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# SIERRA

THE MAGAZINE OF THE SIERRA CLUB • SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 1995

## Saving the Wild Planet

### A Field Manual

WITH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM  
DAVE FOREMAN, WENDELL BERRY,  
TIMOTHY E. WIRTH, AND  
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# SIERRA

THE MAGAZINE OF THE SIERRA CLUB

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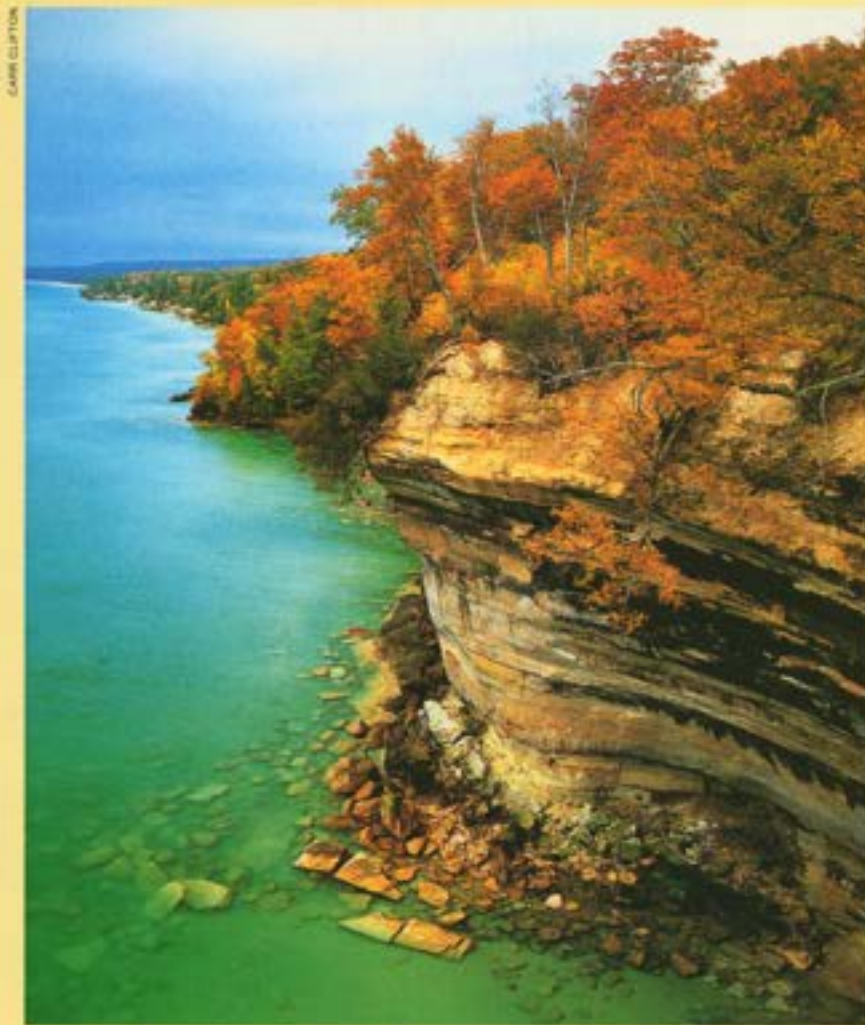
National security used to be about war  
and readiness. Now it's also about population  
and overconsumption.

*by Timothy E. Wirth*

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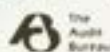
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**HAIL TO THE RAILS**

To my mind, trains ("America by Rail," May/June 1995) are an extension of the national park system that deserve, but do not get, the same subsidy extended to the parks and the automobile. They are a godsend to urban dwellers without cars, allowing us to disembark in the city center or in rural areas. To many Americans, especially since the collapse of the intercity bus, they are the only transportation alternative to the automobile.

There is good and bad in the current Clinton game plan for Amtrak. For decades Amtrak has been saddled with a debt not of its own making. But instead of fighting for increased funding, current management is beginning to jettison long-distance routes, proposing to support only the most profitable "rail corridors," but with few specific plans outside the Northeast. What seems to be happening is that the party of Big Oil consistently returns key candidates, expense-account businessmen suck down an enormous subsidy flying on commuter airlines, the advertising of the automobile industry exerts a chilling effect on the press, and trains get lost in the shuffle.

Terry Scott  
Seattle, Washington

Had William Poole devoted more space to emphasizing the economic and environmental benefits of rail transportation and less to the times Amtrak was late, his words would have been more enjoyable.

Wendell Funk  
Grand Lake, Colorado

**GO EAST**

Maybe I'm being oversensitive, but I thought there was just a trace of condescension in western-bred Patti Hagan's effulgent and chromite prose for the Shawangunk's pocket wilderness ("Craggs and Crumpets," May/June).

I've made the pilgrimage to Yellow-

stone and Yosemite and the Grand Canyon and I've been properly awed and overwhelmed and would go again any time I could. But home for me will always be the green hills of the Hudson Highlands where the peaks rise sheer from the water's edge, with names the Dutch gave them, like Storm King and Dunderberg, where Washington marched his little army to hide from British gunboats on the river—the Highlands and the shining cliffs of the Shawangunks and the glacier-scoured summits of the Catskills with their deep, mysterious green valleys. There are, anywhere, only pockets of wilderness left.

Samuel Mines  
Southbury, Connecticut

Mohonk Lake is definitely not a "fjord." The Hudson River, flowing through the Hudson Highlands, is a fjord; Mohonk Lake is a glacially scoured-and-plucked basin, as are the other sky lakes on this beautiful and fascinating ridge.

Vincent R. Clephas  
New Paltz, New York

Patti Hagan replies: *I am well aware that Lake Mohonk is a sky lake and that there is no such thing as an inland, upland fjord. I am also well aware that my job as a writer was to catch the character of the lake in a few carefully chosen words, and that I am allowed to avail myself of an occasional metaphor. To me, Mohonk has the look of a fjord. After due consideration I chose to describe it as an "alpine fjord"—figuring that the "alpine" adjective would tip off many readers. Mr. Clephas is trying to have my poetic license revoked.*

**THE "TAKINGS" TUSSLE**

Marshall Kuykendall's novel twist on the "takings" issue ("Stump Speeches," May/June) shows him to be a stranger not only to the moral shame of slavery but to history as well. Dedicated to saving the Union at all costs, Lincoln in early 1862 did in fact float a plan to fi-

nancially compensate slave owners in the loyal border states for the emancipation of their slaves. The states' intransigence and total resistance to the plan were key factors in "radicalizing" Lincoln, who gradually came to see that, in the face of such powerful conservative forces, only the complete abolishment of the institution of slavery could restore the Union.

Kuykendall, however, may have stumbled upon an interesting point. Is financial compensation truly the heart of the "takings" debate, or are we witnessing something deeper than a tussle over cash? On the ridge of conflict that divides the future from the past, two forces are locked in combat: one straining to "take" it all, another trying to preserve it. As with slavery, one can only hope history finds the moral way out.

Craig Stacey  
Bullhead City, Arizona

"Stump Speeches" was enough to make my blood boil! Newly elected Representative Barbara Cubin (R-Wyo.), who believes that there is no legal basis for national forests and national parks, was quoted as saying, "The federal government doesn't have a right to any lands, except for post offices and armed forces bases."

I can see we don't have any historians among us. Where does Cubin think Jefferson came up with the money to make the Louisiana Purchase? A safe from a back room of Monticello? No, it was a purchase authorized by the federal Congress. The 1862 Homestead Act gave lands mostly in the Louisiana Purchase (which is to say, federally purchased lands) for free to those who would work them. How did we ever obtain Alaska? A federal purchase, Ms. Cubin! All the rest of the United States were either purchased with federal funds or gained through wars waged—not by state police forces, not by local posses—but by the United States government.

Since these lands were federal in the

first place, it's disingenuous for Republicans to want powers brought "back" to the states. As Edward Abbey wrote of Utah's Escalante country, it "belongs to us. It lies entirely within the public domain, and is therefore the property not of land and cattle companies, not of oil and mining corporations, not of the Utah State Highway Department or any Utah Chamber of Commerce, but of all Americans. It's our country."

Todd Runestad  
Boulder, Colorado

### TOPSY-TURVY COUNTRY

For me, the flood tide in Carl Pope's column, "Bringing in the Sheaves," (May/June) came when he trenchantly observed, "Farmers suffer more than most people from environmental degradation, yet rural environmental standards are already far weaker than those protecting cities."

At first glance this statement seems hopelessly topsy-turvy. Almost anyone would instinctively say that life in a rustic place is cleaner and better than in some congested metropolis. Country drinking water less clean? Country atmosphere less clear? Hazardous-waste dumps increasing in generally pastoral surroundings? Pope's essay demonstrates that no one may take for granted an idyllic wholesomeness.

William Dauenhauer  
Wickliffe, Ohio

I believe that rural America has made more progress than Carl Pope realizes. Agriculture has made tremendous advances in its use of fertilizer, pesticides, and tillage. Much of this progress was driven by the awareness created by the environmental community. If the Sierra Club wants to build bridges there are plenty of Farm Bureau members ready to go to work.

Thomas J. Hall  
Oregon, Wisconsin

Carl Pope responds: *I agree with you that rural America has made tremendous progress. My point was that a partnership with the federal government has been a key ingredient in that progress. All the news coming from*

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the American Farm Bureau Federation in Washington would lead one to believe that the federal role in agriculture has been a disaster for rural Americans.

### RECYCLED AIR

You might be surprised to learn that a Sierra Club member was actively involved in the design of the ventilation system on one of the newest-model aircraft, the MD-80.

The purpose of replacing a portion of the "fresh" air with recirculated air is to save fuel. We thought we were doing the right thing for the planet as a whole by reducing the amount of hydrocarbon fuel that would have to be pumped, refined, transported, and burned to support the aircraft fleet.

From your article ("Clean Air Up There," May/June), however, it appears that the health of the planet is less important than the comfort of business executives and pleasure trippers. Is this a new Sierra Club philosophy? Will we see suggestions that members drive older, gas-guzzling cars because they have smoother rides? That we heat or cool our homes to 75 degrees year-round because they will be more comfortable?

Aircraft ventilation systems are designed to meet not only federal regulations, but also industry guidelines and airline requirements. Most of the symptoms that are associated with pollutants in aircraft air, such as headaches, fatigue, lightheadedness, and sore throats can also be attributed to the low humidity levels (improved by recirculation), low air pressure equivalent in the cabin (usually 8,000 feet), and noise and vibration.

Andrea Tylczak  
Long Beach, California

### OFFENSIVE ADVERTISING

For the first time ever my environmental sensibilities have been wounded by Sierra. It is not your content, editorials, or overall whole-earth sustainable approach. No, it is the very distasteful and vulgar advertisement on page 23 (July/August).

What is environmentally friendly about a Viper with a V-10 engine blasting down a country road, wasting fuel, polluting, and having to purchase electronic devices to allow its egotistical owner to "Cloak Your Car to Make It 'Invisible' to Police Radar"?

Is there no longer sensitivity as to what commercial messages you will allow in your magazine?

Steven S. Lough  
Seattle, Washington

There were many great articles in the July/August issue of this great magazine. The most thought-provoking material, however, was an ad for a radar detector that not only warns a speeding driver of a speed enforcement zone, but actually "jams" police radar.

The ad raises several issues.

1. Are speed laws valuable? I think so. Maintaining a safe speed reduces the chance of accidents, damages, injuries, and deaths. Reducing speeds saves energy and reduces pollution and makes walking, bicycling, and riding public transit safer and more attractive.

2. Should we obey laws? I think so. We expect industries to obey laws; why should we think we are above the law?

3. Should Sierra carry offensive ads? I'm ambivalent. They help support the magazine and the Club. They can encourage undesirable behavior. They provoke thought and discussion. We're thoughtful enough not to buy nasty products. They waste paper. And (I hope) they waste advertisers' dollars.

Richard Reis  
Silver Spring, Maryland

The editor responds: *We blew it.* Sierra rejects ads that violate Sierra Club policy and those that go beyond the bounds of what we judge to be good taste. Obviously those guidelines were not followed in this case. Our apologies for the lapse.

Sierra welcomes letters from readers in response to recently published articles. Letters may be edited due to limitations of space or in the interests of clarity. Write to us at 730 Polk St., San Francisco, CA 94109; Fax (415) 776-4868; e-mail address: sierra.letters@sierraclub.org.

What I throw on when I feel like bike-riding  
277 days to see hippos, water buffaloes and  
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—Dan Buettner

STAYING COMFORTABLE IN THE SADDLE ON A 12,107-MILE CYCLING TRIP FROM THE SAHARA TO SOUTH AFRICA IS NO MEAN FEAT. BUT DAN BUETTNER ACHIEVED IT WITH SHIRTS MADE OF POLARTEC XT™ FABRIC AND JACKETS OF POLARTEC SERIES 200 FABRIC. THE VIBRANT COLORS DELIGHTED EVEN THE HIPPOS.



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Carl Pope

## Going to Extremes

Extremism in the defense of liberty is no vice," proclaimed Republican presidential nominee Barry Goldwater in 1964. Unfortunately, his political heirs are, for the most part, less forthright than the former Arizona senator. However extreme their positions, they are careful to hide behind words like "moderation," "balance," and "common sense."

Nowhere is this more true than in the fierce debate over the future of America's wild places and wildlife—a debate that will determine whether America retains either.

Senator Slade Gorton (R-Wash.), for example, freely admits that he is rewriting the Endangered Species Act so thoroughly as to effectively eliminate it. "The national environmental organizations exhausted their entire supply of adjectives in cussing out my bill," he said in its defense. "They aren't going to have any left when they see a really radical proposal."

Incredibly, environmentalists are the ones being labeled "extremists" in this debate. The public's commitment to our wild places is so profound that the exploiters need to disguise their attempt to grab our parks and wilderness as an attack on extremism. They also need to disguise themselves as "grassroots" groups with names like "The Coalition for Sensible Environmental Regulation" (actually a coalition of western developers and corporate farmers) and the "Alliance for Sensible Environmental Reform" (in reality an alliance of trade associations representing polluting industries).

Even the radical anti-environmental Wise Users are claiming to be moderates. In an attack on the Sierra Club (on the same page as a defense of the armed militia movement), their *Blue Ribbon Magazine* claims to favor "moderation in environmental regulation," and in-

sists that its supporters "are willing to dwell in relative harmony with nature."

If only it were true. Relative harmony is actually about as good as any of us can reasonably hope to achieve, given our woefully incomplete understanding of deeply complex natural processes. But the *Blue Ribbon* crowd thinks that present environmental policies somehow *overprotect* wildness and natural processes; that wilderness now has the upper hand; and that as a result "human beings are being sacrificed to the god of nature."

It doesn't take a range scientist to see that the contrary is true. Wild places on this continent have been so thoroughly disrupted that even "natural disasters" are no longer natural. For two out of the last three years, for example, the Mississippi River has flooded after heavy—but far from record—rains burst from

*A moderate proposal:  
save what's left, repair what's  
lost, and ignore the labels.*

the dammed, diked, and leveed channel. Billions of dollars worth of damage was done, and 50 people lost their lives—not because we have too many wetlands, but because we have too few; not because we have torn down too many dikes, but because we have left too many in place. Fewer lives were lost in 1995, partly because there were fewer levees and more wetlands to absorb the rains. Even so, Representative Billy Tauzin (D-La.) continues his wetlands-draining campaign, putting his own constituents at risk from the next flood. Who is the extremist in this case?

In the West, wilderness destruction has resulted in devastating fires sweep-

ing across national forests. Stately groves where lightning fires once flared and burned out have become infernos-in-waiting, clogged with tangled thickets of tinder-dry second growth. The response of Slade Gorton? Suspend all environmental laws, cut more big trees, and suppress more natural fires. Who is the extremist here?

Claims that we are setting aside too many of our natural resources are easily contradicted when the unbelievable bounty of the continent is flickering out before our eyes. Ask any carpenter, who will tell you how much the quality of two-by-fours has declined in the last decade as the last old growth is cut. Ask those who used to make their living fishing for cod off Newfoundland and Cape Cod if we have overprotected the Atlantic. Ask the salmon fishermen of the Pacific Coast, the oystermen of the Chesapeake Bay, or the shrimpers of the Gulf of Mexico if our efforts to preserve fish stocks, spawning grounds, and habitats have been "excessive." Ask the hunter searching in vain for an elk, the fly-fisher trying to hook a steelhead. Ask a birdwatcher in the Midwest or on the East Coast, where the forests are falling silent as songbirds disappear.

Or ask the Supreme Court. A majority of the very conservative court recently upheld the common-sense premise that to save an endangered species you must also save its habitat. The three most extreme members of that court—Justices Scalia, Rehnquist, and Thomas—dissented, saying that by protecting habitat the Supreme Court was "imposing unfairness to the point of financial ruin . . . upon the simplest farmer who finds his land conscripted to national zoological use."

No evidence of such financial ruin was before the court, of course. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service figures show



that only .25 percent of private projects are blocked because of conflict with endangered species. Yet the idea that property owners should accommodate nearly extinct creatures still strikes some as excessive. Representative Wes Cooley (R-Ore.) blames "environmental extremists from New York" for the loss of logging jobs in his state; Arizona Governor Fife Symington calls the Endangered Species Act a "fierce and cruel weapon being used by environmental extremists" to put a halt to logging.

Despite the talk of "relative harmony," many in Congress still view wildness as an enemy to be subdued. Their rhetoric is virtually indistinguishable from that of *Blue Ribbon Magazine*, where "Fossil Bill" Kramer complains that "protected predators are destroying sheep, cattle—and people. Dead, dying, and diseased trees abound, yet logging is prohibited. Sacrosanct sea lions gobble millions of salmon . . ."

Yes, predators hunt, sea lions eat fish, and old trees fall and decay and nourish the soil. For the Wise Use movement and its allies in Congress, such natural processes are wasteful because they involve consumption without profit. If a tree falls in the forest and no one's there to cut it, would it make a buck? If not, what's the use?

Environmentalists believe that nature is fecund and rich enough to sustain true harmony between humanity and wildness. Yet its wealth is not endless, as the real extremists pretend. Nature is neither a limitless larder nor a bottomless sewer. It is a diversity of systems in balance, its resilience masking the ease with which it may be tipped to extremes.

What, after all, is more extreme—a clearcut or a healthy forest? A river teeming with fish, or one that is fetid and lifeless? A family farm that supports fruit trees, grain, livestock, and wildlife, or a mammoth feedlot draining its waste into our streams? Environmentalists know. So does the American public. ■

CARL POPE is the executive director of the Sierra Club. He can be reached by e-mail at [carl.pope@sierraclub.org](mailto:carl.pope@sierraclub.org).

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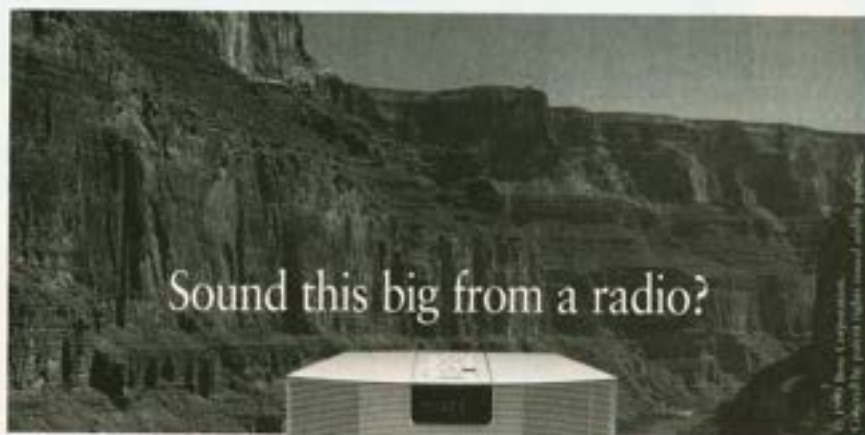
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Paul Rauber

## The Oyster Is Our World

Oysters are hard-core—or, rather, hard-shell—environmentalists, obdurate in their demand for healthy, pollution-free living conditions. They are, in fact, constitutionally incapable of compromise; if bivalves had environmental slogans, theirs would be “Live clean or die!” Oysters are the coal-mine canaries of our coastal waters, inedible when the water is tainted. Thus can we make a virtue of necessity: we need oysters for the preservation of our precious marine ecosystems as much as for our stews and bisques.

Oysters come to their absolutism by way of their appetite for phytoplankton, which they extract by filtering vast amounts of water through their gills. Eastern oysters, such as those found in Chesapeake Bay, strain as much as 50 gallons a day, thereby contributing greatly to water clarity by filtering out not only algae but silt and other suspended particles. Oysters would be invaluable even if they didn't taste so good, because rampant algal growth exacerbated by farm runoff and acid rain is one of the bay's major problems. Unchecked, algae choke off the water's oxygen and light, eventually killing the grasses on which ducks, crabs, and other bay creatures depend. Dr. Roger Newell of the Hornpoint Environmental Lab estimates that in 1870 the population of oysters was large enough to filter and cleanse the entire volume of Chesapeake Bay in three days. Sadly, their numbers are so reduced that the same effort would now take a year or more.



Coast Oyster Farm in Poulsbo, Washington.

How has the mighty Chesapeake oyster population lost 99 percent of its historic number? The most obvious culprits, says William Goldsborough, fisheries scientist at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, are overfishing, loss of habitat, and disease. In the late 19th century, 15 million bushels of oysters were taken from the bay each year, compared with about 200,000 bushels this year. As early as 1891, Johns Hopkins professor William K. Brooks warned that Maryland's oyster fishery was headed for disaster: “The residents supposed that their natural beds were inexhaustible,” he wrote, “until they suddenly found that they were exhausted.”

More recently, stubborn parasites known as “MSX” and “Dermo” have devastated oyster beds not already ravaged by greed. It is generally believed, says Goldsborough, that the virulence of the oyster epidemics is exacerbated by environmental factors such as pollution and the loss of optimal habitat as the old oyster beds (once so large that they were visible at low tide) are destroyed by overharvesting.

*“I weep for you,” the Walrus said, “I deeply sympathize.”*



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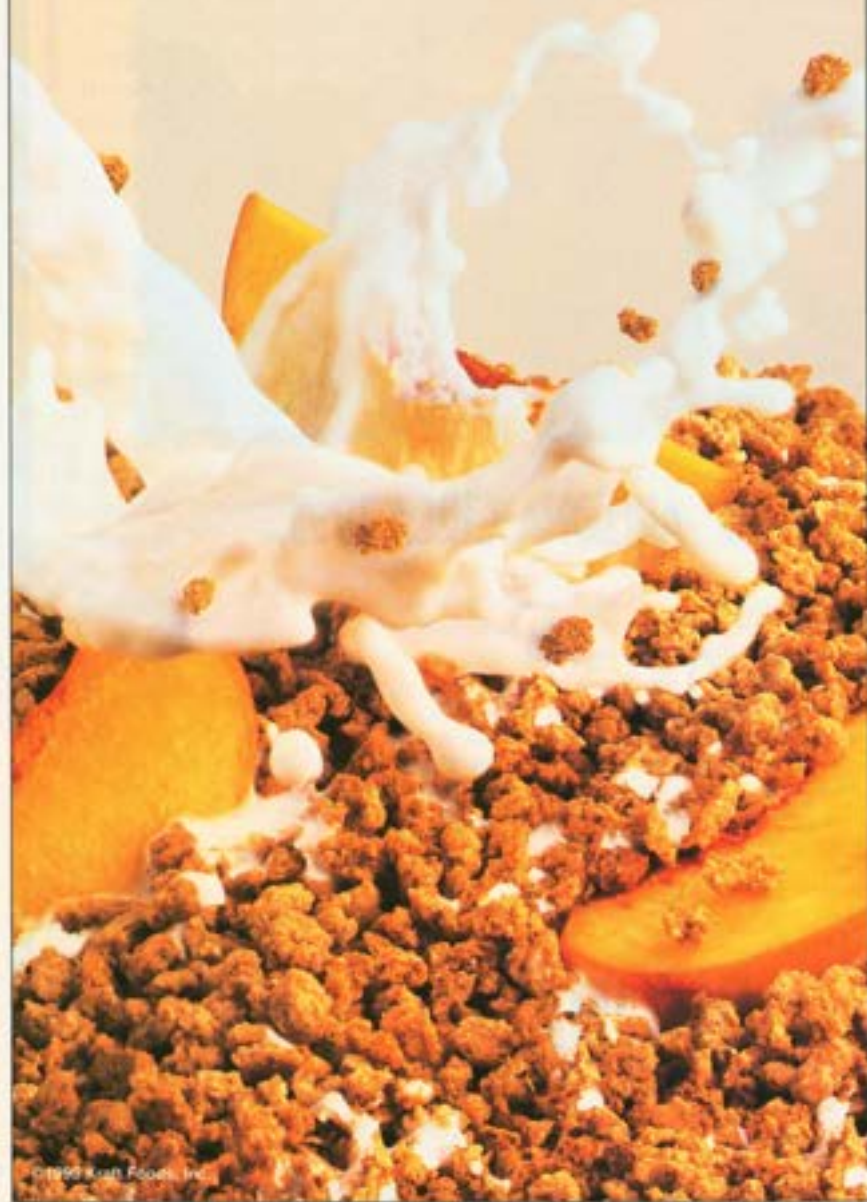
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On the Pacific Coast, preserving prime oyster grounds in Washington's Puget Sound—present source of every third oyster consumed in the United States—requires constant vigilance. "Being an oyster farmer means being an environmentalist," says Dick Wilson of Bay Center Mariculture on Willapa Bay. "We need the best water quality we can get, and the top thing on our agenda is to make sure it stays that way."

The major threats to Puget Sound water quality are from industry (PCBs and heavy metals contaminating the sediments), farm runoff, and inadequate sewage treatment (fecal coliform bacteria). With three of the largest cities in the state located on the sound, oyster fisheries are increasingly restricted to remote estuaries and bays like Willapa. "When you buy oysters out here," says Kathleen Sayce, conservation chair of the Willapa Group of the Sierra Club, "you always ask where they come from."

Willapa Bay is also menaced by spartina, an invasive exotic grass that is filling in its shallow mudflats. Ironically, spartina originally arrived as the packing material for a load of eastern oysters sent in 1894 to replenish the bay's native Olympias, decimated by California '49ers hungry for Hangtown Fry. The eastern oysters never caught on, but the eastern grass did.

Given the dire consequences of eating contaminated oysters, their welfare is strictly monitored by the FDA's National Shellfish Sanitation Program, which regulates and defines every stage of production. (For example, as one rule delightfully states, "A shellstock shipper may also ship shucked shellfish.") The NSSP surveys and classifies the suitability of oyster habitats, mostly by measuring the presence of coliform bacteria but also that of industrial pollutants. (San Francisco Bay, for example, has been unsuitable since 1939, when the last edible oyster was taken.) With few pristine sites left, many areas are "conditionally approved," meaning that they are closed after predictable pollution events such as rainstorms, which flush waste from surrounding farmlands and residential areas.

"If we get bad water, we don't eat—it's that simple," says Ben Johnston, of Johnston's Oyster Farm, located just north of San Francisco on Drakes Bay, surrounded by the beautiful rolling pastureland of Pt. Reyes National Seashore. "We have cattle in the hills, but thank God we don't have people out here—you know how nasty people are."

How nasty is that? The oyster is our measure: where it thrives we are succeeding; where it fails, so have we. Thus every plate of oysters, glistening in their own liquor and tasting solely of the sea, is a cause for celebration, proof that we can indeed live on a wild planet.

► *Congress is now in the process of weakening the Clean Water Act. Let your representatives know that you want stricter safeguards for our coastal waters, not looser ones. See page 87 for addresses.*

### GREEN PLATE SPECIAL

"He was a bold man that first eat an oyster," said Jonathan Swift. Those still daunted by slurping an oyster straight from the shell, unvarnished by pepper or lemon juice, may find the project easier to approach with a mignonette, a simple sauce into which the fresh-shucked oyster is dipped.

#### Mignonette

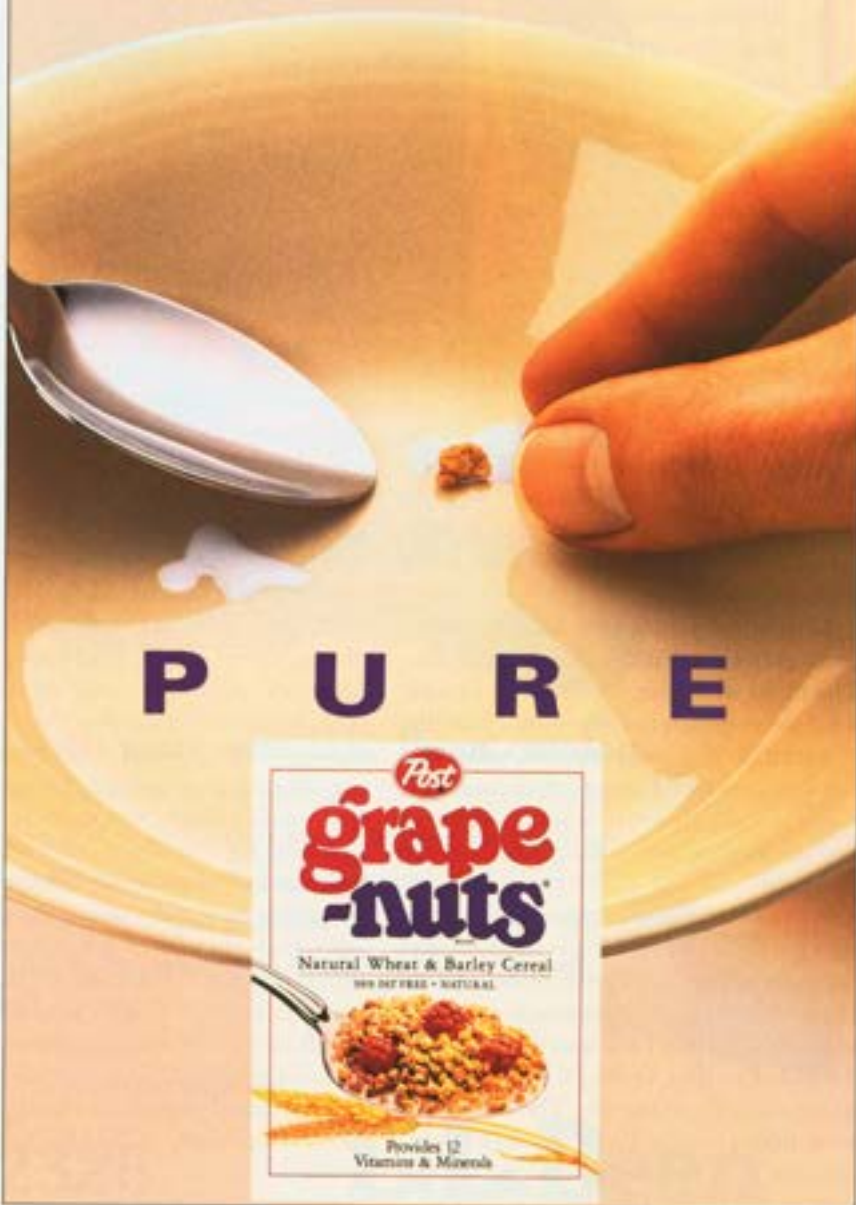
1 shallot, minced  
1 tablespoon champagne vinegar  
1 tablespoon white wine  
freshly cracked pepper to taste

If the prospect of a raw oyster is still too much, try the following treatment by MFK Fisher. "One of the best and easiest dishes that can be made," she says, "if you like it."

#### Baked Oysters

"Into a shallow baking dish, well buttered, spread a light layer of bread or cracker crumbs. Then put in a layer of oysters, and season well with salt and fresh ground pepper and bits of sweet butter. Then put more crumbs and alternate in this fashion until the dish is almost full, and put crumbs and butter on top. Pour enough oyster juice to moisten things, and bake in a quick oven until brown but not bubbling." —from *MFK Fisher's Consider the Oyster* (North Point Press, 1988), the indispensable collection of oysterology. ■

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## On the Beach

The spareness of Sukamade Beach is a relief after battling the tide of humanity in Jakarta, home to 10 million people and all the effluvia of the modern city: traffic, smog, and discarded Dunkin' Donuts bags. This three-mile crescent of sand in Java's Meru Betiri National Park is empty except for enormous pieces of driftwood presided over by an occasional shorebird and joined, on fall nights, by *Chelonia mydas*, the green sea turtle. Because of its powerful surf and the heaving driftwood, swimming at Sukamade is prohibited. A few tourists will drop by, hoping to see a nesting turtle, but the nearest village is five miles away, and the beach is usually deserted.

Most of the participants in my volunteer beach patrol are British university students. The night we arrive, we begin to wonder what we've gotten ourselves into. Our diet is oatmeal, rice, and malaria pills; our constants are dirt, damp clothes, and mosquito bites. Collective doubts—*What on earth are we doing here?*—hang heavily in the muggy air.

What we do every morning is dig up the eggs the turtles laid three feet underground the night before. It is a perfectly earthy task. I lie on the beach on my stomach, my cheek against the sand as I reach to the bottom of the hole I've dug, feeling for the soft and round warmth of new life. There are often more than a hundred eggs in a nest. We rebury the eggs in a simple clearing of sand surrounded by chicken wire above the veg-



etation line, a dubious sanctuary from predators ranging from ants to humans. After the turtles hatch, we transfer them to a small concrete pool where they live for several weeks until their chances for survival in the ocean have presumably increased.

Every few days we release some more hatchlings, still only a few inches long, placing them on the sand just above the tidemark. Although some of the turtles seem paralyzed by the shock of the air and the sun on their backs, most begin crawling immediately toward the ocean. The first wave to crash over them sends them tumbling back on shore. They regain their bearings and crawl toward the sea again—and again, and again—until the undertow pulls them out to deep water, dead or alive. Where do the hatchlings go then? Not much is known. Turtles live as long as a hundred years. It may take more than ten years for the female to reach maturity, and she may travel more than a thousand miles to return to nest on the beach where she hatched.

Biologists suspect that the sea turtle

*What compels the sea turtle—and us—to come to these shores?*

■ ■ ■



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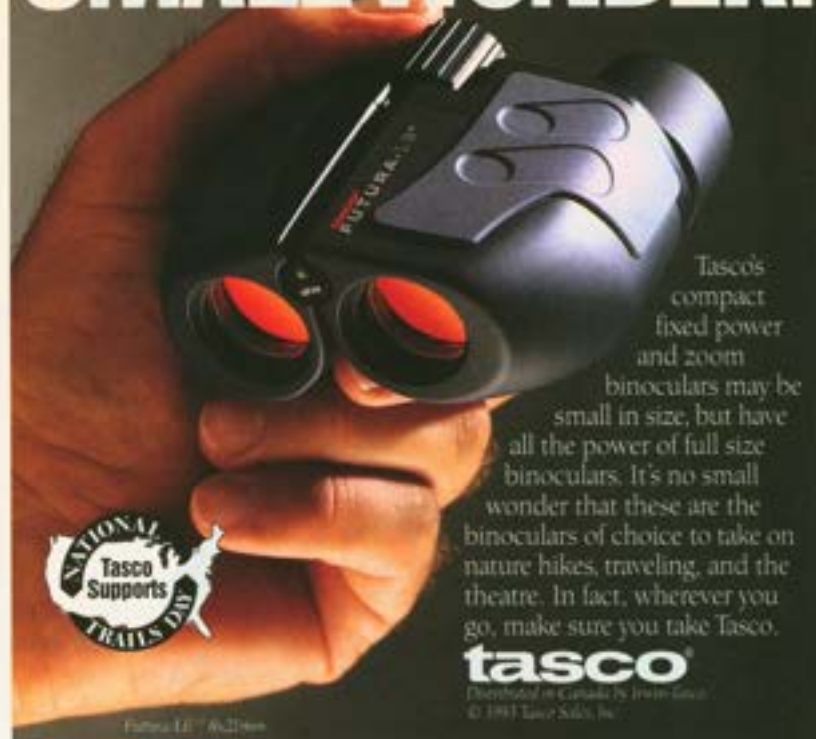
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evolved from a giant land tortoise that may have crawled into the primordial brine millions of years ago to escape dinosaurs or other large predators. Whether it can survive into the 21st century is another question. Most species are considered in danger of extinction because of harvesting for meat, eggs, leather, and shells, loss of nesting grounds, water pollution, entrapment in fishing equipment, and marine debris—especially plastic bags, which turtles fatally mistake for jellyfish, a favorite food.

