

Earth



First!

Introductory Primer

NO COMPROMISE IN DEFENSE OF MOTHER EARTH

Only You... Can Prevent the Destruction of All That's Wild. (Because If You Won't, Who Will?)

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 since the end of the Cretaceous, 65 million years ago—has there been such an intense period of extinction 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 to survive the near future will be those we humans choose to allow to live.

Other prominent biologists, aghast at 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 a very few 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 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, some biologists have 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; neither is it a matter of elitist aesthetics, nor "wise management and use" of natural resources. It is a battle for life itself, for the continuous 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 a marvelously living, diverse oasis in the blackness of space, or whether the charismatic megafauna of the future will consist of Norway rats and cockroaches.



US Forest Service land management in the Olympic National Forest in Washington State

photo by Pete Morrison

Why Earth First!

Are you tired of namby-pamby environmental groups? Are you sick of overpaid corporate environmentalists who suck up to bureaucrats and industry? Have you become disempowered by the reductionist approach of environmental professionals and scientists?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, then Earth First! is for you. Earth First! is effective. Our front-line, direct action approach to protecting wildlands 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! takes 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, that life—the Earth—comes first, and a practice of putting our beliefs into action.

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



photo by Tahanna

The Warner Creek road blockade. Activists occupied this stockade for over 11 months to stop the Warner North timber sale. The Forest Service subsequently withdrew the sale.

Earth First!: We mean it.

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 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, Bonneville, 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 First!ers also use confrontation, guerilla theater, direct action and civil disobedience to fight for wild places and life processes. And while we



"Do not pass Go; do not collect \$200." Activists speaking their mind in Asheville, NC.

neither condone nor 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.

How Deep is Your Ecology?

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

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 better 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 cleans 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, 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, the stream of life 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 First!ers. This biocentric world view, as opposed to the anthropocentric paradigm of civilization (and the reformist position of mainstream environmental groups), has been 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, Dolores LaChapelle and Lone Wolf Circles 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 is not something that can be compromised in the political arena. We are unapologetic advocates for the natural world, for Earth.

America STOP this madness!



How to Connect with Earth First!

If you haven't met an Earth First! group in your area, look in the directory of the *Earth First! Journal* or contact our office. We can provide you with sample issues, the names of regional contacts or projects, or the addresses of current campaigns.

Earth First! Journal, POB 1415, Eugene, OR 97440; (541) 741-9191, fax 741-9192
e-mail: earthfirst@igc.apc.org; <http://www.envirolink.org/orgs/ef>

Direct Action

"Sentiment without action is the ruin of the soul."

—EDWARD 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" don'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 are to:

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 personally to intercede, to "stop the bleeding." Even the most "symbolic" action can stop the saws, and leave the log trucks lined up empty.

RAISE THE STAKES

Even when removed from the tree platforms and the blockades, we have upped the ante. Direct action sends 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. Civil disobedience or a clever banner-hanging exposes the issue on the front pages of papers that normally hide a single paragraph about ecological catastrophe on the back pages next to the ads and obituaries. Arrests, in particular, sway sentiment by impressing on others the depth of our concern and willingness to sacrifice.

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 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—on the front lines! We demonstrate our fear, hurt, and 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, skits ("loggers" pursuing "trees" or "all-species courts" convened to try "corporate defendants"), presenting our position to reporters, making demands of corporados and government lackeys, appearing as "endangered species" at public hearings, and making a show of opposition at the scene of destruction (timber sale, condo construction site etc.). Stumps have been deposited on rangers' desks, manure from public lands-grazing cattle stacked against air-conditioner vents and helium balloons hoisting banners with appropriate

messages released inside convention centers. Hundred-foot banners have been strung across rivers and highways, down smokestacks and across the face of buildings, 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. 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 are anticipated and possibly desired. These include but are not limited to:

OCCUPATIONS AND SIT-INS

Take over the boardrooms, 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 the District Ranger's office, forcing them to shut down their computers in the over-100-degree 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 surefire 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 the destruction right into people's living rooms.

Targets can include logging equipment, radioactive waste shipments, dam sites and mine sites. Methods include everything from sitting in the road or 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 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 successfully to shut down logging of ancient forests for months at a time, and has actually saved some areas from the loggers' chainsaws. Climbers have rigged cables to surrounding trees to prevent them from being cut and to traverse over to different parts of the canopy. For this you will need experienced help, which various Earth First! groups (especially those in the West Coast forests) can provide. Also, tree-climbing workshops are generally held at the Round River Rendezvous and other gatherings.

