

Forest Voice

Winter 2000

A Publication of the Native Forest Council

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He is not gone. It is not safe.

By Paul Watson, *Sea Shepherds*

David Brower, the greatest American environmental champion since John Muir, died on November 5. In the outpouring of eulogies and encomiums occasioned by his passing, one note of surpassing irony was always certain to be sounded (and equally certain to have vastly amused Mr. Brower): Namely, the fact that those in the environmental movement whom he irritated, harassed, and enraged the most, and who devoted a great deal of their time to vigorously opposing him, are those who are now praising him the loudest.

The undertone of relief is unmistakable: Now that he's gone, it's safe.

Throughout his life, Mr. Brower struggled against two breeds of *Homo Sapiens*: those who do the actual environmental raping and pillaging, and those "boardroom environmentalists" who aid and abet them by tailoring the tone of their voices and the magnitude of their actions in defense of the natural world to fit the prevailing political winds.

Those who profess environmental concern, but render the protection of the Earth's wildlife and vanishing habitat as subordinate to organizational harmony or "process" were Mr. Brower's natural enemies. He never had the time or patience for their favored activities: the building of bureaucracies, the cutting of deals, the choosing of lesser evils. Mr. Brower was an agitator and a stinging gadfly. His drive was relentless. He insisted on the urgency of the environmental peril and the need for action as the first, last, and only concern. At the executive board meetings of all the organizations he founded or led, organizations from which he was invariably ousted, often more than once, it was clear that even well into his eighties, he was truly the youngest person in the room.

He saw his battles through. He pressed the issue. He kept at the destroyers until the destroyers relented, exhausted. He was unafraid to cause strife and dissent, and grasped the fact that it is usually the ability and willingness to do just that which brings about the (temporary) victories in our battles to gain real protections for the wild Earth, and an unwillingness to do so or a longing for compromise at any cost that brings about the (permanent) defeats.

David Brower was the embodiment of the concept of the Power of One to make a difference. Those of us who cherish his memory owe it to his memory to let his natural enemies know: He is not gone, and it is not safe.

For more on David Brower, please turn to page 6



David Brower with his wife Anne in the woods

© Bill McClain

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Submission Guidelines

We welcome unsolicited submissions that address issues relevant to public lands protection and support the Native Forest Council's mission. If you would like us to return your work, please include a SASE.

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The Native Forest Council is a nonprofit, tax deductible organization founded by a group of business and professional people alarmed by the willful destruction of our national forests. We believe a sound economy and a sound environment need not be in compatible and that current public land management practices are devastating to both.

The mission of the Native Forest Council is to provide visionary leadership and to ensure the integrity of public land ecosystems, without compromising people or forests.

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Forest Council News

● This past September, Council Director Tim Hermach was honored as a contemporary environmental pioneer in *American Environmental Leaders: A Biographical Dictionary*.

● On October 9th, the **George Gund Foundation** granted the Council \$5,000 to support our efforts to continue the Wayne National Forest land acquisition program and fight attempts by the Ohio General Assembly to increase mining, logging and drilling in these national forests.

● If you haven't had a chance to visit the Council's new web site, check it out. If you have seen it, be sure to check it regularly for news and activist updates. The site is updated every business day with the latest information, insights and ways for you to join the fight to save America's publicly owned lands. Recent additions include the capacity to make secure online donations, send electronic "letters" to public officials and a public lands slide show that will be updated regularly.

● **On the airwaves — and on Capitol Hill**

Thanks to the generous support of our members, we have been able to expand our media and education campaign throughout the last quarter of the year — and into 2001. This winter, we made two trips to **Washington, DC**. During the first trip, we met with the Forest Unity Network. We also met with the Congressional Research Department to demand (and help the agency produce) an honest accounting and documentation of our publicly owned lands. We also contacted major media outlets, such as the *Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, *ABC*, *CNN* and *C-SPAN*. Here are just some of the highlights of our media campaign:

- October 26: **Pacifica Radio's Democracy Now!**
- October 20-22: **Annual Bioneers Conference**
- December 28: **The Peter Werbe Show**
- January 3: **Radio For Change** (international broadcast)
- Month of January: **Fox News Network** interview for "Your World"

Wilderness or Theme Parks?

Even as they continue to subsidize industrial destruction of public lands, federal agencies are trying to make it more expensive to visit nature. This December, state and federal agencies introduced the **VIP (Visit Idaho Playgrounds)**. This \$69 annual pass covers about 100 recreation sites in Idaho, and marks a significant step in the ongoing Recreation Fee Demonstration Program. "Nature is soon going to look and feel a lot more like playgrounds as a result of this ongoing effort to commodify outdoor recreation and promote industrial tourism," says Scott Silver of Wild Wilderness. "Fortunately, this commercialized future can still be averted if we do all it takes to ensure that the Fee Demo program is not permanently authorized by the next Congress."

Old Growth "Protected" by Northwest Forest Plan Slated for Slaughter

The Bureau of Land Management has proposed a logging operation that will cut old growth trees on publicly owned

land and destroy habitat for endangered species. A proposed sale in Oregon's Cedar Creek watershed is the first such sale proposed since President Clinton orchestrated the 1994 Northwest Forest Plan. So far, federal agencies have avoided cutting operations in so-called "matrix lands" that support endangered species. Ironically, some of the worst loopholes in the plan are becoming all too real just as Clinton leaves office. Pressure from industry to increase the cut will turn federal managers' attention to pristine matrix lands as other options run out.

Even as Lame Duck... Bill's Still Slick

As lame duck presidents often do, Clinton initiated a number of laws and orders certain to vex George W. Bush. But were his environmental measures the public lands panacea purported by the mainstream media? Not by a long shot. While Clinton's last-minute efforts to leave a conservation legacy will result in some policy changes, the legacy on the ground will hardly prove Clinton a worthy comparison to Theodore Roosevelt. Clinton's roadless directive protects only inventoried areas 5,000 acres or larger, leaving many forests (including some larger than 5,000 acres) unprotected. As Clinton himself said, the plan will not reduce logging in national forests by a single board foot. And the plan includes loopholes that render any "protection" essentially toothless. What about Clinton's long list of national monuments? While Clinton's use of the Antiquities Act to protect these areas certainly marks a step in the right direction, the reality on the ground leaves much to be desired. The Redwoods National Monument designation, for example, actually increases logging within the monument area. Once again, our greatest challenge is the illusion that all is well in the forests — an illusion perpetuated by Big Timber and its political lackeys. Meanwhile, the trees continue to fall. Perhaps the inauguration of George W. Bush will scare all of us into rolling up our sleeves and fighting for true protection of what's left of America's publicly owned lands.



Council Website, Others, Threatened

Under regulations currently being considered by the IRS, nonprofit organizations such as Native Forest Council would have to make drastic cuts in their websites. Under the new rules, nonprofits would be held responsible for content posted by anyone to online forums and chat rooms. In addition, groups would be responsible for content posted on any of the websites linked to their sites. The ruling would, in practice, shut down online discussion groups and make it impossible for nonprofit organizations to provide links to other pages without facing stiff fines or revocation of nonprofit status. The IRS is accepting public comments on the plan through February 13, 2000. Send email to *TE/GE-Exempt-2@irs.gov. Contact your congressional representative and tell him or her to oppose this regulation that will hamstring nonprofits trying to use the Internet.



★ W: THE NEXT FOUR YEARS ★

What will a Bush presidency mean for America's publicly owned lands?

by Ed Dorsch



President George W. Bush

While it is tempting to despair, the clear and present threat of George W. Bush may wake us up and reinvigorate a national movement to save what's left and restore what's been lost on America's public lands.

According to the mythology of the mainstream press, the public lands debate is split across party lines: Green Democrats fighting the Earth-ravaging Republicans.

However—as we discovered during the middle years of the Clinton administration (with the Salvage Rider, Northwest Forest Plan and other environmental crimes)—simplistic divisions are not always accurate, and Democratic politicians are not always our allies. While this false dichotomy makes it easy for the pundits to paint the public lands debate with a broad brush, it doesn't always tell the whole truth.

Too often, conservationists forget that truth has many shades of grey. It's much easier to draw a simple line in the sand. History shows that we are quick to damn Republicans for the slightest transgression, while giving Democrats our blessing and political *carte blanche*, despite what they do to our mountains, forests, rivers and streams.

Impunity with no regard for policy and a cult of party politics has hamstrung our movement and the Democratic National Committee knows it. They don't take us seriously. And why should they, when we won't take a clear, inexorable stance for what we believe?

All too often, the environmental movement (unlike, say, abortion opponents or the NRA) is willing to compromise. If "we" can't get 100%, we'll thank them for 10%.

As we have learned from Clinton's Northwest Forest Sham and the Salvage Rider, DC establishment environmentalists will fight like pit bulls against a Republican, but behave like lap dogs when dealing with Democrats. Like Orwell's sheep in *Animal Farm* ("Democrats good, Republicans baaad"), we dole out our precious endorsements in an overly simplistic, partisan manner. And, as the corporate wastrels sink their claws—and their money—just as deeply into both parties (see facing page), the "differences" between them are becoming less and less apparent.

Despite those caveats, a Bush presidency certainly presents a grave threat to America's publicly owned land. While I don't want to join the beltway bandwagon in blindly supporting Democrats as a public lands panacea, I do want to address the serious problem we face with a Bush administration.

George W. Bush has declared war on nature with his appointment of Gale Norton for Secretary of the Interior, John Ashcroft for Attorney General and Spencer Abraham for Energy Secretary. And, if his track record in Texas is any indication, we face a tremendous threat to our publicly owned lands.

As always, Native Forest Council will be working hard to fight the destructive policies of the Bush administration in a

nonpartisan manner. That means reaching across party lines, working with Republicans, Democrats and any others who share our vision of *total* protection for *all* of America's publicly owned lands.

That means facing the influence corporations have on both Democrats and Republicans, and exploring opportunities for campaign finance reform to dissolve at least some of that influence. That also means holding on to our principles and refusing to accept anything short of our goals, even if that compromise is administered by our so-called allies.

If nothing else, the incoming Bush administration will rally like-minded citizens to prove what surveys have already shown: most Americans want to save what's left of their publicly owned lands. While it is tempting to despair, a clear enemy may wake us up and invigorate a national movement to save what's left and restore what's been lost.