But when we walk the beach at night looking for tracks, the strength of the sea turtles' maternal instincts makes them seem invincible. A 250-pound female may haul herself up onto the beach several times during the night, pushing arduously along the sand for hours in search of a nesting site. With her rear flippers she digs a hole, then lowers herself over it and drops her clutch of eggs one by one. It's always a long wait for that last egg to drop. While the turtle labors and the moon slips behind the clouds, we lie in the sand, scratching our bug bites and pondering the enormity of life's mysteries.

Does our intervention in the turtles' lives improve their chances for survival? From our beach, we can't tell. Our efforts help protect Sukamade's eggs from poachers, human and otherwise. But we can only wonder what will happen during the years the turtles spend at sea, and what they will find when they return to this beach.

It's also impossible not to wonder about the impulse that brought each of us thousands of miles to Sukamade to endure discomfort and perform chores providing no tangible reward. Perhaps this is not mere lunacy but an instinct of survival. The human desire to learn and experience is ingrained in our psyches. Perhaps it can overcome our equally entrenched urge to consume so much beyond our needs. For us—and for *Chelonia mydas*—the question is whether we can adapt. ■

MARY ANN FRANKE is a Boston-based writer.

# Violent Planet

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As you can see, there's a lot we can do. So let's all lend a hand to save our planet. After all, it's the only one we have.



Weldon Dodson

# Hitched to Everything

John Muir wasn't the personal computing type, but his famous dictum suits the online universe perfectly: if we pick out any one thing, we find it hitched to everything else. The Internet, composed of computers linked to other computers around the globe, has become a powerful, effective means of organizing, investigating, and researching. No one owns the Internet and anyone can sign on—all you need is a computer, a connecting device called a modem, some readily available software, and a telephone line.

Electronic mail (e-mail) is the simplest use of the Internet. With it, you can transmit a message to anyone else online. Political figures can be contacted directly via e-mail: for instance, a message about the Clean Water Act sent to [President@WhiteHouse.Gov](mailto:President@WhiteHouse.Gov) will reach just whom you think; to let Newt Gingrich know how you feel about selling off national parks, drop a line to [Georgia6@HR.House.gov](mailto:Georgia6@HR.House.gov).

There is a plethora of newsletters online, mostly free, with information on nearly any subject. Some interesting titles are accessible, such as *Rachel's Environment and Health Weekly* ([erf@igc.apc.org](mailto:erf@igc.apc.org)); *Greenwire*, a daily digest of environmental news items, can be seen (for a small fee) at [greenwire@apn.com](mailto:greenwire@apn.com). The Sierra Club's own activist newsletter *The Planet* is available at the Club's World Wide Web site (see below).



Usenet is a Bulletin Board Service where thousands of news articles are posted by users every day. To make this vast ocean of info navigable, stories are routed into topical "newsgroups." Useful groups for environmentalists are: *talk.environment*, *sci.environment*, and *alt.save.the.earth*. IGC is a whole directory of news, much of it about the environment; it's consultable at: [igc.apc.org](http://igc.apc.org).


Many people refer to the World Wide Web (WWW) as the true Internet; it is certainly the most powerful and intriguing portion. To get on the WWW, you'll need "browsing" software such as Mosaic or Netscape that can reproduce the text and images available. A technology known as "hypertext" allows WWW users to locate and retrieve information stored anywhere on the Web; simply clicking on a highlighted word or phrase on a Web page connects you to related information elsewhere in the system, so that a topic can be tracked through many transformations.

Environmentally concerned Net surfers will find the following WWW locations especially informative: EnviroLink: <http://envi->

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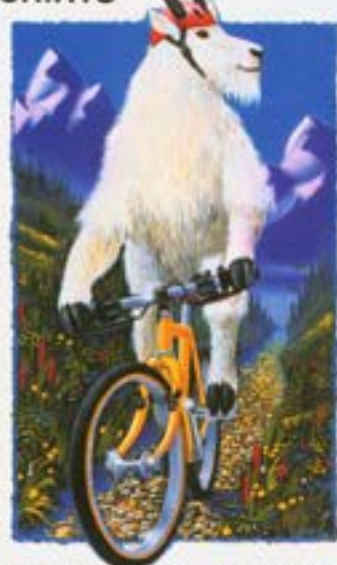
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rolink.org/; EcoNet: <http://www.econet-apc.org/econet/>; EcoWeb: <http://ecosys.dndr-virginia.edu/EcoWeb.html>; Forest Data: <http://www.metsa.fi/info/vih/Forestry.html>.

A Web site set up by Arizona activists trying to stop resort development in the Grand Canyon is a good example of how local groups with limited resources can put their message before vast numbers of people. Their page includes e-mail forms addressed to the Forest Service, for instant registering of protest. The "No on Canyon Forest Village" Web page can be seen at <http://www.well.com/user/save/>.

There are Web pages for the centers of power, too: the House of Representatives page can be found at <http://www.house.gov/>; <http://thomas.loc.gov/> will take you to the Library of Congress, where you can access current legislation.

The biggest problem with the WWW—and the Net as a whole—is the overwhelming muchness of what's available; you may find yourself lost in cyberspace, drowning in data, surfing into info overload. An online index like <http://www.yahoo.com/>, or the printed volume *Internet Yellow Pages* by Harley Hahn and Rick Stout (Osborne McGraw-Hill, 1995) are essential tools for finding your way to the information you actually need. Another online index of special interest to activists is the Economic Democracy Information Network, found at <http://garnet.berkeley.edu:3333/>.

Bringing together information and concerned individuals from all over the world, and making previously hard-to-get data widely and quickly available, the Net has enormous potential, and should become part of every environmentalist's toolkit. ■

WELDON DODSON ([topthink@aol.com](mailto:topthink@aol.com)) writes frequently about medical and computer-related topics.

► Visit the Sierra Club's WWW site (rated among the top 5 percent on the Web) at <http://www.sierraclub.org/>; to receive the Sierra Club Action Alerts list, send an e-mail message to [majordomo@igc.apc.org](mailto:majordomo@igc.apc.org) that reads *subscribe sc-action*.

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## National Yard Sale

Here's a problem for the twilight years of the 20th century: What is left to steal from our children? In the 1980s, we pilfered their financial future by running up a multi-trillion-dollar national deficit. Now we've found a new way to profit at their expense—by selling off the land held in common by the people of the United States.

Pressure for the quick disposal of public land comes simultaneously from would-be buyers and willing sellers. Cashing in on the current anti-federalism fad, the 104th Congress is proposing a bewildering array of ditch-land-quick schemes, from turning over wildlife refuges to the states to shutting down national parks. At the same time, county and state governments (particularly in the West, where most public lands are held) aren't waiting for the sale to begin and are baldly asserting ownership over the federal lands in their areas—with scarce a protest from the *federals*. Under the banners of states' rights and county supremacy, national authority is being challenged in a way not seen since the Civil War. And this time there's no Abe Lincoln.

County supremacy is the latest incarnation of the Sagebrush Rebellion, the attempt to grab federal land begun in the late 1970s by a group of wealthy Nevada ranchers. The rebellion petered out with the fall of its champion James Watt, only to be reborn when Catron County, New Mexico, passed

a series of ordinances in 1991 asserting its precedence over federal authority in environmental planning, declaring grazing permits to be property rights, making it illegal to reintroduce wolves, bears, or cougars, and threatening to arrest any federal official who complained. (See "Wishful Thinking," January/February 1994.)

Since then, 58 other western counties have passed similar ordinances—many of them modeled after those passed by Nye County, Nevada, which flatly deny federal authority "to own, hold, or exert its dominion over any public lands except for whatever land it needs for its own governmental purpose" (such as, presumably, post offices and army bases). Nye is notable for actually trying to enforce its barroom constitutional theory: a year ago July, County Commissioner Dick Carver climbed atop a bulldozer and pointed it at two Forest Service rangers try-



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PRIORITIES

ing to block him from reopening a closed road in Toiyabe National Forest. Watching the drama were some 200 county supremacists—some of them armed. “All it would have taken was for [one of the rangers] to draw a weapon,” Carver later boasted, and “fifty people with sidearms would have drilled him.”

Nye and the other rebel western counties base their claims on inventive readings of the U.S. Constitution, with special attention given to the 10th Amendment. When Nevada entered the Union in 1864, Carver argues, it was forced to surrender half of its territory to the federal government, a requirement not made of the 13 original states. Since each state must enter the Union on equal terms, county supremacists contend, the feds have no legal claim to Nevada lands.

(At the time, the historical record indicates, Nevada thought it was getting a good deal. “What a princely grant!” exclaimed Governor Henry Blasdel, on hearing the news of the land rights conferred on Nevada with statehood.)

In response to the threats from Nye and other western counties, the Bureau of Land Management has issued a “County Supremacy Safety Ordinance” to its agents working in the new Wild West: “Before leaving for the field, notify your supervisor of your destination, route, and expected time of return”; “Do not leave the BLM compound without radio communications capability”; “Identify alternative routes in and out of specific sites and be aware of your surroundings at all times”; “Avoid areas with a known potential of conflict.”

The latter piece of advice characterizes perfectly the Clinton administration’s approach to the entire issue. Despite pleas from supporters of public lands, the Justice Department never asked for a preliminary injunction against Nye County, a simple move that could have settled the matter quickly and decisively. “Such an assault on national resources must be met with strength,” editorialized the *Salt Lake Tribune*. “If violators are not stopped and prosecuted, respect for federal au-

thority will erode right along with the public lands."

Meanwhile Nye County was left to pretend sovereignty over Toiyabe National Forest and Dick Carver to become a hero on the Wise Use lecture circuit. It was not until this March that the Justice Department finally got around to suing Nye County to contest the legality of its ordinance.

Inspired by the success of the counties, western states are also getting into the act with what might be called a "state supremacy movement," seeking title to the public lands within their boundaries, to preserve, develop, or sell off as they wish. In Idaho, petitions are being circulated urging Governor Phil Batt (R) to declare ownership of the more than 33 million acres of federal land in the state. In Oregon, Representative Wes Cooley (R) is proposing a bill calling for the transfer of 2.9 million acres of BLM forest land to the state, with a further requirement that the land be logged more than twice as heavily as the BLM now permits.

On a grander scale, Utah's Governor Mike Leavitt (R) is pushing for a "Conference of the States," with a view toward increasing the power of the states over environmental regulations and public lands. The conference was to have been held this fall, but was ironically postponed after the John Birch Society and other extreme right-wing groups raised fears that it might become a runaway constitutional convention, turning over power not to the states but to the United Nations and its imaginary military forces from Hong Kong.

The real threat is a Congress with an ideological abhorrence for public lands. Representative Jim Hansen (R-Utah), chair of the House Resources Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Lands, recently introduced a bill to give control of BLM land to the states, allowing them to "determine how the land would be managed or dispensed with." A companion bill in the Senate is being sponsored by Craig Thomas (R-Wyo.) and Larry Craig (R-Idaho).

Not even our beloved national parks are out of bounds. Representative Joel Hefley (R-Colo.) is pushing a bill

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(H.R.260) that would establish a commission to study which national parks to close down, assuring critics that he wasn't aiming at Yellowstone or Yosemite, "only questionable parks." Both houses have now taken an even sharper ax to the national park system, with resolutions calling for a \$108 million reduction in the Park Service's budget. (A House subcommittee scornfully allocated \$1 to fund the new 1.4-million-acre Mojave National Preserve.) This budget cut, Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt warned, would require closing either the 200 smallest parks, the 152 least-visited parks—or the 6 largest.

The real closeout sale could come, however, as a result of the Senate Budget Committee's vote to allow sales of U.S. assets to be applied to deficit reduction. The committee is counting on raising billions of dollars by this national yard sale, which could include those "questionable" parks, wild areas like the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge with suspected oil or gas deposits, and millions of acres of BLM lands coveted by ranching and mining interests.

Remember the story of Esau, who sold his birthright for a mess of pottage? The U.S. Congress is selling our children's birthright—but all that they're getting is a mess.

▶ *Tell Congress you want public lands to stay that way. See page 87 for addresses and telephone numbers.*

## Armed and Dangerous

*The Wise Use movement meets the militias.*

Deep in the Bitterroot Valley of southwest Montana, five men strutted into a Ravalli County meeting with pistols in holsters like gunslingers in a B-movie. The visit late last year sent a clear signal to local officials: Don't dare bring zoning to the Bitterroot—or else.

"It was so bizarre," recalls then-County Commissioner Steve Powell—

who had already been warned by a militia associate not to sit in front of his living room window. "Someone went off on a tangent about federal agents in mysterious black helicopters invading us. A number of ordinary people at the meeting just got up and left."

The intimidating theatrics, combined with lobbying from Wise Use activists, were effective. Wary officials backed off proposals for land-use planning in the rapidly developing county.

The Bitterroot incident is one of many in western states where Wise Use activism has merged with citizen militias and other right-wing groups such as the Christian Patriots, which provide a conspiratorial framework for people who feel victimized by environmental regulation. The militias, for example, challenge the legitimacy of the entire federal government, which they believe to be plotting—along with the United Nations, international bankers, and U.S. Forest Service employees—to bring martial law to America.

Western resource users have taken aim at the federal government, of course, ever since they found an ally in James Watt. "We've had the Sagebrush Rebellion and we've had many skirmishes," warns rancher Hugh McKeen, a commissioner in Catron County, New Mexico. "But this rebellion this time, this one will go to the end. It's going to be civil war if things don't change."

The Montana Human Rights Network, which monitors right-wing movements, stresses that not all Wise Use activists are rushing to join militias. Other observers agree: "There is a lot of overlap, but it isn't the majority of the Wise Use movement," explains Daniel Barry, director of the Clearinghouse on Environmental Advocacy and Research in Washington, D.C.

But how far up does the linkage reach? As of 1993, Wise Use leader Ron Arnold was on the advisory council of the National Federal Lands Conference, an influential Wise Use group in Utah that publicly advocates the formation of militias—as when the NFLC's newsletter, *Update*, featured an article titled "Why there is a need for the militia in America."

"Don't those in power, the elitists, realize that if they continue in their ways there could be some dire consequences?" wrote staff member Jim Faulkner. "If they, in their delusion, think that the various militias will not defend their homeland, they are walking a little loose in their loafers."

Arnold says he left the NFLC long before the October 1994 publication of the article, which he called "repugnant. . . . We have no use for paramilitary organizations. We are a political organization." Arnold, who runs the Center for the Defense of Free Enterprise in Bellevue, Washington, adds that the NFLC is the only Wise Use group he knows of that has "crossed over" into supporting the militias.

There is no question, however, about militia support for Wise Use. "I've gone to about seven militia meetings in Washington [state] in the last year, and at each one there is anti-environmental, property rights literature being distributed," says Eric Ward, associate director of the Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment. "The militia groups are using the property rights groups as an organizing base."

One object of militia/Wise Use ire is a proposal for an international park along the Canada-U.S. border that would include North Cascades National Park, Ross Lake, and the north end of Lake Chelan in the United States; and Manning and Cathedral provincial parks in Canada. Arnold falsely claims the park will expand public lands, and the Snohomish County Property Rights Alliance fears it will be a staging area for a United Nations invasion of the United States.

Park supporters are frustrated by the wacky rhetoric used against the proposal. "I don't care what the other side says about black helicopters," says Mitch Friedman, executive director of the Northwest Ecosystem Alliance. "There is still a real world and habitat that is being squandered."

Federal authority is also being violently contested in Nevada. Although there is no visible militia presence in the state, incidents of violence connected with Wise Use issues are in-

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creasing; federal agents are being threatened and a BLM office in Reno has been bombed.

In 1994, when the Forest Service in the Ruby Mountains Ranger District cited a rancher for illegally piping water from a national forest to his property, threats of violence erupted. "If the Forest Service continued to push, there probably would be blood shed," said State Assemblyman John Carpenter, who took the side of the rancher, claiming no laws were broken. A U.S. magistrate ruled in favor of the Forest Service.

In New Mexico, Wise Use issues and the militia movement have found common ground in Catron County. Last year, the county commission passed ordinances stating federal officials had no authority over federal grazing permits, which the commission said are "private property." What's more, in support of a public call for "sober-minded citizens" to set up a militia, the commission declared that "every head of household residing in Catron County is required to maintain a firearm of their choice, together with ammunition."

Rancher Kit Laney, whose father helped draft the resolution, is accused by the Forest Service of overgrazing his cattle on its Diamond Bar grazing allotment, causing serious environmental damage. Consequently, the Forest Service reduced Laney's grazing privileges for 1995. Laney's response—a day after the Oklahoma bombing—was to threaten Forest Service workers. "If you come out and try to move my cattle off," he warned, "there will be 100 people out there with guns to meet you."

Laney and his friends never needed to draw their guns. In Catron County and elsewhere, the mix of Wise Use activism and militia posturing is serving its purpose. "The Forest Service is afraid to enforce its own rules because Kit has politicians behind him and they are threatening violence," says Susan Schock, director of Gila Watch. "He still has his 600 cattle out there."

—Vince Bielski

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The Montana Human Rights Network can be reached at P.O. Box 1222, Helena, MT 59624; (703) 442-5506. The Clearinghouse on Environmental Advocacy and Research (CLEAR), may be reached at 1718 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Suite 600, Washington, DC 20009; (202) 667-6982; e-mail: ewg@igc.apc.org. For information on the joint Canada-U.S. park proposal, contact The Northwest Ecosystem Alliance, P.O. Box 2813, Bellingham, WA 98227; (360) 671-9950. Gila Watch can be found at P.O. Box 309, Silver City, NM 88062; (505) 388-2854.

## Refuge of Scoundrels

*Oil industry ready to drill arctic wilds.*

Top oil industry executives saw the 1991 Gulf War as a potential windfall: an oil scare, they figured, was just what they needed to sink their drills into Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

They badly miscalculated. An outpouring of public opposition, led by the Sierra Club, resulted in a crushing defeat for Big Oil's assault on the Arctic.

But do oil companies care what people want? Not so you'd notice. Courtesy of the Republican leadership of the 104th Congress, they're now being given a free pass into the pristine, 1.5-million-acre coastal plain of the refuge. And notwithstanding the exceedingly long odds of a big commercial strike, the GOP number-cookers get to add more than a billion dollars in projected leasing revenues over the next seven years to their thinly stretched balanced-budget gruel. Alaska's pro-development Republican senators, Ted Stevens and Frank Murkowski, are already referring to the Arctic Wildlife Refuge—the springtime calving ground for the 160,000-strong Porcupine caribou herd, on which the Gwich'in people depend—as the "Arctic Oil Reserve."

Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt calls

drilling "absolutely incompatible with the purpose of that refuge." But if the oil industry's allies in Congress succeed in tacking a drilling provision onto their 1996 budget bill, President Clinton would have to veto the entire budget in order to protect the refuge.

The oil lobby is confident of its ability to circumvent popular support for the refuge because of its control of key congressional committees. As of this writing, permission to despoil America's last arctic wilderness for a few months' worth of oil was expected to sail through Murkowski's Senate Energy Committee and the House Resources Committee, headed by Alaska Representative Don Young (R), one of the most vocal pro-extraction members in this or any Congress.

In contrast to the protracted 1991 campaign, this time the legislative battle could be over in weeks. The new fiscal year begins on October 1, and pressure to pass the budget will increase as that date approaches. Grassroots action can save the Arctic Refuge again, but only if it happens now. —*B. J. Bergman*

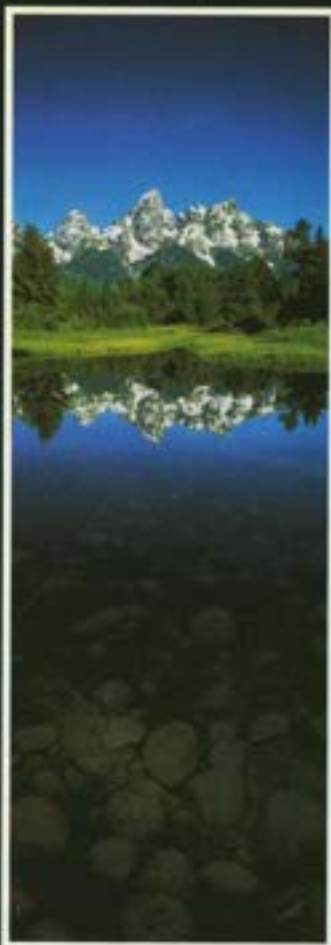
► *Tell your members of Congress to support efforts to strip the drilling provision from the 1996 budget bill. See page 87 for addresses and telephone numbers.*

## Wilderness of Greed

*Small minds at work in Utah's big outdoors.*

It was probably inevitable: the same Congress that gave us a Clean Water Act revision that promotes pollution is now pushing a "wilderness bill" that favors development. The Utah delegation's proposed anti-wilderness wilderness bill not only fails to protect 3.9 million acres of wildlands, but guarantees their ravishment by ranchers, miners, and developers.

The measure is the handiwork of Utah Republicans Orrin Hatch and Bob Bennett in the Senate and James Hansen and Enid Waldholtz in the



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House. It would open far more wilderness to development and destruction than it would protect.

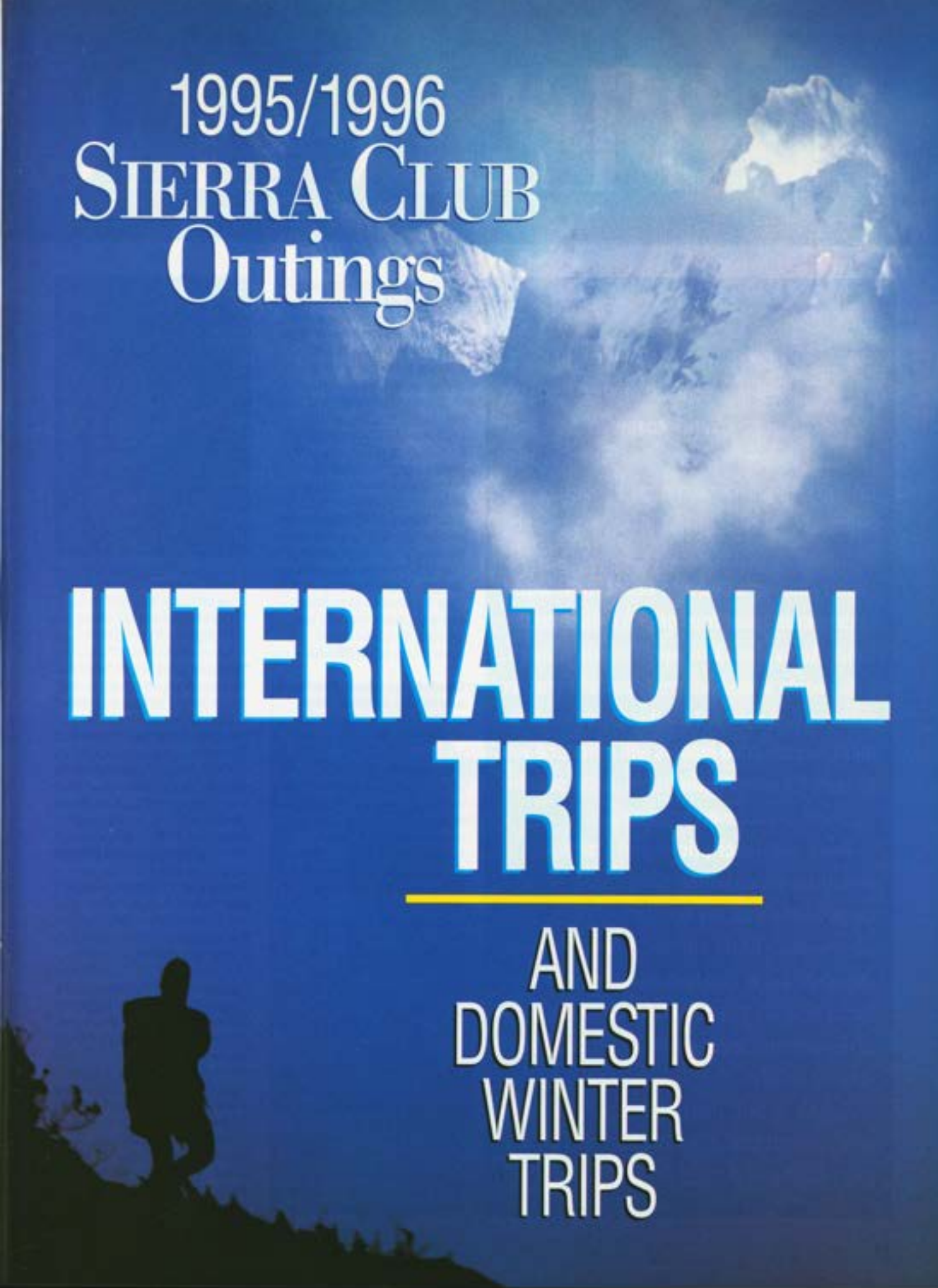
Utah contains some of the most breathtaking country in the Lower 48. In the late 1980s and early '90s, hundreds of citizen activists under the auspices of the Utah Wilderness Coalition (composed of 35 local and national conservation groups, including the Sierra Club) devoted thousands of hours to painstaking field research, hiking through or flying over wild country. The result was a "citizens' proposal" to declare 5.7 million acres forever off-limits to coal mining, oil-and-gas drilling, logging, and other destructive activities.

For Utah's congressional delegation, however, corporate citizens come first. Their proposal, says Sierra Club regional representative Lawson Legate, brims with "fundamental violations of the wilderness ideal." For example, even in the paltry 1.8 million acres the delegation deemed worthy of "wilderness" status, it would still allow dams, roads, power lines, and even a gas pipeline. Hatch, Hansen, *et al.*, would also confer an unprecedented "right" to graze livestock on that federally managed, taxpayer-owned land. And they would end forever limits to development on nearly 1.5 million acres currently protected as "wilderness study areas."

With the state's own delegation securely in the pocket of the miners, ranchers, and developers, it has fallen to New York Representative Maurice Hinchey (D) to offer a genuine Utah wilderness bill—H.R.1500, America's Redrock Wilderness Act. It would bring the entire 5.7 million acres identified by the Utah Wilderness Coalition into the national wilderness system, protecting it as Congress envisioned three decades ago. —*B. J. Bergman*

► Urge your representative and senators to oppose the Utah delegation's anti-wilderness Utah Public Lands Management Act, H.R.1745 and S.884 respectively. Ask them instead to support America's Redrock Wilderness Act, H.R.1500. See page 87 for addresses and telephone numbers.





1995/1996  
SIERRA CLUB  
Outings

# INTERNATIONAL TRIPS

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AND  
DOMESTIC  
WINTER  
TRIPS



## INTERNATIO

**L**ET US SHOW YOU THE WILD PLANET. Challenge yourself to a hike through Sherpa villages to remote Buddhist monasteries. Realize your dream of rafting beneath a rainforest canopy to the music of quetzals and howler monkeys. Feed your soul with the green hues of the English countryside on a Coast-to-Coast walk. Sierra Club International Trips offer a unique opportunity to explore the world's wild places, with people who share your respect for other cultures and concern for the global environment. Experienced leaders will introduce you to their favorite destinations, local people, customs, and conservation issues.

Read trip descriptions and brochures to determine which outing is right for you. Trips range from physically demanding to leisurely; accommodations can be remote camps, guesthouses, or comfortable hotels. International trips are tier-priced; for an explanation of tier-pricing, see page 48. Trip prices do not include airfare.

Space is still available on many 1995 international trips. For more information, see page 42 or call (415) 923-5522.

## Africa

### Victoria Falls and the Wildlife of Botswana. August 2-14.

Imagine the thrill of viewing some of Africa's last great herds of elephants, wildebeest and buffalo, exploring the sinuous channels of the vast Okavango Delta in dugout canoes, and feeling the overwhelming enormity of Victoria Falls! This unique safari is a naturalist's and photographer's paradise. We observe wildlife from Land Rovers while making our temporary home in comfortable wilderness camps. Airlifts between camps eliminate the need for long drives. *Leader: Paul McKown. Price: \$4,395 (12-15) / \$4,695 (11 or fewer); Dep: \$200. [96540]*

### South Africa: Lions, Elephants, and Hiking. October 20-31.

Adventure to the natural haunts of lions, elephants, crocodiles, hippos, zebra, buffalo, and other animals. Traveling by jeep and on foot, we will spend several days touring a private game reserve with guides, and we'll hike among the animals in Kruger National Park with a ranger and wildlife expert. Our trip starts with a springtime sight-seeing day in Johannesburg and will finish with five days in the Cape Town area — including excursions to the Cape of Good Hope and Table Mountain. *Leader: Jim Halverson. Price: \$3,105 (12-15) / \$3,405 (11 or fewer); Dep: \$200. [96570]*

## Asia

### Springtime in the Annapurnas, Nepal. March 4-20.

Come join our moderate trek during the peak of rhododendron season. We begin in the capital city of Kathmandu, where we'll explore fascinating temples and world-



famous bazaars. Our trek then takes us to the heart of the Annapurna Sanctuary at its springtime best. With perfect views of 26,000-foot peaks, our Nepalese hosts will provide us spartan accommodations and ample food. Planned in cooperation with the Annapurna Conservation Area Program, the trip includes a few days of service and cultural exchange in Gurung villages. Our trek also includes a visit to Pokhara and its fabulous lakeside bazaar. *Leader: John Bird. Price: \$1,845 (12-15) / \$1,880 (11 or fewer); Dep: \$200. [96500]*

### Dolpo Trek in Western Nepal.

#### May 6-June 8.

At the edge of the Tibetan Plateau lies Dolpo, the legendary "Hidden Land" closed to outsiders for years. Our 30-day trek into this beautiful, wild and crystalline landscape begins by heading west from Pokhara. Crossing the great Dhaulagiri Range at Jangla (14,800') we gain access to a world of rugged people and remote monasteries, including Dho in the Tarap Valley and Ringmo on the shores of unearthly Phoksumdo Lake. Maximum mandatory elevation is 16,800 feet. *Leader: Cheryl Parkins. Price: \$3,085 (10-12) / \$3,410 (9 or fewer); Dep: \$200. [96510]*

# INTERNATIONAL TRIPS

SEE  
PAGE 42 FOR  
1995 INTER-  
NATIONAL  
TRIPS

## Tibetan Everest—East Face Base Camp Trek, July 31-August 22.

After sight-seeing in Kathmandu, Nepal, we travel by jeep to remote Kangshung Valley/East Everest Base Camp in Central Tibet. This "shangri-la," filled with rhododendron, willow, and pine forests, is one of the most beautiful valleys in the world, surrounded by the grandest of Himalayan scenery. Equipment will be carried on yaks. Elevations range from 4,000 to 16,000 feet. Post trek, we will continue by jeep to Lhasa, where we will visit the Potala Palace and numerous Tibetan Buddhist monasteries. *Leader: David Horsley. Price: \$4,910 (12-15)/\$5,210 (11 or fewer); Dep: \$200. [96535]*

## Tai Shan, Confucius, and the Grand Canal, China, September 15-October 3.

Climb Tai Shan, China's most sacred mountain by foot, bus, or cable car. Enjoy the glorious Confucius Festival on his birthday, in his home town, and in his temple. Cruise the Grand Canal and visit the famous gardens of Suzhou. Also visit the Great Wall, Forbidden City, Tianamen Square, and much more. This trip is geared to meet the people of China and study their customs, culture, and history. *Leader: Phil Gowing. Price: \$2,760 (10-12)/\$3,065 (9 or fewer); Dep: \$200. [96550]*

## The Shadow of Gauri Shankar: Rolwaling Sherpa Trek, Nepal, October 3-28.

The Rolwaling Valley is a high, sparsely populated Sherpa region abutting the Tibetan plateau west of the Khumbu. Composed of remote yak pastures and scattered hamlets, it is dominated by the imposing 23,442-foot magnificence of Gauri Shankar, the holy mountain sacred to Buddhist and Hindu alike. Following sight-seeing in Kathmandu, our

moderately paced, 21-day scenic and cultural trek crosses 10,890-foot Tinsang La, visits Bigu Gumpa, and drops to the Bhote Kosi. Here we begin the long, slow ascent into the stark and lonely Rolwaling. Several layover days complement our itinerary. Reasonably good physical condition recommended. *Leader: Patrick Colgan. Price: \$2,345 (11-14)/\$2,615 (10 or fewer); Dep: \$200. [96560]*

## The Himalchuli: North of Ganesh Himal Trek, Nepal, November 4-29.

Away from the Annapurna hordes, our trek starts in Gorkha, crosses Rupina La (15,532') and heads for the superb views of Himalchuli. We then visit the big Gurung Village of Ngyak, cross the Buri



Gandaki and climb to the Toragompa Glacier just 4 miles from Tibet on the north side of Ganesh Himal massif. We return to Kathmandu by

Cover, Kumbhakarna Himal, Nepal (photo by Nancy Sharanan). Top, Buddhist prayer flags; left to right, Yorkshire Dales, England; cheetah, southern Africa; young Buddhist monks, Nepal; trekkers at sunset, Annapurnas, Nepal.



