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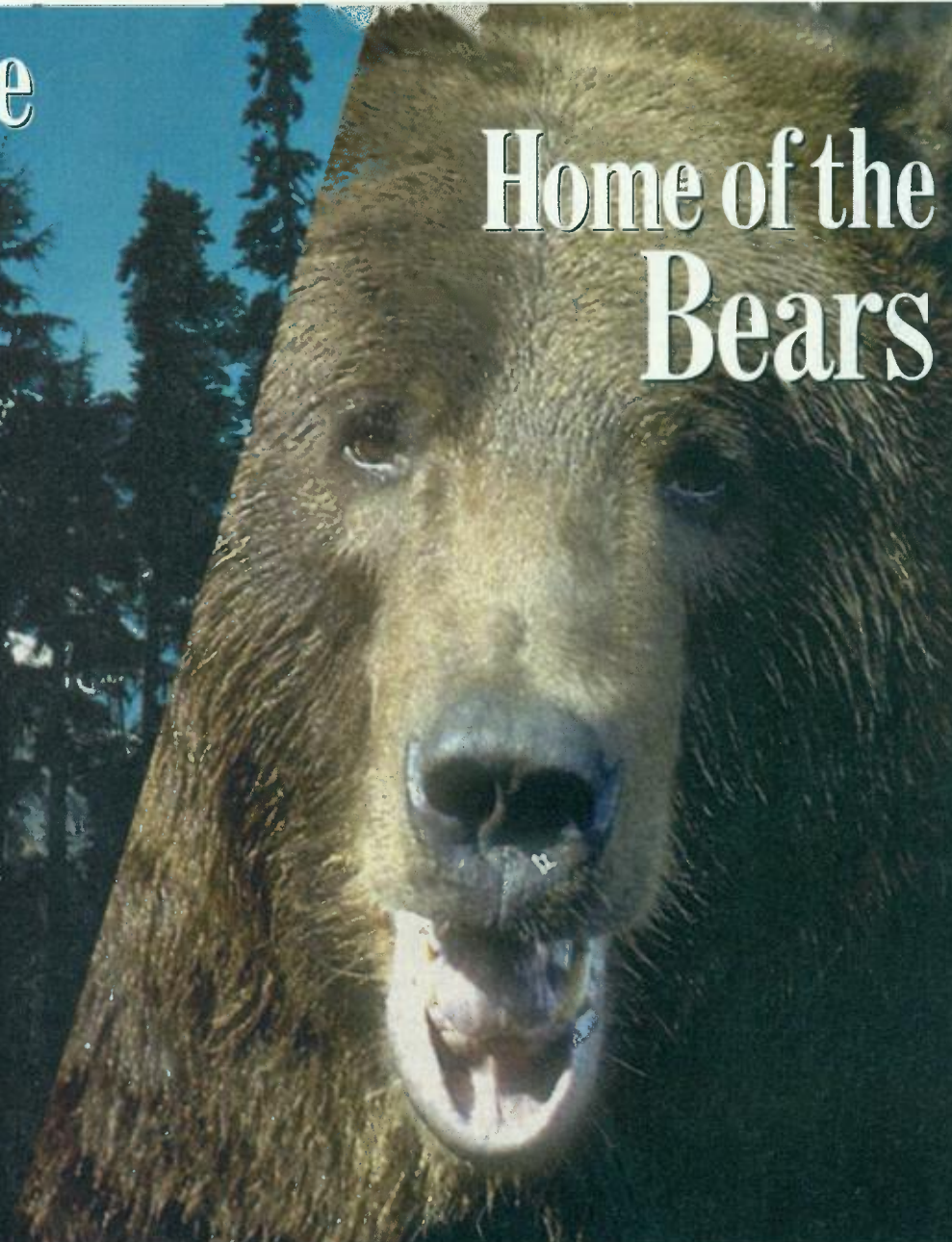
THAT FREEDOM SHALL NOT PERISH

Vol. 17, No. 3

The "Re-wilding" of the West

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Eco-socialist Shell Game

What do you get when you combine the Kyoto Protocol, the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, and a Department of Energy report? A blueprint for a globalist victory.

by Jennifer A. Gritt

On October 18, 2000, the U.S. Senate, in an unrecorded voice vote, ratified the UN Convention to Combat Desertification. This treaty was not debated. There was absolutely no mass media coverage leading up to the vote; there was virtually no media coverage after. Most Americans were completely unaware of what this treaty was about, and those few who did have some knowledge of it were generally under the impression that it only concerned those nations that are currently battling drought, such as those in Africa. But despite its name, the Desertification treaty is not about combatting drought. It is about regulating land use, and the body it designates as the authority responsible for overseeing enforcement of its measures is the United Nations.

In November 2000, the UN held a climate conference in the Netherlands. Delegates from around the world gathered in the Hague to begin the arduous task of hammering out the details for implementing the Kyoto Protocol on global warming. Ever since its creation, concerns over the treaty were voiced by GOP senators, the agricultural lobby, and many other groups of concerned Americans due to the radical nature of the global environmental program. If ratified, the United States, along with other industrialized nations, would be susceptible to UN regulations on major industries, forcing them to incorporate expensive carbon emissions reduction programs in order to comply with the emissions standards set by the 1997 Kyoto accord. Kyoto would have immediate and dire effects on the industrialized economies of the world, causing a dramatic increase in the bureaucratic framework of the UN and further enabling the world body to impose its will upon sovereign nations. It is for these reasons, along with the fact that the the global warming



Candid camera: The U.S. Senate, shown above in a video still from May 1999, played an important role in stalling the 1997 Kyoto Protocol. However, unbeknownst to many Americans, the Senate ratified the UN Convention to Combat Desertification last October — a treaty that carried the same ramifications for U.S. sovereignty as did Kyoto. Because it was passed in an unrecorded voice vote, citizens may never know which senators were responsible for transferring to the UN the power to regulate land use in America.

theory is seriously flawed, that this treaty met with strong grassroots conservative opposition.

Both these treaties contain stipulations for the transference of greater regulatory power to the UN over domestic policy in America. One was ratified; the other was stopped. Why? In examining how these treaties unfolded and the histories behind them, there is an unfortunate connection. It is a connection that has transformed a successful opposition campaign in the Hague into a victory for internationalists intent on completing globalization under the UN.

As the crescendo of conservative applause continues to greet the entrance of the Bush administration, the constitutionalists of America are facing a monumental

challenge. What the Clinton administration has failed to accomplish overtly during the past eight years due to strong conservative opposition is now being pursued covertly with strong conservative support. Now, in the legacies of the Kyoto and Desertification treaties, a globalist blueprint for the further undermining of the U.S. Constitution can be found — a blueprint that is designed to erode American sovereignty quietly and with less resistance.