★ Personnel Is Policy ★

President Bush's Cabinet appointees

Secretary of the Interior: Gale Norton

Bush's pro-development pick for Interior Secretary has a history with Big Oil and Big Mining. She spent four years on staff at Mountain States Legal Foundation, a conservative think tank founded by Joseph Coors. The Foundation's agenda has included aggressive litigation against environmental protections, a "takings" agenda to pay polluters to obey the law, and an effort to dismantle the Endangered Species Act. When it comes to public lands, Norton has said she supports opening Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling.

Energy Secretary: Spencer Abraham

As US Senator from Michigan, Abraham received more than half a million dollars from anti-environmental special interests, making him the number one such recipient in the Senate. He casted the deciding vote to limit the EPA's power to clean up drinking water and has voted consistently against clean air and water laws.

Attorney General: John Ashcroft

Senator Ashcroft had one of the worst environmental records in the Senate. Ashcroft had voted against the environment 48 out of 51 times and had worked to reduce national air quality standards.

Will Bush continue his track record as Texas Governor, bringing more pollution and sprawl to the entire nation?



★ Bush's Track Record ★

While Bush has said little about public lands issues, his past speaks volumes:

- ✓ Soon after he took office as Governor of Texas, Bush worked to oppose vehicle-inspection systems that would have reduced smog.
- ✓ Rather than supporting regulations for industry polluters, Governor Bush worked to pass a voluntary program that allowed factories to police themselves. Since 1997, they have reduced emissions by less than 3%. The corporations and their lawyers who supported this program have given Bush more than \$1.7 million.
- ✓ Texas is now number one in the nation for toxic emissions, carcinogens in the air, loss of open space to sprawl and cancer hazards from manufacturing. Houston has replaced Los Angeles as the nation's smog capital.
- ✓ As Governor, Bush filled his state's top environmental regulation agency with representatives of Big Oil and chemical corporations.
- ✓ The Rio Grande, one of the nation's most endangered rivers, is literally drying up.
- ✓ Bush has lobbied to reduce enforcement of the Clean Air Act.
- ✓ In *A Charge to Keep*, his 253-page autobiography, Bush includes one sentence on the environment. He says that corporations should act responsibly.

★ Campaign Promises ★

Despite his reticence on conservation issues, Bush left some clues on the campaign trail

Where does President Bush stand on the issue of publicly owned lands? Only time will tell for sure. During his campaign, Bush failed to say much about conservation issues, other than expressing his support for oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The little information we do have on Bush, coupled with his recent choice of Gale Norton for Interior Secretary, seems to indicate a "business-as-usual" attitude toward America's publicly owned lands. Only time will reveal the President's intentions for our mountains, forests, rivers and streams. However, the Bush camp did take a stance on a number of issues during the 2000 campaign:

- ✓ Promises to reverse Clinton's forest protection proposal and to increase clearcutting in national forests.
- ✓ Opposes all new national monuments.
- ✓ Strongly advocates drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.
- ✓ Favors weakening enforcement of the Clean Air Act.
- ✓ Opposes the Kyoto Protocol to address the problem of global warming.
- ✓ Opposes campaign finance reform.

Government of the Exxons for the Monsantos by the Weyerhaeusers?

The following is an edited transcript from a press conference discussing the release of *The Buying of the President 2000*.

After an 18-month investigation of the major presidential candidates in the 2000 election, *The Buying of the President 2000* by Charles Lewis reports that each of the leading candidates has done public policy favors for his campaign contributors. Every major White House contender who has held an elected office has career patrons or long-time financial sponsors who have underwritten his political career. And every major aspirant has used his government position to help those patrons.

This mutually beneficial relationship between a politician and his patrons is seldom acknowledged or discussed publicly. Indeed, none of the current presidential candidates would agree to be interviewed for the book. Yet these relationships between candidates and their sponsors can reveal a more accurate picture of the practical logistics and accommodations of achieving power in today's electoral process. It is a vision that extends beyond common political rhetoric.

For example, in the Democratic Party, Vice President Al Gore has a long-time relationship with Occidental Petroleum that has been enormously beneficial to the company. Occidental's late chairman, the controversial Armand Hammer, liked to say that he had Gore's father, Senator Albert Gore, Sr., "in my back pocket." When the elder Gore left the Senate in 1970, Hammer hired him for \$500,000 a year. Personally and professionally, the vice president has profited from Occidental largess. To this day, he still draws \$20,000 per year from a land deal in Tennessee brokered between his father and Hammer. The total amount is more than \$300,000. The personal relationship between young Gore and Hammer was very close throughout the 1980's, including trips on Hammer's private jet and constant campaign contributions.

For most of the 20th century, oil companies have tried unsuccessfully to obtain control of two oil fields owned and operated by the federal government: the Teapot Dome field in Casper, Wyoming, and the Elk Hills field in Bakersfield, California. Despite his public reputation as a staunch environmentalist, Gore recommended that the President approve giving oil companies access to this publicly owned land. It is land that the U.S. Navy has held as an emergency reserve since 1912. In October, 1997, the Energy Department announced that the government would sell 47,000 acres of the Elk Hills reserve to Occidental.

Throughout his long business career, and in his six years as governor of Texas, George W. Bush has relied on family connections, sweetheart deals and the inside track to build a for-

tune. And Bush has always been willing to return the favors. One interesting Bush connection is with Fort Worth financier Richard Rainwater. Rainwater orchestrated the Texas Rangers stadium deal, which cost at least \$200 million in taxpayer subsidies. The deal netted George W. Bush a profit of more than \$15 million. Without that business success, Bush has said he would not have entered politics.

In 1997, Bush proposed that the state look into privatizing Texas' mental health hospitals at the same time that Rainwater was building a private mental-health care chain. At one point his company, Crescent, became the nation's largest provider of private mental health care services. Ultimately the Governor's privatization proposal was not enacted.

In 1997, however, Governor Bush signed into law new legislation allowing cities to raise taxes to finance a new sports arena for the Dallas Mavericks professional basketball team. Rainwater, through one of his companies, had recently become owner of the team. He will receive \$10 million when the arena is completed late next year.

"In the past two election cycles, we have seen record-shattering sums of private special interest money pouring into the political process. We have seen the worst campaign finance scandals since Watergate. And at the same time, we have witnessed the worst voter disillusionment in more than half a century," stated Charles Lewis, founder of Center for Public Integrity at a recent press conference.

Politicians have become so deeply enmeshed in the money chase, and personally tied to powerful economic interests, that they have lost the esteem and the trust of the American people. Confidence in government has waned to an historic low.

One of the people interviewed for the book was Archibald Cox, the enormously respected former Watergate independent prosecutor whom Richard Nixon fired in October, 1973, in the opening salvo of what was known as "The Saturday Night Massacre." Cox said he believes there is much less trust in government today than there was during the Watergate years. And he said that campaign finance abuses are far worse today than during Watergate, when many unlawful corporate contributions were discovered and actually prosecuted. Cox believes that today, the threat to the democratic process is even greater. He said, "The abuses are worse, partly because there's much more money, and because there's much more pressure on those who receive the money to yield to the wishes of those who give it."

The Buying of the President 2000, by Charles Lewis, is available in paperback (ISBN: 0-380-79519-1).



One of the fundamental necessities in a representative government such as ours is to make certain that the men to whom the people delegate their power shall serve the people by whom they are elected, and not the special interests.

Theodore Roosevelt



Because equality is not growing fast enough...

billionsforbushorgore.com is a hilarious (but telling) parody of corporate duopoly. Our thanks to them for letting us use their clever icon.

★ Playing Both Sides ★

Sixty-six corporations that have contributed at least \$50,000 to both Gore and Bush

AT&T	Paine Webber
Philip Morris	MGM Grand
American Financial Group	Archer Daniels Midland
Microsoft	Walt Disney
Atlantic Richfield Co.	Coca-Cola
SBC Communications	Flo-Sun Sugar Co.
Enron	Lockheed Martin
Mirage Resorts	Intl. Game Technology
Federal Express	United Airlines
Citigroup	Oracle
American Airlines	Exxon Mobil
Bell Atlantic	United Technologies
Anheuser-Busch	US West
Limited, Inc.	Pacific Gas & Electric
Pfizer	Upjohn
Rite Aid	Owens Corning
Schering-Plough	Chevron
Bell South	Park Place
Joseph E. Seagram & Sons	Entertainment
Bristol-Myers Squibb	Bacardi Martini USA
Union Pacific	Boston Capital Partners
Blue Cross / Blue Shield	Eli Lilly & Co.
MBNA Corp	Georgia-Pacific
America Online	Amer Home Products
American Intl. Group	Amer Express
MCI Worldcom	Bechtel Group
Ernst & Young	Loews Corp
Circus Circus	Sunoco
Enterprises	General Electric
Sprint	Northern Telecom
AFLAC	General Dynamics
Time Warner	New York Life Insurance
Boeing	United Health Care
Prudential Insurance	
Ocean Spray Cranberries	



INTERNET RESOURCES

Native Forest Council: www.forestcouncil.org
 Granny D's Walk for Democracy: www.grannyd.com
 Fighting Corporate Soft Money: www.commoncause.org
 "America's Best Political Newsletter": www.counterpunch.org
 Read the *Campaign Finance Reform Sourcebook online*:
www.brook.edu/GS/CF/CF_HP.HTM
 In-depth report about campaign finance reform:
<http://tap.epn.org/issues/campaignfinance.html>

A Life For Earth's Sake

David Ross Brower: 1912-2000

by Ed Dorsch

“Polite conversation leaves no marks... except scars on the Earth that could have been avoided.”



Brower at the Golden Gate Bridge © 1982 Richard Frank

“We’re not blindly opposed to progress, but opposed to blind progress.”

*What, to continue their renewal
do air, water, life require of Man?
Only that below the snows and glaciers of peaks, the alpine
meadows and trees at timberline . . . face storms and meltings
undisturbed
and here no mouse, nor eagle,
no wolf nor antelope, snake nor butterfly
be hindered from his errand.*

—Nancy Newhall

There's much that can be said — and has been said — about David Brower. In memory of his life, I'd like to share a story that he wrote in his autobiography, *For Earth's Sake*:

When he was a boy living in Berkeley, California, Brower was fascinated with butterflies. The most important lesson they taught him, he recalls, came from the western swallowtail. Brower had been gathering the insect's eggs from a friend's garden, stockpiling them until tiny caterpillars emerged.

He patiently fed them, and they transformed into chrysalides and began to “fashion silken anchorage for their rearmost stubs,” Brower recalls with imagery only an old ski mountaineer could conjure, “They put themselves on belay, weaving a band of perhaps a hundred silken strands.”

