



“In wildness is the preservation of the world.” Henry David Thoreau

# BUSH VS. THE ENVIRONMENT

A Special Publication of the Forest Ecology Network

Summer 2004

Free



## More Victims of Bush's “No Tree Left Behind Act”

Is George W. Bush the most anti-environmental U. S. president ever? The Biscuit timber sale in Oregon's Siskiyou National Forest is the largest timber sale in the modern history of the U.S. Forest Service. The number of trees that will be cut is enough to fill a bumper to bumper line of logging trucks stretching from Oregon to Washington D. C.

*Photograph © Paul Donahue*

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

*Cree Indian Proverb*

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# Bush's Fire Sale - The Real Bush Environmental Agenda

by John Demos

*"George W. Bush will go down in history as America's worst environmental president."* Robert F. Kennedy Jr.  
- December 11, 2003

The following is an unlikely bit of honest advertising:

*"Attention corporate shoppers. Due to a perceived overstock on our nation's public forests, the federal government is liquidating its inventory of trees at unbelievably low prices! We're not talking puny trees and brush, but fine old growth! Roadless Areas and the big stuff! Act fast. This deal may not last long should there be a leadership change in Congress and the White House."*

With great fanfare this past December third, President George W. Bush signed into law the "Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003". According to the President, "The bill expedites the environmental review process so we can move forward more quickly on projects that restore forests to good health. We don't want our intentions bogged down by regulations. We want to get moving." In a separate press statement, Republican Congressman Richard Pombo, one of the chief architects of the bill, effused, "This is the strongest environmental protection bill signed into law since the Clean Water Act and the Clean Air Act".

"Healthy Forests Act"? "The strongest environmental bill since the Clean Water Act"? "Restore forests to good health"? What's the matter with them bum environmentalists always dissing Bush on his environmental record?

For the past three years I have felt like I have been living a bad dream as the Bush Administration has conducted a sweeping attack on the laws that have brought Americans cleaner air, cleaner water, greater protection from toxic substances, and protected endangered wildlife and habitat.

In a March 23, 2000 interview for the Washington Post, presidential candidate Bush said, "I've got a very real reasonable position on guns and the environment. And I think people are going to be pleased on my position on those issues."

The President's industry friends are pleased, indeed. Since taking office, President Bush has been busy eliminating regulations on his friends in the logging, mining, energy, gun, chemical, manufacturing, and other industries. However, most Americans are not "pleased" with these actions, or are unaware of the scope of the attack. The assault has been so broad that even those working in the environmental field have had difficulty keeping track. Just the number of revisions to forestry-related law is staggering.

While the country has been distracted by terrorism and war, the Administration has been busy dismantling our nation's most important environmental protections. As they pitched rhetoric about clear skies, healthy forests, restoration, sound science, and reasonable approaches, the Administration has been working to weaken the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, public lands protections, the Endangered Species Act, and numerous other regulations that have served the country well for over thirty years.

The President and his partisans in Congress have been

using administrative actions and legislation to weaken most of our country's environmental regulations, meanwhile conducting a public relations campaign designed to fool the public into believing their actions are eco-friendly. Titles like the "Clear Skies Initiative" and the "Healthy Forest Initiative" have successfully masked an agenda that seems designed solely to pay back big campaign contributors in industry. The rhetoric has been bad enough to date, but with Pombo's above-quoted statement, it reached new levels of disingenuousness.

Through Bush's appointments, former corporate lobbyists and politicians with established anti-environmental records now control all the federal agencies charged with protecting human and ecological health - the very agencies that many of these individuals once worked to undermine. They are driving through policies that threaten the progress we have achieved in the past thirty years as Bush quickly establishes a record as the worst president in history on environmental matters.

This Administration publicly speaks about applying sound science, while they quietly squelch their own experts' reports, such as the adverse effects on wildlife by drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Preserve or the dire consequences of global warming. Passages in government reports that counter Administration policy are edited out, and experts and officials that have not bought into the plan are removed. The Administration has also ignored non-partisan reports that run up against their wishes, like the numerous Government Accounting Office studies that prove environmental regulations are not slowing down fire thinning projects. Also, as with the Cheney Energy Task Force, they have been conspiring in secret with industry executives, while leaving the rest of us out in the cold.

However, despite all the bull being pumped out faster than the mercury from an aging power plant, the truth about the Bush Administration's environmental agenda and the damage caused by their policies is readily available. A close look at the "Healthy Forest Restoration Act" reveals that it will do little to protect lives and communities from tragedies like last fall's California fires. It will, however, feed a lot of cheap timber to logging corporations at the public's expense. Read the fine print of the "Clear Skies Initiative" and you will discover that it will worsen our air quality, while bolstering utility profits. Administration rule changes to gut water quality standards will foul our waterways, and mining companies will reap the monetary rewards.

Do not be fooled America. Take the time to check out the facts and confirm for yourself that the Bush Administration is no friend of the environment.

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**Bush vs. the Environment**  
is printed on 100% recycled, 90% post-consumer, non-bleached waste paper (newsprint).  
The cover stock is 20% recycled paper.



