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# Earth First!

Samhain

Vol. XVIII, No. I

November-December 1997

THE RADICAL ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNAL

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## Headwaters Activists Reach New Heights

BY JOSH BROWN AND PATRICK OLIVER

Last fall, in the heat of Earth First! rallies, tree villages and road blockades, the federal government responded to a decade of public outcry and negotiated to protect Headwaters. But don't believe the hype about a "deal" for Headwaters forest: corporate criminal Charles Hurwitz, Maxxam and the Pacific Lumber Company (PL) continue to slaughter ancient redwoods. With the encouragement of the Clinton administration and the scheming of California Senator Dianne Feinstein, the proposed Headwaters deal will reward corporate plunder.

This conspiracy is contingent upon a proposed Habitat Conservation Plan that would license PL to kill the endangered marbled murrelet. The deal protects little more than 3,000 acres of ancient forest, some huge clearcuts and a connecting strip of second growth. In exchange, Maxxam/PL would be exempt from complying with the Endangered Species Act on the rest of their 200,000 acres. Plus Hurwitz would get \$380 million in cash and properties.

Under a little known provision of this federal agreement, Maxxam would also be given thousands of acres of forest to log in the South Fork of the Elk River. This land now belongs to Sierra Pacific, the largest landowner in California. Sierra



The world premiere of the love-pod—raid-proof tree housing!

Pacific would be given old growth from Sierra Nevada national forests and BLM lands. As if it weren't bad enough that Dianne Feinstein is supporting the Quincy Library Group's logging plans [see article on page 12], she's also brokering corporate timber swaps for the northern Sierras.

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## Genetic Engineering for Beginners

BY AYELET HINES

For many people, the developments in genetic engineering conjure images like designer test tube babies, slave clones, a caste system based on genetic perfection or a day when males and their sperm are obsolete. Indeed, this new technology tightens humanity's grip on nature unlike any other—except perhaps the nuclear bomb.

Genetic selection is not a new science. For thousands of years, humans have altered the organisms around them to suit their needs. Scientists have been fiddling with genes since the 1970s, but combining DNA from unrelated species takes artificial selection to new heights, with promises that miracle crops, "improved livestock" and manipulated bacteria can eradicate illness and world hunger and let us live forever. The complex problems associated with genetic engineering stem not from the basic science but from our arrogance and ignorance.

Transgenic organisms are not inherently dangerous. The environmental risk is that an organism's new traits will produce unwanted results. Because a trait is produced by combination of genes, one gene can produce several traits, and the inserted genetic material often acts as a wild card.

What are the effects of bioengineering? They could be very slight or they could be great. At this stage of the game we just don't know. The more important question is how we'll assess the risks.

As the genetic library grows, researchers have more genes than ever to draw upon and manipulate. Geneticists can now tailor the genes of any organism to produce new characteristics. At first glance, the attentive reader might ask, "Natural mutation and traditional breeding practices produce organisms with new traits all the time, so why should genetic engineering be of greater concern?"

It may seem fairly benign to take a gene from a cold-water fish and put it in an orange cell to create frost-resistant orange trees. Of course, the environmental risks of this technology depend on, among other things, the nature of the organism, its location, the characteristic of the gene and the ability of this gene to move to other "nontarget" organisms.

The risk of backfire becomes increasingly likely as the technology moves out of the controlled laboratory into the great outdoors, where experimenters have far less influence over growing conditions. Researchers are ready

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## 74 Day Blockade Energizes Cove/Mallard

On a hot day in early July, 11 activists gathered in the heart of the Nez Perce National Forest near Dixie, Idaho, which contains the largest roadless area in the lower 48. Unfortunately, this area, known as Cove/Mallard, was sold to Shearer Lumber to do with what they please. Since 1992, activists have been fighting against the wholesale destruction of this beautiful place.

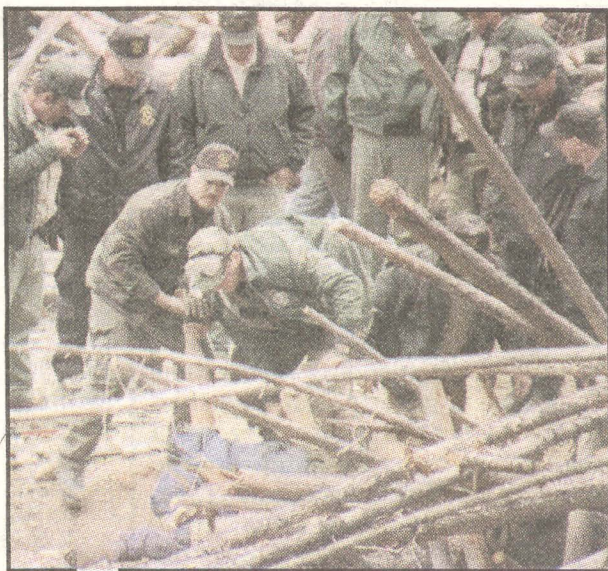
Shearer has already gutted Noble, one of the timber sales in Cove/Mallard. They have also made plain their intention to log the Jack timber sale and indeed must do so before the next sale (Lone Park) can proceed.

The plan of these 11 activists was to blockade Forest Service Road 9553, also known as the Jack Road.

Early on the morning of July 5, they hiked five miles up the Trapper Creek trail, loaded down with all the food and gear necessary for a lengthy stay. Everyone was so tired upon reaching Jack Road that they all fell asleep.

The morning of July 6 was spectacular. Not only were there moose nearby, but two bipods had miraculously appeared on the road! Two activists sus-

pended themselves from the two interdependently cabled bipods, making it impossible to take one bipod down without the other coming down as well. The tiny seed of the High Jack blockade had germinated.



Officers uses pain holds to remove a noncompliant protestor

Walking the length of Jack Road, one can easily see how destructive it is. The road cuts through one stream, and it's been washed out in numerous others. The sediment running into Little and Big Mallard creeks is fatal to the creatures living there, including the Chinook salmon, an endangered species.

On July 9, after being discovered by timber cruisers, Idaho County Sheriffs

came by with cameras and stern looks. A few days later, a Forest Service law enforcement officer came by and talked, pretending to drink our coffee from a dirty plastic mug.

Some time in mid-July, an activist was asleep on the road right next to one of the bipod's cable anchors. A pair of old-growth culverts sprouted underneath him and bore him aloft. We didn't know how we, or the Freddie's, were going to get him down. It was impossible to disassemble the culverts without endangering the second bipod and, consequently, the first bipod.

Forest activism can be dangerous. In late July, another activist was playing fiddlesticks in a logging slash pile. The whole pile collapsed, upended and left him hanging from a pole, suspended between two tripods right behind the back cable of the second bipod. It was impossible to take down the tripods without endangering the second bipod, the culvert, etc...

One evening in August, two snooched locals pulled up to the slash pile that now buries the Jack Road gate. One of them had recently been featured on the front page of a local paper in an article entitled, "Loggers Environmentalists Too." Siphoning gasoline from their running engines, they attempted to set the slash

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# EARTH FIRST!

NO COMPROMISE IN DEFENSE OF MOTHER EARTH

POB 1415 • EUGENE, OREGON 97440 • (541) 344-8004



## ¡VIVA LA RESISTENCIA!

The staff welcomes you to the Samhain '97 issue of the *Earth First! Journal*. Feel free to relax, kick back and be inspired! The chilly rains of autumn have returned to Cascadia; I'm using my extra indoor time to reflect and write about the environmental movement. One of the functions of the *Journal* is to document the variety of tactics that activists use to confront the extinction crisis. There is no consensus in *Earth First!* about what tactics are appropriate for fighting those destroying the Earth. As the Op-Ed on the opposite page points out, there is ample room in this movement for debate. What the groups in these pages have in common, however, is that they all come from cultures of resistance.

I believe that a culture of resistance can be defined as an active, defiant state of mind (and spirit!) that is shared by individuals and communities. This culture puts respect for the Earth above the quarterly profits of corporations.

In Europe and Australia, resistance swirls around the movement to fight genetically engineered seed and crop patenting. Opposition to DNA-altered farming is sprouting up faster than a Monsanto beet. For a critical look at genetic engineering, see our front page. Don't forget to read the juicy details on how some resourceful elves have been defending our gene pool with a little midnight gardening (page 20).

One of the most moving pieces in this issue deals with the wholesale destruction of entire watersheds in the Slocan Valley of British Columbia. Most of the folks in the Slocan struggle were not activists before log trucks rolled past their homes, ruining their water source. Now the community is mobilizing and a new culture of resistance is sprouting up.

Unlike corporate media, the *Journal* strives to extend its coverage past the struggles of white, middle-class North Americans. From Colombia to Nicaragua, we document the fight of revolutionary people struggling for land. We report what mainstream media will not: The fate of the world's rainforests and endangered species hinges upon the rights of poor and indigenous people.

The maldistribution of land in Latin America is both well documented and appalling. The most arable land is owned by a few families and corporations. Mammoth plantations are worked with exploited labor and cancerous chemicals to produce commodities such as sugar, bananas and coffee for wealthy North American consumers like us.

How can we blame poor people for converting forests to fields if this is their only chance to farm for themselves?

Landless campesinos must gain access to land to grow food and indigenous people must be allowed to live in their forest homes. Until the corporate estates and gigantic plantations are given back to the poor, environmentalism in Latin America may seem like the pursuit of a privileged class.

In this twisted vision of class warfare, agri-business and multinational logging concessions continue to dominate life in Central America. Poor workers and landless squatters are pitted against the tribes of the rainforest, while the landed elite and corporations continue to profit. Divide and conquer will never go out of style.

Activists south of the border are likely to face more harassment and intimidation than a fine or a night in jail. Human rights workers, indigenous leaders and environmentalists are still targeted by para-military death squads. Thanks to the CIA and its infamous School of the Americas, right-wing thugs are brought up to this country for rigorous training in political repression and covert violence. Many who work in Latin America to protect the Earth are murdered or "disappeared" with US military aid and weaponry.

The illegal clearcutting of the Nicaraguan rainforests is being met with opposition by fierce Earth warriors. To learn more of the struggle (*la lucha*), read the story about the Ecological Armed Front on page 4.

Likewise, Mexico is struggling with social upheaval and ecological devastation. One of the worst undocumented oil spills in Mexico's history occurred at the Pemex refinery in the state of Tabasco. Mexican workers and villagers have brought civil disobedience to new heights. See the Pemex story on page 19 to learn how Chontal Indians and the people of Tabasco shut down Mexico's largest oil refinery!

See you at the revolution... *Hasta la victoria siempre. ¡Viva la resistencia!*

This issue has been made possible by the invaluable contributions of our newest editor, Ayelet Hines. Arriving in Eugene from Texas by way of California, Ayelet brings experience from the human- and animal-rights movements. She worked as our fundraiser last year, and we decided we just couldn't live without her.

Isabella Barnes recently joined us as our new merchandise goddess. Isabella replaces Stella Anderson, to whom we say a tearful good-bye. She is off to create and live her art, and Isabella is here to fill all your merchandise fantasies. Send us orders for holiday goodies and keep those letters coming.

—PATRICK OLIVER

Earth First! Journal

Samhain

November 1, 1997

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Submissions are welcomed and should be typed or clearly printed. Send a SASE if you would like them returned. If you want confirmation of receipt of a submission, please request it. We encourage submissions on Macintosh disks or via e-mail. Art or photographs are desirable to illustrate articles and essays. (Prints are best, negatives are good, slides are fair.) They will be returned if requested.

All submissions are edited for length and clarity. If an article is significantly edited, we will make a reasonable effort to contact the author prior to publication.

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**Back cover by:** Sue Ring

### SCHEDULE

*Earth First! Journal* is published 8 times a year on the solstices, equinoxes, and cross-quarter days on or about November 1, December 21 (Winter Solstice), February 2, March 21 (Vernal Equinox), May 1, June 21 (Summer Solstice), August 1, and September 21 (Autumnal Equinox). One-year subscriptions in the US via third class mail are \$25. First class delivery is \$35. Outside the US, surface delivery is \$35 and airmail is \$45. Corporate and law enforcement rate is \$45.

**Deadline for the next issue is:**

**November 30**



**Fauna.** *n.* animal life.

**Cabala.** *n.* an esoteric, secret matter or mysterious act.

Vampire bats were likely the first blood donors. Females of *Desmodus rotundus*, one of three vampire bat species, form daytime roosting groups of between 20 and 100 individuals. When a bat comes home hungry, as do about one-tenth of adults and one-third of juveniles, a roostmate will kindly provide a meal of regurgitated blood. Youngsters, who perish in three days without food, are particularly prone to hunting failure because they lack the considerable skill required to painlessly extract blood. When hunting, a bat follows its heat-sensing noseleaf to prey, primarily cattle, where it usually lands and crawls to the hoof. The bat licks and cuts the bite site, a process that takes 20 minutes, then must remain unnoticeable for the time needed to drink half of its body weight in blood (salivary anti-coagulant runs down the top of the bat's

together.  
ing works be-  
other. This is

tongue into the wound to keep blood flowing, while two grooves on the tongue's underside serve as drinking straws). Females of this South American species have a high survival rate and can live to be 18 years old, resulting in individuals spending a long time. Their system of reciprocal food sharing because they are able to recognize each facilitated by social grooming. Prior to donating or receiving blood, a pair will vigorously groom each other, revealing their identities by their distinctly different vocalizations. During grooming, a hungry bat will pat the belly of a roostmate, which will be swollen if the potential donor has fed. Regurgitation takes roughly six and a half minutes. Later, after a successful hunt, the recipient will be more prone to donate and will prefer to feed the bat that has recently given blood. Females who attempt to cheat by receiving but not donating are remembered and are refused the next time they're hungry. This is one of the few species in which reciprocity exists between both related and unrelated individuals. This characteristic may have evolved during the ecological bottleneck created by the disappearance of their main prey, the large herding mammals, at the end of the Pleistocene.

**BY FAITH WALKER**

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# Cult of Nonviolence

BY GARY MCFARLANE AND DARRYL ECHT

Sometime in our murky past, the self-elected "leaders" of Earth First! issued some decisions: The movement was too violent, too morally impure, too fascistic, too stupid, the wrong media grist and in need of education (or something like that). Anyhow, it was decided that we should clean up our act and become ethically-principled resisters (warriors being a bit too frightening a term). But now, instead of simply being nonviolent (which most of us were already) we are in danger of becoming a cult of nonviolence.

Cults have a strange propensity to subliminally obfuscate their goals. Like all good cultists, we step glassy-eyed forward to our daily ritual of nonviolence, rarely questioning why our value is measured by our ritual performance, let alone questioning the ritual itself. And since noted authorities on the matter recognize questioning and analysis as essential to deprogramming, it is time for Earth First!ers to take a critical look at our own sacred mass: nonviolent civil disobedience. (Religious parallels are not entirely facetious. The historical preacher of nonviolence, the great Gandhi himself, said that it is a way of life, a literal religion.)

The first step in deprogramming a cult mentality is recognizing the cult. Cults are built on a single dogma. Perhaps our closest example is the US Forest Service, whose dogma is logging—the prescription for every situation. Introspection is avoided and individual solutions foregone for the sake of perpetuating dogma issued by the "priesthood."

Likewise, we have established our own nonviolent priesthood. As "actions" to defend the Earth have become dogmatic (civil disobedience applied without situational analysis) and technical, we have determined that we need experts, priests. Now, this may be well and good for actions that are not innate, like dangling on high-tech ropes with all sorts of fancy hardware. But, we also have decided that we need experts to teach us the tactics of nonviolence in the tradition of Thoreau, Gandhi and Parks (she did it long before King did). The learned and/or experienced among us have become nonviolence trainers—they've been ordained. And they've been empowered to feed us a single dogma.

What's so wrong with experts, you say? Well, overreliance on them creates an imbalance, an unhealthy hierarchy that haunts campaigns. Too frequently we defer decision making to our experts or priests. Experience is important, but it isn't every-

thing. Ceding moral or ethical decisions to sanctified, "qualified" individuals is disempowering. Do we really want or need experts to tell us how to behave? Step two, friends, is gently ushering our priests and priestesses off the altar and seating them with the rest of us, around the fire.

Once we are all there as equals, we can begin step three (light that cigarette or whiff that sage,



Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm

'cause this one ain't easy). We must define "non-violence" itself. Our collective notions of nonviolence are as diverse as North American flora and fauna once were. To some, it is simply the absence of deliberate harm to life. To others, a much narrower construct of nonviolence forbids any kind of destruction, even sabotage, as violent. There are even those who claim that the use of harsh words directed at the forces of terracide is violent. When the definition of nonviolence becomes so narrow as to exclude just about everything (especially anything effective or fun), it should be questioned. We must be careful not to apply the term "violent" too loosely. We can call actions what they may be—silly, irreverent, unpleasant—but we should not label them violent simply because we don't like them. As a diverse

movement, rather than a cult, we must accept that the spectrum of nonviolent action is far wider than our priesthood has dictated.

Step four is questioning our ritual. Is civil disobedience effective? We need to constructively analyze this tactic, rather than swallowing it as our holy wafer. Are we open to new ideas or just the same old ones replayed? In what circumstances has civil disobedience been successful?

Sometimes nonviolent civil disobedience diverts us from the message, especially at the point of arrest. Often it is the tactic that becomes the message, not the Earth. The issue for which we choose to be arrested becomes obscured by the act itself. We seize our media opportunity and bump wildlands protection to make room to publicize less-than-pleasant police treatment and jailhouse conditions. Our sound bites reveal more about bipods and pain holds than agency malfeasance and habitat devastation.

Respect for roles that don't involve voluntary arrest is essential. Indoctrination, be it called education or training, creates a group mind. Thoughtful debate is discouraged when all the answers are found within an ideological framework. Autonomy, individualism, creativity and self-motivation can be stifled, and participation by those with heretical tendencies is dissuaded. For example, it has been our experience that some people involved in the Cove/Mallard campaign have not felt their ideas and skills were welcome or respected. Individuals have been literally ostracized for failing to swallow dogma, thereby not only quashing potentially effective new perspectives, but encouraging blind obedience. The bumper stickers on our vehicles may declare "Resist Much, Obey Little," but we are expected to leave such radical notions aside when we pull into camp.

We should look to other historical movements for insight. There has been no movement, struggle or revolution throughout history (that we know of) that has succeeded via a single strategy or tactic. Where cults flounder or perish, genuine movements have flourished. Sinn Fein would never have found its way to the table had the Irish Republican Army not initiated the resistance to British imperialism. The animal-rights movement would be a mere laughing stock if not for the Animal Liberation Front. The Nation of Islam and the Black Panthers played incredibly instrumental roles in the struggle for civil rights in the US. Even our sacred cow, the fight for India's independence, would surely have stagnated in the salt sea without the nameless

continued on page 17

## Letters to the Editors

pob 1415, eugene, or 97440 300 words or less

Dear EF!:

I never knew how ignorant I was of trees (read: life) until I became acquainted with and started reading your paper.

As a former bank robber, who sits in a cesspool of a prison, I realize that I might be too far from the facts, however I can't help but add my two cents to the violent vs. nonviolent approach to protest.

Nonviolence is the way of the tree, of life, it is good; violence is the way of man, of money, it is not good. Nevertheless, at this point in time, we cannot get along without money, yet when I am free, I think I'd prefer less money and more trees.

EF! is one of my windows to the outside, through which I am learning to see different ways and purposes, for which I thank ya'll. Who knows, if the Goddess so desires, I will meet some of you and learn to live and enjoy life again.

May ya'll unite and work together. In unity there is strength. Towards peace, harmony and equality,  
Love,

—PAT EARL #744524

Box 150 X 418

T-COLONY, TX 75884

P.S. Free CuSith to chew the new place! Now!

Dear EF!

RE: "Boycott the [USFS] Recreation Fee..." on p. 9 Sept-Oct '97 EF!, the article avoided a big issue. I'll believe that American Recreation Coalition seeks exploitation of public land for motorized abuse—and that ARC's advocacy of user fees has evil intentions. But some user-fee advocates do care about mother earth.

If land managers were angels, instead of human beings or devils, of course we wouldn't need to consider fees for hikers. In the real world, caring managers can

more easily justify doing the right thing by mother—if non-exploitative use is generating some fees too. If resource extraction is the only activity that generates any fees, then it may remain the only thing that agencies care much about.

—W. TUCK FORSYTHE

Dear Journal Folk,

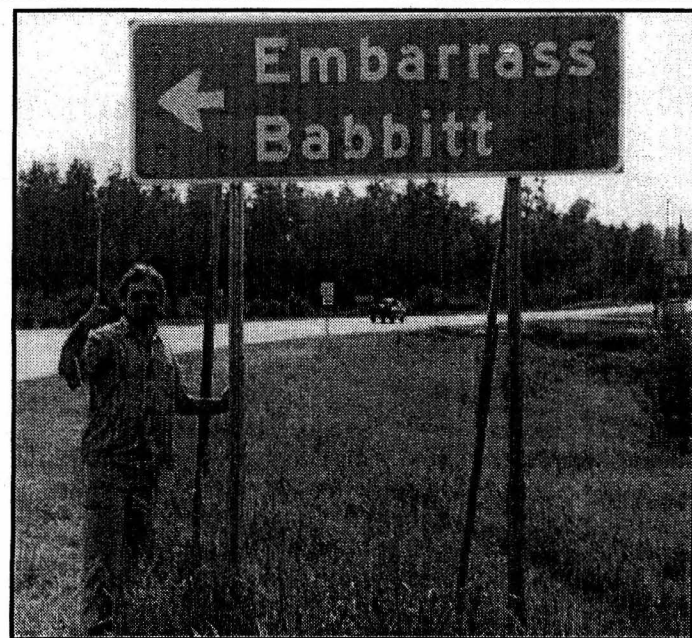
Viva the Slug! The ultimate indicator species!

—SLUGTHANG@AOL.COM

Dear Earth First!

Last issue carried my letter that attacked "playing by the rules," and reply by "JF" that defended same by pointing to alleged gains by time-honored tactics at the June 1 tree-cutting confrontation in Eugene.

JF defends ritualized CD and martyrology as having provoked front-page news coverage, much citizen hand-wringing, talk of a



police review board, and a recall of the local DA campaign.

But what does any of this add up to?

JF comes across as a liberal salivating over a few predictable liberal responses that have accomplished exactly nothing.

This is the same attitude that

condemned the razing the Oakridge Ranger Station a year ago—because of the "good work" that had been done there; that totally distances itself from the Unabomber/Kaczynski; and that wets its pants if a few feds ask

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# SAWING AND SPIKING IN GABON

BY GIUSEPPE VASSALLO

Gabon is a West African country with a small population—only one million people in an area as big as the state of Virginia. It was once 85 percent covered with pristine rainforest and had vast numbers of gorillas, chimpanzees and forest elephants.



"Three extraordinary and practically unknown waterfalls protect this area from destruction."

Iboga, a medicinal plant which only grows in Gabon, could be a primary focus of future research. It is now under study in the US and Europe. This plant may prove useful for treating alcoholism and tobacco and drug addictions.

The Ipassa-Mingouli has no resident population, and so, during our first visit, confident chimpanzees approached and confronted us. They had never seen humans before! The villages of local people are nearly 50-kilometers away from the core area and the Ivindo River. These people practice hunting and gathering in the forest near their villages, so they are not threatening the ecosystem.

Unfortunately some logging permits have already been issued within the area to the Rougier Group, France's biggest logging company. The local population completely backs the Ipassa-Mingouli Project, since they know that logging depletes their forest of animal and plant variety. Furthermore, the logging company offers them very few jobs.

We looked for allies to help protect the Ipassa-Mingouli, and a few years ago we got the World Conservation Union (IUCN) involved. It prepared a proposal and report on the Ipassa-Mingouli Project which interested Gabon's European Union delegation. These two organizations put pressure on Jacques Rougier, owner of the Rougier Group, to practice sustainable use of the area. In 1995, Rougier reluctantly signed a sustainability agreement. Thus our project seemed poised to get underway. Due to some difficulties between Gabon's government and the European Union, however, the initial phase of the project has been delayed.

Meanwhile Rougier, like a thief in the night, without informing either the European Union or the World Conservation Union, has roared ahead with heavy industrial logging. It began cutting right in the core conservation area.

Rougier's people are plundering the forest and massacring the animals. Since the workers are not given a stipend to provide for their food, they are forced to rely on poaching. In addition, many



Protecting the Ipassa-Mingouli

commercial poachers now roam into the core zone of the Mingouli forest, following logging roads opened by Rougier.

Early in 1997, after nearly two years of Rougier's massive tree slaughter, there was a serious outbreak of Ebola hemorrhagic fever that struck down many people living in the nearby villages. This usually fatal illness has dreadful symptoms well described in the books *The Hot Zone* and *Ebola*. Scientists such as Steven Morse of Rockefeller University believe that a main cause of Ebola epidemics is the disturbance of primary rainforests by logging. Logging roads open the way to poachers who hunt primates and sell their meat, and Ebola is thought to be transmitted to humans by contact with the meat or blood of infected primates.

Thus Rougier, in addition to plundering this beautiful forest, also bears responsibility for the tragic deaths of 59 people in late '96 and early '97. If Ebola breaks through Gabon's fragile quarantine barriers, a "Jet Virus" could unleash a world epidemic.

I was informed that last summer three Italian activists performed a direct action against the Rougier Group. Keeping themselves hidden in the Mingouli forest, close to the logging company's bulldozers and chainsaws, they nail-spiked 152 trees that Rougier's officials had selected for logging.

The Ipassa-Mingouli needs more direct actions and it needs international pressure on the Rougier Group, the Gabonese government and the French government. Anyone willing to visit the Ipassa-Mingouli will be very welcome and useful. Those willing to write letters of protest will find a model of such a letter on our Web page at <http://www.dna.it/ecowarriors>. Write to the President of Gabon at <http://www.presidence-gabon.oleane.com/cgi-bin/mailto>. You can fax Jacques Rougier of the Rougier Group at 33-1-53772508.

## ARMED GROUP DEFENDS NICARAGUAN RAINFOREST

Recently, the Nicaraguan newspaper *La Tribuna* reported the emergence of a new group defending the rainforest, *El Frontero Ecológico Armado* (FEA, or the Armed Ecological Front). This guerrilla battalion is made up of approximately 60 men, including former members of the Sandinista army, the Ministry of the Interior and the re-armed Contra group Northern Front-380. A communiqué from the group explains that they have taken up arms against the "unscrupulous loggers who are principally responsible for the destruction of the environment."

On September 22, the group confronted loggers who were busily punching in roads and falling trees. The FEA battalion confiscated 25 chainsaws and burned them in the central plaza of Puerto Viejo as "a warning against people and companies that dedicate themselves to cutting down forests." The FEA declares that one of its principal objectives is to bring government corruption to an end and claims that it will not respect logging licenses granted by the Minister of Natural Resources.

Another group, *El Movimiento Ambiental Nicaragüense* (MAN, or the Nicaraguan Environmental Movement) President Rodolfo Blandon announced that they will block roads on the main highways in Jinotega and

Matagalpa. He also noted that indigenous groups are mobilizing to defend their homes.

In support of this struggle, the Nicaragua Network and the Rainforest Action Network have called for a "Day of Action" on November 10 to pressure the Nicaraguan government to respect the autonomy of the peoples of the Caribbean Coast and to halt the devastation of the rainforest. Demonstrations will be held at the Nicaraguan embassies in Washington, DC and several European capitals, as well as at Nicaraguan consulates in New York, Miami and San Francisco. Activists in other locations will be calling and faxing embassies, organizing educational events and collecting signatures on petitions to send to Nicaraguan President Aleman.

Logging in Nicaragua's North Atlantic Autonomous Region is widespread. The disruption of the indigenous communities follows the newest logging concessions. A subsidiary of a Korean multinational corporation, Solcarsa, has received concessions as have five US timber companies. The concession areas include nearly 150,000 acres in Wakamby, a large tract of ancient tropical hardwood forest located between the village of Rosita and the Bosawas Reserve. In March, a group of US activists joined with Nicaraguan environmentalists and indigenous peoples to

document the destruction of the Caribbean coast. The group traveled up the Rio Coco to the Bosawas Reserve and uncovered new logging roads on sacred indigenous land in Wakamby.