America's Reality

Introduced by Senator Craig Thomas (R-Wyo.), the UN Convention to Combat Desertification was included in a package of 34 treaties, most of which were single-issue treaties with individual nations. Orig-

inally, the Desertification treaty was one of many environmental treaties that emerged from the UN Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. Signed by the Clinton administration in 1994, the treaty was then buried in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee until the October 2000 vote. It is important to note that a similar treaty that also emerged from the Rio de Janeiro conference, the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, failed ratification in 1994. The Biodiversity treaty is closely related to the UN's "Wildlands Project" in that its backbone is the UN's Global Biodiversity Assessment (GBA). As William Norman Grigg points out in the next article (see page 17), the GBA specifically refers to the Wildlands Project as the template for biodiversity protection. Unlike the Desertification treaty, the Biodiversity treaty was heavily debated in the Senate where it was shot down due to specific concerns regarding UN intrusion into U.S. domestic policy.

During the Senate debate on the Biodiversity treaty on September 30, 1994, Sen-

ator Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-Texas) stated: "I am especially concerned about the effect of the [Biodiversity] treaty on private property rights in my state and throughout America. Private property is constitutionally protected, yet one of the draft protocols to this treaty proposes 'an increase in the area of connectivity of habitat.' It envisions buffer zones and corridors connecting habitat areas where human use will be severely limited. Are we going to agree to a treaty that will require the U.S. Government to condemn property for wildlife highways?" (This vision of connected buffer zones and corridors reflects in its entirety the UN's "Wildlands Project.") In 1994, U.S. senators answered Hutchison's question by allowing the Biodiversity treaty to die on the Senate floor. But with the subsequent ratification of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, the Senate has agreed to a treaty that will require the U.S. government to condemn property under the pre-

Despite its name, the Desertification treaty is not about combatting drought. It is about regulating land use, and the body it designates as the authority responsible for overseeing enforcement of its measures is the United Nations.

tense that the person who owns it can potentially cause the land to become a desert.

As Henry Lamb, executive vice president of the Environmental Conservation Organization, points out: "The United States is now bound by international law that claims the power to dictate land use in 70% of the earth's land." He also notes that "the treaty seeks to prevent land use that its enforcers think may lead to desertification." According to literature provided by the UN, this includes converting forests to pasture, pasture to crops, or crop land to subdivisions.

So why was the Desertification treaty al-



Keepers of the buried treaties: The U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee, shown here meeting in New York with UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, was the recipient of the Desertification treaty after Clinton signed it in 1994. Unlike the Biodiversity treaty, the Desertification treaty was not debated by the Senate before it was grouped with over 30 other treaties for ratification on October 18, 2000.

With the ratification of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, the Senate has agreed to a treaty that will require the U.S. government to condemn property under the pretense that the person who owns it can potentially cause the land to become a desert.

lowed to pass with such ease? Since the unrecorded voice vote does not provide the information as to who voted how, thereby eliminating the ability to ask the senators responsible, one can only look to the Senate's resolution of ratification — and it opens some rather interesting doors.

The *Congressional Record* for October 18, 2000 provides the resolution with annexes as it was read to the Senate. Included in the clause entitled "Understandings" is a section subtitled "United States Land Management." Here it is emphasized that because the U.S. falls under the category of "developed country party" as defined by the treaty, it is not "required to prepare a national action program," nor is it required to change its "existing land management practices and programs." However, that which the UN is apparently not "requiring" from America, the U.S. Senate demands in its "Provisos."

Part one of the "Provisos" specifies that, "two years after the date the Convention enters into force for the United States, and biennially thereafter, the Secretary of State shall provide a report to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Senate." This report will include "an assessment of the adequacy of each national action program (including the timeliness of the program submittal), the degree to which the plan attempts to fully implement the Convention, the degree of involvements by all levels of government in implementation of the Convention, and

the percentage of government revenues expended on implementation of the Convention." The report will also include "an identification of the specific benefits to the United States, as well as United States persons, (including United States exporters and other commercial enterprises), resulting from United States participation in the Convention."

So it would appear that the United States has imposed upon itself the requirement to develop a "national action program" — the UN qualification notwith-

standing. However, the Senate will not have to wait two years for the development of a national program because it has already been outlined. It is one of many things encapsulated in a recent Department of Energy (DOE) report entitled *Scenarios for a Clean Energy Future* — a report that played an important role in the UN climate talks in the Hague.

America Distracted

Despite the Clinton administration's support for ratifying the Kyoto treaty, strong opposition in the Senate has kept it from becoming a reality. Of the American politicians who attended the November climate talks in the Hague, Senators Chuck Hagel (R-Neb.) and Larry Craig (R-Idaho) consistently maintained their wariness of Kyoto's potential strain on the U.S. economy and threat to sovereignty. Hagel's new found internationalism though, casts doubt on the sincerity of his opposition to such globalist instruments as the Kyoto Protocol.

In 1997, the Republican senator was known for adamantly opposing the Kyoto accord. However, upon becoming a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, Hagel was not shy about revealing his globalist sympathies. According to a published report of the annual meeting of the Trilateral Commission in March 1999, the senator declared: "There is no such thing as a border anymore. Congress is behind in grasping this fact.... We have to face the fact that we live in a global community anchored by a global economy." Hagel, who is a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee (which attached the Desertification treaty to the package of treaties ratified in October), may still oppose Kyoto. However, being party to the process of ratifying the Desertification treaty, it would seem highly unlikely Senator Hagel was not aware that this treaty preserved Kyoto's internationalism while at the same time offering a more circumspect approach to combatting the neb-



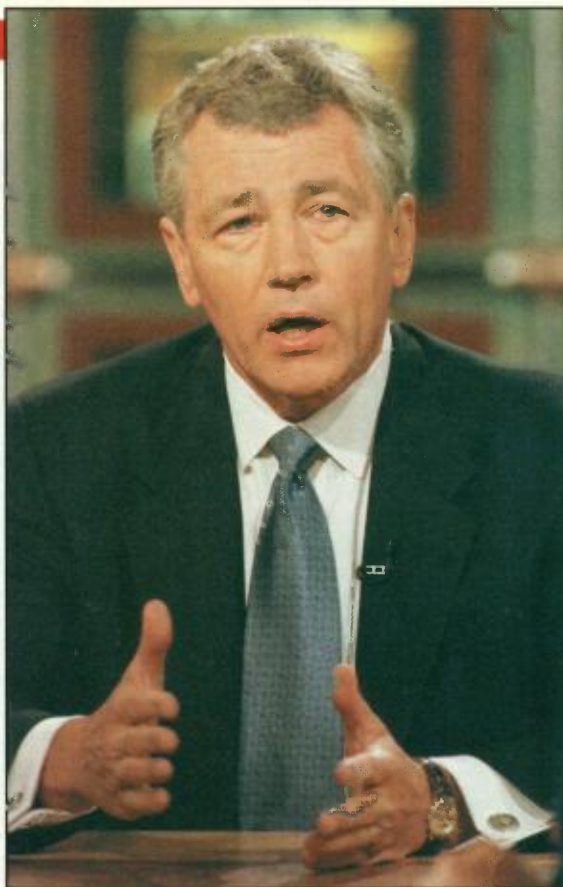
Instant agitator: In a complete reversal from the EU's initially favorable impression of the U.S. global warming proposal at the Hague, French President Jacques Chirac, then head of the EU, criticized the U.S. for not doing its part for the "collective good" and rejected the notion of using agricultural "sinks" to absorb the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide. Chirac then called for a "revolution in our way of thinking," listing several environmental policy "choices" worthy of consideration. Interestingly, Chirac's "choices" closely followed the suggestions made in the Department of Energy report that formed the basis of the U.S. global warming proposal he had just finished criticizing.

ulous threat of global warming.