# This Land Is Your Land

by Mathew Jacobson

## Introduction

New policies promoted by the Bush Administration over the last three years seriously threaten our nation's forest legacy. Many of these policies have been advanced under the administration's broad reaching "Healthy Forests Initiative," which claims to make forests healthy by logging them. This report documents regional examples of damaging proposals moving forward under these new policies, from Alaska to Florida, on lands administered by the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). These regional examples represent an extreme new policy direction that undermines critical protections for forests, endangers water quality, destroys



fish and wildlife habitat, and diminishes the natural scenic beauty of the landscape.

Public forests are among the most beloved and precious natural resources in the United States. They provide clean air and water, regulate the climate, and are vital to our quality of life and the survival of fish and wildlife. There are 155 National Forests encompassing 192 million acres managed by the Forest Service and there are 11 million acres of forestlands managed by the BLM. Ninety-five percent of the original native forests of this country have already been lost, and our public lands contain some of the last remaining refuges of native forests and biological diversity.

Forests purify water for human and wildlife consumption by moderating stream temperature, filtering sediments and pollutants, and supplying nutrients needed by aquatic and terrestrial wildlife. Forests also mitigate the effects of floods and provide reliable water supplies during dry periods. Protections are therefore crucial to downstream communities, anglers, boaters, and all citizens concerned with water quality. In Oregon, eighty percent of the population is served by water systems originating on National Forests; in Washington State, it is eighty-six percent. More than 900 cities rely on National Forest System watersheds for their drinking water.

The fish and wildlife that depend on our National Forests are not only essential elements of healthy ecosystems, but also form a large part of defining who we are as Americans: the grizzly and the lynx, the wild salmon

and the trout, the spotted owl and the Indiana bat. The public lands that support these species are reservoirs of biodiversity in an increasingly fractured landscape and are vital habitat for viable populations. But our National Forests are more than just trees and wildlife and watersheds. They are home to soil, microscopic life, thousands of mosses and lichens, fungi, ferns and other flora, insects, reptiles, amphibians, and other wonders of nature that are essential components to functioning, healthy forests.

Our public forests are also a sanctuary for people. They are the places that Americans go to escape the hectic pace of everyday life, and where visitors from all over the world come to explore. National Forests provide opportunities for fishing, hunting, boating, hiking, picnicking, bird and wildlife watching, biking, camping, and

spiritual rejuvenation. The Forest Service estimates that 214 million people visited America's National Forests in 2002.

Most people do not know that, unlike the National Parks, our National Forests are not protected from destructive activities like logging and road building. Nor is it widely known that taxpayers subsidize this destruction in what is estimated at over one billion dollars of corporate welfare annually. Now, the Bush administration is systematically dismantling hard-won environmental laws and regulations

that provide what little protection there is for the very last old growth, roadless areas, and native forests from the Pacific Northwest to the wildest parts of Virginia.

## President Bush's (Un)Healthy Forest Policies

In 2002, President Bush announced his so-called "Healthy Forest Initiative" (HFI), which unravels decades of critical environmental regulations, including environmental review, endangered species protection, and public participation. While claiming that the HFI's intent is to protect lives and homes from the threat of wildfire, the administration is not prioritizing projects that use proven methods to protect communities and decrease fire risk, such as reducing underbrush around homes and communities. Instead, the administration has adopted policies to promote the logging of large, healthy trees, even though such logging can increase fire risk.

Additionally, the administration's HFI portrays natural disturbances such as fire, ice and wind storms, and insect outbreaks as events that destroy forests. The administration offers a universal management prescription: more logging, both preemptively, and in response to these events. Though the scale of these disturbances has been increased by bad management practices, natural disturbances are essential components of a functioning, healthy forest, and many forest ecosystems have evolved with, and even depend on, periodic disturbances. Logging is not the solution to making forests healthy; in fact

*continued on page 4*

## Death by a Thousand Cuts A Timeline of Bush Administration Actions that Endanger America's National Forests

- **January 20, 2001: Rollin' Back Environmental Safeguards Since Day One** - On Inauguration Day, President Bush orders all federal agencies to propose no new regulations, withdraw all new regulations that had not been published in the Federal Register and postpone – for sixty days – any new regulations that had been published. This begins a concerted effort on the part of the Bush Administration to rollback safeguards that protect our nation's clear air, clean water and public lands.

- **May 4, 2001: Promises, Promises...** - The Bush Administration announces that it will uphold the popular Roadless Area Conservation Rule, which protects 58.5 million acres of intact wild forests in our national forest system from most forms of logging and road construction.

- **July 10, 2001: Pickin' the Right Fox for the Henhouse** - President Bush nominates Mark Rey – a former logging industry lobbyist – to oversee the U.S. Forest Service as Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment. After serving 18 years as the logging industry's principle lobbyist, Rey made his name in politics as a staff member with the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee where he was the "key architect" (National Journal, 1997) of the "logging without laws" Salvage Rider," which the Washington Post called, "arguably the worst piece of public lands legislation ever." Under the Salvage Rider – with environmental laws suspended and meaningful public participation banned – enough trees were cut from America's national forests to fill log trucks lined up for over 6,800 miles!

