

Earth



First!

No Compromise in Defense of Mother Earth



Printed on recycled paper.

DON'T JUST SIT THERE ON YOUR BUTT, DO SOMETHING!



Louisiana-Pacific log truck blockade in Fortuna, California, during the Redwood Summer Campaign of 1990.

Why Earth First!

Are you tired of namby-pamby environmental groups? Are you tired of overpaid "welfare environmentalists" who live off the public trough? Have you become disempowered by the reductionist approach of the environmental professionals?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, then Earth First! is for you. Earth First! does not believe in compromise. We set forth the hardline position of those who believe the earth must come first. We are emotional, passionate, angry at times and raging the rest, yet we never lose our sense of humor.

Earth First! is effective. Our front-line, direct action approach to protecting wilderness gets results. We have succeeded in cases where other environmental groups had given up, and have drawn public attention to the crises facing the natural world.

Earth First! was founded in 1979 in response to a lethargic, compromising, and increasingly corporate environmental community. Earth First! took a decidedly different tack towards environmental issues. We believe in using all the tools in the tool box, ranging from grassroots organizing and involvement in the legal process to civil disobedience and monkeywrenching.

Earth First! is different from other environmental groups. Here are some things to keep in mind about Earth First! and some suggestions for being an active and effective Earth First!er:

First of all, Earth First! is not an organization, but a movement. There are no "members" of Earth First!, only Earth First!ers. It is a belief in biocentrism, or Deep Ecology, and a practice of putting our beliefs into action.

While there is broad diversity within Earth First! — from animal rights vegetarians to wilderness hunting guides, from monkeywrenchers to careful followers of Gandhi, from rowdy backwoods buckaroos to thoughtful philosophers, from misanthropes to humanists — there is agreement on one thing, the need for action!

The Problem

Today is the most critical moment in the three-and-a-half billion year history of life on Earth. Never before—not even during the mass extinctions of the dinosaurs at the end of the Cretaceous, 65 million years ago—has there been such an intense period of extinctions as we are now witnessing, such a drastic reduction in the biological diversity of this planet.

Over the last several hundred years, human civilization has declared war on large mammals, leading some respected ecologists to assert that the only large mammals living twenty years from now will be those we humans choose to allow to live.

Other prominent biologists, looking aghast on the wholesale devastation of tropical rainforests and temperate old-growth forests, rapidly accelerating desertification, and destruction of "charismatic megafauna" due to habitat destruction and poaching, say that Earth could lose one quarter to one third of *all* species within twenty years.

Not only is the blitzkrieg against the natural world destroying ecosystems and their associated species, but our activities are now beginning to have fundamental, systemic effects upon the entire life-support system of the planet—upsetting the world's climate, poisoning the oceans, destroying the ozone layer in the atmosphere which protects us from excessive ultraviolet radiation, changing the CO₂ ratio in the atmosphere, and spreading acid rain, radioactive fallout, pesticides and industrial contamination throughout the biosphere.

Indeed, biologists have recently warned that vertebrate evolution may be at an end due to the activities of humans.

Clearly, the conservation battle is not one of merely protecting outdoor recreation opportunities, not a matter of elitist aesthetics, nor "wise management and use" of natural resources. It is a battle for life itself, for the continued flow of evolution.

We—this generation of humans—are at our most important juncture since we came out of the trees six million years ago. It is our decision, ours today, whether Earth continues to be the marvelously living, diverse oasis in the blackness of space which it is now, or whether the charismatic megafauna of the future will consist of Norway rats and cockroaches.



Tim Coleman aloft in the Colville National Forest in Washington during the Earth First! National Tree-Sit in 1989.

Earth First! is different.

To begin with, we do not believe that it is enough to preserve some of our remaining wilderness. We need to preserve it all, and it is time to recreate vast areas of wilderness in all of the planet's ecosystems: identify key areas, close roads, remove developments, and reintroduce extirpated wildlife.

It is not enough to oppose the construction of new dams. It is time to free our shackled rivers and tear down Hetch Hetchy, Glen Canyon, New Melones, Tellico and other concrete monstrosities.

While many environmental groups are members of the American political establishment and essentially adopt the anthropocentric (human-centered) world view of industrial civilization, we say the ideas and manifestations of industrial civilization are anti-Earth, anti-woman, and anti-liberty. We are developing a new biocentric paradigm based on the intrinsic value of all natural things: Deep Ecology. Earth First! believes in wilderness for its own sake.

Lobbying, lawsuits, letter writing, and research papers are important and necessary. But they are not enough. Earth Firsters also use confrontation, guerilla theater, direct action and civil disobedience to fight for wild places and life processes. And while we do not condone or condemn monkeywrenching, ecotage, or other forms of property destruction, we do present a forum for the exchange of ideas on creative opposition to the juggernaut of "progress," including ideas about monkeywrenching.

To avoid co-option, we feel it is necessary to avoid the corporate organizational structure so readily embraced by many environmental groups. Earth First! is a movement, not an organization. Our structure is non-hierarchical. We have no highly-paid "professional staff" or formal leadership. To put it simply, the earth must come first.

Take it on the road with an Earth First! Roadshow

Traditionally, Earth First! roadshows have been one of the movement's most effective outreach tools. Roadshows also serve as a way of communicating and networking with other activists, groups and the public at large. In addition, they serve as an effective way to raise funds for local groups.

There have been many Earth First! roadshows in the USA over the years as well as tours to Australia and to the United Kingdom. Roadshow entourages consist of musicians, speakers, poets, photographers and activists of all sorts gathered together in car, van or bus for the express purpose of giving people crash courses in deep ecology, biodiversity, direct action, humor in the face of horror, and how to start de-evolving into raging, primal, animist eco-rockers.

The Earth First! movement relies strongly on music and poetry to inspire, motivate, provoke and cajole folks into getting involved. Such roadshow stalwarts as Alice DiMichele, Dana Lyons, Mavis Muller, Lone Wolf Circles, Joanne Rand, Darryl Cherney, George Shook, Cecilia Ostrow, Bill Oliver, Glen Waldeck, and John Seed have helped to build an Earth First! following in the many places they

have performed. In fact, many current activists became involved with Earth First! after attending a roadshow.

Roadshows also contribute to promoting Deep Ecology by emphasizing "right brain" approaches, such as music, poetry, art and dance, that allow people to appreciate and connect with the natural world in ways that "left brain" approaches like letter writing or statistical analysis do not. Rousing and soulful music, empowering raves, poetry and plenty of creative theater are key ingredients to any Earth First! roadshow.

Roadshow schedules are generally published well in advance in the *Earth First! Journal*. If you're interested in promoting shows in your area, please write the journal for details. Sample promotional materials will be made available to local organizers.

If you're interested in organizing a roadshow around a campaign or issue, please contact Lone Wolf Circles or Dana Lyons for information and insight into the art of organizing a successful roadshow.

Deep Ecology

The central insight of John Muir and of the science of ecology was the realization that all things are connected, are related; that human beings are merely one of the millions of species that have been shaped by the process of evolution for three and a half-billion years. With that understanding, we

can answer the question, "Why Wilderness?"