The Nicaraguan National Assembly in 1987 granted political autonomy to the indigenous communities and declared the majority of land in the "undeveloped" regions to be their property. According to the Nicaraguan constitution, it cannot be sold. President Aleman, however, has been unwilling to take any steps to protect the rights of the indigenous peoples. He has been unwilling to revoke the Solcarsa's concession, which has even been found illegal by the Nicaraguan Supreme Court!

Take part in the International Day of Action for Nicaragua on November 10. Organize a protest, rally or vigil at your local Nicaraguan consulate or embassy. Send letters of protest to President Aleman through any Nicaraguan embassy or consulate on November 10, 1997.

To receive a "Day of Action" organizing packet, contact Soren Ambrose at the Nicaragua Network (202) 544-9355, fax 544-9359; e-mail: [Nicanet@igc.apc.org](mailto:Nicanet@igc.apc.org) or the Native Forest Network at (802) 863-0571, fax (802) 863-2532; e-mail: [nfna@igc.apc.org](mailto:nfna@igc.apc.org).



# HEY NASA: SEND IT UP URANUS!

## OPPOSITION TO CASSINI HEATS UP

BY AL DECKER

On October 15, NASA (Never A Straight Answer) launched the Cassini probe into space. As the article *Plutonium: Probe Puts Life on Earth at Risk* (EF!), Beltane, 1997) reported, the spacecraft will carry 72.3 pounds of plutonium-238, the largest amount ever used in a space mission. The launch was originally scheduled for Columbus Day, but was delayed due to high winds and "technical difficulties."

There are numerous well-documented reasons why this mission is the height of human stupidity and arrogance, including the fact that the probe will perform a fly-by maneuver of the Earth in August 1999 at 42,300-miles-per-hour, just a few hundred miles above our atmosphere. In the case of a slight mistake, equipment failure or collision with another object, Cassini could easily enter the atmosphere and vaporize, showering the most deadly substance known across the planet.

There is always a danger to exploration, says NASA. After all, Columbus had to take risks. The original launch date on Columbus Day was, of course, no coincidence. Yet, the astute observer will realize that while Columbus was only risking his life and that of his crew, this glorious mission risks *all* life on Earth for the next thousand human generations.

NASA's Environmental Impact Statement for the mission predicted that the number of people who "could receive 99 percent or more of the radiation exposure" in the event of an "inadvertent reentry" into our atmosphere is 5 billion of the estimated 7 or 8 billion world population in 1999. Two-hundred forty-four workers at the Los Alamos National Laboratory have already suffered plutonium poisoning from working on this project.

NASA scientist Dr. Jeff Cuzzi insists that the risk of an accident is a "million times less likely than getting struck by lightning," and Cassini is a "million times safer than you think." This means a million times less than nothing and is nothing less than complete drivel. It's *prima facie* absurd to deny that rockets blow up. I learned that playing with toy rockets as a kid. Yet these scientists operate in a fantasy world where studying the rings of Saturn is worth \$3.4 billion and the risk of global catastrophe.

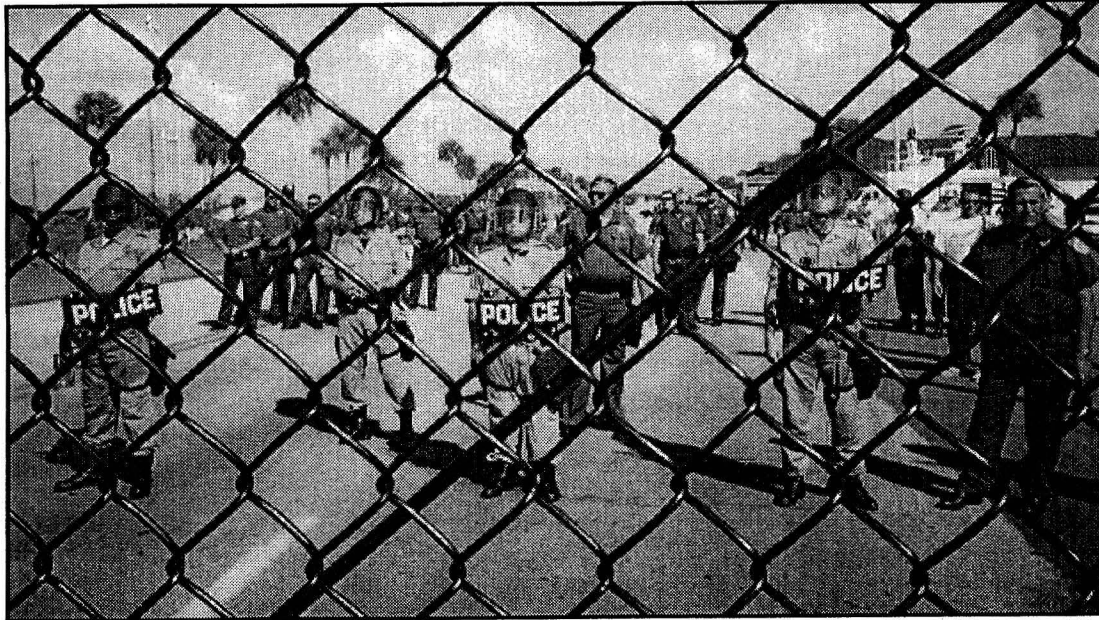
### Hell No, We Won't Glow

Despite the appalling silence of the American media, there is growing international and national outrage against Cassini. Bruce Gagnon of the Florida Coalition for Peace and Justice is working with 400 organizers around the globe on this issue. The two weeks prior to Columbus Day, the Coalition organized daily vigils, picnics and rallies outside the gates of Cape Canaveral, including one rally on October 4 with over a thousand people demanding an end to the madness. That day, after a few hours of speeches from scientists, activists and religious leaders, people followed a contingent from Grandmothers for Peace to the front gate, where the raging grannies prepared to go over the fence and head toward the launch pad. In a touching show of grace, the several hundred tooled-up riot cops opened the gates for the grannies, but promptly closed them on the masses. Shortly thereafter, a Cascadian draped thick carpets over the razor-wire fencing, and a stream of people went over the top into the arms of the police. Twenty-seven people were arrested for trespassing and may face federal charges.

A German activist who has worked on this issue for three years told the rally about two simultaneous demonstrations in Germany. There were several other gatherings elsewhere in the US. Activists from the Native Forest Network in Vermont locked down to their senator's desk. A California resident did a

week-long hunger strike. Two British women from the Menwith Hill peace camp were arrested in London spray painting "Stop Cassini" on the American Embassy—events which we don't hear about through the corporate media.

The federal government put all NASA facilities in the country on "alpha threatcom" security alert a week before the launch date. Rumors suggested that some folks were going to try and get in and disturb the launch nonetheless. In the security zone around the launch, soldiers had permission to shoot, and helicop-



Officers defend NASA from Grandmothers for Peace during a protest

ters conducted regular overflights with thermal-imaging devices. In addition, the swamps and scrub surrounding the base are home to alligators, diamond-back and cottonmouth snakes, wild boars and encephalitis-bearing mosquitoes. It would have been possible to enter the coastal waters via boat, but the Navy, Coast Guard, Marine and state vessels were on patrol, and the density of sharks off the Florida coast is second only to Australia. At blast-off, all protesters but one left the site outside Cape Canaveral's gates.

### America "Uber Alles"

The largely untold story of the Cassini mission is its role as an icebreaker to soften up the public to nukes and weapons in space. There are 12 more plutonium missions planned in the near future.

The US Space Command, NASA and the Clinton administration have all acknowledged the "crucial" role of nuclear power and weapons in space. There have been 24 American reactors in space already, as well as many from the Soviets. Nuclear power will be used to deflect or blow up asteroids; to power satellites for military, communications and high-definition TV; as propulsion fuel for trips to Mars and Pluto; to enable nuclear disposal in space; and to mine the moon, other planets and asteroids for helium-3 (used in nuclear fusion), as well as rare radioactive isotopes of potassium uranium, thorium, rubidium, etc. (uranium and thorium can be used for nuclear reactors). Two nuclear reactors for mining colonies on Mars are planned for 2007.

Even more frightening is the fact that for the military, space is the ultimate "high ground." Colonel Mike Heil of the US Air Force Phillips Laboratory says that "high ground has always been a superior and defensible platform from which to wage war... from its position in space, the Air Force will eventually see every potential target on the face of the earth and, if need be, engage them militarily."

Furthermore, the military plans to deny enemy nations access to outer space. Clinton officials regularly speak of "force multipliers for the domination of the planet." Many people believed that Bubba and Al would follow through on their pledges to end the Star Wars program, but in a typical maneuver, however, they didn't kill the program, they just changed its name to Ballistic Missile Defense and took the \$5 billion-plus budget out of a different pot. Despite international agreements banning the militarization and nuclearization of space, Bubba and Al are firmly behind the military program to put America literally "above all."

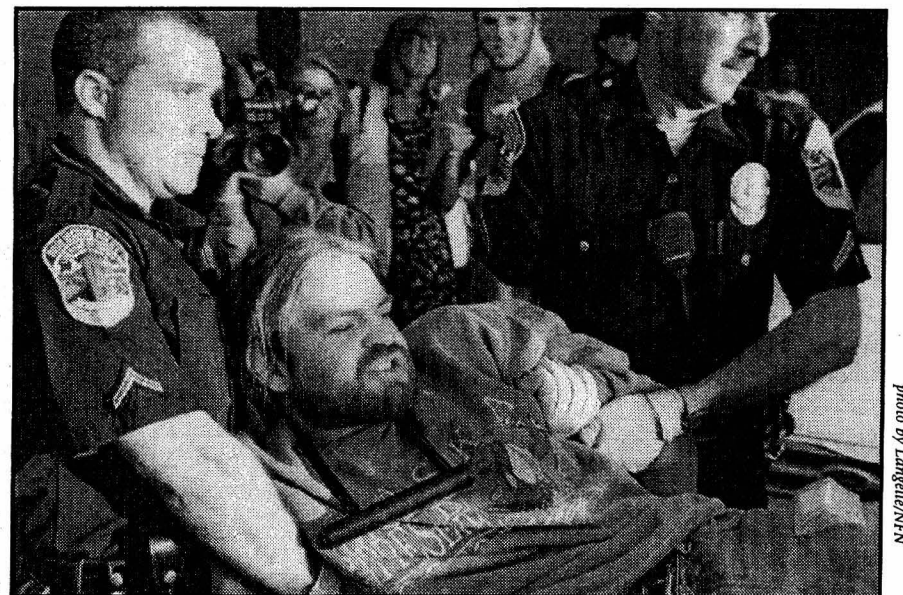
Alan Kohn, a former NASA emergency preparedness officer, told an anti-Cassini rally earlier this summer, "I expect people to speak out regardless the cost. If you're going to keep quiet about an issue like this, then your jobs aren't worth a bucket of warm spit. If you're going to give up your soul and your conscience just to keep your jobs, the jobs aren't worth it... If it means your jobs, so what? Who cares about a job? Health and the lives of the public are more important than any job on this Earth, including the presidency of the US."

Plutonium did not exist on Earth 60 years ago, and now traces of it are found in soil samples on all continents at all latitudes. But even if it weren't being used for this mission, the question still remains: why the hell are we doing it? Why is it necessary?

Cassini opponents who support a nuke-free space program have single-issue blinders on. They unfortunately ignore the problems of the toxic spills into the wildlife preserve and residential area surrounding Cape Canaveral; the damage to the ozone layer with every blast-off; the considerable impact on climate change through greenhouse gas emissions; the deeply offensive nature of this program to indigenous people and others who hold to notions of sacredness; and the unforgivable cost of the whole shebang, while social and environmental programs face wholesale elimination by a depraved neoliberal government.

The battle against Cassini is not over. There is still time to cancel the fly-by in 1999. With Cassini merely the tip of the iceberg for the nuclear space program, those who defend the Earth from plutonium poisoning have no shortage of work ahead.

For information contact the Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space, c/o the Florida Coalition for Peace and Justice, POB 90035, Gainesville, FL 32607; (352) 468-3295; e-mail: fcpj@afn.org.



Eleven anti-Cassini protesters in Burlington, Vermont were arrested October 7 after occupying Senator James Jeffords' (R-VT) office for almost six hours. Two of the protesters were removed when the desk they were U-locked to was cut. At noon, concerned citizens entered Jeffords' office and demanded that he take a stand against the launch of Cassini. According to one local organizer, Jeffords could have "create[d] the pressure to stop the launch and knows how truly dangerous it is, yet he's choosing to do nothing to stop it... It appears he lacks the courage to take a stand." The only stand Jeffords took was to have the protesters arrested.

On October 4, 300 participants attended an anti-Cassini rally in Burlington. Afterwards, a hundred or so people marched to a General Dynamics plant where they torched a mock rocket.



# Shawnee Forest in Ohio Under Seige

BY JASON TOCKMAN

What do you get when you mix one of the most biologically diverse and recreation-friendly forests in Ohio with rampant logging and poor management? The Shawnee State Forest. Under the leadership of Forest Manager Stan Richards, the Shawnee has suffered ravaging clearcuts and enormous "high-grade" select cuts, leaving it in a severely degraded condition.

With 62,000 acres straddling Scioto and Adams counties, the Shawnee is the largest state forest and the most contiguous public land in Ohio. Known as the "Little Smokies," it is home to the state's only wilderness, an 8,000-acre area containing many rare and endangered species.

With Ohio ranking 47th out of the 50 states for public lands available per capita for recreation, one would think that a place like the Shawnee would be managed with recreation in mind. Despite pleas from local townships to stop the devastation, however, the timber sales continue to be cruised, planned and executed. The Shawnee bears the brunt of Ohio's timber sales, and being at the southern edge of the state, is ignored by the media, politicians and, unfortunately, the public.

In the late 1980s the Save Our Shawnee Committee was formed to express outrage with the mismanagement of the Shawnee. Its pressure, and the pull of the Speaker of the House, Vern Riffe, resulted in a ban on clearcutting in the Shawnee that was in place until the Division of Forestry overturned it in 1994.

Clearcutting resumed with two cuts totaling 32

acres. Two more clearcuts were recently sold along an area known as Sunshine Ridge. Numerous selective logging projects are also at varying stages of completion, including a timber sale adjacent to the wilderness area. The Division of Forestry explains that the cutting is for "natural regeneration." Apparently dissatisfied with the existing stands of mature hardwood forests, the managers of the Shawnee are hell-bent on transforming the entire Shawnee to little more than a 54,000-acre tree farm surrounding an 8,000-acre wilderness area. It's enough to make one take seriously Manager Richards' off-color quip about turning the forest into the "Shawnee State Desert."

The fact that Richards is related through marriage to one of the companies that regularly logs the Shawnee doesn't help matters. The company, S&S Lumber, has cut seven timber sales on the Shawnee in as many years, and recently traded forested land in the Shawnee for clearcut land owned by S&S.

Numerous citizens living near the Shawnee recently vocalized their concerns at a hearing hosted by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. Rhonda Blake from West Portsmouth confronted the Division saying, "You guys are cutting it faster than it can grow back. I want to see mature trees, not saplings." Another citizen at the hearing be-

rated the Division for its clearcutting practices. "After clearcutting we have silting and runoff and those lakes out there are continuously filled with silt and dirt," said Bert Crothers of Portsmouth.

What you can do: Contact Senator Shoemaker at Statehouse, Columbus, OH 43215; (614) 466-8156 or any State Representative at 77 South High St., Columbus, OH 43266; (614) 466-2124. Demand an end to logging on the Shawnee State Forest and the replacement of Stan Richards! For more information contact the Buckeye Forest Council, POB 99, Athens, OH 45701-0099; (614) 594-6400; buckeye@envirolink.org.



Shawnee State Forest managers in Ohio practice "natural regeneration."

## FEDS SPARE WHAT'S LEFT OF CHINA LEFT Logging Suspended in the Wayne!

BY STEVE MARSDEN

The surviving five units of the China Left timber sale will not be logged. Siskiyou National Forest Supervisor Mike Lunn wrote a letter to Forest Service Chief Mike Dombeck asking that the last 14 percent of the timber sale be canceled. The purchaser, Rough & Ready Timber, has agreed to be reimbursed for the remaining forest (some two million board feet).

The "units" of ancient forest range in size from six to 21 acres and are located on steep slopes in the Sucker Creek watershed, a key watershed for the restoration of salmon. Even so, the Siskiyou National Forest scheduled the area for clearcutting under a 1989 appropriations rider that exempted logging in the Northwest from environmental laws. The sale was withdrawn by the Forest Service in 1993 because they judged "the impact from the sale on critical habitat to be unacceptable, and the sale could not be easily modified to eliminate the negative impacts."

That changed under the Salvage Rider, and logging began in 1996. Since then, dozens of brave folks have slowed the logging by placing their bodies between the chainsaws and the trees. In addition, hundreds of others phoned, sent letters and signed petitions calling for the sale to be stopped.

On April 24, 1997, the National Marine Fisheries Service proposed protection for the Coho salmon. The Forest Service, however, allowed road work to repair logging roads damaged by the combination of clearcuts and winter storms. Some of the road failures were dramatic, with huge sections becoming flows of mud, debris and large trees. Deep Creek, a tributary of the Left Fork, was scoured to bedrock for hundreds of yards. Limestone Creek jumped its course and flowed down the road. Brush Creek blasted through the road, destroying streamside habitat and dumping sediment into Sucker Creek, one of the best remaining Coho spawning areas in the Siskiyou.

On June 4, 1997, the southern Oregon Coho salmon was formally protected under the Endangered Species Act and listed as threatened. Then the National Marine Fisheries Service began a review of the timber sale. The decision to cancel the sale, though tardy, is still to be commended. Our hope is that the decision to protect this forest will mark the end of commercial logging for all wild forest reserves in the Siskiyou. To all of you Siskiyou forest defenders, go to the forest, the best thanks is there.

Dozens of activists were busted defending Sucker Creek. The Siskiyou Forest Defenders are making a financial plea for campaign expenses and legal expenses. The China Left video "Let This Be A Call to Action" is available now for a \$10 donation. Contact Kalmiopsis EFL, POB 2093, Cave Junction, OR 97523; (541) 592-3386.

## Texas Logging Showdown!

BY AYELET HINES

Much of Texas is covered with trees and shrubs a short dog wouldn't bother lifting its leg on. Contrary to popular belief, there are even some trees in Texas wider than a shotgun barrel, many of which are found in the Davy Crockett, Angelina, Sam Houston and Sabine National Forests in the eastern part of the state.

In late August, Federal District Judge Richard Schell ruled on a lawsuit filed by the Sierra Club, The Wilderness Society and the Texas Committee on Natural Resources, that claimed the US Forest Service violated the National Forest Management Act by failing to keep track of wildlife and maintain diversity in the woods. The trial confirmed that clearcutting and other logging methods were seriously damaging

watersheds, causing erosion, disrupting water runoff and backing up waterways with silt and sediment. With his ruling, Schell halted all logging in the national forests in Texas.

This was the first-ever court trial under the National Forest Management Act in which a federal judge took testimony of on-the-ground observations of violations, rather than just looking at whether the planning process considered those protections.

Before you dance in the streets, be warned: The injunction includes an exception for logging in the name of forest health, fire protection and disease control. Never sleep with your mouth open next to the US Forest Service if you've got gold teeth, I always say. The injunction is a triumph for the handful of environmentalists in Texas, but the celebration of an all-out victory may be premature.

BY JASON TOCKMAN

A precedent-setting challenge to logging in an Ohio National Forest is now headed to the US Supreme Court for review. Logging on the Wayne National Forest was indefinitely halted this July as a result of a decision by the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals in January suspending the Wayne's Forest Plan for bias towards logging. "Rather than being a process which determines how the national forests can meet the needs of the American people, forest planning, as practiced by the Forest Service, is a political process replete with opportunities for abuse," the court wrote. The Appeals Court also said the Forest Service discounted the forest's recreational value and relied heavily on clearcutting.

In response to the court decision, the environmental community is developing an Alternative Forest Plan, that will focus on principles of ecological restoration, job creation, public use and bioregional planning.

On Oct. 20, however, the US Supreme Court agreed to hear the Ohio Forestry Association's argument that the challenge to the Wayne National Forest management plan was premature. The 10-year plan for the Wayne National Forest, approved in 1988, designates 126,107 of the 176,787 federally-owned acres as suitable for timber production. Clearcutting is allowed on four-fifths of those acres. The Sierra Club and the Citizens Council on Conservation and Environmental Control filed suit against the Forest Service in 1992 to stop the plan.

In their appeal to the Supreme Court, the Ohio Forestry Association claims environmental groups should not be allowed to sue unless they challenge a specific project and that the Wayne Forest Plan complied with Congress' intent to allow timber production as a primary use of national forests. Justice Department lawyers, representing the Forest Service, say the lower court ruling was wrong, but urge the justices to deny review. The Forest Service already plans to amend the Wayne Forest Plan, and it also is reviewing its overall forest planning process, government lawyers say.

For more information, contact the Buckeye Forest Council, POB 99, Athens, OH 45701; (614) 594-6400; bfc@frognet.net; or Gerran Tarr at (614) 592-3968.



# Blockade in Virginia for the Heart of Hematite

BY SHERMAN BAMFORD AND JASON HALBERT

The first blockade in the George Washington National Forest's history halted log trucks for over 12 hours. On July 21, 1997, a group of activists stopped the cutting of the Hematite timber sale. Two men, aided by supporters from Appalachia and beyond, laid down at a narrow point in Forest Service Road 277. Each activist secured an arm in a 30-inch steel pipe cemented and buried in the road.

The protest followed the denial of a lawsuit brought against the Forest Service charging that the two sales on Peters Mountain near Hematite, Virginia violated the spirit and intent of federal environmental law.

In 1994, the Virginia Natural Heritage Program began a cooperative study with the US Forest Service on Peters Mountain. The Natural Heritage Program announced the discovery of a 3,600-acre old-growth tract, "one of the largest known occurrences of Appalachian oak forest in old-growth condition in Virginia and perhaps all of the central Appalachians."

A large portion of the tract contains representative trees 200 to 300 plus years old. According to the Heritage Program, the field-verified age of dominant trees was often much older than Forest Service data show, sometimes by 100 years or more. By contrast the Forest Service claimed there was no old growth in the sale at all.

Activists from the Shenandoah Ecosystems Defense Group (SEDG), Preserve Appalachian Wilderness and Virginians for Wilderness had drawn attention to Hematite and its old-growth characteristics for months before the cutting began. Only after the judge's ruling did activists decide that civil disobedience was in order. Representatives from several groups, including Katúah Earth First!, Heartwood, Central Appalachian Biodiversity Project and the Native Forest Network, were all involved in the road blockade.

"While this may be old hat for the Pacific Northwest, this is the first ever road blockade, or any civil disobedience for that matter, in defense of forests in Virginia," stated Christina Wulf of SEDG. "We did not want these forests to fall without a fight, without witness to their importance."

Hematite, named for the reddish iron ore found in the area, is in Alleghany County, Virginia, near the northern end of 45-mile-long Peters Mountain. Creeks plunge off the mountain in three directions, forming the wild trout streams of Snake Run, Crow Run and Cast Steel Creek. On the opposite face from this timber sale is the federally endangered boreal relict Northeast bulrush. Across the mountain there are beautiful cove hardwood forests, hemlock forests, huge ravines lined with old-growth chestnut oaks, red oaks, tulip trees and black gums, and some drier forests. Climb to the top and you reach scree slopes and gnarled ridge-top forests of the kind rarely encountered in the East.

Hematite is more than old-growth forests. The wild trout streams offer anglers a challenge, and an

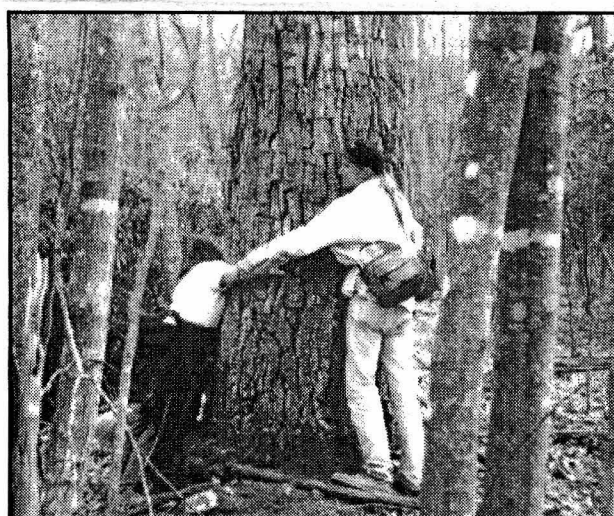
uncompleted section of the Allegheny Trail will ascend the mountain near Hematite. This long-distance hiking trail will, when completed, run through Virginia and West Virginia to the Pennsylvania line. These are the real assets of Hematite. But these resources pale in the minds of foresters bent on logging, even if that means losing places like Hematite forever.

Georgia-Pacific purchased this sale (3.1 million board feet for \$346,000) and will bid on the other half, containing more old growth, later this year. Georgia-Pacific's net income for 1996 was \$156 million, and in 1995 its profits hit an all-time record of \$1.02 billion. Georgia-Pacific also owns over 100,000 acres of forest land in Virginia and over six million acres in the US and Canada.

Clearly Georgia-Pacific is not dependent on public lands for its record profits. Only five percent of its overall raw wood comes from public land. Still Georgia-Pacific demands this taxpayer subsidy and has contributed over \$150,000 to Congress since 1990. This is where the loggers and the environmentalists agree; "the rich get richer while the poor stay poor."

The day of the protest, Logger David Charles complained that only huge corporations can afford to bid on sales of this size and amount. Still the wedge of jobs versus the environment could not be removed. After 12 painful hours, Tray Biasioli and Jason Halbert detached themselves from the buried devices, proclaiming a successful action. The men were promptly arrested and taken to the Roanoke City Jail where they spent the night.

The two forest activists were later found guilty on one of three federal misdemeanor charges in relation to their July 21 road blockade at the Hematite. They had faced maximum penalties of 18 months in jail and \$15,000 in fines but each received a \$50 fine and were set free. "I think the Judge was sympathetic to our cause," said Biasioli. "We had to do this. Civil disobedience was the only means left to stop the destruction of this priceless piece of our natural heritage."



Tree huggin' in ol' Virginny



photo by Sherman Bamford

Old-growth chestnut oak threatened in Virginia

Clearly the Forest Service is engaged in a public relations campaign to halt any public sentiment against logging. Although over 400 acres of the area has been logged over the past 20 years, the Forest Service decided to log 187 additional acres in this priceless area. Eighty-five percent of the trees in the selected stands are being removed. But what is most dangerous about the sale is the 2.8 miles of permanent roads, skid roads and temporary roads. This network will guarantee future timber sales in the heart of the old-growth area. The Forest Service has already begun studying a land swap with yet another multinational, Westvaco Corp., that would trade away some old growth just beyond this sale.

Despite the outrage and overwhelming public sentiment to spare this area, the Forest Service rolls on. As Halbert said, "This battle is not over, as the appeal of the District Court's decision in Krichbaum vs US Forest Service has been filed in the 4th Circuit Court in Richmond. We will appeal all the way to the Supreme Court if we have to. And with new legislation in Congress, like the National Forest Restoration and Protection Act, the end of subsidized, socialized logging on public land for private profit is near."

For more info contact the Shenandoah Ecosystems Defense Group at POB 1891, Charlottesville, VA 22903; (804) 971-1553; e-mail: jhalbert@igc.org; or Preserve Appalachian Wilderness SW Virginia, POB 13192, Roanoke, VA 24031; (540) 982-0492.

## Violence in the Forest at Dillon Creek

On October 23, during a protest on Sidewinder Road in the Klamath National Forest, an activist was run over by a log truck. Weston Reed was blockading the controversial Outside timber sale 20 miles south of Happy Camp, California. The violence against the forest near Dillon Creek has been equally severe.

"The truck was stopped in the road and I was in front of it, yelling at the driver not to move, that I was under his tire," Weston stated. The truck jerked forward and both Weston's feet were crushed and broken. There is an investigation being carried out by the Siskiyou County Sheriff's Department.

