Exploring
the New
Wilderness Act

BY ATTILA

After years of banging their heads against a wall, wilderness protection groups finally got a huge break. The Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009 became law in March. This one bill designated a much larger wilderness than had been designated over the past eight years, adding two million acres to the Wilderness System. It doubled the amount of rivers with Wild and Scenic designation. It even included the Eagle Creek wilderness, a place that Earth First! successfully defended.

During the early 1980s, some EF!ers were dedicated exclusively to increasing wilderness designation on public lands. (The idea that EF! only did wilderness defense is a myth we perpetuate, as there were also folks fighting the World Bank and pressuring fast food restaurants to stop using rainforest beef during the 1980s.) To the wilderness folks, this is a huge success. Still, this bill represents part of the reason why EF! may have shifted focus as a movement.

While there are important wilderness designations in West Virginia, Michigan and Virginia, representation of ecosystems in the Great Plains and much of the Deep South is absent. Even Dave Foreman, noted for emphasizing the importance of Wilderness designation, criticized the Wilderness System for protecting only "ice and rocks" (and I would add "mud"), instead of protecting a diversity of ecosystems with more complex biological communities. The Wilderness System, the public lands set aside by Congress in 1964, authorized as much wilderness as had been designated by 1980. EF! saw its focus as "mud," instead of protecting a diversity of ecosystems with more complex biological communities.

The Wilderness System, the public lands set aside by Congress in National Forests, National Parks and other federal areas, tends to protect the lands in the West that industrial profiteers can't find a use for. This act does much better in that it protects a lot of biodiverse praline and second-growth forests. Still, the Wilderness System lacks major representation of grasslands, which at one point made up a third of the US.

continued on page 23

Oakland EF!er
Critically Wounded in Palestine

BY SOME OF TRISTAN'S FRIENDS

On March 13, Tristan Anderson was critically injured by Israeli troops during protests against Israel's expansionist wall in the West Bank community of Ni'lin. An Earth Fistler based in Oakland, California, he was hit in the forehead by a new type of high-velocity, extended-range teargas projectile and taken to Tel Hashomer hospital, near Tel Aviv. The impact of the projectile caused numerous, condensed fractures to Tristan's forehead and right eye socket. Part of his right frontal lobe was penetrated by bone fragments and had to be removed.

The Israeli government is in the process of building a wall through the Palestinian-controlled West Bank that passes through Ni'lin. Like the wall as a whole, the Ni'lin segment is designed to strategically reduce the amount of land that would be accessible to its Palestinian population. In 1948, Ni'lin covered more than 14,000 acres. Now, Ni'lin is almost 2,500 acres, and after the construction of this wall, it would consist of less than 1,900 acres. This is typical of the wall's effect on communities throughout the West Bank. In response, people from Israel and around the world have joined masses of Palestinians to protest, agitate and organize against the wall. Since July, four youths from Ni'lin have been killed by the Israeli Defense Forces, including a 16-year-old. Both live ammunition and "non-lethal," rubber-coated steel bullets were used in their deaths.

Tristan was shot while taking pictures inside Ni'lin, several hours after the army initially attacked a protest march of the town's residents (joined by Israeli and international activists) who attempted to march onto their own lands in the vicinity of the wall. Contrary to previous demonstrations, protesters managed to reach the road on which the wall is being built and even cause damage to parts of the razor-wire protecting the site, as well as to the newly erected fence segments.

Israeli troops dispersed demonstrators by using large amounts of teargas and rubber-coated steel bullets, driving everyone back into the town. Soldiers followed the retreating crowd and shot concussion grenades, teargas canisters, rubber-coated steel bullets and even live ammunition into Ni'lin.

It is not surprising that Tristan was in Ni'lin. He has been active in the global justice movement for more than a decade. He has attended anti-globalization protests in many nations and saw Iraq first hand, where he traveled with a circus, cheering up kids in the war-torn country after the US invasion. After visiting many countries in the Middle East, Tristan was eager to go to Palestine and stand with the people there. He was especially concerned about the Israeli apartheid wall being built in the West Bank.

Tristan is also a guardian of the Earth closer to home. He went to his first Round River Rendezvous in 1995. Soon after, he became involved with the campaign to save Headwaters forest in Northern California. Throughout the 1990s, he traveled with the mobile East Bay Food Not Bombs kitchen, which drew him to environmental, anti-nuclear and indigenous-rights camps at

continued on page 21

A sequoia grove highlighted in the new Wilderness Act

Tristan hangin' out at the Berkeley sit
TABLE OF CONTENTS

FEATURES
1 EXPLORE THE NEW WILDERNESS ACT
2 OAKLAND EFFBl CRITICALLY INJURED IN PALESTINE
3 PROTESTORS CONFIRM TVA AT ITS HEADQUARTERS
4 CLEAN COAL IS BULLSHIT
5 RISING TIDE INTERVIEWS IN CORPORATE COAL RELATIONSHIPS
6 MAIN EFF TAKES ON THE NATURE CON
7 TAKING IT TO THE CAPITOL
8 A CRITICAL REFLECTION ON THE CAPITOL CLIMATE ACTION
9 FROM BISHAMON TO COAL RIVER
10 RESISTING COAL IN WEST VIRGINIA AND BEYOND
11 BILLIONAIRES FOR COAL
12 FPO DISRUPTION: PIGHEAD HOGGERS
13 A FINAL FATE FOR MACGRO B
14 OBAMA ADMINISTRATION TWO-FACED ON ENDEARED SPECIES
15 2009 ROUND RIVER RENDEZVOUS
16 ON THE ROAD AGAIN!
17 2009 STOP THE MINE IN 2009
18 COUNCILS CONCISE REPORTBACK
19 BORDER, EXCLUSIVITY AND EFF ORGANIZING
20 GRAND JURY RESISTORS, FUR FARMS AND INVESTIGATIONS IN UTAH
21 SPOTTING THE SENTENCED DANIEL McCONNON AND LITTLE GUANTANAMO
21 THE OUTCOME OF ORGANIZING WITH TOO LARGA OF A HEART
28 LETTERS FROM THE PALM BEACH COUNTY STOCKADE

SECTIONS
2 EDITORIAL
4 DEAD-SRF: LETTERS TO THE EDITORS
11 BLAST FROM THE PasT
12 FRONTLINES
13 ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS OF THE WEIRD
14 BARE BONES
19 DOMINANT MOUNTAIN EFF
21 UPDATES
22 ARMED WITH VISIONS
26 PRISONERS IN THE STRUGGLE
29 ANNOUNCEMENTS
31 EFF DIRECTORY

Earth First!
May 1, 2009
Vol. 29, No. 4

Earth First! is published by an editorial collective from within the Earth First! movement. Entire contents are copyrighted 2009. Please contact us for permission to reprint articles. Art, photographs and poetry are copyrighted by individual artists, and permission for use must be received from them directly.

Earth First! is a forum for the uncompromising environmental movement. Responsibility rests with the individual authors and contributors. The contents do not necessarily represent the viewpoint of this magazine, the Earth First! movement, local Earth First! groups or individual staff members.

We welcome submissions of articles, letters, poetry and art that put the Earth First! healthy debate shaping the growth of the movement, and advance the creation of a world without classism, racism, sexism, violence, exploitation and oppression.

Submission deadlines are the tenth of every odd-numbered month in the calendar year. Submissions must be typed or clearly printed. We encourage submissions via email. Art or photographs are desirable to illustrate articles and essays. Send a SASE if you would like submissions returned. If you want confirmation of receipt of a submission, please request it.

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.

Earth First! is indexed in the Alternative Press Index. Earth First! is recorded on microfilm by ProQuest, Inc. Please direct all correspondence to:

Earth First!
PO Box 3023
Tucson, AZ 85702
(520) 620-6900
collective@earthfirstjournal.org
www.earthfirstjournal.org

Editorial Collective: Attila, Donny, Jerashoo, Noelle, Jim P., peas, Donny
Poetry Editor: Dennis Fritzinger
Heidi Wicked Catalog of Their Own: Sasha
Volunteers: Buttercup, Clay Dwyer, Emy Gabe, Hungry Knife, Laura, Lenny, Lucia, Maggie, Mirah, Nik, Bobbi
Front Cover: Jen Hales
Back Cover: Roadshow Crew
Protesters Confront TVA at Its Headquarters

BY MOUNTAIN JUSTICE

A "die-in" in front of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) headquarters resulted in the arrest of 14 individuals. Local residents marched in Knoxville, Tennessee, with dozens of activists from across the US on March 14, ending with street theatre in front of the headquarters. The event was held in solidarity with communities affected by the destructive impacts of mountain-top removal mining and the survivors of the recent coal ash disaster in Harriman, Tennessee.

TVA is the classic example of a nightmare created by economic stimulus plans. TVA was set up during the Great Depression as a generally owned corporation to exploit the rivers, mountains and people of the Cumberland Plateau. It is not only an electricity provider, but also an economic development scheme, with jurisdiction over most of Tennessee, as well as parts of Alabama, Mississippi and Kentucky.

As a political entity, it can exercise state powers like eminent domain, but it is unaccountable to the people that live under its rule. It has been used as a model for "development" in the Third World, with the same tragic consequences.

TVA is the largest electricity provider in the country, the largest purchaser of coal and the fourth-largest producer of electricity from coal. Most of its coal plants were built more than 50 years ago, and they are especially dirty and inefficient. North Carolina successfully sued TVA to clean up three plants in Tennessee and one in Alabama, because the smoke from these plants was destroying the air quality within its borders.

TVA operates massive hydroelectric dams that choke off the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers and cause a domino effect among freshwater fish and mussels. It also operates nuclear and natural gas plants.

Protesters driving the point home in Knoxville

In December and January, TVA was responsible for three toxic spills, including the Kingston spill (see EDF March-April 2009), which dumped 1.6 billion gallons of heavy-metal-laden coal ash waste over 400 acres. It's been called the worst environmental disaster in US history, disproving the energy industry's recent "clean coal" push. One spill was an intentional release of toxic substances and heavy metals into the Ocoee River.

"The most toxic spill at a disaster is just one more reason that coal is filthy. Coal fly ash, a byproduct of coal combustion, is an end result of the dirty life-cycle of coal," explained Bonnie Swindon, a full-time volunteer for United Mountain Defense, "which often begins with surface mining and mountain-top removal, followed by a washing process that produces coal's toxic concentrate, known as slurry. Mountain-top removal coal extraction has destroyed almost 500 mountains, and, in addition to coal slurry, continues to destroy water sources across Appalachia and beyond." Mountain-top removal is the most-destructive method of coal extraction, in which mountains are blown up to expose coal seams. This process destroys frag-ile mountain ecosystems, fills valleys and streams with waste, and leaves behind billions of gallons of toxic coal sludge that contaminates essential drinking water supplies for many cities in Appalachia.

"TVA is the epitome of what is wrong with electricity production and centralization of power," said Eric Blevins, an organizer with Mountain Justice. "They produce the most electricity, burn the most coal, have their own police force and are accountable to seemingly no one. They have destroyed and poisoned a community, and we must put their crimes to an end.

The demonstration began with a rally in Knoxville's Market Square, where organizers from United Mountain Defense, Mountain Justice and Three Rivers Earth First spoke about coal's cradle-to-grave impact on communities in Appalachia and the surrounding area. The crowd then marched through downtown Knoxville before ending at TVA's headquarters. At the end of the march, people interested in participating in civil disobedience gave a statement as to why they wanted to take this action. With the support of a singing crowd, each participant fell to the ground, representing the deaths caused by the coal industry. After a few minutes, Knoxville police informed the protesters that they were blocking the sidewalk and that they needed to remove themselves from the area. All 14 people were arrested and cited for loitering.

The demonstration was part of an escalating series of protests across the US to an end to the coal industry, including recent arrests in the Coal River Valley of West Virginia (see page 6) and the Capitol Climate Action (see page 7).

The next day, TVA police greeted students who visited the toxic-spill site. The police provided an armed escort for the students: While the students offered no resistance, the police later contacted their university, saying that the students were wearing masks to hide their identities, and resisted arrest by police. This is the kind of heavy-handed tactic that results from corporations like TVA having so much power.

TVA's response to the Kingston spill has mirrored the reactions of the Soviet government to the Chernobyl meltdown and Dow's treatment of the Bhopal disaster. It highlights the need to not only change the technologies we use to create electricity but the power structures that support them. In 2009, TVA will be a better manager of wind farms than they have been of coal plants and mega-dams. It's time to stop trying to break free of the neo-colonial government that has robbed us of our culture, our mountains, our clean air and our rivers. It's time for Appalachia to rise up!

Mountain Justice is a movement to stop the removal of mountains and can be reached at truth@mountainjustice.org.

Clean Coal is But*st

BY UNITED MOUNTAIN DEFENSE

On December 22, a toxic tsunami hit Roane County, Tennessee. One billion, 600 million gallons of coal waste flooded a residential area, the largest environmental disaster of its kind in the US. The catastrophe occurred when an earthen dike at the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)'s Kingston Fossil Plant collapsed and flooded a quiet, lakefront community. Toxic coal waste covered 400 acres of land and flooded into tributaries of the Tennessee River, the water supply for millions of people living downstream in Alabama, Tennessee and Kentucky.

The coal ash at Kingston had been accumulating for half of a century. The mountain of waste covered more than 100 acres and rose 65 feet into the air before the earthen dam burst. The disaster covered surrounding land with up to 30 feet of sludge. TVA first estimated that the disaster would take four to six weeks to clean up. Since this time, the estimates have ranged from 10 years to never.

Matt Lunden, holding TVA accountable

United Mountain Defense (UMD), part of Mountain Justice and a volunteer-driven, nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting Tennessee's environment and communities, began working at the disaster site by engaging in door-to-door listening projects to understand the immediate needs of the community in the wake of the disaster. We learned that information about coal ash was the first thing people needed, so we delivered handouts to residents about how to protect their families and the natural environment.

For the first 10 days after the disaster, many of the residents were without clean, safe drinking water. TVA told residents to boil their water and later to purchase bottled water for their safety. UMD delivered more than 500 gallons of bottled drinking water to the community and established a water distribution center to be run by a local family.

People living near the disaster area continue to deal with trucks trafficking coal ash through the community, excessive blasting from a nearby rock quarry, loud machinery working at all hours, ongoing roadblocks that throttle movement of vehicles and helicopters invading their community. Many people are skeptical that TVA will clean this disaster up the right way.

UMD has more than 120 hours of film and is working to compile the most comprehensive video documentation of the disaster by obtaining more equipment and editing capabilities.

continued on page 9

May-June 2009 Earth First! Page 3
Dear Shit Fer Brains

The longest night of the year has passed. As we move toward the light, we are entering a new era. Many hope that Obama will bring forth some form of restoration to the disappled political systems, society and the environment. I am one of those who believe that it is still possible to make a difference in this world. I believe that the time is ripe for a new era of peace and cooperation.

The last issue of the magazine was to be our last issue. However, my decision has been overturned by my editor. As a result, I will be continuing to publish this magazine. I am grateful for the support of our readers and I look forward to continuing to provide you with high-quality content.

Sincerely,

[Name]
Dear Earth First!,

I received your letter in response to mine. Thank you! I just wanted to let you know that I have read and given you the latest. As for your letter, I am happy to give you the next copy of Earth First! when it comes out.

I am glad to see that you are interested in the issue of animal rights. I agree with you that it is a very important issue and that we need to do more to protect animals. I would be happy to help you in any way I can.

Thank you for your letter.

Sincerely,

John Doe

PS: Please let me know if you have any further questions or comments.
Rising Tide Intervenes in Corporate Coal Relationships

BY RISING TIDE
ATLANTIC SEABOARD

The coal industry cannot bear its dead without public protest. Rising Tide and other groups are gaining momentum in the fight to leave coal in the ground.

Seven activists from Rising Tide Bost on disrupted a lecture on February 4 at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. Said Tyler Kirson, a member of Rising Tide Boston: "It's no surprise that Harvard is hosting this lecture of disinformation on coal plants, it's a lie." Bank of America (BOA) has invested billions of dollars in Arch Coal, according to the Rainforest Action Network.

The packed audience received the Arch nemesi with criticism. Activists from Rising Tide Bos ton disrupted the lecture, interrupting a word, asking, "What gives you the right to gamble the future of civilization on a magic technology that doesn't exist?" As the CEO avoided the question, two members of Rising Tide walked on stage with a banner that read, "The coal bubble is bursting. Clean Coal is a Dirty Lie."

"The idea of clean coal is nothing more than a marketing term, myth. It ignores the extraction side of coal's death cycle," added Kirson. Essentially, the technology to capture all emissions is perfected and implemented in time to avert climate catastrophe, we will still be sacrificing the people and ecosystems of Southern Appalachia," Kirson said. "This breaks up with the coal companies and their so-called "break-ups" with coal-heated corporations. An ongoing struggle is to pressure tertiary targets to drop coal financing. These companies are mostly interested in making money, not in promoting clean coal, so they have less interest in maintaining a relationship with the coal industry in the face of public pressure.

In Baltimore, Rising Tide delivered a singing telegram challenging Constellation Energy's connections to the coal industry. The group handed out valentines to employees with messages such as, "Kiss coal goodbye," and, "Coal breaks my heart." Serious letters exposing Constellation Energy's use of coal accompanied these light-hearted valentines.

"Constellation Energy's use of dirty energy shows their complete blatant disregard for anything but increasing their own profit and weakening havoc in the communities," says J.S. Fay People with Baltimore Rising Tide.

Rising Tide Boston continues its campaign against BOA, which announced a new coal policy last fall, but has yet to provide details to show that it is serious. Rising Tide activists working with tenants' rights group called CityLife/Vida Urbana, turned out 100 people to encourage BOA customers at two branches to close their accounts with the bank. If the bank will pull funding from mining companies whose predominant extraction method is mountain-top removal or invest in rainforest sequestration technology. Such false solutions anger Rising Tide. Without a doubt, the bank's statement is hollow.