And so, in what appeared to be an effort to appease those who, like Hagel, rejected the radical nature of the climate talks, the U.S. proposed the use of agricultural “sinks” as a way to meet target emissions standards. Basing its arguments on the aforementioned DOE report, the U.S. introduced what at first glance appears to be an economically friendly way to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by way of “emissions credits.” These credits would be earned by creating, supporting, and protecting large areas of vegetation and soil that absorb carbon. The credit would be counted against current emissions, thereby alleviating the need to impose regulations on industry. The DOE report provides multiple “national action programs” ranging from “business as usual” to “advanced.” Since the long-term benefits predicted in the “advanced” program (which includes support for agricultural sinks as well as tax incentives for major industries) are seemingly benevolent both environmentally and economically, it is easy to understand how some people would initially applaud this proposal. In fact, according to a Reuters report dated November

16, 2000, the U.S. plan was received positively by the EU as a “good ‘first step’ toward reaching a compromise in the difficult talks on how to slow global warming.”

Then, in a peculiar shift, the EU (whose presidency is currently held by France) suddenly rejected the U.S. plan, accusing the United States of ducking out on its global responsibility to reduce carbon emissions. According to another Reuters report dated November 20, 2000, French President Jacques Chirac criticized the U.S. by declaring: “It is in the Americans, in the first place, that we place our hopes of effectively limiting greenhouse gas emissions on a global scale. No country can elude its share of the collective effort.” On November 22nd, *Guardian* reporter Paul Brown quoted French environment minister Dominique Voynet as saying, “We are seeking ways we can meet our commitments, not ways we can avoid them and create new escape routes. The US is trying to avoid domestic measures to curb emis-



News-makers

A tale of two faces: Senator Chuck Hagel is recognized by some as a champion in fighting the globalist intentions of the Kyoto accord. However, upon becoming a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, Hagel revealed a penchant for globalism, telling the Trilateral Commission in 1999: “We have to face the fact that we live in a global community anchored by a global economy.”

sions and create a series of loopholes, in effect unravelling the treaty.” Dismissing the approach offered by the United States, Voynet seemed more concerned with protecting the radical integrity of the Kyoto treaty. “We are not prepared to be led down a road which would destroy the particularly hard work we have built over three years,” she concluded.

Leftist environmental groups were quick to agree. The *Los Angeles Times* for November 24, 2000 reported that the UN talks were gridlocked with “many environmentalists and delegates casting the United States in the role of chief villain.” Philip Clapp of the National Environmental Trust told a press conference organized by U.S. ecological groups, “we have concluded that the U.S. has brought these negotiations to the brink of failure by seeking loophole after loophole.” Bill Nye, a television host and a member of the Union of Concerned Scientists, stressed that “if the U.S. can take that extra step, I think we can go for-

ward and — dare I say it — change the world.”

Conservatives opposing Kyoto reacted differently. In response to the attack by President Chirac, Senator Hagel told reporters at the Hague: “To single out the United States as he did rather directly, does not facilitate a cooperative spirit.” Senator Larry Craig, although admitting that the United States was guilty of wasting energy, agreed with his fellow senator in denouncing the attacks on the U.S. proposal as being “unproductive.” Craig went on to point out that two-thirds of the U.S. agricultural industry is exported to countries around the world. “Are [our farmers] large consumers of energy? Yes. Are they large producers? Yes. They’re proud of it.”

Yet pride is not the only factor motivating American farmers. According to a Reuters report for November 18, 2000: “The United States would be more likely to sign up to a deal on cutting global warming ‘greenhouse gases’ if it were allowed to pay its farmers to use unwanted fields as carbon ‘sinks.’” Farmers would receive financial compensation by setting aside farmland for forestry and incorporating “climate friendly” agricultural methods — like not turning forests into pastures, or pastures to crops. U.S. Under Secretary of Agriculture Jim Lyons told reporters, “there’s some excitement about the potential to compensate farmers for carbon sequestration.” The American Farm Bureau, which greatly opposed Kyoto, pointed out in a letter to U.S. Farm Secretary Dan Glickman: “If we are to move beyond the deeply held concerns of the agricultural community, it is important that the current negotiations provide the greatest possible flexibility for the U.S. to fully and immediately account for carbon sequestered through agricultural activities.” John McClelland, director of energy and analysis at the National Corn Growers Association, emphasized, “if sinks are not included, what that says to farmers is that you can pay [extra fuel] costs for the Kyoto Protocol but you won’t get any benefits.”

So in what appeared to be a result from pressure from the agricultural lobby, as well as other conservatives opposing

The quiet ratification of the Desertification treaty sets a dangerous precedent for the future of American politics. But what is an even greater cause for alarm is the neutralizing of the grassroots conservative voice of opposition that permeated the American heartland.

Kyoto, the United States did not back down from its proposal at the UN climate conference. Despite the numerous attacks by the EU and environmental groups, the American stance in the Hague was immutable. The talks ended in failure, but not before revealing an ominous connection to the Desertification treaty.

According to the November 20th Reuters report, after criticizing the United States proposal, President Chirac called for a "revolution in our way of thinking" in order to change the way industrial economies consume natural resources. He stated: "Cutting down on our consumption of raw materials, diversifying our sources of supply, recycling waste, [using] new materials, energy efficiency and developing renewable energies: these are the choices

to be [scientifically] confirmed that reforestation, the fight against desertification and the fight against global warming can be mutually reinforcing, then we would be wrong to rule out this course."

Support for the Kyoto treaty died as a result of conservative opposition being heard. The Desertification treaty came alive without any opposition at all. The tie that binds these two together is the DOE report that not only outlines how America can meet her target emissions standards, but also maps out the "national action program" that will inevitably be "required" in order to "combat desertification." The DOE report also serves to pacify the conservative opposition that rejected Kyoto by rendering popular the compromise that speaks directly to desertification — name-

ly the agricultural "sinks." And now, due to the October 18th actions of the U.S. Senate, these "sinks" fall under the regulatory control of the United Nations.