- **August 12, 2001: ...Promises Broken** - The Forest Service – under Bush-appointed Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth – issues a policy that temporarily exempts Alaska's Tongass National Forest and 11 other national forests from the Roadless Rule until all logging industry legal challenges to the rule are resolved. The policy also gives Chief Bosworth the authority to allow road building and logging in roadless areas on all other national forests at his discretion while the legal challenges are under review.

- **October 2, 2001: The Fox Assumes Control of the Henhouse** - Former logging industry lobbyist Mark Rey is sworn in as Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment. In this position, Rey is responsible for the management of America's 155 national forests, 19 national grasslands on 192 million acres of public lands.

- **November 27, 2001: Cutting the Public Out of Public Lands** - In order push through one of the largest logging projects in agency history – the Bitterroot National Forest's Burned Area "Recovery Plan" – Forest Service Chief Bosworth declared that he would circumvent the public appeals process by having Mark Rey sign off on the massive logging plan. This blatant disregard for public involvement left the 4,400 citizens who commented on a draft of the plan out in the cold. A federal judge later criticized the Forest Service's move by saying the agency had elected "to take the law into its own hands."

it can exacerbate forest health problems.

The Bush Administration is also attempting to significantly weaken other rules and regulations governing forest management such as the National Forest Management Act and the Roadless Area Conservation Rule. These actions systematically limit opportunities for public participation in decisions affecting public lands, undermine water quality and fish and wildlife protections, and give logging companies increased opportunities to exploit public forests.

### The major components of the Bush Administration's proposals:

**Undermine Protections for Roadless Areas** granted by the popular Roadless Area Conservation Rule, which protects almost 60 million acres from damaging road building. Although over 2.5 million public comments called for the complete protection of all of these pristine forestlands, the administration "temporarily" revoked protection for over nine million acres in Alaska's



Tongass National Forest, paving the way for industrial logging in the world's largest remaining coastal temperate rainforest. The administration has also announced its intentions to reduce roadless area protections for Alaska's Chugach National Forest and for forests in the lower 48 States.

**Triple Logging in the Sierra Nevada** by reopening and weakening the Sierra Nevada Framework, a widely supported management plan, calling for more environmentally sound management for 11.5 million acres on eleven National Forests in the Sierra Nevada. These changes allow logging of large fire resilient trees, eliminate old growth forest protections, and gut other standards and guidelines that once provided protections for water quality, the California Spotted Owl, the Pacific Fisher, and other wildlife.

**Increase Logging in the Pacific Northwest** by weakening two provisions of the Northwest Forest Plan, which regulates the management of public forests in western Oregon and Washington and northern California. Important "survey and manage" rules that required inventories and protection for rare, endangered, and sensitive species that depend on old growth forests for their survival were eliminated, placing many species at the brink of extinction. And, the Aquatic Conservation Strategy (ACS), a scientifically based framework for ensuring that logging

will not damage salmon watersheds, has been diluted. Additionally, the administration is in the process of a review of protections for the Northern Spotted Owl and Marbled Murrelet, and is seeking to eliminate old growth protections on BLM lands in Oregon. This could shatter the heart of the Northwest Forest Plan and further open the path to increased logging of mature and old growth forests across the region.

**Weaken Endangered Species Act Compliance** by eliminating Endangered Species Act "consultation" requirements, which determine if logging will adversely impact endangered and threatened species and their habitat for fire related projects.

**Limit Public Participation** by approving new regulations restricting the opportunity for Americans to have input on how their public lands are being managed. Under the guise of "expediting" logging activities to decrease fire risk, the administration changed the notice, comment and appeals regulations, effectively curtailing citizens' participation in broad range land management decisions, not only those pertaining to fire risk.

**Create New Loopholes for Logging** by exempting many timber sales, road building and salvage logging from environmental review and public comment. These new Categorical Exclusions (CEs) could exempt up to 50 acres of live green tree logging, 250 acres of salvage logging, and the construction of 1/2 mile of new temporary roads per timber sale.

**Strip Wildlife & Forest Protections** through a radical rewrite of the regulations implementing the National Forest Management Act. The

administration has proposed new regulations that could eliminate vital wildlife protections, open more forest to logging, and exempt forest planning from environmental review, public participation, and independent scientific input.

### The Forests of the Northeast - Refuge from Metropolis

The Northern Forest stretches from Down East Maine, through the White Mountains of New Hampshire, across Vermont's Green Mountains, to the Adirondacks of New York. The Northeast also contains the pre-colonial hemlock-beech forests of the Allegheny Plateau that stretches across southern upstate New York and west central Pennsylvania. Over 250 species of wildlife inhabit the region, including bald eagle, black bear, songbirds, and lynx. Wolves and mountain lion have recently been sighted in some areas. The relatively undisturbed habitat provided by the region's National Forests have become increasingly critical to the survival of many wildlife species, and to the peace of mind of this crowded region's residents.