Is it because wilderness makes pretty picture postcards? Because it protects watersheds for downstream use by agriculture, industry and homes? Because it's a good place to clean the cobwebs out of our heads after a long week in the auto factory or over the video display terminal? Because it preserves resource extraction opportunities for future generations of humans? Because some unknown plant living in the wilds may hold a cure for cancer?

No. It is because wilderness is. Because it is the real world, the flow of life, the process of evolution, the repository of that three and a half billion years of shared travel.

All natural things have intrinsic value, inherent worth. Their value is not determined by what they will ring up on the cash register of GNP, nor by whether or not they are good. They are. They exist. For their own sake. Without consideration for any real or imagined value to human

civilization.

Even more important than the individual wild creature is the wild interconnected community — the wilderness, co-evolution, the stream of life

A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise.

—Aldo Leopold

unimpeded by industrial interference or human manipulation. These twin themes of interconnectedness and intrinsic

value form the core of the ideas of such pioneer ecological thinkers as John Muir, Aldo Leopold and Rachel Carson, and are the basis for action by Earth Firsters. This biocentric worldview, as opposed to the anthropocentric paradigm of civilization (and the reformist position of mainstream environmental groups), has been recently developed into the philosophy of Deep Ecology by philosophers such as Arne Naess of Norway, John Seed of Australia, Alan Drengson of Canada, and George Sessions, Bill Devall and Dolores LaChapelle of the United States, among others.

Earth First!, in short, does not operate from a basis of political pragmatism, or what is perceived to be "possible." Wilderness, natural diversity, is not something that can be compromised in the political arena. We are unapologetic advocates for the natural world, for Earth.



Glen Waldeck, John Seed, Bill Oliver, Dana Lyons and Mavis Muller perform at the Jemez Mountains Round River Rendezvous in 1989.

Round River Rendezvous

Everyone knows that discussing wilderness issues and planning actions is often easier around a friendly campfire, or on a long walk up a wild canyon. For this reason, Earth First! organizes a series of outdoor meetings, usually near (but never "in") an endangered Wilderness Area.

The Round River Rendezvous is the annual tribal gathering of Earth First!. This week-long campout is held during the summer and attracts several hundred Earth First!ers from every state in the USA and from several other countries.

Traditionally, the rendezvous sites have been in the West, though in 1991 it was held back East in Vermont for the first time. The gathering includes workshops on important issues and campaigns, rituals, campfire music, guided wilderness treks, the annual Tribal War Dance and a Rally with speeches, poetry and theater. Of course, the most important part of

the Rendezvous is the informal cobwebbing that goes on.

The Round River Rendezvous is coordinated by a volunteer committee. Many continental, national, and bioregional rendezvous are held throughout the world each year. These gatherings are particularly important for developing a cohesive activist network and for planning actions on a local level. Rendezvous are announced in advance in the *Earth First! Journal*.

Periodically, Earth First! activists in North America have gotten together during the winter to address important issues. These activist conferences are announced in advance and are open to all Earth First! activists, musicians, artists and poets. These meetings allow EF!ers to converge on a national level between rendezvous in order to strategize and organize upcoming campaigns, actions and events in the spring and summer.



Tribal War Dance action is fast and furious at 1990 RRR in the Gravelly Mountain Range of Montana.

Put your finger on the pulse! Subscribe to the Earth First! Journal

The *Earth First! Journal* is an independent periodical published eight times a year on the old European nature holidays. The *Earth First! Journal* regularly includes: information and updates on Earth First! campaigns; news and announcements about the Earth First! movement and other radical environmental groups; reviews and critiques of the entire environmental movement; book, music, movie and poetry reviews of interest to radical, hard-assed ecologists.

We also run regular features on the preservation of biological diversity and wilderness rehabilitation; features on visionary wilderness proposals; essays exploring Deep Ecology topics; our infamous letters to the editor feature, "Dear Shit Fer Brains"; major investigative pieces funded by the Earth First! Research Fund; and an ongoing discussion page on ecotage and monkeywrenching. Special inserts that cover topics such as grizzly bears and National Forest management are included in each issue, and are designed to be used as tools for Earth First! activists.

The *Earth First! Journal* is not the "official" newsletter of Earth First!, but it is an essential forum for discussion within the Earth First! movement. The views presented in it, including editorial positions, do not necessarily reflect the views of Earth First! or individual Earth First!ers. It is meant to be provocative, controversial, amusing, fun, informative and diverse in content and style.

Subscriptions

Subscriptions are \$20 a year. A sample copy is available free upon request. Our subscription list is kept entirely confidential, and our list is not sold or loaned to anyone. Subscribers are welcome to use aliases for anonymity, especially if they work for the US Forest Service.

Merchandise.

Earth First! Trinkets and Snake Oil include a variety of t-shirts, hats, patches, bumperstickers, agitators, music cassettes, books, etc., advancing the Earth First! message. They are available for mail order through the *Earth First! Journal* and all proceeds go to help fund publication of the newspaper.

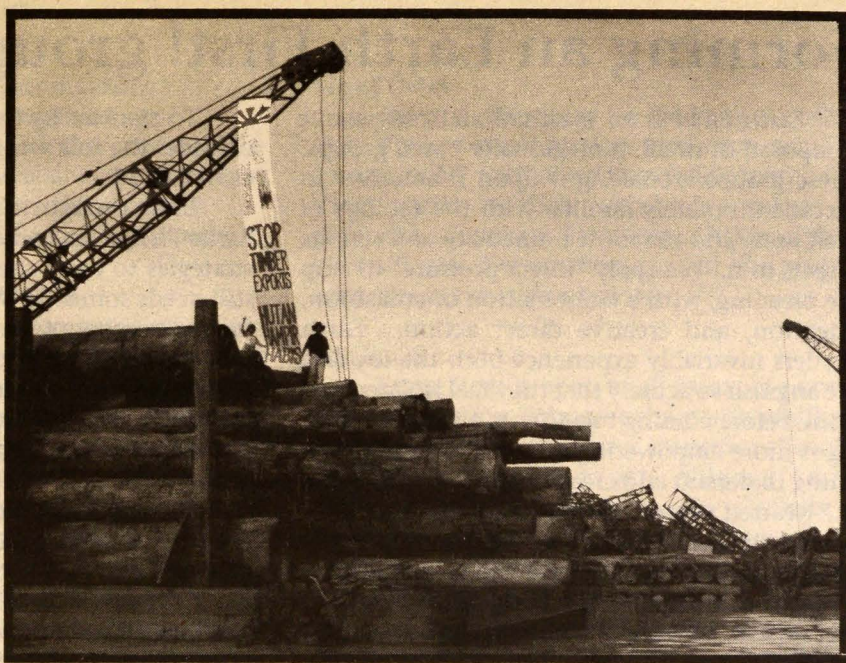


photo: Mark Alan Wilson

Earth First! activists block the loading of meranti logs taken illegally from Dyack tribal lands in the Malaysian state of Sarawak, on Borneo.

