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Suggested citation: Butler, Tom, ed., *Wild Earth* 8, no. 2 (Summer 1998).
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WildEARTH



Summer 1998

\$4.95 US

Wildlands Philanthropy

Conservation Heroes

Barry Lopez: The Language of Animals



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The Language of Animals

by Barry Lopez



The steep riverine valley I live within, on the west slope of the Cascades in Oregon, has a particular human and natural history. Though I've been here for thirty years, I am able to convey almost none of it. It is not out of inattentiveness. I've wandered widely within the drainages of its eponymous river, the McKenzie; and I could offer you a reasonably complete sketch of its immigrant history, going back to the 1840s. Before then, Tsanchifin Kalapuya, a Penutian-speaking people, camped in these mountains, but they came up the sixty-mile-long valley apparently only in summer to pick berries and to trade with a people living on the far side of the Cascades, the Molala. In the fall, the Tsanchifin returned down valley to winter near present-day Eugene, Oregon, where the McKenzie joins the Willamette River. The Willamette flows a hundred miles north to the Columbia, the Columbia another hundred miles to the Pacific.

The history that preoccupies me, however, in this temperate rain forest is not human history, not even that of the highly integrated Tsanchifin. Native peoples seem to have left scant trace of their comings and goings in the McKenzie valley. Only rarely, as I hear it, does someone stumble upon an old, or very old, campsite, where glistening black flakes of a volcanic glass called obsidian, the debitage from tool-making work, turn up in soil scuffed by a boot heel.

I've lingered in such camps, in a respectful and deferential mood, as though the sites were shrines; but I'm drawn more to the woods in which they're found. These landscapes are occupied, still, by the wild animals who were these people's companions. These are the descendants of animals who coursed these woods during the era of the Tsanchifin.

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About Wild Earth and The Wildlands Project

Wild Earth (POB 455, Richmond, VT 05477; 802-434-4077; fax 802-434-5980) is a quarterly journal melding conservation biology and wildlands activism. Our efforts to strengthen the conservation movement involve the following:

- We serve as the publishing wing of The Wildlands Project.
- We provide a forum for the many effective but little-known regional wilderness groups and coalitions in North America, and serve as a networking tool for wilderness activists.
- We make the teachings of conservation biology accessible to non-scientists, that activists may employ them in defense of biodiversity.
- We expose threats to habitat and wildlife.
- We facilitate discussion on ways to end and reverse the human population explosion.
- We defend wilderness both as concept and as place.

Wild Earth and The Wildlands Project are closely allied but independent non-profit organizations dedicated to the restoration and protection of wilderness, and biodiversity. We share a vision of an ecologically healthy North America—with adequate habitat for all native species, containing vibrant human and natural communities.

The Wildlands Project (1955. W. Grant Rd., Suite 148A, Tucson, AZ 85745; 520-884-0875) is the organization guiding the design of a continental wilderness recovery strategy. Through advocacy, education, scientific consultation, and cooperation with many regional groups, The Wildlands Project is drafting a blueprint for an interconnected, continental-scale system of protected wildlands linked by habitat corridors.

WILD EARTH

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cover art: *Chasm of the Colorado* (detail), 1873-74 by Thomas Moran

WILD EARTH (ISSN 1055-1166) is published quarterly by the Cenozoic Society, Inc., POB 455, Richmond, VT 05477. The Cenozoic Society is a non-profit educational, scientific, and charitable corporation.

Cenozoic Society Board: Katie Alvord (MI), John Davis (CA), Dave Foreman (NM), David Johns (OR), Reed Noss (OR).

Membership in the Cenozoic Society is open to the public and includes a subscription to Wild Earth. Non-membership and institutional subscriptions are also available. The basic rate for individual membership subscriptions is \$25; low income membership is \$15. Subscriptions to Canada and Mexico are \$30 per year, overseas subscriptions are \$45 (air mail).

Periodicals postage paid at Richmond, VT.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Wild Earth, POB 455, Richmond, VT 05477.

All editorial and membership correspondence should be sent to Wild Earth, POB 455, Richmond, VT 05477. We strongly discourage submissions of unsolicited manuscripts. We welcome submissions of artwork. Artists who want their work returned should include a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Wild Earth assumes no responsibility for unsolicited materials.

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Wild Earth is available on microfilm from University Microfilms, Inc., 300 North Zeeb Rd., Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106-1346. Statistical abstracting by Pierien Press, POB 1808, Ann Arbor, MI 48106.

Articles appearing in Wild Earth are indexed in ENVIRONMENTAL PERIODICALS BIBLIOGRAPHY and THE ALTERNATIVE PRESS INDEX. Wild Earth is printed on 100% unbleached recycled paper (50-100% post-consumer).

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When I travel in the McKenzie basin with visiting friends, my frame of mind is not that of the interpreter, of the cognoscente; I amble with an explorer's temperament. I am alert for the numinous event, for evidence of a world beyond the rational. Though it is presumptuous to say so, I seek a Tsanchifin grasp, the view of an indigene. And what draws me ahead is the possibility of revelation from other indigenes—the testimonies of wild animals.

The idea that animals can convey meaning, and thereby offer an attentive human being illumination, is a commonly held belief the world over. The view is disparaged and disputed only by modern cultures with an allegiance to science as the sole arbiter of truth. The price of this conceit, to my way of thinking, is enormous.

I grew up in a farming valley in southern California in the 1950s, around sheep, dogs, horses, and chickens. The first wild animals I encountered—coyotes, rattlesnakes, mountain lion, deer, and bear—I came upon in the surrounding mountains and deserts. These creatures seemed more vital than domestic animals. They seemed to tremble in the aura of their own light. (I caught a shadow of that magic occasionally in a certain dog, a particular horse, like a residue.) From such a distance it's impossible to recall precisely what riveted my imagination in these encounters, though I might guess. Wild animals are lean. They have no burden of possessions, no need for extra clothing, eating utensils, elaborate dwellings. They are so much more integrated into the landscape than human beings are, swooping its contours and bolting down its pathways with bewildering speed. They travel unerringly through the dark. Holding their gaze, I saw the intensity and clarity I associated with the presence of a soul.

In later years I benefited from a formal education at a Jesuit prep school in New York City, then at New York University and the universities of Notre Dame and Oregon. I encountered the full range of Western philosophy, including the philosophy of science, in those classrooms and studied the theological foundations of Christianity. I don't feel compelled now to repudiate that instruction. I regard it, though, as incomplete, and would say that nothing I read in those years fundamentally changed what I thought about animals. The more steeped I became in the biology and ecology of animals, the more I understood about migration, and the more I comprehended about the intricacy of their neural impulses and the subtlety of their endocrine systems, the deeper their other unexplored capacities appeared to me. Biochemistry and field studies enhanced rather than diminished my sense that, in Henry Beston's phrase, animals were other nations.

If formal education taught me how to learn something, if it provided me with reliable structures (e.g., *Moby Dick*, approaching the limit in calculus, von Clausewitz's tactics) within which I could exercise a metaphorical imagination, if the Jesuits inculcated in me a respectful skepticism about authority, then that education gave me the sort of tools most necessary to an examination of the history of Western ideas, a concept fatally flawed by an assumption of progress. I could move on from Gilbert White's *Selbourne* to Thoreau's *Walden*. I could trace a thread from Aristotle through Newton to Schrödinger. Or grasp that in the development of symphonic expression, Bach gives way to Mozart who gives way to Beethoven. But this isn't progress. It's change, in a set of ideas that incubate well in our culture.

I left the university with two ideas strong in my mind. One was the belief that a person had to enter the world to know it, that it couldn't be got from a book. The other was that there were other epistemologies out there, as rigorous and valid as the ones I learned in school. Not convinced of the superiority of the latter, I felt ready to consider these other epistemologies, no matter how at odds.

When I moved into the McKenzie valley I saw myself beginning a kind of apprenticeship. Slowly I learned to identify indigenous plants and animals and birds migrating through. Slowly I began to expand the basis of my observations of their lives, to alter the nature of my assumptions. Slowly I began to recognize clusters of life in the valley as opposed to individual, isolated species. I was lucky to live in a place too steep for agriculture to have developed, too heavily wooded to be good for grazing, and too poor in commercial quantities of minerals for mining (though the evidence that all three occurred on a small scale is present). The only industrial-scale impact here has come from commercial logging—and the devastation in parts of the valley is as breathtaking a sight as the napalmed forests of the Vietnam highlands in the 1960s. Pressure is building locally now to develop retirement real estate—trailer parks, RV parks, condominiums; but, for the moment, it's still relatively easy to walk for hours across stretches of land that have never been farmed, logged, mined, grazed, or homesteaded. From where my house sits on a wooded bench above the McKenzie River, I can look across the water into a four-or five-hundred-year-old forest in which some of the Douglas-firs are more than twenty feet around.

Two ways to "learn" this land are obvious: enter it repeatedly and attentively on your own; or give your attention instead—or alternately—to its occupants. The most trustworthy occupants, to

my mind, are those with no commercial ties, beings whose sense of ownership is guided not by profit but by responsible occupancy. For the valley in which I live, these occupants would theoretically be remnant Tsanchifin people and indigenous animals. To my knowledge, the Tsanchifin are no longer a presence; and the rational mind (to which many of us acquiesce) posits there is little to be learned from animals unless we discover a common language and can converse. This puts the emphasis, I think, in the wrong place. The idea shouldn't be for us to converse, to enter into some sort of Socratic dialogue with animals. It would be to listen to what is already being communicated. To insist on a conversation with the unknown is to demonstrate impatience, and it is to imply that any such encounter must include your being heard.

To know a physical place you must become intimate with it. You must open yourself to its textures, its colors in varying day and night lights, its sonic dimensions. You must in some way become vul-



The idea that animals can convey meaning, and thereby offer an attentive human being illumination, is a commonly held belief the world over.

nerable to it. In the end, there's little difference between growing into the love of a place and growing into the love of a person. Love matures through intimacy and vulnerability, and it grows most vigorously in an atmosphere of trust. You learn,

with regard to the land, the ways in which it is dependable. Where it has no strength to offer you, you do not insist on its support. When you yourself do not understand something, you trust the land might, and you defer.

When I walk in the woods or along the creeks, I'm looking for integration, not conversation. I want to be bound more deeply into the place, to be included, even if only as a witness, in events that animate the landscape. In tracking a mink, in picking a black bear scat apart, in examining red alder trunks that deer have scraped with their antlers, I get certain measures of the place where I live. In listening to the songs and tones of Swainson's Thrushes and to Winter Wrens, to the bellows of elk, I get a dimension of the valley I couldn't get on my own.



In eating spring chinook, in burning big-leaf maple in the stove, in bathing in groundwater from the well, in collecting sorrel and miner's lettuce for a summer salad, I put my life more deeply into the life around me.

The eloquence of animals is in their behavior, not their speech. To see a mule deer stot across a river bar, a Sharpshinned Hawk maneuver in dense timber, to watch a female chinook build her nest on clean gravel, to see a Rufous Hummingbird extracting nectar from foxglove blossoms, to come upon a rubber boa constricting a shrew is to meet the world outside the self. It is to hear the indigenes.

We regard wild creatures as the most animated part of the landscape. We've believed for eons that we share a specific nature with them, different from the nature of wild berries or lightning or water. Our routine exchanges with them are most often simply a verification of this, reaffirmations that

we're alive in a particular place together at a particular time.

Wild animals are like us, too, in that they have ancestors. When I see river otter sprawled mid-stream on a boulder in the noon sun, I know their ancestors were here before the fur trappers, before the Tsanchifin, before *Homo*. The same for the cormorant, the woolly bear caterpillar, the cutthroat. In all these histories, in the string of events in each life, the land is revealed. The tensile strength of the orb weaver's silk, the location of the salmon's redd, the shrew-moles' bones bound up in a spotted owl's cast, each makes a concise statement.

Over the years and on several continents I've seen indigenous people enter their landscapes. (I say *enter* because the landscape of a semi-permanent camp or village, as I have come to understand it, is less intense, less numinous.) Certain aspects of this entry experience seem always to be in evidence. Human conversation usually trails off. People become more alert to what is around them, less intent on any goal—where to camp that night, say. People become more curious about animal life, looking at the evidence of what animals have been up to. People begin to look all around, especially behind them, instead of staring straight ahead with only an occasional look to the side. People halt to examine closely things that at first glance seemed innocuous. People hold up simply to put things together—the sky with a certain type of forest, a kind of rock outcropping, the sound of a creek, and, last, the droppings of a blue grouse under a thimbleberry bush. People heft rocks and put them back. They push their hands into river mud and perhaps leave patches of it on their skin. It's an ongoing intercourse with the place.

Learning one's place through attention to animals is not solely a matter of being open to "statements" they make about the physical, chemical, and biological realms we share. A more profound

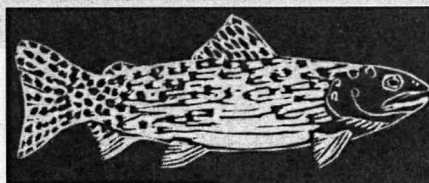
communication can take place. In this second sphere, animals have volition; they have intention and the power of influence; and they have the capacity to intervene in our lives. I've never known people who were entirely comfortable addressing such things. However we may define "consciousness" in the West, we regard it as a line of demarcation that separates human nature from animal nature. A shaman might cross back and forth, but animals, no.

In my experience indigenous people are most comfortable in asserting a spiritual nature for animals (including aspects of consciousness) only when the purpose of the conversation is to affirm a spirituality shared by both humans and animals. (They're more at ease talking about animals as exemplars of abstract ideals, as oracles and companions, and as metaphorical relations.) When someone relates something previously unheard of that they saw an animal do, something that demonstrates the degree of awareness we call consciousness, the person is saying the world still turns on the miraculous, it's still inventing itself, and that we're a part of this. These observations keep the idea alive that animals are engaged in the world at a deep level.

The fundamental reinforcement of a belief in the spiritual nature of animals' lives (i.e., in the spiritual nature of the landscape itself) comes from a numinous encounter with a wild creature. For many indigenous people (again, in my experience) such events make one feel more secure in the "real" world because their unfolding takes the event beyond the more readily apparent boundaries of existence. In a numinous encounter one's suspicion—profound, persistent, and ineluctable, that there is more to the world than appearances—is confirmed. For someone reared in the tradition of the cultural West, it is also a confirmation that Rationalism and the Enlightenment are not points on a continuum of progress but simply two species of wisdom.

Whenever I think of the numinous event, and how vulnerable it is to the pinners of the analytic mind, I recall a scene in a native village in Alaska. A well-meaning but rude young man, a graduate student in anthropology, had come to this village to study hunting. His ethnocentric interviewing technique was aggressive, his vocabulary academic, his manner to pester and interfere. Day after day he went after people, especially one older man he took to be the best hunter in the village. He hounded him relentlessly, asking him why he was the best hunter. The only way the man could be rid of the interviewer was to answer his question. He ended the assault by saying, "My ability to hunt is like a small bird in my mind. I don't think anyone should disturb it."

A central task facing modern Western cultures is to redefine human community in the wake of industrialization, colonialism, and, more recently, the forcing power of capitalism. In trying to solve some of the constellation of attendant problems here—keeping corporations out of secondary education, restoring the physical and spiritual shelter of the family group, preserving non-Western ways of knowing—it seems clear that by cutting ourselves off from Nature, by turning Nature into scenery and commodities, we may cut ourselves off from something vital. To repair this damage we can't any longer take what we call "Nature" for an object. We must merge it again with our own nature. We must reintegrate ourselves in specific geographic places, and to do that we need to learn those places at greater depth than any science, Eastern or Western, can take us. We have to incorporate them again in the moral universe we inhabit. We have to develop good relations with them, ones that will replace the exploitative relations that have become a defining characteristic of twentieth-century Western life, with its gargantuan oil spills and chemical



accidents, its megalithic hydroelectric developments, its hideous weapons of war, and its conception of wealth that would lead a corporation to cut down a forest to pay the interest on a loan.

In daily conversation in many parts of the American West today, wild animals are given credit for conveying ideas to people, for "speaking." To some degree this is a result of the pervasive influence of Native American culture in certain

parts of the West. It doesn't contradict the notion of human intelligence to believe, in these quarters, that wild animals represent repositories of knowledge we've abandoned in our efforts to build civilizations and support ideas like progress and improvement. To "hear" wild animals is not to leave the realm of the human; it's to expand this realm to include voices other than our own. It's a technique for the accomplishment of wisdom. To attend to the

language of animals means to give yourself over to a more complicated, less analytic awareness of a place. It's to realize that some of the so-called equations of life are not meant to be solved, that it takes as much intelligence not to solve them as it does to find the putative answers.

A fundamental difference between early and late twentieth-century science in the cultural West has become apparent with the emergence of the phrase "I don't know" in scientific discourse. This admission is the heritage of quantum mechanics. It is heard eloquently today in the talk of cosmologists, plasma physicists, and, increasingly, among field biologists now working beyond the baleful and condescending stare of molecular biologists.

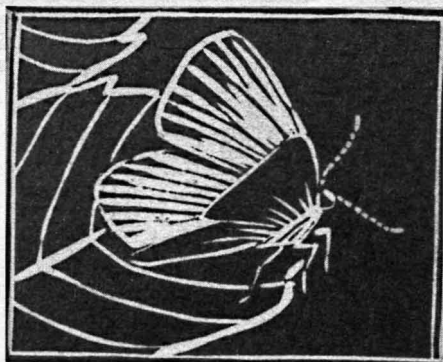
The Enlightenment ideals of an educated mind and just relations among differing people have become problematic in our era because the process of formal

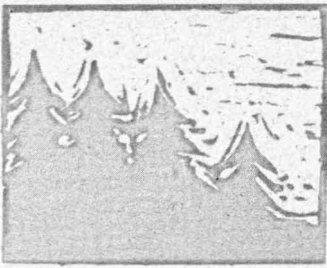
education in the West has consistently abjured or condemned non-Western ways of knowing, and because the quest for just relations still strains at the barriers of race, gender, and class. If we truly believe in the wisdom of Enlightenment thought and achievement—and certainly, like Bach's B-Minor Mass, Goethe's theory of light, or Darwin's voyage, that philosophy is among the best we have to offer—then we should consider encouraging the educated mind to wander beyond the comfort of its own solipsisms, and we should extend the principle of justice to include everything that touches our lives.

I do not know how to achieve these things in the small valley where I live except through apprenticeship and the dismantling of assumptions I grew up with. The change, to a more gracious and courteous and wondrous awareness of the world, will not come in my lifetime, and knowing what I know of the modern plagues—loss of biodiversity, global warming, and the individual quest for material wealth—I am fearful. But I believe I have come to whatever I understand by listening to companions and by trying to erase the lines that establish hierarchies of knowledge among them. My sense is that the divine knowledge we yearn for is social; it is not in the province of a genius anymore than it is in the province of a particular culture. It lies within our definition of community.

Our blessing, it seems to me, is not what we know, but that we know each other. ■

Barry Lopez is the author of a dozen books, including Desert Notes, Of Wolves and Men, Arctic Dreams (for which he won a National Book Award), Field Notes, and Lessons from the Wolverine. His latest book, About This Life: Journeys on the Threshold of Memory, has just been published by Knopf.





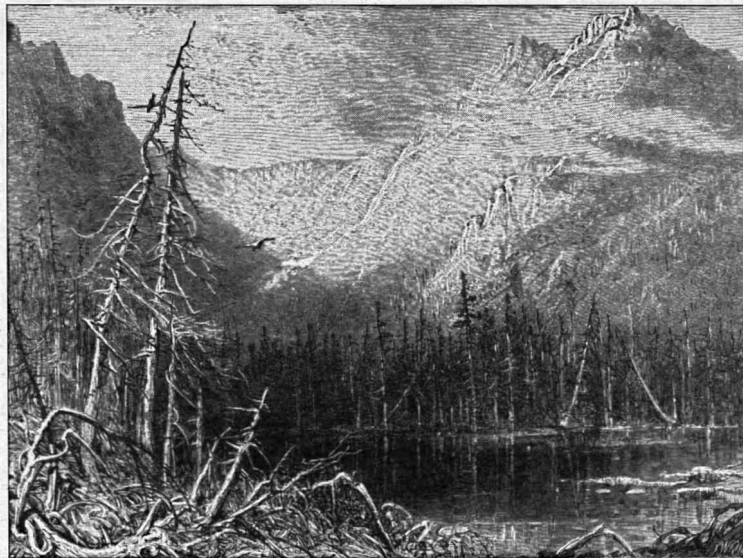
A Wilderness View

The survival of wilderness—of places that we do not change, where we allow the existence even of creatures we perceive as dangerous—is necessary. Our sanity probably requires it. Whether we go to those places or not, we need to know that they exist. And I would argue that we do not need just the great public wildernesses, but millions of small private or semiprivate ones. Every farm should have one; wildernesses can occupy corners of factory grounds and city lots—places where nature is given a free hand, where no human work is done, where people go only as guests. These places function, I think, whether we intend them to or not, as sacred groves—places we respect and leave alone, not because we understand well what goes on there, but because we do not. —Wendell Berry¹

The history of conservation efforts in America is like a broad and deep river, with powerful currents and swirling eddies that reflect our nation's conflicted relationship with wild Nature. In this issue of *Wild Earth* we plunge into these turbulent waters and examine two strong and complementary streams: the role of private philanthropy in protecting our natural heritage—wildlands philanthropy—and traditional public lands wilderness activism as embodied in a few pioneering conservationists.

While *WE* generally focuses on threats to wilderness and wildlife, and consequently is not uniformly a bundle of glad tidings, we'll put aside herein most talk of death, despair, and destruction—a pleasurable hiatus for a biodiversity conservation journal in an age of mass extinction—to honor and learn from heroic figures who saved wilderness the old-fashioned way: they bought it or fought for it (in the legislative arena).

Most wilderness advocates are familiar with the high points of our movement's history [Land Protection in the US, 1864–1997], and are quick to cite the accomplishments of John Muir and Aldo Leopold. Few, however, know as much about the extraordinary conservationist Rosalie Edge and her colleagues Willard Van Name and Irving Brant [A Good and Important Cause]; or can quote from Howard Zahniser's writings as readily as from *A Sand County Almanac* [Howard Zahniser: A Legacy of Wilderness]; or have studied the example of living legends Mardy Murie and Ernie Dickerman [profiled by Terry Tempest Williams and Chris Bolgiano, respectively]. Mardy, who is now in her nineties, and Ernie, an octogenarian, have been leaders in the battle to save wilderness for most of the 20th century. (Having worked continuously to protect his beloved Appalachian forests since Franklin



¹Wendell Berry, from "Getting Along with Nature," in *Home Economics*; North Point Press; 1987.

Roosevelt was president, Ernie must surely be the ultimate old-growth activist.)

Through their efforts, and the efforts of many like-minded conservationists, we enjoy over 100 million acres of designated Wilderness and an extensive National Park System. Yes, existing parks, refuges, and Wilderness Areas are still too small and disconnected to maintain ecosystem integrity. But they are an excellent foundation on which to build an ecological reserve network [The Politics of Y2Y] that fully protects all native wildlife. Moreover, these protected natural areas, as Robin Winks notes [Philanthropy & National Parks: An American Tradition], are a living lens through which we view ourselves as a people.

Similarly, too few Americans know of and appreciate the legacy of Laurance and John D. Rockefeller Jr. [The Rockefellers and National Parks], George Dorr, and other philanthropists who used their wealth and political influence to save wildlands. Doug Tompkins [On Philanthropy, Cultural Decadence, and Wild Nature] and John Davis [Wildlands Philanthropy: Private Wealth Protecting Public Values] suggest that the resurgence of a modern wildlands philanthropy movement may be the most hopeful trend in American conservation.

The growth of local and regional land trusts [Land Trusts and Wildlands Protection], the effectiveness of private land conservation organizations such as The Nature Conservancy and The Conservation Fund, and the evolving conception of private land rights and responsibilities [Reconnecting: Ethics, Community, and Private Land] attest to a burgeoning interest in direct habitat protection—which is well, for the perils facing wildlands have never been greater. In northern New England alone, over a million acres of uninhabited industrial forest land will be for sale this year [Just Buy It].

With North America now the home of more millionaires and billionaires than ever before, many private citizens have the means to purchase and protect wildlife habitat on a scale commensurate with the threat. Whether or not one believes this accumulation of wealth to be a benign or pernicious social trend, the fact remains that the wealthy may use their resources to further degrade—or to help heal—the tattered fabric of America's ecosystems.

Without John D. Rockefeller Jr., there would likely be no Grand Teton National Park; without George Dorr, no Acadia National Park; without Laurance Rockefeller, no Virgin Islands National Park. Notably, a growing number of individual philanthropists, including Ted Turner and

Doug Tompkins, and charitable foundations, such as the David & Lucile Packard Foundation and Sweet Water Trust, are choosing to take up and build upon this rich legacy of private wildlands protection.

No one who has camped beside a mist-enshrouded lake deep in the woods and heard the tremolo of a loon emanate from the ether will ever forget that lovely and haunting sound. It is the song of the wilderness. It's also a reminder of wilderness threatened. With the shoreline habitat loons require for nesting increasingly being developed and buzzed by (im)personal watercraft, and the waters they swim in ever more acidic from airborne pollution, loons (the oldest birds in North America, having evolved some *sixty million years ago*) are imperiled.

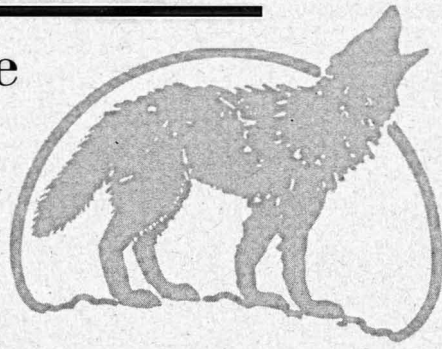
What does this have to do with wildlands philanthropy? Simply this: The philanthropist who endows a university professorship or builds a new wing on an art museum may well be remembered in a century or two. But the philanthropist who protects wilderness in the Northern Forest [Landscape Spotlight]—say, by helping create a Maine Woods National Park or a Northeast Kingdom Forest Preserve, or by buying threatened private lands in the Adirondack Park—may safeguard an evolutionary lineage that stretches back to the time of the dinosaurs and should stretch forward through time immemorial.

"Wilderness," as Dave Foreman has said, "is the arena of evolution." Saving it, and making space for the wildlife with which we share this continent, is a prospect that transcends the ephemeral. It is a project for the ages, for geologic time. By protecting wilderness—through wildlands philanthropy or traditional wilderness activism—we may, as Wendell Berry said, save our sanity. More important, we may also overturn the false separation between humanity and Nature [The Language of Animals] and save the wondrous diversity of life on Earth. In creating a legacy of wildlands preservation, far more than the building of any cultural edifice, we achieve a measure of immortality.

—Tom Butler

Addendum: As this issue went to press, we learned of the death—at the age of 108—of Marjorie Stoneman Douglas, the feisty wilderness advocate whose 1945 book *Everglades: River of Grass* and lifelong crusade to save wild Nature in south Florida led to the creation of Everglades National Park. We dedicate this issue of *WE* to her, and to the landscape she loved and fought to protect.

Wild Earth Update



Wildlands Philanthropy is for Everyone

Anyone, even persons of modest means, can participate in direct land protection. Individuals can effectively pool their resources and help save large tracts of wildlife habitat by contributing to local, regional, or national land trusts. Well over 1000 US land trusts now exist, although most still work to preserve land primarily for scenic, agricultural, and recreational reasons.

One way wildlife advocates can be sure that 100% of their donations go to land acquisition based on *ecological* criteria is to support the Buy Back the Dacks fund, created in 1992 by *Wild Earth* staffers. As noted on the back cover of this issue, all monies raised through Buy Back the Dacks help purchase imperiled, privately owned wildlands within New York's Adirondack Park (the eastern border of which is just a short way, as the osprey flies, from *WE*'s office in Vermont). While public lands in the park enjoy strict protection, private lands there face increasing development pressures.

Over the years, hundreds of dedicated *Wild Earth* readers have donated to Buy Back the Dacks, with most of the gifts under \$50. These gifts in total have substantially helped save several threatened parcels. Buy Back the Dacks' current focus is to support an Adirondack Nature Conservancy/Adirondack Land Trust project in the eastern Adirondacks that would keep intact a key wildlife movement corridor. If successful, this important initiative would link existing natural areas in a public/private mosaic of roughly 5000 protected acres. (For more information call us at 802-434-4077, or send checks payable to Buy Back the Dacks to *Wild Earth*, POB 455, Richmond, VT 05477.)

Another way people of average incomes can contribute to the wildlands philanthropy cause is to set aside all or part of the land they own for wildlife, or to buy small parcels specifically for

habitat protection. For example, despite his paltry salary while working for this journal, former *WE* editor John Davis accrued savings enough to buy 45 acres of key habitat in the Adirondacks several years ago. This purchase kept the land from being logged and helped stimulate interest among some of his neighbors in placing conservation easements on their property. In many parts of the country, including the Adirondacks, land can be secured for \$100–500 per acre. Such purchases can be immensely rewarding (just talk to John about his land!) and of inestimable value to regional wildlands preservation efforts.

We ask readers who support the expansion of wildlands philanthropy to help us publicize the cause generally, and this issue of *Wild Earth* specifically. We have increased our print run and would be happy to send free copies in your name to all the wealthy (and not-so-wealthy) folks in your address book. For although we hope that the revival of this tradition will save much more wild habitat across North America, ultimately, successful large-scale wildlands recovery will depend on the number of people who share our vision. If you have conservation-minded friends and family who are not regular readers of *Wild Earth*, please take advantage of our **special \$10 summer '98 rate for gift subscriptions**. Simply use the envelope at the back of the journal, if paying by check, and write "\$10 offer" near the box for gift subscriptions; if paying by VISA or Mastercard, call us at 802-434-4077. The recipient will receive a gift card in your name along with a copy of this wildlands philanthropy issue.

—Monique Miller

In Search of Wild Scenes

Wild Earth is looking for new artwork & artists. We are in particular need of prairie landscapes for our fall issue. Call (802-434-4077) or write (POB 455, Richmond, VT 05477) for artist guidelines.



Nullipatrous* at 64, I praise

Stephanie Mills for stepping into the long-standing debate over the value to society, and to the Earth, of those who intentionally refrain from breeding, of whom I am one. I'm tempted to say, *May our tribe increase!* The waggish thought leapt into my mind exactly because the issue reflexively causes my brain to flinch at the expected negativity the issue always stirs. Abstaining from procreation perhaps does not require great courage in a life otherwise rich and full of satisfaction, but advocating nulliparity certainly does.

We are indeed a weird lot, we non-breeders, keeping our mouths shut far too tightly given

the apocalyptic stakes of this ominous game we find

ourselves in. Mills

points up a particular negative quality that we Greek-based thinkers bring to this dismal picture: Manichaeian polarities (birth=joy, death=suffering). For myself, because my eyes are somewhat open, I can't miss the complexity and ambiguity in both birthing and dying; in our heart of hearts we know that all births are not joy, nor all deaths suffering: as poet Mary Oliver says, "the secret name of every death is life again—a miracle wrought surely not of mere turning but a dense and scalding reenactment...."

Like Mills, my deepest allegiance is to the wild. To live as a committed non-breeder means waking up to reinvent myself daily, means wrapping the sublimity of creation around me like a mantle. The

Reaction to the winter 1997/98 theme issue on human overpopulation was generally supportive; only a few readers terminated their subscriptions. Predictably, the relatively small attention paid to immigration (two of 20+ articles addressed the topic) generated the bulk of negative responses. One of the most thoughtful critiques, printed below, came from conservation biologist William McLarney of ANAI, a conservation group working to protect biodiversity in Central America.

human species, as part of this fragile miraculous creation, partakes indeed of the sublime, but that should induce humility, considering we're one species among millions, maybe billions, each one vital for the health of the greater, sacred whole. The notion of "unlimited growth forever" is the worst scam we ever perpetrated on ourselves.

—Bob Ellis,
Millers River Watershed,
Wendell, MA 01379-0091

Dave Foreman's column and Roy Beck's article in the winter *WE* leave me with the uncomfortable feeling of being halfway there and out of gas. I could not agree more with their basic premise—that human population growth is the mother of all environmental problems, but it seems to me that in their eagerness to solve the US population problem, they have drifted into denial on the global problem.

I would agree that if sustainability is the goal, the US is already overpopulated at 73.7 persons per square mile, especially if we assume continuing present levels of consumption. But look at the population density of the major current sources of immigrants. Mexico, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, and Haiti have, respectively, 123; 253; 417; and 672 persons per square mile. Figures for Asia are 589 (Vietnam), 590 (Philippines), 757 (India), and 1181 (South Korea). What does this say about global sustainability?

Opponents of immigration maintain that the new immigrant, once settled in, becomes just another American, consuming excessive amounts of everything, and statistically they are right. I question the relevance of this point—though I do not deny that local population growth should occasion local concern. As someone who works in both

*That may be an invented word; I trust it is accurately based on the Latin *pater*=father.

worlds [the US and the Third World], I read in the IPAT equation the political correctness Foreman is so eager to avoid. It is more accurate to state that the affluent and the poor contribute to conservation problems in different ways.

I wholly agree with Foreman and Beck that the exaggerated level of consumption by the affluent of the world is a major problem. Some of the negative results are very local, but our profligacy also contributes to problems elsewhere—through bad example and through the disproportionate demands we make on the natural resources of poor countries. On the other hand, affluence has made it easier for us to accept family planning, reduce pollution, protect natural areas, and involve ourselves in conservation projects.

As for people in poor countries, they certainly consume less resources per capita—if we equate consumption with the purchase of goods. But where are the forests disappearing most rapidly? Where are the most species, especially megafauna, in danger? Where are the most polluting cities? Where do individuals and governments find it hardest to devote time

and money to conservation? More to the point for us, what is the role of the affluent in creating these conditions?

No need to answer that last question for readers of *WE*. A worthy goal would be to eliminate the need for the question altogether. That will not be accomplished through applying local solutions to a global problem.

I don't deny there is such a thing as a local population problem. I often argue that my county in North Carolina is growing too fast, and the greater part of that problem is immigration (in our case by affluent Americans, not the foreign poor). I see my local position as analogous to attempting to prevent pollution of a particular stream or save a particular forest. And I find it easier suggesting that the affluent immigrant stay home and help find solutions there than I do to turn back the poor immigrant who has no opportunity to do well personally or to contribute to the solution of environmental problems at home.

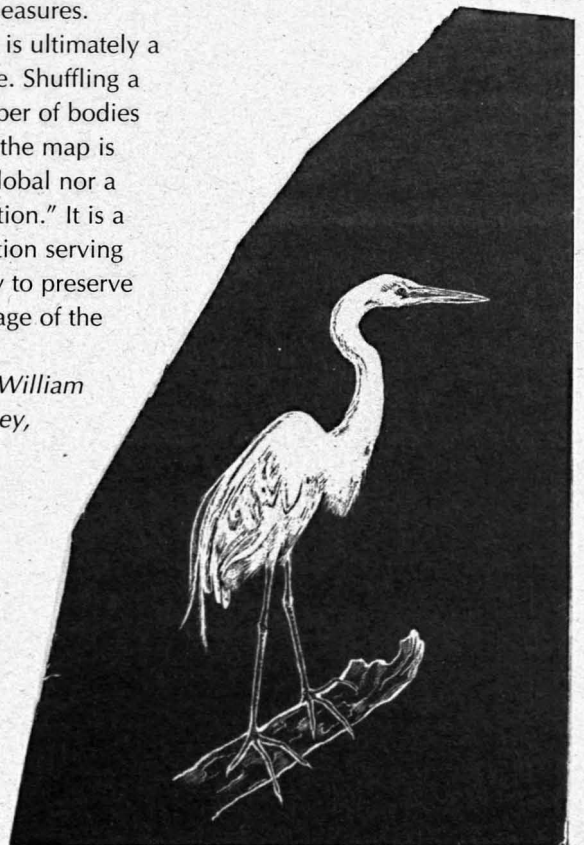
Finally, I must say that, while I realize that political solutions involve coalitions and that winning often implies accepting help from individuals with whom we

may have little in common, I am uneasy about being aligned with the xenophobes. Neither Foreman nor Beck is posturing in attempting to distance themselves from racism. Yet if we say to the poor at the border, "Go home and live with your own pollution, which you are powerless to control," what does that say about us?

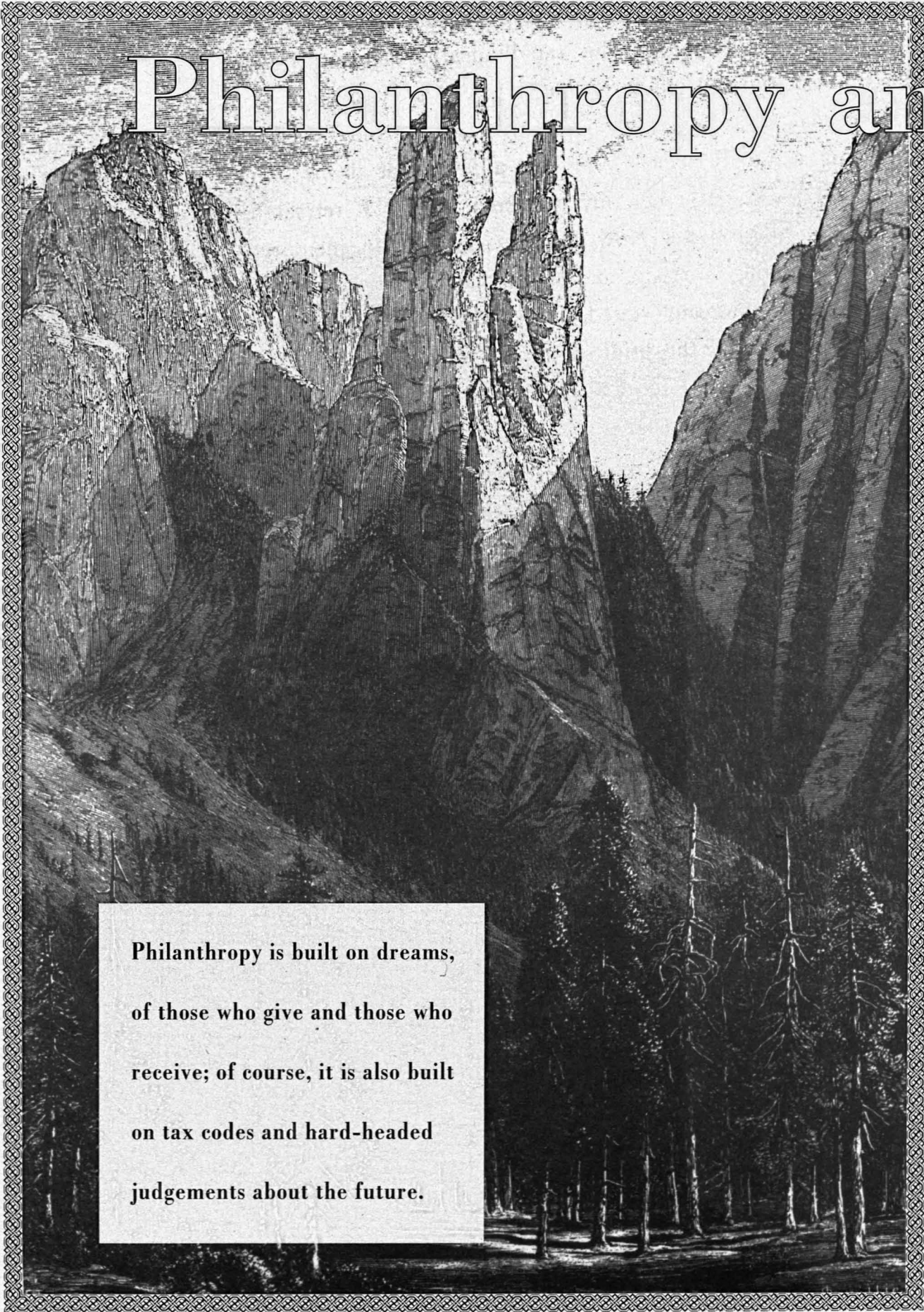
There is room for more discussion, but one thing is certain. If, as Roy Beck correctly states, "Conservation efforts too often merely slow the rate of destruction," then controlling human population numbers in one country by closing the border exemplifies such stop-gap measures. Population is ultimately a global issue. Shuffling a given number of bodies around on the map is neither a global nor a local "solution." It is a holding action serving temporarily to preserve the advantage of the affluent.

—Dr. William

O. McLarney,
Consulting
Biologist,
Franklin,
North
Carolina



Philanthropy and



Philanthropy is built on dreams,
of those who give and those who
receive; of course, it is also built
on tax codes and hard-headed
judgements about the future.

National Parks

An American Tradition



by Robin W. Winks

There are 376 units of the National Park System of the United States, and it is likely that some portion of every one is the result of private philanthropy. Whether the nucleus of an entire National Park (as at Virgin Islands National Park on St. John) or the contents of a major interpretive center (as at Pecos National Historical Park) were a gift to the nation by a private individual or individuals, the art of giving to create or expand the parks, and through them benefit the American people and American wildlife, was well-developed and widely practiced until after World War II. This is not so much the case now, and one wonders why. It may also be that there is a resurgent interest in wildlands philanthropy these days, though largely from foundations rather than individuals. While public support and funding for natural areas protection will continue to be fundamental, private conservation efforts are a necessary complement; without philanthropy, the National Parks will not thrive.

The general public tends to believe that National Parks consist of lands purchased by the US government in places where a federal agency—the National Park Service—set out consciously to preserve a landscape, to protect a natural resource, to commemorate an historical event. This is far from the truth, even though some parks have been created in just this way. Parks are the product of a political process, and that process often gets its start from the dream of one person, or a small group of people, who put their minds, their energies, their time, and often their money into making a park happen.

Many people know the story of how John D. Rockefeller Jr. quietly bought up much of the ranching land in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, and then gave it to the National Park Service to form the glorious forefront to the present Grand Teton National Park. Fewer realize that large parts of the lands along the Blue Ridge Parkway or in Great Smoky Mountains National Park are the result of private gifts. Fewer still recognize that key collections at interpretive centers grew from timely donations of either money or

the collections themselves. Even fewer, perhaps, understand that the gift of time—of countless hours writing to members of Congress, helping to build shelters and maintain trails, organizing meetings of park supporters—is a significant act of philanthropy of untold value.

There should be a systematic study of the role of philanthropy for the parks. We should know more about why individual giving has declined, and how foundations and corporate bodies have contributed to the shape of the National Park System. We need to recognize more fully that while the parks belong to the people, they often are also the products of the people.

Is it foolish to imagine a meeting between the five richest individuals in the United States, each wealthy beyond the imagination, in which each pledges \$200 million to protect and preserve, to help set right, our decaying and underfunded National Park System? Philanthropy is built on dreams, of those who give and those who receive; of course, it is also built on tax codes and hard-headed judgements about the future. Surely, though, we can rediscover the importance of philanthropy to the health of the nation's National Parks and encourage, more systematically and imaginatively than we do now, private giving to support them. Indeed, what better choice could any philanthropist make than to invest in this intellectually rich and elegant embodiment of how our nation perceives and celebrates its goals, its achievements, and its natural and cultural heritage? ■

Robin W. Winks, chair of the history department at Yale University, writes on National Park history, among other subjects, and is at work on a study of The Rise (and Fall, and Rise Again?) of the National Park Ethic. Of the 376 National Park units, he has visited 375. He serves on the board of the National Parks and Conservation Association, the only non-governmental organization wholly devoted to the protection of National Parks.

On Philanthropy, Cultural Decadence, and Wild Nature

by Doug Tompkins

Editor's introduction:

Both in entrepreneurial and conservation circles, Doug Tompkins is something of a legendary figure. A high school drop-out and gifted alpinist whose devotion to climbing kept him mostly in the mountains, he founded, at the age of 22, an outdoor gear and clothing company called The North Face. He later sold that business, and with then-wife Susie Tompkins built a small clothing operation into a global retail powerhouse, Esprit de Corp.

Still spending much of his time climbing and kayaking in wild country around the world, Tompkins sold his half of Esprit in 1990 and plunged full-time into conservation work, endowing the Foundation for Deep Ecology and beginning to purchase wildlands in Chile. Through much of this decade, he and his spouse Kris McDivitt Tompkins, former CEO of Patagonia, Inc., have worked tirelessly to acquire more wild habitat and build a world-class nature reserve entirely through private means. With their 650,000 acre Parque Pumalín [see sidebar article] nearing completion, they signed an accord last year with the Chilean government that will eventually transfer ownership of their lands to the people of Chile to become that country's newest, and arguably most spectacular, National Park.

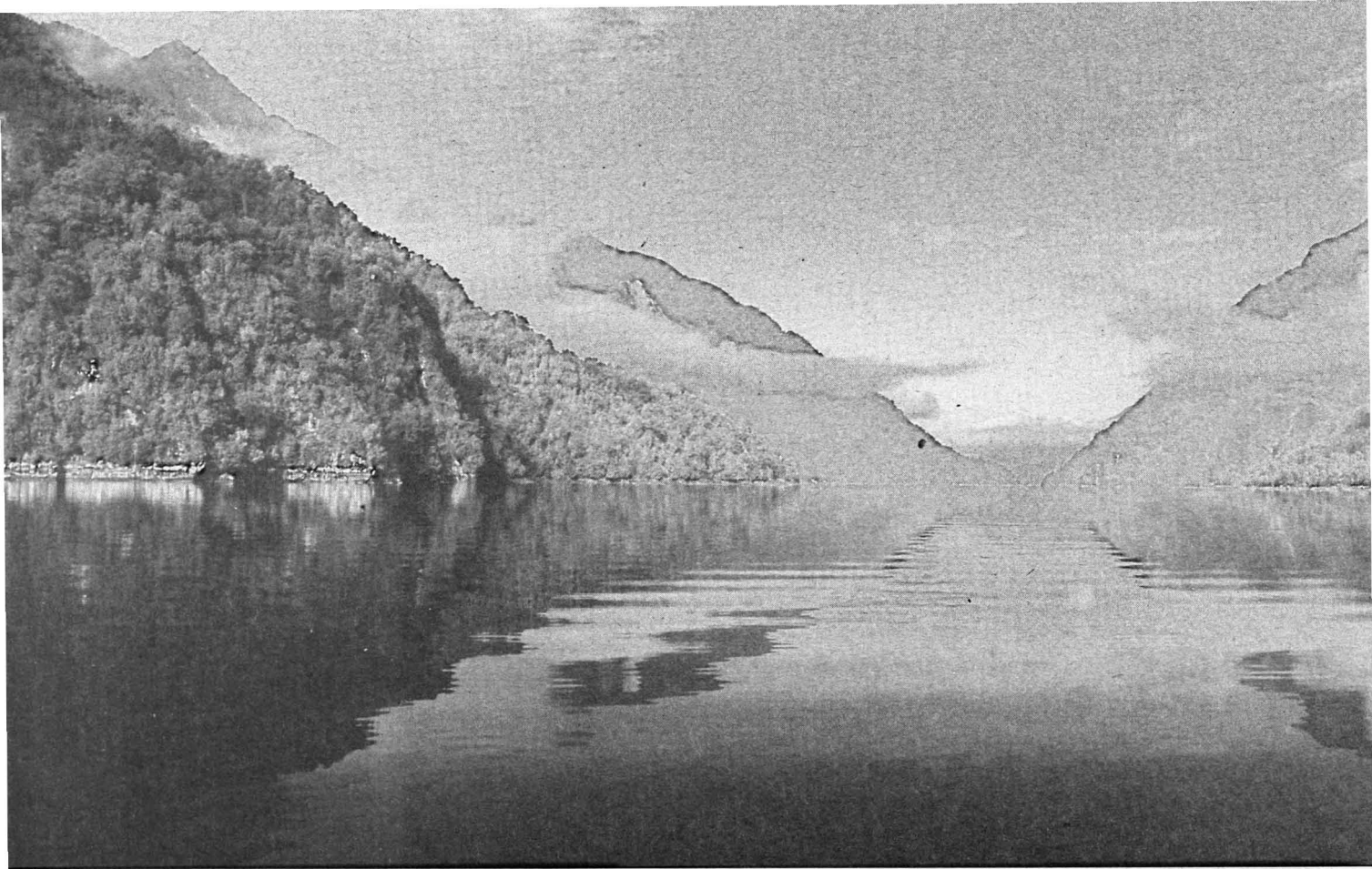
Unlike many philanthropists of his stature, Tompkins keeps a low profile in the media and is notoriously reticent to discuss his own accomplishments; he's also incredibly busy. After repeated pestering, Tompkins agreed to share his thoughts on the growing trend of conservation-minded individuals and foundations directly purchasing and protecting natural areas for ecological ends. —TB

It seems that there's now a name for that hopeful trend—Wildlands Philanthropy—a new name for a venerable but little appreciated tradition in American conservation history. That catchy moniker may well legitimize in the eyes of the philanthropic community the realm of charity sorely

needed today in the face of the ever-accelerating fragmentation and diminution of wild habitats (and even domesticated habitats), and attendant loss of biodiversity.