NONVIOLENT DIRECT ACTION

Nonviolence requires a code of integrity. Everyone involved must agree to a common set of principles, or the media may focus on the bad conduct of a few participants rather than the original reason for the action. Even worse, the actions of a few who provoke the police may result in unforeseen violence and increased 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 violence by the police, workers, management or bystanders.
- Once committed, blockaders should not move even if it means their 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 whom 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 brought to any Earth First! 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 lasts 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 than 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 name of the reporter 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. Don't promise a more radical scenario than you can really come up with, or the press may quit coming. Look for the reporters that promised to show up, and make sure that they have someone in your group to talk to who is knowledgeable.

Meet half an 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!

"Never doubt that a few committed people can change the world. In fact, it's the only thing that ever has."

—MARGARET MEAD

Gets the Goods

Get it Together: Forming an Earth First! Group

Earth First! is an international movement composed of small, bioregionally-based groups. Earth First!ers (EF!ers) take it upon themselves to become intimately familiar with the ecology of our 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 civil disobedience. Many EF!ers experience both the joy of the wild and the anguish of losing it so acutely that they felt isolated and alone before coming together as a group. Nothing is more empowering or more fulfilling than standing defiant in creative consort with other like-hearted people. Dare to love that much!

Earth First! has survived attacks by moderates, would-be leaders and the agents of the system, remaining 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 they are 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 name of our journal, and the slogan of our emerging tribe, but it 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 individuals, and all decisions are made within affinity groups based on preferred tactics. EF! is as much an extended family as an environmental movement, developing the integrity and skills for a new/old way of living with the land. Our actions are tied to 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 EF!er to come up with campaigns and strategies and carry them out, a successful group still needs a "contact" to:

- establish a mailing address and phone for the group so that anyone may get in touch.
- maintain a mailing list and a phone tree, to help instigate actions, or to make urgent announcements.

Contacts are listed in the *EF! Journal*. To avoid any confusion or loss of momentum should some key motivator leave, it is best to have several committed contacts, (two names, one shared PO Box).

A Mailing List & Phone Tree:

These are essential for keeping everyone in touch. Begin with friends who you know share your biocentric enthusiasm. Put out sign-up sheets at all the environmental concerts, speeches, etc. that you put on, as well as asking to do the same at other related events (Native American, anti-nuke, music, 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.

NOTE: 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 space for addresses for mailings, phone numbers for quick access, and notes on their skills (enjoys making costumes, good with signs and graphics, willing to work on timber appeals, computer literate, committed to civil disobedience, etc.)

Money:

Unlike most other environmental groups which require an immense budget 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.

An EF! Bank Account:

Setting up your own bank account and doing local fundraising are essential parts of being a contact. More than one person in your group 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 EF! actions are lawful.

Fundraising:

In a capitalist world, there's capital to be had. If you put your mind to it, you can pile it up by the boatload. Try these handy methods:

- benefit concerts, slide-shows, tabling

**OUR
APPEARANCE
OF
CAREFUL
MANAGEMENT**



**IS REALLY
ONLY
THE
CAREFUL
MANAGEMENT
OF
APPEARANCES.**

**U.S. FOREST SERVICE:
DEFORESTATION
IN DISGUISE.**



- disgusting pleas for money in various newsletters
- annual auctions of donated goodies and services
- grants from foundations for specific projects
- school money funneled through campus clubs for EF! presentations
- EF! work parties
- profits on the sale of EF! t-shirts (available from the *Journal*)
- sale of *EF! Journals*

Campaigns:

These can include everything presently impacting biodiversity on this planet. Old-growth forest protection, endangered species, species reintroduction, habitat destruction, disastrous public lands grazing, damming of rivers, and 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.

EF! coordinates actions nationally as well, such as the countrywide demonstrations against Burger King (which stopped its importation of Costa Rican rain-forest beef), the annual "Day of Outrage" against the US Forest Service, campaigns on predator control and other issues such as the Hydro-Quebec's ongoing river destruction projects.

Meetings:

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

Tactics:

EF! is open to all forms of non-violent 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 for our arrest scenarios and advocacy of ecotage, EF! 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.



photo by Jonathan Paul

EARTH FIRST! CAMPAIGNS AND 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.