In response to the violence in the forest, Dillon Creek Defenders blockaded the entrance to the Forest Service headquarters in Yreka. In the early morning of October 24, two activists locked themselves to a fifty-five gallon barrel full of concrete in the entrance to the office.

This endangered ecosystem, home to the ancient sugar pine, Port Orford cedar, Coho and steelhead trout (about 15 percent of all steelhead in California spawn here) has been a focal point of resistance since day one of the plan to salvage-log 67 units of burnt and intact old-growth forest, all in the name of forest health and fuels reduction under the Salvage Rider. The Outside timber sale was the last salvage sale to be approved on December 31, 1996, the Rider's deadline.

Dillon Creek, a majestic tributary of the Klamath River, lies in the heart of the Klamath National Forest of northern California. Some 23,000 acres in this watershed were intentionally charred in an effort to stop a wildfire, employing the infamous practice of "backburning." One lifetime local hit it right saying, "The Forest Service used to log then burn, now they burn then log."

Occupation of Forest Service road 15N19, the only artery leading to the north units, was the first step in the battle to preserve this high-elevation forest. The beautiful highlands and crystal clear creeks are sacred to both the Kurok and the Yurok tribes, so they came together with locals and Earth First!ers to protest roadbuilding at Dillon Creek. The campaign has been going strong since early summer.

During the wee hours of one such day, a motorless VW bus was stationed at the base of Sidewinder Road, the main haul road to and from the south units of the sale. The jalopy was people-powered by two individuals locked to the rear axle in the engine compartment. The rig didn't budge and neither did the timber workers or log truck drivers. As dawn cracked, the first Freddie came upon six stalled log trucks, four worker pickups, a van painted with colorful anti-Forest Service slogans and 20 forest defenders with arms linked across the road, ensuring a day off for everyone. It was a quiet day at the Outside timber sale.

When the disgruntled truck drivers and workers headed home for the day, eight Freddie's and 20 uncompromising riff-raffers were left discussing the issues, creating a deceptively peaceful atmosphere. Eventually the activists unlocked, received a round of \$50 citations, handed over the lockboxes and were released.

Fortunately, the forest defenders were undaunted in their resistance. Slash piles and night elves greeted trucks at 4:45 a.m. the next day on Sidewinder Road. Although a tripod was eventually cut down, the trees that day were not.

The logging season is nearing an end in the Klamath highlands and many of the units remain untouched. The true wildness of northern California is crying for your help. The fight to save the Dillon Creek watershed will continue until this lawless logging is put to a halt. Any and all help is needed. To find out further information, please contact Northcoast EF!, POB 4796, Arcata, CA 95518; (707) 825-8911.



# CANOPY HOMESTEADS IN BEAR CREEK

## TALES OF A REDWOOD SQUATTER

BY WINTER

There is nothing more satisfying to the forest activist than to sit and listen to the quiet breeze in a place that just minutes before was pierced by the wail of a chainsaw. The campaign to defend Bear Creek began with this joy as 30 activists bathed in the peace we created by cat-and-mousing the lone faller out of the woods.

The trail to the top of Peavine Ridge in Humboldt State Park (near Scotia, CA) is a four-mile hike straight uphill. The ridge marks a property line where a small grove of protected ancient redwoods stands above a canyon. A few weeks ago the forest of ancient redwoods and firs protected a thriving diversity of endangered wildlife. In a matter of just a few days, this paradise was stripped of almost all its ancient trees.

We arrived at the top of the logging area just before dawn. We sat and listened. Just after first light, the rumble of saws and 'dozers, so alien to this place, began. We ran to the sound and arrived just in time to watch the first redwood fall. We moved in to confront the logger.

His name was Lorenzo, a Mexican logger from Ukiah. He was a gypo (non-union) contractor working for Pacific Lumber and was dangerously falling solo. He turned off his saw as we approached. Abeja and Spring addressed him in Spanish, and a spontaneous conversation took place. He talked to us for almost an hour before we convinced him to pack it up for the day.

We returned to basecamp, giddy with the sense of accomplishment. We had stopped logging for the day! And we connected in a very human way with a logger. It was agreed that Bear Creek was worth our best efforts.

We went back in and scoped a location for a tree village. Amidst a magical stand of eight or nine towering redwoods and Doug firs, shading immense madrones, we decided to make our stand.

The next night we made a second pilgrimage up the ridge with ropes and harnesses. This time we had come to stay.

There are no words to describe the grief I felt that night as I made my way over the ridge, onto Pacific Lumber land and down into the gulch where we had broken bread, hugged our elders and made promises to defend our Mother. Where the giants had stood a few short hours before, there was a freshly cut skid road and stump after stump. The smell of fresh sap was so strong it was overpowering. We had made Pacific Lumber nervous, so they had worked overtime all weekend.

The next day we followed the sound of saws down the hill to Lorenzo. His saw was about two feet into an old tree. He was polite, but he had told his boss about us. He invited us to the road to talk to the foreman, but we declined in favor of hiding in the brush with a lockbox. We waited patiently for the 'dozer to come up the road.

The 'dozer was driven by a very angry man. As we moved into position to lock to it, he announced bitterly that they had already been shutdown because of us. The 'dozer slowly drove away while we howled joyfully. Such a sweet feeling but so short-lived.

Later that afternoon an activist perched at the top of a lookout tree informed us that 15 or so loggers had returned to finish up work, with a police escort. Because there were only 12 of us, all we could do was sit, listen and hold back tears. There is nothing more

frustrating to an activist than to listen helplessly to the rumble of death make its way across the land. We heard the thunder of trees falling, but we had to sit silently. We wondered if there would be anything left on the next day.



"Mud" living the high life in the Ursa tree village in Bear Creek.

After the dust settled and the equipment was gone, Guano, Screech Owl and Amnesia went to work. Guano spurred up a huge redwood while Amnesia and Screech girthed and free climbed the surrounding trees. At dawn I found myself standing beneath four occupied platforms and six trees that would otherwise have fallen that day.

Seven loggers walked up the skid road the next morning to cut down those trees, but we stopped them. All they could do was chase those of us on the ground. They were not of the same breed as our friend Lorenzo and thought nothing of cutting trees almost right on top of us. Only after the lead faller, visibly shaken by our presence, miscut a tree that fell backwards and nearly killed him and three of us, did they grudgingly move on. We gave them a howl they will never forget, and our friends in the trees howled back.

Without enough people to play cat and mouse, we spent the rest of that week in agony, listening to the trees fall. We locked down to their equipment twice and built slash blockades every night. Our numbers began to dwindle as some of us were arrested. By the end of the weekend, we barely had enough people to support the village.

Every day I wandered those hillsides, watching the devastation grow. I felt the rage inside me grow also. One day, I bushwhacked to where the equipment was parked and found that they had moved in a security trailer. One drunken logger was sitting by a fire barrel, barking that he would kill us all, and occasionally shooting his rifle into the air.

I hid there for a long time listening to him rant about killing Earth Firsters and talking about how he had been killing ancient redwoods for 45 years. Finally, I called out to him and asked if he had saved anything for his children to cut.

Instead of grabbing his gun or charging up the hill after me, he beckoned and pleaded for me to come down to the road to talk. I was, of course, very skeptical, but after 30 minutes, I cautiously crept down out of the bushes to warm myself by his fire.

I sat there in the rain with that old logger, drinking his cheap schnapps and listening to his sermon about how the forest would keep grow-

ing. He told me he had been cutting for 45 years. "It's always growing," he kept saying "even when you're sleepin'."

After an hour, a pickup pulled up with two young workers. I almost ran off, but he asked me not to. He promised he'd "tell 'em not to kick some ass." I trusted the crazy old man. They climbed out of the truck ready to jump on me, but when he told them to leave me alone, they grabbed a couple of beers instead. There we were: me and three loggers, sharing a fire and a drink out on a Pacific Lumber haul road!

I stood out there for another hour with those boys, drinking, smoking and making jokes. It's safe to say that we agreed on nothing except that Maxxam sucks. Workers don't like fat cats in Houston profiteering any more than I do. But if you're a gypo in Humboldt County, you work for Charlie Hurwitz or almost not at all.

We achieved some kind of strange truce. I promised not to mess with their personal equipment, and they assured me they'd take it easy on my friends if any got caught in the woods.

We were talking about peace, about how we're all trying to survive, when the sun broke through the fog; a huge rainbow fell out of the sky above us.

I cried all the way back up the hill. When I got to camp, I was startled to see that I was wearing lock down chains!

Even though the forest I lived in and loved was obliterated, I left Bear Creek

for the last time that night feeling strangely exuberant. Some new faith was born in me, and I regained power to continue doing this work.

I know I can never go back to Bear Creek, but I also know that part of me will always be out there wandering among those stumps, desperate and knee deep in the muck.

As of press time, the tree village is still standing. We survived the first assault by Pacific Lumber's infamous "climber Dan," though we lost three platforms and two trees to his skilled knife.

Seventeen people have been arrested in the defense of Bear Creek. Our unified prayer will always be this: May not one more ancient tree fall!



A tree sitter crosses a traverse line to a platform.



# HEADWATERS CONTINUES...

*continued from the front page*

Hurwitz and Feinstein reportedly spent 48 hours in a hotel room in San Francisco negotiating the deal. Perhaps after that experience they won't mind being cell mates in a federal pen after the Revolution.

As evil as the Headwaters deal looks on the surface, there is an even greater disaster lurking in the fine print. Under the agreement, Charles Hurwitz and Pacific Lumber would be granted an incidental take permit to "take" endangered species through a federally-approved Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). These permits are essentially "kill an endangered species free" cards for corporations.

Like all of the HCPs approved through the Clinton administration, Hurwitz's proposed HCP will result in the loss of endangered species habitat. It calls for eliminating *all of the 6,500 acres of old-growth forest* outside the deal boundaries over the next 15 years!

This document spells certain death for Owl Creek, a 450-acre grove currently protected by the Federal 9th Circuit Court of Appeals and the site of last year's 19-day tree village. This deal says *syonora* to All Species Grove which, despite being salvage logged of downed wood last year, still has the greatest diversity of tree species left in Headwaters. Don't forget to pay your respects to Allen Creek, and kiss goodbye to Shaw Creek also.

The Earth First! Headwaters basecamp opened a week before the September 14 rally, bursting with backwoods energy and activists ready to defend the entire 60,000-acre Headwaters forest. Our primary concern was making adequate preparations to defend the forests within the ten new Timber Harvest Plans (THPs) that PL filed. Clearcuts totaling 1,243 acres of residual old-growth forests were on the brink of approval by the California Department of Forestry (CDF).

A "residual" old-growth forest is a stand of ancient trees that has been selectively logged but not clearcut. This wide definition encompasses everything from a heavily-cut shelterwood stand with 15 percent canopy remaining, to a lightly touched, virtually intact stand of perhaps 85 percent canopy retention. Most of the residual ancient forest that remains is excellent wildlife habitat, and much of it is in the vital riparian spawning areas for the Coho salmon.

Activists worked in earnest to fortify the woods, hauling in supplies and gear for blockades and tree villages. We are shocked that (as of press time) the California Department of Forestry has yet to approve any of the ten new THPs within the 60,00 acres.

Is our dogged vigilance and grassroots support affecting the CDF decision makers? Yeah, right. We know they're just taking extra time to prepare for our lawsuit.

Logging in the residual ancient forests of Bear Creek, Jordan Creek, Freshwater and Stafford continues unabated. There are nine activists living high up the canopy of old trees in two separate tree-villages. Earth First! has expanded our message to say, "No deal! Not one more ancient tree!"

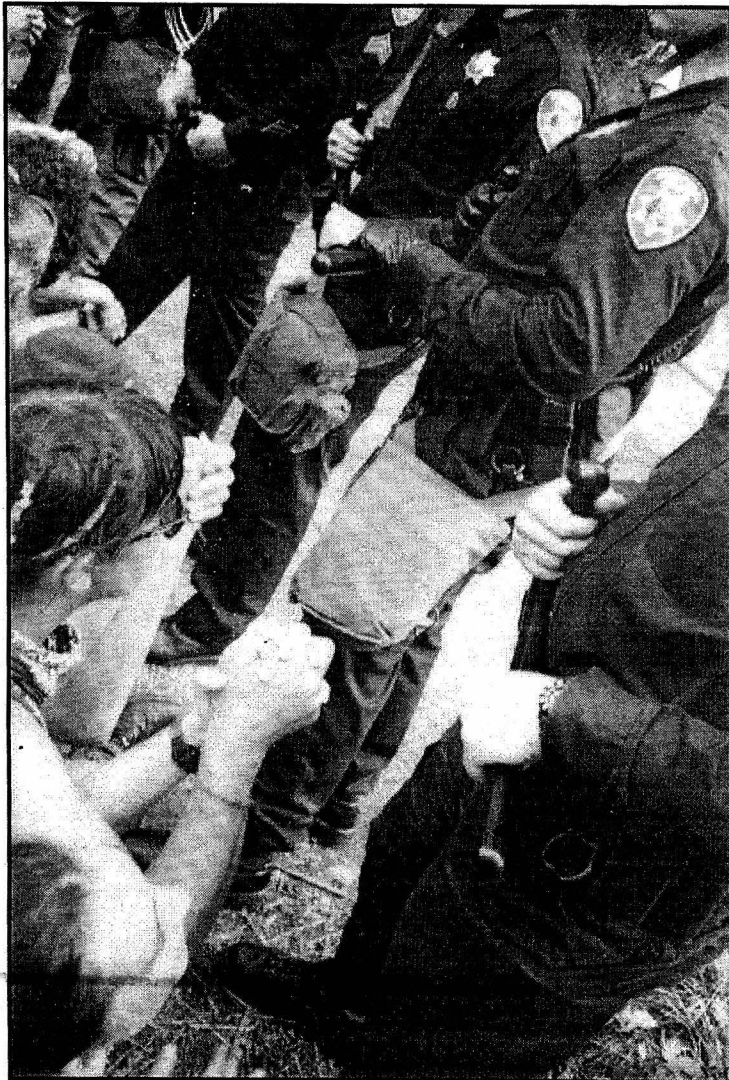
Here's the fall 1997 Headwaters action chronology:

- Aug. 22, activists locked down to the gate at Fischer road, PL's main entrance to Headwaters. Activists blocked the road with a "living-room" guerrilla-theater action, complete with a couch, coffee table and smashed TV. Activists covered themselves in mud to spotlight the local town of Stafford, which experienced a mudslide from a PL clearcut. Three activists were busted.

- Sept. 14, third annual rally for Headwaters. Despite overwhelming law enforcement response, 7,000 people attended, some of whom helped sandbag homes at the Stafford mudslide site. Two arrests were made.

- Sept. 15, four hundred people rallied at the California Department of Forestry Region 1 headquarters in Fortuna and marched to Newburg gate, another entrance to Headwaters. Activists demanded access to the forest but were denied; 45 arrests were made.

- Sept. 19, Fischer gate lockdown. Twenty activists



Headwaters activists sit-down in front of riot cops with tear gas and gas masks at Newburg gate on September 15

linked together in a web of concrete and steel "superboxes" to block truck access to one of PL's main haul roads. The gate was held all morning until activists were removed with diamond-bladed saws, jackhammers and pain compliance holds. Thirty-six people were busted for "unlawful assembly."

- Sept. 25, Earth First! took over PL headquarters in Scotia. Seven brave activists entered the corporate

offices and gained access to a lobby. Activists formed a "daisy chain" of lockdowns in the lobby while others occupied the roof displaying banners. Chemical agents were dabbed on huge Q-tips and then swabbed in the eyes and on the faces of activists. Nine people were jailed.

- Sept. 26, thirty activists occupied the Bear Creek watershed and halted the falling of ancient trees all day; no arrests were made.

- Sept. 29, Another Bear Creek "cat and mouse" occupation successfully halted logging.

- Oct. 3-6, Art and Revolution Convergence! Artists, dancers and puppet makers descended on Humboldt County for this annual festival. On Oct. 6, 300 activists took to the streets of Eureka with giant puppets, dancers, clowns and guerrilla theater. The celebration spilled over into one lane of traffic and culminated with performances at the courthouse. Many of the skits focused on worker/activist unity against Maxxam. The march was later charged by Eureka police officers on horseback who assaulted and carried off an innocent clown. Two arrested for dancing.

- Oct. 10, two activists locked down to a tripod at Wrigley gate, the North Fork of the Elk River. Just days before Earth First! hikers discovered the cutting of 10-foot-diameter redwoods in the North Fork.

- Oct. 17, activists begin to occupy a 14-foot-diameter redwood tree in PL's old-growth THP above the basecamp and the town of Stafford. There are currently five activists living in this and other nearby trees, even as the forest falls around them.

- Oct. 23, seven forest defenders busted at the gates to the Stafford Timber Harvest Plan. Activists erected the first ever bi-pods in Headwaters. The blockade lasted an impressive 30 hours.

Basecamp is going strong in Stafford, and actions will continue until at least November 15. Come join us! We are located right off Highway 101, just a few miles south of Scotia, in Humboldt County. We are offering nonviolence trainings and actions, deepwoods trainings and hikes, and climbing trainings and tree-sits! We have a full-service vegan kitchen provided by the East Bay Food Not Bombs and the basecamp kitchen collective. Bring enough gear to be self-sufficient and try to get equipment donated for the deepwoods crew as well. We are in need of everything.

Join us in this struggle, and see Headwaters while you still can. Contact the Earth First! basecamp at (707) 764-5757, (707) 764-5711 or Northcoast Earth First!, POB 4796, Arcata, CA 95518; (707) 825-8911; [www.envirolink.org/orgs/headwaters](http://www.envirolink.org/orgs/headwaters), then smash your computer!

## Did Your Mainstream Press Cover Headwaters?

### MINNESOTA ACTIVISTS FIGHT MEDIA BLACKOUT

BY WILD WILLY

On September 15, 1996, 1,033 people were arrested for crossing a line onto Pacific Lumber property to call attention to the wanton destruction of the largest unprotected redwood forest in the world. The largest single act of civil disobedience in defense of forests didn't even make the news in Minnesota. The folks at Big Woods Earth First! decided that on September 15, 1997, they would.

At 5 a.m., a squad of activists rendezvoused at the predetermined site, a mostly-deserted McDonald's parking lot. They were all there, tired but awake, and ready for action. The plan had been in the works for months, but most of the pieces came together late the night before, leaving our would-be heroes dazed and weary. They wanted to shut down the Midwest's largest distributor of old-growth redwood, Canton Lumber of Minnesota.

The reconnaissance scout had informed everyone that all three gates were not closed, as had been anticipated. In fact, one of the gates was wide open with a pickup truck parked dangerously close to the opening. Three lockees and

their support folks were to deploy from an old Volvo station wagon (though getting them all in was quite a challenge). The team left for the staging area with the video and banner teams following close behind.

At 5:45 a.m. the real fun began. The action team followed the plan precisely, going first to the back gate, then to the two front entrances. Like clockwork, the crew closed in upon the sleeping giant (at night the mill yard is run with a skeleton crew).

As if rehearsed a thousand times, the teams went into action. Within 30 seconds all three gates were locked down, tight as a drum. By the time the sleepy workers and the disgruntled truck drivers knew what was going on, the morning's entertainment had been delivered. There was to be no business as usual on this Monday morning!

After two hours, two broken bolt cutters, a busted jaws-of-life and three dismantled gates, the activists were taken off to jail. Guess what? On September 15, 1997, the plight of the redwoods made the news in Minnesota.

To get involved with ongoing campaigns, contact Big Woods EF! at POB 580936, Minneapolis, MN, 55458-0936; (612) 362-3378; [earthfirst@juno.com](mailto:earthfirst@juno.com).



# ANCHORED DOWN IN ANCHORAGE

BY SÖREN WUERTH

As far as I could tell, straining to turn my head as far as the U-lock would allow, Dave Allen looked nervous. Here were six activists locked back to back in a "daisy chain" at the US Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) headquarters in Anchorage, howling, chanting and eating pizza.

Besides the uncomfortable anticipation of a whole lot of bad PR, Allen, the FWS' top cheese in Alaska, now had to deal with a couple of persistent critics. Activists began spouting statistics about wolves and goshawks in the Tongass and elaborating on the agency's chronic refusal to list endangered species all over the nation.

"Why is it every time there is a decision whether to list an endangered species, it takes a court order to get the FWS to comply?" asked Kieran Suckling, the executive director of the Southwest Center for Biological Diversity. Allen stammered something about his agency's noble record of listing endangered animals across the United States and bringing many back from the brink of extinction. "Why even here in Alaska, we've listed the um, ah, Stellar sea lion... and... what's that other one? The curlew?"

We hardly expected Allen to rattle off the state's endangered species, when it's obvious he knows so little about the Alexander Archipelago wolf and the Queen Charlotte goshawk. Federal biologists estimate there are between 750 and 1,500 wolves left in Southeast Alaska. The Alexander Archipelago wolf is a distinct subspecies of wolves that once roamed the entire Pacific Northwest. The Queen Charlotte goshawk, one of three subspecies in North America, is secretive and its population hard to determine. With population estimates ranging from 100 to 800 birds, Allen agreed that he made his decision not to list the goshawk and wolf as on a significant degree of scientific uncertainty.

Petitions to list the old-growth dependent animals were filed five years ago; listing would require more intensive management of logging and roadbuilding. Early on, the FWS found that "substantial information" existed to warrant listing both species. But, with the upcoming revision of the 10-year Tongass Land Management Plan, politics interfered, and the agency changed its mind.

The Southwest Center for Biological Diversity and Sitka environmentalists won an early court battle in late 1996. The case was remanded to Secretary of Interior, Bruce Babbitt, who was asked to reconsider the decision to list and make a decision based on the



Alexander Archipelago wolf peeking through the trees in Alaska

"current forest plan," rather than on promises made by the Forest Service to provide protection in the future.

But after Allen caved into politics last August, we went to his front door September 29 wearing Kryptonite necklaces. Before his appearance in the ground floor lobby, we held a mock trial putting impersonators of US Sen. Frank Murkowski, Allen and Gov. Tony Knowles on the bench before the "big, bad wolf" and six sitting jurists. "Guilty!"

came the pronouncements, followed by howling that echoed throughout the building (and later across the state on radio and television networks).

Meanwhile, a TV reporter interviewed 76-year-old Helen Drury, of Sitka, as she sat with her back to the others. "I'm so sick of politics wiping (out) the trees, all the beautiful old-growth forests and the wildlife in them. I just don't know how a human being cannot do something about it," she told nightly news watchers. Supporter Jay Stange spoke with a reporter who asked if the protesters would stay awhile. "It may be a long time, but we have a resolute group of patriots here, and we're committed to being here until the decision is reversed."

At about 3 p.m., two men in gray suits who said they were from the "federal protection agency" locked the doors and told us we'd be arrested. A public relations professional came over to tell us we could leave or be arrested, then an enormous police sergeant politely provided a final warning. Outside we saw a Greenpeace activist hauled off to a squad car for refusing to leave.

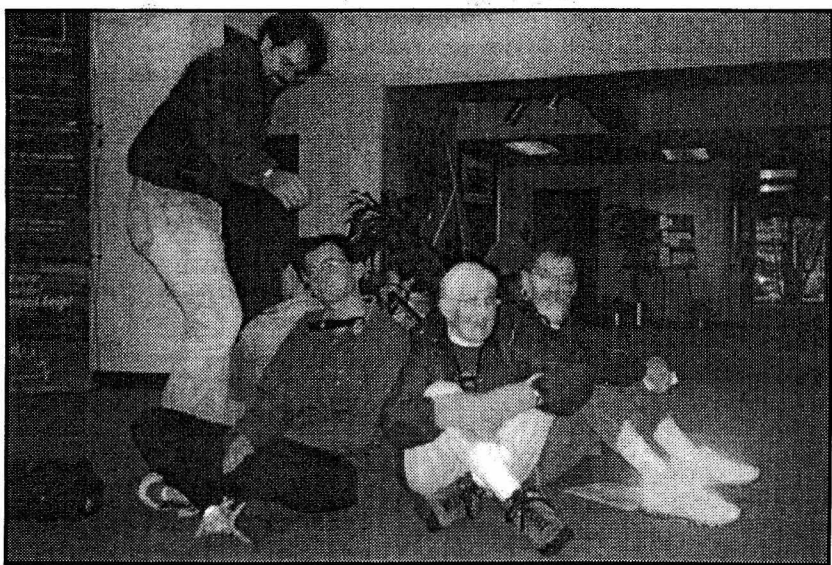
As we shed our locks in a pile on the floor in exchange for the local police department's handcuffs, I noticed that four-faced FWS staffers had assembled on the balcony. Their sympathetic looks probably came from an awareness that the decision by their superiors to not list the wolf or goshawk was political, inspired by intense pressure from the Alaskan congressional delegation, the State of Alaska, the Forest Service and the timber industry. They likely know that scientific studies conclude that logging on the Tongass poses a significant risk to wildlife and old-growth forests; that mortality in adult goshawks is already higher than the survival rate necessary to avoid extinction (as determined by goshawk researchers) and that wolves will go extinct on Prince of Wales Island if more logging is allowed in deer habitat and if more roads are built.

They certainly understand that clearcutting old-growth forest is still the preferred method of logging in the new Tongass Land Management Plan (TLMP) and that the new TLMP allows up to 80 percent of all logging to be done by clearcutting (which is harmful to both the goshawk and the wolf).

Whether or not FWS staffers have figured out the importance of listing these two symbols of Alaska's wildlife and wildlands as endangered, one thing is certain... their boss hasn't.

To apply additional pressure, write Dave Allen, Alaska Regional Director of the Fish and Wildlife Services, 1011 Tudor Road, Anchorage, AK 99503.

For more information on endangered species, contact the Southwest Center for Biological Diversity, POB 710, Tucson, AZ 85702-0710; (520) 623-5252; e-mail: ksuckling@sw-center.org.



All ages lockdown in Anchorage USFWS office

## ACTIVISTS DELIVER MESSAGE FROM THE RAINFOREST

EarthCulture, a rainforest action group from Greensboro, North Carolina, visited the furniture industry's largest user of mahogany, Lexington Furniture Industries, to convince them to stop using rainforest wood. The activists entered Lexington's headquarters on October 10 to deliver a black coffin which symbolized the indigenous peoples persecuted in the name of tropical timber operations. They gave Lexington's president extensive documentation on rainforest logging activities, because the company has refused to meet with them in the past.

The next week, a 15-foot chair was erected and splattered with blood in front of the International Home Furnishings Center in High Point, North Carolina during the 70,000-person High Point International Furniture Market. A banner hung atop the chair which read, "Buying Rainforest Woods Kills Native Peoples." About 30 protesters carried signs, chanted and acted out a skit with blood splattered furniture dealers and slain trees. Simultaneously, a truck covered with banners drove through the market center.

On the next day, nine people were arrested as they staged a "die-in" at the front of the market. They were "killed" by a grim reaper symbolizing loggers cutting rainforests at any cost. All nine were charged with second degree trespassing.

These demonstrations were a few of the 25 protests EarthCulture lead all over the East Coast in October.

Mahogany removal is perhaps the best example of catastrophic rainforest logging. At least eight Brazilian tribes have had people murdered at the hands of mahogany loggers in search of the rare tree. Logging operations in Guyana, Nicaragua, Belize and throughout Latin America are threatening indigenous populations so that North Americans can have luxurious furniture made from rainforest mahogany.

EarthCulture and the members of the newly-formed Rainforest Woods Coalition have organized a boycott to encourage independent certification of sustainably harvested rainforest wood. Teak, ramin, redwood, mahogany, lauan, meranti, western red cedar, ebony, rosewood and ipe are some of the woods included in the boycott.

"All over the planet, rainforests are being destroyed and their peoples killed, attacked, or displaced for American consumption," said protester Kevin Henderson. "A lot of this rainforest wood is ending up at North Carolina furniture manufacturers, making them accomplices in these crimes."

For more information, contact EarthCulture at POB 4674, Greensboro, NC 27404; (910) 854-2957; e-mail: earthcul@nr.infi.net.