Brower excitedly describes the day the first butterfly emerged, with tiny antennae poking through a small fissure in the cocoon, followed by the rest of the struggling insect. The abdomen, he remembers, was distended and full of fluid. This

fluid filled the veins of the butterfly's limp wings, extending them to their full size. They took to the air, leaving behind a sweet fragrance.

As other chrysalides began their struggle to enter the world, Brower tried to lend them a hand, gently opening the cocoon. But, after emerging, the wings of these butterflies shriveled, and they soon died.

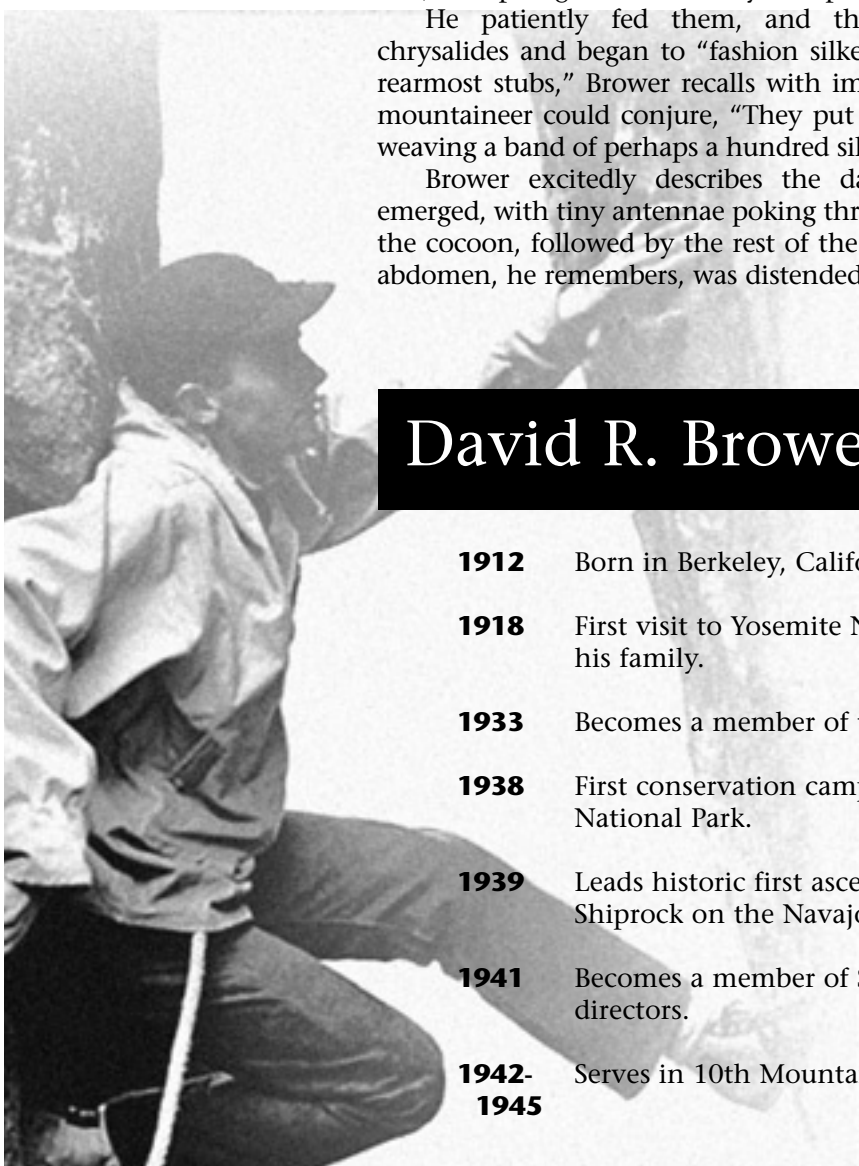
“Freeing them,” Brower recalls, “I had denied them their freedom.”

Throughout his life, Brower taught us that wilderness, like the western swallowtail, doesn't need to be “managed”; it needs only to be left alone.

With a quiet dignity, a steadfast refusal to compromise and — perhaps most important — a sense of humor, Brower spoke of the inherent value of wilderness, reminding us that, as Thomas Jefferson put it, one generation does not have the right to take the freedom of the next. Once we lose wilderness, Brower taught us, we cannot go back.

David Brower has been called the greatest conservationist of the 20th Century. He was a World War II hero with the 10th Mountain Division, a ski-mountaineering pioneer and, in his own words, “a graduate of the Colorado River.” He helped establish the national wilderness preservation system, kept dams out of Dinosaur National Monument, the Yukon and the Grand Canyon, and led the fight to pass the Wilderness Act of 1964. Brower served as the executive director of the Sierra Club from 1952-69, was nominated for three Nobel Peace Prizes and won the 1998 Blue Planet Award. Among these (and far more)

*Climbing in Pinnacles National Monument, 1934
© Brower Family Collection 2000*



David R. Brower: A Chronology

- 1912** Born in Berkeley, California on July 1st.
- 1918** First visit to Yosemite National Park with his family.
- 1933** Becomes a member of the Sierra Club.
- 1938** First conservation campaign: Kings Canyon National Park.
- 1939** Leads historic first ascent of New Mexico's Shiprock on the Navajo Reservation.
- 1941** Becomes a member of Sierra Club's board of directors.
- 1942-1945** Serves in 10th Mountain Division WWII.
- 1964** Years of lobbying pays off with signing of Wilderness Act.
- 1969** DRB fired from Sierra Club. Immediately forms Friends of the Earth and creates League of Conservation Voters as part of it.
- 1970** First Friends of the Earth branches established overseas.
- 1978** Nominated for first Nobel Peace prize.
- 1979** Nominated for second Nobel Peace prize.
- 1982** Founds the Conferences on the Fate and Hope of the Earth, uniting environmental, peace, and social justice activists from around the world.



Brower (far right) with JFK

Forest Council, and continued until his death as an advisory board member. And we are still working hard to apply the important lessons he taught us: Refuse to compromise, maintain a sense of humor, and always speak from sorrow—not anger.

“Brower was always nice,” recalls Hermach, “not angry, as he told you to put your head in a noose and keep fighting. And he had all the dignity and statesmanship that the rest of us, collectively, seem to lack. He was able to demonstrate leadership, in not only vision, but action on so many issues.

“But he often told me — and I think he was right — that we should speak from a place of sorrow—not anger. ‘The anger will scare them away,’ he said, ‘but the sorrow will bring them closer to you, because you touch the sorrow they share.’”

Days before Brower passed on, Hermach visited him at his hospital bed in Berkeley. Brower said he hoped that he could do as much after his death as he had during his life, that we should continue to use his name in any way that would help save the wilderness he loved.

Like the chrysalid, Brower was prepared for nature’s next inevitable stage, no matter how difficult that transformation might be. And, with the name and the powerful legacy he left behind, David Brower will continue to live on. If we listen to the past, he will continue providing lessons for a conservation movement that faces some difficult transformations in the future.

accomplishments, Brower was probably most proud of the fact that he performed more than 70 first ascents of mountain peaks worldwide.

Brower also inspired the creation of the Native Forest Council. Director Tim Hermach first met Brower in 1986, while writing for the *Run Off* newspaper for Oregon’s Many Rivers Chapter of the Sierra Club. But it wasn’t until Hermach first locked horns with the national Sierra Club that he and Brower grew close. It all started with an issue of *Run Off*, in which Hermach’s group declared that all native old growth in the country should be protected. Accusing the group of overstepping its bounds, Sierra Club nationals tried to sue the Many Rivers Chapter and restrict its editorializing to regional issues.

Hermach refused, and Brower supported him. He also encouraged him to begin his own organization. “Brower was always pushing the envelope,” recalls Hermach. “If you tell the truth, and you know you are right, then he believed you should fight for it.” And they did fight.

Controversy over absolute protection of national forests led Brower to publish a letter in the summer of 1989 on the evils of compromise:

Compromise is often necessary, but it ought not originate with the Sierra Club. We are to hold fast to what we believe is right, fight for it, and find allies and adduce all possible arguments for our cause. If we cannot find enough vigor in us or them to win, then let someone else propose the compromise. We thereupon work hard to coax it our way. We become a nucleus around which the strongest force can build and function.

For a specific example, take the proposed Grand Canyon dams. We said we’d accept no dams. People knew what we stood for and gathered around. If we had said (or thought) we’d accept one, but not two, clarity would have vanished from our deeds and faces. People would have seen that we were just arguing about how much rape, not opposing it. They would have gathered elsewhere if at all.

Compromise, said Brower, is not for those fighting to save what’s left of our ancient forests, but for the politicians — whom we should praise or criticize accordingly. Our job is to advocate and never waver from our goals.

In 1989, thanks largely to Brower’s support, Hermach created the Native Forest Council, leaving behind the legal and political difficulties of working under the yoke of a national organization.