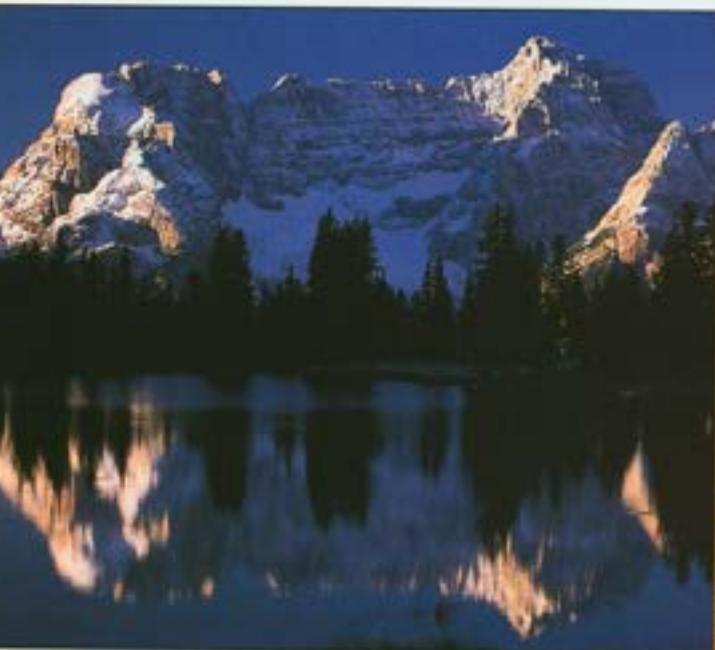
chartered helicopter (price not included) with ample time to visit shrines and temples and shop the bazaars. This is an environmentally sensitive trek with guides known for their support of local community development projects — and good food. *Leader: Wayne Woodruff. Price: \$2,830 (12-15)/\$3,130 (11 or fewer); Dep: \$200. [96575]*

## Annapurna Holiday Trek, Nepal, December 16-27.

Come spend the holidays on this moderately paced, culturally oriented trip to the Gurung villages of the spectacularly beautiful Annapurna Range. Grand views of these 25,000-foot giants, new friends and stays in guest lodges (the highest of which will be at 9,400 feet) are all part of the itinerary. Leader approval required. *Leader: John Bird. Price: \$1,550 (8-10)/\$1,745 (7 or fewer). [96585]*

## Europe

**England's Coast-to-Coast Walk: From the Irish Sea to the North Sea. May 5-18.** Join us on a walk across the breadth of England through three of the country's most scenic national parks—the Lake District, the Yorkshire Dales, and the North York Moors. Our moderate daily hikes will take us to the towns of Grasmere, Keld, and Robin Hood's Bay. Our luggage will be transported each day by minibus to our overnight accommodations in comfortable B&Bs, where we'll meet fellow hikers from around the world. *Leader: Lou Wilkinson. Price: \$2,770 (11-14)/\$3,075 (10 or fewer); Dep: \$200. [96505]*



**England's Coast-to-Coast Walk: From Irish Sea to North Sea. May 19-June 1.** See description for trip 96505. *Leader: John Bird. Price: \$2,770 (11-14)/\$3,075 (10 or fewer); Dep: \$200. [96508]*

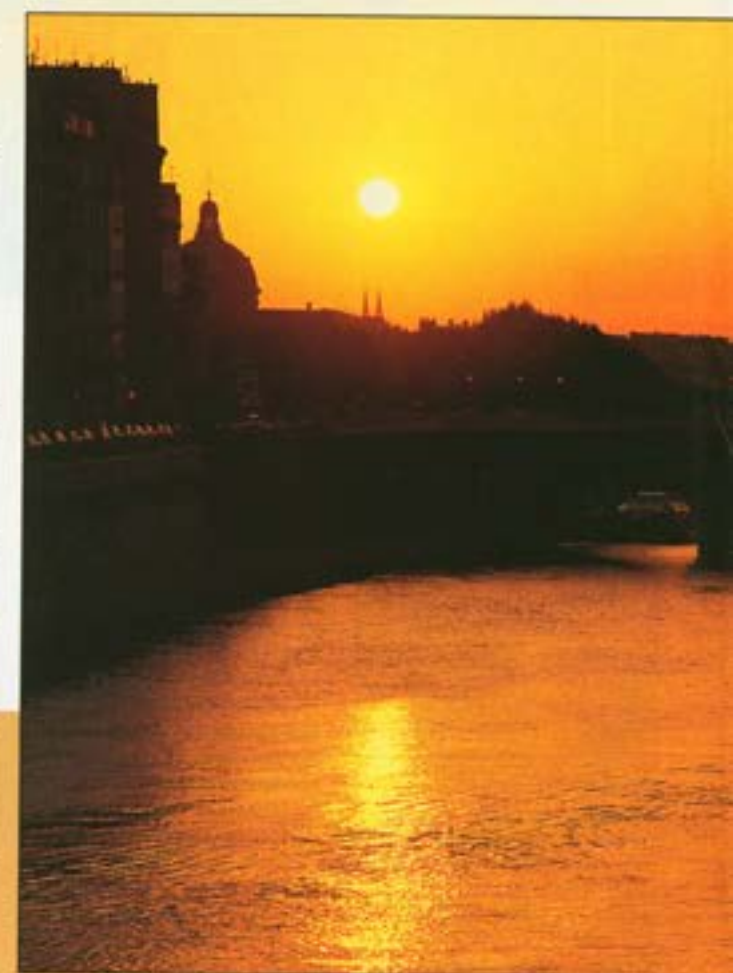
**Walking the Waterways of England and Wales. June 2-14.** Interested in a leisurely walk in Great Britain! The charming old towpaths along the rivers and canals of the Welsh and English countryside provide remarkable scenery and unexpected isolation. We'll enjoy the rugged and beautiful landscapes of a Welsh national park; walk along a 200-year-old canal through the heart of England to towns

such as Bath and Bradford-on-Avon; and learn about canal history and customs through museum visits and talks. Our walks average six miles a day on nearly flat terrain. Baggage is transported to comfortable B&Bs, and we enjoy our meals at local pubs and inns. *Leader: Lou Wilkinson. Price: \$2,535 (11-14)/\$2,845 (10 or fewer); Dep: \$200. [96515]*

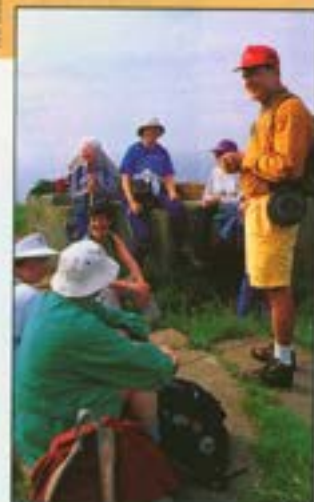
**Hiking Tour of Northern Italy: The Dolomites at Their Best. July 23-31.** Join us on a glorious 9-day hiking adventure. Our walks of about 7 miles each include mountain hikes as well as casual village rambles. We'll rest in charming family-run hotels and one refugio. Our luggage

will be transported for us. Come enjoy beautiful mountains, picturesque villages and charming local people. *Leader: Jeanne Blauner. Price: \$1,990 (12-15)/\$2,260 (11 or fewer); Dep: \$200. [96525]*

**Arctic Backpack, Padjelanta National Park, Sweden. July 29-August 8.** Explore Sweden north of the Arctic Circle. Backpack one of the most famous trails in Sweden, a country where walking is celebrated. We meet in town, where there is an easily accessible airport, and will travel together to our starting point, visiting historic sites on our way. The next day we fly to



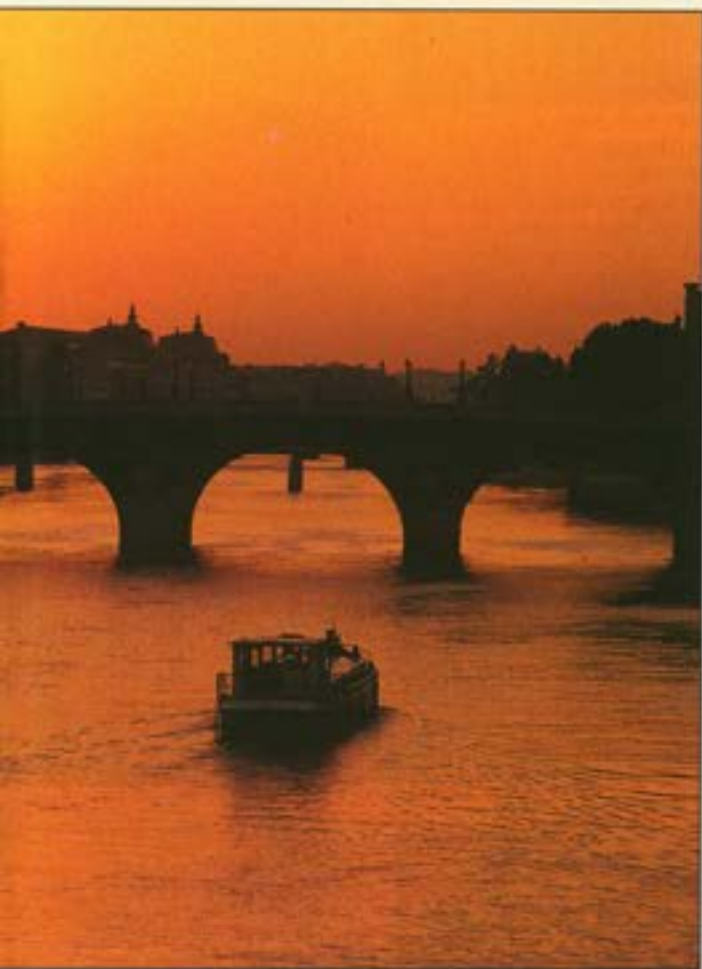
Above: sunset on the Seine, Paris, France; left, Marmolada, Italian Dolomites; below, Coast to Coast walkers, Lake District, England; right, kateydid, Peruvian Amazon.



the lake where our backpack begins. Our hike takes us over arctic tundra and into northern

forests. Each night we camp at maintained huts. The trip is timed to coincide with the peak of summer when we should find the most flowers and birds. *Leader: Mary Heninger. Price: \$2,830 (10-12)/\$3,145 (9 or fewer); Dep: \$200. [96530]*

**Paris: City of Light. September 23-October 2.** Our non-tourist visit will focus on the infrastructures which have kept this romantic city glowing for millennia. From our accommodations in a family-run Left Bank hotel, we walk and use public transit to visit parks, unique neighborhoods and sidewalk cafes. We meet with environmentalists, tour the Paris subway control center and the food supply market at energetic Rungis. As do Parisians, we will take a Sunday excursion to the forest of Fontainebleau and dine in a variety of Paris restaurants, where "bon appétit!" commences each repast. *Leader: Lynne Simpson. Price: \$2,840 (12-15)/\$3,140 (11 or fewer); Dep: \$200. [96555]*



## Latin America

### Guatemala: The Mayan Road.

**February 18-March 1.** Join us for this exploration of Central America's most fascinating country. Starting from the charming colonial city of Antigua, we travel the Mayan Road to beautiful volcano-rimmed Lake Atitlan, the bustling Indian market at Chichicastnango, and the Cloud Forest Reserve—home of the resplendent quetzal. We'll visit the remote highland villages of present-day Mayans where traditional, handwoven clothing of exquisite design and color is still worn. We'll also explore the realm of the ancient Mayas amid the ruins of Tikal in northeastern Guatemala, and of Copan in nearby Honduras. *Leader: Wilbur Mills. Price: \$1,785 (8-10)/\$2,015 (7 or fewer); Dep: \$200. [96502]*

### Belize: Reef and Ruins.

**February 19-29.** We explore Belize's lush interior while staying at an ecology- and conservation-

oriented lodge. At the island city of Flores in neighboring Guatemala we'll have two full days to experience the magnificent Mayan ruins at Tikal. The rest of our Central American adventure will be on a palm-fringed island next to a barrier reef. Here we snorkel in the crystal-clear waters of the Caribbean, learn about marine ecology and conservation, and feast on fresh seafood. *Leader: Lois Nelson-Mills. Price: \$2,440 (10-12)/\$2,770 (9 or fewer); Dep: \$200. [96504]*

### Amazonian Rainforest Eco-Adventure. June 29-July 6.

From Manaus, Brazil, we fly northward deep into unspoiled rainforest. From a lodge, we motor canoe in the "footsteps" of the explorer Humboldt across the equator into the Venezuelan headwaters of Rios Orinoco and Negro/Amazonia. We'll visit highland Indians, witness their culture. Cucui Rock offers especially breathtaking panoramas of the jungle. It awaits our hiking, swimming, picnicking, dugout

canoeing—and wonderment. *Leader: J. Victor Monke. Price: \$2,410 (10-12)/\$2,735 (9 or fewer); Dep: \$200. [96520]*

### Peru: Amazonian Rainforest to the High Andes. August 23-September 2.

In the most pristine section of the western Amazon, Peru's rainforests possess the most biologically diverse region on earth, an area of secluded, unspoiled tropical habitats. We explore the bio-rich belt of forest at the base of the Andes where half the world's bird species dwell. This is a birder's paradise. By dugout canoe and forest trails, we view many of the nearly 1,300 bird species, as well as butterflies and a rainforest full of animals such as monkeys, tapirs and elusive jungle cats. We'll also journey by train and plane to the cloud forests of Machu Picchu and the Indian market of Pisca. Some meals not included. *Leaders: John O'Donnell and Blaine LeCheminant. Price: \$3,335 (12-15)/\$3,635 (11 or fewer); Dep: \$200. [96545]*

### Costa Rica—A Naturalist's Destination. October 19-27.

A small country of incredible natural beauty, Costa Rica is also known for its gracious and

active volcanoes in the world. We'll float through the jungle of Cano Negro, watching for monkeys, caimans and sloths and we'll walk through primary forest at renowned Le Selva Biological Station. We'll search cloud forest for the magnificent quetzal and finally hike to over 11,000 feet at Cerro de la Muerte. Accommodations are simple private lodges serving typical Costa Rican cuisine. *Leader: Carol Dienger. Price: \$2,365 (12-15)/\$2,665 (11 or fewer); Dep: \$200. [96565]*

### Tropical Holiday in Costa Rica. December 21-29.

From ocean beaches to volcanic craters, Costa Rica's complex topography provides a haven for tropical beauty and diverse ecosystems. On this winter holiday in the warm tropics, enjoy the myriad natural settings within this small, unique country. Walk through lowland forest to mangrove swamps and sandy beaches along the Pacific near Dominical. Farther north, float down Rio Corobici, watch the jungle for wildlife such as parrots, trogons, caimans, coatimundis, and howler monkeys. Finally, on a visit to Rincon De La Vieja National Park, explore the bubbling fumaroles of this volcanic region, hike through primary forest, and take a horseback ride. Accommodations are in private lodges and simple hotels. A naturalist guide will accompany this trip. *Leaders: Mary O'Connor. Price: \$2,245 (12-15)/\$2,545 (11 or fewer); Dep: \$200. [96590]*



## Pacific Basin

### Tasmania from Beach to Peak by Road and Boot. November 28-December 9.

A journey through Australia's idyllic southern outpost offers a wider, younger version of the pastoral worlds of insular Europe. We will explore the stunning granite beaches of the east coast, the haunting interior highlands and Cradle Mountain. The charm of traditional English village life remains uncompromised here amidst the peculiarly austral lifeforms and landforms. We'll sail, swim, stroll and climb our way through a beautiful place. *Leader: Dennis Schmitt. Price: \$2,835 (6-7)/\$3,265 (5 or fewer); Dep: \$200. [96580]*

generous people and its famous national park system. With the encouragement of our acclaimed naturalist guide, Carlos Gomez, neophytes and naturalists alike will share the discovery of Costa Rica's exceptional birdlife, unmatched flora and fascinating tropical wildlife. We'll see Volcano Arenal, one of the most

## 1995 INTERNATIONAL OPEN TRIPS

# There's still time to go abroad with Sierra Club in '95.



### ASIA

**The Knot of Asia, Pakistan and China—September 16–October 10.** Enjoy a comprehensive survey of Hunza and the Pamir Knot as we travel from Gilgit to Kashgar across the Khunjerab Pass, and take in a cornucopia of extreme landscapes and remote cultures. We will trek into the fabulous granite of the Hispar Glacier in the western Karakoram, then turn to the Batura Glacier in the Hindu Kush. Our honeymoon trek up the Chaprat Valley is one of the easiest and most beautiful in central Asia. *Leader: Dennis Schmitt. Price: \$3,700 (12-15) / \$4,040 (11 or fewer); Dep: \$200. [95755]*

**Lamjung Holiday Trek, Nepal—December 15-28.** This holiday season, why not leave the shopping mall frenzy behind to hike beneath some of the most beautiful mountains in the entire world. On this little-known route, we will be able to enjoy the solitude of Himalayan wilderness. The ascent takes us through delightful Gurung villages with terraced fields of winter wheat. The watchful presences of Machhapuchhare, Annapurna IV, Annapurna II, and Lamjung Himal make this a rewarding pilgrimage to the "roof of the world." *Leader: David Horsley. Price: \$1,430 (12-15) / \$1,620 (11 or fewer); Dep: \$200. [95758]*

### EUROPE

**Dolomite Peaks to Glaciers, Italy—September 4–16.** The Brenta Dolomites northwest of Trento are a compact ridge of towering dolomitic pinnacles. Across the valley, in striking contrast, are glacier fields and the snow-clad granitic peaks of Adamello and Presanella. Starting from Madonna di Campiglio, we will hike in both areas. Hiking is moderate and peak-climbing optional; you'll carry only what you need for the day, and overnight in comfortable refuges. The weather should still be clear and fairly warm, and most of the tourists gone. *Leader: Wayne R. Woodruff. Price: \$2,205 (12-15) / \$2,495 (11 or fewer); Dep: \$200. [95800]*

**Lightly in the Luberon, Provence, France—September 26–October 4.** The Luberon's range stretches south and east of Avignon, with Mediterranean views to the south and Mont Ventoux to the north. This culturally rich area offers leisurely, scenic hikes and picturesque villages ripe for exploration. Sandstone cliffs, small vineyards, colorful weekly markets, and the local French twang will delight us. While at our accommodating inn, monsieur le chef will tantalize our taste buds with



Provençal specialties. Bring hiking boots, a camera or sketch pad, and a keen appetite! *Leader: Lynne Simpson. Price: \$2,165 (12-15) / \$2,445 (11 or fewer); Dep: \$200. [95805]*

### Greece: Mediterranean Sailing and Island Hiking—October 14–27.

The azure Saronic Gulf will be home as we sail in and out of the coves and hidden beaches of the islands of Hydra, Paros, and Aegina. Each evening we dock our small sailboats to dine in the local tavernas and seek the spirited Greek music and dancing. No sailing skills are necessary, but participants must be willing to lend a hand for crewing tasks. Finally, by overnight steamer we travel to the mountainous, ancient island of Crete to hike the spectacular Samaria Gorge. *Leader: Carolyn Castleman. Price: \$3,300 (12-15) / \$3,590 (11 or fewer); Dep: \$200. [95810]*

### LATIN AMERICA

**Paradise Found: Galápagos Islands, Ecuador—December 16-23.** How exciting to be surrounded by beautiful birds and





**Sea of Cortes Kayaking,  
Baja California, Mexico—**

**December 23–29.** Search out hidden inlets, beaches, and rookeries as only possible in a kayak. Paddle, swim, or snorkel in the emerald-green waters of one of the world's most abundant marine environments. The harsh Baja habitat has created unique and imposing flora. The elephant tree, giant cacti, and wild fig clinging to the dark volcanic cliffs forge a stark elegance. Novice and experienced kayakers welcome. *Leader: Harry Neal. Price: \$1,395 (12-15) / \$1,550 (11 or fewer); Dep: \$200. [95860]*

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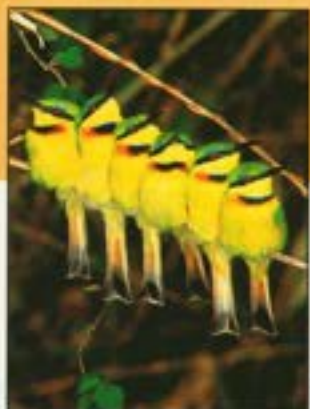
*Clockwise from top: snorkeling a coral reef, Belize; Little Bee-Eaters, Okavango Delta, Botswana; hiker at Cinque Torri, Italian Dolomites; barefoot on the beach, Costa Rica; rhododendron blossoms, Nepal.*

other interesting animals that know no fear of humans! Truly a paradise. We'll travel in Darwin's shadow to the Galápagos archipelago, snorkeling with fur seals, hiking through surreal laval flows, and exploring bird colonies. A full 50 percent of the species on these enchanted islands are found nowhere else on Earth. Our home is a luxury yacht; a naturalist guide will accompany us. *Leader: Margie Tomenko. Price: \$2,980 (12-15) / \$3,270 (11 or fewer); Dep: \$200. [95850]*

**Holidays in Belize—December 20-28.** Join us for an exciting holiday trip to Central America. We'll begin by exploring Belize's lush interior, including limestone caves, waterfalls, Mayan ruins, and a gentle jungle river perfect for canoeing. Then on to magnificent Mayan ruins at Tikal in Guatemala amid jungle wildlife and birds. Finally we'll travel to a palm-fringed island adjacent to the world's second-largest barrier reef. Here we'll snorkel in crystal-clear water, learn about reef ecology, and feast on seafood. *Leader: Tim Wer-nette. Price: \$2,390 (14-18) / \$2,665 (13 or fewer); Dep: \$200. [95855]*



ART HILLER



ART HILLER

**River Rafting and Rainforest Adventure, Costa Rica—December 23-31.** A natural history paradise, Costa Rica boasts unmatched biodiversity. We will view an active volcano at Poás National Park, spend two days exploring Corcovado National Park, then visit an archaeological site in the premontane forest of the Guayabo River Canyon. The highlight of our trip will be three days rafting on two beautiful tropical rivers—the Pacuaré and Reventazón, where we'll relish waterfalls, rapids, and inviting pools. *Leader: Mary O'Connor. Price: \$2,200 (12-15) / \$2,490 (11 or fewer); Dep: \$200. [95862]*

## DOMESTIC W

## Backpack

### Superstition Wilderness Trek, Tonto Forest, Arizona.

**February 18-24.** Trekking the Superstition Mountain Range, 75 miles east of Phoenix, we'll hike 6-8 miles daily, with a layover day at 800-year-old Native American ruins. Famous for the Lost Dutchman Gold Mine, the area will be cloaked with a colorful array of spring flowers, representative of several ecological zones. (Rated M) *Leaders: Jack and Suzi Thompson. Price: \$380; Dep: \$50. [96410]*

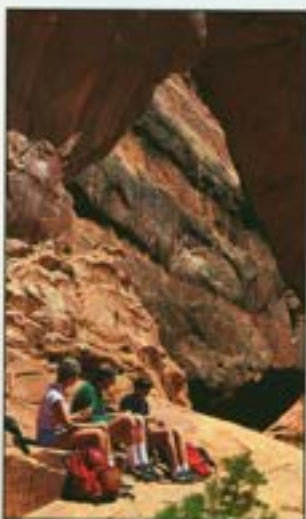
**To the Heart of Superstition Wilderness, Tonto Forest, Arizona. March 10-16.** Explore this colorful, rugged terrain with its ever-changing display of flora and fauna. Our route takes us along the Arizona Trail through the heart of the Superstition Wilderness. Starting in the Sonora Desert, we will climb into the higher elevations that host manzanita, Arizona sequoia, ponderosa pine, and the elusive mountain lion. (Rated M) *Leader: Jay Nichols. Price: \$685; Dep: \$100. [96411]*

**Southern Utah's Escalante Canyon. March 29-April 6.** Join legendary canyoneer and author Steve Allen for a strenuous week visiting seldom-seen canyons in the Escalante area that are included in the Utah Wilderness Coalition's proposal for wilderness designation. (Rated S) *Leader: Bert Fingerhut. Price: \$680; Dep: \$100. [96412]*

## Base Camp

**A New Year on St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands. December 27, 1995-January 2, 1996.** St. John is special. Close out 1995 on this tropical island, and enjoy hiking, swimming, and snorkeling be-

neath the warm Caribbean sun. Take time to discover your ideal beach, then don mask and fins to swim with the fishes! We'll sleep close to the ocean in our cottages at Cinnamon Bay Campground. Meals are not included in the trip price. *Leader: Kendal Tipper. Price: \$730; Dep: \$100. [96420]*



**America's Tropical Paradise, U.S. Virgin Islands. February 25-March 2.** Leave the cold behind to snorkel and hike in the warmth of St. John! Virgin Islands National Park occupies most of the island, where we'll stay in rustic, beachfront cottages. Mornings we'll explore forests and historic ruins; afternoons we'll drive to beautiful white sand beaches to swim among tropical fish, sea turtles, coral reefs. Meals not included in trip price. *Leader: Marjorie Richman. Price: \$730; Dep: \$100. [96421]*

**Canyons and Peaks of Death Valley, California. March 3-9.** This trip will warm your bones and start conditioning your muscles for the summer hiking season ahead. We'll make time for sightseeing, but our goal is to

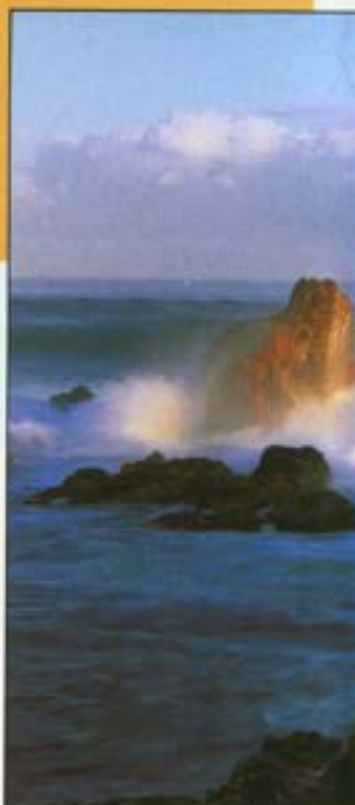
Top, elm trees silhouetted at sunrise, Colorado; left, hikers lunching, Arches National Park, Utah; right, morning surf and volcanic rocks, Maui, Hawaii; below right, breaking trail at Donner Pass, Sierras, California.

get off the beaten track and get a workout. All trips are dayhikes and we'll return to a campground at night. Camp will be moved once during the trip. Hikes vary from easy to moderately strenuous. Average daily mileage will be about 8 miles with 15,000-foot gain. *Leader: Rose Certini. Price: \$370; Dep: \$50. [96422]*

**Desert Spring in Anza-Borrego Park, California. March 16-23.** The Anza-Borrego Desert comprises nearly 700,000 acres in Southern California east of the Coastal Range. Terrain varies from 6,000-foot pine-covered crags, to fossilized badlands, to a low inland sea. This land supports a rich variety of desert plants and animals for study with our accompanying naturalist. Hikes are easy to moderate; energetic walkers may climb a peak. *Leaders: Modesto and Diana Piazza. Price: \$395; Dep: \$200. [96423]*

## Hawaii

**Maui's Humpback Whales Service Trip, Hawaii. March 24-April 2.** From the coast of Maui we will be assisting researchers in a long-term study. We'll look at the impact of boat traffic on humpback whale behavior. During spring, humpbacks congregate in Hawaii's warm waters to mate and calve. This trip provides unique opportunities for whale watching, hiking and exploring the "Valley



Isle's" beautiful beaches and mountains. *Leaders: Jennifer and Ron Taddel. Price: \$1,035; Dep: \$200. [96430]*

**Molokai and Maui Family Adventure, Hawaii. March 29-April 6.** Aloha! Join us with plans to hike, swim, and snorkel the spectacular islands of Molokai and Maui. We'll explore rugged coasts, idyllic sand beaches, and a lofty volcanic caldera. We'll learn the islands' history, paying particular attention to the history of whaling. We may even view Hawaii's biggest visitor in this humpback whale nursery. Day hikes vary from easy to strenuous. Suitable for children eight and older. *Leaders: Bob and Susie Smith. Price: adult \$1,170, child \$780; Dep: adult \$200, child \$100. [96431]*



# WINTER TRIPS

JERRY HENDERSON/PAUL BROWN



JERRY HENDERSON/PAUL BROWN

## Service

**El Yunque, Caribbean National Forest, Puerto Rico. March 12-21.** In a mountainous tropical rainforest we will prepare trail guides, do photographic surveys and trail work. We'll overnight in dormitory accommodations and have several free days visiting old San Juan and hiking beautiful beaches. *Leader: Sarah Stout. Price: \$540; Dep: \$100 [96440]*

## Ski, Snowshoe

**Ski the Continental Divide, Colorado. January 21-27.** Ski Montezuma Basin, Shrine Pass, and Tennessee Pass. Stay in the charming, comfortable and his-

toric Hotel Delaware in Leadville. Spectacular scenery, trails, and snow will make the skiing ideal. Skiers may be grouped by ability for more difficult or easier trails. Moderate skiing ability is recommended. Trip price includes van transportation from Denver, lodging, breakfasts, lunches, and parties. Optional group dining excursions to interesting places. *Leader: Beverly Full. Price: \$995; Dep: \$100. [96450]*

**High Sierra Skiing I, California. January 28-February 2.** Enjoy Nordic ski lessons and tours while staying at the Sierra Club's Clair Tappaan Lodge. Develop and improve cross-country skiing skills—diagonal stride, telemarking, ski-skating, and other techniques—in an area of heavy snowfall. You'll also enjoy warm

accommodations, camaraderie with Club members, good food, a hot tub, and other amenities. The leadership team includes a certified ski instructor. *Leader: Marjorie Richman. Price: \$475; Dep: \$50. [96451]*

**Under the Snow Moon Ski, Superior National Forest, Minnesota. February 4-9.** Glide over the northwoods' deep, wolf-tracked snows and into the heart of winter. Groomed trails wind from cabin door past the snow-weighted pines and winter-silenced lakes of the Boundary Waters. Ski by lantern light, snowshoe with a naturalist, ice skate, sauna. Quincee building, fireside storytelling and other diversions also await you under the full Snow Moon. *Leader: Sarah Reinke. Price: \$740; Dep: \$100. [96452]*

**High Sierra Skiing II, California. February 25-March 1.** See description for trip 96033 above. *Leader: Mary Jane McKown. Price: \$475; Dep: \$50. [96453]*

**Snowshoe and Photograph the Sierra, California. March 10-15.** Enchanting wintry scenes await your lenses. Clouds, haze, patches of fog and Alpenglow will inspire magic, surreal photos. Combine this with aerobic exercise, daily snowshoe trips, warm accommodations, good food, and hot tub—at the Sierra Club's Clair Tappaan Lodge. No photography skills required. Automatic cameras are okay. *Leader: Herb Holden. Price: \$465; Dep: \$50. [96454]*

**Spring Cross-Country Skiing in the Sierra, California. April 14-19.** Corn snow, telemarking, Nordic downhill, and backcountry—it's all here at the Sierra Club's Clair Tappaan Lodge near Donner Pass, where the average snowfall is the highest in the Sierra Nevada. There will be daily lessons, and tours to Castle Peak, Crow's Nest, and German Ridge. Enjoy great food, warm accommodations, and a hot tub! *Leader: Bill Davies. Price: \$475; Dep: \$50. [96455]*



JERRY HENDERSON/PAUL BROWN

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS

- All reservations are subject to the reservation/cancellation policy of the outing committee; leader approval is required for all outings. Cancellation fees apply unless you are waitlisted at time of cancellation.
- A signed liability release is required for all international trip participants.
- All participants age 12 and over must be Sierra Club members to attend an outing.
- Your address may be released to other trip participants for ride-sharing or other trip-related purposes.
- Not all trips can accommodate special dietary needs or preferences. Contact the leader of your trip for this information before applying.
- Trip space applications are accepted in the order they are received.
- Please mail checks and money orders to:  
**Sierra Club Outing Department**  
 Dept. #05618, San Francisco, CA 94139  
 Please do not send express mail to this address. Doing so will delay your application.
- Questions? Call (415) 923-5522.

## Outing Reservation Form

MEMBERSHIP NUMBER		TRIP NUMBER	TRIP NAME		DEPARTURE DATE
YOUR NAME		HAVE YOU RECEIVED THE DETAILED TRIP BROCHURE? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO			
STREET ADDRESS		YOUR HOME PHONE (     )     -     -     -     -     -     -			
CITY	STATE	ZIP	YOUR WORK PHONE (     )     -     -     -     -     -     -		
PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME AND THE NAMES OF OTHER PEOPLE IN YOUR PARTY			MEMBERSHIP NUMBER	AGE	RELATIONSHIP
1. _____					SELF
2. _____					
3. _____					
4. _____					
PER PERSON COST OF OUTING		TOTAL COST OF THIS APPLICATION	DEPOSIT ENCLOSED	FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	

- Check  
 Money Order  
 VISA  
 MasterCard

CARDHOLDER NAME	SIGNATURE
CARD NUMBER	EXPIRATION DATE

**Full amount of trip fee due if reservation made less than 90 days prior to departure.**

Please make check payable to Sierra Club and mail to: **Sierra Club Outing Department, Dept. #05618, San Francisco, CA 94139**

## For More Details on Outings

Use this coupon to order detailed trip brochures. Or you can call us at (415)923-5522, fax us at (415)923-0636, or send an e-mail request to [national.outings@sierraclub.org](mailto:national.outings@sierraclub.org). All brochures will be sent via U.S. mail. Checks should be made payable to **Sierra Club**. Clip this coupon and mail to **Sierra Club Outing Department, 730 Polk Street, San Francisco, CA 94109.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me the following trip brochures. (Order by trip number. The first five are free; extras cost 50 cents each.)

# \_\_\_\_\_ # \_\_\_\_\_ # \_\_\_\_\_ # \_\_\_\_\_ # \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Do not mail cash.** Make checks payable to Sierra Club.

Check out our new World Wide Web site at <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings>

# RESERVATION & CANCELLATION POLICY

## PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

**Eligibility:** Our trips are open to Sierra Club members, applicants for membership, and members of organizations granting reciprocal privileges. You may include your membership application and fee with your reservation request.

Children must have their own memberships unless they are under 12 years of age. Unless otherwise specified, a person under 18 years of age may join an outing only if accompanied by a parent or responsible adult or with the consent of the leader.

**Applications:** One reservation form should be filled out for each trip party and should include all persons who wish to be considered as traveling together. The person listed first on the application shall be considered the primary applicant and will be the only party member to receive confirmation information, brochures, invoices, etc. Include any addresses that may be different from the primary applicant's on a separate sheet of paper.

Mail your reservation with the required per person deposit, to: Sierra Club Outing Dept., Dept. #05618, San Francisco, CA 94139. You may reserve space with your VISA or MasterCard by calling 415-923-5588. Please have the trip number and your membership number ready. You may also fax the reservation form, with credit card information, to 415-923-0636. Before you submit your application, refer to the Cancellation Chart on the next page to review penalties for cancellation.

Reservations are accepted (i.e. confirmed) in the Outing Department on a first-come, first-served basis. Leader approval (based on applicant's experience, physical condition, etc.) is required for all trips. Therefore, all reservations are accepted subject to the leader's approval, for which the member must apply promptly. When a trip is full, later applicants are put on a waitlist.

**NOTE: Cancellation from a trip position that has been accepted in the Outing Department will result in the loss of funds. Please read the Cancellation Chart on the next page very carefully.**

Give some thought to your real preferences. Some trips are moderate, some strenuous; a few are only for highly qualified participants. Be realistic about your physical condition and the degree of challenge you enjoy.

The Sierra Club reserves the right to conduct a lottery in order to determine priority for acceptance in the event that a trip is substantially oversubscribed shortly after publication.

Reservations are accepted subject to these general rules and to any specific conditions announced in the individual trip brochures.

**Deposit:** A deposit is required with every trip application. The amount of the deposit varies with the trip price, as follows:

Trip price per person	Deposit per person
Up to \$499	\$50 per individual
\$500 to \$999	\$100 per individual
\$1,000 and above	\$200 per individual

The deposit is applied to the trip price when the reservation is confirmed. All deposits and payments should be in U.S. dollars. If reservations are made less than 90 days prior to trip departure, the full trip fee is due.

**Confirmation:** A reservation is held for a trip applicant, if there is space available, when the appropriate deposit has been received by the Outing Department. A written confirmation is sent to the applicant. The reservation is accepted subject to the leader's approval, as stated above. If there is no space available when the application is received, the applicant is placed on the waitlist and the deposit is held pending an opening.

When a trip applicant is placed on the waitlist, the applicant should seek immediate leader approval. When a person with a confirmed reservation cancels, the person at the head of the waitlist will automatically be moved onto the trip, subject to leader approval. The applicant will not be contacted prior to this automatic reservation-confirmation except in the three days before trip departure.

**Payments:** Generally, adults and children pay the same price; some exceptions for family outings are noted. If you pay by check or money order, you will be billed upon receipt of your application. Full payment of trip fee is due 90 days prior to trip departure. All deposits paid by credit card will automatically be debited for the full balance due 90 days prior to trip departure. Trips listed in the "International" section require an interim partial payment of at least \$300 per person six months before departure.

Please note that payments are due at the above times, regardless of your leader-approval status. If payment is not received on time, the reservation may be canceled and the deposit forfeited. No payment (other than the required deposit) is necessary for those waitlisted. The applicant will be billed when placed on the trip.

The trip price does not include travel to and from the roadhead. However, a few trips include on-trip-transportation; check individual trip brochures for this detail. Hawaii, Alaska, and International trip prices are all exclusive of airfare to the trip starting point.

**Transportation:** Travel to and from the roadhead is your responsibility. To conserve

resources, trip members are urged to form carpools on a shared-expense basis or to use public transportation. On North American trips, the leader will try to match riders and drivers. On some overseas trips you may be asked to make your travel arrangements through a particular agency.

Infrequently the Sierra Club finds it necessary to cancel trips. The Club's responsibility in such instances is limited in accordance with the Trip Cancellation Policy. Accordingly, the Sierra Club is not responsible for non-refundable airline or other tickets or payments or any similar penalties that may be incurred as a result of any trip cancellation.

**Cancellations and Refunds:** You must notify the Outing Department directly during working hours (weekdays 9-5; phone 415-923-5522) of cancellation from either the trip or the waitlist. The amount of the refund is determined by the date that the notice of cancellation by a trip applicant is received at the Outing Department. The refund amount may be applied to an already-confirmed reservation on another trip.

**The Cancellation Policy applies to all reservations, regardless of whether or not the leader has notified the applicant of approval. The Outing Committee regrets that it cannot make exceptions to the Cancellation Policy for any reason, including personal emergencies.** Cancellations for medical reasons are often covered by traveler's insurance, and trip applicants will receive a brochure describing this type of coverage. You can also obtain information regarding other plans from your local travel or insurance agent. We encourage you to acquire such insurance.