DC Rising Tide and their allies disrupted a coal industry conference in Maryland the single largest corporate scam that the use of fossil fuels and for the adoption of clean, renewable, community-based energy sources. Protesters displayed banners in the conference that read, "Coal Kills," "Coal Takes lives," and, "Renewable energy is real." The activists explained that coal-to-liqids technology, which could contaminate transportation, would generate twice as much greenhouse gas emissions as oil and lead to an increase of approximately 50 percent in the transport of industries is pressure, these companies have a false idea that the industries are not affected by the plan. During the skit, other

MAINE EI: TAKES ON THE NATURE CONS

BY MAINE EI

Members of Maine Earth First! were detained outside the offices of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) after a peaceful dialogue on March 4. The group addressed TNC the day after it and Plum Creek Timber saluted the latest version of their controversial Moosehead Conservancy Framework Easement to the Land Use Regulatory Commission. The group protested the performance in the office, symbolically gagging characters in animal masks representing the "bees" that will be affected by the plan. During the skit, other

"What the Nature Conservancy is calling a conservation easement will end up allowing Plum Creek to continue destroying our Maine heritage," said Maine EI member Noah Dillard. "The devastating cuts of late-successional forests adjacent to the Big Moose State Reservoir would inhumane to local landowners and hunters. They are concerned about environment, logically and ecologically and significantly cultural deer wading grounds, referred to locally as "deer yards," which is seen as a favorite factor in this year's low deer population. If TNC had visited the site, documenting deer beds, tracks and bowels in current being logged and others cut down and cleared. Only days later, after EPIers brought their concerns to the media, Plum Creek admitted to "mispowered" logging the forest and soon cleared the area to public access.

Charlie Baker, a local resident, expressed concern about the active cut and its planned expansion, saying, "Hunters in this area know that there have historically been larger deer yards of Somerset County. Destroying these deer yards in the middle of Winter is very disturbing to our community. We are expecting the deer to go?" Baker's family has lived, logged and hunted in the region for several generations.

"We have hunted here for over 50 years. The Indian Stream area has significantly Winter deer yards. We must protect this land," Baker added.

Meg Gilliam, of Maine EI, agreed. "This forest also has beautiful views of Eagle Rock through a canopy of giant cedar, spruce, hemlock and balsam trees," she said. "Its adjacent location to state lands makes it a prime corridor for wildlife and recreational fishing."

If the tract is cut this season, an important opportunity will be lost."

Plum Creek is a member of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), an industry-led front group that competes with more accountable groups like the Forest Stewardship Council. Plum Creek is the largest timber company in Maine, with $1.6 billion in 2006; the company has been involved in many controversies. The group protested the plan, saying, "There is no need to compromise or the public, the businesses and the industries that can help make a living. We will not support this plan."

This followed the announcement of a partial coal moratorium in Michigan by Governor Jennifer Granholm. The state approval for eight proposed coal plants could be stopped while state agencies consider all the environmental and economic factors.

Grantham also pledged to reduce Michigan's reliance on coal by 45 percent by 2020. This is grim news for the coal industry. We've got them up against the wall, and we keep up the pressure, these proposed coal plants can keep coming down like dominoes."

EPI is a network of climate justice activists fighting false solutions to climate change. Learn more about us at www.risingtidenorthamerica.org.

"It's time to stop investing in false solutions. We are facing a climate crisis. It is time to stand up and fight for a sustainable future for people and planet," said Emma Cassidy of DC Rising Tide.

Coal is quickly losing favor with the general public, and the corporate world is starting to feel cornered. This Spring, rural electric co-ops have joined forces with Interstate Power and Light, a coal-fired power company in Montana, one of the worst proposed coal plants in the West. JS Power announced plans to purchase 300,000 tons of coal for the 1,600-megawatt, coal-fired White Pine Energy Center near Elly, Nevada, due to opposition. In the same week Interstate Power and Light dumped plans for a 630-megawatt, $1.8 billion coal plant near Elly.

This followed the announcement of a partial coal moratorium in Michigan by Governor Jennifer Granholm. The state approval for eight proposed coal plants could be stopped while state agencies consider all the environmental and economic factors. Granholm also pledged to reduce Michigan's reliance on coal by 45 percent by 2020. This is grim news for the coal industry. We've got them up against the wall, and we keep up the pressure, these proposed coal plants can keep coming down like dominoes."

EPI is a network of climate justice activists fighting false solutions to climate change. Learn more about us at www.risingtidenorthamerica.org.

"It's time to stop investing in false solutions. We are facing a climate crisis. It is time to stand up and fight for a sustainable future for people and planet," said Emma Cassidy of DC Rising Tide.

Coal is quickly losing favor with the general public, and the corporate world is starting to feel cornered. This Spring, rural electric co-ops have joined forces with Interstate Power and Light, a coal-fired power company in Montana, one of the worst proposed coal plants in the West. JS Power announced plans to purchase 300,000 tons of coal for the 1,600-megawatt, coal-fired White Pine Energy Center near Elly, Nevada, due to opposition. In the same week Interstate Power and Light dumped plans for a 630-megawatt, $1.8 billion coal plant near Elly.

This followed the announcement of a partial coal moratorium in Michigan by Governor Jennifer Granholm. The state approval for eight proposed coal plants could be stopped while state agencies consider all the environmental and economic factors. Granholm also pledged to reduce Michigan's reliance on coal by 45 percent by 2020. This is grim news for the coal industry. We've got them up against the wall, and we keep up the pressure, these proposed coal plants can keep coming down like dominoes."

EPI is a network of climate justice activists fighting false solutions to climate change. Learn more about us at www.risingtidenorthamerica.org.

"It's time to stop investing in false solutions. We are facing a climate crisis. It is time to stand up and fight for a sustainable future for people and planet," said Emma Cassidy of DC Rising Tide.

Coal is quickly losing favor with the general public, and the corporate world is starting to feel cornered. This Spring, rural electric co-ops have joined forces with Interstate Power and Light, a coal-fired power company in Montana, one of the worst proposed coal plants in the West. JS Power announced plans to purchase 300,000 tons of coal for the 1,600-megawatt, coal-fired White Pine Energy Center near Elly, Nevada, due to opposition. In the same week Interstate Power and Light dumped plans for a 630-megawatt, $1.8 billion coal plant near Elly.

This followed the announcement of a partial coal moratorium in Michigan by Governor Jennifer Granholm. The state approval for eight proposed coal plants could be stopped while state agencies consider all the environmental and economic factors. Granholm also pledged to reduce Michigan's reliance on coal by 45 percent by 2020. This is grim news for the coal industry. We've got them up against the wall, and we keep up the pressure, these proposed coal plants can keep coming down like dominoes."

EPI is a network of climate justice activists fighting false solutions to climate change. Learn more about us at www.risingtidenorthamerica.org.
A Critical Reflection on the Capitol Climate Action

BY SKYLER SIMMONS

On March 2, around 3,000 people converged on the streets of Washington, DC, in what has been billed as the largest act of civil disobedience against climate change in the US. Under the banner of the Capitol Climate Action (CCA), a diverse array of groups came together to target the Capitol coal plant, the power source for the US Capitol building and a dozen other federal buildings. The plant stands as a symbol of the coal industry’s influence on the US government. Attempts to have it shut down have been repeatedly thwarted by members of Congress from coal states.

The planning, we were organized primarily by Greenpeace, the Ruckus Society, Rainforest Action Network and Chesapeake Climate Action, and was endorsed by more than 30 other organizations, including the Pyxus Earth First! and Rising Tide.

Despite freezing temperatures and several inches of snow, an impressive crowd managed to gather at Spirit of Justice Park, a few blocks from the coal plant. To start things off, Vandana Shiva gave a quick, impromptu speech before heading off to the march. The march was well-organized into four contingents under different-colored flags. Each bloc was assigned to one of the four gates at the plant. As the march approached each gate, the appropriate bloc would peel-off and block the gate. After half an hour of marching, all of the gates to this symbol of dirty energy were blocked. Mission accomplished!

Well, that depends on who you ask. Not everyone was happy with the way the action went down. The climate movement took a big step at the CCA, but before we can move forward, we need to see if it was in the right direction.

First, let’s start with the positives. The organizers did an impressive job of outreach—not only to the general public but also, especially to impacted communities. There was a diverse representation of people on the frontlines of the war against King Coal. There were Latino teens from Chicago fighting two coal plants in their neighborhood, indigenous elders from the desert southwest fighting massive strip mining and a new coal plant, and whole families from the coalfields of Appalachia whose lives are being destroyed by mountaintop removal mining. The coming together of this broad coalition of groups for a direct action was in and of itself a major step forward, and the organizers get some major points for accomplishing this.

Organizers also score big points for making the CCA a very open and accessible event. We saw people of all walks of life get involved, and the fact that they were allowed to participate was a tremendous step forward.

However, the event also has some serious flaws. The most obvious is the fact that it was organized primarily by environmental groups, which means that it was primarily a protest against fossil fuels, not a protest against the government’s policy of using coal.

On the other hand, the mellow nature of the action allowed hundreds of people new to civil disobedience to get their feet wet without arrest. Hopefully, this served as a safe introduction to direct action, and the lack of arrests has left all of these people free and inspired to take action back in their hometowns.

In the end, the organizers declared the day a victory after we had two sets of arrests for the day. Yes, it is true that we blocked the entrances, but it is a bit optimistic to claim that we actually shut it down. This was a claim that many newspapers mocked the next day and some activists felt it to be a bit disingenuous. It is important to be optimistic and feel empowered by our actions. However, too much unwarranted optimism can also be damaging.

Overall, the CCA was a good first step in launching a more radical, action-based movement for climate justice. However, there were questions raised and lessons learned for radical groups such as EFF and Rising Tide in working with the mainstream climate movement.

This event made it crystal clear that we cannot engage in civil disobedience that covers all of the bases. We must put equal, if not greater, energy into combating the false solutions to the climate crisis, especially the notion that if it reduces carbon dioxide emissions, it must be good.

The current discourse on climate solutions is dominated by capitalist solutions that are not inherently “green.” Capitalism with clean energy and green jobs.” Radicals in the climate movement need to be clearer about what we are fighting for and about the climate crisis to counter the mainstream buzzphrases.

Lastly, we need to find ways to organize these types of large and inclusive actions that are not symbolic “stuff-and-cuff” protests. The boldness of our actions needs to extend exponentially to organizing the damage caused by the industries we are fighting.

After failing to sell his soul to Internet auctions for the past several months, Skyler Simmons decided he should start writing articles for the Journal again.
From Birmingham to Coal River

BY MIKE ROSSELLE

As we reach the top of the mountain (what mountain I do not know), we are greeted with the leaves and their glistening colors. The air is crisp, and we can hear the rustling of the leaves as we walk. We continue our journey, passing by small streams and patches of wildflowers.

Billed as an historic action, the event did indeed recede quickly into history. No one back in West Virginia saw it on TV or in the newspaper. Of course, when we got home, nothing had changed. But we are always hopeful. The blasts still go off at the mine, and the noise continues to batter my window.

The Coal River delegation to the Power Shift rally was a little disappointed that they did not have a chance to be arrested with the writers and the Nobel Prize winners. I was even more disappointed that we may have to wait a few more months before another national mobilization. What went wrong in DC?

Perhaps, I know. Civil disobedience has gotten a bad rap lately as being a worn-out and ineffective tactic. This rap is undeserved. Certainly, gaining Hanson and McBibben arrested would have garnered more media attention than the fact that we did not receive. The wave of glowing media coverage of the event that is now filling my e-mail boxes from the many sponsoring organizations that I have joined is starting to get irritating. When do we admit our mistakes? Never!

Since the 1990s, activist organizations have backed down under the threat of legal sanctions on several occasions. Last year, when several of them tried to chain themselves to block the Attorney General'shelicopter, they barely managed to move themselves around the area. The_contents of the Article are reproduced here for informational purposes only. The original source should be consulted for any further use.
By BREF

On February 7, more than 20 community members identifying themselves as “Billionaires for Coal” assembled in front of Dominion Power’s downtown offices in Richmond, Virginia. To rapturously voice their praise for the company’s many coal-fired power plants. Dressed in formal attire and sipping beverages from wine glasses, the group chantated pro-coal, anti-environmental slogans and held yard signs expressing similar sentiments. In addition to rousing recitations such as, “Up with sea levels; up with profits,” the midday moment included a live bluegrass performance by the We Love Money string band, who frequently reassured TVA’s assurance that we are worrying about the health problems, which their doctors have told us, to drive a blind grandmother home after a public meeting. Landon drove very slowly through an unstaffed, illegal roadblock set up by TVA on a public roadway. After pulling into the woman’s driveway and exiting the vehicle, police stopped Landon and detained him for questioning. An officer said Landon had to have a resident in the car to pass the roadblock. When he informed the officer he had a resident in the car, the officer said Landon needed a little red tag issued by TVA. TVA police had pressured the media to call the resident. When he asked for another tag, the officer placed Landon under arrest. Fortunately, the entire incident was caught on videotape.

Landos’s supposed crime was asking for tarred air monitoring equipment. The Center for Toxicology and Environmental Health (a TVA contractor) and placing an air monitor on private property with the permission of the landowner. TVA has been feverishly buying up land surrounding the disaster site in an effort to keep independent monitoring from occurring. Once TVA buys the property from the landowner, there is a nondisclosure clause stating that no one can know that TVA bought the property. The residents want independent air monitoring so badly, yet TVA has demanded that there be no independent monitoring on their property. Even so, UMD has been training local residents to use the monitoring equipment.

On the day of Landon’s hearing, two other UMD volunteers were detained by TVA police and informed that they could not visit a resident who has employed UMD to gather air samples from the property. Police stated that because TVA owned the property, they could determine who could visit the resident, even though the resident would occupy the house for several more months.

TVA police proceeded to confiscate UMD’s air monitoring equipment and have yet to return it. TVA is completely freaked out that citizens are using air monitoring, and they want almost any means to keep UMD from gathering air samples for independent analysis. Coal is filthy, from the extraction process through the transportation of coal trains to the power plants, to its ignition that pollutes our air quality, to the waste disposal that can devastate whole communities in one fell swoop.

On March 27, UMD mailed six air samples to laboratories for analysis. UMD expects to get the results back soon and use them to nonviolently club TVA and the regulators over the head.

continued from page 3

Many community members were worried about the environmental impacts to the water, land, and air, as the coal ash is drying and becoming windborne. Many do not trust TVA’s assurance that the coal ash is nothing to worry about and that the air and water are safe. UMD volunteers wear protective respirators within 10 miles of any disaster site. Independent tests of water and ash samples show high levels of arsenic, radium and other heavy metals. By monitoring and providing independent lab results, UMD hopes to motivate TVA and the Environmental Protection Agency to conduct monitoring testing to become more transparent with their own tests and protocols, providing for the needs of the people impacted by this disaster, though we are not holding our breath. Many residents are experiencing health problems, which their doctors believe to be directly related to the disaster. Many of these people are trapped in this polluted environment, with no help in sight. Many residents requested to be tested for heavy-metal exposure. For this, UMD raised $15,000 and arranged several toxicity testing clinics for full-body, heavy-metal analyses. Fifty sick residents were tested at no charge. UMD hopes to raise more money to continue to offer free bio-monitoring as the number and severity of health concerns grow.

From January 31 to February 2, UMD volunteer Matt Landon received training from the Global Community Monitor for a citizen’s air-monitoring program. During the following week, UMD volunteers placed sanitized Pyrex baking dishes around the community to gather dust samples. Swipe samples were gathered for independent analysis. The initial results have shown high levels of arsenic-laden dust. The program includes testing for eight different heavy metals and particulate matter smaller than 2.5 microns—small enough to enter a person’s bloodstream from their lungs.

On February 3, Landon videotaped a coal ash roadblock set up to prevent TVA from entering the examination area. Just as the monitor was set to begin gathering a sample, TVA police and Roane County deputies surrounded the residence. Two UMD volunteers were detained for more than an hour and a half, while the officers tried to figure out how to remove the monitor. One officer became flustered and confiscated UMD’s video camera during the detention. The volunteers were finally ordered to remove the monitor and leave the property.

On March 5, Landon was arrested while driving a blind grandmother home after a public meeting. Landon drove very slowly didn’t hear about the disaster, even though they were drinking Tennessee water polluted with TVA’s coal fly ash.

On March 23, Landon appeared in court for a pre-trial hearing. Just before the hearing, Landon was advised by his public defender that TVA was claiming Landon had broken the terms of his bond release. TVA’s lawyers wanted the bond revoked and Landon thrown in jail for a year. Instead, Landon’s charges were dismissed.

Landon’s supposed crime was asking for tarred air monitoring equipment. The Center for Toxicology and Environmental Health (a TVA contractor) and placing an air monitor on private property with the permission of the landowner. TVA has been feverishly buying up land surrounding the disaster site in an effort to keep independent monitoring from occurring. Once TVA buys the property from the landowner, there is a nondisclosure clause stating that no one can know that TVA bought the property. The residents want independent air monitoring so badly, yet TVA has demanded that there be no independent monitoring on their property. Even so, UMD has been training local residents to use the monitoring equipment.

On the day of Landon’s hearing, two other UMD volunteers were detained by TVA police and informed that they could not visit a resident who has employed UMD to gather air samples from the property. Police stated that because TVA owned the property, they could determine who could visit the resident, even though the resident would occupy the house for several more months. TVA police proceeded to confiscate UMD’s air monitoring equipment and have yet to return it.

TVA is completely freaked out that citizens are using air monitoring, and they want almost any means to keep UMD from gathering air samples for independent analysis. Coal is filthy, from the extraction process through the transportation of coal trains to the power plants, to its ignition that pollutes our air quality, to the waste disposal that can devastate whole communities in one fell swoop.
A Final Roar for Macho B

by Attila

Macho B, the only known resident jaguar in the US, died on March 2 like most of the planet is dying: undignified, strapped with a radio collar and surrounded by unfamiliar humans in an alien place. His death was unnecessary. Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) agents, officially charged with conserving him, had put down this aging animal not because they cared about him, but because they are scared of what his death would mean.

