



The Naked Fish

A Publication of the May Valley Environmental Council

June - July 2003

All The King's Horses And All The King's Men Can't Put May Valley Together Again

May Valley lies shattered and broken, pushed off the wall by the Sensitive Areas Ordinance (SAO). All the King's minions gathered at Dick Colasurdo's farm on July 2, 2003, to see if anything could be salvaged. Nothing can be saved. The floodwaters are protected by the combined forces of county, state, and federal regulators and will have their way with May Valley.

Representatives of King County DNRP Water and Land Resources Division (WLRD), King County Department of Development and Environmental Services (DDES), Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, and adjacent landowners met for two hours in Dick Colasurdo's lower pasture and tried hard to find a way to put together a useful pilot project to mitigate the flooding of May Valley. In the end the consensus was that nothing useful can be done within current regulatory and economic constraints. Landowners can remove exotic species such as reed canary grass by hand as long as they strictly adhere to Washington State regulations for doing so. There is no way to remove native species such as willow and doing so without removing the sediment choking the channel is futile anyway.

During the meeting, three possible ways to structure a project were discussed, all of which are extremely unlikely to happen. All were predicated on the idea that removal of native vegetation and silt is needed to attain any meaningful flood reduction. Since the Sensitive Areas Ordinance generally does not allow for such removal, any project must find some sort of an exemption from that ordinance to proceed.

A project could be pursued via a Public Agency Utility Exemption (PAUE) such as was used to do the project on the McFarland/Nuygen reach last fall. That process is very expensive (\$600+ per foot of creek) and WLRD does not have the money or the authority to pursue such a project. WLRD might consider lending their name to a project if the millions of dollars required came from some other source. By definition only public agencies such as WLRD can actually do the work. Even if the money could be found, a project of that scope would likely be tied up in the courts for years by appeals from environmental groups, the tribes, or downstream neighbors, all of whom prefer the status quo.

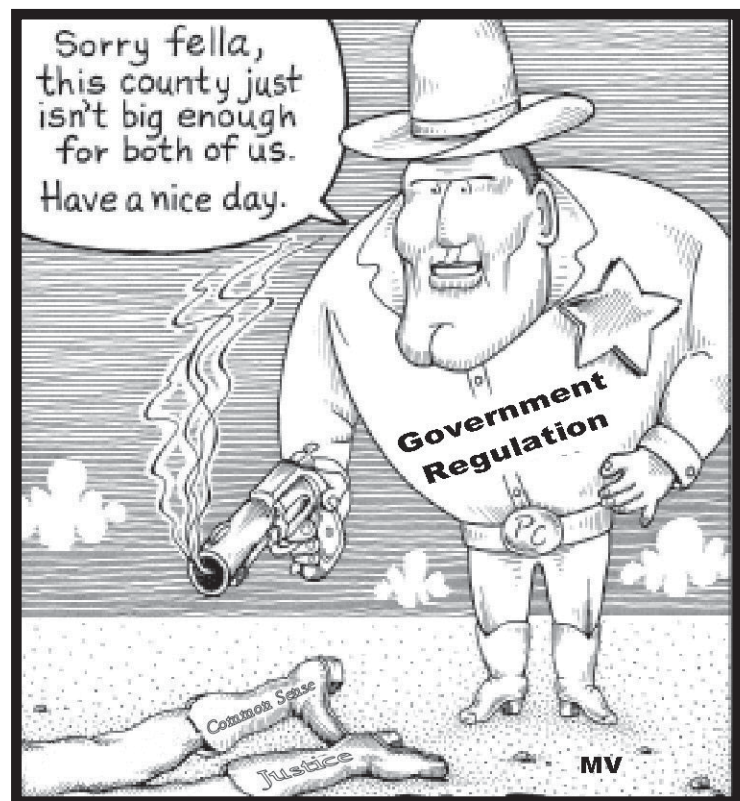
A project could be pursued via the Reasonable Use Exemption provisions of the SAO. Reasonable use exemptions are very difficult to obtain. Small, single-family homes are pretty

much the only uses permitted. Traditional rural uses typically don't qualify. To get a definitive answer as to whether our uses would qualify requires a formal application with very expensive engineering and studies. The likelihood of success would be very small and the costs would probably be greater than for a PAUE.

The SAO allows work on sensitive areas if it qualifies as "habitat enhancement." Any enhancement project in

May Valley would require enhancement of both the stream and the wetlands. No one could answer which species habitat needed to be enhanced. Typical enhancement projects on King County streams involve removal of exotic species (reed canary grass, purple loosestrife), the addition of Large Woody Debris (LWD) to the stream, and the planting of trees and shrubs along the banks. Since trees and wood in the channel are a major

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THE WILDLANDS PROJECT — ENVIRONMENTAL MASTER PLAN

[Editor's Note: The following text is the mission statement of the Wildlands Project as stated on the official web site at: http://www.wildlandsproject.org/inside_wp/index_mission.html. It is presented here without editing.]

The Problem

As the new millennium begins, humanity approaches a watershed for wildlife and wilderness. Human activity is undoing creation; the remaining degraded and fragmented lands will not sustain their biological diversity and evolutionary processes. We need a bold plan to halt and reverse the destruction. Healing the land means reconnecting the parts so that vital flows can be renewed.

Our Mission

The mission of the Wildlands Project is to protect and restore the natural heritage of North America through the establishment of a connected system of wildlands. The idea is simple. To stem the disappearance of wildlife and wilderness we must allow the recovery of whole ecosystems and

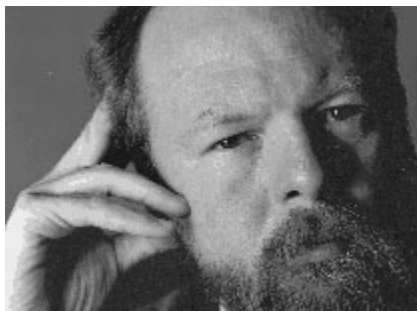
landscapes in every region of North America. Recovery on this scale will take time—100 years or more in some places. This vision for continental renewal rests on the spirit of social responsibility that has built so many great institutions in the past and acknowledges that the health of our society and its institutions depends on wildness. The land has given much to us; now it is time to give something back—to allow nature to thrive once more and to restore the links that will sustain both wilderness and the foundations of human communities.

Our Vision

We are ambitious: we live for the day when grizzlies in Chihuahua have an unbroken connection to grizzlies in Alaska; when wolf populations are restored from Mexico to the Yukon; when vast forests and flowing prairies again thrive and support their full assemblage of native plants and animals; when humans dwell with respect, harmony, and affection for the land; when we come to live no longer as conquerors but as respectful citizens in the land community.