A Wolf in Sheep's Clothing

The quiet ratification of the Desertification treaty sets a dangerous precedent for the future of American politics. Despite the dubious conservative "victory" over Kyoto, the UN still achieved U.S. assistance in further building a body of global law that upon acquiring the means to enforce it (through military or policing mechanisms) and the means to settle international disputes that might arise because of it (through the establishment of the ICC) would allow the UN to legally dictate domestic policy in America. But what is an even greater cause for alarm is the neutralizing of the grassroots conservative voice of opposition that permeated the American heartland.

During the Clinton administration, this voice was heard protesting the numerous occasions the president invoked the Antiquities Act of 1906 to justify signing into perpetual protection huge chunks of the American homeland. This voice protested the payment of UN dues and called for bringing U.S. soldiers home from Kosovo. This voice succeeded in stifling the Test Ban Treaty. And now that the political dust has settled from the 2000 election and America watches the Bush administration unfold, this voice of opposition has voluntarily faded into conciliatory silence.

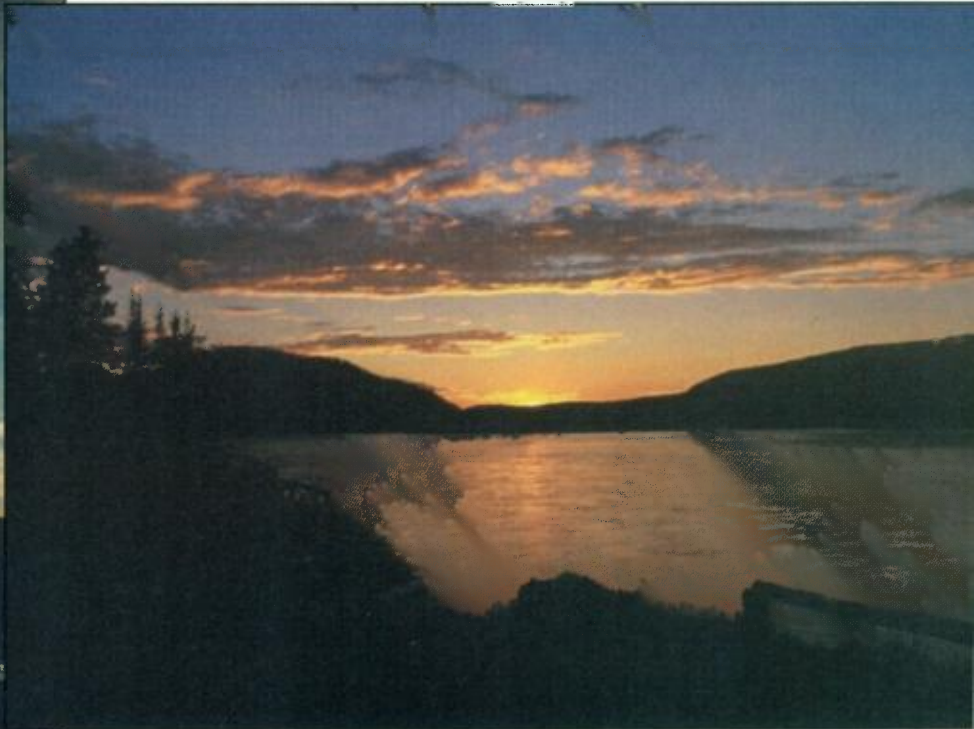
It is up to the concerned citizens of America to recognize the possibilities introduced as a result of the events in the Hague. Now more than ever, political vigilance is called for. Most American conservatives believe that George W. Bush represents the chance to reverse the radically socialist agenda of the Clinton administration. Conservative America is not only breathing a sigh of relief, it is anxiously awaiting the implementation of campaign promises — and yet certain questions remain. Exactly how many UN treaties are currently buried in Senate committees? How many individual rights will perish because of them? How much American freedom will ultimately be destroyed? Because as it stands, the United States is being eroded from within — swept from history by the resonating sound of a faceless unison of "yeas." ■



Say goodbye: The Desertification treaty grants legal authority to the UN to regulate how independent farmers can use their land. Under the pretense that certain farming methods can lead to desertification, the UN now has the legal right to stop farmers from turning their forests into pastures and pastures into croplands.

The “Re-Wilded” West

The “Yellowstone to Yukon” project is seeking to create a transnational “bioregion” 2,000 miles long and 300 miles wide. Yet this is only a start for the UN’s Wildlands Project.



Land lock-up: Yellowstone National Park (left) and Canada’s Yukon Territory (right) are in the process of being linked by the “Yellowstone to Yukon” project which seeks to create a “web of protected wildlife cores and connecting wildlife corridors” spanning the U.S.-Canada border.

by William Norman Grigg

Does ... The Wildlands Project advocate the end of industrial civilization? Most assuredly. Everything civilized must go....

— John Davis
Editor, *Wild Earth* magazine

[The Wildlands Project] is a bold attempt to grope our way back to October, 1492, and find a different trail.... Local and regional reserve systems linked to others ultimately tie the North American continent into a single Biodiversity Preserve....

— Dave Foreman
Earth First! Activist
Wildlands Project co-architect

Our vision is simple: we live for the day when Grizzlies in Chihuahua have an unbroken connection to Grizzlies in Alaska; when Gray Wolf populations are continuous from New Mexico to Greenland.... Our vision is continental: from Panama and the Caribbean to Alaska and Greenland, from the Arctic to the continental shelves....

— The Wildlands Project
Mission Statement

What do proponents of the Wildlands Project have in mind by the decree that “Everything civilized must go”? Writing in *Science* magazine, Charles C. Mann and Mark L. Plummer provide a partial answer. As the Wild-

lands scheme unfolds, “most roads would be closed; some would be ripped out of the landscape.” Eventually, the Project will require “nothing less than a transformation of America [into] an archipelago of human-inhabited islands surrounded by natural islands.” Environmental writer Alston Chase is even more blunt, warning that the Wildlands Project will require “the forced relocation of tens of millions of people ... the removal of human habitation from up to half the country’s land area.”

With each designation or expansion of a national monument by executive decree, Bill Clinton advanced the Wildlands design. When the Clinton administration issued regulatory guidelines designating nearly 60 million acres of national forests as “roadless areas,” it was another signifi-



Joseph W. Kelly

cant step toward the creation of a Wildlands archipelago. Indeed, nearly every outrage against property and prosperity that has resulted from successful environmental lobbying during the previous decade fits comfortably into the Wildlands framework. But it would be a grave error to believe that the Wildlands Project was a product of the Clinton administration.