Since 1971, only six jaguars have been documented in the US. Historically, jaguar territory in the US extended as far north as the Grand Canyon and stretched from Southern California to East Texas. More recently, wildlife experts thought that the few jaguars still remaining in the US were visitors from Mexico. Macho B was photographed over the past decade by cameras set to trip-wires. He was the only jaguar spotted in the US in the last 10 years.

The 16-year-old jaguar was supposedly put down because of failing kidneys, but the necropsy showed that his capture exacerbated his health problems. It has since come out that abnormal test results may have indicated dehydration, not kidney failure. Had AGFD left him alone, he would certainly still be alive.

AGFD originally snared Macho B on February 18 in a “research” snare meant for other predators. During this first abduction, they said that he was in good health. Wildlife agents fitted him with a radio collar and relocated him in the vicinity of Tucson, Arizona. They recaptured him two weeks later, because he had stopped moving as much, possibly indicating health problems. Agents went out to find him. Only five hours after he was recaptured, he was killed.

Macho B lived in the wild for 16 years. Under the control of scientists, he lasted two weeks.

Governments, scientists and industrial apologists passing as environmental groups often drag out extinctions and put the burden of it onto the lone survivor. They stalk, drug, kidnap, imprison, and rape the last of the javan rhinoceros or the Amar Leopard (both survived by less than 50 individuals) and blame them for not breeding to save their own species. These scientists never look around them to see the damage to the larger ecosystem.

Macho B lived in a very different Sonoran Desert than the one of his birth. The desert is now cut in half by an impenetrable wall along most of the US-Mexican border. Where there is not a wall, there are bored men, zooming around in Border Patrol trucks, who cannot tell the difference between a coyote and a jaguar. They cut new roads through the desert, scars that take decades to heal. Sprawl and climate change have sucked the desert dry, and it is more prone to burning irrevocably because of introduced buffaloes for the grazing industry. The jaguar had little chance of reclaiming its old territory. In what is now becoming a wasteland.

Life has existed on Earth for 3.8 billion years. Under the control of industrialization, it lasted 300 years.

A similar situation happened with the ivory-billed woodpecker. One report of it in a swamp forest in Arkansas has resulted in quests to find the bird, United Nations reward for finding one. Once spread throughout old-growth swamp forests in the South, the last viable population lived in a tract in Louisiana owned by a logging company. The Audubon Society offered to buy the land, but the company refused and cleared the forest. The last two shot in Florida as scientific specimens.

There is little suitable habitat remaining today and, as long as scientists and industrial apologists do not address bigger issues, there will never be again.

There has not been a confirmed sighting of an Eskimo curlew in more than 20 years, but they have not still been deemed extinct. The shorebirds once numbered in the millions, and flew from the tundra in Canada and Alaska to the Pampas in Argentina, stopping over in the Great Plains. This story is shared by hundreds of species. As long as there is one survivor or the ghost of a survivor, industrial apologists can pretend that ecocide is not happening. They cannot let them go.

Life is more than a test tube full of sperm or a panda pacing in a cage. It is more than a few fenced-off trees or the last sea turtles with tracking devices glued to their backs. It is a dynamic relationship between the water and the desert, between the desert and the jaguar, between the jaguar and us, and between us and everything else.

Extinction forces us to look at the bigger picture, because we can no longer prod at the last tiger or frog. We are forced to reconcile that much of the planet is an industrial wasteland. There is just us, surrounded by thousands of broken ecosystems that we were just beginning to understand, that we can never possibly know how to piece back together. We must admit that we have really f**ked up.

Aldo Leopold watched one of the last wolves in New Mexico’s Gila Wilderness die. He had been part of a wolf-eradication program on behalf of the livestock industry. He mourned the death of the wolf and used the experience to become one of the greatest voices for biodiversity. From tragedy can come inspiration, motivation and life.

Death can be a beginning if we let it.

Already, from this tragic situation, wildlife defenders have forced the US Fish and Wildlife Service to draft a recovery plan for the jaguar. After stalling for decades, the agency gave up on recovering the jaguar in 2008 (see EF March-April 2008). This was done to ease the construction of the border wall. The death of Macho B might prove to be a sad step toward allowing jaguars to roam in the US once more.

This summer could be the last time there is sea ice during the summer in the Arctic Ocean. The melting of the icecaps will no longer be a prophecy of eco-activists. We have the choice of denying it, or accepting it as a sign that climate change has been a reality for decades. We can use the pain from this loss to shut down the fossil-fuel industry.

The wild is not gone. It is hiding, because it is smart. In the Appalachians, there are ghosts of cougars that still lurk. In the mountains of Alabama, there may still be healthy chestnut trees. Rare grasses hide along overlooks roadides. Freshwater mussels cling to out-of-the-way creeklets. Woodpeckers haunt remote swamp forests. Jaguars prowl the sky islands of the borderlands. They hide beyond our radar and our nets, because they have seen our kin get collared or captured by scientists. They watch from their safe havens, cautiously smiling when speedboats sink and refineries close, waiting for a time when they can once again thrive in their old haunts.

Ecosystems will bounce back, without our pricking and probing, when we look at our actions, stop destroying everything, and give them enough time and space.

Many plants and animals have recovered from the brink of extinction. They have crossed roads and borders, crawled under fences and made mad dashes in the night to reclaim their former lands. The white-tailed deer, beaver, bald eagle, brown and even the gray wolf have made amazing recoveries, but this has only been once the attacks by industrial expansion stopped.

In a different world, Macho B might have lived out his last year providing humanity with lessons to see and learn. As it is, we would have had some agency over his death and could have chosen a favorite rock outcrop to spend his last night. In the morning, ravens and coyotes would have sent his body coasting back through the desert, over the road, through the prickly pear. We can use the place to tear down the border wall, stop sprawl, and allow ecosystems the space and tools to restore themselves. Pray for the dead, and fight like hell for the living.

Attila wonders how long people can step over dead bodies before they realize that they’re next.
By Dan Dagget

A Jaguar has been sighted in Arizona again, but don't scratch the word "extinct" from their page in your "Mammals of the Southwest" guidebook just yet. The sighting may be a rude awakening for a familiar tragedy.

This time, a couple of Javelina hunters and some people attending a family reunion reported seeing one of the big cats the Mexicans call "el tigre" in late February, about 15 miles north of the Mexican border. According to the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD), such reports are still made occasionally in the area Felis onca once called home, but the number of sightings has dropped sharply in recent years. Today, most are viewed with skepticism.

"About the only way we consider a sighting confirmed is if we see the carcass," one official said. Nevertheless, this latest report is being treated more seriously than most, because the department considers those who turn it in to be credible witnesses. In spite of that, and in spite of the Jaguar's status as an endangered species, wildlife managers have, for now, committed to protect the animal. As Jerry Perry, an AGFD law enforcement specialist, put it, "We have no idea where that animal is today.

Jaguars are the largest wild cats in the Americas, and globally are surpassed in size only by the Tiger and African Lion. They are the pitbulls of the cat world, possessing extremely strong jaws with heavy bones and massive teeth which allow them to kill their prey by breaking the skull. Short-haired and compact, Jaguars grow as large as 250 pounds in the Brazilian rain forest, though they rarely reach half that size along the northern limits of their range.

Although these cats were once widely dispersed residents of the American Southwest, they now are considered extinct to some part of their range. Still, young males searching for territory not already claimed by another Jaguar, or made too hazardous by human intrusion, occasionally extend their search for a home north into one of the southern states.

That decision is generally fatal. The previous sighting of el tigre was reported in late 1986 in the Chiricahua Mountains in southeastern Arizona. Two bird watchers on a Christmas bird count were the first to report seeing this cat. The biologist coordinating the count was so taken aback, she forgot to get the volunteers' names.

The next person to encounter the cat was not so harmless.

There are many versions of the story. According to the one most frequently related, a rancher/hunting guide from Bowie, near Willcox, Arizona, trailed the Chiricahua Jaguar with his hounds. Some say the rancher thought he was after the world's largest Mountain Lion. Others point out that Jaguar and Mountain Lion signs are easily distinguishable for an expert, and this man is an expert. In any case, after three days, and one or two fresh packs of hounds, the rancher and his dogs finally bayed el tigre. Some say it was dark and the Jaguar wreaked havoc on the man's hounds as he waded in to shoot it, but there were no reports of anyone running up a large hill at any area vet clinic.

To celebrate his success, the killer reportedly took the Jaguar's carcass to town to show it off. Several people came to see the dead beast and some took pictures of it. What took place was the sort of celebration that might have occurred 30 years ago when the general consensus favored killing animals like this. Then again, many would say those 30 years have never passed in Willcox, a town where people say they still live by the code of the West.

For the rest of this article, see EFF May-June 1988. Back issues of the EFF Journal are available for $5 each. Order our near-complete, 29-year set for $500.

Obama Administration Two-Faced on Endangered Species

By Spittlebug

This Spring, there's good and bad news coming from the new Obama administration and its take on the Endangered Species Act. While the Obama administration may be less openly hostile toward the environment than George Bush was, ultimately, what we're hearing from Washington, DC, is the same old story.

Starting with the bad news, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar announced in March that his department would uphold a Bush administration decision to remove gray wolves from the endangered species list in the Northern Rockies. The US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) made the decision shortly before Bush left office, and it was brought under review by the Obama administration earlier this Winter.

Gray wolves will remain federally protected in Wyoming, where the state government previously sought to have 90 percent of the state become a "predator zone," in which wolves could be shot on sight. Wolves in other regions will not be affected by this policy change, but will remain on the endangered species list.

Already, scum in Idaho and Montana-inspired public wolf hunts to "keep populations in check". Of course, the real reasons behind these hunts are clear: they are a way to a familiar tragedy. The fish and game population is really counting on a robust population of trophy animals to maintain that part of our economy." Here's hoping a wolf bites his face off.

On a more positive note, FWS has increased nearly 20-fold the amount of land designated as critical habitat for the Canada lynx. The lynx, federally classified as a threatened species, will now have about 39,000 square miles in six states designated for its protection, up from 1,841 square miles in three states. Newly included states are Maine, Idaho and Wyoming. There will be an increase in protected lands in Minnesota, Montana and Washington.

Critical habitat refers to lands that require special management and protection because they are essential to the conservation of a species protected under the Endangered Species Act. Such habitat for the lynx includes older forests with fallen trees that can be used for denning, habitat for the snowshoe hare (the lynx's primary food source), and areas covered for extended periods by deep, fluffy snow.

Protecting the lynx was a prime motivation behind the Endangered Fish and Wildlife Act (ELF) arson at the Vail ski resort in Colorado. In response to a proposal to proceed into key lynx habitat, the ELF set fire to five buildings and four ski lifts, causing more than $26 million in damage—the greatest amount of damage caused by the ELF up to that point (see EFF December-January 1999). The lynx was fedally recognized as threatened shortly after.

The reclassification of the lynx's critical habitat designation comes after allegations that Julie Mac Donald, the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Interior under the Bush administration, bullied scientists and interfered with FWS decisions (see EFF November-December 2007). Among the beneficiaries of MacDonald's interference was Plum Creek, the nation's largest owner of private land.

MacDonald resigned in 2007 after an investigation by the Interior Department's Inspector General. According to Shawn Santorius, FWS's head lynx biologist, "This [lynx habitat] was one that we decided she may have inappropriately influenced." However, it's too early to deem this a complete victory. For one thing, important lynx habitat in the Southern Rockies was not included in the designation. According to Santorius, this habitat was not included because it existed only in small patches and therefore did not qualify as "the best of the best." I'm sure the lynx in Colorado will find that a convincing argument as to why their already-limited habitat will continue to go unprotected.

While liberals may be celebrating Barack Obama's no's nods to the environment, we need to keep in mind that this new administration is a two-sided coin. There is some good news to be had. At the very least, we can be glad there will be perhaps a snipper's more protection for the environment under this new administration. Still, we have to remember that Obama's true loyalties lie with corporations and maintaining business as usual. Just because the system has a new face doesn't mean we can let down our guard.

Spittlebug enjoys family secrets and can't wait until politics are an endangered species.
3, 2, 1. Happy Liberation!

New Year's Eve 2009 marked a new start for one primates
in Spain. Five minutes before mid-
night, circus workers at Circo
Roma Dola began celebrating
the new year. Coincidentally,
three clandestine individuals
were too busy to join the festivi-
ties, choosing instead to liberate
a baboon from her cage nearby.

Happy new year!

Newly Freed Friends

In mid-March, three chickens
were liberated in Madrid, Spain,
by Lengalhid Animal (Animal
Equality). The activists entered
the slaughterhouse as part of an
ongoing investigation, seeking
to install a hidden camera. Upon
leaving, they realized there were
three chickens still alive inside.
So, they took two of the three
dead, due to al-
ready being in critical condition.
After intensive medical care, the
remaining one lived.

On the night of February 20, the
Netherlands-based Dieren
Bevrijders From Freed six rabbits
from their dark captivity, helping
them evade being murdered.

ELF Mexico Has the Last
Word With Land Movers

Ammunition darkness, on March
22, an earth mover in Guada-
lajara, Jalisco, was taken out of
commission. The Frente de Lib-
eración de la Tierra (EL/ELF)
claimed responsibility for the
act. They also broke the win-
dow of a bank on the same
night. Both actions were done in
the interests of attacking the
social order imposed by techno-
industrial civilization.

Tucson HAAND Throws
Down Once Again

Tucson Hoglins Attack At
Night, Duh! (Tucson HAAND)
paid a special visit to the homes
of University of Arizona vivi-
sector Katalin Gohard, and
Rossmont Copes Director of
Environmental and Regulatory
Affairs Kathy Arnold.

According to the communi-
quist, Gohard, who performs re-
search on sheep monkeys, had
her house's water turned off and
cemented to stay that way.

Arnold had the tires slashed
on her vehicle and one of her
home's windows etched.

"We would have been
washed out of your hands and
scrub away all those thoughts
of torturing monkeys all day
long on that Katalin? If you limit
on working, get a real job"! Tuc-
son HAAND wrote. "We bet the
etching cream on the window of
your house will leave a lasting im-
pression of our visit. Maybe, the
cost of replacing it will make you

think twice about the lasting, ir-
replaceable costs your company's
proposed mine would inflict on
the Santa Rita's.*

Justice Department
Weighs in on Wake Forest
Vivisectors

Two Wake Forest University
vivisectors in Salem, North Caro-
lina, received razor blades covered
with rat poison in early February.
Paul Connors and Linda Pastorino
are both responsible for pointless
experiments adding macaque
monkeys to cocaine. Signing the
communications, "always for the
pressed," the Justice Department,
claimed responsibility for the
special deliveries.

Thousands Come Out in
Opposition to an Open Pit
Mine in the Philippines

Filminera Mining Corporation
in partnership with multinational
Corporation Central Gold, had
planned to have a fully opera-
tional open-pit mine by March
20 in the Masbate province of the
Philippines. Instead, they were
met with full-scale opposi-
tion by fisher folk and other con-
cerned locals.

On March 14, community up-
roar against the mine was shown
through a 4,000-persyn barricade
inside the mine site. By March 23, the number of protesters had
reached around 7,000.

The mine opposition was met
by a military battalion of about
50 armed men. There were also
reports of three boats of soldiers
anchored nearby.

The community members are
demanding that the gov-
ernment revoke the company's
mining permit and repeal the
1995 Mining Act. The company
lacks basic requirements for an
Environmental Compliance
Certificate and has neither the
mayor's permit nor a business
permit needed.

Concrete Resistance to
Cement Company

Senem Gresik, a cement com-
pany, has plans to build a factory
on the land of 1,771 residents
from eight surrounding commu-
nities in the regency of Pati,
in central Java, Indonesia.

In mid-January, community
members attempted to meet
with local authorities about the
factory, but were not allowed to
do so. In response, the farmers
decided to nonviolently block
the road, preventing four Senem
Gresik vehicles from conducting
surveys that day.

The blockade eventually erupted
into a clash between locals and
the military, as the government
unleashed 250 riot cops, as well
as part of a militarized force. The
residents responded by throw-
ing rocks and fighting back,
which eventually lead to ar-
rests. Women were locked in
nearby boxes, and men were
chased off the scene. People
were beaten, trampled and
striped of their clothes.

Weekend Fun at a British
Weapons Factory

During the early morning of
January 17, a British weapons
factory was vandalized, caus-
ing nearly $400,000 in damage.
Apparently, six activists used
a ladder to gain entry to the
site and spent the entire night
hammering, leaving parts for
two types of jet fighters, guided
Hellfire missiles and Paveway
bombs rendered useless. The
activists also smashed windows
and left the office in a general
state of disarray.

The IIT/EDO-MGM arms fac-
tory has been subject to protests
by a group named Smash EDO
since 2003, in response to the
second Iraq war. This recent ac-
tack was more focused on Israel's
three-week-long assault on the
Gaza Strip in Palestine.

Three Lock Down in
Earth Hour Action

On March 28, three activi-
lots locked down to equipment,
drawing attention to the Hazel-
wood Power Station in Victo-
ria, Australia. A banner reading,"Switch off coal," was hung in
the stairs of the plant. Thirty
more activists protested outside.

One of the points that the
protestors were stressing was the
need to shut down Hazel-
wood, one of the world's largest
contributors to pollution.

"Hazelwood's carbon pollution
emissions, at 17 million tons an-
nually, are equivalent to aboutive percent of Australia's annual
greenhouse-gas emissions," said
Louise Morris of the Switch Off
Hazelwood Blog.

Rising Tide Australia Puts
World's Largest Coal Port
on Lockdown

More than 500 protesters made
their frustrations clear as they
jumped into kayaks, canoes and
other small boats, blocking the
port of Newcastle, outside of
Sydney, Australia. Newcastle is
the world's largest coal port.