I am no authority on conservation history but recognize that in the last 125 years in North America there have been astonishing gestures on the part of private individuals and family trusts to buy and preserve wildlands, in tracts large and small, and endangered habitats. Conservation biologists tell us that these efforts are valuable, necessary, and never large enough. Leading thinkers, ecologists, activists, and our common sense tell us that this will be only one of the thousand fronts we must fight on if we wish to stem the rising tide of techno-industrial society that has already severely compromised wild Nature. The ruthless and pernicious superstition of progress, especially if the bio-technologists have their way, will all but eliminate wild Nature in the next century—the so-called “Century of Biology.”

Despite a non-activist stance, organizations such as The Nature Conservancy, The Trust for Public Land, and hundreds of local and regional land trusts have done wonders in drafting conservation easements and placing millions of acres under various forms of protection. The idea seems to be catching on. My staunchly conservative parents and their



friends have been coming around to ecological conservatism as well, and putting their farms and other land holdings into a wide array of conservation easements.

For persons who care to gauge this trend on the political spectrum, it's interesting to note that liberals have the poorest record of land philanthropy, a seemingly paradoxical fact. If one looks carefully, most of the credit for private land conservation initiatives goes to Republicans and right-wingers. Personally, I'm interested to see what Ross Perot will do to pay his rent for living on the planet—maybe a few million acres of Texas prairie for preservation?

The wildlands philanthropy bandwagon is beginning to pick up steam: The David and Lucile Packard Foundation is on the right track in California by helping save imperiled habitats; hopefully they will spend their huge budget well and use top conservation biologists and ecologists to delineate acquisition priorities. In the Northwest, Microsoft billionaire Paul Allen apparently has thrown his hat in the ring and is scouting the world far and wide for good buys on primary forests. He could be a big hero to future generations and leave a legacy like a Rockefeller if he doesn't get distracted by universities, hospitals, and other trivialities. Thousands upon thousands of other philanthropists are already funding arts, medical, and educational institutions; there needs to be at least one billionaire for wild Nature!

In this regard we can take our hats off to Ted Turner for his contributions to conservation and environmental activists. I hope he will play a leading role in shaping a true wildlands philanthropy movement, once he forgets about making a business out of bison ranching. (Sometimes it takes awhile to shake off that business-mindedness and get down to the real work!) He seems to be headed there, but someone needs to convince him that domesticating Argentine Guanacos in order to ranch them isn't a good idea. As a guiding principle, we need more wild animals, more wild lands, and less domestication. If anyone in his generation can go down as *the* giant wildlands philanthropist, it would be Ted Turner; he has the resources to do it, and the right basic instincts. His smartest move yet was hiring Peter Bahouth to run the Turner Foundation. If he'd hire Reed Noss and Dave Foreman as his wildlands consultants and let them help guide his program, we'd see something extraordinary happen.

It is worth mentioning just a few of the other less high profile characters in this re-emerging field:

- The Weeden Foundation, under the leadership of Alan Weeden, has helped purchase and protect roughly 200,000 acres of wild habitat, mostly in South America and Africa.



GLOBAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Pumalin Project in southern Chile is a spectacular example of what a few dedicated individuals can do on behalf of wildlands and wildlife. Encompassing and protecting more than 600,000 acres of temperate rainforest, snow-capped volcanoes, glaciers, rocky peaks, fractal fjords, and cascading streams, Pumalin Park (*Parque Pumalín*, in Spanish, meaning little puma park or puma kitten park) is the grandest privately protected preserve on Earth, comparable in size and splendor to Yosemite National Park. It is the biggest remaining stronghold for alerces (*Fitzroya cupressoides*)—conifer trees rivaling California's coast redwoods in size and bristlecone pines in age. Pumalin Park is also one of Chile's largest roadless areas, beginning where the Pan American highway from the north ends, and thus provides secure habitat for many South American species imperiled elsewhere. Harboring hundreds of thousands of acres of ancient forest, Pumalin Park is a huge carbon sink, of growing importance as deforestation and industrial emissions disrupt climates worldwide.

With its forests virtually impenetrable for upright-walking hominids and its terrain only coarsely mapped, Pumalin Park is perhaps the closest place to *terra incognita* in the mid-latitudes. Enter without a machete, and you may never leave.

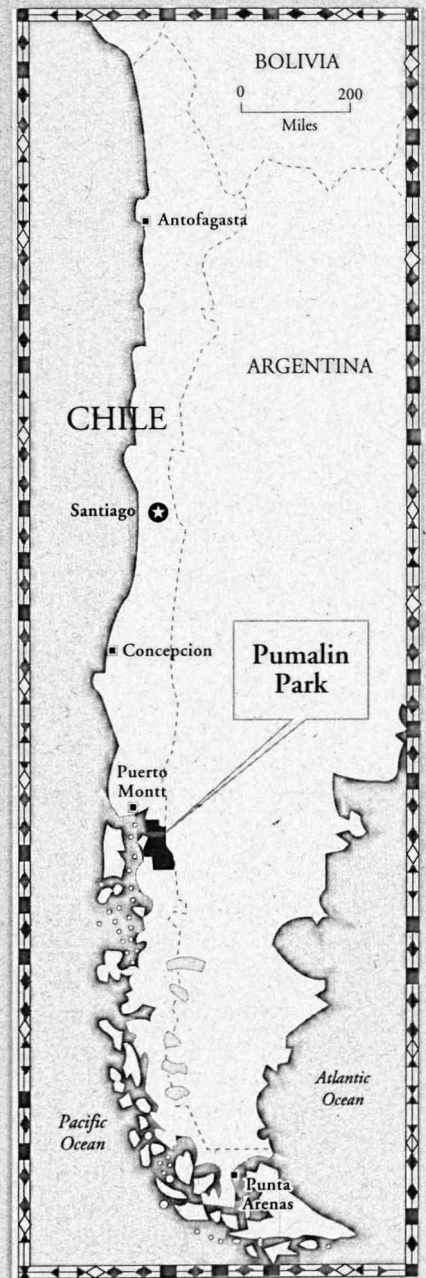
Pumalin Park serves as a keystone in an envisioned ecological reserve system reconnecting the ecological communities of Gondwanaland. Adjacent to Pumalin Park on the east, in Argentina, are Lago Puelo and Los Alerces National Parks and El Turbio Provincial Park. To the north lie privately owned but still partly intact forest lands in Chile and Nahuel Huapi National Park in Argentina. To the south are Corcovado and Tic Toc preserves and Queulat National Park, as well as other primary forest likely to go on the mar-

ket. To the west is the largest roadless area on Earth, the Pacific Ocean. When all these areas gain protection, the Southern Cone will be much nearer to providing adequate habitat for its full range of biodiversity.

Pumalin Park and its sister preserves to the south are also globally important as models of wildlands philanthropy. These wildlands were bought by several generous individuals—Doug and Kris Tompkins and Peter Buckley—for purposes of preservation, with the intent of making Pumalin a public park as soon as the Chilean government endorsed the project, which it has now done! Other lands protected through the largesse of these individuals include: Corcovado and Tic Toc, which total about 200,000 acres (80,000 hectares) of Valdivian rainforest and alpine terrain much like Pumalin; several small holdings around Chile's Magdalena National Park, essentially completing protection of Magdalena Island; and El Rincon, a 40,000-acre grassland preserve at the base of San Lorenzo (staring at its awesome, unclimbed 8000' south wall), intended for addition to Argentina's Perito Merino National Park. All of these protected areas should be parts of a Gondwana wildlands reserve system now being hatched by conservationists in the Southern Hemisphere. If other concerned citizens follow the lead of these wildlands philanthropists, or contribute in smaller ways to wildlands purchase and protection, many millions more acres can be kept *forever wild*, and wildlands proposals throughout the Western Hemisphere can begin to be implemented.

THREATS

Now that the Chilean government has endorsed the project and agreed to cooperate in establishing a Pumalin National Park, Pumalin is as secure as any forest in South America. Around the park, however, threats remain; and



map courtesy of El Bosque Pumalín Foundation

even two-thirds of a million is not acreage enough to fully buffer the park from outside forces of destruction. Major threats to southern Chile's biota include timber cutting and theft (cutting alerces was outlawed by the Chilean government years ago, but poaching is a problem in roaded areas), arson (burning the forests to create livestock pasture), road-building, dams, salmon aquaculture (which pollutes the waters and displaces native fish), shooting of sea lions, and invasion of exotic species (a major cause of species

extinctions worldwide, accelerating rapidly with global trade). Partial answers to all these problems are provided by protected areas—parks and wilderness areas—that are off-limits to industrial exploitation.

PUBLIC-PRIVATE COLLABORATION

Pumalin Park is also exemplary in its mode of protection. Public/private partnerships are increasingly common in conservation; but too often, the private part means compromising ecological ideals. With Pumalin, in contrast, private individuals took the lead and insisted on strict protection of the entire preserve as a condition for making it a public park. Indeed, without the leadership of several exceptionally generous wildlands philanthropists, Pumalin Park almost certainly would not have been established. Chile's government has not yet managed to adequately protect the country's forty or so existing National Parks, and government purchase of additional wildlands is not likely in the near term.

Parque Pumalín is one of the largest parks in the world protected through private philanthropy yet open to the public. The current owners plan to give oversight of the land to an independent board of conservationists and scientists with a mandate to keep the land forever wild. Small organic farms are being established adjacent to the park, to help buffer it from outside impacts and to provide sustainable livelihoods for local people, including park employees.

—John Davis

How you can help

Donations to El Bosque Pumalin Foundation (1555 Pacific Ave., San Francisco, CA 94109; 415-771-1102) will go toward endowing Pumalin Park for its perpetual protection. Letters to the Chilean government, thanking them for cooperating in the protection of Pumalin Park, stating your intention to visit Chile to experience its magnificent parks, and urging protection for as much of Chile's forests and waters as possible, will be helpful (President Frey, Palacio de la Moneda, Santiago, Chile).

- Peter Buckley, a Californian with a generous heart, has contributed millions of dollars to preserve large tracts of rainforest in Latin America.

- Charles Fitzgerald of Maine has bought thousands of acres of forestland for preservation and tirelessly fundraised to augment his own contributions.

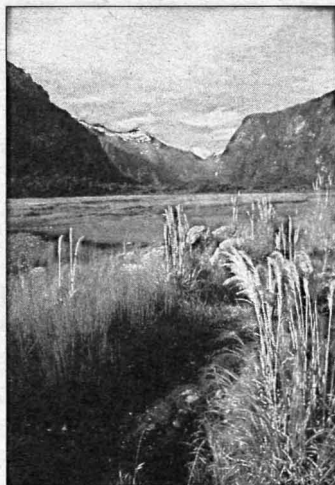
- Sweet Water Trust of Boston, a relative newcomer to the foundation world, is devoting all of its resources to wildlands philanthropy efforts, helping match threatened lands with conservation buyers in addition to kicking in seven figures of its own money annually to protect wild forests in New England [see "Just Buy It" on p. 28].



old-growth alerces, Pumalin Park



Time is short, extinction rates keep being revised upwards, the implications for Nature—and ultimately for human society—are downright disastrous.



So I see the growing interest among philanthropists in direct protection of natural areas as encouraging; however, the forces of the techno-industrial juggernaut are still growing at a rate that is absolutely frightening and discouraging. Time is short, extinction rates keep being revised upwards, the implications for Nature—and ultimately for human society—are downright disastrous. I for one don't welcome the infobots and cyberphiles of a virtual world, or share the vision of the bio-technophiles who wish to remake genetically our evolutionary destiny and engineer an entirely human-manipulated future. This is worse than the nightmare of Zamyatin's *We* and it is virtually (no pun intended) upon us.

At our foundation (the Foundation for Deep Ecology) we often despair over all the problems before us—species extinction, loss of primary forests, technology worship, blind faith in science, chronic anthropocentrism, genetic engineering, dams, trade pacts, mono-culturization, and so forth. We ask ourselves constantly: Is it possible or likely that we can have any effect in turning civilization (sic!) even just a tiny bit in the right direction toward true biological sustainability and a zero human-caused extinction rate? It sometimes seems practically hopeless. Yet what else can one do but keep fighting the assaults on wilderness and wildlife? Join the Nero Party and fiddle the night away with the happy new millionaires and new rich intent on indulging themselves with the trappings of success while our Earth burns? Despite the seemingly overwhelming odds, it just isn't possible to stand idly by. At least we can bear witness to the terrible tragedy brought about by one species against all the rest. As Peter Bahouth has said of his similar reflections: *It seems totally hopeless...but we could be wrong!*

Wildlands philanthropists can at least see something positive for their efforts essentially immediately—they can see a *particular place*, maybe a place they know and love, saved from destruction. And such efforts, if for no other reason than they may alleviate our own sorrows over the extinction crisis, give reason to feel hopeful. It may be a sorry excuse for socially righteous gestures to redress the ills of our culture, but that shows us truly how far we have fallen. Perhaps, human culture may someday, by chance or by force of disaster, come around to a new way of viewing the world in which abundance and diversity, love and compassion, equity and reverence for all life become the guiding principles of human society and evolution may flourish again; then our efforts in wildlands philanthropy will have been prescient and valuable. It seems like it's a smart enough and safe course, conservative and not irreversible. I hope this growth in wildlands philanthropy will increase—let's encourage it at every turn. ■

Wildlands Philanthropy

Private Wealth Protecting Public Values

by John Davis

In March of this year, conservationists cheered one of the most generous conservation gifts in history: The David & Lucile Packard Foundation pledged \$175 million over the next five years for the purchase and protection of undeveloped lands in California. Packard officials hope that this commitment to land acquisition and preservation in America's most populous state will encourage similar efforts elsewhere.

The gift comes none too soon. California has more listed Endangered and Threatened species than any other state except Hawaii (which is overrun with exotic species), and one of the highest human population growth rates in the United States. In California and most other states and regions, habitat destruction remains the leading cause of biodiversity losses—which losses are now estimated at 50–100 species extinctions each day worldwide. Exotic species invasions and anthropogenic climate change are growing global threats to biodiversity, but these factors only underscore the need for more and greater habitat protection. Topping the long list of the pressing needs of our time is the protection, in large interconnected blocks where possible, of *wild lands*—lands that may tangentially provide recreational and spiritual benefits to humans, but whose primary purpose is to help maintain ecological integrity and provide refuge for wildlife.

Among the surest ways to save wild habitat is for ecologically minded individuals, conservation groups, or public agencies to acquire land and use conservation easements or other legal restrictions to ensure its protection in perpetuity. Indeed, a growing number of us in the conservation community believe that the highest and best use of money is to buy and save land. Supporting the groups and individuals who fight insults to the natural world will remain a major part of the work of environmental grant-makers for the foreseeable future; but these days the most direct way to save land is to outright buy it.

In coming years, three organizing principles will guide more and more of the work of conservationists: North American Wilderness Recovery (The Wildlands Project), Forever Wild (full protection of public lands, with Zero Cut—the movement to end commercial logging of the National Forests—as a flagship campaign), and Wildlands Philanthropy (buying and preserving



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*wild lands...***

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PHILANTHROPY

While it's true that persons with many decimal places in their bank statements will be able to save more wild habitat than those of us of more modest means, let it be emphasized that wildlands philanthropy is not only for the rich. Growing numbers of private landowners are recognizing the importance of using their land, at least in part, to protect ecological values. Similarly, the tremendous growth of the land trust movement is evidence that more and more concerned citizens are expressing their love for their land and community by donating time, money, easements, or acreage to land trusts.

Though conservationists often warn that acquisition priorities must be carefully delineated if we are to establish a viable ecological reserve system before still more of this continent's biodiversity is forever lost, many of us also recognize that every surviving piece of natural habitat deserves to be saved and cherished. Ideally, conservation buyers will focus first on lands identified in ecological reserve designs as potential or actual core, corridor, or buffer zone wildlife habitat; but even the lands outside present ecological reserve designs deserve protection.

Every concerned citizen can do her or his part by contributing to land trusts (call the Land Trust Alliance at 202-638-4730 to find the land trust in your area or locate the resources to start one), wildland conservancies, The Nature Conservancy, The Trust for Public Land, The Conservation Fund, Open Space Institute, etc., or by individually buying as much land as can be afforded and bestowing upon it forever wild conservation easements. Of course, contributions may include time and energy instead of or in addition to money.

Turning opportunistic wildlands philanthropy into a concerted campaign to identify and preserve all undeveloped lands on the market will require considerable research, legal work, and negotiating, as well as money. Yes, acquiring lands leads to consideration of taxes, easements, and other matters normally reserved for lawyers and the like. Be undaunted; conservationists experienced in "doing deals" for land trusts and the like are ready to help you figure out how to guarantee permanent protection, minimize property taxes, convey lands to the public, or otherwise help you eliminate nuisances even while protecting the land. —*JD*



land). Most conservation activists and funders are already familiar with The Wildlands Project and Zero Cut; fewer have thought much about wildlands philanthropy.

This is ironic, given that North America has benefited spectacularly from a lineage of individuals, families, and businesses with the means and the courage to buy imperiled wildlands and ensure their permanent protection through conservation easements or transfer to public ownership. Among the many parks and refuges saved at least in part through wildlands philanthropy are Acadia National Park, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Baxter State Park, Adirondack State Park, Grand Teton National Park, Virgin Islands National Park, Redwood National Park, Muir Woods National Monument, and Humboldt Redwoods and Mt. Tamalpais State Parks, as well as countless tracts protected

After the Rain, Piseco Lake, Adirondacks by Bill Amadon



by local, regional, and national land trusts. Likewise, many of the parks and refuges in Central and South America have enjoyed the support of wildlands philanthropists.

Paradoxically, wildlands philanthropy can be seen as both a venerable tradition and an unappreciated blessing in the Americas. Very few people in the United States, for instance, recognize the great debt we owe to the families and individuals who have used their wealth and influence to protect our natural heritage. Millions of acres have been saved this century through the efforts of wildlands philanthropists. (Critics may charge that these philanthropists were spending ill-gotten money. To which may be responded: What money has not been made through exploitation; and once made, should not money be used for protection, rather than further despoliation, of the natural world?)

In recent years, the need and the opportunity have grown ever greater, as a few figures from the United States will illustrate. More than two-thirds of US land is owned by individuals or corporations. Very little of this at present enjoys any substantial protection, yet a significant percentage, probably about a billion of these two billion or so privately or corporately owned acres, remain largely undeveloped. In the northeastern US particularly, millions of acres are or soon will be for sale, at prices generally ranging from \$100 to \$500 an acre. As Northern Appalachian Restoration Project director Jamie Sayen often notes, most of Maine's North Woods could be secured, and made into a world-class National Park, for less than the price of two Stealth Bombers (which would be even worse buys if they actually worked). In the Adirondacks, nearly 400,000 acres are now on the market.

All these unprotected acres deserve permanent protection as wildlife habitat. Coincidentally, the United States now has nearly a million millionaires and 200 billionaires—all of whom could individually or collectively save huge areas of wild land. Such individuals, a century hence, would certainly be considered heroic figures in American history; their names would be as familiar to us as Carnegie, Rockefeller, Mellon...and their legacy of protected natural areas would be more enduring than any cultural edifice.

Total surplus wealth in the United States—wealth above and beyond what we need to maintain our already excessively high standards of living—is almost certainly more than enough to buy and permanently protect every imperiled acre in the US (and most any acre in the US not formally protected will in all probability face ecological degradation sooner or later). In case any forget the need, remember that the United States has lost more than 90% of its original forests, 99% of its tallgrass prairies, and half its wetlands. Well over 1000 species are currently listed as Threatened or Endangered in this country, and listed species represent only a small fraction of imperiled organisms. Similar opportunities and dangers present themselves in Canada and Mexico, and probably most other countries, too. Wildlands philanthropy is one major way to help stop industrial society's assault on Nature, and help stem the global extinction crisis.

Our challenge, then, is to use our own financial resources, and convince others to use their financial resources, to ensure that as much wildlife habitat as possible is in safe keeping. Grand role models are out there: the Rockefeller family leaving a monumental legacy that includes several of the aforementioned US parks, Doug and Kris Tompkins saving 800,000 acres in Chile and Argentina [see sidebar article on Pumalin Park, p. 16], Ted

Turner and Jane Fonda securing a million and a half acres in New Mexico and Montana, Sweet Water Trust protecting thousands of critical acres in New England and the Adirondacks, Charles Fitzgerald saving 10,000 acres of forest in central Maine, Drum Hadley guarding 350,000 acres and the richest range for mammals in the Southwest.... These good folks need company.

How might a coordinated wildlands philanthropy effort work? The Foundation for Deep Ecology (FDE) and *Wild Earth* see several possible directions: To begin, key players need to be brought together—wealthy conservationists, representatives of land-buying groups like The Nature Conservancy and land trusts, champions of particular imperiled wildlands, conservation lawyers, environmental grant-makers, and conservation biologists. These people may decide to form a Wildlands Philanthropy Council, which could function like a green real-estate firm or even an international conservancy, or may decide to communicate and cooperate informally. If an international conservancy (global commons conservancy?) is formed, it could function as a large pool of money used purely for buying and preserving land. Wildlands philanthropists could simply donate to the general pool or could earmark gifts for certain regions, or even for particular parcels of land, which could then be protected in their names. Perhaps conservationists will decide that we need only support and help

strengthen The Nature Conservancy's conservation land buyer program, which matches potential conservation buyers with available parcels of ecologically critical land, but is presently active only in the western US.

Meanwhile, FDE will compile success stories and spectacular photographs for a coffee-table book on wildlands philanthropy, for which we are seeking contributors [see sidebar]. Also in the meantime, wilderness benefactors already making conservation purchases should be writing, calling, and urging their fellow philanthropists to help protect wild Nature.

In sum, friends of wilderness and wildlife face both tremendous danger and tremendous opportunity. If we have not only the *generosity of spirit* that Dave Foreman speaks so eloquently of, but also the *generosity of wealth*, we can keep Forever Wild this continent's remaining natural areas and let them grow back into each other until North America is once again whole and healthy. ■

John Davis, a founding board member of The Wildlands Project and former editor of Wild Earth, now works to protect wildlands as Program Officer for Biodiversity and Wilderness at the Foundation for Deep Ecology in San Francisco.

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO WILDLANDS PHILANTHROPY BOOK

The Foundation for Deep Ecology (FDE) seeks contributions to a cappuccino-table book on wildlands philanthropy. This grand book—on the scale of FDE-produced *Clearcut: The Tragedy of Industrial Forestry* (edited by Bill Devall, 1993), but beautiful and inspirational, rather than shockingly ugly and infuriating—will use spectacular photos and text by conservation historians and ecologists to tell the stories of America's laudable tradition of private donors saving wild places. Stories will range from the local (a grandmother spending her life savings to save the woods nearby, schoolchildren collecting pennies to establish a local park, and the like) to the conscientious wealthy Americans buying land in South America to preserve it, for example, with each reinforcing the message that wildlands philanthropy has already saved huge amounts of wildlife habitat and can save much more in the future.

FDE invites submissions of photos and information about places saved by private donors, land trusts, and public/private partnerships. We are also accepting applications for the job of project coordinator, to oversee production of the book.

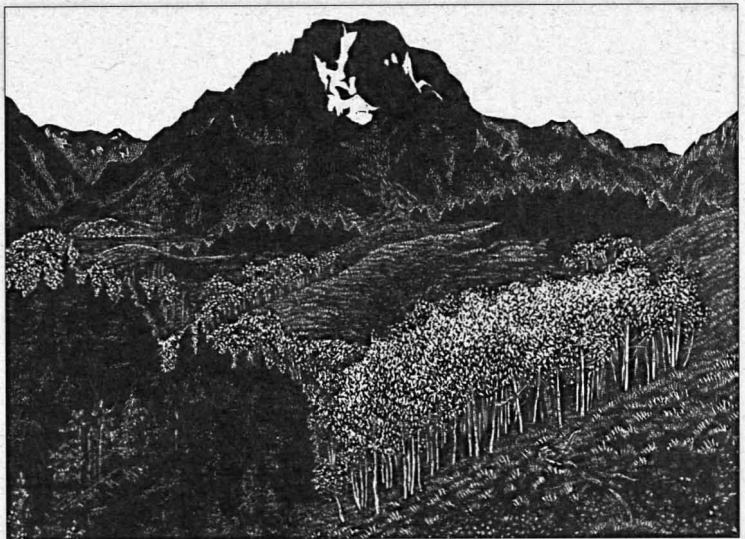
We urge all who have wildlands philanthropy stories to share, or who know of lands where wildlands philanthropists are needed now, to contact us soon.

The book will also point to regions where land is particularly cheap and relatively wild—such as the Great Plains, Northern Forests, and remote Sky Islands of the Southwest—so as to give potential wildlands philanthropists clear ideas on where they may want to invest their conservation dollars. Thus, we are also seeking information on available lands and typical prices from each region.

Please write (no phone calls, please) to: John Davis, Biodiversity Program Officer, Foundation for Deep Ecology, 1555 Pacific Ave., San Francisco, CA 94109.

Author's introduction:

While working on a book about the rise of the National Park ethic, I came to understand how important the role of private philanthropy has been in the development of America's 376-unit National Park System, surely the most extensive, complex, and intellectually elegant systemic laying out of the idea of National Parks in any nation in the world. Private philanthropy was basic to the creation and expansion of our natural parks until roughly 1970 and then, except for a few individuals like Laurance S. Rockefeller, virtually disappeared from the scene. One can only hope private acts of support for the National Park System will again become important as we move into the next millennium. Aware of the significance of private philanthropy, and that few people understood that significance, I wrote a biography* of the person often called Mr. Conservation as a case study in effective giving on behalf of parks, conservation, and outdoor recreation. —RWW



The Rockefellers and National Parks

No family is likely to match the collective Rockefeller contribution to the nation's National Parks. Four generations have contributed money, time, the brokering of contacts, the sponsoring of studies, of scientific and historical research, and thoughtful concern to the parks. John D. Rockefeller Jr. gave more than any other Rockefeller, for he was, as it were, in at the creation, already helping to shape Lafayette [later Acadia] National Park even before there was a National Park System and...initiator of the growth of Grand Teton National Park from 1926 until his death. All of his sons would play some role in the development of the National Parks, but only Laurance followed directly in JDR Jr.'s footsteps, in helping to expand older parks, creating entirely new ones, and proposing parks that in the end got away, at least for now.

JDR Jr. was "the most generous philanthropist in the history of conservation," and he focused his contributions on the National Parks as Andrew Carnegie had focused his on libraries, certain that an expanding National Park System would be of great benefit to the nation. He was not much interested in abstract studies of just what these benefits might be, especially in quantifiable terms—such an interest would have to wait for the alliance between conservation and science that produced the environmental movement—because, as he said, he had "an eye for nature" and believed that anyone who did so was a kindred spirit. Critics of JDR Jr. have pointed out, rightly, that his love of Nature was somewhat distant—watching sunsets from his home, journeying into the great National Parks by private railway car and powerful automobile, and walking in well-maintained woods. His was a patrician approach to conservation at a time when there were neither extensive advocacy organizations nor many defenders of wilderness for its own sake....His first major gift to conservation, \$17,500 (a large sum at the time), was to the proposed [Acadia] National Park in 1915; the next year he presented the park with 2700 acres....When JDR Jr. gave his final gift to Acadia, 3825 acres in 1935, he had...provided a major land base for the National Park we know today—only George B. Dorr's original gift was more significant in this regard....

by Robin W. Winks

*This article is excerpted from Robin Winks's book *Laurance S. Rockefeller: Catalyst for Conservation* (Washington, DC: Island Press; 1997; 1-800-828-1302) with kind permission of the publisher.

JDR Jr. was instrumental in the creation of Grand Teton National Park by acquiring over 30,000 acres and spending a million and a half dollars between 1926 and 1933. In 1943 he virtually required the federal government to take the lands he had purchased in Jackson Hole and add them to the park, which was established in 1929, or lose the land entirely: if the government did not act, he told Franklin D. Roosevelt's secretary of the interior, Harold Ickes, he would sell the land to private purchasers. It was this threat that led Ickes to advise Roosevelt to use the Antiquities Act to create a National Monument. When he closed out his gifts to the National Park Service in 1949—Laurance S. Rockefeller delivering the deeds to the land personally to Oscar Chapman, the secretary of the interior, on behalf of his father—JDR Jr. had accounted for the most crucial portions of the expanded Grand Teton park. Later Laurance Rockefeller, who had watched this process from the beginning, responded to a ques-

Albright, most notably an examination in 1924 of the possibility of a National Park in the southern Appalachians—the first step toward the creation of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in North Carolina and Tennessee ten years later....Early in 1928, through the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial Foundation, JDR Jr. provided \$5 million to match appropriations by Tennessee and North Carolina, making possible the purchase of 6600 separate parcels of land to promote his dual agendas—the creation of a “conservation landscape” and the promotion of recreational tourism to lift the region's standard of living. With the development of the environmental movement in the 1960s, so naked a linkage of the two agendas would be less palatable to both the conservation and the business communities, but in the 1930s precisely this linkage best represented the prevailing National Park ethic.

In time the nation would have a continuous National Park, celebrating and protecting Appalachian landscape



Like his father before him, Laurance Rockefeller focused on matching grants, on precipitat

tioner who implied that his father was bluffing when he threatened to sell the land that he thought so too. Whatever JDR Jr.'s actual intent was, his threat worked, and he had put his imprint deeply on a second major National Park....



These three projects—Acadia, Grand Teton, and [the extensive historical reconstruction work he supported at] Colonial Williamsburg—were JDR Jr.'s best known initiatives in conservation and historic preservation, but there were many others of significance. He helped defray the costs of various park-related study commissions proposed by Horace

and culture, running from the Shenandoah ridges of Virginia via the Black Mountains of North Carolina to the Smokies, connected by a parkway that offered numerous smaller National Park properties for the pleasure and edification of the traveler. JDR Jr. was instrumental in the birth of this remarkable continuity of parklands. He provided \$5 million on a matching basis to create the Shenandoah National Park in Virginia in much the same way he had supported the Great Smoky Mountains proposal, and the new park became a reality in 1935. In the same year Congress voted the initial funds to build the Blue Ridge Parkway along

the crest of the mountain ranges to connect the two National Parks, with construction beginning in North Carolina southward from the Virginia border. The Parkway was built in fits and starts over the next fifty years, passing down the backbone of the mountains amidst landscaped splendor from which only rarely can one glimpse the workaday world of commerce, 469 miles park to park. Perhaps the most beautiful stop along the highway is at Linville Falls and Gorge, which is reached by a short walk in the woods. This site, threatened by development, was purchased for the National Park Service as a combined recreational and wilderness area by JDR Jr. in 1951.

There were dozens of smaller projects. JDR Jr. paid for a study center at Crater Lake National Park; for the purchase of a key grove of redwoods in California with the intent that one day it would become part of a National Park; \$1.65 million for a stand of yellow and sugar pine at Yosemite; and a large grant for the development of the Museum of Anthropology in Santa Fe...and for excavations conducted by the School of American Research, also in Santa Fe, which led to the creation

of new archaeological units of the National Park System in New Mexico and Arizona....In 1954, when eighty years old, JDR Jr. provided \$1 million so that the South Calaveras Grove of sequoias could be added to the North Calaveras State Park in California, a resource once considered for inclusion in the National Park System, making possible the present Calaveras Big Trees Park. In 1959, the year before his death, he would try to jump-start a Tallgrass Prairie National Park near Manhattan, Kansas, with a gift of \$20,000, acting on a recommendation of the National Park System Advisory Board. (Such a park would not be achieved, without Rockefeller assistance and further south in the Flint Hills, until 1996.)...

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Seldom has the adage, "Like father like son," applied so directly. Laurance S. Rockefeller took up the work his father had begun while in his twenties and continued it long after his father's death in 1960....He kept a watchful eye on developments at Grand Teton, he created a National Park in the Virgin Islands, and he added substantially to Haleakala [National Park]. He would make signal contributions to historical preservation and interpretation, provide the nation with [Marsh-Billings] National Historical Park, fund dozens of studies, help to underwrite major National Park conferences, and advocate the creation of great new National Park units in California and New York.

LSR's first independent initiative was at Grand Teton National Park, where he was moving forward with his first hotel. As he worked on his plan for a three-tier approach to accommodations, he asked himself, what ought to be done to convince the residents of Jackson Hole and businessmen who had opposed his father's purchase of land and the federal government's

tion, on being a catalyst...



Twin Owls, Rocky Mountain National Park by *Evan Cantor*

takeover of that land, that the park was not harmful to them economically, especially in terms of land taken from the local tax base? He concluded that something must be paid in lieu of property taxes, and in 1945 he asked a trustee of Jackson Hole Preserve, Inc., Leslie Miller, who had been governor of Wyoming from 1933–1939, to undertake a study of Jackson Hole's economy from 1929, the first inquiry of its kind. Thereafter LSR would propose some *quid pro quo* to set against lost property taxes in all the parks to which he contributed in order to make a park proposal more palatable locally and more feasible politically.

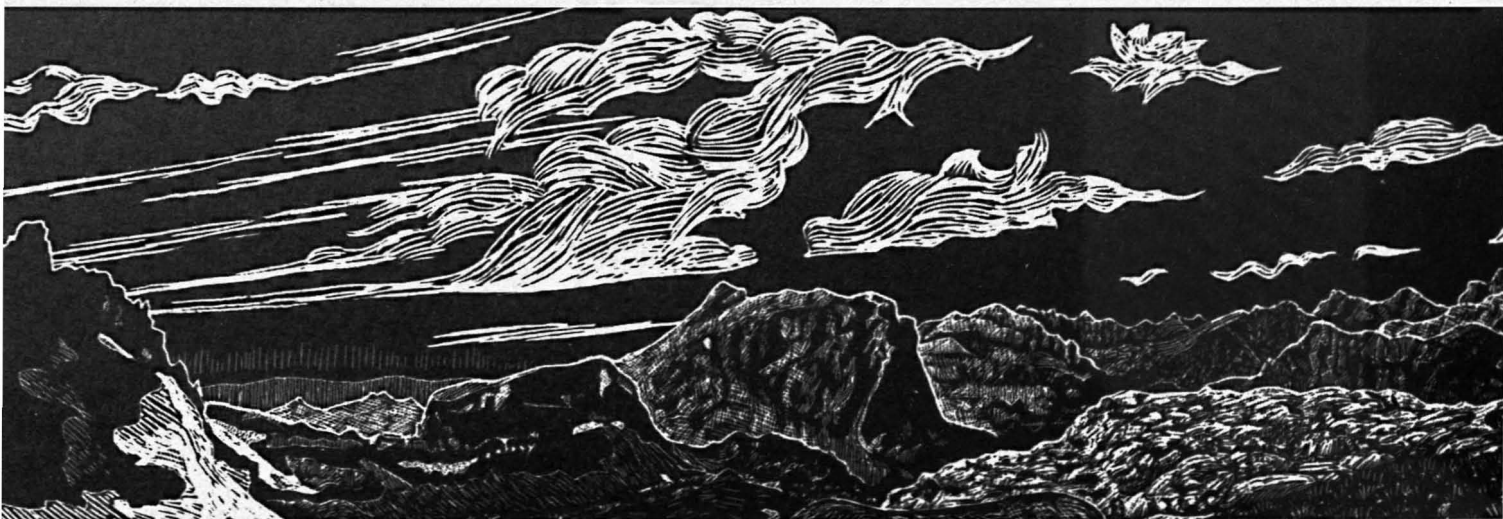
Miller's report provided plenty of data to support LSR's belief that parks were "good business." Jackson's population had trebled, adding to the tax base; the county's only bank had expanded tenfold; town lots had increased 500% in taxable value; the number of cattle had actually increased. Rockefeller investment in infrastructure and the resulting increase in the number of tourists had far offset any loss in the tax base. National Parks, LSR concluded, not only helped to protect places of great beauty, they also spurred the local economy.

Of course, this conclusion posed a dilemma, for many conservationists did not want to see an increase in infrastructure, a doubling in the number of tourists, or evidence that parks could be made to pay. The problem, as they saw it, had changed little from the time when JDR Jr. had helped forge an alliance for the Great Smoky Mountains. Nonetheless, LSR was convinced by Miller's study and by his subsequent experience with Grand Teton National Park that the majority of people would not support conservation goals if they saw the achievement of those goals solely in terms of expense and that there would have to be offsetting economic gains.

This conviction influenced Rockefeller's approach to National Park issues where he had no economic interest of his own. He would play a key role in the creation of a National Park in the redwoods country of California, with mixed success, and he would fail to achieve the creation of a National Park in the Adirondack Mountains of New York (though he may well have accomplished what he actually hoped to despite the appearance of defeat). In California he did not get the National Park he wanted or believed the resource warranted and

the nation needed, and the park he got was much less than many park advocates had wished to settle for. As a result, a number of players in the game, and most particularly the Sierra Club, were unhappy with him for the compromise, to which he was instrumental, by which Redwood National Park was created in 1968. Other players, and especially the Save-the-Redwoods League, were publicly content with the National Park that emerged, hoping that additions could be made in the future, a hope partially dashed by post-park harvesting of timber by aggressive companies. By the 1970s, therefore, LSR had tempered his support for balancing the two horns of the park dilemma, though he never gave up his belief that any new National Park must involve some element of demonstrable economic reality.

This belief would lay Rockefeller open to the criticism that he enhanced or created National Parks near his environmentally sensitive hotels in order to have a major attraction nearby that was most likely to appeal to the kind of clientele he wanted to attract. There was some truth in the observation, though this practice was openly illustrative of his belief that



conservation and use were compatible. However, except at Grand Teton, where he took over his father's initiatives, he never built a commercial enterprise within a National Park, so that use occurred outside the park, in a controlled manner that minimized impact on the resources of the park itself and that brought to the park an appreciative and often knowledgeable constituency. In this way he went well beyond his father, using his expertise in venture capital to promote multiple use within a region while reserving to National Park lands the goals of passive recreation, education, and preservation....

○

Throughout his life LSR would provide...catalytic gifts, often as his father had done, on a matching basis, to prime a pump, so that others would become part of the support system too. Through the foundations he established or aided, such as the American Conservation Association, the Woodstock Foundation, or the National Park Foundation (launched in 1968 with a gift of a million dollars in seed money); through the boards he chaired or held closely—Jackson Hole Preserve, Inc., Rockresorts, Rockefeller Center, the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, the Palisades Interstate Park Commission—

he was able to supply the key gift to promote a needed study, report, or monograph on literally hundreds of projects. In doing so he was cautious, generally nondirective, happy with whatever might be learned, concerned that the delicate balance of human relations, scientific objectivity, historical accuracy, and financial prudence be kept intact....

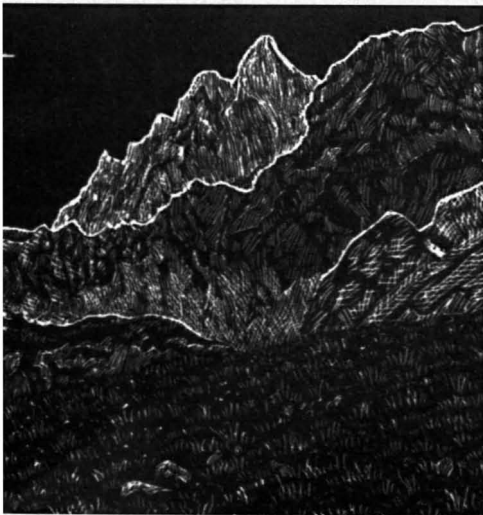
Like his father before him, Laurance Rockefeller focused on matching grants, on precipitating action, on being a catalyst; he seldom met the full cost of any undertaking, for he was convinced that a broad spectrum of support best assured success and continuity for a project. He knew that if he alone stood behind a major undertaking, he could easily be accused of throwing his weight around. He understood that a reputation for handing out packets of money to meet the total costs of an enterprise, however deserving it might be, would create a network of dependencies rather than a network of innovation and energy. The Marsh-Billings project was to some extent an exception to this, though he made it clear that the National Park Service was to contribute financially; more typical of his way of operating were his several purchases of land for the Virgin Islands National Park, his personal interventions in the proposed redwood park, and his galvanizing proposal for an Adirondack National Park....

There were commentators who believed that LSR most probably would have done far more for the National Park Service had he been asked to do so....

Indeed, Laurance Rockefeller had done far more than most people in or out of the National Park Service actually knew. Either by direct gift, or through Jackson Hole Preserve, Inc., the Rockefellers had provided funds to purchase additional land in Big

Bend, Glacier, Grand Canyon, Lassen Volcanic, Olympic, Rocky Mountain, and Yosemite National Parks, at Antietam, Big Hole, and Fort Donelson National Battlefields, and at Capulin Mountain National Monument; had helped to fund the Yavapai Museum at the Grand Canyon; had purchased land to buttress Ford's Theatre National Historic Site; had underwritten many of the costs of the National Parks Centennial Conference in 1972 and the Second World Conference on National Parks; and had quietly provided George Hartzog with the money to fund research and publish several reports. LSR had intervened directly when his brother Winthrop was governor of Arkansas, asking him to reconsider his support for a dam on the Buffalo River, when it was to become a National Scenic River, and (often through the National Park Foundation) had assisted in a variety of other ways. When, in 1970, [National Park Service] Director Hartzog proposed to place some kind of commemorative plaque at ten of the National Parks to draw public attention to the Rockefeller contributions over the generations, LSR suggested that something more private might be done, and in the end the director sent him a series of photographic albums of each of the parks. ■

Robin W. Winks is Randolph W. Townsend Jr. Professor of History at Yale University and chair of the National Parks Advisory Board. He is author of seventeen books, including the Pulitzer Prize-nominated Cloak and Gown: Scholars in the Secret War, Frederick Billings: A Life, and Laurance S. Rockefeller: Catalyst for Conservation, from which this article is adapted.



Just

Buy

Sweet Water Trust saves wildlands in New England

It

by *Emily Bateson*
and
Nancy Smith

Out of the wooded swamp, hip boots filled with water, we move with caution into the open. On a floating bog mat, pitcher plants and dwarf trees quaver with every step we take. (Just how deep is the water under here, anyway? Answer: deep.) Another day, we trek through a small patch of old growth. Damp and bouldery, with mounds of gnarly roots and slick fallen trees, the going is as tough as the quaking bog had been. Some weeks later, on a hilltop, we bask on smooth weathered rock. We lounge for awhile in the sun, surrounded by delicate mosses and wind-dwarfed pitch pines.

From out of the clench of New England winter, spring breaks out in profusion. And so do we. Away from the din of computers and traffic at Sweet Water Trust's Boston office, we bushwhack, paddle, and muck our way through potential conservation sites from Maine coastal islands to the Adirondack wilds in the company of dedicated ecologists, landowners, and local conservationists.



Pool in the Woods (1875) by Francis Hopkinson Smith

Before these trips are over, we have usually struck a pact for wilderness: Sweet Water Trust will fund a portion of the acquisition, and the grantee will keep the land wild, protecting it—forever—from timbering, mining, gravel extraction, or other activities that would rob it of its ecological wealth.

Sweet Water Trust (SWT), a charitable foundation that disburses grants of over \$1 million annually for land acquisition, is notable for its clear focus: *We are dedicated to the conservation of wild Nature.* To qualify for SWT assistance, a project must conserve a wild area of at least 2000 acres (recently upped from a minimum of 1000 acres). In the past five years we have protected, through 60 highly leveraged grants and outright acquisition, more than 36,000 acres of “forever wild” forests, mountains, wetlands, lakeshores, and coastlines, thereby expanding or connecting roughly 750,000 acres of existing public and private conservation lands.¹

While we are proud of this effort, we realize it is not enough. Not nearly enough.

Species and natural communities are vanishing at an alarming and unprecedented rate. Research from scientists studying island biogeography suggests that existing parks, refuges, and “postage stamp” preserves will not ensure a healthy, functioning natural world.

It is clear that a fundamental shift in land protection priorities must occur, with ecological values becoming our preeminent focus. And, we need to think much, much bigger if we are going to restore and protect adequate habitat for all native species in our region and on our planet. As Dr. Reed Noss has said, if we are going to halt a mass extinction, we must think on a truly grand scale.²

And there are tremendous opportunities to purchase and protect wildlands on such a grand scale right now in the Northern Forest region of New England and New York. Champion International, SAPPI, and International Paper are placing more than a million acres on the auction block *this year.* These vast lands are cheap, unpeopled, essential for restoring wilderness, and *for sale.*

Northern New England is 90–95% private land. With 10 million acres owned by a forest products industry that is bailing out of the region, and southern New England development pressures gobbling up land, the alternative to conservation is the end of New England as we know it. Once this narrow window of opportunity closes, the chance to save the region's wildlands at this scale and price will be gone. Conservationists—and philanthropists—are now faced with an unprecedented opportunity to protect the Northern Forest.

WHY PROTECT BIODIVERSITY* AND WILDLANDS?

The following principles help guide Sweet Water Trust's ecological compass:

*We are in a period of ecological crisis
and mass extinction.*

The human population is now six billion and growing, and our species has rendered the world into pieces, plummeting many native species and natural communities into precarious decline. E.O. Wilson and others state that the habitat loss and fragmentation resulting from human activity has initiated the sixth great extinction crisis in Earth history (and the first caused by one species out of balance). Considering that evolution took 20 to 30 million years to repair the damage following the previous contractions in the diversity of life, Wilson cautions: “These figures should give pause to anyone who believes that what *Homo sapiens* destroys, Nature will redeem.”³

Ignorance is not ecological bliss.

The new field of conservation biology has grown quickly in the past 15 years, revealing provocative ecological insights, as well as highlighting just how little we actually know about the natural world. Scientists are merely beginning to understand the interrelated complexities of biodiversity and ecosystem function, and uncertainties remain about such critical questions as when a degraded ecosystem will collapse. E.O. Wilson has written: “Because scientists have yet to put names on most kinds of organisms, and because they entertain only the vaguest idea of how ecosystems work, it is reckless to suppose that biodiversity can be diminished indefinitely without threatening humanity itself.”⁴

*Protecting large expanses of undisturbed habitat
is a pivotal component of biodiversity protection.*

The scientific literature is clear: “Maintaining wild areas in their natural condition is key to maintaining their ecological integrity.”⁵ In part because of what we don't yet know, and in part because of what we do, study after study concludes that large blocks of strategic and linked wildlands must be protected in a natural state, in a broader landscape of well-managed buffer lands. In this region, protection efforts will be more effective and less costly if they occur before northern New England is further fragmented by industrial logging, road-building, and development.

*As common as it has become, we are still surprised that so many people misunderstand the word “biodiversity,” equating it with the sheer volume of *species* in a given area. As commonly defined by conservation biologists, biodiversity is simply the variety of life on Earth, from the genetic to the landscape level of organization, and the natural processes that create and shape that diversity.

Improved management of manipulated lands is not a substitute for wildlands protection.

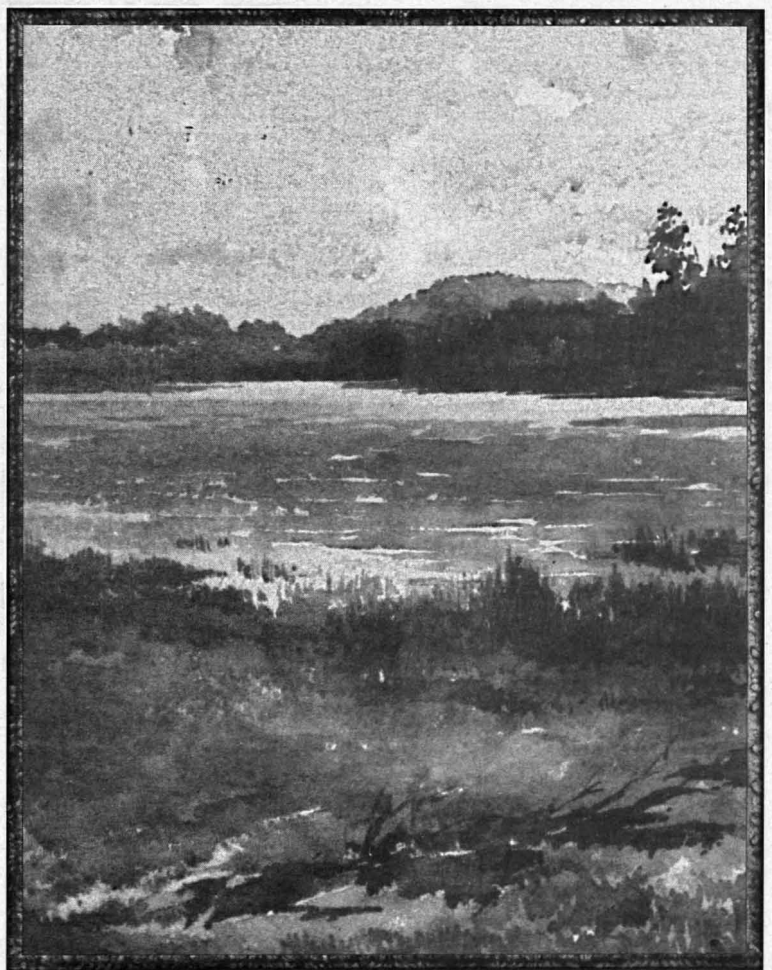
Improving timber harvesting and other practices that mitigate our current impact on managed lands are pieces to the biodiversity puzzle, but by themselves are not the solution to protecting native biodiversity. “[Sustainable use] will almost always lower biological diversity, whether one considers individual species or entire biological communities, and if sustainable use is our only goal, our world will be the poorer for it.”⁶ “In most regions we should pursue both options in tandem. We need more and bigger reserves and more ecologically sensitive management of other lands.”⁷

In New England, where 90–95% of the land is in private hands, conservationists understandably are working to improve forestry practices and to conserve timberland (in part to counter development threats). However, some conservationists seem to view better forest management as an alternative, rather than a complement, to reserves as a conservation strategy. The critical need for wilderness and ecological reserves must not be lost in the “working forest” shuffle.

