species of the Mexican grey wolf. Nevertheless, any wolves returned to Colorado would almost certainly come from Canada or Montana, and any genetic differences between re-introduced wolves and the original ones would be minor. It is also possible that once wolves are returned to Yellowstone National Park, they could eventually re-colonize Wyoming's Wind River Range, and dispersers could find their ways to parts of Northern Colorado, such as the Mount Zirkel Wilderness. But these wolves would have a hard time establishing packs in Colorado because of the severe mortality they would probably undergo at the hands of ranchers while crossing southern Wyoming.

Because it is not mentioned as a recovery area in plans written under the auspices of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), Colorado is the only Rocky Mountain state that has not had a study done on the feasibility of wolf reintroduction. Nevertheless, several areas in Colorado appear to lend themselves to the possibility of returning wolves. In particular, and as others have written about in previous journals (see *EF!* 12/21/90), *EF!* and other groups (particularly the Humane Society of the United States) are pushing for the restoration of grizzly bears in the San Juans in SW Colorado. A complementary campaign to bring wolves back to the mountains of southwest Colorado would only add strength to these predator efforts.

With around one and a half million roadless acres, including the 956,000-acre Weminuche roadless area, the San Juan mountains seem the most obvious place to return wolves. Rocky Mountain National Park, when linked together with the Arapahoe-Roosevelt National Forest, is another likely region. Although there is a dearth of low-elevation roadless country here, there is also very little livestock grazing. A 1976 Colorado State University study written for a Master's thesis concluded that a small wolf population could

thrive here. Other possible areas are the Flat Tops Wilderness, the Uncompahgre Plateau along with adjacent desert canyons, the Sangre de Cristo range, and the Maroon Bells-Collegiate Peak area. Ideally, wolves would inhabit the entire Western (mountainous) part of the state with concentrations in wildlands strongholds. But until a biologically-based study is conducted, all talk of specific areas is speculative.

Until recently, Colorado Earth First! was the only group promoting wolf reintroduction in the state. Now the National Wildlife Federation (the nation's largest and most conservative DC-based environmental group), through its local fundraising affiliate National Wildlife Action (NWA), is also actively promoting wolf reintroduction. NWA is calling for the USFWS to conduct a study on the feasibility of reintroducing wolves in Colorado.

What follows is a brief and speculative summary of the political situation wolf reintroduction faces here. First, the state Division of Wildlife (DOW) officially opposes wolf reintroduction. Although DOW has no legal standing on the matter, its position carries a lot of weight with politicians and agencies.

As for the USFWS, when *EF!* demanded reintroduction here, Regional Director Galen Buterbaugh flatly announced that there wasn't enough room in the state for wolves. Now with NWA's involvement, he and his boss John Turner say they are open to conducting a study, but don't have the funds. Nevertheless, no one ever witnessed USFWS administrators wetting their pants with excitement over the prospect of wolves in Colorado.

Colorado's congressional delegation is evenly split along party lines, with four Democrats and four Republicans. All the Republicans are probably anti-wolf, given their records on other biodiversity issues. Unfortunately, Rep. Ben Nighthorse Campbell, a Democrat who represents virtually all the potential wolf habitat (including the San Juans), is also probably against wolves. Campbell is a rancher, and his congressional record is largely built on sticking up for livestock interests. He has announced he will retire in 1994, but any likely successor will probably be anti-wolf as well.

Of the three other Democrats, Rep. Pat Schroeder has so far been negative about the issue, but given enough organizing on the issue within her Denver district, may be open to changing her position, as she has taken pro-biodiversity stands in the past. Rep. Davis Skaggs of Boulder seems somewhat open to wolf reintroduction, mainly because he has gotten the most letters from his constituents on the issue. His environmental aide has indicated some support for doing a study in Rocky Mountain National Park (which Skaggs' district partly covers). Skaggs now sits on the House Appropriation Committee, from which the funds for such a study would come. Senator Tim Wirth, who may have presidential ambitions, has also indicated some openness to wolves in Colorado after wolf reintroduction is successful in Yellowstone.

What You Can Do:

If you live in Colorado, write your representatives and both senators telling them you want wolves restored here. Also write Governor Roy Romer telling him his appointments to the DOW Commissions suck, and you want pro-wildlife/pro-predator commissioners. Whether you live in or out of the state, write to Secretary of the Interior Lujan (Interior Dept. Bldg., 18th & C Streets, Washington D.C., 20240) and USFWS Regional Director Buterbaugh (USFWS Region 6, PO Box 25486, Denver Federal Center, Denver CO 80225) and tell them you want to see wolves in Colorado, and that the San Juans and Rocky Mountain National Park would be great places to start. Tell them you support the NWA's request for a reintroduction feasibility study. Remind them that wolf recovery is mandated by a FEDERAL act, and that local opposition should be ignored in light of nationwide interest. Also, write to Sen. Tim Wirth, Rep. Davis Skaggs, and Rep. Ben Nighthorse Campbell (US Senate, DC 20510 and House, DC 20515, respectively). Tell them that people all over the country would love to have wolves back in Colorado, and that they ought to be pushing for it.