The basic outline for the Wildlands Project was created in November 1991 by Reed F. Noss and former Earth First! leader Dave Foreman. Noss later went on to become an adviser to the Interior Department under Bruce Babbitt, and to help compile the Global Biodiversity Assessment (GBA) for the United Nations Environmental Program. The purpose of the GBA was to provide the "operational protocols" for the UN's Convention on Biodiversity, which was the centerpiece treaty of the

UN's 1992 "Earth Summit" in Rio de Janeiro. Bill Clinton signed the Biodiversity treaty in June 1993, and the Senate came within a few hours of ratifying the pact in September 1994. The effort failed, however, after it was learned that the GBA — which was intended to guide implementation of the treaty — used the Wildlands Project as its template for protection of "biodiversity."

Section 13.4.2.2.3 of the GBA, which deals with "conservation of biodiversity," specifies that "representative areas of all major ecosystems in a region need to be preserved, that blocks should be as large as possible, that buffer zones should be established around core areas, and that corridors should connect these areas. This basic design is central to the recently proposed Wildlands Project in the United States...."

When this passage was brought to the attention of key senators, the treaty was withdrawn from consideration, and it remains unratified. However, the Clinton administration — as was its wont — simply proceeded as if the treaty had won Senate approval.

Bruce Babbitt's Interior Department, through an administrative directive, created a National Biological Survey intended to carry out a nationwide species inventory. The purpose of that inventory, explained Interior Department science adviser Tom Lovejoy, was to "determine development for the whole country and regulate it...." The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the Forest Service (USFS) embraced the Convention's key ideological assumption — "biocentrism," the notion that human beings are just another species enjoying no special place in nature (see page 23). The BLM's leadership echelon captured that vision when it issued a policy statement declaring that "all ecosystem management activities should consider human beings as a biological resource."

Another key element of the Wildlands scheme fell into place on January 19, 1996 when Bill Clinton issued Executive Order 12986, which granted to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) complete immunity from lawsuits. The IUCN is an advisory body to the United Nations, in which hundreds of state and federal agencies (including the EPA, BLM, and USFS) consult with representatives of 133 UN-approved non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to pursue the development of "eco-spiritual practice and principles." Composed entirely of bureaucrats and radical activists, and immune to civil lawsuits, the IUCN claims a mandate to "change human behavior."

The IUCN plays a key role in organizing and mobilizing eco-radicals as "stakeholders" — officials who will participate in policy decisions that will advance the Wildlands campaign. Although such stakeholders supposedly represent the "will of the people," they are neither chosen by the communities they presume to govern, nor are they accountable to them. But this arrangement is perfectly acceptable to

IUCN, given its self-appointed mission to tutor and rule over “ignorant humans.”

According to an article in the IUCN journal *Conservation Biology*, “we assume that environmental wounds inflicted by ignorant humans ... can be treated by wiser humans.” If this means that “ignorant humans” come to harm, so be it: “Conservation biology is a crisis discipline. On a battlefield you are justified in firing on the enemy.”

The “Y2Y” Menace

The IUCN’s martial rhetoric aside, Wildlands activists have succeeded in seizing vast tracts of land without firing a shot. But their previous conquests would pale into relative insignificance should they succeed in their most ambitious undertaking yet — a binational landgrab that would span the U.S.-Canadian border.

Although Y2K came and went without causing lasting damage, the same may not be true of Y2Y — the “Yellowstone to

Yukon” project, which seeks to create a transnational “bioregion” 2,000 miles long and 300 miles wide. The Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative describes its vision as one in which a “web of protected wildlife cores and connecting wildlife corridors has been defined and designated for the Yellowstone to Yukon region.”

All land-use and development decisions made in that region are to be “based first and foremost on ecological principles.”

In order to achieve that vision, vast tracts of land within five states, as well as in two Canadian provinces and one territory, would have to be placed under strict environmental control. As the map on page 18 illustrates, implementation of the Y2Y plan would be particularly devastating to Idaho and Montana. Roughly two-thirds of Idaho and nearly half of Montana would be subsumed into the bioregion, which would eventually be administered by a UN-

“... the collective needs of non-human species must take precedence over the needs and desires of humans.”

— Reed F. Noss

Wildlands Project co-architect

approved “bioregional council.” Through such a council, the affected lands would be zoned for “sustainable use,” with the UN acting as an absentee zoning board.

Ambitious though this landgrab may be, it would merely be a down-payment toward completion of the Wildlands Project. But this is to be expected, given that Harvey Locke, a founder of the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative, is also president of the Wildlands Project board.

It is by creating a matrix of “cores,” “buffers,” and “connecting corridors” that



Impacting industry: Protestors from Greenpeace and other environmental groups form a prayer circle to protest logging in British Columbia. Under the Y2Y project, all land-use decisions in the affected regions are to be “based first and foremost on ecological principles,” meaning that the timber industry and other human economic endeavors such as farming, ranching, and mining will face further restrictions.



From representatives to “stakeholders”: Under the UN’s model of “bioregional” eco-governance, decisions on land and resource use would be made by councils of unelected “stakeholders,” rather than by elected and accountable representatives, such as former Congresswoman Helen Chenoweth-Hage (seen here chairing a congressional hearing in John Day, Oregon), who conscientiously opposed UN usurpations during her time in Congress. The resulting “consensus” would then be imposed upon the affected communities, who would have no means of seeking redress.

Wildlands activists seek to re-primitivize the North American landscape — and the “web of protected wildlife cores and connecting wildlife corridors” envisioned by Y2Y would be a quantum leap in that direction. “A wilderness recovery network is an interconnected system of strictly protected areas (core reserves), surrounded by lands used for human activities compatible with conservation that put biodiversity first (buffer zones), and linked together in some way that provides for functional connectivity ... across the landscape,” explains Reed Noss. In both core and buffer areas, Noss continues, “the collective needs of non-human species must take precedence over the needs and desires of humans.”

Every environmental preserve — whether it’s a national monument, a UN World Heritage Site or Biosphere Reserve, or a wilderness area — is a potential core area under the emerging Wildlands scheme. Dave Foreman urges radical eco-activists to “identify existing protected areas” and seek to have them identified as core areas. The agitators would then demand the creation of “corridors” to connect the core areas across the landscape. At this point, Foreman points out, eco-radicals could

“look for gaps between wild lands or public lands” for future acquisition “by public agencies or by private groups like the Nature Conservancy.” Human activity would be strictly regulated not only in the core and buffer areas but in the corridors as well.

The strategy, according to Wildlands activist John Davis, is to keep “expanding wilderness until the matrix, not just the nexus, is wild” — or, in Foreman’s words, until eco-radicals have been able to “tie the North American continent into a single Biodiversity Reserve....” Woe betide any private landowner whose property falls in one of the “gaps” mentioned by Foreman, or any farmer, rancher, miner, or logger whose livelihood collides with “the collective needs of non-human species” within a bioregion.