The Northeast contains four National Forests where millions of Americans enjoy hiking, camping, hunting, scenic drives, historic sites, and rare wilderness experiences. The White Mountain National Forest contains the

• **December 14, 2001: Promises Broken...Yet Again** The Forest Service announces new guidelines that further reduce protections for roadless areas. Under the new guidelines smaller, undeveloped forests adjacent to larger roadless areas are no longer protected from development. The changes also end mandatory environmental impact reviews of the effects of logging and road building in these areas and stop requiring public participation in the consideration of these projects.

• **January 18, 2002: See No Evil** - The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, under former industry lobbyist Gale Norton, concludes that 150 years of logging "has not appreciably affected" spotted owls, despite the fact that 90% of the spotted owl's habitat has been destroyed. This opens the floodgates for increased logging in the last ancient forests of the Pacific Northwest.

• **February 6, 2002: Giving Away the Public's Land** - President Bush's 2003 budget authorizes the creation of "charter forests" - whereby the management of publicly-owned national forest lands would be turned over to local private partnerships.

• **April 12, 2002: Taking Out the Teeth** - A draft report by the U.S. Forest Service reveals that the agency intends to "streamline" rules protecting the environment and limit public challenges to its decisions. Within two years the agency would implement regulations limiting external review of the impacts of projects on endangered species.

• **August 22, 2002: Horizontal Forests Initiative** - President Bush unveils the so-called "Healthy Forest Initiative," which would limit citizen involvement and undermine the nation's environmental laws in order dramatically increase logging in national forests. Predictably, the logging industry - which has given more than \$10 million in campaign contributions to Bush and the GOP since the 2000 election cycle - hails the initiative as the best thing since the invention of the chainsaw and the perfect way to restore "forest health."

• **August 30, 2002: Toss Another Fox in the Henhouse** - Allan Fitzsimmons - who has published articles denying the existence of ecosystems and stated that the extinction of the nation's 1,200 threatened and endangered species, "would be a disconcerting loss but would not constitute a crisis" - is hand-picked by the Bush Administration to serve as Wildlands Fuel Coordinator for the Department of Interior. Fitzsimmons not only lacks experience in the field of forest ecology or fire management, but he considers efforts to manage ecosystems to be an opportunity for new federal controls that infringe on economic activity and property rights.

• **September 30, 2002: If You Can't Play By the Rules...** - In reaction to a federal court ruling halting timber sales in the ancient forests of the Pacific Northwest for failure to comply with environmental regulations, the Bush Administration proposes to eliminate those regulations.

• **November 26, 2002: Thanksgiving Turkey** - The Bush Administration proposes a radical rewrite of the regulations implementing the National Forest Management Act that would eliminate habitat protection, public participation and scientific review in order to increase logging, mining, grazing, drilling and other

highest peaks in the Northeast and is one of the nation's most visited public lands.

Vermont's Green Mountain National Forest provides a diverse landscape from the peaks of the Green Mountains to quiet wilderness valleys. The Allegheny National Forest, on the plateau of Northwest Pennsylvania, is a diverse topography cut by creeks and streams varying by 1,300 feet in elevation. New York's Finger Lakes National Forest, the smallest National Forest east of the Mississippi, was created from the purchase of farmland abandoned after the 1890's. It is a mosaic of grassland and forest that offers a rare escape in central New York State.

Misuse of the fire and insect provisions in the Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003 poses a significant threat to the National Forests in the region. Oil and gas exploration also threaten the Allegheny and Finger Lakes forests.

The Martin Run Timber Sale in the Allegheny National Forest is a good example of what is happening. The sale includes 1,000 acres of clearcutting, and 1,000 acres of other forms of logging in the watersheds of the East and South Branches of Tionesta Creek in the heart of the Allegheny National Forest. The sale calls for miles of new and reconstructed roads, and over 1,200 acres of toxic herbicide spraying. The timber sale area includes a proposed wilderness, old growth and mature forest, wildlife habitat, and unique recreation features such as the North Country National Scenic Trail.

As a part of the project, the Forest Service proposes to log and clearcut hundreds of acres adjacent to the largest old growth forest in Pennsylvania, the Tionesta and Scenic Research Natural Areas. The agency also plans to log within proposed old growth landscape corridors - mature forest stands recommended for protection to connect important wildlife habitat.

Claiming that hundreds of acres of logging were immediately necessary to salvage the economic value of trees damaged by a windstorm in the summer of 2002, the Forest Service proposed that the project be exempted from laws requiring environmental review and public participation and oversight through the use of a Categorical Exclusion (CE) from the National Environmental Policy Act. CEs are supposed to be used for uncontroversial projects with no environmental impacts such as



repainting an outhouse or re-graveling a district office driveway. However, the Forest Service has recently been trying to stretch the use of CEs to circumvent laws requiring environmental analysis and public participation to allow all manner of logging and roadbuilding. In the case of Martin Run, public pressure has forced the Forest Service to withdraw the CE, and to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement presenting to the public in detail the effects of their proposal, which is expected for release in November 2004. Unfortunately, as many as twenty more CE projects are planned for the Allegheny National Forest.