WOLF PRINTS TO BENEFIT WOLF ACTION NETWORK



Jean Drescher, known for her drawing which adorned the cover of the Grizzly Bear Tabloid, has donated full-color, 20" by 24" lithographs of this wolf to help the Wolf Action Network. For a donation of one hundred dollars or more, you will receive a print while providing a major contribution to the Network's efforts for reintroduction and/or protection of wolf populations all across North America.

EF! Wolf Action Network
POB 6733, Bozeman, MT 59771

Alaska

(This section was written by Michael Lewis of Alaska EF! For more information, write to POB 670647, Chugiak, AK 99567.)

Alaska is the only area in the United States where wolves can be legally hunted and trapped. Wolves are classified both as a big game animal and as a predator by state regulation, a situation which has caused considerable confusion when dealing with issues of wolf control versus wolf management.

With wolves classified as a big game animal, wolf hunting and trapping is governed by the Alaska Board of Game, which meets once a year to set bag limits, season openings and closings and to determine the need for state legislative changes. Members of the Game Board are appointed by the Governor and are traditionally weighted to favor hunting and trapping interests.

Trapping in Alaska took \$2 million in raw furs in 1989-90, a decline from \$6 million in 1984, with \$175,000 of that total associated with wolf furs. All wolf pelts taken in Alaska must be sealed and checked by state Fish and Game officers and no unsealed furs are allowed to be sold or exported. Approximately 800 wolves per year are taken from combined hunting and trapping, with perhaps an additional unaccounted 100 wolves killed and used on a subsistence level in native villages. The price for wolf pelts has been steadily declining over the last seven years, presumably as a result of growing awareness of wolf issues and of the rapidly increasing anti-fur movement.

Wolf hunting is a much more controversial subject in the state, mainly as a result of the continuation by the Game Board of the practice of same-day aerial wolf hunting. Hunting any animal using an airplane is regulated by the

federal Airborne Hunting Act, which prohibits:

1. Shooting any bird, fish, or other animal while flying in an aircraft.
 2. Harassment of any bird, fish, or other animal with an aircraft.
 3. Participating in any of the above activities.
- Harassment is defined as "to disturb, worry, molest, rally, concentrate, harry, chase, drive, herd or torment."

Same-day aerial wolf hunting, commonly referred to as "land and shoot" hunting, occurs when the hunter uses an airplane to spot wolves on the ground, lands the plane in their vicinity, and jumps out of the plane to shoot the wolves. Land and shoot hunting is an extremely efficient way of hunting wolves; most hunters admit that it is the only practical means of hunting wolves in the expanse of the Alaskan wilderness. Trapping and ground based hunting have little impact on wolf populations.

Since wolf hunting occurs over thousands of square miles of wilderness, most people admit that the regulations of the Airborne Hunting Act are frequently and flagrantly violated. Recently a prominent Anchorage doctor was convicted of hunting wolves by using his airplane to herd wolves onto open frozen lakes, chasing them to exhaustion, then landing and shooting the immobilized animals. He received the maximum monetary fine of \$5,000 and confiscation of his guns, airplane and all wolf pelts and carcasses in his possession. Although this case received widespread publicity, it was an all too uncommon prosecution of a common practice. It is also widely assumed that many wolves are shot directly from planes, a practice that leaves no evidence for discovery when the carcass is sealed and checked by game officials.

Recently a US Fish and Wildlife enforcement official admitted in public that 90% of same-day

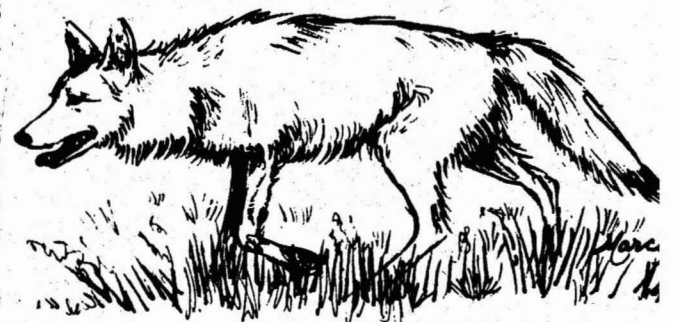
aerial wolf hunting in Alaska is illegal, primarily due to the anti-harassment clause of the regulation. It is virtually impossible to fly over and land near a wolf pack in open country without causing the animal to change their normal behavior. This qualifies as harassment and is illegal. But with only nine Federal agents in all of Alaska, enforcement is practically impossible.