Wildlands have multiple values.

Wildlands also provide innumerable benefits to humans, some of which we are only beginning to understand. They provide ecosystem services, such as creating our soil, cleaning our air, filtering our water, absorbing flood waters, and cycling nutrients, among other critical functions that would be either impossible or astronomically expensive to duplicate. A recent article by economists and ecologists estimated these global ecosystem services and natural capital at \$33 trillion per year.⁸ Protecting natural areas is beginning to look like the ultimate capital investment.

While these rational principles resolutely point the way to the preservation of wilderness, it is usually the heart that compels us to act. While it is not in vogue to speak emotionally about land protection, nevertheless, this is what prompts most land conservationists with whom we have worked. Remembering with quickened spirit the wild creatures we have encountered in an untrammelled landscape, we want our children to witness the wild in their futures, too. Compassion urges us to protect wildlife. Conservation science helps us find the way.



**WHY PROTECT WILD NATURE
IN NEW ENGLAND?**

Although tropical rainforests, with their sheer abundance of diversity, have garnered the most ecological limelight, scientists are increasingly focused on the need not just to protect a few remote islands of biodiversity but also to weave ecosystem protection throughout all regions of the globe.⁹

Northern New England and New York’s “Northern Forest” represents the largest remaining contiguous forest in the East, with pristine lakes, scenic rivers, soaring mountains, and diverse native plant and animal species. Forest is the natural vegetative cover for virtually all uplands and most wetlands in the region, and a high percentage of our native plants and animals are forest organisms; forest ecosystems harbor roughly half of our rare native plant species.¹⁰

At least 400 species of birds, 55 species of mammals, 11 species of reptiles, and 19 species of amphibians are found in the Northern Forest. Twenty-five species of vertebrates are unique to the area. The region is a key part of the Atlantic flyway for migratory waterfowl moving between Canada and the South, and for a number of forest-dwelling birds that spend their winters in tropical forests and breed during the summer in the Northern Forest.¹¹

Ecological interrelationships are poorly documented and understood. Groups such as non-vascular plants, fungi, insects, and soil microbes are critical to the fabric of regional biodiversity but in ways that remain all but unknown. Some organisms, like the mycorrhizal fungi, now known to be vitally important to the growth and development of trees and other plants, are not even well-sorted taxonomically.¹²

This lack of scientific knowledge demands environmental prudence. Evidence continues to mount that escalating forest fragmentation from timber harvesting and development relates directly to loss of native species diversity, and seems to encourage hardy, parasitic, and omnivorous species that thrive at the expense of less-adaptable ones.¹³ Shy or more sensitive organisms, including interior forest-nesting birds, and mammals such as lynx, bobcat, black bear, and wolverine require large, natural habitats to maintain viable populations.

Conservation biologists grappling with the question of how much undisturbed land should be protected generally agree that bigger is better, connectivity to other protected lands is essential, and protected areas should be wide and rounded rather than narrow and jagged to reduce edge effects.¹⁴

Scientists also warn against flirting with how far we can push our ecosystems before they collapse. "Records of stressed ecosystems also demonstrate that the descent can be unpredictably abrupt....The loss of a keystone species is like a drill accidentally striking a powerline. It causes lights to go out all over the place."¹⁵

The natural heritage of the region is also the living context of the millions of people who call this place home. Clear night skies, pure drinking water, the fragrance and sounds of the deep woods—this natural place—is of huge, if unquantifiable, value to people living here. We share the experience of this place with wild creatures. Aldo Leopold has written:

Like winds and sunsets, wild things were taken for granted until progress began to do away with them. Now we face the question of whether a still higher "standard of living" is worth its costs in things natural, wild, and free....The opportunity to see geese is more important than television, and the chance to see a pasque flower is a right as inalienable as free speech.

Etched on the landscape are traces of human history, of native peoples and European settlers who hunted, homesteaded, lived, loved, fought battles for freedom and land, and died here. With the increasing consumption of land today, these tangible traces of history will disappear too if we don't act swiftly, with only the work of Thoreau or Winslow Homer to give us a glimpse of what once was.

THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UNDERFUNDED Opportunities for Wildlands Conservation

The bad news: Only five percent of New England is public land (and much of that is logged by state or federal agencies for revenue). The future of 95% of the habitat, and much of the biodiversity, is currently up for grabs.

A remarkable ten million acres of northern New England and New York is owned in large tracts by the forest products industry. Unfortunately, the shifting economics of the global economy have taken a serious toll on these vast woods. The industry has systematically increased cutting to keep profits high; clearcutting and herbicide spraying are common management practices.

Timber companies are increasingly trading hands and jettisoning their timberlands to maximize return to stockholders. Vast acreages are going up for sale to the highest bidder. In 1988, Diamond Occidental put 790,000 acres on the auction block, resulting in sales to over 200 new landowners, some of whom liquidated all standing timber to pay off mortgages.¹⁶ The largest landholding in Maine, formerly owned by Great Northern Paper, has changed hands three times in the past few years. As of this writing, Champion International is poised to place 331,000 acres on the open market.

There are limited conservation funds available to take advantage of these major land sales. Forest protection efforts, thwarted by lack of funds or knowledge, have too often focused only on protecting the stuff that no one else wants. We have numerous protected bald mountain tops in New England. And lots of protected boggy open areas. Although alpine zones and wetlands are ecologically important, it is time to move beyond this haphazard "peaks and puddles" conservation approach and work toward comprehensive ecological protection.

The good news: The paradox is that the bad news is also the good news. Despite the ominous economic and ecological trends, industrial forest ownership in the region historically has acted as a serious check to housing development in northern New England. For a long time, the industry has provided a semblance of *de facto*, "multiple use" parks for the most populated region in the country.¹⁷

Today, these lands are increasingly valuable for recreation, generating more than \$1.5 billion each year for the regional economy.¹⁸ As FOR SALE and NO TRESPASSING signs sprout up throughout the region, ecologists, wilderness lovers, hunters, anglers, and recreationists are beginning to realize that something must be done. The land we have long treated as a public resource clearly is neither public nor protected.

HISTORIC EXAMPLES OF WILDLANDS PHILANTHROPY

For more than a century, individuals have led the fight to designate National Parks and Wilderness Areas on lands that otherwise might have been degraded by roads, parking lots, housing developments, malls. These protected lands stand as perhaps the nation's greatest philanthropic legacy. For example, Acadia National Park, Grand Teton National Park, Virgin Islands National Park, and others were created largely through the vision and largesse of the Rockefeller family, most notably John D. Rockefeller Jr. and his son Laurance Rockefeller.

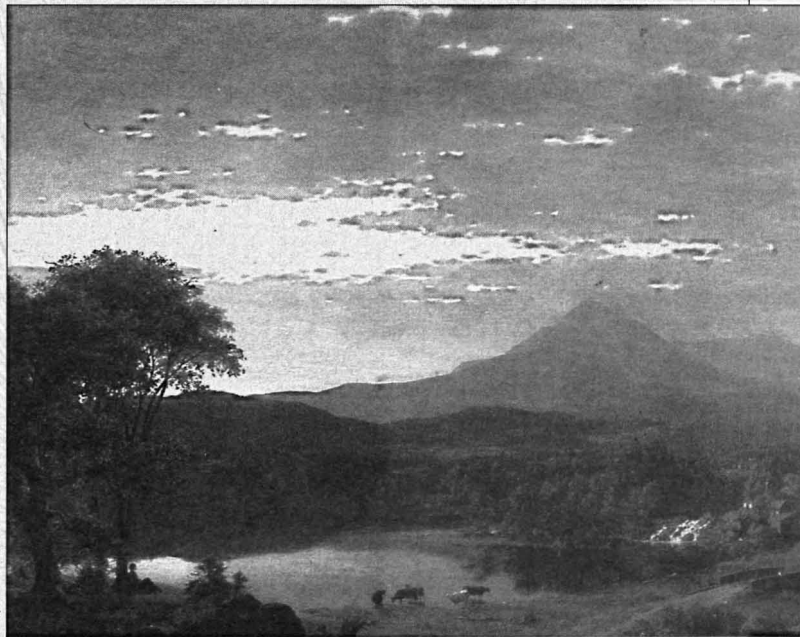
Today there is more money in America than ever, with tens of thousands of individuals who could make an extraordinary difference by investing in land protection—who could use their wealth to leave an enduring legacy of wildlands.

Here in New England, donors have often stepped forward to place important tracts of land into conservation with tangible and enduring results. The burgeoning land trust movement owes much of its growth and vigor to such gifts. A few examples:

- In 1974, Mine Crane gave the Crane Wildlife Refuge in Essex Bay, Massachusetts to the Trustees of Reservations, forever protecting 2000 acres of islands, barrier beaches, salt marshes, and tidal creeks.
- Arthur D. Norcross Sr. spent 25 years assembling a 3000-acre reserve in Monson and Wales, Massachusetts, and established the Norcross Wildlife Foundation that continues to expand the reserve as well as give significant grants each year for land acquisition.
- In western Maine, Bessie Phillips gave more than 5000 forever wild acres to protect Rangeley Lake and the Kennebec River, launching a land protection effort by Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust on a scale that few other land trusts nationwide have equaled.
- Betty Babcock's gift of 3000 acres to the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (which she modestly named for a friend, Charles Pierce) has led to concerted land protection efforts underscored by extensive conservation science supported by the Forest Society and Sweet Water Trust.
- Vermont's Helen Buckner Memorial Preserve at Bald Mountain was created through a family gift to The Nature Conservancy.
- In eastern New York, the Smiley Brothers sold 5300 acres at a very reduced cost to the Mohonk Preserve, which has become the keystone piece for a 23,000-acre

mosaic of lands protected by the Shawangunk Ridge Biodiversity Partnership. The Mohonk Preserve is also the repository of the Dan Smiley Research Center, which holds an extremely valuable body of natural science data spanning 125 years.

- The Lila Wallace/Reader's Digest Fund has quietly helped the Open Space Institute and other organizations spend more than \$200 million on land acquisition in the Hudson River Valley region over the past 20 years.
- Other pivotal gifts are dotted throughout New England and New York.



That mountain should belong to the people of Maine.

Of all such gifts in the region, the most legendary may be Baxter State Park, the largest wilderness area in New England. Percival Baxter had a vision that Mt. Katahdin and surrounds should be public land. But when Baxter was governor, the legislature twice voted against purchasing the lands, influenced by the timber industry as well as the Chamber of Commerce (who didn't think anyone would visit). To realize his dream, Baxter patiently and privately purchased land for years after he left public office. Few remember his record as governor, but no one will ever forget Percival Baxter and his extraordinary 200,000-acre gift to the people of Maine.²³

The opportunity: Across the region, the time is right for large-scale, cost-effective land purchases—tens and even hundreds of thousands of acres at a time—because of the shifting economics of the timber and electric power industries. (Because of electric utility deregulation we expect significant sales of forest land in the watersheds where utilities operate hydroelectric dams.) This represents an unparalleled opportunity for wilderness protection.

Large blocks of forest land in northern New England are currently available for as little as two to three hundred dollars an acre. These vast acreages are generally uninhabited by humans. The land is relatively unfragmented except by logging roads which can be recontoured and revegetated.

Twenty-five years from now we will look back in awe that so much unpopulated land was on the market at so little cost. As E.O. Wilson has said: "One planet, one experiment."¹⁹ The time to act is now.

WHY PRIVATE PHILANTHROPY?

Since Sweet Water Trust formed seven years ago, we have not seen significant positive change in funding trends for land acquisition to protect native species and forever wild lands.

The funds committed to protecting our dwindling natural heritage are grossly inadequate to the present need and opportunity. Few conservation organizations focus on wilderness protection, and those that do have little money to transform their impressive maps into on-the-ground protection.²⁰ New England's land protection organizations stretch limited resources as best they can but are often forced to make sorry compromises that allow timbering or development on land better conserved as natural areas.²¹

Foundation dollars for land acquisition are scarce. Securing public funds for wilderness protection, at either the state or federal level, is difficult and time consuming.²² While traditional wilderness campaigns will always be necessary, private conservation initiatives are a key complementary tactic. When important wildlands come on the market, there may not be time to develop a political constituency and pass legislation to secure their protection. Wildlands advocates need to be prepared to—Just Buy It.

As Edward Abbey once said: *Wilderness needs no defense, only more defenders.* An infusion of funding from private wildlands philanthropists could fundamentally change the political as well as the ecological landscape, encouraging government agencies, conservation groups, and local communities to renew their own commitments to protect our natural heritage. It is time for philanthropists to step up to the plate and go to bat for wilderness.

DESPERATELY SEEKING WILDLANDS PARTNERS

Today, more than ever, we need bold vision: we need modern-day champions of wilderness. Little by little, wonderful projects are happening in local communities. On a map, however, these protected areas still look like confetti, randomly scattered. These discrete, small conservation "islands" will not support their native biodiversity once they become isolated in a developed landscape.

What we need now is a regional commitment to a new paradigm for land conservation: the creation of a network of large-scale, linked wildlands that would help revitalize existing conservation lands, and protect and restore native biodiversity on a meaningful scale. Above all, we need a renewed commitment from each and every one of us to support ecological protection efforts large and small—with our voices, votes, time, and especially...*dollars.*

Sweet Water Trust is committed to doing its part to help create this new paradigm for land conservation in New England:

- We remain committed to our "forever wild" land protection focus, and to the use of good conservation science to identify acquisition priorities and increase ecological understanding of the region.
- We are increasing our project threshold to 2000 acres, and turning our attention increasingly towards projects of 10,000 acres or more.
- We are in the preliminary stages of creating a partnership of foundations and individuals committed to taking advantage of the tremendous opportunities to purchase wildlands in the region today.
- We have announced a \$1.5 million challenge grant to purchase 15,000 acres of beautiful, important wildlands coming on the market in northern New Hampshire.

Let us tell our grandchildren that our generation protected—not destroyed—a natural legacy that took billions of years of organic evolution to create. Let them, too, glimpse the elusive pine marten, hear the trill of warblers, and spot orchids blooming in the wilds. If we wait, and leave this critical task to them, there will be precious little left to save.

Please help. Be a founding member of a new wildlands partnership. Help us close the 15,000-acre deal in New Hampshire, and build a war chest to fund the purchase of the other vast forest lands now on the market. Only together, with dollars, science, and speed, can we take advantage of the unparalleled opportunities to protect biodiversity and wildlands in New England. ■

Endnotes

- ¹These numbers include acquisition of forever wild easements as well as outright acquisition. They do not include: funding for projects in the Pantanol, Brazil; funding for ecological assessments that have subsequently led to land protection; or properly account for additional land protection undertaken by communities after an original SWT grant.
- ²Reed Noss, "The Wildlands Project Land Conservation Strategy," *Wild Earth Special Issue: Plotting a North American Wilderness Recovery Strategy*, 1992.
- ³E.O. Wilson, *The Diversity of Life*, Harvard University Press, 1992, p. 31.
- ⁴Ibid, p. 348.
- ⁵Reed Noss, "Maintaining Ecological Integrity in Representative Reserve Networks," World Wildlife Fund, 1995, p. 27. Policymakers have increasingly reflected this body of scientific literature in their recommendations, e.g., "We need permanent preserves in the Northern Forest to protect biodiversity, maintain an ecological baseline...and provide outdoor recreation in a region where the most popular areas are suffering from overuse....[Purchases] should include a limited number of large tracts—most in the 100,000 acre range, and perhaps one or two somewhat larger. A system of such preserves across the landscape, connected where possible by trail and wildlife corridors, would do much to preserve ecological integrity...." David Dobbs and Richard Ober, *The Northern Forest*, Chelsea Green Publishers, 1995, p. 326.
- ⁶Reed Noss, "Maintaining Ecological Integrity in Representative Reserve Networks," World Wildlife Fund, 1995, p. 26, citing Robinson (1993).
- ⁷Reed Noss and Allen Cooperrider, *Saving Nature's Legacy: Protecting and Restoring Biodiversity*, Defenders of Wildlife, Island Press, 1994, p. XX. See also "Biological Diversity in Maine," (January 1996), a publication of the Maine Forest Biodiversity Project, which concluded: "Maine's biodiversity is sufficiently complex that neither a 'reserves alone' strategy nor a 'working forest alone' strategy is likely to adequately maintain [biodiversity]....By taking provisions now to maintain the full range of natural habitats for the future, we can avoid the extirpations (or extinctions) that are so prevalent elsewhere." p. 72.
- ⁸Robert Costanza et al., "The Value of the World's Ecosystem Services and Natural Capital," *Nature Magazine*, May 1997.
- ⁹See, for example, Gretchen C. Daily and Paul R. Ehrlich, "Population Extinction and the Biodiversity Crisis," *Wild Earth*, Winter 1997/98, pp. 37, 43.
- ¹⁰Ecological Assessment Report of the New Hampshire Forest Resources Plan, 1996, p. III-4.
- ¹¹Stephen C. Trombulak, "A Natural History of the Northern Forest," in *The Future of the Northern Forest*, Middlebury College Press, 1994, pp. 17-19.
- ¹²Massachusetts Audubon Society, "Forest Management Policy," 1993.
- ¹³See, for example, "Habitat Fragmentation," in *Principles of Conservation Biology*, Meffe and Carroll (1994). Or Wilcox and Murphy (1985): "Habitat fragmentation is the most serious threat to biological diversity and is the primary cause of the present extinction crisis."
- ¹⁴See, for example, Reed Noss (1995); or "The Design of Conservation Reserves," in *Principles of Conservation Biology*, Meffe and Carroll (1994): "No longer at issue is whether bigger reserves are better; we knew all along that, all else being equal, bigger reserves hold more species, better support wide-ranging species, and have lower extinction rates than small reserves." p. 267.
- ¹⁵E.O. Wilson, *The Diversity of Life*, Harvard University Press, 1992, p. 348.
- ¹⁶"Cracks in the Timber Empire: Goldsmith's Raid changed forest landowning, perhaps forever," Phyllis Austen, *Maine Times*, March 13, 1997, pp. 4-7.
- ¹⁷For more on the multinationals, see Mitch Lansky's article "The Northern Forest," *Wild Earth*, Winter 1993.
- ¹⁸The Northern Forest Lands Council Technical Appendix, "The Economic Importance of the Northeastern Forest," Northeastern Forest Alliance, 1994, p. 2.
- ¹⁹E. O. Wilson, *The Diversity of Life*, Harvard University Press, 1992, p. 182.
- ²⁰The Nature Conservancy has been a notable leader nationally in buying and protecting land for biodiversity values. Although the organization has long relied on a species-specific/critical areas protection approach, today, the Conservancy is moving toward a more landscape level "eco-regional" strategy. This welcome shift promises to reap larger-scale land protection in New England and elsewhere.
- ²¹Most such groups come from the local tradition of "open space" protection. Although preserving open space is a traditional and worthwhile goal, the very barrenness of this term suggests a landscape devoid of the rich biodiversity that sustains us all. In general, buyer beware: maps of "protected" land rarely distinguish between commercial farmland, timbered land, and fully protected ecological reserves. Many computer-generated maps demarcate all municipal and state land as "protected," regardless of whether the site is a municipal landfill, or apt to be sold by the town for revenue. (Because in fact there appears to be no accurate map, SWT has commissioned a map that identifies all the permanently protected wildlands in the region.) Funders interested in biodiversity protection should confirm how the land will be managed, and what permanent protection mechanisms (such as "forever wild" easements) will be put in place. See Nancy Smith, "Forever Wild Easements in New England," *Wild Earth*, Fall 1997.
- ²²Although Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont have all assembled scientific committees to assess the state's biodiversity and the need for ecological reserves, the jury is still out on whether that science can be translated into political action. For example, the long-awaited bond act for land acquisition now being considered in Maine will apparently (as of this writing) ask for a paltry amount compared to the need, and large-scale wilderness/ecological reserve acquisition is not even a listed state priority.
- ²³The long and checkered history of efforts to open up this nationally renowned wilderness area to logging, snowmobiling, hunting, and herbicide spraying illustrates the tremendous recreational and economic pressures on our few existing "preserved" areas. See, e.g., "Forever Wild Meets Politics of the Day," *Maine Times*, April 9, 1998, pp. 18-21.

Nancy Smith is the co-founder and director of Sweet Water Trust and has worked extensively with land trusts throughout the region. She contributed the article "Forever Wild Easements" to the fall 1997 issue of *Wild Earth*. Emily Bateson joined SWT one year ago as the associate director of its Wildland Program after 16 years in New England environmental advocacy, where she worked and wrote extensively on Northern Forest land issues. Sweet Water Trust can be contacted at: 294 Washington St., Rm. 312, Boston, MA 02108; 617-482-5998; embateson@aol.com.

LAND PROTECTION IN THE UNITED STATES, 1864-1997

compiled by Chris McGrory Klyza



1864 Yosemite Valley and Mariposa Big Tree Grove are granted from the United States government to the state of California. The grant directs California to hold these lands forever "for public use, resort, and recreation," foreshadowing the establishment of Yellowstone as the first national park. These lands are incorporated into Yosemite National Park in 1906.

1872 Yellowstone National Park established "as a public park or pleasuring-ground for the benefit and enjoyment of the people." The first national park established in the world, it currently encompasses roughly 2.2 million acres.

1876 Appalachian Mountain Club established.

1885 Niagara Falls State Reservation established by New York as the nation's first state park.

New York State establishes Adirondack Forest Preserve and Catskill Forest Preserve. All state-owned land in these two regions would be part of these preserves.

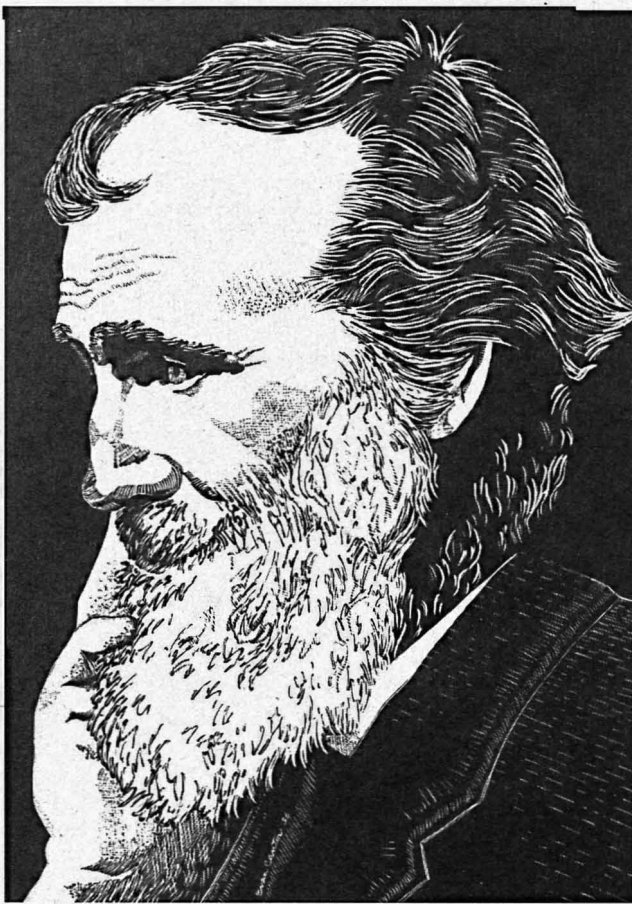
1886 Division of Forestry, precursor of the Forest Service, established in the Department of Agriculture.

1887 Boone and Crockett Club, a hunting and conservation organization, is founded.

1889 Congress authorizes President Harrison to reserve Case Grande Ruin in Arizona, the first federal protection of an archaeological site. He does so three years later.

1890 Big Tree (today Sequoia National Park), General Grant (today part of Kings Canyon National Park), and Yosemite National Parks established.

1891 President grants power to establish forest reserves (later renamed national forests) on public lands. Yellowstone Forest Reserve is the first reserve established.



1892 Sierra Club founded by John Muir and others.

Adirondack Forest Preserve integrated into Adirondack Park. The park would grow to cover six million acres; currently over 40% of the land is owned by the state with the rest in private ownership.

1894 Congress authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to develop regulations for the management and protection of Yellowstone National Park. The legislation includes a prohibition on hunting but not fishing.

Clause added to the New York State Constitution mandating that state forest lands in the Adirondack Park and Catskill Forest Preserve be kept "forever wild."

1896 Division of Biological Survey, precursor to the Fish and Wildlife Service, created in the Department of Agriculture.

1899 Mt. Rainier National Park established.

1900 Lacey Act prohibits interstate trade in animals killed in violation of state laws from which they are shipped. This law marks the federal government's first enactment of wildlife law.

1902 Crater Lake National Park established.

1903 Bureau of Fisheries, precursor of the Fish and Wildlife Service, created in the Department of Commerce and Labor.

President Roosevelt establishes first federal wildlife refuge at Pelican Island in Florida.

Wind Cave National Park established.

1904 Catskill Forest Preserve integrated into Catskill Park. The park currently encompasses over 700,000 acres, with nearly 40% of the land owned by the state and the rest privately owned.

1905 National Audubon Society founded.

Administration of Forest Reserves transferred from the Interior Department to the Agriculture Department. Bureau of Forestry name changes to the Forest Service.

1906 Antiquities Act gives President authority to establish national monuments to preserve lands of historic, archaeological, or scientific interest. The law has been used by presidents from Teddy Roosevelt (Grand Canyon National Monument) to Jimmy Carter (over 50 million acres of Alaskan wildlands temporarily protected) to Bill Clinton (Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument). Devils Tower designated as the first national monument.

California returns Yosemite Valley and Mariposa Big Tree Grove lands, granted to the state by the federal government in 1864 as parkland, to the federal government. They are then incorporated into Yosemite National Park.

Mesa Verde National Park established.

1907 Forest reserves renamed national forests. Ability of the President to create new national forests in Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming is rescinded (rescission extended to California in 1912, and to Arizona and New Mexico in 1926).

1908 National Bison Range established in Montana.

1910 Glacier National Park established.

1911 Weeks Act allows federal government to purchase private lands on the headwaters of navigable rivers for national forests. Thus, national forests can now be established anywhere in the country, not just on public domain lands already owned by the federal government. The impetus for this law comes from groups supporting national forests in the White

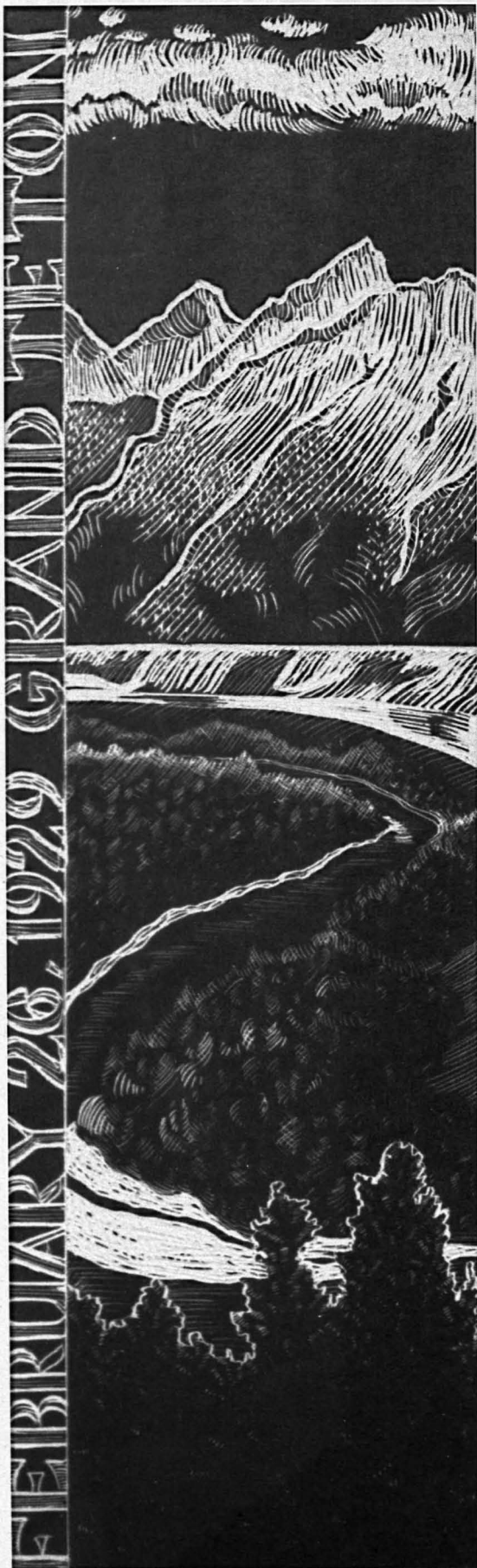


illustration by Sarah Lauterbach



Mountains of New Hampshire and the southern Appalachians of North Carolina and Tennessee. The act sets the precedent for federal purchase of lands for conservation purposes.

1913 San Francisco receives congressional approval to establish a reservoir in Hetch Hetchy valley in Yosemite National Park. This is a great loss for Muir and the preservationists. It does, however, mark preservationism as a powerful force in American culture and serves as a catalyst for the creation of the National Park Service.

1915 Rocky Mountain National Park established.

1916 National Park Service created. The charge to the agency: "To conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

Oregon and California grant lands in Oregon returned to the federal government. These lands, now over two million acres, are currently managed by the Bureau of Land Management rather than the Forest Service for political reasons.

Hawaii Volcanoes and Lassen Volcanic National Parks established.

1917 Mt. McKinley National Park established.

1919 National Parks and Conservation Association established.

Arthur Carhart, a landscape architect working for the Forest Service, proposes keeping Trapper's Lake area in White River National Forest (CO) undeveloped. His proposal is accepted. A few years later he proposes a roadless area in Minnesota that would become the Boundary Waters Canoe Area.

Acadia, Grand Canyon, and Zion National Parks established.

1921 Aldo Leopold recommends creation of a large wilderness reserve in Gila National Forest in New Mexico.

1922 Izaak Walton League founded.

1924 First wilderness area, nearly 575,000 acres in size, established in Gila National Forest by Forest Service.

Clarke-McNary Act removes the restriction on purchasing national forest lands only in the watersheds of navigable streams.

Bryce Canyon National Park established.

1929 Grand Teton National Park established.

Forest Service adopts its first set of national wilderness regulations, Regulation L-20, for designation and management of

primitive areas. Though areas are protected, road-building and timber harvesting are allowed. During the decade these regulations are in effect, 75 primitive areas totaling over 14 million acres are established.

1930 Shipstead-Nolan Act recognizes the recreational importance of the Boundary Waters area of northern Minnesota. The act directs the Forest Service to manage this area for its scenic beauty and recreation, and to maintain natural water levels. This law is the first congressional action to protect land as wilderness.

Carlsbad Caverns National Park established.

1931 Baxter State Park established in Maine. The land in the park, now approximately 200,000 acres, "shall forever be kept and remain in the natural state."

1933 President Franklin Roosevelt issues an executive order placing all national monuments under Interior Department administration.

1934 Taylor Grazing Act establishes a federal grazing program on unreserved public domain lands. The Grazing Service is created to administer the law. The act marks the de facto end of the policy of massive disposal of federal lands.

Law establishes Migratory Bird Hunting Stamps. Some of the money from these stamps, required of migratory bird hunters, goes to acquisition of habitat for migratory waterfowl.

Great Smoky Mountains National Park established.

1935 Aldo Leopold, Robert Marshall, and others found the Wilderness Society.

Shenandoah National Park established.

1936 National Wildlife Federation formed.

1937 Bankhead-Jones Act provides for retirement of sub-marginal agricultural lands. Many acres retired under this program are incorporated into national forests and national grasslands.

Pittman-Robertson Act authorizes tax on guns and ammunition; funds are to be used for wildlife restoration projects, including purchases of land.

Ducks Unlimited founded.

1938 Olympic National Park established.

1939 Forest Service adopts U Regulations to replace the L-20 Regulation in managing wildlands in the national forest system. The more detailed U Regulations establish criteria for designating lands as wilderness (at least 100,000 acres), wild (5000 to 100,000 acres), and roadless. These new regulations prohibit timber cutting, road-building, and almost all mechanized access. Lands previously designated as primitive are to be reclassified into these new categories.

1940 Bureau of Fisheries and Bureau of Biological Survey combine to form the Fish and Wildlife Service in the Department of the Interior.

Isle Royale and Kings Canyon National Parks established.

1941 Mammoth Cave National Park established.

1944 Big Bend National Park established.

1946 The Bureau of Land Management created by merger of the General Land Office and Grazing Service.

Nature Conservancy established.

1947 Everglades National Park established.

1954 The Forest Service announces plans to designate only 200,000 of 253,000 acres of the Three Sisters Primitive Area in Oregon as wilderness; the remaining acres are to be opened to timber harvesting. These plans, enacted three years later, serve as a catalyst for preservationists seeking legislative protection of wilderness areas.

1956 Upper Colorado River Project authorized. Conservation groups are successful in having the Echo Park Dam, which would have flooded part of Dinosaur National Monument, removed from the project. This act authorizes Glen Canyon Dam.

1959 Minute Man Historical Park Act is first congressional authorization of spending public funds for national park land purchase.

Trout Unlimited founded.

1960 Multiple Use Sustained Yield Act directs the Forest Service to manage its lands for multiple uses (identified as outdoor recreation, range, timber, water, and wildlife and fish) in a sustainable manner.

National grasslands designation established. Nearly four million acres of existing national forest lands are transferred to the new designation.

Haleakala National Park established.

1961 Cape Cod National Seashore Act creates first national park unit established primarily by purchasing and condemning land. This also begins a new National Park Service program—national seashores. Currently there are ten areas covering nearly 600,000 acres.

1962 Petrified Forest National Park established.

1964 Eight years after the first bill was introduced, the Wilderness Act passes, creating the National Wilderness Preservation System. Wilderness is defined in the law to be areas "where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain." The law establishes 54 wilderness areas totaling more than nine million acres on national forests (from lands previously classified as wilderness, wild, or canoe), directs the Forest Service to study its remaining primitive areas (as well as other holdings) for wilderness classification, and directs the Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Park Service to study their holdings and make recommendations for wilderness. Among the major areas designated by this act: Bob Marshall, Boundary Waters Canoe Area, Bridger, Eagle Cap, Gila, Glacier Peak, John Muir, Mazatzal, North Absaroka, Selway-Bitterroot, Teton, Three Sisters, and Washakie. New lands would be added to the Wilderness System by act of Congress. Mechanized use, roads, and timber harvesting are prohibited on lands designated as wilderness. A number of uses are, or can be, allowed: livestock grazing, water resources development, fire/disease/insect control, and mining existing claims (with new claims allowed through 1984).

Land and Water Conservation Fund established to aid in the acquisition of public lands for conservation and recreation purposes. Funds are used for federal government acquisition and for grants to state and local governments to aid in their acquisition efforts. Originally funded by user fees and motorboat fuel taxes, the Fund is augmented by moneys from offshore oil and gas development in 1968. At that time, the Fund was authorized to receive and allocate \$200 million per year for its purposes, a funding level that increased to \$900 million in 1980. Only a small fraction of that amount of money has been spent on acquisition, however.

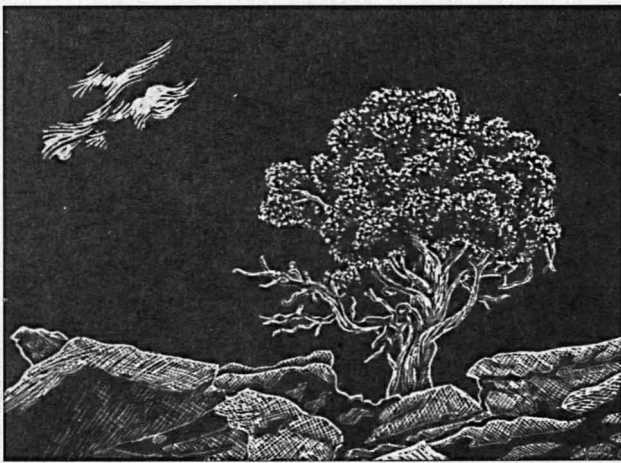
Canyonlands National Park established.

1966 Endangered Species Preservation Act authorizes spending federal funds to acquire habitat for endangered species.

Pictured Rocks established by Congress as the first national lakeshore. Currently, four areas totaling over 200,000 acres exist along the Great Lakes.

1968 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act creates wild, scenic, and recreational categories of rivers. This law was motivated by a desire to protect the country's dwindling stretches of free-flowing rivers.





National Trail Systems Act establishes system of national scenic, national recreational, and state and metropolitan trails. The Appalachian Trail and Pacific Crest Trail are designated national scenic trails in this act.

North Cascades and Redwood National Parks established.

- 1970** National Environmental Policy Act requires, among other things, that environmental impact statements (EIS) be drafted for "major federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment."

Environmental Protection Agency created by executive branch reorganization.

- 1971** Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act authorizes Secretary of the Interior to withdraw 80 million acres of national interest lands from selection by Natives and the state of Alaska and to make a recommendation to Congress to classify these lands as part of the national forest, national park, national wildlife refuge, and wild river systems. Congress has five years to act on these recommendations. This process culminates in the Alaska Lands Act in 1980.

Forest Service undertakes the first Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE I). After studying its holdings, the agency recommends 12 million acres of its roadless lands for new wilderness designation. Environmentalists are critical of this figure, arguing that it is much too low. The Sierra Club sues the Forest Service for failure to complete an EIS with the RARE I process. The Forest Service settles out of court and agrees to undertake another study (RARE II).

New York State legislature passes Adirondack Park Agency Act requiring the state to develop land use plans for public and private holdings in the Adirondack Park.

Arches and Capitol Reef National Parks established.

- 1972** Michigan passes Wilderness and Natural Areas Act establishing a wilderness system on state lands. The system currently includes approximately 50,000 acres.

Guadalupe Mountains National Park established.

- 1973** Endangered Species Act establishes process for listing species as endangered or threatened, protecting their critical habitats, and developing recovery plans. In addition, federal agencies are required to make sure that their actions do not harm endangered species.

In *Izaak Walton League v. Butz*, the court rules that commercial timber cutting on the Monongahela National Forest in West Virginia violated the 1897 Organic Act of the Forest Service. By blocking timber harvesting on this and other National Forests, this case provides the catalyst for the National Forest Management Act of 1976.

- 1974** California establishes the California Wilderness Preservation System on state lands. Over 400,000 acres are included in the system today.

- 1975** Eastern Wilderness Act requires Forest Service to consider eastern national forest lands for wilderness designation. The act designates 16 new wilderness areas in the east.

Voyageurs National Park established.

- 1976** National Forest Management Act replaces 1897 Organic Act as guiding legislation for management of national forests. The law, passed in response to the *Izaak Walton League v. Butz* case, establishes the national forest planning process and requires that national forests be managed to maintain species diversity.

Federal Land Policy and Management Act states that the nation will retain BLM lands and mandates the agency manage them for multiple use. Among the many components of the law, the BLM is directed to review all of its lands for wilderness designation and to establish a special California Desert Conservation Area.

Alpine Lakes Wilderness, totaling over 390,000 acres, is established in Washington.

Various laws designate over 160,000 acres of wilderness on national wildlife refuges and nearly 920,000 acres of wilderness on national park system units.

1977 Forest Service begins RARE II process. The results of the study, announced in 1979, recommend 15 million acres be designated as wilderness with nearly 11 million additional acres to be wilderness study areas. These recommendations, though greater than RARE I, continue to leave conservationists unhappy. Following RARE II, most wilderness additions on national forest lands are considered on a state-by-state basis using the RARE II recommendations as a starting point.

1978 Endangered American Wilderness Act adds 1.3 million acres to wilderness system in ten western states.

National Parks and Recreation Act designates nearly two million acres of wilderness in national parks.

With Congress unable to agree on Alaska national interest lands legislation, and with the five-year protection of such lands coming to an end, Secretary of the Interior Andrus withdraws from selection 110 million acres of federal land in Alaska; President Carter declares 56 million of these acres national monuments under the authority of the Antiquities Act. These actions are designed to protect Alaska lands for preservation until Congress acts.

Badlands and Theodore Roosevelt National Parks established.

1980 Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (Alaska Lands Act) protects more land than any legislative act in US history: 105 million acres, with over 56 million of those acres designated wilderness (more than doubling the size of the National Wilderness Preservation System). Over 43 million acres are added to the National Park Service System, more than doubling the agency's holdings nationwide. Ten new national parks, monuments, and preserves are created: Aniakchak, Bering Land Bridge, Cape Krusenstern, Gates of the Arctic, Kenai Fjords, Kobuk Valley, Lake Clark, Noatak, Wrangell-St. Elias, and Yukon-Charley. The existing units of Denali, Glacier Bay, and Katmai are expanded, and the latter two are redesignated as national parks. The law also adds over 55 million acres to the National Wildlife Refuge System, also more than doubling its nationwide size. In addition to expanding existing refuges, ten new units are created. Three million acres of new national forest is created, as well as over one million acres of wild and scenic river corridors.

Three wilderness bills designate in total over four million acres of wilderness, primarily in Idaho

(River of No Return Wilderness), Colorado, and New Mexico, with smaller designations in Louisiana, Missouri, South Carolina, and South Dakota.

Earth First! founded by Dave Foreman, Ron Kezar, Bart Koehler, Mike Roselle, and Howie Wolke.

Biscayne and Channel Islands National Parks established.

1982 A series of RARE II wilderness bills pass for Alabama, Indiana, Missouri, and West Virginia, as well as a Georgia National Seashore. Approximately 83,000 acres of wilderness designated.

1983 Wilderness bills affecting BLM lands in Arizona and Forest Service lands in Montana designate over 260,000 acres of wilderness.

1984 Over 8.3 million acres of wilderness designated as RARE II laws pass for 20 states (Arkansas, Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming). The largest designations are in Arizona, (over one million acres of BLM and Forest Service land), California (over three million acres of Forest Service and National Park Service land), Oregon (over 900,000 acres), Utah (750,000 acres), Washington (over one million acres), and Wyoming (over 880,000 acres).

1985 Kentucky RARE II law designates 13,300 acres of wilderness.

1986 RARE II laws designate over 84,000 acres of wilderness in Georgia, Nebraska, and Tennessee.

Great Basin National Park established.

1987 Michigan RARE II law designates 91,000 acres of wilderness.

1988 Wilderness laws pass for national parks in Washington (over 1.7 million acres) and national forests in Alabama and Oklahoma (nearly 30,000 acres combined).

1989 Nevada RARE II law designates 733,000 acres of wilderness.

1990 The first statewide BLM Wilderness law is passed, designating over one million acres of wilderness in Arizona. Nearly 300,000 acres of wilderness des-

ignated in Tongass National Forest. RARE II laws designate 38,000 acres of wilderness in Illinois and Maine.

1992 Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act first introduced in Congress.

The Wildlands Project is founded by Dave Foreman, Michael Soulé, John Davis, David Johns, Reed Noss, and others.

Dry Tortugas National Park established.

1993 Colorado RARE II law designates 611,000 acres of wilderness.

1994 California Desert Protection Act establishes approximately 7.5 million acres of wilderness, making it the third largest wilderness designation law (after the Wilderness Act and the Alaska Lands Act). Sixty-nine areas totaling 3.5 million acres are on BLM lands. The remaining wilderness is located in two new national parks—Death Valley and Joshua Tree—both formerly national monuments, and one new national preserve—Mojave. This brings the total of designated wilderness to over 103 million acres.

Saguaro National Park established.

1996 President Clinton uses the Antiquities Act to create the 1.7-million-acre Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in Utah.

Chris McGrory Klyza (Environmental Studies Program and Political Science Department, Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT 05753) is co-editor of The Future of the Northern Forest (University Press of New England, 1994) and author of Who Controls Public Lands? Mining, Forestry, and Grazing Policies, 1870–1990 (University of North Carolina Press, 1996).

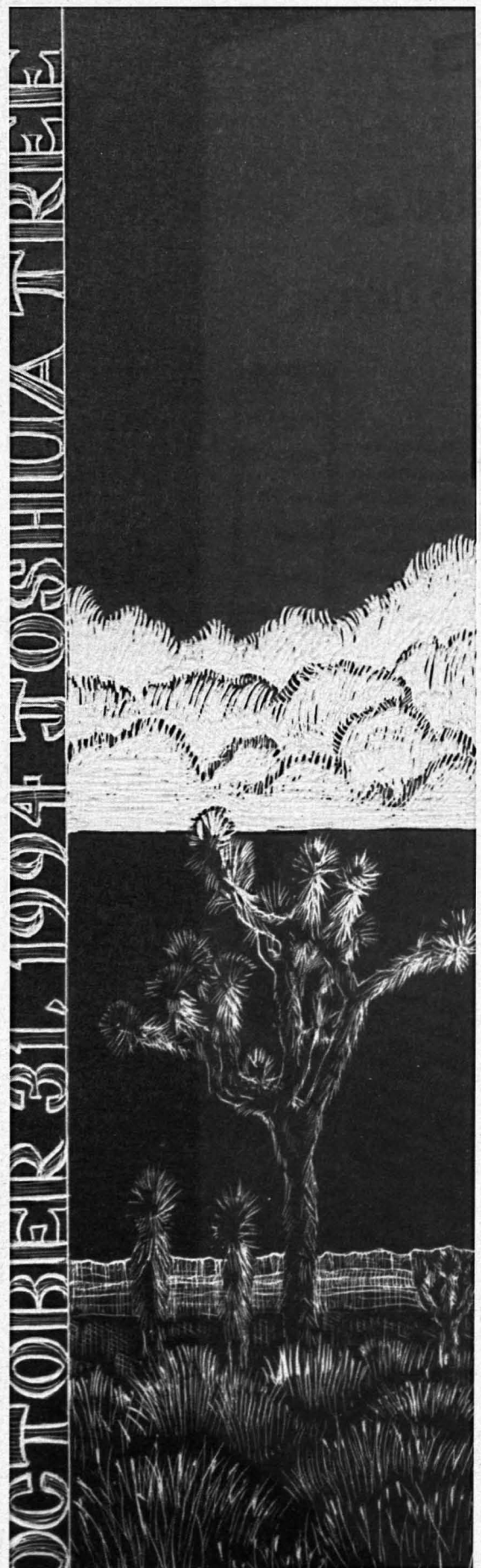


illustration by Sarah Lauterbach

Land Trusts and Wildlands Protection

by *M. Rupert Cutler*

Yogi Berra's expression, "déjà vu all over again," describes my state of mind as I go about my new job of inventorying and analyzing the public values of private lands adjoining the Blue Ridge Parkway, the Jefferson National Forest, and the Appalachian Trail in the 23 westernmost counties of Virginia for the Western Virginia Land Trust.¹ This initiative takes me back to an earlier project for which I was responsible, RARE II.

Our land trust's mission is to keep as much as possible of the rugged southern Appalachian landscape in our region undeveloped "in perpetuity," with its scenic, watershed, recreational, and ecological values intact, primarily by means of voluntary conservation easements. In addition to saving the remaining wild places, we also are encouraging the preservation, in this history-rich agricultural area, of well-managed farms, woodlands, and historic buildings and sites.

In short, we're trying through private conservation efforts to save what is unique to our area and contributes to our sense of place. That sense of place is endangered in western Virginia as elsewhere by human population growth, weak land use and pollution controls, and their results: forest fragmentation, farm and orchard loss, new and expanded transportation and utility corridors and communication towers, urban sprawl, strip development, and air and water contamination.

Why "déjà vu all over again"? Because our regional open space inventory process has some similarities to the second Forest Service roadless area review and evaluation, RARE II. Remember how that project got started?