*The preceding report was excerpted from This Land Is Your Land, written and produced by American Lands Alliance and by Mathew Jacobson, United Forest Defense Campaign. The damaging projects that are documented in the full report provide concrete examples, from every region across the United States, of the weakening of environmental regulations that have been time-tested over decades, supported widely by Americans, and helped preserve our last remaining wildlands. These lands are your lands, they belong to all of us, and they should be safeguarded as our legacy for future generations.*



commercial activities on 192 million acres of national forests.

- **December 11, 2002: Greasing the Skids for More Logging** - The Bush Administration proposes "streamlining" rules by eliminating environmental regulations on logging projects whenever the Forest Service claims that the purpose of the logging is to reduce fire risk. The change includes limiting the ability of the public to oppose illegal logging projects on public lands. This, despite the fact that a recent Department of Agriculture report found that, "The removal of large, merchantable trees from forests does not reduce fire risk and may, in fact, increase such risk."

- **January 27, 2003: From the Redwood Forests...** Under the guise of "fuel reduction," the U.S. Forest Service issues a draft plan to resume the logging of ancient Giant Sequoia trees in the Giant Sequoia National Monument and two national forests in California's Sierra Nevada mountain range. The plan would sidestep wildlife and watershed protections to allow logging companies to cut down more than 2,000 log trucks full of the nation's oldest and grandest trees every year.

- **February 28, 2003: A Big Fat Zero** - The Bush Administration completes a court-ordered analysis of potential wilderness areas on the Tongass National Forest in Alaska - part of the world largest remaining coastal temperate rainforest. The Bush Administration recommends that none of the 9.8 million remaining acres of intact ancient temperate rainforest be protected as wilderness, leaving them open to road construction and logging.

- **May 20, 2003: From the White House: "More Logging"** - During a White House ceremony, President Bush urges the U.S. House of Representatives to pass the "Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003." This misguided and misnamed bill limits citizen involvement, undermines key environmental laws, interferes with the U.S. judicial system and authorizes an additional \$125 million in taxpayer subsidies to log tens of millions of acres of federal public lands. Meanwhile, the bill includes no specific provisions or resources to help rural homeowners protect themselves from wildfire. The Senate is expected to consider the bill in September 2003.

- **May 27, 2003: Don't Seek and Ye Shan't Find** - The Bush Administration agrees to demands by logging companies in Oregon to stop requiring federal land managers to survey for sensitive plant and animal species before allowing logging in ancient, old-growth forests.

- **May 30, 2003: Loopholes for Larger Logging Trucks** - The Bush Administration puts new regulations in place that allow the Forest Service to log areas up to 1,000 acres in size with no analysis of the environmental impacts. Incredibly, the Administration claims that logging an area the size of 930 football fields will result in "no significant environmental impact." The exemptions apply to projects throughout national forests, including the remote backcountry.

- **May 30, 2003: Administration to Endangered Species: "Don't let the door hit you on the way out!"** - The Bush Administration continues its efforts to undermine the protection of threatened or endangered species by announcing a new proposal that

# Roadless Areas of the White Mountain National Forest - What We've Lost and What We Stand to Lose

by John Demos

Between 1992 and 1997, nearly sixteen-million acres of forest, farms, and open space across the nation were converted to urban or other uses. As America's population centers continue to grow and wild and open spaces disappear, our national forests become more and more valuable.

In 1998, the U.S. Forest Service responded to the nation's need and desire to protect its last wild forests by placing an 18-month moratorium on the construction of new roads in the last remaining unprotected and unroaded, or roadless, forests on the national forest system.

In 1999, the Forest Service began a rulemaking process to determine the future of these last remaining roadless areas. During that process, more than 600 public meetings and hearings were held throughout the country, and more than 1.6 million Americans sent comments to the