EARTH FIRST! IS INTERNATIONAL

The Earth First! movement of the nineties is no longer just a North American phenomenon. Over the past couple of years, Earth First! groups sprouted up in Mexico, Australia, India, England, Poland, Germany, and The Netherlands.

These activists and groups are growing in size and strength as more international actions and campaigns happen. In 1991, EF!ers from the USA, Australia and England occupied cranes and barges in the Malaysian state of Sarawak that were engaged in exporting tropical timber to Japan. This action helped link up Earth First!ers, other forest activists, and indigenous peoples active in the Sarawak campaign. Given the scope of international environmental issues, Earth First! is visibly demonstrating why direct action is both needed and effective.

Currently, many Earth First! projects and campaigns are con-

necting and working with other international activists on ocean issues, anti-automobile campaigns, rainforest preservation, solidarity with native peoples, biodiversity and predator projects. Earth First! encourages new activists to empower themselves to get involved and take action on local, national and international levels.

Global eco-catastrophe dictates that we need more earth defenders working together across political, cultural, racial, religious and philosophical boundaries. So get involved with international campaigns, through Earth First! or another active group, before we humans drive any more species to extinction, displace and disempower any more native cultures and suffocate in the sterile, toxified world of the Industrial Mega-machine. In short, Think Globally, and Act Locally!

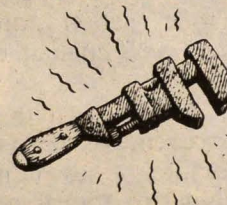


Earth First! Journal

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☐ Please send me a sample copy of the *Earth First! Journal*. (Donations appreciated.)

NAME _____

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Forming an Earth First! group

Earth First! is an international movement composed of small, bioregionally-based groups. These groups are taking it upon themselves to become intimately familiar with the ecology of their area, and the most immediate and serious threats to it. We apply "direct pressure" to stop the bleeding, with a combination of education, litigation, and creative direct action. Earth First!ers invariably experience both the joy and the anguish so acutely that they feel isolated and alone before coming together as a group. Nothing is more empowering or more fulfilling than acting in defiant and creative consort with other like-hearted people. Dare to love that much!

Earth First! has survived attacks by the timber and mining industry, the FBI, moderate professional environmentalists and other agents of the system, and yet it still remains the most diverse, passionate, committed, and uncompromising group of environmental activists. Our direct actions in defense of the last wild places only seem radical compared to an entire paradigm of denial and control, where the individual is convinced s/he is powerless, and the organizations set up to protect the wilderness continue to bargain it away.

Earth First! is a priority, not an organization. It is the slogan of our emerging tribe, but ours is a tribe without chiefs. The only "leaders" are those temporarily working the hardest and taking the most risks. New ideas, strategies and crucial initiative come from the individual, and all decisions are made within the various groups based on preferred tactics and shared values. Earth First! is as much an extended family as an environmental movement, developing the integrity and skills for a new/old way of living within the land.

Our actions are firmly based in Deep Ecology, the spiritual and visceral recognition of the intrinsic, sacred value of every living thing.

To start an Earth First! group in your area, consider the following elements:

CONTACTS

Even though it is up to every individual Earth First!er to come up with campaigns and strategies to carry them out, a successful group still needs someone willing to serve as a contact for the purpose of:

- establishing a mailing address and phone for the group to be made available for anyone wanting to get in touch with your group,
- maintaining a mailing list and a phone tree,
- instigating actions, or to alert people in your area when urgent announcements must be made.

Contacts will be listed in the *Earth First! Journal*. To avoid any confusion or loss of momentum should some key motivator leave, it is best to have two committed contacts, ideally male and female (two names, two numbers, one shared bank account and PO Box).

MAILING LIST AND PHONE TREE

Mailing lists and phone trees are essential ways of keeping everyone in touch. Begin with friends you know who share your biocentric enthusiasm and desire for action. Put out sign-up sheets at any environmental concerts, speeches, etc. that you put on, and ask to do the same at other related events such as Native American events, anti-nuke, concerts etc.... Put out an information table in front of student unions and natural food stores, with stand-up graphic displays on your campaigns and a sign-up sheet. Try doing a one-time only insert in related alternative publications calling for participation. Make sure it is clear to everyone putting their name on this list that it is a list for potential activists, not just a mailing list for free newsletters. This list should include their addresses for mailings, phone numbers for quick access, and notes on their skills, ie making costumes, good with signs

and graphics, computer literate, committed to civil disobedience, etc.

MONEY

Unlike most other environmental groups that require immense budgets to do their work, Earth First! campaigns are pulled off on a shoestring. The major expenses for an Earth First! group are printing, postage, and the occasional costs associated with planning and staging actions and demonstrations, and, if arrests are made, legal costs and court fines. Although some funding is available for local groups through the Earth First! Direct Action Fund, a successful group must be able to raise money in their own communities.

AN EARTH FIRST! BANK ACCOUNT

Setting up your own bank account and doing local fundraising is an essential part of being a contact. More than one contact in your area should be allowed to sign checks. This allows for fair and open accounting of the scant funds going through it. As these funds are used entirely for lawful (but radical!) purposes, the resulting records are no threat to the signatories. Remember that civil disobedience is constitutionally protected free speech, and that any expenses incurred during Earth First! actions are lawful. However, you must keep good records, and save your receipts to avoid any perception that funds are misused. Your records should be made available to other members of your group upon request. If you don't like banks, don't use them.

FUNDRAISING

Froghides can be gathered in any season, and properly dried, can be stored in stacks. Good places to hunt for them include:

- benefit concerts, slideshows, pot-lucks
- disgusting pleas for money in the various newsletters
- annual auctions of donated goodies and services
- grants from foundations for specific projects
- school money funnelled through campus clubs

Direct Action 101

Sentiment without action is the ruin of the soul.

—Ed Abbey

Earth First! is a verb, not a noun. In order to be an environmental movement, you've got to move! So get up and do something for the Earth! There are no "50 simple ways to save the planet." There are innumerable very difficult ways. Recycling and "setting a good example" doesn't cut it when you are the last generation with any chance of implementing a human-engineered cure. Direct action means personal, focused effort on the front lines in the war against the Earth.