Brower was on the original board of directors for Native



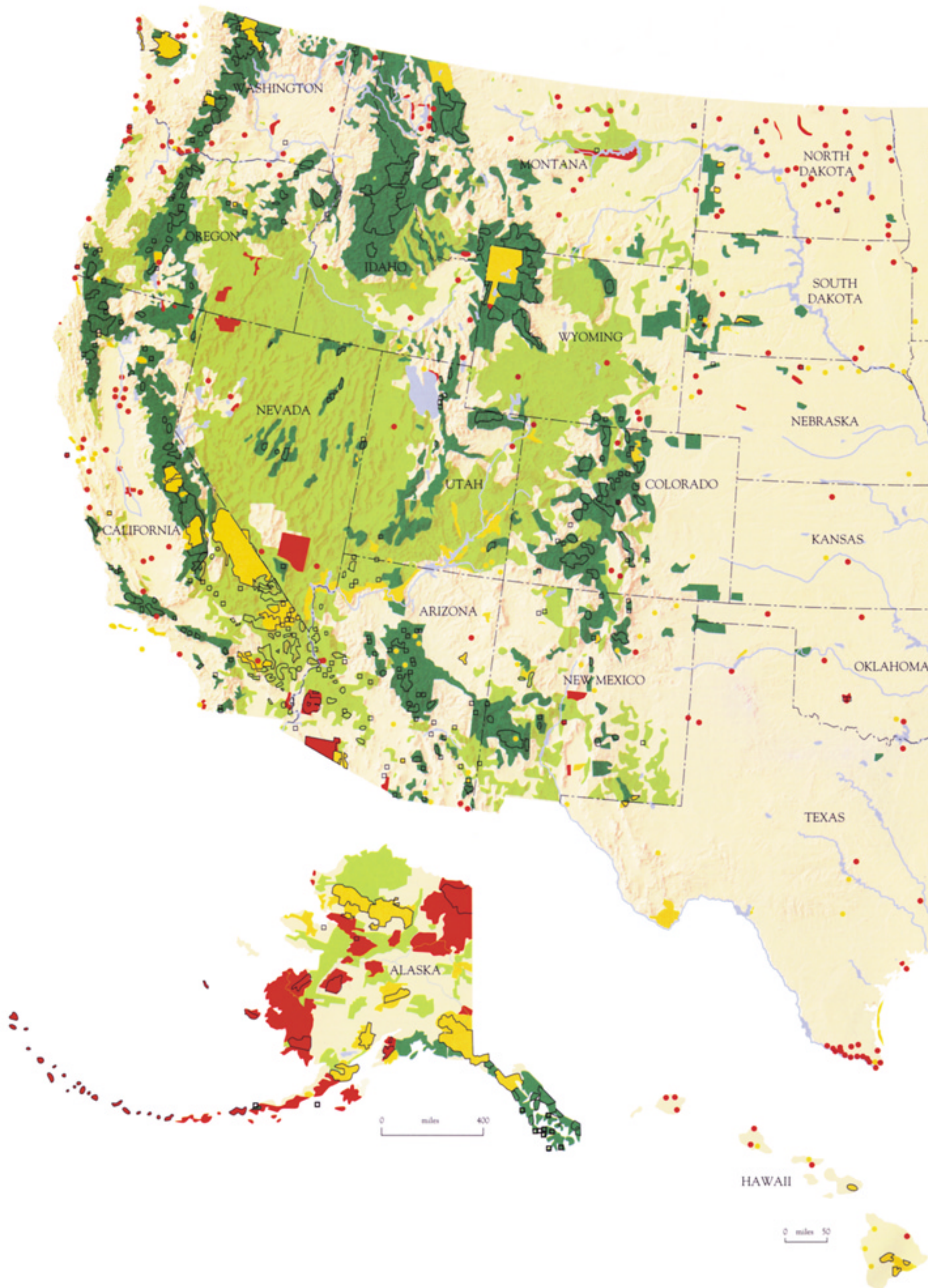
Brower during the last trip down the Colorado River before the construction of the Glen Canyon Dam.

- 1982** Forms Earth Island Institute (EII) in San Francisco.
- 1989** Helps Tim Hermach found Native Forest Council (NFC) and becomes a member of the Board of Directors.
- 1989** Writes an article for NFC on the Evils of Compromise.
- 1990** Leads first EII delegation to Russia’s Lake Baikal.
- 1992** Becomes a member of NFC’s Advisory Board, citing his age and scheduling commitments.
- 1994** Co-founds the Ecological Council of Americas.
- 1996** Helps the NFC’s Zero Cut Initiative to be voted on and passed by the Sierra Club.

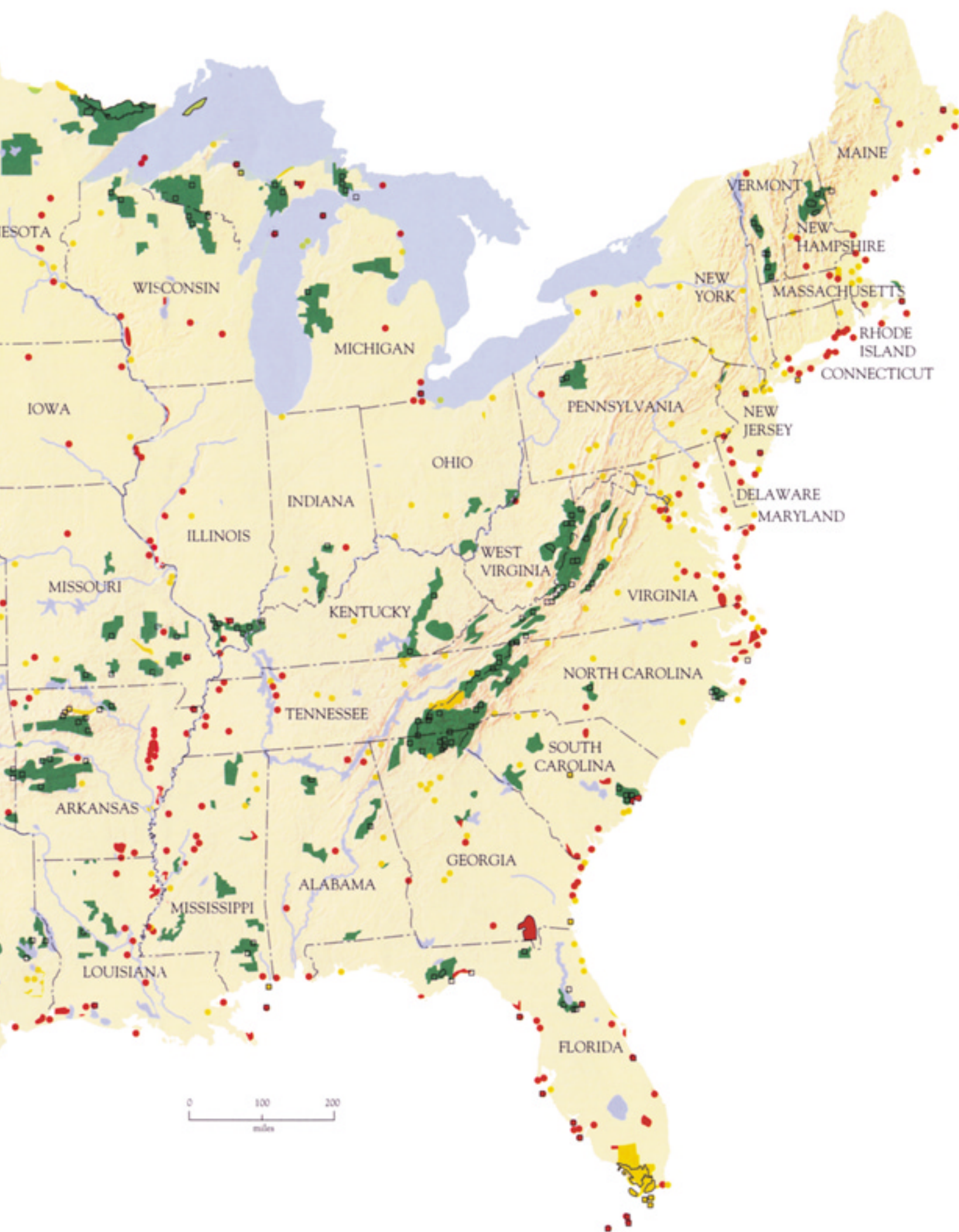
- 1998** Nominated for his third Nobel Peace Prize, (jointly with Prof. Paul Ehrlich).
- 1998** Wins Blue Planet Prize awarded by Asahi Glass Foundation of Japan for pioneering the NGO role in solving global environmental problems.
- 1999** Co-founds Alliance for Sustainable Jobs and the Environment.
- 2000** Pivotal in the Nader 2000 Campaign and Environmentalists Against Bush/Gore.
- 2000** David R. Brower passes away at his home in Berkeley, California on November 5th.

*David R. Brower on the first ascent of Shiprock, 1939
© Brower Family Collection 2000*


Threatened: America's



Publicly Owned Lands



MAP LEGEND

Area larger than 22,500 acres		Area smaller than 22,500 acres	
	Wilderness area		Wilderness area
	National Park System		National Park System
	National Forest System		National Forest System
	National Wildlife Refuge System		National Wildlife Refuge System
	BLM		BLM

Wolf in Sheep's Clothing?

By Ed Dorsch

While beltway "environmentalists" celebrate the Forest Service's new roadless plan and laud Clinton as the nation's greatest conservationist since Roosevelt, Big Timber cries foul. The truth on the ground? It's (big bad) business as usual in our national forests.

President Clinton announced his roadless initiative in October 1999. Sixteen months, 600 public meetings and 1.6 million comments later, the largest public review in Forest Service history has ended.

On Friday, December 5, just a month before he left the White House, Clinton signed the final draft of roadless initiative. Before the ink was even dry, everyone had something to say about the plan.

Big Timber, which has been crying crocodile tears since Clinton first suggested the notion, cried foul — even though the President made it clear from the get-go that the plan wouldn't reduce logging by a single board foot. Beltway environmentalists celebrated the decision as a major victory.

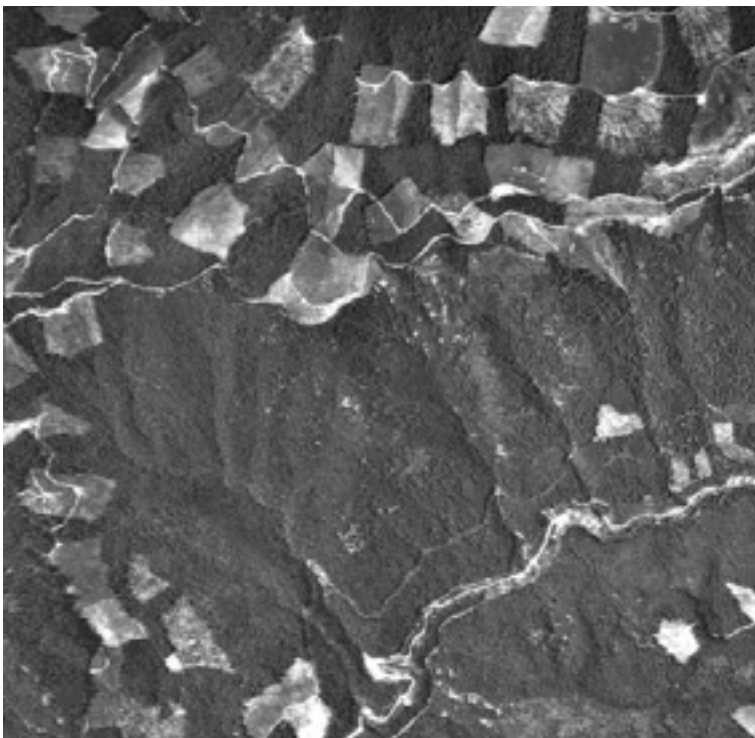
Pro-logging politicians in Western states vowed to fight the ruling in court. The mainstream media compared Clinton to Theodore Roosevelt and portrayed a prolonged struggle between well-funded environmentalists and the timber industry, concluding with a sweeping victory for conservationists.

Where's the truth? As always, it's somewhere between the lines.