Mr. Clinton’s departure from Washington will not end the Wildlands threat, in part because of our country’s entanglement with the United Nations. In fact, for American landowners living within the envisioned Y2Y bioregion, a recent decision by the provincial government of British Columbia may prove to be just as significant as any of Mr. Clinton’s landgrabs by exec-

utive order during the last two years of his administration.

A “Gift to the World”

Last November, after eight years of negotiations, the Canadian province of British Columbia enacted the “Mackenzie Decision,” setting aside an additional five million acres as part of the Muskwa-Kechika preserve. That preserve is now a 16-million-acre wilderness area — essentially a core area the size of West Virginia.

“I like to think of this as Canada’s gift to the rest of the world,” boasted B.C. Premier Ujjal Dosanjh. “We’re very proud of what this accomplishes. In effect, it creates the largest protected area in North America and establishes an important precedent.” That precedent is twofold. First, with the new designation, British Columbia becomes the first jurisdiction in North America to meet the UN’s goal of setting aside 12 percent of its land base as “protected” areas. Second, the Mackenzie Decision was achieved by consensus among “stakeholders” — with the “consensus” representing a huge victory for the landgrabbers. Although these negotiations have been described by supporters as an example of “local land-use planning,” it is, in fact, the same process through which UN-approved “bioregional councils” would operate.

In an earlier report on Wildlands-related initiatives in the United States (see “Sold Down the River” in our January 5, 1998 issue), Dr. Michael S. Coffman, executive director of Sovereignty International, noted that the concept of stakeholders — like that of the Wildlands Project — is contained in the UN’s Global Biodiversity Assessment. “Under the GBA plan, land-use decisions would be made through a new form of governance whereby local people form ‘stakeholder groups’ or ‘partnerships,’ who would make land-use rules by ‘consensus,’” warns Dr. Coffman. “Of course, this arrangement would effectively dispense with property rights altogether.”

Henry Lamb, director of the Environmental Conservation Organization (ECO), observes that *Our Global Neighborhood*, the report of the UN-aligned Commission on Global Governance, “calls for the cre-

ation of a 'Petitions Council' composed of five to seven representatives of accredited NGOs. They would help direct funding decisions, define administrative duties, and authorize enforcement actions. The world would be divided up into bioregions administered by bioregional councils under direct supervision of the UN and with enforcement authority through the petitions council."

A more suitable label for such "bioregional councils" would be "UN eco-soviets." The purpose of soviets in Communist Russia was to create local consensus on behalf of implementing policies enacted by the central committee. If such a "consensus" wasn't achieved voluntarily, it was imposed by force, usually involving the liquidation of those who resisted. Although the methods employed by the provincial eco-soviet in British Columbia were not as drastic as those used in Communist Russia, the process was quite similar in principle.

Mike Low, general manager of Abitibi Consolidated Inc., a forest products company in British Columbia, was among the industry representatives designated a stakeholder in the discussions that led to the Mackenzie Decision. "One of the fears we had was that if we couldn't reach consensus then the government would make the decisions for us, and none of the stakeholders wanted that," Low told the December 8, 2000 *Christian Science Monitor*. One incentive for forest products companies to participate as stakeholders, continued the report, was the prospect of being able to conduct approved logging operations "without encountering environmental activists every time they began felling trees." It is in this way that spikers, monkey-wrenchers, and other eco-terrorists help extort concessions from representatives of lawful industries.

After eight years, continued the *Monitor*, the "stakeholders" asked Premier Dosanjh "to approve the accord, rather than having the government render a top-down edict." Wayne Sawchuk, a stakeholder in the negotiations, insisted that the designation "proves that local land-use planning can work." Actually, the process referred to by Sawchuk illustrates how the *charade* of local control, carried out amid threats of terrorism and under the shadow of undisguised government coercion, can be used to carry out UN-mandated eco-socialist poli-

cies. And, as B.C. Premier Dosanjh pointed out, the process that created the Mackenzie Decision is intended to serve as a precedent throughout the Y2Y bioregion — and, indeed, across North America.

The Yellowstone Connection

The U.S. core area to be linked to the new 16,000,000-acre Muskwa-Kechika preserve in British Columbia is the "Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem," which includes not only the more than two million acres within the park but another 18 million acres in four states (Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, and Utah). Yellowstone Park was designated a "World Heritage Site in danger" by the United Nations Education, Social, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in December 1995. Environmental attorney William Perry Pendley noted that in making that designation, officials from UNESCO sought to review all policies dealing with mining, timber, wildlife, and tourism within the 20 million acres of affected land. This inspection was carried out in response to "petitions" made by a collection of eco-radical lobbies styling itself the "Greater Yellowstone Coalition."

Yellowstone Park offers a very useful case study of the UN-driven landgrab. Yellowstone is one of 20 UN World Heritage Sites dotting the U.S. landscape. To these have been added 47 UN Biosphere Reserves. Together, the Heritage Sites and Biosphere Reserves — each of which is a prime candidate to serve as a Wildlands Project core area — account for more than 50 million acres. The World Heritage Convention was ratified by the Senate in 1973; the Man and the Biosphere Program (MAB), through which the Biosphere Reserves were created, was implemented by the State Department through "memoranda of understanding" without the involvement of Congress. The designation of these sites was achieved through secretive collusion between unaccountable NGO stakeholders and eco-bureaucrats, usually without any input by the affected local citizenry.

In fact, such secrecy is mandated by the UN. Paragraph 14 of the 1994 Operational Guidelines for the World Heritage Convention dictates that governments bound by the convention "should refrain from

It is by creating a matrix of "cores," "buffers," and "connecting corridors" that Wildlands activists seek to re-primitivize the North American landscape — and the "web of protected wildlife cores and connecting wildlife corridors" envisioned by Y2Y would be a quantum leap in that direction.

giving undue publicity to the fact that a property has been nominated for inscription pending the final decision...." With reference to Biosphere Reserves, the UN also claims the power to circumvent public accountability altogether. UNESCO's 1995 Seville Agreement for Biosphere Reserves dictates that in the process of identifying and designating such sites, "national or local NGOs could be appropriate substitutes" for elected officials. It was through such covert machinations that the network of Heritage Sites and Biosphere Reserves was created.

Furthermore, where Heritage Sites are concerned, UN designation recognizes a state of "shared sovereignty" over a given parcel of territory within our country. As the October 6, 1992 issue of *Environment* magazine explained, the designation of World Heritage Sites "constitutes a unique precedent," as it "implies what might be called a voluntary limitation of sovereignty" and a recognition that "other countries have, through the [World Heritage] convention, an obligation — and therefore a right — toward these sites."