Earth First! is defined by its actions, the purpose of which is to:

ACTUALLY HALT THE DESTRUCTION

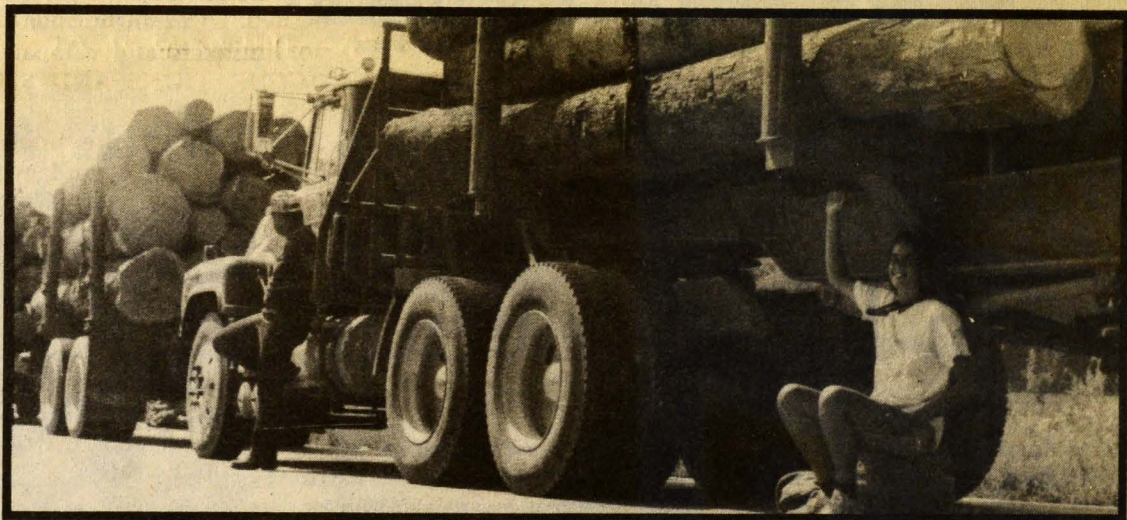
Force the companies to quit, the Forest Service to withdraw its timber sales, the bulldozers to grind to a halt. Our primary purpose is to intercede personally, to "stop the bleeding." The most "symbolic" action stops the saws, and leaves the log trucks lined up empty.

RAISE THE STAKES

Even once removed from the tree platforms and the blockades, we have upped the ante. Send a clear message to the despoilers: No more "business as usual."

GARNER MEDIA

You can't hope to change people's minds or put pressure on politicians without calling attention to the damage the earth suffers every day. Civil disobedience or a clever banner-hanging exposes the issue on the front page of papers that normally hide a single paragraph on ecological catastrophe on the back pages next to the obituaries. Arrests, in particular, sway sentiment by impressing on others the depth of our concern and willingness to sacrifice.



Deb Fragala stopping a log truck at the Fairview Log Jam in the Shawnee National Forest in Illinois.

STRENGTHEN RESOLVE

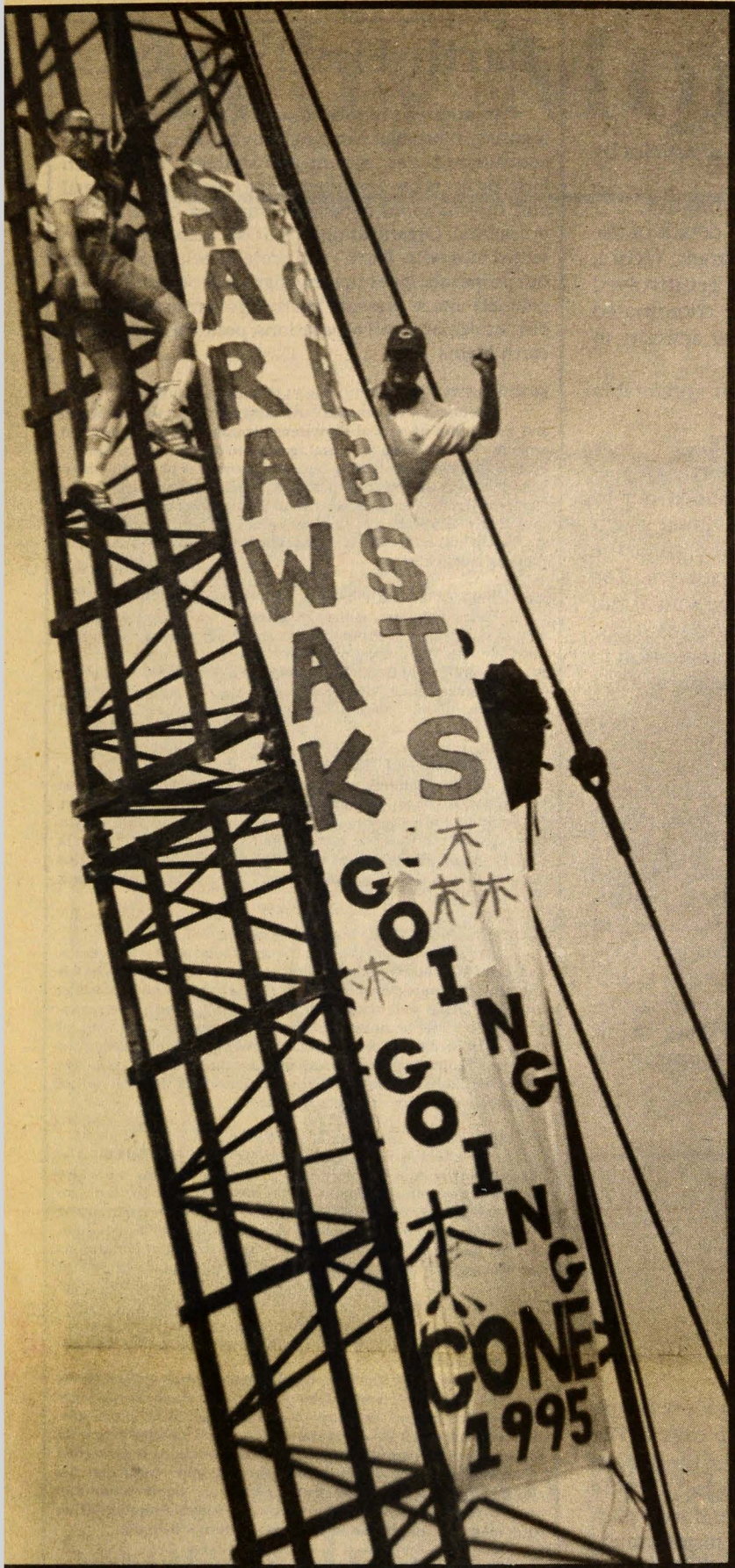
A direct action is the most empowering event imaginable, a rite of passage that fills the participant with pride. There is the special satisfaction of a David defying the Goliath, doing the right thing, acting out what Bill Devall calls the will-of-the-planet. We learn to work in concert with others with life-affirming values. Demonstrations "demonstrate" to the culprits, and to the world, that when all our letters are ignored, our arguments mitigated, and our legal appeals denied, we still refuse to accept the accelerating destruction. We put our bodies and our time where our mouths are: at the front! We demonstrate our fear, hurt, and just rage against the despoilers.

Now with humanity itself endangered by suicidal "progress," we deny it power, refuse to acquiesce, refuse to be stilled! There is no such thing as "risk-free" environmentalism, but demonstrations are protected speech under constitutional law. In general, there is no need for any unplanned arrests. Civil disobedience, even

when decided on spontaneously, is a deliberate, thought-out act of conscience. However, whenever you show up to any demonstration, you are risking arrest. Be prepared.