Trip leaders have no authority to grant or promise refunds.

**Transfers:** For transfers from a confirmed reservation made 14 or more days prior to the trip departure date, a transfer fee of \$50 is charged per application. Transfers made 1 to 13 days prior to the trip departure date will be treated as a cancellation, and the Cancellation Policy will apply. No transfer fee is charged if you transfer from a waitlist. A complete transfer of funds from one confirmed reservation to another, already-held, confirmed reservation will be treated as a cancellation, and will be subject to cancellation fees.

**Medical precautions:** On a few trips a physician's statement of your physical fitness may be needed, and special inoculations may be required for international travel. Check with a physician regarding immunization against tetanus.

*Continued on next page*

**Emergency care:** In case of accident, illness, or a missing trip member, the Sierra Club, through its leaders, will attempt to provide aid and arrange search and evacuation assistance when the leader determines it is necessary or desirable. Costs of specialized means of evacuation or search (helicopter, etc.) and of medical care beyond first aid are the financial responsibility of the ill or injured person. Since such costs are often great, medical and evacuation insurance is advised, as the Club does not provide this coverage for domestic trips. Participants on international outings are covered by limited medical, accident, and repatriation insurance. Professional medical assistance is not ordinarily available on such trips. Be sure your insurance covers you in the countries involved.

**The leader is in charge:** At the leader's discretion, a member may be asked to leave the trip if the leader feels the person's further participation may be detrimental to the trip or to the individual.

**Please don't bring these:** Radios, sound equipment, firearms, and pets are not allowed on trips.

**The following obligations are undertaken by trip applicants:** To accurately and completely furnish any personal information requested for leader approval; to carefully review all information furnished about the requested trip, and to understand as thoroughly as possible the physical and mental demands of the trip and the risks to be encountered on the trip; to properly equip themselves for the trip in accordance with recommendations of the leader and of the Sierra Club; to respect the customs of countries visited; avoid breaking any applicable laws and to refrain from antisocial conduct during the trip; to follow environmental guidelines and regulations while on the trip in accordance with direction from the leader; and to always respect the rights and privacy of other trip members.

#### INTERNATIONAL TRIP TIER-PRICING

International outings are tier-priced. This means a trip's price is dependent on the number of participants. Two prices are listed for a trip, showing the signup levels associated with each.

Final billing is based on the signup level at 90 days prior to the trip departure date. If the signup level goes up sufficiently between the billing and departure dates, the lower tier price will apply, and refunds will be issued after the trip is over.

Cancellations from trips where the tier price has changed are subject to our reservation and cancellation policy. All regular cancellation fees will apply.

## CANCELLATION CHART

### 1. All Cancellations (except those in category 2 below):

Time or event of Cancellation	Cancellation Penalty Per Person	Refund Per Person (if any)
90 or more days prior to trip departure	\$100 or amount of deposit, whichever is less	Refund equals any funds paid in excess of cancellation penalty
60-89 days prior to trip departure	Amount of deposit	As above
14-59 days prior to trip departure	20% of trip fee, but no less than the amount of deposit	As above
4-13 days prior to trip departure date, if replacement can be obtained from the waitlist	30% of trip fee, plus \$50 processing fee, but in no event more than 50% of total trip fee	As above
4-13 days prior to trip departure date, if replacement cannot be obtained from waitlist (or if there is no waitlist at the time of cancellation processing)	40% of trip fee, plus \$50 processing fee, but in no event more than 50% of total trip fee	As above
0-3 days prior to trip departure date	Trip fee	No refund
"No-show" at the roadhead, or if participant leaves during trip	Trip fee	No refund

### 2. The only circumstances under which no cancellation penalties apply:

Time of event of cancellation	Refund Per Person
Disapproval by leader (once leader approval information has been received by leader)	Full refund of all fees paid
Cancellation from waitlist	Full refund of all fees paid
Applicant has not been moved from the waitlist three days prior to trip departure	Full refund of all fees paid
Trip cancelled by Sierra Club	Full refund of all fees paid

#### Mail checks and applications (excluding those sent by express mail) to:

Sierra Club Outing Department  
Dept. #05618, San Francisco, CA 94139

#### Mail all other correspondence (including express-mail applications) to:

Sierra Club Outing Department  
730 Polk St., San Francisco, CA 94109

# Finally, plastic that helps the environment.

Putting a purchase on *this* plastic means you are making a contribution toward something you really care about. And now it's even better: there's **NO ANNUAL FEE**. Just by doing the things you always do—eating out, shopping, traveling—you're contributing to the Sierra Club, as long as you use the **NO-ANNUAL-FEE** Sierra Club Gold or Custom MasterCard® card to charge your purchases.

Here's how it works. As soon as you are approved for a Sierra Club credit card, a contribution is automatically made to Sierra Club. Then, every time you use your card to make a purchase, a percentage of the purchase price goes to support the Club, **at no extra cost to you.**

What's more, carrying the **NO-ANNUAL-FEE** Sierra Club Gold or Custom MasterCard helps spread the message about wilderness and environmental protection. When people notice, admire, and ask about your card, it's an opportunity to

share your environmental outlook and a chance to enlighten their perspective, as well.

#### Benefits for you include:

- A higher line of credit—up to \$50,000 with the Gold Card.
- Unmatched travel benefits, including up to \$500,000 in Common Carrier Travel Accident Insurance with the Gold Card, up to \$150,000 with the Custom Card\*.
- Extra retail purchase protection . . . and extended warranty protection with the Gold Card.
- Worldwide acceptance at more than 12 million locations.
- A bank that is always available, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.



#### Call now and make a difference!

Take this opportunity to help Sierra Club at no extra cost to you. Call today and get the **NO-ANNUAL-FEE** card that shows the world you care.

Call to request your card today.

# 1-800-847-7378

Please mention priority code NZAT when you call.

\*Certain restrictions apply to these and other benefits as described in the benefits brochures sent to you shortly after your account is opened. There are costs associated with the use of this card. You may contact the issuer and administrator of this program, MBNA America, to request specific information about the costs by calling 1-800-847-7378 or writing to MBNA America, P.O. Box 15020, Wilmington, DE 19850. MBNA America is a federally registered service mark of MBNA America Bank, N.A. MasterCard is a federally registered service mark of MasterCard International Inc., used pursuant to license. © 1995 MBNA America Bank, N.A. ADG-6-14-95

ADG-QLTP-6/95

# Saving the



**T**HIS WILD PLANET IS BECOMING TAMER EVERY day. In the space of a lifetime, our grandparents' stories have become tall tales: of salmon runs so thick it seemed you could cross the river on their backs; of prehistoric shadows cast by condors; of the long notes of wolves in the winter stillness; of men who felled trees older than their god. But to our children, our own stories have already taken on the same air of implausibility: the songbirds that colored our spring with song; the streams you could drink from without fear; the mountains you could see by day, and the stars by night.

What tales will be left for our children to tell? The val-

ley with only one strip mall, perhaps; the elk lost in a subdivision, or the owl nesting in a K-Mart sign. The pace of wilderness destruction is being stepped up by the 104th Congress, which now proposes to go far beyond even James Watt's dreams: oil drilling in the Arctic and mining next to Yellowstone; cash handouts to would-be destroyers of wetlands; wanton logging in the national forests; even the sale of our national parks. The little wilderness that is left is growing smaller by the day.

Our species is the most numerous large animal that has ever existed. Puny hairless apes, we are more powerful than the largest dinosaur. Much of the planet's land surface has been indelibly altered by our works; we now

# Wild Planet



*San Juan Mountains, Colorado*

move more earth than the wind or the rain or the tides, and are changing the chemical composition of the atmosphere, raising the earth's temperature and melting the glaciers and polar ice caps.

A greater, nobler work now confronts us. For the sake of our own survival, as well as that of the other fruits and flowers of evolution, we need to save the wild planet—and this issue of *Sierra* hopes to be a how-to manual for that purpose. In the pages that follow, Earth First! founder and new Sierra Club board member Dave Foreman explains the need to set aside large protected areas in the full range of the earth's ecosystems. Essayist, poet, and farmer Wendell Berry examines how we can live as

part of the natural world without destroying it and each other. Undersecretary of State for Global Affairs Timothy Wirth writes on the need to reduce pressure on the wilds by restraining the size of our families and our appetites. Adventurer/photographer Galen Rowell tells in word and image what individuals have done to save wild places, and the "Sierra Club Bulletin" tells what individuals can do now. Finally, we take a look at what some of our favorite places would be like today if it were not for our efforts in the past. These renderings remind us that as greatly as we have altered the earth, we can also alter our behavior; as much as we have tamed the planet, so can we save what is wild. —Paul Rauber

# Missing

year 2000 will be those that humans consciously choose to protect. "For all practical purposes," he says, "the evolution of new species of large verte-

brates has come to a screeching halt."

FIELD BIOLOGISTS, with their stubbornly insistent focus on the minutiae of the living world, are unlikely people to be scaring the bejesus out of us.

But they were the first to see, beginning back in the 1970s, that populations of myriad species were declining and ecosystems were collapsing around the world. Tropical rainforests were falling to saw and torch. Ocean fish stocks were crashing. Coral reefs were dying. Elephants, rhinos, gorillas, tigers, and other "charismatic megafauna" were being slaughtered. Frogs everywhere were vanishing. The losses were occurring in oceans and on the highest peaks, in deserts and in rivers, in tropical rainforests and arctic tundra.

Michael Soulé, a population biologist who founded the Society for Conservation Biology, and Harvard's famed entomologist E. O. Wilson pieced together these disturbing anecdotes and bits of data. By studying the fossil record, they knew that during 500 million years of terrestrial evolution there had been five great extinctions. The last occurred 65 million years ago when the dinosaurs disappeared.

Wilson, Soulé, and company calculated that the current rate of extinction is as much as 10,000 times the normal background rate documented in the fossil record. That discovery hit with the subtlety of a comet striking Earth: we are presiding over the sixth great extinction in the planet's history.

Wilson warns that one-third of all species on Earth could die out in the next 40 years. Soulé says that the only large mammals remaining after the

Alas, this biological meltdown can't be blamed on something as simple as stray cosmic detritus. Instead, responsibility sits squarely on the shoulders of 5.5 billion eating, manufacturing, warring, breeding, and real-estate-developing humans.

## THE UNITED STATES HAS THE FINEST PARK AND WILDERNESS SYSTEM IN THE WORLD. SO WHY ARE WE FACING BIOLOGICAL MELTDOWN?

BY DAVE FOREMAN



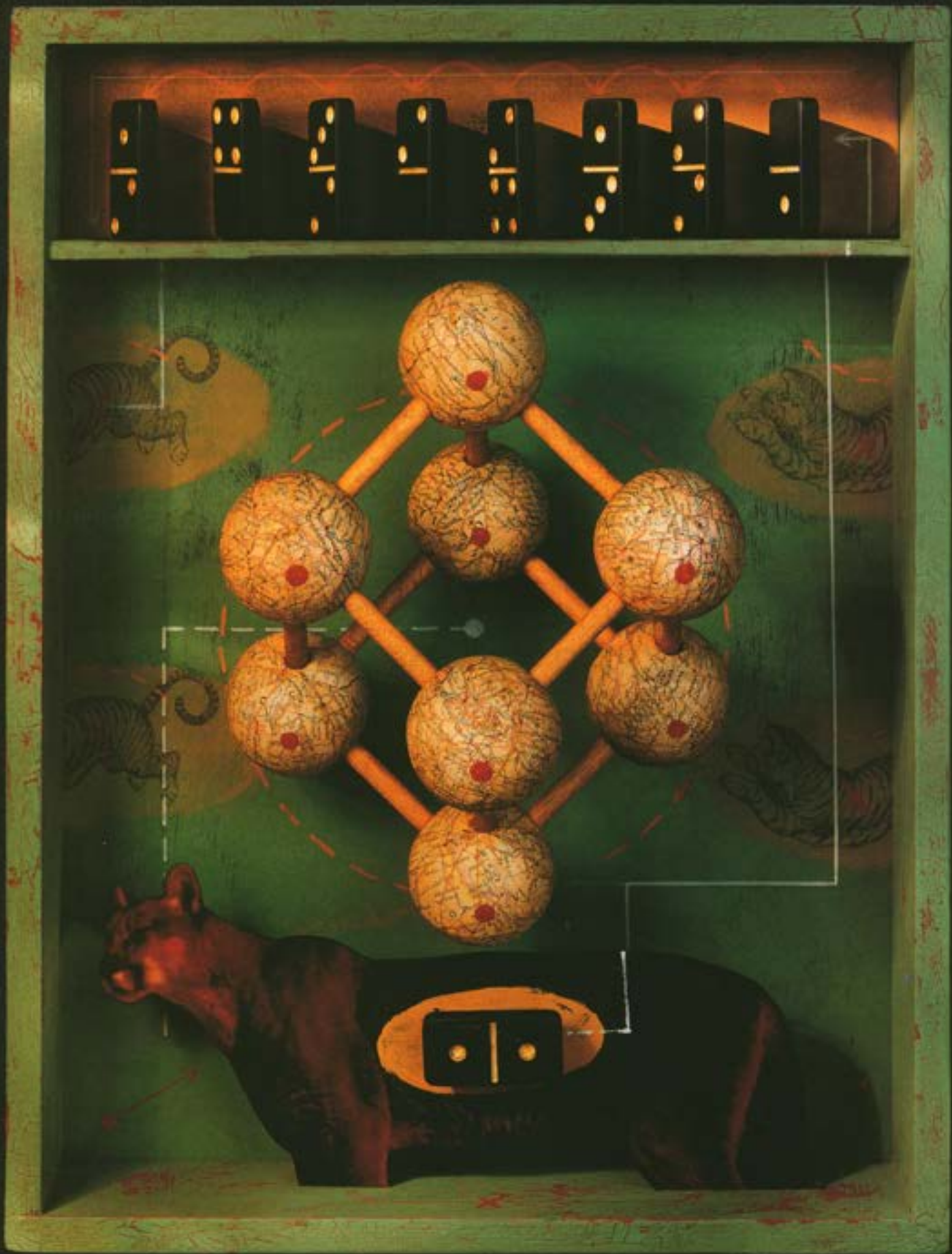
The damage done in the United States is particularly well documented. According to a National Biological Service study released early this year, ecosystems covering half the area of the 48 contiguous states are endangered or threatened. The longleaf-pine ecosystem, for example, once the dominant vegetation of the coastal plain from Virginia to Texas and covering more than 60 million acres, remains only in tiny remnants. Ninety-nine percent of the native grassland of California has been lost. There has been a 90 percent loss of riparian ecosystems in Arizona and New Mexico. Of

the 261 types of ecosystems in the United States, 58 have declined by 85 percent or more and 38 by 70 to 84 percent.

If the United States had completely ignored its public lands, it might simply be getting what it deserved. But that's not the case. National parks and designated wilderness areas in this country make up

# Links







### Largest Remaining Roadless Areas in the Contiguous United States.

The map above shows roadless areas of more than 100,000 acres in the west and 50,000 acres in the East. There are more than 305 such areas in the continental United States, ranging from Idaho's 3.3-million-acre "River of No Return" area to Vermont's 50,000-acre Meachum Swamp. But the 10 percent of the Lower 48 that remains wild is shrinking by 2 million acres a year.

the world's finest nature-reserve system. When President Clinton signed into law the California Desert Protection Act in 1994, the acreage of federally designated wilderness carved out of our public lands soared to more than 100 million acres, nearly half of which are outside Alaska. The acreage of the national park system jumped to almost 90 million, more than one-third in the Lower 48. That is much more than I thought we would ever protect when I enlisted in the wilderness wars a quarter-century ago.

But that's still not enough for Reed Noss, editor of the widely cited scientific journal *Conservation Biology* and one of the National Biological Service report's authors, who claims "we're not just losing single species here and there, we're losing entire assemblages of species and their habitats."

How is it that we have lost so many species while we have protected so much?

The answer, environmental historians tell us, lies in the goals, arguments, and processes used to establish wilderness areas and national parks over the last century. In his epochal study, *National Parks: The American Experience* (University of Nebraska, 1979), Alfred Runte discusses the arguments crafted to support establishment of the early national parks. Foremost was what Runte terms "monumentalism," the preservation of inspirational scenic grandeur like the Grand Canyon or Yosemite Valley, and the protection of curiosities of nature like Yellowstone's hot pots and geysers. Later proposals for national parks had to measure up to the scenic quality of a Mt. Rainier or a Crater Lake. Even the spectacular Olympic Mountains were initially denied national park status because they weren't deemed up to snuff.

A second argument for new national parks was based on

what Runte calls "worthless lands." Areas proposed for protection, conservationists argued, were unsuitable for agriculture, mining, grazing, logging, and other productive uses. Yellowstone could be set aside because no one in his right mind would try to grow corn there; no one wanted to mine the glaciers of Mt. Rainier or log the sheer cliffs of the Grand Canyon. The worthless-lands argument often led park advocates to agree to boundaries gerrymandered around economically valuable forests eyed by timber interests, or simply to leave out such lands in the first place. Where parks were designated over the objections

of extractive industries (such as at Kings Canyon, which was coveted as a reservoir site by California's Central Valley farmers), protection prevailed only because of the dogged efforts of the Sierra Club and allied groups.

When the great conservationist Aldo Leopold and others suggested that wilderness areas be protected on the national forests in the 1920s and '30s, they adapted the monumentalism and worthless-lands arguments with great success. The Forest Service's enthusiasm for Leopold's wilderness idea was, in fact, partly an attempt to head off the Park Service's raid on the more scenic chunks of the national forests. Wilderness advocates also used utilitarian arguments in their campaigns: the Adirondack Preserve in New York was set aside to protect the watershed for booming New York City, and the first forest reserves in the West were established to protect watersheds near towns and agricultural regions.

The most common argument for designating wilderness areas, though, touted their recreational values. Leopold, who railed against "Ford dust" in the backcountry, wanted to preserve scenic areas suitable for roadless pack trips of two weeks' duration. Bob Marshall expanded the recreational theme, defending wild areas as "reservoirs of freedom and inspiration" for those willing to hike the trails and climb the peaks.

In the final analysis, though, most national parks and wilderness areas were (and are) decreed because they had friends. Conservationists know that the way to protect an area is to develop a constituency for it. We rally support for wilderness designation by giving people slide shows, taking them into the area, and urging them to write letters, lobby, or even put their bodies on the line in protest. If we're lucky,

**P**RETTY YET UNPRODUCTIVE, OUR NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDERNESS AREAS OFTEN FAIL TO QUALIFY AS VIABLE HABITAT.

and not too many concessions are made to resource industries, we end up with wilderness that we can be proud of. The result is that wilderness areas tend to be spectacularly scenic, rugged enough to thwart resource exploitation (or simply lacking valuable timber and minerals altogether), and popular for non-motorized recreation.

But there's one problem: that's not necessarily what wildlife needs.

It's important to note that ecological integrity has always been at least a minor goal and argument in wilderness and national-park advocacy. In the 1920s and '30s, the Ecological Society of America and the American Society of Mammalogists developed proposals for ecological reserves on the public lands. Aldo Leopold was a pioneer in the sciences of wildlife management and ecology, and argued for wilderness areas as ecological baselines. Even the Forest Service applied ecosystem thinking when it recommended areas for wilder-

ness in its second Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II) in the late 1970s. Somehow, though, professional biologists and advocates for wilderness preservation drifted apart—far enough so that the Forest Service now lumps its wilderness program under its division of recreation.

IT TOOK NEWS OF A GLOBAL BIOLOGICAL MELTDOWN TO shake up both biology and conservation. Biology could no longer be removed from activism. Conservation could no longer be just about outdoor museums and backpacking parks. Biologists and conservationists all began to understand that species can't be brought back from the brink of extinction one by one. Nature reserves had to protect entire ecosystems, guarding the flow and dance of evolution.

For insight, conservation biologists drew on an obscure corner of population biology called "island biogeography." In the 1960s, E. O. Wilson and Robert MacArthur studied colonization and extinction rates in oceanic islands like the Hawaiian chain. They hoped to devise a mathematical formula for the number of species that an island can hold, based

The low-elevation temperate rainforest of Washington's Hoh Valley in Olympic National Park is one of only a few U.S. areas saved primarily for their biological diversity.



## ECOSYSTEM THINKING FROM THE GROUND UP

THE "BIG PICTURE" PRINCIPLES of conservation biology have moved beyond the lecture hall into the field and to public hearings. Since the Sierra Club announced its Critical Ecoregions Campaign last year (see *Sierra*, March/April 1994), activists have been working hard to bring comprehensive protections to 21 areas in North America. Here's a look at some of the progress in the Pacific Northwest, the Rocky Mountains, and Southern Appalachian ecoregions, where we are reaching beyond political boundaries:

**THE CASCADES** Nineteenth-century railroad land grants chopped the central Cascades into a checkerboard of square-mile blocks of public and private lands. At one time, even Mt. Rainier and Mount St. Helens were parceled out along these lines.

What seems simply nonsensical to us is lethal to the region's salmon and other wildlife. This once rich ecosystem is today pockmarked by logging, road building, and other development.

By promoting purchase, donation, and exchange of lands, the Sierra Club-sponsored Checkerboard Project hopes to piece the Cascades back together. The project is placing special emphasis on the Interstate 90 corridor, which is rapidly be-

coming an ecological obstacle in a once continuous forest ecosystem that stretched from Canada to Oregon. Ongoing work there includes scrutinizing land exchanges between the U.S. Forest Service and timber companies as well as monitoring habitat conservation planning on public and private lands, with special attention to biologically sensitive low-elevation forests threatened by urban development. For more information, contact the Sierra Club Cascade Chapter, 8511 15th Ave., N.E., Seattle, WA 98115; (206) 523-2147.

**ROCKY MOUNTAINS** The Rockies contain the largest roadless areas in the contiguous 48 states, but the region's wild landscapes and its great animals are still in trouble. Creatures that once roamed freely here have been reduced to sparse numbers on a fraction of their former range.

As part of its Rocky Mountains Ecoregion program, the Club is working with a coalition of environmental groups called Wild Forever to reintroduce the grizzly into the Selway-Bitterroot ecosystem of central Idaho. This area, with the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness at its core, is critical to long-range plans to restore and link large-mammal habitats from Canada to

Yellowstone. This summer, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service began preparing an environmental impact statement on reintroduction of the griz. To get involved, contact the Sierra Club's Northern Plains Office, 23 N. Scott, Room 27, Sheridan, WY 82801; (307) 672-0425; or Wild Forever, P.O. Box 8145, Moscow, ID 83843; (208) 882-4087.

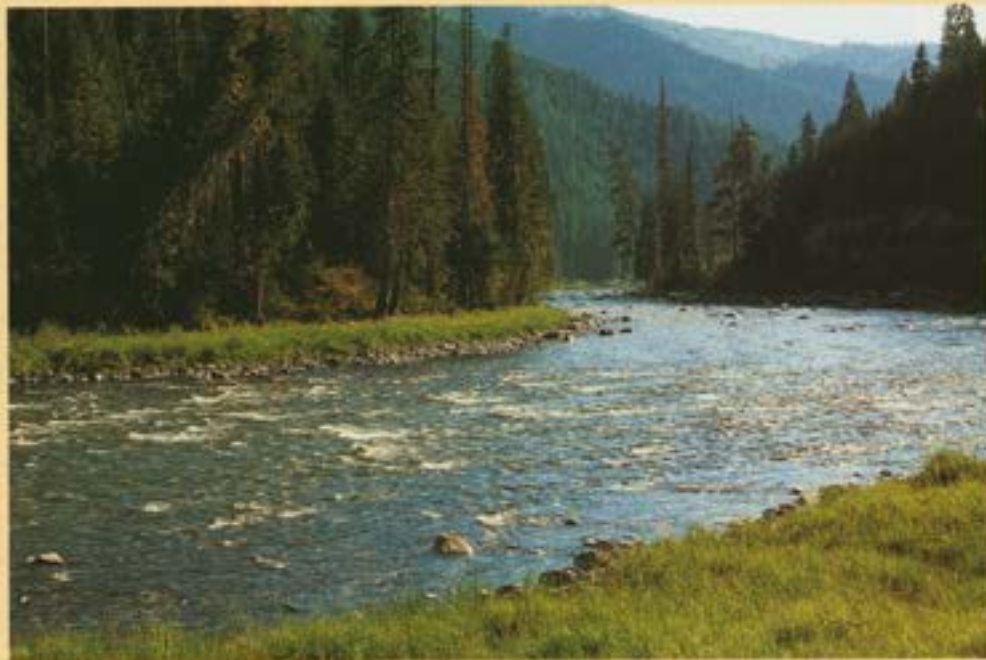
**SOUTHERN APPALACHIA** Though not as endowed with public lands as the West, Southern Appalachia includes one of the most biologically diverse ecosystems in North America. The Sierra Club is working to establish a system of bioreserves land spanning ten states from Alabama to southern Pennsylvania.

Club volunteers have begun identifying the core areas that will form the heart of the project. For example, a dedicated band of forest activists in Tennessee is charting key roadless areas, and staff and volunteer leaders have brought activists and residents together to learn to identify old-growth forests and to negotiate the labyrinthine Forest Service process.

Through its chapters and groups, and in coordination with the Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition, the Sierra Club is working to influence Forest Service plans for coherent management of

Southern Appalachia's nine national forests. The first step of this process is the Southern Appalachian Assessment, a Forest Service inventory of biological, recreational, and commodity assets. It will be completed this year—with critical oversight by the Club and its allies. For more information, contact the Sierra Club Appalachian Office, 69 Franklin St., Annapolis, MD 21401; (410) 268-7411. —Reed McManis

The Selway-Bitterroot ecosystem (left, along the Lochsa River) is the largest block of wildlands left in the Lower 48, but it doesn't have any griz—yet.



on factors such as the island's size and its distance from the mainland.

They also looked at islands, places like Borneo or Vancouver, that were once part of nearby continents. When the glaciers melted 10,000 years ago and the sea level rose, these high spots were cut off from the mainland. Over the years, continental islands invariably lose species of plants and animals that remain on their parent continents, a process called "relaxation."

Certain generalities jumped out at the researchers. The first species to vanish from continental islands are the big ones—the tigers and elephants. The larger the island, the slower the rate at which species disappear. The farther an island is from the mainland, the more species it loses; the closer, the fewer. If an island is isolated, it loses more species than one in an archipelago.

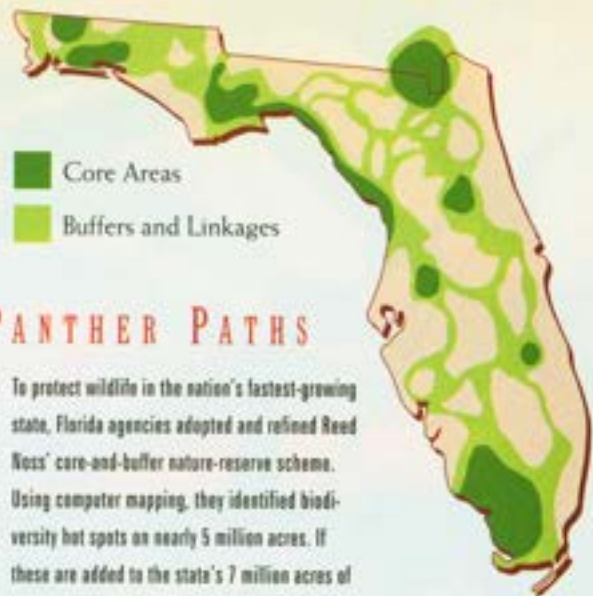
In 1985, ecologist William Newmark looked at a map of the western United States and realized that its national parks were also islands. The smaller the park and the more isolated it was from other wildlands, the more species it had lost. The first to go had been the large, wide-ranging creatures: gray wolf, grizzly bear, wolverine. Relaxation had occurred, and was still occurring. Newmark predicted that all national parks would continue to lose species. Even a big protected area like Yellowstone isn't large enough to maintain viable populations of the largest wide-ranging mammals. Only the complex of national parks in the Canadian Rockies is substantial enough to ensure their survival.

While Newmark was applying island biogeography to national parks, Reed Noss and Larry Harris at the University of Florida were studying the state's endangered panther and its threatened black bear, hoping to design nature reserves for these species that were more than outdoor museums. A small, isolated group of bears or panthers faces two threats. Because it has few members, inbreeding can lead to genetic defects. And a small population is more vulnerable to extinction ("winking out" in ecological jargon) than a larger one. If the animals are isolated, their habitat can't be recolonized by nearby members of the species. But if habitats are connected so that animals can move between them—even as little as one horny adolescent every ten years—then inbreeding is thwarted and a habitat can be recolonized.

Noss and Harris designed a nature-reserve system for Florida consisting of core reserves surrounded by buffer zones and linked by habitat corridors. Over the past decade this visionary application of conservation biology has been refined by the state of Florida, and now state agencies and The Nature Conservancy are using it to set priorities for land acquisition and protection of key areas. Once a pie-in-the-sky proposal, a conservation-biology-based reserve system is now the master plan for land protection in Florida.

Ecosystem theory has caused biologists to rethink the way they viewed large carnivores, too. Scientists had always considered the biggest animals perched atop the food chain to

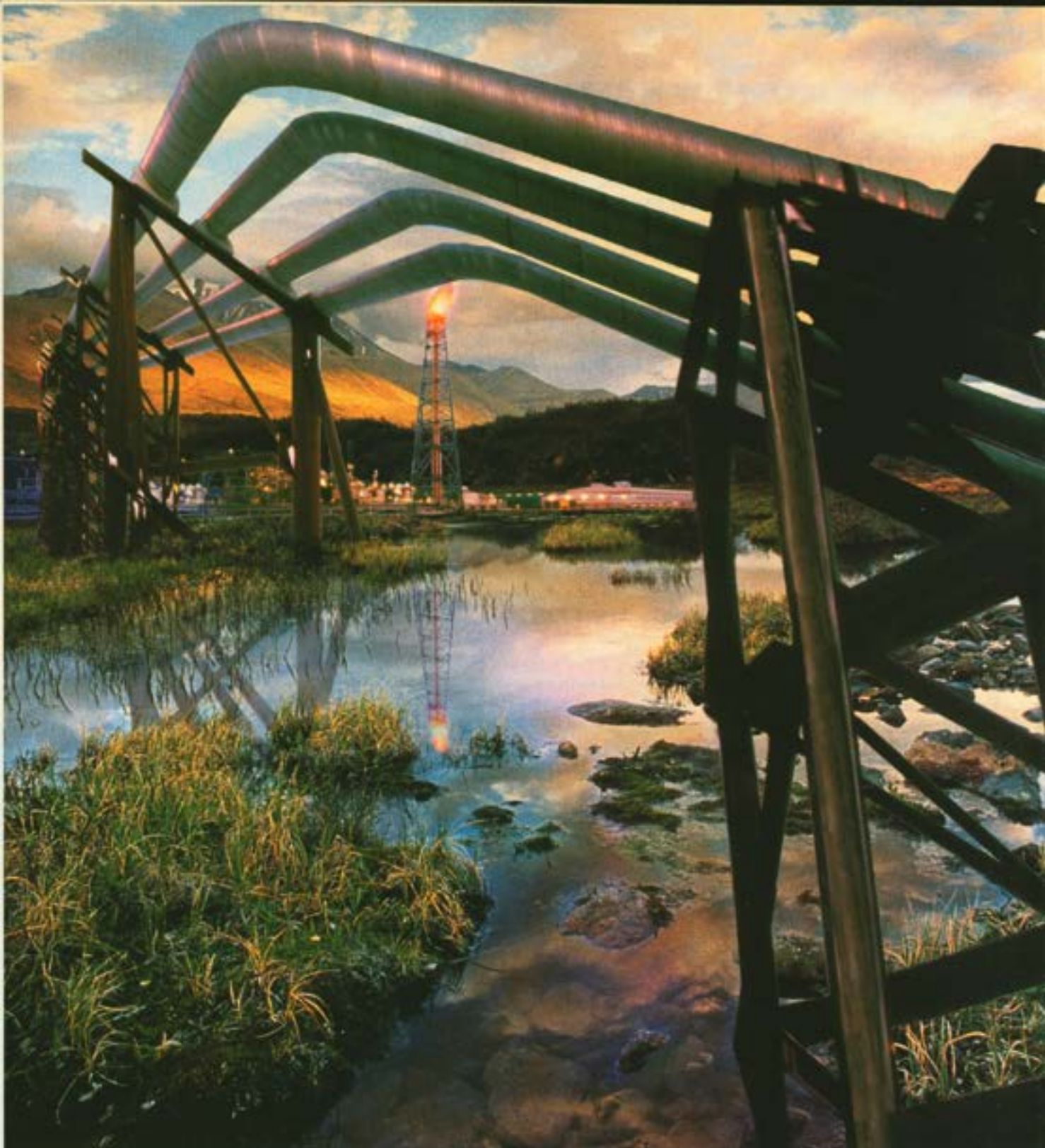
*Continued on page 96*



## PANTHER PATHS

To protect wildlife in the nation's fastest-growing state, Florida agencies adopted and refined Reed Noss' core-and-buffer nature-reserve scheme. Using computer mapping, they identified biodiversity hot spots on nearly 5 million acres. If these are added to the state's 7 million acres of protected lands, the black bear and the panther may have a fighting chance. Florida is now working with landowners to protect strategic areas and has appropriated \$3.2 billion to purchase key lands by the year 2000.





*Digital Illustration by Vladimir Pcholkin*

**T**HE ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE in far northern Alaska is our last remaining untouched coastal ecosystem. Harsh and beautiful, the refuge is a critical breeding ground for caribou and polar bear. The oil industry, however, dreams of large oil deposits hidden under the fragile tundra, and has tried for years to turn the refuge into an extension of polluted Prudhoe Bay, which lies just to the west. Its latest attempt was in 1991, an effort turned back by Sierra Club members, along with legions of other environmentalists. ♦ Now Big Oil is back (see "Refuge of Scoundrels," page 35). If we fail to save the refuge this time—and give it the wilderness status it needs for permanent protection—what you see above could be its fate.



# If Not for You

**WITHOUT THE  
SIERRA CLUB,  
THE NATION'S LANDSCAPE WOULD  
LOOK A LITTLE DIFFERENT.**

HERE ARE THREE WILD PLACES that Sierra Club members have helped save—and, through the magic of computerized photo manipulation, what they might look like today if we hadn't. There but for the grace of citizen activism . . .



*Photograph by Art Wolfe*



Photograph by Carr Clifton

**B**ACK BEFORE DISNEYWORLD, Uncle Walt focused on the Mineral King valley in the southern Sierra Nevada for a huge new tourist development: a sprawling ski complex on national-forest land, with 27 chair lifts, hotel rooms for 3,000, and 10 restaurants. The Sierra Club's battle against the project went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, establishing for the first time the right of citizens and citizen groups to dispute federal land-use decisions in court. In the end Disney backed down, and Mineral King was added to Sequoia National Park.

Digital Illustration by Ed Rachles







Photograph by Larry Ulrich

Digital Illustration by Vladimir Pcholkin

**I**N THE EARLY 1960S THE Bureau of Reclamation proposed damming the Grand Canyon, both immediately upstream and immediately downstream of Grand Canyon National Park. For five years the Sierra Club battled the plan, pioneering the use of full-page newspaper ads to rally attention to environmental causes and enlisting the efforts of thousands of grassroots volunteers. The campaign lost the Club its tax-exempt status, but saved the Canyon from the watery fate depicted above. ■

# The Obligation

BY WENDELL BERRY



IT HAS BECOME TOO EASY TO SUPPOSE THAT AMERICAN HISTORY HAS been entirely determined by the experience of the frontier, and moreover that our frontier experience was determined entirely by arrogance, violence, and greed. But the history of the frontier is more complex than that. When history has been reduced to cliché, we need to return to the study of history.