It was on this basis that the Clinton administration invited UNESCO to intervene to declare Yellowstone a World Heritage Site in danger. Yellowstone Park superintendent Mike Finley also deferred to the supposed sovereignty of the UN over the park by maintaining that the World Heritage treaty, despite the lack of federal implementing legislation, has "the force and statutory authority of federal law."

The UN panel used its "authority" to promote the use of Yellowstone as a Wildlands core area. Describing the 1995 visit by the UNESCO delegation to the Yellowstone area, the *Billings Gazette* reported that the officials "said the United States

Property rights are the literal, material foundation of all liberties; a government that controls the land will control the people thereupon. Through the Wildlands Project and subsidiary efforts such as Y2Y, the Power Elite that controls the UN is, quite literally, seizing control of the land upon which Americans live.

may be overlooking the commitment it made, by signing a treaty, to maintain an uncompromised buffer zone around the national park. The President of the World Heritage Committee said he is inclined to suggest that the international panel urge the United States to expand Yellowstone Park to encompass millions of [acres of] national forest that surround it."

With the Park as a core area and a buffer zone that absorbs territory in four states, the next phase of the program will be to

begin work on the corridor between the "Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem" and its partner core area 1,500 miles to the north — the newly created Muskwa-Kechika preserve. In such fashion does the Wildlands cancer metastasize across the landscape.

To Control the Land

The Wildlands Project radicals enjoy several tactical advantages over their would-be victims — the most obvious

being that the eco-radicals are well-organized, well-funded, supported by federal and UN environmental bureaucrats, and are following a detailed game plan. The very grandiosity of their designs also offers them another advantage: The notion of "re-wilding" North America and abolishing industrial civilization is simply incomprehensible to rational people.

It must be remembered, however, that the objective of the UN-created Wildlands Project is not to *restore* the land, but rather

to *control* it. The UN plainly stated this socialist premise in the report of its 1976 Conference on Human Settlements in Vancouver: "Land, because of its unique nature and the crucial role it plays in human settlements, cannot be treated as an ordinary asset, controlled by individuals and subject to the pressures and inefficiencies of the market." But property rights are the literal, material foundation of all liberties; a government that controls the land will control the people thereupon. Through the Wildlands Project and subsidiary efforts such as Y2Y, the Power Elite that controls the UN is, quite literally, seizing control of the land upon which Americans live.

Although the UN's environmental agreements are usually portrayed "as pitiful gutless creatures with no bite," observed *New York Times* writer William K. Stevens, "they have hidden teeth that will develop in the right circumstances." Throughout the Western states, UN-aligned eco-radicals are busy sowing dragon's teeth, and a bitter harvest will result — unless Americans who cherish their liberties organize to extricate our nation from the UN and its designs. ■

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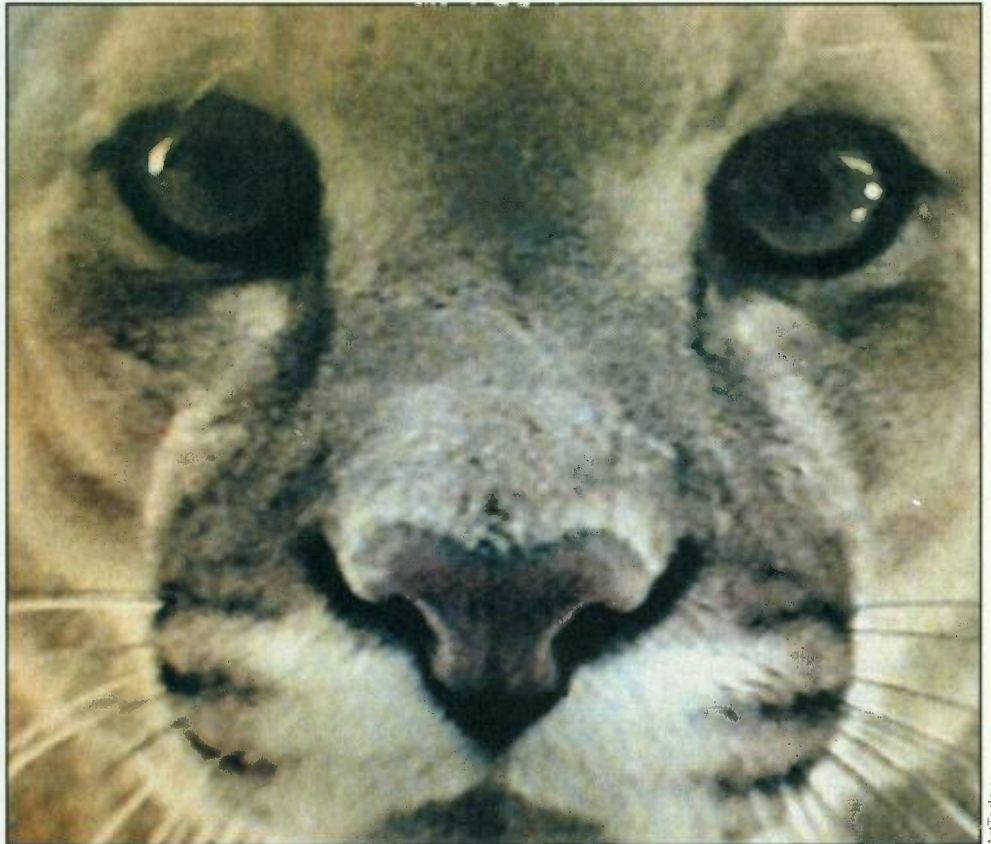
The biocentric eco-activists who seek the removal of industrial civilization from North America consider human life just another link in the food chain.

by William Norman Grigg

“**B**iocentrism,” the ideology that inspired the Wildlands Project, holds that humanity is just one species in a democratic “biosphere.” From this perspective, humans who choose to live within the habitat of a protected non-human species are interlopers. This is why Wildlands fanatics — in addition to shutting down economic development, private land ownership, and recreational use of “re-wilded” lands — seek to “re-colonize” those lands with non-human species. This process is presently underway within the proposed Yellowstone-to-Yukon (Y2Y) “bioregion.” (For the background on the Wildlands Project and Y2Y, see the article on page 17.)

“Already, transplanted wolves from [British Columbia’s Muskwa-Kechika] region formed the foundation of Yellowstone’s successful lobo transplantation program,” reported the *Christian Science Monitor*. “Thriving Canadian lynx and wolverine populations could also be tapped for augmentation. And [last] November, the US Fish and Wildlife Service [FWS], in conjunction with a plan by Defenders of Wildlife and the National Wildlife Federation, announced that in 2002 Canadian grizzly bears will be relocated to the Selway-Bitterroot wilderness of Montana and Idaho.”