Twenty-one years ago (!), during congressional hearings that became my baptism of fire as a newly minted presidential appointee temporarily atop an old bureaucratic pyramid called the USDA Forest Service, I found that the agency had practically no information on many of the National Forest roadless areas being proposed for addition to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

I directed Chief John McGuire to have his agency conduct a second review of the roadless area resource of the National Forest System to fill in the blanks left by its first roadless area review and evaluation that was done in a hasty and incomplete manner.² That second, comprehensive inventory and analysis of roadless areas came to be known as RARE II.³ The Carter Administration's January 4, 1979 final report and environmental impact statement on RARE II identified some 2700 roadless areas suitable for Wilderness consideration within the National Forest System—many previously unknown to conservationists—and recommended immediate action by Congress to establish 223 new National Forest Wilderness Areas totaling over 15 million acres.⁴

The most beautiful, the most interesting place in the world [is] Appalachia, the rugged terrain of my heart.

Appalachia is an almost secret South. My father would never leave southwest Virginia; he said he "needed a mountain to rest his eyes against."

I feel the same way.

—*Lee Smith*



Some wilderness advocacy groups damned what they called this "rush to judgment" process and criticized the Forest Service's RARE II work. But RARE II temporarily stopped development in National Forest roadless areas, focused constructive attention on hundreds of previously unknown tracts suitable for Wilderness designation, and paved the way for passage of a series of state-by-state Wilderness bills that dramatically expanded the Wilderness Preservation System.

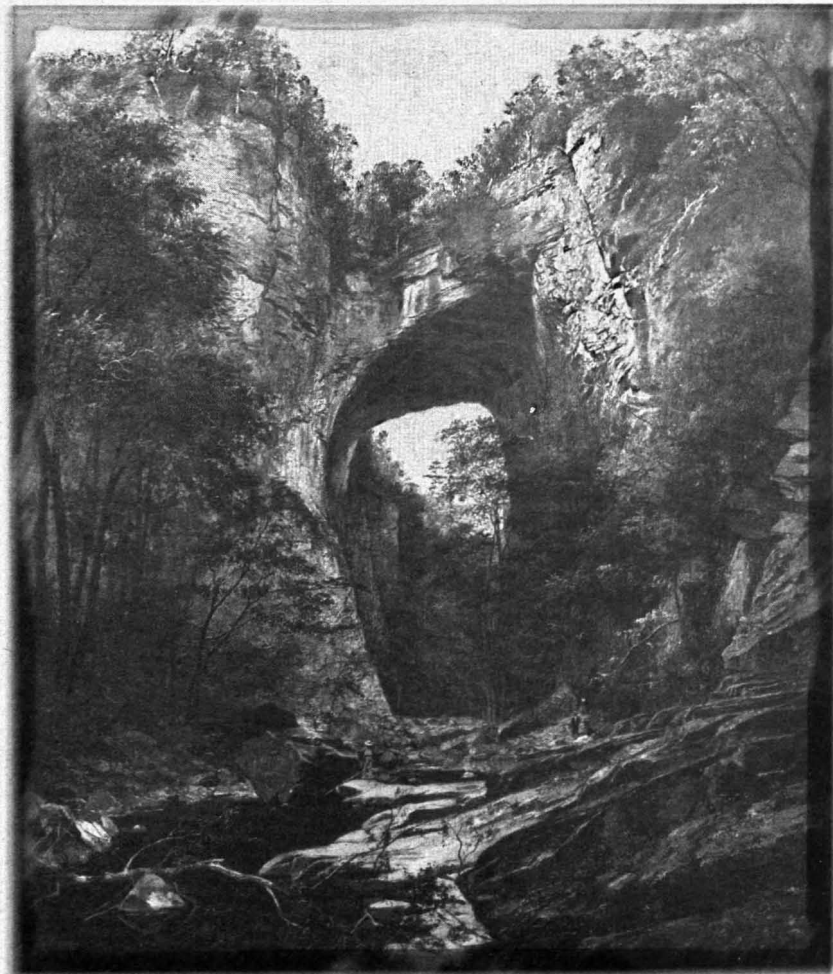
Why does our land trust-conducted inventory of large tracts of privately owned open space lands in western Virginia remind me of RARE II? Because, like RARE II, it's a wide-ranging, comprehensive inventory and a systematic evaluation of undeveloped lands—but focused this time on private lands, with an eye to their voluntary permanent conservation. It's similar to RARE II because, if successful, it will lead to the protection, under conservation easements held by the Virginia Outdoors Foundation, of many critically important tracts of backcountry, trout stream watersheds and wildlife travel corridors in the Jefferson National Forest, rural open space lands, and treasured views from the Blue Ridge Parkway and the Appalachian Trail. Such results will complement the ecological, aesthetic, and recreational attributes of neighboring public lands.

We're not anticipating the need to introduce federal legislation, but rather to obtain landowners' voluntary agreements to trade some of their development rights for income tax and estate tax reductions and the good feeling that accompanies the knowledge that the lands they love will remain undeveloped in the future. While easement donors initially may not be found in large numbers in southwest Virginia—not a particularly affluent region—we are encouraged that the owners of over 100,000 acres of private farm and forest lands in Virginia's northern piedmont region have already agreed to protect their lands in perpetuity this way, with effective encouragement from the Piedmont Environmental Council. Conservation easement donations along the Blue Ridge Parkway began last year with the gift of the development rights to 122 acres adjoining the Parkway's Smart View Recreation Area by American Chestnut Foundation board member Jim Wilson of Martinsville, Virginia. We're hoping it will be the first of many.

Our wildland inventory is guided by new agency analyses of private lands adjoining

public lands, the management of which will affect the success of the agency mission. Studies such as *Visual Character of the Blue Ridge Parkway, Virginia and North Carolina* by the National Park Service, *Landscape Aesthetics—A Handbook for Scenery Management* by the Forest Service, and a mile-by-mile inventory of Appalachian Trail views by the Appalachian Trail Conference's local trail club volunteers are being used; also helpful are data and maps provided by the Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition, the habitat gap analysis being conducted by Virginia Tech's Fish and Wildlife Information Exchange, and open space inventories done by county and regional planning district GIS specialists.

This initiative's most significant difference from public land roadless area studies will be the degree of confidentiality with which the data are treated. Without question, due respect must be accorded the constitutional rights and legitimate fear of regulation of the owners of private lands we identify as having high public values. Nothing constructive would be accomplished by advertising prematurely the whereabouts of the critical private tracts we are inventory-



The Natural Bridge of Virginia (1860) by David Johnson

ing. Only after private conversations—often in the company of legal counsel and/or previous donors of conservation easements—have led an informed and willing landowner to donate or sell development rights to a land trust will it be appropriate to make such information public.

A second obvious difference is that we usually are not dealing with true *de facto* wilderness, but with lands of varying states of naturalness. Their contribution to the wildland protection goal may be more as buffer, providing a healthy “arm’s length” distance between intensive construction activity (almost inevitable on private lands in the path of development without firm local government land use controls) and other lands officially classified for non-development (Wilderness and Natural Areas, parks, Nature Conservancy lands, National Audubon Society reserves, university natural areas, etc.). While I’ve always detested the notion of “wilderness buffers” on public land, I can see it as a viable concept on adjoining private land. And although it may not be the highest priority for wildlands advocates, these buffer lands will have the added benefit of protecting scenic views from public lands.

When private land trusts have grown sufficiently in budget and staff to take on the responsibility of owning and managing extensive tracts of wildlands (such as The Trustees of Reservations does in Massachusetts and The Nature Conservancy does nationally), they can play a direct role in large-tract wildland protection. Across the nation long-established and well-financed land trusts are playing the landowner-manager role, while many newer, smaller land trusts for good reason are not. It’s not a likely role for small, not-for-profit land trusts whose operating budgets come from unpredictable annual donations.

Having said that, I’d like to note that all land trusts have important wildland protection opportunities. Their role need not always involve holding development rights or direct ownership of wildlands to contribute to the success of the wildland protection goal. The Western Virginia Land Trust, for example, devotes considerable energy to educating the public on the benefits of wildlands conservation—ecological, spiritual, and practical (wildlands provide critical ecological services such as generating oxygen and clean water).

By means of slide presentations and publications, through the news media, and by holding community educational forums, we encourage respect for Nature, increase awareness of the region’s natural and cultural features and the need to preserve them, and inform landowners about ways to provide protection of their land in perpetuity.

Land trusts can also take advantage of the IRS code provisions that enable them to be vocal advocates for land-

conserving public policies at all levels of government. Examples include:

- advocating reestablishment of a generous nationwide program of federal grants from the Land and Water Conservation Fund for state and local conservation land acquisition;
- supporting moratoria on road construction in publicly owned roadless areas;
- encouraging local governments to adopt perpetual conservation easements with “forever wild” language for public watershed and park lands;
- supporting local government policies to control the location and height of communications towers.

Any land trust can act as a political go-between, carrying the wishes of local people for a new municipal or state park, federal park or forest addition, or Wilderness classification, to the appointed or elected government officials charged with making those decisions. The Western Virginia Land Trust is serving as banker for Wythe County residents who have pooled their contributions to pay for a natural heritage inventory of a 9000-acre, privately owned roadless tract near Wytheville, in hopes that the discovery of rare plants and animals there will lead to the land’s purchase by the state for its natural area system.

Advocating the permanent protection of extensive, undeveloped municipal water supply lands, private and public, in their wild state by means of conservation easements is another excellent role for local land trusts. Often, public watershed lands are made available to outdoor recreationists; in every instance their protection redounds to the advantage of wild critters and their habitat. Recently published research reports by The Trust for Public Land⁵ and the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests⁶ document the savings to communities that protect their sources of clean domestic water with conservation easements, instead of having to use costly chemical and physical treatments to clean up dirty water.

By pointing to other regional cities that have donated conservation easements on their Blue Ridge high country municipal watershed lands to land trusts (including Asheville, Spartanburg, and Greenville), I’ve been able to interest the leadership of Roanoke City and Roanoke County in considering the same wildland-protection approach here, on the city’s Mill Mountain and Carvins Cove watersheds and on the county’s Spring Hollow reservoir property. With our land trust’s encouragement, Roanoke City Council recently took a step in the right direction by selling to the National Park Service the right-of-way for a four-mile stretch of Appalachian Trail across its

Carvins Cove property. We'll seek to have the rest of that 12,000-acre outdoor recreation and water supply gem protected with a conservation easement, and go on to seek voluntary conservation easement protection of the private lands constituting those parts of the watersheds of local water supply reservoirs that are not publicly owned.

As a new land trust we'll often be turning to others for advice—including the Land Trust Alliance,⁷ the national clearinghouse support group for the nation's 1100 land trusts and sponsor of the preeminent private lands protection conference, the annual National Land Trust Rally. We'll be consulting as well with the American Farmland Trust,⁸ the Trust for Appalachian Trail Lands, The Nature Conservancy, the Conservation Fund, The Trust for Public Land, and with more experienced neighboring regional land trusts to our north and south.⁹



Conservationists will soon finish combing the public lands for the last few roadless areas suitable for classification as Wilderness by Congress, and complete parallel reviews and campaigns to obtain statutory protection of state-owned wildlands. Where then will wilderness advocates turn their attention? I suspect they'll stay busy defending existing protected areas, restoring abused sites within Wilderness, and campaigning for Wilderness Restoration Zones comprised of public lands degraded by commodity extraction and thereby excluded from Wilderness consideration. Perhaps they'll even help offshore conservationists address the severe wildland-protection needs of such places as Brazil and Russia.

Another modest suggestion for wildlands supporters: Help local land trusts inventory your area's private wildland resources and win a supportive attitude on the part of landowners toward participation in a voluntary conservation easement program. Please don't attempt this, however, without making a 180-degree change in *modus operandi*: Public confrontation is out; confidential negotiation is in.

Can you imagine the eventual result of such a combination of public and private wildland conservation classifications and agreements? Two-thirds of the United States is private land. Our mission is to encourage adjoining public and private wildland owners to regard themselves as good neighbors with compatible land use objectives. One of the most effective tools we have is the tax benefits of conservation easement donation, which more landowners would take advantage of, if they only knew about them.

After devoting 45 years to the goal of wildlands protection (as a University of Michigan journalism student in 1953 I publicized Bernard DeVoto's campaign for adequate National Park Service funding in the *Michigan Daily*), I've

Land Conservation Organizations

Some National & Regional Players

LAND TRUST ALLIANCE

Land Trust Alliance (LTA) acts as a coordinating and support group for land trusts; it provides leadership and training to its membership of individuals and approximately 1100 land trusts nationwide. However, unlike actual land trusts, LTA is not directly involved with purchasing land or accepting conservation easements. LTA is based in Washington, DC, with additional offices in Seattle, WA and Saratoga Springs, NY.

In its 1995 National Land Trust Survey, which includes data on local and regional land trusts and excludes data on national organizations such as The Nature Conservancy and The Trust for Public Land, the LTA reported that land trusts had helped protect 4.02 million acres of land as of 1995. Of that total, 1,525,000 acres were purchased by land trusts; another 740,000 acres were acquired through conservation easements; and 1,764,000 acres were protected by land trusts through deed restrictions, acquisition of mineral or grazing rights, or fundraising for other organizations. According to LTA, 50% of local and regional land trusts had budgets under \$10,000, and 50% had budgets of \$10,000 or greater. Preserving wildlife habitat was noted as a priority for many land trusts; 80% reported involvement with habitat protection. In the period between 1990 and 1994, the number of land trusts increased by 18%, a growth rate that led LTA to characterize land trusts as "the fastest growing segment of the conservation movement."

Land Trust Alliance is in the process of updating the data for its National Land Trust Survey and a revised edition is due out this summer. The organization's annual conference, the National Land Trust Rally, will be held October 17-20 in Madison, Wisconsin.

Contact: Land Trust Alliance, 1319 F St. NW, Suite 501, Washington, DC 20004; 202-638-4725

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

The Nature Conservancy (TNC), based in Arlington, VA, has helped protect roughly ten million acres of land. In fiscal year 1997, TNC

spent a total of \$253 million on land acquisition; this figure includes conservation easements, outright purchases, and lease and other agreements representing a total land value of \$301 million. TNC's mission is preserving biodiversity; with individual chapters in every state, they have been the dominant force in land protection nationwide, working alone and in conjunction with other organizations and public agencies. Despite its size, TNC representatives characterize the organization as "very decentralized" and suggest that most of the work they do still happens in the field. The Nature Conservancy is a member organization that receives additional support from foundations, corporations, government funding, and private fundraising.

Contact local chapters or TNC national headquarters: 1815 North Lynn St., Arlington, VA 22209; 703-841-5300

THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) works to expand public access to natural areas, from helping maintain green space in urban settings to wilderness protection. TPL takes on approximately 125-140 land conservation deals nationwide per year, including a large number of city projects. To date they have protected approximately 578,000 acres. An annual budget of 28 million dollars supports 230 staff members, operational costs, and land purchases. TPL does not offer memberships but relies on the financial support of individuals, foundations, corporations, and funding generated through real estate transactions. The organization has its headquarters in San Francisco and also maintains seven regional offices.

Contact: The Trust for Public Land, 666 Pennsylvania Ave. SE, Suite 407, Washington, DC 20003; 1-800-714-LAND

THE CONSERVATION FUND

The Conservation Fund (TCF) is involved in a multitude of land and water conservation projects nationally. While not focused solely on biodiversity issues, TCF projects generally result in the protection of wild habitat. TCF is not a member organization and often works in partnership with other non-profits or public agencies, allowing the group to address a broad range of conservation concerns. Since 1985, The Conservation Fund, with various partners, has completed deals that resulted in the protection of roughly 1.4 million acres.

TCF's main sources of funding are foundations, gifts of land, and corporate grants.

Contact: The Conservation Fund, 1800 N. Kent St., Suite 1120, Arlington, VA 22209-2156; 703-525-6300

OPEN SPACE INSTITUTE

Through its land conservation efforts in New York, the Open Space Institute (OSI) works to expand public access and recreation opportunities, and protect wildlife habitat—with an emphasis on the Hudson River watershed and the Adirondacks. OSI spends \$7-10 million annually on direct land protection; these funds come from private contributions and the Lila Acheson and DeWitt Wallace Fund for the Hudson Highlands, established by the founders of *Reader's Digest*.

Contact: Open Space Institute, 666 Broadway, 9th floor, New York, NY 10012; 212-505-7480

MAINE COAST HERITAGE TRUST

Maine Coast Heritage Trust (MCHT) is a member organization whose primary conservation focus is undeveloped shoreline in Maine. MCHT works to protect biological diversity, public access to the shoreline, and scenic integrity; 82% of its \$1.2 million general operating budget is allocated for land protection. Funding comes from private individuals and foundations. Maine Coast Heritage Trust also acts as an advisor to the 76 other land trusts in the Maine Land Trust Network, providing technical and legal assistance, and moral support.

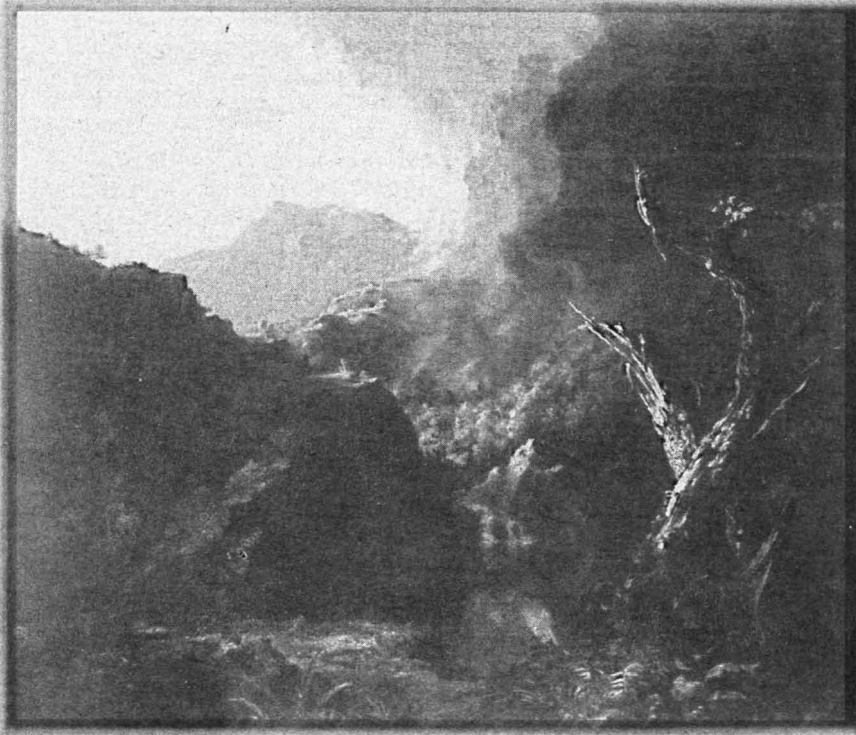
Contact: Maine Coast Heritage Trust, 169 Park Row, Brunswick, ME 04011; 207-729-7366

PENINSULA OPEN SPACE TRUST

Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST), based in Menlo Park, CA, helps protect wildlands for their biodiversity and aesthetic values on the San Francisco peninsula, specifically in the South Bay area from the Skyline Corridor to the coast. Recent projects have included wetland areas and beach front property. POST's main sources of funding are individual donors, foundations, and corporations; the organization is currently midway through a three-year, \$28.5-million fundraising campaign.

Contact: Peninsula Open Space Trust, 3000 Sand Hill Rd., Suite 4-135, Menlo Park, CA 94025; 650-854-7696

—compiled by Kerry Litchfield



come to the conclusion that all wildlands protection is local—that it's at the local level where we must build political support and public understanding to succeed. National legislation to classify public lands as Wilderness usually gets nowhere without the support of constituents of the congressperson in whose district the proposed Wilderness is located. State and local action to set aside wildlands and create greenways is just as dependent on local political support.

The burgeoning local land trust movement is as hopeful a trend as we've seen recently in American conservation efforts. Not only do land trusts represent people who love the land and don't mind speaking out in defense of their home region's heritage and sense of place, but private wildlands protection efforts are complementary to traditional public lands wilderness campaigns. Joint planning by public lands conservation groups and land trusts could help both camps focus on opportunities for landscape-wide mosaics of protected public and private wildlands. Conservation easements can include "forever wild" provisions,¹⁰ resulting in a significant increase in the total amount of land reserved from development. I urge wildlands advocates to jump on the land trust bandwagon, which is on a roll nationwide. ■

Rupert Cutler (POB 18102, Roanoke, VA 24014) is executive director of the Western Virginia Land Trust. He has been an assistant executive director of The Wilderness Society, a senior vice president of the National Audubon Society, and the president of Defenders of Wildlife. He served in the Carter administration as the Assistant Secretary for Conservation, Research, and Education, US Department of Agriculture. He wrote "Old Players with New Power: The Nongovernment Organizations" in A New Century for Natural Resources Management (Covelo, CA: Island Press, 1995).

Endnotes

¹This private lands inventory is underwritten by a grant from the Virginia Environmental Endowment.

²See *Endangered American Wilderness Act*, a hearing before the Subcommittee on Indian Affairs and Public Lands of the US House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, Serial No. 95-5, Pt. I, hearings held Feb. 28 and Mar. 1, 1977, pp. 17-19.

³"Mr. Chairman, we are going to take another complete look at the roadless and undeveloped lands in the entire National Forest system. We intend to categorize these undeveloped lands into three types, then ask the Congress to provide implementing legislation. One category will be areas which, if the Congress approves, will become wilderness immediately...." M. Rupert Cutler, Assistant Secretary for Conservation, Research, and Education, US Department of Agriculture, on May 6, 1977, to the Subcommittee on Indian Affairs and Public Lands of the US House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, *Endangered American Wilderness Act*, Serial No. 95-5, Pt. III, p. 97. See also, *Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II)*, US Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Publication No. 95-92 (two parts), Feb. and Oct. 1978.

⁴Testimony of M. Rupert Cutler in *RARE II Wilderness Proposals*, a hearing before the Subcommittee on Environment, Soil Conservation, and Forestry of the US Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, Feb. 6, 1979, pp. 4-13. See also, testimony of M. Rupert Cutler, Senior Vice President, National Audubon Society, in *RARE II Review Act of 1981*, a hearing before the Subcommittee on Public Lands and Reserved Water of the US Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Publication No. 97-60, Apr. 22, 1981, pp. 70-86.

⁵*Protecting the Source—Land Conservation and the Future of America's Drinking Water*, The Trust for Public Land, 1997, 32 pp.

⁶*Permanently Protecting Water Supply Lands with Conservation Easements*, Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, 1997, 48 pp.

⁷1319 F Street, NW, Suite 501, Washington, DC 20004-1106.

⁸See Aurelia C. Scott, "Saving the Land—How Governments, Communities and Individuals are Joining Forces to Preserve Rural America," *Country Journal*, Nov/Dec. 1996, pp. 20-23.

⁹Including the Piedmont Environmental Council, POB 460, Warrenton, VA 20188, and the Conservation Trust for North Carolina, POB 33333, Raleigh, NC 27636.

¹⁰See Nancy Smith, "Forever Wild Easements in New England," *Wild Earth*, fall 1997, pp. 72-80.

Landowner Satisfaction with Conservation Easements

by Paul Elconin and Valerie A. Luzadis

INTRODUCTION

Conservation easements, or conservation restrictions, are widely used and frequently lauded tools for land protection. They protect land while the property remains in private ownership, and the restriction runs with the title. Over the next two decades, many original grantors of easements, whose average age is approximately 65 (Boelhower 1995, Wright 1988), will be transferring ownership of thousands of acres of restricted properties to new landowners. These new "successive landowners" are legally bound to adhere to the pre-existing restrictions.

A relatively small amount of research has been conducted to gauge the motivations of easement donors. One relevant study found that landowners in Michigan identified the following factors (in order of importance) as driving their donations of land or restrictions (Ochterski 1996):

1. Personal commitment to the future of the land, including a desire to leave behind a legacy of natural areas for future generations; concern about the actions of subsequent landowners; and personal feelings toward the land.
2. Ecological stewardship.
3. Economic concerns (tax benefits of granting a restriction).

Notably, economic benefits were lowest in importance as a motivation for granting an easement. This underscores the intangible benefits of owning and interacting with the land and the desire to conserve property for emotional, rather than financial, reasons.

We conducted a study at the SUNY-College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse, NY, in hopes of expanding the knowledge about donor motivation and satisfaction. The primary objectives of the research project were to:

1. Assess original grantor motivations for granting and their satisfaction with conservation restrictions;
2. Determine from whom and when successive landowners learned of the restrictions on their land; and
3. Compare satisfaction between original grantors and successive landowners.

TERMINOLOGY

Conservation Easement or Conservation Restriction:

A conservation easement is a "voluntary legal agreement a property owner makes to restrict the type and amount of development that may take place on his or her property" (Diehl and Barrett 1988). The rights may be donated to or purchased by the grantee, and the restriction runs with the title when ownership changes. The terms "easement" and "restriction" are used interchangeably.

Original Grantor:

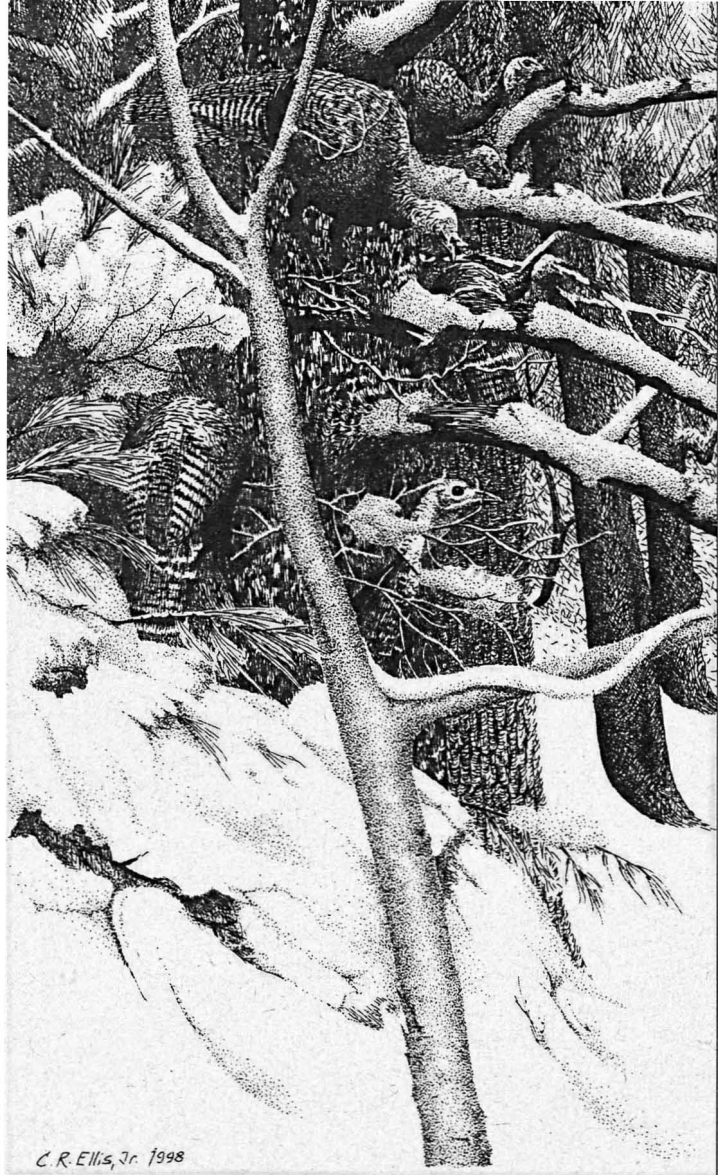
The landowner who grants the easement.

Grantee or Easement Holder:

The organization (usually a non-profit, 501c3) or agency (state or federal) that accepts or purchases the easement and is responsible for monitoring and ensuring compliance with the legal terms.

Successive Landowner or Successor:

A landowner who acquires—through purchase or inheritance—a previously restricted property (Cunningham 1968).



LOVING AND LEAVING THE LAND—PROTECTED

What benefits—financial, spiritual, aesthetic, philosophical, social—do landowners realize from their lands? To find out, I interviewed six landowners who had donated conservation easements to a northeastern land trust. The primary theme that appeared in their answers was the responsibility they feel as landowners, both toward their land and their communities. Many landowners take very seriously their role as caretakers:

...you think "There is a future beyond my own life."...There's an underlying faith [that] to keep that [land] available is a public service....I think that part of it is a humble sense that we really don't know all of the consequences [of humanity's actions]....In a very simple way, conservation means giving us time to think. The watershed needs to be taken care of...I start small, but I am personally convinced we've got to preserve this because ultimately our livelihood comes from the land.

Several of the landowners had a simple motivation for donating a conservation restriction: they wished to protect a parcel from development—from being covered with houses, shops, or roads:

These hilltops which are like this should be left open [as] they are a great asset to the community....On a lot of beautiful days people come up here...to look out, to see the slopes and lake over there...

Well, we wanted to make sure that it wasn't ever developed...or destroyed, so that uses wouldn't be made of it that weren't appropriate for the land.

The need for some kind of formal structure...had evolved where I couldn't rely on just peoples' feelings for the land...land was, on paper, worth atrocious amounts and that was because you could build on it. Not because you could have 30 turkeys out your window one morning....The peace of mind [the easement brings] is beyond price.

The easement does more than preserve the natural values of the restricted lands; the grantors are also protecting their playgrounds, their escapes, their views, their previous work, their memories, and their peace of mind. These landowners have an intense wish for the future state of the property to remain as similar as possible to its present state.

The easement is the owners' way of ensuring that future uses are compatible with their personal land ethic and sense of aesthetics, ecology, and responsibility. The restriction can be considered a pact the owners are making with the land. In a sense, they are rewarding the land for all it has given them by ensuring that, in the future, the land will be used according to what the grantors feel is most appropriate. They hope that successive owners will share their vision and love for the land. But they have added a layer of protection, just in case. —Paul Elconin

Over six hundred landowners in the northeastern United States—original grantors of conservation restrictions and successive landowners—were surveyed by mail in the winter of 1996/97. Approximately 62% responded to our questionnaires (69% of the original grantors and 46% of the successive landowners).

FINDINGS

- All landowners expressed pro-environmental attitudes and saw their conservation easements as protecting cherished personal and community resources.

- In general, landowners were highly satisfied with the restrictions on their lands, although original grantors were significantly more satisfied than successive landowners.

- While original grantors generally were not motivated to grant for financial reasons, many of them were less than satisfied with the tax and financial benefits of their conservation restrictions.

- Successive landowners were highly satisfied with how, when, and what they learned of the restrictions on the lands they purchased or inherited. The majority of successors learned about the restrictions from the previous property owners (59%) or from their real estate agents (23%). Almost 50% of successors learned of the existence of the restriction before they first examined the property, and another 25% learned of it upon the first examination.

- Successive landowners viewed the holders of their conservation easements as knowledgeable and helpful. However, they desired more contact with the grantee and would have preferred to have been contacted earlier in the process leading up to property acquisition.

- Many original grantors (19%) and even more successive landowners (37%) would change their easements if given the opportunity. Of respondents who desired amendments, most would relax the protective terms, usually to allow further building or subdivision; 11% would strengthen the conservation restrictions. The high percentage of successors desiring amendments may be one reason the response rate among this group was noticeably lower than that of original grantors.

CONCLUSIONS

People who originally granted conservation restrictions were motivated by a personal attachment to the land, a sense of altruism, and a commitment to stewardship. Social pressures and financial benefits were not significant influences. These landowners expressed a strong desire to

protect the land from development, and unknown and potentially "undesirable" land uses of future owners.

In general, original grantors were quite satisfied. The lowest levels of satisfaction were observed in tax and financial matters; some landowners were chagrined at the costs of granting both in money and time. Grantees should make clear to landowners that certain tax benefits are not guaranteed. These benefits depend on a variety of factors including surrounding real estate values, local development pressures, and the inherently unstandardized and somewhat subjective nature of property appraisals.

Successive landowners were informed of the easement early in the process leading to property acquisition. The restriction was not viewed as a negative aspect of property ownership, and overall satisfaction was high. However, successive landowners did show mixed perceptions of their freedom to use the land as they wished. A significant minority of respondents expressed dissatisfaction with the terms of their easements and/or their relationship with grantees.

Conservation easements will likely be an increasingly important tool to protect the ecological, aesthetic, and recreational values of private lands. Our study suggests that a generally high satisfaction with restrictions will continue as land is transferred from original grantors of restrictions to the next generation of landowners. Small adjustments by the grantees will improve the already impressive success of these conservation efforts. ■

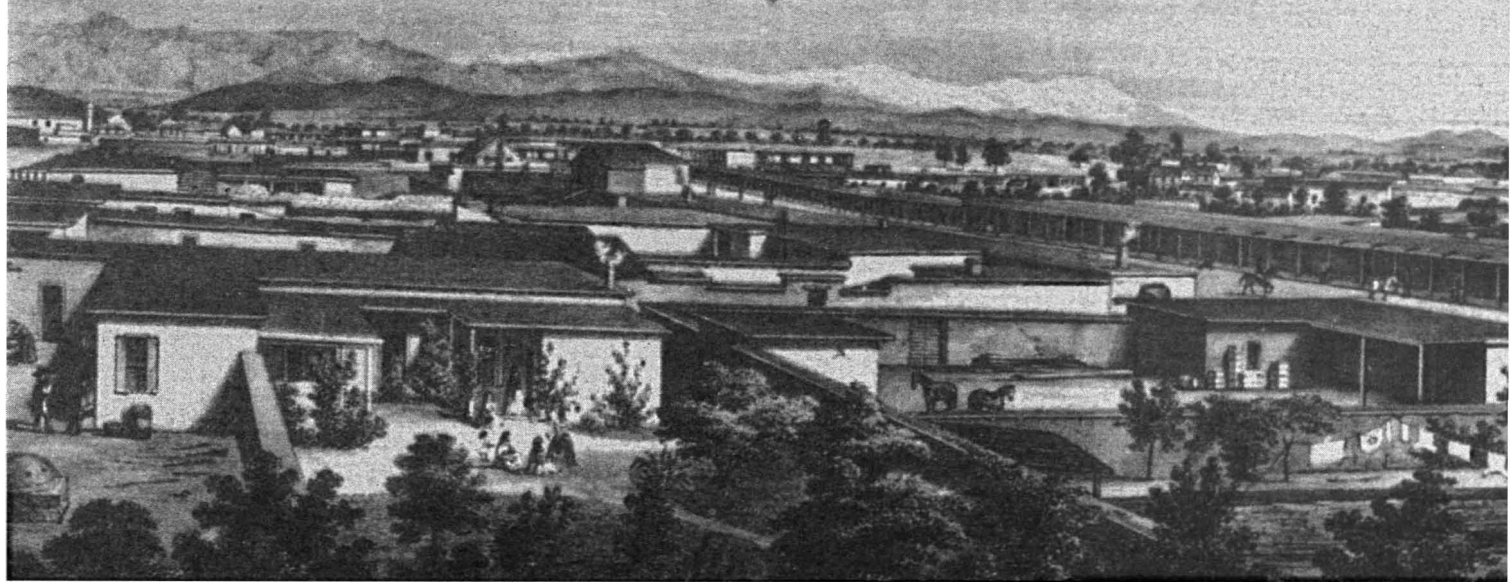
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RECONNECTING

Ethics, Community, and Private Land



Private property is
an evolving and
changeable cultural
creation, flexible
enough to promote
ecological goals...

by Eric T. Freyfogle

When Aldo Leopold penned his land ethic in the 1940s, there was hardly a murmur of interest in reconceiving landed property rights from an ecological perspective. Belatedly, but now in earnest, property scholars have turned to the task, initially to critique inherited ideas, and now to propose replacements. As property scholars perform this work, they face the related task of explaining how society might embrace a new vision of private property rights without unfairly hurting existing property holders. Much of this latter task will require a communal act of remembering. It will entail reminding the community, repeatedly and forcefully, of two vital truths: that private property is an evolving and changeable cultural creation, flexible enough to promote ecological goals, and that private property as a form of state-sanctioned power is justifiable only so long as it contributes to our overall well-being.

The ecological reconstruction of ownership norms is likely to draw extensively upon three interconnected strands of thought—ethics, community, and humility—that figure so prominently in the environmental critique of modern culture. It is useful to pause and briefly consider each of these strands before turning to consider more particularly the likely elements of an ecologically based ownership regime.

Modern environmental thought draws as much upon ethics as on ecology, challenging our value schemes as profoundly as it does our day-to-day conduct. It calls upon people to broaden their senses of moral worth to include more than just humans, to think about the land in more than just economic terms. The diversity of thought within this ethical strand of

"Reconnecting," as published here, is adapted from Eric T. Freyfogle's longer work "Ethics, Community, and Private Land," which originally appeared in *Ecology Law Quarterly* (Vol. 23, No. 4, 1993) and is reprinted by permission. ©1996 by *Ecology Law Quarterly*

Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, California. (detail) by Charles C. Kuchel and Emil Dresel (1857)

environmentalism is vast and confusing, dealing as it does with the varied ways of recognizing moral worth in other species, ecological communities, and future generations of humans. This diversity is compounded by the many overlapping, inconsistent factors involved in making moral judgments, including rights, utility, sentiment, virtues, and religion. Yet amid this vibrant diversity lies a common thread: Land use is a public matter as well as a private one; it is an issue of ethics, not just expediency.

Another way to phrase the principal goal of environmental thought is that it seeks to reattach people to one another and to the rest of the natural order. It is, accordingly, a profound challenge to the individualism of the modern age, particularly the individualism so manifest in economic thought. In the ecological worldview, humans are part of a larger creation and ultimately depend on its integrity and health. So great are the interdependencies among the parts, so numerous and extensive are the connecting links, that it is misleading and ultimately dangerous to speak of any individual organism as a distinct being—or to speak of the human species as a distinct element of the natural order, or to speak of a tract of land as a discrete part of the Earth. One cannot meaningfully consider the health of humans apart from the health of the land, nor the well-being of one human apart from the well-being of the surrounding human and natural community.

So complex are these interdependencies among organisms, species, and geophysical elements—indeed, so complex are the individual pieces of Nature studied one by one—that even the most knowledgeable scientists are quickly overwhelmed. The natural order is more intricate than we could hope to understand; its ways and linkages are far beyond our comprehension. The best way to deal with this complexity is to admit our ignorance and develop methods to deal with it. We need to shape our decision-making processes to account for the huge gaps in our knowledge—perhaps by drawing on sentiment, as some suggest; perhaps by drawing upon spiritual perspectives, as others recommend. However the gaps are filled, we are wise to act humbly and to err on the side of caution. We are more likely to embrace this kind of humility, and to remain alert to local signs of decline, if we can become more engaged with the places where we live, more aware of their features and more attuned to signs of good and bad health. We are more likely to care for our home if we develop an emotional, even spiritual attachment to it, fostering within ourselves, individually and collectively, a sense of permanent belonging to our chosen place.

These three strands—ethics, community, and humility—together with the maturing ecological critique of private

property, provide the raw materials for a new understanding of private land ownership. The goal is to create a healthy, lasting law of private property rights, one that enables and encourages a rights-holder to live in right relation to the land—not to own the land, in the arrogant way that the term is commonly used, nor yet to be owned by the land, as if the rights-holder had no legitimate role in plotting its future, but to live in harmonious partnership with it, working to make the land fruitful while respecting its limits and residing always in awe of its inscrutable power. Those who address themselves to this task, legal scholars as much as others, must realize that it is a long-term project, tampering as it does with such a vital element of modern life. It proposes the work of decades or more, and it is certain to encounter the determined resistance of people wedded to the still-common view of land as inert, consumable, and spiritless.

Owning as belonging.

The place to begin in reconceiving land ownership is to realize that land parcels are inherently connected and that each parcel, and hence each owner, belongs to a larger community. A person is unlikely to use land responsibly without an awareness of the seen and unseen links, the inevitable spillovers and externalities. It must become clear that land ownership entails membership in a larger community, creating responsibilities as well as rights.

Promoting land health.

If land ownership is to continue fulfilling its many useful functions, in terms of promoting economic enterprise, fostering family and individual privacy, and the like, it must allow owners to put their land to use. But that use—where it is done and how it is done—must be consistent with the overriding communal goal of sustaining the health and integrity of the larger natural order. Aldo Leopold phrased this goal in terms of the well-being of the biotic community; today's common synonymous terms include ecosystem health, ecological integrity, and sustainable land use, with frequent reference to the maintenance of biodiversity and the normal functioning of ecosystem processes. However phrased—and one can safely assume that new phrasings will arise—the prime goal is community well-being.

A commitment to foster the land's long-term health will seem more sensible if landowners can develop a feeling of settled permanence, an affectionate bond to place that includes a concern for the life that will inhabit the land in the future. This kind of sense, of course, has much to do with the character of the owner, a matter that property law can influence only a bit. But permanence is also aided by a

The promotion of biodiversity should be a shared obligation that attaches in some way to more or less all land. Every rural landowner, perhaps even some suburban ones, should face an obligation to leave room for wildlife.



feeling of economic security for the owner, the family, and the surrounding community. Economic security is a matter that the law can help address, as can other mechanisms for implementing public policy. Secure land tenure is part of this security, but the main pressures on landowners today are more market-driven than legal. Such pressures have to do with low incomes, pressures to compete by abusing the land, and the decline of the local community as a center of economic activity. Until these matters are successfully addressed, too many landowners will remain motivated by short-term concerns.

Embracing human **3** *ignorance.*

In the law of private property, as in environmental thought generally, a prominent place is needed for human ignorance. Land ownership must come to mean a right to use the land humbly, within the limits set by the land—limits that we often see dimly. The correlative rule here is an acceptance of liability for land degradation, and a commitment to restoration when possible. Humble land use will often mean a low burden of proof for claims of unsustainable land use or land degradation.

Sensitivity to place **4**

Given the complexity of Nature and the paramount need to promote community well-being, land use norms must stimulate an attention to place. They must foster a willingness to tailor land uses to the characteristics and possibilities of each tract. Land uses must be set not just by what is economically and physically possible in a place, but by the role of the tract in the surrounding ecosystem. The owner must begin by asking what land use makes sense in Nature's terms, and what land use is consistent with the

continued health of the larger community. Ownership entitlements, then, will vary from place to place in terms of the land uses that are permitted and how they are undertaken. What they will share is a commitment to live within Nature's limits.

Sharing landscape-scale burdens.

If the larger landscape is to remain healthy, individual landowners must become cognizant of the needs of that landscape, in terms of wildlife habitat, aquifer protection, waterway integrity, and the like. Good ownership must come to include a fair sharing of those landscape-scale burdens. The Endangered Species Act is sometimes criticized for requiring a few landowners to shoulder a burden—biodiversity protection—that should be spread more widely. Whatever the merits of the complaint, the type of argument is a sound one. The promotion of biodiversity should be a shared obligation that attaches in some way to more or less all land. Every rural landowner, perhaps even some suburban ones, should face an obligation to leave room for wildlife, just as the owner should help maintain hydrological cycles and other ecosystem processes. Nature preserves should still be maintained at public expense, and not become an involuntary private burden. But most plants and animals need more than scattered islands of habitat to sustain healthy populations. They need linkages and corridors in which to travel or spread, if not large patches of habitat for breeding or defense. In some cases a landowner's particular duty will be to leave strips of land undisturbed; in other cases it might entail a change in land-use activities, from one that disrupts natural communities to one that is more consistent with them.

Promoting local knowledge.

Good land use is best understood as an art, tailored to the uniqueness of each place and sensitive to the possibilities and limits set by Nature. One does not learn this kind of land use from a book or in a school. It arises more often from experience, from the lessons learned over time by attentive land stewards—by farmers, foresters, ranchers, builders, homeowners' associations, and managers of communal lands such as highway corridors and parks. Much of this knowledge will be local, tied to the terrain, soils, climate, hydrology, biodiversity, and economy of a place, and it will arise by the kind of cautious, trial-and-error method some call adaptive management.

Ownership norms need to stimulate local searches for ways to use the land without degrading it, and encourage knowledgeable as well as inexperienced landowners to participate in the process of developing, implementing, and perpetuating local wisdom on how to live successfully in a particular place.

Landscape-level planning.

Good ownership will include the owner's participation in landscape-level planning. Land health cannot revive without plans that cover large areas, such as watersheds, ecosystems, or even bioregions. Owners need to help prepare these plans, so that they can lend their wisdom and skills to the planning process and so that they will more readily accept the finished products. The law of private property should encourage this process of shared decision-making.

As individual landowners gather to share their knowledge, values, and visions, they are likely to learn more about the health of their home regions. They are more likely to notice the many signs of landscape decline—eroding soil, declining water quality, stunted trees, disappearing wildlife—and to accept responsibility for the ecological problems they share. Until landowners learn about these problems and see the benefits of addressing them—and until they know that their neighbors, or most of them, will join in addressing them—they are unlikely to perform the needed work.

These seven guiding principles are not small ideas, and they are sufficiently new to warrant a good deal more reflection. As that task progresses, however, we should continue the hard work of translating these guiding ideas into specific rules and processes, proceeding as always by trial and error. It is hardly possible to list all of the forms that these rules and processes might take, but a few examples can illustrate the likely range:

1 Decades ago the law of public nuisance sought to protect communities from bad land use. Today, public nuisance law again can become a useful tool for discouraging ecologically unsound land practices. For this to happen, nuisance law must do more than merely protect identifiable neighbors from immediate harm. The definition of nuisance should be broadened to encompass land uses that sap the health of the natural community. It must include harms that are widespread, such as soil erosion and large-scale clearcutting, as well as harms that are hard to trace or slow to emerge. Land uses that degrade the health of ecological communities are public nuisances in the ordinary sense of the word: they diminish the entire human and natural community.

A revitalized law of public nuisance can push landowners to promote the health of the local land, drawing upon local knowledge and usefully supplementing local landscape-level planning efforts. With its flexible standards that draw upon communally set standards of right and wrong, public nuisance is easily tailored to the peculiarities of a given place and thus can help promote a sensitivity to that place. With an appropriately low burden of proof, it can allow challenges to land-use practices that do not cause immediate, traceable harm, and thus can help deal with the considerable limits on human knowledge. Perhaps above all, a revitalized public nuisance doctrine can add back to our land ownership discourse a way of talking meaningfully about land uses that threaten the communal whole.

2 Western water law requires that water uses be "beneficial," but it retains an antiquated 19th-century definition of the term. The time has come for an updated, ecologically sound definition, one that requires owners to use water in ways that promote not just the human economy, but the health of the surrounding land. Irrigation practices need particular attention. Many low-valued irrigation uses, particularly ones that pollute surface waters or deplete aquifers, will likely need to end. As in the case of public nuisance law, a revitalized definition of beneficial use can help promote land health by bringing damaging land-use practices to an end. With its inherent flexibility, the definition is easily tailored to take into account the ecological peculiarities of a place. As in the case of public nuisance, perhaps the greatest gain can come from a renewed focus on the community impacts of a given water use. When "beneficial" plainly means beneficial to the community, attention is naturally drawn to the community and its needs, and to the ways that particular water uses affect the larger landscape.



3 Given how extensively humans have altered natural drainage patterns and flood regimes over the past three centuries—and the many bad consequences of that manipulation—much future work will no doubt focus on the integrity of hydrological cycles and the natural functioning of waterways. The landowner's right to drain needs serious rethinking, not just in the case of wetlands, but wherever drainage materially disrupts natural water flows. The activities of drainage districts also need reform, particularly where they retain a single-minded focus on dredging and channelling. Much of this work will require local action, bringing landowners together at the watershed level to learn, discuss, and plan.

4 The protection of biodiversity will entail work at all levels of government, gathering information and developing coordinated land planning strategies. Often governments will need to purchase lands and interests in lands (such as conservation easements) to help achieve this vast goal. But much of the work will require action by landowners, private and public. Legally structured processes must help bring owners together, push them to find ways to protect wildlife habitat, and encourage them to formulate and implement their fair-share burdens. In many parts of the country, no shared undertaking by local landowners is more likely than biodiversity protection to make neighbors aware of the needs of their local land, and to see the interconnections among land uses. Because so many species are sensitive to human activities, the promotion of native species will often nourish the health of the larger natural community. When private ownership comes to include an obligation to leave room for wildlife, it will push owners to move far beyond individual concerns.

The human landscape, as Wendell Berry has observed, is today usefully divided into two parties: the party of the global economy and the party of the local community. There is no question which one is now winning, but there is also no question that there remains a resilient minority tradition, a persistent localism that is sustained by shared ties to a place. Characterized and led by thousands of well-settled people, this minority tradition exalts the

virtues of staying put and promoting lasting health. It embraces a mode of life centered around face-to-face contacts in settings of mutual and continuing concern. Its vocabulary includes the words "sharing" and "responsibility." Its definition of "proper" looks first to the well-being of the whole. To own land in such a place is to belong; it is to be a part of something larger, a worker for the common-unity.

If property law is ever to embrace an ecologically sound land ethic, it will be due to the work of this pressured but durable minority, to the values that these people promote and to the inspiration that they offer. In them one finds a love of the land and a passionate concern for its lasting health. In them one finds an attention to the peculiarities of place and an understanding of what it means, in practical terms, to treat the land with respect. In them, and in the tradition they carry on, there lies promise and hope.