"We would like to show a
strong message to the govern-
ment that every day Australians
are sick of politely asking for
change," said Phillips, a Rising
Tide spokesperson.

Attacks Against UC Vivisec-
tors Still Going Strong

On January 20, University of
California, Berkeley vivisec-

Page 12 Earth First! Bellinge 2009
New Allies on the Frontlines of the Climate Struggle

Climate justice activists in Boston discover an unlikely ally in the fossil-fuel industry. Guy Fox, a mannequin, took the first step in cementing a truly unusual campaign, volunteering to chain himself to the doors of a Bank of America branch in Boston's Kenmore Square on March 31.

"Even a dummy like me can see that Bank of America's massive loans to coal companies, and support for the epidemic of foreclosures and evictions has to stop now," said Fox. Not to be outdone, climate activists in Framingham, Massachusetts, are reportedly reaching out to the garden gnome community.

Blacken the Skies

A new buzzword is spewing from the lips of politicians in 2009: "geo-engineering." Geo-engineering is the idea of manipulating the Earth's climate to produce a result that some would find more acceptable than things like disappearing Arctic ice or the possibility of lower Manhattan being consumed by the Atlantic Ocean.

Established geo-engineering ideas include processes that might or might not work, like try- ing to absorb carbon-dioxide (CO2), or constructing artificial forests that act as CO2 sponges.

John Holdren, Barack Obama's new science advisor, is not an advocate of "using all of the tools in the toolbox.

"(Geo-engineering)'s got to be looked at," Holdren said. "We don't have the luxury of taking any approach off the table.

But he acknowledges some concern over permanently altering whole aspects of Earth's climate. In particular, "When you're talking about things like CO2," he adds, "the risks aren't necessarily preventable.

One More Example of Our Failures as a Civilization

A man all the way from (say it with me...) New York City (crazy, huh?) came to Mont- tana, hoping to bag himself a trophy elk. He got his elk hunting permit and gun all ready. He even got a nice, red pick-up truck. What he forgot was a wildlife guidebook instead of an elk, the New Yorker shot a feral llama. Evidently, he didn't realize his error until after he had photographed and "cleaned" what looked like a small (and gutting an ani- mal) his prized kill. He turned himself in to au- thorities, but Montana surprisingly has no law against shooting a llama without a permit.

It's far too early to tell if the man packed generic New York-made pancake sauce for his big trip out west.

One for the Misanthropes

Nine-year-old Nicholas Dyer may decide to stay away from mountain-ravaging ski reports for a while after a Roseville, California. Young Nicholas was try- ing out an advanced run at the Northstar Re- sort when a coyote came after him.

"All of a sudden, out of the trees came a coyote," explained Cindi Dyer, Nicholas' mom. According to reports, the coyote "kept sking, keep sking" to her terrified son.

As Nicholas "bombed down the slope," an adult skier swept in to chase the coyote away.

Idaho Tries Out the Gift Economy

Idaho State Senator Gary Schroeder is very proud of a bill to ask each of the other 49 states if they want some of Idaho's wolves. The bill was passed by the Idaho Senate 31-1 on February 5.

According to Schroeder, Idaho has an excess of wolves, and maybe the other states want some. His logic goes that you'll never know, unless you ask. Supposedly interested in saving tax dollars that many otherwise be spent fighting "futuristic predator conservationists" in court over the wolves' deleting wants to spend tax dollars to ask states like Florida, Hawaii or Ohio if they would like a pack or two of wild wolves.

One wolf somewhere may want to hang out with alligators, sip on a mai tai or go to a Walmart, respectively, it's likely safe to say that the majority would prefer to stay in their Northern Rockies home.

Gregory Timmel was followed to his job of daily murder by Berke- ley Students for Animal Liber- ation. After Timmel left the parking garage, students proceeded to vandalism his automobile.

The vandalism was claimed in response to Timmel's abuse of animals at the Office of Labo- ratory Animal Care, where he works. The action was also done in solidarity with Stu- dent Huntingdon Animal Cruelty- UK prisoners.

More than 20 University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) vehicles have been targets of sabotage, vandalism and theft. On February 6, the Animal Lib- eration Front took responsibility for sabotaging yet another van. The communiqué read, "Until the UC schools leave the ani- mals out of their bloodthirsty quest for power, as we have said before, there will be no backing down on our part."

Still in the game, the Animal Liberation Brigade torched a UCLA veterinarian's vehicle on March 6. David Jentsch, who works with notorious vivisec- tor Edythe London, addicted non-human primates to methamphetamines, was the target of this attack.

"For the FBI, the more legit ac- tivists you fuck with, the more it inspires us," the communiqué warned. Sounds like we will be hearing from the Animal Liberation Brigade again soon.

Chilean Anti- Authoritarians Have a Night on the Town

Using the darkness of the night for cover on March 21, Chilean Anti-Authoritarians for Liberation got on their bikes, carrying super glue, spray paint and precut scraps of metal. Their first target was a bank that had its ATM defaced with glue. The word, "closed," and a circle A were painted on the window.

"Great," said a fast food restaurant, where two paddocks were glued and Painted on the entrance. Their third destination was an exceptionally large butcher shop. Six paddocks were chained to the door with glue. After that, it was on to the painting spree of slogans for political prisoners and a little anti-communist rhetoric.

Lastly, they descended on the last butcher shop of the night, where they sealed four paddocks and painted, "Murderers," on two doors.

Their communiqué explained the reasoning behind their late-night fun: "Sabotage against capital and the mur- derers will continue. We will not settle for just talk; direct action is a method of attack against those who have com- modified our lives and those of our animal brethren."

Sweden Round-Up of Actions

Throughout the past few months, people in Sweden have been busy. On February 5, there was fun to be had at the park. The penguin and seal ponds at a public park in the center of Stockholm were spray-painted, along with the workers' cars. On

Gregory Timmel was followed to his job of daily murder by Berke- ley Students for Animal Liber- ation. After Timmel left the parking garage, students proceeded to vandalism his automobile.

The vandalism was claimed in response to Timmel's abuse of animals at the Office of Labo- ratory Animal Care, where he works. The action was also done in solidarity with Stu- dent Huntingdon Animal Cruelty- UK prisoners.

More than 20 University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) vehicles have been targets of sabotage, vandalism and theft. On February 6, the Animal Lib- eration Front took responsibility for sabotaging yet another van. The communiqué read, "Until the UC schools leave the ani- mals out of their bloodthirsty quest for power, as we have said before, there will be no backing down on our part."

Still in the game, the Animal Liberation Brigade torched a UCLA veterinarian's vehicle on March 6. David Jentsch, who works with notorious vivisec- tor Edythe London, addicted non-human primates to methamphetamines, was the target of this attack.

"For the FBI, the more legit ac- tivists you fuck with, the more it inspires us," the communiqué warned. Sounds like we will be hearing from the Animal Liberation Brigade again soon.

Chilean Anti- Authoritarians Have a Night on the Town

Using the darkness of the night for cover on March 21, Chilean Anti-Authoritarians for Liberation got on their bikes, carrying super glue, spray paint and precut scraps of metal. Their first target was a bank that had its ATM defaced with glue. The word, "closed," and a circle A were painted on the window.

"Great," said a fast food restaurant, where two paddocks were glued and Painted on the entrance. Their third destination was an exceptionally large butcher shop. Six paddocks were chained to the door with glue. After that, it was on to the painting spree of slogans for political prisoners and a little anti-communist rhetoric.

Lastly, they descended on the last butcher shop of the night, where they sealed four paddocks and painted, "Murderers," on two doors.

Their communiqué explained the reasoning behind their late-night fun: "Sabotage against capital and the mur- derers will continue. We will not settle for just talk; direct action is a method of attack against those who have com- modified our lives and those of our animal brethren."

Sweden Round-Up of Actions

Throughout the past few months, people in Sweden have been busy. On February 5, there was fun to be had at the park. The penguin and seal ponds at a public park in the center of Stockholm were spray-painted, along with the workers' cars. On
Beach Driving Ban Boosts Plovers and Sea Turtles

Since a ban was implemented last year on driving on the beaches of the Outer Banks—barrier islands on the Atlantic coast of North Carolina—during nesting seasons, populations of piping plovers and loggerhead sea turtles have increased. The driving ban caused a backlash among beachgoers when it was implemented, since it coincides with the peak tourist season. Still, it only closes a mere 14 out of 72 miles of beach and just bans night driving.

Plover breeding pairs have gone from six to 11. The number of loggerhead nests has increased from 82 to 135 in just one year. Plovers and loggerheads only nest on open beaches in the Southeast. The Outer Banks hosts some of the longest undeveloped beaches in the Mid-Atlantic region.

Chevron Nut Guilty of Killing

Chevron was found not liable for the 1998 killing of protestors on an oil platform in Nigeria. The case used the Alien Tort Claims Act, which allows people outside the US to sue corporations in US courts.

The ilaje people were living in poverty and had their fisheries destroyed by oil drilling. After Monday's ruling, many other oil companies who have killed the protestors, killing two. Other protestors were arrested and tortured. Chevron claimed that the protestors were holding their workers hostage; however, workers on the platform said they had the situation under control.

Tonight, the Shredder Cannot Dine on Turtle Soup

A coalition of wildlife groups is pushing states without limits on the capture of wild freshwater turtles to ban the harvest, filing emergency petitions against eight states on March 11. Rising demand for turtle meat for human consumption in Asia has led to skyrocketing prices, harvesting throughout the midwestern and southern US. Over the span of three years, a quarter million turtles passed through the Dallas-Forth Worth airport on their way to Asia.

In 2008, the coalition pressured Florida, Oklahoma, Georgia and Texas to regulate their turtle trades. These states have either enacted moratoriums or are in the process of drafting stricter rules. Now, the coalition is taking on Arkansas, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, Ohio, South Carolina and Tennessee.

The increased harvest has led to local extinctions, since traps do not distinguish between rare and common turtles. Nine species of southern turtles are candidates for protection under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), but have yet to be listed.

Congo to Cancel Some Logging Deals

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has canceled 91 logging deals after a six-month moratorium, of 156 existing deals, effectively shutting down some operations. These deals were drawn up a decade ago during the Second Congo War. The DRC is also cracking down on under-reporting of timber exports.

In 2002, while the war was ongoing, only 100,000 cubic meters of timber were recorded and taxed. Surveys have shown that the actual timber yield is closer to five times that.

Not only have European corporations been logging a chunk of rainforest the size of Massachusetts, they have been stealing it from some of the most economically deprived people on the planet.

State of the Birds Released

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar released the first-ever comprehensive look at bird populations in the US. The report, released on March 19, showed that a third of the 800 bird species in the US are endangered, threatened or in significant decline. Bird populations in Hawaii were in the greatest state of crisis, followed by birds inhabiting grasslands, arid lands and ocean coastlines. Habitat destruction, invasive cats, towers and pesticides threaten the birds of the Hawaiian islands. The report tried to mitigate this frightening news with a reminder that wetland restoration has helped populations of waterfowl recover.

Supreme Court Limits Hunting Challenges

Ruling on an already-settled dispute over the salvaging of burned ridge, in Sequoia National Forest, California, the Supreme Court decided on March 3 to limit public involve¬ment in forest policy. The Burnt Ridge salvage logging plan had already been withdrawn by the Forest Service, but the court ruled in favor of exemptions that limit appeals and public hearings on salvage logging operations that span fewer than 250 acres and forest-thinning projects of fewer than 1,000 acres. The court also ruled that concerns like the health of the forests were not sufficient to establish stand¬ing. Standing means that someone must show concretely how they will be harmed by an action in order to take the case to court. This ruling could make it harder for forest defenders not living in the proximity of specific forests to sue the Forest Service.

EPA Delays Two Mountaintop Removal Permits

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) decided to suspend and review two permits for mountaintop removal (MTR), operations and delay hundreds of others on March 24. Initially, activists believed that hundreds of MTR permits had been suspended because of an exaggerated article from the Associated Press. The coal in¬dustry panicked and threatened to lay off the few people it still employs. In response, the EPA came out with a statement to re¬assure concerned parties that the hundreds of permits under review would more-than- likely be approved.

Court Halt Sours Juneau Road Project

On February 13, a federal judge ruled that a road to Juneau, the capital of Alaska, is un¬ecessary and that improved ferry service should be studied as an alternative. Road-building advocates say that the $350 million road will improve access to the city.

Though the judge did not look at 50 miles of undeveloped land, the Environmental Impact Statement for the road did not at increasing ferry service or reduc¬ing ferry fares. Opponents of the road want to see the money set aside for the road put toward improving ferry operations.

Rare Hawaiian Vine Designated Endangered Species

On March 17, a vine found only in wet forests on the Hawaiian island of Molokai was designated as endangered by the Obama administration. The vine was thought to be extinct in 1997, until two specimens were found on a nature preserve in 2005. In 2007, 24 more plants were found in the wild.

Many other plants throughout the Hawai¬ian Islands are facing similar situations. The vine was one of 251 species on the candidate list, waiting for protection under the ESA. The species on the list have been there for an aver¬age of 20 years, with at least 24 species having been driven to extinction while on the list.

Judge Rules to Protect Florida Reef

A South Florida judge ruled in early March to deny a dredging permit that would have threatened the Florida Reef Tract. The dredg¬ing would have brought 724,000 cubic yards of sand onto local beaches in a wealthy community. The sit that would be stirred up from the dredging site could drift to the 7,000-year-old reef and rob the city of its natural beauty.

The judge ruled that the beach is not criti¬cally eroded and would not warrant the use of dredged offshore sand.

Drilling Halted on Baca NWR

A drilling company was ordered to pull out all construction equipment until the effects of two oil wells on Baca National Wildlife Refuge, Colorado's newest and largest wildlife refuge, can be studied. The drilling would have nega¬tively impacted nearby Great Sand Dunes National Park and threaten the water supply for San Luis Valley. Conservation groups hope that the Fish and Wildlife Service will buy out the mineral rights from the drilling company as part of its comprehensive plan for the refuge.

Courts Kick Plantations Off Indian Land in Amazon

Brazil's Supreme Court ruled on March 12 in favor of Amazonian forest people, protecting a piece of the Amazon Rainforest that they claim. The Raposa Serra do Sol reservation enforces the sovereignty of the 18,000 natives and will remove the rice farmers occupying these lands. The reservation was established only three years ago, and demarcation and enforcement of it has been lax. Last year, when authorities tried to evict farmers, the farmers fought back violently. These farmers grow rice, beef and soy for export, and have been known to shoot at natives. The Brazilian government has set aside 35 million acres to relocate the farmers, but farmers are not satisfied. For comparison, the size of the reservation is 4.2 million acres.

Oil Spill in Australia

On March 11, Cyclone Hamish struck a ship off the coast of Queensland, Austral¬ia, spilling oil along 37 miles of beach in and around Brisbane. The ship also lost 30 containers of synthetic fertilizer.

In the meantime, the shipping company reported that only 11,000 gallons of oil escaped from the ship, but it now says that "substantially more oil was spilled," leaving the Australian govern¬ment to declare the area a disaster.
In the Earth First! Journal’s 20th anniversary issue article on the Round River Rendezvous (RRR), Faith and Roxanne proposed changing the name of the gathering to “RCP,” which stands for the “really cool party” for lots of humans who are trying not to act like they’re the center of the universe.” Agreed. So, for the purpose of this article, the RRR will be known as the Really Cool Party (RCP).

Now, to be completely honest, there is more to the RCP than just a big great party in the woods with some of your funkiest friends. There will be workshops and talks and tasks and chores and, well… you guessed it, partying.

Each morning will begin with morning circle, a good opportunity to see who rolled into camp in the night and hear what the day has to offer. Then, it’s on to workshops (bring some ideas for workshops you would like to be involved in or lead), hiking, or hanging-out in the beautiful Pacific Northwest. In the evenings there may be fires (depends on rainfall), folks singing and dancing, or quiet times with pals you rarely see. It’s up to you. The RCP is what you make it. Bring toys, learn new games to teach us, come with ideas to share. Costumes, instruments, skits and songs are encouraged to make the all-day EcoWarriors (EcoWackos?) Rally on Saturday, July 4, truly entertaining.

Don’t get me wrong, the RCP is not just fun and games (although it often seems that way). There is a lot of work that goes into throwing such a really cool party. You get to be involved in that too, because the Rendezvous is a communal gathering. Everyone is encouraged to pitch in. You can help by hauling water, gathering firewood, digging shitters, taking a turn at security or welcoming newcomers.

For the nitty-gritty: The shindig costs a whopping $25. The money goes to pay for this year’s event with the rest going to next year’s Winter Organizers Conference and RRR. Although they are not invited, there are bound to be media and law enforcement creeping around; simply accept it and act accordingly. On that note, offensive behavior, alcohol-induced or otherwise, will not be tolerated. There will be a conflict-resolution team on hand to deal with any problems. So please, come with respect, for yourself, your surroundings and others.

 lest we forget, we are going to be in the wilderness, so come prepared. Be self-sufficient and intelligent about your choices. Be prepared for camping in a cold, possibly wet or buggy environment. While the weather should be hot and dry, early Cascadian summers select against those who don’t bring wet weather gear and SPF 30. Remember, this is not car camping. You will be hiking your gear into the site.

Earth First! has always maintained its belief in self-sustainability. At this year’s Rondo, we are encouraging all campers to provide, pack in and pack out all their own food, compost recycling and garbage. Seeds of Peace will be providing a communal kitchen for those who cannot provide for themselves. We are strongly encouraging a monetary, kitchen equipment, or food donation to the Earth First! kitchen or directly to Seeds of Peace. All leftover donations will go to future Earth First! events. If anyone is interested in helping collect donations, contact Shawn at cascadia_ef@riseup.net. To donate prior to the event, send to: Cascadia Earth First!, POB 11662, Portland, OR 97211 Seeds of Peace Collective, POB 7832, Missoula, MT 59807

You’ll be happier if you bring:
Musical instruments, food, flashlight and batteries, a tent or something to keep the mosquitoes out of your snoozing nostrils, insect repellant, sunscreen and a hat, raingear and tarps, personal first aid supplies, water containers and a water filter, compass, cooking and eating utensils, birth and disease control, toilet paper and other personal necessities, and… DIRECTIONS TO THE SITE! (Check the website listed below as the date gets closer)

For the post-Rendezvous action, please bring:
Twine, rope, duct tape, tools (picks, shovels, pry bars, camp-a- longs, monkeywrenches, etc.), pack food, banner-making supplies, costumes, radios, U-locks, chains, lockboxes, and video and still cameras (for the action only).