We have had no better student of the history of the westward movement than Wallace Stegner, who was born into the frontier's failed and still failing dream of easy wealth and easy escape—the dream of the people he called “boomers.” He recognized the powerful influence of this dream in his father, who “wanted to make a killing and end up on Easy Street,” but who was driven, first by hope and then by failure, from one money-making scheme to another, and finally to ruin. This mental condition of American boomers Stegner described as “exaggerated, uninformed, unrealistic, greedy expectation.” In his own early experience, this expectation led to the plowing of the prairie in southwestern Saskatchewan—prairie that was “totally unsuited to be plowed up.” The same expectation led to the settlement of the American West on the basis not of sound local knowledge but of presumption and pipe dream.

Of his novel *The Big Rock Candy Mountain*, Stegner wrote, “I had been trying to paint a portrait of my father”—not realizing until later that “my father was also a type.” But even in that early novel, there is evidence that he already recognized the type as such and accurately understood its bias:

“Why remain in one dull plot of earth when Heaven was reachable, was touchable, was just over there? The whole race was like the fir tree in the fairy tale which wanted to be cut down and dressed up with lights and bangles and colored paper, and see the world and be a Christmas tree.”

In his later books, Stegner gives much attention and no little grief to the results, human and natural, of the “feeding frenzy” that inevitably accompanied the entrance of an uninformed and limitless greed into a land that was both abundant and fragile. But unlike many recent commentators on our history, he also knew that, as a people, we were not conditioned entirely by the inordinate desires and acts of the boomers. There was, virtually from the beginning, a counter-theme, the theme of settlement. Stegner was born into this theme also; he knew it in his mother, of whom he wrote in *The Big Rock*



# of Care



*Candy Mountain:* "She wanted to be part of something, an essential atom in a street, a town, a state; she would have loved to get herself expressed in all the pleasant, secure details of a deeply lived-in house."

Later, I think, he realized that his mother in this sense was also a type. Not all who came to American places came

**"SAVING THE PLANET"  
MEANS STICKING WITH A  
PLACE — AND EACH OTHER.**

to plunder and run. Some came to stay, or came with the hope of staying. These Stegner called "stickers" or "nesters." They were moved by an articulate hope, already ancient by the time of Columbus, of a settled, independent, frugal life on a small freehold. We can find this hope in Hesiod, in the fourth of Virgil's *Georgics*, in the 128th Psalm. This was the vision that we finally came to call "Jeffersonian"—a free nation of authentically and securely landed people. Stegner knew that this vision, though it may have been a secondary influence on our history, was nevertheless a considerable one. He knew that it could not be left out of account. His preference for settlement, I think, explains his sustained and respectful interest in the Mormons. Of himself he said, "I was at heart a nester, like my mother."

Thus it is possible—and probably necessary—to think of Wallace Stegner's work as taking form within the tensions between these historical opposites: boomer and sticker, exploitation and settlement, caring and not caring, life adapted to available technology and personal desire and life adapted

we know too that the toils and miseries of not caring are becoming greater by the day. Someday, presumably, it will become easier and less miserable to care than not to care—if by then we still remember how to care, and if the choice is still possible.

Many of us, in fact, already have a conscious preference for caring. Some of us, perhaps, have been stickers all along: maybe we were born into the underclass of settlers. Anyhow, we have taken the side of care. We know that we need to live in a world that is cared for. The ubiquitous clichés about saving the planet and walking lightly on the earth testify to this. But I believe that all of us who prefer caring over not caring are going to have to study very closely the implications of our preference. For we not only need to think beyond our own clichés; we also need to make sure that we don't carry over into our efforts at conservation and preservation the moral assumptions and habits of thought of the culture of exploitation. So far, it seems to me, we have done just that: we have incorporated in our efforts to preserve the

## **S O FAR, THE MORAL LANDSCAPE OF THE CONSERVATION MOVEMENT HAS TENDED TO BE A LANDSCAPE OF EXTREMES.**

to a known place. But to lay out these pairs of opposites is not simply to define a moral choice, though it certainly is to do that; it is also to define a historical and cultural split that characterizes us as Americans. And by "us" I mean all of us. I don't think this characterization can be successfully limited to any group—political, racial, sexual, or otherwise. All of us, I think, are in some manner torn between caring and not caring, staying and going.

Wallace Stegner obviously made the correct moral choice—that is, he chose to be like his mother and not like his father—but not in the sense that he ever finished making it. Having chosen one way, we are never free of the opposite way. A good deal of the power in Stegner's work, for example, comes from his thorough understanding of his father, an understanding that involved sympathy—the recognition of himself in his father and of his father in himself. Such choices are not clean-cut and final, as when we choose one of two forks in a road, but they involve us in tension, in tendency. We must keep on choosing.

If enough of us were to choose caring over not caring, staying over going, then the culture would change, exploitation would become subordinate to settlement, and then the choice to be a sticker would become easier. The necessary examples would be more numerous and more available. The way would be clearer.

As we know, we are under increasing pressure to choose caring over not caring. We know that caring will involve us in great effort and discomfort, and we dread to choose it, but

natural health and wealth of the world a number of the assumptions that have made such an effort necessary.

The most persistent and the most dangerous of these is the assumption that some parts of the world can be preserved while others are abused or destroyed. As necessary as it obviously is, the effort of "wilderness preservation" has too often implied that it is enough to save a series of islands of pristine and uninhabited wilderness in an otherwise exploited, damaged, and polluted land. And, further, that the pristine wilderness is the only alternative to exploitation and abuse. So far, the moral landscape of the conservation movement has tended to be a landscape of extremes, which you can see pictured in any number of expensive books of what I suppose must be called "conservation photography." On the one hand we have the unspoiled wilderness, and on the other hand we have scenes of utter devastation—strip mines, clearcuts, industrially polluted wastelands, and so on. We wish, say the conservationists, to have more of the one, and less of the other. To which, of course, one must say amen. But it must be a qualified amen, for the conservationists' program has been embarrassingly incomplete. Its picture of the world as either deserted landscape or desertified landscape has misrepresented both the world and humanity. If we are to have an accurate picture of the world, even in its present diseased condition, we must interpose between the unused landscape and the misused landscape a landscape that humans have used well.

That there have been and are well-used landscapes we

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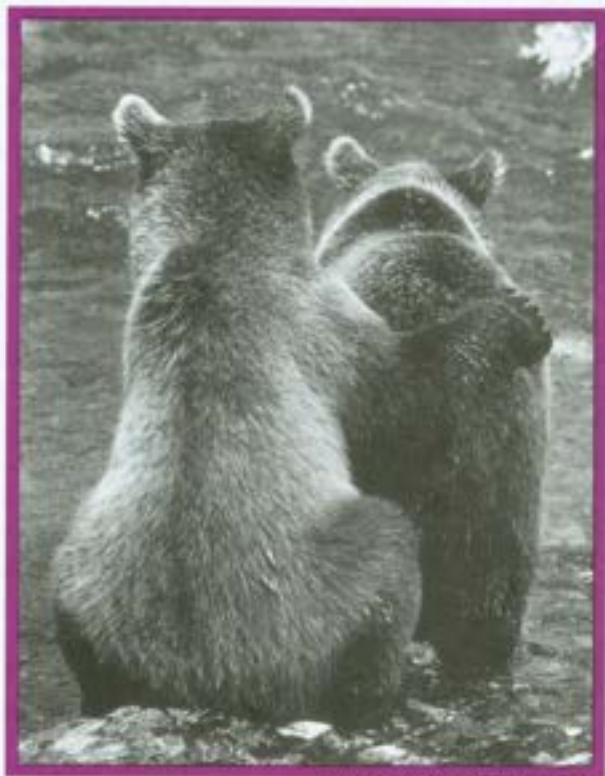


Photo by Art Wolfe/Tony Stone Images

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know, and to leave these landscapes out of account is to leave out humanity at its best. It is certainly necessary to keep in mind the images of the human being as parasite and wrecker—what e. e. cummings called “this busy monster manunkind”—for it is dangerous not to know this possibility in ourselves. And certainly we must preserve some places unchanged; there should be places, and time too, in which we do nothing. But we must also include ourselves as makers, as economic creatures with livings to make, who have the ability, if we will use it, to work in ways that are stewardly and kind toward all that we must use. That is, we must include ourselves as human beings in the fullest sense of the term, understanding ourselves in the fullness of our cultural inheritance and our legitimate hopes.

We must include ourselves because whether we choose to do so or not, we are included. We who are now alive are living in this world; we are not dead, nor do we have another world to live in. There are, then, two laws that we had better take to be absolute.

The first is that as we cannot exempt ourselves from living in this world, then if we wish to live, we cannot exempt ourselves from using the world. Even the most scrupulous vegetarians must use the world—that is, they must kill creatures, substitute one species for another, and eat food that otherwise would be eaten by other creatures. And so by the standard of absolute harmlessness, the two available parties are not meat eaters and vegetarians but rather eaters and non-eaters. Us eaters have got 'em greatly outnumbered.

If we cannot exempt ourselves from use, then we must deal with the issues raised by use. And so the second law is that if we want to continue living, we cannot exempt use from care.

A third law (perhaps not absolute, but virtually so) is that, if we want to use the world with care, we cannot exempt ourselves from our cultural inheritance, our tradition. This is a delicate subject at present because our cultural tradition happens to be Western, and there is now a fashion of disfavor toward the Western tradition. But most of us are in the Western tradition somewhat as we are in the world: we are in it because we were born in it. We can't get out of it because it made us what we are; we are, to some extent, what it is. And perhaps we would not like to get out of it if that meant giving up, as we would have to do, our language and its literature, our hereditary belief that all people matter individually, our heritage of democracy, liberty, civic responsibility, stewardship, and so on. This tradition obviously in-

volves errors and mistakes, damages and tragedies. But that only means that the tradition too must be used with care. It is properly subject to critical intelligence and is just as properly subject to helps and influences from other traditions. But criticize and qualify it as we may, we cannot get along without it, for we have no other way to learn care; and in fact care is a subject about which our tradition has much to teach.

And so I am proposing that in order to preserve the health of nature, we must preserve ourselves as human beings—as creatures who possess humanity not just as a collection of physical attributes but also as the cultural imperative to be caretakers, good neighbors to one another and to the other creatures.

Whether we consider it from a religious point of view or from the point of view of our merely practical wish to continue to live, our presence in this varied and fertile world is our perpetual crisis. It forces upon us constantly a virtual curriculum of urgent questions: can we adapt our work and our pleasure to our places so as to live in them without destroying them? That is, can we make adequately practical and pleasing local cultures? Are we Americans capable of an authentic (which is to say a land-based) multiculturalism? Can we limit



our work and economies to a scale appropriate to our places, to our place in the order of things, and to our intelligence? Can we understand ourselves as creatures of limited and modest intelligence? Can we control ourselves? Can we get beyond the assumption that it is possible to live inhumanely and yet “save the planet” by a series of last-minute preservations of things perceived to be endangered and, only because endangered, precious?

When we include ourselves as parts or belongings of the world we are trying to preserve, then obviously we can no longer think of the world as “the environment”—something out there around us. We can see that our relation to the world surpasses mere connection and verges on identity. And we can see that our right to live in this world whose parts we are is a right that is strictly conditioned. We come face to face with the law I mentioned a while ago: If we want to become “stickers,” even if we merely want to live, we cannot exempt use from care. There is simply nothing in Creation that does not matter. Our tradition instructs us that this is so, and it is proved to be so, every day, by our experience. We cannot be improved—in fact, we cannot help but be damaged—by useless or greedy or merely ignorant destruction of anything.

Once we have understood that we cannot exempt from our care anything at all that we have the power to damage—which now means everything in the world—then we face yet another startling realization: we have reclaimed and revaluated the ground of our moral and religious tradition. We now can see that what we have traditionally called “sins” are wrong not because they are forbidden but because they divide us from our neighbors, from the world, and ultimately from God. They deny care and are dangerous to creatures.

As an example, I would offer Philip Sherrard's definition of avarice in his invaluable book, *Human Image: World Image*. Avarice, he says, “is a disposition of our soul which refuses to acknowledge and share in the destiny common to all things and which desires to possess and use all things for itself. . . . Through this seeming act of self-aggrandizement we actually debase the whole of our being as well as that of

tures of faith, we must choose whether to be religious or to be superstitious, to believe in things that cannot be proved or to believe in things that can be disproved. The present age is an age of superstition, and some of our shallowest superstitions have the authorization of our hardest-headed rationalists and realists. The modern ambition to control nature, for instance, is an ambition based foursquare on a superstition: the idea that what we take nature to be is what nature is, or that nature is that to which it can be reduced. If nature is to be controlled, then it has to be reduced to that which is theoretically controllable. It must be understood as a machine or as the sum of its known, separable, and decipherable parts.

Care, on the contrary, rests upon genuine religion. Care allows creatures to escape our explanations into their actual presence and their essential mystery. In taking care of fellow

## **O**UR CONNECTION TO NATURE IS NEVER THEORETICAL. WE WORK IT OUT DAILY IN THE MOST PRACTICAL WAYS.

everything with which we come into contact.” Avarice, then, is a sin for very practical reasons: it makes division within unity, disorder within order, and discord within harmony. This is exactly Ezra Pound's understanding of the related sin of vanity—and notice here again the appeal is to harmony with the natural or created order:

*Pull down thy vanity, it is not man  
Made courage, or made order, or made grace,  
Pull down thy vanity, I say pull down.  
Learn of the green world what can be thy place  
In scaled invention or true artistry . . .*

Pound was not always sane, but in those lines he is sane as few modern people have been.

What we have traditionally called “virtues,” on the other hand, are good not because they have been highly recommended but because they are necessary; they make for unity and harmony. Faith, to speak only of the highest of the traditional virtues, is our life's instinctive leap toward its origin, the motion by which we acknowledge the order and harmony to which we belong. To deny that this is so is not to destroy faith but only to reduce and misdirect it, for faith of some kind is apparently necessary also in the sense that we cannot escape it; we have to have some version of it. Our instinct for faith is like a well-bred border collie, who lacking cattle or sheep will herd children or chickens or cats. If we don't direct our faith toward God or into some authentic “way” of the soul, then we direct it toward progress or science or weaponry or education or nature or human nature or doctors or gurus or genetic engineers or computers or NASA. And as we reduce the objects of our faith and so reduce our faith, we inevitably reduce ourselves. As crea-

tures, we acknowledge that they are not ours; we acknowledge that they belong to an order and a harmony of which we ourselves are parts. To answer the perpetual crisis of our presence in this abounding and dangerous world, we have only the perpetual obligation of care.

The idea that we cannot exempt anything from care is of course difficult, because it is difficult to care for all things. As creatures of modest intelligence, we ought perhaps to fear that it is impossible. And yet it is this very difficulty that is the key to our place and role as human beings. To be fully human, we must accept the likelihood that several or even many things may at the same time be of ultimate importance. That should at least save us from the folly of trying to solve “environmental” problems one at a time. It should inform us that we are dealing with the issue of health in its largest and also its most literal sense: creaturely orders and communities that are whole. And so we see that we must be whole ourselves, for the good solutions must come from our wholeness, our affection and reverence, not from our sense of duty, much less from desperation.

We have tried on a large scale the experiment of preferring ourselves to the exclusion of all other creatures, with results that are manifestly disastrous. And now, conscious of those results, we are tempted to correct them by denigrating ourselves, by wishing somehow to efface ourselves. But that is only the opposite kind of self-indulgence, utterly worthless as an answer to any problem. Misanthropy is not the remedy for “anthropocentrism.” Finally we must see that we cannot be made kind toward our fellow creatures except by the same qualities that make us kind toward our fellow humans.

# WE'RE WORKING TO PROTECT THESE WILD THINGS, TOO.

Photo by Mitch Diamond



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The problem obviously is that we are not well practiced in kindness toward our fellow humans. In the course of our unprecedented inhumanity toward other creatures and the world, we have become unprecedentedly inhumane toward humans—and especially, I think, toward human children.

I know of nothing that so strongly calls into question our ability to care for the world as our present abuses of our own reproductivity. How can we take care of the other creatures, all born like ourselves from the world's miraculous fecundity, if we have forsaken the qualities of culture and character that inform the nurture of children?

Maybe it is because our society is so dominated by the economic ideal of productivity that we have no time for people who are not highly productive. Or maybe it is because of our rather frivolous idea of personal freedom that we shrug off the claims of those most in need and most deserving of our care. Or maybe it is the fault of an economy that now requires both parents of many families to work away from home. Or maybe it is the increasing commercialization of family relationships, according to which nobody, not even a husband or a wife, should do anything for anybody else that is not compensated by a price agreed upon in advance.

Whatever the reason, it is a fact that we are now conducting a sort of general warfare against children, who are being abandoned, abused, aborted, drugged, bombed, neglected, poorly raised, poorly fed, poorly taught, and poorly disciplined. Many of them will not only find no worthy work, but no work of any kind. All of them will inherit a diminished, diseased, and poisoned world. We will visit upon them not only our sins but also our debts. We have set before them thousands of examples—governmental, industrial, and recreational—suggesting that the violent way is the best way. And we have the hypocrisy to be surprised and troubled when they carry guns and use them.

There are of course many parents who care properly for their children, and traditions of good upbringing still survive. But, like the local traditions of good land-use, these traditions of family life have become subordinate. As a lot of parents have found out, it is not easy to bring up your children in a way that is significantly different from the way your neighbors are bringing up their children.

A child psychologist told me not long ago that he frequently sees four-year-olds who, when asked, "Who loves you?" reply, "I don't know." If we have even a suspicion that we must not exempt anything from care, how can we bear this? And yet this neglect is hedged around on every side by talk of rights and freedoms and careers and professions.

Abortion, for instance, which might be defensible as a tragic choice acceptable in the most straitened circum-

stances, is defended as a "right" derived from "the right of a woman to control her own body." The right of any person to control her or his own body, subject to the usual qualifications, is incontestable—or, at any rate, it is not going to be contested by me. But the usual qualifications hold that if you can control your own body only by destroying another person's body, then control has come too late. Self-mastery is the appropriate way to control one's own body, not surgery.

I am well aware of the argument that a fetus is not a child until it can live outside the womb, but I am aware also that every creature is surrounded by such questions of dependency and viability all its life. If we are unworthy to live as long as we are dependent on life-supporting conditions, then

none of us has any rights. And I would not try to convince any farmer or gardener that the planted seed newly sprouted is not a crop.

Let us suppose, on the contrary (as we once did suppose, as some of us still do), that it is the right of every child, from conception, to have the care of both parents—would that not go far toward growing us up out of our present sexual childishness and delusion?

As we humans come of age and enter into sexuality, we surely confront yet another law that we had better understand as absolute: sex and fertility are joined. We have spent a lot of effort and money to disjoin them, and have generated a lot of giddy propaganda about

our supposed success—but we have also a lot of evidence to prove our failure, and I mean the number of childhood pregnancies, single parents, abortions, abandoned babies, babies kept but unwanted, children raised by public institutions and TV.

How is it that we come to these issues of sexuality in worrying about the conservation of nature? Well, for a reason that ought to be obvious: if sex and fertility are joined, then sex and the world are joined. Sex is a part of the world's wilderness; it is a part of our wildness. To say that we must be careful of it is not to say that we must make it tame, but rather that we must not damage it or ourselves by ignorance or foolishness. The world's wilderness, wherever we meet it, requires us, at a minimum, to grow up, to rid ourselves of false assumptions about who and where we are.

It is wrong to assume that sex carries us into a personal privacy that separates us from everything else. On the contrary, sex joins us to the world. If it doesn't carry us into love for what it joins us to, then it carries us into disrespect, damage, and loneliness. Thinking of the human family's "ecstatic moment, the sexual choice of man and woman," and of the perils of that moment, William Butler Yeats wrote that "the great sculptors, painters, and poets are there that instinct may find its lamp."

*Continued on page 101*



**A LONE VOICE IN THE  
WILDERNESS CAN CHANGE  
THE WAY MILLIONS OF  
PEOPLE TREAT THE WORLD'S  
LAST WILD PLACES.**



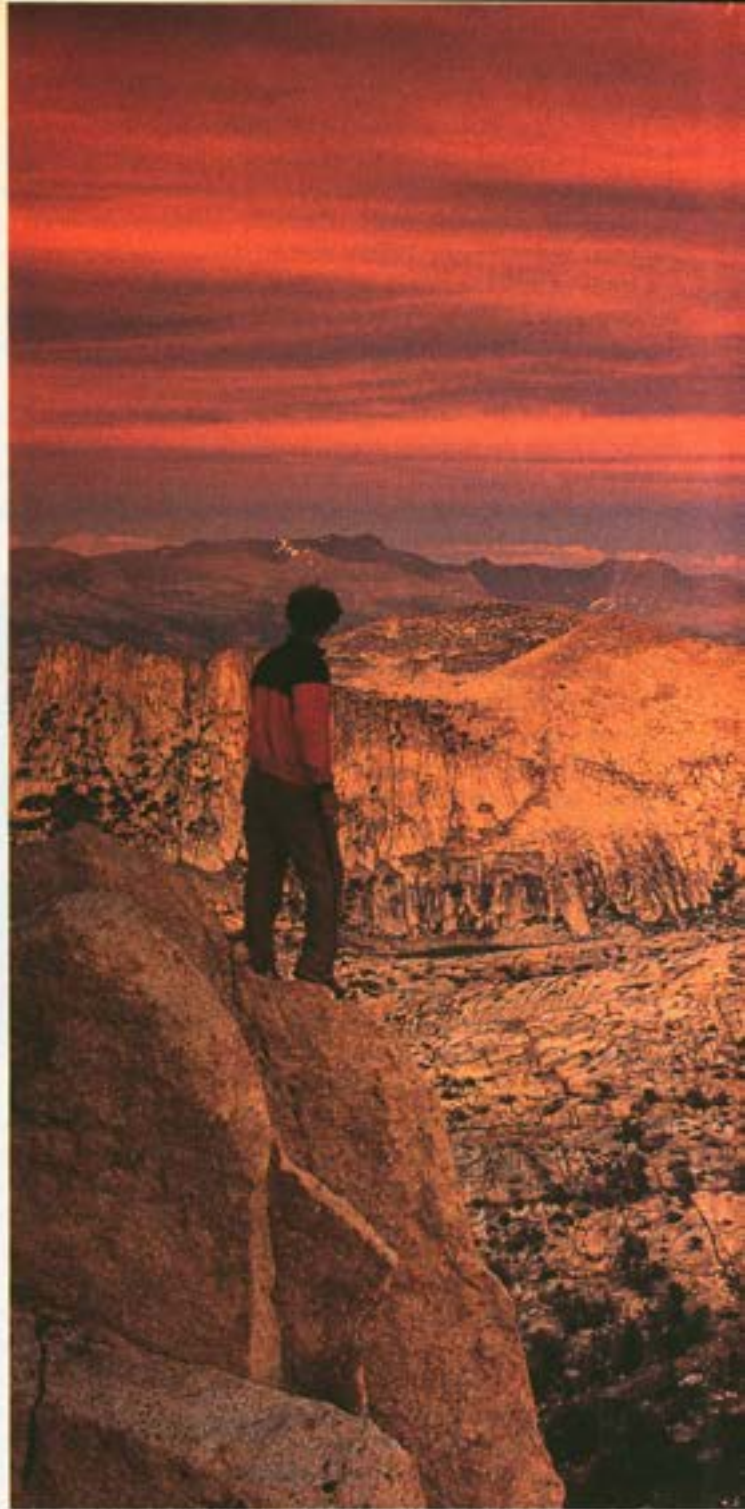
AFTER REINHOLD MESSNER CLIMBED EVEREST without oxygen and became the first person to reach all 14 of the world's 8,000-meter peaks, he spoke at a U.S. symposium on mountains. Instead of boasting of his own achievements, Messner talked about conservation. "The next generation will not ask how many peaks we climbed," he told the audience. "But how we left the earth's high places."

As Messner went on to describe his active promotion of wilderness ideals in the mountains of Europe, someone asked, "How is it that we Americans have managed to preserve our mountain areas while you Europeans have trashed yours?"

Messner smiled and shot back with clear-eyed confidence, "You had John Muir."

THE MORE I LEARN ABOUT THE HISTORY OF protected wildlands around the world, the clearer it becomes that the environmental movement did not grow out of mass public consciousness. Here in America, no democratic majority pushed for the first national parks and wilderness areas. Lone adventurers like Muir challenged the pioneer ethic after passing through some of the most rugged conditions on the planet. Inspired by the scenes of their youth, they devoted their later years to keeping large parts of the earth in a wild state forever. Fortunately, in every realm of our environment—mountain, desert, ocean, sky, and even outer space—adventurous souls have followed parallel paths.

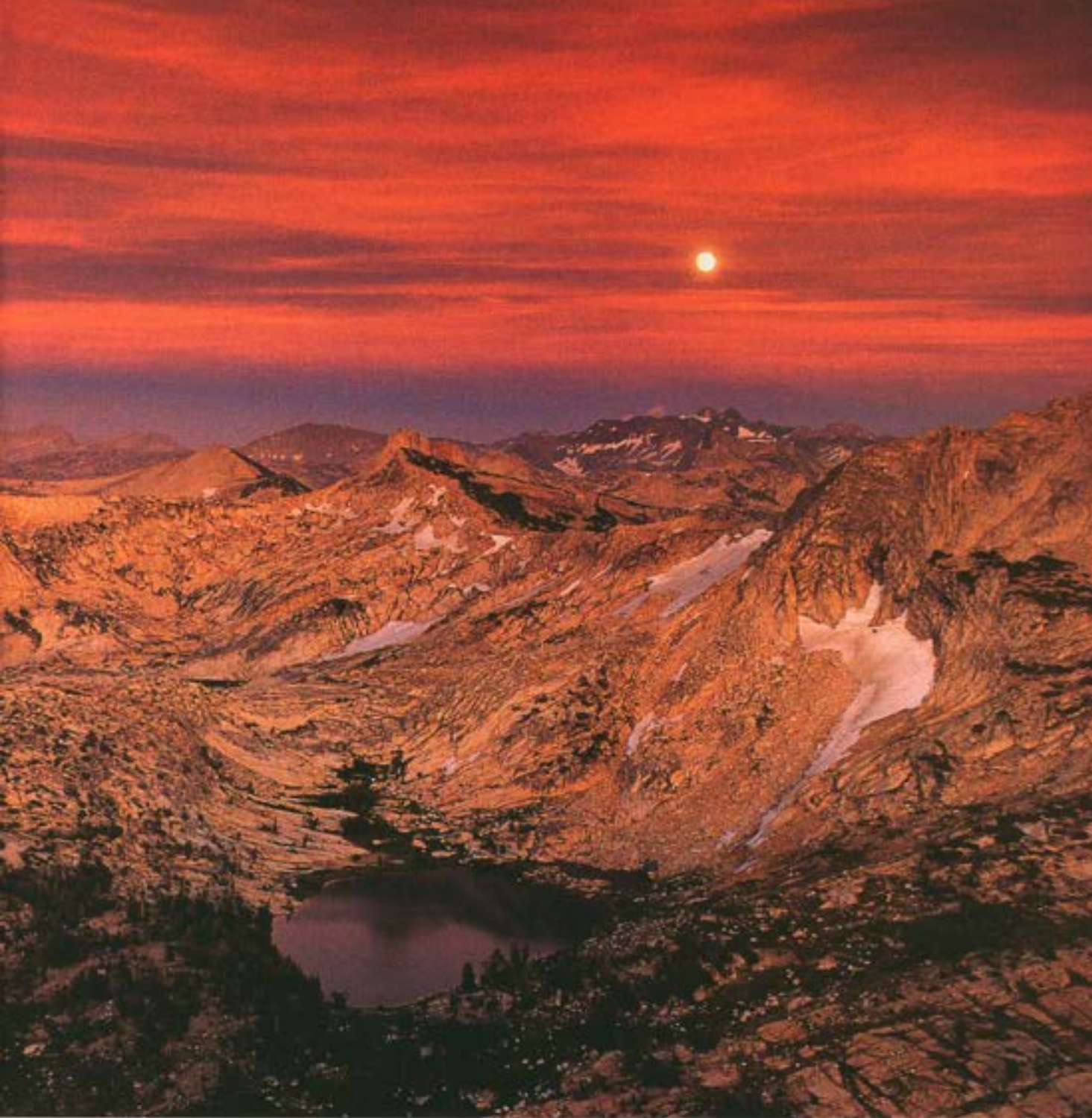
This eclectic fellowship includes such diverse people as astronauts William Anders and Rusty Schweickart, naturalist Charles Darwin, climbers David Brower and Sir Edmund Hillary, and even the Dalai Lama. At first they may seem to have little in common, yet each undertook an extended



*Cathedral Peak, Yosemite National Park, California.*

personal mission that led away from settled society into a wild environment. In the process, each gained an intuitive understanding of the relationship between the human species and its surroundings. Each discovered paradise right here on Earth, in front of his eyes, after learning to see with compassion for all living things. Each in his own way has taught a valuable lesson: that a single person, a minority of one, can help save this wild planet.





# The Power of One

BY GALEN ROWELL

## THE MOUNTAINEERS

APPROACH YOSEMITE WITH NO SENSE OF adventure or willingness to endure hardship, and you see a dreadfully urbanized park. But approach it as John Muir did more than a century ago, and in many places you will find the same landscape that he experienced. In the 94 percent of the park that is officially designated as wilderness, you can see what Muir saw and feel what he felt—and not by coincidence. Had this intrepid Scotsman not used the power of his fame and the muscle of his prose to help set aside Yosemite for posterity, you would not have had that opportunity.

Muir's influence extended far beyond Yosemite, the best known part of his beloved Range of Light, to the entire Sierra Nevada. After he died in 1914, the state of California established the 211-mile John Muir Trail, which to this day is not bisected by a single road. After the trail was built, the lands on either side were designated as national parks (Sequoia and Kings Canyon) and wilderness areas, one of which is named for Muir.

Environmentalist David Brower, too, has been empowered by adventure. He made many first ascents of peaks and rock faces in Yosemite and the High Sierra before becoming the Sierra Club's first executive director in 1952, eventually transforming it from a minor California outing club into a major global force for conservation.

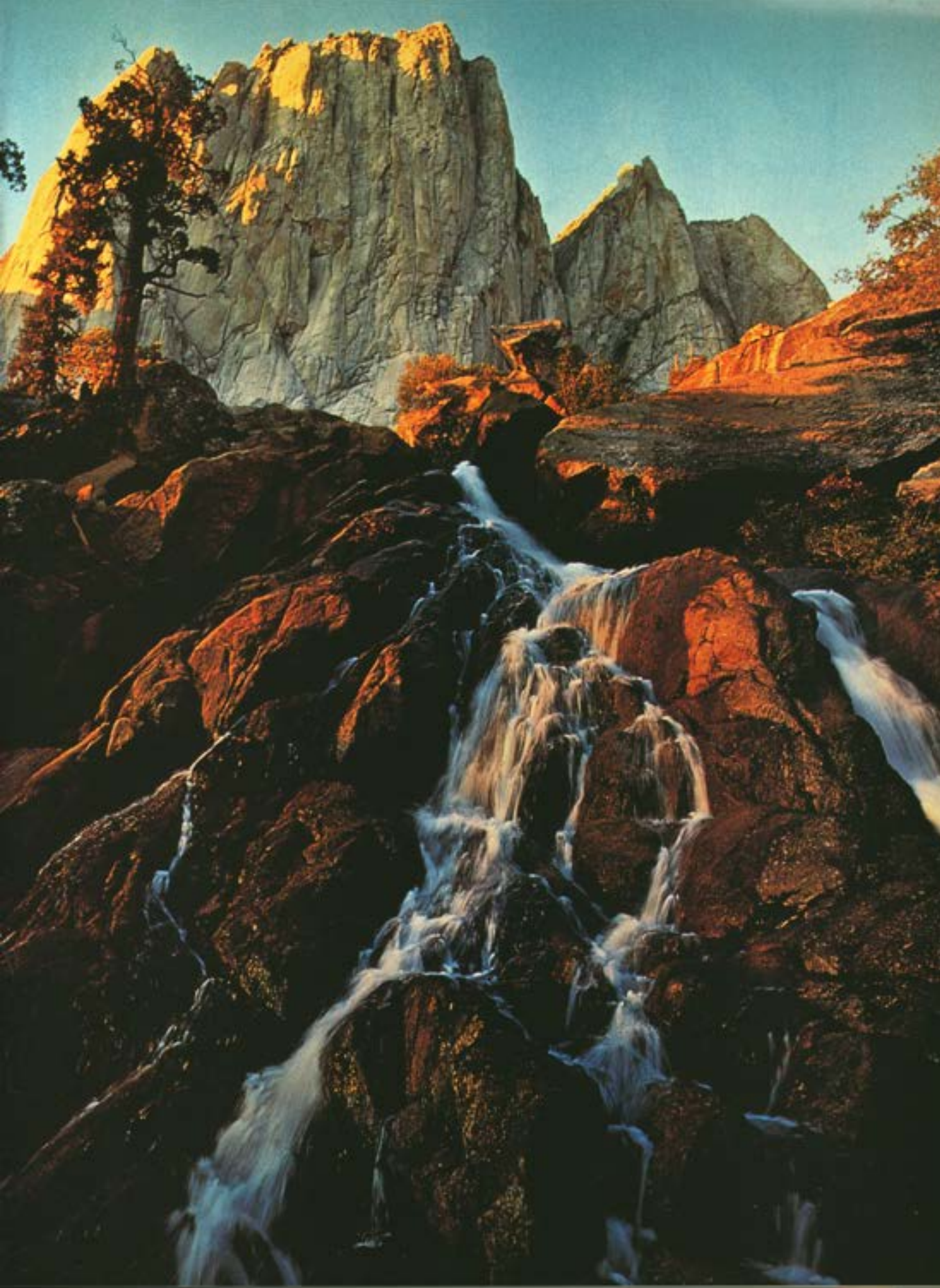
About the same time, half a world away, Sir Edmund Hillary topped Everest, and then went on to become a champion of cultural and environmental preservation in Nepal. These efforts led directly to the creation of a national park below the world's highest mountain.

I often hear it said that the days of mountaineers like Muir, Brower, and Hillary are long gone—and that today's adventurers have no interest in preserving the natural environment. Yet at the height of their adventuring, none of these three was even close to achieving his future potential as an environmentalist. The day of our current adventurers, then, will come tomorrow.



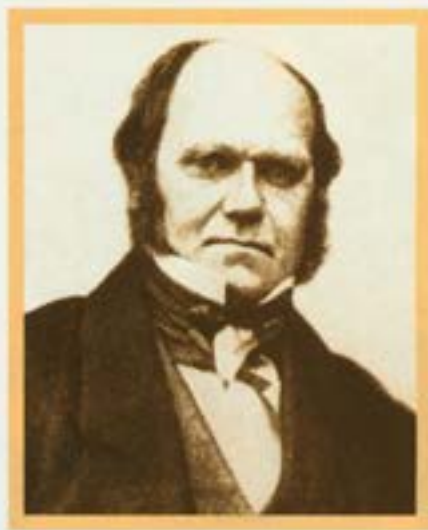
*John Muir (above); Hamilton Creek and Angel Wings Peak, Sequoia National Park, California (right).*

**T**he last days of this glacial winter are not yet past, so young is our world. I used to envy the Father of our race, dwelling as he did in the new-made plants and fields of Eden, but I do so no more, because I have discovered that I also live in Creation's dawn. The morning stars still sing together and the world, not yet half-made, becomes more beautiful every day." —JOHN MUIR



“**T**here comes a time—it is the beginning of manhood or womanhood—when one realizes that adventure is as humdrum as routine unless one assimilates it, unless one relates it to a central core which grows within and gives it contour and significance. Raw experience is empty, just as empty in the forecabin of a whaler as in a chamber of a countinghouse; it is not what one does, but in a manifold sense, what one realizes that keeps existence from being vain and trivial.”

—LEWIS MUMFORD



Charles Darwin (above); sea lions, Hood Island, Galápagos, Ecuador (below).



## THE SCIENTIST

AUTHOR LOREN EISELEY IMAGINED THE dramatic moment: “As a young man somewhere in the high starred Andean night, or perhaps drinking alone at an island where wild birds who never learned to fear man came down upon his shoulder, Charles Darwin saw a vision. It was one of the most tremendous insights a living being had.”