# Mead Paper Buys Out Boise in Maine

Early on the morning of September 15, following a regional gathering, 20 activists from the Native Forest Network and Earth First! descended upon the town of Rumford, Maine, to hang a large banner reading, "Mead/Boise: Different Name—Same Game." The banner hung off of the main bridge through town, which crosses right by the plant and offers a magnificent view of mountains upon mountains of wood chips. Other activists blocked the bridge with cones and a "road closed" sign causing the befuddled drivers to jam up the traffic. Another group took over the roof of a Mead Office and hung two banners reading, "Dioxin Kills!" and "Corporate Ownership Stinks! Can't You Smell It?"

Two protesters were charged with criminal trespass and released on \$50 bond, but their charges were dropped three weeks later.

Rumford, Maine is located in a region known as "Cancer Valley." It is notorious for its 1:4 cancer ratio among residents. A local doctor is working to prove that the high cancer rate is caused by the hulking Mead coated-paper plant (formerly owned by Boise Cascade). The mill sits in the heart of this small town on the Androscoggin River. Anyone driving through the town would be hard put to refute the fact that the entire town smells like an open sewer. The mill has been discharging dioxin for decades into the river leaving a legacy of poison that will last for untold years to come.

Mead Paper recently acquired all of Boise Cascade's land holdings and mills in the northern Appalachian forest. This means that Mead now controls an additional 800,000 acres of forested land, over 670,000 acres of which is in Maine.

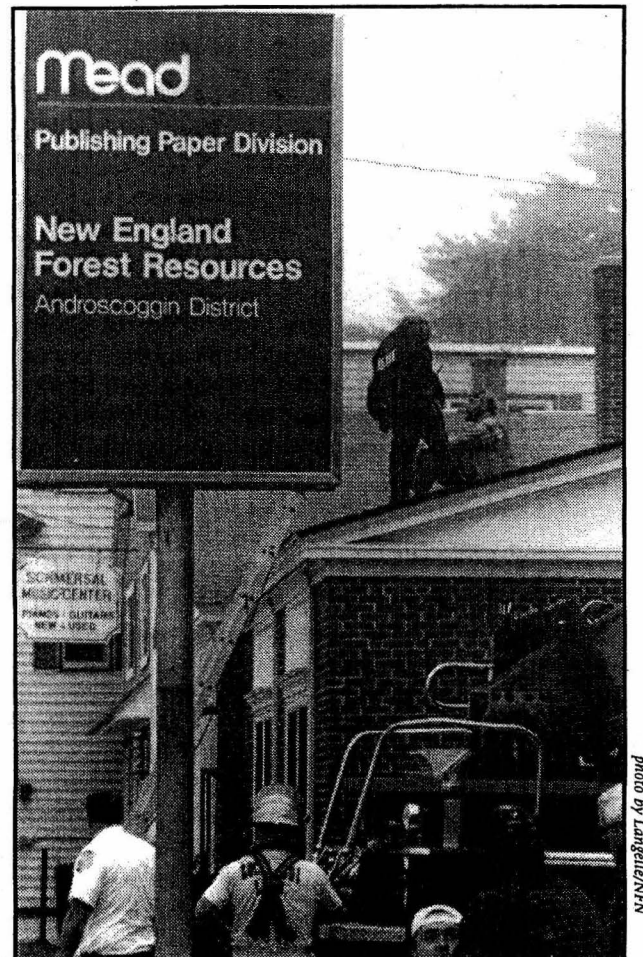
As Jamie Sayen of the Northern Appalachian Restoration Project put it, "Mead inherits a terrible

record of environmental abuse from their recent acquisition of Boise Cascade's holdings in the northern Appalachians. Mead, however, is one of the most destructive companies, both ecologically and democratically. Mead is a leader in clearcutting, dioxin dumping and herbicide spraying."

Mead recently declared that they will convert the Maine mill to chlorine-free technology. The demands of protesters at the action were for "Zero Dioxin" discharge. These demands require that:

- Mead must convert all of its mills to 100 percent chlorine-free technology. Mead could become the industry leader to push the rest of the Maine paper mills in the same direction.
- Mead also needs to deal with Rumford's dioxin legacy: both the massive dioxin contamination of the Androscoggin River and the cancer victims of the town.
- Mead must halt the practice of clearcutting, broadcast burning and conifer mono-cropping. Certifiable ecological forestry practices should be put into place.
- Mead needs to halt the practice of spraying herbicides! Mead has repeatedly sprayed herbicides on its clearcuts in order to reduce regeneration of hardwoods and so called "competing vegetation." Mead sprays over 2,000 acres in Maine and New Hampshire annually.

Even though the Environmental Protection Agency recommends against the spraying of glyphosate (a known carcinogen) and despite an appeal by the Northern Appalachian Restoration Project, the New Hampshire State Supreme Court is allowing more spraying. In agreeing with the State Pesticide Control Board, the court acknowledged the right of private landowners to contaminate watersheds with cancer-causing chemicals in the name of "forestry."



Office takeover of Mead Paper in Rumford, Maine

For more information contact the Native Forest Network at POB 57 Burlington, VT 05402; (802) 863-0571; fax 863-2532; nfnena@igc.apc.org or Gulf of Maine NFN at nfn@telplus.net

Anne Petermann and Patrick Oliver contributed to this article.

## WARD VALLEY THREATENED BY CAT-BOX TECHNOLOGY

BY DANIEL PETERSON

As the hot southern deserts cool down for the season, the eco-political situation at Ward Valley and across the California desert is heating up. In the east Mojave at Ward Valley, California's Department of Health (dis)Services is moving to conduct more testing to justify a "cat-box" technology, radioactive waste dump on this sacred land, adjacent to five desert wilderness areas and less than 20 miles from the Colorado River. In their proposal, the state has identified eight new well sites on undisturbed desert habitat. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) plans to allow cross-country travel by heavy drill rigs through critical habitat designated for the threatened desert tortoise.

The testing could be approved as early as Thanksgiving. The Colorado River Native Nations Alliance, Ward Valley Coalition, EFi, BAN Waste and others have declared that continued desecration of the area will not be allowed. When the action goes down, we will need all the support we can get—that means you! Contact the Needles office and get on the Ward Valley Emergency Response Network.

Responsible low-baggers are encouraged to come to Ward Valley (please contact the Needles office in advance). Winter is wonderful in the east Mojave: dry, sunny and spectacular. There has been an ongoing activist encampment at Ward Valley for over two years. Donations are needed to support the encampment, the Needles office and local outreach efforts. Items needed include bulk nonperishable food, water containers, cots for elders, tarps, climbing ropes, first-aid supplies and two-way radios. If you're coming to the encampment, come self-sufficient.

Contact Save Ward Valley/Nobody's Wasteland at 107 F St., Needles, CA 92363; (760) 326-6267; swvl@ctaz.com; the BAN Waste Coalition at (415) 868-2146; <http://www.banwaste.envirolink.org>; or Baja Ecotopia EFi at (619) 581-3250; sdef@envirolink.org.

## California Scraps State ESA

In a move rubber-stamped by environmentalists seeking a "cooperative approach," California has scrapped its strong endangered species protections in favor of a plan that merely encourages developers to pay for damages caused to wildlife.

The new approach is contained in two bills that received bipartisan support, recently signed into law by Governor Pete Wilson. Wilson said the legislation struck a "sensible balance" between growth and the protection of threatened species. Both supporters and opponents said they expect that California's action could have an impact on competing versions of the federal Endangered Species Act now awaiting action in Congress.

A representative of the Planning and Conservation League, a so-called environmental organization that helped craft the bills, gushed that the bill will usher in an era in which "the cooperative approach replaces the coercive approach." But according to State Senator and long-time activist Tom Hayden, the legislation will allow "extinction of the most vulnerable species" for minor procedural gains.

Hayden, chairman of the Senate Natural Resources Committee, expressed particular concern about the fate of the Chinook salmon, which is near extinction in California and endangered in the Northwest. The threatened Swainson's hawk which has been protected by California, but not by the federal government, will also suffer from the weakening of California's law.

One of the bills, written by State Senator Patrick Johnston (D), legalizes killing endangered species as a by-product of development. Backed by the California Chamber of Commerce and major oil and timber companies, the measure would require only that developers make a "proportional" contribution for direct damage to wildlife and rare plants. In most cases, the compensation would be in the form of environmentally valuable lands elsewhere.

The old law required that opponents of a project show that it "would likely jeopardize" a species. The



new law eliminates the word "likely," creating a legal burden that will be difficult for environmental lawyers to overcome. The other measure in the package removes criminal penalties for farmers who kill state-protected species.

Changing the law became a priority for business and agricultural interests this year after a California appellate court ruled that the state had exceeded its authority in issuing permits for hundreds of projects of residential, industrial or recreational developments that could harm wildlife. The Johnston bill will allow completion of most of these projects.

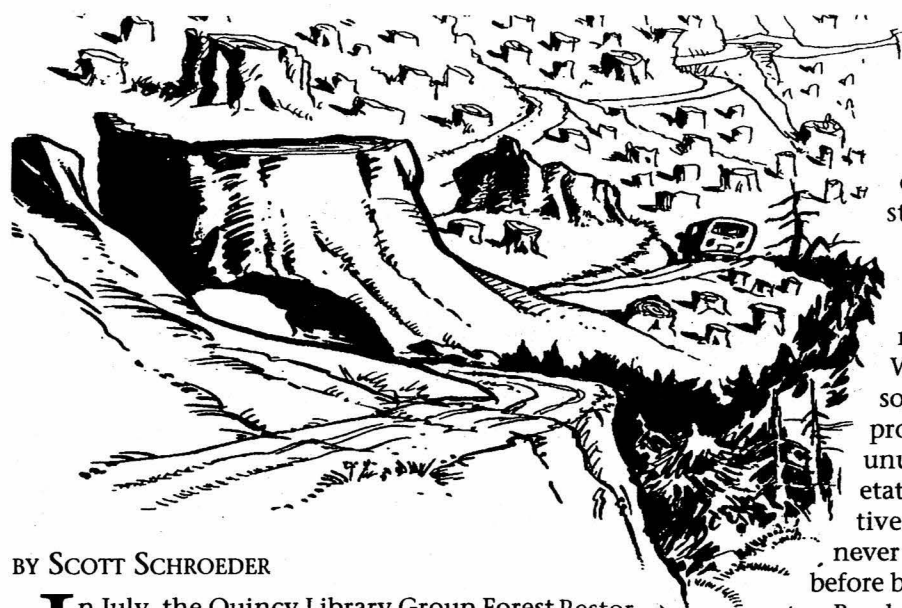
In recent years, attempts to weaken environmental standards were killed in the legislature, but this year the environmental community was divided, with the Planning and Conservation League and the Audubon Society favoring the Johnston bill.

Though the Sierra Club opposed the Johnston bill, Bill Craven, the Club's state president and lobbyist in Sacramento, participated in the negotiations and drafted amendments that he said made it more palatable than the original legislation.

"The key to passage was the cover provided by environmental groups that supported the package and the vacillation of the Sierra Club lobbyist," said Hayden. "These groups wanted to be power brokers, but they were outmaneuvered by the extractive industries. They need to go to a tougher negotiation school."



# QUINCY CONSENSUS TO SLASH SIERRAS



BY SCOTT SCHROEDER

In July, the Quincy Library Group Forest Restoration and Economic Stability Act (H.R. 858) was introduced into the US House of Representatives. The plan is a management agreement reached between local government officials and the Sierra Pacific timber company of Redding, California. It mandates increased levels of logging in the Plumas and Lassen National Forests and one district of the Tahoe National Forest. In a remarkably inadequate amount of time, three days, the House passed the bill by a margin of 429-1. Without hesitation, public officials took the opportunity to advertise the act as an astonishing new precedent for collaboration between environmentalists and resource extraction industries; cheerful speeches were made.

Vocal proponents of the bill quickly argued that the whole scope of forest management and legislation would change to reflect the significance of this event. Activists on the national circuit scrambled to figure out what to do; heated debates between members of environmental groups ensued. Everyone interpreted the event differently, and the issues of "regional consensus" and rural community control of federal land management became some of the most imminent concerns within the forest movement.

How was it then that after years of involvement in the northern Sierra environmental community I had never even heard of the Quincy Library Group?

Nowhere in the continental United States is so remote and unpopulated that 25 people could reasonably be said to represent all the significant interests of the communities around 2.5-million acres of federal land, and the northern Sierra is no exception. I spoke with Michael De Lasaux of the Quincy Library Group (QLG) steering committee about a month after the legislation was introduced, and he put it into terms perhaps least likely to be misinterpreted: "The Quincy Library Group is not the Forest Service and is technically under no obligation to inform the public of its activities." The group advertised their "unique, regional" character and gained national support, but neglected to actually travel to the different communities and inform environmental groups and community forums that any such regional approach was happening.

For the most part, people who usually have a significant interest in public lands management in the area had simply never heard of the Quincy Library Group, and if they had, they had no idea that the proposal would become legislation. When national environmental groups objected to the plan, QLG participants accused them of attempting to exert unfair influence in what they perceived as a regional issue. But Sierra Pacific, the third-largest recipient of federal subsidies under the US Forest Service timber road purchaser credit program, is hardly a local business. Unlike a number of its counterparts, the company restricts its operations to one region, controlling a vast portion of the resources there. But they exert what can only be described as national influence.

The Quincy plan calls for the logging 40,000-60,000 acres a year under a previously untested system called "Defensible Fuel Profile Zones." This scheme is promoted ostensibly to reduce the risk of fire in the canopy. The plan, however, will thin

canopy cover by 30 to 40 percent, increasing sunlight in the stands, promoting the growth of woody brush ground vegetation and significantly boosting the risk of stand-replacement fire.

Altering the landscape composition of the Sierra Nevada may have effects even more far-ranging than in most places. With relatively arid conditions, soils that are often termed "low-productive," and the presence of unusually opportunistic exotic vegetation, the forest structure and native landscape composition may never recover to the way they were before being subjected to industrial forestry. Road proximity, edge effects and frag-

mentation are all more pronounced in the Sierras. The greater the disturbance (i.e. logging), the more likely it is that shrub-like vegetation and invasion by exotics will give way to crown fire.

I have worked years clearing out this kind of brush during restoration projects, removing excessive fuels and allowing for native plant communities to return after logging. Brush and non-native species inevitably accumulate in areas where logging road construction has occurred. I have studied the various regenerative effects of stand-replacement fire and timber harvest, as well as the forest composition effects associated with ground fires and fire suppression, and I do not recall anyone ever suggesting that the removal of canopy cover would reduce the occurrence of high-intensity fires!

The forests of the Sierra Nevada, which typically experience fires every six to 22 years (the fire-return interval), have been drastically altered by the effects of long-term fire suppression. Fires with a 100-percent mortality rate for mature trees are far more likely now than they were 100 years ago; ground fires are relatively unlikely. The presence of exactly this kind of logging, whether under previous kinds of harvest or as "Defensible Fuel Profile Zones," has played no small role in increasing the chance of crown fires.

For these fuel breaks to remain viable, they would

jobs in the region than the logging would. In very little time, the necessary expenses would literally outweigh the net revenue generated from the timber.

Even setting aside the notion of such an absurd management scheme, the sheer volume of wood to be removed should be scrutinized. At 60,000 acres a year, the five-year pilot project period will log 300,000 acres. It will take exactly 45.3 years before every designated wilderness, riparian reserve and critical habitat unit in all of the 2.5-million acres has been logged to ensure that it doesn't burn down.

For years, timber cutting levels on federal lands have been falling drastically. What the Quincy proposal would do, essentially, is return the annual timber cut to wildly unsustainable levels. The most alarming aspect of the QLG bill is the sweeping approval it received from Congress. Representatives were entirely willing to set aside science and reasonable economics to pass legislation, so long as the plan purported to be an agreement between environmentalists and resource extraction industries. This bill is winning support regardless of the lack of regional collaboration throughout the plan's development and regardless of the objection of virtually every major environmental group in the country.

The Quincy proposal is such a bad idea that even the

**"The Quincy Library Group is not the Forest Service and is under no obligation to inform the public of its activities."**

—MICHAEL DE LASAUX, QLG STEERING COMMITTEE

most uniformly "moderate" of environmental groups, like the National Audubon Society, have publicly opposed it. If politicians are willing to look with such favor on a plan, despite its utter incongruence with everything it purports to accomplish, there's no reason to assume they won't do so again. The Western Ancient Forest Campaign testified to Congress that two other such plans have come to their attention since H.R. 858 was introduced. There's little reason to assume a central Idaho or southwestern Oregon version of the QLG bill won't come up soon.

The danger of this proposal should not be understated. It essentially allows federal forest management by whatever small group of people decides to call itself

a collaborative effort—people who cannot participate in such a consensus process or cannot come to an agreement with the interested parties will simply be excluded.

Since there were no ardent activists supporting zero extraction from public land involved in the process, I doubt I was represented; chances are you weren't either. I've had the fortune of consulting with a resident black bear on the southern border of the Tahoe National Forest. It expressed op-

position to such an arbitrary and absurd management practice being proposed for the northern Sierras. So should you. If a proposal is approved simply because it calls itself a representation of the interests of all parties, and the widespread objection of a majority of the environmental community is not enough to dissuade such a stance, then danger is imminent.

The bill has experienced some fortunate delays in the Senate and will tentatively be voted on sometime in November. The Senate version of the bill is being championed by both California Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein.



Mt. Lassen in Lassen National Forest

have to be maintained rigorously, every three months, eight or nine months out of the year—an incredible amount of labor. And for every fuel break cut, there is only a one-time economic benefit, whereas the maintenance for every area implies an open-ended economic expenditure. The Forest Service already maintains a system of fuel breaks in the area—19,000 of them within the lands covered by the QLG proposal. These are rarely maintained due to lack of money and do not accomplish their intended purpose. If QLG is passed, the need for labor, in the form of ongoing manual maintenance, would have a greater impact on



# A Recipe for Extinction

BY MARTY BERGOFFEN

The Endangered Species Act (ESA), currently being debated in Congress, is in need of substantial strengthening. Extinctions worldwide are accelerating due to rampant human development in the form of deforestation, mining, and human occupancy. In the Mabon issue of the *EF! Journal*, a review of Rep. George Miller's (D-CA) Endangered Species Recovery Act (HR-2351) was presented. Shortly after that issue went to press, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee took action to obliterate the ESA. With lightning speed, Senator Dirk Kempthorne (R-ID) introduced his bill, S-1180, which he worked on in secret with Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt, a notorious Clinton administration greenwasher. This nefarious coalition of environmental nemeses has produced a bill which will increase extinctions and the destruction of wild places.

## They Couldn't Think of a Name, So They Stole One

In a blatant display of his fraudulent intentions, Kempthorne named his bill the Endangered Species Recovery Act. He obviously stole this name from Miller's bill in order to confuse citizens and the media, as well as to claim that the bill will help endangered species. Kempthorne tried the same thing last year, calling his anti-ESA bill the "Endangered Species Conservation Act." Referring to this bill simply as S-1180 will help reduce confusion.

## Big Problems for Little Creatures

Perhaps the most ostentatious example of administrative hubris in S-1180 is the new exemption power granted to the Secretary of Interior. The Secretary would be allowed to grant any private party a full exemption from ESA enforcement with the stroke of a pen. This excessive authority was soundly rejected in the 1982 ESA amendments, when Congress decided that only a full, Cabinet-level "God Squad" should be allowed to grant ESA exemptions. Remember when James Watt (Reagan's Interior Secretary) wanted to liquidate all our public lands to benefit his corporate cronies? It isn't hard to imagine a new Watt exempting everyone from the ESA under the provisions of S-1180.

The critical habitat protection provisions of the ESA would also be weakened. Habitat loss is by far the largest factor in biodiversity eradication. Currently, critical habitat has to be designated when a species is listed. S-1180 eliminates this requirement, instead requiring a "description" of the critical habitat within nine months of listing, with proposed and final habitat designations due at 18 and 36 months, respectively. This increased bureaucratic delay (which mirrors the current, illegal practices of the Fish and Wildlife Service) will only result in further loss of habitat and consequential species extirpations.



The consultations required for actions by federal agencies under the ESA would also be curtailed under S-1180. Extractive agencies like the Forest Service would be granted discretion to decide if its actions would harm listed species. If the Secretary of Interior didn't object within 90 days, the agency could proceed.

Currently, if a species is listed, all ongoing projects that affect that species must halt until a new round of consultations is complete. Under S-1180, such projects could continue during consultation. The China Left timber sale, for example, was halted last June when the Coho salmon was listed, and the most potentially destructive units were dropped. Under S-1180, cutting would continue even if salmon were present and spawning. (See China Left update on page 6).

Perhaps the most pernicious amendments to the consultation would allow the involvement of private permit applicant in the consultation process for mines and grazing allotments on public lands, while excluding the general public. Economic interests would subjugate ecosystems in this charade. Consultation should be open to full public scrutiny and should not be secretive and informal, as the process is currently.

While S-1180 purports to be focused on recovery, the fine print shows, well... a lot of fine print. Extractive interests must be represented on the recovery team, and the recovery plan must consider economic costs, including property values and employment. But, healthy ecosystems cannot be measured in dollars and cents.

In addition, under Kempthorne's bill the military's

current ESA exemption is broadened in two ways. Critical habitat designations and recovery planning would have to defer to military needs, which could only mean more bombing ranges in the desert. Already, the Sonoran pronghorn in Arizona is subject to low-flying supersonic flights over the Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge. The military claims such operations have no effect on the normal behavior of listed species. Hogwash.

S-1180 also legislates the adoption of many bad Clinton-era ESA policies concerning Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs), such as No Surprises, Candidate conservation agreements, safe-harbor agreements and low-effect activities. (For more information about HCPs, see the Mabon issue of the *Earth First! Journal*.)

Candidate conservation agreements (CCAs) basically eliminate the effect of future species listings by mandating that no further efforts, beyond those in the agreement, are necessary after listing. Similarly, safe-harbor agreements allow a landowner to develop his/her land up to a certain point despite known take. In S-1180, low-effect activities are provided with an easier HCP process; Kempthorne's bill, however, doesn't define "low effect" and could result in rampant abuse.

These are only the biggest problems with S-1180; other bad provisions will make listing species harder and delisting easier.

## Where It's Been, Where It's Going, What You Can Do

The bill was quickly passed by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee and has been endorsed by the Clinton administration, despite his promises prior to election that he wouldn't weaken the ESA.

As of this writing, it seems a fight on the Senate floor is imminent. When passed out of committee, Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA) vowed that she was saving her biggest fight for the Senate floor. If you live in California, (or even if you don't) call her and give her your thanks and support. Call your Senators and tell them you support a stronger ESA, and the rollbacks in Kempthorne's bill are atrocious. Urge support for the provisions of HR-2351, and explain why even they aren't enough. Write to: Senator X, US Senate, Washington, DC 20510; (202) 224-3121.

Also, write to Secretary Bruce Babbitt, and tell him you don't like his secret sellout of the ESA to big-money extractive industries. Contact Secretary Bruce Babbitt, Dept. of Interior, Washington, DC 20240; (202) 208-7351.

## Wolves & Poodles

A wolf running wild and free to Mary Dalton, who counted eagle nests and bear dens for the Forest Service in Alaska. When her observations were left out of an Environmental Impact Statement that concluded logging wouldn't harm fish or wildlife, Dalton reported the omissions and was ignored. Not one to be disregarded, Dalton filed an appeal challenging a 2,000-acre sale. In response, the agency suspended her for 30 days, declared her "surplus personnel" and transferred her to the Southwest. The Forest Service denied her appeal without addressing its substance, claiming that unlike regular citizens, Forest Service employees may not appeal Forest Service decisions. Still unwavering, Dalton filed suit challenging the agency's policy. A decision is pending.

A lone wolf and full moon to a student at Eagle Rock Junior High who won first prize at the Greater Idaho Falls Science Fair by showing how programmed we are to be petition-signing drones. In his project he urged people to sign a petition demanding strict control or total elimination of the chemical "dihydrogen monoxide." And for plenty of good reasons, since it is a major component in acid rain, contributes to erosion, can kill if inhaled and has been found in cancerous tumors. He asked 50 people if they supported a ban of the chemical dihydrogen monoxide. Forty-three said yes, six were undecided and only one knew that the chemical is water. The title of his prize-winning project was, "How Gullible Are We?" The conclusion is obvious.

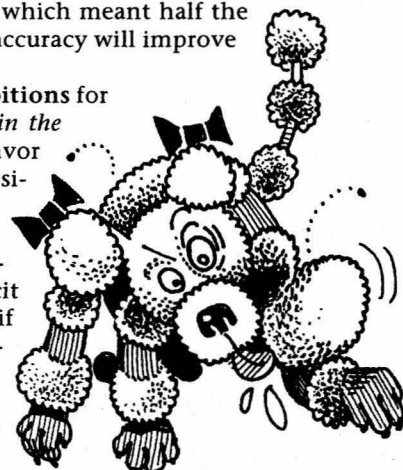


A well-fed wolf, overstuffed with the meat of a welfare cow to Jerry Stefferud of the USFS on the Tonto National Forest in Arizona. Stefferud is the primary author of a USFS report on the impact of Forest Service activities on four federally protected fish species native to the Southwest. In a startling indictment of the agency, the report says the Forest Service's bias toward the livestock industry is interfering with efforts to recover the Southwest's damaged riverside areas and imperiled wildlife species. The stinging critique asserts that the Forest Service is willing "to do anything to restore riparian ecosystem health, so long as it doesn't affect" ranchers holding grazing permits.

A poodle for being pea-brained to the Animal Damage Control program. The US Department of Agriculture's controversial program has changed its name to "Wildlife Services." Spokesman Ed Curlett says, "Wildlife Services seemed to fit the agency more. Animal Damage Control is kind of a negative-sounding name." Whatever the name, the shameful program is the same: ADC spent \$2 million in New Mexico in 1995 killing predators on public land and private ranches.

A cold and stiff poodle corpse with an ugly rage in its heart to Julie Weatherby. As controversy raged last fall over salvage logging in national forests, Weatherby, a Forest Service entomologist in Idaho warned her bosses of an emerging problem: The trees aren't dying as fast as they should. Contrary to earlier assessments of damage from fire and bark beetle attacks, a few hundred trees left during a salvage operation on the Payette National Forest were still alive two years after the fire and more than a year after 10,000 acres of neighboring stands had been logged. Weatherby wrote, "Hopefully some of these green grand firs and Douglas firs... will die over time." Among the grand firs in one unit, she said, "58 trees lived which should have died and one tree died which should have lived," which meant half the trees had been misclassified. "Hopefully this accuracy will improve over time as more trees die."

A poodle pooping on its presidential ambitions for Vice President Al Gore, "author" of *Earth in the Balance*, who could have tipped the scales in favor of the Bryan amendment to end federally subsidized logging roads. He didn't. The amendment would have eliminated the so-called purchaser credit program and slashed \$10 million from the federal roads budget for deficit reduction. The vote would have been 50-50; if the vice president had been presiding as Senate chair, he could have cast the tie-breaking vote. Where was Vice President Al Gore during this critical green debate? At a fundraiser in New York.





# Shell and Oxy Keep Pushing the U'wa of Colombia

Occidental Petroleum (Oxy) and its partner Shell Oil are continuing to pressure the indigenous U'wa community of Colombia to allow exploitation of the enormous Samoré oil province. Oxy estimates that there is about 1.5-billion barrels of oil in the area, the equivalent of just a few months of North American oil consumption. About half of Colombia's oil is exported to the US. For the U'wa, the possibility of oil development portends the end.

The ecological risk is huge; at the Cano Limon pump station operated by Oxy and Shell, some 1.5-million barrels of crude have been spilt in the rainforest in the last decade (the EXXON Valdez spill was 36,000 barrels). Much of this was due to sabotage by guerrillas, who represent another major threat to the U'wa. In response, Oxy and Shell pay a war tax of \$1 per barrel (\$180,000 a day) to the Colombian military to protect their installations at Cano Limon. The Colombian military is known for its human rights abuses, and the militarization of the U'wa territory is introducing organized violence into the area.