In addition to legal considerations, same-day aerial wolf hunting has biological implications for the future of wolf populations. Same-day aerial hunting is an indiscriminate form of hunting that relies on chance encounters with wolves in the wild. As such, it serves to break down pack integrity and social order, as well as adversely affecting normal behavior of the survivors. Wolves in areas where same-day aerial hunting occurs are increasingly wary of airplanes, and even distant flights by benign observers create a condition of harassment, disrupting hunting and social activities.

A further controversial aspect of same-day aerial wolf hunting involves its use as a *de facto* wolf control program permitted by the state and conducted by the public. Bowing to popular opposition, there has been no formal wolf control program conducted by the state since 1983, and in 1988 then-Governor Cowper vowed that no state money would be allocated for wolf control. However, due to the "efficient" nature of same-day aerial wolf hunting, even in its strictly legal sense, it has been continued as a legal hunting practice in areas of the state where hunters have pressured for wolf control as a means of increasing caribou and moose numbers. At the November, 1989 Game Board hearing, areas where land and shoot hunting is permitted were increased to include 11 of the state's 26 hunting areas, despite overwhelming public testimony calling for a ban on the practice altogether. Game Board members were accused of using land and shoot hunting as a substitute for the politically unacceptable practice of state funded wolf control, and, although the allegations were denied, aerial hunting in these areas does effectively decrease the wolf's population.

In order to deflect the growing controversy over wolf hunting from the Game Board public hearing process, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), Division of Wildlife Management created the Alaska Wolf Management Planning Team to study the issues and make recommendations concerning the regulation of wolf hunting and trapping in Alaska, with special emphasis on the practice of same-day aerial wolf hunting. The Wolf Management Team is a 12 member body, consisting of three hunter/trappers, a "sportsman," a fur buyer, two environmentalists, two members of local Fish and Game Committees, an education specialist, a wolf enthusiast (ex-member of the Game Board), and the Deputy Director of the Division of Wildlife Conservation.

Although the Wolf Management Team was formed to take some of the heat of publicity from the Game Board, Team members do welcome public comment and will consider input from the public when they make their recommendations. They are particularly interested in hearing from people who have experience with wolves and wolf hunting in the wild, especially dealing with airborne wolf hunting. Comments can be sent to ADF&G or directly to Connie Lewis, Facilitator for the Planning Team. Verbal public testimony will be heard in Anchorage, March 8-10, and in Fairbanks, March 21-23 (Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Attn.: Dale Kalmoos, 333 Raspberry RD., Anchorage, AK 99501 & Alaska Wolf Management Planning Team, Attn.: Connie Lewis, Facilitator, 4764 Mills Dr, Anchorage, AK 99508).



Will the Ruby Be Cattle Free?

BY GEORGE WUERTHNER

The Sheridan District of the Beaverhead National Forest in southwestern Montana (just over the hill from the site of the 1990 Round River Rendezvous) has just completed its draft EIS on the Upper Ruby Cattle Allotment. New directions for public lands grazing may result if activists get involved in this particular allotment decision. It is under scrutiny from Congress as a result of the political connections of the livestock industry, so you can bet the Forest Service is under intense pressure to maintain the *status quo*. The ramifications may affect grazing on all federal lands.

Background

The 43,000 acre Upper Ruby Allotment is one of the largest livestock allotments on the Beaverhead National Forest. It is grazed by ten permittees, most of whom are worth millions. One permittee is the Von Trapp family of Vermont (Sound of Music fame) and another ranch is owned by an insurance company. These people do not need subsidized public forage.

The last allotment management plan was completed in 1970 (the FS is supposed to redo them every ten years). At that time the FS sprayed much of the upper Ruby with the herbicide 2,4-D to eradicate sagebrush. Forage for cattle increased temporarily as a result because grasses replaced sagebrush. However, overstocking of livestock and fire suppression have allowed the sagebrush to reestablish itself, resulting in less forage. Unfortunately, cattle numbers have not been reduced accordingly.

In addition, when the allotment was mapped in 1970, 27,860 acres were rated as primary range and the stocking rate was based upon this assumption. In other words they suggested that all these acres would be grazed by livestock when in fact much of it is too steep or too far from water to be used by livestock at all. In reality the number of cattle permitted to use the allotment is far in excess of the carrying capacity of the land.

Overgrazing has severely damaged riparian areas on the Upper Ruby allotment. The Forest Service estimates that 70% are in poor to fair condition — which means they are trashed. Willow and aspen populations have plummeted and excess sedimentation in the Ruby River continues to degrade the river's fisheries. Seeps, springs and wet meadows are trampled to a pulp.

Controversy has surrounded management of the Upper Ruby as range activists have pressured the Forest Service to do something about livestock damage while ranchers have resisted any reductions or changes in season of use. As a result of the Sheridan District's commitment to a livestock reduction, at least three petitions have been circulated to remove the District Ranger, and his life has been threatened. Some local range activists and their families have also been threatened with various forms of untimely demise.