The plan will protect some — not all — of the roadless forests and grasslands. To some degree. From some forms of destruction. While the directive is a landmark step in the right direction, it's neither the resounding victory that mainstream environmental groups have claimed, nor the death knell to industry that the corporate flacks have concocted.

The Good

The plan makes it more difficult for industry to punch roads and log in 60 million acres, a third of National Forests.



UNPROTECTED ROADLESS AREA Serial photograph of the Umpqua National Forest shows the heart of an unprotected roadless area. If all goes as planned, logging will begin this summer.

The Loopholes

True the form, the Forest Service has provided enough loopholes to punch thousands of miles of roads and send thousands of log trucks through. These exceptions may seem reasonable at first blush, but the Salvage Rider and other laws have demonstrated the agency's willingness to exploit loopholes to increase timber sales — and its budget. Like "salvage logging," these loopholes sound fine. In the forest, though, they are exploited. Exceptions for the ban on road building include the following:

- ◆ Protection from flood, fire or other catastrophe
- ◆ Environmental cleanup
- ◆ To allow for reserved or outstanding rights
- ◆ To rectify existing hazardous road conditions
- ◆ For a federal highway project
- ◆ Where a road is needed for mining

Logging is allowed for the following exceptions:

- ◆ To improve habitat for threatened, endangered, proposed or sensitive species
- ◆ To reduce risk of wildfire
- ◆ For personal or administrative use

The Bad

The plan applies only to *inventoried* roadless areas. Roadless areas that are smaller than 5,000 acres in size, and even some larger areas that have not been inventoried, fall through the cracks. Thanks to modern technology — and government subsidies that make otherwise wasteful practices profitable (for corporations, but not taxpayers) — these lands will still be subject to helicopter and yarder cable logging that does not require roads. Cutting already planned in the Tongass National Forest (added to the plan at the last minute) will be grandfathered in.

The Ugly

As Clinton promised from the beginning of this lengthy process, the plan will not reduce logging, mining, grazing or drilling on National Forests. Broad loopholes could allow logging even in areas "protected" by the plan. Much like the salvage rider opened healthy forests to clearcutting, exceptions included in the plan are already being used by the logging corporations to cut roadless areas. As always, the devil's in the details. So long as flawed accounting makes it profitable for both industry and federal bureaucrats, they will exploit whatever details they can find to get out the cut.

Much as the Northwest Forest Plan, the Clinton PR machine has created a green media event. Only time will tell how this "legacy" of conservation plays out on the ground.



Old growth forest threatened with logging in the Upper North timber sale.

UNPROTECTED ROADLESS AREA: Bunker Hill, Umpqua National Forest. This uninventoried roadless area not covered in the plan. The Forest Service is proposing to log over the entire hill. Trees up to seven feet in diameter could be logged.



Photos courtesy of Francis Etherington. For more information about saving the Umpqua National Forest, please visit www.umpqua-watersheds.org

Roadless Plan Statistics

Miles of roads currently managed by the US Forest Service: More than 380,000 miles, including more paved roads than the nation's interstate highway system.

Number of times these roads could circle the planet: 18.

Amount the US Forest Service would need to spend to eliminate backlogged road repair in the national forests: \$8,000,000,000.

Acres Affected: 49.2 million now (approximately 1/4 of our National Forests) and 58.5 by 2004 (when the Alaska's Tongass is included in the plan).

Percent of the US landbase affected: 2%.

Percent of Forest Service landbase affected: 31%.

Number of public meetings held: More than 600.

Number of public comments the Forest Service received (included those from Native Forest Council members demanding total protection for all public lands): 1.6 million.

Change in the number of board feet taken from our National Forests resulting from this plan, as stated by Clinton: 0.

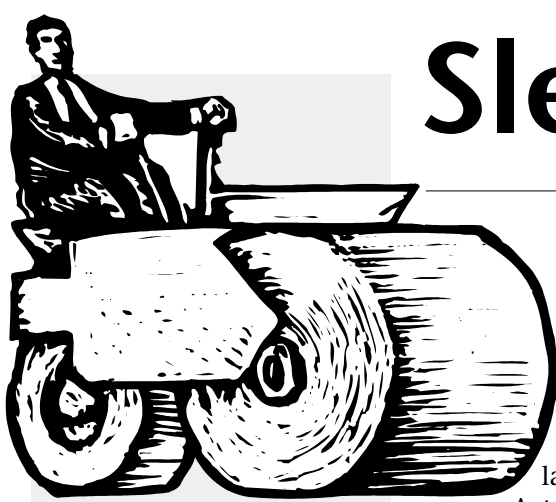
Types of clearcutting still allowed in "protected" areas:
Yarder (cable) logging, helicopter logging and bulldozer logging.

Years until Alaska's Tongass will be protected by the plan: 3.

Years Congress is allowed to fast-track roadbuilding projects under the plan: 3.

Number of loopholes that will allow logging in "protected" areas, as listed in the Forest Service plan: At least 9.

Amount the plan will reduce logging, mining, grazing, drilling and roadbuilding totals on publicly owned lands: 0%.



Sleazy Riders

While we were watching Florida . . . Dozens of anti-environmental riders were added to legislation in the last Congress. The riders are unrelated to the topic of the bills and most are not even read by the legislators who approve them. Here are half a dozen from the recently passed Interior Appropriations Bill.

Sec. 116 Allows Grazing to Continue on Public Lands without Environmental Review.

Allows existing grazing permits to be renewed without any assessment under environmental laws, such as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). By allowing the extension of grazing permits that have expired or are transferred in the year 2001, ranchers can continue trashing our public lands, which costs taxpayers \$200 million per year. Currently, the government charges ranchers \$1.35 per month for a cow to graze on public lands. Private landowners charge \$10.

Sec. 126 Prevents Restoration Study of Glen Canyon and Colorado River

The rider says it all: "No funds appropriated for the Department of the Interior by this act or any other act shall be used to study or implement any plan to drain Lake Powell or to reduce the water level of the lake below the range of water levels required for the operation of the Glen Canyon Dam." With one sentence, one of the most irreplaceable canyons in the world will continue to be buried under water and silt without any hope of even scientific review of the possible benefits of draining Lake Powell.

Sec. 328 Tongass Red Cedar Rider

This rider will increase existing Tongass logging subsidies by creating an incentive to maximize the cutting on Alaska's Tongass National Forest. The rider requires the timber to be sold at a loss, so that the purchasing companies have a 60% profit margin. The Tongass National Forest already has the highest rate of subsidies in the country. Western red cedar, *Thuja plicata*, only grows in the southern portion of the national forest. The remaining old-growth western red cedar forest is important habitat for grizzly bears, and its streams are spawning ground for the five major species of salmon:

king (Chinook) salmon, Coho (silver) salmon, pink (humpback) salmon, sockeye (red) salmon and the chum (dog) salmon.

Sec. 337 Lead Mining of Ozark National Scenic Riverways

Although the National Park Service documented studies done of the region and supported a ban on mining exploration in 1998, this rider would allow mining in the Mark Twain National Forest along the Current, Eleven Point and Jack's Fork rivers in the Missouri Ozarks. These lands were purchased for watershed and forestry resource protection, and lead mining clearly doesn't meet these purposes. This rider greatly benefits the Doe Run Company and Asarco Inc., which have been eyeing these scenic riverways for potential lead mining. Not only will the scenic riverway be devastated, but the health dangers to children living downstream of these mines has been well documented by the Department of Health and Human Services.

Sec. 338 Allows the Forest Service to Trade Trees for Service Contracts (increase in "stewardship" contracts)

This rider authorizes the Forest Service to enter into 28 new stewardship contracts, which allows the agency to trade away trees on publicly owned lands. These goods-for-services contracts provide an economic incentive to log old-growth trees. A current stewardship project in Idaho would allow 173 million board feet to be logged. The money that is generated by these stewardship projects is retained by the national forest. This encourages national forest supervisors to cut down trees to provide more funding for operational expenses.

Title IV \$240.3-million removal of hazardous material from national forests

This rider uses the scare tactic of the previous year's forest fires to increase logging. The bill gives the Forest Service unlimited contracting authority to log national forests for "fuel management" and "removal of hazardous materials." Much like the stewardship contracts, this rider is intended to increase logging and disregard the data that show how forest fires are beneficial to healthy forests. Much like the salvage riders of '90s, the Forest Service has unlimited authority to open forests to logging under the guise of fire danger.

How Do Riders Work?

A rider is a last minute (usually irrelevant) addendum to a necessary bill or an act of Congress. Politicians and special interest have used riders since the mid-1800s, sneaking unrelated provisions onto bills to promote their own agendas. Because riders are not likely to win a vote by their own merits, they are attached to spending bills or other necessary bills for the functionality of our government. These bills have to be passed so the riders get passed along with them.

What's wrong with riders? In addition to subverting our democratic system of government, they are often devastating anti-environmental laws that would never pass a legitimate process.

Since the inception of the first anti-environmental rider in 1897 (Pettigrew Amendment), special interest groups often have more input into the democratic process than some members of Congress. Because most lawmakers don't have the time or incentive to familiarize themselves with all the information in proposed bills, they are relegated to the side lines.

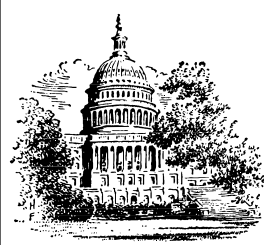
A rider allows preexisting public laws to be suspended for the commercial benefit of one group. Once the rider-ridden bill has passed both houses and the President, it becomes law.

Consequently, these anti-environmental riders nullify the few safeguards, such as the Endangered Species Act and the Clean Air Act, that are in place for the protection of our public lands.

With these laws out of the way, timber, mining and oil companies, along with ATV-lobbying groups and grazing special interests can raze our publicly owned land.



Riders threaten democracy. These laws are tacked on to unrelated bills at the last minute and would never stand the light of day on their own. By sticking riders onto broader legislation, politicians essentially sneak these provisions into law.



How a Bill Becomes a Law

Introduction

One or more members of Congress (the House of Representatives or the Senate) can sponsor a bill. Each is assigned a number, eg. HR 1 (the House of Representatives) or S 1 (the Senate). On average it takes a bill six or more years to become a law and the vast majority of bills never make it to becoming a law.

Referred to Committee

Congress divides its tasks among approximately 250 committees and subcommittees. A committee is a group of legislators that gathers information and conducts hearings about the bill. The Senate and the House of Representatives have separate committees, and they address a wide range of topics, including; Agriculture, Science and Energy, and Natural Resources. During the committee hearings, experts are called in to report on the relevant issues. The committee then edits the bill and votes whether to recommend it. During this editing process, riders can easily be attached to bills by the chair of the committee. If the bill gets a positive vote (most do not) it is assigned a date to be introduced for debate.