Property law, of course, can never be detailed enough to direct owners how to use their particular lands in healthy ways. Good land use requires an intimate knowledge of the land and long-term commitment to it—things distant lawmakers can never have. Yet, the law can help greatly by providing a wise structural framework, proclaiming a mature land ethic, and incorporating the durable wisdom of ecology. The law plays a central role in dispensing communal wisdom and educating people about right and wrong conduct. When we look to the law of private property, we need to receive messages that charge us to act ethically. We need to see that private ownership entails responsibility; that it means belonging to a community and abiding by its evolving norms. We need to see, plainly and foremost, that private ownership demands doing what is proper. ■

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A Good and Important Cause

Early Conservation Activism and National Parks

by David Carle

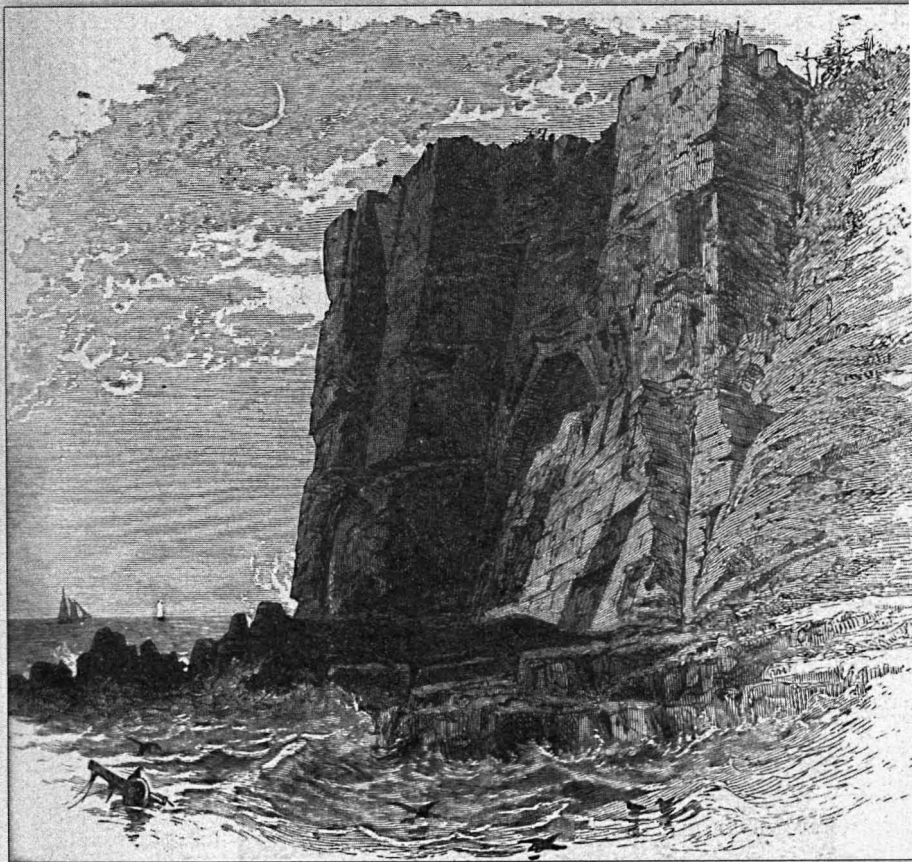
When the word “wildland” is used today, the image that comes to mind for many people is—National Park. Indeed, throughout this century much of the American conservation movement’s energy has been devoted to creating and expanding the National Park System. In the public imagination today, it is the National Parks, not National Forests or even Wilderness Areas, that have become America’s Crown Jewels.

When discussing the early history of National Parks, there are some well-recognized names—John Muir, John D. Rockefeller Jr., Ansel Adams—but there were many other conservationists, little known today, that initiated park proposals, battled developers, and helped shape a national debate about protecting Nature. Mary Belle King Sherman (General Federation of Women’s Clubs), George Stewart (newspaper editor), Enos Mills (writer and guide), Rosalie Edge (Emergency Conservation Committee), and George Dorr (textile executive) could well be considered “godparents” of this century’s international wildlands movement. While the first National Reservation was established in 1832, and the first National Park in 1872, the National Park Service was not established until 1916, the culmination of an eight-year campaign led by a small group of activists.

Who were these unsung heroes who toiled to protect America’s natural heritage? How did they do it, and what can we learn from their example?

The aforementioned conservationists all had success protecting wildlands, yet employed very different tactics to reach their goals. What follows is a summary of two contrasting strategies—passionate public advocacy and quiet patrician philanthropy—that were important in early American conservation history, and still work today.

The work of the Emergency Conservation Committee (ECC) is a study in contrasts to George Dorr’s effort to establish Acadia National Park. Where the ECC’s methods promoted direct public involvement to influence the political process, Dorr worked behind the scenes, utilizing his acquaintances in the political and financial worlds. Where the ECC was involved in a number of campaigns, Dorr focused on just one—preserving Maine’s Mount Desert Island.



Let us cherish the domain we have received from the hands of Nature, and in using it for our collective enjoyment manage it wisely and damage it as little as possible. Let us study the pages of its story. Let us sense its romance. And finally, let us receive its benediction!

—Harlean James, in *Romance of the National Parks*, 1941

ROSALIE EDGE AND THE EMERGENCY CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

If the cause is a good and important one, even a small organization with little money to start with, provided it has the enthusiasm to work hard and the persistence to keep at it, can arouse public opinion and gain support to accomplish things that at first sight would seem impossible. (Van Name, p. 190)

Despite never having more than five members, the Emergency Conservation Committee was one of the most effective conservation groups of the early 20th century. The Committee's founder and chairperson was New Yorker Rosalie B. Edge, an activist in the suffrage movement and an avid birder. Other members included Irving Brant, a contributing editor for the *St. Louis Star Times* and advisor to President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes; and Dr. Willard G. Van Name, a biol-

only honest, unselfish

ogist at the American Museum of Natural History who was the "spiritual godfather and non-wealthy financial backer" of the ECC.

The ECC had little patience for any entity that compromised Nature. If an official—whether he or she represented the US Forest Service, Park Service, or the Bureau of Biological Survey—was violating the public trust, a campaign would be initiated. The Committee's tactics might include writing letters to newspapers across the country and every member of Congress; publishing and distributing pamphlets to an extensive mailing list; and giving testimony before Congress—anything to change business as usual. Other conservation organizations were also targets for criticism. In fact, it was a critique of the National Association of Audubon Societies (NAAS, the precursor to the National Audubon Society) that gave birth to the ECC.

In 1929, Van Name and Dr. W. DeWitt Miller, also of the American Museum of Natural History, published a paper titled *A Crisis in Conservation* that documented the status of nine bird species that faced possible extinction, including the California Condor, Whooping Crane, Carolina Parakeet, and Golden Plover. The document accused the NAAS, ostensibly the country's preeminent bird conservation group, of inaction.

The backlash was swift. A number of officials at the American Museum were also leaders in the NAAS. Van



Name was forbidden to publish anything under his own name without the museum's approval. But Rosalie Edge, after reading *A Crisis in Conservation*, contacted Van Name, resulting in the formation of the Emergency Conservation Committee with a mission to publish and distribute pamphlets and other educational materials.

Edge—who Van Name once described as the “only honest, unselfish, indomitable hellcat in the history of conservation”—and the Committee embarked on a campaign to reform the NAAS, believing that its reputation for protecting wildlife “persisted in the public mind for years after the right to its reputation vanished.” In what became Edge's trademark, the ECC published *Compromised Conservation: Can the Audubon Society Explain?*, a pamphlet exposé challenging the NAAS's acceptance of donations from gun-and-ammunition organizations. According to the ECC, “for ten years the aims and ideals and militant spirit of the Audubon

Put these great trees in a national park, and they cannot be subjected to lumbering except by authority of an act of Congress.... The power exists to cut and sell every tree in a national forest. Not only that, but national forests are open to grazing by private stock, to irrigation projects and power dams that ruin lakes and rivers, to every form of commercialism that conflicts with a program of conservation. If the Olympic forests are to be saved, they can be saved only by putting them in a national park.

The Emergency Conservation Committee has been given principal credit for establishing Olympic National Park, and played significant roles in the creation of Kings Canyon National Park, in adding lands to Sequoia and Yosemite National Parks, and in ending the killing of pelicans by park officials in Yellowstone National Park. These successes were the result of continuous public contact, including the hiring of grassroots organizers and unending mailings.

indomitable hellcat...

Society have been subordinated to the raising of money. Its motto had become ‘tread softly, lest an enemy be made’” (Brant, p. 17–18).

The ECC wanted to distribute *Compromised Conservation* to members of the NAAS. Edge, a life-long Audubon member, requested the membership list but the organization refused to release it. Reasoning that court action against the NAAS “would either force them to do so [give her the list], or would give them some unpleasant publicity,” she decided to sue.

In 1934, Edge won her lawsuit and Audubon capitulated. The organization changed its name to the National Audubon Society, made the position of president honorary, and created the position of executive director. With these changes, the ECC's five-year campaign to reform the organization ended.

○

Edge believed that the lumber industry posed a great threat to Nature, and that the Forest Service was a front for timber interests. The way to counter that threat was to create more National Parks, and the ECC was unrelenting in its advocacy for National Parks and its hostility toward the Forest Service. For example, during the battle to create Olympic National Park, the ECC published and distributed the pamphlet *The Olympic Forests For A National Park* (1938) which stated:

The ECC published over 100 pamphlets, teaching guides, and information sheets ranging from the wildlife policy pamphlet *It's Alive—Kill it!*, to the *Our Nation's Forest* teaching guide, to *Double Crossing Mount Olympus National Park*. Its pamphlets were so effective that, according to ECC member Irving Brant, “the time came when even a member of the president's cabinet would say to me, on one subject or another, ‘Can you get Edge to put out a pamphlet on this?’” But it was not just the publications that brought success. It was the various talents and contacts that each member brought to the organization.

At a time when women had just gained the right to vote and the country was in the grip of the depression, Rosalie Edge was a tenacious and effective conservationist: “Edge believed that women had a special responsibility to speak out to preserve natural resources. Because most preservation measures were ‘so closely related to business,’ she said, it was ‘sometimes difficult for men to take a strong stand on the side of public interest. But women can do it, and they should’” (Kaufman, p. 43).

Willard Van Name was both a respected scientist and politically astute:

The futility of attempting to get conservation legislation of any importance or value without first working up a general understanding of the case and a demand for it on the part of the public that politicians fear to disregard, should by this

time be evident. Legislation secured through political deals and bargains will usually prove to be a sham and a disappointment, through falling short in some essential particular or from containing some joker. Amateurs in politics cannot get the best of professional politicians. (Van Name, p. 188)

Irving Brant not only had excellent connections in the media and government, but he knew how to use them. He became an informal advisor to some of the most powerful people in government, always pushing them to do more for conservation, yet never forgetting their position.

The Emergency Conservation Committee offered a new model of how passionate and uncompromising advocacy for Nature could incite public involvement; its tactics "reflected a militancy that presaged the methods of environmental activists to come" (Kaufman, p. 40). It never wavered from a central belief: Public lands belong to the public. The grassroots wilderness movement today would do well to study the lessons of Rosalie Edge and the ECC.

GEORGE DORR AND THE HANCOCK COUNTY TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC RESERVATION

Our national parks alone can supply the imaginative appeal that is made in older lands by ancient works of art, by ruins, and old historic associations. (George Dorr)

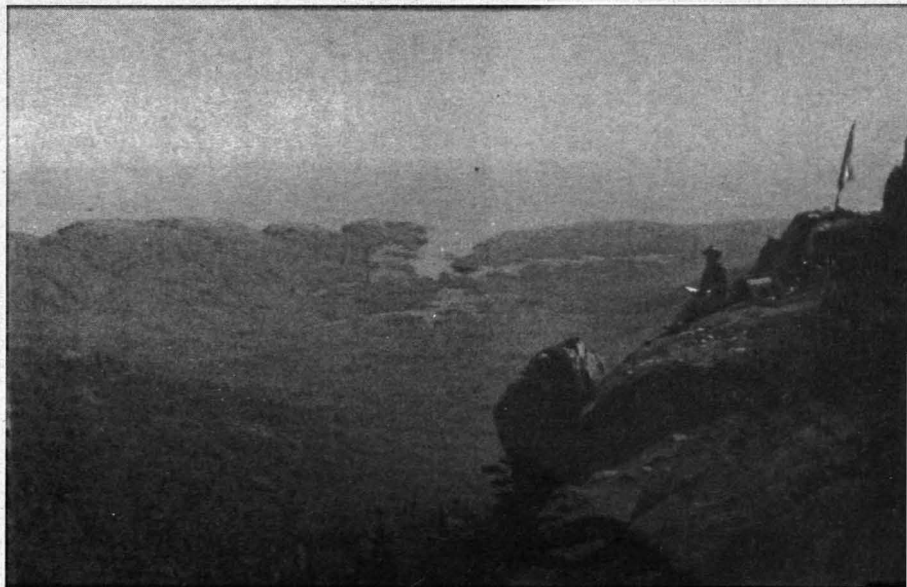
George Dorr was an affluent Bostonian, heir to a textile company fortune. As befitted his place in the eastern upper class of the late 1800s, Dorr maintained a vacation home in Maine on Mount Desert Island, the largest rock island on the Atlantic coastline of the United States. In 1901, a group of landowners had become concerned by the growing commercialism of Bar Harbor and other towns on Mount Desert Island. This group—including Charles W. Eliot, President of Harvard University; William Lawrence, Bishop of Massachusetts; and John S. Kennedy of New York, who had interests in banking and railroads—formed the Hancock County Trustees of Public Reservation (HCTPR), a non-profit public corporation. Its mission was "to acquire, by devise, gift, or purchase, and to own, arrange, hold, maintain, or improve for public use lands in Hancock County, Maine, which by reason of scenic beauty, historical interest, sanitary advantage or other like reasons may become available for such purpose" (Collier, p. 14). Dorr became the executive officer.

With the non-profit charter in hand, Dorr began the work of identifying threatened lands and gaining commitments of financial assistance from other philanthropists. Dorr would quietly research the ownership of targeted tracts, and then encourage the owners to donate or sell the parcels to the non-profit corporation. And he led by example; beginning in 1909 and continuing until his death, Dorr gave much of his own land to the HCTPR and later to the National Park Service, including the family's oceanfront home.

The Trustees of Public Reservation had no plans to ask for federal protection of its holdings—until 1913, when a bill was introduced in the Maine State Legislature to repeal the HCTPR non-profit charter. Dorr immediately went to the state capital, drafted a number of influential friends into a vigorous lobbying effort, and defeated the legislation. But the near loss of the charter was a wake-up call that the lands that he had worked so hard to acquire lacked permanent protection. Dorr convinced Eliot and the other trustees to petition the federal government to make Mount Desert Island a National Park. With their endorsement, he headed to Washington, DC.

In 1913, the birth of the National Park Service was still three years away. Because of the uncertainty surrounding pending legislation to establish a Park Service, Dorr initially focused on the possibility of the HCTPR lands becoming a National Monument, following the precedent of William Kent and his wife, who a few years before had given Muir Woods in California to the federal government to become a National Monument.

In 1916, the HCTPR formally offered approximately 5000 acres on Mount Desert Island to the government for the



establishment of a National Monument. Despite the offer, acceptance of the land by the president was not immediate. Dorr continued to visit and lobby officials. He solicited support from a number of personal acquaintances, including Charles Hamlin of the Federal Reserve Bank, Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis, Interior Secretary Franklin Lane, and Henry Graves, Chief of the Forest Service. Eventually, Dorr learned that the proclamation was being held up by Secretary of Agriculture David Houston.

Early in his career, Secretary Houston had been a professor at Harvard. Dorr wired Harvard's President Eliot asking him to contact Houston—which Eliot did. Three days later, Houston informed the president that he had changed his position, and six days later, President Wilson signed the proclamation. As part of the agreement, Dorr became the Superintendent of the new Sieur de Monts National Monument at a salary of one dollar per year.

With the ink hardly dry on the proclamation, Dorr initiated the effort to change Sieur de Monts to a National Park. After securing endorsements from Theodore Roosevelt and Frederick Gillette—Dorr's friend and the Speaker of the US House of Representatives—Congress passed the legislation. On February 26, 1919, President Wilson signed the bill to create Lafayette National Park, the same day that the Grand Canyon became a National Park.

Ten years later, Dorr secured the donation of Schoodic Point to the park. But the donors were English and did not appreciate the name "Lafayette." Dorr and others preferred the name "Acadia," and went to work on legislation to change the park's name and boundaries. The bill passed both houses of Congress without debate and was signed by President Calvin Coolidge on January 19, 1929.

According to author Sargent Collier, Dorr learned early in his campaign the importance of "imagination, energy, tact, and money....While hewing to his ideas and ideals for a National Park, he often had to retreat one step to accomplish two forward" (Collier, p. 35). To take those two steps forward, Dorr never hesitated to use his own money to purchase land or to travel to Washington, DC to help the process along.

Little of the campaign for what became Acadia National Park was done in public view, and certainly not all Mainers shared Dorr's vision. But nobody can question his commitment to the protection of Mount Desert Island. According to former National Park Service Director Horace Albright, "in my opinion, it could have been named George B. Dorr National Park, for if ever a park was achieved by the inspiration and determination of one man, it was this one" (Albright and Cahn, p. 85). Indeed, Dorr committed his family's fortune to the creation of the park, dying with little money.

SOUNDING THE TRUMPETS

The early champions of National Parks—Rosalie Edge, George Dorr, and others—had both a compelling vision and the drive to make that vision a reality. Some used their money, others formed organizations, some plowed ahead alone, gaining allies along the way. It was their *actions* that attracted others—often with resources that complemented the vision—to their campaigns. Ideas alone are just ideas. It is the skillful promotion of the ideas that will result in success.

Acadia National Park started out as Sieur de Monts National Monument, Olympic National Park as Mount Olympus National Monument, and Kings Canyon National Park as the proposed John Muir National Park. Over the last 65 years there have been a number of other serious park proposals; park advocates have championed Escalante, Mount Katahdin, and Hells Canyon National Parks, for example, but those visions have not become realities—yet. As the biologist Willard Van Name wrote in 1929:

Most of our Senators and Congressmen are sincere, hard-working men who are doing the best they know how to handle the tremendous task of running the government of this great nation. They are only too glad to do the will of the people if it is clear to them. In too many cases the public fails to make its views and desires known, or even to give evidence of having any. This is the first condition that we have to remedy. (Van Name, p. 184)

It is time to remedy this situation. ■

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HOWARD ZAHNISER

A Legacy of Wilderness

by Mark Harvey

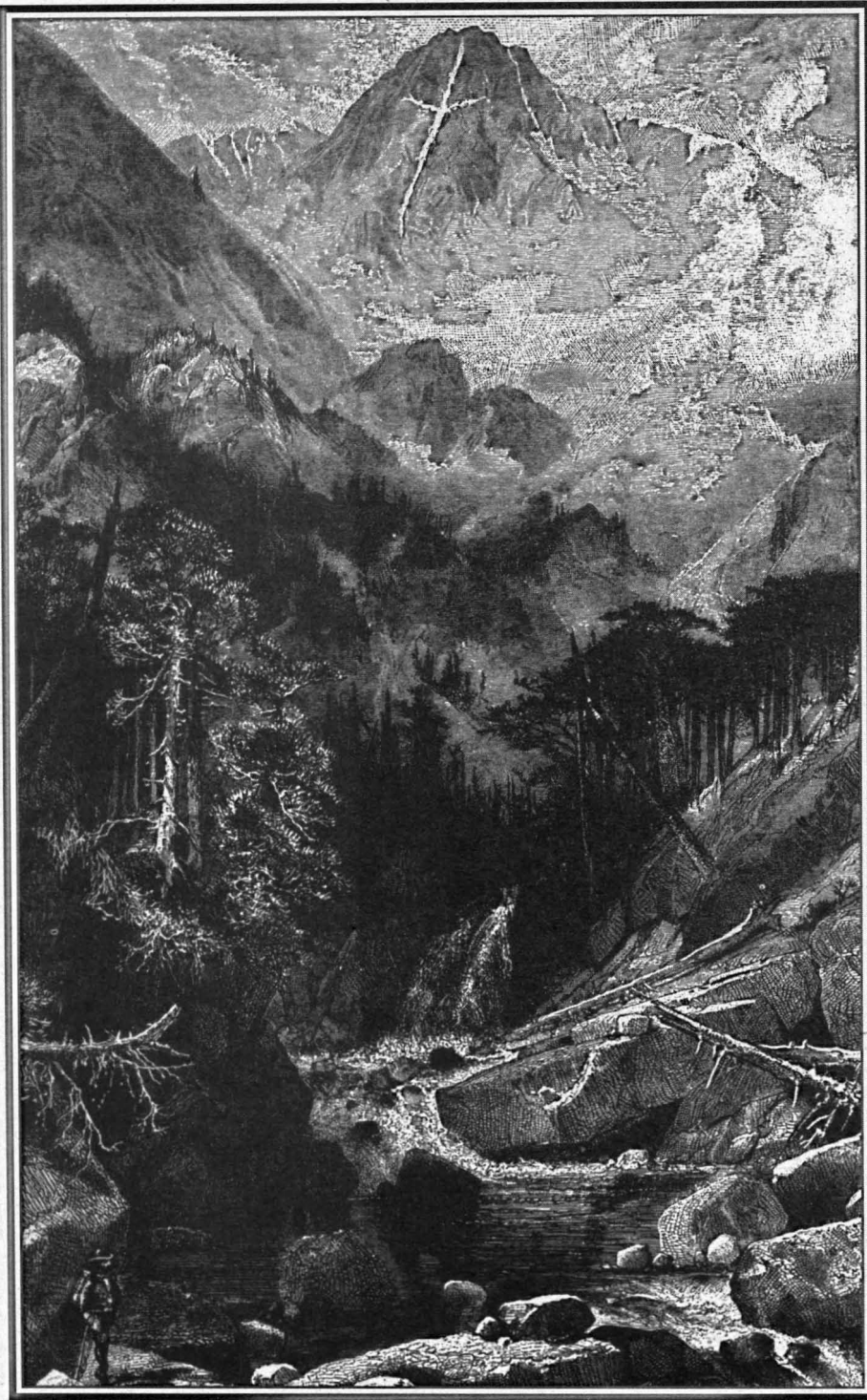
More than any other single figure, it was Howard Zahniser who spearheaded the Wilderness Act of 1964, the bedrock of the nation's Wilderness system.

Howard Zahniser, executive secretary of The Wilderness Society from 1945–1964, was a giant in American conservation history and a leading figure in the post-World War II wilderness movement. Although not as well known as Robert Marshall, Aldo Leopold, or Benton MacKaye, Zahniser built on the work of these founders of the early twentieth century wilderness movement and brought their visionary ideas to fruition. More than any other single figure, it was Howard Zahniser who spearheaded the Wilderness Act of 1964, the bedrock of the nation's Wilderness system. His immense talents as a writer, organizer, and lobbyist proved to be of crucial importance in the long campaign for the wilderness bill in the 1950s and 1960s.

Howard Zahniser's love of wilderness developed at an early age as a youth in rural Pennsylvania. The second son of a Free Methodist minister who changed churches every few years, Zahniser grew up in small communities in the northwest part of the state. He spent his teenage years in Tionesta, a hardscrabble working-class town immediately west of what is now the Allegheny National Forest, and lived in a house only a few hundred yards from the swift-moving Allegheny River. Historically, the river had been a conduit for logs and oil from northwest Pennsylvania to Pittsburgh, but for Zahniser, the Allegheny was inspiring for its natural beauty. The river provoked his curiosity about the lifeways of birds and other wildlife, and his ramblings in the surrounding woods and hills were a constant activity.¹

Zahniser never forgot Tionesta, returning to it throughout his life. In 1935, in a letter to his sister Helen, he wrote: "I think you will benefit a great deal from being in Tionesta. It always strengthens me, and I wish I could be there with you. To be near the river, the hills, and the country without the harshness of industrial and commercial activities should be of renewing value to the nerves. I am sure you will be healthier."²

Howard Zahniser came of age during the New Deal, a significant decade for conservation with a burst of new federal agencies including the Soil Conservation Service, Tennessee Valley Authority, and rapid expansion of the National Wildlife Refuges under Jay "Ding" Darling. Just a few years out of college, while working in public relations at the Bureau of Biological Survey—a forerunner of



the Fish and Wildlife Service—he fell under the influence of prominent wildlife biologists such as Edward Preble and Ira Gabrielson. They taught him the importance of research and carefully executed field work as well as the critical role of the federal government in protecting wildlife, especially migratory birds. Since his childhood, Zahniser had adored birds; as a young civil service officer, he came to understand that birds were the focus of serious research and substantial federal protection efforts.

Wilderness Society, which he had joined in 1936 soon after its founding. The Society was searching for a new executive secretary following the death of Robert Sterling Yard who had edited its periodical *Living Wilderness* and managed the group's Washington office. The Society's leaders—Benton MacKaye, Harvey Broome, and Ernest Griffith—considered Zahniser's background in editing and public relations perfect for the job, and he eagerly accepted their offer. Olaus Murie, based in Moose, Wyoming, served as executive

Zahniser's duties at the Biological Survey included writing press releases about new Wildlife Refuges, speeches for agency directors, and radio scripts for broadcast on the National Farm and Home Hour, on which he occasionally appeared.³ In 1942, when the renamed Fish and Wildlife Service was forced to relocate to Chicago because of the war, Zahniser found a position as a researcher and writer in the Bureau of Plant Industry, a branch of the Department of Agriculture.

Although by trade a public relations specialist, his real passion was for books, especially the works of Dante, Thoreau, and William Blake.⁴ His literary interests, combined with his love of Nature, inspired his own desire to write. In 1935, he began writing a monthly books column in *Nature Magazine*, a task he performed with great pleasure for 25 years. Zahniser's "Nature in Print" served up reviews of new books of natural history and nature writing by the likes of Donald Culross Peattie, Rachel Carson, and Edwin Way Teale. The columns reveal Zahniser's thoughtful and generous approach to the works and ideas of others. He celebrated the books far more than he criticized them.

In 1945, Zahniser seized an opportunity to work for The

director. A respected and nationally known ecologist, Murie was clearly the senior partner. But Zahniser wasted little time showing his value to the Society's work. His major task was to build on the groundwork laid by the organization's founders, especially to broaden support for wilderness and secure its protection by law.

Alone in the nation's capital, Zahniser faced enormous challenges in his new position. Like most conservation groups of that era, The Wilderness Society was small (tiny is a better word) with a few hundred members nationwide. Zahniser was its chief administrative officer, responsible for tracking the Society's budget and membership, recruiting new members, plotting strategy with Murie, arranging annual council meetings, and most importantly, editing *Living Wilderness*. Zahniser considered *Living Wilderness* to be the Society's best tool for gaining new members and winning support for wilderness. The new editor changed its format, added more pictures and improved its overall appearance, and turned it into a regularly issued quarterly.⁵ Longer features about wilderness were accompanied by short updates on wildlife, parks, and legislative news. Under Zahniser's careful editing, *Living Wilderness* became a standard reference tool and one of the premier conservation journals of the post-World War II period.⁶

Zahniser also found occasion to contribute to wilderness thought with his own essays in *Living Wilderness*, *Nature Magazine*, *National Parks Magazine*, and other publications.

Three of his ideas stand out:

First, an advanced civilization (he would have said) must protect its wilderness in order to safeguard its identity and perpetuate its culture. In language reminiscent of the historian Frederick Jackson Turner, Zahniser contended that wilderness had been present throughout the nation's history—indeed, had been central to the American experience—and that representative portions of it must forever be preserved.

Second, wilderness is critical for the physical and mental well-being of inhabitants in a rapidly urbanizing society. His own life proved the point; a rural and outdoor life as a youth had given way to adulthood and a career in Washington, DC and its suburbs. Much to his frustration, he had few opportunities to be in the wilderness.

Historian William Graebner has argued that after World War II, Americans experienced mounting anxi-

eties due to the atom bomb, Cold War, and increased mobility.⁷ Such an atmosphere precipitated angst and regular trips to the psychiatrist. Zahniser thought the solution was obvious: regular immersion in Nature's sounds, smells, and sights. He wrote, "we can at least in this way minimize our departures from sanity and maintain our avenues to serenity."⁸

Finally, at a time of growing national strength and military power based on technological expertise, Zahniser wanted people to recognize their dependence on Nature as embodied in wilderness, and revere its mysteries and wonders. "This need," he once wrote, "is for areas of the earth within which we stand without our mechanisms that make us immediate masters over our environment—areas of wild nature in which we sense ourselves to be...dependent members of an interdependent community of living creatures that together derive their existence from the sun."⁹ Protecting wilderness, then, is an act of responsibility toward the Earth, comparable to more accepted types of conservation of soils and forests.¹⁰

Implementing these ideas, of course, was easier said than done. Zahniser, Murie, and friends toiled long before the environmental revolution of the 1960s and 1970s, and they lacked tools such as the Endangered Species Act and National Environmental Policy Act. Moreover, the pro-wilderness conservation groups had little political clout, and the vastly more powerful ranching, timber, and mining industries were hostile to wilderness protection. The late 1940s proved especially difficult for wilderness as loggers, miners, and resort interests intruded into numerous Primitive and Wilderness Areas in the National Forests, and federal dam builders proposed water projects inside several National Parks and Monuments.

The biggest such fight began in 1949 over Echo Park, a dramatically scenic valley deep within the river canyons of Dinosaur National Monument, which spans a remote corner of the Utah and Colorado border. Responding to rapid regional population growth during World War II, the Bureau of Reclamation proposed constructing several dams along the upper Colorado River and its tributaries for hydroelectric generation, flood control, and recreation. Wilderness advocates considered Echo Park Dam a symbol of the nation's endangered wilderness, and they mounted a national effort against the dam. Since Echo Park was within a National Park unit, the threat, as Zahniser put it, was to "the sanctity of dedicated areas."¹¹

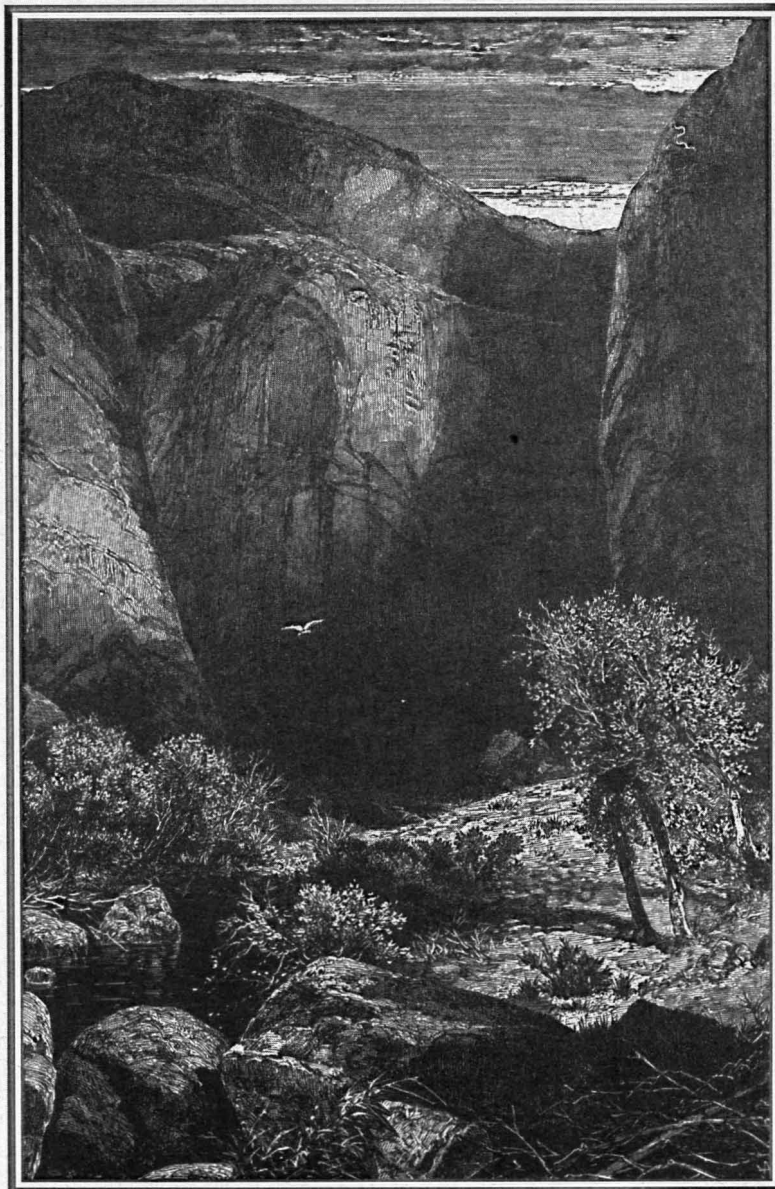
Conservation Heroes

The Echo Park battle preoccupied Zahniser for most of six years, from 1950–1956. The Truman and Eisenhower administrations, and Utah, Colorado, New Mexico, and Wyoming officials all supported the Echo Park dam. Inspired by David Brower's successful challenge of the Bureau of Reclamation's computations for reservoir evaporation, Zahniser took a leading role in the campaign to save Echo Park. He found crucial financial support from Edward Mallinckrodt Jr., a wealthy St. Louis businessman who contributed funds for lobbying and publishing a full-page newspaper advertisement in the *Denver Post* challenging the dam. Zahniser helped solidify the coalition of groups fighting the dam, and his meetings with lawmakers during the final round of negotiations in 1955 proved crucial to the dam's deletion from the upper basin project.¹²

Despite considerable lament in later years over construction of the infamous Glen Canyon dam, the Echo Park outcome proved a major triumph for the National Park System and by extension, wilderness preservation.¹³ Enormously encouraged, Zahniser launched the campaign for the wilderness bill in spring of 1956, then set out on a two-month trip to the West to regain serenity, as he would have put it.

The wilderness bill campaign dominated the rest of Zahniser's life. The battle proved to be long, complicated, and taxing on The Wilderness Society and its allies in the conservation movement, but Zahniser believed it was essential because Wilderness lacked sufficient protection under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service, whose administrators could wipe out Wilderness Areas by administrative fiat. This risk had mounted during the 1950s due to rapidly increased logging in the National Forests.¹⁴ In 1955, the Forest Service had eliminated 53,000 acres from the Three Sisters Wilderness in Oregon, a move that helped spark the campaign for the wilderness bill.¹⁵

Zahniser wanted statutory protection of Wilderness by Congress, with the lands administered by existing agencies. A host of opponents quickly emerged, including the Forest Service and, somewhat surprisingly, the National Park Service.¹⁶ State water agencies in the West strongly opposed the bill for fear that dams and water projects would be thwarted. Commodity interests, especially the mining, timber, and agricultural industries,



likewise opposed the bill. Some members of Congress delayed the bill for years by arguing that the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission should be allowed to complete its work before any wilderness legislation was considered.¹⁷ In 1962 and 1963, after the Senate's passage of the bill, Zahniser met perhaps his toughest foe in Colorado Representative Wayne Aspinall, who ruled the House Interior Committee with an iron hand and stoutly refused to let the bill through until Zahniser agreed to changes, including a loophole that permitted mineral prospecting in Wilderness Areas until 1984. The final bill established the National Wilderness Preservation System and designated 9.1 million acres of Wilderness with additions to the system to come from positive action by both houses of Congress.¹⁸

What helped Zahniser through these difficult years was an abiding faith in Americans' desire to preserve wilderness. He felt sure that wilderness opponents were

a small minority with loud voices and deep pockets. He refused to give up.

Zahniser brought a unique combination of skills and talents to the legislative campaign. No one else had his blend of lobbying acumen, federal agency experience, and extraordinary patience. On April 28, 1964, he appeared before his 19th congressional hearing on the bill. The next day he wrote friends that he was not well and hinted that he might not live long. On May 5, 1964, he suffered a fatal heart attack in his sleep at home.¹⁹

If he had lived a few months longer, Zahniser would have stood in the Rose Garden at the White House and watched President Lyndon Johnson sign the Wilderness Act into law on September 3, 1964. Surely he would have felt a sense of triumph knowing that the noble cause of wilderness preservation, led by his tenacious efforts, had carried the day. Surely too he would have felt tremendous gratification that the words he had written roughly a year before his death had, with Johnson's signature, gained the approval of the nation and been recognized in the law:

*We have a profound, a fundamental need for areas of wilderness—a need that is not only recreational but spiritual, educational, scientific, essential to a true understanding of ourselves, our culture, our own natures, and our place in all Nature. It is a need that any modern man may know, whether his residence is urban, suburban, or rural.*²⁰ |

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- ¹⁸William L. Graf, *Wilderness Preservation and the Sagebrush Rebellions* (Savage, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 1990), p. 212.
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Some Recollections of the Wilderness Wars

by Michael Frome

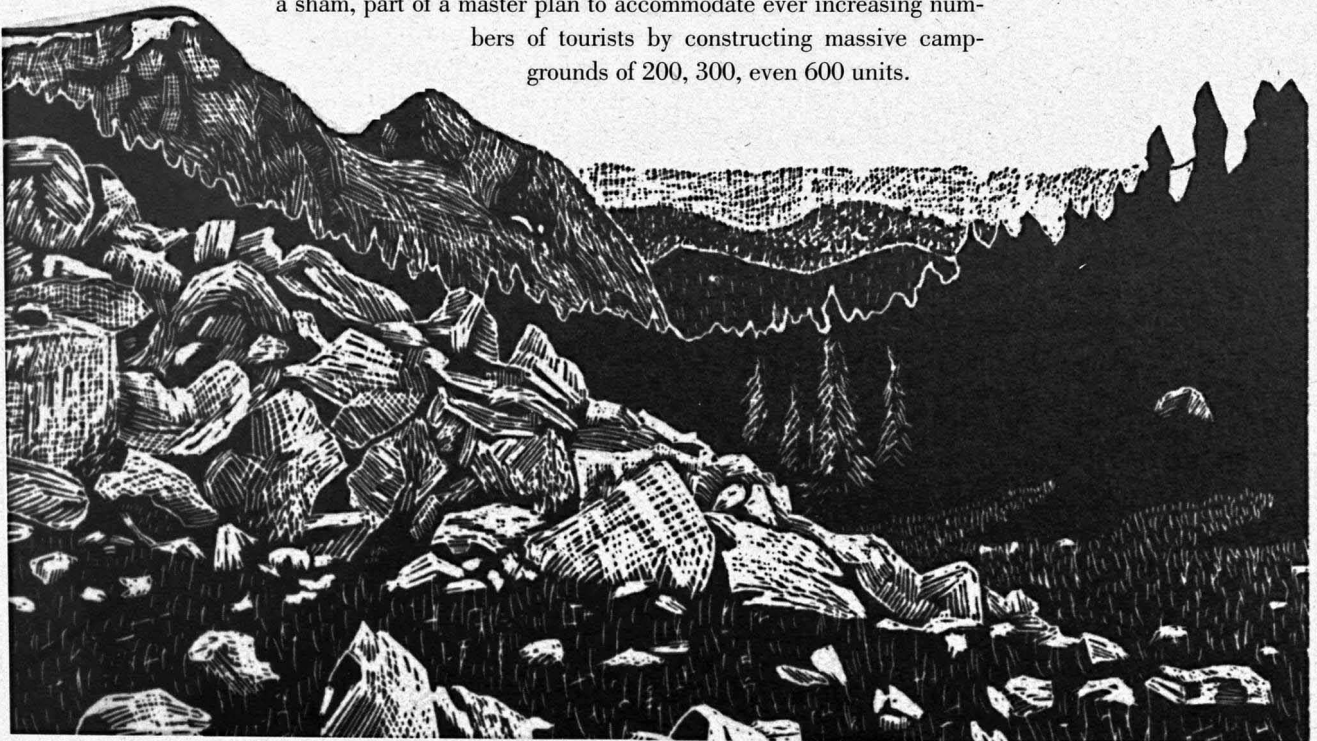
Conservationists the world over are looking to our National Park Service for exemplary leadership in safeguarding the beauty and character of the natural landscape. It would be most unfortunate if the Park Service were unable to fulfill this role in the Smokies.

—testimony of Stewart M. Brandborg, executive director of The Wilderness Society, at the first public hearing on wilderness in the National Parks (June 13, 1966)

It was incredible to me that so many people came to those historic hearings in the mountain communities of North Carolina and Tennessee, and sent messages from all over the country to express strong support for the federal government's protection of wild Nature. That experience taught me much about the values of emotion and intellect.

I felt then, as I still do now, these many years later, that Brandborg touched the heart of the issue with simplicity and directness. The moment's great import reached far beyond the hearing itself, for as someone said during the floodtide of feeling and eloquence, "A wrong decision will be severely judged by untold millions still unborn."

Instead of a plan for wilderness, the Park Service had proposed to build additional roads to solve seasonal traffic jams, including the construction of a new transmountain road that would cross and mar the Appalachian Trail. What was left over—less than half the park—was offered for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System—in six broken blocks, ranging in size from 5000 to 110,000 acres. The agency's Wilderness proposal was a sham, part of a master plan to accommodate ever increasing numbers of tourists by constructing massive campgrounds of 200, 300, even 600 units.



Mt. Adams, Indian Peaks Wilderness by Evan Cantor

The National Park Service bureaucracy could not possibly have anticipated the public's will to be heard. More than two hundred witnesses presented oral statements at hearings in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, and across the mountains in Bryson City, North Carolina; more than 5400 letters were received for the hearing record. A handful of local politicians and business people supported the Park Service plan, but a parade of preachers and schoolteachers, scholars and scientists, scouts and scout leaders, hikers, housewives, trout fishermen, botanists, and birdwatchers spoke for wilderness. They spoke of the joys of wild places, the spiritual exhilaration, the threats of a political road-building boondoggle. They identified love of land, idealism, and a quality experience as the essence of our National Parks.

Over the years I've observed much the same pattern in people defending wilderness wherever it still exists. Far more wilderness has been lost than saved—tragic, bitter losses—but there have been successes in saving wilderness, too—always the consequence of commitment and perseverance by private citizens. Ethical concern is the creative force in the battle for wilderness, and that concern comes only from people who care deeply, without a paycheck at stake.



I remember the lovely bright day in the mid-1970s when I went to Alabama to help celebrate the dedication of the Sipsey Wilderness—a chain of deep gorges threaded with streams and waterfalls, where the southern tip of the Cumberland Plateau meets the coastal plain—in the Bankhead National Forest. The Forest Service had taken a hard, unyielding position that there was no wilderness left in America east of the Rocky Mountains. But the Alabama Conservancy felt otherwise and enlisted the best scientists and scholars in the Southeast to prove the Sipsey should be protected. Governor George Wallace and the Alabama congressional delegation supported their cause, and the Conservancy won Wilderness designation for the Sipsey. Moreover, the 1975 Eastern Wilderness Act overrode the narrow Forest Service position by recognizing 16 National Forest Wilderness Areas in 13 eastern states.

In the same region of the country, the Save-the-Smokies crusade lasted six years, from 1965–1971, when the National Park Service finally threw in the towel, withdrawing the infamous transmountain road plan and declaring the Smokies “a natural treasure of plant and animal life living in the ecological balance that once destroyed can never be restored.” That was an about-face, believe me. Nevertheless, Ernest R. Dickerman, a leader in the citizen campaign, wrote to me in retrospect almost thirty years

later, “Frankly, the Park Service, except perhaps during its earliest years, has commonly been out of touch with the owners of the national parks in its basic policies and practices. The Park Service, instead of working closely with the citizens knowledgeable about national parks and devoted to protecting their extraordinary natural values, has considered them antagonists.”

Sorry to say, that is still true, and the same holds for all the agencies charged with managing our public lands; they are inbred, commodity-conscious, and touchy about appearing too close to conservationists. I remember in 1967 when more than a thousand people thronged the wilderness hearing on the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, conducted at Morristown, New Jersey. The Fish and Wildlife Service expected maybe a hundred and was absolutely overwhelmed. Consequently Congress enacted a Great Swamp Wilderness almost twice as large as the agency proposal.



Four federal agencies (Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, Forest Service, and National Park Service) are mandated to administer and interpret Wilderness, but they all do so poorly. Hardly ever does any of them boldly champion a Wilderness proposal truly founded in ecology or ethics; mostly the official proposals are puny, and must be improved and expanded by citizen conservationists. Yes, there are people in the agencies who care deeply about Wilderness and have labored long and hard in its behalf. These individuals do good work, but are frustrated and unfulfilled, surrounded by bosses and coworkers trained to manage the Earth like a commodity, rather than to serve as stewards with soul and spirit. To many land managers, Wilderness is okay in its place as long as it doesn't interfere with exploiting valuable commercial resources. Some even want to impose management on Wilderness, too, fighting insects, lightning fires, and natural erosive forces, rather than defending natural processes as valid parts of a dynamic primitive landscape.

If the Forest Service made decisions based on a land ethic, it wouldn't do such foolish things as issuing a recent environmental impact statement (1996) that proposed allowing 129 helicopter landing sites within Wilderness on the Tongass National Forest in Alaska, explaining, “It allows people with limited time or physical ability easy access to some extremely remote Wilderness settings. This makes it possible for a greater number of visitors to easily enjoy more remote Wilderness locations.” If the agency truly cared about the wild places in its trust, it would not tolerate watering reservoirs that benefit livestock ranchers

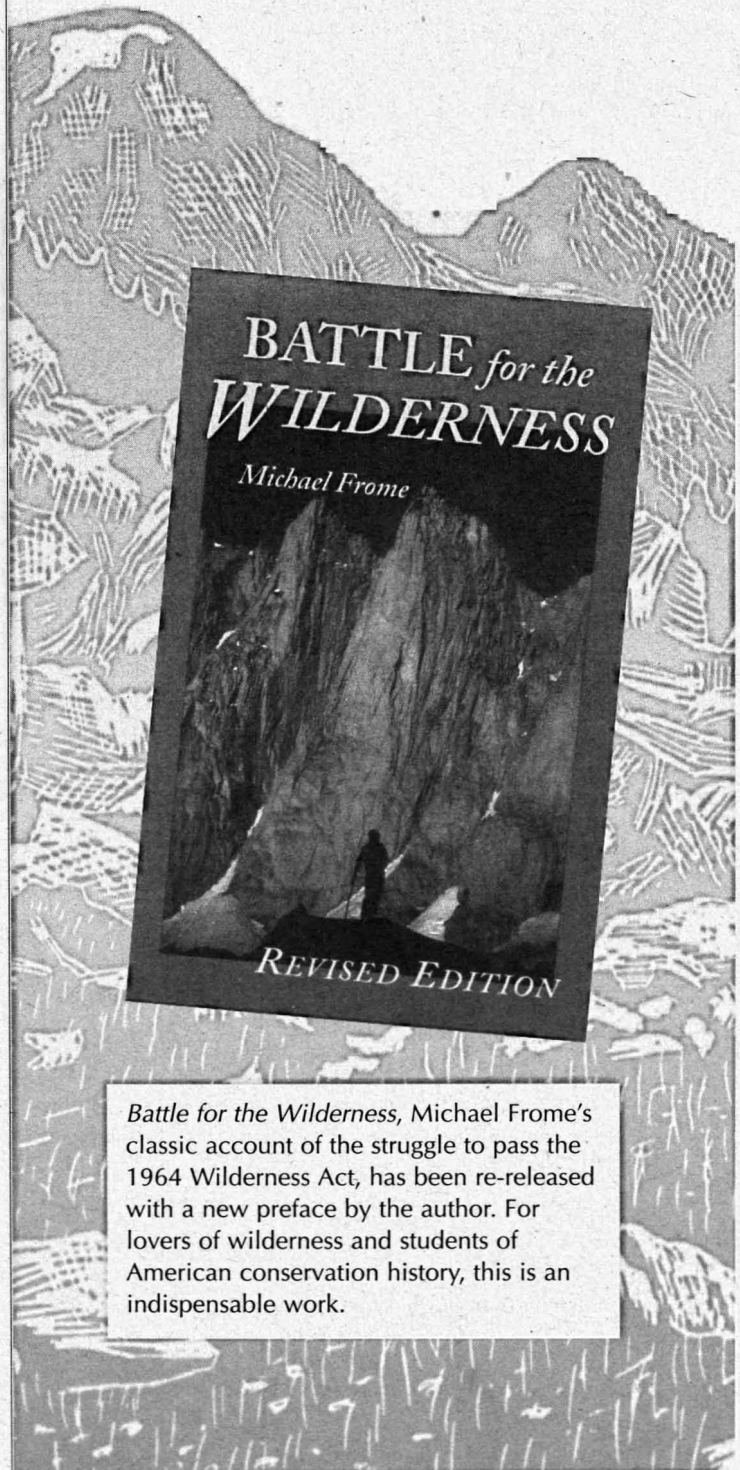
in the Aldo Leopold Wilderness and Gila Wilderness in New Mexico, or permanent camps, caches, and corrals that benefit outfitters in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness in Idaho.