The U'wa, a traditional people some 5,000 strong, live in the cloud forests of the Colombian Andes. If the oil project proceeds, the U'wa will walk en masse off a 1,400-foot cliff in order to avoid the "death without dignity" they fear will follow. For the U'wa, the slow rot of violent modernization and the desecration of their sacred land is untenable. The last great tragedy to befall these people happened 400 years ago when, according to oral histories, a portion of the tribe jumped off a sacred cliff rather than submit to Spanish colonial rule.

As one U'wa woman explained to a British

journalist in August, "I sing the traditional songs to my children. I teach them that everything is sacred and linked. How can I tell Shell and Oxy that to take petrol is for us worse than killing your own mother? If you kill the Earth, then no one will live. I do not want to die. Nobody does."

The U'wa have taken their case to the Organization of American States through petitions to the Inter-American Human Rights Commission. On October 7, Martin Wagner of the Earth Justice Legal Defense Fund presented the petitions saying, "Whether it's by the pollution of the land they consider sacred, the increased violence this project will inevitably bring or by their own hand, oil development means the death of the U'wa."

At a press conference outside of Occidental Petroleum's headquarters in Los Angeles, U'wa Chief Roberto Cobaría revealed the details of a recent death threat. Cobaría was pulled from his bed in the middle of the night by a group of hooded men with rifles. The assailants held him to the ground, demanding that he sign an oil-exploration authorization agreement. After refusing to sign, Cobaría was threatened with hanging, then beaten and pushed off an embankment into a river where he nearly drowned. Cobaría recounted the violent attack, "They said if you don't sign the agreement, you will lose your life. And I said I guess I will lose my life then, kill me right now, because I can't make this agreement. I can't sign anything away from my tribe."

In an open letter Cobaría delivered to Occidental and Shell, the chief said, "For us Mother Earth is sacred. It is not for negotiation, so please do not try to confuse us and others with offers. Please hear our request, a request that comes from our ancestral right by virtue of being born on our territory: Halt your oil project on U'wa ancestral land."

If you would like to support the U'wa, write the Chief Executive Officers of Oxy and Shell and ask them to cancel plans for the Samoré province. Let them know that you hold them responsible for the U'wa's welfare.

Dr. Ray R. Irani, Occidental Petroleum, 10889 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90024; fax (310) 443-6922; Phillip J. Carroll, Shell Oil, POB 2463, Houston, TX 77252; fax (713) 241-4044.

For more information contact the U'wa Project c/o Earth Trust Foundation, 20110 Rockport Way, Malibu, CA 90265; phone/fax (818) 505-8353; e-mail: uwaproject@aol.com.



**Shell on Earth**

On November 10th 1995, Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight colleagues were hanged in Nigeria. Their only crime was exposing Shell's role in polluting their homeland. In October 1997 Shell celebrates its 100th anniversary. At the same time, communities from Colombia to California and Peru to Nigeria are organizing against Shell's deadly practices.

## Texaco Leaves Burma! BOYCOTT ARCO AND UNOCAL

In a huge victory, US oil giant Texaco announced on September 24 that it is selling its stake in a natural gas project off Burma's coast. The Burmese democracy movement and its supporters worldwide have been sustaining a boycott of Texaco for months to bring about this result.

The sale to Premier Oil of Britain follows a decision in April by President Clinton to bar new investment in military-ruled Burma in the interest of human rights, democracy and counter narcotics efforts. In recent months, both Canada and the European Union have taken supportive action against the Burmese government. Multinational oil company investments in Burma provide the largest legal source of foreign currency to the regime.

"Now that Texaco realizes that Burma is no place to do business, how can ARCO and UNOCAL justify dealing with this brutal regime? If they stay we will continue boycotting ARCO products and intensify ongoing efforts against Unocal," said Pamela Wellner, campaign coordinator for Free Burma: No Petro-dollars for SLORC.

A flagrant human rights abuser, Burma's junta, the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), has a 15 percent stake in the gas project. The junta has been criticized for its human rights record which includes massacres of democracy supporters and the torture of indigenous tribes to force them to work on various oil and gas pipeline projects.

"We believe the Texaco decision to leave Burma sends another message to the oil companies that corporate downsizing and exploiting US workers to raise capital for investments in totalitarian countries, where slave labor and wholesale repression are routine, will not go unchallenged" said Robert Wages, President of the 90,000 member Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers International Union.

The Free Burma Coalition came together for an international conference in Los Angeles, California from October 4-6 to develop plans for the next stage of its campaign to fight for democracy in Burma. This was augmented by demonstrations outside UNOCAL and Arco headquarters and a press conference at the LA city council as it prepared to introduce divestment legislation. The dramatic achievements of the coalition include forcing PepsiCo and Anheuser Busch, as well as Texaco, out of Burma.

For more information contact the Free Burma Coalition, c/o Dept. of Curriculum and Instruction, University of Wisconsin, 225 N. Mills St., Madison, WI 53706; (608) 827-7734; fax 263-9992; e-mail: zni@students.wisc.edu and Free Burma: No Petro-dollars for SLORC, 1847 Berkeley Way, Berkeley, CA 94703; (510) 848-1155; fax 848-1008; e-mail: freeburma@irn.org.

## Pemex Refinery Blockaded

More than 100 Chontal Indians protesting an oil spill blocked the entrance to a Mexican oil field in August, trapping 50 workers inside. The tense standoff took place in the southern state of Tabasco, in the heart of the country's oil-producing region. The government-owned oil and gas monopoly, Petroleos Mexicanos (Pemex) provides a large portion of the Mexican government's revenue. For the last 24 years, Tabasco has provided 75 percent of the 540,000 barrels of oil produced per day in southern Mexico.

The protest called further attention to the environmental and safety record of Pemex, accused of causing severe ecological damage in the Tabasco area. Protesters said Pemex spilled huge amounts of oil into a local river and caused the water supplies of two cities to be shut down.

"The (Tabasco) state authorities arbitrarily decided to shut off drinking water to the towns... that bothered us so much we decided to block the installations," protester Jose Izquierdo said.

The Chontales of Tabasco have been fighting Pemex for more than four decades, decrying the environmental, social and cultural devastation that the company has brought to the region. As Chontal Senator Auldarico Hernandez Gernomino put it in 1996, "we are an oil state, but we have no jobs, our children die of cholera and our fields are barren."

Pemex said in a news release that production continued at five of the eight oil wells, which produce 35,000 barrels per day, but that vehicles could not pass in or out. The spill forced the company to shut down three wells that produce 3,500 barrels per day.

The standoff came just days after soldiers and police removed strikers from an oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico, carrying them off by helicopter and dramatically ending a 40-hour siege at sea. Thirty contract workers on a Pemex drilling platform effectively held the oil rig hostage for nearly two days in protest against poor pay and working conditions. Opposition party members in the poor southern state of Campeche said soldiers and police used violence to get the workers off the platform in Campeche Sound, arresting them.

"They used the Mexican navy to besiege the platform... the workers were treated like animals, they tied them up with ropes and handcuffed them... they were treated very violently," said Camilo Massa Perez, a local official in the oil mining city of Ciudad del Carmen.

Pemex, which resumed exploration on the rig after the removal of the workers, said it fully backed the strike-breaking operation. "The authorities proceeded given that the strikers were flagrantly committing different crimes by impeding public work," Pemex said.

This information comes from *Reuters*, August 22 and 27, 1997 and the *Journal of Commerce*, February 2, 1996.



# IRISH ANTI-ROAD ACTIVISTS TAKE TO TREES

Ireland's first treetop road protest in the picturesque Glen of the Downs valley has divided the Irish Green movement between those who support direct action and those who want to compromise on the European Union-funded road program.

The Glen of the Downs is a breath-taking forest in a steep-sided quartz valley between the Great and Little Sugar Loaf mountains in north Wicklow. Nearby is Kilmacanogue Marsh, an unspoiled, wet woodland area. Both are rich ecosystems with a unique diversity of species. The Glen is a deciduous forest of mixed oak, beech and ash-hazel. There are 21 species of animals in the area, including sika deer, badger, fox and red squirrel. The woodlands are a good example of the dryer type of oak woods characteristic of the acid soils in Wicklow. It contains rich ground flora because it has been spared grazing.

The Marsh, which is also known as Kilmurray Swamp, consists mostly of alder with some hazel, willow, ash and beech. Amidst an area of groundwater springs, there is a rich undergrowth of flora, wet grassland, moss and lichen.

The botanical diversity of the Glen and the Marsh have been recognized by the Irish government, which designated both as Areas of Scientific Interest and of National Importance. Additionally, the Glen is a National Nature Reserve and protected under the Irish Wildlife Act of 1976.

The planned Arklow-Dublin road is intended to be a major European highway, part of the Trans-European road network, linking Larne in the northwest of Ireland with Paris, via Belfast, Dublin, Rosslare in the southeast and Le Havre in France. A decision was made seven years ago by the Wicklow County Council to widen the road into a four-lane highway between Kilmacanogue village and the southern end of the Glen of the Downs using European Economic Union funding.

Numerous professional environmentalists and ecologists live near the Glen, so the initial feeling among the wider Green community was that the road-widening scheme would be scrapped in the face of local opposition. But the opposition, mostly from the parliamentary Green Party, was quickly muted and easily compromised. When it became known that the state was determined to go ahead with its road-widening scheme and that the local Greens had given up, a decision was made among some of Ireland's more radical Greens to stop the construction.

In mid-July, as a couple of people started to build a tree-hut and talk to local people about the social and environmental implications of the scheme, a call was sent out for support. What started as a low-profile campaign to revive the opposition to the road has turned into a media circus of sensationalist journalism. With few exceptions there has been no attempt by the media to analyze the issues that are at the heart of this senseless construction.

If you believed what the mainstream media said about this protest, you'd have the impression that it was about feisty, unclean youth, a few furry animals and a large dose of utopian idealism. The local police have been threatening to evict the protesters for contravening the Wildlife Act (kind of ironic, isn't it?). The fact that people are prepared to occupy and defend a woodland seems to really bother the state.

The local paper, the *Wicklow People*, announced that eco-warriors were "not wanted here." Nuala Aherne, one of the two Green Party Euro MPs, who lives in nearby Greystones, said, "We have never wanted trees to come down, and the Green Party has worked very hard on this... people feel that the compromise that has been achieved is the best possible option."

Aherne's ignorance of the issues is thankfully not shared by local people who are keen to get involved and provide food, timber and rope to the protesters.

This protest raises the issues at the heart of our capitalist society—unfettered growth and roadbuilding.

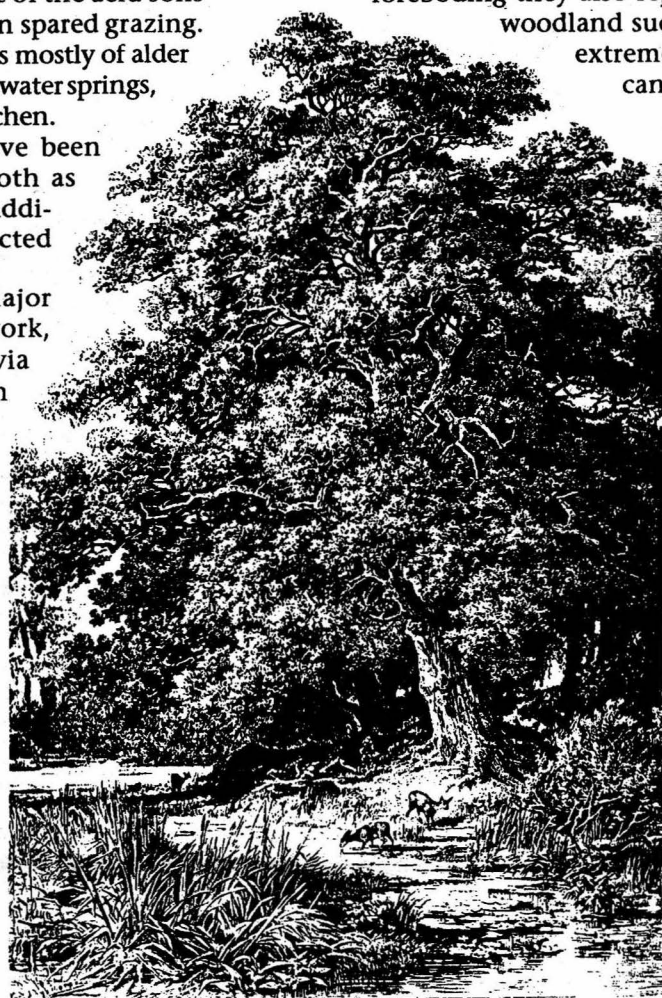
Since the occupation of the Glen became news, the state and apologists like Aherne have stressed that the new road will do minimal damage. This is a statement that even the engineers at the site find hard to agree with, as at least 1,700 trees will be cut. Even Ove Arup, the consultants who prepared the 1991 Environmental Impact Statement, initially stressed that the widening of the road would have a serious impact on the oak-beech and ash-hazel woodlands of the Glen and on the Marsh. They stated pragmatically that "any interference with this ash-hazel would be a serious loss in conservation." With some foreboding they also reported that, "A long-standing naturalized woodland such as that of the Glen of the Downs is an extremely complex and sensitive ecosystem and cannot be artificially replicated in periods of less than 100 years."

As a consequence of Arup's original study and following the initial, cursory opposition, the Irish Department of the Environment requested a further study from Arup about widening the road on the western side of the Glen, instead of the east. This is the option Wicklow County Council has gone for "to minimize as much as possible the impact on the natural habitats." This is Aherne's compromise! The chainsaws would still destroy the woodland, and the diggers would still encroach on the northern edge of the stream. This unique ecosystem would be gone.

Luckily, Aherne's party is not in agreement with her. Ciaran Cuffe, the Green Party spokesperson on public transport, announced that he supported the protesters and the campaign they are waging. Meanwhile, the activists are frantically building treehuts to sustain themselves for the long haul, given that the chainsaw-wielding crews and bulldozers are not expected until mid-winter. They are also filing petitions to present to the European Union on the grounds that the proposed development contravenes the Wildlife Directive.

Following letters to protestors from Wicklow County Council asking them to leave, a delegation met with council officials who declared that, because plans were in the latter stages, they can't back down. The officials were told that the 'Vigil at the Glen' will grow in strength and support, that it is becoming a large popular movement with legal, educational and academic ramifications and that it will not simply go away. If people are forcibly removed from the Glen, there will be hundreds of others willing to replace them. Officials said they had no "imminent" intention to start court actions. Asked if they could see a situation where force would be used against the peaceful occupants of the Glen, the officials said the council would act at all times within the confines of the law. They admitted that they could see a potential for dispute and that this would result in a "PR nightmare" for the council.

To be placed on the subscription list for *Pobal an Dulrá*, Ireland's weekly Green newsletter, send e-mail to [allenr@bluewin.ch](mailto:allenr@bluewin.ch). For more information on direct action in Ireland, contact An Talamh Glas (EF! in Ireland) at Abbey St., Ballinrobe, County Mayo, Eire; <http://www.hrc.wmin.ac.uk/campaigns/ef/pubs/panda/>.



## ECOTOPIANS RECLAIM EDINBURGH ONE BLOCK AT A TIME!

Two hundred people from the Ecotopian camp in West Lothian took over Edinburgh's Grassmarket on August 11, 1997, in Scotland's first-ever Reclaim the Streets action. At 10:30 a.m. an advance group sealed off part of the Grassmarket in central Edinburgh's Old Town. Demonstrators blockaded the road with crowd-control barriers and stopped traffic with an enormous tripod of scaffolding poles, from the top of which an intrepid demonstrator was suspended in a net.

For hours the sounds of music, dancing and the clinking of tea cups replaced the roar of the traffic—until the police moved in.

This was at least the 27th Reclaim the Streets action in Britain and part of a larger movement that encourages people to take control of the streets and create a safe and friendly space for people, in opposition to the deaths and destruction caused by cars and roads.

The primary contingent at the action marched a

half-mile to the liberated area, defying an attempt by mounted police to block their path. The forces of darkness could only look on helplessly as tables and chairs magically appeared and an impromptu street cafe sprouted on the highway. A bewildering array of international folk dances were performed as the carnival continued.

In the meantime, police brought in reinforcements and issued an ultimatum: leave by 12:30 or risk arrest. Demonstrators collected and discussed the next step. After an intriguing debate.

The police responded by wading in and nicking people. Around a dozen people linked arms and lay on the road.

Eventually the police violently hurled them into a police van, making 18 arrests. Meanwhile, the Fire Brigade was diverted from potential emergencies to bring down the tripod perch who put up a spirited resistance to the end. It took around 45 to 50

minutes before police violence allowed the resumption of "business as usual."

This first Reclaim the Streets action should inspire more such road occupations in Edinburgh and Scotland. Future activity will hopefully build on the success and lessons from this action.

As Reclaim the Streets says, "The power that attacks those who work, through union legislation and casualisation, is the same power that is attacking the planet with over-production and consumption of resources... this power is capital." As long as economies run on the basis of business for profit, social and ecological exploitation will occur. The question is, can we come together as a movement to effectively challenge and dissolve this power before those in control lead society into an even deeper social and ecological catastrophe?

For more information contact Autonomous Centre of Edinburgh, 17 W. Montgomery Place, Edinburgh EH7 5HA; 0131-557-6242; <http://wkweb4.cableinet.co.uk/bunnyace/>





## BARE BONES

### The Truth About Mudslides

A report released by the US Forest Service confirms that 58 percent of the 900 mudslides in the Clearwater National Forest during the winter of 1995-1996 were caused by logging roads and 12 percent by logging directly. An estimated 3,000 mudslides occurred in the Clearwater area on both public and private land during that season.

### BLM Approves Drilling in National Monument

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) recently approved Conoco's request to drill an exploratory well in the new Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in southern Utah. Environmentalists are concerned that this step could open the 1.7-million-acre monument for further energy development. The Fish and Wildlife Service and the Environmental Protection Agency criticized the BLM's environmental assessment of the drilling's impact on wildlife and air quality. In a letter to BLM Director Bill Lamb, Carol Campbell, director of EPA's ecosystem protection program, wrote, "[the] BLM apparently did not conduct an independent analysis of the potential impacts, as expected by EPA."

### Boycott Ban Trial Begins

The trial brought against Friends of the Lubicon by Daishowa Ltd. began September 2. The company is seeking a permanent injunction which would prevent the organization from telling consumers to boycott Daishowa, a maker of bags used in many stores.

The court action is a response to a six-year boycott campaign against Daishowa Paper Manufacturing Company Co. Ltd. of Japan. The focus of the campaign is to prevent the Daishowa group from clearcutting native lands in northern Alberta.

The corporation claims the boycott has cost them over \$11 million. With the boycott in effect, 47 companies that own over 4,300 retail stores throughout Canada chose to buy their paper products elsewhere. Daishowa is now trying to permanently outlaw the boycott and recover damages from activists involved in the campaign.

For more information contact Friends of the Lubicon at (416) 763-7500.

### SW Injunction Under Attack

In a move to defeat the injunction won against logging in the Southwest, Senators Domenici (R-NM) and Kyl (R-AZ) attached a rider (Amendment 1239) onto the Interior Appropriations Bill. This rider will effectively void a Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals' order enjoining grazing practices that violate Forest Plan standards and guidelines in Arizona and New Mexico. The initial injunction was won by the Southwest Center for Biological Diversity in Tucson.

### Victory in Southern Oregon

The Bureau of Land Management has withdrawn the Maple Syrup timber sale as a result of a lawsuit filed by the Klamath Siskiyou Wildlands Center. The old-growth forest, located on the Rogue River, contains hundreds of acres of habitat for the Northern spotted owl. The BLM failed to respond to any of the public comments concerning the Environmental Analysis (EA), nor did it address the cumulative effects the sale would have on the environment. By not proposing an adequate range of alternatives to the proposed sale, the BLM also violated the National Environmental Policy Act.

With this decision, the BLM is forced to draft new EA's for all the Grants Pass area sales.

# FOR THE LOVE OF WATER

## SEVEN-WEEK FAST CALLS ATTENTION TO SLOCAN LOGGING

BY ELOISE CHARET

I live in Silverton, a sleepy village nestled by Slocan Lake, one of the many lakes separated by lush green mountains in the Kootenays and the source of the Columbia River Basin. In the last seven years, I have watched Slocan Forests Products become one of the largest mill owners in British Columbia. All the towns around us have lost their water due to logging. And we figure that if our water is tainted at the source, everybody downstream must be drinking contaminated water as well.

On April 1997, Greenpeace released the report *Broken Promises: The Truth about What's Happening to BC Forests*, which explains that even though our government promised a world-class logging policy, 92 percent of logging still involves clearcutting and 82 percent of timber sales log right up to the stream banks. This report prompted Canadian Premier Glen Clark to label environmentalists the "enemies of BC." So take heart, USA, you are not alone.

In fall of 1996 we received the sad news that nine watersheds in our area were doomed to be logged. The Slocan Watershed Alliance and the Valhalla Society felt betrayed once again; we have spent decades conducting workshops and pressing for the Silva Ecosystem Plan and believe that it's not worth the loss of our drinking water for the 19 days of mill operation that the lumber in our watershed will yield. Although many concerned citizens wrote letters to government officials, and the New Denver and Silverton village councils opposed the logging, our concerns were not addressed.

After 15 days of logging, 350 people blocked the road to the Denver Flats. Fifty Royal Canadian Mounted Police officers prepared for war in the woods and arrested seven dissidents, including Stan Rome, one of Canada's most renowned forest ecologists. My 12-year-old daughter Emma and I were the last arrested. "I don't want to tell my children fairy tales about whales and pure water," said Emma.

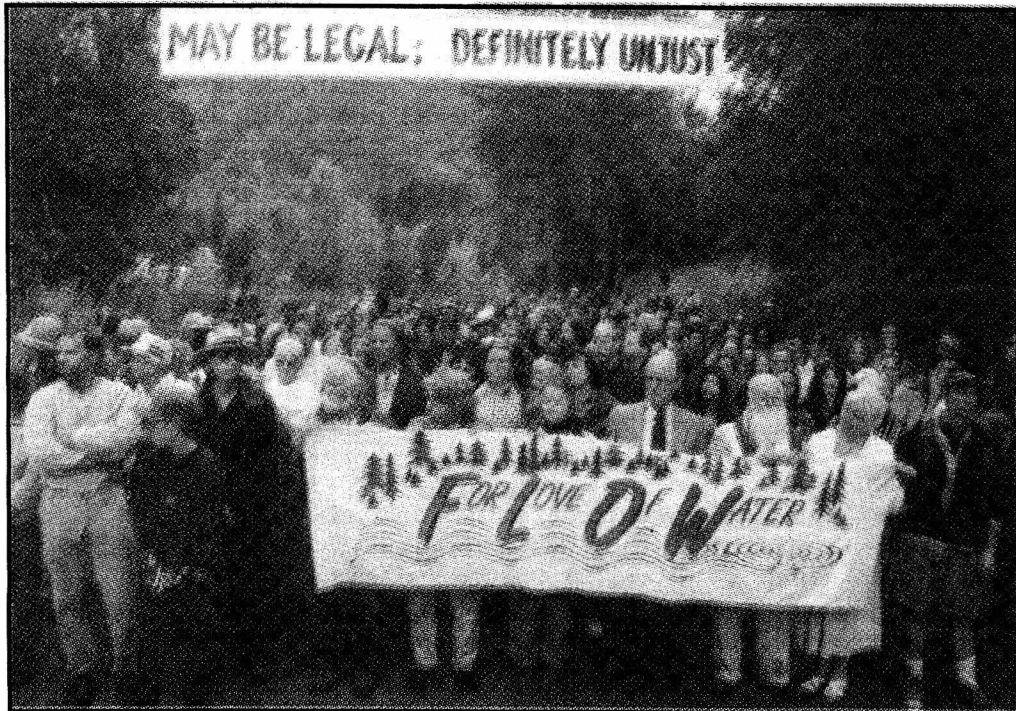
After the arrests, mostly everybody but me and this young man named Jack signed themselves out. Emma was released into the care of my sister. I began a hunger strike and refused to sign the release agreement. It stipulated that I would be forbidden to return to the site of the devastation. I stated, "I have no appetite to eat. I feel I cannot fulfill my role as a mother. I cannot give my children pure water."

Judge T.M. McEwan sent me to jail until my September 15 court date. I spent three sleepless nights and days in cold dungeon cells and handcuffed in cages inside paddy wagons. I felt stripped of my rights, my dignity, torn from the bosom of my family. By the time I got to Burnaby Correctional Center for Women, I was depressed and dehydrated.

The guards, however, were sympathetic, the inmates receptive to my cause, and my spirit was uplifted. The women organized a petition in support of me. Although

my fast was difficult, I managed to sustain myself for seven weeks. Tents were set up in the courthouse yard, and a chain-fast began in solidarity.

People from around the valleys surrounded the building with bottles of creek water. Our "Hunger For Water" campaign was advertised by dances, a streetfest and daily walks down Main Street. The Slocan Village Peace Camp was a beehive of activity. People hung a huge banner from the Nelson bridge reading, "Water or Profits." Two environmentalists walked from Slocan to



Elders and community members gather at New Denver Flats

Vancouver to bring me the best water I have ever tasted in my life, then they headed to Victoria to deliver a 1,000-signature petition to our leaders at Parliament. I was amazed by such creativity.

A 7.7-km-long road is being carved through the Perry Ridge watershed. On August 13, 300 protesters gathered on a hillside there, singing, "born of water, healing, changing, cleansing, powerful we are." The singing sometimes drowned out Sgt. Kerry Kolinsky's reading of the enforcement order. The first four people arrested were lingering at a table drinking pure unadulterated water. In another wave of arrests, Jack Ross, a 76-year-old Quaker who once marched with Martin Luther King, Jr., was nabbed.

A month later, on September 15, Jack and I were the only ones left in jail. Jack had to break his fast because of his Parkinson's disease. He had lost 20 pounds, and I was 30 or 35 pounds lighter. My kidneys started failing. I felt weak and devastated by the court, and my kids begged me to come home. Finally, I signed out and broke my fast with champagne and nachos (against the doctor's orders!).

I returned home to witness the loss of Bonanza Creek, the source of our lake. After a ceremony in which people turned in their New Democratic Party cards, 12 more people were arrested.

I will enter my plea October 28 and go to trial. To add spice to the broth, Slocan Forest Products is suing me and the Valhalla Society, Slocan Watershed Alliance and numerous other environmentalists. They are charging us with conspiracy!

How can we feel contempt or guilt for standing up for the love of the rare, pure water which is left on this Earth? This is truly the last call for water, and water is life. Let us make a living legacy.

To get involved or for more information contact the Valhalla Wilderness Society, POB 224, New Denver, VOG 1S0, BC, Canada; (250) 358-2333, fax (250) 385-7950; e-mail: annec@vws.org. Check out Austin Greengrass' on-line magazine *Tinmen* at

<http://www.tinmen.org>.

Eloise Charet has worked at a free school in Morocco and at an orphanage in Cambodia. She is now an herbalist and wildcrafts plants native to the Slocan; her grandchildren appreciate her activism.



The author and her daughter escorted by the RCMP



# ON THE FAST TRACK TO A CORPORATE BILL OF RIGHTS

BY PATRICK OLIVER

The Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI) is a proposed agreement between the 29 member nations of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). This corporate wish list would reduce restrictions on international investment and provide investors with assurances as to the treatment of their investment. MAI would grant transnational investors and multinational corporations the unrestricted right to buy, sell and move businesses and other assets wherever they want, whenever they want. To achieve this goal, MAI would ban a wide range of regulatory laws now in force around the world and pre-empt future efforts to hold corporations and investors accountable to the public.

Local, regional, state and even national laws designed to protect the environment, labor or any other public interests could be illegal under MAI. Ultimately, dozens of nations' regulations related to national sovereignty and the environment could be found in violation. Laws conflicting with MAI would have to be changed or punitive damages could be levied against offending nations.

According to Chantell Taylor of Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch, "MAI would give corporations legal power to sue governments directly for monetary compensation" for economic losses they incur as a result of a nation's law. This particular aspect of MAI

would grant a new and frightening expanse of power to multinational corporations. Smaller, "lesser developed" nations would be discouraged from challenging the power of MAI and the corporations. Poor nations are in a weak negotiating position (because of their weighty foreign debt) and would fear the costly administrative tie-ups and lengthy court battles that challenging the MAI would produce.