Debate

In the House of Representatives, only relevant amendments can be added, making riders impossible to add. The Senate, however, allows nonrelevant riders to be attached during the debate.

Vote

If both houses of Congress pass the same bill, it is sent to the President. If the House and the Senate pass a different version of the same bill, which usually happens, the bill is referred to the Conference Committee to reach a compromise, which must be approved by both the House and the Senate before it is passed to the President.

President

The President has ten days to sign an approved bill into law. There are five options for the President at this point: 1. The President signs the bill into a law. 2. The President can veto the bill. Congress can override a veto with a two-thirds majority. 3. If the President does not sign the bill into law within 10 days when Congress is still in session, then the bill becomes a law. 4. If the President does not sign the bill within 10 days and Congress is adjourned, then a pocket veto happens automatically. 5. Once the President signs the bill into a law, he can use the Line Item Veto Act and strike out a spending or tax provision from a law. Use of the line item veto must occur within five days (excluding Sunday) of his signature of the legislation. Congress can enact a disapproval bill in response to the line-item veto, to cancel it.

Our Greatest Wilderness: The

By Benjamin Scott

A decade before the Wilderness Act became law, a group of visionary scientists and conservationists were calling for full protection of "America's Last Great Wilderness," which became the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Perhaps our last true frontier, this expanse of nearly 20 million acres in the northeast corner of Alaska is our only wilderness entirely north of the Arctic circle. Our last great wilderness is a vibrant and delicate ecosystem larger than the entire state of South Carolina, and a vital part of every American's natural heritage.

The Refuge was established in 1960 to "preserve the natural condition, diversity of wildlife, and other special values" of the area. The idea that wilderness itself is a valuable resource to the people of the entire nation is what motivated those such as Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas to recommend that "this last American living wilderness must remain sacrosanct," and to fight for the protection of this place.

Yet the refuge is threatened. The act that created the Refuge stipulates that only an act of Congress can authorize any activity related to oil extraction, and previous attempts by the oil industry to sneak such legislation through Congress were stopped only by Presidential veto. But you can expect no such decent action from President Bush, who is working vigorously to open the ANWR to this destructive practice. So, read on about the unique value of this place, and then join us in letting Congress know that you believe the Refuge should remain untouched.



The ANWR: Just one piece of the Arctic land-use puzzle.

A glossary of the parts of the ANWR, other contested areas in Northern Alaska, and ANWR terms.

ANILCA—Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act: Signed by President Carter in 1980, ANILCA changed the Range into a Refuge, established the current wilderness area and doubled the size of the Refuge. But by calling for research of oil resources in the 1002 Area, it also withheld protection for the only area of the refuge that industry could possibly use.

1002 Area: Section 1002 of ANILCA required extensive research of a 1.5-million-acre area for biological and petroleum resources. This research area is called the 1002 Area, and is the *last* protected area (a mere 4%) of the North Slope.

The North Slope: A 48.8-million-acre arctic plain that slopes northward from the foothills of the Brooks Range to the sea. This unique and fragile ecosystem sits atop massive oil fields, and is sometimes called the "Front Range Zones."

Section 1003: This section of ANILCA specifically states that only an act of Congress can allow oil and gas drilling in the 1002 Area. There have been numerous underhanded attempts to attach a rider to other legislation to open the 1002 Area to drilling (please see our article on riders on page 11).

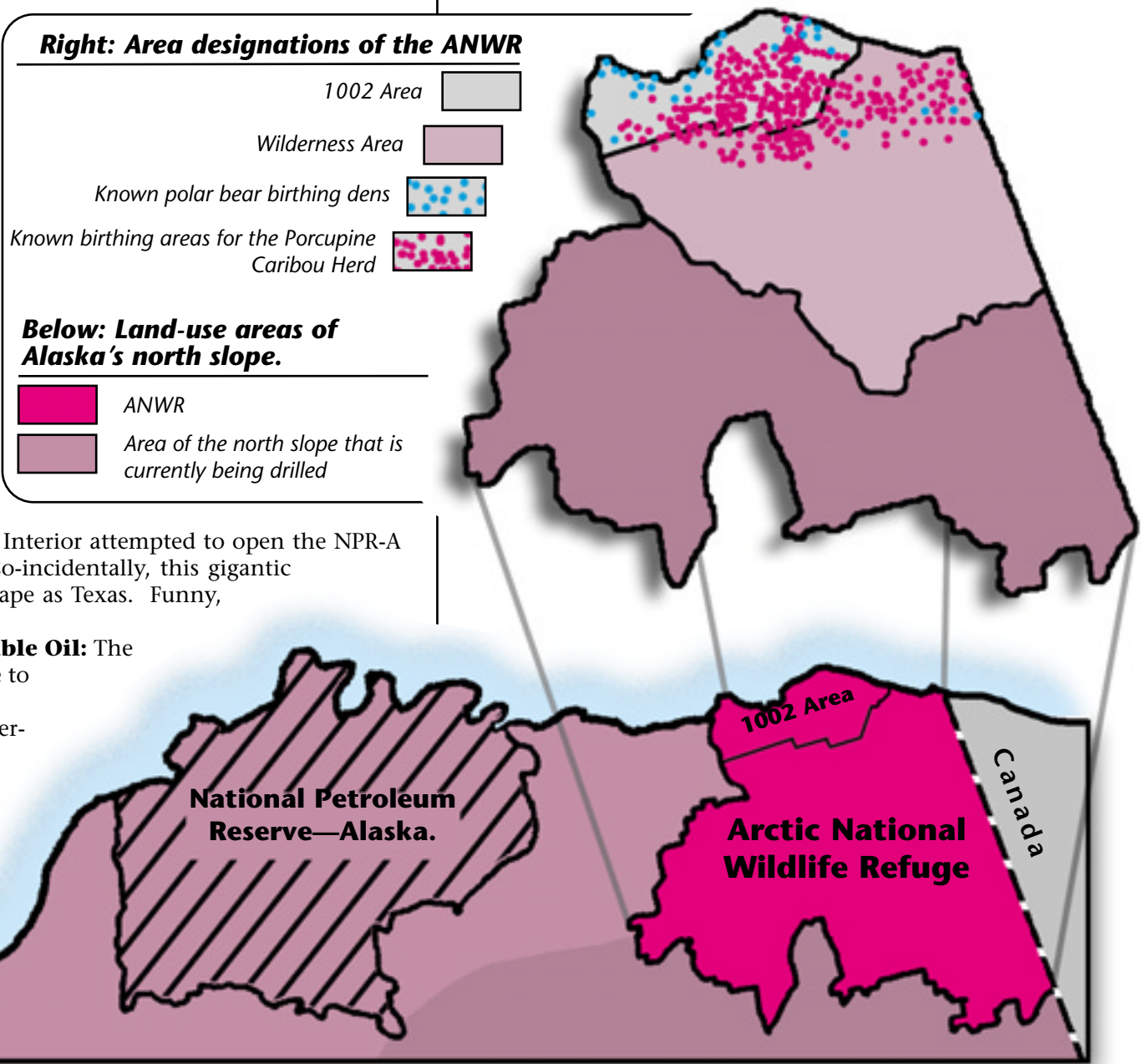
NPR-A—The National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska: A 23-million-acre reserve established specifically as a supply "for our Navy's fighting ships" by President Harding in 1924. It was called the Naval Petroleum Reserve until 1980, when it was transferred from the control of the Navy to the Department of the Interior. The Navy successfully preserved this resource through two world wars and the Reagan-era oil crisis. The Department of the Interior attempted to open the NPR-A to drilling that same year. (Co-incidentally, this gigantic oil field is almost the same shape as Texas. Funny, that...)

Economically Recoverable Oil: The amount of oil that is profitable to remove. As oil prices rise, the amount of economically recoverable oil also rises, because it becomes profitable to spend more on extraction. This number is always based on future estimates of oil prices, which are subject to change.

Wildlife of the Refuge

The ANWR is a vast and varied habitat filled with boreal forests, rugged mountains, and arctic tundra that is perfectly intact, providing a home for more than 180 species of birds and 45 species of mammals.

Magnificent herds of Caribou and shaggy musk oxen migrate and calve throughout the 1002 Area, traveling between Canada and Alaska. Polar bears, grizzly bears and brown bears also depend upon an unbroken, unpolluted habitat. Birds such as golden eagles, rough-legged hawks and the rare Arctic peregrine falcon depend on the fish and smaller mammals that live in the Refuge. Many species of birds, including tundra swans and immense flocks of snow geese, migrate south to the continental US, and to other countries such as Canada and Russia, playing an important role in ecosystems there. The map below demonstrates that species such as polar bears and caribou depend upon the preservation of the 1002 Area for their survival.



Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

History of the Refuge

The fate of the ecosystem that is now the ANWR began to be debated in the late 1950s by Congress, prompted by a group of conservationists and scientists. Oil companies had been eyeing this area for development as early as 1923, when the establishment of the Naval Petroleum Reserve blocked oil development in much of northern Alaska (see map). While the National Park Service had recommended that the area become a wildlife reserve as early as 1957, Congress failed to agree on any protection for the area. Instead, President Eisenhower's Secretary of the Interior, Fred Seaton, established an 8.9-million-acre Arctic Wildlife Range, as the current Refuge system had not yet been established. President Johnson laid the groundwork for further protection during his administration, signing the Wilderness Act in 1964, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act in 1968 and banning the export of Alaskan crude oil in 1966.

President Carter's signing of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) in 1980 not only gave the Range its greatest measure of protection, but also subjected the area to the heaviest impacts it has yet endured. It changed the Range into a Refuge, designated eight million acres as Wilderness and three rivers as Wild and Scenic Rivers, and expanded the total area to more than 18 million acres. During the winters of 1984 and 1985, seismic exploration for oil and gas took place, leaving more than 1400 miles of heavy equipment tracks that can still be seen today.

Over the years, the ANWR has continued to grow. In 1983, the State of Alaska added one million acres to the south side of the Refuge, and in 1988 Congress added 325,000 acres, expanding the Refuge to its current size of 19.8 million acres.

Meanwhile, oil companies have tried numerous tactics to open the area to drilling. An underhanded "rider" was attached

to congressional budget legislation in 1995, which President Clinton vetoed to preserve the refuge (please see our article on Riders on page 11). But Clinton overturned the three-decade-old ban on the export of Alaskan crude oil a year later and signed an executive order in 1998 that allowed oil to be pumped from the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A).