These, and many other cases of ceding public lands to private privilege, are intolerable. Preserving Wilderness should be the overriding mission. The land administrator's foremost responsibility is to ignore economic and commercial considerations and serve the needs of *Wilderness*—not ranchers, outfitters, or tourists. The public goal should be to ensure that future generations will know and enjoy the same degree of solitude that past generations have known, and see that Nature, rather than humankind, prevails in these special places.

Fortunately, many individual citizens and citizen groups bespeak this cause. The struggle continues, unending, but it helps along the way to note and toast the positives, the successes, each one a reminder that the universe is on the side of justice. That was Howard Zahniser's belief when he wrote and crusaded for the Wilderness Act. It wasn't easy, but during the long, arduous campaign for its passage he never let go of the dream, and despite all odds and opposition, he saw only potential allies, never enemies.

Happily, the National Wilderness Preservation System has grown from 1964's original 53 areas in 13 states protecting 9.1 million acres, to the current 630 areas in 44 states protecting 103.5 million acres. Zahniser would be proud, and surprised, for the system is far larger than he and his contemporaries envisioned. But, the pieces of protected natural habitat we call "Wilderness" are not yet large enough to fully protect Nature in all its diversity; until then, the battle for the wilderness will still rage, and wilderness defenders must continue to fight the good fight. ■

Michael Frome, a legendary conservationist in his own right, is one of the country's foremost environmental journalists. His books include Regreening the National Parks, Conscience of a Conservationist, and the classic Battle for the Wilderness, which has just been re-released in a new edition. (University of Utah Press, 1795 E. South Campus Drive, Suite 101, Salt Lake City, UT 84112; 1997[1974]; \$19.95; 256 pp.)



Battle for the Wilderness, Michael Frome's classic account of the struggle to pass the 1964 Wilderness Act, has been re-released with a new preface by the author. For lovers of wilderness and students of American conservation history, this is an indispensable work.

Ernie Dickerman

Grandfather of Eastern Wilderness

by Chris Bolgiano

The Wilderness Act of 1964 was aimed at western National Forests, and included only three areas in the East: Great Gulf in New Hampshire, and Shining Rock and Linville Gorge in North Carolina. The Forest Service resisted designating additional Wilderness Areas in the East, claiming that no place could meet the criteria. Numerous Easterners disagreed, especially a thin bachelor near retirement age, then living in Knoxville, Tennessee, named Ernest Dickerman. From the day he first trod the Great Smoky Mountains, Ernie committed his life to the preservation of the wild. "I knew," he said, "as soon as I entered the Smokies that I had found what I was looking for."

Ernie was born in Illinois in 1910, but spent his childhood years within sight of mountains in the Adirondacks, and later in Roanoke, Virginia. His love of Nature came from within himself, "simply a matter of my own temperament, of liking best of all to be prowling around outdoors," as he put it.

After graduating from Oberlin College in Ohio, he was among the early employees hired by the newly formed Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). His job brought him to Knoxville in 1933, where he met his mountain mentor, Harvey Broome. Broome was eight years older and had been born in Knoxville when it was still a provincial valley town, with rutted lanes for streets. The pale blue band of mountains 40 miles distant filtered slowly into Broome's early consciousness. His parents took him there, by train, on occasional picnics. A two-week camping trip into the Smokies in 1917, when Broome was 15, fixed the mountains forever in his heart and his life. With teenage labor at a premium during World War I, Broome worked at an apple orchard near Mt. LeConte, and seized the opportunity to backpack to its summit. It was the first of innumerable treks.

Broome later wrote that he found "something beautiful, different, and intensely desirable" in the wild Smokies. Even while earning a degree from Harvard Law School, he returned to Knoxville each summer to spend time in the mountains. He hiked "far past the last rough homestead where visitors were so rare that it was the prudent custom to pause outside the fence and call before approaching for fear of being shot."

It wasn't long before Broome saw places he loved being destroyed by careless logging and fires. He became an ardent conservationist. He was the driving spirit behind the Smoky Mountains Hiking Club, organized in 1924 to help promote the formation of a National Park. A few years later, he led the mapping project for the Appalachian Trail through mazes of remote Smokies ridges. Within a month of moving to Knoxville, Ernie met Harvey Broome through the hiking club.

"It was customary in those days to work Saturday mornings," Ernie said. "We'd leave in the afternoon and head out over fifty miles of mostly dirt, winding roads that got worse as you got closer to the Smokies." On one of those outings, though without Ernie, somewhere between Newfound Gap and Clingman's Dome, Harvey Broome, Bob Marshall, and several

He was both the
inspiration and the
steadying hand behind
a campaign that
resulted in the
designation of
11 Wildernesses and
four Wilderness
Study Areas.

This profile is adapted from the book *The Appalachian Forest: A Search for Roots and Renewal*, to be published by Stackpole Books in autumn, 1998.



Photo courtesy of Eugene Dick

others founded The Wilderness Society. A private, non-profit organization, its goal was and remains the protection of wild places on public lands in America, for the sake of letting these lands operate on their own unique ecological terms, free from commercial exploitation. Ernie joined as a charter member. He left TVA to work for a plastics molding firm but remained in Knoxville. He couldn't get enough of the Smokies. With his friends in The Wilderness Society, he pioneered a new vision of Appalachian forests. Their tireless efforts, later led by Howard Zahniser, culminated in passage of the Wilderness Act of 1964.

Two years later, Ernie retired from the plastics factory and took a job with The Wilderness Society. His position description could be summed up in one phrase: to apply the Wilderness Act to the East. For four years he covered the Southeast out of Knoxville, traveling widely to awaken citizens to the opportunities that the act offered. He mobilized people to work within the political system, and taught them how to protect the places they loved. He would tramp around with people who knew an area, assessing Wilderness possibilities. Under his direction, these folks composed and mailed out brochures and talked to community groups. With his advice, they visited their legislators to feel out which one might be willing to sponsor a bill.

Ernie spoke at meetings of every kind, spontaneously, volubly, and with a quiet passion that moved many people. He gained a reputation for being able to deal with many dif-

ferent persuasions, even his adversaries, without alienating them. When faced with hostile reactions from mountain people who feared Wilderness designations, Ernie never got rattled, even at meetings so heated his friends worried they would all get beaten up. Over the years Ernie never seemed to lose his energy, either, always hiking up mountains and sending out letters to galvanize action. Today, at 87, he still mows his own lawn.

○

In 1969, Ernie left Knoxville and began working from the Washington, DC headquarters of The Wilderness Society, lobbying for additional eastern Wilderness. He convinced representatives and senators (and possibly more importantly—their staffs) about the benefits of wilderness: the possibilities for critical scientific knowledge gained by study of natural processes; the maintenance of wildlife habitat for popular game as well as non-game animals; the protection of watersheds for pure supplies of drinking water; the opportunity for challenging outdoor recreation. He also pointed out that eastern Wilderness Areas would comprise such a small percentage of the National Forests that they could hardly threaten any extractive industries.

His major opponent in Washington was the Forest Service, but as Ernie constantly reminded the congressional staffers: citizens vote, and the Forest Service doesn't. His work grew increasingly intense in 1973 and '74. In 1975, President Gerald Ford signed the Eastern Wilderness Act.

It acknowledged that eastern forests could recover from previous human abuse to regain a natural appearance. Included in the act were 16 Wildernesses totaling nearly 207,000 acres, and 17 additional areas to be evaluated for inclusion.

In 1976, Ernie retired from The Wilderness Society to his nephew's summer home in Buffalo Gap, Virginia, cradled between Big North and Little North Mountains. The next year, the Forest Service began a national roadless area review and evaluation for Wilderness designation. Almost immediately, Ernie was asked to lead a small group working for wilderness in Virginia. I met Ernie when I joined that group some years later. He was both the inspiration and the steady hand behind a campaign that resulted in the 1984 designation of 11 Wildernesses and four Wilderness Study Areas in the Virginia mountains. The study areas became Wilderness in 1988. Ernie also helped wilderness advocates in other states plot their strategies. By the late 1990s, when a conservative political climate brought regional wilderness campaigns nearly to a standstill, there were 45 Wilderness Areas on the National Forests of the central and southern Appalachians from the George Washington National Forest in Virginia to the Chattahoochee National Forest in Georgia.

Together, these Wildernesses comprise a little more than half a million acres, less than ten percent of the region's federal lands, which are themselves less than 20% of Appalachia. Some 400,000 acres proposed for Wilderness (by Ernie, naturally) in Great Smoky Mountains National Park would nearly double the total, but congressional approval has been stymied for decades by right-wing Senator Jesse Helms, who is slightly younger than Ernie. Ernie is hoping to bury him. A new generation, having learned from Ernie, bides its time for a swing in the political pendulum that will be favorable to Wilderness designation.



Ernie was standing in his yard when I turned in the driveway of his retirement home. Wearing shorts and a plaid shirt, he had dressed up for our interview in a bolo tie made from an unusual shell he found on a Florida beach. The skin of his arms was mottled with age, but his face was clear, almost translucent. Ernie showed me around his yard, pointing to trees he had transplanted over the years. His house was as spare as he was: The living room was furnished with a couch, a woodstove, a desk, and a few chairs, with drapes strung across the end of the room to wall off a downstairs bedroom. He hates television and gets his news by phone from his many contacts, as well as from the *Wall Street Journal*. (He subscribed in order to see what the

opposition was up to.) Ernie says he never married because he always knew what he wanted to do and feared it would cause too much conflict with a spouse's desires. On his refrigerator is a sign: Age and treachery will overcome youth and skill.

As we sat on his front porch talking, a thunderstorm blew up. The day turned darker, as if night were approaching, though it was still afternoon. I said, "Ernie, I'm sure you're like me, you watch the forest and see the cycle of birth, death, and rebirth, and it helps you consider your own death."

"Sure, absolutely," he said.

"So do you have anything in mind for your tombstone?"

Ernie chuckled, something he did often. He had decided years ago to be cremated, he said, and at first wanted his ashes scattered in the Smokies, as he had scattered those of his friend Harvey Broome years ago.

"But I've lived here near Buffalo Gap for so long now, more than twenty years," he said, "that I've changed my mind." Ernie had rarely elaborated on the spiritual benefits of wilderness, although he spoke at length of its other advantages. He sees no merit in organized religions. Nonetheless, it is the spiritual power he feels in Nature that gives meaning to his life. The wind strengthened, flipping up the undersides of leaves, which gave off a strange bright glow in the stormy gloom. Rain began to spatter on the roof, and from the earth rose the tangy smell of dust slaked. In the simple, direct, yet profoundly eloquent way that characterizes him, Ernie reduced all the palaver about wilderness to a few basic concepts. "If you can't get beyond yourself, you're pretty narrow," he said. "There is obviously a greater force beyond our comprehension, and we respect it by preserving the creation in which this force is manifested." ■

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Chris Bolgiano, a writer and wilderness advocate from Virginia, is the author of Mountain Lion: An Unnatural History of Pumas and People. This article is adapted from her forthcoming book The Appalachian Forest: A Search for Roots and Renewal.

MARDY MURIE

An Intimate Profile

by Terry Tempest Williams



On June 5, 1977, in Denver, Colorado, hundreds of individuals from the American West gathered to testify on behalf of the Alaskan Lands Bill sponsored by Representative Morris Udall. It was one of the many regional hearings conducted by the House Interior Subcommittee on General Oversight and Alaskan Lands.

Mardy Murie from Moose, Wyoming, was the first to testify. She stood before the subcommittee and said simply, "I am testifying as an emotional woman and I would like to ask you, gentlemen, what's wrong with emotion?" She went on to say, "Beauty is a resource in and of itself. Alaska must be allowed to be Alaska, that is her greatest economy. I hope the United States of America is not so rich that she can afford to let these wildernesses pass by—or so poor she cannot afford to keep them."

The audience spontaneously gave Mrs. Olaus Murie a standing ovation. Her heartfelt words symbolized the long love affair she and her renowned biologist husband had shared with the Arctic.

I remember that day.

After the hearing, Mardy (whom I had met three years earlier at the Teton Science School) asked me if I had a ride home. I told her I was on my way back to Jackson Hole with Howie Wolke and Bart Kohler, at that time field reps for Friends of the Earth and The Wilderness Society.

"Good company," she said, smiling. "If those boys can defend the wilderness, they can defend you."

A few years later, "those boys," along with Dave Foreman, Mike Roselle, and Ron Kezar, would form Earth First!, making the cry with clenched fists, "No compromise in defense of Mother Earth."

In her maternal embrace of home, it is fair to say Mardy Murie was one of their mentors. Mardy Murie is certainly a mentor of mine. She is a woman who has exhibited—through her marriage, her children, her writing, and her activism—that a whole life is possible. Her commitment to relationships, both personal and wild, has fed, fueled, and inspired an entire conservation movement. She is our spiritual grandmother.



I recall an afternoon together in Moose. We drank tea in front of the stone hearth. A fire was crackling. It was snowing outside. She spoke of Olaus.

"We shared everything," she said. "Our relationship was a collaboration from the beginning. With Olaus employed by the Biological Survey (now the US Fish and Wildlife Service), he was under contract to study caribou. We were married in Anvik, Alaska, on

This essay is excerpted from *An Unspoken Hunger* by Terry Tempest Williams (copyright © 1994 by Terry Tempest Williams), and is reprinted with permission of Pantheon Books, a division of Random House, Inc.

photo by Garth Dowling

August 19, 1924. I had just graduated from the University of Alaska. We caught the last steamer north and spent our honeymoon on the Koyukuk River, which delivered us into the Brooks Range. Throughout the fall, we traveled the interior by dogsled, Olaus studying caribou all along the way. Those were magical days for us, and I loved living in the bush.”

“How did your life change with children?” I asked.

“It didn’t, really, we just took them with us. Our oldest son, Martin, was ten months old when Olaus accepted a contract to band geese on the Old Crow River. And after 1927, when we moved to Jackson Hole so Olaus could study the elk population, the children practically lived in the Teton wilderness.”

She paused for a moment.

“The key was to plan well and have a solid base camp. I’d lash some tree limbs together for a table, and create a kitchen. Logs and stools and benches. The children adored being outside. They ran with their imaginations. And I never remember them being sick or cross. But the most marvelous thing of all, was that Olaus was always near....”

Mardy refilled our cups of tea.

I looked at this silver-haired woman—so poised, so cultured—and marveled at her.

“So when did you begin writing?”

“I always kept a journal,” she said. “But one day, Angus Cameron, a good friend of ours who was an editor at Knopf, encouraged me to write about the Alaska and Wyoming I knew. I just told our stories. My sense of wilderness is personal. It’s the experience of being in wilderness that matters, the feeling of a place....”

I told her how much *Two in the Far North* had influenced me as a young woman. I had read it shortly after Brooke and I were married, when we were traveling through Denali National Park. Here was an independent woman’s voice rooted in family and landscape. “You trusted your instincts.”

“I always have.”

We paused. I was curious about so many aspects of her life, largely hidden now by her age of eighty-plus years.

“Olaus mentions ‘one’s place of enchantment’ in *Wapiti Wilderness*. Where is yours?”

She looked out the window, but her gaze turned inward. “A certain bend in the river on the Sheenjek, a cock ptarmigan is sitting there. It’s early summer. Mountains are in the background.”

At that moment, the conversation shifted. “You know somebody has to be alert all the time. We must watch Congress daily. The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is in such a precarious position right now, politically. All some people can see in these lands is oil, which means money, which translates into greed.”

“Are you pessimistic?”

Her commitment to relationships, both personal and wild, has fed, fueled, and inspired an entire conservation movement. She is our spiritual grandmother.



illustrations by Olaus Murie

"I'm more apprehensive and at the same time more hopeful than I have ever been. I'm counting on the new generation coming up. I have to believe in their spirit, as those who came before me believed in mine.

"People in conservation are often stereotyped as solemn, studious sorts," Mardy went on. "It's not true. It's a community of people who are alive and passionate. My favorite photograph of Olaus is one where he is dancing with the Eskimo on Nunivak Island. You can see the light in his face and how much he is enjoying it. We always danced. It's how we coped with the long, dark winters.

"One year, after a particular arduous meeting, we took the members of the Governing Council of the Wilderness Society to Jenny Lake Lodge. We danced. A balance of cheerful incidents is good for people. If we allow ourselves to become discouraged, we lose our power and momentum."

She faced me directly. "That's what I would say to you, in the midst of these difficult times. If you are going into that place of intent to preserve the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge or the wildlands in Utah, you have to know how to dance."



There have been many more conversations with Mardy through the years, but what I love most about this woman is her warmth, her generosity of spirit, her modesty. "I just did the thing that seemed obvious doing." After Olaus' death from cancer in 1963, brokenhearted, but determined to live a happy life, Mardy made a commitment to continue with their collective vision of wilderness preservation and environmental education. She gave speeches to National Park Service officials, testimonies before Congress, and she has never forgotten the children. It has been in these years, almost three decades, that her voice has become her own with great heart, inspiration, and strength. Her leadership in the environmental movement is directly tied to her soul.

"My father said to me, 'If you take one step with all the knowledge you have, there is usually just enough light shining to show you the next step.'"

This past fall, I was with Mardy in Moose once again. The cottonwoods lining the gravel road to the log home where she and Olaus had lived since 1949 were blazing Teton gold. We sat on the couch together. We had our tea and caught up on one another's lives.

"I want to read you something, Terry." She disappeared into her bedroom and returned with a manuscript in hand. "This is part of a preface I am writing for a forthcoming book on Alaska."

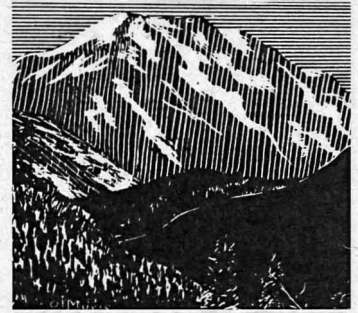
Then she read:

There may be people who feel no need for nature. They are fortunate, perhaps. But for those of us who feel otherwise, who feel something is missing unless we can hike across land disturbed only by our footsteps or see creatures roaming freely as they have always done, we are sure there should be wilderness. Species other than man have rights, too. Having finished all the requisites of our proud, materialistic civilization, our neon-lit society, does nature, which is the basis for our existence, have the right to live on? Do we have enough reverence for life to concede to wilderness this right?

Our eyes met.

"Do you think we have it in us?" she asked. ■

Writer and naturalist Terry Tempest Williams's books include Refuge, Desert Quartet, Pieces of White Shell, and An Unspoken Hunger, in which this essay originally appeared.



ONE'S PLACE OF ENCHANTMENT

North Again to the Sheenjek Valley

by Margaret E. Murie

We first loved Jackson Hole, the matchless valley at the foot of the Teton Mountains in Wyoming, because it was like Alaska; then we grew to love it for itself and its people. Olaus was sent here by the Biological Survey in 1927 to make a complete study of the life history of the famous elk herd; here we made our home for thirty years and here our three children grew up.

May 1956. Ten years before, Olaus had left the government service to enter the struggle to preserve our remaining wilderness; he became director of The Wilderness Society, but still lived in Jackson Hole. In the absorbing, demanding, never-ceasing battle of these ten years, our thoughts were still in Alaska, and our news from up there after World War II was not always heartening. It began to appear that even the vastness of Alaska's wilderness would not remain unexploited without some special legal protection. Thoughtful people both in and out of Alaska were concerned, for the Age of the Bulldozer had arrived. Scientists like Starker Leopold, Lowell Sumner, F. Fraser Darling, and George Collins, who had recently traveled in Arctic Alaska, began writing and talking to Olaus.

One day when we were in New York City, Olaus called up Fairfield Osborn, president of the New York Zoological Society. "I think Mardy and I should go to the Brooks Range."

"Well," Fairfield answered, "isn't that something that *we* ought to be interested in?"

So it had happened. We were going North again, our expedition financed by the New York Zoological Society and The Conservation Foundation, and sponsored also by The Wilderness Society and The University of Alaska.



Olaus had pondered over what part of the Arctic this party should investigate. We were to make a detailed and concentrated study of a com-

paratively small area. We had been in the Koyukuk, which was to the west, and in the Old Crow and Porcupine area, on the eastern side. Other scientists had given good reports on parts of the northern side of the range, Herb and Lois Crisler having spent two years over there. The valley of the Sheenjek was the heart of the whole area which George Collins, Starker Leopold, and Lowell Sumner had suggested should be designated as an Arctic Wildlife Range, and at the same time the region least visited. The only scientific reports



Conservation Heroes

available were those on the geology of the area, by the early and incomparable pioneers of the US Geological Survey—John Mertie, Gerald Fitzgerald, and their companions.

There are several ways of describing a river and its valley. For example, one of Mertie's Survey bulletins begins: "The Chandalar-Sheenjek district... consists of an irregular area of about 6000 square miles that lies between parallels 66° 28' and 69° north latitude and meridians 143° 25' and 147° 35' west longitude. This area includes mainly the valleys of the Sheenjek River and the East Fork of the Chandalar River from their headwaters in the Brooks Range southward to their debouchures into the Yukon Flats."

Then we can look at a topographic map of northern Alaska. We see that the Brooks Range extends across almost the whole width of Alaska, tapering into lowlands at the east near the Canadian border. In the last two hundred miles of the eastern part of the high mountains, three rivers, flowing from the crest of the range southward, can be seen: the East Fork of the Chandalar, the Sheenjek, and the Coleen. The last two, after flowing mainly south and a little east for two to three hundred miles, flow into the Porcupine, the great river which comes angling in from the northeast, from Canada. About twenty-five miles below the mouth of the Sheenjek, the Porcupine joins the Yukon.

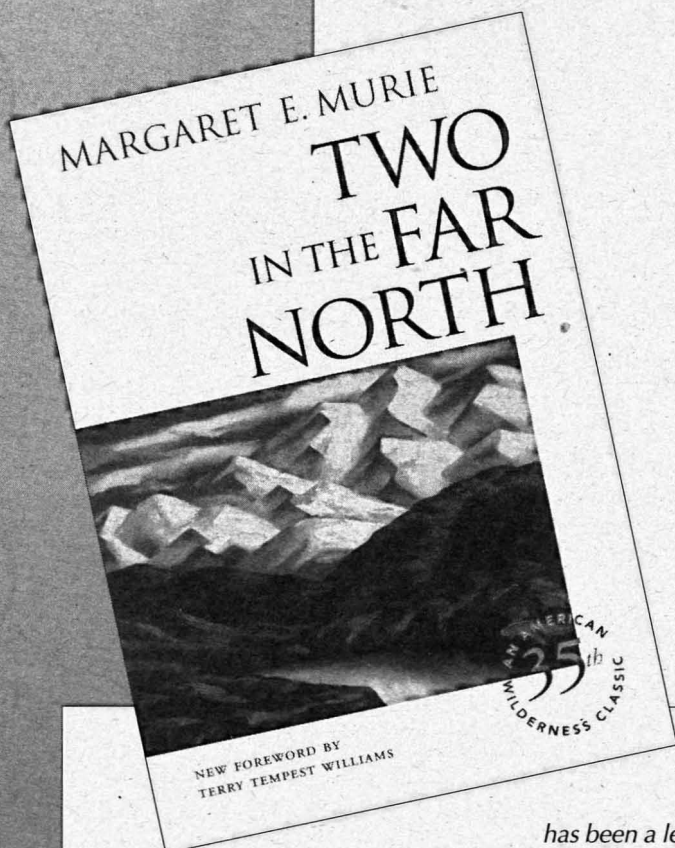


We flew over the brown tundra-like muskeg of the Yukon Flats' northward extension for half an hour. Then [bush pilot] Keith [Harrington] shouted in my ear: "Weather is better ahead. We'll fly straight in."

The brown country, partially clothed in the dark green of spruces, now had small hills and shallow valleys, and we began to catch glimpses of the river, the river of all our anticipation and planning—the Sheenjek. It was free of ice and shone gunmetal silver, slanting down out of the north and disappearing eastward, to our right, to join the wide Porcupine. The fascinating thing about the view from aloft is that the whole earth north of you seems tilted up, so that those far mountains are at a level with your plane, and the river seems to be flowing down over a huge slant.

I was thinking about that Geological Survey bulletin again: "All the streams that drain southward from the eastern part of the Brooks Range within the Chandalar-Sheenjek drainage are characterized in their upper courses by a stretch of relatively sluggish water that is followed downstream by rapids. The Sheenjek River is no exception to this rule, and the main river, ten miles above the forks, changes to a sluggish meandering stream and continues thus for twenty miles upstream. Within this stretch the river is confined largely to a single channel and flows through a wide, lake-dotted valley floor with banks of sand and silt. ... Upstream from this sluggish stretch of water the river is a typical swift mountain stream and the gradient steepens to its head."

We were in the middle of the "wide, lake-dotted valley floor," but in these early June days the river was not "sluggish"; it was carrying a load of silt and flowing swiftly. Looking downstream, we could see the low hills behind which Old Woman Creek flowed from the west to join the river. Old Woman Creek, one of the very few named features on the available maps of the region, had been our landmark for finding our unnamed lake, which the geologists in Washington had recommended as a camp site.



In this day and age it is a rare experience to be able to live in an environment wholly Nature's own, where the only sounds are those of the natural world. Here at our lake [lying in a bend of the Sheenjek River] all sounds were truly charming. Nearly always a little breeze was whispering through the small scattered white spruces on the mossy hillside; there was the splash of a muskrat diving off the edge of the ice; ptarmigan were crowing, clucking, talking, and calling all around us; tree sparrows and white-crowned sparrows sang continually—their voices were an almost constant background to all the other sounds. We heard the scolding chatter of Brewer's blackbirds and what at first seemed very strange up there in the Far North, the voice of the robin, our close friend of all the mild, domesticated places.

These were the voices of the hillside around the camp. From out on the lake, as the ice receded from the shores more each day (and the days were warm and never darkening), we heard other sounds, which were equally charming and exciting. Predominant in the lake chorus was the "ah-hah-wi, ah-hah-hah-wi" of the old squaw, and there was the churring sound of the white-winged scoters, the cheerful little three notes of the baldpate, and at times the excited voices of the gulls.

Our lake was about a mile long and half a mile wide, divided into two wings by a neck of tundra. Far across from us we sometimes heard the indescribably haunting call of the arctic loons, and then all the binoculars would be snatched up for a glimpse of these beautiful patricians of the North. ■

In 1924 Margaret Murie became the first woman to graduate from the University of Alaska—an early indicator of her pioneering spirit. Through much of the 20th century, she has been a leading figure in the American wilderness movement; she was present when President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the 1964 Wilderness Act and was instrumental in the passage of the 1980 Alaska Lands Act, which protected millions of acres. Mardy has received numerous awards, including the Audubon Medal, the Sierra Club's John Muir Award, and most recently, the Presidential Medal of Freedom. In January 1998, President Clinton honored Mardy's accomplishments with the Medal of Freedom and these words:

For Mardy Murie, wilderness is personal....After her husband died [in 1963], Mrs. Murie built on their five decades of work together. She became the prime mover in the creation of one of America's great national treasures, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and blazed trails for generations of conservationists. Today, amidst the fir and spruce of the high Tetons, she shares her wisdom with everyone who passes by, from ordinary hikers to the President and the First Lady, inspiring us all to conserve our pristine lands and preserve her glorious legacy. —President Bill Clinton

This excerpt from *Two in the Far North: 35th Anniversary Edition* by Margaret Murie, copyright 1997, is reprinted with kind permission of Alaska Northwest Books.

Marketing 101

by P.J. Ryan



ow buckaroos, you and I know that *Thunderbear* is one of the landmark literary events of the 20th century. The problem is that none of the other six billion passengers on spaceship Earth seem to realize this. This, friends, is merely a marketing question. How does one get the other six billion to read *Thunderbear*?

The answer I found was blindingly simple! All I have to do to increase readership is to pay people to subscribe to *Thunderbear*! Now you may ask where did I find insider marketing wisdom like this? Well, one has to be an insider. You will not find business advice like this in the *Wall Street Journal* or even from the Harvard School of Business. I have to admit, everything I know about economics and marketing I learned from the US Forest Service.

You see, once upon a time, the Forest Service had a problem similar to that of *Thunderbear*; people just didn't want to buy their product, which happened to be trees. It seems that the trees were inconveniently located on mountainsides and consequently hard to get to unless you were God and had a skyhook.

The answer of course was to build roads. The problem is that roads cost money, even dirt logging roads. Mother Teresa's Sisters of Charity do not operate bulldozers. The bulldozer operators all want money, lots of it, as do surveyors and people that install culverts, bridges, and so on. There just doesn't seem to be a volunteer spirit among road-builders.

The loggers pointed out that they were not a charitable non-profit. As romantic, historical, and colorful as logging is, they were not running a Living History Program. They were in it to make money. If this crassness shocked the Forest Service, they did not show it. Scuffing a boot toe in the dust, Smokey shyly asked the loggers: if the Forest Service sort of built the roads for them and didn't charge them, would the loggers then bid on the timber sales? Now, buckaroos, loggers are all heart and in addition, have a gruff, sentimental attachment to Smokey, so they clapped him on the back and said, "Sure, Smoke! We'll take that over-mature, disease-prone timber off your hands, providing you build the roads and the bidding price is what we call reasonable."

Well, now, Smokey certainly kept his part of the bargain. The sly old furry devil took his shovel and dug 400,000 miles of roads in 50 million acres of National Forest. More roads than Paul Bunyan built, more roads than the Federal Interstate Highway Commission built.

Now, followers of Newt Gingrich and Adam Smith might call "time out" and say that this reeks sulphurously of Demon Socialism. If no one wants to buy timber at an unsubsidized (i.e., free market) price, well then, should not the timber remain standing until there is a market? (Now, as the owner of several boxes of unsold back issues of *Thunderbear*, I can certainly empathize with the Forest Service. You want to move your product!)

Well, Newt, this is where we get into philosophy and good ol' boy mysticism. You will remember when mountain climber George Leigh Mallory was asked why he wanted to climb Mount Everest, he said, "Because it is there." This is Smokey's sort of rationale for logging a forest. (Moreover, if those sneaky trees are left alone, they might well do something *nasty* and *dirty* like catch diseases, be nibbled by insects, or get hit by lightning.)

Perhaps Marx

and Lenin never

died after all;

they were just

reincarnated

as timber

industry CEOs.

In addition, buckaroos, Forest Service employees tend to live in the small towns in and around National Forests and tend to know and identify with these small town folks, occasionally marrying them and always sending the kids to the same local school and going to the same local churches. They feel the joy of the triumph of the town basketball team and feel the sorrow of the timber mill shutting down. They would be less than human if they did not do everything legally possible to keep the timber flowing and the mill open and their neighbors happy and gainfully employed.

Recently, however (the week before Christmas to be exact), something not particularly unusual happened in '90s America. The Kodak Corporation of camera fame decided to lay off 10,000 workers. Unfortunately, there is no such thing as a US Photography Service that will buy up surplus rolls of Kodak film, and wildly take pictures of anything and send the rolls off to Kodak to be developed at taxpayer expense so the lads and lassies of Kodak will continue to have jobs. Nineties capitalism just doesn't work that way. If Ford automobiles stop selling for some reason, then Ford shuts a plant down. The workers get unemployment insurance, but they don't keep making Fords just for the hell of it. That's where the western timber industry seems to differ from the rest of lean, mean, restructured corporate America. (Perhaps Marx and Lenin never died after all; they were just reincarnated as timber industry CEOs.)

It looks like the present administration is proposing a halt to the building of subsidized roads with the *de facto*, if not *de jure*, result of stopping a great deal of logging in many of the National Forests.

How much does the Forest Service lose on timber sales? Like Zsa Zsa Gabor's age, the figures are open to dis-

pute. Smokey admitted that he lost \$15 million last year—parking meter change by Washington standards. On the other hand, Congressional Research Service, a not-exactly unbiased liberal think tank, reports that “\$791 million is a reasonable estimate of the loss to taxpayers from the Forest Service's timber sale program in 1996.” (This is probably a tad too high, as I suspect that the Congressional Research folks were including the \$154 million that Smokey gives to the counties in lieu of taxes; somebody has to pay for schools and deputy sheriffs.) Still, I really do suspect that Smokey lost more than \$15 million. So does our fellow Republican, Representative Jim Leach of Iowa. Congressman Leach is co-sponsoring a bill that would phase out all commercial logging in National Forests within two years. Now Congressman Leach is not a Dickey bird watcher or a posey sniffer. He is Chair of the House Banking Committee and represents the interests of fiscal conservatives who want to stop corporate welfare. According to Congressman Leach, “The US government is the only property owner that I know of that pays private parties to deplete its own resources.”

Come to think of it, buckaroos, Congressman Leach may know more about marketing than the US Forest Service. I'll have to ask his advice about increasing *Thunderbear's* market share. ■

P.J. Ryan works for the National Park Service and publishes “the oldest alternative newsletter in the federal government,” Thunderbear (POB 2341, Silver Spring, MD 20915, \$13.50 per year). This essay is from the January 1998 issue (#204).





The Wildlands Project

Update

by Steve Gatewood

Like winds and sunsets, wild things were taken for granted until progress began to do away with them. Now we are faced with the question of whether a higher "standard of living" is worth its cost in things natural, wild and free. —Aldo Leopold

Most readers of *Wild Earth* and supporters of The Wildlands Project believe strongly in wilderness protection and would likely answer that question quickly: No, it is not. Yet, with an honest analysis of our own lifestyles, most of us probably could not say with conviction that how we live our lives is not part of the problem. How many of us have given up reliance on fossil fuels for transportation (including vacations and long-distance travel), any use of non-recycled materials, wearing clothes with synthetic fibers, consumption of non-organic foods, purchase of things with credit or debit cards based on the global electronic financial system, and other consumptive practices developed in the name of progress that contribute to our individual standard of living?

Certainly some conservationists have done much to reduce their personal consumption. Others, because of jobs, family, pride, or lack of willpower, have not been able to do as much. Many of us in North America were born into a comfortable lifestyle and standard of living to which we have become accustomed, or worked hard to achieve a high standard that we are reluctant to give up. But most of us who love wilderness and wildlife are at least interested in moving in a direction that causes less harm to Nature. We share to some degree an ecocentric vision that views other species as intrinsically valuable, sees humans and the rest of Nature as inextricably linked, and recognizes that substantial changes—some requiring sacrifice at the individual, family, community, national, and global levels—will be necessary to protect things natural, wild and free.

If we switch around a few of Leopold's words, however, we end up with a statement that probably better reflects the dominant worldview: "Like winds and sunsets, progress was taken for granted until wild things began to do away with it. Now we are faced with the question of whether things natural, wild and free are worth their cost in a higher standard of living." Whether

currently enjoying an extravagant lifestyle or still striving to achieve a standard of affluence they see around them, most people consider bettering themselves and their families *economically* a primary driving force in life. They also see technological progress as the primary mechanism for accomplishing a higher standard of living and so are little compelled to move in an ecocentric direction. Polls show that while 70–80% of Americans support environmental protection, that support withers to less than 50% if respondents must choose between the environment and personal economic prosperity.

Thus, wildlands advocates face major challenges to protecting and restoring Nature. To be effective, we should:

- clearly articulate that protecting wild things need not necessarily stop progress (in part, this may entail redefining progress to mean something other than endless economic expansion based on industrial growth; many ecological economists are doing useful work in this area);
- develop convincing evidence about what standards of living (at a certain population density) can be accommodated while maintaining ecological integrity;
- begin to convince the general public that some degree of sacrifice is necessary and acceptable when the stakes—biological impoverishment—are so high.

We must not back down from our position that the core and corridor elements of our core/buffer/connectivity reserve model must have absolute protection, but we do need to do a better job of demonstrating their significant contributions to society's economic well-being.* That leaves buffers as the only parts of a conservation reserve network where land uses that provide traditional economic output are negotiable.

*Editor's note: Every conservationist should be able to cite the substantial ecological and economic benefits of wildlands protection. Two indispensable works that explain these benefits, now generally called ecosystem services, are *The Work of Nature: How the Diversity of Life Sustains Us* by Yvonne Baskin, and *Nature's Services: Societal Dependence on Natural Ecosystems* edited by Gretchen C. Daily. Both are available from Island Press (1-800-828-1302). —TB

The Wildlands Project begins search for Development Director

The Wildlands Project (TWP) is seeking a full-time Development Director in Tucson, AZ beginning fall '98 to coordinate fundraising for our \$1M annual budget.

Responsibilities include grant writing, foundation research and relations, major donor development, coordinating board and staff fundraising activities, and assisting our regional cooperators with fund raising and strategic planning.

TWP is not a membership organization, so mass mailing/direct marketing skills are not applicable. Minimum 3-5 yrs fundraising and/or nonprofit management experience; conservation background preferred; opportunity to train with our current fundraising consultant.

Salary range \$25,000 - \$35,000 per year depending on experience; generous benefits.

Letter, resume, and 3 references to: Steve Gatewood at The Wildlands Project.

Deadline: August 17, 1998.

The Wildlands Project
1955 W Grant Road, Suite 148
Tucson AZ 85745 USA
wildland@earthlink.net



TWP constantly grapples with defining what constitutes compatible use in buffer zones. We have avoided the terminology "sustainable use" and begun to speak of "stewardship zones," hoping that phrase can encompass activities that are compatible with the objective of protecting the ecological integrity of cores, corridors, and the network itself. Extraction of certain things—hard rock minerals, petroleum, connate ground water—is never *sustainable*, but it may be *compatible* in instances where all impacts from the activity are deemed acceptable, restoration of the site is proven and assured, and a portion of the economic returns are dedicated to supporting the conservation reserve network.

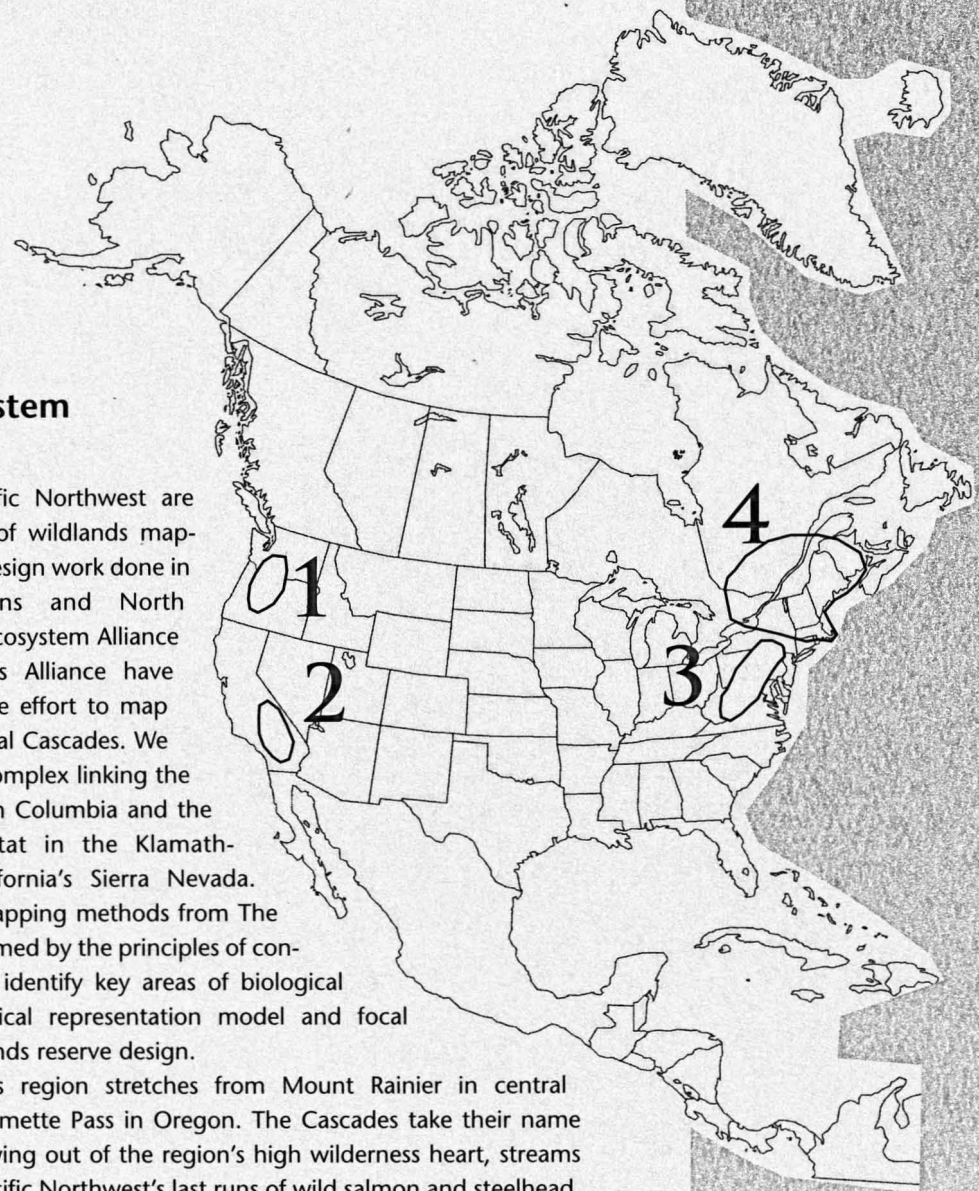
In addition, some intensive economic activities may be acceptable for a limited time; for example, commercial thinning to restore the forest vegetation of a region where fire suppression has resulted in tree densities that preclude the reintroduction of a prescribed fire regime. Let's face it—if a wildlands vision is going to be embraced by society, buffers will be expected to provide significant economic return to local communities.

The bottom line is we need to do a lot more work on buffers, these transition zones of compatible stewardship. Conservation biologists now have strong rationales for why, how, and where to delineate wilderness cores; building ecological connectivity between them is somewhat problematic, but here too the underlying science is improving. Design of the buffer component, however, is essentially a whole new endeavor with few models to evaluate.

Fortunately, a rapidly growing wing of the conservation movement is working to develop land use practices that are ecologically sound and economically viable. There are now a host of groups around the continent focused on eco-forestry, sustainable and organic agriculture, low-impact energy production, bioregional economics, etc. We'll want to learn from and collaborate with them in designing buffers, and will bring to the relationship an unwavering conviction that extractive uses must not compromise an ecological reserve system's ability to protect biodiversity over the long term.

Clearly, thinking hard and well about buffers will be critical if we are to prevent the "wise use" movement from deceiving the public into believing that protecting Nature is somehow impractical and will harm people's ability to make a living. We know, of course, that the jobs versus Nature dichotomy is false—that ultimately, strong economies require healthy ecosystems, and implementation of a bold conservation reserve system is a practical and prudent way to help ensure that we will have thriving human and natural economies in the next century and beyond. ■

Steve Gatewood is executive director of The Wildlands Project. Contact TWP at 1955 West Grant Rd., Suite 148, Tucson, AZ 85745; 520-884-0875; fax 520-884-0962; wildland@earthlink.net; <http://www.wild-lands.org>.



1 Cascades Ecosystem Project

Activists in the Pacific Northwest are starting on a new round of wildlands mapping. Building on reserve design work done in the Columbia Mountains and North Cascades, the Northwest Ecosystem Alliance and the Central Cascades Alliance have embarked on a cooperative effort to map the wild heart of the Central Cascades. We aim to develop a reserve complex linking the wildlands of western British Columbia and the North Cascades to habitat in the Klamath-Siskiyou region and California's Sierra Nevada. Incorporating the latest mapping methods from The Wildlands Project and informed by the principles of conservation biology, we will identify key areas of biological diversity using a biophysical representation model and focal species approach to wildlands reserve design.

The Central Cascades region stretches from Mount Rainier in central Washington south to Willamette Pass in Oregon. The Cascades take their name from the wild torrents flowing out of the region's high wilderness heart, streams that spawn some of the Pacific Northwest's last runs of wild salmon and steelhead. It is a place characterized by ancient stands of Douglas-fir and hemlock, alpine meadows on the flanks of volcanic peaks, stately ponderosa pine forests, and grassland/sagebrush steppes sloping east to the arid Columbia plateau. While many native species still inhabit the Central Cascades, some of the top carnivores have been extirpated and prevented from returning by ongoing habitat fragmentation and human disturbance.

The ecosystem mapping plan for the Central Cascades will seek to identify critical core habitats and landscape linkages for key focal species. With this information, we will develop a proposal to protect and restore corridors and high-quality habitat for the region's former inhabitants so they may expand out from their remaining populations in the North. Using the best tools and information available, with support from the scientific community, and with the assistance of conservation activists from throughout our region, we hope to identify a wildland habitat complex capable of restoring and maintaining populations of all native plant and wildlife species.

Contact: Tom Platt, 1421 Cornwall Ave., Suite 201, Bellingham, WA 98225; 360-671-9950; fax 360-671-8429; tplatt@ecosystem.org; <http://www.ecosystem.org/~nwea/>

2 California Wilderness Coalition

In February, about thirty-five people gathered in Davis to discuss The Wildlands Project in California. CWC hosted representatives of LEGACY (North Coast), Conception Coast Project, Ventana Wildlands Project and Santa Cruz Mountains Wildlands Recovery Project (Central Coast), Siskiyou Project (Klamath), and Sierra Nevada Campaign. These cooperating groups brought a variety of experience in reserve design methods, outreach approach, and implementation strategy from efforts in their home bioregions.

The workshop culminated in two realizations: By sharing ideas and resources, we are more likely to achieve our wilderness recovery plans; and, there are opportunities for the maps and community support developed in each bioregion to be linked. Working toward the statewide vision, CWC is promoting communication between groups, coordinating reserve design for the Greater Sierra Nevada, and organizing a workshop to fledge a new bioregional group in Southern California.

Contact: Rich Hunter, 2655 Portage Bay East, Suite 5, Davis, CA 95616; 530-758-0380; fax 530-758-0382; info@calwild.org

3 Appalachian Restoration Campaign

The eastern cougar (*Felis concolor*) is making news in Appalachia. Although sightings of these animals have been officially discounted since their addition to the federal Endangered Species list in 1977, booming deer populations, increasing forest cover, and a new National Park Service cougar project in Virginia, make Appalachia ripe for cougar rediscovery and recovery. As part of the Central Appalachian Assessment, ARC is mapping cougar habitat requirements to refine our ecoregion representation goals and map a recovery strategy for these charismatic carnivores.

In other projects, ARC has initiated a conservation easement program for the Hocking River in southeast Ohio and has taken on a series of Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping projects for conservation groups in the Central Appalachians. These programs and others will be featured at the Central Appalachian Ecological Integrity Conference (June 26–28 at Davis and Elkins College, WV).

Contact: Than Hitt, POB 5541, Athens, OH 45701; 740-592-3968; fax 740-592-3967; arc@frognet.net; <http://www.heartwood/ARC/>

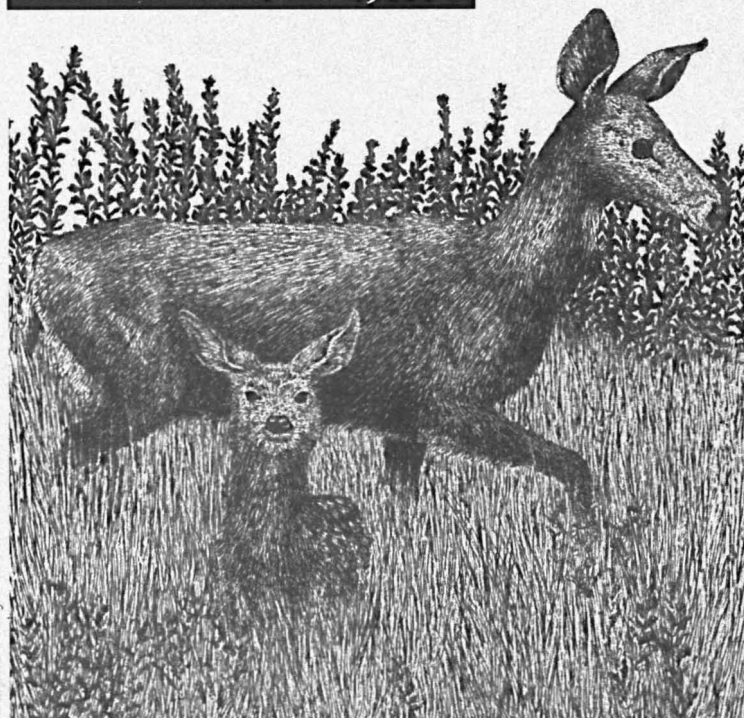
4 Greater Laurentian Wildlands Project

Conservation biologist Michael Soulé, president of The Wildlands Project, shared the wildlands vision with an audience of more than 300 regional conservationists, scientists, and community members at the University of Vermont in March. Following this event, Dr. Soulé journeyed eastward to the University of Maine in Orono, where he and TWP wildland ecologist Barbara Dugelby facilitated a workshop to evaluate the first draft of our ecological reserve design for Maine. Participants provided suggestions to help clarify goals, revise methods, address overlooked regions, access additional data, collaborate with complementary efforts, and generally strengthen our reserve design. This and other valuable input will be incorporated into a second iteration of the Maine proposal.