Don’t bring:
Dogs, bad attitudes, shit beer, rotting food, anything you are not prepared to pack out!

www.2009rrr.org
Oregon's Last Ancient Forests: Under Attack!

Within the zone of an internationally recognized biodiversity heritage site, the Klamath-Rogue-Umpqua Watersheds, we are preparing for the onslaught of thousands of acres of clearcuts and devastation.

Once again the forests of Cascadia face dire threats from federal agencies and political corruption. The Oregon Bureau of Land Management (BLM), under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior, has auctioned and awarded the “rights” to destroy more than 25,000 acres of public forests this Summer and next. The only thing (outside of our future intervention, if needed) keeping these sales from imminent cutting is the “Biological Opinion” due out this Spring. In theory, these opinions declare what impacts these timber sales will have on species listed under the Endangered Species Act. In practice these Biological Opinions have acted as blank checks to move logging forward: Since 2004, the Oregon BLM has been found guilty of breaking federal law by the 9th Circuit Court on at least six separate occasions involving timber sales in southern Oregon. But really, why break the law when you can just change it?

We are still fighting the implementation of the Western Oregon Plan Revisions (WOPR), enacted on December 31, 2008. This was a last-gasp attempt by the Bush administration to attack what remains of Oregon’s old-growth forests. The WOPR allows the BLM to remove in its responsibilities under the Northwest Forest Plan of 1994 and increase logging by 43%. Seventy percent of this new logging under the WOPR would be clearcuts. Apart from the obvious environmental repercussions of this plan, it also clearly undermines numerous current laws and plans, including the Clean Water Act and the Oregon ‘Salmon Plan. Of our last remaining old-growth stands, 100,000 acres would be cut and existing streamside protections would be slashed in half. After so many years of devastation, the twisted lust to kill off the ancient ones remains unabated.

Roughly 20% of all global warming emissions are the result of deforestation. According to forest scientists at Oregon State University, “Forests in the Pacific NW have among the highest carbon storage density of any forests in the world.” Replacing these native stands with monoculture populations would reduce carbon-storage capacity, increase fire risk and decrease viable habitat for many species. The BLM states plainly that the WOPR would result in 180 million more tons of carbon in the atmosphere than a plan that would conserve forests for carbon storage. That is the equivalent of putting one million more cars on the road in Oregon for 132 years! This puts the WOPR in clear contradiction of greenhouse gas reduction targets that the governor and Oregon’s legislators signed into law in 2007.

The threat is unmistakable. Countless of our sister and brother creatures and their homes in the forest are in danger. The spotted owl continues its 4%-a-year descent into slow extinction. With the WOPR, timber harvesting would scar one million acres. Approximately 40,000 rural Oregonians live within a half mile of BLM land and their homes, drinking water and local economies are at risk from this foolish plan.

While liberals are busy speaking in tongues and fainting in the presence of Obama the Messiah, the WOPR continues on undaunted. Oregon’s Governor Kulongoski has appealed the WOPR, but state legislators are poised to introduce legislation in support of the WOPR. We see the fiction of their laws, broken when it pleases them, altered on a whim. Clearly we cannot stand compliant with bated breath for some political solution. With the global economic crisis, we have a window of unique opportunity. The compulsive building has slowed and timber prices are severely bumped. These companies cannot afford to deal with costly opposition. These matters are in our hands. We are poised on the edge of a knife, waiting for these ancient forests to fall. Where will you be this Summer when the chainsaws roll and the trees cry out? (See back page.)

Elliot State Forest

Sure, the WOPR threatens to cut big trees soon on BLM lands, and the Forest Service is proposing a nasty sale in Diamond Lake’s roadless areas, but, right now, as you read this, the biggest, oldest trees in Oregon are being clearcut in the Elliot State Forest, taking the habitat of endangered species like the northern spotted owl, marbled murrelet and Coho salmon.

There is a lawsuit bouncing trying to stop this illegal taking of endangered species habitat, but it could be a long time before we win it. Meanwhile, over 500 acres of owl habitat could be clearcut this Summer and another 500 acres next Summer.

Oregon’s Elliot State Forest is 93,282 acres of public lands located near the coast, between Reedsport and Coos Bay. It burned in 1968, so it was passed over when the Oregon Coast Range was largely slipped off after World War II. Logging didn’t start in earnest on the Elliot until the 1970s. Today, about half of the Elliot is a 130-year-old, never-before-logged, native coastal forest. Trees can get pretty big on the coast in 130 years, providing a complex forest structure just a few miles from the Pacific Ocean that makes it a haven for marbled murrelets.

Unfortunately, the trees are going fast. The resulting clearcuts are sprayed with herbicides to enslave the woods to tree plantations. The reason owl habitat can be clearcut is because in 1995 Oregon state got a “habitat conservation plan” that allowed 46 owls to be killed (the official word is “taken,” as in an “Incidental Take Permit”) if the state protected 23 owls. Now, there are less owls than that, and even they could be in trouble.

There is no such allowance to kill murrelets. Marbled murrelets are an endangered sea bird that depend on big, old forests near the ocean for nesting. Unfortunately, the good and the best murrelet habitat, even though it has never been surveyed, is now threatened with clearcutting under a new “habitat conservation” plan.

The trees really are ancient (and PK’n hugel) in the Elliot.

There are so many murrelets interfering with the plan to clearcut owl habitat, that Oregon wants to do a new habitat conservation plan that will allow them to clearcut the best murrelet habitat, with no surveys to find out how many actual birds they are killing!

Oregon’s Department of Forestry is not going to survey for spotted owls any more either. The last comprehensive spotted owl survey was done in 1991. There is no way to know for sure if the 500 acres that are slated to be clearcut this Summer have had spotted owls move in since then.

The Elliot is a beautiful forest to visit. There are nice camping areas near the coast between Roseburg and Coos Bay. The Elliot is also a place where you can see Roseburg Forest Product’s clearcuts on the Elliot, as well as dramatic views of the adjoining Weyerhaeuser Millcoma Tree Farm: 200,000 acres on the south side of the Elliot.

For more information about the Elliot, visit www.umpquawatersheds.org/local/ESF_main.html and http://casewild.org/elliot.html.
Our Gas Problem

There are proposals for 3 new Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminals in Oregon. These sprawling facilities would be located just south of Astoria (Oregon LNG), about 40 miles inland on the Columbia River (Bradwood Landing and Palomar Pipeline) and outside Coos Bay (Jordan Cove).

Proposals for 3 new LNG terminals and the 596 miles of new natural gas pipelines that would have to be laid are environmental catastrophes. Just a few of the issues associated with the pipelines are:

- The Bradwood site would require dredging of 700,000 cubic meters of riverbed.
- The Palomar Pipeline crosses 250 streams and rivers, some of them multiple times resulting in 292 crossings.
- The crossings, along with the dredging, represent a major degradation to salmonid habitat.
- Billions of dollars have been spent in restoration efforts of salmonid habitat. The LNG projects would heavily impact much of this area.
- A 120-foot-wide corridor would have to be scraped bare for the construction of the pipelines. Considering the fact that the majority of the 596 miles runs through forested land, this could result in upwards of a 500-mile-long clearcut.
- 40 miles of the Palomar Pipeline run through Mount Hood National Forest. That equals a 580-acre clearcut.

Wildlife Issues

Red tree role

This 4" mammal lives its entire life in the upper canopy of forests in western Oregon and is a major food source for the threatened northern spotted owl. The species is protected by the Survey and Management Strategy of the Northwest Forest Plan, which requires agencies to "look before they log" and buffer any discovered nests.

Gray wolf

Endangered from much of the West in the early to mid 20th century by trapping, hunting and poisoning, wolves have begun to migrate back into Oregon since their reintroduction into central Idaho in 1995. In 2005, Oregon passed a recovery plan to officially allow wolves back into the state in order to meet recovery goals. Currently, the federal government is proposing to de-list the species in the West, which would make shooting wolves legal and potentially cripple Oregon's recovery efforts.

Northern spotted owl

A nature-forest-dependant species, the owl's population has been seriously affected by unchecked logging of its habitat over the past century. Listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act in 1990, the species' population continues to decline and currently stands at approximately 3.8% each year throughout its range. Ongoing ancient forest logging, wildfire, and barred owl invasion all contribute to this. Unknowns like global climate change, West Nile virus and sudden oak death present further threats to the species.

Cougar

Like the gray wolf, the cougar is a species that has been long persecuted by humans in the West. In 1994 Oregon voters passed Measure 18, which banned the cruel practice of hound hunting the big cats. This led to a rebound of the species' population. In 2007 the Oregon Legislature overturned Measure 18 by reinstating hound hunting. This law helps implement the recently passed Oregon Cougar Management Plan, which proposes to cull the state's big cat population by killing 2,000 of them.

Blue Mountains

The Blue Mountains of eastern Oregon are a diverse wild bioregion encompassing high desert ecosystems on ancient lava flows with endangered species such as pygmy rabbits and sage grouse, and adapted unique species such as desert foxes, kangaroo rats, and pronghorn antelopes. There are national monument sites with some of the oldest living things on the planet. There are national forests ranging from dry ponderosa pine, juniper woodlands and aspen groves to high-elevation mixed-conifer ecosystems. The forests are populated with gray wolves, wolverine, lynx, pine marten, cougars, black bear, elk, mule deer, coyotes, bobcats, beaver, otter, mink, porcupines, skunks, and a large variety of rodents, reptiles, insects and birds, including neotropical songbirds, piliated woodpeckers, northern goshawks, great grey owls, and bald and golden eagles. Plus fish species including Chinook salmon, steelhead trout and bull trout. The amphibians include Columbia and Oregon spotted frogs.

We use legal processes of field-surveys proposed timber sales, commenting on agency projects including toxic herbicide use, Off Highway Vehicle management plans, livestock grazing on public lands, mining, and proposed species eradication or predator control projects over four national forests and one BLM district. We also negotiate, appeal and litigate to significantly modify or stop environmentally destructive plans, sales and projects. We will be giving workshops on timber sale monitoring and ending corporate rule, and activist skills trainings at the RRR to encourage participants to stay after the RRR to help us field-check proposed timber sales in eastern Oregon. In the process, you hike and camp in national forests, travel through high desert BLM lands, swim in rivers or lakes along the way, and learn about forest ecology, fire ecology, wild plant and animal identification, and how to stop timber sales and other agency projects legally. At the same time, you help us by recording information that is useful for comments, negotiations, appeals and potential lawsuits. Most volunteers also see lots of wildlife in the process.

The Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project defeated two major timber sales just last year, based on the field work of our volunteers. This year, major timber sales and fuel-reduction projects needing field-checking include the Canyon timber sale in the Ochoco National Forest, the Cribler sale (proposing to violate the 21-inch-diameter limit on cutting live trees) in the Umatilla National Forest, the Galena sale on the Malheur National Forest, and the Knott and Jane fuel reduction sales on the Malheur National Forest. The Jane sale is being planned by a local collaborative group in conjunction with the Forest Service.

We can't possibly cover the thousands of acres of timber sales on the ground every year without the help of volunteers like you. No experience is necessary. There will be a field-checking "blitz" after the RRR (and any associated direct action) in a proposed timber sale, as well as a field-checking and timber-sale-monitoring workshop at the RRR. The longer you stay with us after the RRR, the more you experience the big wild lands of eastern Oregon, the more you learn and the more you help our forest-defense efforts. Fieldchecking generally runs from June through September or later. Volunteers need to be self-sufficient with hiking and camping gear, possess at least minimal and provision for any special needs.

For more information, call Karen Coulter at 541.385.9167. Leave a message with your phone number and ask any questions, or find me at the RRR. Come to the Wild with us!
Come a week early to the RRR for a 6-day training and workshop event at the same location as the RRR, from June 20 to 26.

This will be a safe(r) space where transgendered, intersexed, gender-queer, androgynous- or woman-identified folk share skills in an empowering environment. We will be experiencing the land before all of the RRR attendees arrive, and we will be providing skillshares on how to help set up large camps for gatherings. There will also be tons of other workshops and trainings on many diverse issues. Central theme here: FUN!

We are now putting out a call for workshop presenters and trainers! If you are transgendered, intersexed, gender-queer, androgynous or woman-identified and would like to get involved in the organizing or would like to give a workshop, please get in touch! (Contact info)

Following the RRR, there will be a week-long intensive climbing and rigging camp from July 8 to 15. The camp is designed for individuals who already have basic climbing knowledge and are looking to expand their skill base to include more advanced rigging techniques. The camp is being put on by the Earth First! Climbers Guild. All are welcome to come to the camp, but be advised that you must have your own climbing harness and have basic knowledge of climbing techniques. (You can brush up on these at the RRR beforehand.) There will be a $30 fee that will go toward camp necessities and climbing gear that we will be using. Location information will be forthcoming, but the camp will be in the same basic geographic area as the RRR. You must RSVP to efcclimbers@gmail.com if you wish to come. Also, if you are an experienced rigger that would like to come and help teach, please get in touch! Checkout EFClimbers.net for more information.

Presumably, you have just read about the state of Oregon’s ancient forests and public lands. It’s all much more of the same doom and gloom (not the good kind) that we have come to expect.

- 25,000 acres of public land cuts?
- 436% increase in logging?
- More clearcuts and herbicides in the Elliot?

So, the real question then is what are you going to do about it? The solution is just as clear as the threat. One more summer of complacency and unabashed ecological destruction or one more summer spent with your dearest friends in the forests of Cascadia confronting the death machine? For us, it’s simple. We’ll be here fighting for the forests we love. We will have a camp in the forest and friendly houses in the city. We’re inviting comrades young and less young, experienced and less experienced to join us for a summer, a month or even just a few days.

We’ll be hosting an action camp in western Oregon May 23 to 25, and you are cordially invited to attend. Come to learn and teach; stay to defend.

To receive your own personal welcoming committee, or to get involved in any capacity, e-mail forestdefensenow@gmail.com or visit forestdefensenow.org. See you in the woods!
By the Roadshow Crew

As of the beginning of April, the Earth First! roadshow is going strong. From Arizona to Southern California to Oklahoma, Texas, and Florida, traveling with an arsenal of climb trainings, direct-action workshops and a badass puppetshow, this crew of eco-warriors has been connecting with organizers all over the southern part of the US.

The EF! roadshow set out after this year's Organizers' Conference with goals of networking with local activist communities, revitalizing a culture of direct-action organizing and getting people excited to carry on the rich culture of direct-action organizing and resistance. We're hoping to increase the availability of workshops, this year's most-inspiring gatherings: EF! has seen in years. Despite our excitement about all of the resistance we're seeing, we are realizing—with each audience filled predominately with young, patch-clad anarchists—that our presentations are failing to reach a broader crowd that extends beyond a subculture that is familiar to many of us. We are observing that many local EF! groups lack ties with other community environmental groups and see this as a growing point, not just in our outreach strategies as a roadshow, but in our networking strategies as a movement. We are hoping that as we continue across the country, we and our hosts will put more energy into forming ties with a larger base of radicals and organizers.

Everywhere we find a lot of enthusiasm growing for what this movement is and what potential it has. One of the most inspiring parts of our tour has been facilitating an all-take-no-prisoners kids' action in Gainesville, Florida. Seeing a group of people from four to 12 years old all do all of the work to organize an office demonstration against Plum Creek developments, two-dozen elders, and most-troubling gatherings.

We were much more excited than usual by the presence of our comrades in prison. Our presentation includes a puppetshow featuring woodland creatures that illustrates the importance of conservation and tells us about how to respond to this threat. These conversations are expanding out notions of what it means to be supportive in a radical community and have made us aware of how much growing we still need to do.

Already, in our six weeks on the road, we have fed 25 presentations and put on more than 30 workshops. We're traveling with more than 15 workshops on everything from a basic know-your-rights training to direct-action 101 to anti-OP of the EF! movement. We're hoping that he roadshow will provide local groups not only with motivation and inspiration, but also a toolbox of knowledge and tactics to draw on in their local organizing. Everyday, we're meeting more of the incredible movers and shakers of today's ecological resistance. Each night, more people tell us that they're committed to trying to bring this Summer's Rendezvous to see what kind of movement EF! is. We're convinced that this year's Round River Rendezvous is going to be one of the largest, rowdiest and most-inspiring gatherings EF! has seen in years.

Shout-Outs From the Road

The roadshow has been full of adventures, thus far! Here are some shout-outs to badass crews who really pulled it together and showed us a great time!

Prescott, Arizona: A small crew at the Catalyst Infoshop made us feel like old-time friends and rallied their community for a whole day of last-minute trainings and workshops.

Gainesville, Florida: They've nearly succeeded in kicking Plum Creek out of town, and there's a lot of local struggles going on. More than 50 folks came out to our presentations at the Civic Media Center the first night we were in town, and about the same number joined us the next day for workshops that included direct-action training for kids and workshops survival and clinic trainings.

Mt. Myers, Florida: We teamed up with our buddies in the band, Here's to the Longhaul, in this remarkable location called the Hapabatue Center to present to folks who are combating climate change locally!

Lake Worth, Florida: The fine folks of Lake Worth had the brilliant idea of combining our presentation into a local-foods benefit dinner. We enjoyed a delicious meal, listened to the raucous jokes of Valerie C. Wietrucker, and did the show for a crowd of close to 50 folks who are holding strong against Florida Power and Light's plans to build the largest power plant in the US.