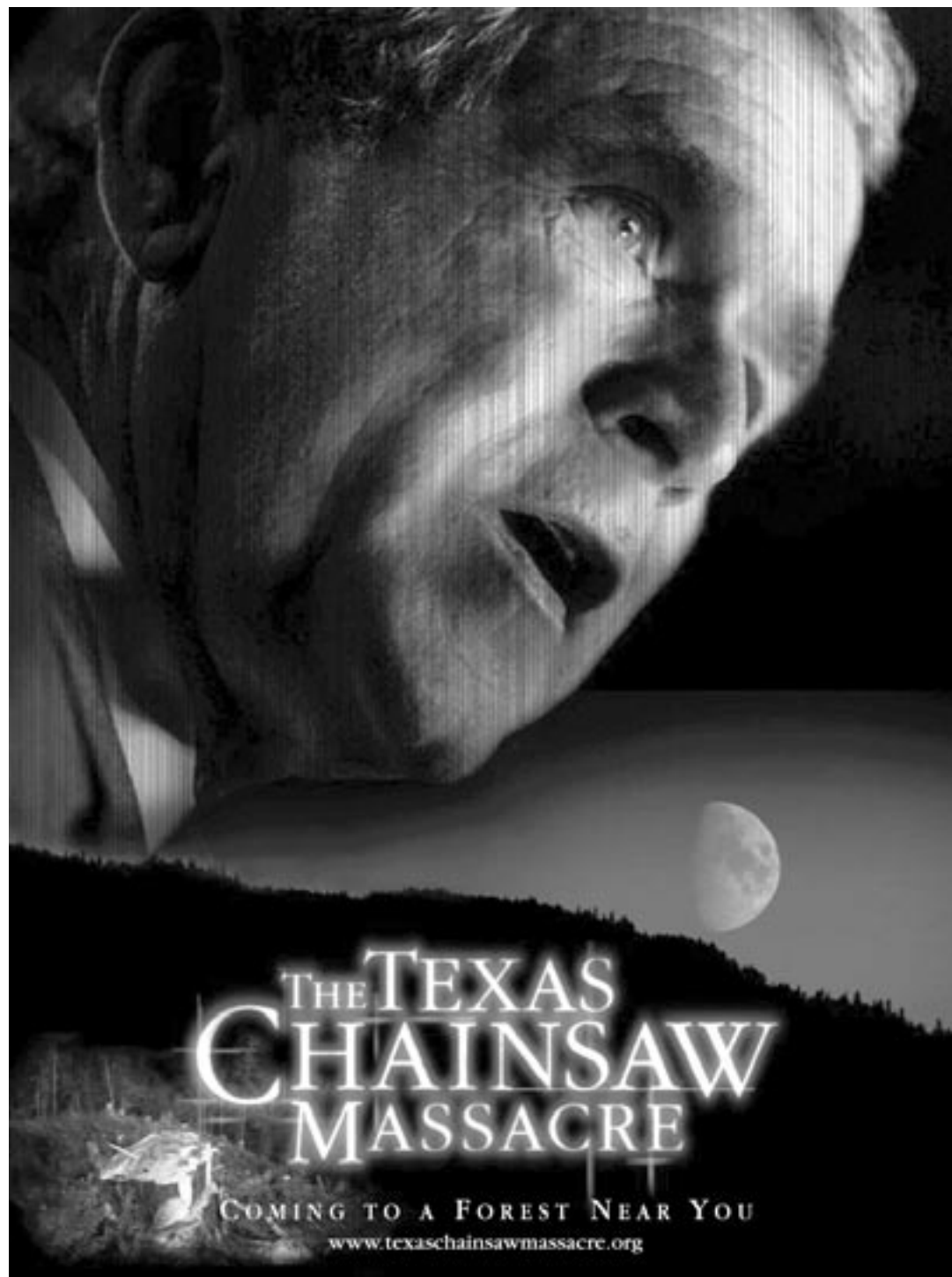
Forest Service - more than five times more comments than had ever been received on any federal rulemaking in US history. More than ninety-five percent of those comments nationally, and ninety-three percent in New Hampshire, asked for the complete protection of all roadless areas.

According to then Secretary of Agriculture, Dan Glickman, never before have the American people so actively participated in helping to decide how their

public lands should be managed. In January of 2001, the Roadless Area Conservation Rule, which protects the remaining inventoried roadless areas on our national forests from most logging, road construction, drilling and mining, was signed into law.

But just as the Roadless Rule was scheduled to take effect, the Bush Administration moved to block it. First, White House Chief of Staff Andrew Card froze

*If the Bush Administration reverses the Roadless Area Conservation Rule, 200,000 acres of the last remaining roadless areas of Maine and New Hampshire's White Mountain National Forest could be opened to logging and road building.*



gives the Forest Service the ability to avoid involving federal wildlife agencies in logging and other projects that may degrade threatened or endangered species and their habitat.

• **June 5, 2003: Triple the Logging in California's Sierra Nevada Mountain Range** - The Bush Administration announces that it will scrap the current Sierra Nevada Framework - adopted in 2001 following eight years of scientific study - with a plan that will triple logging levels in 11 national forests in California. The Bush plan opens spotted owl reserves to logging and allows the cutting of fire-resistant trees as large as 8 feet in circumference under the guise of "fuel reduction."

• **June 9, 2003: Promises Shattered** - Mark Rey announces that the Bush Administration will completely dismantle the Roadless Area Conservation Rule. According to Rey, the Administration will settle a lawsuit with the logging industry and exempt 14.7 million acres of ancient rainforest in Alaska's Tongass and Chugach National Forests from protection under the Roadless Rule. He also announces that the Bush Administration will give state governors the ability to open wild national forests in their states to the logging industry.

• **July 23, 2003: More Loopholes for More Logging** During a press conference with the media and the logging industry, Mark Rey announces a new regulation that allows the Forest Service to log live trees on 70 acres and dead, dying or diseased trees on 250 acres with absolutely no environmental analysis or public input.

• **December 3, 2003: President Bush Signs the mis-named "Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003."** The Bush Administration's logging bill became permanent law (public law 108-148). The new law will increase logging on public forests under the guise of hazardous fuels reduction, while not ensuring any increased protections for homes at risk of wildfire. In addition, the logging law interferes with the independent judiciary, weakens the agency environmental analysis process, eliminates the Administrative Review process (appeals) for hazardous fuels reduction projects, and excludes 1,000-acre insect projects from environmental review.