DEMONSTRATIONS

Demonstrations include marches (street dances!), costumes, topical skits ("loggers" pursuing "trees," or an "all-species court" convened to try "corporate plaintiffs"), presenting our position to reporters, making demands of corporados and government lackeys, appearing as "endangered species" at public hearings, making a show to timber sales/dam building/condo construction sites.... Past actions have included two-hundred pound stumps deposited on rangers' desks, manure from public lands grazing cattle stacked against air-conditioner vents, helium balloons hoisting banners with the appropriate message released inside convention centers, hundred-foot banners strung across rivers and highways, down smokestacks, and across the face of buildings. Women and men of all ages finally



- for EF! presentations
- EF! work parties
- profits on the sale of EF! t-shirts (available on short term credit to credible groups)
- sale of *Earth First! Journals*.

CAMPAIGNS

Campaigns include everything presently impacting biodiversity on this planet. Old-growth forest protection, endangered species, species reintroduction, habitat destruction, disastrous public lands overgrazing, damming of rivers, the re-wilding of the east and west coast states.... To really protect a bioregion, we have to become natives, indigenous, connected through guts and soul. To really become acquainted with that which we fight for, we need to spend a lot of time intimately exploring our deserts and canyons, mapping the ancient forests, documenting the existence of endangered and threatened species, and just feeling....

Earth First! nationally coordinates actions and campaigns as well, such as the successful country-wide demonstrations against Burger King that stopped its importation of Costa Rican rainforest beef, the annual "Day of Outrage" against the US Forest Service, campaigns on predator control and other issues such as the proposed James Bay II hydro project.

are anticipated and possibly desired. These include but are not limited to:

OCCUPATIONS AND SIT-INS

Take over the boardrooms and offices and even the homes of unresponsive decision makers and bureaucrats. We have put up dome tents in Forest Supervisors' offices, invaded the hot tub of a timber industry CEO, and put cardboard on the air conditioning intakes of a District Ranger's Office, shutting down their computers in 100° F heat.

BLOCKADES

The proper place for an Earth First!er is often directly in the path of the machinery of wilderness destruction. It may be a symbolic gesture of defiance, it may slow them down and cost them time and money, and it may also, on occasion, stop them in their tracks. But it is a sure-fire guarantee that it will take the focus out of the boardrooms and hearing chambers and put it where it belongs, in the wilderness, at the scene of the crime. In this way you can bring graphic scenes of the destruction right into people's livingrooms through TV and media coverage.

Targets can include logging equipment, radioactive waste shipments, dam sites and mine sites. Methods include everything from sitting in the road and chaining yourself to gates or equipment, to setting your feet in wet cement and letting it harden, or burying yourself in the road up to your neck. While, generally speaking, the longer a blockade lasts, the more effective it is, even very brief and mainly symbolic blockades have proven very effective in building support and expanding the opposition to the destruction of wilderness and the poisoning of the planet.

TREE-SITTING

Tree-sitting has been used to shut down logging of ancient forests for months at a time, and has actually saved some areas from the log-

MEETINGS

It's true. Meetings are the bane of civilization, the low benchmark of environmental "organizations." Earth First! does it differently. Call them parties with a focus! We gather for potlucks, ceremonial sweats, hikes-climbs-swims-floats. Yet we meet around one purpose only: the actions that follow!

TACTICS

Earth First! is open to all forms of nonviolent direct action. What we share is an undiluted passion, a belief in the sacred intrinsic value of all life, and a willingness to act! Although known through the sensationalist media primarily for our arrest scenarios and advocacy of ecotage, Earth First! activists use all of the following tactics, and more:

- Education, informational handouts, press releases, articles in periodicals, presentations to elementary schools and universities, going to Forest Service meetings to fill them in on their own data, radio interviews, etc....

- Public input, letter-writing (so we don't lose one by default), petitions, testifying at hearings, etc....

- Litigation, timber-sale appeals (write the *Earth First! Journal* for info), requests for restraining orders, lawsuits based on Clean Air/Clean Water/Endangered Species Acts.... (Also contact the Biodiversity Task Force, listed in the back of the *Earth First! Journal*.)

DEMONSTRATIONS & CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE

are what got women the vote and the US military-industrial machine out of Vietnam (next, we need to get it out of North America). The quickest and surest way to get a new EF! group going is to do a fun, nervy action! Show how much you care! Issues the media would never write about end up on the opinion-changing front cover as a result of creative, confrontational and colorful demos.

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gers' chainsaws. Climbers have rigged cables to surrounding trees to prevent them from being cut and to traverse to different parts of the canopy. For this you will need experienced help, which various Earth First! groups can provide, such as the Redwood Action Team and the Earth First! Direct Action Fund.

NONVIOLENT DIRECT ACTION

Nonviolence requires a code of integrity. Everyone involved must agree to a common set of principles, or the media attention may focus on the bad conduct of a few participants rather than the original reason for the action. Or even worse, the actions of a few who provoke the police may result in unforeseen violence and increased

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and emphatically saying "NO!" Not one more tree. Not one more road built. Not one more species banished into extinction.

To be most effective, a demonstration should be:

DYNAMIC AND UNCOMPROMISED

Have clear intent, clear tactics and specific targets. Identify the perpetrators and target them, not the system in general.

COLORFUL AND CREATIVE

Create unique and surprising actions that challenge and amuse.

INFORMATIVE

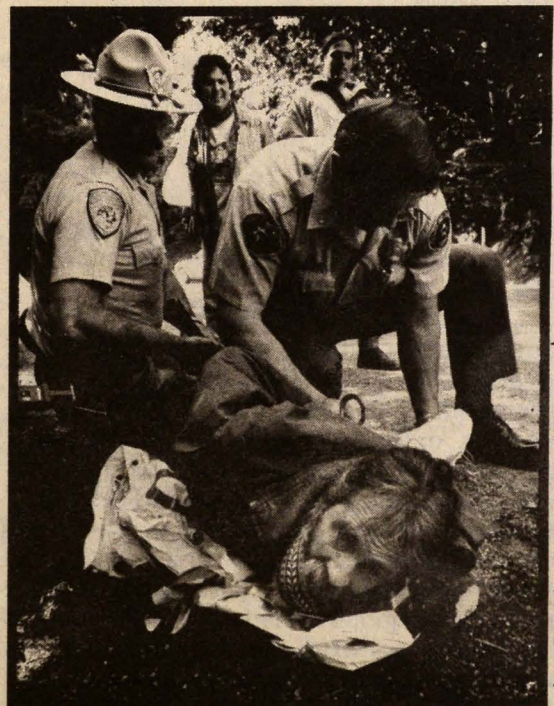
Get out the simple message of the goals of your campaign with fact sheets and handouts, songs, skits and chants.

FLEXIBLE

Be ready on a moment's notice to change plans as the situation changes, taking advantage of unforeseen opportunities, as in the sudden appearance of an offending executive or an unwatched piece of heavy equipment. Or come up with a quick alternative when the Governor is not in, the building sealed off, the cops out in force or in a bad mood, or the meeting moved to some other location at the last minute. Be prepared!

CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE

Civil disobedience can be the most effective action of all, involving situations where arrests



Dave Mullin (later charged with assaulting two cops from the prone position beneath his victims) being arrested at an EcoTrans action in California.

Forming a Group...

OUR ADVICE ON MONKEYWRENCHING

"Monkeywrenching," as coined by Edward Abbey, is a last-ditch effort to protect remnant wildlands and continuous evolution by decommissioning the machinery of the destroyers. It is a tactic that hits the multi-national corporations the only way they feel it—in the pocketbook.

Property is held more sacred than life in this monoculture of greed, making ecotage a risky venture. Unlike civil disobedience, where your deliberate arrest is part of the success of your action, monkeywrenchers are only successful if they get away. Ecotage, by definition, includes tree-spiking, road de-construction, and various methods of heavy equipment maintenance, such as silicon carbide in the crankcase, etc....

Earth First! neither condones nor condemns the act of monkeywrenching. We believe it is an individual's responsibility to determine which actions are appropriate to save our green planet from destruction. We encourage a frank and open discussion on tactics, tools, and legal and moral justificaion, as well as on the ramifications and drawbacks of such actions. **SPREADING THE WORD**

The *Earth First! Journal* is the unabashed, uncensored voice for the many diverse opinions of our movement. It is the primary source for information on the threats to wilderness and our effort to save it. This is your journal. It is no better than you make it. All groups are encouraged to submit pieces on campaigns, philosophy, biodiversity and tactics based in deep ecology and uncompromising wilderness defense. The journal is put out by a nonhierarchical, rotating collective, and any earnest Earth First! activist can work a stint on its production, either by working at our office in Missoula, or by sending

submissions through the mail or Econet.

We encourage the submission of articles by new groups, here are some tips:

- make them exciting and informative,
- stress campaign background, details of the threat, reason for the choice of target, tactics, results, and ways for the reader to get involved (writing letters to congress, doing coordinated actions in their own town, calls for activists to come join you there),

- include lots of good photos (preferably B&W), maps, and graphics.

OBTAINING FREE COPIES OF THE EARTH FIRST! JOURNAL

Free journal copies can be mailed out to active Earth First! groups. Individual Earth First!ers are still expected to subscribe, since the journal depends on subcriptions to survive. The free copies are sent to contacts to be sold at full cover cost as a fund-raiser for local groups. Consider consigning them for a small commission to newsstands, campus bookstores, natural food stores, etc..

EARTH FIRST! REGIONAL AND LOCAL NEWSLETTERS

There are many Earth First! publications around the world. Regional newsletters augment rather than replace the national journal, focusing in greater detail on local issues, lists of local events, etc. These can be statewide newsletters, bioregional (portions of more than one state), or specific to your community. Production, writing, and mailing-out should be done as a group, to get the maximum number of voices represented, and keep all the work from falling on just a few. A list of these publications appear in the *Earth First! Journal*.

Direct Action...

criminal charges for the whole group. Be careful who you work with, and get everyone to agree on a set of guidelines, such as the following:

- At no time should anyone physically or verbally assault anyone, resist arrest or contribute to escalating the violence by the police, workers, management or bystanders.

- Once committed not to move even if it means your arrest, stand your ground. To break and run not only defeats the purpose of your action, it may endanger others by encouraging a game of "chicken" when those who you are trying to stop become convinced that you will not stand your ground. Don't put yourself in a dangerous position unless you are willing to face danger without moving, otherwise, choose a less risky method of expression.

- No drugs, alcohol, or weapons should be carried at the site of an action.

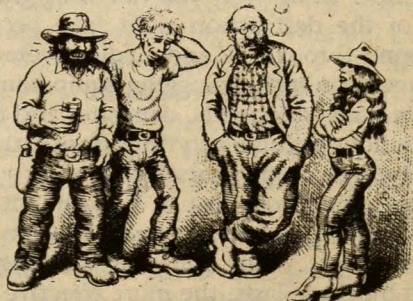
- Identify potential arrestees ahead of time, have a list of their names and home addresses, and pair each of them up with a support person who can be responsible for their keys and IDs, monitor and record their arrest using a camera or video if possible, and follow them through the legal process until they are released on bail or on their "own recognizance."

Plan your actions well. Prepare the skits, songs, chants, costumes, signs and handouts in advance. Make a press release for all radio, TV and newspapers in your area. Keep it simple and to the point, or they will quote your least relevant lines and leave out the most important information. Stick to a few short paragraphs describing the destruction you plan to stop or the wolves you want to reintroduce, making clear the desired result of your actions. It is a good idea to put in a few good quotes attributed to one or more of your spokespersons in the last paragraph. Remember, the average "sound bite" or quote is less than nine seconds. Read them aloud to each other to make sure they sound clear. A good press release should be no more than one page long, double spaced, with wide margins. It is better for

the media to call for more info then it is to issue a long, rambling diatribe.

Send press releases out about a week before your event. Follow up with phone calls to the various stations and papers the day of the action. Never assume they've read your release. Get the names of the reporters and ask them if they plan to come. You might hint at the more radical (photo opportunity!) aspects of your action, but don't tip them off to anything the cops shouldn't have details of ahead of time, or promise a more radical scenario than you can really come up with, or the press may quit coming. Look for the reporters who promised to show up, and make sure that a knowledgeable person from your group is ready to talk to them.

Meet a half hour before the action to circle up and focus on the emotional and spiritual motivations for our urgent work. Circle up after to make sure no one is unaccounted for, discuss what did and didn't work, and plan a time to meet and do it again!



Earth First! Projects

In addition to local groups, Earth First!ers have focused on broader campaigns by forming projects to coordinate issues, actions and strategy. Many Earth First! projects have resulted in the creation of national and international networks composed of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), activists and assorted biogeeks. Earth First! projects help to articulate our proposals, give our campaigns more direction, and generate more pressure against governmental agencies, multinational corporations, politicians and other earth bigots.

BIODIVERSITY PROJECT: PO Box 3132 Boulder, CO 80307

The foundation beneath Earth First! activism is the protection and restoration of natural ecosystems (communities of plants and animals). Whether taking federal agencies to court under the Endangered Species Act, conducting biological surveys or physically intervening to stop habitat destruction or species control actions, the Biodiversity Project focuses on defending both "charismatic megafauna" like bears, bison and orangutans as well as the "enigmatic microflora" like the Banks monkeyflower, Goodings onion and running buffalo clover.

RANCHING TASK FORCE: PO Box 5784 Tucson, AZ 85703

Formerly known as the Overgrazing Task Force, this project continues to educate the public about the dire environmental consequences posed by grazing on public lands in the American West. Besides highlighting the collusion between federal and state agencies and "welfare ranchers," the project is mobilizing widespread national opposition to the livestock industry's ripoff of the land and the federal treasury.