Our Challenge

We are called to our task by the inability of existing parks, wilderness areas, and wildlife refuges to adequately protect life in North America



Dave Foreman: Cofounder of the Wildlands Project says, "Phasing out the human race will solve every problem on earth, social and environmental."

in the face of increasing human numbers and technological change. While these areas preserve spectacular scenery and provide outstanding recreational opportunities, they are too small, too isolated, and represent too few types of ecosystems to perpetuate the continent's biological wealth. Despite the establishment of parks and reserves from Canada to Central America, true wilderness and native, wildland-dependent species are in precipitous decline.

- Grand predators—including the grizzly bear, gray wolf, wolverine, jaguar, and American crocodile—have been exterminated from large parts of their pre-Columbian range and are imperiled in much of their remaining habitat.
- The disappearance of these top predators and other keystone species hastens the unraveling of ecosystems and impoverishes the lives of human beings.
- Forests have been over-cut, cleared, and fragmented, leaving only

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THE WILDLANDS PROJECT

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scattered remnants of once vast ecosystems. Even extensive habitats, such as the boreal forest, face imminent destruction.

- Tall- and short-grass prairie, historically the most extensive community type in North America, and once home to an extraordinary concentration of large mammals, has been almost entirely destroyed or domesticated.
- Deserts, coastal areas, and mountains are imperiled by sprawling subdivisions and second-home development.
- Motorized vehicles penetrate the few remaining roadless areas on illegal roads and tracks.
- A rising tide of invasive exotic species—ecological opportunists of the global economy—threatens a new wave of extinction and the eventual homogenization of ecosystems everywhere.
- Climate change adds to the vulnerability of wildlands that remain.

These trends, acting globally, are among the notable causes of the current and sixth major extinction event to occur since the first large organisms appeared on Earth a half-billion years ago. The Wildlands Project, as a remedy, is working to create regional and continental networks of conservation areas that will protect wild habitat, biodiversity, ecological integrity, ecological services, and evolutionary processes.

The Meaning of Wilderness

We reject the notion that wilderness is merely a remote destination suitable

only for backpacking. We see wilderness as a wild home for unfettered life. Wilderness means:

- Extensive roadless areas—vast, self-regulated landscapes—free of mechanized human use and the sounds and constructions of modern civilization;
- Viable, self-reproducing populations of all native species, including large predators;
- Natural patterns of diversity at the genetic, species, ecosystem, and landscape levels. Such wilderness is absolutely essential. It is not the solution to every ecological problem, but without wilderness the planet will sink further into biological poverty, and humanity's communion with its roots will be lost forever.

Our Method

We seek partnerships with grassroots and national conservation organizations, government agencies, indigenous peoples, private landowners, and with naturalists, scientists, and conservationists across the continent to create networks of wildlands from Central America to Alaska and from Nova Scotia to California. We seek to heal nature's wounds by designing and creating wildlands networks and by restoring critical species and ecological processes to the land.

The wildlands networks will:

- Support the repatriation of top predators where they have been

extirpated from present and future wilderness areas and national parks;

- Establish large areas of wild habitat where plants and animals are unrestrained, where native species thrive, and where nature, not technology, determines their evolutionary fate;
- Establish extensive linkages between large natural areas to ensure the continuation of migrations and other movements vital for the survival of healthy populations;
- Enable the recovery of natural processes such as fire.

We will implement these networks by:

- Supporting the designation of new conservation areas and improving the management of existing public lands;
- Campaigning both for the removal of public subsidies that maintain abusive land-use practices and for positive incentives that encourage responsible land management;
- Assisting land owners and land trusts in the voluntary protection of critical parcels of private land;
- Cooperating with transportation agencies to help remove or mitigate barriers to wildlife movement;
- Working with planners at all levels to create a balance between the needs of nature and human society;
- Promoting the restoration of disturbed lands and waters until that time when nature has recovered and can manage itself.
- Inspiring the people of North America to care for their home—for its own sake and for the sake of those yet to come.

What this country needs are more unemployed politicians.

—Edward Langley O'Rourke

THE NAKED FISH CHANGES FORMAT

As you can plainly see, MVEC has changed the format of The Naked Fish. We have moved to a tabloid size on real newsprint. By changing paper and giving up color we will be able to print each copy for about one-sixth of what we have been paying. That means that we can increase our circulation. Since this is a totally volunteer effort, we have also made the decision to move to bi-monthly to take some of the pressure off of the editors. Content will remain similar to past issues. New subscriptions are up. We certainly appreciate the support of MVEC members and our subscribers. If you receive and enjoy a free sample copy, please consider lending your support by becoming a member or subscriber.

Thinking cannot be carried on without the materials of thought; and the materials of thought are facts, or else assertions that are presented as facts. A mass of details stored up in the mind does not in itself make a thinker; but on the other hand thinking is absolutely impossible without that mass of details. And it is just this latter impossible operation of thinking without the materials of thought which is being advocated by modern pedagogy and is being put into practice only too well by modern students. In the presence of this tendency, we believe that facts and hard work ought again to be allowed to come to their rights: it is impossible to think with an empty mind.

J. Gresham Machen

The Naked Fish is published by May Valley Environmental Council (MVEC) a non-profit community group dedicated to sensible environmental management of private property. Articles in The Naked Fish cover subjects of concern both to local and national readers. We try to provide environmental information not commonly found in the major media. Articles with by-lines reflect the research, views and opinions of the author which may not reflect positions on the issues adopted by MVEC.

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ALL THE KING'S HORSES AND ALL THE KING'S MEN

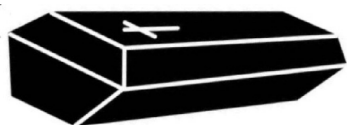
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contributor to the problems with May Creek, a long time was spent discussing methods of planting and appropriate species that would not simply make the problems worse. No such combination was found primarily because the most useful species cannot survive the prolonged winter flooding. There was no agreement on the usefulness of LWD but all agreed that it must be anchored, which triggers a Corps of Engineer's Permit with its attendant costs. The possibility of silt removal as an enhancement to fish passage (so they could actually get to the fish ladder on tributary 291A) was discussed and was not ruled out. Silt removal to improve spawning areas in the main channel was discussed but

there was less agreement on that as an enhancement. This alternative would likely be the most expensive and provide the least benefit to landowners.

Some very slim possibilities will be explored by those present but there won't be any project this year, if ever. The most concrete suggestion made by County staff was to pursue a political solution such as getting the King County Council to provide a specific exemption to the SAO for May Valley. That would put us in the same fight with outside interests as another

PAUE. We have been successful at influencing political actions in the past. The flood control district headed by Dick Colasurdo got a project voted on in the mid-1960s. Paul Thiry convinced Randy Revelle to start Surface Water Management Division to fix the problem in 1983. May Valley Environmental Council negotiated changes to the May Creek Basin Action Plan that passed in 2001. All of those efforts have proven pointless. Most of the valley is far worse off today than before those efforts. There are still those willing to fight for the survival of May Valley. We just need to find some spot on the headless Goliath arrayed against us toward which we can direct our pebble.