After a five-year journey around the world that included five illuminating weeks on the Galápagos Islands, a 28-year-old Darwin wrote in his notebook, “Animals may partake of our origin in one common ancestor. We may all be melded together.”

This profound insight into humanity’s kinship with the rest of creation has inspired the preservation of ecosystems around the world. Most closely linked with Darwin’s work is the national park set up on the Galápagos Islands in 1959 to celebrate the hundredth anniversary of the publication of *On the Origin of Species*.

## THE PILOTS

I ONCE THOUGHT OF FLYING—AS MOST passive air travelers do—as a way to move quickly between points on the ground. Pilots, I assumed, were mostly concerned with highly mechanized and regulated travel, not the state of the natural world. Then I read the writings of the French pilot and author Antoine de St. Exupery, who flew bush planes over Africa and South America in the 1930s: “The machine which at first bluish seems a means of isolating people from the great problems of nature, actually plunges them more deeply within. The pilot’s essential problems are set by the mountain, the sea, the wind.”

Even the exploration of space has, in a philosophic sense, brought us closer to Earth. The most influential environmental photograph ever taken is an aerial image of earthrise from the moon snapped from the window of Apollo 8 by Colonel William Anders. The fact that an individual took the photo was part of its magic. The world did not respond anywhere near as strongly to the first composite photograph of Earth from space assembled from images taken by unmanned cameras. Deeply moved by his vision of a fragile Earth, Anders became a board member of the Yosemite National Institutes, which provide hands-on environmental education for school children in three national parks.

A few months after Anders’ 1968 flight, astronaut Rusty Schweickart also witnessed earthrise and described his feelings: “You’re going 17,000 miles an hour, ripping through space, a vacuum. And there’s not a sound. There’s a silence the depth of which you’ve never experienced before, and that silence contrasts so markedly with the scenery you’re see-



*The author's wife, Barbara Rowell, flying her Cessna T206 over Chilean Patagonia (above); earthrise taken from the moon by astronaut William Anders, 1968 (below).*



ing and with the speed with which you know you’re moving. You know very well at that moment that you’re the sensing element for humanity. . . . And that’s a humbling feeling. It’s a feeling that says you have a responsibility.”

Some years later, Schweickart joined the board of Lighthawk, an organization that furthers awareness of environmental problems by flying politicians, film crews, resource managers, and environmentalists over garish clearcuts and other zones of conflict. Now past his adventuring days, he is still inspiring others by helping them observe our planet from the air.

“It is my hope and dream that the entire Tibetan Plateau will someday be transformed into a true peace sanctuary: an entirely demilitarized area and the world’s largest natural park.”

—THE DALAI LAMA



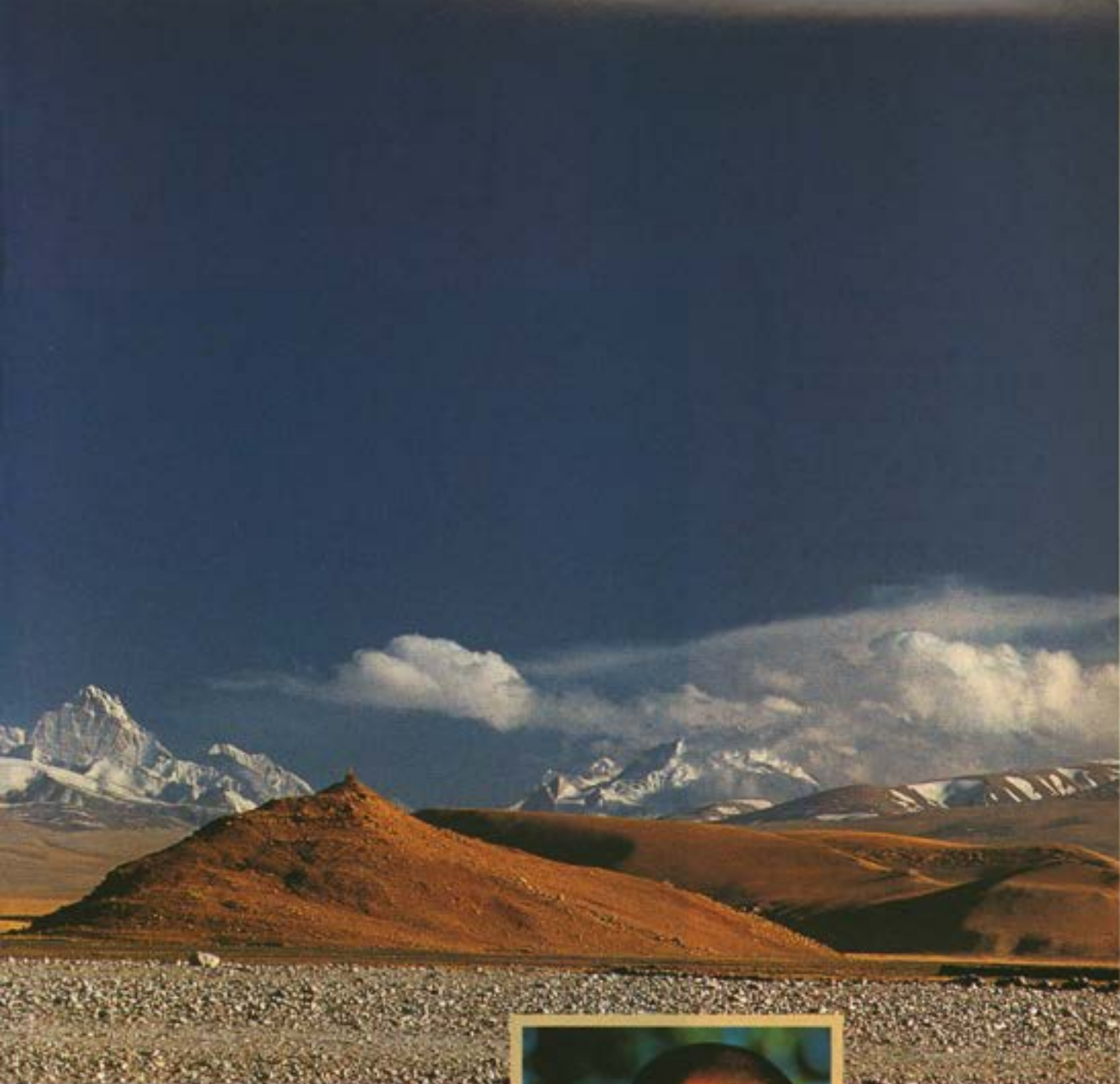
## THE HOLY MAN

AS A CHILD THE DALAI LAMA WAS TAKEN OUT OF HIS peasant home and brought overland a thousand miles across the Tibetan Plateau to be installed on a throne in Lhasa as the four-year-old spiritual and political leader of Tibet. As a teenager he fled through Tibet in winter to the crest of the Himalaya while the Chinese army was invading his country. In his 20s he was again forced to flee his homeland in winter, knowing that he might never return.

From those raw adventures in the natural world—and Buddhism’s centuries-old teachings—the Dalai Lama’s strong preservation ethic evolved. Still in

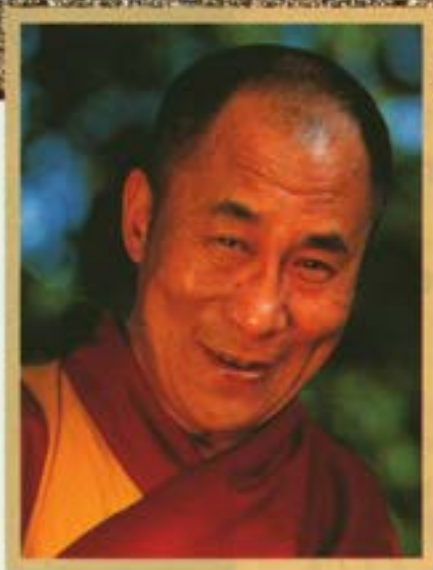
exile in India today, he knows from personal experience how nature shapes values. “A pilgrimage through wild, open lands provides visions that help shape the proper attitude and inner awareness for religious practice,” he wrote in *My Tibet* (University of California Press, 1990). “According to Buddhist teaching, there is a very close interdependence between the natural environment and the sentient beings living in it.”

In the Five Point Peace Plan he offered to the Chinese government in 1987, the Dalai Lama proposed that Tibet become a sanctuary—a “zone of



peace" for all sentient beings and their environment. China refused to negotiate, but the Dalai Lama gained international recognition for his ideas. In 1989 the first Nobel Peace Prize ever to mention the environment went to him for his "philosophy of peace, reverence for all things living, and concept of universal responsibility embracing all mankind as well as nature." ■

*GALEN ROWELL is an internationally renowned photographer, mountaineer, and author who has been exploring and working to protect wild places for 30 years.*



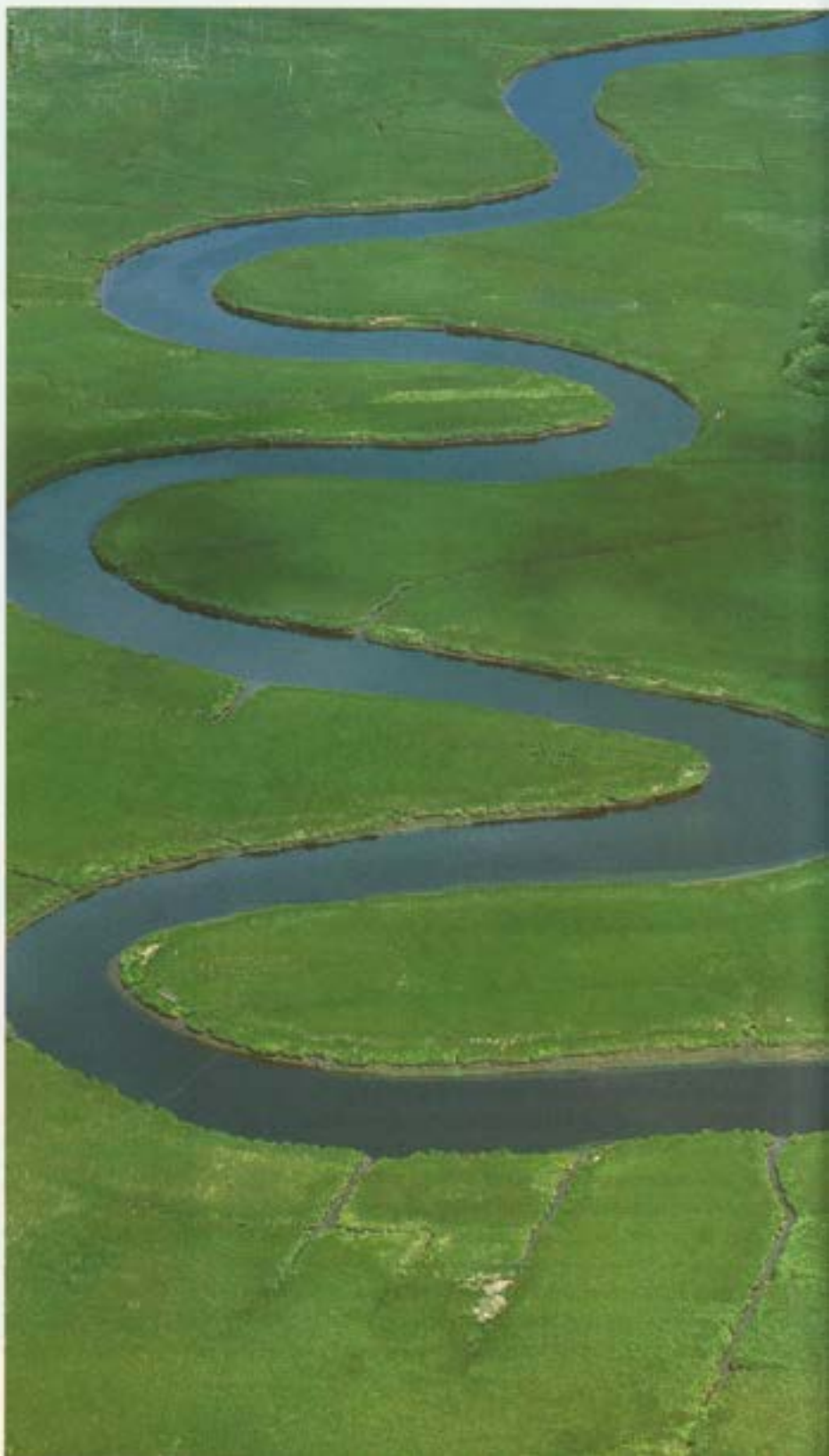
*The Tingri Plain below Cho Oyu, Tibet (above); the Dalai Lama (left).*

# The Human

**NATIONAL SECURITY  
MEANS MORE THAN  
A STRONG MILITARY.  
IT ALSO REQUIRES  
MEETING BASIC  
HUMAN NEEDS — AND  
ENSURING THAT  
POPULATION GROWTH  
AND CONSUMPTION DO  
NOT DESTROY THE  
LANDS AND WATERS  
THAT PROVIDE OUR  
LIVELIHOOD.**

**BY TIMOTHY E. WIRTH**

*Undersecretary of State  
for Global Affairs*





# F a c t o r



**I**N AUGUST OF 1961, AS AN Army private watching the Berlin Wall rise, I remember thinking that I might be shipped off to war in Central Europe. Thirty years later, my kids sat on that same wall with some 750,000 other young people to hear a Pink Floyd concert.

For me and many of my generation, East-West confrontation was *the* formative experience. It defined who we were, what we thought was valuable, what we considered important for the country. For my children, the Cold War is an ever more distant reflection in the rearview mirror.

In the void left by the end of East-West conflict, nations are beginning to recognize their opportunity and their responsibility to redefine their priorities for long-term national security and global stability. Where once many of the world's leaders focused on military threats, ideologies, and economics, today they are increasingly concerned with other aspects of security, such as the 1 billion individuals who live in abject poverty; the 800 million people who go hungry every day; the 240 million malnourished;

PHOTOGRAPHY BY  
ALEX S. MACLEAN

the 17 million who die each year from easily preventable diseases; the 1.3 billion people without access to clean water; the 2 billion without safe sanitation.

Similarly, our collective security can be diminished by the soils disappearing around the world and the decline of biological systems—the croplands, forests, grasslands, oceans, lakes, and streams—that support the world economy. Stated in the jargon of the business world, the economy is a wholly owned subsidiary of the environment. All economic activity is dependent on our global resource base. If the environment is finally forced to file for bankruptcy because it has been polluted, degraded, dissipated, and irretrievably compromised, the economy will go down with it.

Central to all of these concerns is the spiral of population growth. If we go on adding a billion human beings to the planet every decade, the human population will triple from today's 5.5 billion to almost 15 billion by the end of the 21st century. To let this happen would be to condemn nature and humanity alike.

Already population pressures underlie many of our most pressing foreign-policy concerns. For example:

- ◆ In Rwanda, the unspeakably brutal massacres of last year occurred against a backdrop of soaring population growth, environmental degradation, and unequal distribution of resources. Rwanda's fertility rate is among the highest in the world—more than eight children per woman. The nation's once-rich agricultural land is so severely depleted and degraded that between 1980 and 1990 food production fell dramatically.
- ◆ In Haiti, a rising population and dwindling resources are even more central to the social problems that have overtaken an island nation that was once the pride of France's colonial possessions. Haiti today is almost totally deforested; its croplands have been divided into smaller and less productive

China lost some 50 million acres of cropland—an area the size of all the farms in France, Germany, Denmark, and the Netherlands combined. This depletion is a major factor in an exodus from the impoverished interior to the rapidly industrializing coastal cities. These trends combine to form an environmental wall that the Chinese economy will soon hit at full speed.

Some environmental challenges are spurred less by population growth than by large and wasteful consumption patterns. The appetite of the affluent countries for timber products is a menace to the forests of Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Brazil, as well as Canada and the United States. The bulk of the underground water being drained away from our future flows into the shining cities of the "haves," not the parched lands of the "have-nots." Those same cities, and we who live in them, are the furnaces of global warming.

As these examples illustrate, our future hinges upon whether we can strike an equitable balance between human numbers and consumption and the planet's capacity to support life. It depends on whether the economies of the world, including our own, can meet the needs of today's generation without stealing from tomorrow's. Striking this balance is often referred to as "sustainable development," a concept rooted in a recognition of the reinforcing nature of economic, social, and environmental progress.

In the past three years, world leaders have embarked on a far-reaching journey. Beginning with the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio, the path to a sustainable planet has led them through the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna in 1993, the Cairo Conference on Population and Development in 1994, the Social Summit in Copenhagen this year, and the World Conference on Women to be held in Beijing in September. While the agendas of these events have been

## **O**UR FUTURE DEPENDS ON WHETHER WE CAN MEET THE NEEDS OF TODAY WITHOUT STEALING FROM TOMORROW.

parcels with each generation. Until recently these problems were compounded by a predatory government that drained the nation's scant resources and failed to invest in its people. Looming ominously over this environmental, economic, and political collapse is the fact that Haiti's population of 7 million—already unsustainable by every measure—is expected to double in the next 18 years.

- ◆ In China—home to one in five of the earth's people—severe water shortages and soil erosion threaten the nation's ability to support its population. Between 1987 and 1990,

broad, several recurrent themes are emerging—all pointing the way toward sustainable development.

The most important theme voiced in these gatherings is the need for the United States to set an example at home for others to follow. The world is crying out for leadership. The potential for a new global partnership on behalf of people-centered sustainable development is immense. Unhappily, this potential is slipping away in proposals for shortsighted budget cuts in the nation's international programs. If these cuts are allowed, the message to the rest of the world will

be that selfishness has replaced the common interest, and that individualism is the response to interdependence. At risk is our leadership role and prestige in the community of nations.

Over the long term, there is no more important endeavor than holding the line against those who would gut U.S. support of population and sustainable-development initiatives. We must follow up on the international agreement reached at Cairo—to provide reproductive and other basic health care, close the gap in education between boys and girls, and

Finally, we must take advantage of the opportunity we now have to preserve and utilize our biological inheritance. I am increasingly convinced that the biodiversity issue may dwarf all others in the not-too-distant future. The 21st century will almost certainly be the century of biology. Substances of undiscovered promise await us—already more than 50 percent of today's top-selling pharmaceuticals come directly from plants. Similarly, our food base comes from the reservoir of nature. Just three species of grass—rice, wheat, and corn—have become humanity's principal foods.

## **I** N THE JARGON OF THE BUSINESS WORLD, THE ECONOMY IS A WHOLLY OWNED SUBSIDIARY OF THE ENVIRONMENT.

promote child survival and economic development. As many as 300 million couples around the globe want family planning but do not have access to quality information and services. To bridge this gap, a cooperative, international effort must be launched to make voluntary family planning and related reproductive-health services universally available. This would be one of the wisest investments we could make for the 21st century.

Investing in the wisdom of women is a second priority. The failure to educate women in many countries contributes to their low status, to infant and maternal mortality, and to poverty. It is imperative that we close the enormous gap in educational opportunity that exists only because of gender, so that girls are able to realize fully their intellectual, economic, and political potential. Gender equity in education also promises to yield enormous dividends for both our population and development objectives.

Third, the United States should continue to press for respect of the basic human rights of women. We are hopeful that the strong oversight of women's concerns within the United Nations will help stem violations of women's human rights wherever they occur. As a next step, the Clinton administration has asked the U.S. Senate to ratify the United Nations Treaty on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

Fourth, we need to ensure that women have necessary economic rights. Women, who perform an estimated 60 percent of the world's work, own only one percent of the world's land and earn just 10 percent of the world's income. Legal barriers that deny property and marital rights must be overcome and women must be able to enter the mainstream of economic life. This will require access not only to credit and jobs, but also to systems providing clean water and sanitation, which would save women time and energy.

Unfortunately, we have barely begun to understand the abundance of the natural world.

We can measure the distance to the moon to an accuracy of centimeters, but haven't explored the wonder of our own world's species. Are there 10 million, 50 million, or 100 million—and what genetic wonders do they hold? Certainly this is the frontier of the future, in which we can prospect for food, fuel, pharmaceuticals, and fibers as we once prospected for gold and silver. And yet there are forces in our country bent upon crippling our National Biological Service, repealing the Endangered Species Act, and ignoring the International Biodiversity Treaty.

One of the major challenges is to change the terms of the biological debate, so protection is not granted only under threat of government regulation, but rather is seen to be the first step toward a sustainable, prosperous future. Here, too, we can prove that economic prosperity and environmental preservation can be linked, with enormous promise for posterity.

This agenda is not without cost or obstacles. But it defines what should be some of our central purposes in the post-Cold War world. Success would send benefits rippling across nations, economies, and—more important—the lives of present and future generations. Our legacy depends in large measure on our ability to comprehend and react to our new understanding of the tenets of security. ■

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TIMOTHY E. WIRTH, formerly a senator from Colorado, is U.S. undersecretary of state for global affairs.

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► At press time in July Congress was considering a foreign-aid appropriations bill that would eliminate funding for international population programs and significantly reduce sustainable-development assistance.



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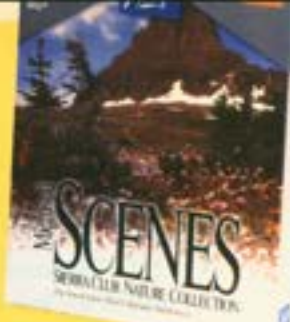
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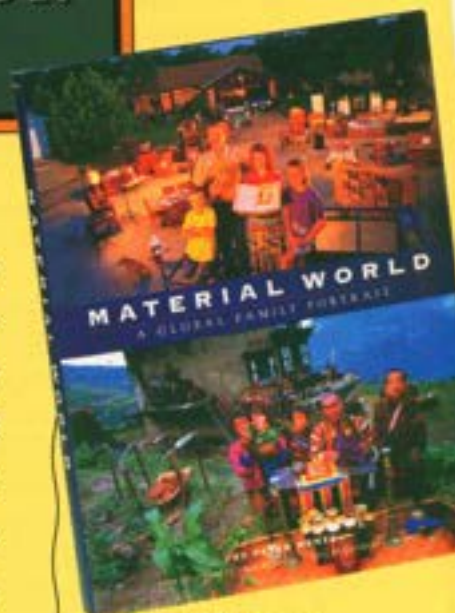


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# THE SIERRA CLUB BULLETIN

THE NEWS FORUM FOR SIERRA CLUB MEMBERS

## 21 Ways to Save the Wild Planet

by Tracy Baxter

**W**ith threats to our wilds, water, air, and open spaces coming from all sides, the Sierra Club Critical Ecoregions Program offers activists an effective counteroffensive. In each of the 21 geographical areas in North America, the program encourages broad, ecosystem-based solutions to environmental problems.

For those who aren't involved yet, the actions suggested below offer a chance to take the first step toward active commitment to these 21 places. Have a stack of postcards at the ready and defend your home ecoregion, your favorite vacation spot, and the places you'd like your grandchildren to be able to enjoy by following through on as many of the recommendations as you can. (Congressional addresses are provided on page 87.)

During the Watt years, renowned photographer and conservationist Ansel Adams promoted a plan for individual action that is as good today as ever. "I intend, daily, to write a card or a letter . . . stressing the great threats looming upon us," he told *Sierra* readers. "To the front lines!"

**ALASKA** Louisiana-Pacific and other timber companies are licking their chops at the chance to bust open the 1990 Tongass Timber Reform Act and increase logging in the last healthy remnant of the temperate rainforest that once stretched from Kodiak, Alaska, to the redwoods of California. Alaska's members of Congress are doing their best to force the Forest Service to massively step up the cut, brushing aside scientific evaluations



that show even current logging levels threaten wildlife. Write your representatives in the House and Senate, demanding they protect the Tongass, a singular American treasure.

**AMERICAN SOUTHEAST** Twenty years after an explosion in a wood processing facility in Columbia, Mississippi, the toxic aftermath of the blast continues to jeopardize the health of local people. Leakage from the 4,500 drums of hazardous waste the company recklessly interred at the old site has poisoned the local water supply, contaminated farmland, and been strongly implicated in the skyrocketing incidence of human birth defects, miscarriages, and cancer. Join the Sierra Club and the Jesus People Against Pollution in securing environmental justice by writing Philip Ashkettle, president of Reichhold Chemicals, and demanding relocation and restitution for this suffering community. Write: Reichhold Chemicals, Inc., Corporate Headquar-

ters, P.O. Box 13582, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709-3582.

**ARCTIC** See "Refuge of Scoundrels," page 35.

**ATLANTIC COAST** Loosening federal controls on water quality imperils both public health and the diverse aquatic ecosystems of the Atlantic coastal plain and islands. *Turning the Tide*, a 30-minute slide show available through the Sierra Club Atlantic Ecoregion Program, (407) 689-1380, will help inform your community about these problems and their solutions. Arrange a presentation with your neighbors and ask them to fire off letters to local papers to denounce proposals to weaken the Clean Water Act.

**BOREAL FOREST** Major companies, including the world's largest disposable-chopsticks manufacturer, Mitsubishi, have set up timber operations in northern Alberta, building huge mills and logging in violation of indigenous peoples' rights. To help repel the assault, activists can write letters of outrage to James Nasu, General Manager, Mitsubishi of Canada, Ltd., Bow Valley Sq., #4, 250 6th Ave., S.W., Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2P 3H7.

**CENTRAL APPALACHIA** Almost a quarter of the nation's Superfund sites infest Central Appalachia, and Congress is considering removing the law's "retroactive liability" provision, which makes companies that generate hazardous waste pay for cleanup of these toxic places. Tell your legislators in the House and Senate not to let polluters off the hook in the Superfund reauthorization debate.

**COLORADO PLATEAU** See "Wilderness of Greed," page 35.

**GREAT BASIN** The showdown over land management continues in the West with the introduction of Senator Pete Domenici's (R-N.M.) Livestock Grazing Act, S.852, which would limit the government's ability to halt overgrazing on public land. The bill would also lift penalties for failure to pay grazing fees and hand federal management authority to rancher-led grazing councils. S.852 is a prescription for losing the West. Tell your senators to fight it.

**GREAT LAKES** To protect fish and waterfowl from exposure to toxic chemicals, the 1994 Great Lakes Water Quality Initiative proposed firm, uniform limits across the ecoregion on the amount of waste manufacturers could dump into the world's largest freshwater basin. New wording introduced in this congressional bill would undo this safeguard by asking only for voluntary compliance. To help steer the bill back on course, flood the Senate with letters condemning this valentine to industrial polluters.

#### **GREAT NORTH AMERICAN**

**PRAIRIE** Pronghorn antelope, sharp-tail grouse, and mourning doves all thrive on fallow land. The Conservation Reserve Program in the 1995 farm bill would help farmers promote robust ecological health by giving them an incentive to till only the soil best suited for agricultural use, thereby protecting environmentally sensitive areas. When you call or write your senators, ask them to resolutely defend Conservation Reserve funding in the farm bill.

#### **GREAT NORTHERN FOREST**

Clearcutting, highgrading (logging the biggest and oldest trees), and indiscriminate herbicide use are taking a heavy toll on this magnificent New England landscape, destroying wildlife habitat, and sending local economies into sure decline. The comprehensive conservation proposal offered by Senator Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.), which emphasizes public purchase of forest land that would otherwise be developed, and the establishment of a Northern Forest research and education center, especially

needs the cosponsorship of Senators William Cohen (R-Maine) and Olympia Snowe (R-Maine). Ecoregion advocates can help residents dependent on the income from tourism and sound forest management by urging these senators to action.

**HAWAII** A bird's-eye view of Hawaii's rainforests, grasslands, and alpine deserts makes touring by chopper a popular outing for many visitors. But growing evidence indicates that the din from these low-flying aircraft may be contributing to the decline of endemic bird populations. Representative Patsy Mink's (D-Hawaii) H.R. 1369 would set a low-altitude limit of 2,000 feet for aircraft flying over Hawaii's national parks. Senator Daniel K. Akaka (D-Hawaii) has introduced a similar bill (S.905). Contact your representatives in the House and Senate asking them to cosponsor both proposals.

#### **HUDSON BAY/JAMES BAY**

While thrilled by Québec's decision not to harness the power of Great Whale River in its James Bay hydroelectric project, ecoregion advocates fear that pressure to export energy to the northeastern United States could resurrect the scheme. Indigenous peoples have already lost many of their hunting grounds to other portions of the project and suffered an increase of poisonous methyl mercury in their waterways. Construction of the Great Whale mega-powerhouse would drastically alter the habitat of the freshwater seal and could drive beluga whales from the river's mouth. Write to Premier Jacques Parizeau, Edifice J, 3e étage, Québec, PQ, Canada G1A 1A2 and condemn any effort to resume construction.

**INTERIOR HIGHLANDS** Timber titan Weyerhaeuser hopes we won't notice its inequitable proposal to trade 150,000 acres of mostly pine plantation in Arkansas and Oklahoma for 50,000 acres of Ouachita National Forest. Ecoregion advocates should write or call Senator Dale Bumpers (D-Ark.) and Representatives Jay Dickey (D-Ark.) and Ray Thornton (D-Ark.) and oppose

this sly attempt to swap depleted land for mature mixed woods from the South's largest national forest.

**MISSISSIPPI BASIN** Just two years ago, raging floods along the Mississippi River sent a powerful message to the region's residents: families must be kept out of harm's way, and floodplains and wetlands must be protected. Congress, however, failed to get that message: House-approved revisions to the Clean Water Act would open up two-thirds of Missouri's flood-prone wetlands area to destruction and development, greatly increasing the likelihood of flood deaths, damage, and taxpayer bailouts. Urge your U.S. senators to prevent a needless tragedy in the Midwest by passing a strong reauthorization of the Clean Water Act, including its wetlands protection provisions.

**PACIFIC COAST** Water is the defining element of the Pacific Coast Ecoregion. Yet instead of moving toward making all the region's waterways "fishable and swimmable," as the Clean Water Act demands, the Shuster Dirty Water Act would threaten their ecological health—and weaken protection for the relatively few wetlands remaining along the western rim of the continent. Tell your U.S. representative and senators to safeguard coastal resources by fighting for a strong Clean Water Act in this session of Congress.

**PACIFIC NORTHWEST** The Pacific Northwest's wild salmon, listed as endangered since 1990, are now on the precipice of extinction: in 1994, just one adult sockeye returned to the Snake River basin, while chinook salmon populations plummeted to a few hundred. To reverse this disastrous trend, urge your representatives in Congress to earmark funds to implement the Strategy for Salmon of the Northwest Power Planning Council and the Snake River Salmon Recovery Plan of the National Marine Fisheries Service.

**ROCKY MOUNTAINS** The bald eagle's recovery offers dramatic proof: the Endangered Species Act is working. But federal and state agencies in

the Rocky Mountains, eager for more success stories, are rushing to remove grizzly bears in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem from protection under the Act—even though the bears are still struggling and may even be on the decline. Write Assistant Secretary of the Interior George Frampton at 1849 C St., N.W., Washington, DC 20420, and urge him to prevent the premature delisting of the grizzly. And tell your U.S. senators to oppose the Gorton bill, S.768, which would gut the Endangered Species Act.

**SIERRA NEVADA** Clearcutting and other unsustainable logging practices in the Sierra Nevada are turning John Muir's beloved "range of light" into a range of blight. Of the ecoregion's once vast and majestic ancient forest, only one-tenth of the old growth remains. Complicit in this debacle is the U.S. Forest Service, which subsidizes below-cost logging with taxpayer dollars. You can help stop this destruction by sending letters to the editors of your local newspapers urging that the federal government permanently protect the last remaining ancient forest and roadless areas in the Sierra Nevada. Send copies of these letters to your senators and representative in Congress.

**SOUTHERN APPALACHIAN HIGHLANDS** The 1996 Summer Olympics will feature whitewater kayak racing just beyond the Big Frog/Cohutta Wilderness Area in Tennessee's Cherokee National Forest. Less than five miles away from the Olympic site, Big Frog's wilderness values are being threatened by logging and roadbuilding. To preserve the area's wild character, tell the forest supervisor this five-mile buffer should be inventoried as roadless and designated as wilderness. Write: Supervisor's Office, Cherokee National Forest, 2800 North Ocoee St., Cleveland, TN 37312.

**SOUTHWEST DESERTS** The Mexican gray wolf has been an en-

## Things To Do...



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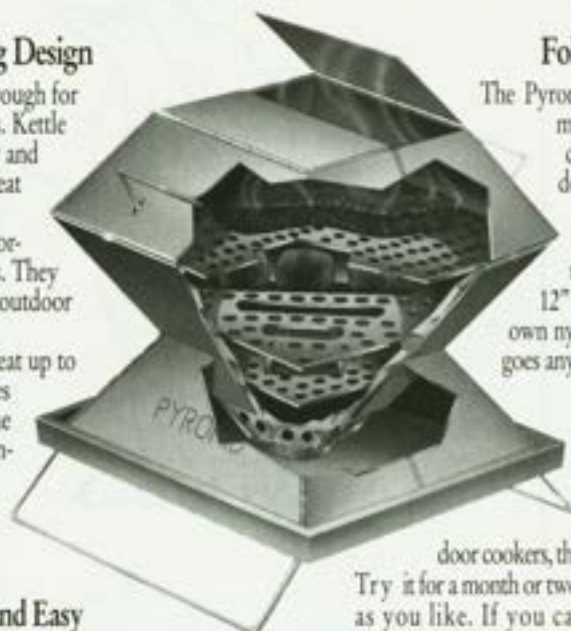
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dangered species in the American Southwest for nearly three decades. While only a handful still roam free, populations are being bred in captivity, and are ready to be reintroduced into the wilds of Arizona and New Mexico. To help, urge Assistant Secretary of the Interior George Framp-

ton (see "Rocky Mountains" for address) to support the reintroduction of the gray wolf into the deserts of the Southwest. If you live in the ecoregion, you can help build public support for reintroduction by also writing a letter to the editor of your local newspaper. ■

## Tough Times, Seasoned Warriors

Some familiar faces—including two that have come to personify the modern environmental movement—won election to the Sierra Club Board of Directors in April. David Brower, the Club's first executive director and a central figure in the historic conservation battles of the 1950s and '60s, was chosen to fill one of five open seats on the 15-member board, as was Dave Foreman, the "eco-warrior" who rose to prominence with Earth First! in the 1980s.

Mary Ann Nelson, a Club director since 1992, easily won re-election to a second three-year term, while a pair of former board presidents, H. Anthony Ruckel and Michele Perrault, returned



David Brower

as directors. Perrault led the field of 15 candidates, appearing on 47 percent of all ballots cast for a total of more than 27,000 votes. Brower, a movement legend immortalized as "the archdruid" by writer John McPhee, joined the Sierra Club in 1933, later serving 14 years as a volunteer director and 16 as the organization's chief executive. Among a long list of achievements, the author/activist led successful campaigns to block dams in the Grand Canyon and the Yukon, founded the League of Conservation Voters and Earth Island Institute, cofounded Friends of the Earth, and helped establish the National Wilderness Preservation Sys-

tem. He has twice been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Foreman, author of *Confessions of an Eco-Warrior* (Crown, 1991) and co-author of *The Big Outside* (Harmony Books, 1992) worked for the Wilderness Society in the 1970s and cofounded Earth First! in 1980. He has served in numerous grassroots leadership positions with the Sierra Club, and is currently executive editor of *Wild Earth* and chairman of the Wildlands Project (See "Missing Links," page 52).

J. Robert Cox, elected by the new board to a second term as president, called the addition of Brower and Foreman "a sign that Sierra Club members around the country want to see us fight for the earth in a dynamic, visionary way."

Members of the executive committee for 1995-96 are Cox, Kathy Fletcher, vice-president for conservation, Ruckel, treasurer, Carolyn Carr, secretary, and Foreman, fifth officer.

More than 58,000 Sierra Club members participated in April's balloting for the Board of Directors, the Club's primary governing body. ■

► To recommend someone for nomination to next year's Sierra Club Board of Directors, contact Nominating Committee Chair Chuck McGrady, 104 Sunningdale Dr., Flat Rock, NC 28731; (704) 696-0672 by November 1.