Forest Service Response

Despite the political pressure, the Forest Service, to the credit of the Sheridan Ranger District Staff and some good people in the Supervisor's Office, is trying to improve management of these lands. The Draft EIS has lots of room for improvement, but it's still the best thing the Forest Service has ever done in assessing a range allotment, and it contains some federal agency firsts. For example, there is a No Grazing alternative and the document includes an economic analysis of the various alternatives.

The preferred alternative proposes a mere 44% reduction in cattle numbers. This is still a startling move by the Forest Service and quite a reduction given the political climate. However, it also proposes building 27 miles of fence, 16 water developments, plus improving the Upper Ruby River Road. These developments will cost over a million dollars. Over the next ten years, the Forest Service will only receive \$128,000 dollars from permittees in grazing fees. Of this \$128,000, half automatically goes back to the Forest Service to build range developments that directly benefit the permittees, so the net income to the U.S. treasury is effectively half of this number or \$64,000. This alternative does require a reduction in cattle numbers, but changes the adjacent Mt. Carey Cattle Allotment to sheep use to appease the ranchers by increasing the amount of AUMs still available to livestock grazing.

My Forest Service moles tell me that the Sheridan District staff recommended alternative D, which would have reduced cattle by 56%. It would have brought about recovery of most riparian zones within ten years. Alternative D was rejected because it was not considered politically feasible.

The No Grazing Alternative was not given serious consideration. The Forest Plan said the area could be grazed, although the Forest Plan never questioned whether grazing made any economic or ecological sense. But since the Plan did not preclude grazing, the forest service now maintains that some grazing must be permitted. The No Grazing alternative was the only alternative that had a positive net public economic value (estimated to be over \$300,000) primarily because there were no administrative, monitoring, fencing, or other costs. Wildlife numbers would increase resulting in a higher net value to the public, defined primarily as better hunting. Even so, this glowing economic evaluation of the benefits for local humans was not enough to sway the Forest Service.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

It is essential that activists respond to this grazing plan. It could set standards for many future range allotment management plans. Please take a moment to write the Supervisor, Beaverhead National Forest, 610 N. Montana, Dillon, MT 59725 and ask for a copy of their Draft EIS. The comment period ends March 4. If you don't have the time to get the Draft EIS or don't want to wade through it, please at

least write the Beaverhead Forest and make the following points:

1) Thank them for attempting to correct a long standing problem. Give some encouragement. The Sheridan District staff has taken some real beatings from the local people and they deserve a pat on the back for trying to do their job.

2) Suggest that the No Grazing alternative be given more serious consideration. It brings about riparian habitat improvements most quickly and at the least cost. It is the only one that makes a net economic return. Emphasize that these are national lands and should be managed for the national good and for biological diversity. They are no to be managed to provide subsidies to local ranchers.

3) Suggest that all pastures or allotments where no use is presently occurring (such as the Mount Carey allotment) should be closed permanently.

4) Question why the Upper Ruby Road should be improved merely to facilitate livestock transportation. Improvement of the road will also result in more recreational use, a portion of which may not be that bad because people won't tolerate the grazing impacts they see. Unfortunately, it will also bring additional hunter pressure which could impact local game herds. Ask them to consider the impacts to wildlife of greater and easier access.

5) Ask the Forest Service to provide a rationale why the public should have to spend more than a MILLION DOLLARS to protect its lands from the abuse of private livestock when eliminating all grazing would provide greater net public benefits at little or no expense.

6) Suggest that all alternatives except the No Grazing alternative require extensive monitoring to ensure compliance with standards. Therefore in all other alternatives grazing should be conditional upon adequate funding for monitoring. No monitoring funds, no grazing!

7) Ask the Forest Service to quantify or at least analyze the additional ecological and economic costs associated with livestock grazing which include: a) greater downstream flooding due to watershed degradation resulting from livestock grazing; b) loss of late season water flows due to riparian damage and first order springs, seeps, and wet meadows; c) degradation of fisheries due to water quality problems; d) the loss in biological diversity including impacts on insects (butterflies), small mammals, and song birds; e) effects on recreation values such as the sense of wide open space caused by fencing, spring development, and range development; f) displacement of wildlife due to the presence of livestock - elk for example avoid areas used by cattle; g) impacts of predator control done in the name of livestock protection (a grizzly was killed within six miles of this allotment in 1984 because it had eaten a few sheep; coyotes are killed regularly; and four black bears were killed last year alone); h) top soil lost as a result of livestock grazing; i) the delays in the recovery of beaver and the resulting impacts to all the wildlife that benefit from beaver ponds.

Butano Buzzed Again

So you thought Maxxam Corporation would be satisfied once they cut the last of California's redwood old growth? Think again.

Not content to let the forests attempt to heal themselves after stripping the giant trees away, Maxxam is going into some areas two or three times to pull out whatever remaining bits of fiber they can get their hands on.