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MANAGER: TERRI BAYS

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**HAY, STRAW, BARK, FEED, ANIMAL
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APPLIANCES, LIVE ANIMALS, WE BUY USED
TACK / CASH OR TRADE. STOP IN TO SEE
OUR COMPLETE LINE OF HORSE VET
SUPPLIES & SUPPLEMENTS.**

A LETTER TO THE WILDLANDS PROJECT FROM AN ENVIRONMENTALIST

February 11, 1994

Dr. Reed F. Noss
The Wildlands Project
P.O. Box 5365
Tucson, AZ 85703

Re: The Wildlands Project Land Conservation Strategy

Dear Dr. Ross:

Thank you for opening my eyes! I think that your paper "The Ecological Effects of Roads, or the Road to Destruction" [from Preserve Appalachian Wilderness, Vol.2, No.3, first published in "Killing Roads" under the name "Diamondback"; available from PAW NET, 117 Main St., Brattleboro, VT 05301, for \$3] is one of the most important ever written. Apart from seeing an occasional road kill, I had no idea that roads had such diverse and devastating effects on wildlife. Your paper is right at the top of my "List of Required Reading for the Entire Planet". I just have a few questions for you.

It seems to me that many species of animals cannot, or will not, tolerate the presence of humans. For example, we have all noticed that birds fly away when we approach. Don't you think that, if we are to be honest, we have to admit that if we are to preserve all species, we have to set aside areas that are completely off limits to humans? We may compromise on what we accept "on the ground", but I see no reason to compromise in presenting the facts.

I am fond of saying that it is almost impossible to destroy the environment without roads, and I have long thought that roads were the beginning of nearly all environmental damage. But a couple of months ago it occurred to me that that isn't true. The damage starts with mapping! Mapping is the precursor to all other human activities. In other words, I think that along with setting aside areas for the exclusive use of wildlife, we should also de-map those areas. As long as the area exists on a map, some people will be tempted to exploit the area. Where does mapping end? It doesn't. There is no limit to the amount of information that we can "mine" from a place, and the number of purposes we can devise for going there. Remember the early maps of the world, with their "terra incognita" and pictures of dragons? I think that should be our model!

Ironically, maps are one of my favorite things. I always carry lots of maps, they

are the first souvenirs of any trip I take, and they are one of my most important sources of information. I think they are beautiful, and I love the economical way they impart information. However, if we are serious about preserving wildlife and preventing extinction, we should sacrifice some of our curiosity and de-map the core habitat areas.

Actually, no matter how detailed our maps are, they still contain blank spaces between the lines, so this "terra incognita" is there already. I am just asking that we recognize it and value it appropriately. I believe that we need to be absolutely honest, and not compromise in what we say. Let the politicians do the compromising, but let it at least be done with full knowledge, not from a watered-down version of reality.

In Australia, the aborigines live in and manage the national parks (together with the national government). I think this is a wonderful idea. I know that man, even native peoples, could be better managers of wilderness, but they are at least better than the rest of us on some ways, and giving them that job explicitly, with the help of scientists and the aid of federal or international government will not only help protect wildlife, but also help preserve these endangered native human cultures. Of course in all human activities, priority must be given to wildlife. Perhaps following wildlife, in order, should be native peoples, children, and the poor. A good criterion is whether a given group can protect itself from another group. For example, plants are perhaps the most vulnerable, and therefore should be given the highest priority.

Don't forget about noise and air pollution, which are capable of travelling to habitat areas. Airplane overflights (or even nearby flights), freeways within earshot, upwind air pollution sources, etc. must be prohibited.

Don't forget plants. I don't know enough about botany to know if your land conservation strategy will accommodate the needs of plants. You don't say much about them. I would guess that plants have different requirements for their reserve areas than animals. For example, their response to global warming may be different. And I wouldn't want the "plant people" to feel left out of this process. We need all the help we can get.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Vandeman, Ph.D.

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EXPLANATION OF THE BIODIVERSITY TREATY AND THE WILDLANDS PROJECT

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faunal movement, do not, in fact, provide clear evidence." Of those that do support the need for corridors, wooded fence rows are adequate for many species, while only a few require well vegetated strips. Hobbs, R.J. 1992. "The Role of Corridors in Conservation: Solution or Bandwagon?" *Tree* 7(11):389.

The science used in the Convention on Biological Diversity does not work and the theology of creating wilderness-like reserves may actually reduce biodiversity. Rather, good forest management, even including the use of clearcutting, enhances biodiversity and sustainability. In one of the largest Neotropical migratory bird investigations to date was conducted in Maine and concluded that,

"...regional avian diversity is likely enhanced by industrial forest practices that maintain a variety of successional stages of forest." Hagan, John and Bently Wigley. 1992. Migrant Landbirds in an Extensive Industrial Forest Landscape. 1992 *Final Report*. Manomet

Bird Observatory, Manomet, MA. In another study in New Hampshire, managed stands having small clearcuts supported every one of the 33 species of avian species found in comparable reserves where no harvesting had occurred for over 100 years. Not only did the managed stands have all the species found in the wilderness reserves, they had an additional 20 species not found in the reserves, 11 of which were *declining* in the region! (Welsh, Christopher, and William M. Healy. 1993. "Effect of Even-aged Timber Management on Bird Species Diversity and Composition in the Northern Hardwood of New Hampshire. *Wildl. Soc. Bull.* 21:143-154.)

Stand structure and landscape diversity are by far the dominant factors in determining most species sustainability, not the age or how "natural" the forest may be compared to pre-settlement conditions. In the Maine study,

"The most obvious result of industrial forestry is the ongoing creation of large amounts of early-

successional (immature) and medium-age habitat relative to more mature natural forest regimes. Therefore, abundances of early-successional species increase and abundances of late-successional species decrease in the landscape. This process leads to greater equitability of early-and late-successional species, and therefore, mathematically, increases avian diversity at the landscape scale, if no species are lost in the process. Many species that prefer early-successional habitats are Neotropical migrants... These species have benefited from industrial forestry, yet they also are species of concern because of either regional or continental-scaled population declines." (John Hagan. 1996. Diversity and Abundance of Landbirds in a Northeastern Industrial Forest Landscape. Special Report to NCASI. Manomet Bird Observatory, Manomet, MA 02345 pp 2)

Wilderness-like reserves favor *only* late successional species, and as such, will cause the decline of biological diversity as early-successional species decline as the habitat matures. Yet, this is exactly what the Convention on Biological Diversity is designed to do! It is based upon pantheistic theology, not hard science. As such the implications are enormous and must be thoroughly reviewed before the treaty is considered for ratification.