• **December 23, 2003: Tongass National Forest Exempted From Roadless Rule** - The Bush Administration quietly released its decision to exempt Alaska's Tongass National Forest from the Roadless Area Conservation Rule. The decision means about 300,000 acres of old-growth rain forest, that were once protected under the rule will be available for logging.

• **January 9, 2004: New Pre-decisional Appeals ("Objection") Process Released** - The Bush Administration released the interim final rule and request for comments for the new "Pre-decisional administrative review process for hazardous fuel reduction projects authorized under the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA)." The HFRA eliminated the Administrative Review (appeals) process for hazardous fuels reduction projects and directed the agency to draft a new process. The comment period started January 15 and ends April 28, 2004.

its implementation. Then Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman postponed its effective date, and announced the Bush Administration's intentions to amend the rule and reopen the public comment process. On December 23, 2003, while families across America gathered for the holiday season, the Bush administration removed the largest national forest in the country, the Tongass Rainforest of Alaska, from protection under the Roadless Area Conservation Rule. This was despite receiving nearly 250,000 public comments opposing the exemption. Since then, the Administration has announced intentions to revise or remove protections from the roadless areas throughout the country, including The Maine and New Hampshire White Mountain National Forest.

Nearly 400,000 acres of roadless areas on the Maine-New Hampshire White Mt. National Forest are currently



protected from logging and road-building under the Roadless Conservation Rule. If the Roadless Rule is reversed by the Bush Administration, 125,000 acres, or thirty-three percent of those areas would be opened to commercial logging and road building under the existing management plan for the forest. Another 75,000 acres or nineteen percent would be open to salvage logging and temporary road construction.

## “The Goal Under This Administration Is Profit” - A Few Words from Julia Butterfly Hill

For me, it's been really pretty horrific to see what's been coming from the Bush Administration around everything environmental, and everything social. The reality is that the goal under this administration is profit and anything that gets in the way will be changed in order to not be in the way and in order to support profit. And so it doesn't matter, you just pull open a layer and then there's another layer, and there's another layer - all these ways our planet and all that it gives us is being devastated. This man wasn't even truly elected - he took over the presidency in a coup.

The reality of what's happening in the forests is unbelievable. A lot of people believe these lies that are coming from this administration, like the healthy forest initiative - sounds great! And then we have the horrible catastrophes of fire which proved that Bush is right, and we must go in and log it all in order to stop the fires.

You're right, there won't be any trees left to burn, but there also won't be any water, there won't be any clean air, and the climate will become unstable. The reality is that he's not going to go in just to log it, he wants to go in and log it economically. . .to economically incentivize fire.

I've found an interesting way to talk to people about it. And I put it very simply: Here you are building a fire in your fireplace. Do you start it with logs, or do you start it with kindling? And they say, “with kindling”. Exactly! A true healthy forest initiative would go in and get out the kindling, not the logs. But this initiative is about going in and getting the logs, not the kindling. So not only is it not going to help stop fire it's actually going to make it worse because it's going to perpetuate the cycle of building more and more kindling which is

what's hot, what ignites the quickest. . .you know if you ever started a fire.

I think that our challenge in this administration is about helping people get it by making it really simple and helping them get through the smoke and mirrors. And we have a challenge because people say, “Well Americans, we want energy, so we're going to have to drill in Alaska so we don't have to rely on Middle Eastern countries that are unstable,” or “Americans, we're going to keep building, so we're going to have to have that wood from somewhere and so we need to log in the national forests.”

With the Bush Administration we can see the target very clearly - he's out front -let's destroy everything and give it really cool names, and everybody will believe we're compassionate, that we care. So, I think that a really big thing we can do is educate people - to go out and take people who are conservative in outlook, and talk to them, convince

them to do things like download the facts...just so they know this is what this administration doing.

On a global level, we are seeing an unraveling of the myths created by the current Bush-led Administration. Unfortunately as easy as it is for many of us to say, “We knew this all along,” the reality of these myths being perpetuated through US government and media culture come with a horrific price tag for people the world over. The current state of the world is a powerful and poignant call to action for each and every one of us.

*The proceeding are excerpts from a February 2004 interview with Julia Butterfly Hill, and from her web log at <http://www.circleoflifefoundation.org/blog/julial/>.*



photograph by Teresa Wood

### • January 15, 2004: Final Stewardship Contracting (“Steward-less Logging”) Guidelines Released

The Bush Administration released its new management guidelines for the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest to implement the extremely controversial stewardship-contracting program. The new management authorities granted under this program authorized less agency accountability and more private corporate control of the public's lands.

• **January 22, 2004: Sierra Nevada Framework Weakened; Logging Tripled** - The Forest Service released the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement Record of Decision for the revisions to the Sierra Nevada Framework, which directs the management of 11.5 million acres of California's national forest lands. The revisions will nearly triple the amount of logging and limit safeguards for forests, water and wildlife throughout the Sierras.

