THE MAINE WOODS

A Publication of the Forest Ecology Network

"In wildness is the preservation of the world."
Henry David Thoreau

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Acid rain-killed trees on Whaleboat Island in Casco Bay, an island recently acquired by the Maine Coast Heritage Trust. Acid rain is just one of the many disastrous effects of a national energy policy that is reliant upon fossil fuels. See the articles on pages 6-7 and 15. Also see the articles on pages 8 and 16 for other equally disastrous effects of that energy policy. *Photo by Paul Donahue*

"Polite conservationists leave no mark save the scars upon the Earth that could have been prevented had they stood their ground."
David Brower

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A Voice in the Wilderness by Jonathan Carter

THERE IS MUCH WORK TO BE DONE

It feels good to be back in the saddle at FEN after a year of campaigning for Governor. I want to thank you for your support. It was a great campaign. As a person who practices the politics of belief the outcome was less important than articulating a vision for the state of Maine which incorporated ecological, social, and economic justice. I have been around long enough to know that "winning" isn't simply about the number of votes. It is about introducing new ideas, confronting the powers of resistance, presenting a vision, and educating the public on new approaches.

photo by Janet LeClair

FEN director Jonathan Carter in a Plum Creek clearcut north of Flagstaff Lake.

Einstein once wrote, "the problems of the world cannot be solved using the same level of thinking which created them". Activists understand this concept. To be on the cutting edge in initiating change is not easy, but it is essential somebody articulates the new ideas. If not, the new ideas will never become reality. Change takes time. It also takes persistence. I often marvel at the impact FEN has had on defining the agenda around protecting Maine's forests. Who would of thought ten years ago that clearcutting would disappear as the dominate forest practice? Or that millions of acres of the North Woods would be protected through development easements? Or that the forest corporations would be seeking "green" certification? While we still have a long way to go before logging is carried out in an ecologically sustainable way and before we can visibly see a restored wilderness, the momentum is headed in the right direction. Vigilance (so that we don't move backwards) and initiative are critical.

It would be very easy, considering the current political climate and the vast resources of the special interests, to simply give up and go home. This is not an option. As the first "clean" gubernatorial candidate (publicly funded) in Maine's history, I had the opportunity to constantly highlight the relationship between special interest money and political decision making. Indeed, it is the special interest money that is at the core of the ecological crisis. Ask yourself why acid rain continues to pour down destroying the health of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems? Why are we not moving full tilt away from coal, oil, and gas when it has been scientifically documented that fossil fuel combustion is the primary cause of global warming? Why is there such political, not public, resistance to the Maine Woods National Park and Preserve when the evidence is so overwhelmingly supportive of the positive ecological and economic benefits? Just follow the money trails and it all becomes clear. While we may not have the money, I believe truth has a way of always winning in the long run.

FEN's voice is more important now than ever before. With the new administration in Augusta, it is going to be imperative that FEN continues to set the agenda. While John Baldacci has a weak environmental record, I do think that FEN has an opportunity to help point the compass in the right direction. FEN needs to give John a chance. It will be very clear early on as to whether the new administration will simply be supporting the status quo or offering a bold new vision. When it comes to the forests of Maine, a bold new vision is critical.

We need a vision which recognizes that "working forests" are not just fiber fields. Forests work for us in protecting biodiversity, in providing clean air and water, and as places where we can connect with the spirit in the natural world. We need a vision that proclaims that "multiple use" does not mean every acre of forest needs to be home to the saw and motorized vehicle. Most importantly, we need a vision that is restorative. One that stops the destructive practices and recognizes the need to heal and repair the damage of the past.

I look forward to the challenges ahead. There is a huge amount of opportunity. And where there is opportunity, there is much work to be done.

FEN Awards Scholarships

Five applicants were awarded scholarship funds in FEN's second annual essay and photo contests. "The Health of the Earth" photo contest award was split between Lucia Fenney of Monroe, Maine and Ryan Douglas of Windham, Maine. Their winning photos can be seen on pages 30-31. "The Future of Maine's Environment" essay contest award was split between Alyssa Jumars of Whitefield, Maine, Jay Fitzgerald of Brunswick, Maine, and Andaria Crespi of New Sharon, Maine. Their essays can be seen on pages 26-28.

The announcement for this year's contest can be found on page 5 of this issue of *The Maine Woods*.

"Only after the last tree has been cut down. Only after the last river has been poisoned. Only after the last fish has been caught. Only then you will find that money cannot be eaten."

Cree Indian Proverb

forest ecology network

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THE MAINE WOODS

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Special Thanks
Teresa Wood

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War on Environment Not Justified

by John Demos

For two years Bush and his compatriots from industry have been waging "the mother of all battles" on our system of environmental regulation. Until Election Day, the Democratic majority in the Senate stood as a bulwark, albeit a leaky one, against wholesale rollbacks of our Nation's clean air, clean water and forest protection laws. Meanwhile conservationists have been fighting a defensive battle that, so far, has thwarted many of the President's most egregious plans. In November the Senate and House adjourned without taking any harmful actions to the environment, but the incoming Republican-dominated Congress is expected to push the Administration's agenda with renewed vigor.

Prior to September 11, president Bush's popularity polled below 50%, and he was facing a great deal of criticism for his environmental actions (e.g. about the Cheney energy task force) and inactions (e.g. the Kyoto Climate Treaty). But as the Twin Towers fell, so did coverage of issues ranging from the economy to the environment. The news media has become all terrorist radio, TV, and print news - all day and every day.

Only a disastrous wildfire season in the West reawakened interest in the press about forestry issues. Yet papers in the East, where few fires were burning, tended to give the subject short shrift. The White House, seizing the opportunity as a means of getting the timber giants back onto our public lands, launched a frontal attack on our America's bedrock forest regulations. Ignoring the facts - that timbering has created many of the conditions that made the forests ripe for conflagration, that climate change-driven drought made fuels tinder dry, that people started most of the fires and that over 90% of the burned acreage was on private land –the President instead blamed environmentalists and environmental regulations as the root cause of the crisis. Unfortunately many members of the media chose to simply rebroadcast his specious arguments with very little critical analysis.

Undersecretary of Agriculture Mark Rey, a former timber industry lobbyist, likewise pointed a finger of guilt at groups and individuals who had succeeded in reducing the timber cut on our public lands. He charged that forestry laws, like the National Forest Management Act (NFMA), allowed extremists to block legitimate fire thinning projects on frivolous grounds. When confronted with the independent General Accounting Office's two-year study that showed that no fire projects had been stopped by the courts and very few appealed, Rey went to work, cooking up a study that would back up his claims. That study, as was later revealed, was based on a shoddy fact gathering effort that, in the Forest Service's own words, was "limited to hours", and was "provided orally in telephone interviews".

What was born of this misinformation campaign, and the raging wildfires, were efforts in the Senate and House of Representatives to strike at the heart of environmental laws, that have stood the test of time for over thirty years. In the name of fighting fire and ending a fictitious "analysis paralysis," several pieces of legislation and proposed executive orders are in the works to undermine the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and other forest laws. Signed into law by President Nixon, NEPA requires that the government undertake studies of the environmental impact of proposed projects (such as timber sales) before they can be approved.

Citizens are able to block timber sales only when a judge finds a clear violation of law. In New England, Conservation Action Project and American Lands Alliance succeeded in halting two projects on the White Mountain National Forest. Neither had been designed for fire mitigation. What stopped the sales was the Forest Service's failure to conduct the legally required studies on critical species. The suit was so strong, that the US attorney in New Hampshire advised the Forest Service to withdraw the projects.

After the disastrous Los Alamos fire of 2001, which was started by a Forest Service "controlled burn" intended to reduce the threat of future wildfire, many communities bordering woodlands have become more seriously concerned with the decision-making process for fire mitigation. The Bush Administration wants to stack the deck by eliminating the rights of the rest of us; be we landowners, environmentalists, hunters, hikers, loggers, or business owners. If the Administration has its way, it will not just be "treehuggers," but all Americans who will lose their say.

John Demos is the Northeast Organizer for the American Lands Alliance. For more information please see the American Lands Alliance website at: www.americanlands.org

The Maine Woods Emergency

Somebody has got to speak for the trees!

The Forest Ecology Network has been publishing *The Maine Woods* for eight years. While FEN has distributed the paper widely to thousands of concerned citizens free of charge, *The Maine Woods* may become a thing of the past unless you, the reader, subscribe today.

Please subscribe now so that this unique voice for protecting, preserving, and restoring the Maine Woods can continue. Your contribution can be sent in the envelope provided.

Thank you.

Jonathan Carter, director FEN

Herbicide Project Update: Protecting Maine's Communities Through Local Controls

by Maggie Drummond

In August, Toxics Action Center and the Forest Ecology Network entered into partnership (FEN's "Herbicide Project"/Toxic Action Center's "Pesticide Free Communities") to assist communities across the state of Maine regulating and reducing the spray of herbicides. To protect public health and the environment, the partnership has compiled a packet that includes health and environmental effects of herbicides, and a citizens' guide with sample local ordinances, a guide for the petitioning process, and a list of municipalities that have already enacted local controls to reduce or prohibit spraying. Communities can use this guide to tackle roadside and right-of-way spraying, as well as aerial spraying for forestry purposes.

Since the start of the project, Toxics Action Center staff have contacted over 20 different community members to offer local technical assistance. Two community groups have formed, in Guilford and Surry.

In Guilford, International Paper has been spraying nearby residents for years through their forestry spraying program; pesticide drift has entered yards and even homes through open windows. Residents have organized themselves to fight this spraying, collecting the necessary signatures to enact a moratorium on aerial spraying and convincing the selectmen to allow it on town warrant for vote in March. Residents are currently drafting an ordinance with Toxics Action Center's help.

In Surry, residents concerned about aerial spraying and drift for blueberry fields nearby have formed a group called Citizens Against Pesticide Spraying. The group has organized to hand out information at the Common Ground Fair and is currently collecting stories and first hand accounts from other residents affected by pesticides.

In addition to the local assistance to citizen groups, Toxics Action Center has organized a work session with Daisy Goodman on herbicides and aerial spraying in Maine as part of our third annual conference, Toxics Action 2002. The conference will be attended by over one hundred activists and community groups from around the state. Residents at the conference will be encouraged to sign up to receive help to stop this harmful spraying in their own communities.

Maggie Drummond is the Maine State Director for the Toxics Action Center. For more information about the Herbicide Project/Pesticide Free Communities please see the Toxics Action Center's website at: www.toxicsaction.org

West Nile Virus - A Manufactured Crisis

by Lynn Landes

What to do about West Nile? Don't do anything. It has the smell of a manufactured crisis. The news on West Nile is a disturbing combination of hype, confusion, distortion, and omission. Take a look at the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) website for, "West Nile Virus Update - Current Case Count," and you'll see a startling variation in the incidence of West Nile infections and fatalities from state to state - and even within the same region. It makes me wonder.

On a daily basis TV reporters raise the alarm and breathlessly announce new cases of West Nile, but it's hard to tell if they're talking about fatalities or infections.

We're told that both children and the elderly are most at risk, when in fact children are the least at risk for the disease, according to the CDC, but most at risk for the toxic effects of pesticides and mosquito repellents.

Both the CDC and state public health agencies give out general information about the number of victims, but not specific data on individual victims that may shed light on the medical reality of this so-called crisis.

The virus is characterized as new and dangerous, when it's not significantly different from viruses that have been in the United States for decades.

West Nile may be a nasty experience for a very few, fatal for an exceedingly rare number, but as diseases go...it's no big deal. There are about 40 different types of mosquitoes that carry viruses that could cause encephalitis. They're common in many parts of the U.S. and breed in places like tire dumps.

So what's unique about West Nile? Not much, according to Dr. Raoult Ratard of the Louisiana Department of Health. He says that, as it affects humans, West Nile is almost indistinguishable from the St. Louis virus, which has been in the U.S. since 1933. Dr. Ratard says that there's no difference between the two viruses regarding their symptoms or rates of infection. Less than 1% of persons infected with the West Nile or St. Louis virus will develop severe illness. On average, St. Louis causes 128 people to be hospitalized every year, although in 1964 that figure went as high as 4,478 cases. In fact, the mortality rate for the St. Louis virus is said to be slightly higher than that for West Nile.

The St. Louis virus is considered a "permanent resident" of Florida, according to the University of Florida's Cooperative Extension Service. On their website the Extension Service even questions the effectiveness of spraying pesticides, noting that by the time an outbreak has occurred it's already too late.

Now that's interesting. Florida is a breeding ground for the St. Louis virus and filled to the gills with the elderly, yet only one person has been infected with West Nile according to the CDC, while Louisiana has 205, Mississippi 91, and Illinois 79. Could Florida residents have developed a resistance to both St. Louis and West Nile virus? Or to mosquitoes in general? Or is something else going on?

I've been very curious about the alleged victims of West Nile. So I called the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) for more information.

Incredibly, the CDC press office claims that they don't have information on the exact ages or medical conditions of the alleged fatalities of West Nile, and only the 'mean' age for cases of infection - 51 years old. And that doesn't really jive with press reports that describe victims of infection or fatalities as usually over 70 years of age. The CDC says that reporters have managed to get some details on the victims, but not from the CDC.

Call me dumb, but not stupid. How did the CDC get the mean age of those who got infected if they don't have the individual ages? There aren't enough cases of West Nile in many states to establish their own mean. How can the CDC make policy and state funding decisions for West Nile if they don't have the basic facts on its so-called victims? How can they inform, alert, and alarm the public if they're operating in an information vacuum?

CDC press office told me that I would have to contact the individual state public health agencies for more information. So I called Louisiana and New York, but no luck. They also were not releasing the information I sought.

It seems I'm not alone in my failure. According to the No Spray Coalition, New York City claimed 7 fatalities to West Nile in 1999, "Yet to date none of the names or medical histories of the deceased have been released... Independent research indicates that all 7 were over 75, one had a serious heart condition, two had cancer (and heavy chemotherapy), and all had bad immune systems. No death was histologically connected with WNV as the cause of death."

Why not release victim information? Could it be that if the public were to understand that the so-called victims really had serious underlying medical conditions, that it would put an end to the panic and an end to the pesticide spraying? I doubt anyone sprays pesticides for West Nile in Europe, Africa, Western Asia, or the Middle East where it's common.

Pardon me for being suspicious, but in my mind it's not surprising that states like Louisiana, Mississippi, and Illinois are claiming some of the highest rates for West Nile. They've had a long love affair with the chemical industry. That cozy relationship could contribute to the high number of victims in any number of troubling ways.

West Nile is a virus that we will learn to live with and should refuse to get excited about. What's alarming is a pesticide industry that does more harm than good, a public health service that withholds the facts, and a press corps that seems incapable of asking the tough questions.

This report was first published on Monday, September 2, 2002 by CommonDreams.org

Lynn Landes is a freelance journalist specializing in environmental issues. She writes a weekly column which is published on her website www.EcoTalk.org and reports environmental news for DUTV in Philadelphia, PA. Lynn's been a radio show host and a regular commentator for a BBC radio program.

Links:
http://www.cdc.gov/od/oc/media/wncount.htm
http://www.commondreams.org/views02/0812-06.htm
www.nospray.org

Forestry Ecology Network
Announces Third Annual
SCHOLARSHIP CONTESTS FOR MAINE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Essay contest on the subject of
THE FUTURE OF MAINE'S ENVIRONMENT

Scholarship Prize: $2000

Topics: Various themes might be addressed such as:

- **an analysis of threats to Maine's environment;**
- **present state of Maine's environment and what can be done to improve it;**
- **the relationship between a healthy environment and healthy communities;**
- **what future state of the environment should Maine citizens work for;**
- **the ecological relationship between forests, watersheds, fishing grounds, communities;**
- **the harvesting of Maine's resources and environment's sustainably;**
- **how to mobilize people to be concerned about the environment;**
- **the consequences if impacts on the environment are ignored.**

Essays will be judged on their understanding of ecological interrelationships and originality in analysis or in providing novel solutions to environmental problems or conceptions of the future for the Maine environment.
Essay length: 1000 to 2000 words

Photo contest on the subject of
THE HEALTH OF THE EARTH

Scholarship Prize: $2000

There are examples all around us of the wanton misuse of the earth. There are also good examples of positive ecological relationships with the earth. FEN is offering a scholarship prize for the best submission of two photographs - one illustrating a positive ecological relationship and the other an example of the misue of the earth. These photographs can be of, but not limited to, the ocean, shore, watershed, rivers, lakes, forest, land, flora, birds, animals, atmosphere, etc.

Photographs may be in black and white or color, and they should be submitted as prints, at least 4 x 6 inches in size. They should be matted, but unframed. A statement on their significance should also be included with the photographs.

photo by Jonathan Carter

Who is eligible: The contest is open to high school juniors and seniors (during 2002-2003 school year) residing in the state of Maine.
Submission deadline: July 3, 2003
Announcement of Awards: September 15, 2003

photo by Paul Donahue

FEN reserves the right the use all essays and photographs submitted in its work with author noted.

To request contest applications, or if you have questions or need further information, contact:
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National and State Leadership Needed Now to Reduce Maine's Acid Rain and Fog

by Sue Jones

It's been nearly 18 years since I first saw the ravaging damage of acid rain and fog. In the summer of 1984, a group of us from the New England Office of the League of Conservation Voters invited Senator Leahy, scientists and others to hike Camel's Hump in Vermont with us. We had been canvassing all year in Maine, Massachusetts and New Hampshire to increase public awareness and support for a federal bill to reduce acid rain and other air pollution impacts. On a cool and drizzly late August day, Senator Leahy guided us up Vermont's famous peak. As we approached the upper stretches of the mountain, the forest appeared ghostly and haunted. Where I expected to see a thick green canopy of Red Spruce forest, I instead saw swaths of bleached-gray tree skeletons. Having lost their needles and leaves, the trees were dead or dying.

I recently saw a similar scene here on the coast of Maine. I joined Paul Donahue and his wife Teresa Wood on a walking tour of Barnes Island (next to Whaleboat Island) off the coast of Harpswell. Again, the same scene: parched and sickly-looking spruce and birch skeletons. Trees weakened by acid rain stressors, toppled over on each other like pick-up-sticks. Paper Birches whose tops broke off in one- to two-foot sections, falling to the ground encircling the trunk. Needle-less crowns of Red Spruce. Clearly, this is a forest in need of help – soon.

Acid Rain Impacts in Maine are Significant

Ongoing research in the Northeast since the 1970s reveals that concentrations of both nitrogen oxides and sulfur dioxide have slightly diminished or stayed the same since pollution controls were enacted in the 1970s. Unfortunately, the impacts from these pollutants have not diminished. Dying forests, lakes, streams and ecosystems due to acid rain have not recovered.

Even after current reductions have taken place, the following will likely continue in Maine:

- Since 1999 and likely into the future, researchers at the University of Maine will continue to document numerous episodes of rain with pH lower than 4, the acidity level of orange or tomato juice.
- Nearly 100 lakes and rivers in Maine will continue to be affected – with recovery uncertain – by acid rain.
- Preliminary work in Maine suggests that acid rain will continue to contribute to the decline of the Atlantic Salmon, especially to smolts and fry.
- The same pollutants that cause acid rain – nitrogen oxides and sulfur dioxide – are also the primary contributors to smog, soot, water pollution, and visibility degradation. These pollutants also impact climate change. Acid rain pollution will continue to cause these affects to Maine's air quality, public health and quality of life.

Greater Pollution Reductions are Needed

Even with the full implementation of the pollution reductions required under the 1990 amendments to the Clean Air Act, more reductions are needed. At the federal level, we must pass comprehensive legislation that reduces air emissions from power plants, the largest polluting sector in the U.S.

At the State level, we must reduce sulfur dioxide pollution at our largest polluter, Wyman Station, located on Cousins Island (immediately upwind from Barnes Island) in Casco Bay. Wyman Station emits nearly 40% of all sulfur dioxide pollution in Maine. Unfortunately, its air permit allows 3 of its 4 units to operate without pollution controls intended to capture sulfur pollution. Moreover, these units are allowed to burn "high"-sulfur oil, the only power plant in New England that I know of which is allowed this. Thus, just a few miles upwind of significant acid rain damage on Barnes Island (and other islands, and Harpswell peninsula), we need to reduce Wyman's annual emissions of 16,000 tons of sulfur dioxide.

At one time, Wyman's units were required to burn cleaner-burning, "low"-sulfur oil in order to reduce sulfur dioxide-forming acid rain, haze and other pollution problems. Now, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) allows the plant at 3 of its units to burn the most polluting grade of oil commercially available for power plants. Despite long-standing proven methods and technologies, and an urgent need to reduce sulfur dioxide pollution in Maine, DEP is missing reasonable levels and ways to reduce it at Wyman Station. By doing nothing to reduce sulfur at these units, it is continuing the "grandfathering" that Wyman and other dirty old, power plants have enjoyed for the last 27 years. There are no legal, scientific, or technical obstacles to reducing Wyman Station's sulfur dioxide emissions. Rather, DEP has simply decided for itself not to reduce it through stricter emission standards, controls, or other options.

Leadership needed by State and Federal Government

- ✓ Call on DEP to reduce sulfur dioxide pollution at Wyman Station and to support additional emission cuts form upwind polluters.
- ✓ Ensure that DEP enforces Wyman Station's required nitrogen oxides reductions due on January 1, 2003 (interim reductions) and on January 1, 2005 (final reductions).
- ✓ Call on our congressional delegation to take additional federal leadership in passing a 4-pollutant power plant bill that will require old, dirty power plants to clean up to modern day standards (also known as "degrandfathering").

Sue Jones is the Clean Air and Energy Project Director for the Natural Resources Council of Maine.

What is Acid Rain?

"Acid rain" is the common term used to describe wet, dry and fog deposition of nitrates and sulfates. When nitrogen oxides and sulfur dioxide are emitted into the air from the burning of fossil fuels (from power plants, cars and trucks and other sources of air pollution) and come into contact with water, they convert to nitrogen and sulfur based acids.

Key Findings from "*Acid Rain Revisited: Advances in Scientific Understanding Since the Passage of the 1970 and 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments*", March 2001:

In addition to recent evidence accumulating that documents severe public health impacts of sulfur dioxides (SO2), there have been additional reports released documenting its severe environmental impacts. When combined with nitrogen oxide emissions, SO2 forms acid rain, one of the many environmental threats to over 100 of Maine's lakes that are sensitive to acidification and at risk of no longer being able to sustain fish and other wildlife. Acid rain is also a major threat to Maine's forests and trees. In late March 2001, the nation's foremost institution studying acid rain, the Hubbard Brook Research Foundation located in New Hampshire, released *Acid Rain Revisited: Advances in Scientific Understanding Since the Passage of the 1970 and 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments.*

Some of the key findings in this report are the following:

- Acid rain has altered soils in the Northeast: The long-term effects of acid deposition on watershed in New England will persist for a long-time into the future, largely because soils have been degraded by cumulative inputs of sulfuric acid and nitric acids from the atmosphere, primarily from power plant emissions.
- Acid rain has impaired lakes and streams in the Northeast: In Maine, we receive precipitation that is at least twice as acidic as rainfall in pre-historic times.
- The rate and extent of ecosystem recovery from acid rain are directly related to the timing and degree of emissions reductions of sulfur dioxides and nitrogen oxide. Additional emission reductions will lead to greater and faster recovery for our ecosystems in the Northeast.

A recent study by the Harvard School of Public Health attributes significant public health impacts from the same pollution that causes acid rain.

In May 2001, the Harvard School of Public Health released a report attributing 159 premature deaths per year in the region surrounding two power plants in Massachusetts.[1] Using a sophisticated model to predict how pollution disperses, Doctors Jonathan Levy and John D. Spengler calculated exposures to the population living in the vicinity of the Brayton and Salem Power Plants, located in Somerset and Salem, Massachusetts, respectively. Their report estimates that current emissions from the Salem Harbor and Brayton Point power plants can be linked to more than 43,000 asthma attacks and nearly 300,000 incidents of upper respiratory symptoms per year in the region. The study also estimated that 159 premature deaths per year could be attributed to this pollution. These power plants burn both coal and oil as their primary fuel sources.