Born in 1943, Dr. Michael S. Coffman received his BS in Forestry and MS in Biology at Northern Arizona University at and his Ph.D. in Forest Science at the University of Idaho at Moscow in 1966, 1967, and 1970 respectively. Since then he has become a respected scientist and ecologist who was involved in ecosystem research for over twenty years in both academia and industry. He taught courses and conducted research in forest ecology and forest community dynamics for ten years at Michigan Technological University—a leading forestry school in the Midwest. While there, he published a book on forest ecosystem classification in Upper Michigan and Northern Wisconsin, which has become the standard for classification in the region. He also assisted the U.S. Forest Service in developing an Ecological Land Classification System for each of the National Forests in Region-9.

"Burn down your cities and leave our farms, and your cities will spring up again as if by magic, but destroy our farms and the grass will grow in every city in the country."

— William Jennings Bryan, 1896

FOUR CREEKS UNINCORPORATED AREA SENDS LETTER TO SIMS

June 4, 2003

Ron Sims
King County Executive
516 Third Avenue, Room 400
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Mr. Executive,

As the resident citizen representatives for our May Creek Basin neighbors, we write in support of speedy and effective implementation of the May Creek Basin Action Plan 2001, which is "intended to address existing critical problems" before 2006. Since 1986, with the creation of the Department of Surface Water Management, the residents of the May Creek Basin have looked to King County with high hopes and expectations of relief from the danger and damage of persistent recurring floods.

Both the County and the residents agree that a significant problem exists. Further, the third paragraph of the Basin Action Plan states that due to continued development in the area "many of these problems are anticipated to worsen unless steps are taken to address these issues."

We appreciate the work of King County employees to prepare a plan of action to mitigate the flood conditions. We are encouraged to the county has been receptive to input from the affected residents and that such input has been incorporated into the May Creek Basin Action Plan 2001, but a plan without action is no more than a dream. Property continues to be destroyed by flooding and spawning habitat to be choked with vegetation and silt accumulation.

We implore King County to act with due speed to implement at least the following five (5) of the sixteen (16) Primary Recommendations (PR). These recommendations are either "policy decisions that do not require additional public funding or programs and projects that are anticipated to be completed within the next three to five years based on the availability of funding or their relative importance":

- **Provide Cost Sharing and Technical Assistance for Flood Protection in May Valley (PR#4)**
- **Remove Flow Obstructions from the Channel of May Creek in May Valley (PR#5)**
- **Restore Flows Diverted from Tributary 0294 back into Tibbetts Creek (PR#6)**

- **Protect Habitat at the Confluence of May Creek and Its Tributary Streams (PR#8)**
- **Require Full Mitigation in Areas Draining to May Valley (PR#17)**

Several project components of these six recommendations are listed in the NPDES Inventory SWEES CIP 2002 (<http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/stormwater/NPDESAnnualReports/2003SWEESCIP.pdf>) for construction to be started in 2003. 2003 is already half over, and we are aware of no scheduling and no real intent to make these improvements.

Funding constraints are listed repeatedly as obstacles to the implementation of projects within the May Creek Basin Plan. Several state and federal programs outside the three local jurisdictions (King County, City of Renton and City of Newcastle) are cited as alternate or additional sources of funding. **What actions have been undertaken to pursue these funding sources, and what is the anticipated date of decision for each?**

The residents of the Four Creeks Unincorporated Area are familiar with the consequences of the difficulty of inter-jurisdictional coordination of funding and construction of capitol projects. **What is the status of actions taken pursuant to the adoption of Interlocal Agreements between the three local jurisdictions? These are critical to ensure cooperation in the correction of the flooding issues as well as the prevention of further impacts, and what is the anticipated date of decision for each?**

Please provide estimated schedules for implementation of the five Primary Recommendations listed above, and answers to the two questions listed in bold text above.

The citizens of the May Creek Basin have tried to work with the bureaucracy for nearly twenty years. A plan exists. Fees have been paid. The citizens have worked hard to participate in this process. Now King County must live up to its obligations. The residents of the May Creek Basin are patient productive people, and they deserve to see real progress.

Respectfully,

David Rockabrand
President, Four Creeks UAC

I'M FROM THE GOVERNMENT AND I'M HERE TO HELP YOUR NEIGHBOR!

By Rodney McFarland

On behalf of May Valley Environmental Council (MVEC), I recently presented the May Valley story to the Four Creeks Unincorporated Area Council. At the end of the presentation I asked for their support via a letter to King County Executive Ron Sims. At a subsequent meeting they did in fact craft a letter addressing our issues as well as other basin issues. I am very grateful for their support and thank them both personally and as a representative of MVEC.

The debate preceding the actual crafting of their letter demonstrated several interesting phenomenon of our current society that I would like to comment upon. The following is presented as food for thought in the hopes that those who read this will be caused to reflect on the issues raised.

Both before and during my tenure as a member of Four Creeks UAC, most of the issues that came before the Council had something to do with promoting government management or regulation of public or private property for the benefit of nearby residents. Such things as dealing with traffic congestion via concurrency red

zones that prevent neighbors from building and using their property, limiting neighbor's property uses to achieve environmental protection, or requiring mitigation for any and all new uses of property were generally seen as legitimate concerns to be addressed by the Council. All new public and private projects were carefully examined to ensure the least

possible impacts to neighbors. The common theme has been one of using the power of government to achieve something we personally desire by asking government to take an active role in the management of someone else's property.

Anyone who has studied the origins of the government of this country as an adult knows that the founders of the United States of America tried hard to form a government dedicated to the protection of private property rights. They recognized from first-hand experience that without property rights, freedom and liberty are always in jeopardy. The very concept of

their own life, their most precious property. Many think of property rights in connection with real estate but property rights do not inure to the land but rather to the human that holds the deed. Thus, property rights are really human rights and the very foundation of our modern society.

Unlike many of the issues that come before the UAC that are about control of someone else's property, the issue in May Valley is about the ability of property owners there to control and manage their own property. Our country was built on that very concept, yet in public forums the residents of May Valley who are fighting to regain control of their property are portrayed as radicals and buffoons. When the subject of May Valley came up at a recent Cedar River Council meeting everyone laughed. We have residents that have been driven from their homes. Other residents have lost the use of half or more of their property. They deserve more than to be laughed at by the King's men who organize to control everyone else's property. The horrors of losing our freedom by losing our property rights are not some far-off hypothetical possibility. The horrors are real and are happening in

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The right to life is the source of all rights — and the right to property is their only implementation. Without property rights, no other rights are possible. Since man has to sustain his life by his own effort, the man who has no right to the product of his effort has no means to sustain his life. The man who produces while others dispose of his product is a slave.