Pardon me, sir. We're trying to raise funds to help us stop the clearcutting of forests on Downsmount, All money goes directly to material needs.

That's not true! We've won so many times, saved so many forests, well... we never win.

I've got an idea. I know a put a pun, want.

Of course! I respect your courage, but it never works. You can try and try, but what's the point? We never win.

Excuse me, sir. We're here canvassing for Progressives Opposing Organized Pollution, a non-profit that cares about the environment in the most general sense possible.

I can personally promise you that every dollar P.O.O.P. receives will go directly to helping buy sandwiches for our fundraiser banquet.

Here's 0.3!

But we were so ohwah. How did you know he would reply to a ridiculous lie?

He votes for politicians, doesn't he?

May-June 2009 Earth First! Page 19
Borders, Exclusivity and E/F Organizing

BY EVERGREENS EARTH FIRST!

Folks from Everglades Earth First! (EEF) would like to unpack a serious issue that took place at this year’s Winter Organizer’s Conference (OC) and Winter Rendezvous in Arizona and seems to be a systemic problem within our mostly white movement. The OC was hosted in a landscape island ecosystem, just beyond a militarized border patrol checkpoint. You had to go through it to get out of the OC. Anyone notice? If you are a US citizen and white, you may have slept through it. You may have been waved through without even rolling down your window. Why? Because it is legal by the government, have issues with your documents or look a little too brown, well, you would have definitely noticed it if you were probably terrified, and rightfully so.

Two of the people in our crew were at risk by going to the OC this year, having varying issues with their documentation, because they were never warned that they’d be moving through a border checkpoint. Our immigration anti-racism and nationalism are as much a reality as they are in Arizona. We, like most E/F collectives, do a lot of work in solidarity with immigrant communities and workers, and as militant E/F, we aspire to see a biocentric movement shaped by a broad alliance of peoples, not just white, punk, travelin’ train hoppers with a knack for patched fashion. Doing so will make or break our movement. We are inspired by the E/F stance of anti-oppression, the solidarity work that E/F folks have done at events like the No Borders Camp and across the border in Mexico, and the activities of E/Fers from across the Caribbean and Latin America.

So, what up with the silence? “Hey, if the state says you are illegal, then the OC ain’t safe ‘cause we know the ‘anti-fas’ warning came from Lieutenant Dipshit when he detained one of us EEFers at the checkpoint and hauled them off to Immigration and Customs Enforcement’s facility. Our friend was only fingerprinted, warned that they had broken the law and released. This sort of oversight flies in the face of E/F’s attempts to organize around a solid platform of anti-oppression and, especially, in this case, against nationalism and racism. We don’t blame anyone in particular. We’ve hosted an OC before and know that it’s difficult, confusing and crazy to tie all the ends together. However, if the OC cannot do its own work, then we need to be honest and upfront about it. Our allies and those of us in the movement who are not US nationals will respect and trust E/F more if we can make solidarity and each other’s work more visible and bring the message to our friends who might not be aware.

Lastly, there was a lot of talk at the anti-oppression panel this year about bringing back the old timers, the rednecks, and generally opening up to folks who don’t look like us (as long as they are willing to ground themselves in anti-oppression, of course). Well, did anyone take a look at the Action Agenda? You won’t believe me when I say there were mines to be stopped, roads to be blocked, forests to save and power plants to shut down. Let’s think about how to create vibrant bioregional groups, and actually follow these plans. We’re Earth First! action is what we’re good at. Come to the RRR and bring along some new faces—or some old ones that haven’t been to a RRR in a while. Be ready to help out, help others, show up and ask some food, have some fun on late-night security shifts and shut some shit down.

Our rally about people of color are facing an increasing assault, are facing an assault, and environmental activism is facing a biocentric assault.

Earth First! 2009!
Another Fraud Lawsuit Against Maxxam and Hurwitz

It ain't over 'til it's over. We finally got corporate raider extraordinaire Charles Hurwitz out of our forests in California—after two decades of rape and ruin in the redwoods when Maxxam's subsidiary, Pacific Lumber, went bankrupt in 2007 and Maxxam did not play the winning card. However, Maxxam and Corazon Hurwitz himself profited mightily from their disastrous and often-illegal corporate reign in California's North Coast, and Hurwitz never was held accountable. There is a glimmer of hope in a lawsuit coming to trial in Oakland that will take another whack at that accountability, and Hurwitz himself is on the roster for this round in court.

A former head of California's Department of Forestry filed a lawsuit alleging fraud in 2006. The suit specifically charges that Maxxam defrauded the State of California out of hundreds of millions of dollars by sabotaging the Headwaters Forest deal that was negotiated over several years and signed in 1999. Everyone from Bill Clinton to Senator Dianne Feinstein to Hurwitz was in on the negotiations, jockeying for the right to claim they had "saved" Headwaters Forest, and Maxxam took home to half a billion dollars and additional forestland for a scant 7,400 acres. Hurwitz got an $11 million personal bonus. The fraud is based on the Sustained Yield Plan the corporation was required to submit, which it turned out, was manipulated to show logging and regeneration projections that were impossible and falsified.

For more information from Bay Area Coalition for Headwaters, visit www.headwaterspreserve.org.

Karen Pickett

HLS Grasping at Straws

On March 3, a top Huntington Life Sciences (HLS) board member made what's been called a last-ditch attempt to save the struggling company. An HLS proposal is to buy all outstanding shares in HLS, which would cost him around $90 million. Stop Huntington Animal Cruelty (SHAC), a group that exists solely to put HLS out of business, claims that this move is a "last throw of the dice" for the largest contract animal testing laboratory in Europe (though it also operates in the US). SHAC pointed out that HLS' stocks are at their lowest value in more than four years and are only 20 percent of what they were worth in October. The group sees Baker only offering to buy these stocks because nobody else will. Still, it's unclear if he can raise the money if HLS' board approves the proposal.

On January 17, Baker announced that HLS was trying to move its financial headquarters back to England, get an English bank account and secure an English loan. However, an HLS spokesperson denied these claims, saying they were only a "personal view and a long-term vision for the company." (In 2000, every bank in England refused to do business with HLS, so it became administered by the state-owned Bank of England. In the next year the company incorporated itself in the US to take advantage of laws that allow for more anonymity for shareholders.)

So, will Baker's plan work and make HLS more financially viable, or will this be the last stand of a dying monster? Time will tell, but according to SHAC, anti-HLS protests were up 18 percent in 2008 (250) compared to 2007 (700). While HLS tries to get back on its feet, the movement to shut it down is thriving.

Everglades Land Deal Chopped

In the continuing saga of the deteriorating state of Florida's Everglades, Florida Governor Charlie Crist revised a celebrated conservation deal for the second time. On April Fools' Day, Crist said Florida would buy 27,000 acres of Everglades land from US Sugar Corporation for $550 million, down from the previous 180,000 acres for $34 billion. Still, the revised deal is for "wiggly room" in the new, more modest plan.

Crist has been eager to reach a deal with US Sugar and Florida Crystals, both major sugar growers in the Everglades, to set aside land for preservation. In June, he announced the 180,000-acre deal, but due to the tumbling economy, Florida no longer has the revenue.

Florida Crystals owns what some consider the "missing link," a prime parcel of land that connects the Everglades with its primary water source, Lake Okeechobee. As of press time, no deal has been publicly cemented with Florida Crystals. Due to finances, that deal may be a long way off.

Utah Student Facing Felonies

Also on April Fools' Day, the federal government pressured DeChristopher with two felonies. DeChristopher is the University of Utah student who infiltrated a public lands auction on December 19, grabbed a bidding paddle and purchased 22,000 acres for $1.79 million that he didn't have (see EFF July 2009). He is now being charged with interference with federal law enforcement and making false representations at an auction. He could face up to 10 years in prison and a $570,000 fine.

Meanwhile, Ken Salazar, the incoming Secretary of the Interior, invalidated the sale of 77 leases involved in that auction, covering 103,000 acres near Vernal, Moab, and Fish Lake. The BLM administration never should have put this land up for sale, due to the proximity to national parks and monuments.

Lawsuit Against Indigenous Activists

Canadian National Railway (CN) filed two lawsuits in a Toronto court against members of the Mohawk Community of Tyendinaga, in what's considered Ontario, Canada. The suit, filed by CN's lead attorney, Christopher Gomolin, alleges the Mohawks and families and communities in connection with blockades on CN tracks during April 2007. A separate suit was filed against Shawn Brant for his role in a blockade on June 29, 2007 (see EFF July-October 2007).

Legal Wranglings From the RNC

David McKay, one of the Texas Two accused of possessing Molotov cocktails during the Republican National Convention (RNC) in Cleveland, Ohio, changed his plea to guilty on March 16. Previously, he had pled not guilty due to entrapment by the trick, Brandon Darby. This resulted in a hung jury in January. He is now awaiting sentencing.

Bradley Crowder, the other Texas Two defendant, agreed to testify against David McKay, his good friend.Crowder pled guilty in January and is also awaiting sentencing.

The Earth First! Journal is uncomfortable offering support to either of the Texas Two. There has been sketchiness surrounding information McKay has given about others since his arrest last summer. Additionally, Crowder's agreement to testify against McKay undermines any support we could give him. However, we want to point out that much of their radical community in Austin, Texas, is still supporting both McKay and Crowder.

Matt DePalo—who is not one of the Texas Two, but who also said guilty to possessing Molotov cocktails—was sentenced on March 19 to three and a half years in prison and an additional $10,000 fine. He was denied parole. He is listed on our prisoner page on page 26.

With Tristan In Our Thoughts

continued from page 1

the Nevada Test Site, Ward Valley and especially the forests of Northern California with EFF. For the last two years, Tristan was a big part of the Nuclear Oak Cliff Coalition, fighting for the fight to stop a giant 300-foot crane and police from all California police. He wrote in an article for the Earth First! Journal (see EFF NovemberDecember 2008). "In June, our tree village was attacked by numerous climbers, five cherry pickers, a giant 300-foot crane and police from all California police. Our heart went on forever. In a new article for the Earth First! Journal (see EFF November December 2008). "In some cases, when ex-formed friends were not afraid to fight back. It took 23 hours over the course of two days to destroy our tree village and cut our traverse lines." This broad-based community effort, while falling short of protecting the trees, was wildly successful in inspiring thousands of people around the world, and synthesizing direct action and urban ecology techniques that remain in serious condition in an Israeli hospital. While his functioning is slowly improving, the long-term health of his remaining part, his movement will not be known for some time. His family and friends are demanding Israel take full responsibility for shooting him. Next, Utah Salazar said public warning as well as hospitalization. Tristan is fighting for his life courageously, as he always has. His health is improving for the Earth and her people for decades.

For more information, visit www.justicefortristan.org, www.paisolddarity.org.

May-June 2009 Earth First! Page 21
Grizzly Poem

The grizzly slept on my couch,
An unwanted house guest. Drunk on my garage.
A riot in a mess,
He's not the only one,
The whole canyon taunted.
Drunk on homeless grizzly,
Cashed up in my twist.

They're loud in the box cities,
Drunken fighting all night.
'Grizzly in a 'wilebeater,'"
40 ozs. in a hand.
"Stars Last!" By upside down.
They broke their heads loud and mean's.
Once they focused the will bends,
But that isn't Freydie's plan.

Sweet Home Wildens...
A droning grizzly stumble on.
'Driving the dumbasts,
Filling off the bar.'
The Freydie's want food stamps,
& there ain't no touch eye highs.
So they crash on peoples' caskets,
All it costs is their pride.

Dead men pick their bozos,
on those slow summit eyes.
All the grizzly talk to paying
don on bouldered meek.
Politicians tell only lies,
splash post mortal wine.
Ingratitude all feel lonely,
goldruck dyed to be alive.

The skies are all pululated
The water's poison, too.
That's development everywhere,
the grizz just sing the blues.
So they sleep in my doo doo,
after munching from my barn.
If there's any justice,
The grizzly can still make art.
—Shawn Wilson

Orientation

Wilding in the post spring storm sky.
Bears and magics hurl the black cape of death.
Above an elk carcass swollen gray in snow.
Fear bear grizzly feeling
Hungry, demanding scavenger.
Massive like Howling.
Leaves the hillside
With the swiftness of an ocean wave ship.
And harnessed to its back.
A monster in the snow.
Enormous claws stalking in the air.
Rocks giddily back and forth.
On the joy of the elk's flight.
The late spring.
Deep, wet snow.
And most small.
The open land.
Where things can still happen.
Complete.
—Seym McBride

Bear Malls

It was the bear
In the shopping center
That surprised me the most
Not that the bears had fallen
On that the streets were ruined
But simply
That there were still bears like her
to be seen

I thought they done you
to extinction,
I said.
They tried,
She agreed.
But they did
A better job
Of doing that
to themselves.

I got came to look
For a little dried salmon
And some berry jam.
Before the cold pop through the door
And the river
Drinks back
The courtyard.
Your best hour
Here. I get too hungry

I'd like to stay all night
Just a few minutes

I said.

2/27/09

ARMED WITH VISIONS

Clear as cut glass & just as dangerous

—Mly

Page 22 Earth First! Belkane 2009
This act also comes at a time when the usefulness of wilderness designation is in doubt. The effects of climate change have infiltrated every part of the planet, including wilderness areas that have been spared the chainsaw or the bulldozer. Sky island ecosystems in the Southwest are already suffering, and pine beetles are destroying forests throughout the Rockies. Still, key to solving climate change, the forests that are already under pressure with invasive species is to give ecosystems some breathing room. Bioregional wildlands plans are integral in order to allow ecosystems to adapt to climate change and start to stabilize the climate. Congress can be good for setting aside public lands in the West, but if we are going to make any real dent in stopping ecological collapse, we need to continue fighting for wildlands in places like Indiana, Maine, North Carolina, Nebraska and Texas.

Congress has been sparing the wilderness or the bulldozer, and protects ecosystems from development. Some of these areas were previously open to snowmobiles and off-road vehicles. The act protects the Amargosa River, the only perennial river in Death Valley. Along with other wilderness within the Sierra Nevada, the White Mountains, Sierra arid the White Mountains, the act protects the Mountain Grove, the largest stand of giant sequoias in the park.

In Colorado, the act creates the 210,000-acre Dominguez Canyon National Conservation Area in the canyons west of the Rockies. This area hosts ancient petroglyphs and dwellings, meadows covered in wildflowers and desert bighorn sheep habitat. At Rocky Mountain National Park, the act finally implements the National Park Service's recommendation from the 1970s to designate 250,000 acres of wilderness.

Wilderness proponents in Oregon helped protect many biologically critical areas. The act designates wilderness within Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument and buys out grazing rights, protecting ancient forests and meadows. It protects old-growth Douglas fir and Port-Orford cedar forests in central Oregon, including the headwaters of the Elk River, the healthiest salmon fisheries on the west coast. Mt. Hood now has an additional 130,000 acres of designated wilderness, including ancient forests, and nearly 80 miles of wild river. Part of this wilderness would not exist if the Esmeralda-Sterett Eagle Creek had not stopped a timber sale seven years ago. The Omnibus Act also protects desert wilderness in the watershed of the John Day River in the Spring Basin.

Across the West, other wildernesses are now protected, including more than a half-million acres of high desert and several hundred miles of wild rivers in southwestern Idaho, as well as 16,000 acres of canyon country and pinion pine forests in northern New Mexico. In Wyoming, more than 1.2 million acres of wildlands were withdrawn from oil and gas leasing in the Wyoming Range within Bridger-Teton National Forest. The Wyoming Range harbors strongholds for cutthroat trout and half of Wyoming's moose populations. In southern Colorado, the act protects hundreds of thousands of acres of new wilderness in and around Zion National Park.

East of the Mississippi River, the Omnibus Lands Act adds wilderness in Virginia's Monongahela National Forest. These protections cover mountain streams and vibrant forests of mountain ash, red spruce and eastern hemlock. The act designates wilderness in the tulip, sugar maple, scarlet oak and white ash forests within Jefferson National Forest in Virginia. In the Blue Ridge Mountains, the act designates wilderness within the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore along Lake Superior.

This Omnibus Act brings with it a significant threat to wilderness, as well. It allows an unnecessary road to be built through fragile, globally important wetlands in the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska. The refuge is necessary habitat for hundreds of thousands of the world's migratory birds. The act trades 206 acres needed for the road for more than 61,000 acres (45,000 acres of it) of wilderness to nearby lands to be added to the refuge. While this seems like a reasonable trade, the withdrawn land comprises habitat needed for threatened waterfowl. The road would bring with it noise and pollution, creating a much bigger impact than a scant 200 acres.

Once wilderness has been designated, it is supposed to remain that way forever (or at least until the end of the US). If we allow pieces to be traded away, we are opening the door for all sorts of questionable deals. This sets a precedent for the commodification of wilderness. Is an acre of wilderness the equivalent of a thousand acres of claimed mine sites? Is an acre of wetlands the same thing as an acre on top of a desolate mountain?

Another part of this package that's been kept quiet is the Forest Landscape Restoration Act. This seems not much different than previous forest plans, in that it promotes for-profit logging as a way to prevent fires. While this act does not open forests up for clear cutting, it seems to push logging over prescribed burns.

Additionally, a compensation program for ranchers who lose livestock to wolves is included in this huge package. According to some wildlife advocates, programs like this have helped reduce wolf killings by ranchers. On the other hand, the ranchers shouldn't be in wolf territory, and this program subsidizes them for doing the right thing—not killing wolves.

This new legislation ensures that at least some of the places that we care about are going to stay wild, but it doesn't let us off the hook. We don't just want some wilderness; we want it all. We must also realize that while few of us specifically lobbied for this act, the public awareness and wilderness defense carried out by Earth Risters, as well as the policy work done by EFers who've left the frontlines, set the stage for this.

While the act sets up programs to study the impacts of climate change and ocean acidity, specifically acidification, Congress has proven itself to be entirely incapable of reversing climate change. Other threats to wilderness loom just outside its arbitrary boundaries. Pesticides from paper plants permeate the entire atmosphere. Anti-depressants from our piss pollute our rivers. Transmission lines and cell phone towers destroy bird migration routes. City lights bleach the night sky.