Animals like the grizzly, lynx, and wolf are what Wildlands co-architect Reed Noss calls “flagships” — “charismatic species that serve as popular symbols for conservation.” Wildlands propaganda abounds in poignant pleas on behalf of threatened “flagship” species and invocations of the duty to preserve such animals “for our children.” Such media-friendly mantras are used to conceal the vicious misanthropy that animates the Wildlands Proj-



People vs. predators: A major aim of the “re-wilding” process of which the Yellowstone to Yukon project is a part is the reintroduction and reinvigoration of “flagship species,” usually large predators, like the mountain lion, that are high on the food chain. The fact that these predators can be a danger to humans plays into the hands of biocentric eco-activists who seek to keep people out of areas that have been re-wilded.

ect. As Wildlands activist John Davis stresses, “in the long run all lands and waters should be left to the whims of Nature, not to the selfish desires of one species which chose for itself the misnomer *Homo Sapiens*.”

According to Wildlands-linked activists on the Canadian side of the Y2Y zone, human beings across most of the western half of North America may have to be shoved aside to make room for grizzlies. British Columbia’s *Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategy*, which was published in 1995 and remains the basis for the province’s protected areas policy, employs the “charismatic species” concept by insisting that

“nothing is a better measure of our success in maintaining biodiversity than the survival of this species.”

Apparently, “recovery” of the grizzlies will require ample *Lebensraum*, since “over its lifetime, a single grizzly bear will require a home range between 50 and 100 square kilometers, and — in some cases — up to thousands of square kilometers.” Within “grizzly bear management areas,” continues the document, human activities “that are not compatible with grizzly bears [will be] carefully controlled or not allowed.”

The Wildlands Project mission statement speaks of a day in which “Grizzlies

in Chihuahua have an unbroken connection to Grizzlies in Alaska....” British Columbia’s provincial *Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategy* reflects that same vision by describing the historical range of the North American grizzly as encompassing “the western half of North America from the Arctic to central Mexico” — thereby conjuring up the decidedly improbable image of grizzlies frolicking on the slopes of Popocatepetl (see map).

“Zone of Imminent Danger”

The case of Montana rancher John Shuler, who was fined \$7,000 by the FWS for killing a grizzly that had attacked his sheep and threatened his home, illustrates that in conflicts between humans and non-human predators within protected areas, it is the predator that will be given the benefit of the doubt. When Shuler appealed the FWS fine, a federal administrative law judge ruled that when he had sought to protect his property he had “purposefully place[d] himself in the zone of imminent danger of a bear attack” and fined the rancher an additional \$4,000.

Wildlands activists seeking to recover large predators throughout the mountainous West are placing landowners across the region in the “zone of imminent danger” by design. According to one supporter of re-wilding Western lands, the introduction of large predators like grizzly bears and wolves is to “bring back another element that has been vanishing from the Western back country. That ingredient is fear. Wolves [and similar large predators] are killers.... People will think twice before traipsing into the back country.”

According to Wildlands Project board president Harvey Locke, “helping large carnivores recolonize parts of their former range” is a major aim of the re-wilding process, since the effort would “preserve or restore species at the top of the food chain.” This would come as news to those people in the areas slated for re-wilding, who may have assumed that *humans* are the “species at the top of the food chain.” Difficult though it may



be for rational people to understand, many biocentric radicals consider ecologically “unenlightened” humans to be little more than a source of protein for



non-human predators.

In July 1997, a female cougar killed a 10-year-old in Colorado’s Rocky Mountain Park. Rangers tracked the animal down and killed it, prompting volatile protests from several biocentric fanatics. “The female lion represented the future of her species, which I believe has an equal right to exist on this planet,” wrote environmental activist Gary Lane in a letter to the editor of a local paper. “The lioness



Where grizzlies roam: The Wildlands Project seeks to expand the current range of the grizzly bear to what it posits as its historic range: deep across the American southwest and far into Mexico. The Wildlands Project Mission Statement envisions a day when "Grizzlies in Chihuahua have an unbroken connection to Grizzlies in Alaska...."

Map: Joseph W. Kelly

sport hunting of mountain lions. In predictable fashion, the cougar population exploded, ravaging food sources and driving the starving carnivores into human population centers in search of sustenance — with lethal consequences for both livestock and human beings.

After a cougar attacked a 10-year-old girl near Los Angeles in September 1993, two park rangers reluctantly dispatched the crazed predator. Other attacks resulted in physical injury to human beings. Finally, in April 1994, a woman named Barbara Schoener was attacked by an 82-pound female cougar. The cat crushed Schoener's skull, then dragged the hapless jogger 300 feet and devoured her face and most of her internal organs. Fish and Game officials hunted the cougar down and killed it, and in doing so provoked the wrath of local biocentrists.

In a letter to the *Sacramento Bee*, one eco-radical suggested that "this noble creature may well have been venting centuries of mountain-lion anger against the humans who have driven it from its land, destroyed its home, ruthlessly hunted it down, and, as the final indignity, debased it to an advertising device to sell cars." Wayne Pacelle, vice president of the Humane Society, accused those who were outraged by the death of Barbara Schoener of using harmful stereotypes. "The HSUS accepts that individual animals judged to be a threat to people should be removed. But the injurious act of one animal should not provide a license to wreak vengeance on other members of an animal population. *We are encroaching on their habitat, and we must respect that they should have a place to live as well.*" (Emphasis added.)

In late 1995, 56-year-old high school counselor Iris Kenna was attacked and

British Columbia's provincial *Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategy* describes the historical range of the North American grizzly as encompassing "the western half of North America from the Arctic to central Mexico" — thereby conjuring up the decidedly improbable image of grizzlies frolicking on the slopes of Popocatepetl.

mauled by a 140-pound cougar in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park near San Diego. Commenting on that and other cougar attacks, pollster Michael Manfredo told the January 8, 1996 issue of *Newsweek*: "There's a value shift about how people view wildlife, a high willingness to accept mountain lions on the urban fringe — even if they kill people." As the Wildlands Project unfolds, cougars, wolves, bears, and other predators will have ample opportunities to test that "value shift."

Some eco-radicals have candidly admitted that one purpose to be served by recolonizing predators in or near populated areas is to drive recalcitrant humans off the land. Few biocentric radicals have expressed this militant misanthropy as candidly as David Garber, a research biologist with the National Park Service:

Human happiness, and certainly human fecundity, are not as important as a wild and healthy planet. I know social scientists who remind me that people are a part of nature, but that isn't true.... We have become a plague upon ourselves and upon the Earth.... Until such time as Homo Sapiens should decide to rejoin nature, some of us can only hope for the right virus to come along. ■

deserved better treatment from the rangers." The cougar's destruction also angered Sherrie Tippie of Wildlife 2000, a Denver-based biocentric group, who complained that "the only species we have too many of is the human one. I am very concerned about the influx of people into our state who are not educated about our wildlife."

In 1990, California voters approved Proposition 117, a measure banning the



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