These two actions have put the ANWR in extreme danger. By shipping our natural resources overseas for profit, they have exacerbated our energy crisis. Thus, the oil industry now claims it needs the small amount of oil in the ANWR to relieve the energy crisis and to ensure our national security. Meanwhile, they are pumping oil from the NPR-A, a strategic reserve established specifically for "some great national emergency that would demand a source of fuel for our fighting ships." Instead of keeping these resources for the purpose for which they were intended, they are exporting our reserves to Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and China.

Currently, the ANWR faces its greatest enemy: George W. Bush. He has supported drilling the ANWR for years, and has appointed Gale Norton, who also supports drilling within the ANWR as his Secretary of the Interior.



**"The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is an American treasure. When it was established, we made a promise to future generations to protect it."
—Jamie Rappaport Clark, Director, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.**

ANWR'S INDEX

- Total area, in square miles, of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge: 30,900
- Total area, in square miles, of the state of South Carolina: 30,111
- Total area, in square miles, of the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska: 35,900
- Number of years that the Navy didn't pump oil in the NPR-A, preserving it for a "major national emergency": 46
- Number of major wars that the US took part in during that time: 3
- Number of months after the Department of the Interior gained control of the NPR-A that drilling activity began: 23
- Percentage of Alaska's North Slope that is open to oil drilling and other resource extraction: 96
- Percentage of Alaska's North Slope that is currently closed to drilling that is on the ANWR: 100
- Number of acres on the North Slope that are permanently protected from oil drilling: 0
- Approximate number of wells on the north slope: 500+
- Gallons of waste produced by these wells each year: 840,000
- Millions of gallons of toxic pollutants that were pumped onto roads or open tundra by oil companies in 1985: 13
- Total area, in acres, of the ANWR's 1002 Area: 1,500,000
- Number of species of birds found in the 1002 Area: 135
- Number of continents where these same birds are observed as having an impact on those ecosystems: 5
- Percent change in the body fat of snow geese after feeding in the 1002 Area for three weeks: + 400
- Number of miles of heavy equipment trails created by seismic exploration of the 1002 Area in 1984: 1,400
- Number of miles of these scars that are still visible in the tundra today: 1400
- Estimated number of miles of explorative scarring alone to be caused by opening the area to drilling: 3,800
- Estimated barrels of oil, in billions, that are economically recoverable in the ANWR: 5.3
- Percentage chance that this oil can be recovered and be profitable: 50%
- Assumed market value of oil to make extraction profitable: \$24
- Current market value of Alaska North Slope Crude Oil: \$24.50
- Current market value of Middle Eastern (Dubai) Crude Oil: \$22.50
- Number of days since December, 1996 that the market value of Alaskan oil has exceeded that of Dubai oil: 13
- Number of years before estimated US oil reserves are tapped out: 12
- Number of years before Middle Eastern reserves are tapped out: 75-100
- Billions of barrels of oil used by Americans each year: 7
- Amount that the price of gas would be affected by the introduction of ANWR oil to the market: 23 cents
- Number of years before ANWR oil would reach the market: 15
- Number of months before ANWR oil is used up, and prices return to previous rates: 9
- Number of caribou in the 1002 Area's Porcupine Caribou Herd: 129,000
- Ratio of area used by the Central Arctic Caribou herd to that of the Porcupine Herd: 5:1
- Ratio of number of caribou in the Central Arctic Herd to that of the Porcupine Herd: 1:6
- Number of miles that caribou move away from human disturbance to find birthing grounds: 1.5
- Distance between ice-roads projected as necessary for oil exploration in the ANWR: 1.5
- Millions of gallons of ANWR water available to create the necessary ice-roads for "low-impact" oil drilling: 9
- Miles of roads able to be created from this water: 10
- Distance, in miles, from the nearest pipeline to ANWR oil: 50
- Average number of days between "major incidents" on the Alaska pipeline since 1979: 10

Figures cited have been adjusted for inflation and are the latest available as of January 2001.

Sources can be found at www.forestcouncil.org.

Solutions: Using the Web

By Benjamin Scott

Plague? Or panacea? Regardless of what you think of the internet, you can't deny its importance to modern communication and to modern politics. Thanks to the Internet, we can access government documents, communicate instantly and make information available to millions of people with the click of a button. Recognizing the value of this new medium, we've been working hard to rebuild and maintain our website over the past few months. So often, we hear "Sure, the web is great, but what can you do with it?" We'd like to offer some ideas for you to make a difference.

The World Wide Web offers an immediate and constantly changing source of information, and concerned citizens are creating new ways to uncover and share information about conservation. Finding information is one of the benefits of the internet. For example, citizens who are curious about President Clinton's roadless directive can find the entire document online. The internet also offers new ways to voice your opinion to public officials. Instant email and fax technology make it easy for citizens to speak. But will you be heard? Here are some tips for finding information and getting active with the Internet.



About Search Engines

Most people are familiar with search engines, but understanding how they work can make your search more efficient. First, consider the words you use in your search request. And try to think like a computer! Remember that search engines look for websites that contain the words you type. So don't just ask a question. Think of the words that would appear in the site you're looking for. Type "+" before a word to force the engine to find only sites with that word or minus to exclude the word. For example: *+story -dragon*.

Most engines have an advanced searching feature that will help you create a Boolean search, which allows you to make the engine look for specific combinations of your terms. You can still create phrases and can also use these terms to narrow your search:

- ◆ AND: Must have both keywords.
- ◆ OR: May have either keyword.
- ◆ AND NOT: Excludes a keyword.
- ◆ NEAR: Keywords must be within 10 words of each other.

Some search examples:

bedtime and story and princess or prince and not dragon
forest near ecology and not timber
congressional near riders and 2000

Some of our favorite search engines:

www.altavista.com www.google.com www.dogpile.com
www.webcrawler.com www.northernlight.com

Directories and Portal Sites

Directories are different from standard search engines because real people evaluate and categorize the listings. Yahoo! (www.yahoo.com) is one such site, employing a team of web-savvy "critics" who evaluate websites for coherency and relevance, and then place the sites into categorized listings.

Portals are issue-specific directory sites. Portals such as envirolink.com and earthsystems.org have collected and categorized other sites related to the environment. Most portal sites also have a search engine built in, which may or may not be limited to the categorized listings. Portal sites are very helpful when searching for sites that deal with a certain subject, but won't help you locate specific information in each site.

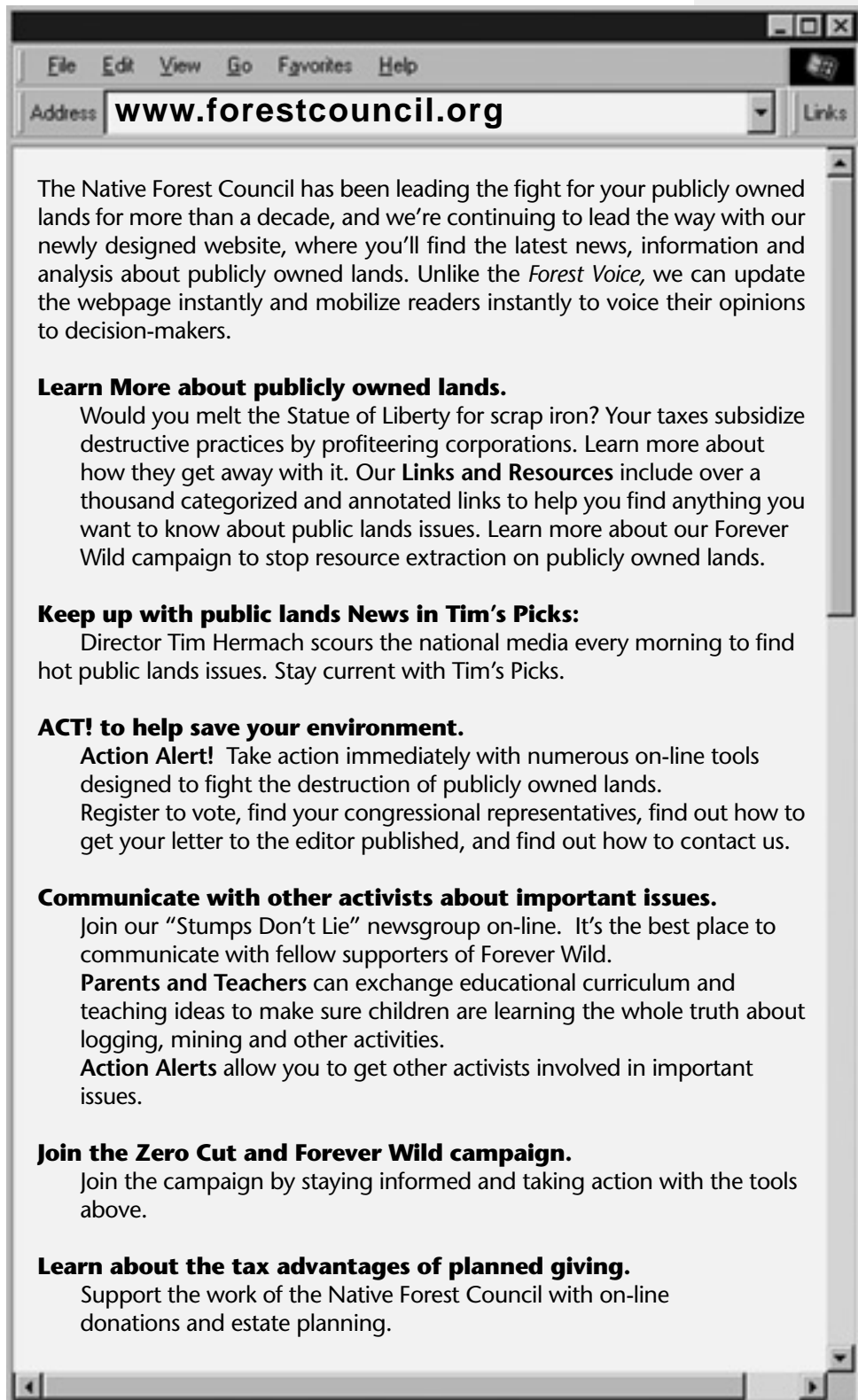
www.forestcouncil.org

If you're looking for public lands news and information, make www.forestcouncil.org your gateway to the web. We update our news items daily, and have volumes of well-organized information to keep you informed and active. Combined with on-line activism and a wealth of annotated links, **forestcouncil.org** is the activist's source for public lands news and solutions.