— Ayn Rand, *The Virtue of Selfishness*

"owning" property conveys the right to manage that property. Our very life is our property. When we manage it, we are free. When someone else manages it, we are slaves. Americans fought a bloody civil war so that everyone in this country would have control of

NO LAND OWNERSHIP - NO FREEDOM

By K. Parker Stoops

In the process of gathering signatures for the petition to repeal the Critical Areas ordinance, I have had some amazing discussions with landowners here in Joyce.

One thing that has absolutely astounded me is that many people don't realize the significance that property rights carry in the bigger picture of life. I've been told things like, "You're probably right, but I don't have time or energy to get involved in political stuff", or "What's the big deal? I don't mind obeying a few rules if it'll save the salmon".

Folks, this is not about salmon, any more than wrecking the timber industry was about saving the spotted owl. What this is about, is who will make the crucial decisions concerning where you live, what you do, and whether you are allowed to pursue a lifestyle you believe in.

In America, land ownership is the basis of individual freedoms. You and I have worked hard for our land, but even further, our unalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are meaningless without the right to own it.

No way, you say? Yes, my friends, this is an inescapable fact, which just the slightest amount of reasoning will lead

you to as the night follows the day.

The things that you need to maintain life originate with land, and if you have no land, or access to the products of land, you will perish.

Food, water, shelter - let's start with those. Where does food come from? Right. Water, either rain falls on land or underground water is percolated through land, from whence it is collected and sometimes filtered and pushed through pipes for the consumption of your tiny body.

Shelter, that's fairly self-explanatory: somebody, somewhere, extracted from their land the necessary materials to build your house (and your car, and your cold beer, and, well, you get the idea).

Our very existence depends on land and the production that land makes possible, and if my enemies control all the land, I'm toast. Who are my enemies? Well, right off the bat, those who wish to take my land.

To paraphrase an idea developed by Ludwig von Mises, there are two ways for a socialist government to take control of private property. One is by conquest, as practiced when the Soviet nations grab up a new territory. Send a platoon of soldiers onto a farm, kill or drive off the most vigorous of the inhabitants, and force the rest into

slave labor. This farm, and indeed all property, is then managed by one or more agencies of the government, whose claim to the land goes undisputed because the previous owners are dead or jailed or chained to a millstone.

The other way, which our commissioners and their staff seem to have chosen, is to reduce the status of landowners to "nominal possessors". In this scenario, the government promises to defend the "owner's" occupation of the land against other civilians, but dictates when, why, and how the land can be used or "sold" (the land itself is not sold, of course, merely the government-defended right of occupancy). This second method has some sales features when compared to the first, in that it can be achieved more or less peaceably, and it presents the opportunity to tax the possessors within an inch of their life, to finance the expansion of the scheme. But it also has some pitfalls, which include these two: it must be done slowly, and it leaves its opposition alive and kicking until the bitter end.

The latter may end up being its fatal flaw, IF, and only if, those of us who own property resolve to reject this socialist strategy whenever and wherever it rears its ugly head. To

reduce the matter to very simple terms: if I was your neighbor, would it be okay for me to steal your land by threat of force? What if two, or ten, or fifty of us, conspired to drive you from your lawful property? What if we had the best of intentions, and made persuasive speeches about how this was all for the benefit of society, and your own good as well? What if we got crooked judges to twist the laws onto our side?

If the moral concept of right and wrong somehow does not apply to property rights, and the courts of our county continue to condone the crimes committed by the planning department, then we will end up with departmental staff controlling every acre. That's what they're steering us toward.

Choose one or the other, because in the long run there is no middle course. If you won't fight the Critical Areas ordinance, don't come crying to me about infringements of the freedom of the press, or the right to keep and bear arms, or relief from higher taxes, because private ownership of land is the foundation that upholds those things. Without it, none of them has a prayer.

Speaking only for himself,
K. Parker Stoops

I'm From The Government

Continued from page 4

May Valley. And those who would purport to be looking out for everyone's interests laugh. The Four Creeks UAC only heard the May Creek story after two years work by May Valley residents to change the people on the Council. Even after getting sympathetic ears elected to several positions in 2002, our plight was considered so controversial that it could not be brought before the Council. It took electing more new people to the Council in 2003. How can American citizens fighting to save what is left of their damaged property be so controversial?

Residents of May Valley have been working since 1965 to get the ditch cleaned and yet a sentence in the UAC letter labeling them as patient was subjected to a fair amount of debate. There also was the suggestion that the Council had not heard from all residents of May Creek Basin and thus the Council's response to our request to help those being flooded needed to be carefully measured. I guess those putting forth that notion thought there might be some moral justification for destroying us that they had not heard. Why does there have to be another side to tragedy? The same members see nothing wrong in using the full power of government to prevent uses of other's property that might infringe the full enjoyment of their own property. It is the ultimate hypocrisy to use government to protect your property and lifestyle while at the same time using government to destroy your neighbor's property. Why are those promoting regulation of others seen as reasonable, fair and

balanced while the victims are seen as radicals and rabble-rousers?

Some of the things that the May Creek Basin Action Plan recommends be done are purported to be unlawful even though the Basin Plan itself is a law passed by the King County Council and signed by the King County Executive. MVEC asked Four Creeks UAC to help change the laws in order to implement the plan. Some members of the Council thought that trying to change the law was completely beyond the scope of the Council and would be a waste of time. Earlier in the year, the same members spent a fair amount of effort to get a member appointed to the official King County Transportation Concurrency Advisory Committee that recommends changes in the laws regarding transportation concurrency to the King County Council. Why does that appointment get touted as a major achievement of the Council? If citizen input via the UACs can't be used to change laws that don't work, why devote time and tax money to the charade? Disband the UACs and we will all go back to fighting individually for government to do its job of protecting our rights.

Government was started to protect property rights but has metamorphosed to be the primary destroyer of property rights. Government intervention in other's lives is cheered. We only complain when our government does not control our neighbors to our satisfaction. Joseph Sobran put it in perspective in 1995 when he stated: "If you want government to intervene domestically, you're a liberal. If you want government to intervene over-

seas, you're a conservative. If you want government to intervene everywhere, you're a moderate. If you don't want government to intervene anywhere, you're an extremist."

Looked at that way, the flood victims in May Valley are extremists and the use of force against us by government gets justified. But no one can pretend that is the moral high ground.

Thomas Kuhn, a philosopher of science, said that disputes between researchers are never resolved, but the side with more young scientists wins because it outlives the other side. And it seems that more young people hold this view.

We have tried just about everything to get the county to see our view of what needs to be done in the valley. We tried logic, science, and even showed them pictures but they don't seem to get it. So I'm going to write with the style of one of my favorite authors in hopes they will understand.