Earlier this year, we hosted an organizational meeting of 28 regional wildlands collaborators in Rowe, Massachusetts. In addition to producing a regional wildlands strategy, this meeting led to the formation of a bi-national GLWP Advisory Committee.

Contact: Robert Long, 4 Laurel Hill Dr., South Burlington, VT 05403; 802-864-4850; glwildland@sprynet.com





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Parable of the Ancient Pol

Awhile back I was sitting in a hearing room in a western state listening to legislators struggle with their denial: salmon runs were collapsing and the National Marine Fisheries Service had told the state to take action or else they would. What to do? On the one side was the federal government and the law, on the other side the industries that had bankrolled these legislators—timber corporations, mining interests, agribusiness, and other rural commodity interests.

Suddenly, an ancient legislator aroused himself from a nap and began pounding the table with his fist. He declaimed that whatever the committee decided to do, it had better remember the interests of the loggers, miners, farmers, and others who had made his state great. (Never mind that these were the folks who had contributed mightily to the problem at hand.) The point was, these folks were putting on the heat and he was feeling it.

This old-timer's pronouncement is, in a nutshell, what most politics is about. With occasional exceptions, it is not about reason or science, or careful analysis of a problem and its causes, or the pursuit of sound and equitable solutions. It is about turning up the heat on decision-makers, and who can crank it up the highest.

The Politics of Y2Y

*Some Questions and
Speculations on Crafting
A Strategy*

by David Johns

Introuduction

The wild heart of North America is an ancient domain of mountains stretching nearly unbroken from the Arctic Ocean to Panama. The northern part of this domain—from the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem in the south to the Yukon Territory in the north—emerged from the 19th century as the last refuge for many of North America's most charismatic creatures, including several species that need large areas relatively free from human presence and persecution. With this refuge now under ferocious assault, an intensive region-wide effort to protect its biological integrity will be necessary if the grizzly, wolverine, and other imperiled natives are to persist.

The Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative (Y2Y) recognizes that protecting this critical habitat will take more than noble intentions, good science, and values rooted in a deep respect for the lives of our co-voyagers—it will require a comprehensive political strategy. This complex region is subject to the jurisdiction of at least three states, two provinces, two territories, two central governments, international treaties, and several Native peoples' governments. Dozens of local governments and multinational corporations also shape the region's fate.

After Bruce Babbitt was confirmed as Secretary of the Interior he was reported to have said to conservationists: Don't expect me to do the right thing—make me do the right thing. Decision-makers, regardless of their sympathies, constantly gauge the expectations and reactions of influential groups. Stopping bad decisions and getting public bodies to do the right thing require that conservationists do a better job of mobilizing and organizing than wilderness opponents. To succeed, the Y2Y Conservation Initiative must know where land protection decisions are made, as well as make ourselves an effective political force so that our pro-Nature message gets across loud and clear, and policymakers have no choice but to do the right thing.

In this first half of a two-part article devoted to the Y2Y Conservation Initiative, I will discuss how wildlands advocates can organize ourselves effectively. In part two I will consider how we organize allies and the public, and how we identify the decision centers where we must prevail.

Organizing Ourselves—Some Strategic Questions

Full implementation of the Y2Y vision would be impossible within existing political limits. Thus we must change political reality—and that requires a strategy. While improvising can be great in music, in politics it can spell disaster. A map is needed for navigating the political terrain. It should identify the steps needed to reach our goal, provide a means for judging our progress, and provide for flexibility as the political terrain shifts.

A comprehensive strategy for implementing the Y2Y vision is not set out here; the many groups that make up the network will need to fashion a detailed plan together. In this article, I will note some of the considerations the network should think about in developing this strategy.

There are several elements to consider: How do we build a base of activist groups that can apply political pressure on decision-makers? How do we recruit allies and join with them to increase that pressure? How might we mobilize a broader public to affect policy? Often undertaken one after the other, Y2Y is addressing all of these simultaneously, both because of immediate land protection opportunities and because the groups making up the network have long had them all underway.

Allies and Opponents

The Y2Y network reflects the work of several years of building a foundation of supporters and is based on the value-added notion that we can accomplish things together that we can't alone. The network strives for inclusiveness on the basis

of a common mission: restoring the biological health of the region through a system of connected wildlands reserves.

Already a strong coalition of over 80 conservation groups, scientists, ranchers, recreationists, agency people, and others, the network has done much work to organize our strongest supporters. Outreach continues to those who should be part of the core group:

- members of grassroots and mainstream conservation groups
- indigenous traditionalists
- habitat-minded hunters, anglers, and guides
- recreationists, including hikers, paddlers, birdwatchers, and amateur naturalists
- biologists and ecologists
- religious conservationists, including supporters of the fast-growing Evangelical Environmental Network
- progressive agency staffers and their organizations, including the Association of Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics

This is a diverse lot—and more politically active than average—but all share a passion for preserving the places they love and the creatures they care for, watch, or eat. Differences within such a broad coalition need not become an obstacle if common goals are explicitly agreed upon.

We cannot achieve protection for Y2Y by talking only to ourselves; we must constantly reach out to others and help expand the constituency for conservation. Potential allies include business people who understand that protecting the natural world is vital for long-term economic health; people who are concerned about the loss of potential medicines, the health of watersheds that provide their drinking water, or animal welfare; and farsighted labor unions. Journalists and civic leaders can also be important allies.

We must also speak to a larger public, sometimes with our own voice—through the media, public presentations, and our own marketing materials—and through our allies. Business leaders, for instance, might carry our common message to customers, trade groups, and civic clubs. There is, of course, no single *public* but instead particular segments of society that share common characteristics. So we must focus our message. Our outreach needs to be based on knowing—not assuming—who is thinking what. We must remember that protecting wildlands is about the long haul. Reaching children with our message—encouraging education policies that allow kids to connect with the natural world—is all-important. With ourselves and allies organized we become a political force that cannot be ignored.

The Wildlands Project

Just as important as knowing who our friends are is knowing our opponents, and being able to understand and anticipate their attacks on us. The groups identified below, who have opposed conservation efforts in the Y2Y, are typical of special interests that oppose conservation throughout North America (an important caveat—there are people among these groups who can be counted on as friends to one degree or another):

- extractive industries, such as oil, gas, mining, and non-sustainable forestry
- big energy producers and users
- developers and industries tied to growth
- the transportation industry, including vehicle-makers and road-builders
- motorized recreationists
- people in resource-dependent communities (or communities that perceive themselves as dependent) who do not recognize that the health of their community depends on the health of the biosphere
- political leaders, and parties or groups that represent these interests

We should take care not to demonize our opponents as that could cause us to miss important opportunities for achieving progress through negotiation. It also obscures the ambivalence of many people: some may harbor animosity toward the natural world (or us), but others are driven by structural factors (and ambition), and will be open to finding common ground where it exists.

Organizing the Organizers

The Y2Y network has already undertaken key organizational tasks, such as those outlined by Tim Clark and David Gaillard, to create a functioning network structure focused on well-delineated tasks aimed at achieving the goal of completing a reserve system.¹

The Y2Y workplan defines clear tasks and responsibilities, establishes milestones, and integrates the work of scientists, local autonomous groups, and the Y2Y network staff; it is both glue and engine, and has guided us to real success—protection achieved on the ground, most notably in the Yukon and northeastern British Columbia. It has also guided us through the many mundane day-to-day tasks of maintaining effective communication within the network; organizing meetings to make decisions, review progress and set Y2Y direction; and holding the successful Connections Conference in October of 1997 that announced Y2Y to the larger world.

Setting the next steps for Y2Y requires building on that momentum, and successfully managing the competing demands of near-term “fire-fights” and the long-term work needed to implement a vast system of connected wildlands reserves.



illustration by Tim Yearington

While improvising
can be great in
music, in politics it
can spell disaster.
A map is needed
for navigating the
political terrain.

Implementing the Y2Y network's vision will probably require several campaigns, rather than one, but there are several elements essential to every successful campaign:

- clearly defined, specific goals;
- obstacles to achieving goals are identified and understood;
- incremental steps in the campaign are delineated, and their achievement leads toward the goal; to build momentum, the steps must be discrete, strategic, and doable.

Some campaigns may accomplish their goals by focusing quietly on an agency, a particular group in parliament, or the business community, while others may require high-profile public pressure on many decision-making bodies. We must be prepared to bring sustained pressure—using a broad range of tools, such as lobbying, lawyers, public relations, and market forces—on elected decision-makers and business leaders, before administrative and international bodies, and in the courts. Many of these arenas lie outside the Y2Y region. Not all campaigns will require decisions in every arena, but an action plan should integrate efforts aimed at all areas where pressure will be applied.

A top priority is to mobilize those groups that are most effective in applying pressure on decision-makers. Our message must be clear, positive, value-based, and explicit about the action we want people to take. Effective communication requires employing media that people notice and using language that people find meaningful.

Effective campaigns depend on understanding how the decisions we ask for will be implemented and sustained. Do we need new laws? New institutions? New funding? What's the most effective combination of carrots and sticks?

As in chess, we must plan our next moves and consider the likely response of opponents. What are the right spatial and temporal relationships among campaigns? How do we share and systematically integrate what we learn as we go along? How do we prevent or undermine backlash from groups who are displeased when our conservation campaigns succeed? And how do we capitalize on conservation opportunities that present themselves before a comprehensive reserve design is complete?

Successful campaigns require a thorough understanding of their social context. Who are key players? What are the economic and cultural forces and trends that affect the region? Are there important cultural differences within and between regions?

We can't afford to guess about these things—it will cost us. Social scientists, politicians, and activists with extensive on-

the-job training (they've made the mistakes and learned) are sources of this knowledge. Providing network members with needed information and skills—capacity building—is essential.

Of course, campaigns are usually directed at people in charge of political, administrative, or economic institutions, but our strategy must recognize also that the millions of decisions individuals make every day are important to protecting the natural world. While constrained by the limited options daily life presents, our decisions and actions nonetheless add up, and influencing them is a part of the Y2Y strategy.

We must be especially innovative in fashioning the combined means for protecting and restoring wildlands. Elements will include: legislating protected status, including treaties; some public acquisition of land or development rights; a halt to subsidizing practices that degrade the landscape; incentives that foster private protection of lands; conservation easements; wildlands land trusts; adoption of trade and other economic policies that support conservation rather than undermine it; adoption of general laws that prevent species and ecosystem decline, and require recovery²; and creating a cultural milieu in which wildlands values are widely and intensely held.

The creation of a connected system of reserves from the Yellowstone to the Yukon will require more than just the strength of conservationists—it will take allies and a mobilized public. In part 2 of this article, I will consider organizing in those areas, and identify the decision centers we must sway. ■

Endnotes

¹ David Gaillard & Tim W. Clark: "Organizing an Effective Partnership for the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative in the United States and Canada," in press. Other factors are also discussed, but space prevents their mention.

² Keiter, Robert B. & Harvey Locke: "Law and Large Carnivore Conservation in the Rocky Mountains of the U.S. and Canada," *Conservation Biology* 10, no. 4 (August 1996): 1003-1013. Keiter and Locke have looked at existing laws at every jurisdictional level that might be used to protect large carnivores in the Y2Y. Their review recognizes the need for new legislation to establish an adequate wildlands reserve system.

I want to thank Bart Robinson, Louisa Willcox, Colleen McCrory, John Davis, Harvey Locke, and the Y2Y Network for contributing to this paper in ways too numerous to mention. However, any mistakes, wrong-headed assessments, or foolish recommendations are solely my responsibility.

When not working to further the Y2Y Conservation Initiative, David Johns (POB 725, McMinnville, OR 97128), a founding board member and first executive director of The Wildlands Project, teaches political science.

Sexton Mountain Mariposa Lily

Rambling up the side of Sexton Mountain in southwestern Oregon in the springtime, you might have spotted a simple, elegant, bright lavender flower carried on a slender but sturdy stem—the Sexton Mountain mariposa lily (*Calochortus indecorus*)—but only if this walk occurred prior to 1960. This “butterfly lily” was driven to extinction in the early 1960s by the construction of Interstate Five through Josephine County and over Sexton Mountain. Habitat loss resulting from road construction, agriculture, and development is the reason this flower will never again bloom on the mountain slopes in May.

Today the only way to study this plant is to visit the herbarium at the University of Oregon where the type specimen is housed. In 1948, scientists Marion Ownbey and Martin Peck catalogued the only known collection of the species.

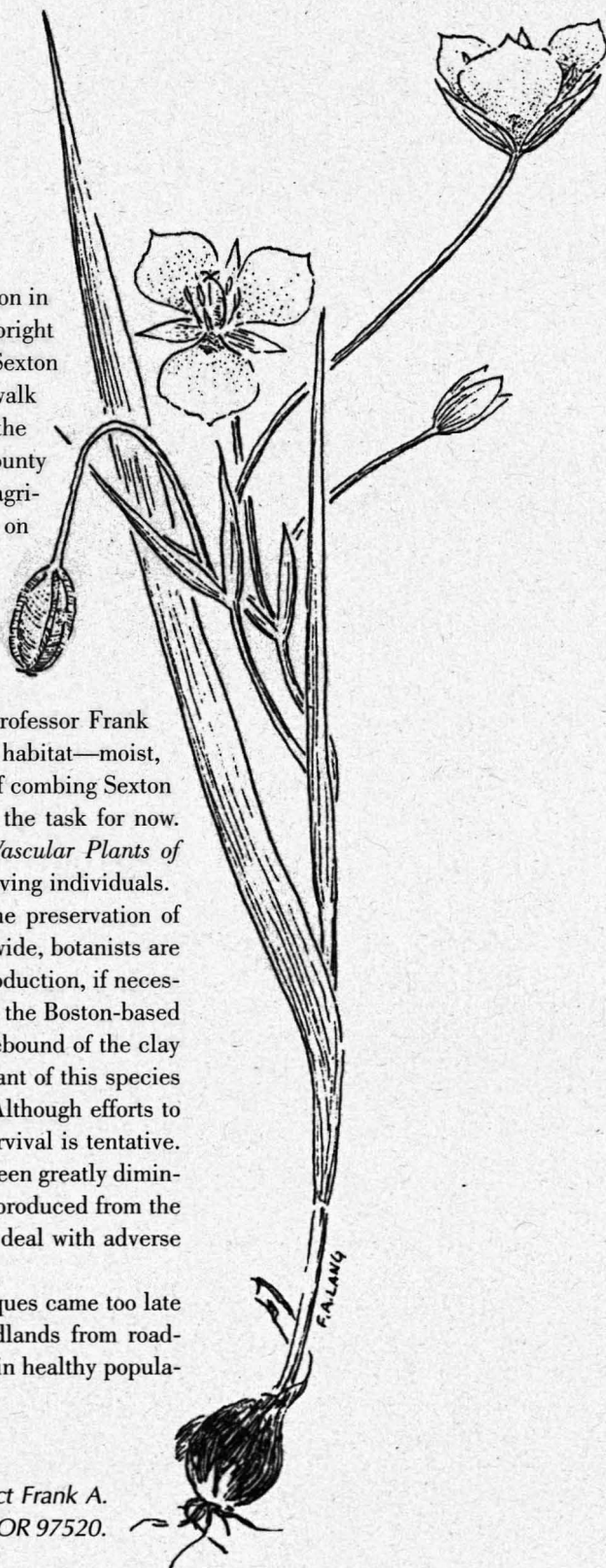
In hopes that the flower survived on some hillside in the region, Professor Frank Lang at the University of Southern Oregon searched the lily’s favored habitat—moist, rocky, serpentine slopes and flats—with his classes. After several years of combing Sexton Mountain and the surrounding area with no luck, Lang has abandoned the task for now. Robert Meinke’s illustrated guide to the *Threatened and Endangered Vascular Plants of Oregon*, however, suggests that efforts should continue to locate any surviving individuals.

Botanists stress that the best way to prevent plant extinctions is the preservation of healthy ecosystems. Because of the accelerated rate of habitat loss worldwide, botanists are also working to collect the seeds of endangered plants for potential reintroduction, if necessary. Seed banks are literally sprouting up all over the place. Biologists at the Boston-based Center for Plant Conservation are reporting with guarded optimism the rebound of the clay phacelia (*Phacelia argillacea*) population. In 1987, there was a single plant of this species clinging precariously to the side of a heavily grazed mountain in Utah. Although efforts to revive the clay phacelia have been pursued since 1988, its long-term survival is tentative. Because the species was brought back from a single plant, its fitness has been greatly diminished. This is the danger of all seed bank revival efforts. Plants that are produced from the same parent over and over again may not have the genetic variability to deal with adverse conditions if replanted in their native habitats.

The Endangered Species Act and modern plant conservation techniques came too late for *Calochortus indecorus*. However, we can protect our remaining wildlands from road-building and other development, and work for adequate habitat to maintain healthy populations of all our native species, both flora and fauna. ■

—Amy Olson, *Wild Earth* intern

For more information on the Sexton Mountain mariposa lily, contact Frank A. Lang at the Department of Biology, Southern Oregon University, Ashland, OR 97520.



Immigration Commentary

from Daniel Luten, Meredith Burke,
Harold Glasser, Dave Foreman

Editor's note: In late April, the Sierra Club announced the results of this spring's membership ballot question on population and immigration policy [see "Around the Campfire," winter 1997/98 WE]. Alternative "A" called for the club to adopt a comprehensive population policy that addresses US population stabilization via reducing both birth rates and legal immigration. Alternative "B" affirmed recent club policy of addressing overpopulation from a global perspective, eschewing any discussion of US immigration limits.

With the vigorous support of the club's leadership, Alternative "B" passed by a roughly 60%/40% margin. In the contentious weeks preceding the election, what should have been a thoughtful dialogue on Sierra Club population policy degenerated, at least in some quarters, into name-calling.

It is well to remember that such controversies are not a new phenomenon. Nearly twenty years ago, the eminent natural resource geographer Daniel B. Luten,* a professor at UC Berkeley and advisor to David Brower, was drawn into a similar debate—at that time over illegal immigration—in the pages of the *Yodeler*. In 1986, the exchange was reprinted in an anthology of Luten's writings edited by Thomas Vale entitled *Progress Against Growth*.

We reprint that exchange here (including Vale's introduction), along with new essays by demographer and population activist Meredith Burke, philosopher Harold Glasser, and former Sierra Club board member and *Wild Earth* publisher Dave Foreman. —TB

THE IMMIGRATION BOMB

*An Advertisement, Comments, A Supportive Letter,
and Daniel Luten's Response***

The *Yodeler* is the local monthly tabloid of the San Francisco Bay Chapter of the Sierra Club. In the April 1979 issue, the group Zero

Population Growth (ZPG) paid for advertising space to run a 19-word message asking for support to help stop illegal immigration to California and the rest of the United States. The *Yodeler's* advertising manager accepted the ad, but wrote a short article that expressed disagreement with ZPG's views; the following month, a reader wrote in support of the article's anti-ZPG stance. In June, Luten responded to both critics of the ad. (The names of the advertising manager and the letter writer are omitted here.)

Many conservationists often see their concerns as synonymous with traditional progressive or liberal politics. Yet, through the years, many leaders, and undoubtedly many more members, of conservation groups have not come from the left side of the political spectrum. Many have, of course, and perhaps more have than have not. But the motivations for preserving wild nature and for prudent resource use are varied. While the goals of an environmental group may be coincident with those of a liberal political group in many

*In a forthcoming issue of *Wild Earth*, we'll look at Daniel Luten's important but often overlooked contributions to conservation and population thought, and reprint a prescient paper he wrote over three decades ago.

**This exchange, including an editor's introduction, is reprinted from *Progress Against Growth*, a collection of the writings of Daniel Luten (*Progress Against Growth*; edited by Thomas Vale; New York: The Guilford Press; 1986) with permission of the *Yodeler* and Thomas Vale.

Population Problems

issues, the purposes of the two groups are not identical. Luten suggested in his letter, in fact, that the two viewpoints have a fundamental ideological difference.

The worry over illegal immigration as an impediment to a stable population is not idle. Data on numbers of illegal aliens are understandably uncertain, but if the frequently used number of one to one and a half million is close to the truth, it would equal the number of people added to the US population by births each year.

—Thomas R. Vale

THE ADVERTISEMENT

Concerned about California's population growth?

Help stop illegal immigration.

Write ZPG-Livermore,

P.O. Box 575, Livermore, Calif. 94550

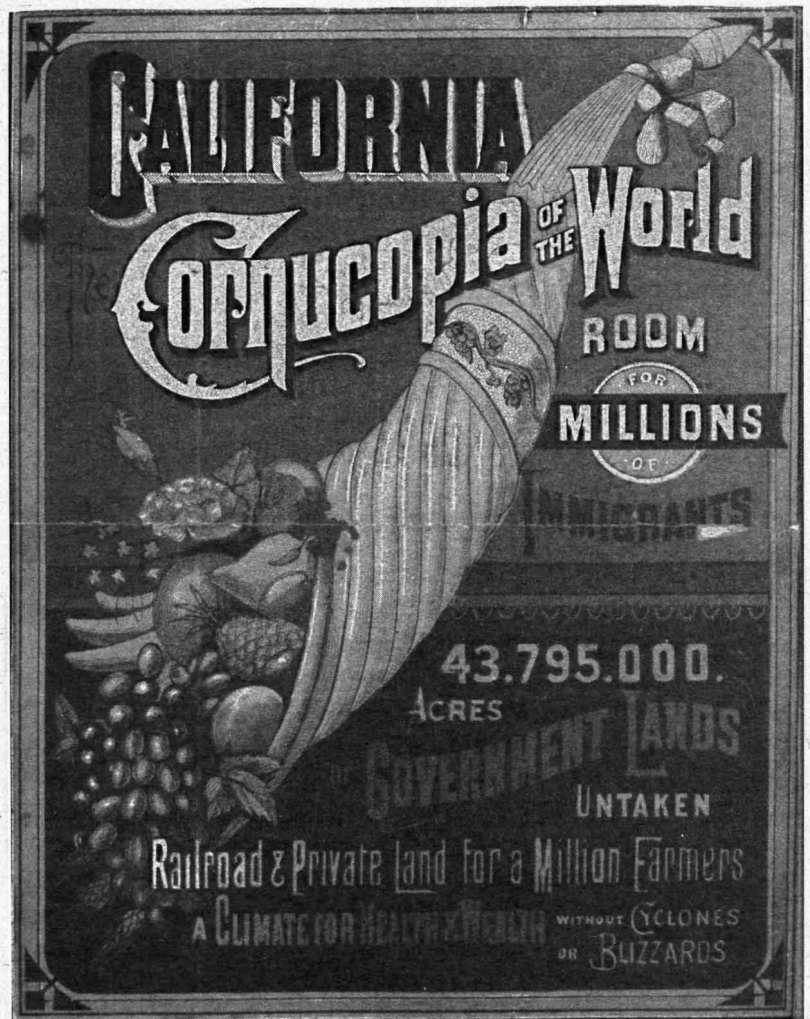
THE ADVERTISING MANAGER'S COMMENTS

On this page of the *Yodeler* is an ad on illegal immigration purchased by ZPG-Livermore. As advertising manager I am running this ad, but I want to offer, as well, the other side of this issue.

ZPG advocates stringent measures to keep out immigrants as a way of controlling US population. They propose population control on a nation by nation basis, as in President Carter's request for an additional \$100 million to further militarize the United States/Mexico border. ZPG says, "Funding for the Immigration Border Patrol is...grossly inadequate..." But is military action an acceptable form of population control?

According to the US government and ZPG the cause of immigration is overpopulation in countries like Mexico and Haiti. ZPG proposes US aid to Mexico and an easing to trade restrictions on Mexican exports to the United States. In fact, according to the North American Congress on Latin America, unemployment in Mexico is 40%–50% because Mexican and transnational corporations (most United States based) have a vested interest in exploiting Mexico's poor workers by encouraging this desperate employment problem. Mexican farmers cannot compete with transnational agribusiness, which is literally pushing Mexicans off their land and in search of work in the United States. Most economic aid and export rules benefit corporations. Until Mexico's people can take economic control from the corporations they will continue to suffer from this problem.

It is also disappointing that ZPG discusses population



control in the Third World without mentioning the deplorable practice of forced sterilization.

The Sierra Club has not taken a position similar to ZPG's on (illegal) immigration. The Club firmly supports slowing population growth to zero. I hope Sierra Club members will consider carefully that the same governmental and corporate policies that threaten our environment are causing much of the immigration problem worldwide....

The Bay Chapter has declined to embrace ZPG's position on illegal immigration but does favor world population growth slowed to zero.

THE LETTER IN SUPPORT

1. I wouldn't have seen the ad if you hadn't commented. Thanks for commenting!

2. ZPG evidently believes that any means necessary to achieve zero population growth is ok. Does the Sierra Club? Essentially ZPG here appeals to racism—brown peril. I wonder what the next ad will appeal to? Does the *Yodeler* have a process for screening ads? Does this include consideration of sexism, racism, [and] militarism?...If not, please institute such.

LUTEN'S LETTER

[The] advertising manager accepted an ad from ZPG (*Yodeler*, April, p. 10) and then spent twice the space (presumably free) attacking it. Now comes [a reader] (*Yodeler*, May, p. 14) in her support. Both attacks are capricious and malicious.

[The reader] charges ZPG with "appeals to racism-brown peril." No basis for this exists in the ad. In fact, ZPG simply asks for enforcement of a law. Do [the advertising manager] and [the reader] oppose enforcement of laws? Do they believe one should choose what laws to obey? Does this principle apply to each of us? To individuals, to corporations? To speeding, to taxes, to illegal immigration, to rape, to murder? Will they, perhaps, set themselves up as a commission to advise us on what laws we should, severally and collectively, obey? (Before they put themselves in Henry Thoreau's position and claim conscience against an immoral law, let them read and reflect on at least the first paragraph of "Civil Disobedience.")

Both writers stigmatize ZPG by epithet. Easy incitement by stigmatic epithet has plagued the Sierra Club for decades. Carl Pope learned recently on television how hard it is to argue against the spurious charges that the club is "elitist." Is this a game at which the Sierra Club can win?

[The advertising manager] comes up with [the] following, if I understand her: United States-based transnational corporations force Mexicans off their lands and into illegal immigration to the United States in search of (presumably exploitive) employment. It seems a complex conspiracy. It can be extended to argue that its purpose is to destroy the [United Farm Workers] and to compete elsewhere unfairly with Americans (because, vulnerable, these people work for illegally low wages.) Does [the advertising manager] support that? She demands, perhaps revolution, perhaps reform in Mexico; does it improve either to have their safety valve of emigration, [which] removes the most enterprising, the most desperate of Mexico's people from the Mexican political scene? Is she then a reformer or a closet reactionary?

The ad did not focus on illegal immigration from Mexico, but that is a large and probably major fraction of the total. [The manager] asks, "[I]s military action an acceptable form of population control?" In fact, the Mexican border is the most porous in the developed world. She could better protest every nonmontane border in Europe, and she might have cited the Berlin Wall, the 38th parallel in Korea, the Chinese-Russian border. Many of them involve societies commonly extolled to us as progressive and humane compared to our exploitive, conspiratorial society. In fact, the US

government has proposed no machine guns, no mine fields, not even a fence the length of the Mexican-United States border, but fences only where uncontrolled traffic is densest. What would [the advertising manager] propose, traffic lights?

When [the manager] charges ZPG with advocating population "control," she may be close to revealing a totalitarian set to her own thinking. ZPG has asked Americans to recognize the limits of this land and to limit family size in order that future generations may enjoy a rich life. With sieves for borders and with hundreds of millions of poor people around the world seeing merits in attributes of American life that many Americans see as curses, family limitation by Americans will be futile.

The day is past, unfortunately, when emigration from poor lands to the empty parts of the globe can accelerate the demographic transition—the change from high birth and death and growth rates, misery, and no education to low birth and death and growth rates, reasonable living conditions, and good education. There are no empty parts. From now on, the problems cannot be solved by export; they must be solved where they exist.

It is a liberal viewpoint that immigration laws are immoral; it is also a liberal viewpoint that the world is infinite and, if society were properly organized, that no difficulties should be found in accommodating all of its people. If this is true, why is there need for conservation organizations; why cannot we all focus our attentions on social reform? But, in fact, the polarization between conservation versus exploitation (of resources and landscape) does not precisely parallel the polarity between political liberalism and conservatism. A conservationist (or an exploiter!) cannot find his guidance from the latter polarity.

Finally, [the reader] asks if the *Yodeler* has a process for screening (objectionable) ads. The answer is yes. [The advertising manager], by devoting twice as much free space to countering the paid ad, will insure that all advertisers ask her approval before venturing cash for space in the *Yodeler*. But is "advertising manager" the proper title for a censor? ■



IMMIGRATION LIMITS AND ENVIRONMENTAL LIBERALISM REDEFINED

by B. Meredith Burke

This spring's Sierra Club membership vote on the Club's population and immigration policy has generated much media attention, and a good bit of rancor within the conservation community.

Those of us who acknowledge the reality—and even desirability—of limits have been deemed politically incorrect and outside the liberal fold; some have called us immigrant bashers and even racists. On the first Earth Day in 1971, environmentalists stood united in challenging the notions that Americans were exempt from limits, and that bigger was always better. I term this a “pragmatic” liberal stance, one shared in 1972 by the nonpartisan President's Commission on Population Growth and the American Future.

Commission members—experts and “ordinary” citizens alike—responded to warnings that our nation's natural heritage was imperiled, and explicitly honored the values of the American people: a love of solitude, wilderness, small communities, and low-density living. They recommended that our 1970 population of 200 million be stabilized with all due speed. They noted that this would necessitate both a rational reproductive health policy with legalized abortion, and an immigration policy that dovetailed with population goals.

What a difference a quarter-century makes! Environmentalists have lost their demographic consensus, their acceptance of life's trade-offs. Thirty years ago I preached that Americans had to choose between above-replacement fertility and a viable environment. As the source of population growth has altered, today I preach that the era of immigration must cease if we are to protect our country's physical fabric and ever again enjoy manageable, delimited cities.

Persons who would not presume to excoriate the members of the 1972 Commission now hurl nasty epithets at those who share the Commission's views. Only “nativists” and “elitists” believe population must be stabilized, if not reduced. By contrast, “true liberals” first contend that “numbers don't matter,” then distort data to minimize the contributions of these new sources of population growth. They argue that population size is disconnected from environmental consequence. They disclaim the Earth Day slogan, “Think globally, act locally.”

Those seeking to minimize immigration's demographic effects ignore both the attendant increase in births and the ultimate increase in the childbearing population. Immigrants bore roughly 800,000 of the four million US births in 1995. Hence, the numbers attaining childbearing age in 2015 will be 25% greater than if post-1970 immigration rates had been consistent with the call to stabilize our population. Demographer Léon Bouvier, co-author of *How Many Americans?*, calculates that with minimal post-1970 immigration, the US population would have peaked at 230 million before declining after the year 2030. Instead, University of Minnesota demographers Dennis Ahlburg and James Vaupel plausibly project there will be 500 million Americans by 2050.

IF NUMBERS DON'T MATTER—

Does anyone genuinely believe that a city of 50,000 offers the same experience to residents as one of 500,000; of five million; of 25 million? Does it make the same resource demands, generate equivalent wastes, and provide similar housing markets and commuting times? Does it offer equal opportunities for political participation, and the same proximity to uncrowded, unthreatened wilderness?

Numbers do count: A doubled population will impede our transition to a population and lifestyle consonant with our resource endowment. Can we remain blasé about numbers once associated only with burgeoning Third World nations or science fiction futures?

The 1972 commission stressed not just the modest material aspirations of Americans (e.g., a single-family house), but also the psychological and spiritual costs of enforced estrangement from Nature (costs now validated by ecopsychologists). These went unmentioned by the late Barbara Jordan, chair of the US Commission on Immigration Reform. Shortly before her 1996 death she concluded, "[The] United States has been and should continue to be a nation of immigrants."

Apparently, neither Jordan nor other committee members understood they were endorsing a demographic "perpetual motion machine." Like our elected leaders, they were deaf to the latest maximum US population carrying capacity estimates of 150 million. Both the commission and Congress seem untroubled by the addition of nearly 70 million residents since 1972, bringing the current US population to nearly 270 million.

Defenders of demographically irresponsible immigration eschew "qualitative" indices of well-being. Considering such measures ideologically suspect, they reject the American aesthetic/spiritual lifestyle aspirations as readily as they do the consumption aspirations. Ironically, we environmentalists who advocate population stabilization (if not reduction) often are also strong advocates of reduced consumption and increased funding of international family planning, women's empowerment, and environmental protection programs.

Yes, we believe Americans have the same right to self-determination as do citizens of other countries—and the same obligation to get our own ecological house in order. Each country in a world already exceeding its sustainable human population must accept the discipline entailed by living within its ecological means. Whether industrial or Third World, no country can depend indefinitely upon displacing excess people, excess waste, or excess resource demand onto others. We believe only by "acting locally" to rein in our profligate resource use and reduce our unsustainable population base can we appear a credible role model for other nations.

Accepting Nature's limits is neither "liberal" nor "conservative." It is realistic. ■

B. Meredith Burke (443 Tennessee Lane, Palo Alto, CA 94306; Merebphd@aol.com), a demographer and expert on California fertility rates, is a Senior Fellow at Negative Population Growth.

A FIGHT FOR THE SOUL OF THE SIERRA CLUB

The Crusade to Rewrite the Club's Population Policy and its Resistance

by Harold Glasser

What is the heated debate in the Sierra Club over population policy really about? In late February of 1996, the Sierra Club Board of Directors revised the Club's long-standing position on population policy to state:

The Sierra Club, its entities, and those speaking in its name will take no position on immigration levels or on policies governing immigration into the United States.

On first blush this new position seems to represent a pragmatic delineation of the Club's purview on a politically charged issue. But, by stifling free and open debate, by prohibiting the Sierra Club—at the national, state, or even chapter level—from even taking a position on immigration policies, this new stance amounts to a gag order. Furthermore, it diverges radically from the vision and foresight of Club policy adopted decades ago.

Recognizing that excessive population density exacerbates every environmental problem, the Sierra Club Board, almost thirty years ago, adopted a comprehensive statement on population stabilization:

[W]e must find, encourage, and implement at the earliest possible time the necessary policies, attitudes, social standards, and actions that will, by voluntary and humane means consistent with human rights and individual conscience, bring about the stabilization of the population first of the United States and then of the world.

And recognizing that immigration continues to play a key role in the growth of the US population, the Sierra Club Board, in 1978, adopted the following stance on immigration:

The Sierra Club urges Congress to conduct a thorough examination of US immigration laws, policies, and practices. This analysis should include discussion of:

1. *The impact of immigration of different levels on population trends in the United States;*
2. *The disproportionate burden on certain states; and*
3. *The effect of immigration to the US on population growth and environmental quality in this country.*

Alternative "A," a ballot initiative petitioned by Sierra Club members this year, called for a return to this more circumspect approach to population planning. It asked members to reverse the Board's February 1996 decision to take no position on US immigration levels or policies and pursue:

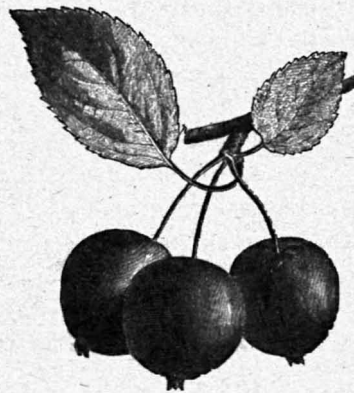
a comprehensive population policy for the United States that continues to advocate an end to US population growth at the earliest time through reduction in natural increase (births minus deaths), but now also through reduction in net immigration (immigration minus emigration).

As a response to Alternative "A," the Sierra Club Board of Directors sponsored Alternative "B," a counter ballot initiative that asked members to reaffirm the Board's February 1996 position. While Alternative "B" commendably reiterated the importance of addressing the root causes of population problems, it still asked members to sustain the Board's gag order on immigration policy.

I must admit that on face value the notion of advocating a "reduction in net immigration" does sound frightening. It conjures up images of racist policies, monstrous fences, and menacing immigration officials. And while I wish the authors of Alternative "A" conveyed some of the sensitivity apparent in the recent Wilderness Society population policy position (or earlier Club statements on immigration), I should emphasize that Alternative "A" did not call for repressive measures or particular limits or quotas. It would simply have the Club openly acknowledge that overpopulation and its attendant problems, particularly in California, result not only from increases in fertility, but also from a significant net influx of people. While the supporters of Alternative "B" are certainly correct in arguing that immigration is not *the* problem, they, unfortunately, do us all a disservice by arguing that it is a problem not worthy of our attention.

Recognizing that most people leave their countries (or states) only out of a sense of desperation or a sense of lack of opportunity, any prudent strategy for moderating immigration should attempt to address its causes. Innovative immigration policies endeavor to create an environment where people do not feel compelled, out of desperation, to leave their birth homes and families. Such policies include aid to support family planning, education, women's empowerment, human rights, and economic opportunity at home—they do not, and should not, take on the form of endless waves of barbed wire and gun-toting border guards.

**We have both a responsibility
and an obligation to future
generations—and to the full
complement of life on
Earth—to address the
human population issue in its
full context.**



Let me state emphatically that the problems posed by racism and poverty are egregious and endemic. They must be addressed with our concerted efforts, great sensitivity, and the full force of the law. Nevertheless, unless we are prepared (and in a position) to share the benefits of our society with every prospective immigrant, we have a moral responsibility to address the social and environmental effects of immigration as well as its driving forces. As noble and imperative as the struggle for social justice is, it means little if it comes at the cost of sustainability or loss of the planet's wondrous and life-giving biological diversity.

I am arguing for the foresight and propriety of confronting the immigration issue—in grounding our concern for the environment within the notion of ecological sustainability and the inherent justness of recognizing that there are limits to growth. The human population *will stop growing*, either through conscious and conscientious population planning or through overtaking our ecological and social infrastructure. If the latter case holds, there will be great misery for humans and non-humans alike. As important as reductions in consumption and efficiency improvements are, they can be quickly outstripped by a rapidly growing population. The only way to make California and the nation ecologically sustainable is by facing the complex policy problems before us with decency, humility, and compassion.

We have both a responsibility and an obligation to future generations—and to the full complement of life on Earth—to address the human population issue in its full context. Any long-term strategy to address ecological sustainability *must* have a population component. And as long as the population of any given region is significantly affected by net migration, any rational population policy *must* have a component that addresses immigration. Contrary to what the supporters of Alternative “B” have espoused, a comprehensive approach for addressing the overpopulation problem cannot adopt a myopic vision: we must think *both* globally and locally, and act *both* globally and locally.

The issue of immigration is fraught with emotional controversy, but this is no reason for the Sierra Club to renounce its responsibility and shift the onus to other organizations. Digging our heads in the sand and ignoring the topic of immigration will not make its problems disappear. The premier conservation organization in the country should not just walk away from this issue because it is conflict-ridden. The Sierra Club must be free to actively participate in discussions on immigration policy—indeed, what organization is better suited to speak out both for environmental justice *and* ecological sustainability? ■

Harold Glasser is the author of many articles on environmental policy and philosophy. He is currently revising and editing a ten-volume collection of Arne Naess's selected works, which will be published by Kluwer in 1999. In February he participated with Dave Foreman, State Senator Quentin Kopp, and others in a news conference organized by Wild Duck Review in support of Alternative “A.”

Author's Addenda:

The preceding article was submitted to *Wild Earth* prior to the close of the Sierra Club vote. While in press, the votes were tallied and released; Alternative “B” carried the day in what the Sierra Club administration gloatingly referred to as a “landslide” victory (60% to 40%). The turnout of approximately 78,000 votes represents about 14% of the Sierra Club's total membership. What the Sierra Club's Executive Director, Carl Pope, referred to as “a resounding defeat for a misguided policy” amounts to a decision made with the support of 8.4% and the opposition of 5.6% of Club members. Given that the Board of Directors, many, volunteer committees, and 27 Sierra Club chapters actively used their influence to lobby for Alternative “B,” I would hardly characterize as a “mandate” a vote that could have been reversed with only 8000 voters changing their minds. Those of us who are interested in seeing the Sierra Club return to a truly comprehensive population policy have our work cut out for us—but remember, when the “mandate” of those who are averse to addressing immigration rests on a house of cards, the time is ripe for initiating a new, compassionately crafted ballot measure. —HG

A Last Word on the Sierra Club Immigration Controversy

by Dave Foreman

On February 11, 1998, I sent the following letter to Adam Werbach, President of the Sierra Club; Carl Pope, Executive Director of the Sierra Club; and the members of the National Board of Directors of the Sierra Club:

Dear Friends:

I write this letter with extreme reluctance. The last thing I want to do is to harm my ability to work with the Sierra Club on wilderness, public lands, and wildlife issues. I consider all of you personal friends—some very close friends, indeed. I do not want to harm these friendships in any way. But I take this matter very seriously. I am so upset, I could bite nails in half.

When official representatives of the Sierra Club, either staff or volunteer officers, say that the immigration ballot question [Alternative "A"] is "anti-immigrant" or "racist," they are saying that I am anti-immigrant or racist. They are saying that Tony Beilenson, Gaylord Nelson, Brock Evans, Martin Litton, E.O. Wilson, Stewart Udall, and the other endorsers of the immigration ballot question are anti-immigrant or racist.

I don't mind a vigorous debate. I do mind being slandered.

I am asking you all, with all due respect and in friendship, to:

- 1) Immediately stow all charges that the ballot question is anti-immigrant or racist; and
- 2) Publicly apologize to me and the other endorsers.

I couldn't care less about what irresponsible political extremists like the so-called Political Ecology Group and Alexander Cockburn say about me. In fact, the more outrageous they are, the better, as they have no credibility. But when responsible entities like the leadership of the Sierra Club throw mud on my character by saying that a ballot measure that I support is driven by anti-immigrant attitudes, I care a great deal.

I would also encourage all of you to consider what harm will come to the Sierra Club if the immigration ballot measure passes after respected Sierra Club leaders have called it anti-immigrant or racist. Think about it, friends. How will

you handle that? I will happily accept the results of the membership vote and be very glad that this divisive issue has been decided by the membership. Continued charges of anti-immigrant bias, though, will cast real doubt on the fairness of the vote.

I hope that this matter can be handled in friendship and respect. In keeping with that desire, and because of my great respect and affection for the Sierra Club and you all, I do not plan to further distribute this letter since I expect your early positive response to my requests.

Again, I am very sorry to write this letter. I truly hope it will not harm my friendships with you all. But I am deeply, deeply hurt and offended to the marrow of my bones by charges of anti-immigrant bias.

Happy trails,

Dave Foreman

I'm sorry to report that no apology came. Nor did the slander cease. Indeed, Werbach and Pope only increased their mud-slinging at supporters of immigration limits. So, I feel comfortable sharing this letter with the readers of *Wild Earth*.

The Sierra Club has now voted by a sixty to forty percent margin to take no position on immigration numbers. Outgoing Sierra Club President Werbach trumpets that the soul of the Sierra Club has been saved—an odd way to describe the Sierra Club leadership's conversion to Dick Morris's political ethics. ■

(Note: I am not blaming most individual members of the Sierra Club Board of Directors or the new Sierra Club President, my friend Chuck McGrady, for this down-in-the-gutter election. Werbach and Pope have big enough shoulders to carry the shame.)

Dave Foreman is publisher of *Wild Earth*. He served on the Sierra Club's National Board of Directors from 1995–1997.

Book

Reviews



REVIEWED IN THIS ISSUE:

The Adirondacks

Contested Terrain

*Wallace Stegner and the
Continental Vision*

People and the Land through Time

*From Coastal Wilderness to
Fruited Plain*

THE ADIRONDACKS: A History of America's First Wilderness

by Paul Schneider; Henry Holt and Company, Inc. (115 West 18th St., New York, NY 10011); 1997; \$25 cloth; 368 pp.

CONTESTED TERRAIN: A New History of Nature and People in the Adirondacks

by Philip G. Terrie; Syracuse University Press (Syracuse, NY 13244-5160); 1997; 223 pp.

If you snowshoe up Blue Mountain, which is more or less in the middle of the Adirondacks, you look out over the greatest wilderness in the East. I've lived in this park most of my adult life, and yet every time I'm up high the rugged beauty startles me: it's lake and forest and ridge and then lake again, stretching out in every direction. The Adirondack Park, a novel mix of public and private land, covers six million acres, about a quarter of New York. That makes it bigger than Yellowstone, Yosemite, Glacier, and Grand Canyon National Parks combined, not to mention bigger than Massachusetts, bigger than Connecticut, about the same size as Vermont but with one-eighth the population. Along with the screaming magnificent jumble of the city five hours south, this park is one of the Empire State's two great gifts to the planet. Arguably, it's the place where the world's sense of wilderness was born.

It's also, right now, the most politically exciting spot in the state. In a span of three days at the end of 1997, Governor George Pataki—who controls this wilderness because it is a state, not a federal, park—ended years of dithering in Albany and began taking aggressive steps to chart the park's future course. He committed \$11 million to closing the last small local landfills in the park, effectively ending large-scale schemes to import vast amounts of urban trash into the Adirondacks. He canceled plans to build a super-maximum security penitentiary at Tupper Lake, a facility that would have become the seventh prison in what was becoming an Adirondack gulag. And, by far the most important, he announced that the state would buy 15,000 acres of crucially important land in the center of the park.

This land, the heart of the baronial Whitney Estate, which included the largest privately owned lake east of the Mississippi, had been slated for subdivision; now, it will instead be at the core of the park's largest Wilderness Area, an area big enough to allow the possible reintroduction of species that require large blocks of

habitat, including the wolf. If the possibility of public ownership had slipped away—as happened with other deals in the Cuomo administration—the park would forever have had a gaping hole in the middle. Now, the Whitney purchase could serve as the beginning of the Adirondack endgame, the time when the state finally insures both the ecological integrity of the park and its economic future as a managed landscape. About 350,000 acres of private land are in play; most of it is owned by large timber companies who would like to sell conservation easements and recreation rights to the state, while continuing to harvest trees—an outcome that



St. Regis Lake by Harry Fenn

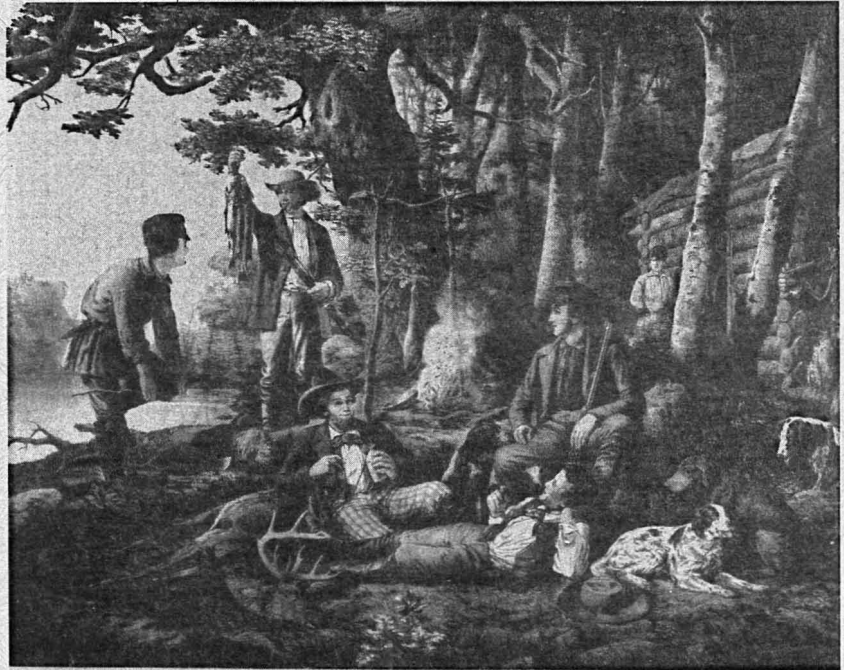
would help protect the jobs of Adirondackers as well as the intact mantle of green that makes the park stand out on any map of eastern North America. (Given that the Adirondack Park has such an enormous core of public wilderness land, such easement deals make more sense here than they do elsewhere in the East, where direct land acquisition can bolster an inadequate public lands base.)

It's not yet certain that Pataki will finish what he has started. He recently ousted the right-wing conservation opponent who had been his original choice to head the Adirondack Park Agency; for several years Gregory Campbell had served as New York's answer to James Watt. But now he must appoint several new members to the agency's board, and in so doing he could tip the balance away from careful development and toward untrammelled subdivision. But the events of late 1997 and early 1998 were heartening to all who care about the park's environmental and economic future. The strange and delicate arrangements that have allowed the Adirondacks to reach the eve of the 21st century in spectacularly good shape remain more or less intact. As the books under review make clear, that is the unlikely miracle of Adirondack history.