Cascadia Fire Ecology Education Project POB 3563, Eugene, OR 97403 (541) 726-4738

Cascadia Fire Ecology Education Project (CFEEP) works to educate the public about fire ecology, fire suppression and salvage logging on federal forest lands. Since 1991 the Project has focused on Warner Creek, a protected Spotted Owl Habitat Conservation Area burned by arsonists, as a case study of the politics, economics and ecology of fires in western forests. CFEEP sponsors field conferences and hikes in Warner Creek and presents workshops and slideshows. CFEEP has developed educational materials on fire ecology, including the tabloid "Wildfire" and the video "Born in Fire—Warner Creek and the Politics of Salvage Logging."

Ø Xtract (Zero Extract)

EF!J, POB 1415, Eugene, OR 97440
(541) 741-9191, fax 741-9192
e-mail: earthfirst@igc.apc.org

Ø Xtract is the Earth First! campaign for zero commercial or industrial resource extraction from US federal public lands. Federal law and policy needs to be changed to stop the destruction from logging, grazing and mining. The rules that govern our federal land management are worded in favor of commercial interests with little regard for other values, such as recreation, wildlife habitat or ecosystem health. Laws drastically in need of changing include the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), Clean Water Act, etc. Zero extraction will ensure habitat protection, an end to corporate subsidy, an end to

direct and associated waste of resources, an end to the poisoning of land and waters and the restoration of wildlife populations and native vegetation.

Coastwatch POB 1811, Rockland, ME 04841 (207) 596-7693

The industrial megamachine is ravaging the fragile Evergrowth of Gaia's Atlantic coastal ecosystems. New GATT-ports on coastal wildlands, "permitted" industrial dischargers blowing death into the estuaries, mopping-up operations against "underutilized" species offshore, shark derbies...

Earth First! Coastwatchers spy out the depredators' plans, run them through the filter of state, federal and regional environmental laws and regulations, natural law, and each other's experiences and talents. Then we apply the appropriate direct, media and paperwrench actions to thwart them as best we can. Join the fray!

Cold Mountain, Cold Rivers Video Project POB 7941, Missoula, MT 59807 (406) 728-0867

CMCR produces videos by, for and of the environmental movement. Recent productions include Cove/Mallard, forest health, trophy hunting, salvage logging and lots more. CMCR has led the fight against the Stone Container pulp mill in the group's hometown of Missoula, Montana, CMCR has organized the Forest Health Outreach Project and has an organizer's packet available to interested activists.

Earth Liberation Prisoners

c/o Box 23, 5 High St.
Glastonbury, Somerset, England

ELP supports political prisoners of the animal liberation, green and anarchist movements. ELP lists prisoner addresses, asks for support and prints letters from prisoners and activists. ELP includes articles, action alerts, prisoner profiles, action accounts and information on books and pamphlets.

Ranching Task Force POB 5784, Tucson, AZ 85703; (602) 791-2913

This project continues to educate the public to 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 rip-off of the land and the federal treasury.

Warrior Poets Society ASUC Box 361, Berkeley, CA 94720-1111 (510) 644-3237, fax 642-4700

The Warrior Poets Society is an organization of Earth First! poets that got started at the 1991 Round River Rendezvous in Vermont, near the home of Robert Frost, America's best-loved poet. "Warrior" because we are a warrior society—using poetry to spread the word of biocentrism and wilderness protection, often in humorous and unpredictable ways. We use poetry to inculcate, educate, and motivate. We have a newsletter, The Warrior Poet, free to all contributors, and meet once a year at the RRR. We also have a T-shirt with artwork by Lone Wolf Circles.

Sea Defense Alliance (SeDnA) POB 67121 Scotts Valley, CA 95067

The Sea Defense Alliance is a direct action group answering the call to preserve the biological integrity of aquatic ecosystems. There are many groups that defend the forest, the desert, the rivers and the creeks; there are few groups that stand up for the coastal waters. We are here to fill that niche and need your help to do so.

EF! Action Update POB 9656, London N4 4JY, England (0171) 561-9146; actionupdate@gn.apc.org.ukj

Call Action Update for information on the UK's many EF! groups, and for information on the latest actions and events in England's direct action environmental movement.

End Corporate Dominance c/o BMBP, HCR 82 Fossil, OR 97830 (408) 425-4422

Direct action to end growing corporate rule. Campaigns focus on corporations abusing the earth and its inhabitants, and point out their threat to democracy and environmental and social justice. Return control of corporate charters to the public!