GRIZZLY BEAR TASK FORCE: PO Box 6151 Bozeman, MT 59715

This longstanding project focuses on the preservation of the Grizzly Bear in the Wild Rockies and the reintroduction of the species to their historical range throughout North America. Demonstrators in bear suits have become a common sight in Yellowstone National Park over the years. Recently, the task force has mobilized support for recovery efforts in the San Juans, North Cascades, and Cabinet-Yaak ecosystems.

PREDATOR PROJECT: PO Box 6733 Bozeman, MT 59771

The Predator Project seeks the restoration of all native predators to their respective habitats and ecological roles. The project is attempting to unite efforts on behalf of as many predators as possible, including grizzly and black bears, wolves, black-footed ferrets, wolverines and all those meateaters affected by Animal Damage Control (ADC). The Predator Project has challenged bear baiting on National Forests, organized nationwide actions against ADC, and appealed two tourist developments in Yellowstone National Park that will further degrade the integrity of the grizzly bear.

CARMAGEDDON: Lea Valley EF! PO 2573 London, UK N16 6HN

Anti-car campaigns are taking off all over the Divided Kingdom as Earth First! groups challenge the Car Culture's fouling the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the places we live. Earth First!ers have blockaded motorways with bikes, banners and bodies in Brighton and Manchester and have confronted bulldozers and other heavy equipment at Twyford Down where the Department of Transportation is extending a motorway through water meadows designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest. A newsletter and other information are available upon request.

ECO-CLIMBER ACTION NETWORK: Box 6491 Depot #1, Victoria, BC V8R 5M4 Canada.

This is a newly formed network of tree climbers and tree sitters who have taken to the trees to defend native forests from the rampages of scientific forestry. The purpose of this project is to inform tree climbers of new techniques via a newsletter and to mobilize people for action. Action alerts will be issued whenever tree climbers are needed to defend the earth's green skin. The Network hopes to become the cutting edge in defense of ancient, native or any forest community under threat, and needs donations of money, recycled paper, printing equipment, etc. to get started. So please write and help out.

COALITION AGAINST FUR FARMS: PO Box 3095 Ashland, OR 97520

CAFF is not a protest group, nor is it an animal-rights group. It is a warrior society, dedicated to fighting for the ecological integrity of America's last wild places. It recognizes all animals on fur ranches as political prisoners of the war on nature and shall strive to rescue them by any means necessary. CAFF does not recognize laws that justify the destruction of fur animals, and we encourage others to disregard the ineffective methods of protest in favor of direct action in defense of the last wild animal nations. CAFF is launching a biocentric anti-fur campaign, so please send money or, better yet, start your own campaign of sabotage against the fur industry. Names and numbers of fur farms are available upon request.

WOLF ACTION GROUP: PO Box 9086 Missoula, MT 59807

A loose-knit collection of activists formed WAG in response to British Columbia's wolf extermination programs. Since successfully stopping the BC government's aerial kill program, WAG has directly intervened to prevent Animal Damage Control and the US Fish & Wildlife Service from trapping, shooting, imprisoning and occasionally relocating wolves dispersing into the Wild Rockies. In addition, WAG has focused public attention on Alaska's and the Yukon's wolf control actions. WAG has also spearheaded gray wolf reintroduction efforts in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem and other ecosystems in the Wild Rockies, the Mexican wolf in the Southwest, the timber wolf in New England and the Adirondacks, and the red wolf in the South. New energy and ideas would be appreciated.

RAINFOREST ACTION GROUPS: RAG Coordinator/Rainforest Action Network; 301 Broadway Suite A; San Francisco, CA 94133

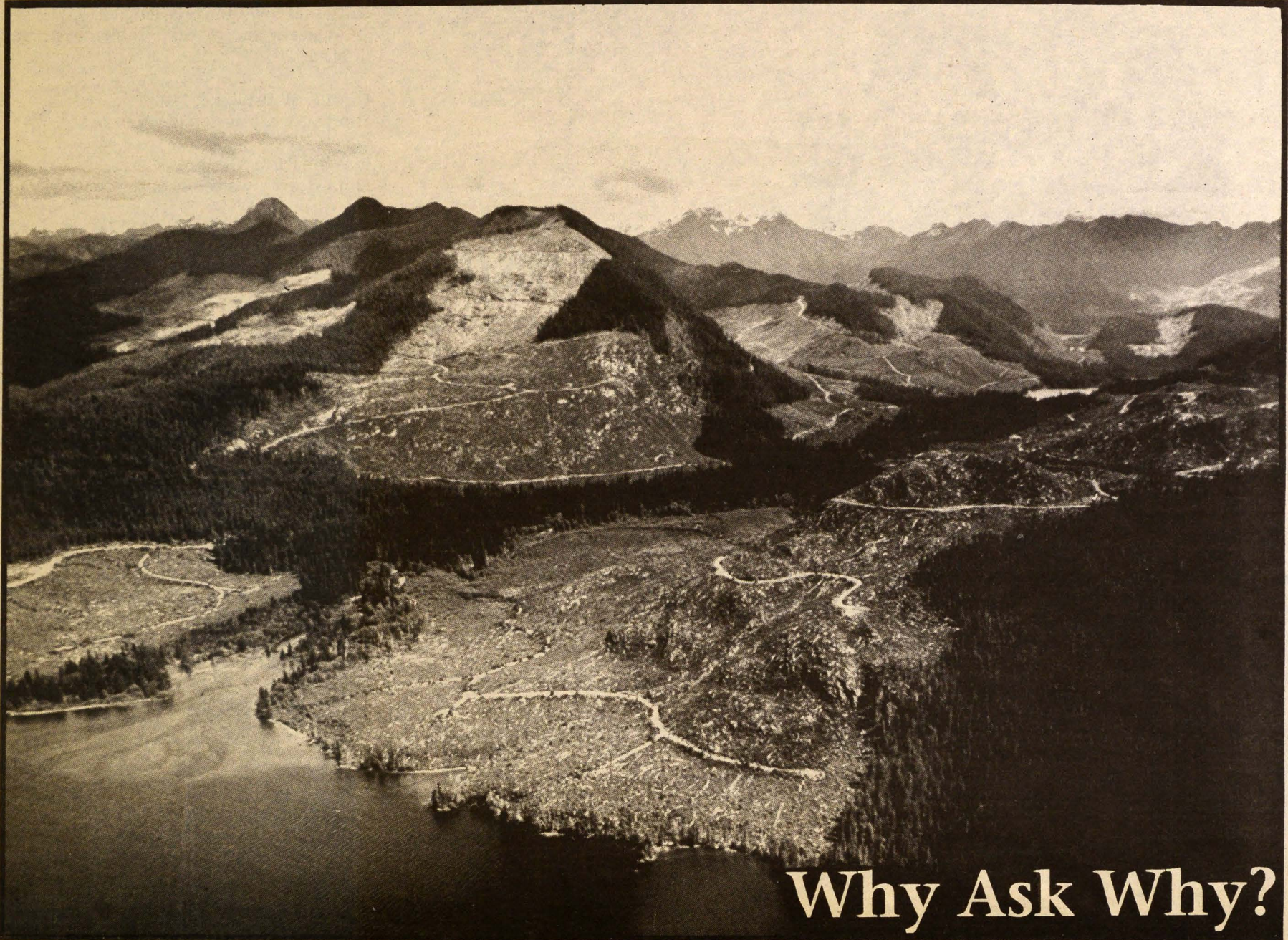
Earth First! works closely with Rainforest Action Groups on a variety of issues and campaigns affecting the earth's richest life zone. RAGs have used direct action and colorful demonstrations to pressure corporations like Burger King, institutions like the World Bank, and countries like Malaysia and Japan to cease their destructive activities in rainforests. Earth First! will continue to work with RAGs on highlighting the role of consumers in tropical deforestation and will continue to harass the US government and agencies over policies and practices that give countries in the South no choice but to cut their forests. Get involved with a rainforest campaign through a RAG or an Earth First! group today because tomorrow may be too late for the rainforests of Borneo, Burma, Cameroon, Ecuador, etc....