Paul Schneider's *The Adirondacks* is a popular history, a collection of tales and lore. Most of the early chapters of his book take place on the fringes of the Adirondacks—either on Lake George and Lake Champlain, which formed the border with New England and served as the main north-south route (and battleground) between the British and French holdings in the New World, or along the Mohawk River, south of the park, which was the center of the Iroquois Confederacy. The central Adirondacks were used mostly as an occasional hunting ground by either the Iroquois or the Algonquin who settled in the river valleys to the north. They were too high, too cold, and too densely forested to make for easy living (conditions that persist to this day); indeed, "Adirondack" is thought to derive from a Mohawk word meaning "barkeater," a taunt flung at those Indians who did try to live in the mountains and were forced to gnaw on trees during hard times.

The purely Adirondack part of Schneider's account really begins with the story of William Johnson, the fur trader and Indian agent who established one of the park's first empires in the early 18th century—his summer houses along the

Sacandaga River were the first vacation homes in the region, and to them he brought his retinue of slaves, his dwarf violinist, and his Mohawk bodyguards. But his vast schemes, like those of many others, eventually fizzled; it wasn't until the 19th century that people began to leave their mark on



these mountains in any deep way. Not until 1837, in fact, did Europeans (and perhaps anyone) climb Mt. Marcy, New York's highest peak at 5344 feet. Decades after Lewis and Clark had returned from the Pacific, this remained an unsurveyed, unknown, and mostly wild place. "It makes a man feel what it is to have all creation placed beneath his feet," said John Cheney, the local guide who accompanied Ebenezer Emmons's exploration party on that first ascent. "There are woods there which it would take a lifetime to hunt over, mountains that seem shouldering each other to boost the one whereon you stand up and away, heaven knows where. Thousands of little lakes among them so light and clean" (Schneider, p. 135).

Story after story fill Schneider's pages. There are the armies of artists who descended on the Adirondacks in search of the sublime. (Cole, Tait, and Winslow Homer were regular visitors; one well-known painter once counted 40 of his colleagues painting under white sun umbrellas in the fields around Keene Valley and the Ausable River.) And there are the armies of loggers who came to clear this last great eastern forest, and the armies of city swells who came here to escape temporarily from the Industrial Revolution,

supporting great hotels (one in Blue Mountain Lake was the first public building in the world wired for electricity, by Thomas Alva Edison himself) and, if they had the resources, building vast "great camps," rustically constructed mansions that they filled with mindboggling displays of taxidermy. (Not all the skins and heads and antlers were Adirondack in origin—this was the day of the great white hunter, and there were hippos, zebras, elephants, and grizzlies hanging from many a beam.) Others came too—consumptives, who believed the mountain air would restore them, miners seeking what was for a time some of the highest-grade iron ore in the world, Boston and New York preachers looking for a brawny God in this wild place. Schneider tells their stories with good humor and fine pacing, but as he makes clear, his work draws heavily on the original research of more professional historians, chief among them Barbara McMartin, the great chronicler of the park's physical history, and Philip Terrie, a social historian at Bowling Green University.

Terrie's new account of the Adirondacks, *Contested Terrain*, is more scholarly than Schneider's, though every bit as easy to read, and it is hands-down the finest general Adirondack history ever written, the book to which all subsequent accounts will refer.¹ Instead of focusing on the colorful tales of the Adirondacks, Terrie searches for archetypes, for the bass notes amidst all the melody that show how various groups of people really *conceived* the Adirondacks, and how those conceptions clashed.

For instance, he describes the surveyors and state officials who explored the area before the Civil War, and saw it as, essentially, the same kind of frontier that was being opened far to the west. Geologist Ebenezer Emmons, who led that first party up Mount Marcy, believed that where the seemingly impenetrable forest now stood, there would soon be "the golden grain waving with the gentle breeze, the sleek cattle browsing on the rich pastures, and the farmer with well-stored granaries enjoying the domestic hearth" (Terrie, p. 17). (Part of this belief—and in this he was prescient in at least a global sense—was that clearing the forest would warm the climate.) But that essentially Ohioan story about the Adirondacks soon gave way to others. After the Civil War, as the swarm of city swells began to invade the place, they invented an altogether different myth for it: the Adirondacks was a refuge of wild mountains and wild people, especially the local guides that figured prominently in every account of what was the world's first large-scale example of eco-

tourism or adventure travel. Forget the small towns and agricultural communities—what these adventurers saw when they saw Adirondackers were people from another world. In the words of one tourist, watching his guide encounter an Indian near Tupper Lake, the two men were "representatives of a class unknown to cultured life; the old bronzed hunter and trapper; and the wild red man, united by their habits and modes of life, and both so perfectly in keeping with the scenes where I saw them—the natural meadow—the primeval woods—the lonely lake—the log hut—the wolf dogs—all so different from the objects to which I had become accustomed" (Terrie, p. 53). It was the 19th century equivalent of taking a cruise to an "exotic" port filled with "happy" natives who would pose for you, talk with you, even take you into the wilderness.

That story couldn't easily coexist with another story from the same era, however—the large-scale commercial logging that was becoming increasingly widespread across most of the region. Not only does our sense of wilderness derive from Adirondack roots, so does our sense of wilderness threatened—the earliest images of overcutting seared into the American imagination were engravings of Adirondack scenes published in magazines like *Harper's* and the *Atlantic* in the second half of the 19th century. As the sports made their way to the popular hotels in the mountains and lakes, their rail cars and stagecoaches rolled past many scenes of heavy cutting.² Their indignation helped create the conservationist clamor that eventually led to the creation of the State Forest Preserve in the 1890s. But that was not the only new story. The downstate transportation barons who were making vast fortunes off the Erie Canal read the work of proto-environmentalist George Perkins Marsh, particularly his 1864 classic *Man and Nature*, which argued that denuding forested slopes changed the flow of water dramatically, leading to spring floods and summer droughts from eroded soils that could not hold rainfall. Together, such sentiments led to passage of Article 14, the amendment to the State Constitution that holds all state-owned lands within the park "forever wild," never to be cut or otherwise disturbed. It was the most ecological action a political body had ever taken, or would take again for three-quarters of a century.

Article 14 did not apply, however, to private lands, which were still the vast bulk of holdings within the park. (Today, the ratio of public and private lands in the park is roughly even.) Indeed, the heaviest logging in Adirondack history took place in the next two decades, up till 1910. As

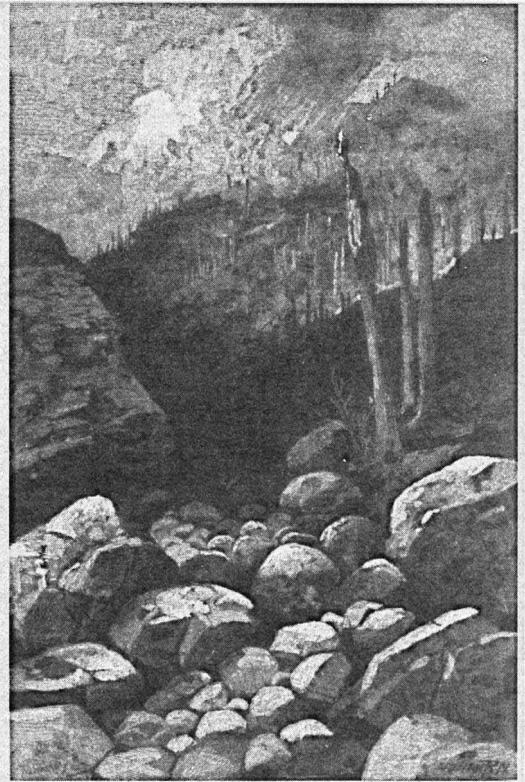
¹It also contains a wealth of photographs from the Adirondack Museum's collection, many published here for the first time.

²As Barbara McMartin makes clear in her *The Great Forest of the Adirondacks* (Utica: North Country Books, 1994), large parts of the park's forest were not so completely devastated, at least before the turn of the century; and indeed, in many places the logging was more gentle than had long been believed—thus large patches of old-growth or near-virgin forest survived.

the boom subsided, the state slowly acquired land, often when timber companies quit paying taxes on land they had clearcut. In many ways, the first two-thirds of the 20th century was a sleepy time in the Adirondacks. Most communities declined in population as the industries of the past—timber and mining—began to play out. Automobile tourism brought more visitors to the park, but it no longer occupied the same place in the national imagination; as the West became more accessible, people's visions of pristine wilderness shifted to Wyoming or Alaska, and the ultra-rich found other playgrounds.

But there was more drama to come. In the 1960s, as new second-home development began to threaten the region, a coalition of the remaining bluebloods and emerging ecological thinkers combined to try and prevent the fragmentation of the Adirondacks. With the backing of Governor Nelson Rockefeller, they forced through the legislature a new set of regulations governing *private* land in the park, and setting up a commission, the Adirondack Park Agency, to administer the new zoning map. The APA was immediately unpopular with locals, who pointed out (correctly) that they had played scant part in its creation, though its new rules would change the value of their land and the shape of their lives. To some extent the new laws worked—the Adirondacks remain relatively free of the massive development that has altered so much of the American landscape. But the same regulations are full of loopholes big enough to drive legions of bulldozers through, especially when it comes to slowing development on the region's many lakeshores, and they have also caused widespread resentment, which in the late 1980s and 1990s made the Adirondacks fertile ground for the kind of extremist property-rights activism usually associated with the rangelands of the interior West.

In a way, the oddest thing about the Adirondacks on the verge of the 21st century is that their future is not set. Most American places, whether Westchester or Yosemite, San



Diego or the Brooks Range, have settled, usually by accident, on their story. Iowa means corn, and if we don't completely wreck the climate, probably always will. But nothing completely *took* in the Adirondacks: not farming (after a generation of fighting rocks, freezes, and blackflies, everyone took off west in search of topsoil), nor mining, nor the dream of a vast, completely protected, wilderness park. Instead, it remains a place very much like other parts of the world—the vast expanses of Africa and South America that are simultaneously wild and peopled. That accident makes them extremely valuable; conservationists from around the globe come here regularly to see the only long-standing model of what they are trying to create elsewhere—"ecological reserves" that allow people and Nature to make their livings in pretty much the same place.

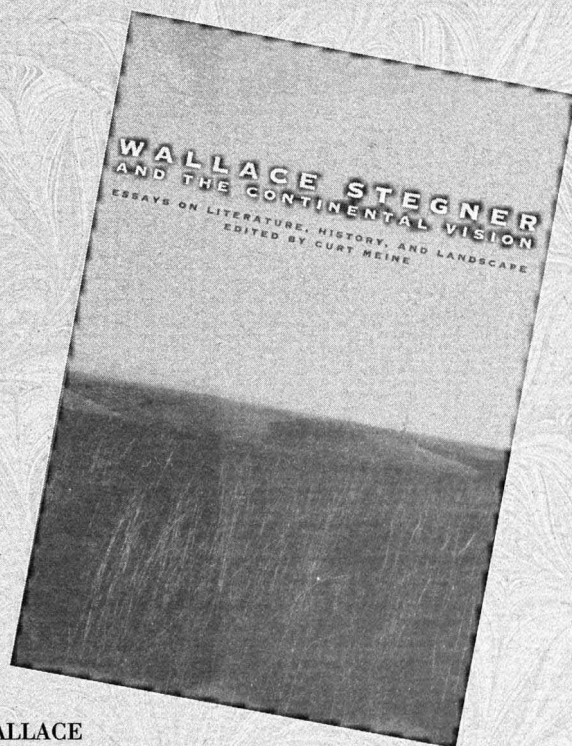
That possibility will be greatly enhanced if Governor Pataki continues on his recent path. Not only does the state need to make sure that the 350,000 acres of land now on the market end up either in the Forest Preserve or governed by easements that prevent subdivision but allow forestry, he also must make economic development easier for the region. At the moment, the state's Department of Economic Development divides the park into three chunks, each of which is lumped in with more populous areas to the south, north, and west of the Adirondacks; environmentalists and local officials have been pushing for an alternative,

Adirondack-focused effort to bring both business and tourism inside the Blue Line. The park's population is so small that even a few million more dollars added to the region's Community Investment Fund, a local development bank, would yield impressive changes. And the state finally should promise to reimburse local governments for the tax money they lose under state laws designed to benefit major timber producers and keep land in forest.

Equally important, however, the residents of the Adirondacks need to begin taking more control of their own future. At the moment, much of the identity of Adirondackers comes from their resentment of outsiders. For the park to prosper in the next century, that resentment must turn into something more useful. There are signs that such a maturation is possible. Paul Smith's College, for instance, will next fall become the first four-year college in the park, as it upgrades its curriculum after 50 years as a two-year forestry and hospitality college. Paul Smith's, which has added "College of the Adirondacks" to its name, increasingly offers a place for the region to think about itself—when outsiders called for reintroducing wolves last year, the college formed a citizen's commission to consider it, which cooled tempers and offered an almost unique example of local self-confidence. As recent public meetings made clear, wolf reintroduction will be no easy task—but at least there's a semi-rational conversation underway, which is a big improvement. Meanwhile, many (though by no means a majority) of local residents have embraced the work of the Residents Committee to Protect the Adirondacks, an organization that works to shape this crucial experiment from inside the test tube. And North Country Public Radio has now located enough repeaters on mountaintops to serve almost the entire park, the first time *any* journalistic organization has served all Adirondackers.

Those institutions, and others like them, will be crucial if the Adirondacks are to offer yet another story to the world: this time a place that is both settled and wild, where humans have exercised restraint as well as dominion, and made decisions for other-than-economic reasons. A place where people have decided that the view from the top of Blue Mountain enriches their lives more than a mall. The Adirondacks, 150 years after it exploded into the national consciousness, remains one of the country's two or three most exciting—and most delicate—conservation stories. ■

Bill McKibben is the author of The End of Nature, Hope, Human and Wild, and other works. His most recent book is Maybe One: A Personal and Environmental Argument for Single-Child Families, just published by Simon & Schuster. He lives in the Adirondacks.



**WALLACE
STEGNER AND THE
CONTINENTAL VISION: Essays on
Literature, History, and Landscape**

edited by Curt Meine; Island Press (1718 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20009); 1997; \$24.95 cloth; 240 pp.

...[I]mpressive beyond description, awesome and colorful...disturbing, a trouble to the mind. It works on the nerves, there is no repose in it, nothing that is soft.

This is Wallace Stegner describing the Colorado River in *Beyond the Hundredth Meridian*. But the sentences could as well describe Stegner's legacy, because here was a man who shaped the moral landscape of the West powerfully and beautifully, as the Colorado River has shaped its geography. When he died, he left behind a body of work impressive in its size and influence, a life as compelling and colorful as his novels, and a hard-edged challenge to all who love the land to take dead seriously the obligations that love imposes.

Wallace Stegner and the Continental Vision: Essays on Literature, History, and Landscape is a collection of essays that sets out to explore Stegner's legacy. They are compiled by Curt Meine, a conservation biologist and author of *Aldo Leopold: His Life and Work*. The papers were first presented at a conference of writers, literary critics, historians, and scientists at the University of Wisconsin, three years after Stegner's death. But this fact should not discourage readers. True: conference papers probably win the prize as every-

body's least favorite literary genre, often so abstracted that they produce in the audience a restlessness close to fury, as conferees listen to somebody talking "about somebody's influence on somebody," as Virginia Woolf put it.

But these essays are loving and graceful and down-to-earth. The reader feels more like a guest at a wake than a participant in an academic conference. Taken together, the essays become a creative act of re-collection, a group of friends gathering to tell the stories and by that means to bring a beloved man to life. They laugh some, cry a little, declaim—analyzing, yes, arguing, maybe, trying to make sense of it all—gently drunk, it sometimes seems, on the brilliance of this man. As after a good wake, readers of *Wallace Stegner and the Continental Vision* will come away changed, resolved to live their lives a little differently, to care more, to be truer to what they believe in, to be better people, to make a difference with the time they have left, uneasily aware, as Charles Wilkinson points out here, that "now it's up to us."

The book organizes itself around three separate themes—Stegner as writer, Stegner as historian, Stegner as conservationist. But the power of Stegner's genius is that he never compartmentalized his work—as a historian, he was a brilliant writer; as a writer, he was a fine historian; and the obligation he felt for the land motivated everything he did. True to Stegner, the essayists in this volume bring readers to a point where they can look out over the expanse of his work and see the integrity of the writing and the integrity of the man. "Wallace Stegner may be our *wholest* American writer," John Daniel says in his essay. "The *wholest* writers are those with a complex sense of responsibility to nature, history, community, culture...."

The relationship between people and the land is the pivotal center of Stegner's life-work. Stegner begins with the premise that we are defined by our places, shaped by the same forces that shape the land—softened by rain, calcified by time and gravity, scattered by shopping malls, polished by gusting sand and sorrow. Even land we never enter, the wilderness that Stegner called the "geography of hope," shapes our senses of possibility and promise. If this is so, Stegner's work asks, then who are we westerners, a people "as migratory as geese"? Who are we, who move west to put down roots but continue to move from place to place, pushing along highways, dragging our "exposed roots" with us? And if we are shaped by land, then as we degrade our places, what do we become ourselves?—a leached-out field, an eroded clearcut, the slick of algae on the back of a dam, the vacant landscape in the face of an emigrant, the children's tired eyes. Again and again, Stegner's work returns and responds to the urgency of these questions.

The broad spread of Stegner's writing—fiction, conservation polemic, history, memoir, essay—is unified also by the consistent power of his voice. The essayists in *Wallace Stegner and the Continental Vision* let readers listen to Stegner's words, selecting beautiful passages and offering them to the reader as gifts. This is wise, because no tribute to Stegner, no analysis, will be as clear and solid as his own voice:

There had been a wind during the night, and all the loneliness of the world had swept up out of the southwest. The boy had heard it wailing through the screens of the sleeping porch where he lay, and he had heard the washtub bang loose from the outside wall and roll down toward the coulee, and the slam of the screen doors, and his mother's padding feet after she rose to fasten things down.... In his mind he had seen the prairie outside with its woolly grass and cactus white under the moon.

Many of the essayists succeed in conveying a sense of Stegner as a human being entire, and thus help the reader understand what it means for a writer to have integrity. John Daniel describes Stegner as a person "who knew who he was exactly because he knew where he was from," a person who had waited out a cyclone "lashed to a survey stake in a one-foot hole in the prairie." Charles Wilkinson tells of writing to Stegner, fully aware of the futility of writing to a famous man, and receiving "an enthusiastic response by return mail. I didn't know then," Wilkinson writes, "that he'd answer anybody's letter, usually promptly, always with a generous spirit." Terry Tempest Williams, confronting those who would abandon Utah's wild lands to development and "resource" extraction, looked to Stegner as a mentor, asking herself, "What would Stegner do?... What do we do, each of us in our own place, in our own time?" T. H. Watkins tells how Stegner, trying to beat back dams that would flood treasured canyons, "kept getting mad," and became a "free-lance conservation polemicist. For forty years he has borne witness for the land...." Watkins writes, "and the measured cadence of his splendid prose has played a significant role in the shaping of the sensibility we now call environmentalism."

Taken together, the essays in this book move readers to the heart of Stegner's legacy: In a damaged and threatened land, the most important thing Wallace Stegner leaves us is the challenge of his example. "I believe we honor our elders by seeing them come to life through our own actions...." Terry Tempest Williams writes, "We remember them. They remind us of what is possible."

—Reviewed by Kathleen Dean Moore, Chair of the Philosophy Department at Oregon State University and author of *Riverwalking*

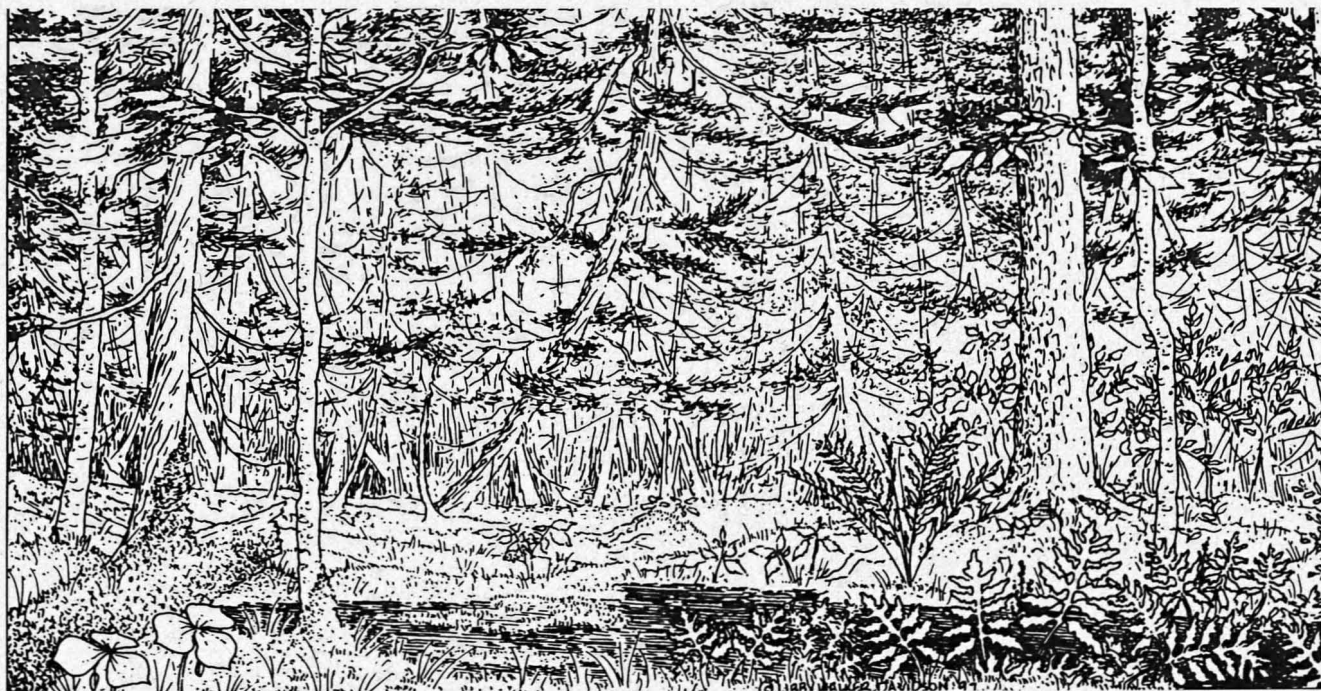
PEOPLE AND THE LAND THROUGH TIME: Linking Ecology and History

by Emily W.B. Russell; Yale University Press (POB 209040, New Haven, CT 06520-9040); 1997; \$35 cloth; 306 pp.

FROM COASTAL WILDERNESS TO FRUITED PLAIN: A History of Environmental Change in Temperate North America from 1500 to the Present

by Gordon G. Whitney; Cambridge University Press (40 West 20th St., New York, NY 10011-4211); 1994; \$59.95, \$32.95 paper; 451 pp.

As the idea of wilderness continues to evolve, to become more focused on enhancing, protecting, and restoring biodiversity, our applied definition of wilderness needs to become more sophisticated, complex, and contingent. More specifically, we need to develop more nuanced spatial and temporal understandings of wilderness. By spatial, I mean that wilderness in the East and Midwest—wilderness in recovery—is something different from wilderness in the West, where there are large areas of the landscape that have been minimally affected by humans. By temporal, I mean that we need to understand more about what these landscapes looked like in the past in order to inform our thinking about wilderness today and into the future. The two books under review are of great help in advancing our thinking about wilderness on both these spatial and temporal grounds.



Russell's *People and the Land through Time* introduces readers to the subject of ecological history. Of central focus for Russell is how humans have affected the natural world. Indeed, she writes that "the ubiquity of human impact means that it is very difficult, if not impossible, to find systems that are devoid of human influence" (p. 4).

The book has three main sections: The first discusses the sources of understanding of the ecological past—the written record, field studies, and the sedimentary record. In this

section and throughout the book, Russell draws heavily on the northeastern United States and western Europe for her examples.

The second section of the book examines the diversity of human impacts on Nature, with chapters on fire, species range expansion, the forest as a resource, agriculture and its residual effects, and the historical patterns of human settlement. These chapters offer the reader a host of insights about past human influences on the land. For example, regarding fire, Russell writes: "the goal of maintaining or creating conditions as they would exist without people, a 'natural' landscape...is not as easy as it might appear, however. We cannot just remove people and expect that their past influences will disappear. Past fire suppression may increase the likelihood of very intense fires that would lead to soil erosion on steep slopes. Past high fire frequencies or other disturbances may have eliminated fire-sensitive species and replaced them with those that perpetuate fire-dominated ecosystems" (p. 87). In terms of the forest, she writes: "No forests are unaffected; humans have been a part of the ecosystem over the past ten centuries of major climatic change, so that all forests have developed under some kind of human influence, although its intensity has varied greatly over time and space. This influence must be accounted for as an important part of any study of forest structure and dynamics" (p. 129). When discussing the abandonment of agricultural land, she makes a critical point: "We cannot assume that just because active management has ceased, some preexisting 'natural' community will reassert itself. Even the eliminating of non-native species or the reintroducing of native and natural processes cannot erase the effects of centuries or even millennia of human impact" (p. 151).

Part three of the book demonstrates how historical ecology can help us better understand current ecological issues by focusing on three cases: human modifications of lake ecosystems, diversity and species extinctions, and biospheric sustainability. After a lengthy discussion of the historical dynamics of oak-dominated forests in the Northeast, Russell concludes: "Assuming that the landscape will return to some pristine, rewilded condition if left to its own devices flies in the face of the evidence by ignoring critical intervening factors" (p. 233). This is a crucial point, and underlies a fundamental distinction between returning to some mythical pristine wilderness or a rewilded wilderness. We cannot recapture the former, but we can certainly achieve the latter. Such a rewilded landscape is one where natural processes—rather than human ones—dominate. Furthermore, achieving such a rewilded landscape will often involve significant human management, at least at the

beginning. As Russell writes in her concluding remarks, "Management decisions that ignore past land use both of the preserves and of surrounding areas are apt to be derailed by unexpected residual impacts as well as by those caused by changes in the future" (p. 244).



Gordon Whitney's *From Coastal Wilderness to Fruited Plain* is an excellent example of ecological history applied to a specific time and place. Whitney's book covers the northeastern and midwestern United States from 1500 to the present, concentrating on change to the terrestrial landscape during this period. For those interested in the New England landscape, the book is required reading and a perfect supplement to William Cronon's *Changes in the Land* and Carolyn Merchant's *Ecological Revolutions*, both of which explore the cultural history of landscape change accompanying the arrival of Europeans in New England.

Whitney begins by reconstructing what the ecosystems of the Northeast and Midwest looked like prior to European arrival, circa 1500, making full use of the array of techniques discussed by Russell—written and graphic materials, statistical series, studies of old-growth forests, archeological evidence, pollen analysis, and lake sediment studies. In this chapter, "The Forest Primeval," he reconstructs the pre-Columbian landscape based on historical and scientific evidence. Although huge old trees were commonplace (see the photographic essay that opens the book, which includes pictures of old-growth forests from the late 19th and early 20th century), "it would be hazardous to conclude that all of the landscape was dominated by massive, old-age trees" (p. 58). Even though the dominant eastern tree species could live 300 to 500 years, most did not live this long. Instead, fire, windthrow, disease, and insects prevented the development of a static climax forest, leading rather to a dynamic patchwork mosaic. In New England, for instance, hurricanes and ice storms are major sources of disturbance (see the map on p. 69 illustrating hurricane frequencies in the region). Whitney presents a series of fascinating maps (pp. 78–80) depicting the abundance of tree species as noted in early land surveys. He does not focus only on forests, though; he also reports on the presettlement prairies.

Before documenting the European alteration of these natural communities, Whitney gives an overview of the effects of Native Americans on the landscape. He concludes that "the cumulative impact of the Indian's activities was substantial....The effects, however, were still localized. Large segments of the interior, i.e., northern New England,

the Allegheny Plateau region of Pennsylvania and New York, and the High Plains region of Michigan, were almost devoid of Indian activity" (p. 120). Whitney then undertakes a systematic account of the ways in which Europeans changed the landscape of the Northeast and Midwest when they arrived. His chapters address forest destruction by farming (farmers cleared land for cultivation, construction materials, potash, and grazing), lumbering, and fuelwood cutting; the transitory nature of early American agriculture, grassland agriculture, and wetland drainage; and a transported flora (via loss of native species and replacement by aliens and weeds) and an impoverished fauna (though he does not discuss amphibians or reptiles).

Whitney also notes how these assorted assaults have influenced the forests that have returned, especially in terms of species composition. The most pronounced change in the Northeast is the decline of beech. In sites in Vermont, New York, and Pennsylvania, beech declined from over 40% of the forest around 1800 to 5–13% of the forest in the 1960s. He concludes: "The last 350 years have witnessed a major change in the composition of America's forests. The list of species is the same and often the boundaries between the major forest types are the same. The proportional representation of the species, however, has changed" (pp. 202–204).

My only complaint with the book is that I wanted more detail. Since *From Coastal Wilderness to Fruited Plain* covers such an extensive area, Whitney must paint with a broad brush. I eagerly await an ecological history—narrower in scope—of northern New England and the Adirondacks.

By helping us to understand what the northeastern landscape has looked like over the last 400 years, Russell and Whitney help us to envision the landscape in the next 100 years. These books open our eyes to how human actions have altered the land and to what ecological changes are still influencing the appearance and health of the natural world around us. They underscore the importance of ecological history for current wildlands planning, and demonstrate the complexity of wilderness recovery in the eastern landscape, a place that has been greatly disturbed by human action. ■

—Reviewed by Chris McGrory Klyza (*Environmental Studies Program and Political Science Department, Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT 05753*), co-editor of *The Future of the Northern Forest* (University Press of New England, 1994) and author of *Who Controls Public Lands? Mining, Forestry, and Grazing Policies, 1870–1990* (University of North Carolina Press, 1996)

25th Annual Natural Areas Conference

The Silver Anniversary Celebration of the Natural Areas Association will be held from October 6–10 on Mackinac Island, Michigan. Centered on the theme "Planning for the Seventh Generation," the conference will include a discussion on the past, present, and future of natural areas as well as their role in conservation planning and sustainable development. For more information, contact Great Lakes Natural Areas Conference, POB 30180, Lansing, MI 48909-7680; 517-241-2974.

National Land Trust Rally

The Land Trust Alliance will hold its 11th National Land Trust Rally October 17–20 in Madison, Wisconsin. The Rally offers participants the opportunity to attend pre-conference seminars, network with peers, choose from over 90 educational workshops, and explore Wisconsin on field trips. For registration information, contact the Land Trust Alliance, 1319 F St. NW, Suite 501, Washington, DC 20004-1106; 202-638-4725; fax 202-638-2514; www.lta.org.

Critical Watersheds Study

A comprehensive new study, produced by The Nature Conservancy in cooperation with Natural Heritage Programs and the Association for Biodiversity Information, examines data for each of the nation's approximately 2100 watersheds. *Rivers of Life: Critical Watersheds for Protecting Freshwater Biodiversity* reveals that US rivers and lakes rival the tropics in their diversity of fish species and other stream life—but warns that the continued degradation of our watersheds could extinguish nearly 40% of freshwater fish species and two-thirds of mussel species. The report also outlines a practical approach to conservation success. To receive the 70-page document, contact The Nature Conservancy at 1815 N. Lynn St., Arlington, VA 22209; 703-841-5300; fax 703-841-1283; <http://www.tnc.org>.

Living Deep Ecology Workshop

The 7th Annual Living Deep Ecology Workshop will be held in the Elk Mountains of Colorado from August 10–14. Featured speakers include George Sessions and Dolores LaChapelle, pioneers of the Deep Ecology movement in the US, and Michael P. Cohen, wilderness advocate and author of *The Pathless Way* and *The History of the Sierra Club*. For more information, contact the Aspen Center for Environmental Studies, POB 8777, Aspen, CO 81612; 970-925-5756.

Nature Conservancy Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of The Nature Conservancy is scheduled for September 23–26 in Keystone, Colorado. Contact TNC, 1815 N. Lynn St., Arlington, VA 22209; 703-841-5385; fax 703-841-1283; <http://www.tnc.org>.

Ecological Society Meeting

The theme of the annual meeting of the Ecological Society of North America, to be held August 2–6 in Baltimore, Maryland, is "Ecological Exchanges Between Major Ecosystems." Contact ESA Program Chair Fred Wagner, Ecology Center, Utah State University, Logan, UT 84322-5205; 801-797-2555; fwagner@cc.usu.edu.

Rainforest Action Chautauqua

The 10th Annual Rainforest Action Chautauqua will celebrate ten years of grassroots activism to protect the world's rainforests. The gathering will be held August 19-24 at the Occidental Arts and Ecology Center in northern California. For registration information, contact Rainforest Action Chautauqua, 221 Pine St., 5th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94104; 415-398-4404; fax 415-398-2732; rags@ran.org.

Deep Ecology Workshops

John Seed and Ruth Rosenhek will be facilitating deep ecology workshops June-October in locations nationwide. For more information, call 1-800-555-8839; e-mail JSeed@igc.org or RRosenhek@aol.com; or visit <http://forests.org/ric/>.

"Nature and Psyche" Submissions Sought

A publication of Prescott College, *Alligator Juniper* is asking for entries in their annual writing contest. The winning works in fiction, creative nonfiction, and poetry on the 1999 theme "Nature and Psyche" will be awarded \$500 each. Send SASE for guidelines to *Alligator Juniper*, Prescott College, 220 Grove Ave., Prescott, AZ 86301.



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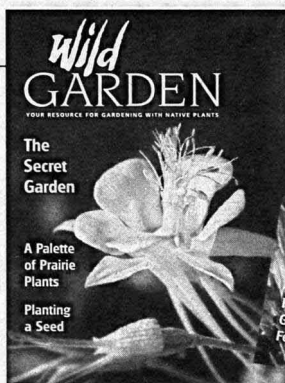
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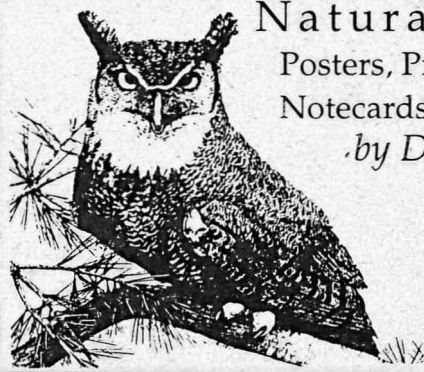
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1 Spring 1991 Ecological Foundations for Big Wilderness, Howie Wolke on The Impoverished Landscape, Reed Noss on Florida Ecosystem Restoration, Biodiversity & Corridors in Klamath Mtns., Earth First! Wilderness Preserve System, GYE Marshall Plan, Dolores LaChapelle on Wild Humans, and Bill McCormick's Is Population Control Genocide?

2 Summer 1991 Dave Foreman on the New Conservation Movement, Ancient Forests: The Perpetual Crisis, Wolke on The Wild Rockies, Grizzly Hunting in Montana, Noss on What Wilderness Can Do for Biodiversity, Mendocino NF Reserve Proposal, Christopher Manes on the Cenozoic Era, and Part 2 of McCormick's Is Population Control Genocide?

3 Fall 1991 SOLD OUT (but photocopies of articles are available). The New Conservation Movement continued. Farley Mowat on James Bay, George Washington National Forest, the Red Wolf, George Wuerthner on the Yellowstone Elk Controversy, The Problems of Of Post Modern Wilderness by Michael P. Cohen and Part 3 of McCormick's Is Population Control Genocide?

4 Winter 1991/92 Devastation in the North, Rod Nash on Island Civilization, North American Wilderness Recovery Strategy, Wilderness in Canada, Canadian National Parks, Hidden Costs of Natural Gas Development, A View of James Bay from Quebec, Noss on Biologists and Biophiles, BLM Wilderness in AZ, Wilderness Around the Finger Lakes: A Vision, National ORV Task Force

5 Spring 1992 Foreman on ranching, Ecological Costs of Livestock, Wuerthner on Gunning Down Bison, Mollie Matteson on Devotion to Trout and Habitat, Walden, The Northeast Kingdom, Southern Rockies Ecosystem Protection, Conservation is Good Work by Wendell Berry, Representing the Lives of Plants and Animals by Gary Paul Nabhan, and The Reinvention of the American Frontier by Frank and Deborah Popper

6 Summer 1992 The Need for Politically Active Biologists, U.S. Endangered Species Crisis Primer, Wuerthner on Forest Health, Ancient Forest Legislation Dialogue, Toward Realistic Appeals and Lawsuits, Naomi Rachel on Civil Disobedience, Victor Rozek on The Cost of Compromise, The Practical Relevance of Deep Ecology, and An Ecofeminist's Quandary

7 Fall 1992 How to Save the Nationals, The Backlash Against the ESA, Saving Grandfather Mountain, Conserving Diversity in the 20th Century, Southern California Biodiversity, Old Growth in the Adirondacks, Practicing Bioregionalism, Biodiversity Conservation Areas in AZ and NM, Big Bend Ecosystem Proposal, George Sessions on Radical Environmentalism in the 90s, Max Oelschlaeger on Mountains that Walk, and Mollie Matteson on The Dignity of Wild Things

8 Winter 1992/93 Critique of Patriarchal Management, Mary O'Brien's Risk Assessment in the Northern Rockies, Is it Un-Biocentric to Manage?, Reef Ecosystems and Resources, Grassroots Resistance in

Developing Nations, Wuerthner's Greater Desert Wildlands Proposal, Wolke on Bad Science, Homo Carcinomicus, Natural Law and Human Population Growth, Excerpts from *Tracking & the Art of Seeing* and *Ghost Bears*

Wildlands Project Special Issue #1 TWP (North American Wilderness Recovery Strategy) Mission Statement, Noss's Wildlands Conservation Strategy, Foreman on Developing A Regional Wilderness Recovery Plan, Primeval Adirondack Proposal, National Roadless Area Map, Preliminary Wildlands Proposals for Southern Appalachians & Northern Rockies, Gary Snyder's Coming into the Watershed, Regenerating Scotland's Caledonian Forest, Geographic Information Systems

9 Spring 1993 The Unpredictable As A Source of Hope, Why Glenn Parton is a Primitivist, Hydro-Quebec Construction Continues, RESTORE: The North Woods, Temperate Forest Networks, The Mitigation Scam, Bill McKibben's Proposal for a Park Without Fences, Arne Naess on the Breadth and Limits of the Deep Ecology Movement, Mary de La Valette says Malthus Was Right, Noss's Preliminary Biodiversity Plan for the Oregon Coast, Eco-Porn and the Manipulation of Desire

10 Summer 1993 Greg McNamee questions Arizona's Floating Desert, Foreman on Eastern Forest Recovery, Is Ozone Affecting our Forests?, Wolke on the Greater Salmon/Selway Project, Deep Ecology in the Former Soviet Union, Topophilia, Ray Vaughan and Nedd Mudd advocate Ala-

bama Wildlands, Incorporating Bear, The Presence of the Absence of Nature, Facing the Immigration Issue

11 Fall 1993 Crawling by Gary Snyder, Dave Willis challenges handicapped access developments, Biodiversity in the Selkirk Mtns., Monocultures Worth Preserving, Partial Solutions to Road Impacts, Kittatinny Raptor Corridor, Changing State Forestry Laws, Wild & Scenic Rivers Act, Wuertner Envisions Wildland Restoration, Toward [Population] Policy That Does Least Harm, Dolores LaChappelle's Rhizome Connection

12 Winter 1993/94 A Plea for Biological Honesty, A Plea for Political Honesty, Endangered Invertebrates and How to Worry About Them, Faith Thompson Campbell on Exotic Pests of American Forests, Mitch Lansky on The Northern Forest, Human Fear Diminishes Diversity in Rocky Mtn. Forests, Gonzo Law #2: The Freedom of Information Act, Foreman on NREPA and the Evolving Wilderness Area Model, Rocky Mtn. Nat. Park Reserve Proposal, Harvey Locke on Yellowstone to Yukon campaign

13 Spring 1994 Ed Abbey posthumously decries The Enemy, David Clarke Burks's Place of the Wild, Ecosystem Mismanagement in Southern Appalachia, Mohawk Park Proposal, RESTORE vs. Whole-Tree Logging, Noss & Cooperrider on Saving Aquatic Biodiversity, Atlantic Canada Regional Report, Paul Watson on Neptune's Navy, The Restoration Alternative, Intercontinental Forest Defense, Chris McGrory-Klyza outlines Lessons from Vermont Wilderness

14 Summer 1994 Bil Alverson's Habitat Island of Dr. Moreau, Bob Leverett's Eastern Old Growth Definitional Dilemma, Wolke against Butchering the Big Wild, FWS Experiments on Endangered Species, Serpentine Biodiversity, Andy Kerr promotes Hemp to Save the Forests, Mapping the Terrain of Hope, A Walk Down Camp Branch by Wendell Berry, Carrying Capacity and the Death of a Culture by William Catton Jr., Industrial Culture vs. Trout

15 Fall 1994 BC Raincoast Wilderness, Algoma Highlands, Helping Protect Canada's Forests, Central Appalachian Forests Activist Guide, Reconsidering Fish Stocking of High Wilderness Lakes, Using General Land Office Survey Notes in Ecosystem Map-

ping, Gonzo Law #4: Finding Your Own Lawyer, The Role of Radio in Spreading the Biodiversity Message, Jamie Sayen and Rudy Engholm's Thoreau Wilderness Proposal

16 Winter 1994/95 Ecosystem Management Cannot Work, Great Lakes Biodiversity, Peregrine Falcons in Urban Environments, State Complicity in Wildlife Losses, How to Burn Your Favorite Forest, ROAD-RIPort #2, Recovery of the Common Lands, A Critique and Defenses of the Wilderness Idea by J. Baird Callicott, Dave Foreman, and Reed Noss

17 Spring 1995 Christopher Manes pits Free Marketeers vs. Traditional Environmentalists, Last Chance for the Prairie Dog, interview with tracker Susan Morse, Befriending a Central Hardwood Forest part 1, Economics for the Community of Life: Part 1, Minnesota Biosphere Recovery, Michael Frome insists Wilderness Does Work, Wilderness or Biosphere Reserve: Is That a Question?, Deep Grammar by J. Baird Callicott

18 Summer 1995 Wolke on Loss of Place, Dick Carter on Utah Wilderness: The First Decade, WE Reader Survey Results, Ecological Differences Between Logging and Wildfire, Bernd Heinrich on Bumblebee Ecology, Michael Soulé on the Health Implications of Global Warming, Peter Brussard on Nevada Biodiversity Initiative, Preliminary Columbia Mtns. Conservation Plan, Environmental Consequences of Having a Baby in the US

19 Fall 1995 SOLD OUT (but photocopies of articles are available). Wendell Berry on Private Property and the Common Wealth, Eastside Forest Restoration, Global Warming and The Wildlands Project, Paul J. Kalisz on Sustainable Silviculture in Eastern Hardwood Forests, Old Growth in the Catskills and Adirondacks, Threatened Eastern Old Growth, Andy Kerr on Cow Cops, Fending of SLAPPS, Using Conservation Easements to save wildlands, David Orton on Wilderness and First Nations

20 Winter 1995/96: TWP Special Issue #2 Testimony from Terry Tempest Williams, Foreman's Wilderness: From Scenery to Strategy, Noss on Science Grounding Strategy and The Role of Endangered Ecosystems in TWP, Roz McClellan explains how Mapping Reserves Wins Commitments,

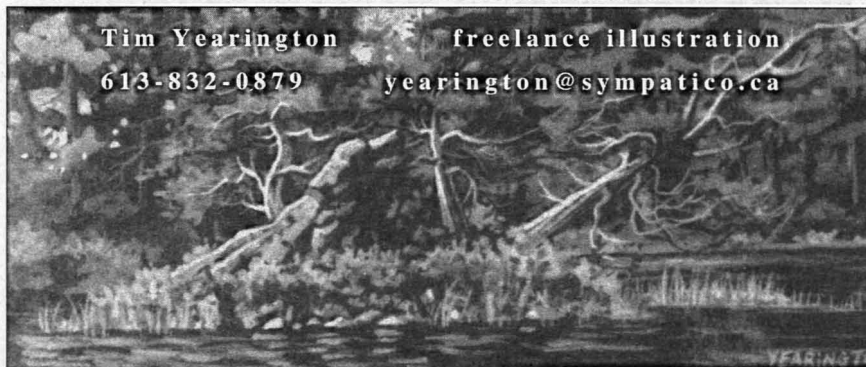
Second Chance for the Northern Forest: Headwaters Proposal, Klamath/Siskiyou Biodiversity Conservation Plan, Wilderness Areas and National Parks in Wildland Proposal, ROAD-RIP and TWP, Steve Trombulak, Jim Strittholt, and Reed Noss confront Obstacles to Implementing TWP Vision

21 Spring 1996 Bill McKibben on Finding Common Ground with Conservatives, Public Naturalization Projects, Curt Steger on Ecological Condition of Adirondack Lakes, Acid Rain in the Adirondacks, Bob Mueller on Central Appalachian Plant Distribution, Brian Tokar on Biotechnology vs. Biodiversity, Stephanie Mills on Leopold's Shack, Soulé asks Are Ecosystem Processes Enough?, Poems for the Wild Earth, Limitations of Conservation Easements, Kerr on Environmental Groups and Political Organization

22 Summer 1996 McKibben on Text, Civility, Conservation and Community, Eastside Forest Restoration Forum, Grazing and Forest Health, debut of Landscape Stories department, Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness, Private Lands in Ecological Reserves, Public Institutions Twisting the Ear of Congress, Laura Westra's Ecosystem Integrity and the Fish Wars, Caribou Commons Wilderness Proposal for Manitoba

24 Winter 1996/97 SOLD OUT (but photocopies of articles are available.) Opposing Wilderness Deconstruction: Gary Snyder, Dave Foreman, George Sessions, Don Waller, Michael McCloskey respond to attacks on wilderness. The Aldo Leopold Foundation, Grand Fir Mosaic, eastern old-growth report, environmental leadership. Andy Robinson on grassroots fundraising, Edward Grumbine on Using Biodiversity as a Justification for Nature Protection, Rick Bass on the Yaak Valley, Bill McCormick on Reproductive Sanity, and portrait of a Blunt-nosed Leopard Lizard

25 Spring 1997 Perceiving the Diversity of Life: David Abram's Returning to Our Animal Senses, Stephanie Kaza on Shedding Stereotypes, Jerry Mander on Technologies of Globalization, Christopher Manes's Contact and the Solid Earth, Connie Barlow Restores Biodiversity by Way of Science. Imperiled Freshwater Clams, WildWaters



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Catton Jr. on carrying capacity, Virginia Abernethy considers premodern population planning, Stephanie Kaza on affluence and the costs of consumption, Kirkpatrick Sale criticizes the Technological Imperative, McKibben addresses overpopulation One (Child) Family at a Time, Interview with Stuart Pimm, Resources for Population Publications & Overpopulation Action, Spotlight on Ebola Virus

29 Spring 1998 Interview with David Brower, Anthony Ricciardi on the Exotic Species Problem and Freshwater Conservation, George Wuerthner explores the Myths We Live By, forum on ballot initiatives, John Clark & Alexis Lathem consider Electric Restructuring, Paul Faulstich on Geophilia, critiques of motorized wreckreation, Mitch Friedman's Earth in the Balance Sheet, Anne Woiwode on Pittman Robinson, Peter Friederici's Tracks, Eastern Old Growth, Connie Barlow's Abstainers

Project, eastern old-growth report, American Sycamore, Kathleen Dean Moore's Traveling the Logging Road, Mollie Matteson's Wolf Re-story-ation, Maxine McCloskey on Protected Areas on the High Seas

LaBastille values Silence, Allen Cooperrider and David Johnston discuss Changes in the Desert, Donald Worster on The Wilderness of History, Nancy Smith on Forever Wild Easements in New England, George Wuerthner on Subdivisions and Extractive Industries, More Threatened Eastern Old Growth, part 2, the Precautionary Principle, North and South Carolina's Jocassee Gorges, Effects of Climate Change on Butterflies, the Northern Right Whale, Integrating Conservation and Community in the San Juan Mtns., Las Vegas Leopard Frog

26 Summer 1997 Doug Peacock on the Yellowstone Bison Slaughter, Reed Noss on Endangered Major Ecosystems of the United States, Dave Foreman challenges biologists, Hugh Iltis challenges abiologists, Virginia Abernethy explains How Population Growth Discourages Environmentally Sound Behavior. Gaian Ecology and Environmentalism, The Bottom Line on Option Nine, Eastern Old Growth Report, How Government Tax Subsidies Destroy Habitat, Geology in Reserve Design, part two of NPS Prescribed Fires in the Post-Yellowstone Era

28 Winter 1997/98 Overpopulation Issue explores the factors of the I=PAT model: Gretchen Daily & Paul Ehrlich on Population Extinction and the Biodiversity Crisis, Stephanie Mills revisits nulliparity, Alexandra Morton on the impacts of salmon farming, Sandy Irvine punctures pro-natalist myths, William

27 Fall 1997 SOLD OUT (but photocopies of articles are available). Bill McKibben discusses Job and Wilderness, Anne

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