The study found that health risks are greatest for people living closer to the plants. Twenty percent of the total health impact occurs on 8 percent of the population that lives within 30 miles of the facilities.

The findings of this study suggest that Wyman Station may be partly responsible for thousands of asthma attacks and incidents of upper respiratory distress in Maine. Of particular concern is the fact that the greatest risk occurs to those living within 30 miles. Nearly half of Maine's population – approximately 478,000 Mainers – live within 30 miles of Wyman Station and are likely to be impacted by its emissions. Nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, particulate matter and ozone permanently impact people even at levels considered "safe". Thus, it is likely that Wyman's emissions contribute to adverse and permanent public health impacts in Maine.

The researchers also analyzed the potential health benefits of reducing current power plant emissions to modern day pollution control levels (i.e., those required of all power plants constructed after 1977, including new natural gas plants in Maine). The study found that using standard conventional pollution control technology at these power plants would avert an estimated 124 premature deaths per year, along with 34,000 fewer asthma attacks and 230,000 fewer incidents of upper respiratory problems.

[1] The full report, "Estimated Public Health Impacts of Criteria Pollutant Air Emissions from the Salem Harbor and Brayton Point Power Plants," can be found at: http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/papers/plant/plant.pdf.

Songbird Population Declines Linked to Acid Rain

ITHACA, N.Y. — A large-scale study has for the first time shown a clear link in North America between acid rain and widespread declines across the breeding range of a songbird, the Wood Thrush. Calcium depletion affecting the birds' food is a possible cause, Cornell University ecologists say.

Using data collected by thousands of volunteer citizen-scientists in the Birds in Forested Landscapes project, scientists at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology showed that the Wood Thrush is less likely to attempt to breed in regions that receive high levels of acid rain. The finding is reported in the August 12, 2002 issue of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS Vol.99 No. 16) by Ralph S. Hames, a postdoctoral associate at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology who conducted the research with colleagues Kenneth V. Rosenberg, James D. Lowe, Sara E. Barker and Andre A. Dhondt.

Acid rain is the broad term used to describe several ways that a weak solution of inorganic acids, such as nitric and sulfuric acid, falls out of the atmosphere as rain, snow, mist and fog. Sulfur dioxide (SO2) and oxides of nitrogen (NOx) are the primary causes of acid rain. In the United States, about two-thirds of all SO2 and one-fourth of all NOx come from electric-power generation that relies on burning fossil fuels, such as coal.

High elevations, such as the Adirondack, Appalachian and Great Smokey mountains as well as the Allegheny Plateau, where the amount of acid deposited in precipitation could be highest, show long-term declines of up to nearly 5 percent annually in Wood Thrush populations. Although the exact mechanism leading to the declines is still unknown, it may well be related to the leaching of calcium from the soil by acid rain, according to Hames. European studies of heavy acid-rain regions similarly have linked declining bird populations to acid-rain-induced depletion of soil calcium.

Previous studies by other investigators had shown that calcium-depletion can affect breeding birds in a number of ways, Hames notes. In particular, shortages of calcium-rich foods, such as snails and snail shells, might be critical at egg-laying time, when calcium demand is highest for female birds, or during the nesting period, when calcium supplements are often provided to growing young.

However, low levels of soil calcium might also affect a wide range of prey, such as earthworms, millipedes and centipedes, pillbugs and other insects that adult birds need to nourish themselves and feed their young. Fallen, decaying leaves and other natural litter on the forest floor could decompose more slowly under acidic conditions. At the same time, acidic conditions could also increase the amounts of toxic aluminum and heavy metals (such as lead, cadmium and mercury) that the Wood Thrush ingests.

"They may be finding less good-quality food and having to work harder to find it," Hames says. "This could potentially lead individual thrushes to attempt breeding elsewhere." He speculates that birds might assess the available food supplies each spring before deciding where — and whether — to nest and reproduce.

The Cornell scientists set about modeling the effect of acid rain on the Wood Thrush by predicting the probability of a bird attempting to breed at a given location, based on the amount of acid rain falling there. First they gathered existing data from sources such as the National Atmospheric Deposition Project's National Trends Network that monitors pollution in rainfall, as well as detailed soil maps from the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Next, the scientists combined the precipitation and soil data with information about the regional abundance of the Wood Thrush, as reported by the Breeding Bird Survey (BBS). A critical component of their analysis was data gathered by the volunteer citizen-scientists participating in the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's ongoing Birds in Forested Landscapes (BFL) project.

BFL participants had recorded the presence or absence of breeding Wood Thrushes, as well as detailed information on the topography, elevation, vegetation and habitat fragmentation at more than 650 study sites across the geographic range of the species. "Massive surveys like this one and the BBS could never be accomplished without the participation of citizen-scientists,"says Hames.

Cornell ecologists used the data collected in sophisticated statistical analyses to produce a model that predicted where acid rain's effects might be most severe for a bird whose life and reproductive success depend on food it finds on the forest floor. The model predicts that, after statistically adjusting for several other factors (soil, vegetation, topography, thrush abundance), the probability of a Wood Thrush breeding is much reduced at a highly acidified site. The negative effects of acid rain might also be heightened by such factors as high elevation and habitat fragmentation.

Population declines in other songbird species also could be attributable — at least in part — to acid rain, Hames says. "There are a number of other factors that we know can hurt populations of particular species. This is also true in the case of the Wood Thrush," he adds. "However, in some places, there also appear to be many fewer birds than there used to be, and these often appear to be the same places most severely impacted by acid rain."

Funding for the study was provided by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service; the Archie and Grace Berry Charitable Foundation, the Florence and Joan Schumann Foundation, the Packard Foundation and an Institute for Ecosystem Studies—Cornell University Human Accelerated Environmental Change grant.

This story has been adapted from a news release issued for journalists and other members of the public. If you wish to quote any part of this story, please credit Cornell University as the original source.

The Oils of War
by Paul Donahue

The American way of life is not up for negotiation. - George H. W. Bush

We need an energy bill that encourages consumption. - *George W. Bush, Trenton, N.J., Sept. 23, 2002*

Oil is our civilization and we will never permit any demon to sit over it. - then-US Secretary of State James Baker speaking to India's foreign minister in 1990.

How did our oil get under their sand? - protestor's sign at anti-war demonstration in Washington, D.C. on January 18th, 2003.

If you are among the many Americans still struggling to understand the Bush-Cheney Oilygarchy's desire to rush into a war against Iraq, maybe the excerpts below will help. They are from *Strategic Energy Policy Challenges for the 21st Century*, the report of an independent task force sponsored by the James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy of Rice University and the Council on Foreign Relations, and submitted to Vice-President Cheney in April 2001.

*"Americans face long-term energy delivery challenges and volatile energy prices……As the 21st century opens, the energy sector is in critical condition. A crisis could erupt at any time from any number of factors and would inevitably affect every country in today's globalized world. While the origins of a crisis are hard to pinpoint, it is clear that energy disruptions could have a potentially enormous impact on the U.S. and the world economy, and would affect U.S. national security and foreign policy in dramatic ways……the world is currently precariously close to utilizing all of its available global oil production capacity……**the American people continue to demand plentiful and cheap energy without sacrifice or inconvenience**……Over the past year, Iraq has effectively become a swing producer, turning its taps on and off when it has felt such action was in its strategic interest to do so……Iraq remains a destabilizing influence to U.S. allies in the Middle East, as well as to regional and global order, and to the flow of oil to international markets from the Middle East. Saddam Hussein has also demonstrated a willingness to threaten to use the oil weapon and to use his own export program to manipulate oil markets……Like it or not, Iraqi reserves represent a major asset that can quickly add capacity to world oil markets and inject a more competitive tenor to oil trade. However, such a policy will be quite costly as this trade-off will encourage Saddam Hussein to boast of his "victory" against the United States, fuel his ambitions, and potentially strengthen his regime. Once so encouraged and if his access to oil revenues were to be increased by adjustments in oil sanctions, Saddam Hussein could be a greater security threat to U.S. allies in the region….."*

It would be reassuring to think that our illustrious leaders only considered war as a last resort, and then only to right some terrible wrong in the world. It would be consoling to think that whenever our soldiers always went marching off to war it was in support of a noble cause. I, for one, would dearly love to believe those things. But forget it, that is not how the world works.

Wars are fundamentally about resources - water, arable land, hunting or fishing grounds, mineral wealth, even human labor - either defending one's own resources or trying to seize someone else's. Conventional wisdom aside, access to resources may quite possibly be at the root of all wars, ever. It is true among our closest living relatives, the chimpanzees, it was true in the time of Cro-Magnon man, it has been true with tribal societies, it was true in medieval times, and it has been true throughout modern times. Most importantly, it is true today as we move closer and closer to waging mass slaughter against the people of Iraq.

The views of many outside the US are not very popular here at home. As author Jeremy Rifkin wrote, "*While most Americans think that we are planning an attack on Iraq to save the world from a madman, most Europeans think that Bush is the madman, with the evil intention of grabbing a foothold in the oil-rich Middle East to extend the American empire*."

Unfortunately, war is a very, very nasty business. It is horrible and bloody and many, many innocent people are inevitably killed and maimed. So, to assuage our guilt at resorting to the ultimate barbarism of war, we are always desperate to produce adequate justifications, excuses, and explanations. We will tenuously cling to even the flimsiest of justifications to provide moral cover for our actions. Inevitably, the aggressors portray themselves as noble…the righteous defenders of freedom, the liberators, the avengers. Perhaps Mark Twain said it best, *"Statesmen will invent cheap lies, putting blame upon the nation that is attacked, and every man will be glad of those conscience-soothing falsities, and will diligently study them, and refuse to examine any refutations of them; and thus he will by and by convince himself that the war is just, and will thank God for the better sleep he enjoys after this process of grotesque self-deception."* In the end, however, despite our protestations, it always seems to boil down to resources…who owns them, who controls them, who exploits them, and who profits from them.

Oil is the ultimate resource. Due to our inconceivably short-sighted national energy policy, oil has come to occupy a role in our lives and our society that is topped in importance only by oxygen, water, and food. It heats and lights our homes, schools, offices and factories. It powers our industry, and runs our transportation systems. In its reincarnation as plastic, it has been molded into what at times seems like 90% of the material goods we produce and use, supplanting metals, wood and glass. As I sit here at my desk, typing on a plastic keyboard, in front of a plastic computer monitor casing, I can quickly glance around my office and easily see a hundred or more items made of plastic or incorporating plastic bits. With most of my paper now being recycled, even the discarded material in my plastic waste basket these days seems to be principally composed of unrecyclable plastics. In short, if the flow of oil suddenly stopped tomorrow, so would life in the United States as we know it. So, on the list of resources worth fighting for, oil is pretty close to the top.

photo by Paul Donahue

Believe it or not, we are willing to pay up to 5 1/2 times as much for bottled water as for gasoline.

However, when it comes to energy issues in general, and oil issues, in particular, many Americans seem disconnected. Many never understood the oil connection with the first Gulf War, despite Bush I publicly stating as much in the beginning. We have not yet grasped the oil connection with Afghanistan, despite the fact that we have been bombing and killing there for over a year with the oil pipeline now under construction. And now many of us are still missing the critical oil connection with Iraq. Yes, of course, oil is alluded to now and then by the media and politicians, but more like it is an afterthought and of only incidental importance. We just do not seem

photo by Paul Donahue

Protestors' signs at an anti-war demonstration in Oakland, California in December 2002.

capable of comprehending the absolutely critical role that oil plays in our foreign policy decisions. Given the central role that oil does play in our society, the near total lack of restraint we exhibit at every turn in our use of oil, and the staggering quantities of the stuff that we import into this country on a daily basis, one might reasonably assume that we would understand all the implications of our oil use.

So why is it that we can not come to terms with the crucial oil connection? Well, one reason might be that for us here in the United States, absurd as it might seem, gasoline is actually cheaper than bottled water! While Germans are paying about $4.00 US per gallon for gasoline, here in the United States (as of late January 2003) “regular” grade gasoline is selling at the pump for about $1.37 to $1.59 a gallon. At the same time, super-markets in California are selling Evian brand bottled water for $4.99 to $7.55 a gallon!

How can that be? How can water, which is simply filtered and poured into bottles, cost up to 5 1/2 times as much as oil? (If oil is “black gold”, what should we call bottled water ?) In contrast, the sticky black liquid is pumped up from below ground, at great expense, in some foreign land that is left polluted and contaminated by the oil operations. As likely as not, indigenous people have been displaced in the process. The crude oil may then have to travel along a pipeline that was very expensive to construct, and which caused the displace-ment of more indigenous peoples as well as more environmental damage. The crude oil is then transported at further expense across the oceans in oil tankers that regularly cause devastating oil spills, fouling coastlines and destroying fishing grounds. Next it is refined in some huge petrochemical plant that pollutes the air and causes cancers in the local population. Finally, it is transported yet again at great expense by more tankers and trucks before finally arriving at some gasoline vending machine near you. And if all that is not enough, the burning of oil causes another set of serious environ-mental and health problems - global warming, air pollution, acid rain, asthma, etc. Yet it is less expensive to buy than bottled water?!

One reason that gasoline is so cheap is because we subsidize the oil industry to the tune of $86 billion a year. It is the most subsidized, most profitable and yet least taxed industry in the world. That $86 billion does not even include the immense cost of maintaining the massive military machine required to defend our access to large reserves of oil.

For whatever reasons - profit, greed, terminal shortsight-edness, boundless stupidity, advanced brain decay - our exalted leaders have chosen to peg our future to the almighty hydrocarbon molecule. They could choose instead to utilize the considerable financial and techno-logical assets of this country to develop sustainable/ renewable energy sources, but now the White House brain trust has decided instead to use that great potential to crush the citizenry of Iraq and steal their oil.

I could take the time to painstakingly dissect and refute every reason that the Bush-Cheney Oilygarchy has put forth for going to war against Iraq, but the lies and obfuscations of Bush, Cheney, Rumsfeld, and Powell have already been exposed over and over by many writers with a far better grasp of our history with Iraq than I possess. (A quick check of the Common Dreams website - www.commondreams.org - will reveal a large collection of essays on that topic.) Besides, as Daniel Ellsberg writes, “You don’t have to be an ichthyologist to know when a fish stinks.” I will instead list some of the more significant oil facts, connections, and history in regard to Iraq.

1. The US leads the world in oil consumption, accounting for about 25% of the world total. In 2000 the US consumed nearly 20 million barrels of oil per day, almost three gallons per person per day, twice as high as in Europe. More than half of that oil (10.4 million barrels per day net) came from imports. Imports from the Persian Gulf in 2000 were 2.5 million barrels per day, which amounts to 12.6% of U.S. consumption. At the beginning of January 2003 the US Dept. of Energy announced that by 2025 oil imports will account for perhaps 70% of US domestic oil use. According to Dick Cheney’s energy policy, that could mean imports of 17 million barrels per day. The bulk of future oil imports will have to come from the Persian Gulf region.

2. Iraq holds more than 112 billion barrels of oil, the world’s second largest proven reserves (after Saudi Arabia), representing about 11% of the world total. Many experts believe that Iraq has even more unproven reserves that could bring the figure up to almost 25% of the world total. Iraq also contains 110 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

3. In 1972 Saddam Hussein and his Ba’ath party began taking steps to gain greater control of Iraq’s oil, including the nationalization of the Iraq Petroleum Company. Previous to this, US and British oil companies had a 75% share in Iraq’s oil production. In an attempt to force Hussein to re-privatize oil production, the US and Great Britain launched an embargo of Iraq. A year later the 11 members of OPEC agreed to pricing solidarity, forcing oil importing countries to pay dramatically more for oil. The OPEC cartel gained the upper hand in negotiating with western oil companies and insulated Iraq from economic attack.

4. In 1977, US National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski met with Saddam Hussein, the Emir of Kuwait, and a Saudi representative, to propose that Iraq invade Iran, seizing the Khuzestan oil fields.

5. During the latter years of the Iran-Iraq War, Kuwait moved its border 90 miles north, annexing approximately 900 square miles of the Rumailah oil field in southern Iraq. In this newly-acquired territory the Sante Fe Drilling Co., a US company whose board chair was Brent Scowcroft (national security adviser under Presidents Gerald Ford and George H.W. Bush), began slant drilling into the 95% of the Rumailah oil field still lying within Iraq. This was one of the important reasons behind Iraq’s August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

6. The US consumption of Iraqi oil increased by 24 % in January 2003 in response to the two-month strike in Venezuela that slashed that country’s supply of oil to the international market. The US share of official Iraqi crude exports in the UN-monitored oil-for-food program has risen from 58 percent of Iraq’s crude shipped in December to 67 percent - an average of 1.15 million barrels per day.

7. The US ranks first in the corporate oil sector, with the United Kingdom second, and these two countries are the headquarters of the world’s four largest oil companies. Not coincidentally, these are also the two countries leading the push for a war against Iraq.

8. At least 41 top officials in the Bush-Cheney Oilygarchy have close ties to the oil industry, including Bush and Cheney themselves. This is the closest relationship between a US administration and the oil industry in American history.

9. The US National Energy Policy Report of 2001, authored by Vice President Cheney, placed a high a priority on easing US access to Persian Gulf oil reserves.

10. Iraq currently exports about 4% of the oil exported on world markets, amounting to about 1.7 million barrels a day in January 2003. With the US in control of Iraq’s oil, production would likely be boosted to 3-5 million barrels a day. Some oil industry analysts think that five years from now Iraq could be producing up to 10 million barrels of oil per day. This would likely break the back of OPEC. According to a report in *The Observer* by Peter Beaumont and Faisal Islam, the true aim of the Bush Administration appears to be the destruction of OPEC, which is viewed as incompatible with American interests, i.e. the perceived right to an unlimited supply of cheap oil. The current slump in the US economy is blamed in part on what are perceived as high oil prices.

11. In an article titled “Oil Iraq and America” published in the Dec. 16, 2002 issue of *The Nation*, Dilip Hiro reported, “The process of non-American oil

and gas corporations acquiring stakes in Iraq's bountiful hydrocarbons got going in the spring of 1997, after the UN's oil-for-food scheme, introduced the previous December, brought relief to Iraqis and restored confidence in the durability of the Saddam regime in the international community (apart from the US-British alliance).

"A consortium of Russian companies, led by the state-owned Lukoil, took a 75 percent share (with the state-owned Iraq National Oil Company taking 25 percent) of a joint corporation to develop the West Qurna oilfield in southern Iraq, which holds 11 billion barrels—a third of the total US oil reserves—and extract oil over the next twenty-three years. Then came the China National Petroleum Corporation and its agreement to develop the Adhab oilfield.

"Their lead was followed by Total Societe Anonyme of France (now TotalFinaElf), which agreed to develop Nahr Omar oilfield in the south - almost as bountiful as the West Qurna. Then Ranger Oil of Canada secured a $250 million contract for field development and exploration in the Western Desert, followed by India's Oil & Natural Gas Corporation and Reliance Petroleum's signing of a deal to develop the Tuba oilfield." A Spanish oil company also has a contract with Baghdad. According to the International Energy Agency's World Energy Outlook 2001, the total value of these foreign contracts could reach $1.1 trillion.

12. In January 16, 2003 *The Wall Street Journal* quoted oil industry officials saying that the Bush administration is eager to rehabilitate the Iraqi oil industry. According to the officials, Vice President Cheney's staff held a meeting in October with Exxon Mobil Corporation, ChevronTexaco Corporation, ConcocoPhilips, Slumberger and Haliburton, but both the US administration and the companies deny it. Larry Goldstein, president of the Petroleum Industry Research Foundation told *The Wall Street Journal*, "If we go to war, it's not about oil. But the day the war ends, it has everything to do with oil."

In December 2002 the Pentagon disclosed that if we go to war against Iraq, they plan to secure and protect Iraq's oilfields "as rapidly as possible."

13. However, the leader of the U.S.-backed Iraqi National Congress, Ahmed Chalabi, has told the Bush Administration that if Saddam is ousted, an INC-led government would not honor such contracts. As a reward for removing Saddam Hussein, "American companies will have a big shot at Iraqi oil," he said. One can only wonder at what deals the US may cut with these other countries in exchange for their support in ousting Saddam Hussein.

As far back as October, Ahmed Chalabi began meeting with executives of US oil corporations to begin negotiating the carve-up of Iraq's massive oil reserves in a post-Saddam Iraq. In the words of one oil industry analyst, "There's not an oil company out there that wouldn't be interested in Iraq."

If we do attack Iraq and successfully remove Saddam Hussein from power, it will likely prove to be the biggest oil grab in modern history, providing hundreds of billions of dollars in revenue to US oil firms, many with links to senior officials in the Bush-Cheney Oilygarchy. But remember, if it comes to war, the blame will not lie solely with the Bush-Cheney Oilygarchy and the oil corporations. We all play a critical role in these affairs as it is our extremely consumptive and wasteful lifestyle that drives their search for oil profits. THIS IS A KEY POINT! Until we come to terms with that and begin to make significant changes in the American lifestyle, we can expect more oil wars to come.

War on Life in the Seas?
The U.S. Navy and LFA Sonar
by Russell Wray

There's a lot of talk about war these days. But one has to wonder which war the September NATO maneuvers off the Canary Islands were in training for. Is it the war on life in the seas? These NATO maneuvers were called "Neo Tapon 2002" and involved large numbers of ships, submarines, and airplanes, including several U.S. Navy ships. Acoustic exercises were a part of these maneuvers.

While these exercises were being conducted off shore, a number of whales beached themselves. Six of the whales, still alive, were pushed back out to sea in an effort to save them. It isn't known if they survived. It is known that at least 9 whales died. The whales were beaked whales, from 3 different species.

Faculty of the Veterinary Department of the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria and members of a local whale research organization conducted necropsies on 8 of these dead whales. Preliminary reports indicate that the whales had been healthy, had fed recently, but had suffered from cranial hemorrhaging, a potentially severe injury associated with acoustic trauma. Michel Andre, a veterinary researcher, stated "autopsies on the dead whales found brain damage consistent with impacts from military sonar signals".

Unfortunately, this mass-stranding was nothing new to the Canary Islands. Since 1985, there have been 6 others. In at least 4 of these, it has been documented that naval maneuvers were taking place in the area at the time.

In other places, similar mass-strandings have occurred. In 1996, NATO was conducting exercises off the coast of Greece when a mass-stranding occurred nearby. In 2000, U.S. Navy sonar exercises in the Bahamas coincided with the mass-stranding there that included whales and dolphins from 4 species. Of 10 historically recorded mixed-species mass-strandings involving beaked whales, all 10 occurred while naval maneuvers took place in the area. It is likely that many whales have been killed, but far from any shore, simply died and sank, unrecorded.

It is obvious that high-intensity sonars being used by navies are killing whales. Even the U.S. Navy and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), in a joint report, acknowledged the Navy's mid-range tactical sonar caused the mass-stranding and deaths in the Bahamas. That event likely impacted the entire resident population of beaked whales, as it seems to have disappeared.

While these sonar's most obvious victims are whales, it may be causing other casualties as well. The fact is that no studies have been done on what impacts they have on the sea's other inhabitants. There are some things, however, that we do know. Studies have shown that even moderate increases in noise levels can have harmful effect on hearing in fish. One study has shown that when fish were exposed to sound levels 40 to 50 decibels above normal, the viability of fish eggs and growth rates in fry were significantly reduced. Fisherman in the UK have been reporting that fish stocks are being reduced when the Royal Navy's sonar is deployed in exercises, and have called for an investigation into the sonar's impacts on fish. In a report, the National Research Council expressed concern about the potential impacts of loud low frequency sound on marine life, including zooplankton, fish, and turtles. They stated that if the food chain is affected, all marine life will be adversely impacted.

The U.S. Navy intends on generating lots of loud low frequency sound when it begins deployment of it's Low Frequency Active (LFA) sonar. At an effective source level of around 240 decibels, tens of thousands of square miles of ocean will be filled with extremely loud, dangerous levels of sound.