Just as frightening as MAI is the manner in which approval for it is being sought. Last month President Clinton presented a "fast track" bill, which he hopes to have Congress vote on by the end of October. The proposed fast track rules call for Congressional approval of the trade agreements without amendment within 60 legislative days and with limited debate. The fast track bill would essentially give the President more authority to negotiate trade agreements. Once negotiations are complete, however, Congress could only approve or disapprove of the agreements. Neither Congress nor the American people could make any amendments to the agreements. Fast track trade authority would have long-term effects since, for example, once a country signs the MAI agreement, they are bound to the terms for at least 20 years!

In addition to opposition from environmental groups, Clinton's fast track bill and his foreign trade negotiations are receiving heated criticism from the labor movement. The AFL-

CIO Executive Council has stated that, "International economic policies which simply promote open markets, unregulated capital mobility, export growth and the protection of private property are inadequate to address the complexities of the global economy. Workers, not just corporations, must be empowered." As with the passage of both the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs, the fight to stop MAI may have the beneficial effect of bringing the labor and environmental movements closer together.

Unfortunately, the general public has little knowledge or understanding of international trade agreements. This allows the corporate and moneyed elite to both dictate their trade demands and dominate the legislative process. A July 31, 1997 *Wall Street Journal* article stated: "The NAFTA side agreement on labor and the environment has proved toothless... [but] the President will probably succeed. Despite public opinion and formidable opposition, Presidents almost invariably win... trade initiatives. Moreover, for all the rhetoric of labor [and environmentalists], the pro-trade business community has more resources."

Declare your opposition to MAI and fast track! Call your representative or his/her "trade staffer" at (888) 723-5246. For more information, contact Public Citizen's Trade Campaign at 215 Pennsylvania Ave. SE, Washington, DC 20003; (202) 546-4996; e-mail: ctaylor@citizen.org

## BARE BONES

### BP Tries to Bankrupt Greenpeace

British Petroleum has taken action against Greenpeace and four of its members over its occupation of an oil installation, freezing its bank accounts and seeking £1.4 million in damages. The move comes in response to "unlawful activities" of protesters during the week-long occupation of the Stena Dee installation off the Shetland Islands.

A spokesman for BP said, "We have begun proceedings against Greenpeace Ltd. and other individuals in concern with unlawful activities on the rig and for the financial loss that we have suffered. Rigs of this kind are extremely expensive. We have incurred a considerable loss and we would like to recover some of that money."

According to Chris Rose, a senior Greenpeace director and defendant in the suit, BP makes more in 48 hours than Greenpeace makes in a year.

Greenpeace began landing activists on the rig in August. The protest was part of a campaign to highlight climate change.

The Green Parties of Europe have called for an international boycott of BP in support of Greenpeace.

### Damn, That's a Big Fish

The *Akron Beacon Journal* reports sturgeon in Lake Erie are on the rise. Thirty-nine sturgeon sightings were made this year compared to nine from 1989-1996.

Sturgeon can grow to more than 7 feet and weight over 300 pounds. Overfishing and pollution led to the decline of the fish.

### Sacrilege in Los Angeles

The Catholic Church with help of the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) is building the Our Lady of the Lake cathedral atop native remains in Los Angeles, according to Chief Ya'anna of the Shoshone-Gabrielino Nation.

During a peaceful demonstration on September 23, members of the American Indian Movement and the Aztlán Mexican Nation opposing the construction of the \$50 million project were accosted by the LAPD. At one point during the demonstration an undercover LAPD agent grabbed Chief Ya'anna's wheelchair, demanding she leave. An indigenous activist insisted the agent not bother her and was grabbed by his arm and neck by the LAPD agent. When another activist took a photo

of the officer's badge, the agent attempted to confiscate the camera.

For more information contact the Spirit of the Sage Council and the Shoshone-Gabrielino nation at POB 77027 102, Pasadena, CA 91107; (562) 946-9463.

### Submarine Mines

The International Seabed Authority, meeting in Kingston, Jamaica in August, gave the go-ahead for mineral exploration on the ocean floor. Public and private interests from around the industrialized world will be able to secure 15-year contracts to extract polymetallic nodules (containing nickel, cobalt, copper and manganese) from the seabeds in areas outside any national jurisdiction.

## Cult of Nonviolence

continued from page 3

agitators who fought colonialism—clearly outside of Gandhi's dogma.

We should question our dogma by examining the reasons not to sit on the pew. There are numerous valid reasons not to place ourselves in a voluntary arrest scenario. Having a criminal record makes one suspect in other actions; hence, future strategic action becomes dangerous, if not impossible. Many of us can also testify that fighting the system through the court is disempowering. Just as our arrest deflects our message, court shifts our focus and the focus of the campaign. It keeps the focus on the legal system, social justice and human rights—everything *but* logging. The media also focuses on every issue except the destruction. Voluntarily subjecting oneself to arrest becomes an endless energy sink, wasting countless hours of time and effort.

Successful cults demand homogeneity. Step five of our deprogramming requires us to reject the expectation that we all be the same and do the same. A Native American ecologist told one of us that although he respects those who choose arrest, he would never ask his friends on the reservation to subject themselves to the very power that has enslaved them for over 500 years. As white, mainly middle-class activists, we have a decidedly different experience with the justice system than indigenous people and people of color. The cult of nonviolence begets a paradigm that doesn't recognize different experiences—it mandates that we judge the worth of activists by their willingness to participate in our ritual.

What we have complicitly created is a romantic backdrop for herd mentality. We build heroes, inflate martyrs and devalue the roles of other activists. People feel compelled to win approval by getting arrested, perhaps rejecting what they feel is right or effective. The sixth step back to sanity demands that we release this demon and recognize that all of our roles must be equally revered. Individualism must be respected. If we all look alike, dress alike, unilaterally adopt pseudonyms and expect each other to share all of the same values, we are in big trouble.

Respecting actions outside our dogma need not mean we embrace any action committed in our, or more importantly, the Earth's name. For example, though we may not choose to set the fire, we should recognize that the burning of Peabody

Coal's headquarters was powerfully symbolic and a very real financial loss. The scuttling of whale vessels would never have passed campaign consensus, but it succeeded in slowing a gruesome war. Even rendering earth-destroying machinery unworkable has been effective. These examples do not mean that we all must abandon our own unique skills and become mid-night eco-raiders, but they do suggest that we should set our prejudices aside and recognize their worth.

There is a wide spectrum of creative actions that fall outside our current dogma which are as innocuous as they are effective. Cat-and-mouse games in the back country play their part in the struggle. Outreach and entertainment, which have nothing to do with civil disobedience, play crucial roles, as do protests and vigils. Isolating those responsible for the destruction, vigilantly haunting them and making their work hard, expensive and even frightening, can save wild places. We are in no position to limit our options—we simply must diversify our strategy, our tactics and our movement by empowering others to carry on the fight with whatever skills they possess.

Maybe there are five more steps before we are recovered cultists. We don't claim to have all the answers, and we aren't pretending there isn't room for nonviolent civil disobedience. We do question its effectiveness, however, particularly in areas where few people are there to support such a campaign. We need more, not fewer, solutions. If you want to join a cult, don a pair of Nikes and start channeling 4-billion year-old spirits, but if you want to defend the Earth, we suggest you bring all your tools to the fire and not fall prey to pick pockets.



Can you find the undercover fed?



# On the EZLN, Horses and Grand Juries

In a daring action on July 21, the Equine and Zebra Liberation Network (EZLN) of the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) burned to the ground a horse-rendering plant in Oregon that had made mincemeat of horses for European markets for the last 30 years. In the wake of that action, federal law enforcement has focused its investigation on animal-rights activists in Portland, most recently initiating a grand jury to target one activist.

The ALF press release announcing the action reads: "Under a nearly full moon, the ALF paid a visit to the Cavel West Horse Murdering plant... About 35 gallons of vegan jello was brought in with the team... a number of holes were drilled into the rear wall of the slaughterhouse office to bypass potential alarms on the doors or windows... the area that housed the refrigeration units was located and again large holes were drilled through the wall at that part of the slaughterhouse. Two teams then poured the jello into the numerous holes and quickly began to assemble the three electrically timed incendiary devices that would bring to a screeching halt what countless protests and letter-writing campaigns could never stop. While these devices were being assembled some members of the team entered a storage shed/office site... and left the remaining 10 gallons or so of jello for dessert. Then two gallons of muriatic acid was poured into the air conditioning vents to taint and destroy any horse flesh that may have survived the fire... at least \$1,000,000 of damage has been done and the entire plant is currently closed and out of operation! The media blackout of this action is intense and thorough, but, you know what? The horses don't mind."

In statements to the press, the FBI, Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms (BATF) and Sheriff investigators confirmed that "vegan jello," a term for jellied gasoline or napalm, was used, that holes in the back wall were made to enter the building and that \$1-million worth of damage was done.

It is true, as well, that the action accomplished "what countless protests and letter-writing campaigns could never stop." The Cavel West Horse Rendering plant has been the longtime target of Portland animal-rights groups. Mainstream groups like Action for Animals protested the plant two years ago but gave up after awhile and focused on other issues.

Nonetheless, every aspect of the horse rendering business, from the transportation of the doomed animals to the killing methods, has fallen under well-deserved scrutiny in recent months. The Humane Society of the United States is pushing for regulations on the transport of horses to the eight licensed rendering plants in the states, which send more than 20 tons of meat from 100,000 horses overseas every year. Often, the horses take many days to reach the plants, usually in low-slung "potbelly" trucks designed for shorter-legged cows and hogs. At present, no rules govern how much rest, food or water the horses get, nor how crowded the trailers may be. Fighting and overcrowding kill or injure many horses before they ever reach the slaughterhouse. Yet new regulations are not expected until 1998 or 1999.

The agonizing ride is just one of the many abuses heaped upon the horses as their final rites. Each of the eight plants operates independently, without standardized euthanasia practices. The horses are supposed to be rendered unconscious before being slaughtered, but often aren't. Dr. Temple Grandin, a veterinarian who acted as a consultant for the construction of one slaughterhouse, says "abuses, such as excessive prodding, dragging downed, crippled animals or running animals over the top of a downed animal often occur when management is lax." In an industry without regulation, management is often lax.

Not surprisingly, the mainstream media has tried to portray the arson as a tragedy. The *Redmond Bulletin* used hysterical language, blaming the fire for "burning the hopes of children born with skull defects," as Cavel West was providing the Pacific Coast Tissue

Bank in Los Angeles with horse bone tissue to regenerate the human skull and "cure birth defects."

The tissue bank argues that Cavel West was crucial because it was a clean plant. "The wonderful part about Cavel West is that they run such a very clean and sanitary process," said the director. "I have visited some other plants that frankly should have been burned down." The sanitary reputation of the plant, however, is not supported by the plant's local record. The company was cited by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) in 1992 after an inspector found piles of horse tails and legs, a horse head and a quantity of blood dumped in a field adjacent to the site. When workers weren't careful about re-



moving the blood, it would flow down the sewer line and interfere with the sewage treatment process. In 1993, the plant also became a target of a DEQ odor investigation. The odor emitted from the plant was legendary. Neighbor Gil Platt, owner of Midstate Power Products, said his customers were turned off by the smell. "They say 'You've got something dead out here'... I've had ladies get back in their cars." Charlie Brown, a driver for Northern Energy agreed, "The smell around here in the summertime is something atrocious." He said he has seen animal blood dumped into holes in a nearby field, which attracts hordes of flies. "You could shoot them with a 12-gauge shotgun they're so thick."

Because of these environmental problems, the

city of Redmond may not permit the plant owners to rebuild. As a result of zone changes, the slaughterhouse is no longer allowed in its former location. The Redmond planning commission has suggested it would be willing to consider changing the zoning language to allow the plant to rebuild only if the Belgian owners work with the DEQ on a comprehensive pollution-control plan.

Meanwhile, the coast is not clear for the arsonists nor local mainstream animal-rights activists. Craig Rosebraugh, a political science student at Marylhurst College and member of the Portland-based Liberation Collective, has been the target of federal enforcement agencies investigating the arson. His house has been watched by federal investigators since May 30, when 10,000 mink were released from a fur farm in Mount Angel, Oregon. He was questioned by the FBI and BATF at the Liberation Collective office about the mink release and slaughterhouse fire. In addition, he was subpoenaed to appear before a grand jury investigating the Animal Liberation Front on September 17. Rosebraugh, who says the investigation resembles "horrific witch hunts," submitted to the grand jury's questioning because "I was naive enough to believe that the people on the grand jury would be an accurate representation of the Portland metropolitan area." During two rounds of questioning that lasted approximately two hours, Rosebraugh pleaded the fifth amendment (the right to not impeach oneself) to 75 percent of the questions.

Outside, 50 protesters rallied against the secret proceedings of the grand jury. Unlike other court proceedings, grand juries are closed to the public. Anyone subpoenaed to testify in front of the grand jury does not have the right to be represented by counsel or have an attorney present during questioning. In addition, a witness can be forced to testify when granted immunity from prosecution, voiding fifth amendment rights. If immunity is granted and a witness still refuses to testify, they can be held "in contempt" for the duration of the grand jury.

Rosebraugh says he now realizes that he should never have entered the "grand jury room in the first place." (For more information about the operations of grand juries and the proper way to handle a grand jury subpoena see *EF!* Litha 1997. Remember, it's always a mistake to answer questions from federal law enforcement personnel, especially without a lawyer present).

For more information about animal rights issues contact the Liberation Collective at POB 9055, Portland, OR 97207; (503) 230-9990; [www.aracnet.com/~libcoll/](http://www.aracnet.com/~libcoll/).

## LARGEST ONE-DAY PIGEON SHOOT IN THE WORLD CONTINUES

BY ALLISON BLOUNT

I don't know what you did on Labor Day this year but if it didn't include senseless killing of defenseless critters maybe you should schedule in the Hegins Pigeon Shoot next year. In spite of years of battle by animal-rights groups ranging from confrontational protests to rescue programs to unsuccessful legislation, the "largest one-day live-bird shoot in the world" celebrated its 64th year in Hegins, Pennsylvania this September.

For \$75 apiece 200 brave and noble hunters spent the day slaughtering and wounding birds for sport in between beers. Five thousand dead and dying birds lay in the park this year. For a mere five dollars one can join the multitudes that mill about just to enjoy the spectacle. A special band of "trapper boys" are paid to finish off the wounded birds using various humane methods such as wringing their necks, stomping on them, throwing them against barrels or just tossing them live into the barrels to suffocate to death. Even the International Olympic Committee knew early on that this was not a sport, since its one-time appearance in the 1900 Olympics.

This year, seven activists had enough of the barbaric event. Equipped with concrete lockboxes and sunscreen, they lay like the birds across State Route 25 to block traffic to and from the shoot. "I've been coming here for 10 years, and we have liberated birds in the field, we've rescued and treated wounded birds, and we've documented the violations of animal-cruelty laws, and now this is the next step," said Anne Crimauddo, a 52-year-old activist, from where she lay with the others. After ten hours of diligent labor, the authorities finally managed to break the blockade and make their arrests.

Meanwhile, at the shooting grounds, a rescue program sponsored by the Fund for Animals, complete with veterinarians and certified rehabilitation officers, treated the wounded birds. These activists are among many other individuals and organizations who have been fighting for years to stop the Hegins Shoot and others like it. Notably, a suit was filed in recent years at the Court of Common Pleas of Schuylkill County (site for Hegins and Valley View Pigeon Shoots) by Clayton Hulsizer of the Pennsylvania Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Brilliant orders came down from the Superior Court to the County Court on this one, demanding that it make a "factual determination of whether the birds are cruelly treated, or whether all reasonable efforts are employed to dispose of the injured birds in a non-abusive way." The suit was dismissed.



# EUROPEAN WOLVES ON THE BRINK

Throughout Europe wolves are vanishing at an alarming rate. Protection is often inadequate, offset by the demand to hunt them. In the Krosno province of southeast Poland wolf hunting begins in November. The price to kill a wolf runs in the thousands of Deutsche-marks. The number of wolves killed every year is a fixed number inflated due to past pressure from hunters and wolf breeders. In Slovakia, for example, hunters will kill 150 wolves (more than half of their population). In Ukraine, the kill is limited only by the number of wolves available.

An apex predator, the wolf is one of the highest on the food chain, acting as an accurate indicator of ecosystem health. Of course, it is also the symbol of a wild and untameable nature. And the wolf is a spirit teacher for those who are willing to listen.

In Poland wolves have been officially protected since 1995, except in three provinces. In the Krosno province, the wolf is hunted from October to the end of February. The population numbers vary (depending upon whom you believe). According to hunters there are 756 wolves; according to environmentalists only 400 remain. The main threats to these wolves are hunting, poaching and illegal capture by breeders. A steady stream of anti-wolf propaganda pervades the Polish media, especially during the hunting season.

The diet of the Polish grey wolf consists primarily of stags, wild boars and deer. Contrary to the exaggerated fears of cattle and sheep ranchers, less than one percent of the wolf's diet is livestock. Because of the strong anti-wolf campaign, and because of hunters' demands to restore licenses for hunting, the number of wolves has been steadily declining.

In Slovakia, wolves have been protected since 1995. The number of wolves has fallen from 444 in 1988 to 280 in 1997. Their diet consists mainly of wild boar and stag supplemented with fox, deer and dog. Illegal hunting is its primary threat with an estimated 150 wolves poached last year alone. Unfortunately, wolves in the Ukraine remain unprotected. They are relatively scarce, just 80 to 150 in the East Carpathian area.

In Romania wolves are partially protected by the government. However, the official designation of protection is incomplete, and the enforcement of existing laws is also inadequate. Romania has a strong remaining wolf population of about 2,500. The typical wolf diet in Romania includes 70 percent goat, wild boar and stag and 30 percent sheep and dog.

The number of wolves and their status in other European countries are (*International Wildlife*, March/April 1997): Bosnia—400 (unprotected), Finland—150, France—10, Croatia—50 to 100 (protected), Italy—400 (protected), Macedonia—200 to 500, Germany—15 to 20, Norway—less than 25, Portugal—250 (protected), Slovenia—25, Spain—1,500 to 2,000 (partially protected) and Sweden—25.

Russia still has the largest expanses of undeveloped wilderness left in the world, so it should come as no surprise that the healthiest populations of wolves are there. It is estimated that over 50,000 wolves run free in Russia!

We appeal to all who still feel their connection to the Earth to join the international campaign in defense of the wolf. We ask all those who care for the survival of wolves to write letters and petitions demanding full protection of the wolf in Poland, Slovakia, Ukraine and Romania.

Write to government officials in Poland and demand that they end all wolf hunts. In addition, the Polish government must halt all developments that threaten to destroy the habitat that the European grey wolf needs for survival.

Write letters of concern to Wojewoda Krosnienski, Piotr Komornicki, ul. Bieszczadzka 1, 38-400 Krosno, Poland; and Prime Minister Urząd Rady Ministrów, Al. Ujazdowskie 1/3, 00-950 Warsaw, Poland.

For more information contact the Workshops For All Beings (*Pracowni na rzecz wszystkich istot*), POB 40, 13-304, Bielsko-Biala; phone/fax (8) (33) 183-153; e-mail: janusz@pnrwi.most.org.pl; and the International Wolf Federation, rue Froide Fontaine 1-4577 Outrelouxhe, Belgique, Lesoochranarske zoskupenie VLK, c.d. 201, 082 13 Tulcik, Slovakia.

## FREE TRADE FORESTRY

BY PAIGE FISCHER

This fall, forest activists have a chance to confront free trade's threat to forests in the Pacific Northwest, British Columbia and around the Pacific Rim. On November 24, the leaders of the Pacific Rim's most economically powerful nations will meet in Vancouver, BC to negotiate and promote free trade through the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC). APEC is a developing trade body that aims to expand and speed economic growth and integration throughout the Pacific Rim.

APEC is targeting forest products this fall, strategizing on how to reduce trade barriers on wood, paper and other forest products. Since the talks do not involve forest advocates or other citizens' groups, they could lead to disastrous declines in trade regulations and forest management standards all over the Pacific Rim.

APEC's 18 member countries comprise the most dynamic economies on Earth, making up 55 percent of the world's total income and 46 percent of its trade. Their economic growth will continue to demand greater consumption of wood products. Six APEC countries are home to 59 percent of the world's last forest frontiers. In the US, Chile, Canada, China and Russia (which has applied to become an APEC member), temperate forests are threatened by logging ventures, inadequate environmental laws and increased international financing of the forest industries.

### How Does APEC Work?

APEC aims to make trade, investment and technical cooperation easier and more profitable for businesses on the Pacific Rim. Throughout the year, government and business leaders meet to discuss ways in which countries can loosen up rules that govern imports, exports and corporate operations. Negotiations culminate in a Leader's Summit every November. Canada will host the seventh annual APEC Summit and has pledged to address the environmental consequences of the region's growth there. Yet APEC's main goal remains facilitating trade by easing restrictions and eliminating barriers—including environmental regulations.

Unlike the North American Free Trade Agreement, APEC does not employ binding sanctions or treaties. Countries instead pressure one another to take steps to open their economies to international business. Because its negotiations are informal, APEC can avoid the democratic processes that even the World Trade Organization (WTO) must follow. APEC does not have to consult with citizens' groups or publicly disclose information about negotiations.

### What Does APEC Have to Do with Forests?

Earlier this year, Canada, New Zealand, Indonesia and the US jointly proposed to put forest products on a free trade fast track. [See MAI article on page 26.]

In 1996, the US agreed to eliminate tariffs on the import and export of wood products by the year 2000. Canada prioritized forest products as one of six sectors to be fully deregulated within the same time frame. But Pacific Rim consumption, especially in the US and Japan, already drives significant amounts of logging in British Columbia and the Pacific Northwest. With further trade liberalization devoid of environmental safeguards, a burgeoning Pacific Rim economy will place even greater pressures on these areas.

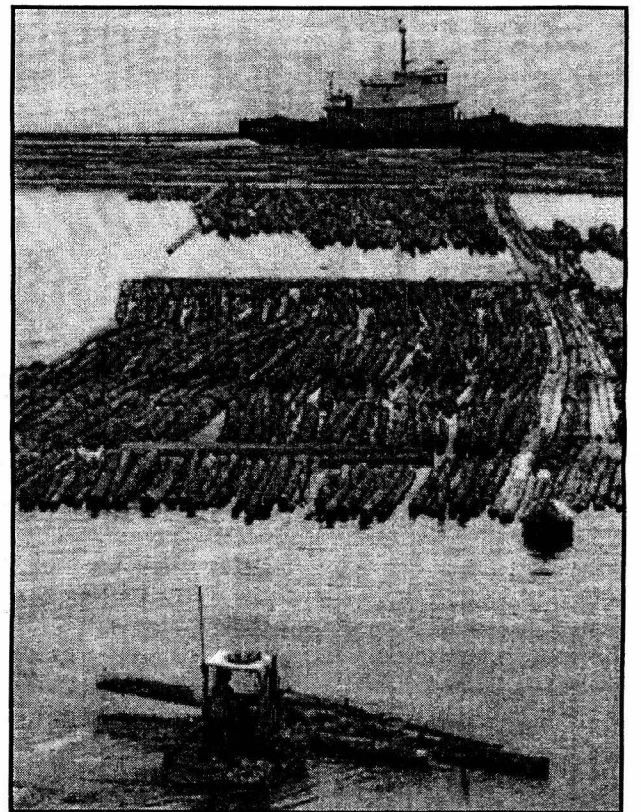
Other APEC countries are even more likely to use APEC's trade liberalization policies to reduce controls on natural resource use. Japan already challenges environmental safeguards like the Marine Mammal Protection Act through trade bodies like the WTO. Chile's Foreign Relations Minister has challenged a US Federal Court injunction that blocks the import of raw wood products into the United States due to the danger of pest infestation. A WTO decision to nullify this injunction would put Pacific Northwest forests directly at risk of disease from exotic pests. Meanwhile, Malaysia has a long history of suppressing political dissidents and activists. It is the world's largest exporter of tropical wood and actively discourages all regulations on the timber trade.

### What Does Free Trade in Forest Products Mean?

Fast track for forest products ("Early Voluntary Trade Liberalization" in APEC-speak) will be discussed at the Summit. If approved, APEC will eliminate tariffs, as well as non-tariff measures on timber trade through regional agreements or global bodies like the WTO. Examples of non-tariff measures include the restriction on pest-infested log imports or any building code that protects a domestic industry by discouraging the use of imported materials.

Liberalization of the forest product sector could also lead to a unified but weak set of standards for timber production and processing. All APEC countries would adopt one measure, claiming to avoid excessive environmental regulations that slow down some developing economies. Yet these standards would probably be set by the United States and Canada, nations known for their disastrous domestic forest policies.

All discussions leading to November's decisions are informal. Since no committee exists within APEC to address forest issues, ad hoc groups meet informally to discuss proposals for the forest product sector. Participants in these discussions include government officials, policy experts and industry groups.



Get ready to see a lot of this if you think "free" trade is a good idea.

### What Can People Who Care About Forests Do About APEC?

It is vital to call attention to forest destruction that will occur as a result of trade agreements. Forest advocates can build networks in their regions as well as around the Pacific Rim to increase awareness about APEC and to develop ways to combat free trade's destruction of forests. By acting in partnership, forest advocates around the Pacific Rim can generate the international awareness and opposition necessary to reform policies that neglect the environment.

"APEC: A Special Session on Forests" will bring together activists from Canada, the US, Japan, Malaysia and Chile to discuss these issues. Hosted by the Pacific Environment and Resources Center and the Sierra Club of Canada (in Ottawa), the session on November 20 in Vancouver will be part of the sustainability issues forum at the People's Summit on APEC. Speakers and small group discussions with audio-visual presentations will educate people about APEC's implications for forests. A set of demands will be produced for APEC leaders about Pacific Rim forest protection.

For more information and registration packets contact Paige Fischer of the Pacific Environment and Resources Center, 1055 Fort Cronkhite, Sausalito, CA 94965; (415) 332-8200; fax 332-8167; e-mail: perc@igc.apc.org.



# UPRISING, UPROOTING AND UPHEAVAL AGAINST GENETICALLY WARPED CROPS

**D**isempowered people around the world are reclaiming their voices, despite the increased stranglehold multinational corporations have over our lives. As chemical manufacturers and bio-tech firms inconspicuously expose us to pesticides and genetically altered organisms, the incidence of disobedient reactions is rising.

One such event took place in Staffordshire, England recently when an experimental Monsanto crop was uprooted, broken and mixed with control plants, invalidating the experiment on oilseed rape. Despite Monsanto's claim that the genetically engineered crop was entirely risk-free, local residents were concerned that the pollen from the transgenic crop would spread to wild or traditionally-bred species. An activist at a public protest in August near Coventry said, "Our natural world is being tampered with for private profit... We are not prepared to see the people and plants of Staffordshire—or anywhere else in the UK—used as guinea pigs in somebody else's experiment."

Across the Irish Sea, Patricia McKenna of Ireland's Green Party defended environmental activists who dug up and destroyed genetically engineered sugar beets on October 1, saying the activists "deserve full praise."

The action was carried out by the Gaelic Earth Liberation Front (GELF). Ireland's Environmental Protection Agency confirmed that the site at Oakpark, Carlow had been examined by its expert

on genetically modified organisms, and a removal of the experimental crop is underway. The US chemical giant Monsanto planted the sugar beet crop that had been engineered to resist Roundup herbicide. The company has several similar test crops throughout Europe.

The action was condemned by Ireland's newly-established bio-industry association which plans to launch a public information campaign on the benefits of biotechnology next year. The Irish environmental group Genetic Concern, which claims no association with GELF or the slashing of the crop, is challenging the Irish EPA's license allowing Monsanto to conduct the experiment. The crop would have been harvested before the December 10 judicial review began. A spokesperson from Genetic Concern said the act "reflected frustration and anger" at the lack of public debate on biotechnology in Ireland

and that the group wasn't surprised by the action. "There's a lot of people very annoyed the tests went ahead without public debate... Clearly some group has decided not to await the outcome of a court case and to take the law into their own hands."