One spot scheduled to be axed for the third time is wedged between Butano and Pescadero State Parks, where Maxxam minion Big Creek Lumber has its eyes on some 30-40 year old redwoods struggling to gain a foothold amidst the stumps and pampas grass.

After greasing through a Timber Harvest Plan and holding a miserable excuse of a public hearing, Big Creek/Maxxam is set to start cutting in February unless a last minute legal effort by the Sierra Club bears fruit.

Harvest of this struggling forest will likely drop tree densities below legal limits, although loopholes in tree counting techniques will probably let Maxxam skate by. Cutting this area will also muddy critical bird and fish habitat in Pescadero Marsh with approximately 900 cubic yards of silt, and degrade habitat of the sensitive marbled murrelet.

Pissed off? Then write to:

Harold Walt
Director, CA Dept Forestry
1416 9th St. #1505
Sacramento, CA 95814

Complain about:

- 1) The cutting of immature forests.
- 2) The siltation of Pescadero marsh.
- 3) The degradation of marbled murrelet habitat.

—KAREN DEBRAAL

Griz in New Mexico...

Grizzly bears in the Gila??? You didn't know? Well, they were there, up until 1933. Now it seems they may never be there again, unless we all write letters before Feb. 4, 1991.

"Oh no, not another letter..."

— I know that's what you're thinking, but I swear I wouldn't ask if it wasn't important this time.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service has come out with their draft Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan [see K. Hammer's article, Yule '90], and it seems that they forgot to include the Gila as a reintroduction site. I'm sure this was just a silly oversight on their part, so we should all kindly remind them, soon. The areas they did include are the Selkirk, Glacier National Park, the Bitterroot, Cabinet/Yaak, Yellowstone, the North Cascades and the Northern Continental Divide, and they're thinking about the San Juans in Colorado (see article about AmEx ski resort, Yule '90— if they get that ski resort built quick enough they won't have to consider the San Juans anymore). For a copy of the whole fat draft, write to Chris Servheen, USFWS, NatSci 312, UofMT, Missoula, MT 59812. (406)329-3223. That's the same address to send your letter. Please folks, do it now, for the Great Bear.

—NEW MEXICO EF!

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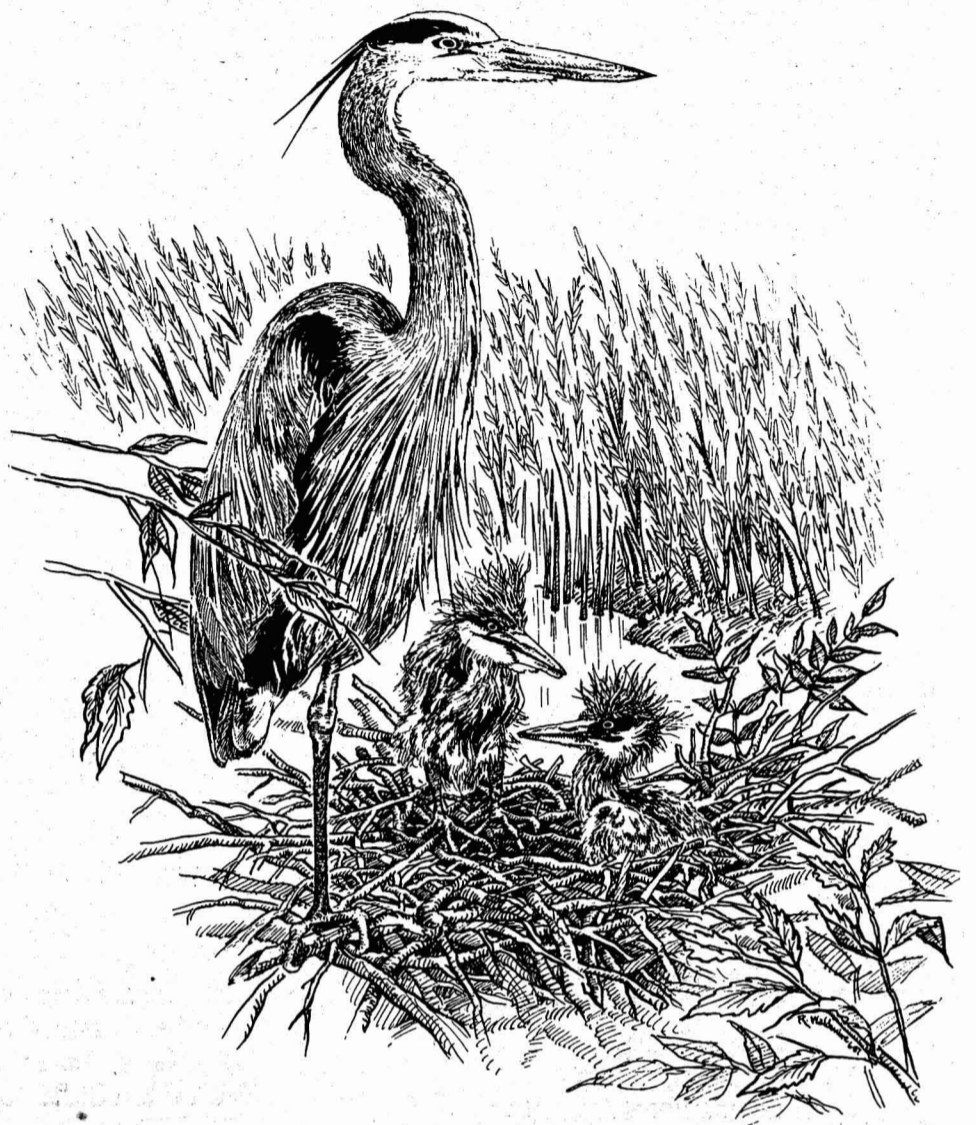
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NO COWS Cow and barbed wire in black with "universal no" red slash and circle. Words: Free Our Public Lands! Stop Destructive Welfare Ranching End Public Lands Livestock Grazing. 3 inch diameter white vinyl circle. 6 for \$1 postpaid.