We live here in a valley just out of town
Whenever we meet with the county we leave with a frown
We want our ditch cleaned they hear us say
They tell us "Ya right!" and go on their way

Look at Sally, Patsy, Ernie and Bert
There's no way to get up the ditch and spawn through the willows and dirt
Throw some logs and dams in the way
It backs up the water and gives beavers all kinds of room to play

Habitat we are creating we hear them cry
The ditch in this condition won't support a fry
How about this fish ladder you so proudly built
No fish can get there through the mountain of silt

I want to see fish and get back my farm
Please please tell me how this can be much harm
Cleaning this ditch is really quite easy
But the way you're going about couldn't be much more sleazy.
— Jim Osborne



THE IUCN: FROM THE UN TO YOUR BACK YARD

By Michael Coffman, Ph. D.

Why is it that Biosphere Reserves, World Heritage Sites, Sustainable Development Programs, The Wildlands Project, and Convention on Biological Diversity all call for greenways, protected areas, wilderness reserves and natural corridors surrounded by regulated "buffer zones"? And why do federal agencies, the Nature Conservancy, Sierra Club, and other environmental groups strongly promote the same "sustainable" development agenda?

It is no coincidence. All of these programs, treaties, and organizations have one thing in common; the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

First accredited by the United Nations in 1946 as a scientific advisor of the General Assembly, the IUCN presently has more than 880 state, government agency and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) members in 133 countries. Its mission is "to influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable." (Italics added)

Despite the IUCN's pretense of being a scientific body, the Spring 1996 issue of the IUCN's Ethics Working Group's affiliate publication, *Earth Ethics*, suggests otherwise. The IUCN, admits *Earth Ethics*, "promotes alternative models for sustainable communities and lifestyles, based in ecospiritual practices and principles... [To solve] the problems that face the world today, humanity must undergo a radical change in its attitudes, values, and behavior.... In response to this situation, a new global ethics is taking form, and it is finding expression in international law." Likewise, the IUCN's Commission on Environmental Strategy and Planning seems to be proud that they "change human behavior" by using a strategy "based less on facts...than on the values they hold."

Indeed, IUCN "science" is based not on facts, but on "ecospiritual" theories of pantheism (nature is God) expressed in the "biocentric" (earth centered) philosophy that all species have equal intrinsic value—humans are merely one strand in nature's fragile web. The IUCN has advanced these ecospiritual principles into the pseudoscience of "conservation biology." Conservation biology holds that "natural" systems

are best because they are the result of a millennia of fine-tuning by mother earth. Therefore, the only acceptable management practices for earth's fragile ecosystems are those that follow "natural" patterns. Likewise, biodiversity can only be fully protected by setting aside entire ecosystems in wilderness preserves.

The IUCN's strategy is brilliant. First, the IUCN helped create both the "science" of conservation biology and the Society of Conservation Biology. The leadership of the Society, along with David Foreman (co-founder of Earth First! and Director of the Sierra Club), then dreamed up the granddaddy of all earth protection schemes—The Wildlands Project, which demands that up to one-half of America be put into wilderness reserves and corridors, with the remaining land as buffer zones. Second, credibility for the pseudo-science of conservation biology was bought with foundation funding of conservation curricula within universities, and by strong acceptance by federal agencies belonging to the IUCN. Finally, the IUCN wrote or helped write Agenda 21, the Conventions on Biological Diversity, Desertification, Sustainable Development as well as the President's Council on Sustainable Development's (PCSD) report in which, surprise, surprise, supporting documents like the UN Global Biodiversity Assessment name The Wildlands Project as the template for protecting biological diversity! What seem to be totally independent programs and activities are in reality a masterpiece orchestrated by the IUCN.

Through the IUCN, government agencies such as the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, the US Forest Service, the EPA and other federal agencies can huddle in private with the Sierra Club, Nature Conservancy, National Wildlife Federation, National Audubon Society, Society of Conservation Biology, UNEP, UNDP, UNESCO and many others to develop strategies to implement their "ecospiritual" agenda on the ground by changing US policy—without any knowledge of Congress or the people who will be affected.

Making US policy is constitutionally the exclusive right of Congress, by the consent of the people, and not federal bureaucrats. Nonetheless, an August, 1993 EPA Internal Working Document states, "Natural resource and environmental agencies... should...develop a joint strategy to help the United States

fulfill its existing international obligations (e.g. Convention on Biological Diversity, Agenda 21)... The executive branch should direct federal agencies to evaluate national policies...in light of international policies and obligations, and to amend national policies to achieve international objectives."

IUCN members also dominate the President's Council on Sustainable Development (PCSD), which has spawned a host of ecospiritually based programs like the American Heritage Rivers Initiative, the Clean Water Initiative, the Sustainable Communities Program and ecosystem management. Not only do IUCN members essentially control the PCSD, the same organizations dominate the various stakeholder and partnership councils that develop the programs locally—guaranteeing IUCN control or influence at every level, from the UN to our backyards. In the process, our IUCN-member federal agencies have forgotten that we are a government 'by the people,' not federal bureaucrats. A March 1994 Bureau of Land Management Internal Working Document for ecosystem management, proclaimed that federal bureaucrats should "consider human beings as a biological resource."

Given that UN Secretary Kofi Annan is restructuring the UN to allow environmental NGOs direct involvement in policy formulation and enforcement through the "People's Assembly" and the revamped "Trusteeship Council," things are likely to get very dicey since the IUCN is at the head of the NGO list. The crowning piece to this strategy may have come on January 18, 1996, when president Clinton signed Executive Order 12986, which states, in part: "I hereby extend to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources [IUCN] the privileges and immunities that provide

or pertain to immunity from suit..." Although it is yet to be tested in court, the IUCN and its US members, now have diplomatic immunity from lawsuit by any American citizen. Since the Sierra Club, EPA and other earth saviors are IUCN members, does this mean they can freely enter private property with impunity, looking for violations of outrageous and contrived international laws that they also originally wrote?

In short, the IUCN through its US members—not Congress nor American citizens—controls or heavily influences almost all US environmental law. The only missing piece to make this a living reality is the naming of the IUCN as the NGO in charge of the UN Trusteeship Council. Something to think about.

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SIDES AND THINGS

By Reggie Hopper

There are sides to things, and, given one, of course people think there must be another. Another side, that is – another point of view, another story. We are trained that way, almost from birth. “There are two sides to every story,” my teachers would pronounce, “and you should examine them both.” Of course that meant I got to be the judge. I got to see the sides and choose which one was right and which one was wrong.

I could play Solomon, and that made me important – special. After all, I got to judge the great play of life. So I launched out into the world, with my critical eye, judging and judging. It was great fun being a judge. I was immune from it all, above the hustle and bustle of the trapped sides . . . those lesser mortals, the opinionated ones, trapped by their very nature to be on one side or another.