Get it Together

continued from the previous page

- Public input, letter-writing (so we don't lose one by default), petitions, testifying at hearings, etc.
- Litigation, timber-sale appeals, requests for restraining orders, lawsuits based on the Clean Air/ Clean Water/ Endangered Species Acts.

Demonstrations and Civil Disobedience:

These are what got women the vote, African-Americans their civil rights, 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 immediately do a fun, nervy action! Show how much you care about issues the media would never write about, and end up on the opinion-changing front cover as a result of creative, confrontational and colorful demos.

Spreading the Word:

The *EF! Journal* is the voice for the many diverse opinions of our movement. It is the primary source for articles 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 on deep ecology and uncompromising wilderness defense. The *Journal* is put out by a long-term editorial staff of four and several short-termers; any earnest EF! activist can work for an issue or two as a short termmer.

If you do an action, write it up; your action articles will almost certainly be printed in the *Journal*, so make them exciting, stress campaign background, details of the threat, reason for the choice of target, tactics, results, and ways for the reader to get involved (letters to Congress, 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.

Free *Journal* copies are traditionally mailed out 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. Individual EF!ers are expected to subscribe, since the *Journal* depends on subs to survive.

A regional newsletter can augment rather than replace the national *Journal*, and can focus in greater detail on

local issues, lists of local events or demonstrations, more leeway to fit poetry in, etc. These can be statewide newsletters, bioregional (portions of more than one state), or specific to your community. They can be copied and stapled, and sent out without wasteful envelopes. Production, writing, and mailing 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.



On the northern frontier of Headwaters Forest



MONKEYWRENCHING:

What's up with that?

I'm tired of people who don't do any harm. I'm tired of soft weak passive people who can't DO anything or MAKE anything. Except babies.

—DOC SARVIS



Monkeywrenching: ecotage; ecodefense; billboard bandits; desurveying; road reclamation; tree spiking—All these can be defined as the unlawful sabotage of industrial extraction/development equipment and infrastructure, as a means of striking at the Earth's destroyers at the point where they commit their crimes.

Monkeywrenching is a step beyond civil disobedience. It is nonviolent, aimed only at inanimate objects, and at the pocketbooks of the industrial despoilers. It is the final step in the defense of the wild, the deliberate action taken by the Earth defender when all other measures have failed, the process whereby the wilderness defender becomes the wilderness acting in self-defense.

Although Earth First! is often associated with the practice and mystique of monkeywrenching, the organized elements of the Earth First! movement do not engage in monkeywrenching. Any person openly spouting off about sabotage should be avoided, as they may be either a wingnut or an *agent provocateur*.

Monkeywrenching is not mindless—targets are carefully picked for their strategic value. There is a time and a place for everything, and knowing when not to engage in sabotage is equally of value. For instance, monkeywrenching at the site of a public, civil disobedience-oriented campaign of mass actions could put those people in danger.

Although some individual Earth First!ers may be active monkeywrenchers, the Earth First! movement officially neither advocates nor condemns monkeywrenching. The *Earth First! Journal*, however, carries regular columns, "Dear Ned Ludd" and "Earth Night News," which are about monkeywrenching.

Within the Earth First! movement, monkeywrenching is a source of controversy. There are those who say we should renounce all forms of sabotage. Others are against particular tactics, particularly tree spiking, which they say has the potential to injure. Several EF! local groups have renounced tree spiking, others have not. There is no movement consensus at this time, and debate is lively. Ultimately, whether or not to monkeywrench is an individual decision.

The book, *ECODEFENSE: A Field Guide to Monkeywrenching, Third Edition* (available from the *Earth First! Journal* for \$18), contains detailed information on monkeywrenching techniques as well as careful discussions of security, safety, strategy and justification. The book is 350 pages long and is heavily illustrated. Any potential monkeywrencher would do well to study the security section carefully before embarking on the clearly illegal and potentially dangerous path of ecotage.



photo by Restless Hawk

Firewood

A Voice Singing Out in the Wilderness

Songs were once traded and shared freely; nowadays we pay top dollar at concerts and record stores. As recently as our grandparents' time, stories were told and music was played in the home. What was once a gift now has been absorbed and made part of the competitive business system.