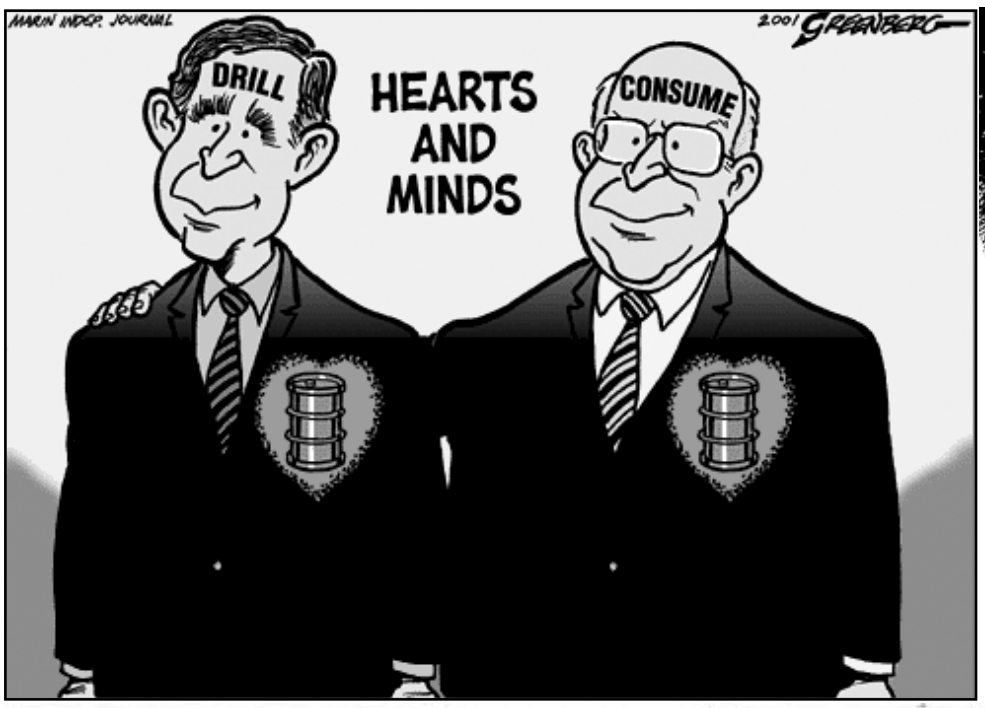
The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) has filed suit to block the Navy's deployment of LFA sonar. They are joined by a coalition of organizations in this lawsuit. In another suit, NRDC is challenging the Navy's program that tests new intense sonars, such as the one used in the Bahamas incident, charging such tests must first undergo a full environmental review. It's the law.

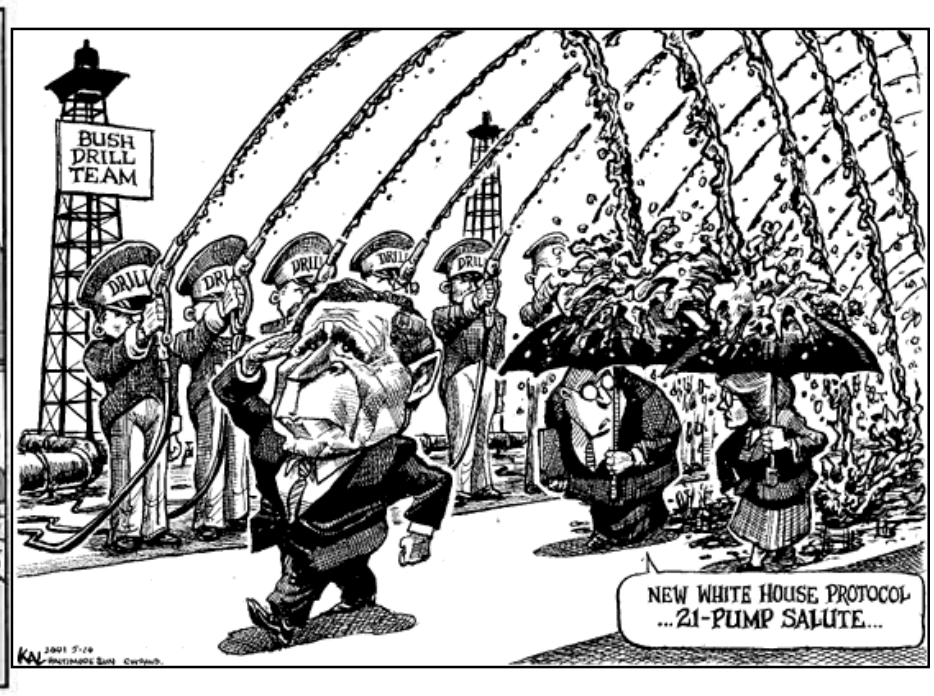
Speaking of the law, the 1982 United Nations Law of the Sea Convention states that all countries have "the obligation to protect and preserve the marine environment". The use of high-intensity naval sonars violates this U.N. Convention in a number of specific ways. Although the U.S. refused to ratify this convention, it's principals are still obligatory, as they have become a binding norm of customary international law.

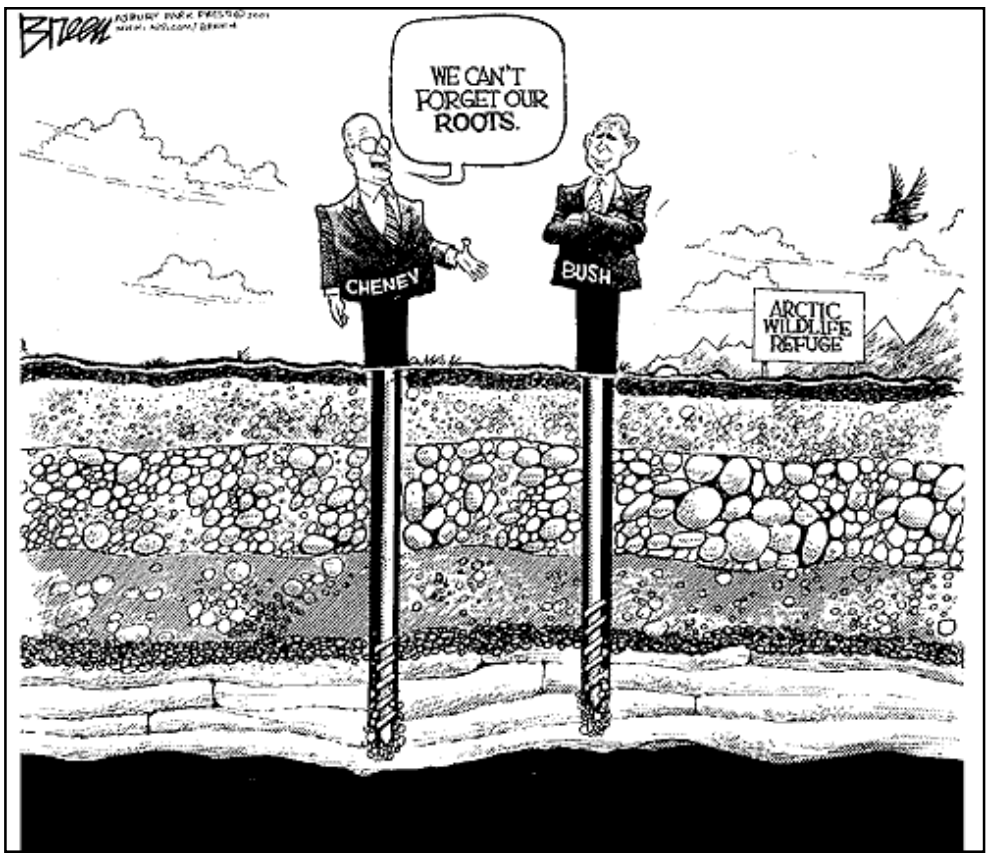
So, while the war on life in the sea continues, its victims numbers grow, as does evidence implicating these high-intensity sonars. But that is not all that is growing. Resistance to this war on life grows as well. Please join the resistance. Contact your congressional delegation, and firmly request they take meaningful action to put an end to this, and all wars on life.

Russell Wray of Sullivan works with Citizens Opposing Active Sonar Threats

Cartoonists Give Their Opinion of the Bush-Cheney Oilygarchy's Energy Plan and Oil Wars



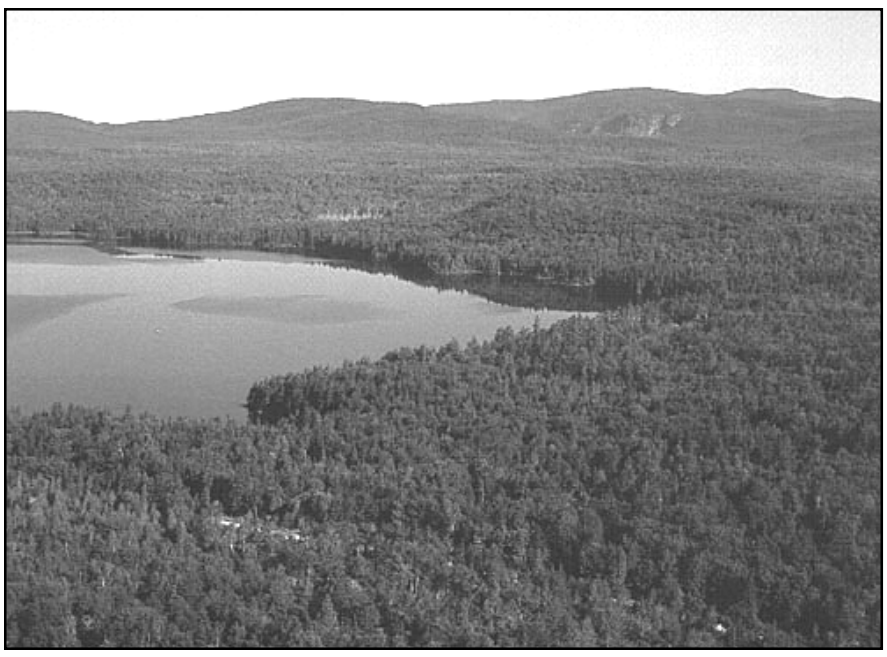




Cutting and Selling the Gems of Maine's North Woods

by Phyllis Austin

A North Woods gem that conservationists were hoping to protect from development is up for sale as a "kingdom" tract. LandVest Inc., which specializes in high-end timberland sales, is marketing a 25,531-acre parcel including Loon and Caucomgomoc lakes for $15 million, or $587 an acre.



The land is part of 329,000 acres currently owned by McDonald Investment Co. of Birmingham, Ala., and once was part of the old Great Northern Paper's West Branch domain. A much-touted conservation easement has been in the making for several years for the McDonald land and a like-sized tract now owned by Merriweather LLC. Now there are questions about how a sale of the Loon Lake parcel (as it is being called by LandVest) would affect the easement plan, known popularly as the West Branch Project.

Alan Hutchinson, executive director of The Forest Society of Maine, the organization spearheading the easement campaign, is unsure what the effect of a Loon Lake sale would be for that piece of land. "Our sense is there's no reason to panic," he says. It could turn out that a buyer would be as open to a conservation easement as McDonald, he speculates.

In the meantime, Hutchinson says, The Forest Society is "entirely focused" on raising $10 million in private funds to purchase a protective easement on the full 329,000 acres owned by Merriweather to the west of the McDonald lands. "It's a lot of work and a lot of money to raise in a short time," he says. "Things are going great. It's a unique opportunity in time that we'll never see again."

There are rumors in the conservation community that LandVest approached McDonald with the idea of a sale to test the waters for kingdom sales (generally to wealthy individuals) in the Allagash region. Gary Bahlkow, the LandVest agent handling the marketing, declined to answer the question. "That's privileged information," he says.

"The bottom line is that these are business people," says Hutchinson. "What this [new kingdom offering] tells us and the world is that contrary to what some people believe these forestlands are under pressure."

The LandVest ad publicizes the Loon Lake property, between Moosehead and Allagash lakes, as having "miles and miles of [water] frontage" and near the West Branch of the Penobscot River, the Allagash Wilderness Waterway, Baxter State Park and "legendary Mount Katahdin." It also contains Caucomgomoc and Hurd mountains. LandVest's website has a digital postcard of the property that can be sent through cyberspace to potentially interested parties.

Another high-profile parcel that was being offered by LandVest, the "Katahdin Forest," is now "off the market," says Bahlkow. "I'd soon not comment" on why, he says. That parcel, in the Gulf Hagas/White Cap Mt. region encompasses about 11,000 acres and was for sale for $11 million. It's still for sale by owner Hancock Timber Resources. Several conservation groups have been interested in the property and remain so but consider the price too steep.

LandVest is marketing a 10,173-acre forest in the Ingalls Valley in Riley and Newry. Sale price for $4 million, or about $393 an acre. The property is across the Androscoggin River from the White Mountain National Forest in western Maine. It abuts the public reserved land encompassing the Mahoosuc mountain range and features Sunday River White Cap Mt. and numerous other peaks and brooks.

The LandVest activity reflects the continuing strength of real estate investment at the beginning of 2003 amid a still-beleagured stock market. Last year was marked with a kingdom sale twice as large in acreage as the Loon Lake parcel, and timber liquidators also bought significant tracts from forest products companies and individuals with sizeable holdings.

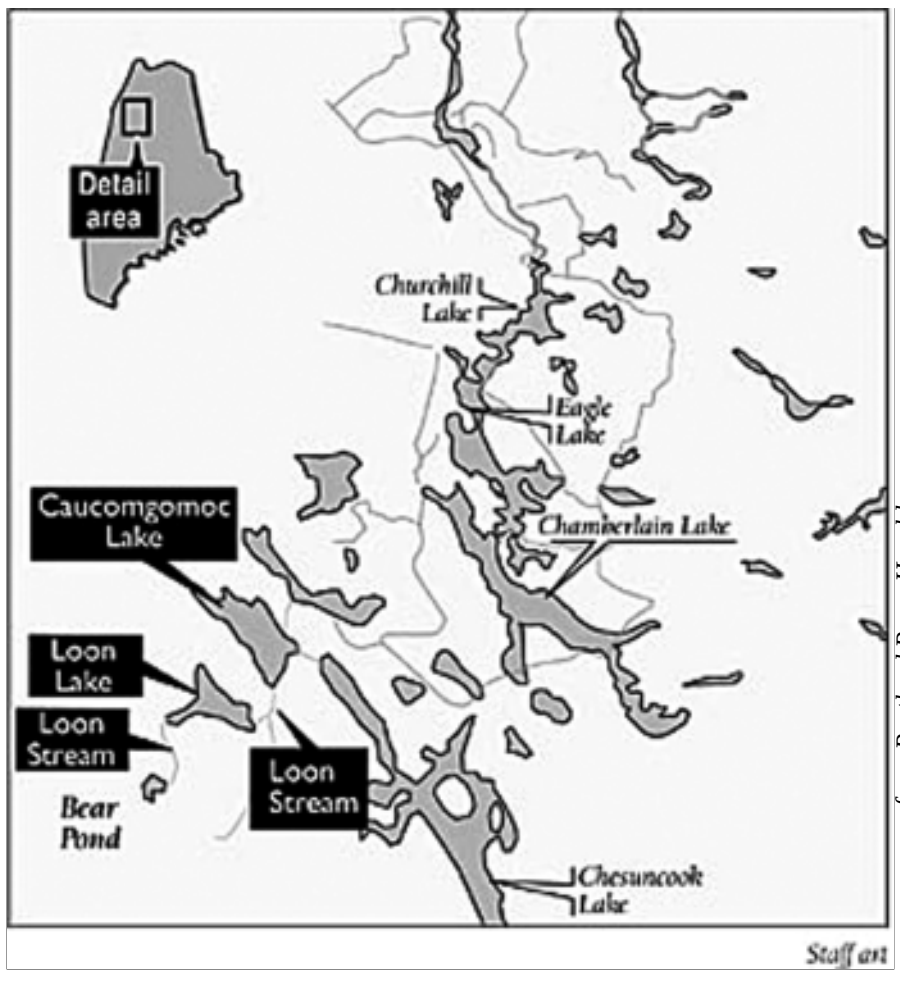
"The large, undivided and undeveloped tracts of forestland in Maine are, in themselves, a rare economic, ecological and cultural asset," observes Karin Tilberg, acting director of the Northern Forest Alliance. "We are starting to lose them. The enormous volume of land sales in the past five years, combined with new investment owners, are leading to forest fragmentation, liquidation and development," she says. "With the erosion of this incredible forest resource comes the loss of traditional access and a unique relationship that Maine people have with the forests, wildlife and lakes in the North Woods."

Information on land sales and prices for the unorganized territory (half of Maine) is available at the property tax office in Augusta, which receives copies of all sales transfer documents.

Media billionaire John Malone purchased the 53,524-acre "Frontier Forest" near Jackman for $14 million, or just over $261 an acre, pushing his Maine land holdings to almost 70,000 acres. The land owned by Great Eastern Timber Co. LLC (whose parent is John Hancock Insurance) was marketed by LandVest at $17,750,000. It has an estimated timber capital value of $28 million, according to LandVest.

The tract contains almost a dozen sizeable ponds, three major streams and mountainous terrain that are valued by recreationists. It abuts the state's Holeb public land unit and the conservation easement land in Attean Township. Malone's other major parcel around Spencer Lake is south of the new holding. He paid Plum Creek Timber $7.5 million for 7,500 acres, or $1,000 an acre, and earlier had paid International Paper $3.5 million for 7,400 acres, or about $472 an acre.

Timber harvesting is continuing on Malone's land. He has hired Wagner Forest Management Co. to manage the Frontier Forest parcel, and cutting is occurring on a 2,238-acre parcel in Forsythe Township and on a 500-acre area in Dennistown, according to the Maine Forest



map from Portland Press Herald

LandVest Inc. is marketing a 25,531-acre parcel including Loon and Caucomgomoc lakes for $15 million.

Service, which requires notification of timber harvest activity.

In Aroostook County, there was a big sale in 2002 on Square Lake to the state's most well-known timber liquidator, Herb Haynes. Liquidators are so-called because of their practice to strip a parcel of trees and resell it quickly for development to recoup their investment costs and more.

Lakeville Shores Inc., the development arm of H. C. Haynes Inc. logging company, purchased 4,116 acres, including 4.2 miles of Square Lake's shoreline, from William Moscovic. Haynes paid $4,020,240, or $912 an acre, and he is harvesting the woods now.

Square Lake, south of Madawaska, is one of Aroostook's largest lakes, with famed landlocked salmon and wild brook trout fisheries. Relatively undeveloped, it has beckoned anglers from faraway places for decades and at one time had a popular commercial sporting camp.

Karin Tilberg calls the sales price "shocking. We all need to pay attention to the enormous increase in values attributed to lakeshores that are quickly outpacing our ability" to keep them open for public access.

Moscovic says he didn't ask the buyer's representatives — Hayne's son, Jay, and son-in-law, Kevin Matthews — if they were going to sell off house lots after cutting the property. "I would be very sorry to see it developed," he said in a telephone interview from his home in Paradise, Pa. "It's beautiful, beautiful land. I fished there two or three times a year, and sometimes I'd just sit there for hours," he says.

Moscovic was "very sad when I signed my name" to the deed transferring ownership of the property because it brought to an end his land ownership in Maine, a place he had loved since 1949 when he first visited the state.

A native of Czechoslovakia, Moscovic emigrated to New York after World War II. He "had been involved in forestry" in his homeland, so when he reached America, he started investing in land. He lost his first $250 trying to buy some land and a sawmill in Aroostook County more than 50 years ago, but Moscovic, who worked in a lumber yard in New York City for years, returned to invest in Maine.

He owned land in Eagle Lake and Stockholm and at one time was "paying $60,000 to $70,000 a year in property taxes, he says. "My age wouldn't let me continue" to own the land, Moscovic says "I'm pushing 90. It was time to liquidate." The state had approached Moscovic some years ago about buying the land, but the discussion went nowhere.

Jackie Webber, a member of the Land Use Regulation Commission who lives on Cross Lake next to Square Lake, says there's some camp development on the north side for a couple of miles where a boat landing is located. Across from that, there are more camps, she says. At the most easterly cove, the defunct sporting camp is being renovated by a private owner, according to fisheries biologist Frank Frost of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IFW).

Future development could be an issue because of potential nutrient runoff affecting Square Lake's health, says Frost. There's already stress on the lake from nutrients coming in from upstream lakes — Cross, Long and Mud, he explains.

Logging is already occurring in the shoreline zone, according to Jim Blanck of the forest service. Lakeville Shores' harvesting notification said that cutting will occur over a two-year period on 3,500 acres of the 4,116 acres, ending in August, 2004. The filing said there will be no clearcutting.

Herb Haynes continued to build his companies' land base with other large purchases last year. From SP Forests (International Paper Co.), he bought land with waterfront in Township 14 in Washington county for

LandVest is also marketing a 10,173-acre forest in the Ingalls Valley in Riley and Newry.

$2,760,000 and on the same day sold part of it to Arthur Houlihan of Florida for $575,000. Haynes' Lakeville Shores also purchased 4,359 acres in Township 2 Range 4 W.E.L.S. from Hank McPherson's Sylvan Properties Inc. for $385,000, or just under $90 an acre.

Lakeville Shores also was a seller, spinning off land in Strong, New Vineyard and Freeman to logging contractor Thorndike & Sons Inc. of Avon for $1,674,050. Haynes' companies were the major buyers of former United Timber land when the Stowell family company filed bankruptcy. The Stowells owned 90,000 acres in many communities in the western mountains area, and the land sale created a field day for Haynes and smaller-size contractors looking for liquidation opportunities and business growth.

A sale that raised developments concerns in Greenville was Moose Island, a wild peninsula with significant shoreline on Moosehead Lake. Louis Hilton of Palm Beach, Florida, sold the peninsula to Olde Florida Land Co. of Coconut Grove, Fla., for $1.5 million.

Craig Watt of Friends of Moosehead said there's a lot of "uncertainty about what's going to happen to the land. It has a beautiful beach" that was open to public access, he says. "It's very popular because it's not far from downtown and easy to get to by boat."

Jim Confalone, owner of Big Squaw Mt. ski resort, reportedly controls the Olde Florida Land Co. too, according to local sources. They call him a developer because he previously bought a tract of land in Greenville and subdivided it for housing.

Wayne and Maxine Farrar, former Houlton residents who now live in Florida, continued to reduce their timberland holdings. Hanington Bros. of Kingman, a logging contractor, paid the Farrars $1,675,000 for forestland in several townships west of Sherman Mills and Interstate 95. In other deals, the Farrars sold another 10,000 acres or more to various private buyers and completed conservation easement and fee land sales to the state on Mattawamkeag Lake.

The Farrars declined to discuss their land sales, referring questions to Elbridge Cleaves of Prentiss & Carlisle Management Co. Inc. in Bangor. He says they are not divesting themselves of all their Maine property. The deal with Steve Hanington, "who is well-known and respected, seemed the right thing to do," he added.

Lyme Northern Forest Fund Ltd. Partnerships bought 5,760 acres of former Diamond Occidental land in Township 34MD in Hancock County from Rene Bernard Inc. of Jackman for $935,000, or $162 an acre. Dale Henderson Logging bought SP Forests' 719-acre Chick Hill parcel, also in Hancock County, for $503,300, or $700 an acre. Conservationists are working to protect nearby lands that the IP entity is selling.

Maine Timberlands, a subsidiary of the now-bankrupt Great Northern Paper Co., was busy raising money by selling off land. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) paid the company $28 million, or $683 an acre, for 41,000 acres around the Debsconeag Lakes area south of Baxter State Park.

A couple of weeks later, Maine Timberlands sold leased land on the West Branch of the Penobscot River in Township 3, Range 11 to Chewonki Foundation for $250,000. The land was under the Big Eddy campground facilities that Chewonki had bought for its outdoor education and camp programs for $375,000 in May.

Don Hudson, who heads the Wiscasset-based foundation, says the parcel is about 75 acres in size on both sides of the West Branch – on the south side between the Golden Road and the river and on the north side from the Telos Road to the old bridge across the river. Maine Timberlands gave them just hours to make the decision. But it was an easy decision to make, Hudson says, because the opportunity "was remarkable."