The whole world was in some box. Everyone stood for a side, and all I needed were my myopic glasses so I could determine the correctness of any given cause, be it Zoroastrianism, Zionism, Christianity, abortion, or things closer to home – the thoughts of people, or their behavior. With an instant judgment, I could pronounce something good or bad, right or wrong, cute or ugly, and so on. And of course I, as the judge, was always immune from criticism.

But then I grew older, and I began to understand my crisp reasons were more like cultural bias, be it social or economic. In short, I made judgments based on a side; and like lightning striking, a light went on in my head, and voilà – I understood. “Judge not, lest ye be judged by the same measure.” I realized this, and I was shocked. My logic – my clear, crisp, rational logic – had a foundation of opinionated, emotional bias. Argh!!! I was crest-fallen. I was not an impartial judge of sides. I was judging blindly, saying things were wrong because they were not my side, not my bias. My world was really as one-sided as a Möbius strip; I had put my own twist into everything.

So what does this mean? Well, gee!! I figure it goes like this: Assumptions are things we can't prove. Assumptions are the clay feet of bias that we build our gods of logic and reason upon. If you believe that the world is made up of a, b, c, d, and sometimes e (earth, air, fire, water, and sometimes quintessence) like the Greeks did, then a whole universe follows. But if you

believe that the sequence is a, b, c and d (proton, electron, neutron and atomic glue) then it is a totally different world. Both systems of thought are logical; both reflect bias; and each is incompatible with the other.

When I talk to people from the county and they use words like “restoration” to mean “building something new,” “mitigation” to mean “penalty for restoration,” and “flood control” to mean “make the situation worse,” I realize that conversation is useless, logic hopeless, and reason meaningless.

Without logic and reason, the only thing left is emotion and insanity [reason gone awry]. Under such circumstances the following dialogue would be as appropriate as any other:

“Help, Help!! We are dying; you are killing us!!”

“Killing you?! Don't be silly. We are helping you. Use your gills, man, use your gills!”

“But we have no gills!”

“Of course you do. You're in the water, aren't you?”

We the dying implore you who are advocating and carrying out the killing to stop your relentless advance. Our side sounds weak and selfish to your ears; but this is beyond taking sides. It is a matter of existence and non-existence.

Consider the meaning of minority rights under majority rule. Would it harm some great cosmic plan if May Valley were to live? What would be the harm in that? What would be the significance in the great scheme of watermelon men if the 50 or so humans of May Valley were allowed the freedom to be as they have always been?

King County employees of the DNRP, I wonder at your motive, your basic assumptions. Have you deemed us who live in the valley lesser beings, not human – are we the destroyers of the world, the evildoers? The core of the Great Satan? Do you consider yourselves white knights saddled with the unpleasant but necessary task of cleansing the rural landscape, removing eco-insensitive scum? Or is all this happening merely because you would lose your jobs if you did not persecute us?



NO WORRIES, MATE!

The crows are falling out of the sky! Neighbor Chuck Pillon actually watched a crow fall from the sky onto his property a few weeks ago. Is West Nile here and taking its toll on our birds? No one knows, especially the King County Health Department. They say to turn in any dead crows you find so they can test them, but if they have been dead too long it is hard to test for West Nile. As soon as Mr. Pillon had the freshly dead crow in the bag he started calling the Department of Health to get it picked up. All he got was a recording.

He contacted MVEC and Rod McFarland called. He got right through to a human who promised to have someone named Kim contact him to pick up the crow. Everyone waited. Mr. Pillon ran into Councilman Irons at the courthouse and told him about the crow. Councilman Irons was concerned and asked to be kept in the loop. Everyone waited. Councilman Irons' office called to see if the crow had been picked up. When they discovered it had not, they called Dr. Plough who is head of the Health Department. By this time Brian Johnson had taken an interest in the matter and was coming out with his cameraman to talk to Mr. Pillon. Kim finally called and came and picked up the crow while the TV cameras rolled. She said the results would be available in one to two weeks.

Everyone waits. Mr. Pillon is unable to obtain the results of the tests. MVEC is unable to obtain the results of the tests. Dean Radford, reporter for the King County Journal, has taken an interest but is unable to obtain the results of the tests. Everyone waits. Perhaps we have to have the first human fatality to find out if West Nile is really here.

If you don't want to be that first human fatality, there are some things you can do to reduce your risk. Obviously, it is impossible to eliminate all risk without staying in a completely mosquito free room until it freezes this winter. When outdoors you need to protect yourself from mosquito bites by minimizing exposed skin and using repellants such as Deet. You need to minimize standing water in your environment because that is where mosquitoes reproduce and minimizing the number of mosquitoes reduces your chances of being bitten by one carrying the disease. Effective control of mosquito populations requires a many-pronged attack. There is a very good article on mosquito control at <http://www.bugspray.com/articles98/mosquito.html>. It is 21 pages long but well worth reading. Many of the mosquito control products mentioned in the article can also be purchased from that web site.

Meanwhile we wait. What did Mr. Crow really die from?






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EXPLANATION OF THE BIODIVERSITY TREATY AND THE WILDLANDS PROJECT

By Michael Coffman, Ph.D.

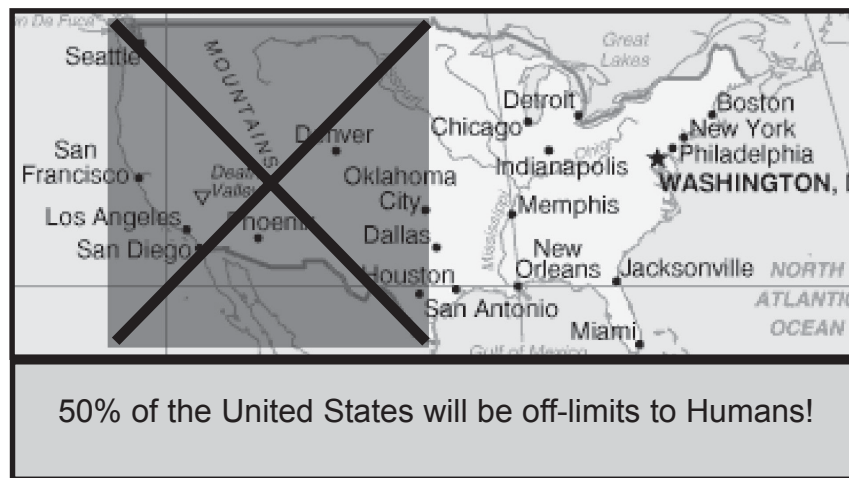
[Editors Note: This article refers to a map that can be viewed at <http://www.epi.freedom.org/mapwild.htm>. We did not reproduce the map as too much information is lost when it is not in color. The map depicts the 50% of the United States that will be off-limit to humans!]