Now television and movies tell us our stories and with video games we play a computer. We experience a profound lack of connection in our society to our relatives, friends and the place where we live. Art and music are supposed to build connections, but professional offerings—"music industry" art—is having the opposite effect. Why make up songs when you can just play a CD?

As our disconnection with the natural world increases, resistance music emerges organically; the music of the Earth and her defenders has burst into full flower. Earth First! musicians have revived the traveling roadshow with 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, eco-activists.

The Earth First! movement relies strongly on music and poetry to inspire, motivate, provoke and cajole folks to get involved. Such stage stalwarts as Darryl Cherney, Alice Di Micele, Leslie Hemstreet, Robert Hoyt, Dana Lyons, Peg Millett, Casey Neill and Joanne Rand have helped to build an Earth First! following in many of the places they have performed.

Earth First! music promotes a truly deep and radical ecological awareness by emphasizing "right brain" approaches, such as music, poetry, art and dance, that allow people to appreciate and connect with their animal nature in ways that "left brain" approaches like letter writing or statistical analysis do not. Rousing and soulful music, empowering raves and creative theater are key ingredients to Earth First!'s many musical styles.

Roadshow schedules are published locally and in the announcements section of the *Earth First! Journal*; if you're interested in promoting shows in your area, please write us for details. Our recordings of Earth-friendly musicians can be found in the merchandise section of the *EF! Journal*. Our address is: *Earth First! Journal*, POB 1415, Eugene, OR 97440.



photo by Jonathan Paul

Casey Neill, live

The EF! Direct Action Fund

THE EARTH FIRST! ROUND RIVER RENDEZVOUS: COME ON DOWN!

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

Earth First!ers have "cracked" Glen Canyon Dam on the Utah-Arizona border; climbed high into old-growth Douglas fir in Oregon, coast redwoods in California and the rainforests of the Canada coast, and sat on tiny platforms for days or even weeks; buried themselves up to their armpits in roads being cut into wilderness in Idaho, locked themselves to cement-filled barrels at a nuke plant under construction in Tennessee and snowshoed across treacherous terrain in British Columbia to videotape and oppose wolf hunting. Activists have occupied caves in Texas to save endangered species, occupied uranium mines on the north rim of the Grand Canyon in Arizona and have frequently shown up dressed as bears, owls, murrelets and trees in the offices of legislators and agencies to remind them of their jobs.

Through such tactics, for which thousands of EF!ers have been arrested around the world, the lethargic environmental movement has been re-energized and the news media have 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 and raised the level of debate on the issues.

The Earth First! Direct Action Fund has no fancy offices, 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 wild.

So, if you can't be out there on the front lines yourself, help support someone who is. Please send whatever you can to the **EF! Direct Action Fund**, Box 210, Canyon, CA 94516; (510) 376-7329, fax 631-7958.

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 all over the US and from a number of other countries. The Round River Rendezvous is coordinated by a volunteer committee from the local area which sets up the gathering to include workshops on important issues and campaigns, rituals, campfire music and a rally with performers and speakers. Of course, the most important part of the Rendezvous is the informal networking (and partying!) that goes on.

In addition, 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. News about rendezvous are announced in the *Earth First! Journal*.

EF! activists in North America also get together during the winter to address issues concerning the future of the movement. These Activist Conferences are held as campouts or in lodges (depending on the climate of the site), and besides providing another excuse to bring the tribe together, they allow EF!ers to converge on a national level to strategize and organize upcoming campaigns, actions and events.

So make plans to attend the rendezvous every year!



Demonstration against Stone Container, Missoula, MT, 1992

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- EARTH FIRST!
- END CORPORATE DOMINANCE
- HAYDUKE LIVES!
- I'D RATHER BE MONKEYWRENCHING
- I'M POLLUTING THE PLANET!
- LOVE YOUR MOTHER, DON'T BECOME A FATHER
- LOVE YOUR MOTHER, DON'T BECOME ONE
- NATIVE (w/ blue and green earth graphic)
- NATURE BATS LAST
- MONKEYWRENCH THE MILLENNIUM
- PAY YOUR RENT, WORK FOR THE EARTH
- QUESTION TECHNOLOGY
- REAL MEN DON'T SHOOT WOLVES
- REAL MEN GET VASECTOMIES
- RESIST MUCH, OBEY LITTLE
- SAVE THE DAMMED SALMON
- SAVE THE WILD
- STOP CLEARCUTTING
- STOP PUBLIC LANDS RANCHING
- STOP THE FOREST SERVICE,
SAVE OUR WILD COUNTRY
- SUBVERT THE DOMINANT PARADIGM
- THANK YOU FOR NOT BREEDING
- THINK GLOBALLY, ACT LOCALLY
- VISUALIZE INDUSTRIAL COLLAPSE

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Write us for a free copy of our complete merchandise catalog which features: more books, more t-shirts, bandanas, jewelry, calendars and more!