Maine Timberlands also sold land in T1,R10 to the Appalachian Trail Conference (ATC) for $300,000. Bob Williams, spokesman for the ATC at Harper's Ferry, West Virginia, explained that the organization purchased outright 1,700 acres along the trail corridor in the Lower Jo Mary-Pemadumcook lakes area to enhance protection of the Appalachian Trail (A.T.) corridor. The land is in TAR10 W.E.L.S. and T1R10 W.E.L.S and includes the well-known Antlers campsite and part of the trail that provides superb views of Katahdin from the southwest shore of Pemadumcook.

"We've always been interested in protecting this part of the trail," says Williams. The A. T. continues through

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Balance Along the Roads
by Susan Higgins

On Oct. 10 I am going to trial for criminal trespassing because on June 14 I would not leave the base of a tree that was marked for removal by the Maine Department of Transportation. This tree and several other beautiful trees that graced the landscape on this very scenic section of road were about to be cut down along Route 1 in Warren as part of the DOT's overall plan to improve road conditions.

Before my arrest I spent a great deal of my adult life figuring out who I am, trying to understand the puzzle of the self, picking up pieces and discarding others. The puzzle would never be complete without all its parts and I would continue in a circle like most of us, moving too fast to see the opening to life.

photo by Jonathan Carter

Protesters trying to save landmark trees from the Route 1 widening in Warren.

Now I see that I am whole the way I am and it's not about me at all. Something has changed in me while driving on Route 1 in Warren this spring. The tall trees with their death sentence tied around them as though they were to blame for all our mistakes spoke to me. It was not through a desperate call of help, but a collective sadness and pity for mankind through which I realized my existence.

As individuals we are in homeostasis when our minds and bodies are in balance. The human race is healthy when we are in harmony with nature. Every tree, like every human being, matters because we are all part of one whole. Trees are willing to be sacrificed until we can see one day that we are killing part of ourselves when we take more than we need. When we work unselfishly and with respect, and when our intentions are for the greater good, we are working with the laws of nature. When I sat at the base of the maple tree I was aware not of my own existence, but of our existence. When the man asked me to move away from the tree or else be arrested, I thought not with my mind but with my heart, soul and mind as a fully conscious being who is connected to all living things.

The recent actions of the DOT brought to light the fact that, as an individual, I have a responsibility to do my part in preserving a livable future for those that follow me. Collectively we need to act now against the destruction (that usually precedes construction), create alternative lifestyle choices that prove sustainable for our children's future and take an active role in affecting policies that become law, i.e. transportation.

It would have been wrong to walk away from the tree because for me it would have meant giving up on the possibility of making a difference. At that point in time, however late I entered the stages of devastation, I had hope that I could make a difference for the benefit of mankind even if it meant being unjustly arrested and taken to jail. Those who protest the slaughter of trees - by people who make profits from pavement - are not criminals. They are citizens whose voices were not heard and who got caught up in a system whose laws have not evolved in time with the conscience of its people. I will no longer expect from government what I have not put into it. I've learned that making a difference is a lifelong job.

If the people making the laws are being persuaded by people in corporations who are making selfish and asinine decision that have a hostile effect on us and on the environment then we cannot afford the luxury of looking away or of letting someone else take care of us. If we do we will soon have nowhere to run because everywhere we turn there will be an automobile in front and one in back of us, horn blaring, pushing us forward to the next intersection only to wait there for the light to change.

Whatever is decided in court will not affect my feelings toward preserving neighborhoods nor the value that I place on natural beauty. Furthermore, if the democracy that we struggled to attain is valued, then the voices that speak for the majestic shade trees in Camden - and all other voices that give reverence to our special places everywhere - will be heard and more sensible decisions will be made without the unnecessary environmental, financial and emotional costs.

Susan Higgins is from Bangor and now lives in Boothbay Harbor.

artwork by Paul Donahue

Cycle of Hope

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encroachment, to measure the affects of human development on unprotected lands. In some cases, these reserves could be used to educate people about the importance of the biodiversity within the protected area.

Another important factor to protect the environment is putting into effect the practice of Low Impact Forestry. Low Impact Forestry enables forests to produce renewable resources, provides local employment, protects the biodiversity of the plants and animals of the forests, and it is much more aesthetically pleasing. "There's no reason forest ecosystems can't maintain their biological diversity, supply recreational opportunities, and maintain a steady supply of timber products when managed in the right way," (Rupert White). Forests that are managed in a sustainable manner can continue to grow in size and complexity, ensuring the long-term conservation and regeneration of trees.

We all play a role in protecting the health of the earth. We need to address the amount of waste and inefficiency that we produce and our unlimited growth of consumption in order to successfully solve the environmental problems. It is the personal choices that we make in our everyday lives that must be true to our inner beliefs and values. The fragility of our natural resources cannot continue to be ignored.

Also see the article ""Ecuador and Oil" on page 16 of this issue of The Maine Woods.

artwork by Paul Donahue

Eco-brushing

If you want to take recycling one step further in your household, reduce your use of petroleum products, and save trees, consider equipping your family with recyclable toothbrushes. Recycline of Somerville, Massachusetts, is the only company to offer toothbrushes and tongue cleaners made from recycled plastics. Via a partnership with Stonyfield Farm of Londonderry, New Hampshire, Recycline converts plastic yogurt containers into 100-percent recycled handles. (In the past year and a half, more than one-half million yogurt cups became toothbrushes and tongue cleaners, according to Matt Rogers, Recycline's sales and marketing manager.) All the brushes have extra-soft virgin-nylon bristles. To complete the cycle, you can send your used products back to the company, where brushes, scrapers, and even mailers are turned into plastic lumber. For more details, log onto www.recycline.com.

Where Are We Headed?
An Analysis of Forest Statistics for Maine, 2001
by Mitch Lansky

Executive summary

This document is based on statistics from the following Maine Forest Service documents: *2001 Silvicultural Activities including Annual Report on Clearcutting, 2001 Wood Processor Report Including Import and Export Information, The 2001 Biennial Report on the State of the Forest and Progress Report on Forest Sustainability Standards,* and *Third Annual Inventory Report on Maine's Forests*. In this document I ask the following questions:

* Who owns Maine woods?
* How has landownership changed?
* Who does the cutting?
* What kind of cutting is being done, by whom?
* How heavy is the cutting?
* How much is considered regeneration cutting?
* How much is cut per acre per year on average
* Who is doing intensive management (early stand management)?
* How much is being cut?
* How is the wood being used?
* How much is being exported unprocessed?
* How has stand type changed?
* How has stocking changed?
* How has stand size changed?
* Is cut less than net growth?
* How has volume changed?

In answering these questions, I use data from these reports to make graphs, so that the user of this report can *see* what the numbers mean. I conclude with a discussion of the policy tools that the state is using to improve forestry practices. I suggest that the state use these tools to promote not just improved forestry (emphasizing improvements in partial cuts), but also reduced wood product consumption, and increased forest reserves.

Some noteworthy trends graphed in this document include:

* Industrial share of Maine timberlands has declined from 7.3 million acres to 5.7 million acres between 1995 and 2001, a loss of 1.6 million acres.

* Industrial owners are responsible for 28% of the acres cut in 2001 but did 82% of clearcuts, 82% of pre-commercial thinning, 83% of the plantations, and 91% of herbicide release.

* While clearcuts have declined greatly over the last decade (making up less than 3% of all cuts in 2001), cutting is still heavy, so that the acreage of regeneration cuts (clearcuts plus overstory removals) has not declined at all since 1994 (around 93 thousand acres in 1994 and around 94 thousand acres in 2001), and the average cut per acre per year has declined very little (from 12 cords per acre in 1996 to 11 cords per acre in 2001).

* Although the volume cut per year might go up or down from one year to the next, the long-term trend is towards increasing volume removals. From 3.5 million cords in 1960 to 4.8 million cords in 1980 to 6.3 million cords in 2001.

* Most of the wood being cut (around 50%) is being used for pulp. Only around 43%, down from 51% in 1999, is being used for lumber. Nearly 7% of the wood is going for biomass.

* Certain species of sawlogs are being exported unmilled at a very high rate. The biggest examples are 61% of spruce-fir, 53% of yellow birch, and 52% of hard maple. Most of the exports are to Quebec sawmills.

* The spruce-fir stand type has continued its decline, from 7.8 million acres in 1982, to 5.2 million acres in 2001. The northern hardwood and intolerant hardwood types have increased over the same period.

* From 1995 to 2001, the percentage of forest in fully-stocked stands declined (as it did from 1982 to 1995). The trend of an increasing percentage of the forest in acres with low basal area also continued.

* The forest continued its trend of increased acreage in seedlings and saplings. The spruce-fir type continued its trend of reduced acreage in sawtimber and especially poletimber.

* Between 1995 and 2001 the MFS noted a continued trend of cut being greater than net growth (as measured in basal area, rather than volume). This led to a trend of a 1.3% decline per year in basal area for all species with around a 2.4% a year decline for spruce-fir and intolerant hardwood types.

* The MFS measured more volume per acre (16 cords) in 2001 than had been measured by the US Forest Service in 1995 (15 cords), but these findings contradict the other findings (of lowered percentage of fully stocked stands, increased acreage in seedlings and saplings, and declines in basal area) noted above. This brings into question the reliability of comparisons of the 1999-2001 figures to other inventory years. As in other inventories, the methodology has changed, making comparisons difficult.

I conclude that these trends are not sustainable. If Maine is to grow more volume of high value wood, then heavy cutting and diameter-limit cutting, leading to increased acreage in small diameter trees, decline in stocking quality, and shift to shorter-lived species, need to be addressed with each of the state's forest policy tools such as research, data collection, demonstration, education, regulations, tax incentives, easements, and certification. To promote a forest with increased growth and value, enhanced biodiversity values, and improved recreation and aesthetic opportunities, the state should be promoting increased use of low-impact forestry, decreased consumption of forest products (through reduced waste and increased efficiency), and more forest reserves.

The entire report can be found on the web as a pdf file at http://www.meepi.org/files03/where.PDF

This summary has been reprinted from a report published by the Northern Appalachian Restoration Project (NARP) Publisher of the Northern Forest Forum
Northern Appalachian Restoration Project
POB 6, Lancaster NH 03584

Acid Rain Retirement Fund to Bid on Air Pollution Allowances in EPA Auction
by Michael Hamilton

The Acid Rain Retirement Fund hopes win the right to emit tons of air pollution in the annual EPA Auction of sulfur dioxide emissions allowances on March 24, 2003. Last year, A.R.R.F. purchased the legal right to emit 20,000 pounds—10 tons of sulfur dioxide.

A Maine-grown, all-volunteer, non-profit environmental educational group, A.R.R.F. bids alongside polluters for as many allowances as they can buy. But instead of using them, A.R.R.F. retires them permanently, taking allowances off the market and keeping sulfur dioxide out of the air.

Along with allowances purchased in prior years, A.R.R.F. now owns the right to emit a total of 580,000 pounds—or 290 tons—of sulfur dioxide. This may not sound like much, but one ton of sulfur dioxide makes enough acid rain to kill any lake in Maine.

The soils and many lakes in Maine are affected by acid rain. Rain is considered abnormally acidic when it has a pH below 5.0, and lakes are considered acidified with a pH of less than 5.5. According to the Maine DEP, about 100 lakes in Maine have pH lower than that. They say about half these lakes are naturally acidic, the other half caused by acid rain. Recent research shows lakes in Maine and New England have been slow to recover from the effect of acid rain, compared to some in Wisconsin, New York and Pennsylvania.

The Acid Rain Retirement Fund is incorporated as a Section 501(c)(3) nonprofit educational organization in the State of Maine.

Donations received will be used to purchase allowances immediately. Send your tax-deductible contribution to: Acid Rain Retirement Fund, P.O. Box 10272, Portland, ME 04104. For more information, visit the A.R.R.F. website at http://www.usm.maine.edu/pos/arrf.htm

Cutting and Selling the Gems of Maine's North Woods

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T1R11 to the boundary of Baxter State Park. It was pretty much a take it or leave it deal," he says. "We took it." While the land was already protected by a state easement, Williams says Maine Timberlands still could cut in some areas. He thought the $250 an acre price was a good deal for the seller, since the forest "probably wasn't as valuable" as other unencumbered timberlands.

Maine Timberlands, desperate for revenue, sold more than a half million worth of leased lots to owners on lakes near Millinocket. Other large landowners also continued to sell off waterfront lots to lessees.

Phyllis Austin Reports for Maine Environmental News, *found on the web at (www.meepi.org)*

Ecuador and Oil

by Paul Donahue

When you think of the small Andean country of Ecuador, oil may not be one of the first things that comes to your mind. However, it should be. In this country of snow-capped volcanoes, steamy jungles, and misty, bromeliad-laden cloud forests, over the past 40 years oil has become a defining issue. The upper Amazon Basin of Ecuador's "Oriente" (eastern region), along with the adjacent area of northern Peru, is oil rich, with oil one of Ecuador's principle exports. Much of the territory east of the Ecuadorian Andes has been divided up into oil concession blocks, and oil companies from around the world have drilling and production operations there.

photo by Paul Donahue

View of cloudforest interior on the slopes above Mindo.

One may not think that oil would have been a bad thing for a country such as Ecuador, but you would be wrong. Ecuador's oil woes began in 1964 when Texaco Petroleum and PetroEcuador, Ecuador's state oil company, began jointly exploring for and producing oil in the "Oriente". Since then, the history of oil exploration and oil exploitation in Ecuador has been one of unmitigated disaster.

Devastation and destruction have befallen both Ecuador's environment and the country's indigenous peoples. Wide-scale deforestation, polluted groundwater and thousands of oil spills have accompanied the oil exploration and drilling and the transport of that oil via pipeline up over the Andes and out to the Pacific coast. The environmental devastation as well as the flood of colonists into the region has posed a significant threat to the continued existence of the Quichua, Cofan, Shuar, Siona, Secoya, Achuar, and Huaorani tribes of eastern Ecuador. The Rainforest Action Network found that Texaco alone, in the thirty years the company operated in Ecuador, spilled 17 million gallons of crude oil, abandoned hundreds of unlined toxic waste ponds, and constructed oil roads that opened more than 2.5 million acres of the forest to colonization. Texaco is now gone from the Ecuadorian Amazon, but a slew of other oil companies from around the US, Canada, Europe and South America picked up where Texaco left off, and the environmental devastation continues today.

One might think that at least Ecuador would be better off financially because of the oil, but again you would be wrong. Before the oil came along, Ecuador was debt free. Now, Ecuador's external debt stands at over US$16 billion - over 80% of the country's GDP. The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have saddled the country with full-strength structural adjustment packages, demanding privatization of government enterprises, removal of consumer subsidies, reduction in government spending for social services and wage freezes. A good explanation of how this situation came about can be found in an article titled "Outrage in the Rainforest" by Dr. Leslie Jermyn , published on the web at http://www.globalaware.org/introduction_print.htm

That brings us to Ecuador's latest oil woe, the OCP (Oleoducto de Crudo Pesado - heavy crude oil pipeline) pipeline. By 1972 Texaco had completed Ecuador's first oil pipeline from the eastern jungle to the Pacific coast. In 2000, to qualify for IMF assistance, Ecuador's President Gustavo Noboa agreed to the construction of a second oil pipeline which would allow the private oil companies to double or triple their production, ostensibly generating more foreign currency for Ecuador's coffers.

The US$ 1.1 billion OCP pipeline is now under construction. The controversial pipeline will transport heavy crude oil from Ecuador's "Oriente" to the Pacific Coast. Along its 300-mile route it will place fragile ecosystems and dozens of communities in jeopardy. Its route actually traverses 11 protected areas! The doubling or tripling of oil production to fill the new pipeline will set off an unprecedented boom in new oil exploration that could lead to the irreversible loss and destruction of some the country's last remaining old growth rainforest and territories of isolated indigenous peoples.

One of the protected areas the oil pipeline will cross, and the site where construction is currently stalled, is the Mindo Nambillo Cloudforest Reserve to the northwest of Quito. This reserve is probably the most important area of cloudforest remaining on the western slopes of the Ecuadorian Andes. It is home to more than 450 species of birds, 46 of which are threatened with extinction, and many of which are endemic to these rapidly shrinking areas of cloudforest on the western Andean slopes.

The Mindo community, opposed to the pipeline 's passage through this rare ecosystem and inspired by forest defense tactics used in North America, staged a three month tree-sit early in 2002 to attempt to physically halt further construction of the pipeline. This action was the first of its kind in South America.

In July 2002 activist and former tree-sitter Julia Butterfly Hill traveled to Ecuador to show her support for the communities and organizations fighting the OCP pipeline. She visited the oil-producing areas in the Amazonian region, viewed the destruction that Texaco left in its wake, met with indigenous and campesino communities that continue to suffer the environmental and health impacts of this massive disaster, and visited the Mindo Nambillo Cloud Forest Reserve and OCP pipeline. At the end of her two week stay in Ecuador she was arrested with seven other peaceful protestors outside the Quito offices of US oil company Occidental Petroleum, a key member of the OCP pipeline consortium. After two nights in jail, and to avoid bringing further attention to the OCP pipeline project, she was deported. In Julia's words….

"When I heard about what was happening with the oil pipeline in Ecuador, I knew it was bad. After coming here and seeing the whole pipeline and what it is doing to the land and the people, I know more than ever that it is worse than that. This is very, very destructive. Being European-American myself, and with the oil being

photo by Paul Donahue

The transandean oil pipeline constructed by Texaco in the 1970's winds its way towards the Pacific coast.

photo by Kirsten Michel

Julia Butterfly Hill speaking to the press outside the Los Angeles offices of Occidental Petroleum in July 2002.

extracted for American and European markets, I am committed to doing what I can to stop it."

"I come to Ecuador to stand in solidarity with people who stand against the absolute greed that imminently threatens the destruction of these priceless and diverse ecosystems. The annihilation of these critical forests and all their inhabitants for the laying of the oil pipeline and extraction of oil, is morally, socially, culturally, and ecologically wrong. I and many others throughout the world are deeply committed to helping the Ecuadorian people stop this crime against humanity and the Earth."

"From the Arctic to the Amazon, our dependency upon fossil fuels is detrimental to the people, the planet and our future generations. I call upon the OCP consortium, the German bank WestLB, the IMF, and the World Bank to immediately withdraw their support of this project. We have the technology and the tools to do things in such a better way. Now more than ever it is incumbent for us to do so. When we see these Ecuadorian citizens willing to put their bodies where their beliefs are, risking serious danger and hardships, we know that all other systems are failing —governments, corporations and consumers —all of us are failing in our responsibility to the planet, the people and the future."

In an interview in November I asked Julia what Americans concerned about the OCP pipeline can do about it. Her immediate response was, "Get out of our damn cars." Some other suggestions are listed below.

Meanwhile, according to the group Amazon Watch, "Lead financer, German bank WestLB, continues to come under intense fire for syndicating a $900 million loan to the OCP in violation of its own lending policies. The loan, which does not meet minimum World Bank environmental guidelines has sparked public outrage in the German state of North Rhine Westphalia (NWR), which holds a 43 percent stake in WestLB. In recent months, several German government delegations have visited Ecuador to investigate the issue. US bank, Citigroup has also been highlighted as a top lender to consortium members.

photo by Paul Donahue

Bromeliad and moss-laden cloudforest blankets the steep slopes above Mindo.

"Los Angeles-based Occidental is a key member of the OCP consortium, and is planning significant expansion of its Ecuador operations in pristine Amazon ecosystems, in expectation of the pipeline's completion.

"According to government sources, the majority of Amazon crude that will flow through the OCP pipeline is destined for markets on the West Coast of the United States. The OCP Consortium includes: Alberta Energy (Canada), Occidental Petroleum (OXY-USA), AGIP (Italy), Repsol- YPF (Spain), Perez Companc (Argentina), and Techint (Argentina). The US Bank JP Morgan Chase is the financial advisor for the project."

FOR MORE INFORMATION

1. To learn more, visit Amazon Watch's website at http://www.amazonwatch.org/. A good overview of the project can be found at: http://www.amazonwatch.org/megaprojects/ocp_ecuad.html.

2. Good maps of Ecuador's oil concession blocks, existing pipelines, indigenous areas and protected areas can be found on PetroEcuador's website at: http://www.petroecuador.com.ec/catastral/Catastral.htm

3. There are several excellent, if now slightly dated, books dealing with the negative effects of oil exploitation in Ecuador: ***Amazon Crude***, by Joyce Kimerling, published in 1991 by the Natural Resource Defense Council; ***Savages***, by Joe Kane, published in 1996 by Vintage Books (see review in this issue of *The Maine Woods*); and ***Amazon Stranger***, by Mike Tidwell, published in 1996 by Lyons & Burford.

photo from Acción Ecológico

Tree-sit near Mindo in early in 2002 to attempt to halt further construction of the OCP pipeline.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

1. West LB is the lead financier of the project. Let them know you are concerned about the threats posed by their pipeline. Phone, fax and email comments to West LB's New York headquarters. Telephone: (212) 852-6000, fax: (212) 852-6300, email: betsy_austin@westlb.com, manfred_knoll@westlb.com

2. Urge the U.S. Government to end subsidies for fossil fuel projects in the ecologically sensitive rainforests.

3. Remember that one of the ways you help the Amazon is by NOT supporting the companies that are destroying the rainforest and its indigenous people.

4. Drive less and reduce your consumption of energy and other natural resources that are derived from rainforests.

World's Leading 'Ethical Audit' System is Misleading the Public

A report published November 20th by environment and human rights experts claims that one of the world's best known and trusted environmental and social audit schemes has for years been knowingly misleading the public in the UK and across the globe.

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) was set up in 1993 and is endorsed by global conservation organisations including the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), as well as the timber industry. It audits timber companies worldwide and claims to certify that wood and paper is produced in an environmentally and socially acceptable way. Products labelled with the FSC's 'seal of approval' are sold by major UK retailers, including B&Q and Homebase.

However, the report – the result of two years' research by independent international experts, working with environment & human rights charity Rainforest Foundation – highlights serious flaws in FSC's certification system. In particular the FSC's authorised auditors have a vested commercial interest in certifying timber companies regardless of whether or not they actually comply with the FSC's strict requirements. The FSC has been unwilling or unable to actually control these auditors.

It is claimed that, as a result, timber companies 'certified' under the FSC system include those that:

- Have been implicated in gross abuses of human rights, including the torturing and shooting of local people;
- Are logging in pristine tropical rainforest containing some of the world's most endangered wildlife species, such as the Sumatran tiger;
- Have falsely claimed to comply with the FSC's audit requirements, such as by allowing 'uncertified' wood to be labelled with the FSC 'seal of approval'.

The report includes the results of detailed investigations of the FSC's activities in Brazil, Canada, Indonesia, Ireland, Malaysia and Thailand.

The report – presented to the FSC at its General Assembly in Mexico on 22 November – shows that fundamental reforms are urgently required if the FSC is to re-establish credibility and reassure the public. Most importantly, the report proposes that the FSC must eliminate conflicts of interest in the audit process, and cancel the contracts with all its authorised auditors.

Simon Counsell, Director, Rainforest Foundation UK, said:

"We are among several independent organisations that have been informing the FSC for a number of years that there have been serious failings in its forest audit system. The report was given to the FSC in September, but there has been no response to it. Conservation groups such as the World Wide Fund for Nature should consider whether they wish to continue being associated with an organisation that it is clearly misleading the public".

The report has been written and edited by Simon Counsell and Kim Terje Loraas of the Rainforest Foundation. Authors of local detailed investigations include Dr Anna Fanzeres and Dr Klemens Laschefski.

The Rainforest Foundation, with offices in the UK, US, Norway and Japan, supports indigenous people and traditional populations of the world's rainforests in their efforts to protect their environment and fulfil their rights. This is done both by providing financial and technical assistance to projects that assist forest people directly, and by campaigning in the UK, Europe, USA and elsewhere.

To date, the Foundation has assisted thousands of indigenous people to gain acknowledgement of their rights and an improved quality of life. The Foundation worldwide currently supports more than 30 projects in 15 tropical countries.