This map is based on the strategy and procedures laid out in what is known as the Wildlands Project and the UN/US Man and the Biosphere Program (MAB). Both are based on the need of protecting biological diversity using core wilderness reserves and interconnecting wilderness corridors which are surrounded by buffer zones that variably regulate human activity to protect the attributes of the core reserves (see below). Areas not included in core reserves or buffer zones are zones of cooperation where regulations are designed to favor biodiversity and ecosystems.

The Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, The Seville Agreement for the MAB Program, and the Strategic Plan for the USMAB all state the MAB Program is designed to help implement the Convention on Biological Diversity, a treaty currently before the US Senate for ratification. Likewise, Section 13.4.2.2.3 of the United Nations Global Biodiversity Assessment defines the Wildlands Project as the basis for preserving biodiversity for the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Wildlands Project is based the concept of using wilderness reserves and corridors to protect biological diversity, which in turn is based on the science of conservation biology. The Wildlands Project was developed by Dr. Michael Soulé, co-founder and first president of the Society for Conservation Biology; Dr. Reed Noss, current editor for the journal of Conservation Biology; and David Foreman, co-founder and long-time leader of Earth First! and now a Director for the Sierra Club. Two of the biggest funders of the Wildlands Project are the Nature Conservancy and Sierra Club.

The science of conservation biology was largely created by the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature, now called the World Conservation Union) and is based on the pantheistic (nature is god) premise that nature took millennia to create her perfect ecosystems and management practices must follow natural ecosystems to be healthy. The IUCN is an accredited UN advisor and is comprised of government agencies and NGOs (non-governmental organizations). These include the EPA, US Forest Service, US National Park Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, The Sierra Club, National Wildlife Federation, Natural Resources Defense Council, The Nature Conservancy, Society for Conservation Biology, and many others. The IUCN is also one of the primary promoters and developers of the Convention on Biological Diversity. This perhaps explains why federal agencies and environmental organizations appear to be working in concert to implement the Wildlands Project and Biodiversity Treaty even though the treaty has not been ratified.

This map is drawn under the supervision of a Ph.D. in Ecology, and follows instructions provided by the Wildlands Project, the UN/US MAB, and the rapidly increasing control within US counties through the UN/US Heritage programs. This is especially true for counties having federal land, particularly in the Western US. The map incorporates, when available, actual maps as well as a multitude of government and environmental literature demanding various reserves or national parks interconnected with corridors.



Magnitude Of The Wildlands Project

"Conservation must be practiced on a truly grand scale," claims Reed Noss. And grand it is. Taken from the article "The Wildlands Project: Land Conservation Strategy" in the 1992 special issue of Wild Earth, Noss provides the whopping dimensions of this effort. Core reserves are wilderness areas that supposedly allow biodiversity to flourish. "It is estimated," claims Noss, "that large carnivores and ungulates require reserves on the scale of 2.5 to 25 million acres. . . . For a minimum viable population of 1000 [large mammals], the figures would be 242 million acres for grizzly bears, 200 million acres for wolverines, and 100 million acres for wolves. Core reserves should be managed as roadless areas (wilderness). All roads should be permanently closed."

Corridors are "extensions of reserves. . . . Multiple corridors interconnecting a network of core reserves provide functional redundancy and mitigate against disturbance. . . . Corridors several miles wide are needed if the objective is to maintain resident populations of large carnivores."

Buffer zones should have two or more zones "so that a gradation of use intensity exists from the core reserve to the developed landscape. Inner zones should have low road density (no more than 0.5 mile/square mile) and low-intensity use such as. . .hiking, cross-country skiing, birding, primitive camping, wilderness hunting and fishing, and low-intensity silviculture (light selective cutting)."

What Do Reserves And Corridors Really Mean?

While this effort has a noble mission, the implications are staggering. As noted in the June 25, 1993 issue of Science, it "is nothing less than the transformation of America to an archipelago of human-inhabited islands surrounded by natural areas."

According to the Wildlands Project, "One half of the land area of the 48 conterminous [united] states be encompassed in core [wilderness] reserves and inner corridor zones (essentially extensions of core reserves) within the next few decades.... Half of a region in wilderness is a reasonable guess of what it will take to restore viable populations of large carnivores and natural disturbance regimes, assuming that most of the other 50 percent is managed intelligently as buffer zone." (Noss, 1992) If fully

implemented, the Convention On Biological Diversity would have to displace millions of people through unacceptable regulations, nationalization of private land, and forcing people to move out of core reserve areas and inner buffer zones. It would seriously reduce the production of agriculture, forest, and mining products. In the process, millions of Americans could lose their jobs. In turn, the resulting scarce resources means the rest of us are going to pay double and triple for these products.

This may sound insane, but it's either being planned or implemented right now across America. Land is being condemned or zoned in reserves, corridors or buffer zones under a

variety of names to reestablish or protect biodiversity and/or specific species. Should these quasi-religious theories and pseudo-science determine our future?

Reserves & Corridors Do Not Work

What science is really showing is that although there are problems with some species, there is no clear evidence that reserves and corridors work or are even needed:

"The theory has not been properly validated and the practical value of biogeographic principles for conservation remains unknown. . . . The theory provides no special insights relevant to conservation." Zimmerman, B.L. and R.O. Bierregaard. 1986. Journal of Biogeography 13:133-143.


The theory behind the need for reserves and corridors is being "increasingly heavily criticized. . . . as inapplicable to most of nature, largely because local population extinction was not demonstrated." Simberloff, D. J. Farr, J. Cox, and D. Mehlman. 1992. "Movement Corridors: Conservation Bargains or Poor Investment?" Conservation Biology 6(4):495.

"No unified theory combines genetic, demographic, and other forces threatening small populations, nor is their accord on the relative importance of these threats." Ibid.

"There are still few data, and many widely cited reports are unconvincing. . . . [The theory that reserves and corridors] "facilitate movement and is now almost an article of faith." Ibid.


"Studies that have been frequently cited as illustrating corridor use for

Continued on page 3



From the President

Jim Osborne



The fish window is open, the trucks and trackhoes are running, and silt is being cleaned from the ditch. Sorry, I lied. I just can't wait till I can say those words. In truth the fish window is open, DNRP has \$250,000 to spend and no sensible project to do at this point. The only thing they have come up with is to pull reed canary grass and plant trees, which we have been told we can do ourselves without a permit or their help.

Now for some good news. Daryl Grigsby, manager of Water and Land Resources seems to see and understand the problems we have been facing. He

has directed us to apply for a \$5,000 grant to do hand work in the creek. (Any bets we get more done for \$5,000 than they do for a quarter of a million.) We have also been presenting our case to the Four Creeks UAC and seem to have the support of our neighbors in the basin.

One last piece of news; on June 16th, Lori gave birth to our new junior vice president. His name is Justin Thomas Osborne. He was born at 10:22 am and weighed in at 9 lbs and was 19 1/2" long. So far we have lucked out as he is only waking once a night for a feeding and diaper change.