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A Field Guide to Monkeywrenching

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Earth First! Merchandise Order Form

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THE EARTH FIRST! JOURNAL

The Rag To Read

The *Earth First! Journal* is published eight times per year on the seasonal holidays. The *Earth First! Journal* contains reports of non-violent direct actions on behalf of the Earth and its inhabitants; discussions of wilderness preservation and biodiversity; news and announcements from the EF! movement and other radical groups; critiques of mainstream "environmental" groups; book, video and music reviews; essays exploring deep ecology; a rowdy letters column; an ongoing discussion of eco-sabotage; and an open-forum insert, produced by local groups, which covers topics from predator population decline to human popu-

lation incline. The *Earth First! Journal* is bold, controversial, amusing and diverse in content and style. You won't get front-line news like this anywhere else.

The *Earth First! Journal* also markets a variety of t-shirts, hats, jewelry, bandanas, patches, stickers, music and books advancing the Earth First! message. All merchandise is available by mail order and helps fund publication of the newspaper (see previous page).

There is a subscription form below or write us for a free sample.

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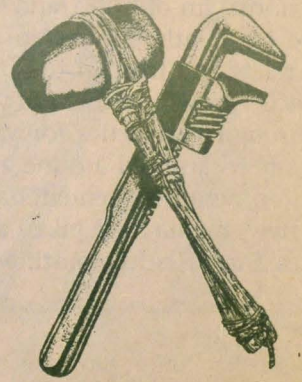
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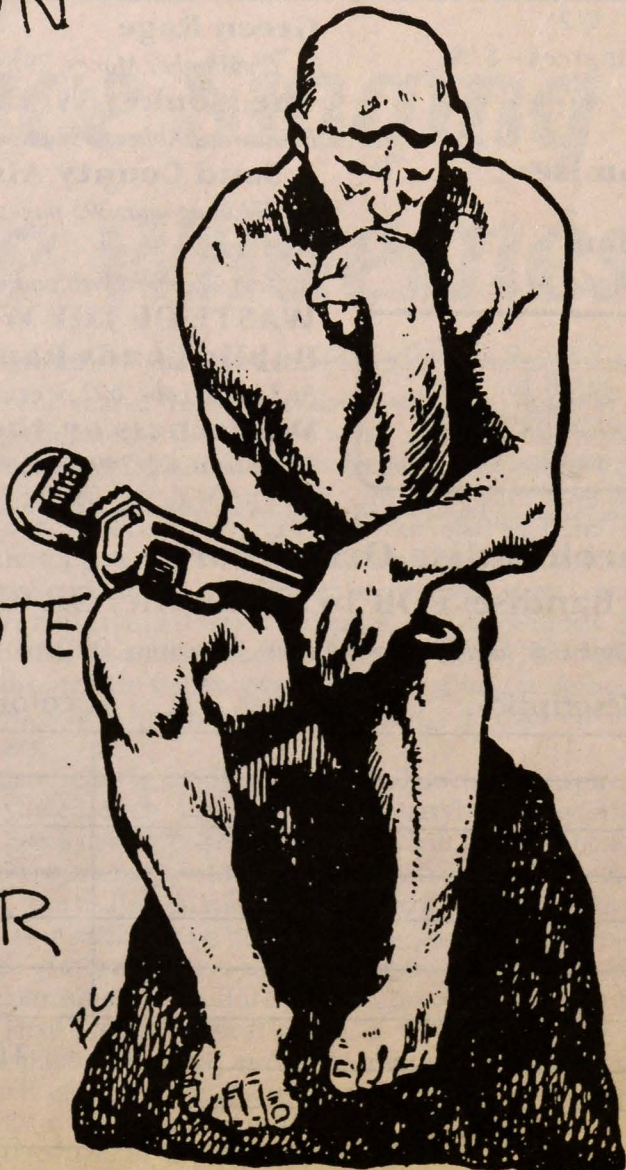
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