For a full copy of the Report, please contact Simon Counsell (details below)

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The Sierra Club Finds "Green" Certification of the Irving Allagash Woodlands Unacceptable

The Sierra Club has dropped a formal appeal of the "green" certification of J.D. Irving's Allagash woodland by the Forest Stewardship Council. Instead, the club has made public the results of its own report on Irving's forestry practices, conducted by Mitch Lansky, an authority on forest practices in Maine and author of *Beyond the Beauty Strip* and *Low-Impact Forestry: Forestry as if the Future Mattered.*

The forty-page report contains considerable evidence that the certification process of Maine forests owned by Irving is seriously flawed. In 2000, Irving's lands received certification using the standards developed by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) as a well-managed natural forest. According to Lansky, there appears to be a trend of "grade inflation" where standards were not met, but Irving was given high marks anyway. Lansky points out that the high marks appear to be based more on promises or process than on actual activities on the ground.

"The Sierra Club believes that the integrity of independent third-party certification processes is critical in the absence of meaningful forestry legislation at the state level," said Carole Haas, Chair of the Maine Chapter of the Sierra Club.

"It is critical to ensure that the Forest Stewardship Council exercise the rigor that is necessary if it is to be a truly credible global forest certification system", add Haas. "In this particular instance we are deeply disappointed."

Lansky's report documents many forestry practices that do not meet FSC standards. They include:

* Replacing Maine's natural forests with unnatural concentrations of boreal softwood species
* Mismanaged sensitive stream-side zones
* A clear-cutting rate among the highest for large landowners in the state
* One of the highest rates of herbicide use in the state
* An over reliance on high impact logging equipment
* Serious failures to meet social benefit standards, such as
    * poor relationships with townspeople
    * policies that pressure truckers to drive overloaded trucks and loggers to work day and night shifts
    * A squeeze on contractors, leading toward lowered real logger wages even as productivity and responsibilities have increased

"Awarding 'green' certification to Irving for its forestry practices rewards Irving for the very practices the public does not want to encourage," said Haas. "In the end, certification must meet the public's expectations or it is worthless". "That is why we choose to make Mitch's findings publicly known."

Nearly all of Maine's forests are privately owned. The owners include corporations such as Irving, and institutional investors. Less than 2% of Maine's North Woods is protected as wilderness.

"The North Woods are cherished and beloved by Mainers everywhere. The failure of the FSC certification process in the Irving case simply highlights the need to find ways to fully protect more of the Maine's forests as untouched wilderness — diverse and clean habitats that are the source of joy and inspiration to Mainer's now and in the future," said Karen Woodsum, the director of the Maine Woods Campaign of the Sierra Club.

The Maine Chapter of the Sierra Club is a grassroots environmental organization with over 4500 members in the state of Maine.

IRVING

Where profits mean everything.

photo by Troy Jackson

Forest Stewardship Council-certified Irving forest land, spring 2002.

A Birthday in the Treetops

by Paul Donahue

I made my first trip to South America in 1972 and have been lucky enough to be able to spend a significant portion of most years since then working at some place or other in South America. By far, the majority of that time has been spent in the Amazon Basin, first in the western portion of the basin in eastern Peru, and, more recently, in the southern Amazon of Brazil. The Amazon rainforest is an area where I have come to feel as comfortable as I do in the woods of Maine.

For the past 15 years, much of the time my wife and I have spent in the Amazon has been spent climbing large trees and working in the forest canopy. We have built dozens of canopy observation platforms, constructed two canopy walkways, of 450 meters and 250 meters length, and taken literally thousands of people up into the forest canopy on ropes. I have spent many birthdays in the wilds of the Peruvian Amazon, and this past July I spent my 50th birthday in the Brazilian Amazon. It was a big day for me, and to mark (not celebrate) the day, I had decided to climb a new tree - just to make the point to myself that I could still do it. I had chosen the tree a couple of weeks earlier because it looked particularly tall and like it would provide a good view of the nearby Rio Cristalino.

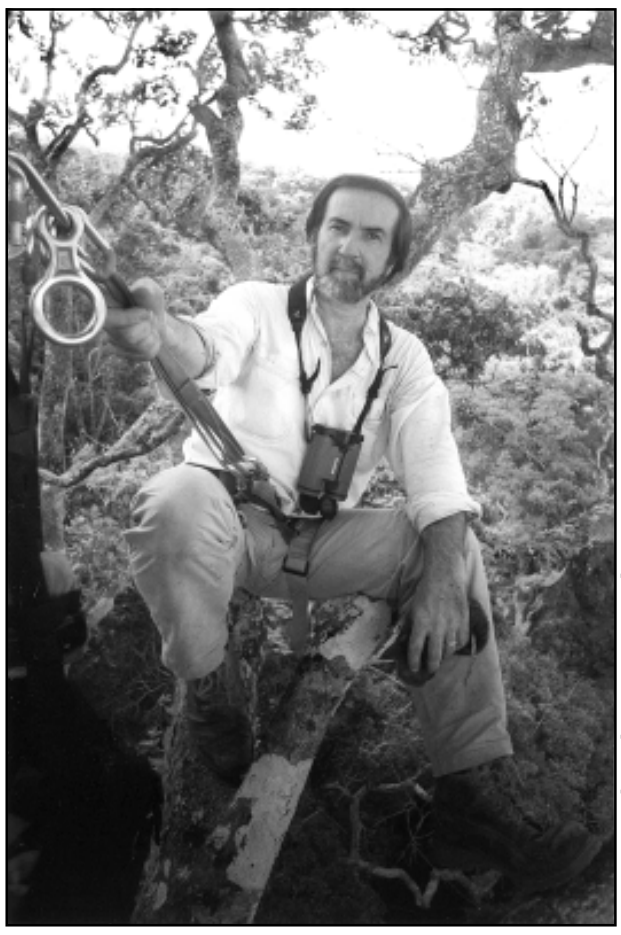


photo by Teresa Wood

My 50th birthday in the treetops.

I had anticipated that the tree would be a fairly straightforward climb, however, I was wrong. The climbing was difficult at first because of the great girth of the tree, but got easier as I went up and the trunk gradually narrowed. Then, before even reaching the first fork at around 70 feet, I ran into a tangled, spiny liana (heavy woody vine) wrapped around the trunk. Somehow I had missed it when checking out the tree from below. Grabbing at my clothing and climbing gear and ripping at my exposed skin, it seriously impeded my upward progress until I took out my pocket knife and did a bit of pruning.

Leaving the liana behind and continuing upward, I soon noticed that large yellowish sweat bees were becoming particularly numerous, and I began looking all around for a nest.

Sweat bees are a large group of stingless bees in the family Apidae, subfamily Meliponinae. They do not sting, but larger species do have a nasty bite, and they aggressively defend their large nests from intruders - like canopy biologists. They are called sweat bees because they are attracted to perspiration. Unfortunately, they are abundant in the Amazon rainforest canopy. Climbing trees is sweaty work, so sweat bees are almost always around. Along with biting ants, they are one of the true curses of canopy work.

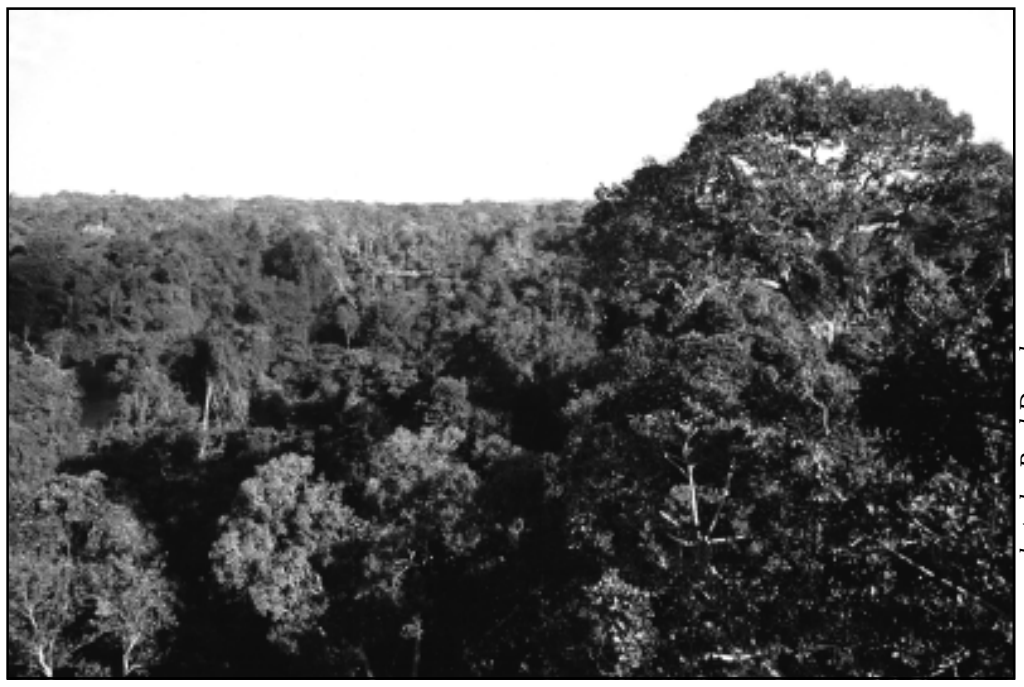


photo by Paul Donahue

The view from my treetop perch along the Rio Cristalino in northern Mato Grosso, Brazil.

I was not able to spot a nest, so continued upward. However, shortly after reaching the first fork, I spotted the bees' nest and the bees found me, attacking *en masse*. Luckily, I had my headnet with me (always carried for just such emergencies) and quickly donned it. The sweat bees were of the "corta pelo" variety - "hair cutter" bees that quickly burrow into the base of your hair and begin snipping it out in chunks. They did their best to get in under my headnet, with some succeeding. Others contented themselves with biting my bare hands and arms, or climbing in through the neck of my shirt.

I hung there for a moment, seriously considering a retreat back down to earth, and had it not been my birthday, I probably would have gone down. But it was my 50th birthday and I had a point to make to myself, and I decided I would be damned if I was going to let a few bees keep me from my goal. So, I continued climbing on up in spite of them, taking their bites.

About the time I began to leave the bees behind, I climbed up into another mass of the same spiny liana. The vine was dense enough at that point that it was holding me back, grabbing at my back and ripping my shirt, as well as tearing at my hands. To climb higher required some more painstaking trimming with my knife, and took a toll in blood and cloth.

Finally, I reached my target fork high in the crown of the tree, well above the tops of the nearby trees. The view was as good as I had hoped, with a spectacular panorama of forest and "serras" (isolated low hills rising steeply out of the forest) spread out behind the cataracts of the Rio Cristalino below me. I felt extremely fortunate. After all, how many North Americans have had the privilege of spending their 50th birthday perched on a limb of a jungle tree in Brazil, 121 feet above the forest floor, looking out over a landscape of pristine Amazonian forest?

As beautiful as the scene was, however, all was not well in Paradise. From my high perch I was fortunately not quite high enough to see the distant ridges that have been cleared for cattle pasture, but I was high enough to see rising smoke on the horizon, the sign of the "burning season" in the Brazilian Amazon. I was overtaken by waves of sadness when I thought about a baby born that day. What if that child grew up to be a naturalist, as I had? On their 50th birthday, what was the likelihood that they too would be able to climb into the treetops of the Amazon rainforest and look out over an unbroken forest canopy?

Regrettably, the chances of that being a possibility are very slim, indeed. As sad as it is, the great Amazon rainforest is steadily being chopped down and burned. The magical rainforest I have come to love is being destroyed before my eyes.

For twenty-five years we have heard the cries from environmentalists warning that the rainforest and its tremendous bounty of biodiversity is disappearing. After endless campaigns, the formation of countless new rainforest conservation groups, partnerships between local and international conservation groups, public education projects, nature shows on television, appeals for funds, posters, calendars, t-shirts, children's' books, reports in newsletters, magazine articles, scientific articles, speeches, visits from the leaders of indigenous Amazon tribes, and expert testimony before bodies like the World Bank, the net result is that the Amazon rainforest is being cut down as fast as ever - maybe even faster. As environmentalists, either we are doing the wrong thing, or we are not doing nearly enough.

In 2001, the latest year for which there are figures, logging and fires destroyed 6,315 square miles of the Amazon rainforest. The causes of this continuing destruction are many, and basically the same as they have always been….logging, mining, oil exploration, dam projects, subsistence farming, export agribusiness, tree plantations, and road-building.

Much of the deforestation is done to create pasture to feed one of the fastest growing cattle herds in the world.

In the nine Brazilian states that comprise the “Legal Amazon” there were over 47 million head of cattle in the year 2000, 80% higher than in 1990 and greater than the combined total cattle herds of Canada and Australia. The expansion of cattle ranching is occurring at such a rapid pace that concerned analysts have felt the need to coin a new term, “pecuarização” (cattlelization). The problem is greatly compounded by the fact that a high proportion of the pastures being created are based on unsustainable management practices. The result is pasture degradation, which compels ranchers to clear additional forests to maintain their herd.

photo by Paul Donahue

Brahma cattle on degraded pasture land in Brazil.

In the southern Amazon state of Mato Grosso where we are now working, “cattlelization” is clearly the main cause of deforestation. The forest is first cut down, then the vegetation is burned off. By June of 2002 Mato Grosso had already seen 10,000 fires since January. More than half the Amazon rain forest is being damaged by air pollution from these fires. One of the problems is that the burning forests are generating so much smoke and soot that they are actually blocking sunlight in some areas. On many days the smoke is so thick that the sun is turned orangish and the sky grayish. In addition, burning the vegetation produces gases, which combined with sunlight, create ground-level ozone, a pollutant that harms plant life and can drift long distances.

A large percentage of the beef that Brazil produces is exported - about 800,000 tons in 2002 - making Brazil the world’s third largest exporter of beef. Much of it is bound for the US, which is far and away the world’s largest beef consumer and beef importer. Total U.S. beef imports were forecast to reach 1.47 million tons in 2002, up nearly 3 percent from the record 1.43 million tons imported in 2001.

In a very direct way, our tremendous appetite for beef in this country is driving environmental degradation, in general, and Amazonian deforestation, in particular. The example that is frequently given is that it takes 55 square feet of rainforest land just to produce one quarter-pound fast-food hamburger (how many billion hamburgers has MacDonald’s sold?). Much of the imported Brazilian beef also comes in the form of canned beef products - corned beef, beef stews, beef soups, and so on. But whatever form it comes in, beef is an environmental disaster. Even eating US-grown beef wreaks havoc on the Brazilian environment as vast areas of the country are now being converted to soybean production to feed US cattle (not to mention the tremendous environmental damage cattle production causes in this country).

What we choose to eat is one of the most significant environmental decisions we make. If we care about the future of the Amazonian rainforest, as well as the rest of the planet, we need to eliminate beef from our diet. It is that simple. As individuals, it is one of the most important steps we can take.

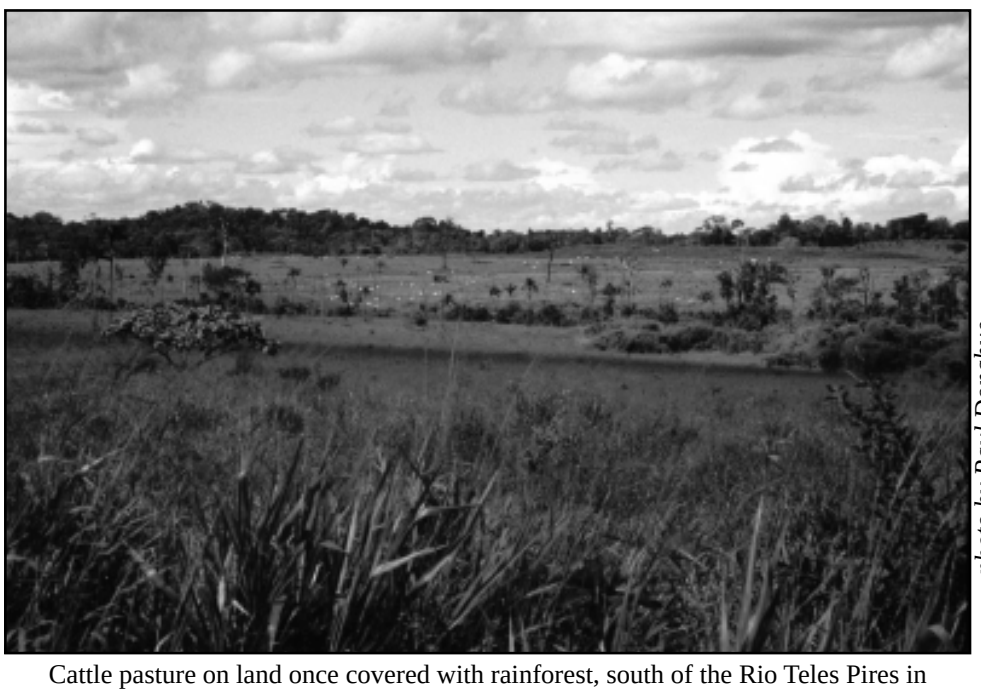


photo by Paul Donahue

Cattle pasture on land once covered with rainforest, south of the Rio Teles Pires in northern Mato Grosso, Brazil.

After coming down from my treetop lookout earlier in the day, I decided to spend the sunset of my 50th birthday overlooking the rainforest from the top level of the165 foot high canopy tower. From this higher vantage point there was no denying of reality. The view from the canopy tower is magnificent, with many square miles of pristine forest spreading out in all directions, broken only by the Rio Cristalino and the occasional “serras”. But on the most distant ridges, bluish in the haze, is the sign of the future for the Brazilian Amazon - extensive deforestation for cattle pasture. While from my treetop perch I could only see bits of smoke, from the higher perspective of the canopy tower the smoke could be seen to be a wide dirty brownish band stretching across the sky from horizon to horizon, having drifted up over the forest from the deforested areas to the south. As the sun set on my first half century, I watched in sadness as the forest I love slowly drifted by as a sooty smudge in the sky.

Half the World’s Species of Plants Are in Danger of Disappearing, Says Study

by Steve Connor

Up to half of the world’s plants could become extinct this century, according to a new analysis of the true number of endangered species.

Existing studies suggest that about 13 per cent of the known plants in the world are threatened but the true figure could be far higher, says a study published today in the journal *Science*.

Nigel Pitman of Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, and Peter Jorgensen, of the Missouri Botanical Garden in St Louis, calculate that at least 22 per cent of species should be on the Red List of the world’s threatened plants.

The figure of 13 per cent is a “serious underestimate” because it was based largely on what is known about threatened species in the temperate regions of the world – such as Europe and North America – but it is in the Tropics where plant diversity is at its richest and most vulnerable, they say.

“The results suggest that as many as half of the world’s plant species may qualify as threatened with extinction under the World Conservation Union classification scheme,” the scientists write. “Comprehensive Red Lists for plants are available for only a scattering of tropical countries, making it difficult to assess the true scale of the global conservation crisis for plants.”

The two scientists looked at the number of plants that are endemic to nearly 200 countries and used this as a basis for estimating how many are threatened by such things as habitat loss and deforestation.

They say that the concentration of endemic plants can be directly linked to the proportion that would be expected to be threatened with extinction. Globally, this means that between 22 per cent and 47 per cent of plants could become extinct in the foreseeable future. In some countries the figure could be as high as 80 per cent or more of its endemic plants.

There are thought to be from 310,000 to 422,000 species of plants in the world but Peter Crane, director of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, said fewer than one in 20 had been formally assessed for their conservation status. “For some plant groups which have recently been studied by specialists at Kew, at least 50 per cent of the Brazilian species are considered to be threatened,” he said.

This report was first published on Friday, November 1,2002 by the lndependent/UK

The Battle Rages While the Old Growth Dwindles

by Paul Donahue

The battle to save the last of California's old-growth Coast Redwoods and Douglas-Fir is raging as fiercely as ever. Fearing eventual legislation prohibiting the cutting of old-growth, Pacific Lumber, the largest of the companies cutting California's old-growth, seems to have increased its level of harvesting. At present the company is taking about 200 truckloads of trees per day off its land. This has spurred an even greater effort from those fighting to save the ancient trees.

The Citizen's Campaign for Old-Growth Preservation was formed to place an initiative on the statewide ballot in November 2002 calling for the preservation of old-growth trees on non-federally owned forestlands in California, defining old-growth as trees that were alive in 1850 when California became a state. Unfortunately, the group failed to collect enough signatures to place the Heritage Tree Preservation Act before the voters. Having learned from the experience, hopefully they will be successful with their second attempt.

photo by Paul Donahue

Old-growth Coast Redwoods in northern California.

In 1998, campaigning for his first term as governor of California and seeking the support of environmentalists, then Lt. Governor Davis promised to ban the logging of old-growth trees. In a major environmental address to the Planning and Conservation League Foundation, he promised to ensure that "wetlands are preserved, rivers are clean and all old-growth trees are spared from the lumberjack's axe." After winning the election, however, it became clear that Davis was in bed with the timber companies. Despite considerable pressure from the environmental community, he has yet to do anything to fulfill his campaign promise.

This past fall, Susan Moloney, one of the women behind the Campaign for Old-Growth, began a hunger strike on the steps of the capitol building in Sacramento in an attempt to move Governor Gray Davis to fulfill his campaign promise to protect California's old-growth. While the governor showed no signs of budging, Susan finally ended fast on the 52nd day when a member of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment agreed to hold a hearing in late January to determine what the State can and should do to guarantee adequate protections for our old-growth trees.

Tree-sitters have also continued to play an important role in protecting the old-growth trees that remain. At present there are 15 or more tree-sits going on in northern California. Remedy, the tree-sitter who has been up the longest at this point, is closing in on 11 months in her Coast Redwood in the Freshwater watershed. When in California this past fall and early winter, my wife and I made two trips to northern California to visit her.

On our first trip to visit her, on the 23rd of November, we lucked out with a beautifully calm and sunny day and spent several lovely hours up in the tree with Remedy at her 130 foot high platform. Then in mid-December a series of hard winter storms began hitting the North Coast. In the worst storm the wind speed reached 80 mph, and one locality nearby received 28 inches of rain over two or three days time.

During one of the bad storms I gave Remedy a call from the Bay area to see how she was doing. I learned that the strong winds had done serious damage to the plastic tarps covering her platform and that she had been totally soaked for three days - clothes, sleeping bag, everything - before being re-supplied with dry clothes and a dry sleeping bag. Despite what must have been extreme discomfort, as well as a serious threat to her health and safety, she remained in her tree, with descent not even an option she considered. The other tree-sitters must have suffered similarly, yet I was told that they all stayed up in their trees. That is serious dedication, perseverance, and stubbornness! Remedy told me later that when she was asked how she handled the cold, miserable conditions she replied, "I'm more comfortable with this than with old-growth logging."

We returned to visit Remedy again on the 20th of December. Gone was the relatively balmy weather of our first visit. Instead we faced strong winds, driving rain, and chilly temperatures. My wife Teresa opted not to climb up to Remedy's platform in those conditions, but I had to know what it was like up at 130 feet during a storm. So, I put on my climbing harness and a rain parka and started up.

As I jumarred up the rope, the gusting wind buffeted me and swung me around. Then as I sat huddled with Remedy under the tarps covering her platform, the wind tore at the plastic shelter. I had to sit with my left foot holding down one piece of the tarp doorway while I held onto another piece of it with my left hand. It was an amazing experience. The wind that day was only about 35 mph, so I can only guess at how much wilder it had been for her with the wind twice as strong. I had always had a lot of respect for tree-sitters, but I had considerably more after that visit.

With so many deeply committed individuals like Susan Moloney and Remedy working to save the last of California's old-growth trees, it would be wonderful in the near future to be able to report a significant victory in this long-running battle. Considering what is at stake, they deserve al the support we can give them.

photo by Paul Donahue

Susan Moloney with former tree-sitter Nate Madsen.

OFFICIAL STATEMENT OF REMEDY - SPRING 2002

To: Humboldt County Board of Supervisors * Pacific Lumber Company Maxxam Corporation * All residents, human and non-human of Humboldt County

In an act of nonviolent civil disobedience, I am occupying an ancient redwood on Pacific Lumber property in protest of the destructive logging practices that continue, regardless of consequences suffered by neighboring residents, displaced timber workers, and the countless forms of life that make up the forest. It is in the spirit and practice of nonviolence, which has been an agent of celebrated change in our history, that I chose to defend the forest, and the rights of the people of Humboldt County, with my body and my voice. I am not acting as a representative of any group or organization, such as Earth First! or the Natural Guard, but of my own accord in response to the destruction and injustice being carried out against the people and ecosystem of this area. As a conscientious human, who values the health and rights of the Earth and people, it is my responsibility to resist and call I attention to the ills that are -plaguing Humboldt County.