Dave Foreman

PHOTO BY BOB MONY

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SPOTLIGHT

## Canyonland Conservative

by Amy Wilson

Rudy Lukez got his first lesson in environmental degradation growing up near Cleveland, Ohio. He remembers family trips to a Lake Erie so polluted that beach closures, stinking water, and dead fish were commonplace. He dreamed of living in an untainted wilderness.

When he was 22, Lukez headed West. Working as a rocket scientist for Morton Thiokol in the town of Brigham City, Utah, he served as chair of the Sierra Club's Utah Valley Group in the 1980s. Now developing wind energy technology in Salt Lake City, Lukez chairs the Utah Chapter—and devotes nearly every spare hour to the grassroots fight to protect Utah wilderness. He also chairs an umbrella group called the Utah Wilderness Coalition (of which the Sierra Club is a founding member) and has become a key player in the battle to save the state's remaining wildlands.

"The resource we have in Utah is unmatched in the world in terms of its diverse beauty," Lukez says, "and once it's gone, it's gone. You can't glue canyons or rocks back together."

A backpacker, mountain biker, and crosscountry skier, Lukez has explored enough of Utah's wilds to help produce the Coalition's *Wilderness at the Edge*, a book that proposes designating 42 areas totaling 5.7 million acres as federally protected wilderness. The proposal awaits consideration in Congress in the form of H.R. 1500, America's Redrock Wilderness Act, introduced by Representative Maurice

Hinchey (D-N.Y.). Thanks to intense lobbying by Lukez and other wilderness advocates, the bill has garnered 67 cosponsors in the House so far.

But an insidious counterproposal lurks in Congress, too. The decidedly pro-development Utah delegation hammered out its own "wilderness" bills earlier this year, H.R. 1745 in the House and S. 884 in the Senate. This legislation aims to turn over millions of acres of Utah wildlands to development.

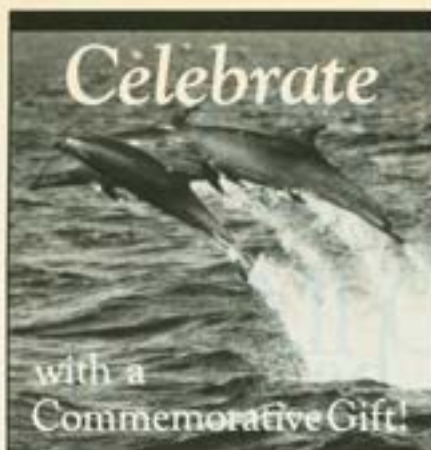
To beat back these bills and keep building support for "5.7 Wild," Lukez and other Club leaders are spreading the word through slide shows, video, speeches, and the Internet. They have turned out record numbers of citizens for public wilderness hearings throughout the state and generated nearly 20,000 letters and signatures favoring the Utah Wilderness Coalition proposal.

There are those in the mining, timber, and ranching industries, however, who resent the Coalition's work, and Lukez occasionally receives hate mail. Once, after he spoke at a public hearing against the practice of shooting coyotes from helicopters, a local rancher got up and threatened to "thrash" him.

But Lukez is determined to discredit the "extremist" label given environmentalists by their foes. He sees Rotary and Lions clubs, "always hungry for speakers," as promising sources of support. After one presentation to a Rotary Club in ultraconservative Davis County, he recalls, "I got an anonymous note that read, 'I can't tell you who I am, but I saw your slide show.'" Attached was a money order



RUDY LUKEZ

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for several hundred dollars made out to the Utah Wilderness Coalition.

After 10 years in Utah, the idyllic life near the wilderness he dreamed of as a child remains elusive. "It's hard for me to enjoy Utah without thinking about the threats," Lukez says. But day by day, he takes heart at small victories. "People are starting to realize that environmentalists aren't rabid radicals but true conservatives," he says. "What's more conservative than trying to save what we already have?" ■

AMY WILSON is senior editor of the Sierra Club's activist newsletter, *The Planet*.

► To help Rudy Lukez defend Utah wildlands, write your representative and senators and ask them to oppose H.R.1745 and S.884 and support America's Redrock Wilderness Act, H.R.1500. Addresses are below.

#### EXPRESS YOURSELF

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Dave Ganci

# Arizona's Red Rock Country

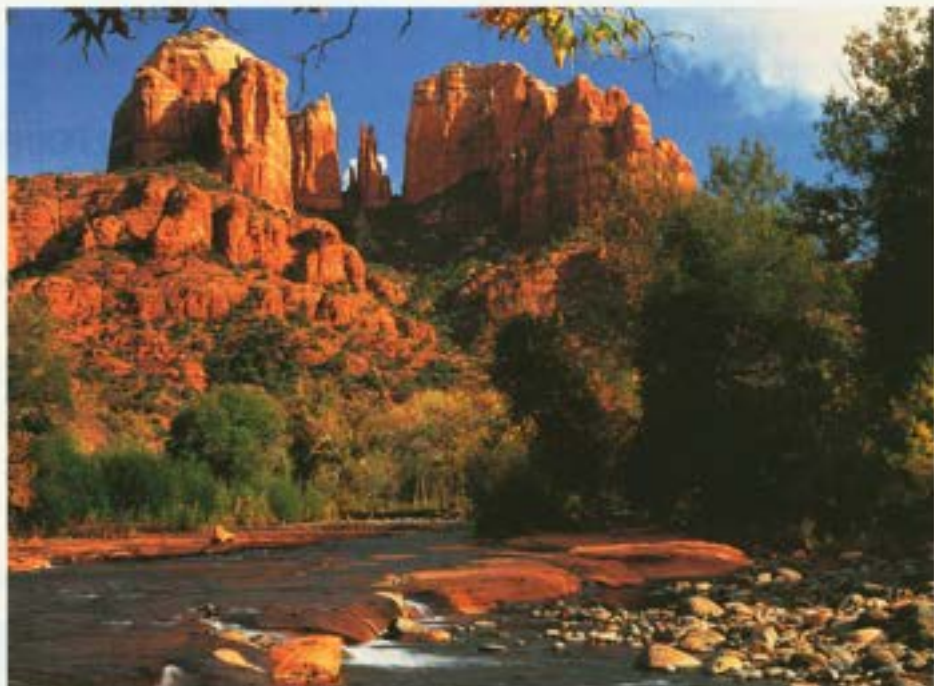
Who could have anticipated that the natural palette of color, form, shadow, and artistic geology surrounding Sedona, Arizona, would end up drawing 4 million tourists a year, many of them seeking a mystical epiphany? Beyond the tourist glitz and New Age come-ons of downtown, though, lie more natural wonders than you could shake a crystal at. Beginning just outside of town, Coconino National Forest maintains more than 35 trails that carry hikers and equestrians through 350 million geologic years of spires, buttes, pinnacles, and bluffs. Along the way they pass through rainbow-hued layers of sandstone, limestone, and shale.

Most of Sedona's outdoor activity centers around Oak Creek Canyon, a riparian ribbon that cuts its way from the Mogollon Rim (the southern edge of the Colorado Plateau) on through

town, down the Verde Valley, and into the Arizona desert. This is riverside habitat at its most verdant, where Arizona sycamore, ash, alder, walnut, cottonwood, and willow jostle for sipping rights alongside grape, manzanita, silk tassel, scrub oak, mountain mahogany, and a kaleidoscope of water-loving wildflowers. More than 200 bird species populate this narrow canyon, along with coyote, bobcat, mountain lion, deer, badger, and the occasional black bear.

Only 15 miles away as the crow flies, but light-years from the beaten paths of Oak Creek Canyon, solitude seekers are rewarded by the 48,000-acre Sycamore Canyon Wilderness. The 10-plus-mile Parsons Trail traverses the lushly wooded canyon. Other trails near Sedona include the West Fork Trail (normally a six-mile round-trip, but intrepid hikers

Sedona's famous Cathedral Rock looms over the gurgling waters of Oak Creek—at the site of a proposed highway bridge.



## THE WILDLANDS OF SEDONA, ARIZONA

- National Forest
- National Forest Wilderness
- Red Rock Crossing (Proposed Bridge Site)

can continue on deep into the Red Rock-Secret Mountain Wilderness Area), Boynton Canyon Trail (a short and level route that leads to Sinagua Indian cliff dwellings), and Vulture Arch Trail, a level 1.5-mile route to a delicate sandstone bridge.

The gods blessed Red Rock Country with otherworldly qualities, some say, but what meets the eye is more than enough for most of us.

## NUTS & BOLTS

### HOW TO PREPARE

The Verde River Valley, where Sedona is located, is year-round hiking territory. Summers can be very hot, so many visitors head up high or into shady refuges like Oak Creek Canyon. Winter storms can stop you in your tracks at trailheads near town (elevation 4,500 feet). In these cases, hikers head toward the valley's lower reaches, to places like Wet Beaver Creek and West Clear Creek. The Forest Service maintains six campgrounds in Oak Creek Canyon, open early spring through fall; backcountry camping is allowed on public lands outside the canyon.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

For general travel facts: the Sedona-Oak Creek Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 478, Sedona, AZ 86336; (520) 282-7722 or (800) 288-7336. For national-forest information: the Sedona Ranger District, P.O. Box 300, Sedona, AZ 86336; (602) 282-4119.

### FOR DEEPER READING

Useful regional titles include *A Guide to Exploring Oak Creek and the Sedona Area* by Stewart Aitchison (RNM Press, 1989); *Sedona Guide* by Steve Krause and Teresa Henkle (Pinyon Publishing, 1991); and *On Foot in Arizona's Red Rock Country* by Stephen M. Block (Stephen M. Block, 1987, P.O. 2792, Sedona, AZ 86339). Descriptions of Sedona trails can also be found in *The Hiker's Guide to Arizona* by Stewart Aitchison and Bruce Grubbs (Falcon Press, 1992); *Arizona Day Hiker* by Dave Ganci (Sierra Club Books, 1995), and *Ultimate Arizona* by Ray Riegert (Ulysses Press, 1995).

### THE POLITICS OF PLACE

"It's those damn red rocks!" a Sedona journalist once grouched. "That's what brings all those people here. We should spray paint 'em all white or bulldoze 'em down and push 'em into the Grand Canyon." Exasperation char-

acterizes the development debate in Sedona. The area was once proposed as a national park, but developers beat back that idea. Today fast-food restaurants, jeep-tour outfitters, and top-dollar second homes proliferate. "This doesn't have to be a photo of your last vacation. It could be a picture of your next resort home" crows one real-estate agent's ad, beneath a view of Sedona's most-photographed landmark, Cathedral Rock.

All attention, in fact, has recently turned to Cathedral Rock, which overlooks Red Rock Crossing, the proposed site for a bridge spanning Oak Creek. The project's opponents, spearheaded by the Verde Valley Group of the Sierra Club, charge that the bridge will simply bring more traffic into the scenic area, and that its real purpose is to fuel development. In May, Yavapai County supervisors okayed the idea of a bridge at Red Rock Crossing. Next up is an environmental-impact study; because the site is in a national forest, there will be opportunities for public comment. To get involved, contact the Sierra Club Grand Canyon Chapter, 516 E. Portland St., Phoenix, AZ 85004; (602) 253-8633. ■

DAVE GANCI is a teacher, writer, and hiker living in Prescott, Arizona.



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## REVIEWS

***Losing Ground: American Environmentalism at the Close of the Twentieth Century***

by Mark Dowie

MIT Press, 1995; \$25

**T**he environmental movement has become the perfect bogeyman," says Wise Use fundraiser Alan Gottlieb. Mark Dowie, although ostensibly an environmentalist, takes Gottlieb's lesson to heart, finding perfidy in any environmental organization with an office in the District of Columbia.

Dowie knows what's best for everyone, and is not shy about sharing his insights. "American land, air, and water are certainly in better shape than they would have been had the movement never existed," he grudgingly admits, "but they would be in far better condition had environmental leaders been bolder; more diverse in class, race, and gender; less compromising in battle; and less gentlemanly in their day-to-day dealings with adversaries."

Unfortunately, Dowie's prescriptions are often muddled. He faults environmental groups for not hiring enough people of color—but when they do he faults them for stealing talent from grassroots groups. He complains that environmentalists are failing to reach out to distressed loggers—and then belabors any group that doesn't advocate a total ban on logging in the national forests. He insists that organizations add to their core concerns environmental justice, international human rights, eco-feminism, and spiritual ecology—and then ridicules the "passive supporters of mainstream groups [who] have proven themselves mercurial, faddish, and easily attracted to other causes."

While some may see his book as a brisk tonic against complacency, others will simply be annoyed by his lazy habit

of ascribing to all "mainstream" groups a perceived failing of any one of them. Dowie concludes by predicting that the Sierra Club and the other national groups will soon fade into irrelevance, to be supplanted by a "fourth wave" of small, local groups that pass his screens of diversity, unwillingness to compromise, and ungentlemanly behavior.

Unfortunately for Dowie's thesis, Sierra Club membership and contributions are on the increase. Apparently the American people recognize that when we have such an anti-environmental Congress, there is nothing like a vast nationwide network of grassroots activists linked to resist it. —*Paul Rauber*

***The Way Things Aren't: Rush Limbaugh's Reign of Error***

by Steven Rendall, Jim Naureckas, and Jeff Cohen

The New Press; \$6.95, paper

**I**t's biting attack on the "outrageously false" statements of Environmental Enemy Number One makes this little book an effective defensive weapon in the War on the Environment.

Each chapter leads off with a brief, amusing "case study" of Limbaugh's lies about a specific topic. These introductions are followed by sequences of paired paragraphs contrasting *Limbaugh* with *Reality*, crisply refuting his pontifications.

The "Make-Believe Environment" section discredits some of the Ditto-meister's more popular anti-environmental whoppers: *Limbaugh*: "there are more acres of forest land in America than when Columbus discovered it." *Reality*: "there were one billion acres, now there are 737 million, much of which lacks the ecological diversity of the original old-growth forest."

Then there's his false but widely repeated claim that the 1991 eruption of

Mt. Pinatubo in the Philippines put 570 times more ozone-depleting chemicals into the atmosphere than modern industry does in a year. (Well, at one point he said "in a year," and at another in the "entire history" of industry; Limbaugh plays fast and loose with facts, even those of his own invention.) The authors trace this vulcanology to the late Dixie Lee Ray's discredited enviro-bashing. Ray was referring to an *Alaskan* volcano, to which she applied an estimate extrapolated from yet *another* estimate—of the amount of chlorine from an eruption in California 700,000 years ago. Not only is our right-wing genius three volcanoes and 700,000 years from reality, but he got the chemistry all wrong anyhow: chlorine coughed up by a volcano and rinsed out of the atmosphere by rain is completely different from the chlorofluorocarbon molecules that drift up to the ozone layer.

The authors, who work for FAIR (Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting), which exposes the stifling effect of corporate power on journalism, note that Limbaugh isn't the only media hero who strays from reality. They also provide choice quotes of eminent newspaper's admiring opinions of Limbaugh, such as Ted Koppel's praise of him as "well informed." Items like this make *The Way Things Aren't* the most useful, succinct, and feisty of the recent exposés of America's sloppy pundits.

—*Bob Schildgen****A Moment on the Earth: Why Nature Needs Us***

by Gregg Easterbrook

Viking; \$27.95

**B**ecause it characterizes environmentalists as alarmists, ideas plucked from this book are already being deployed to scoff at environmental concerns. "Environmental commentary is so fogbound in woe," says

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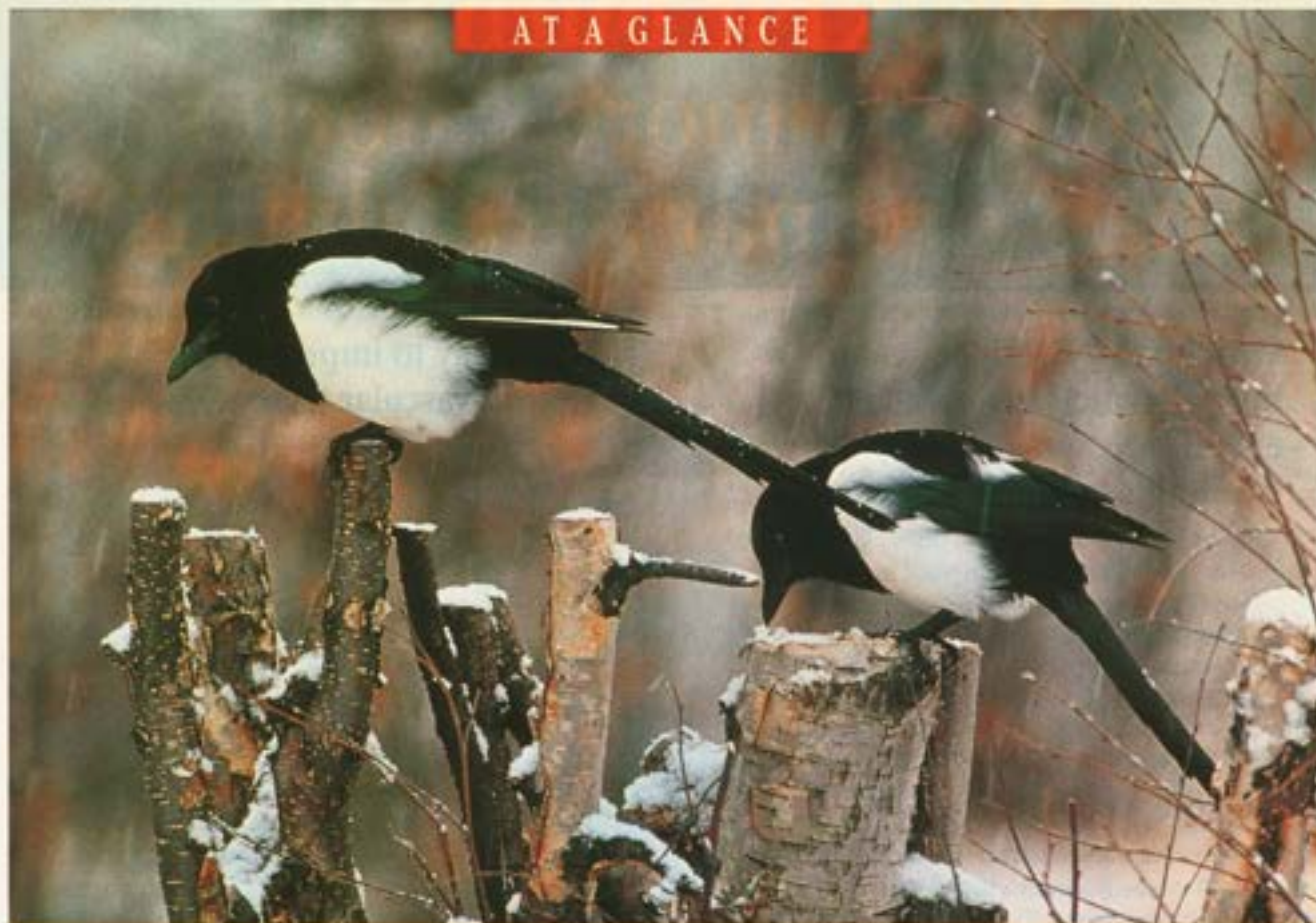
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**Bird Brains:**  
*The Intelligence of Crows,  
 Ravens, Magpies, and Jays*  
 by Candace Savage  
 Sierra Club Books; \$25

With powerful photographic documentation, naturalist Candace Savage examines the lives and behaviors of the highly intelligent corvid family—magpies (shown above), crows, ravens, jackdaws, rooks, and jays. The mental capacity of these birds may be on a par with that of the higher primates, Savage explains, a discovery that could make the pejorative term “bird brain” obsolete. Have we nothing to learn from birds that can learn?

journalist Easterbrook, that it overstates problems and fails to acknowledge the movement's success.

To some extent, Easterbrook labors to prove the obvious: work hard to solve problems, and you often make progress. But his theory stretches thin when he glosses over persistent environmental degradation in order to accentuate the positive; and while fashioning himself as an “ecorealist,” he comes across more as a Pollyanna.

He asserts, for example, that “most of the acreage of the earth remains wild or semi-wild.” But the evidence points to the contrary. A world wilderness inventory I prepared for the Sierra Club ten years ago found that only 11 percent of the biologically active portion

of the world's land remains wild. Most has been converted to agriculture, pastures, managed forests, and urban areas.

Easterbrook suggests that only one-half of one percent of our woodland has been damaged through “alteration,” a term that appears to mean “deforestation.” Yet quite the contrary is true. Less than one-half of one percent of America's “virgin” woodland remains, and not even all of that is protected.

Similarly, he implies that other than fishing, human activity has had little impact on sea life. But marine habitat is under real pressures from land-based sources of pollution, changes in the food chain, and increases in ultraviolet

light due to the thinning ozone layer.

Our waterways have improved to some extent, but 40 percent of them still aren't fishable or swimmable. Production of herbicides and fertilizers is up, along with all of their attendant problems.

In any case, Easterbrook's determination to look on the sunny side has been rudely checked by the 104th Congress' assault on U.S. environmental safeguards. He has appeared with Sierra Club leaders on C-SPAN, arguing against throwing away all the environmental programs that have brought us progress thus far. Perhaps he is becoming a true ecorealist at last.

—Michael McCloskey



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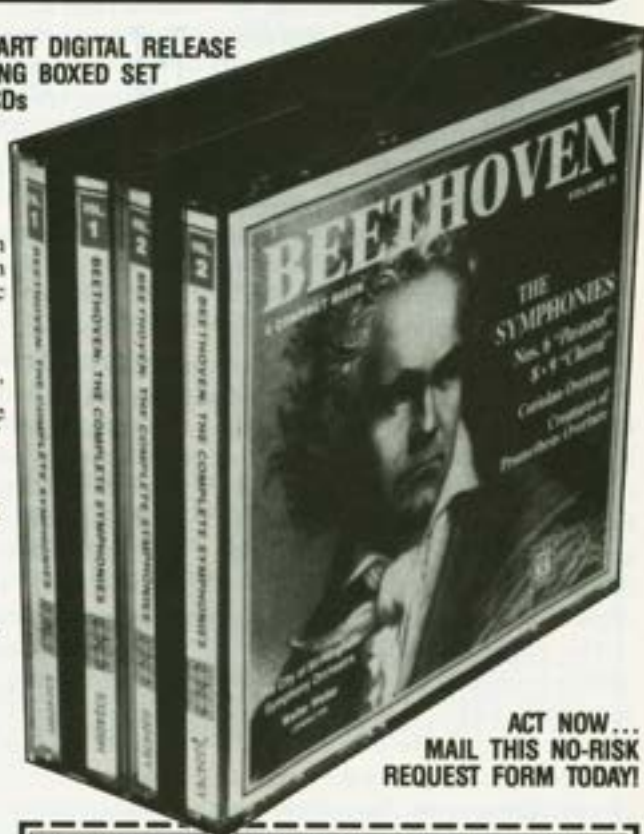
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**Our Natural History:  
The Lessons of Lewis and Clark**

by Daniel B. Bodkin

G. P. Putnam's Sons; \$24.95

"The greatest wilderness trip ever recorded," says the author, was Lewis and Clark's epic 28-month expedition up the Missouri River from St. Louis to what became North Dakota, then west over the Rockies and finally to the Pacific by way of the Columbia.

Bodkin recounts this adventure while creating a drama of the vast region's geology and ecology, with a vivid sense of nature in flux as species come and go in the relentless dynamism of landforms and ecological systems.

Thomas Jefferson ordered the trek in 1804 to gather scientific information on landscape, soils, climate, flora and fauna. This data may be more valuable today than the naturalist/president imagined. Explorers' descriptions of ancient habitats and species are now used to determine how best to preserve those that have survived and restore those that haven't. For example, the party's encounters with grizzly bears are a source for calculating the original number of grizzlies in the Northwest, which helps determine how large their endangered population must grow to be secure.

The range of Bodkin's scientific work is evident in the variety of environmental topics that spring from his reflections on the historic trek: a study on stored carbon in the forests of North America to determine how much CO<sub>2</sub> they could absorb to offset increasing carbon in the atmosphere; a look at the complex life cycle of the salmon struggling to survive the demands of modern civilization; the decline and near extinction of buffalo, wolves, and salmon in an era of brutal and mindless exploitation; a meditation on the astounding and almost complete loss of the vast prairie that once accounted for more land area than any other ecosystem in the country. And in discussing wolves, he shows that the moral and aesthetic reasons for species preservation can be as compelling as ecological or utilitarian ones.

The "lessons" of his fact-laden dis-

cussions provide the bulk of his argument. With scores of natural ecosystems endangered in at least half of the contiguous 48 states, the pertinent scientific question is, "How can they be saved?" Bodkin provides a bag of clues and a map. It is provocative and interesting reading. —Joseph Petulla

**In Service of the Wild:  
Restoring and Reinhabiting  
Damaged Land**

by Stephanie Mills

Beacon Press; \$23

Now that humanity has done such a good job of taking the planet apart, it's time to learn how to put it together again. In her latest book, well-known ecologist and activist Stephanie Mills introduces us to people who have begun figuring out how.

*In Service of the Wild* is another entry in the growing body of work on wildland restoration. This is a literature of active hope; the hope that we can undo what we've done, that the land is stronger and more resilient than our destructive behavior; active in that it proposes concrete methods for restoring the landscape.

Mills visits five exemplary sites: Aldo Leopold's farm in Wisconsin, where modern land-restoration theory was first conceived; the University of Wisconsin arboretum, where many of Leopold's notions were tried out and expanded; remnants of prairie near Chicago, where prairie ecosystems are being carefully regenerated in the midst of unlikely suburban surroundings; the Mattole River Valley in Northern California, where a community struggles to restore salmon to the river and wholeness to itself; and a religious settlement in southern India attempting to return "worthless," barren, grossly overused land to viability. These explorations are framed by the story of Mills' attempts to restore her own 35 acres of logged-over northern Michigan farmland, recording her struggles with invasive Scotch pines, neighbors, and her own limited experience of restoration. Mills is a new kind of pioneer, discovering ways to re-create what the last wave of inhabitants destroyed.

The uncertainties of the process, both technical and human, are at the heart of this book. *In Service of the Wild* is not merely an instruction manual; rather, it is an essay in the root sense, an attempt to clear the ground for a new way of thinking about and behaving toward the land. —Marc Lecard

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The central issue is surely this: **At what size should we seek to stabilize U.S. population?** Unless we know in what direction we should be headed, how can we possibly devise sensible policies to get us there?

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2. **Lower our fertility rate** (the average number of children per woman) from the present 2.0 to around 1.5 and maintain it at that level for several decades. We believe that non-coercive financial incentives will be necessary in order to reach that goal.

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## MISSING LINKS

*Continued from page 57*

be sovereign species whose condition had little effect on the well-being of the flora and fauna down below. Until the 1930s, in fact, the National Park Service used guns, traps, and poison to exterminate wolves and mountain lions from Yellowstone and other parks. Early in his career, even Aldo Leopold beat the drum for killing predators.

Today, biologists know that lions and bears and wolves are ecologically essential to entire systems. For example, the eastern United States is overrun with white-tailed deer, which devastate trees with their excess foraging. If allowed to return, wolves and mountain lions would move deer from their concentrated wintering yards and reduce their numbers, thereby allowing the forest to return to more natural patterns of succession and species composition.

Even songbirds suffer when wolves and cougars disappear. The decline in populations of migrant neotropical songbirds such as warblers, thrushes, and flycatchers as a result of forest fragmentation in Central and North America is well documented. But the collapse is also partly attributable to the absence of large carnivores. Cougars and gray wolves don't eat warblers or their eggs, but raccoons, foxes, and possums do, and the cougars and wolves eat these midsize predators. When the big guys were hunted out, the populations of the middling guys exploded—with dire results for the birds.

In addition to being critical players in various eat-or-be-eaten schemes, large carnivores are valuable as "umbrella" species. Simply put, if enough habitat is protected to maintain viable populations of large mammals like wolverines or jaguars, then most of the other species in the region will also be protected.

A final piece in conservation biology's big-picture puzzle is the importance of natural disturbances to various ecosystems. To be viable, habitats must be large enough to absorb major natu-



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ral disturbances (known as "stochastic events" in ecologist lingo). When Yellowstone burned in 1988, there was a great hue and cry over the imagined destruction. But ecologists tell us that the fire was natural and beneficial. Because Yellowstone covers 2 million acres and is surrounded by several million acres more of national-forest wilderness, the extensive fires affected only a portion of the total reserve area.

Things didn't turn out so well when The Nature Conservancy's Cathedral Pines Preserve in Connecticut was hammered by tornadoes in 1989. In this tiny patch of remnant old-growth white-pine forest, 70 percent of the trees were knocked flat, devastating the entire ecosystem. Had the tornadoes ripped through a forest of hundreds of thousands of acres, they instead would have played a positive role by opening up small sections of the forest to new growth.

CONSERVATION BIOLOGY'S CENTRAL tenets are not hard to grasp. For a natural habitat to be viable (and for a conservation strategy to succeed) there is a handful of general rules: bigger is better; a single large habitat is usually better than several small, isolated ones; large native carnivores are better than none; intact habitat is preferable to artificially disturbed habitat; and connected habitats are usually better than fragmented ones.

Too often, wilderness areas and national parks in the United States fail to qualify as viable habitat. They are pretty, yet unproductive. For the most part, the richer deep forests, rolling grasslands, and fertile river valleys on which a disproportionate number of rare and endangered species depend have passed into private ownership or been released for development. To make matters worse, the elimination of large carnivores, control of natural fire, and livestock grazing have degraded even our largest and most remote parks and wilderness areas.

Conservation biologists tell us we must go beyond our current national park, wildlife refuge, and wilderness area systems. What's needed are large

wilderness cores, buffer zones, and biological corridors. The cores would be managed to protect and, where necessary, restore native biological diversity and natural processes. Wilderness recreation is compatible with these areas, as long as ecological considerations come first. Surrounding the cores would be buffer zones where increasing levels of compatible human activity would be allowed as one moved away from the center. Corridors would provide secure routes between cores, enabling wide-ranging plant and animal species to disperse and facilitating genetic exchange between populations.

Existing wilderness areas, national parks, and other federal and state reserves are the building blocks for this ecologically based network. While rarely extensive enough to protect habitat in and of themselves, these fragmented wildland chunks preserve imperiled and sensitive species. Had today's parks and wilderness areas not been protected through the tireless efforts of wilderness conservationists over the years, these species would be much more in danger than they are today, if they existed at all.

In the northern Rockies, groups such as the Alliance for the Wild Rockies and the Greater Yellowstone Coalition have been working to turn fragmented wildlands into viable habitat. They reckon that if Yellowstone isn't large enough to maintain healthy populations of grizzlies and wolverines, then we need to link the park with larger areas.

At a minimum that means treating the national forests around the park as integral to the park itself. Even grander ideas would link Yellowstone with the vast wilderness areas of central Idaho, the Glacier National Park/Bob Marshall Wilderness complex in northern Montana, and on into Canada.

These efforts produced the most expansive ecosystem-based legislation ever proposed in the United States. The Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act (NREPA) would designate 20 million acres of new wilderness areas and identify essential corridors between them. The bill, endorsed by

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"Morning workout." Emily Stoddard on the frozen shoreline of Lake Tahoe. Photo: John Kelly  
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## AWARENESS

### THE KEY TO CREATING CHANGE

"All nature's treasures and forces...willingly serve those who realize their divine identity," explained Paramahansa Yogananda, founder of Self-Realization Fellowship. The environmental abuse prevalent in



the world today is merely a symptom of our lack of inner harmony and attunement with nature. But it doesn't have to be this way. The scientific methods of meditation and principles of balanced living taught by Paramahansa Yogananda can help you tap the limitless potentials of your inner Self. Applying these universal principles can not only expand your awareness, but lead you to the meaning of life itself.

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the Sierra Club, currently has 35 cosponsors.

Through its Critical Ecoregions Program, the Sierra Club is applying ecosystem principles to other large landscapes across North America. (See "Ecosystem Thinking From the Ground Up," page 56.) But conservation biology's tenets can also be applied on a traditional scale. Across the country, activists are helping shape the next generation of national-forest management plans. They are identifying habitat for sensitive species, remnants of natural forest, and travel corridors for wide-ranging species. They can then champion the creation of wildlife linkages and expansion of existing wilderness areas into ecologically rich habitats. In many places, they'll be able to make the case that roads be closed to protect sensitive ecosystems, that once-present species like wolves and mountain lions be reintroduced, and that damaged watersheds be restored.

But it gets even wilder.

In late 1991 a small group of scientists and activists married conservation biology and conservation activism on the grandest and most visionary scale yet. The Wildlands Project has set itself the all-encompassing goal of designing science-based reserve networks that will protect and restore the ecological richness and native biodiversity of North America from Alaska to Panama.

At a time when legislators are handing out private rights to public lands like candy, such visions may seem like delusions. Congress is dominated by zealots who would tear down decades of conservation policy and open public lands to the exploiters Teddy Roosevelt fought almost a century ago. Senator Slade Gorton (R-Wash.) does the bidding of the timber industry in trying to gut the Endangered Species Act; just across the hall Representative Billy Tauzin (D-La.) unleashes lies and demagoguery against wetlands protection and the Clean Water Act. Lurching through the Contract With America checklist, Congress threatens wilderness in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, in the Northern Rockies, and in the slickrock canyons of Utah.

Even the national parks aren't safe from legislators who know the price of everything and the value of nothing.

An understanding of conservation biology and a vision of ecologically designed wilderness cores, corridors, and buffer zones can help stop the war being waged on the environment. First, conservation policies and arguments are strengthened by a grounding in sound science. Second, a big-picture view allows activists to see that they are not isolated, that their campaigns to protect local wildlands fit into a national, even continental plan.

And it is no small benefit that a vision of wilderness recovery allows us to show what conservationists are for. Too often, activists are dismissed as negative, whining doomsayers. By developing long-term proposals for wilderness, we say, "Here is our vision for what North America should look like. Civilization and wilderness can coexist. By acting responsibly with respect for the land, we can become a better people."

A management plan that treats Florida as an ecological whole, a federal bill that crosses borders to protect wildlands throughout the northern Rockies, and a continent-wide proposal like The Wildlands Project's wrest the fundamental debate from those who would gladly plunder our natural heritage. Do we have the generosity of spirit, the greatness of heart to share the land with other species? I think we do. ■

DAVE FOREMAN is a director of the Sierra Club and chairman of The Wildlands Project. He wrote *Confessions of an Eco-Warrior* (Crown, 1991) and co-authored *The Big Outside* with Howard Wolke (Harmony Books, 1992).

► For more information, write *The Wildlands Project*, P.O. Box 1276, McMinnville, OR 97128; (503) 434-9848. Read *Saving Nature's Legacy*, by Reed Noss and Allen Cooperrider, which details how to apply conservation biology principles to land management and nature-reserve design. It is available from bookstores, or by mail for \$22 from *Books of the Big Outside*, P.O. Box 1399, Bernalillo, NM 87004; (505) 867-0878.



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As the years pass, mild discomforts can become disabling. Today, prostate surgery is the second most commonly performed surgery in men over age 65! Surgical complications can include total loss of bladder control and sexual dysfunction.

Prescription drugs may halt the swelling, but rarely end the suffering. Also, many prescription drugs may have side-effects, like weak erections and low sex drive.

Many doctors feel that prostate disorders can be treated or prevented by giving the prostate gland the nutrition it lacks.

Recent scientific research has shown how to remedy the underlying problems associated with prostate disorders--safely and effectively. These results have been published in the *British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology*, the *American Journal of Gerontology*, and papers from the *National Cancer Institute*. They reveal that several vitamins, minerals and natural herbs can dramatically shrink the prostate and improve urinary performance in older men.

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Continued from page 67

The lamp that human culture holds up for the guidance of human instinct is something that we too must think about. For our connection to nature is never theoretical. We work it out daily in the most insistently practical ways. In dealing with our own fertility and its consequences, we are not just carrying on personal or private "relationships." We are establishing one of the fundamental terms of our humanity and our connection to the world.

For clarification, we can turn once again to those opposed historical themes (and psychologies) of boomer and sticker. Boomers, as Wallace Stegner understood them, are people who expect or demand that the world conform to their desires. They either succeed and thus damage the world, or they fail and thus damage their families and themselves.