In Australia, too, residents have the same disregard for the law that the bio-tech corporations have for public and environmental safety. A consumer group calling itself Mothers Against Genetic Engineering uprooted an experimental crop at the University of Queensland's Gatton campus. The group mixed control plants with experimental ones, invalidating the results of the study as part of the Global Days of Action Against Genetix (October 2-16). The crop of oilseed rape had been manipulated to resist the herbicide Basta. An unnamed spokesperson from the group said, "We are outraged that already 60 percent of processed food in Australian supermarkets may be genetically engineered. For the sake of our families, we had to take action."

Clearly the sentiment against bio-engineering is wide-spread in Austria, where citizens voted on a referendum barring the admission of genetically engineered crops into their country, including a ban on the release of all altered organisms and the patenting of living beings. The opposition to genetic manipulation is heating up as concerned people everywhere defend the sanctity of life, the wisdom of the Earth and her processes and their fundamental right to food.

## GENETICS

*continued from front page*

for the roulette. With the addition of certain genes, produce could become easier to transport, less costly to process and have a longer shelf life (How much easier it would be if oranges were square).

Proponents of genetic engineering claim that herbicide-tolerant crops open up weed-killing options for farmers, since farmers could soak their fields with chemicals that would only affect weeds that don't contain new-fangled, herbicide-resistant genes. Not coincidentally, most of these transgenic crops are being developed by, or in conjunction with, the same chemical companies that sell the herbicides the plants have been engineered to resist.

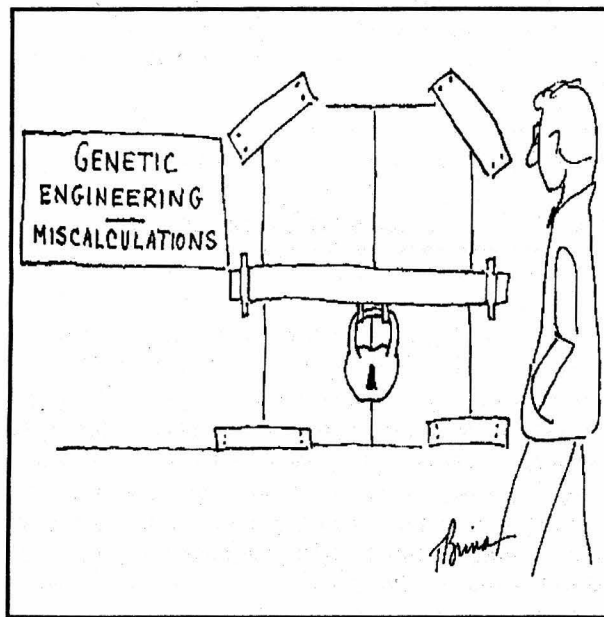
Here's a real-life example: Monsanto has inserted a gene into an oilseed rape plant to make it resistant to the herbicide Roundup, which it also manufactures. Farmers plant seeds derived from this plant and then buy huge amounts of Roundup to spray on their crops, so the herbicide kills all the plants except the oil-seed rape that is resistant to it. Proponents acknowledge that crops will require the continued use of the chemicals, but claim fewer applications will be necessary. That is, until the weeds become resistant to the herbicide too. Some dream of the day when researchers will be able to insert genes into plants so that less toxic chemicals can replace the poisons in use today. This, however, only furthers our dependence on toxins. At the corporate feeding trough, even genes have become a commodity.

Resistance to pests such as fungi, viruses and insects is another promise of biology's new toy. This use of the technology creates plants that produce toxins themselves, rather than making them resistant to an applied toxin. When crops have built-in pesticides, say proponents, farmers won't have to rely on chemicals, right? These potential benefits are short-lived at best, only lasting as long as pests aren't resistant to the toxins engineered into the plants.

New traits such as resistance to disease or insects could enable a plant to overcome ecological limitations on population growth. These traits might give an engineered plant the upper hand, driving out native species. With the invasion of non-native species as the second most prominent cause of dwindling biodiversity, after loss of habitat, the threat of engineered plants disturbing ecosystems becomes a real nightmare. For example, if a new genetic combination in corn yielded a plant with greater frost resistance, the altered plants could transfer the new genes via pollen or insects to their wild relatives, enabling the wild plants to survive in colder climates and possibly displace other species. These effects could reverberate throughout an entire ecosystem since, once wild plants are crowded out by engineered ones, other species dependent on the native plants could be lost.

Ready-made pesticides and drugs are rarely selective enough to avoid killing unintended targets. In fact, new chemicals produced by a plant might kill beneficial organisms associated with it. Transgenic crops used as "factories" for pharmaceuticals and other chemicals intended for human use can expose microbes, insects, birds and other non-targets to drugs, vaccines, enzymes, etc. These chemicals could quite possibly wash into rivers, lakes and streams, affecting aquatic critters. Additionally, virus-resistant transgenic crops invite development of new viruses, as they, too, evolve for survival.

Those in favor of genetic engineering will tell you that the risks posed by manipulated organisms are no greater than those of naturally occurring ones. All living things contain mutations that are the engine driving the evolutionary train. Perhaps the greatest difference is that evolution is patient, allowing more control over the expression of new genes; genetic engineering, on the other hand, works



against the clock. Evolution doesn't teach us about combining genes from dramatically different organisms. It would never have produced a creature that was half goat, half sheep, like the "gheep" bred in the '80s.

The US Patent and Trademark Office has already announced that all forms of life on Earth are "patentable." Already pharmaceutical companies are "bioprospecting," patenting genes from blood samples of indigenous populations in the developing world in search of unique genes. A gene from a native Panamanian woman has already been patented in an effort partly funded by the US Department of Commerce. If we don't get this genie back in its bottle, our kids will grow up thinking that the intrinsic value of life is no greater than the value of the other manufactured junk collecting dust on the shelves at Wal-Mart.

Some possible uses of the technology are extremely insidious; the Pentagon admits it has been conducting "defensive" research programs in biological warfare, exploring the use of pathogens such as botulism and yellow fever.

Thanks to the global economy, the risks of this technology span the globe. Since practically all the research is done in the Northern Hemisphere, we're even more clueless about the effects it will have on other locales. Developing nations, buying their seeds from northern suppliers, will be hit hardest by this ignorance and increased dependency on the industrialized world.

The question persists: "Doesn't genetic engineering offer the possibility of feeding the world?" Probably not. Most of the research is being done on crops that grow in the North, and world hunger is a far more complex issue than mere crop yield. Besides, would any industry invest billions of dollars into *any* technology for the sake of altruism? The introduction of new genes into cultivated plants, or worse, the wild relatives that constitute the basic diversity from which our food plants derive, threatens the genetic base of the world's food supply.

The bottom line is that we don't have enough experience to make any meaningful predictions. We would be wise to err on the side of caution. The farmer's field is even less controlled than the experimental plot, and molecular biologists are not qualified to assess the impact of their creations on an entire ecosystem.

So how extensive should regulations be on genetic engineering? The uncertainties involved will become far less acceptable as the technology is brought out of the laboratories. The public should weigh the potential risks and benefits of each scenario, determining which applications encourage sustainable agriculture and which further chemical dependency. Currently the public doesn't hold the reins on this technology, but the stakes are too enormous to place our confidences in the hands of government, corporations or geneticists.

The world has seen the systematic elimination of "undesirable" traits before. The idea of creating more perfect species was attempted 50 years ago by a man named Adolf Hitler, resulting in the deliberate removal of nine million people from the human gene pool. When people in labs, boardrooms or military offices decide which genes are good or bad, they're practicing eugenics. These cases are not too similar because nearly all scientists pursue bioengineering with good intentions. But when humans try to improve on nature, the consequent suffering is often incomprehensible.

With the advent of biotechnology comes an urgent ecological and social responsibility. We must make a choice. Do we want to have a stranglehold on the living world, or are we going to take part in it like the rest of creation? Biotechnology sets us once again at a crossroads, facing the path of sustainability and compassion, or that of domination and profits. We no longer have to wait for nature to do her thing. It was a wise person who said, "He that increases knowledge increases sorrow." If we don't apply the brakes to the new genetic technology, the Frankenstein we create may be beyond our ability to control.



# Lead Companies Target the Ozarks

BY SARAH BANTZ

On April 15, 1997, over 200 employees of lead mining companies packed the auditorium at the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) headquarters. Twelve state senators and representatives pushing for the expansion of mining on state lands were also present. The Conservation Commission, which oversees the MDC, was expected to vote in favor of touring MDC lands with the Doe Run Company. This meeting culminated six months of effort on the part of Commission Chair John Powell to convince the MDC that mining is a good use of the public's resources. In spite of the many pro-mining supporters, however, the vote swung against the mining companies—a great victory for the Ozark mountains, its critters and other residents.

The decision came at a pivotal point for environmentalists overwhelmed with the expanded mining on federal, state and private lands in the heart of

30 years and are avidly exploring and pursuing mineral rights in the Ozarks on state, federal and private land. While the exact location of lead beneath the ground is proprietary information, it appears that the largest deposits are situated in the most pristine area of Missouri, called the Big Springs region. This region is centered on the Eleven Point, Current and Jack's Fork rivers, all of which are federally protected and geologically unique. Big Springs, with the largest spring in North America and a dozen other massive springs, is fed by an intricate network of underground waterways. While the EA claims that this water is not coming from beneath the exploration area, most research supports the opposite conclusion—the proposed exploration sites lie at the heart of an intense aquifer.

## History of Exploitation

The destructive history of lead mining in this area is a long and sad one. Citizens in the town of Herculeaneum suffer from the consequences of a

health activists are joining with environmentalists to stop the lead poisoning. Rachel's Hazardous Waste News sums up our predicament:

"In sum, if you mine lead out of the ground it will eventually spread into the environment. It will get into soil, then into food and water. Eventually it will get into humans (not to mention wildlife), where it will take its toll on health. This is inevitable. The only way to avoid this outcome is to stop mining lead out of the deep earth. Zero discharge."

Even though it is on the back burner of public consciousness, lead, a toxic substance and a known carcinogen, presents major environmental and health problem. It can affect the central nervous system, kidneys, liver and the hemoglobin synthesis process. It can be fatal, especially to children and small animals.

Nonetheless, the lead industry lobbies against legislation restricting the lead business. Falsified industry studies claim that lead is not poisonous and that children inclined to eat lead or put it in their mouths were brain damaged to begin with. In another effort, the lead industry tried to pass a law requiring the use of lead-based paint in all government operations, including public housing, before yielding to regulation.

## DOE RUN WAS FINED \$300,000 SEVERAL YEARS AGO FOR... AFFIXING "RECYCLABLE" LABELS OVER ONES READING "HAZARDOUS WASTE."

the Ozark mountains. The Doe Run and ASARCO mining companies extract nearly 85 percent of the lead used in this country from Missouri. They leave behind watersheds too full of waste to be fishable, poisoned communities that voluntarily evacuate and mounds of toxic slag that continue to pollute the northern Ozarks.

## More Victories

A second victory for environmentalists came in mid June when two reports were released. A Sierra Club report listed the 500+ violations of the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Safe Drinking Water Act and Resource Conservation and

Recovery Act by the two companies over the past ten years. The second study by the Missouri Department of Health documented significant links between lead poisoning and lead mining in rural Missouri, thus holding the companies culpable.

The environmental assessment (EA) released by the US Forest Service, on the other hand, claims that lead exploration is safe. It followed typical Forest Service logic by beginning with a conclusion (i.e., exploration for lead is not bad for the forest) and working backward to prove the statement. For example, according to the EA, black bears will benefit from mining exploration as small openings within a closed canopy will create blackberry patches. And, though the Missouri Ozarks are among the few places with healthy songbird populations, the Forest Service believes further fragmentation through exploration is acceptable. Endemic and endangered Ozark cave fish are not even mentioned in the EA.

## History of Exploration

Both Doe Run and ASARCO expect lead reserves to run dry in the next

smelter that spews poisons into their airshed and have recently filed a lawsuit charging Doe Run with lowering property values. The company was fined \$300,000 several years ago for, among other things, affixing "recyclable" labels over ones reading "hazardous waste." Workers in Cherryville, Missouri really believed they were cleaning railcars used for transporting rock, when later it was determined that the cars had actually contained hazardous waste. For years this toxic mining waste was used for fill for an area used as a playground.

Citizen groups are expanding their decade-long resistance against ASARCO and Doe Run. Public

## Industrial Society and National Defense

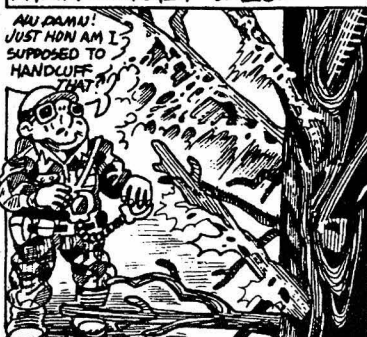
Today, 90 percent of mined lead is utilized for lead acid storage batteries in combustion engines. Fortunately, batteries are easily recycled. Unfortunately, car use worldwide, including in the US, is growing. Lead is used in the chemical industry, medical processes and in the manufacture of pipe, weights, glass and china. It is considered essential to our industrial society and for national defense. The lead industry recently proposed adding lead to asphalt, a move which would further spread lead into the environment. Despite its removal from gasoline and paint in the late 1960s, demand for lead is growing. At this rate, the market will not reduce the use of lead because the industry keeps creating new uses for it.



RECENTLY SEVERAL TIMBER SALES WERE TEMPORARILY HALTED WHEN A RARE SLUG, THE BLUE GREY TRAIL DROPPER, WAS DISCOVERED EXERCISING CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE INSIDE THE FOREST'S FEDERAL CLOSURE ZONE.



THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT WAS ALSO FORCED TO CANCEL A WHOLESALE TIMBER AUCTION WHEN A RARE LICHEN, NEPHROMA OCCULTUM, WAS CAUGHT TREE SITTING IN SEVERAL "SAMPLE" TREES CUT TO DETERMINE THEIR MARKET VALUE.



FROM RARE MICE BLOCKING COASTAL CALIFORNIA DEVELOPMENTS TO SMALL FISH HALTING MIGHTY DAMS, THE "INCIDENTAL TAKE" HAVE TAKEN TO THE FOREST FRONTLINES OF CASCADIA.



TODAY CASCADIA FOREST INDUSTRIES CONTINUES THE MISSION OF ITS CORPORATE CHARTER TO SALVAGE OUR LAST ANCIENT FORESTS FROM THE "SALVAGE RIDER" TIMBER SALES.



OUR LICHEN TASK FORCE FORMS IMAGES OF ELVIS OR THE VIRGIN MARY UPON MARKED TREES TO PREY UPON LOGGER SUPERSTITIONS.



CASCADIA FOREST INDUSTRIES ALSO USES FEDERAL LOGGING ROAD SUBSIDIES TO KEEP WORKING RARE SLUGS AND THEIR FAMILIES BUSY BUILDING SLIME TRAILS.



C.F.I. MELTS CORPORATE VAMPIRES, USING PURE WATER FROM UNCOMPROMISED WATERSHEDS FREE OF SILT FROM LAWLESS LOGGING.



SADLY, REAL WORLD REALITIES AGAIN SWALLOW ANOTHER GLORIOUS ACTIVIST DREAM...





# COVE / MALLARD RESISTANCE

*continued from front page*

pile on fire. It took them three tries to start a sad fire that ultimately sputtered out on its own. They drove off and ignited a firecracker a while later.

Two days later, Monty Haight came to visit. Monty used to be a security guard for the roadbuilder. He's infamous for firing shots and threatening to kill people at the "dirty pagan" action in '95. He's also facing domestic violence charges... swell guy. After locating our watch person at the front gate, he and an accomplice fired off a number of rounds. Our watch person didn't hang around long enough to find out if the bullets were actually aimed at him.

Later that week, a drunken logger pulled up to the gate, bellowing, "You chickenshits come down and talk." After awhile, the bellowing stopped. An investigation soon revealed that he was pickled unconscious in the cab of the logging foreman's truck, which he'd borrowed for the occasion. Eventually, the cops came and took him home. We are continually overwhelmed by the dexterity and strategic savvy of our opponents. Nevertheless, we persist.

All in all, it was a hectic week. Along with the local welcome wagons, the Freddie's came by nearly every day to use their cameras, warn us that the 14-day camping limit was long overdue and generally look intimidating. It's worth noting that, within minutes of the attempted slash pile arson, a law enforcement officer named Peter Dean pulled up, claiming he just happened to be in the area. Peter Dean is the same Freddie who took a chainsaw to a tripod with a person in it when Jack Squat was busted last year. Don't let the long hair fool you; this guy is a jerk.

Meanwhile, the summer waxed and waned. The blockade itself only waxed, though. Another bipod sprouted from the roadway right behind the two tripods and snatched an activist right off the ground in a tangle of cables that effectively prevented any heavy machinery from coming in from behind. Oh, my God! Codependent bipod triplets! The first anywhere, and it's impossible to take the third bipod down without endangering the tripods, etc., etc.

This blockade was largely carried out by a strong contingent of the Rainbow Family of Love and Light. That's right, we're talking Rainbows on security; Rainbows locked down on an ugly and illegitimate roadway on the edge of the Big Wild. Laugh if you wish, but the Rainbows were here; EFlers were not.

To top it all off, mining claims have been filed in the headwaters of Controversy Creek in or near the Jack sale. Not a single unit of the sale has been cut, and already some yahoo has a claim to mine quartz in here, presumably for gold extraction. Basic remedial quiz: "What's the problem with roads into roadless areas?"

The Jack Road is in sad shape, mostly because it's a shabby piece of roadbuilding. It's slumping and sliding into Controversy Creek. One more winter, and Mama will take this road out surer than anything.

During the predawn hours of September 17, the blockade was rudely awakened by camouflaged super Freddie's wielding high-powered flashlights and large guns. The support crew was rounded up on the hillside, and, after allowing us to get our kitchen supplies off the road, a closure was issued. Daylight brought about 30 cops, a boom-truck cherry-picker, an excavator, a timber cabling expert and Nez Perce National Forest smoke jumpers.

After clearing the first few obstacles, the excavator could go no further because a concrete-filled, 55-gallon barrel with a locking device (a "dragon") was buried in the road with a person attached to it. Blazing chainsaws began the tedious task of chewing apart the main slash pile which, to the chagrin of the chainsaws and their operators, was supercharged with yarn, nails, wire and various other saw-unfriendly additives. Several saws left that encounter in far worse shape than they came in (hee, hee). After hours and hours of cutting and moving slash, they were finally faced with the prospect of removing the dragon and its occupant—a task that ultimately took two and a half hours with an industrial mining drill.

During the rock drilling operation, two federal cops climbed ladders onto the vertical-culvert,

"Dragon's Roost." To their dismay, they found that someone was also locked down to the culvert. The feds used a diamond grinder to make a window into the Roost. Then they pulled out some rocks, unclipped the rooster and carried him off.

The cops dealt with the first bipod around 2:00 p.m. Their original insane plan of cutting and reconnecting cables was foiled by the sitter who U-locked his neck to the front support cable. After yet another confused cop huddle, an excavator was used to build a new 30-foot section of road. This allowed the cherry picker to move in. The cops eventually cut the lock and carted "Chipmunk" off to join his fellow forest defenders, dragging him for almost 200 feet by the bandanna around his neck.

The feds then started the most dangerous and crazed part of their determined efforts on the second bipod. The first problem they faced was that the first bipod was connected to the second, and thus directly in their way. The bipod's occupant, "Echo," was locked down around both legs of the structure, under the supporting cables. Apparently this was not enough to discourage a mob of pre-programmed timber thugs with machines and guns. They simply (just try and picture this, please) used the cable connecting the two bipods to support Echo's (a task for which it was not intended), cut both of her support cables, sawed off the top of the pod (holy shit), and plucked her body from her perch—a series of maneuvers that would make anyone's hair turn white.

Having disposed of the first four structures and superficially repairing the road, they tackled the double tripods and the final bipod. Unfortunately, one tripod was not occupied. Fortunately, it was positioned in such a way that it could not be tampered with without killing "Millhouse" in the last pod, so (surprise, surprise!) they built yet another circumventing road. Unfortunately for them, the third bipod was a scant few feet taller than the others (practice makes perfect), and Millhouse was able to position himself, death defyingly, just out of reach. The boom truck went up, then came down, then up, then down and a new gaggle of cops gathered to try and figure it out.

When the sun had long set, Millhouse, who had no gear, agreed to come down. The exhausted cops left with their prisoners immediately thereafter, not bothering to enforce the closure order and leaving all their Subway wrappers for us to clean up.

Through the 20 hours of craziness, activists stood by shouting support for the lockdowns and warnings to the cops. There is power in people willing to put their lives on the line for their beliefs. Amazement and tears were even seen on the faces of some of the people from the "other side."

The High Jack bust seems to have been the spark that ignited the hearts of people around the area. The "High Jack Five" were the first of 15 arrests in 15 days. On Sept. 18, a tripod appeared on the University of Montana campus in solidarity with the activists blocking illegal logging. Four days later two huge banners in support of Cove/Mallard appeared on highway overpasses in Boise, Idaho. Later that day, two activists locked themselves to the doors of Boise's federal building stating that if the federal government wouldn't do their jobs then they should take the day off. Two nights after that, another tripod sprouted out of the Jack Road and a brave woman perched on it high above the road. The shocked Forest Service took all day to show up with their cherry picker.

A week later, despite heavy security by both Shearer Lumber and the Freddie's, another tripod managed to sprout up in the road, hoisting a brave guy named Huckleberry and a lockbox. Additionally, a hammock was hung on a traverse line between the legs of the tripod. Inside this hammock

were two folks with their necks U-locked together, hanging 20 feet above the road. It took the feds eight hours, several tree climbers, a cherry picker and some very risky tactics, including cutting apart "Huckleberry's" tripod while he was locked to two of the poles, to break the blockade.

That same week in Missoula, there were several lock downs at the federal building and a tripod was erected. Support from the local community in the form of housing, food donations and positive media have kept the campaign going.

Despite the successes of this summer, incredible destruction has occurred. The cutting has been slowed but not stopped. With more help from activists in the field, the Noble timber sale could have been stalled, but it was cut and burned. The trucks and feller buncher have moved into the Jack timber sale. The Forest Service has thus far put in at least 25 miles of their 145 miles of planned roads. There are six of nine sales that have yet to be touched. If they finish cutting Jack Road they will go deeper and deeper into the wilderness. Resistance continues!

The Big Wild needs your help! We desperately need donations of gear (especially climbing), cash and most importantly, you, to help defend this large, intact ecosystem. Please send help and your constructive ideas to the Cove/Mallard Coalition, POB 8968, Moscow, ID 83843; (208) 882-9755; cove@moscow.com and the Northern Rockies Preservation Project at POB 625, Boise, ID 83701; (208) 345-8077.

So, is Cove/Mallard a lost cause? Look, frybread, it was always a lost cause. It's still a lost cause, despite the fact that it was supposed to be finished this summer, and they've only cut two of nine sales.

PS—Hey kids! Be the first on your block to get the latest Cove/Mallard video "Road Use Restricted," detailing the highlights and low lives of the '96 Jack Squat blockade. Don't delay; get it today!

Grumblesocks, Chipmunk, Monkey Boy, Zan, C. Hellebore, Gary and Jeremy contributed to this article.



photo by Joe Petrelli

On September 30, the Environmental Action Community and 30 protesters erected a tripod on the lawn of the Missoula Federal Building, home to Region 1 Forest Supervisor Hal Salwasser, as a farewell reminder that he won't be missed when he leaves at the end of October. Three activists locked their necks to the doors and railings of the front entrance. Two others locked down to the tripod, one at the base and one at the apex. Banners demanding the protection of Cove/Mallard immediately replaced the Forest Service signs.

The tripod was staffed with activists 24 hours a day. It stood for ten days and only came down after another spectacular action.

Missoula activists had immense success with an outreach program that has resulted in nearly 2,000 signatures from people passing by the tripod. On October 3, an urban Critical Mass bicycle ride numbering 250 people passed by the Federal Building, chanting its support. Media coverage was widespread, and appearances by the Indigo Girls and Winona LaDuke boosted exposure.



# Armed With Visions

CLEAR AS CUT GLASS

AND JUST AS DANGEROUS

## Cappuccino Imperiale

Hey! So how's that  
Cappuccino Imperiale  
you're drinking?  
Can you taste the blood?  
The DDT?  
How's your sperm count?

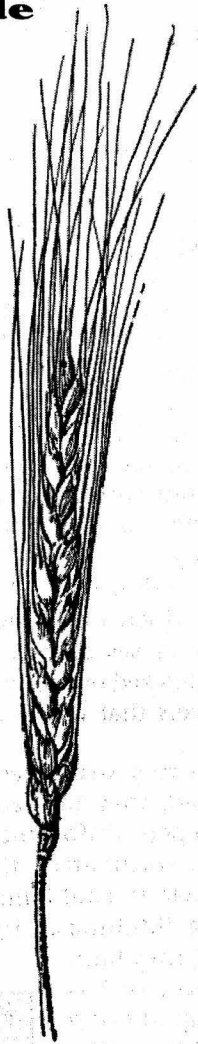
Too bad about the Jaguar—  
No, not your car. . .  
... the one that's gone extinct!  
and how's your kid?  
Is he recovering  
from that bullet in his belly  
shot from the mote  
of the dictator propping  
dictator prompting  
school budget ravaging  
Pentagon Eye of Horus?

Huh?  
What am i talking about?  
No No No, hah!  
Imperialism is NOT  
a margarine. . .

It's just the way  
you get yourself going. . .

... every morning

—Andy Caffrey



## Plug in or Die

China Electrified  
The Great Three Gorges  
Choked  
With Megadambutplug.

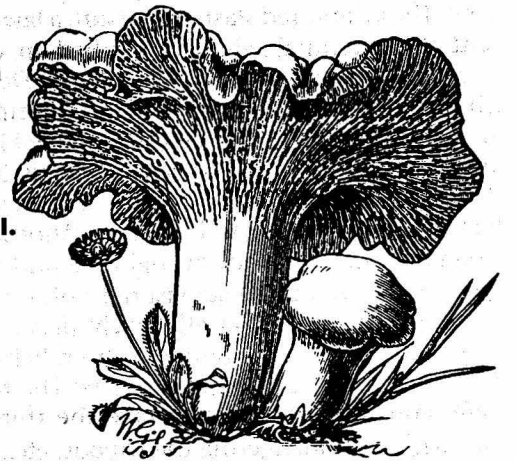
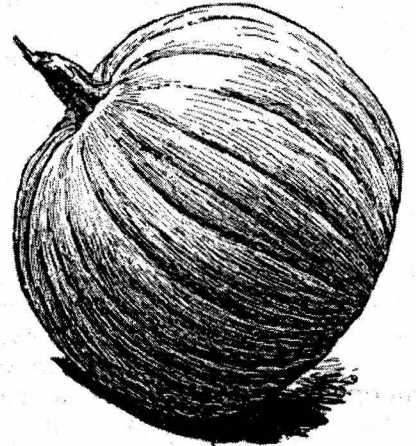
Plug in or Die

Ancient masterpieces  
Drowned in muck  
Millions displaced  
Rural throngs sucked  
Into CocofastfoodPrepackagedMicrowaveGESupervideoConsumerland

Plug in or Die

Driven off the land.  
The sacred, rooted all-providing Earth  
Into the city of concrete tendon  
and wire vein  
Where electrocornsyrup culture  
Will help them forget.  
Open the floodgates of corporate Hell.