Lou Gold Show

Listed below are dates and places where Lou Gold will presenting his slide show, "Lessons from the Ancient Forest: Earth Wisdom and Political Activism." For general information on the show in your area, call the number listed below. For general questions about Lou, contact Beth at the Siskiyou Regional Education Project, (503) 249-2958. Locations without a contact number are unconfirmed.

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 4 Huntsville, AL 205-773-4369
 5 Lighthouse Point, FL 305-781-9598
 6 Melbourne, FL
 8 Tallahassee, FL 904-224-6782
 11-12 Atlanta, GA 404-297-9977
 13 Dallas, TX 214-360-0833
 14 Dallas, TX 214-388-8671 (Michaux)
 19 Houston, TX 713-529-8038
 20 Monroe, LA 318-396-3994
 21 New Orleans, LA 504-891-8866
 24 New Orleans, LA 504-345-1085
- Mar 5 Skagit, WA 206-724-3404
 6 Olympia, WA 206-754-1876
 8 Public Interest Law Conf., Eugene, OR 503-346-3828
 9 Easton, PA 215-250-1996
 11 Ithaca, NY 607-253-0623
 12 Binghamton, NY 607-687-5722
 13 Carlisle, PA
 20 Harrisburg, PA
 21 Pittsburgh, PA 412-682-0986
 23 Pittsburgh, PA 412-241-1903
 26 Columbia, MD 301-964-4906
 27 Baltimore, MD
- Apr 17 Rockford, IL 815-335-2915
 18 Oshkosh, WI 414-424-1144
 21 Washington, DC 202-667-5150
 22 Decorah, IA 319-873-3736
 23 Iowa City, IA
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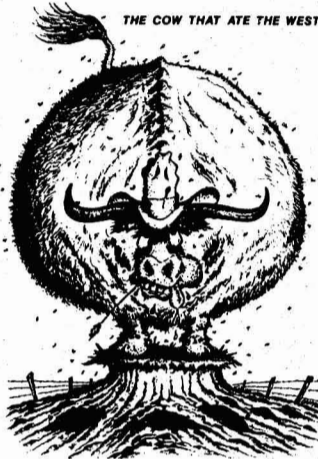
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Book Reviews

The Emperor Wears No Clothes: The Authoritative Historical Record of the Cannabis Plant, Hemp Prohibition and How Marijuana Can Still Save the World by Jack Herer

reviewed by KAREN DEBRAAL

"Any environmentalist who doesn't get into the legalization of marijuana is insane!" - Jack Herer

Jack Herer believes hemp will save the world and his book makes an incredibly convincing case for it. *The Emperor Wears No Clothes* is 17 years worth of research on the history and many uses of hemp. He covers ways to use hemp for medicine, food, fuel, fiber, paper, plastic replacement, how and why hemp became prohibited, who profits from keeping it prohibited, how we are going to bring that to an end and what you can do to speed up the process and profit from the coming change. It is chock full o' references and footnotes for the sceptical.

I went to a presentation by Herer laden with heavy cynicism. I knew hemp made some pretty good rope, but food and clothing? By the time I left the talk, new book in hand, I was converted. Heck—how could one be anything but? Our constitution was printed on the stuff! The history of hemp in this country makes for some eye-opening reading: in 1619, America's first marijuana law was enacted at Jamestown colony, Virginia, ordering all farmers to grow hemp seed. You could even be jailed for NOT growing Cannabis during several periods of shortage. From 1631 until the early 1800's you could pay your taxes with and use hemp as money in America. Our Founding Fathers smoked and grew hemp, and Old Glory was made of hempen cloth. In 1942, after the Japanese invasion of the Philippines cut off the supply of Manilla Hemp, the US government lifted its controls on the killer weed and distributed 400,000 lbs. of seeds to US farmers for the war effort until 1946. There is even a Department of Agriculture film (made in 1942) promoting the many wondrous uses of hemp. You can order videos of the film through Herer's book.