Bristlecone pine cones were alive during the rise and fall of the Roman Empire and have watched our civilization spread across the planet. The Omnibus Act now protects them, but will our toxic culture permeate their remote mountain home, or will they live to witness the fall of this empire? We need to use all of the tools in the toolbox; sometimes, victories come from legislation. When governments fail to provide us with anything useful, it's time to take to the trees.
Grand Jury Resisters,
Fur Farm Raids
and Investigations in Utah

BY JEFFERSON

Those fighting in solidarity with the wild animals of Utah are now feeling the government's backlash. Recently, two animal rights activists were served grand jury summonses. Two other activists were arrested by the FBI for alleged involvement in a 2002 Utah mink farm raid and the damage inflicted on another farm.

The father of Jordan Halliday, one of the activists called to appear before a grand jury, stated that the federal agent who served his summons, asked him about the August 2008 release of 300 mink from a farm in South Jordan, Utah. The other activist asked not to be revealed.

Alone inside the courtroom on February 18, Halliday spent more than half an hour before the grand jury, not responding to their questions, claiming that the subpoena hadn't been properly served to him.

"It's a little bit intimidating. I had to basically stay focused and do as I was advised by my lawyer," Halliday said after the experience.

Outside the courtroom, Halliday had the uncompromising support of more than two dozen activists. Supporters bore signs that read, "Resist grand juries," and, "Support Jordan." Some supporters sported lengths of tape across their mouths. One of the activists stating solidarity said, "I will always rally behind an animal activist that's undergoing this type of treatment."

Both activists safely left the grand jury that day, with Halliday's actions leaving prosecutors feeling unsatisfied.

On March 13, Halliday was forced to appear before another grand jury. This time, the court's "fishing expedition" would land him in jail.

Due to his repeated silence during the secret hearing, Judge Teresa Campbell granted Halliday immunity within a grand jury resolves your constitutional First and Fifth Amendment rights. As of press time, Halliday was being held to compel testimony. Through the coercion of incarceration, the state hopes to force him into answering all of the grand jury's questions.

To little or no surprise, the government stated that it would not respond to any questions pertaining to the content of the grand jury that it put these two activists through.

However, the feds did admit that they were aware of the chance that "sympathy actions" could occur.

Grand juries are a tool of the state used to gather information in cases where it doesn't have enough substantial information for an indictment against anyone. They are orchestrated by prosecutors seeking to "solve unsolved crimes." It involves a person being summoned and appearing before a group of people assembled according to the state's specific legal guidelines for assembling a grand jury. The individual is forced to appear before prosecutors, a judge and a jury without any legal representation present. They may be allowed to leave the room and consult their lawyer, but sometimes, this option may also be taken away. Information divulged in grand juries is later used by the prosecutors to connect dots in cases.

In radical circles, people are often encouraged to not answer any questions in grand juries. This is because of the notion that anything you share (no matter how insignificant or unrelated it may seem) could later be used against you or someone else. Grand jury resisters often resort to their First and Fifth Amendment rights to remain silent. However, because of the coercive nature of grand juries, judges often grant defendants immunity. If you continue to resist, you may then face jail time (see EJF July-August 2008).

Grande juries were used during Operation Backfire for convictions in previously unresolved Earth Liberation Front actions. Political prisoners, such as Daniel McGowan and Marie Mason, have resisted grand juries while in question and jail. The additional time spent serving a contempt sentence for resisting grand juries during incarceration does not count toward overall time served.

Also in Utah, on March 5, William "BJ" Vieli and Alex Hall were arrested by FBI agents in connection to the August 2008 fur farm raid in South Jordan. Six hundred mink were released, records were destroyed and Animal Liberation Front (ALF) graffiti was removed. "No More Mink, No More Murder," and, "ALF: We Are Watching," were left behind. The FBI indictment against the two also accuses them of attempting to damage the farm in Hyrum, Utah, this past October. Both were held without bail at the Salt Lake County Jail.

Prosecutors estimate the economic damage from the August raid to be at least $10,000. The two are facing one felony charge each that holds the potential for five years in prison and up to $25,000 in fines. The misdemeanor charge for the October action could result in a penalty of up to one year in prison and a $10,000 fine.

On March 12, Vieli and Hall were released by a federal magistrate judge. The court set specific restrictions for the two while awaiting their May 11 trial. Both will be electronically monitored and put on a curfew. Their computers will also have software installed that will log their use. The two were also commanded to steer clear of "straight edge" and "ALE." This is part of the latest round of increased repression against those who fight in solidarity with the animals. Halliday, Vieli and Hall are in need of our support. Please write to Halliday while they remain incarcerated.

His address is on page 26. Hall is also in need of legal funds. Please donate if you can.

For more information on this case, visit www.supportbjandalex.com.

Silencing the Sentenced:
Daniel McGowan and Little Guantanamo

BY LAUREN REGAN

How does the government add yet more insult to injury regarding the politically motivated persecutions of radical activists? It moves political prisoners into Communication Management Units (CMUs) and locks them in silence. Daniel McGowan and Little Guantanamo.

McGowan is facing the rest of his life in prison, sentenced to life without the possibility of parole for the murder of Andy Stepanian. Andy Stepanian, one of the SHAC 7, was also a detainee in this new terrorist farce. Upon hearing the news of his recent release to a halfway house as a result of serving his federal term, the Animal Enterprise Terrorist Act (the precursor to the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act). One need only read one Daniel or Andy's letters to understand why the government wants to keep them away from all public discourse. Their eloquence, optimism and encouragement from behind bars give heart to the movement, and their stance of defiance against the inherent racism and capitalist economy that the snatch system has left them in the feds' disfavor. Andy and Daniel, through their charisma and dedication, have become well-publicized rallying points. The government wants to completely silence them and their friends and supporters on the outside. It wants to break these young men down completely.
The Outcome of Organizing With Too Large of a Heart

BY JEFFRELL

For some, it is a loved one, family member, passionate friend or partner—someone you believed you could depend on for anything. Some had lost someone who had shared with them some of the brightest days and toughest hardships of life; someone you have shared much with who you thought was there for you like nothing else in this world, someone irreplaceable. For others, it may be a friend of a friend or a person that you met while milling about between paths of action. It may be the chemically redwooded ways on your way to the old tree's at University of California, Santa Cruz. To some, it is another face and name of a person whose heart was so mountainous and compassion so mammoth that they felt subject to scrutiny of a cold, heartless state.

On February 24, 2008, the next day mentioned; five to six individuals did a home demonstration at the home of a UCSC professor. At this home, the husband of the vivisector opened the door as protestors were shaking the handle and banging on windows. He then began to get into a physical altercation with one of the protestors.

The husband's description of a vehicle used by protestors at the demonstration lead police to a Santa Cruz address, where police later surrounded the home for more than eight hours until they could obtain a warrant to raid the house (see EFP March-April 2008). At the peak of the standoff, there were 20 cops and agents waiting to break into the home; in addition to 75 cop-watching protestors in solidarity with the live inside. The police gained entry by breaking windows and doors before they smashed out the lights with their weapons. Public information on vivisectors that was found inside was held as evidence against the four.

Also that night, police obtained a search warrant for Maryam's car. After impounding the vehicle and searching it, cops found bandanas and a bullhorn. The complaint states that DNA from Maryam, Nathan and Adriana was found on the bandanas.

That were similar to those listed on the previous indictment. The indictment reads that, over the course of seven hours, approximately 11 individuals protested at the homes of five different vivisectors. It also mentioned that the individuals used two different cars, one of which was registered to Maryam's mother.

During the last week of September 2008, three people were served court orders for their DNA, and another person had theirs taken from them in downtown Santa Cruz. At the time, one of the three was at a Quaker meeting in Florida, and the other two claimed asylum at a vescior's home in Santa Cruz.

Another date of reference is July 29, 2007, when a UC berkely, California, student named Joseph Bluhm (the assistant director of capital campaigns) was arrested at UC-Berkeley's home on February 2, 2008. He pled no contest to the charge before him.

Nathan and Adriana appeared before a federal court in Charlotte on February 20. Six days later, the two were released and extradited back to California. Nathan and Joseph appeared in court on February 27 and received a preliminary hearing date for March 19. The court room was packed with supporters.

As of press time, all four arrestees are scheduled to appear at the same hearing that will take place in San Jose, California, on June 8 at 9 a.m. Nathan, Adrian Pope, and Maryam Khajavi were arrested in Oakland, California. Joseph was arrested at the Alameda County courthouse, appearing for accusations of disturbing the peace at an animal-rights protest outside of Robert Bluhm (the assistant director of capital campaigns) projects at UC-Berkeley's home on February 2, 2008. He pled no contest to the charge before him.

There are numerous considerations to be looked at from this case. The most necessary task before us is support. These four are in need of courtroom solidarity if you are in their area. They need financial donations for legal costs that will easily exceed thousands of dollars for travel costs and lawyer fees. Please donate to their legal funds or throw fundraisers for the four. In light of this, we must all lend our hand to protect each other more strongly and organize safely.

These four are in trouble for pouring their hearts into efforts to stop vivisection within the University of California system. While we are supporting these four, don't forget the animals that they worked so hard to advocate for. The same life-thieving cages are still in the same buildings, being used by the same people.

For more information, visit www.aeta.org.

The same life-thieving cages are still in the same buildings, being used by the same people.
Prisoner and Legal Updates

- Matt DePalma, #14126-041. Currently in prison for convictions related to drug sales. Serving 5 years for conspiracy to distribute controlled substances. 

- Bryan Griffiths, XW8892, HMP Hewell, Hewell Lane, Redditch, B97 6QJ. Arrested for possession of a firearm and ammunition. Serving 3 years for possession with intent to supply.

- Jordan Halliday, #124836, 2125 West Valley Hwy, Suite 100, Logan, UT 84321, was held in contempt for failing to appear before a grand jury investigation into Utah mink liberations.

- Marie Mason, #04672-061, FCI Wesca, Federal Correctional Institution, POB 1731, Wesca, MN 56093, USA. Arrested for violating parole conditions. Serving 2 years and 10 months for a series of federal convictions.

- Olga Aleksandrovna Neyskaya, was released. The Russian eco-activist was serving six years for criminal damage and causing explosions in protest of the war in Chechnya.

- Fran Thompson, #1090915, CCC, 3151 Litton Dr, Chilliwack, BC 20640, Canada. Arrested for driving a stolen vehicle. Serving 2 years and 9 months for possession of firearms and ammunition.

- Jane Morrison, #17538, FCI Wesca, Federal Correctional Institution, POB 1731, Wesca, MN 56093, USA. Arrested for violating parole conditions. Serving 4 years for violating parole conditions.

- John Aulani, #18851-123, SCI Greene, 175 Progress Dr, Waynesburg, PA 15370, USA. Arrested for parole violation. Serving 3 years for parole violation.


- Daniele Casilini, Casa Circonvallazione, Via Burla 39, 43100-Parma, Italy. Arrested for allegedly using explosives to damage property. Casilini is a member of the Italian neo-fascist group and frequent target of state repression.

- Julien Coupat, N° d’Ecuru 20173, 42 Rue de la Sante, 75014 Paris, France. Arrested for using explosives to damage power lines. Coupat is a member of the French ultra-right.

- John, Graham, Pennington County Jail, 307 St Joseph Street, Rapid City, SD 57701, USA. Arrested for murder charges. Graham was framed by the FBI for the 1975 murder of fellow American fighter pilot, John Mccain, in Vietnam.

Animal Liberation

- Jon Ablewhite, T4885, and Kerry Whitburn, T4886, HMP Lowdham Grange, Lowdham, Nottingham, NG14 7DA, UK. Serving 2 years for conspiracy to supply a guinea pig for vivisection.

- Dan, Amos, VN7818, HMP Winchester, Romsey Rd, Winchester, SO22 5DF, UK. Amos was arrested for conspiracy to supply blackminded people linked to Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS). For more information, visit www.myspace.com/realworld.

- Greg Aven, TA7450, HMP Coldingley, Shalford Road, Wisley, Woking, Surrey, GU24 9EX, UK. Serving 9 years for conspiracy to blackmail people linked to Huntingdon Life Sciences. For more information, visit www.myspace.com/shac

- Natasha Avery, NR8897, HMP Send, Ripley Road, Woking, Surrey, GU21 2JU, UK. Serving 9 years for conspiracy to blackmail people linked to Huntingdon Life Sciences. For more information, visit www.myspace.com/shac

- Mel Broughton, TN1938, HMP Woodfield, Tattenhoe Street, Milton Keynes, Bucks, MK4 2DA, UK. Serving 10 years for conspiracy to commit arson in connection with the campaign against Oxford University's private lab. For more information, visit www.myspace.com/shac

- Jacobi Conroy, #33031-011, FCI Terminal Island, POB 3007, San Pedro, CA 90731, USA. Serving 4 years for conspiracy charges stemming from his work with Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC). For more information, visit www.supportlake.org.

- Dan Carrié, AB345A, HMP Wakehurst, Clissold Rd, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 9NX, UK. Serving an "indefinite sentence" of at least six years—with no fixed release date or upper limit—for arson against targets linked to the vivisection industry.

- Lauren Gazzola, #33947-011, FCI Danbury, 1551, Danbury, CT 06811, USA. Serving 4.5 years for conspiracy charges stemming from her work with SHAC. For more information, visit www.supportlauren.org.

- Gavin Neely, WJ9475, HMP Coldingley, Shalford Road, Wisley, Woking, Surrey, GU24 9EX, UK. Serving 8 years in connection with the campaign against HLS.

- Joshua Harper, #24092-086, FCI Sheridan, POB 5000, Sheridan, OR 97378, USA. Serving 3 years for conspiracy charges stemming from his work with SHAC. For more information, visit www.joshharper.org.

- Sean Kirtley, WC0777, HMP Stafford, 54 Golf Rd, Stafford, ST17 0PW, UK. Serving 4.5 years for participating in illegal demonstrations against Sequani, an animal-testing company. For more information, visit www.supportsean.com.

- Kevin Kjonaas, #39502-011, Unit 1, FCI Sandstone, POB 1000, Sandstone, MN 55072, USA. Serving 6 years for conspiracy charges stemming from his work with SHAC. For more information, visit www.supportkevin.com.

Heather Nicholson, VM4859, HMP Bronzefield, Woodthorpe Rd, Ashford, Middlesex, TW15 3JZ, UK. Serving 12 years for attempting to blackmail a farmer who supplied guinea pigs for vivisection.

- Dan Wadham, AS075AA, HMP Camp Hill, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 5PB, UK. Serving 12 years for conspiring to blackmail and fraud.

- Sarah Whitehead, VM7684, HMP Bronzefield, Woodthorpe Rd, Ashford, Middlesex, TW15 3JZ, UK. Serving 11 months for conspiracy to blackmail people linked to HLS.

- John Smith, TM4857, HMP Lindholme, Bawtry Road, Hatfield Woodhouse, Doncaster, DN7 6EE, UK. Serving 12 years for attempting to blackmail a farmer who supplied guinea pigs for vivisection.

- John Smith, TM4857, HMP Lindholme, Bawtry Road, Hatfield Woodhouse, Doncaster, DN7 6EE, UK. Serving 12 years for attempting to blackmail a farmer who supplied guinea pigs for vivisection.

- John Smith, TM4857, HMP Lindholme, Bawtry Road, Hatfield Woodhouse, Doncaster, DN7 6EE, UK. Serving 12 years for attempting to blackmail a farmer who supplied guinea pigs for vivisection.

- John Smith, TM4857, HMP Lindholme, Bawtry Road, Hatfield Woodhouse, Doncaster, DN7 6EE, UK. Serving 12 years for attempting to blackmail a farmer who supplied guinea pigs for vivisection.

- John Smith, TM4857, HMP Lindholme, Bawtry Road, Hatfield Woodhouse, Doncaster, DN7 6EE, UK. Serving 12 years for attempting to blackmail a farmer who supplied guinea pigs for vivisection.

- John Smith, TM4857, HMP Lindholme, Bawtry Road, Hatfield Woodhouse, Doncaster, DN7 6EE, UK. Serving 12 years for attempting to blackmail a farmer who supplied guinea pigs for vivisection.

- John Smith, TM4857, HMP Lindholme, Bawtry Road, Hatfield Woodhouse, Doncaster, DN7 6EE, UK. Serving 12 years for attempting to blackmail a farmer who supplied guinea pigs for vivisection.

- John Smith, TM4857, HMP Lindholme, Bawtry Road, Hatfield Woodhouse, Doncaster, DN7 6EE, UK. Serving 12 years for attempting to blackmail a farmer who supplied guinea pigs for vivisection.

- John Smith, TM4857, HMP Lindholme, Bawtry Road, Hatfield Woodhouse, Doncaster, DN7 6EE, UK. Serving 12 years for attempting to blackmail a farmer who supplied guinea pigs for vivisection.

- John Smith, TM4857, HMP Lindholme, Bawtry Road, Hatfield Woodhouse, Doncaster, DN7 6EE, UK. Serving 12 years for attempting to blackmail a farmer who supplied guinea pigs for vivisection.

- John Smith, TM4857, HMP Lindholme, Bawtry Road, Hatfield Woodhouse, Doncaster, DN7 6EE, UK. Serving 12 years for attempting to blackmail a farmer who supplied guinea pigs for vivisection.

- John Smith, TM4857, HMP Lindholme, Bawtry Road, Hatfield Woodhouse, Doncaster, DN7 6EE, UK. Serving 12 years for attempting to blackmail a farmer who supplied guinea pigs for vivisection.
Ask an EF! Lawyer

Dear EF! Lawyer,

I’ve heard a lot about the “Good Time Bill.” What is that exactly, and how might it help my friends who are in prison for doing environmental actions?