REDWOOD ACTION TEAM: PO Box 208 Garberville, CA 95440

Redwood Action Team activists have led the direct action charge against the destruction of redwoods in northern California, including numerous occupations, tree-sits, and huge banner actions. RAT activists were also instrumental in organizing and carrying out the massive Redwood Summer Campaign in 1990 and the Ecotopia Summer Campaign of 1991.

Why Monkeywrench?

photo: courtesy of Evergreen State College



Why Ask Why?

Clearcuts on Vancouver Island, British Columbia.

The Earth First! Direct Action Fund: Supporting Earth Defenders on the Front Lines

Direct action requires courage, commitment, training and the ability to focus on an urgent issue. It also requires your money. Since 1985, The Earth First! Direct Action Fund has assisted in planning, coordinating, and funding activists on the front lines. It is these people who are the backbone, indeed the heart and soul of the Earth First! movement. Yet without financial support, many of these actions would never get off the ground. The Earth First! Direct Action Fund is supported by people like you, people who can afford to give a small, non tax-deductible donation so that activists will have access to the resources: tools, climbing equipment, props and banners, oxy-acetylene torches, beer, and transportation.

Earth First!ers have "cracked" Glen Canyon Dam on the Utah-Arizona border; climbed high into old growth Douglas-fir in Oregon and coast redwoods in California to prevent logging; sat in front of logging trucks in Washington; blockaded oil and gas drilling in New Mexico and Wyoming; occupied offices of anti-wilderness legislators in Montana; chained themselves to tree-crushing machinery in Texas; occupied uranium mines in Arizona; blocked the poisoning of ponds in the Adirondacks in New York; sailed with Paul Watson against Japanese driftnetters in the Pacific; hiked into the Nevada test site with Greenpeace to protest nuclear test; occupied caves in Texas to save five proposed



Myia ascends a Ponderosa Pine in Montana's Council Grove in a Direct Action Fund-sponsored event.

Endangered Species; blockaded, while dressed in bear costumes, the notorious Grant Village and Fishing Bridge developments in Yellowstone National Park; and confronted land-raping Secretaries of the Interior Jim Watt and Don Hodel.

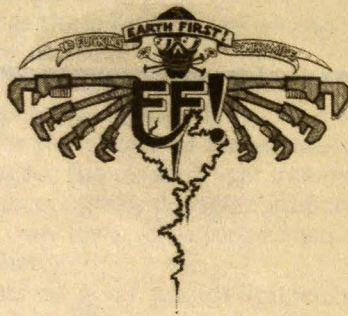
Through such tactics, for which hundreds of EF!ers have been arrested around the world, the lethargic environmental movement has been re-energized and the news media has taken a new look at ecological issues. Earth First!ers, putting their bodies on the line, have given new definition to environmental activism and have shifted the spectrum of the conservation movement.

The Earth First! Direct Action Fund has no board of directors, no professional staff, and to avoid cumbersome and restricting regulations against free speech, has no nonprofit status. In this way, our meager resources can be put where they will do the most good: on the front lines to defend the wilderness.

So, if you can't be out there on the front lines yourself, help support someone who is. Please send whatever you can to:

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Direct Action Fund**
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(510) 376-7329

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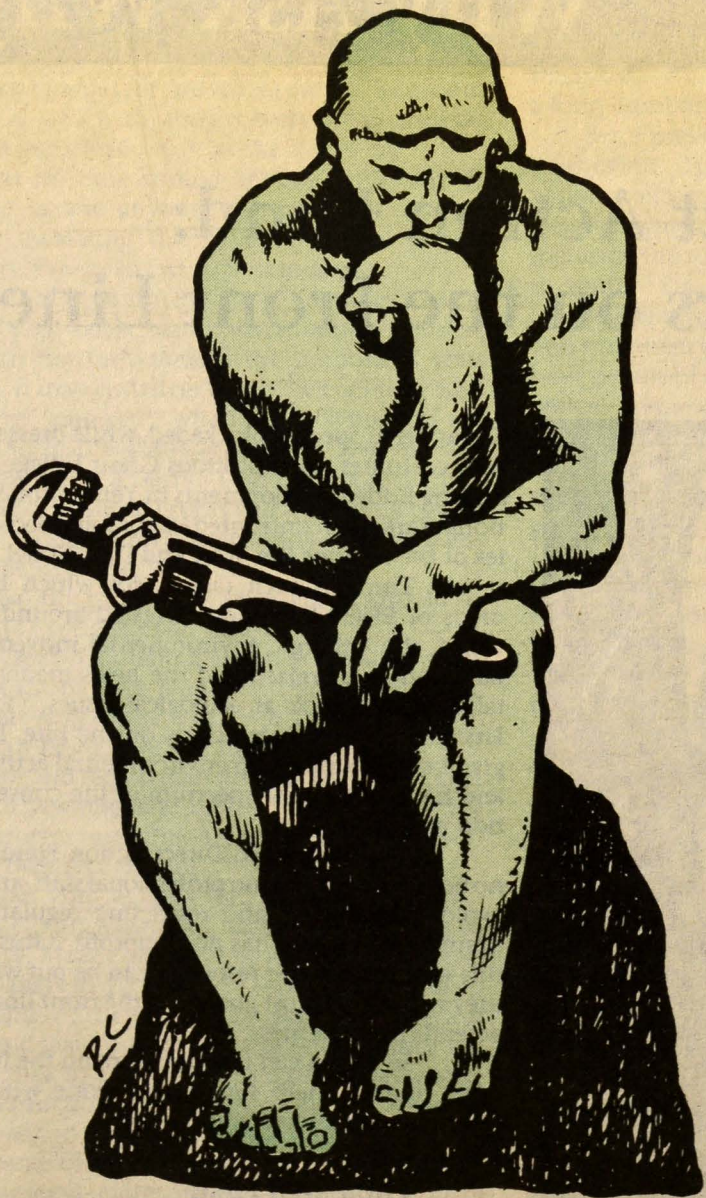
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