I am advocating that we make the necessary changes to ensure the health and longevity of our community and our environment. This includes an end to clear-cutting, an end to herbicide spraying, an end to cutting old growth, and an end to logging on steep slopes. The quality of our lives begins with taking responsibility for the health and integrity of our environment. After numerous violations of the Clean Water Act, and the Forest Practices Act, I do not trust Maxxam/ PL or the regulatory agencies with this awesome responsibility.

The residents of Humboldt County are not having a mere "difference of opinion" with the timber industry. It is not a difference of opinion that wiped out homes in Stafford, and it is not a difference of opinion that is killing the salmon. The enforcers of liquidation logging need to be stopped from continuing their destruction of the ecological and economical base of Humboldt County, and be held accountable for the great damage that has been done. My concerns are as real as the rain flooding Freshwater homes instead of watering the disappearing forests.

I recognize PL's allegations against Forest activists, presented to the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors on April 23 to be a deliberate attempt to spread misinformation and fear for the purpose of avoiding real issues, and/or a critical symptom of the community's disease that has festered since Maxxam's hostile take over of PL in 1985. In either case, it does not solve the very real problems facing the residents, whose homes are flooding with a new regularity, or the timber workers, who are being prompted to clear-cut themselves and the coming generations out of a job.

The only future for logging in Humboldt County is sustainable logging. To allow it to be anything else is to rob our children of the right to a healthy future. I advocate that we immediately turn to a method of sustainable timber harvest, and that restoration be made a priority, with preference given to displaced timber workers at comparable wages to timber jobs.

Water quality, and the impacts of logging should be monitored by a council of residents, who have no ties to timber dollars, and whose goal is a healthy forest with healthy waterways. The approval of every THP shall require an approval from this council.

Regardless of the strife and schism that Maxxam has brought to Humboldt County, our community and our environment can begin to heal if we collectively choose to. Open, honest communication with each other, along with critically needed restoration work, will solidify the foundation we need to re-build a strong and healthy community.

Mother Earth shall not be crucified for the debts of Charles Hurwitz!

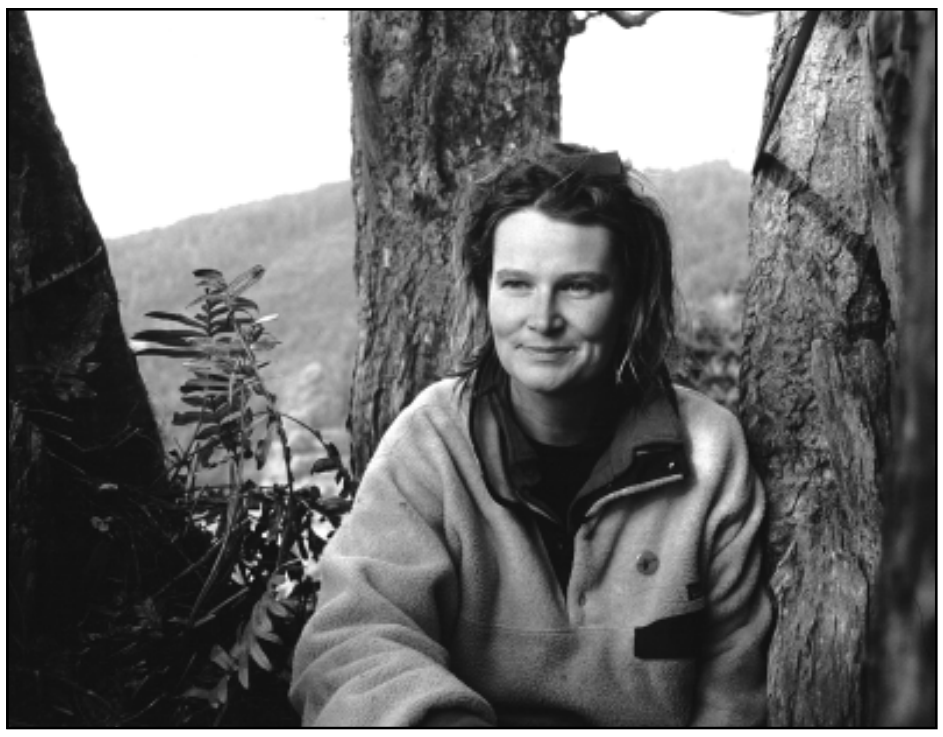


photo by Paul Donahue

Remedy high in her tree - November 2002.

FURTHER REMARKS BY REMEDY - DECEMBER 2002

Although only 3% of California's ancient trees are still standing, logging of these natural treasures continues unabated. It has never been illegal to cut down 2,000 year old trees, though some restrictions have applied, such as those under the Endangered Species Act.

Unfortunately, unsustainable logging of areas outside these parameters has led to the release of what are known as the "Class E stands", or occupied Marbled Murrelet habitat. The Marbled Murrelet is a fast flying seabird who relies on the giant branches of the ancient trees for nesting, and requires quiet, intact areas for breeding.

When Maxxam corporation took over the Pacific Lumber Company (PL) in 1986, they owned the largest tracts of unprotected old growth redwood left in the world. With the release of the Class E's, that will soon no longer be the case. Maxxam/PL, like all corporate owners of ancient redwoods, is working furiously to cut the old growth back to where they say it already is - preserved in state parks.

photo by Paul Donahue

Cable logging by Pacific Lumber on a steep slope.

Tree-sits continue to rise up from the redwood region of northern California all the way down to the suburbs of Los Angeles where John Quigley has been sitting in a 400 year old oak tree to prevent its sacrifice to urban sprawl. In Humboldt County, tree-sitters and ground activists continue to be arrested and sometimes held on outrageous charges and bail. Recently, an 18 year old woman, who was sitting in an old growth redwood, was put in pain compliance and forced into a harness before being lowered to the ground and held in Humboldt County jail for 25 days on $200,000 bail. She was eventually let out on her own recognizance.

On October 7, Susan Moloney began a 52 day hanger strike to encourage Governor Gray Davis to keep his campaign promise to "save every old growth tree from the lumber jack's axe." The strike resulted in hearings to be held in the state Senate starting in January 2003.

For now, old growth logging and the resistance to it continues. As weather changes accompany the loss of the trees, the situation becomes more critical. Unprecedented environmental impacts mount, such as the loss of 30,000 salmon from the Klamath River, and the deforestation of a land that has held an intact ecosystem for 20 million years.

Luna Health Report
by Paul Donahue

This past November a large group of us made the trip up the slopes above Stafford, California to check on Luna's condition. It has been two years since the ancient Coast Redwood occupied by Julia Butterfly Hill was severely vandalized with a chainsaw.

Despite the seriousness of the chainsaw cut, severing the cambium layer around 2/3 of the tree's circumference, Luna is doing remarkably well. After getting a rope up into the tree, three of us climbed up for an up-close look. Redwood biologist Steve Sillett of Humboldt State University and his graduate student Jim Spickler examined Luna's foliage and took samples of the vegetation to have tested later for stress. Meanwhile, I examined the huge collar and steel cables that we installed two years ago to help keep Luna upright. Jim and Steve reported that while the foliage looked a little stressed, basically it was in good shape, with evidence of new growth. The collar, fittings and steel cables, except for a little surface rust, were tight and in good shape.

Let us hope that Luna will remain healthy and standing for years to come.

photo by Paul Donahue

Group shot on the slope above Luna. Front row, left to right - Teresa Wood, Mike Miles, Julia Butterfly Hill, Estelle Fennell, and Claudia Thompson. Back row, left to right - Melissa Crabtree, Kat Cook, Kathleen Creager, Steve Salzman, and Stuart Moskowitz.

photo by Paul Donahue

Luna - November 2001

Luna - November 2002

These two photographs document the changes in Luna's crown over a twelve month period.

Logging the Sequoia Monument to Save It?!?

Forest Service Bushwhacks Giant Sequoia National Monument

by Bill Corcoran

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING ALERT AND SEND A LETTER. SHARE IT WITH FRIENDS! THE BUSH ADMINISTRATIONS POLICIES ARE A TRAVESTY....

What's big and tall and gets no respect? The giant sequoias managed by the US Forest Service.

For years Sierra Club activists fought to protect the giant sequoia ecosystem from logging and road-building on Sequoia National Forest, home to nearly half of the world's remaining sequoia groves.

Three years ago, then-President Clinton stood in the shade of a giant sequoia grove and signed a proclamation creating Giant Sequoia National Monument, carving it out of Sequoia National Forest. Activists knew that they weren't out of the log yard yet but felt that they had made a significant step forward in protecting the ecosystem and restoring the natural processes that had created this beautiful place.

Clinton's proclamation assigned the management of the monument to the Forest Service and charged the agency with developing a management plan with clear restrictions on logging.

Folks figured that the Forest Service would try to sneak some logging back onto the monument, but what the Forest Service has done with the blessing of the Bush administration has surprised even the most hardened activists.

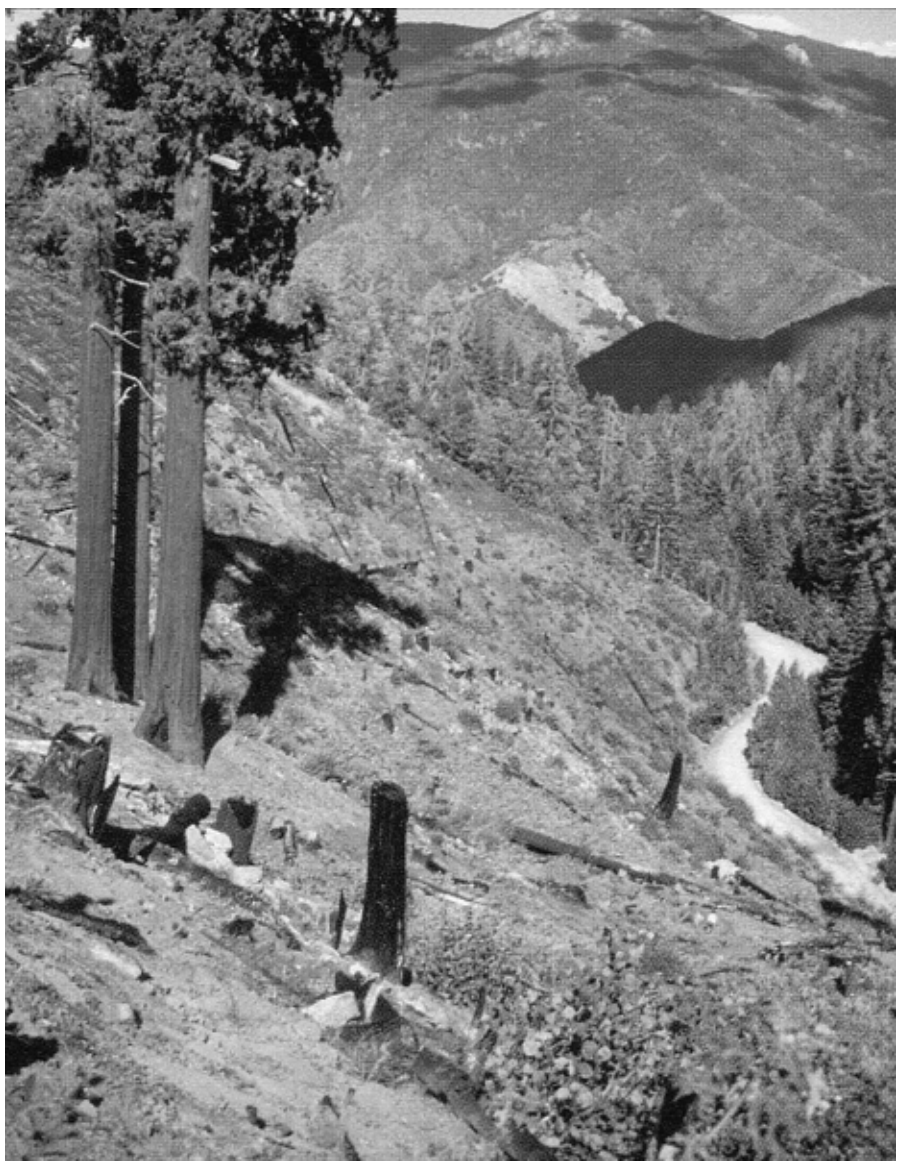
The Forest Service plan would put logging center stage. In fact, they want to log more large trees on the monument than they're allowed to on the surrounding forest, up to 10 million board feet a year. They even want to log giant sequoias. All of this is based on the theory that if these trees aren't logged, catastrophic fires will destroy the monument.

Yes, it's true—they say that they will log the forest to save it. They haven't gotten the message that it's their logging that has imperiled the forest.

More quietly, buried deep in their environmental documentation, they admit to wanting to save an object of interest unmentioned in Clinton's proclamation—the local sawmill. Commercial logging of the monument, they write, "might make the difference between continued operation and closure of the one mill available to serve the Monument" (emphasis added).

Kent Duysen, the general manager of that mill, is a big fan of the Bush administration "Monument to Logging" plan. He told the Bakersfield Californian, "I think the Forest Service is on target. My only question is are we going far enough to hopefully prevent catastrophic fire."

In other words, if the loggers and the Forest Service keep exaggerating the risk of fire they can keep the mill open for a long time. Never mind that there's nothing stopping the Forest Service from thinning the forest near houses and businesses. They have always had free rein to protect people and property. Never mind that in meetings with Sierra Club activists forest officials have acknowledged that giant sequoia groves are not at risk for catastrophic fire. And forget about pointing out that much of last year's fire on Sequoia National Forest burned brush, not trees.



Previous Forest Service logging within Sequoia National Forest devastated areas like this.

In the same Californian article, George Woodwell, who served on the science advisory panel appointed supposedly to guide the Forest Service in developing its plan, pointed out that the only way the scientists were allowed to provide input was by responding to questions from the Forest Service. Woodwell, founder and director of the Woods Hole Research Center in Massachusetts, said, "I have a personal view, which is that the [Bush] administration is advocating more roads and more timber cutting. That's not a sensible policy and certainly not necessarily in the public interest."

The impacts of this logging, not just to the giant sequoia old growth forest but also to wildlife, are potentially severe. Pacific fisher, California spotted owl, and many other ancient forest dependent species are barely surviving in the Southern Sierra. The return to the bad old days of logging may be the final blow to their viability.

Visitors to the monument can check out the George Bush giant sequoia, named after the elder Bush, who made a campaign stop a decade ago and made a toothless proclamation to protect the giant sequoias. But, then again, at least he felt like he had to make the gesture. His son's administration seems to have foregone even that.

Take Action!!!

Contact the Forest Service at GSNM_Public@fs.fed.us or Jim Whitfield, Team Leader, Giant Sequoia National Monument, 900 West Grand Avenue, Porterville, CA 93257. Let the Forest Service know that their preferred alternative (Alternative 6) is the worst they could have chosen and outrageously inconsistent with the presidential proclamation creating the monument. Its reliance on logging undermines the purposes of the monument and must be rejected. While flawed, Alternative 4 is much closer to the ecosystem restoration and recreational use articulated in the proclamation.

Please send a copy of your letter to your U.S. Senators and Representative at the following addresses:
Senator (Barbara Boxer) (Dianne Feinstein)
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Rep. _____
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Finally, send a letter to the editor of your local newspaper! Most have a website where you can easily email in your letter to the letters page.

• The Sierra Club is working hard to protect Giant Sequoia National Monument and to hold the Bush administration accountable for putting it at risk.

• Be sure to join our e:mail Alert list by sending the message "Sequoia Alert" to carla.cloer@sierraclub.org.

• Information about public meetings will be out shortly.

• To find out more about how you can help protect our national monument, contact Bill Corcoran at bill.corcoran@sierraclub.org or (213) 387-6528 x208. Joe Fontaine at jfontaine@lightspeed.net, or Carla Cloer at carla.cloer@sierraclub.org

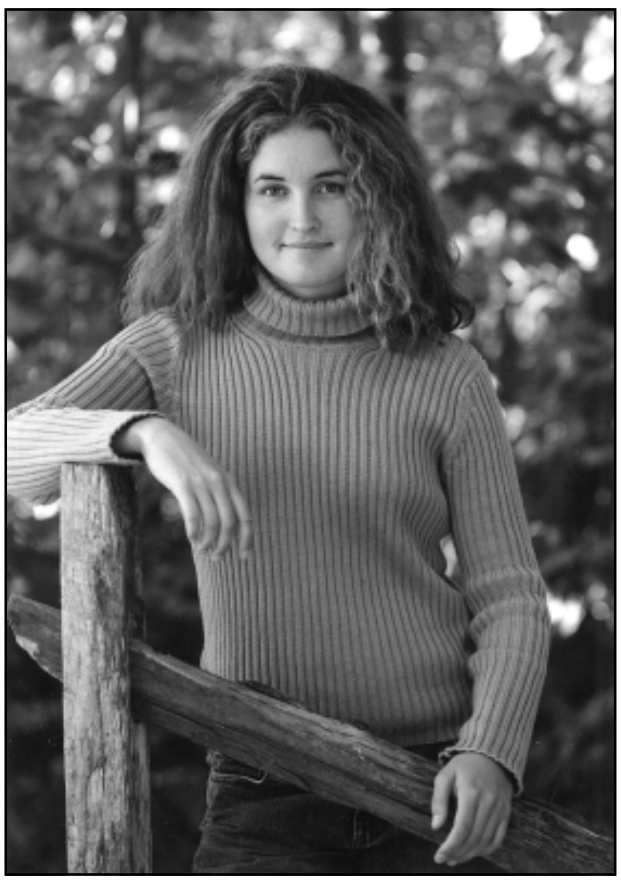
To see the George Bush tree visit http://sequoianet.org/sequoiawild/freeman_creek_photos.html

Visit the Sierra Club Sequoia Task Force website at http://www.sierraclub.org/ca/sequoia/

Bill Corcoran is the Sierra Club's Southern California Regional Representative.

Cycle of Hope
by Andaria Crespi

Having grown up in the state of Maine, I've witnessed the ongoing threats of corporate interests and the never-ending battle that environmentalists' fight. I have recently returned from volunteering and traveling for six months in Ecuador. There, I saw that this exploitation is an ongoing problem that impacts people across the globe. I saw the effects of oil exploitation and destructive agricultural and forest practices on indigenous communities. I saw how the poorly structured government in Ecuador was conducive to large corporations that used their power to control the government and manipulate the people living there in order to satisfy their business objectives. Through my experiences in Maine and Ecuador, I have come to realize that the future of the Earth is our responsibility. To quote Frances Moore Lappe, "We have a choice-to continue burying our sense that something is profoundly wrong in the world we're creating, and therefore stay in denial of our truer selves; denial that produces fear so familiar we hardly recognize it? Or, do we make another choice; do we choose to move into a cycle of hope?" Do we continue to make choices that ignore and violate the environmental and social necessities of life, choices that we would never permit for our own lives but that are permitted everyday for the lives' of others? Or, do we choose to make conscious decisions in our lives that do not violate the environmental and social sanctities of the world we live in, and thereby we move into a cycle of hope?



"The Future of Maine's Environment" essay contest winner Andaria Crespi of New Sharon.

Corporate globalization is a catalyst to the many environmental threats that face the earth. Destructive forest practices, the petroleum based economy, herbicide and pesticide usage, power plants, and the use of sludge as fertilizer are some of the most detrimental threats to the health of the planet. One of the biggest and most prevalent threats to the environment is the harmful practices of large-scale logging companies.
Clear-cutting and using herbicides is a very destructive form of harvesting trees. Not only do clear-cut areas decrease the biodiversity, water quality, and wilderness experience, but they also take generations to fully recover. In Maine, the amount of wood taken from the forests has nearly doubled from 3.5 million cords in 1960 to 6.7 million cords in 1996. The Forest Service issued a report showing that if present cutting rates continue in Maine, stocks of spruce, fir and other major species will eventually collapse. The report showed that the forest is growing only 86 percent as fast as it is being cut. Research in Maine has shown that sixteen years after a whole-tree harvest, an area that was clearcut has 25% less organic matter in the soil than unharvested plots. The level of organic matter in the soil is important for nutrient cycling, water-holding ability, and other proper-ties important for plant growth. Clear-cutting has caused long-term disruptions in nitrogen cycling, potential depletion of phosphorus, and major siltation of lakes and waterways.

In Ecuador, I volunteered in a Cloud Forest Reserve where I witnessed very similar effects on the environment caused by the influences of corporate interests. When the Spaniards invaded South America, they brought with them the method of slash and bum agriculture and forestry. For hundreds of years, clear cutting and using the slash and bum method in the rainforest have become increasingly popular practices to support mono cropping and grazing, a quick and easier way for the people to make a living. While in Ecuador, I saw mule after mule pulling out lumber from the unique Cloud Forest. I saw cows eating from the grassy mountainsides that used to be dense forest rich with the most diverse plant and animal life such as delicate orchids and trees full of howler monkeys. This mass destruction of the forest creates many problems such as species extinction, erosion, and depletion of the soil fertility. Now, the farmers and their families live in poverty because the land is no longer fertile enough to support productive farming.

I spent a month volunteering in an indigenous Quichua community in the Amazon Rain forest where the culture had been greatly influenced by the outside consumer interests. I saw a Quichua woman thoughtlessly washing her clothes in the river with a bucket of Ajax as her children played downstream. The modern world conveniences that would supposedly make the lives of the Quichua easier, in the long run, will make their lives much harder. The Quichua have also used the slash and bum method for hundreds of years. Their farming land has inevitably become impoverished and they are realizing that if they don't find another way to live off the land, their food, medicinal plants, materials for shelter, and their culture will be lost.

Several private organizations have started creating projects to educate the people how to develop a self-sustainable way of life. With the guidance of these organizations, the Quichua and the farmers in the Cloud Forest have begun to use permaculture as their method of farming. Permaculture allows these people to live harmoniously with the earth and at the same time, preserve their own culture. While I was volunteering with this organization, I had the opportunity to show the children of the community how to responsibly manage the natural resources that they will be entrusted with. I taught a series of classes that emphasized the importance of sustainable agriculture and the importance of the diverse ecosystem around them. I volunteered with another organization that had created a "model" organic farm, Rio Muchacho, which educates local farmers about sustainable agriculture. Through the teachings of Rio Muchacho, farmers are enabled to become self-reliant and no longer need to use detrimental agricultural and forestry practices of the slash and burn method.

The exploitation of oil has raised much political and environmental controversy throughout the world. Large oil corporations degrade entire ecosystems and local communities' basic resources in complete violation of constitutional laws, environmental protection laws, and the human rights of the inhabitants of the affected areas along the pipeline route. Environmental concerns raised by small communities have been significantly ignored as the demand for oil has increased exponentially. Stretching from Westbrook to Woodland, Maine, the Maritimes and Northeast pipeline system consists of approximately 200 miles of 24 and 30-inch diameter pipeline. The project will disrupt many sensitive stream and wetland crossings, trout and salmon spawning habitats, unique cultural resources, and raised significant erosion and sediment control concerns. Despite these concerns, the Maritimes and Northeast pipeline is still scheduled to run through Maine.

Ecuadorians are facing similar threats to the environment as oil is being discovered throughout their country. One reserve that I volunteered at, Bellavista Cloud Forest Reserve in Mindo, Ecuador, is considered an unparalleled epicenter of biodiversity and is the home to more than 450 species of birds --- 46 of which are threatened by extinction. An oil company, known as OCP, is planning to put a large pipeline right through the heart of the Cloud Forest. Local Ecuadorian and foreign activists have been protesting against the pipeline by means of non-violent displays, such as tree sitting. Recently, the activists were arrested at the site and transported in buses contracted by the OCP Consortium to a detention center in Capital City of Quito, where they are going to be charged. Julia Butterfly Hill went to visit the protesters in support;

"When we see these Ecuadorian activists prepared to put their bodies where their beliefs are, facing serious danger and adversity, we know that all the other systems fail --corporations, governments and consumers-- all fail in their responsibility towards the planet, towards the people and towards the future. I feel solidarity with my brothers and sisters from Ecuador while they maintain themselves against this absolute avariciousness, destruction and consumption of these invaluable and diverse ecosystems. Alienation of this forest and of all its inhabitants because of the laying of the oil pipeline and the extraction of oil is absolutely incorrect --morally, socially, culturally and ecologically. 1, and many other people, are deeply committed to supporting the Ecuadorian people in stopping this crime against humanity and against the Earth."