According to US Dept. of Agriculture Special Bulletin #404-1916, "One acre of Cannabis could replace 4.1 acres of trees being cut down for paper, and hemp is a quickly renewable resource." And yet it is no real surprise that hemp became outlawed a year after a machine was developed to harvest and process it so it could compete

commercially against businesses owned by the Hearsts, Duponts, and other powerfully rich families. The book describes in detail how the greedhead Hearsts and Duponts played major roles in outlawing hemp.

I learned that the original Levis jeans were made of hemp. Ireland was known for its fine hempen linens. And hemp, unlike cotton, needs no pesticides, is good for the soil, and can be grown virtually anywhere in any type of soil. At Herer's presentation, his claims of beautiful cloth made of hemp were backed up by the real thing: I saw soft, more durable than cotton (you could tell), shorts and shirts made by Stoned Wear, which are also available for purchase. You can order these practical outfits through his book.

Besides fabric uses, hemp could be our main source of fuel. This country, with its gasoline addiction, wouldn't be going to war with Iraq if we used hemp for fuel. Ninety percent of all fossil fuel used in the world today can be and could have been long ago replaced with methane and methanol made from cellulose from Cannabis, corn stalks, and waste paper, at 10% of the current cost of oil and coal. Cellulose is a renewable resource and does not produce toxic by-product gases as do fossil fuels.

Herer points out in his book how hemp seed oil was used for 1000's of years for paint, varnish, and shellac. Now Dupont gives us petrochemicals instead.

At one time marijuana seed was humankind's number one source of vegetable protein. It was used in soups by virtually all peoples of the world until this century. Australia survived two prolonged famines in the 19th century by using nothing but marijuana seeds for protein and the leaves for roughage. Until 1937 it was the world's #1 bird seed and sterilized hemp seeds were imported into the US until the 1970's.

The book also includes extensive research into the medicinal uses of marijuana and some interesting information on banned research. Studies show that marijuana would medically benefit 80% of all asthmatics, 90% of all glaucoma victims, 60% of epileptics, and most cancer patients suffering intense nausea from chemotherapy.

These are just a smattering of the facts disclosed in Herer's book. With 17 chapters, appendices, newspaper clippings, great graphics, order forms and a fine bibliography, it is both thorough and lots of fun. Herer is a man with a vision that needs to be seen and heard. His book is a must-read for all EF!ers (and Sierra Clubbers and anyone else with half a conscience or brain). And in the meantime, while we fight for legalization of the plant which will save the world, Herer

strongly encourages everyone to plant as much hemp as they can, EVERYWHERE! Go to it, eco-guerrilla gardeners!

You can order the book by sending your check or money order for \$12.95 plus \$2 shipping to H.E.M.P., 5632 Van Nuys Blvd., Suite 210, Van Nuys, CA 91401



***Revolutionary Letters* by Diane di Prima**

reviewed by DAVID VERMONT

"Come at once," my best friend wrote, "I have discovered poetry." I travelled 160 miles north through the remnants of old redwoods. One wall of her small room was crossed with butcher paper, lettered with an adaptation of *Revolutionary Letter #49* (see page 11). She moved out of her room and Greg King moved in, and a year later, on the way up to the Okanogan, I stopped to see him. He was moving out now, and into the woods, and the bare room was empty save for a stuffed framepack, a jacket, the old bed, and the poem

That the poem had been changed seemed strange to me at first. You wouldn't quickly take a pen to, say, Poe's "Annabelle Lee" or Carl Sandburg's *Harvest Poems*. But Diane di Prima's *Revolutionary Letters* can resonate like articulations of your own thoughts, so it seems fine to roll them around, change them; they are poems you can use. Some of the *Letters* are indeed almost utilitarian, giving shopping lists in preparation of industrial collapse, suggestions for hiding fugitives, reminders of the skills we need to acquire.

There are seventy *Revolutionary Letters* in the current edition (available from City Lights Books, 261 Columbus Ave., SF, CA 94133) and a handful of other poems too, written between 1966 and 1978. They place "the revolution" of those years as a struggle for much more than social change:

REVOLUTIONARY LETTER #32

not western civilization, but civilization itself
is the disease which is eating us
not the last five thousand years, but the last twenty thousand
are the cancer
not modern cities, but the city, not
capitalism, but ism, art, religion, once they are
separate enough to be seen and named, named art, named
religion, once they are not
simply the daily acts of life which bring the rain, bring bread, heal, bring
the herds close enough to hunt, birth the children
simply the acts of song, the acts of power, now lost
to us these many years, not killing a few white men will bring
back power, not killing all the white men, but killing
the white man in each of us, killing the desire
for brocade, for gold, for champagne brandy, which sends
people out of the sun and out of their lives to create
COMMODITY for our pleasure, what claim
do we have, can we make, on another's time, another's
life blood, show me
a city which does not consume the air and water
for miles around it, mohenjo-daro was a blot
on the village culture of India, the cities of Egypt sucked
the life of millions, show me
an artifact of city which has the power
as flesh has power, as spirit of man
has power

di Prima connects, in a way few others manage, people's individual spiritual and physical lives to their political situations and struggles and to their collective impact on and connection to the planet. From this context of connection she writes with a simple strength, and explores questions that are particularly relevant to us: How much can we afford to lose before we win? Are you prepared to hide someone in your home indefinitely, say, two to six weeks...? What do you want your kids to learn? How far back are we willing to go? Can you own land? Have you thought about the American aborigines who will inhabit the continent?

Through the volume the poems move with the same sense of struggle and change which they discuss. Under them is a basis of honest inquiry and rootedness to the philosophical and geological constancy of the larger processes of the world.

REVOLUTIONARY LETTER #50

Machinery: extended hands of man
doing man's work. Diverted rivers
washing my clothes, diverted fire
dancing in wires, making light
and heat. To see it thus is to see it, even
diverted rivers must resume their course, and fire
consume, whatever name you call it.

Diane di Prima writes of the struggle to restore equilibrium to the planet and to the diverse life on it. She consistently subverts anthropocentrism by writing of other species at the same level as people, locating the danger they are in as political and unacceptable. She identifies with the great majority of life which is abused by civilization, and gives us, in most of these poems, ideas and insights on how best to resist the industrial machine. *Revolutionary letters* are practical and inspirational at once, delightful and absolutely serious. They can serve as reminders, that we must change things, that it will not be easy, that caring for our own well-being is essential to this, that the struggle is for everything, and at all levels:

REVOLUTIONARY LETTER #26

'DOES THE END
JUSTIFY THE MEANS?' this is
process, there is no end, there are only
means, each one
had better justify itself.
To whom?

Earth First! Directory

The Earth First! Directory lists the contact points for the international Earth First! movement. It is divided into four sections: 1) National EF! offices in the United States; 2) International contacts; 3) Active EF! Chapters or Groups; and 4) Contact persons where there is as yet no active EF! group. If you are interested in becoming active with the Earth First! movement, reach the folks listed for your area.

Earth First! The Radical Environmental Journal provides a forum for Earth First!ers around the world. This directory is provided as a service to independent EF! groups. If you would like to be listed as a contact or as a group, or have address changes or corrections, contact Earth First!, Box 5176, Missoula, MT 59806. 406-728-8114.

LOCAL NEWSLETTERS: Addresses marked with a "*" produce either an Earth First! newsletter or regular mailings for their area or issue. Contact them directly to receive their newsletter or otherwise be on their mailing list.

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The Earth First! movement runs on your financial support. We don't need as much as other groups since we are grassroots, volunteer, decentralized and have low overhead. Moreover, you get to select where your hard-earned money goes. Don't send your contributions to this newspaper, send them directly to one of these hard working groups:

- *Earth First! Foundation, POB 1683 Corvallis, OR 97339 (contributions to the Foundation are tax-deductible)
- *Arizona Earth First!, POB 41652, Tucson, AZ 85717
- *Bay Area Earth First!, POB 83, Canyon, CA 94516
- *Big Bend Earth First!, POB 20582, Tallahassee, FL 32316
- *Colorado Earth First!, Box 1166, Boulder, CO 80306
- *EF! Biodiversity Project, POB 3132, Boulder, CO 80307-3132 (Contributions to the EF! Foundation earmarked for the Biodiversity Project are tax-deductible.)
- *EF! Ocean-Dolphin Task Force, POB 77062, SF, CA 94107-7062
- *Ecotopia Earth First!, POB 34, Garberville, CA 95440
- *Everglades Earth First!, POB 557735, Miami, FL 33255
- *Florida Earth First!, POB 13864, Gainesville, FL 32604
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- *Midwest Headwaters Earth First!, POB 14691, Madison, WI 53714
- *PAW, POB 51A, Bondville, VT 05340
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- *Virginians for Wilderness, Route 1, Box 250, Staunton, VA 24401
- *Washington Earth First!, POB 95316, Seattle, WA 98145
- *Wild Rockies Earth First!, POB 7891, Missoula, MT 59807
- *Wolf Action Network, POB 6733 Bozeman, MT 59771
- *Yellowstone Earth First!, Box 6151, Bozeman, MT 59715

This fundraising appeal is placed as a service to the Earth First! movement. THANK YOU for your support!

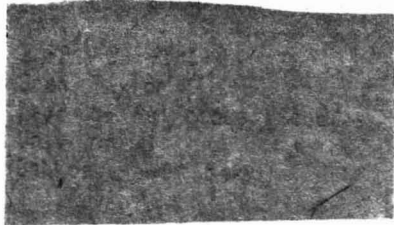


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