In *The New Yorker*, Daphne Merkin described as follows "the postmodern view of connubial love":

"To live with a man or a woman on an ongoing, intimate basis is to grow jaded, weary of the imaginative possibilities; at some point our husbands and wives fail to live up to a long-ago sensed potential. They become to us who they have become to themselves, and it is hard to envision them as promising more than they currently yield." Ms. Merkin's description conforms exactly to the understanding of boomer desire that we find in *The Big Rock Candy Mountain*. There is nothing new or "postmodern" in Ms. Merkin's sentences, which describe, in fact, the psychology of the Spanish gold seekers of the 16th century and all their countless followers until now. The boomer's mind operates outside all restraints of culture and principle. Just as tragically, it operates outside history; it does not remember experience. It deals with all of its subjects on the basis of the crudest economic metaphor: any person, place, or thing is understood as a mine having a limited "yield"; when the yield falls below expectation, it is time to

move on. It is easy to see that this mind must be equally destructive of nature and of humanity—hard on landscapes and on spouses, hard on children and other small creatures.

We have, in fact, no right to ask the world to conform to our desires. Sooner or later, if we hope to grow up, we have to confront the opposite imperative: that our rights and the realization of our desires are limited by human nature, by human community, and by the nature of the places in which

we live. If we can accept our world's real limits and the responsibilities that protect our authentic rights, if we can unite affection and fidelity, if we can keep instinct and light together, then (as our tradition teaches) we may legitimately hope to transcend our limits, so that our life may grow in generosity, love, grace, and beauty without end. ■

WENDELL BERRY lives and works on a farm in Port Royal, Kentucky. His latest book is *Another Turn of the Crank*.

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# SIERRA CLUB FINANCIAL REPORT

Pursuant to provisions of sections 6321 and 6322 of the California Corporations Code, the following information is furnished as an annual report:

The Club's complete financial statements for the fiscal years ended December 31, 1994 and December 31, 1993, together with the report of KPMG Peat Marwick LLP, independent auditors, are available on request from Sierra Club headquarters at 730 Polk Street, San Francisco, California 94109.

The membership list of the Sierra Club is on file at the Club's headquarters at 730 Polk Street, San Francisco, California 94109.

There are no transactions to disclose that constitute a conflict of interest involving directors or officers; no member has voting power of 10% or more;

The books of account and minutes of meetings of the Board of Directors are available for inspection by members on written request at the Club's headquarters at 730 Polk Street, San Francisco, California 94109.

## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

The Board of Directors  
Sierra Club:

We have audited the accompanying balance sheets of Sierra Club as of December 31, 1994 and 1993, and the related statements of revenue, expenses and changes in fund balances, and changes in cash for the years then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Club's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those

standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Sierra Club

as of December 31, 1994 and 1993, and the results of its operations and its changes in cash for the years then ended in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

As discussed in note 2 of the notes to financial statements, effective January 1, 1994, Sierra Club changed its method of accounting for investments in its endowment fund.

*KPMG Peat Marwick LLP*

San Francisco, California  
April 28, 1995

## TO THE MEMBERS OF THE SIERRA CLUB:

Nineteen ninety-four was a difficult financial year for the Sierra Club. Although the Club was able to accomplish many important environmental and conservation objectives, we experienced a large operational deficit in doing so. Realizing the importance of improving its financial health, in 1994 the Club undertook a number of major initiatives to improve financial performance. I am pleased to tell you that these are clearly demonstrating a positive result in 1995.

Led by the Club's President, Robbie Cox, "Project Renewal" was initiated in 1994 to streamline the Club's volunteer committee structure. Significantly, expenses have been reduced, but even more importantly, volunteer activities have been focused primarily on carrying out the Club conservation program, with administrative processes streamlined.

In addition, the Club embarked on a painful process of expense reduction, including the elimination of approximately 10 percent of its national staff positions, as part of its 1995 budget process. Although core Conservation programs were preserved, prudence required that the Club pay most of its other expenses to the minimum level needed to carry out its mission. The benefits of that exercise are showing in a much healthier financial performance for 1995.

The Club has re-launched efforts to acquire and retain members who will actively support its mission. Current results indicate that 1995's revenue streams are rebounding from the doldrums of 1993 and 1994. This is partly a result of the Club's efforts to improve its membership service and communications and partly a result of our members' response to the threat posed by the current congress to the environmental protections we have worked to establish over the last 20 years. The number of Sierra Club members increased slightly to 553,000 at the end of 1994; additionally, our Quasi-endowment has grown from \$9,842,600 at the end of 1993 to \$10,127,600 at 1994 year-end.

Some of the major 1994 accomplishments in which our members can take pride are:

- Passage of the California Desert Protection Act, protecting 7 million acres of national parks and wilderness areas.
- Addition of 250,000 acres of pristine Alaskan wildlife habitat to the Kodiak National Wildlife refuge.
- Defeat of the Arizona "Takings" bill. Club activists were instrumental in getting the measure on the November ballot in Arizona. A threat to all environmental protection in the state, the bill was defeated 60/40 at the polls.
- Defeat of the James Bay hydroelectric project in Quebec, a series of dams that would have flooded 2,000 square miles of Cree Indian homeland and wildlife habitat.

In closing, let me say that I believe that we have made great strides towards rectifying the financial situation of the Club, and expect 1995 to show that we are turning an important financial corner. At the same time, we will continue to fulfill our role in preserving and protecting our natural heritage and environmental rights.

Submitted by  
Tony Buckel, Treasurer

## SIERRA CLUB FISCAL YEAR 1994



Source of Funds

Use of Funds

**SIERRA CLUB BALANCE SHEETS** December 31, 1994 and 1993

**ASSETS**

	1994	1993
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ —	1,076,400
Receivables:		
Trade accounts, less allowance of \$359,700 in 1994 and \$486,400 in 1993	11,300	85,700
Advertising and newsstand, less allowance of \$263,000 in 1994 and \$266,000 in 1993	181,900	136,400
Grants	535,400	711,400
Other, less allowance of \$100,000 in 1994 and 1993	972,500	847,300
Inventories	970,300	951,000
Prepaid expenses	1,480,400	1,339,200
Advances, less allowance for unearned royalties of \$228,800 in 1994 and \$153,800 in 1993	457,800	511,900
Investments - endowment fund	9,961,300	9,219,600
Property and equipment, net	3,447,200	3,465,400
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$ 18,018,100</b>	<b>18,344,300</b>

See Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements

**LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES**

	1994	1993
Cash Overdraft	\$ 30,600	—
Accounts payable	2,792,600	3,296,400
Accrued expenses	3,398,500	3,761,200
Line of credit	1,300,000	1,200,000
Deferred revenue:		
Unrestricted	347,400	500,100
Restricted	509,500	407,200
Long-term debt	1,403,700	1,463,100
	<b>11,782,300</b>	<b>10,628,000</b>
Fund balances:		
Unrestricted deficit	(5,901,000)	(3,682,500)
Net investment in property and equipment	2,009,200	1,956,000
Endowment:		
Quasi-endowments:		
Life memberships	8,751,600	8,100,800
Other	1,176,900	1,142,700
Endowment-donor restricted	189,100	189,100
Term endowment	10,000	—
Commitments and contingencies	6,235,800	7,716,300
<b>Total liabilities and fund balances</b>	<b>\$ 18,018,100</b>	<b>18,344,300</b>

**SIERRA CLUB STATEMENTS OF REVENUE, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES**

Years ended December 31, 1994 and 1993

	1994				1993			
	Unrestricted	Endowment	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Endowment	Restricted	Total
<b>REVENUE:</b>								
Member dues:								
Annual dues	\$ 14,307,300	—	—	14,307,300	13,526,600	—	—	13,526,600
Life memberships	—	769,600	—	769,600	—	908,100	—	908,100
Contributions and grants	10,564,600	34,300	3,817,300	14,416,200	11,781,100	43,000	2,847,300	14,671,400
Outings and lodge reservations and fees	3,031,100	—	—	3,031,100	2,820,700	—	—	2,820,700
Book and other retail sales	4,840,500	—	—	4,840,500	4,148,600	—	—	4,148,600
Royalties	1,594,100	—	—	1,594,100	1,674,900	—	—	1,674,900
Net unrealized gain (loss) on securities	(282,100)	—	—	(282,100)	—	—	—	—
Net realized gain on securities	84,700	—	—	84,700	—	—	—	—
Advertising, investment and other income	3,544,900	—	1,400	3,546,300	4,184,500	—	4,200	4,188,700
Reimbursement:								
Capital campaign	700,000	—	—	700,000	895,700	—	—	895,700
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>38,385,100</b>	<b>803,900</b>	<b>3,818,700</b>	<b>43,007,700</b>	<b>39,032,100</b>	<b>951,100</b>	<b>2,851,500</b>	<b>42,834,700</b>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>								
Program services:								
Studying and influencing public policy	10,056,500	—	3,269,800	13,326,300	10,226,100	—	2,194,000	12,420,100
Information and education	9,414,200	—	347,700	9,761,900	10,007,600	—	449,400	10,457,000
Outdoor activities	3,247,600	—	181,700	3,429,300	3,087,700	—	200,000	3,287,700
Chapter allocations	2,942,700	—	—	2,942,700	3,112,400	—	—	3,112,400
<b>Total program services</b>	<b>25,661,000</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>3,799,200</b>	<b>29,460,200</b>	<b>26,433,800</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>2,843,400</b>	<b>29,277,200</b>
Support services:								
General and administrative	2,448,400	—	19,500	2,467,900	2,987,700	—	8,100	2,995,800
Membership	9,371,200	118,900	—	9,490,100	7,756,400	354,000	—	8,110,400
Fundraising	2,153,500	—	—	2,153,500	2,598,500	—	—	2,598,500
Sierra Club	1,549,000	—	—	1,549,000	1,721,000	—	—	1,721,000
Affiliates	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Total support services</b>	<b>15,522,100</b>	<b>118,900</b>	<b>19,500</b>	<b>15,660,500</b>	<b>15,063,600</b>	<b>354,000</b>	<b>8,100</b>	<b>15,425,700</b>
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>41,183,100</b>	<b>118,900</b>	<b>3,818,700</b>	<b>45,120,700</b>	<b>41,497,400</b>	<b>354,000</b>	<b>2,851,500</b>	<b>44,702,900</b>
(Deficit) excess of revenue over expenses	(2,798,000)	685,000	—	(2,113,000)	(2,465,300)	597,100	—	(1,868,200)
Effect on accounting change on beginning fund balance	(632,500)	—	—	632,500	—	—	—	—
(Deficit) excess of revenue over expenses and effect of accounting change on beginning of fund balance	(2,165,500)	685,000	—	(1,480,500)	(2,465,300)	597,100	—	(1,868,200)
Fund balances at beginning of period	(1,726,200)	9,442,600	—	7,716,400	739,000	8,845,500	—	9,584,500
Fund balances at end of period	\$ (3,891,700)	10,127,600	—	6,235,900	(1,726,300)	9,442,600	—	7,716,300

See Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements

**SIERRA CLUB STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN CASH** Years ended December 31, 1994 and 1993

	1994	1993		1994	1993
	<b>Sources of cash:</b>				<b>Uses of cash:</b>
(Deficit) excess of revenue over expenses and effect of accounting change on beginning fund balance	\$ (1,480,500)	(1,868,200)	Increase in trade accounts receivables	—	78,100
Add (deduct) non-cash items:			Increase in advertising and newsstand receivables	45,500	—
Depreciation and amortization	501,300	489,000	Increase in grants receivable	—	147,300
Amortization of discount on investments	—	(342,200)	Increase in other receivables	125,200	371,400
Net unrealized holding loss on securities	282,100	—	Increase in inventories	19,500	43,700
Net realized gain on sale of investment securities	(84,700)	—	Increase in prepaid expenses	141,200	189,200
Effect on accounting change on beginning fund balance	(632,500)	—	Increase in advances	—	126,300
<b>Total cash used in operation</b>	<b>(1,414,300)</b>	<b>(1,721,400)</b>	Increase in accounts payable	503,800	—
Decrease in trade accounts receivable	74,400	—	Purchases of investments	5,521,700	560,000
Decrease in advertising and newsstand receivables	—	800	Acquisition of property and equipment	483,100	831,500
Decrease in grants receivable	176,000	—	Decrease in deferred revenue - unrestricted	152,700	37,100
Decrease in advances	34,100	—	Reductions of long-term debt	59,400	59,300
Proceeds from maturity and sale of investments	5,215,100	385,300	<b>Total uses of cash</b>	<b>7,051,900</b>	<b>2,443,900</b>
Increase in cash overdraft	30,600	—	Decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(1,076,400)	(934,800)
Increase in accounts payable	—	864,300	Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	1,076,400	2,011,200
Increase in accrued expenses	1,637,300	501,600	Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	\$ —	1,076,400
Increase in line of credit	100,000	1,200,000			
Increase in deferred revenue - restricted	103,300	278,500			
<b>Total sources of cash</b>	<b>3,975,500</b>	<b>1,509,100</b>			

See Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements

**(1) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies****(a) Organization**

The Sierra Club (the Club) is a nonprofit voluntary membership organization established to explore, enjoy and protect the wild places of the earth; to practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's resources and resources; to educate and inform humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environments; and to use all lawful means to carry out these objectives. The Club operates many environmentally conscious programs which benefit the public interest. The studying and influencing public policy program consists of staff and volunteers engaged in legislative and nonlegislative activities, including research, education, lobbying, legal and policy development. Information and education includes the literary program of Sierra Club books and Sierra, the Club's magazine. Outdoor activities include national and international camping programs, consisting of approximately 300 trips during the year ended December 31, 1994. The membership program serves approximately 553,000 members and includes support and funding of 63 volunteer chapters and 399 groups, and the development of a broad-based volunteer membership.

**(b) Basis of Presentation**

The financial statements include the accounts of the Club. The financial statements do not include the financial activities of the Club's various self-directed chapter and group organizations.

The Sierra Club Foundation (the Foundation) is a separate legal entity and, thus, is not included in the Club's financial statements.

To ensure observance of limitations and restrictions placed on the use of revenues available to the Club, the accounts of the Club are maintained in accordance with the principles of fund accounting. This is the procedure by which resources for various purposes are classified for accounting and reporting purposes into funds established according to their nature and purposes. Separate accounts are maintained for each fund, however, in the accompanying financial statements, funds that have similar characteristics have been combined into fund groups. Accordingly, all financial transactions have been recorded and reported by fund group.

The assets, liabilities and fund balances of the Club are reported in three self-balancing fund groups as follows:

Unrestricted funds represent the portions of expendable funds that are available for support of the Club's operations, including the Club's investment in property and equipment pursuant to approved Board policy.

Endowment funds include funds the Club has received for which the donor has specified that the principal be maintained in perpetuity, with the income earned to be used to support ongoing operations and for certain donor specified activities. The income from endowments is recognized as revenue at the time the restriction is met. The Club's by-laws provide that all life memberships and such other funds as designated by the Board for permanent investment shall be held as quasi-endowment funds. The income from the quasi-endowment funds are unrestricted.

Restricted funds represent contributions and grants which by donor specification are restricted in use and are recorded as deferred revenue in the period received. Such deferred funds are not considered capital until they have been expended in accordance with their restriction.

**(c) Donated Services**

Many members of the Club have donated significant amounts of time to both the Club and its chapters, groups and committees in furthering the Club's programs and objectives. No amounts have been included in the financial statements for donated member or volunteer services since no objective basis is available to measure the value of such services.

The Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund donates legal services to the Club. The value of these services totaled \$4,273,000 and \$4,363,000 in 1994 and 1993, respectively. The amounts are included in contributions and grants revenue and studying and influencing public policy expense.

**(d) Cash and Cash Equivalents**

For purposes of reporting changes in cash, cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, demand deposits with financial institutions and money market accounts.

The Club's policy is to invest cash in excess of operating requirements in accounts which yield the highest short-term return. Investments in money market accounts amounted to \$74,400 and \$567,000 at December 31, 1994 and 1993, respectively.

At December 31, 1994 and 1993, cash and cash equivalents included \$167,900 and \$139,400, respectively, of endowment fund money market accounts, \$42,800 of which is restricted by donors as to its use.

**(e) Trade Accounts Receivable**

The Club with the books it publishes to readers and grants credit to readers deemed eligible. The allowance for publication returns and the allowance for bad debts are determined using historical rates.

**(f) Inventories**

Inventories consist primarily of books and are stated at the lower of cost or market on the first-in, first-out basis. Unit costs for new adult and children's books are based on paper, printing and binding charges only. Production costs for books, which include nonrecycling development costs such as plates, typesetting and artwork supplied by the publisher, are capitalized and amortized over unit sales for the first printing; however, the amortization period is not longer than the first seven-to-four months of sales.

**(g) Allowances**

Reserves are advanced to authors of the Club's publications. An allowance is provided against such advances for estimated losses resulting from unearned royalties using historical rates.

**(h) Property and Equipment**

Property and equipment is stated at cost at the date of acquisition or fair value at the date of gift or bequest. Donated paintings, photographs and books are not reflected in the accompanying financial statements (note 9). Depreciation and amortization expense is provided on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of the related assets, generally 3 to 32 years, or the related lease terms, whichever is shorter. When assets are retired or otherwise disposed of, the cost and related accumulated depreciation or amortization are removed from the accounts, and any resulting gain or loss is recognized in income for the period. The cost of maintenance and repairs is charged to expense as incurred, significant renewals and betterments are capitalized.

**(i) Deferred Revenue**

The Club defers revenue from outings, grants and other donor restricted activities until the period the trip is completed or the donor restrictions are met.

**(j) Member Dues**

Membership dues are recognized as revenue when received.

**(k) Contributions**

All contributions are considered available for unrestricted use unless specifically restricted by the donor. Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue as the restrictions are met.

Donated legal services performed on behalf of the Club by the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund are recorded as contributions with equivalent amounts charged to expense.

**(l) Allocation of Expenses**

The Club's expenses are presented on a functional basis, showing basic program activities and support services. The Club allocates expenses to program and support services based on the organizational cost centers (functional units) in which expenses are incurred. In certain instances, expenses are allocated between support functions and program services based upon a defined allocation methodology.

The Club's activities of fundraising and membership services in many cases include purposes or contents related to a program service. American Institute of Certified Public Accountants Statement of Position 87-2 states that joint costs of informational materials or activities should be allocated between fundraising and the appropriate program or general function if it can be demonstrated that a program or general function has been performed in conjunction with the appeal for funds. Although the Club has the ability to give evidence for such combined activities, it does not allocate those portions from its fundraising and membership activities to program services.

**(m) Reallocations**

Certain 1993 balances have been reallocated to conform with the 1994 presentation.

**(n) Investments - Endowment Fund**

Effective January 1, 1994, the Club changed its method of accounting for its investment securities portfolio from amortized cost to market value. The effect was a \$632,500 increase in beginning fund balance for the difference between market value and amortized cost of the portfolio. During the year, the Club recognized a \$282,100 net unrealized loss on securities and an \$84,700 net realized gain on sale of investment securities.

In 1993 adjustments of the endowment fund were stated at amortized cost. The amortized cost and market values at December 31, 1993 were as follows:

	Amortized cost	Market value
U.S. Government bonds	\$9,219,600	9,852,100

Investment income amounted to \$365,400 in 1994 and \$277,700 in 1993, and is included in advertising, investment and other income in the statement of revenue, expenses and changes in fund balances.

**(o) Property and Equipment**

A summary of property and equipment as of December 31, 1994 and 1993 follows:

	1994	1993
Land	\$ 563,300	563,300
Buildings and leasehold improvements	2,552,200	2,544,300
Furniture and equipment	4,737,300	4,255,900
	7,842,800	7,563,500
Less accumulated depreciation and amortization	(4,395,000)	(3,902,900)
	\$ 3,447,800	\$ 3,660,600

Depreciation and amortization expense was \$282,300 and \$489,000 for the years ended December 31, 1994 and 1993, respectively. Accumulated depreciation for leased equipment was \$0 and \$7,600 as of December 31, 1994 and 1993, respectively.

**(p) Long-term Debt and Line of Credit Agreement**

In August 1988, the Club entered into a loan agreement for \$1,620,000 with a bank to provide financing for the purchase of an office building in Washington, D.C. to accommodate the Club's office operations. The debt was secured by a deed of trust on the office building. In 1993, the Club executed a revised loan agreement with the bank that required the Club to pledge as additional collateral a portion of the quasi-endowment fund investments with a minimum specified market value of \$1,500,000. In addition, the bank agreed to reduce the interest rate on the loan to its prime rate plus .5%.

The revised agreement allows the bank to call the loan at the end of each five year period commencing August 9, 1996, and expires at the end of 35 years. At the end of the 35-year period the remaining balance is due in the form of a balloon payment. The revised agreement also states that when the Club meets certain minimum fund balance and cash flow coverage ratios, the bank will release the quasi-endowment fund investments pledged as collateral. In 1994, the bank reduced its collateral requirement for quasi-endowment fund investments with a minimum specified market value of \$3,400,000.

The current monthly principal payments are \$4,349 plus interest payments at a floating rate of prime plus .5%. Scheduled principal payments of long-term debt outstanding on December 31 are as follows:

Year ended December 31:	
1995	\$ 30,300
1996	59,200
1997	59,500
1998	39,300
1999	39,300
Thereafter	(1,167,700)
Total long-term debt	\$1,601,500

The Club has available, until May 1996, two revolving lines of credit with commercial banks which permit borrowings of up to \$3,000,000 each at interest rates ranging from LIBOR plus 1.25% to each bank's prime interest rate. The revolving lines of credit are secured by a portion of quasi-endowment fund investments which are held in collateral accounts by each bank. The market value, based on a formula determined by each of the banks, of the investment in the collateral accounts must at all times exceed the outstanding principal balance. At December 31, 1994, \$1,300,000 was outstanding on the revolving lines of credit.

The Club had a revolving line of credit with a bank which expired on October 31, 1994 which the Club chose not to renew. At December 31, 1993, \$1,200,000 was outstanding on the revolving line of credit.

**(q) Leases**

Leases are for office facilities (note 8), computer equipment, system software and other equipment. Certain leases provide for maximum and additional rental payments based on expenses. Future min-

imum payments under all noncancelable operating leases with terms greater than one year at December 31, 1994 are as follows:

Year ended December 31:	
1995	\$ 1,434,000
1996	134,400
1997	22,500
Total lease payments	\$ 1,590,900

The Club is currently undergoing lease negotiations for new office facilities into which the Club expects to move by the beginning of 1996.

Minimum future rentals receivable under noncancelable operating subleases at December 31, 1994 total \$112,500 for the year ended December 31, 1995.

Rent expense for operating leases was \$1,645,700 in 1994 and \$1,521,900 in 1993. Rental income on subleases was \$181,000 in 1994 and \$165,200 in 1993.

**(r) Income Tax Status**

The Club's principal activities are exempt from federal income and California franchise taxes. In the prior year, the Club petitioned a proceeding in the U.S. Tax Court to appeal an Internal Revenue Service audit determination that income derived from mailing list rentals and affinity card royalties are subject to unrelated business income tax. During the year, the U.S. Tax Court ruled in favor of the Club and the case is now pending appeal in the 9th Circuit of the U.S. Court of Appeals. These revenues may ultimately be determined to be subject to unrelated business income tax.

The Club received a tax provision of \$299,500 in 1994 and \$262,000 in 1993 which is included in unrestricted general and administrative expenses. The balance in the related accrued tax liability account was \$2,264,500 and \$1,965,000 as of December 31, 1994 and 1993, respectively. Included in this accrual is an amount that has been provided for potential liabilities related to unrelated business activities.

Contributions to the Club are not deductible by the donor as a charitable contribution for tax purposes.

Membership dues are not deductible by the Club's members at trade or business expenses for tax purposes, because of the lobbying efforts undertaken by the Club.

**(s) Pension Plan**

The Club has a defined benefit pension plan (the Plan) covering substantially all of its employees. The benefits are based on years of service and the employee's compensation history.

The following schedule sets forth the Plan's status as of September 30, 1994 and 1993:

	1994	1993
Actuarial present value of benefit obligations:		
Accumulated benefit obligation	3,335,200	3,010,900
All of which is vested		
Projected benefit obligation for service rendered to date	4,454,700	3,873,200
Plan assets at fair value, which consist of a pooled investment account	3,522,300	3,763,900
Plan assets less than projected benefit obligations	(932,400)	(111,300)
Unrecognized prior service costs	(321,400)	(228,200)
Unrecognized net gain	307,500	(1,300)
Unrecognized net asset at October 1, 1987 being amortized over 15 years	(75,000)	(84,500)
Accrued pension liability recognized on the balance sheet	(751,300)	(317,300)
Net pension cost for 1994 and 1993 included the following components:		
	1994	1993
Service cost	\$407,300	\$41,900
Interest cost	337,400	299,100
Actual return on plan assets	(91,400)	(200,500)
Net amortization and deferral	(229,300)	(152,900)
Net periodic pension costs	\$433,000	\$87,600

The weighted average discount rate and rate of increase in future compensation levels used in determining the actuarial present value of the projected benefit obligation were 8.7% and 8.0%, respectively. The expected long-term rate of return on assets was 8.5%. Contributions to the Plan were \$0 in 1994 and \$11,400 in 1993.

**(t) Transactions with Affiliates**

The Club provides fundraising services for the Foundation. Reimbursed costs related to fundraising and the Capital Campaign totaled \$700,000 in 1994 and \$895,700 in 1993. The Club receives direct grants from the Foundation in support of various programs that totaled \$4,499,500 in 1994 and \$3,987,200 in 1993. Of the preceding amounts, \$555,400 and \$711,400 were included in grants receivable at December 31, 1994 and 1993, respectively.

The Club's wholly owned subsidiary, Sierra Club Property Management, Inc., is the general partner of National Headquarters Associates (a limited partnership). The limited partnership was formed to raise capital for purposes of acquiring and rehabilitating an office building for lease by the Club. The building was completed and occupied in November 1985. This operating lease has a ten-year term and requires monthly payments of \$99,000, subject to adjustment in certain circumstances for changes in the limited partnership's debt service requirements. In addition, the Club is responsible for taxes on the property, repairs and maintenance, and shares insurance, utility and security costs with the limited partnership. The Club is currently undergoing lease negotiations for new office facilities into which the Club expects to move by the beginning of 1996.

**(u) Paintings, Photographs and Books**

Since its inception, the Club has been the recipient of various donated paintings, photographs and rare books. During 1987, the Club had certain paintings and photographs appraised for insurance purposes. The appraised market value of these paintings and photographs totaled \$650,000 at that time. The books have not been appraised for several years, however, the last appraisal indicated a market value of \$50,000. There is no value assigned to these items in the accompanying financial statements.

**(v) Commitments and Contingencies**

The Club is involved in a number of lawsuits resulting from the operations of its Outing program and other litigation arising during the normal course of operations. Management, in consultation with legal counsel, does not believe such lawsuits will have a material adverse effect on the financial position of the Club.



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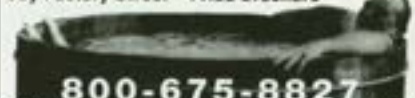
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We should buy TV time to encourage the public to lobby Congress with letters. Better yet, let's get our own TV station, pooling our cash with kindred groups, if necessary. Then perhaps we can pull some of the public's attention away from Tonya, Michael, and O.J. (where the government and polluters want it) and get a greater public response to the environmental holocaust.

*Peter B. Laughton  
Chico, California*

During the Eisenhower presidency, Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay began a program of dam building in the West that threatened some of our most beautiful and fragile ecosystems. When environmentalists cried foul, he referred to them as a bunch of punks. But then we formed a coalition, and, united, we were a dynamic force in stopping this assault on nature.

This proved to me that to be effective in stopping the crazy schemes of the current Congress, we must work with the other leading public-interest organizations in getting our message to Washington and to the American people.

*J. Douglas Dancer  
Lebanon, Oregon*

I'd leave the cosmic issues (e.g., worldwide population control, nuclear-arms proliferation) to other like-minded organizations and concentrate on the activities in which we've always excelled: exploring, enjoying, and protecting our own out-of-doors. I'd think small.

*Jim Maas  
Berkeley, California*

Members want more than to pay dues for someone else to save the earth. I'd tap grassroots power by using the national magazine for educating members and the public on critical issues, with a focus on what can be done as activists. Successful recruitment and renewal happen when victories are enjoyed on a personal level.

*Laura Davis  
Albany, New York*

I would change the Club into a single-issue (environmental) organization by dropping the liberal agenda (women's lib, gun control, "social justice," etc.) that has crept in over the past decade. This agenda irritates many of our own members and makes us look foolish to the general public.

*Leland Smith  
Bullhead City, Arizona*

## IF YOU RAN THE SIERRA CLUB, WHAT CHANGES WOULD YOU MAKE?

Youth will be the next caretakers of the earth. They need to learn, enjoy, and explore the wilderness. Why don't you start a mentor program for youth to earn awards for conservation?

*Aaron Sutton  
Upland, California*

Maybe we should stop criticizing industry lobbyists for buying Congress with expensive perks and buy our own representatives. After all, it seems that money is the only thing some representatives listen to, not common sense or facts. They might listen to us if it were profitable for them to do so. If only owning shares in a national forest or a wetland or a river or a lake paid the monetary dividends that shares in an oil company or logging company do.

*Sandra Lee Oliver  
Kissimmee, Florida*

I thought you'd never ask! Stop dunning me every month for six months before my next year's membership payment is due. Two of my best friends and I are all 67, and one of them recently joked, "I don't subscribe to anything six months ahead. I don't even buy green bananas."

*Lois Phillips Hudson  
Redmond, Washington*

Issues like depletion of the rainforest, lake and stream pollution, and the trapping and shooting of wildlife in the American West can all be attributed to the livestock industry.

### FOR NEXT TIME...

#### IF YOU COULD DE-INVENT ONE MACHINE, WHICH WOULD IT BE, AND WHY?

Send your pithy responses to "Last Words," Sierra, 730 Polk St., San Francisco, CA 94109.

Our e-mail address is:  
sierra.last.words@sierrclub.org  
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If I ran the Sierra Club, I would inform people about the environmental impact of their diets. Vegetarianism/veganism is undeniably an environmental issue and the Club should not place it on the back burner.

*Beth Barnett  
Indianapolis, Indiana*

To balance the big-government philosophy of the current Club leadership with a dose of libertarian common sense, I would recruit a new executive director from the ranks of the Cato Institute.

*Jonathan May  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma*

The Club has wasted millions of dollars trying to influence politicians. Just think if we had spent the money buying wild places. Better yet, if we had built a grassroots outreach education program, we might have an environmentally aware populace. In that case, the reactionaries in Congress would be irrelevant.

*Gordon LaBede  
Seal Beach, California*

If I ran the Sierra Club I would:

1. Cease running ads for automobiles and actively support car-free living.
2. Significantly reduce costs of trips so less affluent people could participate in Club activities.
3. Sponsor and publicize boycotts of Earth-destroying corporations.
4. Become vociferous proponents of a strong carbon tax.
5. Create direct-action programs that people can earmark donations for (tree planting, land acquisition, habitat restoration, pollution monitoring, carpooling, and non-auto travel).

*Todd Walton  
Berkeley, California*

Stop selling ads. Let thought and prayer blossom without moneychangers and carnival barkers. Have faith that enough supporters will give to an organization that acts out of love for the earth. If revenues drop, do less. A little of the right thing is worth more than a whole lot of the wrong thing. Fanning desires for costly clothes, costly vacations, and costly gadgets will not save us.

*Michael Umphrey  
St. Ignatius, Montana*

I'd get international. Develop and implement a strategy to extend our mission beyond the U.S. frontiers.

*Francisco Benavides  
Morgantown, West Virginia*



# Cookie Dough Review!



Serving Size: Who knows! When was the last time you measured out the gobs as you were shoveling them into your mouth?  
fat: 10-300g!  
calories: 250-2,500!

## Cookie-Dough

Decadence! However, does not travel well and has very few (really zero) practical applications for recreational or competitive activities. Best consumed from a bowl with a spoon or couch watching television.



Serving Size: 1/2 cup (yeah, right! Have you ever stopped there or was the whole container gone before you took "just one last bite")  
fat: 17-170g!  
calories: 280-2,800!

## Cookie-Dough Ice Cream

Another great tasting version. However, readily melts and should be eaten no more than 20 feet from the freezer. Proven handling problem on rides and runs. Best consumed from a bowl with a spoon in a couch avoiding responsibility.



Serving Size: One bar; 2.5 ounces  
fat: 2.5 grams    calories: 250 per bar

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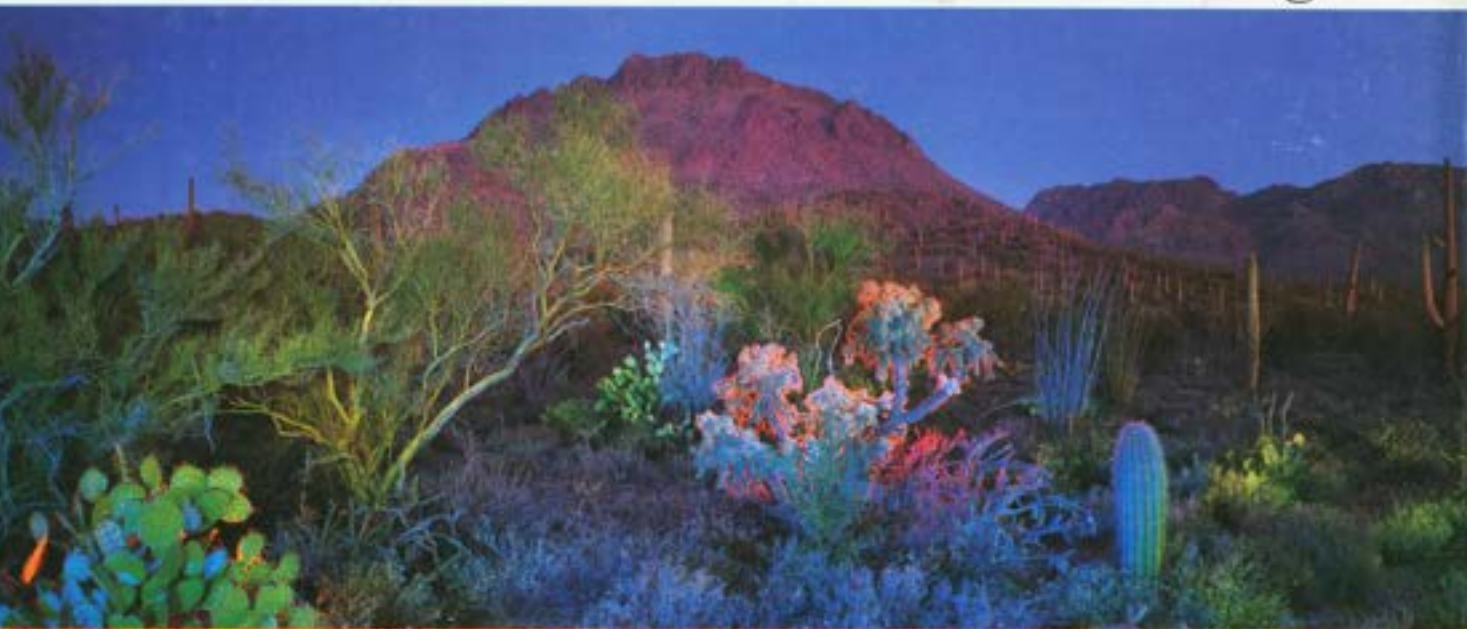


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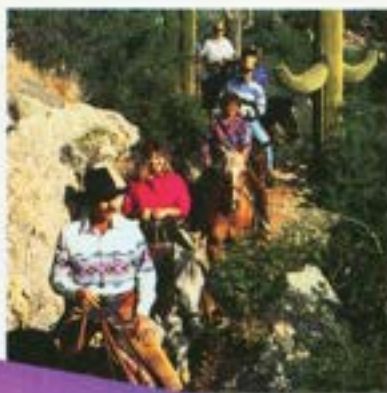
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