Countries rich in natural resources, such as Ecuador, become socially, economically and environmentally poorer as more resources are exploited and exported. It is imperative that ecological reserves such as "Bellavista" and the "Kennebec Highlands" are created in efforts to protect the diverse plant and animal life and to ensure that these unique ecosystems will not be lost through incremental development. These reserves would be used as 'model' forests, unchanged by human

continued on page 14

Setting a Trend
by Alyssa Jumars

I confess to being a passionate environmentalist. Whenever I see empty beer bottles or discarded bags of potato chips littering the roadside, I find myself unconsciously clenching my jaw. Whenever I hear the sound of ATVs careening wildly down the back roads, filling the woods with the heavy stench of gasoline, resentment surges from my stomach to my chest. Whenever I read about the EPA's recent decision to relax pollution controls on the energy industry or about the Administration's decision to recant the Kyoto Protocol, my blood boils, and my face flushes.

However, if there is one thing I have begun to realize, it is that the environment cannot be saved by passion alone. In order to convince the citizens of the world, of the United States, and of Maine to respect the planet and to use natural resources responsibly, environmentalists and environmentally-savvy businesspeople and politicians must offer the strongest incentive - namely, the pocketbook. Too often, the majority of citizens assume that environmentally-friendly policies threaten the economy locally, nationally and globally. As a consequence, individuals, corporations, and governments tend to reject environmental protection on the basis of short-term cost. What activists must then do is prove to consumers, capitalists, and political leaders that protecting the environment is less expensive than consuming non-renewable resources, destroying natural habitats, contaminating air and water supplies, compromising human health, and disrupting climatic cycles.

"The Future of Maine's Environment" essay contest winner Alyssa Jumars of Whitefield.

By increasing awareness about the true social and environmental costs of all economic activities, we can slowly begin to reshape the economy so that it is much less destructive to the environment. Naturally, changing an economy founded on consumption into a sustainable economy will be far from simple or painless. However, if the United States, in general, and the State of Maine, in particular, hope to ensure a future of clean air and water, healthy forests and ecosystems, and productive farmlands and fisheries, they must address environmental issues from an economic perspective. Although it is an unfortunate reflection of human character, often the most effective way to grab people's attention and convince them to re-evaluate their behavior is to demonstrate the monetary consequences of their choices.

Thus, I propose that Maine launch a state-wide initiative that would stimulate public concern by integrating the health of the economy with the health of the environment. The initiative, which could be developed by a collaboration of government officials, businesspeople environmentalists, economists, and, most importantly, school children, would aim at increasing public awareness about the environmental effects of various forms of agriculture and industry. In particular, the initiative would involve creating an index for the "true cost" of food and manufactured products. The index would take into account the environmental effects of manufacturing, using, and disposing of each product.

For example, the true cost of a non-organic banana could be calculated by measuring the amount of pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers used to grow the banana, by estimating the amount of fuel needed to transport the banana to Maine (and hence the metric tons of carbon dioxide and particulates released into the atmosphere), and by assessing the damage caused by clearing biologically diverse rainforests for the banana plantation. The cost of a plastic bag, as another example, could be determined by how much air and waterborne pollutants are emitted during the production process, by how many virgin resources are used to manufacture the bag, by the probability that the plastic bag will wind up along the side of the road, by the average length of time it takes for the bag to decompose, and by how many more chemicals are released as the bag disintegrates.

Although the true cost of most products is often more than the price for which they are sold, there are some goods that, in fact, cost less to society and the earth than the apparent market price. For example, when calculating the true environmental cost of an organic apple, one would likely find that the process of growing the apple organically has a net benefit for the earth. Instead of flooding the soil and water supplies with excessive nitrogen, pesticides, and herbicides, organic farming recycles nutrients and takes advantage of pests' natural predators. By forming such symbiotic relationships with the earth, organic farmers impact the environment positively. Thus, organic produce has more value than is reflected by its selling price.

By creating an index of true environmental costs, environmentalists and students could stimulate public-awareness and influence the choices that consumers make. By collaborating with retail outlets, volunteers could make the index widely visible to the public, perhaps even attaching "environmental price tags" to each product. Over time, and if the use of environmental price tags were to become widespread, one could hope that consumers would be motivated to purchase goods that are less harmful to the environment. Under pressure from increasingly educated consumers, companies would rethink and redesign their production processes. At the same time, as consumers chose to buy more environmentally-sensitive products, new companies would emerge that focus on the sustainable production, use, and disposal of goods.

In such a way, our sparsely populated, obscure state could set a national and global precedent of true-cost accounting. By effectively designing and implementing the foundation for economies that focus on how to mitigate long-term environmental costs, Maine could begin to reduce the environmental impact of industry and agriculture. By publishing such an index state wide, Maine can be the first state to value the environment in monetary terms.

Of course, measuring the value of ecosystems, clean air, and fresh water is somewhat subjective and perhaps not even possible. Furthermore, I would argue that having clean lakes in which to swim, unadulterated oceans in which to fish, and pristine forests in which to hike is priceless. The aim of the index, however, would not be to attach dollar signs to those things which are invaluable, but rather to create a reasonable scale for comparing the relative environmental impact of each product. At the same time, by involving students in the process of assessing the true cost of foods and manufactured goods, such a state-wide project could stimulate interest and concern in the next generation of businesspeople, legislators, and consumers.

Although there are many ways in which the state of Maine should immediately begin to protect the local environment - from switching to renewable energy and setting aside more park land, to subsidizing rebates on hybrid gas-electric cars and suing factories and power plants in the Midwest for sending airborne pollutants downwind - there first needs to be a social and economic framework on which to build such changes. If consumers and voters are familiar with true-cost accounting, they will hopefully be less eager to promote rapid, unsustainable development and will be more willing to support practices that benefit the environment. Without such an integrative step, however, the problem of protecting the planet remains piece-meal. Only by addressing the environment from the integrated perspectives of those who live in it, those who capitalize on it, and those who wish to save it can we successfully reverse the current trend of overconsumption and pollution.

artwork by Paul Donahue

Clear Skies Ahead?
The Case for Alternative Energy in Maine
by Jay Fitzgerald

The State of Maine offered me a world of adventure in my childhood days; from backpacking at Katahdin to canoeing down the Saco River to bodysurfing at Popham Beach there was little time that I did not want to be outside. When I began to dig around on the internet for ideas for this essay, I began by looking at specific topics such as the degradation of Maine's lakes and acid rain, and the more I looked the more it became apparent that many of these problems were influenced by the larger problem of air pollution. As the population of southern Maine, as well as that of the rest of the country, continues to grow the pollution situation in Maine, left untreated, will get worse instead of better. Before my mind jumped to gas-masked visions of Maine's future I found there is at least one very promising new way to cut back on air pollution: alternative means of transportation, especially hydrogen-powered vehicles. But before we jump to solutions we had better understand the problem.

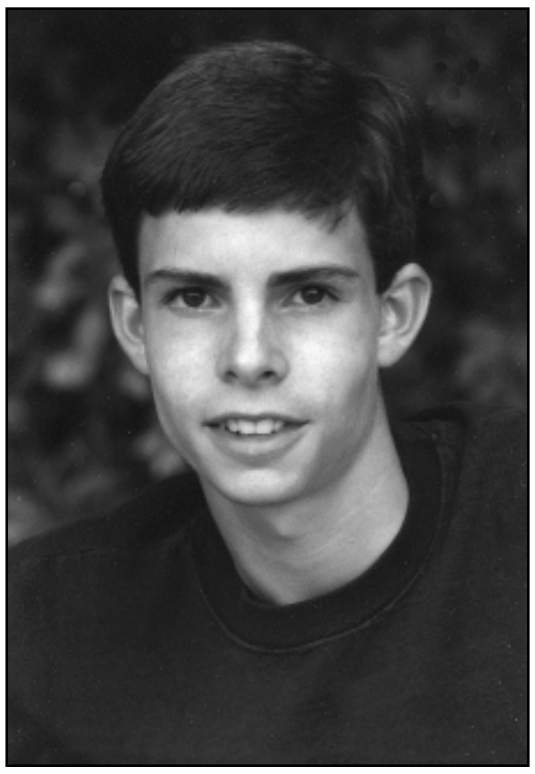
According to the Natural Resources Council of Maine "Emissions from cars and trucks in Maine are responsible for 90% of carbon monoxide (CO) emissions, 56% of NOx emissions, and 49% of VOC emissions. Given the size of these numbers, significant reductions from cars in Maine are key to achieving healthy air in Maine"[1]. This pollution impacts Maine in ways that are hard to attach specific numbers to, but the negative impact of them is undeniable. The Natural Resources Council defines the threat in broad terms by saying:

"Poor air quality threatens Maine in a multitude of ways. Ozone significantly increases the frequency of asthma attacks and respiratory distress... Ozone also damages many tree and plant species. Particulate matter is linked with permanent respiratory ailments, cancer and early deaths. Carbon monoxide can cause death and illness and also contributes to global warming ... Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) are also toxic and threaten public health."[2]

As we have seen time and time again each of these consequences starts a chain reaction that spirals downward until almost all life becomes involved. To cite one relatively surprising example of the far-reaching effects of this pollution "Ecologists in Finland have now confirmed that high levels of air pollution can dramatically reduce the populations of insect predators. By reducing the populations of predators, air pollution allowed populations of tree-damaging insects to increase by up to 20%, and these insects caused more damage to trees in the study"[3]. This may seem relatively insignificant, but considered as just one of the thousands of interconnected effects of pollution each small piece builds upon the last to form a clear and present danger.

At this point I began to think that Mainers must have had horrible environmental practices to let us slip so low compared to some of our neighboring states. As I looked further I reached the same conclusion as the good people at the Natural Resources Council: "Out-of-state stationary sources, such as those located upwind in southern New England are ... significant sources of air pollution in Maine"[4]. Mainers are not less environmentally conscious than citizens of other states; we are simply at the mercy of the pollution bearing winds from our neighbors. So, to solve Maine's in-state problems we must look for regional answers.

The available means of alternatively fueled transportation has skyrocketed over the last few years, growing to include clean propane-powered buses in Acadia National Park[5] , the new rail transportation from Maine to Massachusetts (The Downeaster), and hybrid cars. As we can see, there are a plethora of solutions, but the resolution that intrigues me the most is hydrogen-based transportation due to its potential for widespread use.



"The Future of Maine's Environment" essay contest winner Jay Fitzgerald of Brunswick.

What could be better to solve the problem of a polluted atmosphere than an energy source that does not pollute? As we continue to puff away in our SUVs spurting fumes into the air a completely pollution-free system seems like a fantasy of science fiction. But the hard facts show that the solution is here if we open our eyes to it. Bob Williams, Joan Ogden and Eric Larson of Princeton University have done extensive research with creating zero emission power sources. They concluded that, "fuel cells using hydrogen from solar or wind power achieved virtually zero life-cycle emissions. This suggests that the social and environmental benefits of direct hydrogen fuel cell cars, especially those using hydrogen from renewables, will be significant."[6]

The technology may be there, but this surely cannot be an economically viable option yet, can it? J. Ray Smith estimates that the cost of making hydrogen from in-home electrolysis is approximately three times that of gasoline, but with pipe systems or widespread filling stations it would be comparable to current gasoline costs[7]. While this may be a slightly optimistic view of the facts the Princeton team mentioned above brings us back to earth with a surprisingly reasonable estimation of the situation citing California's zero-emissions mandates that requires "10% of vehicles sold in the state in 2003 be zero-emission".[8] We might think that California is just an odd case and that the same standards could never be put into place in Maine but according to Renewable Energy World Magazine both Iceland and the Pacific island of Vanuatu have pledged to convert all of their cars and municipal vehicles to emission free means of transportation over the next thirty years.[9] When calculating all of this we must remember that the balance is shifted even more in favor of hydrogen fuel due to the fact that gasoline is not priced at cost (factoring in its cost to the environment), whereas hydrogen is.

Even if hydrogen-based vehicles are economically viable there needs to be an infrastructure in place so that consumers can refuel their cars without too much hassle. This remains the one barrier in moving to a more hydrogen-fueled society, but significant steps are being made. Renewable Energy World Magazine states that:

One early niche for fuel cells in transportation is in bus fleets in modern urban areas. Pilot tests of fuel cell buses running on liquid or compressed hydrogen are being conducted in ... [many cities worldwide]. The European Commission is supporting the demonstration of another 30 fuel cell buses in ten cities over a two-year period ... Hydrogen fuelling stations have popped up in places like Sacramento, Las Vegas as, and the Ford headquarters in Dearborn, Michigan... [and many others].[10]

Even while the solutions to Maine's in-state problems seem so easily fixed with an out-of-state solution, it is always easier to point fingers than lift them to fix things. There is a good deal that Maine citizens can do to help to clean their air as well. Purchasing environmentally friendly vehicles such as the Toyota Prius which "runs nearly 75 percent cleaner than the standard for Ultra Low Emission Vehicles (ULEV)"[11] and the Honda Insight which gets an average of 65 Mpg.[12] Even though these vehicles still create some pollution, if they became widespread it would give us a fresh breath of air to move towards an even cleaner system. It may be a long time before we see hydrogen fueled cars in Aroostook County, but hydrogen fueled busses in Portland may not be that far off.

To keep the wonderful state of Maine as green as it was when I grew up we will need to start taking steps towards cleaner sources of power over the next few years. Hydrogen is an exciting new development in the quest for renewable sources of power, and if given a chance it may propel us into an age in which we can be concerned about the size of the fish we catch as opposed to the size of the hole in the ozone above our heads.

1 - http://www.maineenvironment.org/air/air_intro.html
2 - *Ibid*
3 - http://www. treeguide. com/nn/community-treehealth.asp
4 - http://www.maineenvironment.org/air/air_intro.html
5 - http://www. exploreacadia. com/
6 - http://www.jxj.com/magsandj/rew/2001_04/routes_to_a_hydrogen_economy.html
7 - Science & Technology Review, March 1996
8 - http://www.jxj.com/magsandj/rew/2001_04/routes_to_a_hydrogen_economy.html
9 - *Ibid*
10 - http://www.jxj.com/magsandj/rew/2001_04/routes_to_a_hydrogen_economy.html
11 - http://www.toyota.com/html/shop/vehicles/prius/greener/prius_greener.html
12 - http://www.hondacars.com/models/insight/

ALLAGASH WILDERNESS THREATENED

by Jym St. Pierre

A process to make revisions to the Management Plan for the Allagash Wilderness Waterway has just started. Despite this and despite strong public opposition, the outgoing Governor and Commissioner of Conservation have submitted an application to the Land Use Regulation Commission to develop a new parking lot and access point at John's Bridge in the heart of the Allagash.

BACKGROUND

The Allagash is one of Maine's most important wilderness areas. To protect the remote recreation experience there, the Allagash Wilderness Waterway (AWW) was created as a partnership between our national government and the State of Maine. Lands along the Allagash were purchased with federal and state funds in the 1960s. The Maine Department of Conservation (DOC) manages the AWW. In 1970, the Waterway was incorporated into the national Wild & Scenic Rivers System. The Allagash Wilderness Waterway is unique both in Maine and the United States.

From its headwaters in Allagash, Chamberlain, and Telos lakes, the 92-mile Allagash Wilderness Waterway flows north through hilly country into the St. John River on the Canada border. The banks of the Allagash are home to rare mammals such as Canada lynx and American marten, as well as to river otter, moose, and black bear. A large variety of birds nest along its shores, and its clear, cold waters provide ideal habitat for native brook trout. The Allagash is a crown jewel among our nation's wild rivers.

In the late 1990s, the Maine Department of Conservation revised the State's management plan for the AWW. At numerous hearings the public overwhelmingly said the wilderness character of the Waterway should be vigorously defended. Despite public concern and recommendations from senior DOC staff, in an effort to please the Sportsman's Alliance of Maine (SAM) and a couple of other special interest groups, DOC Commissioner Ron Lovaglio added a provision to the final AWW Management Plan calling for the development of a parking lot and launch site near John's Bridge in the heart of the Allagash. In 2000, a wide array of citizens, outfitters, guides, anglers, camp owners, and conservationists opposed the John's Bridge access development at hearings held by the Maine Land Use Regulation Commission (LURC). In a divided decision LURC approved the permit, but it was challenged immediately in the courts.

Additionally, in 2001 it was discovered that DOC had rebuilt Churchill Dam in the AWW several years ago without legally required permits. To resolve this matter, DOC and the National Park Service (NPS) negotiated a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) allowing Churchill Dam to remain, but calling for revisions to the AWW management plan. During a comment period early in 2002 on the draft MOA, hundreds of citizens spoke in support of stronger wilderness protection and opposed the John's Bridge access development. The final MOA was signed in March. It establishes a two-year process for revising the AWW management plan, including access points.

In April, 2002, consistent with the MOA, DOC's permit to build the John's Bridge access site was voided and the lawsuit by conservationists challenging the permit was dismissed. However, due to continuing threats to the Waterway, the Allagash has been named as one of the Most Endangered Rivers in America. Now Commissioner Lovaglio, under pressure from SAM, is once again seeking a LURC permit to build an access site at John's Bridge. The new development will include a parking lot and a 770-foot-long trail to the water.

DOC should not build any new access points in the Allagash while the two-year process for revising the Allagash Wilderness Waterway management plan is underway.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Write to Governor John Baldacci. Make some of these points in your own words:

+ Governor Baldacci should ask that the John's Bridge access application be withdrawn. During his campaign Mr. Baldacci said he would "make sure Maine's historic commitment to environmental protection is there for all of us and the generations of Mainers to come." He has a chance to show that the State of Maine is ready to demonstrate leadership in restoring the wilderness character of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway. He can make it clear to the people of Maine and outgoing Governor King that he does not support development of a new access at John's Bridge.

+ Maine citizens have repeatedly said that they want the Allagash better protected. People from across Maine voted in the 1960s to safeguard the wilderness character of the Allagash. During the writing of the 1999 Allagash Wilderness Waterway Management Plan, hundreds of citizens urged that the John's Bridge area remain legally closed to access. This was reaffirmed by a *Maine Sportsman's* poll, which showed that nearly 75% of respondents opposed more vehicular access points in the AWW. It was again confirmed in early 2002 when citizens overwhelmingly called for stronger wilderness protection of the AWW.

+ The proposed John's Bridge launch threatens the character of the Allagash. It will encourage increased day use and conflicts with those using the Allagash in the spring and fall for the traditional long-trip wilderness experience. It will make Native American archeological sites and unique logging era historic artifacts in the region more vulnerable to vandalism. And it will increase competition for campsites. The Allagash Wilderness Waterway deserves special attention to preserve its nationally significant wilderness qualities. Already there are 70 lakes in the region with easy motor vehicle and boat access. Other public boat and canoe launches are available nearby within the Allagash Wilderness Waterway, including for handicapped users. There is only one Wilderness Waterway.

+ Politics should not rule. In 1998, senior DOC staff opposed the John's Bridge boat launch. Despite this, in 1999 the Commissioner of the Department of Conservation, Ron Lovaglio, overruled his own staff and the public by insisting on a new boat launch near John's Bridge. He is trying to please a few special interest groups led by the Sportsman's Alliance of Maine (SAM). It is time to tell SAM that backroom politics will not run roughshod over the public interest in stewardship decisions concerning our public lands.

+ This is not just about a single canoe launch. The new John's Bridge access development is symbolic of the unrelenting degradation of the wilderness qualities of the Allagash over the past 30 years. It is time to draw the line and stand up for wilderness.

Send your letters to:

Governor John Baldacci, 200 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333
tel 207-287-6332, fax 207-287-6333

Don't miss this opportunity to speak for wilderness in the North Woods!

Photo contest winner Lucia Fenney of Monroe.

Photographs by "The Health of the Earth" photo contest winner Lucia Fenney

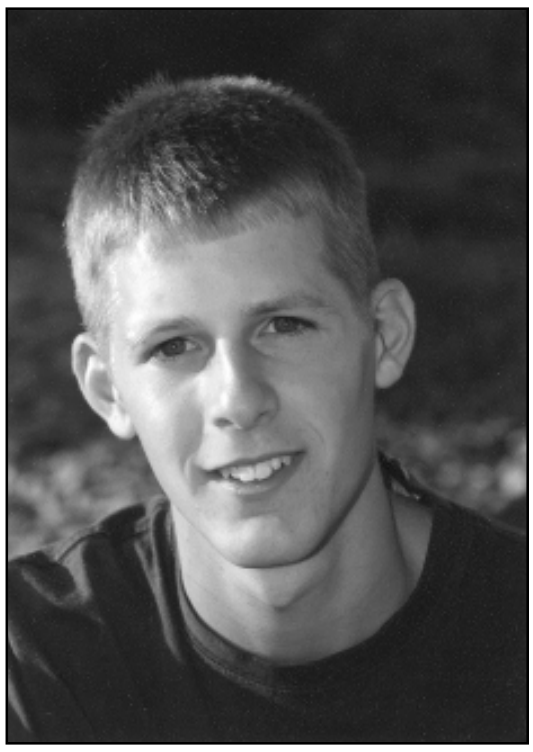


Photo contest winner Ryan Douglas
of Windham.

Photographs by
"The Health
of the Earth"
photo contest winner
Ryan Douglas

Forest Ecology Network News

FEN FIELD TRIP TO BIG SPENCER MOUNTAIN

photo by Jonathan Carter

FEN group atop Big Spencer Mpountain in early June.

Mt. Big Spencer Mountain is in the heart of what will become the Maine Woods Park and Preserve. East of Moosehead and overlooking Ragged and Lobster Lakes, Big Spencer Mt. is the state of Maine's most recent acquisition. On the morning of June 8th FEN members met at Kokadjo on the shores of First Roach Pond and drove to the trailhead. While Big Spencer is only about 3200 feet, the hike starts in a northern deciduous forest and ends in a boreal spruce-fir summit. While black flies were abundant, most participants had joined the SOB Society - Save Our Blackfly - by the end of the trip!

FEN FIELD TRIP TO THE KENNEBEC HIGHLANDS

The Kennebec Highlands, located in central Maine west of the Belgrade Lakes, represent a crown jewel of land protection. Five thousand acres have been protected forever, thanks to the efforts of local citizens who recognized the threat of fragmentation due to development and the need to protect this unique land as a significant reserve for local biodiversity. FEN members met naturalist, Warren Balgooyen, in Norridgewock at the Firehouse Bakery. Unfortunately, the bakery which offers the best delights in all of central Maine was closed! A day in the woods with Warren is always an extraordinary event. His willingness to share his incredibly knowledge about the fauna and flora was much appreciated - thank you Warren!