Conservation Links

Here is a small sampling of environmental sites that contain many resources for the activist. Just type these right into a browser as you see them here. More annotated links can be found at www.forestcouncil.org.

- **thomas.loc.gov/Thomas**: A congressional search engine—great for tracking a bill through the legislative process.
- **CommonCause.Org**: A nonpartisan citizen's lobbying organization promoting honest and accountable government.
- **drudgereport.com**: A dense collection of news items from around the globe, packed with links to hundreds of publications.
- **earthed.com**: An alternative to the pervasive agency- and industry-sponsored supplemental environmental education. It offers encompassing resources founded in Deep Ecology.
- **common-dreams.org**: A web source of breaking news and views for the progressive community, this site is rich with links to hundreds of media outlets, columnists and feature articles.
- **counterpunch.org**: *CounterPunch* is the bi-weekly muckraking newsletter edited by Alexander Cockburn and Jeffrey St. Clair.
- **forests.org**: A portal site, categorizing hundreds of organizations.



Don't Have a Computer?

There are many resources available to help you get on-line even if you don't own a computer. Most communities have many ways to help you access the internet, either for free or relatively little cost.

Most public libraries offer computers with the capacity to browse the internet and classes to help patrons learn how to use them. Public colleges and universities are often open to the public, with some restrictions. Cyber cafes, a breed of business born of the internet, can be found throughout the world. They charge you a small fee, usually hourly, for use of a web-ready computer. Many communities also have cooperative networks that provide cheap internet access as well as computers. Check your phone book for "Internet Access Providers."

Electronic Activism

The jury's still out on the effectiveness of email campaigns. While email is easy to use, legislators may have anti-spamming firewalls that block mass-distributed emails.

One trick that may help is to use the blind copy ("Bcc:") function of your e-mail. Make a list of all the e-mails, and assign that list a single name. Then send the original to yourself, but enter that list's name into the "BCC:" field. The result is that every recipient on the list will receive the message, which will have only their address, rather than a huge list of recipients.

E-mail campaigns are effective for public-comment situations, such as when the Forest Service is required to solicit public comments in order to draft an EIS.



In Memory: Helen Johnson

*Do not stand at my grave and weep
I am not there; I do not sleep
I am a thousand winds that blow
I am the diamond glint on snow
I am the sunlight on ripened grain
When you wake in the morning hush,
I am the swift uplifting rush
Of quiet birds in circling flight
I am the soft starlight at night
Do not stand at my grave and cry;
I am not there; I did not die.*

—Anonymous



This prayer was read at the memorial service for Helen Johnson, a Forest Council member who passed away October 31, 2000 at the age of 80. A long-time supporter with a commitment to conservation, Helen chose Native Forest Council as the recipient of a lifetime bequest, establishing the Helen Johnson Fund.

Helen was born in Calgary, Ontario in 1920. She met her husband Harold "Happy" Johnson while working at a resort in Lake Louise. They moved to Seattle in 1946 and later opened the Homestead Nursery in Redmond, Washington. The couple enjoyed traveling to Kauai, where they had many close friends.

Harold died in 1973, and Helen reluctantly sold the nursery five years later. In 1976, she worked to establish Redmond as a "Green Survival" city, a program to bring plants to public places throughout the community. Helen spoke to elementary schools about the importance of plants to people and donated 20-foot flowering cherry trees to the city's park in an effort to encourage local businesses to follow suit. Helen was a quiet and persistent activist. Long before Redmond was a booming center of high-tech industry in the Northwest, Helen planted and nurtured the seed of several important community projects that continue today. In 1979, after three years of hard

work to make her dream of a community recycling program come true, Helen opened the doors of the Green Cycle Recycling Center, a service that collected and sold recycled glass, newspapers and cans, then used the money to buy trees for the community. The center continues working to encourage recycling and plant more trees in the community that Helen loved so dearly.

Helen later became interested in auras and alternative healing, working as a national coordinator for the Inner Peace Movement. As her family recalls, Helen knew that "her friends probably thought she was dingy," but she didn't mind. This work took her to England, Scotland and throughout the United States, brightening peoples' lives with her vibrant energy.

Helen remained active until the last days of her life, writing letters and volunteering at the Puget Sound co-

op. A dedicated activist, she wrote the mayor of Seattle about easier access for pedestrians just months before she passed on.

During the last years of her life, Helen relinquished most of her material possessions, once telling a friend that "too many things hold you down and make you so stuck you cannot move." She fought in her quiet and willful way to live and die by herself, in her apartment, the master of her own home. It is a fight she ultimately won.

Relatives described Helen's voice as a "loud whisper," as her legacy to the streets of Redmond and the Native Forest Council attests. Her quiet determination will live on in the lives she touched and the gifts she left behind, reminding us all to be good to the Earth, because it is good to us. And we can't live without it.

For more information about the Helen Johnson Fund, please contact Native Forest Council.

Council supporter and committed conservationist Helen Johnson chose Native Forest Council as the recipient of a lifetime bequest.

Staff Spotlight: Ben Scott

Deep in the heart of the sugar pine forests of the Sierra Nevada, a dozen chainsaws in the hands of Forest Service employees whine through the trees like angry hornets. They leave only five trees for every 30 square feet. Just before one of the sawyers sinks the whirling blade into a young pine, his partner lets out a warning hoot loud enough to penetrate their earplugs. Ben Scott stops and looks to his partner, who points to the top of the 30-foot tree. Two young horned owls stare back at him, their huge eyes a deep black.

"All I could think," Ben later recalls, "was this: If my ears would be ringing at the end of the day, then what had we just done to the hearing of a creature that can hear a mouse rustling through the dead needles from hundreds of yards away? I could handle most of what I saw in the course of that job, but that tangible impact really made all the issues about logging our public lands painfully clear."

A writer, photographer, and avid outdoor enthusiast, Scott's passion for the environment has led him to the top of Mount Whitney, deep into the jungles of Belize, and into the belly of the Forest Service. And most recently, to the Native Forest Council.

Scott, 23, recently graduated from the University of Oregon's School of Journalism and Communication with a bachelor's degree in magazine journalism. "Effective, honest communication with others is paramount no matter what you do; it's the bedrock of democracy, really. I chose to study journalism because it would give me the tools to communicate in a variety of media," he says.

As the Council's webmaster and managing editor of the *Forest Voice*, Scott is redefining the ways that the Council educates citizens about publicly owned lands, while marshalling new technologies to provide opportunities for action. Since joining the Council in June, Scott has helped produce the *Forest Voice* while rebuilding our website from the ground up. Now the Council website stands as a model to other organizations, unifying all the aspects of the Council's mission into one easy-to-use tool.

"What I really enjoy about our site is that it's always changing," he explains, "There are news updates, and new ways to take action, every day — and it's all easy to find."

To help create the site, Scott pursued and won a grant for the software and built new partnerships with community businesses to make our site run quickly and smoothly. Scott says that while he finds the power of the web fascinating, "it's my fascination with our environment that inspires me to use those tools," says Scott.

Scott's love of nature took root at an early age. He camped with his family and enjoyed backpacking with his father and the Boy Scouts, pursuits that led to his Eagle Scout award. When he came to Eugene in 1995 to attend college, the Salvage Rider had just passed. He began his primary research project for journalism school, focusing on the issues surrounding the Warner Creek protest just outside Eugene. "The more I learned about that rider, and saw the corporate power over the voices of concerned citizens, the more I realized just how important a strong voice for the environment is," he recalls.

After finishing his research, Scott was fascinated by the issues facing our public lands, and decided to investigate the issue from the inside, landing a summer Forest Service job with a "Timber Stand Improvement" crew in his beloved Sierras. These crews do plant some trees, but work primarily to suppress wildfire and "thin" forests: cutting down thousands of trees to help the "timber" grow faster.

"That forest is the life-support system for all of central California. The creeks we hopped over every day merge to become the main source of water for the San Joaquin Valley, which grows nearly half of the food for the state. The silviculturists can call it what they want to, but it's really just butchery to help corporations make a quick profit at taxpayer expense. No forest-product company could ever afford to actually pay for the 'services' our taxes provide."

Scott's experience with public lands issues has inspired him to work on other projects that allow him to use his various interests to advocate for environmental protection. He chronicled the first climbing ascent of Mount Whitney by a heart transplant patient in 1998, and last February he traveled to Belize to photograph howler monkeys that had been saved from near-extinction through voluntary action by the local farmers. As a snowboard instructor, he has helped "kids of all ages" master a skill that allows them to get in touch with their natural environment.

"John Muir taught us that people with a connection to the environment will treasure it. David Brower taught us that people who are educated about the environment will defend it. I hope that my dedication to communication — be it with photography, writing or the web — can help others value our lands, understand the issues, and motivate them to take action."



Managing Editor/Webmaster brings a love of the outdoors, journalistic skills and unflagging commitment to the Native Forest Council.



BECAUSE YOU KNOW WHO STILL GUARDS YOU KNOW WHAT...

We're still fighting.

As long as the bureaucrats entrusted to protect your public lands profit from their destruction...

As long as the government continues to subsidize Big Timber and Big Oil...

As long as corrupt corporations have more clout than the people...

We will fight to protect America's publicly owned lands. If you or someone you know cares about preserving our nation's mountains, forests, rivers and streams, please join or give the gift of membership to Native Forest Council. It's time to throw the fox out of the henhouse.

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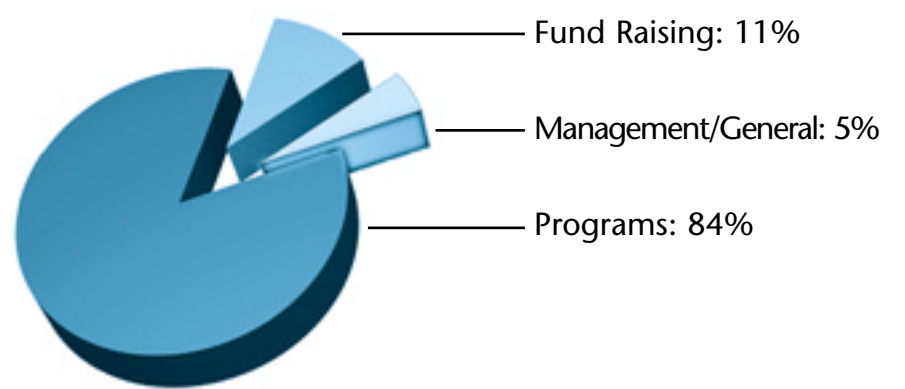
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