—Hopin’ To See Their Smiling Faces Sooner

BY STEVAN WAGMAN

Dear Hopin’,

The Good Time Bill is a proposed law that will soon be introduced into Congress. If passed, the bill would increase the amount of “good time” federal prisoners can earn, thus allowing them to be released from prison sooner.

Under current law, codified at 18 US Code Section 3624(b), a prisoner who is serving more than one year in prison, but not a life sentence, can earn up to 54 days of good time a year (about 15 percent off), at the Bureau of Prison (BOP)’s discretion. One can earn good time when, in the opinion of the BOP, the person “displays exemplary compliance with institutional disciplinary regulations.” It is the BOP, and not the judge, that decides whether, and how much, good time to award.

Under the proposed legislation, good time would increase to between 60 days (for sentences between six months and one year) and 120 days per year (for sentences more than 10 years). This good time adds up, so someone sentenced to 10 years in prison can reduce her or his sentence by three years and four months.

Additionally, the bill would permit prisoners to earn “industrial good time.” Prisoners working in prison would be able to, at the BOP’s discretion, be eligible to have their sentences reduced by an additional three days per month the first year of incarceration, and up to an additional five days per month after the first year.

The bill would also allow the forfeit from a prisoner any good time a prisoner has earned if the prisoner commits an offense while in custody. The BOP would be required to design a system by which a prisoner who has forfeited her or his good time can later regain it.

The fact that this bill is even being introduced marks a hopeful swing of the pendulum, from the endless decades of “tough-on-crime” laws to, hopefully, a future with rational sentencing that does not drain societies of their citizens and their wealth.

Over the last several decades, the US has sentenced more and more people, especially low-level drug offenders, to exceedingly long sentences. A number of states, including California, Missouri, Montana, Wisconsin and Texas, have already adopted or are seriously considering adopting sentencing reform measures that will reverse this trend and lower prison populations.

You can help pass the Good Time Bill and see our friends home sooner by contacting your congressional representative. You can find out who your congressional representative is at www.house.gov or www.senate.gov. Visit http://www.congress.org/index.html. Just type in your address and zip code. It helps if you contact their local (not Washington, DC) office. Calling is easy and effective. You will speak to an aide briefly, and they will take down your name and your position.

For more information, visit breakupchico.blogspot.com/2009/03/support-good-time-bill.html.

Do you have a legal question? Contact Stev Wagman, qux105@ebonyshoo. com. Please write “Ask EF! Lawyer” in the subject line.

meat-packing plant. For more information, visit www.supportjonathan.org.

• Michael Sykes, #69693, Handlon Correctional Facility, 1728 W Bluewater Hwy, Ino-nia, MI 48846, USA. Serving four to 10 years for the arson of two newly constructed con- dorminiums, trying to clear a down an 80-foot utility pole and attempting to chisel through cement in his jail cell. For more information, visit supportmichael.wordpress.com.

• Brittain Waters, #36432-086, FCI Danbury, Route 37, Danbury, CT 06811, USA. Serving six years for the ELF arson of the University of Washington’s Center for Urban Horticul-ture. Waters insists she was not involved. For more information, visit www.supportbrittaina.org.

• Joyann “Sadie” Zacher, #36360-086, FCI Dublin, Camp Parks, Unit F, 5701 88th St, Dublin, CA 94568, USA. Serving nearly eight years for ELF arsons at an SUV dealership and a hybrid poplar farm.

Indigenous Resistance

• Shane Thomas Chubuck, #74909061, FCC Talladega, POB 1000, Tal-ladega, Alabama, North America. Serving 80 years for, aggravated assault of federal agents, escape and bank robbery. “Oso Blanco” funnelled money that he stole from banks to the Zapatista Army of National Liberation in Mexico.

• Leonard Pelletier, #8991-132, USP Lewisburg, POB 1000, Lewisburg, PA 17837, USA. Serving life in prison after being framed for the deaths of two FBI agents killed during the 1975 Pine Ridge siege. For more information, visit www.freepelletier.org.

MOVE

The MOVE 9, members of an eco-revolutionary group, were framed for the murder of a cop and sentenced to 30-100 years each. For more infor-mation, visit www.onamove.com.

• Debbie Sims Africa, #006307, Janet Hol-loway Africa, #006308, and Jarrell Phillipsto Africa, #006309, SCI Cambridge Springs, 851 Fullerton Ave, Cambridge Springs, PA 16403, USA.

• Michael Davis Africa, #AM4973, and Charles Sims Africa, #AM4975, SCI Graterford, POB 244, Graterford, PA 18426, USA.

• Edward Goodman Africa, #AM4974, SCI Mahanoy, 301 Morea Rd, Frackville, PA 17932, USA.

• William Phillips Africa, #AM4984, and Delbert Orr Africa, #AM4985, SCI Dallas, Fol-lies Rd, Dearme R, Dallas, PA 18612, USA.

Other Political Prisoners

• Helen Woodson, #03231-045, FMC Car- swell, Admin Max Unit, POB 27137, Ft. Worth, TX 76127, USA. Serving nearly nine years for violating her parole by dumping a cup of red paint over the security apparatus of a federal court and making threats of weapons of mass destruction. In 2004, Wood- son completed 20 years for disrupting a Min- isterman II missile site with a jackhammer, mailing warning letters with bullets inside to officials, and robbing a bank and burning the money.

Prisoner Support Groups

• Earth Liberation Prisoners Support Network, elps21@hotmail.com; www.spiritoffreedom. org.uk.


• North American Earth Liberation Prison- ers Support Network, nelson@mutualaid. org; www.ectro.org.

May-2009 Earth First! Page 27
Thesbt -wb
BY LYNNE J. PURVIS ·

On February 19, 2008, in the culmination of a year-and-a-half long campaign, I found myself lying on the ground, my clothes soaked in my own vomit, my arms chained to nine other activists, German shepherds barking ferociously all around me, more than 100 people screaming nearby, cops aiming “less-than-lethal” rifles at me—and I was feeling great! On February 2, 2009, wearing panty hose and loafers, I stood in front of the judge, my heart pounding so hard that the pulse in my ear eclipsed my hearing. I was feeling a little less great as the proverbial gavel struck the block to the tune of “30 days in the county jail.” . . .

In defense of love; my jailhouse, looking like a homeless shelter: 48 beds, laid out in four rows in a barren concrete room, women wandering around, everything much louder than you could ever think you could live with.

One of the things that impressed me most was that people in jail are such normal people. Most inmates are there for drug charges, with the pervasiveness of drug use in most social circles; people from all walks of life can find themselves in jail (though of course, it’s mainly only the poor who get patrolled and arrested). I tried to pay attention to demographics. Already aware of the unequal rates of incarceration by race and class, what stood out the most was that a huge majority of the officers there were black. I thought of all the pressures that led black people in particular to participate in the incredibly disproportionate jailing of other blacks. For those who might feel a sense of solidarity and community among blacks in general, maybe somewhere in there is the logic that if their people are going to fail, at least they can be on the inside to take better care of them.

Also, I thought that a fourth or fifth of the inmates in these women’s units were bisexual or gay, which was kinda cool. I often complain about the lack of queer community where I live; finally, I was finding some! People were open about being queer, even more open than I’ve ever seen, and even dare to name it, which was surprisingly refreshing, coming from a queer subculture where you’re constantly thinking about it. Feminism wasn’t so hot there, though. I got a lot of shit for not shaving my legs or armpits. I was handed deodorant and soap within minutes of entering the dorm, and was begged to use it immediately.

One of the hard things was people’s occasional unwillingness to work together. For the most part, people were nice to one another, but not always. One of the things that impressed me most was that people in jail are such normal people. Most inmates are there for drug charges, with the pervasiveness of drug use in most social circles; people from all walks of life can find themselves in jail (though of course, it’s mainly only the poor who get patrolled and arrested). I tried to pay attention to demographics. Already aware of the unequal rates of incarceration by race and class, what stood out the most was that a huge majority of the officers there were black. I thought of all the pressures that led black people in particular to participate in the incredibly disproportionate jailing of other blacks. For those who might feel a sense of solidarity and community among blacks in general, maybe somewhere in there is the logic that if their people are going to fail, at least they can be on the inside to take better care of them.

In defense of love; my jailhouse, looking like a homeless shelter: 48 beds, laid out in four rows in a barren concrete room, women wandering around, everything much louder than you could ever think you could live with.

One of the things that impressed me most was that people in jail are such normal people. Most inmates are there for drug charges, with the pervasiveness of drug use in most social circles; people from all walks of life can find themselves in jail (though of course, it’s mainly only the poor who get patrolled and arrested). I tried to pay attention to demographics. Already aware of the unequal rates of incarceration by race and class, what stood out the most was that a huge majority of the officers there were black. I thought of all the pressures that led black people in particular to participate in the incredibly disproportionate jailing of other blacks. For those who might feel a sense of solidarity and community among blacks in general, maybe somewhere in there is the logic that if their people are going to fail, at least they can be on the inside to take better care of them.

In defense of love; my jailhouse, looking like a homeless shelter: 48 beds, laid out in four rows in a barren concrete room, women wandering around, everything much louder than you could ever think you could live with.
Santa Cruz Anarchist Convergence
May 7-11 - Santa Cruz, California
Santa Cruz is proud to host a four-day an-archist event for building hella community and resistance, and sharing radical ideas. The event starts with an everday orientation on May 7 at the Subrosa Infoshop, fol- lowed that night with a kick-off performance. There will be three days of workshops, panels and presentations. Workshop tracks include: community inter-relatedness, the Green Scare and security culture, DIY infrastructure, radical anarchism and resistance. Santa Cruz will host its first-ever anarchist bookfair, a two-day exposition of books, zines, pamphlets, art, film, and other cul- tural and political products, on May 9- 10 at the Subrosa Infoshop. The North American Free Skool Conference is happening in conjunction with this con- ference. Visit www.anarchistskool.org. There will be a communal kitchen May 7. Tracks include: community food, timber, and queer and working-class -lifestyles. The event will happen on public and private lands. Our base camp is near a natural hot spring along a wild river. Though a communal kitchen will form, be prepared for self-sufficiency with both food and water. Come prepared for rain, cold, heat and sun. Dates are approximate. Come and go as you please. We are seeking folks who are interested in facilitating workshops and trainings in primitive living and rewilding skills, as well as anti-civilization strategies and tactics. For more information, contact feralfutures@riseup.net or visit www. myspace.com/feralfutures.

Confronting Racism, Building United Movements
May 16-20 - Columbus, Ohio
Ohio's radical community is on the move!

This is an opportunity to examine our common ground within seemingly separate issues and developments, from the economic driving global capitalism and imperialism as we con- tinue building a collective liberation movement in Ohio. Our collective is committed to provid- ing an organizing space for students and com- munity members throughout Ohio—especially women, people of color, and queer and working-class people—to develop the skills and the lan- guage we need to struggle for collective liberation against corporate power and institutional oppres- sion. We envision a conference with work- shops, a button-making workshop, and the interconnectedness of racism with issues of global capitalism that affect us locally.

Please come and let us hear your voice! To RSVP or submit a proposal to host a workshop, contact organizebus@googlegroups.com.

For more information, visit www.organizebus. blogspot.com.

Blue Mountain Biodiversity Project
May 20-30 - Columbus, Ohio
The Blue Mountain Biodiversity Project has been instrumental in fighting timber sales in courts, as well as protecting wildlife habitat and old-growth forests. Part of their work in- volves field-checking timber sales to look for endangered wildlife and ancient trees. They need volunteers to help with field-checking, filing, internet research and website design. If you are interested, call Karen at least two weeks in advance at (541) 385-9167.

Wild Roots, Feral Futures
Anti-Civilization and Primitivist Gathering
May 24-June 6 - Southern Colorado
This informal, free event will happen on public and private lands. Our base camp is near a natural hot spring along a wild river. Though a communal kitchen will form, be prepared for self-sufficiency with both food and water. Come prepared for rain, cold, heat and sun. Dates are approximate. Come and go as you please.

We are seeking folks who are interested in facilitating workshops and trainings in primitive living and rewilding skills, as well as anti-civilization strategies and tactics. For more information, contact feralfutures@riseup.net or visit www. myspace.com/feralfutures.

Eric McDavid Tour
June 5-22 - Pacific Northwest
Eric has been locked in a cage for more than three years now. We refuse to remain silent about his case and the wider implications it carries for anyone engaging in dissent. Eric has suffered enormous injustices at the hands of the state. We want to do everything we can to make sure that people don't forget about him, that they understand how his case was created and to ensure that people learn what they can from our experiences.

To that end, we will be heading to the North- west to educate folks about Eric's case, which we will use as a lens to study the basic concepts of entrapment, the use of informants and gov- ernment repression in general. Unfortunately, the use of these tools by the state is becoming more and more prevalent. It's imperative that people understand how they work.

In addition to the presentation itself, we will be accompanied by friends who will bring us some beautiful, musical catherisms. Nora and Griti, as well as Spoke Pants of the Flowering Skillet from the Anarchozock- ian Music Collective, will be touring with us, straight from the bowels of the Midwest. We assure you that you won't be disappointed.

If you are interested in scheduling a pre- sentation, contact tour@supporteric.org or visit www.supporteric.org.

Continued from previous page

May-June 2009 Earth First! Page 29

Announcements

Let's keep it up on all fronts—on the streets, through the courts and even in the halls of congress. Feel free to bring others to this facility! Please contact us to arrange for a booking. If you are open to a booking fee, we would love to have your support and take your booking cost as a donation. Feel free to book any combination of dates available.

For a brief moment, I look out at the sun rising over the few palm trees I can see from this window, and I imagine the stories of fellow inmates who have spent long years in these places. I think of my friends in college who wrote stories that I read and enjoyed, and I think of my travels with my friends and me. I think of the way I was able to share my experience with so many others, and I wonder if there was a better way.

Then, after 23 days of incarcetration, carrying 110 letters under my arm, I stepped outside and felt the warmth of my lover's hug. Ever so quickly, the whole experience began to fade into the past. As I glance out the window at a renewed swamp maple tree, a plan-train group and caretakers buss, all waving in that cool winter breeze, surrounded by color color color and the new sounds of a mix CD made especially for me, the reality of not being in jail sinks in. I made it out! Don't think for a minute that jail has weakened my will to keep fighting for the health of our world and communities. What doesn't kill you only makes you stronger.

2009 Portland Anarchist Bookfair
June 6-7 - Portland, Oregon
The Axiom Collective is hosting the first annual Portland Anarchist Book Fair. This two-day event will feature more than 20 col- lectives and organizations offering a wide range of radical, feminist and revolutionary literature, art and ideas.

This event, held at Liberty Hall, will be free. Childcare will be provided, and we'll be offering cheap, yummy treats. If you're interested in tabling, contact us. Tabling fees are $25 for both days and $15 for one day. The registration deadline is May 11.

We're also looking for folks to facilitate workshops. If you're interested, email us a quick proposal.

If you're interested in making a booking proposal for a workshop, we're open to that too.

For more information, contact (503) 516-9220 or axiom.infoshop@gmail.com.

Nuclear Winter Camp
July 18-21 - Lapland, Finland
Youth for a Nuclear-Free Finland (YNUFF) invite you to join and help cre- ate the International Youth Exchange for Sustainable Living in Fin- nish Lapland. We are looking for people to help organize the event, give workshops, facilitate skillshares and mobilize your lo- cals.

To find out more, visit www.nuclearfreefinland.org.

For more information, contact youth@nuclearfreefinland.org.
“I spent a year in the Northwoods of Wisconsin at an outdoor school. It was not a survival school, because I died. I died to my old way of thinking. I died to being egocentric. I died to the pursuit of the civilized lifestyle. I became alive to many other things—became alive to the Circle. I became alive to the native lifestyle. I became alive to the connectedness of all things. I became alive to trusting, being and the now. My heart is full. I have much to share, more than words can say.”

—Coyote Three Feathers aka John Herion

WILDERNESS GUIDE PROGRAM 2004-2005

COULD A YEAR IN THE WILDERNESS DO THIS FOR YOU?

www.teachingdrum.org
(715) 546-2944

The Earth First! Journal is actively seeking a new member of our editorial staff. It could be you!

The staff of the Journal works on a consensus basis within a collective to create a publication that represents the voice of the Earth First! movement.

Our new long-term editor will ideally be familiar with Earth First! and the radical environmental movement, be personally compatible with existing staff, have excellent editing skills, be computer literate, have a sense of humor and be able to commit to at least a year and a half. When it comes down to it, though, all you really need is passion and determination. As a collective, all of our work is shared, so a motivated, hard-working individual is required.

The monsoon rains make late summer one of the nicest (and craziest) times to be in Tucson. However, if the skies are blue and the Summer Heat feels like a bit much, there are a lot of beautiful, cooler places to explore nearby.

We are in the center of the giant saguaro’s homeland, surrounded by grasslands, canyons and sky islands.

We also welcome people with a variety of talents and activist experience to come and work for one issue of the Journal as a “short-term” editor. This adds to the diversity of voices and energy in the Journal. This is a paid, two-month commitment.

To apply, send your resume, a letter of interest, a writing sample, your activist history and the names of some activists who vouch for you to the Earth First! Journal. For more information, contact (520) 620-6900; collective@earthfirstjournal.org.

Subscribe to the Earth First! Journal ...the radical environmental journal

Name ______________________________ Address ______________________________
City, State, Zip ______________________________ Phone ______________________________
Email ______________________________

Credit Card Orders circle one: Visa / MC

Mail: Earth First! Journal—subscriptions POB 3023, Tucson, AZ 85702
Online: www.earthfirstjournal.org

©2004 Aron Combs

Featuring old favorites like the Mt. Graham Angry Red Squirrel

Classic Earth First! shirts in stock. Also bike stickers, buttons, zines, posters, custom printing and more.

www.peacesupplies.org

Page 29. Earth First! Beltane 2009

A red check mark means your subscription has expired. Time to renew.

The Radical Environmental Journal.
Beltane May, June 2009

Live Wild or Die

Periodicals