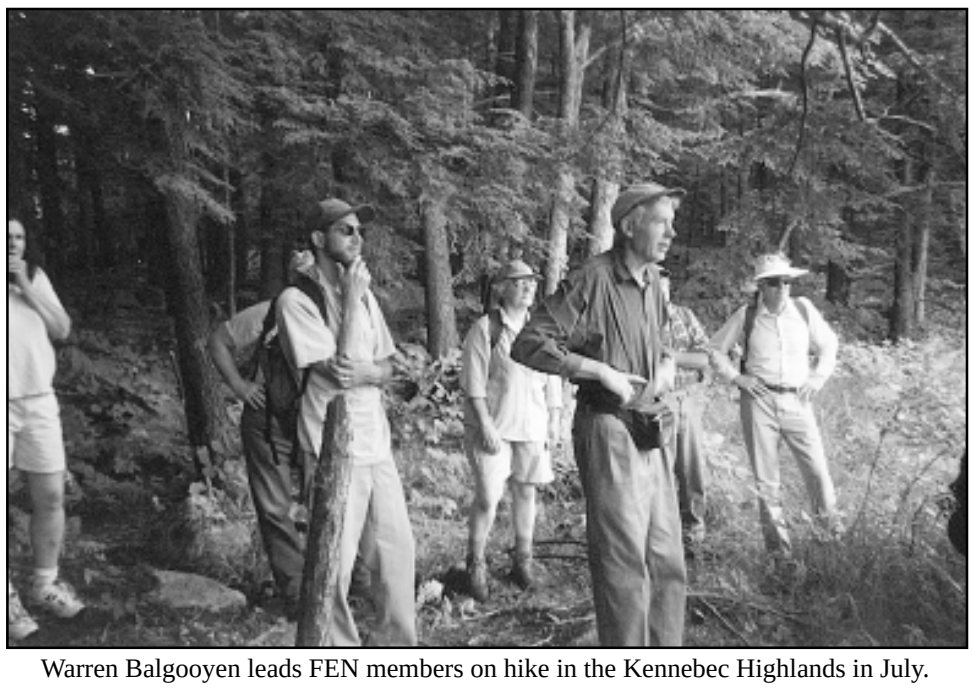


photo by Jonathan Carter

Warren Balgooyen leads FEN members on hike in the Kennebec Highlands in July.

FEN FIELD TRIP TO QUODDY HEAD STATE PARK AND THE SOUTH LUBEC BAR

Drizzle followed by some heavy rain did not deter 11 FEN members from exploring the wonders of Quoddy Head State Park in late August. The field trip began by the West Quoddy Head Lighthouse, where we watched Northern Gannets, Great Cormorants, Black-legged Kittiwakes, Black Guillemots, Harbor Seals, Harbor Porpoises, and Finback Whales out in the Grand Manan Channel.

We then walked beneath spruce and fir branches to the boardwalk over the peat bog, where we received a good drenching. Undaunted, we continued on to Green Point. There we were pleased to see the front line approach overhead from the west, bringing bright sunshine to dry out our raingear and allow us to scan for more seabirds and whales.

By the time we returned to the famous red and white striped lighthouse where we finished our picnic lunches, the sun was out completely and our attitudes had improved. After lunch we moved up to the South Lubec Bar, hoping to see some of the sandpiper and plovers which feed on the tidal flats during their southerly migration at this time of the year. Unfortunately, the numbers of shorebirds were low, but we did see Black-bellied Plovers, and Semipalmated and Least Sandpipers, and enjoyed the cameraderie of the group as we walked down the sandy shore. With the shorebirds fanning out over the exposing flats to feed, we then called it a day and headed for home.

FEN FIELD TRIP TO POPHAM BEACH, MORSE MOUNTAIN AND SEAWALL BEACH

On this field trip to Popham Beach, Morse Mountain and Seawall Beach in Phippsburg in early October, FEN members experienced a repeat of the weather of the Lubec trip in August. As on that trip, the day began with light drizzle, moved to a period of steady light rain followed by brilliant, warm sunshine by late morning.

photo by Teresa Wood

FEN group in the rain on bog boardwalk at Quoddy Head State Park - August 2002.

We began the day exploring the sandy beach and Pitch Pine woods of Popham Beach State Park. A migrating Peregrine Falcon was one of the first birds seen, and we saw two more while at Popham. Stymied from walking very far down the beach due to an extremely high, storm-driven tide, we then moved to nearby Morse Mountain.

At Morse Mountain we hiked over the mountain, up through the Hemlocks and down through the Pitch Pines to Seawall Beach. There on the beach we ate our picnic lunch, reveling in the warmth of the sun. Shoeless, we then walked down the beach as the tide receded, admiring flocks of scurrying Sanderlings, watching them through the spotting scopes as they fed at the water's edge. A special treat was numerous looks at two more Peregrine Falcons hunting over the trees and marsh at the north end of the beach.

On the way back up over the mountain, we stopped at the overlook and were rewarded with views of

soaring Ospreys, Northern Harriers, and American Kestrels, and another Peregrine that was repeatedly diving on several Turkey Vultures. The saltmarsh below was very beautiful, with a spectacular view to the west. We were all very glad not to have been discouraged by the rain at the beginning of the day, as it turned out to be such a lovely fall day.

photo by Teresa Wood

FEN group in the rain on Popham Beach in Phippsburg - October 2002.

photo by Paul Donahue

The view to the southwest from the top of Morse Mountain in Phippsburg.

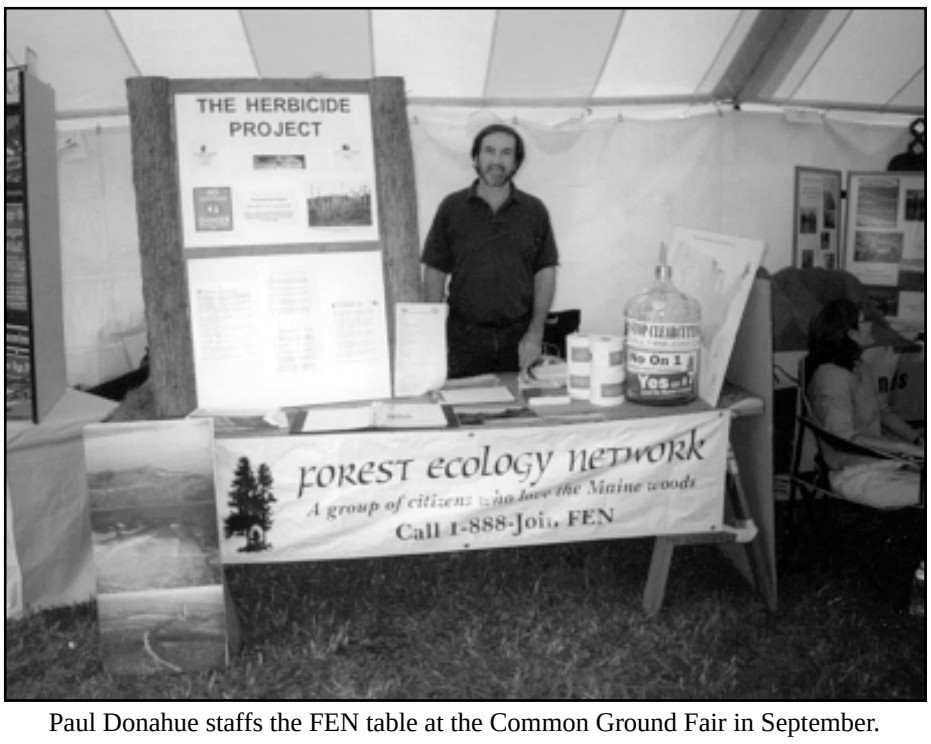


photo by Teresa Wood

Paul Donahue staffs the FEN table at the Common Ground Fair in September.

photo by Jonathan Carter

FEN supported protesters' efforts to save landmark trees from the Route 1 widening in Warren.

photo by Teresa Wood

FEN group having picnic lunch by West Quoddy Head Lighthouse - August 2002.

photo by Paul Donahue

The South Lubec tidal flats, a rich feeding area for southward bound shorebirds in August.

5R Project Update - December 2002

The 5R Project had many successes last summer, with the help of Jonathan Carter, Bonnie Smith, and Christopher Paquette. Through their efforts, the website was updated and many new sponsors were added. Theirs was not an easy task! Business owners are inundated with solicitations, so getting their attention and sponsorship required a skilled presentation. Chris Paquette mastered the art of signing up sponsors all over maine. Bonnie Smith excelled at making the website a lot more interesting by adding graphics. Jonathan Carter provided much needed fundraising, which paid small salaries for the interns plus kept the website online.

The website attracted the attention of Karen Price, who emailed to ask how she could help recycling efforts at Thorndike Press in Waterville, where she is employed. We made some phone calls to some local recycling companies, and helped Thorndike Press not only recycle, but save money in the process. We were reminded of the work of Julia Butterfly Hill, who originally inspired the 5R Project. Julia's Circle of Life Foundation does a great job introducing activists to each other, promoting working together as we lessen our impact on Mother Earth.

The 5R Project owes a continuing debt of gratitude to the Stephen and Tabitha King Foundation, which has generously supported our efforts.

If you want to minimize ecological impact at your business or workplace through recycling and using recycled paper, please visit us at www.5Rproject.com <http://www.5Rproject.com> and support our Sponsors. A list of our Sponsors appears on our website.

5R PROJECT PLEDGE
RESPECT-RETHINK-REDUCE-REUSE-RECYCLE

This organization has pledged to practice the 5R's and agreed to implement the standards listed below. Our actions, however small, are cumulative and will reduce the use of trees for paper while increasing the demand for forest friendly solutions.

1. Copiers will use recycled paper containing a minimum of 30% post consumer waste.

2. Computer printers will use recycled paper containing a minimum of 30% post consumer waste.

3. A full recycling program will recycle all office paper, plastic, magazines, and cans, when local facilities exist.

5R Project Sponsors

Swift Arrow
Tory's
Adams Bakery
Pearl Dream
The Green Store
Casey's Redemption Center
The Herbal Tea & Tobacco Company
The Eclectic Closet
Krazy Kones
New Moon Rising Natural Foods
World Wide Vacations
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Cosmic Charlie's
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Reappearances
Wild Rose
Lois Natural Marketplace
The Sow's Ear
Patagonia Outlet
Royal River Natural Foods
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Lincare
Janie Babes & Bears
Spring Brook
Independent Market America Distributors and Bonnie Lee's Mediumship Readings
Phoenix Studio
Fairfield Antiques Mall
The Green Machine
Fairfield Printing Company
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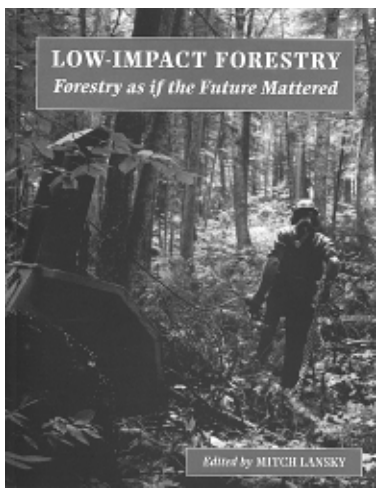
Children's Book Cellar
House Of Ink
Freedom Cafe
Athena Gallery
Kennebec Montessori School
L.N Violette
The Bayou Kitchen
Casco Bay Frames

The Forest Ecology Network Bookshelf

Low-Impact Forestry: Forestry As If the Future Mattered

by Mitch Lansky
Paperback: 178 pages
January 2003
Maine Environmental Policy Institute, Hallowell, Maine
ISBN: 0971996202



Mitch Lansky's 1992 book *Beyond the Beauty Strip: Saving What's Left of Our Forests* is widely considered a 'must read' for anyone interested in northern forest issues, and has served as the bedrock of the forest protection movement in New England and around the country. If Beyond the Beauty Strip is a forestry "how-*not*-to" manual, then *Low-Impact Forestry: Forestry as if the Future Mattered* could be considered a "how-to" manual.

How would forests be managed if the future really mattered? *Low-Impact Forestry* gives historical, ecological, social, and economic views of forest management, using Maine as a case study. The book is for landowners, foresters, loggers and anyone who wants to gain a common understanding of goals for excellent forest management and ways to measure progress towards those goals. There are in-depth discussions on logging techniques, contracts, landowner associations, and longterm land protection, as well as poignant interviews with scientists, loggers, and foresters. *Low-Impact Forestry* points the way towards an economically-viable forestry system that conserves biodiversity and community for the long term.

"We have been heartened to discover that in a forestry atmosphere that has been heavily polarized, *Low-Impact Forestry* has been a source of common ground," notes Lanksy. "Environmentalists, foresters, and loggers have enthusiastically discussed how to make this concept work. We are on to something good and want to share it."

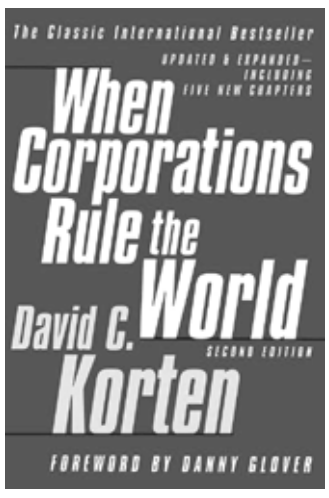
The book has practical nuts and bolts discussions on everything from wood harvesting technologies to writing a logger-landowner contract. *Low-Impact Forestry* can be an important tool for helping landowners figure out what they want to happen in their woods and how to make it happen.

"It is our hope that this book will serve as the foundation of a forestry system that is attractive for small and large landowners who are committed to maintaining ecosystem integrity in forests where profitable timber extraction is also a primary objective," said William Sugg, director of MEPI.

The 178-page book is printed on 100% postconsumer recycled, non-chlorine bleached paper. For more information and to order the book visit www.lowimpactforestry.org or call 1-800-639-4099. Chelsea Green will distribute the book nationally. MEPI is on the web at www.meepi.org

When Corporations Rule the World

by Davis Korten
Paperback - 385 pages
2nd edition - May 2001
Kumarian Press, Bloomfield, Connecticut
ISBN: 1887208046



When Corporations Rule the World explains how economic globalization has concentrated the power to govern in global corporations and financial markets and detached them from accountability to the human interest. It documents the devastating human and environmental consequences of the successful efforts of these corporations to reconstruct values and institutions everywhere on the planet to serve their own narrow ends. It also reveals why and how millions of people are acting to reclaim their political and economic power from these elitist forces and presents a policy agenda for restoring democracy and rooting economic power in people and communities. This second edition of this very important book is expanded with new information, including a new forward by Danny Glover, a new introduction, three new chapters including a new chapter on The Global Democracy Movement, and a new epilogue.

"This is a 'must-read' book-a searing indictment of an unjust international economic order, not by a wild-eyed idealistic left-winger, but by a sober scion of the establishment with impeccable credentials. It left me devastated but also very hopeful. Something can be done to create a more just economic order." - *Archbishop Desmond M. Tutu, Nobel Peace Laureate*

"If you can read only one book on how to understand and address the enormous challenges of our time, *When Corporations Rule the World* is it.... " - *John Cavanagh, Fellow, The Institute for Policy Studies, and coauthor of Global Dreams*

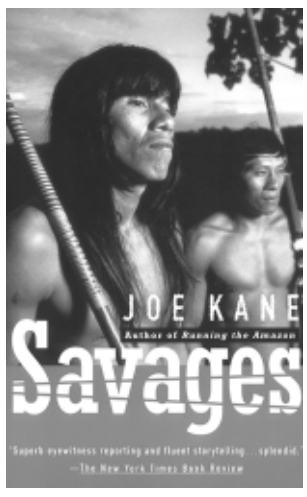
"Required reading for women who want to peek behind the curtain of the global economy and figure out how to save ourselves and respond to the global SOS." - *Bella Abzug, Co-Chair, Women's Environment & Development Organizatio*n

About the Author

David C. Korten is board chair of the Positive Futures Network, publishers of YES! A Journal of Positive Futures, and founder and president of The People-Centered Development Forum. He is a former faculty member of the Harvard Business School and the author of nine previous books including the bestselling When Corporations Rule the World and The Post-Corporate World.

Savages

by Joe Kane
Paperback - 275 pages
Vintage Books; Reprint edition (August 1996)
ISBN: 0679740198

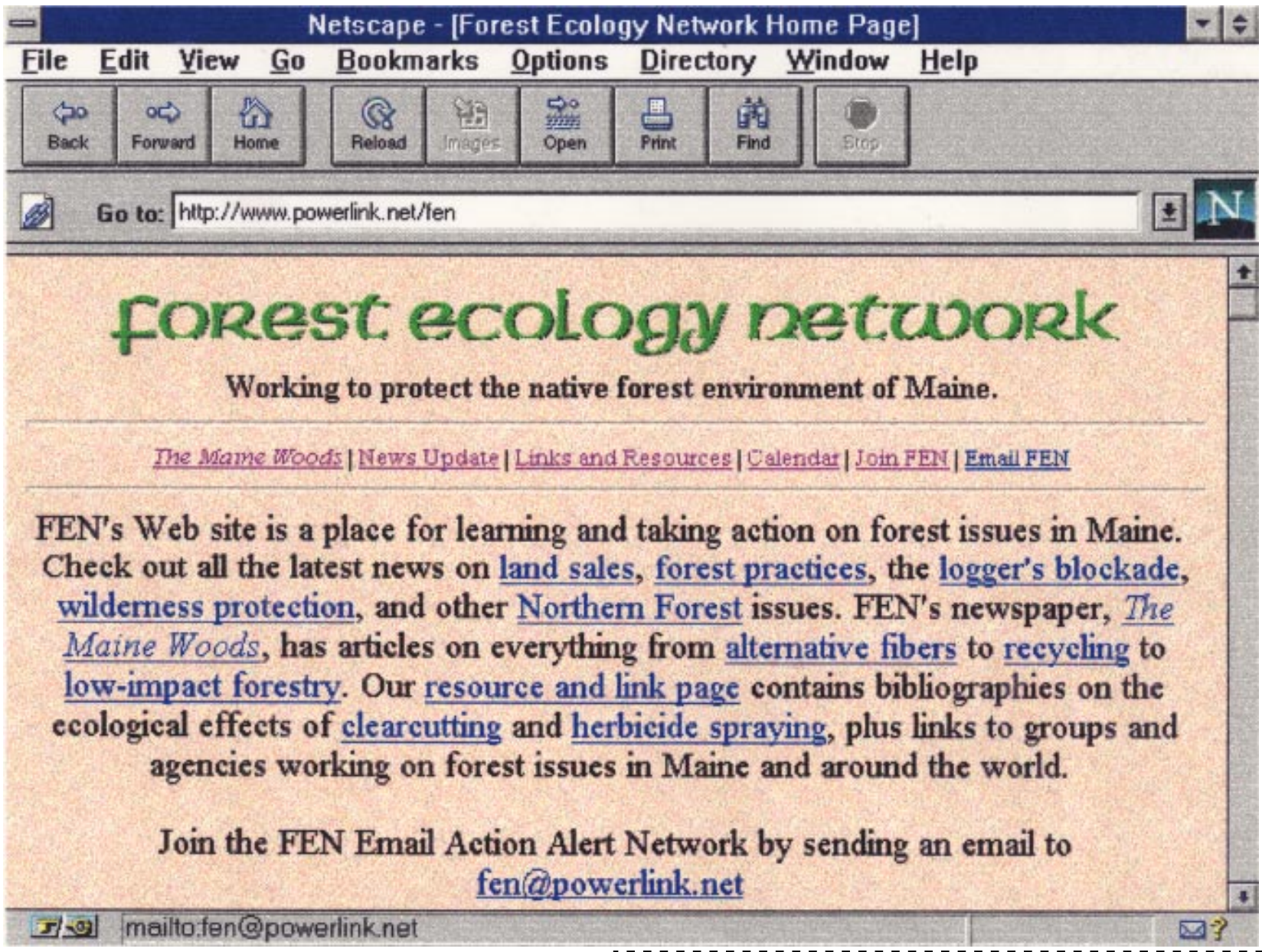


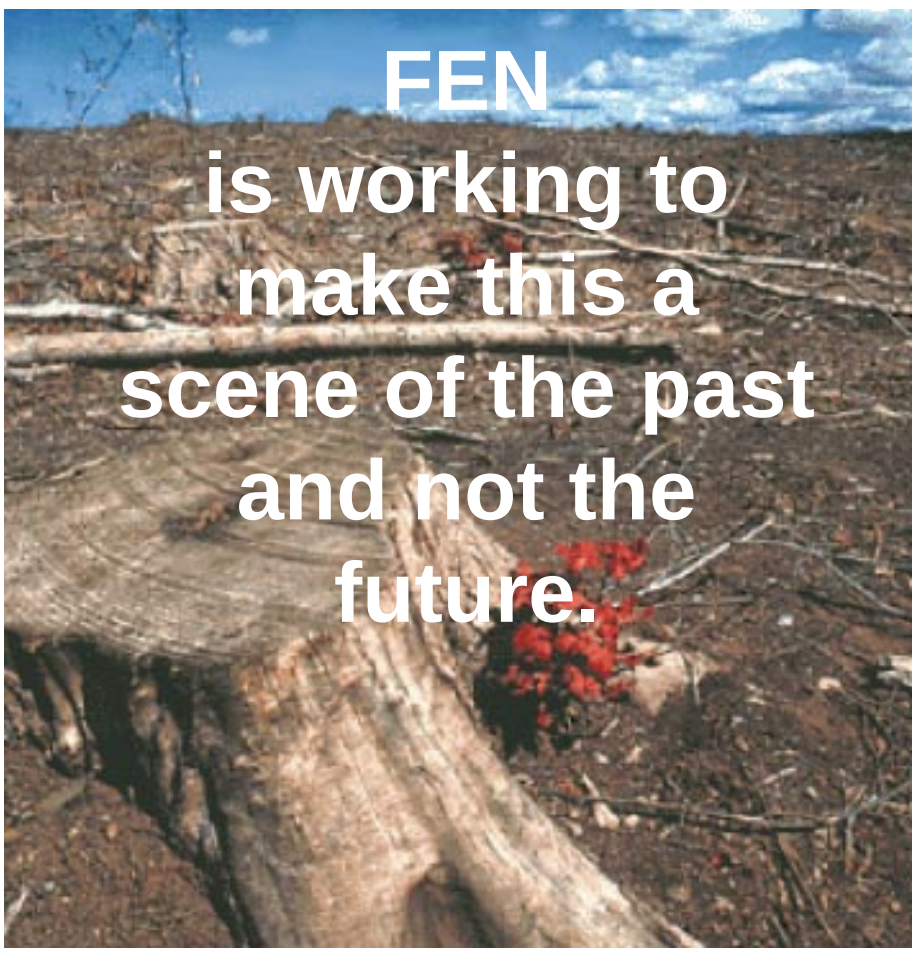
In this impressive and moving work, Joe Kane tells the story of the Huaorani, a tribe living deep in the Amazonian rainforest of eastern Ecuador. The Huaorani have only in the last generation been exposed to such items as the wristwatch. But the modern world is reaching them quickly; for better or worse—usually worse—they live astride some of Ecuador's richest oilfields.

Oil production in the Amazon has opened the forest to colonization and industrialization, often with alarming results: about 17 million gallons, of raw crude, more than in the Valdez spill in Alaska, were spilled from a Amazon pipeline between 1972 and 1989.

Kane, who lived with the Huaorani for months, immaculately reports on the tribes' connections with the old world and its battles with the new one. He writes in journalistic style presenting events as they unfolded and he sheds light on several issues relating to foreign activity in developing countries that are seldom thought about by those who participate in the "invasion".

Anyone contemplating a trip to the jungle of Ecuador, or other Amazonian nation, should make a point of reading this book. It is factual, interesting and tells a real life drama that describes the beginning of what will probably be the final days of the isolated people of the Amazon. It will be up to you as the reader to form an opinion on the situation as Kane doesn't do it for you. He does however raise the interesting question that may not be answered easily - what rights do isolated people have to remain isolated and completely unaffected by the development of the world? Read Savages for yourself and see if you can answer that question.





Join the

forest ecology network

The purpose of the Forest Ecology Network is to protect the native forest environment of Maine through public awareness, grassroots citizen activism, and education. Your contributions and involvement are essential to the success of our efforts. Membership benefits include a subscription to our newspaper, The Maine Woods and educational field trips and workshops. Contributions to FEN (a 501 [c] [3] non-profit organization) are tax-deductible.

Membership Categories: ❑ $25 Seedling ❑ $35 Sapling ❑ $50 Tree ❑ $100 Grove ❑ $500 Forest ❑ Other $_____ ❑ Please sign me up for the FEN Action/Email Alert List. I can't afford a donation but would like to be involved.

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Make checks payable to the Forest Ecology Network or FEN. Please enclose payment and a note describing your interest in FEN. Let us know if you'd like to volunteer. Forest Ecology Network, POB 2218, Augusta, ME 04338. Phone: 207-628-6404. Fax: 207-628-5741. Email: fen@powerlink.net Website: http://www.powerlink.net/fen