—Randal Restless



## The Ghost Dance Lamentation

The prairie wind ruffles grass in the buffalo wallow,  
the wind's lonely susseration speaks of an emptiness here

Defined by an absence of the one who should be present,  
the creator of these sacred hallows

Which dot those prairie parcels which have  
escaped the killing bite of plow

A luminous white figure dances under a prairie moon to  
a pristine form ruled by the lord of the prairie beasts

The spirit of the dancer implores us to don the Ghost  
Shirt and take up the mystic quest

and roll back the suppurating sores which plague the flesh  
of these plains, animal feed lots for capital gains

and to roll over the chemical farms which poison the ground  
water, the grassland's life blood

and to roll back the chemical farmer, that sharecropper to  
the mortgage holder, a squatter defined only by his debts

these usurpers of prairie dog towns, home to ferrets, foxes,  
burrowing owls, all gone because of poisons and the plow

to insist that the sharecropper pay respect to what nature  
made and to go organic or just go

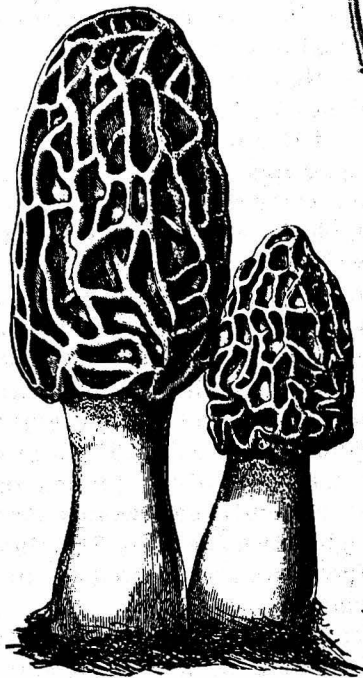
we must don the Ghost Dance Shirt and arm ourselves with  
its vision, but this time add the lance

to bring back lord buffalo and his entourage, his friends  
the elk, bighorn sheep, antelope, wolf and bear

To alter not the sacred symbols of the shirt,  
but add our warcry and our creed

no fucking compromise

— Sid Bridges



## BLOCKADER

Blockader  
Show 'em what you're made 'o  
Though every greenie-hater  
Treats you like a traitor.

Blockade!  
The 'dozers are on a crusade,  
Let 'em see you're not afraid -  
Thou shalt not wilt or fade.

That's the way:  
Sit in the trees all night and all day,  
Be buried up to your necks in clay,  
Throw the chainsaws into the bay.

So blockade,  
It's the greenies' noble trade  
Be it a candle-light parade  
Or a monkeywrenching raid.

Stockade:  
Stay put, do not be swayed;  
Bring padlock, spike and spade  
When you come to the blockade.

So stand up for the forest,  
Are you 'gainst us or are you for us?  
Where the chainsaws gash and gore us  
How I love to hear the chorus  
Blockade!

—"Blockader"  
from visitors book  
blockade site  
Cape Tribulation  
North Queensland  
November 1986

Send Poems to:  
Warrior Poets Society  
ASUC Box 361, Berkeley, CA 94720-4510







# “GLEN CANYON DAM DESTROYED”

BY LESLIE CALL

*Glen Canyon*, copyright 1997, 645 pages, \$28.95, ISBN 0-9655125-0-9, Library of Congress Catalogue Card No. 96-78757, published by Kokopelli Books, Denver, CO. By Steven Hannon

It was the ardent wish of Seldom Seen Smith in Edward Abbey's *The Monkey Wrench Gang* for Glen Canyon Dam to be destroyed. For those who share Mr. Smith's prayer, *Glen Canyon* is a must read; for those simply looking for a good adventure story, *Glen Canyon* provides hours of entertainment. The novel opens with three views of Glen Canyon: one from the 13th century, another from Major Powell's exploration in 1869 and finally one from 1983 after the dam was in place. In 13th century Glen Canyon, we gain a glimpse into the lives of the inhabitants fortunate enough to know it in its pristine state. The diary of Major Powell's exploration of the canyon in 1869 describes his awe of the place and tells how some of its features were named. In the third scene, based on a 1983 incident, heavy rain and melting snow force the Bureau of Reclamation to use Glen Canyon Dam's spillways for the first time, causing massive damage.

The next chapter is present day. A chance encounter between a group of friends, a Ukrainian and a Hopi Indian leads to a plan to obtain a Soviet nuclear weapon to obliterate the dam and drain the reservoir. The characters' motivations to carry out this dangerous, not to mention illegal, operation are explained as they each deliberate on their situation in life. This novel is not a blatant attack on

corporate America. Rather, each character brings their own reasons for wanting to detonate a nuclear bomb behind the dam. They not only want to restore the beautiful canyon and the ecosystem downriver, they want to bring to light the threat of a nuclear explosion now that the security of the Soviet nuclear arsenal is in question. Current ethnic tensions in the world make the threat of a black market nuclear device being used by one ethnic group against another a very real possibility.

The characters' scheme turns foul, as does the weather. Heavy snows, storms and a hurricane form a huge flood bearing down on Glen Canyon Dam. Who will win—nature, the bomb or the dam? In an exciting conclusion, the dam's destiny unfolds, involving government agencies, the press and the President of the United States, among others.

*Glen Canyon* is not a light read. It contains a lot of information about weather, tools, nuclear bomb construction and detonation devices, and dam construction and repair. The action moves quickly in spite of the large amount of technical information, which will be boring to some but intriguing to others. *Glen Canyon* contains 60 photographs, including some of the canyon before the dam was built and many of the damage repair in 1983. These help



illustrate the detailed information. Maps and diagrams are also included along with illustrated chapter openings.

*Glen Canyon* is a wake up call to the fact that well-meaning, highly placed, intelligent individuals could resort to direct action. The characters in *Glen Canyon* are not backwoods militia scheming against the government; they are very careful to consider the implications of their actions and try to thwart any danger to the public. The Glen Canyon Dam flooded thousands of acres of delicate slot canyons that few people even knew existed. It is hard not to want to restore such breathtaking beauty, knowing where the money, water and power generated by the dam go.

Although remote today, the Lake Powell area was even more remote in the late 1950s and early '60s when the dam was built. Hiking, biking and rafting were not popular sports then, and very few people ever saw Glen Canyon. Those that did remember it as a paradise, a fragile, gentle Eden of red rock with desert varnish and abundant foliage in the intimate side canyons and along the broad, flat river. Soon after the dam was built, the Sierra Club published a photograph book of Glen Canyon, *The Place No One Knew*, to document the beauty that was drowned.

In light of the current intense El Niño, recently discovered missing Russian nuclear weapons and the hearing on draining Lake Powell, the possibility of a real *Glen Canyon* is most interesting.

Steven Hannon, the *Glen Canyon* author, is a Denver resident and former water rights attorney. He has an engineering degree from the University of California at Berkeley.

If you can't find *Glen Canyon* at your local bookstore, you can order it directly from the distributor, BookMasters, at (800) 247-6553; e-mail: [order@bookmasters.com](mailto:order@bookmasters.com). The publisher, Kokopelli Books, is donating a portion of the proceeds from the sale of *Glen Canyon* toward efforts to designate the full 5.7-million-acre Redrocks Wilderness (Senate Bill #1500).

## MOVIE REVIEW FOR MEN

BY MICK GARVIN

During a recent moment of unemployment, me and the missus decided we'd take in a matinee picture show. Hearing that Steven Segal was in a movie playing a butt-kickin' Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Marshal and with us having some free passes (so's not to be wastin' beer money on frivolous, lightweight pleasure), we made our way down to the mall. After a couple of Hamm's 40s and some of the McKenzie's better agricultural product out in the parking lot, we felt our loins were sufficiently girded and went in to the theater. We wandered aimlessly until security started to follow us and then found some seats for "Fire Down Below."

The story goes something like this: Someone is dumping toxic waste somewhere in backwoods Kentucky, which is not only causing the kids to get sick and break out in rashes, but is ruining the fishing and turning the local maryjewanna crop a very dark (and unmarketable) brown. But these are tough and tight-lipped folks (plus they're being paid off), so they tell the kids to shut up and life goes on, until an anonymous letter brings in the federales. After someone knocks off two G-men in the donut shop parking lot, a couple dozen 55-gallon drums of toxic goo are dropped from a helicopter onto a snoopy EPA Marshal. While the FBI historically has no sense of retribution or follow-through, the EPA won't take this kind of treatment and, better,

the dead fed's partner is Mr. Segal. The upper ranks send him to get to the bottom of all this.

Steven blends into the Appalachia woodwork by keeping his hair slicked back into a flawless ponytail and showing interesting taste in shirts. He moves into the house of the local preacher and volunteers his services as a free handyman (and snoop) to the town. The town is divided into good folks ("just scared fer the kids") and several subgroups of thugs, yahoos and hayseed cops who serve as punching bags for Segal when the audience begins to wander. The only mystery is why it takes the townsfolk, and even the bad guys, so long to finger Segal as a fed, and then why they still tolerate him.

So does the EPA kick butt? What? Are you stoopid? This is a Steven Segal movie, not a fantasy! The courts slap the heavy on the wrist. "I made \$300 million this year and it only cost me \$50,000," growls affable corporate sleaze Kris Kristofferson, as he heads back to his swank casino near the end of the flick.

But Steve? Does he mop the floor with the eco-villains? Hey, does Weyerhaeuser suck? The fight choreography is impressive, and Steve manages to be stiff, wooden and fast in an incredible acting stretch. He does a mean "Al Gore-meets-Don-Corleone" impression, scams sensitively on an abused woman and delivers a nice, simple sermon to the townsfolk about why rich folks and toxic corporations are bad and should be shunned when his cover as Peace Corps carpenter is blown. As sermons go, this beats the

pants off the drool at the end of Segal's last eco-dude epic, "On Deadly Ground," wherein he saved the wild Arctic by blowing the hell out of a major coastal oil platform and refinery. This time, the drums of waste are extracted more or less intact, despite massive explosions during one of the evildoers frequent abortive attempts to rid themselves of the pesky fed. Yes, "Fire Down Below" is definitely formula with thought. In a show of sensitivity to regional stereotyping, the script writers avoided the backwoods father-daughter incest cliché and opted for the brother-sister thing. And, in a surprise ending sure to send shivers through the white, homophobic target audience, the usual spectacular and gruesome demise of the lead villain is replaced by Segal's gleeful prediction of Kristofferson's future love life in the arms of Steve's large, gay (and implied, black) convict pen-pal. Kristofferson gets upset with these prospects and kills a few more federales, but Steve is too tickled with his matchmaking to allow the bad guy to escape this life; instead Segal cripples him deliberately.

Scary is the likelihood that eco-akido will next be used to rescue the forest. Well, maybe I'd pony up to see a Segal-Hurwitz Texas Death Cage match. Hey, Steve...

Anyway, save your money, rent "Clearcut" and wait for someone to make a movie of Niel Stephenson's *Zodiac*.

On the Mickey's Scale, "Fire Down Below" needs about 4 Bignmouths.



# All the Announcements We Got (that we liked...)

## WILD ROCKIES WINTER • 1997-98

### ATTENTION SNOW RANGERS!

The winter of 1997-98 promises to be an eventful one in the Big Wild. El Niño notwithstanding, if you are an activist more intimate with skiing and snowshoeing than hibernation, the wildlands of Idaho, Montana and Wyoming might be the place for you this season. The corporate beast slows very little for the High Country cold season, and we'll need all the help we can get. Two very prominent field campaigns are already underway in earnest; they will continue late into the spring of 1998.

### COVE/MALLARD

The campaign to defend this crucial biological corridor from the machines will be a busy one during the dark, cold months. Activists have begun a permanent operation in the Cove and Mallard roadless areas, and activities this season may well spill over into other national forests as well. Video documentation, industry watch dogging, biological surveys for threatened forest carnivores (wolf, lynx, wolverine, etc.), stream-sedimentation/road-collapse monitoring, forest-watch expeditions and direct action will characterize our efforts in Idaho. For more information contact the Cove/Mallard Coalition, POB 8968, Moscow, ID 83843; phone (208) 882-9755; email: cove@moscow.com; or the Northern Rockies Preservation Project in Boise, ID at (208) 345-8077.

### BUFFALO NATIONS

It's official, Buffalo Nations has just opened their second office in West Yellowstone. Four buffalo bulls have crossed out of the park boundary and could be in trouble soon. We have tried to haze them back to the park, but they keep coming back out.

With all of the winter chores, gathering 12 cords of wood, canning food, setting up a teepee for a field camp, and winterizing the cabin, there's not much time to watch over the buffalo. That's right, we need more people ASAP! We offer free food and lodging for activists that care enough to help.

Yellowstone is one of the most beautiful places in the world and if you have never seen it now is your big chance! Remember, West Yellowstone is more often than not the coldest town in the lower 48 states (don't let that scare you, we are great fire builders). Bring all your warm clothes and a winter sleeping bag. We also encourage people to bring snowshoes and/or cross-country skis to help patrol the borders of the park. If this sounds like a winter dream vacation to you, please contact Mike or Jeremy at POB 957, West Yellowstone, MT 59758; (406) 646-0070; fax: 646-0071; e-mail: buffalo@wildrockies.org; and Buffalo Nations at POB 242, Gardiner, MT 59030; (406) 848-9867; email: buffalo@wildrockies.org.

### BOZEMAN CONFERENCE

Both campaigns are in serious need of communications people and equipment, warm clothing, cash, food and medicines/first-aid kits, video support and equipment, media and outreach support, office people and equipment, photographers, homesteading and repair tools, batteries, solar power equipment, snowmobiles and trailer, cross-country/telemark skis, snowshoes, wall tents, wood stoves for wall tents, propane heaters, binoculars, cooking gear, chainsaws, cots, winter sleeping bags, tarps, video tapes (for dubs), supplies for building fence and financial assistance. All donations are tax deductible. Last winter the state of Montana killed 1100 of the last wild buffalo in the United States. It's up to all of us to not let this ever happen again.

The 1998 Organizer's Conference and Winter Rendezvous (Activist Conference) will be held in Bozeman, Montana February 12-16; the primary motive for the location is to encourage activists from outside the bioregion to spend all or part of the season linking their efforts and talents with Wild Rockies Winter. (Look for more detailed information regarding the conference in the next issue of the *EF! Journal*.)

## June 1 Defense Fund

On June 1, there was a tree-sit/turned riot over the removal of 40 large maple, sweet gum and walnut trees in downtown Eugene, Oregon. What began as a simple, nonviolent protest resulted in the police pepper spraying and torturing the treesitters and then turning on the citizenry who had gathered to witness the removal of the trees. The police used dozens of cans of pepper spray on the protesters and the public. They also deployed tear gas on the crowd.

Amnesty International has recognized the event as an incident of torture and police brutality, sending the police chief a letter citing four violations of international law.

Twenty-two people were arrested that day and given charges that ranged from trespassing to assaulting a police officer. A defense fund has been established to help with criminal defense and a civil suit. Donations can be sent to the law offices of Bahr & Stotter at 259 East Fifth Ave., Eugene, Oregon 97401. Checks should be earmarked "June 1 Defense Fund."

## Eco-Internship Available

The Southwest Center for Biological Diversity, an aggressive, science-based environmental advocacy organization, seeks interns for minimum six-month commitment to assist in researching and preparing challenges to Forest Service and BLM projects, and one intern to assist in general clerical office work (70 percent) and some research (30 percent). Send resume with references to Peter Galvin at the Southwest Center for Biological Diversity, POB 710, Tucson, AZ 85702.

## Environment Culture • Religion

In the last two decades, awareness of local, national and international environmental problems has been increasing. The significance of environmental problems has led to a growing academic interest in human understanding of the natural environment. At the same time, there is increasing awareness that such an understanding cannot necessarily be expressed in exclusively secular terms.

A new journal, *Worldviews: Environment, Culture, Religion*, will address some of the issues environmental awareness raises such as:

- How do different religions and cultures interpret the environment?
- What is the role of religion in environmental discourse?
- Are some cultural traditions "better" for the environment than others?
- Is a "deep green" ecotheology possible?

*Worldviews: Environment, Culture, Religion* will not adopt a particular cultural or religious stance, but will welcome coherently argued contributions from within or without the major religious faiths. It will also explore the religious dimensions of contemporary environmental movements and publish anthropological studies that illustrate the ways in which different belief systems influence environmental perceptions and can thus contribute to the preservation or destruction of nature.

To subscribe, send \$50 for one year or \$75 for two (3 issues/year) to The White Horse Press 1 Strond, Isle of Harris, HS5 3UD, UK; fax: 0(+44)1859 520 204; e-mail: aj@erica.demon.co.uk.

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## Fund for Wild Nature

A non-profit, tax-exempt foundation which funds research, education and literature projects. Funding proposals and donations can be sent to:

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A GUIDE TO COMPOSTING HUMAN MANURE  
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"Finally we have a comprehensive book on recycling human excrement without chemicals, high technology, or pollution. Well written, practical, and thoroughly researched. . . " (Whole Earth Review)



"This book answers every question anyone could have about managing a compost toilet and compost pile." (Waterworks)

"Jenkins provides a convincing case that human waste can and should be a safe composting material." (Mother Earth News)

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"... outrageous humor and brilliant, diligent research. This is one book that could save the world!" (Permaculture Drylands Journal)

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# NO! SHOPPING DAY

Also known as "Buy Nothing Day," "No Shopping Day" is a celebration of life free from the need to consume. The event is usually held on the day after Thanksgiving Day in the US, the biggest shopping day on the planet. Below is a list of suggested activities for your No Shopping Day (NSD).

Doing an NSD action doesn't have to involve being a militant urban eco-warrior. The only provision we make is that it's completely pointless doing an action that targets the public as if they alone are responsible for the problem (e.g. blockading the doors of a big supermarket)... If you make people feel you're blaming them, they won't listen. If you can make them laugh, they will. Although the issues are serious, humor works!

Here's a list of ideas for actions, some old, some new...

**SHOPPING FREE ZONES:** Mark out a public area, and fill it with... people playing chess, games, making X-mas cards or generally lounging about. Hand out "I don't want to shop" or "money can't buy you happiness" balloons.

**SELLING HAPPINESS:** Throw together your own product... 5 bags of love or friendship, etc. and try and sell it.

**RAT RACES:** Acquire some miserable looking rat masks and a big cardboard box on a pole. Each side of the box has an arrow pointing to the next, with the words "Happiness is Just Around the Corner" above it. Then, in sequence, words to the effect of... "Work Harder;" "Earn More Money;" "Buy More Things."

**RUBBISH:** Anything linked to this... a huge pile of one person's annual supply of landfill junk... a pile of packaging returned to the shop of origin... the contents of a landfill returned to the local shopping center... a "Chinese dragon/dinosaur" made from garbage.

**BRING AND TAKE BOOTH:** Pretty self explanatory, really... as long as it's nice and public. The idea of giving away what you no longer want for free really gets people going.

**STREET THEATRE:** Slightly more ambitious, this, but bear in mind that it's worth approaching local (radical?) street theatre groups to see if they're willing to have a go, do something, help, etc. Same applies to local art students for props etc. Here's a quick brainstorm for street theatre ideas...

- bewildered alien tourists
- the happiness police ("Under the Market Forces Act, I must warn you to look more contented with your purchase otherwise I shall be obliged to ask you to accompany me to the station.")

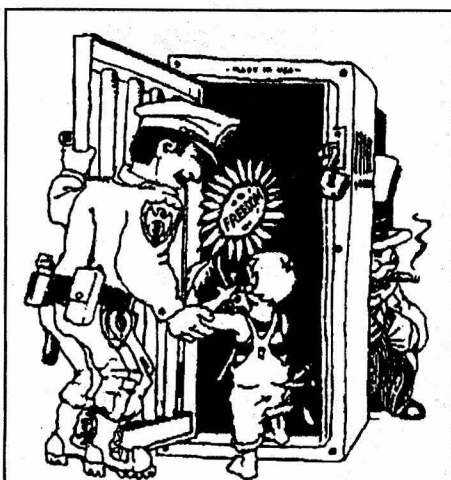
- mad/competing shoppers
- a cult devoted to consumption worshipping at a portable altar ("There now follows a reading from the sacred Innovations Catalog.")
- sad Santas
- dead-eyed, slack-jawed zombies with big bar codes on their foreheads pushing shopping carts around. How about offering to rubber stamp people's heads with a bar code outside the shopping center—for security purposes?
- stage a slave market (the ultimate product?)
- tattoo company logos on foreheads
- consumer junkies injecting themselves with bigger, better, brighter, shinier, softer, etc. hypodermic needles
- officials warning people the town center is closed because we've finally run out of everything
- the Earth for sale
- stall selling slave wage products for the amount people are paid to produce them
- a puke-in at a suitable fast food outlet
- ads blackout
- organize a tree planting

Tell other people about the event. Put up posters, use community calendars, websites and radio spots.

To help organizers posters have been produced, to get one e-mail NSD at [ethicon@mcr1.poptel.org.uk](mailto:ethicon@mcr1.poptel.org.uk).

If you want to get involved in a NSD action, be a local contact. Being a local contact doesn't imply that you have to actually organize the event... but someone does need to set up an initial meeting, be a point of contact, etc.

If you want to be contact, send us your contact information ASAP to [Enough@ethicon@mcr1.poptel.org.uk](mailto:Enough@ethicon@mcr1.poptel.org.uk).



*"We better keep that in a safe place."*

**LIVE WILD OR DIE**  
2425 B CHANNING WAY, Box 204  
SATHER GATE MALL  
BERKELEY, CA 94704

## END CORPORATE DOMINANCE IN NOVEMBER

Since we didn't exactly bring corporate culture to its knees in October, the official End Corporate Dominance (ECD) month has been extended into November. The Portland riff raff, for example, are hosting an ECD shindig on November 24 when corporate watchdogs will gather to march, dance, party, act and hellraise their way through town, stopping to recruit accomplices at the offices of Boise-Cascade, Nike, the Mexican consulate, the business district and everywhere in between. Wear your costumes! Bring a musical instrument! Go naked if you like! Meet at 11:30 a.m. at Waterford Park.

We encourage groups across the world to join us in telling corporate sleaze that we're no longer playing defense. Call Cascadia Forest Alliance for more details at (503) 241-4879.

## Zapatista Videos Available

The Zapatista Direct Solidarity Committee in Montreal has two videos available for sale. Profits from sales go towards direct solidarity work with Zapatista communities.

*Zapatista Women* is about the indigenous women soldiers of the EZLN. It includes interviews with several insurgents in which they tell about the conditions that indigenous Mexican women live in, how they came to be in the EZLN and what they are fighting for. Produced in 1994, in Spanish with English subtitles (30 minutes).

*Marcos: Words & History* is a long and interesting interview with the military chief and spokesperson of the EZLN, Subcommander Marcos. In this he describes in detail the history of the EZLN; its founding, development and growth, relationship to the indigenous communities and the events relating to the January 1, 1994, insurrection. He also discusses in detail the events since the uprising, the National Democratic Convention, Mexican military offensive and the national "Consulta." He also discusses his views of the left (including anarchism). Produced in 1995, in Spanish with English subtitles (90 minutes).

Each video is \$20 US or Canadian with shipping included. For both videos on one cassette, the cost is \$25 (discounts or trades are possible for other solidarity or activists groups). Make out a money order to "LIBRAIRIE ALTERNATIVE" (not the committee) and mail to the Zapatista Direct Solidarity Committee, 2035 St. Laurent, 2nd floor, Montreal, QC H2X-2T3 Canada; (514) 844-3207 (after 6 p.m.); e-mail: [james\\_dumaine@babylon.montreal.qc.ca](mailto:james_dumaine@babylon.montreal.qc.ca).

## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ACTION FOR NICARAGUAN COMMUNITIES

An International Day of Action has been called for November 10, 1997, in defense of the rainforest and indigenous peoples of Nicaragua's North Atlantic Autonomous Region. International actions are planned, including a massive fax/telegram campaign to Nicaraguan Embassies and Consulates. The threat to the ecosystem and indigenous cultures posed by multinational corporations is imminent. Together we can make a difference! For more information and how you can help, please contact:

Orin Langelles/Phil Fitzpatrick, Native Forest Network, POB 57, Burlington, VT 05402 USA; (802) 863-0571; fax (802) 863-2532; e-mail: [nfena@igc.apc.org](mailto:nfena@igc.apc.org); or Soren Ambrose, Nicaragua Network, 1247 E St. SE, Washington, DC; (202) 544-9355; e-mail: [soren@igc.apc.org](mailto:soren@igc.apc.org); or Patricia Awerbuch, Rainforest Action Group, POB 134, Newton Square, PA; (610) 359-1931 or (610) 325-4422.

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Big Mountain photos and slides are needed for improvement of a slideshow which will be available for outreach programs. We are particularly looking for images of:

- acts of resistance on Black Mesa
- arrests of resisters or supporters
- the Black Mesa slurry pipeline
- traditional weavers
- Rio Puerco (Sanders) relocation housing
- events in the '70s and '80s
- Page or Laughlin power plants
- livestock confiscation
- hogan demolition

If you have slides/photos or are interested in obtaining a slideshow (60 slides), contact Michael at (415) 585-9293 or the Big Mountain Coalition at POB 12924, Berkeley, CA 94712-3924; (415) 339-8332.

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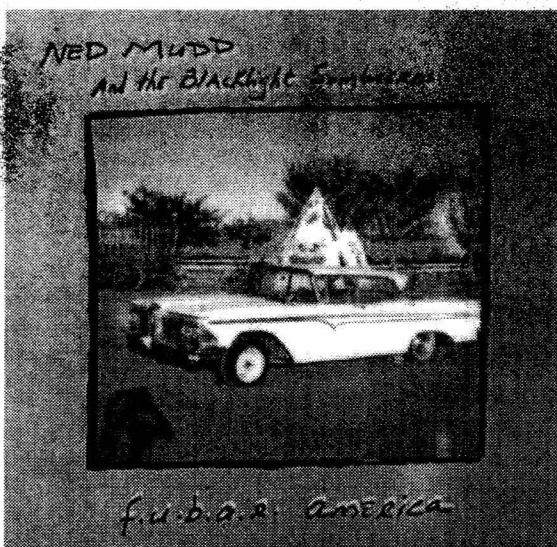


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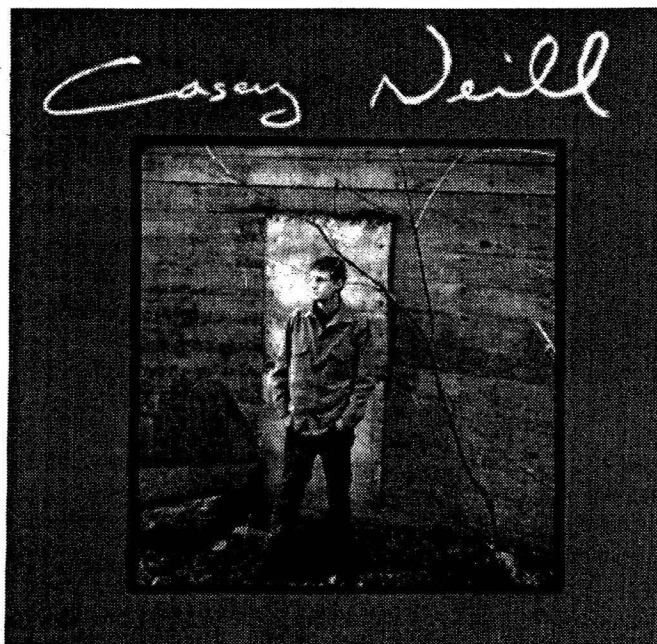
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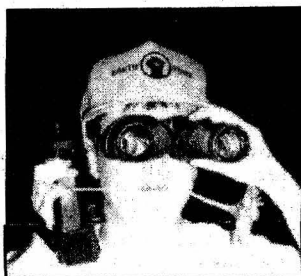
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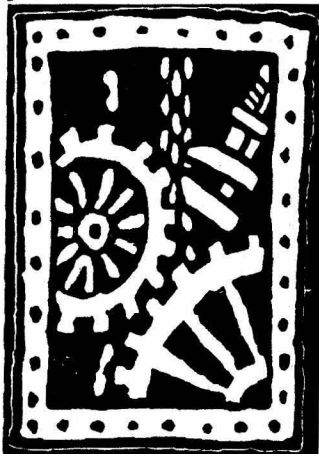
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## Cold Mountain,

## Cold Rivers Video Project

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cmcr@wildrockies.org

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# International EF! Directory

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## ENGLAND

Over 35 EF! groups exist in England;

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Oxford, OX4 1RQ; (01865) 791391

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http://www.hrc.wmin.ac.uk/

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