• **January 23, 2004: Final Northwest Forest Plan “Survey and Manage” Regulations Released; Logging Doubled** - The Bush administration released its final plan to eliminate key provisions of the Northwest Forest Plan that protect plants and animals that live in mature and old growth forests. The proposal eliminates the “survey and manage” provisions that require agencies to survey mature and old growth forests prior to logging, and to protect sites occupied by certain rare and sensitive species. A Record of Decision is anticipated to be released by the end of February 2004. The Record of Decision would amend land and resource management plans for National Forests and BLM Districts within the range of the northern spotted owl (generally western Oregon and Washington, and northwestern California).

### In the Works for 2004

• **More Attacks on the Roadless Rule** - The Bush Administration is planning to further gut the Roadless Area Conservation Rule by allowing Governors in states where Roadless Areas exist to exempt their states (or certain roadless areas) from the Rule. Projected Timing: Late February/March

• **Cutting the Public Out, Pushing Species Toward Extinction** - The Bush Administration is planning to release final National Forest Management Act Regulations. The Bush NFMA regulations will weaken and in many cases eliminate public participation, abolish species protections, and further undermine environmental analysis. Projected Timing: March

• **ORV Rulemaking** - The U. S. Forest Service plans to rewrite regulations governing the use of dirt bikes, all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), and other off-road vehicles on National Forests and Grasslands. Forest Service officials have said they will propose new rules that prohibit cross-country motorized travel except under limited circumstances and restrict dirt bikes and ATVs to designated roads and off-road vehicle routes. The failure to effectively manage off-road vehicle use is causing serious problems across National Forests. We need to push for strong reform!! Projected Timing: March/April



# Bomb and Drill - The Bush Administration's Energy Policy for the 21st Century

by Paul Donahue

When the administration's National Security Advisor actually had an oil tanker named after her (the "Condoleezza Rice"), you know you are in trouble and, without a doubt, it is in the arena of energy policy where the Bush Administration has truly outdone itself. As devastating as the Bush Administration's policies have been regarding other environmental issues, it is in the realm of energy where their policies have the potential to cause the most serious and long-term damage to our environment - indeed, to our whole planet. Their policy is clear - drill everywhere, and bomb or imprison anyone who gets in the way.

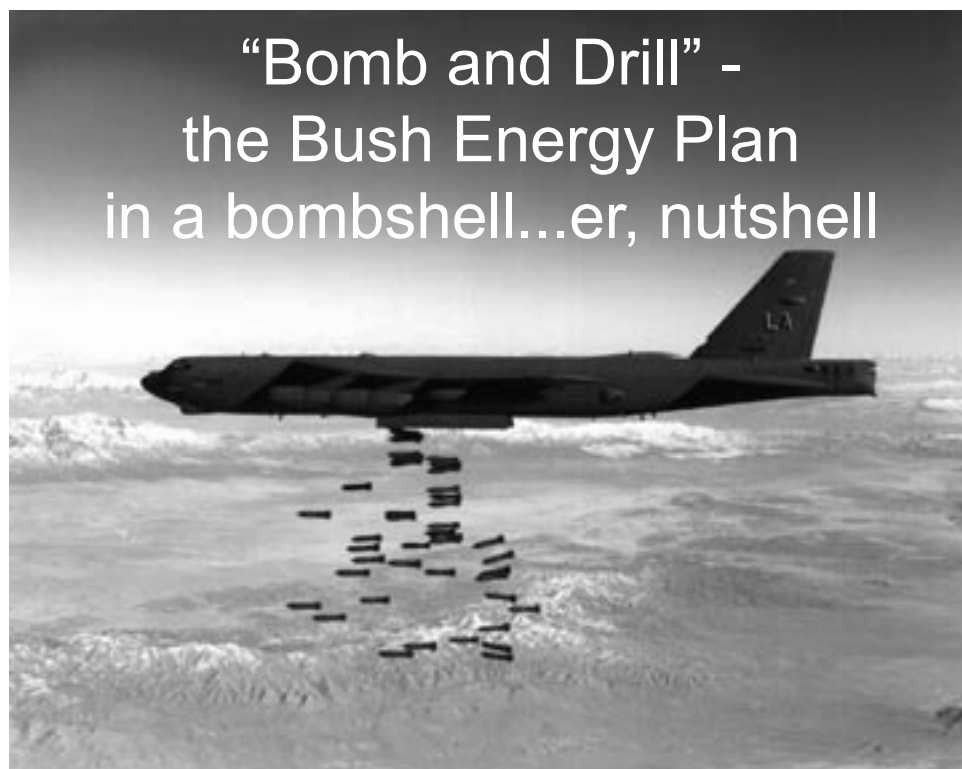
While we at the Forest Ecology Network have primarily concerned ourselves over the years with forest issues, the issues of forests, clean air, global warming, national energy policy, international policy and even war, are all intimately linked. A national energy policy which relies heavily on fossil fuels and ignores renewable energy and conservation measures means increased global warming and air pollution, including acid rain. And an increase in global warming and air pollution will certainly have a severe impact on our forests.

If renewable energy and conservation measures are ignored in our nation's energy plan, it also means we will have greater dependence on foreign oil. If we depend more on foreign oil, it will in turn mean more US aggression abroad to secure those oil supplies. More US aggression abroad means increased spending on the military. More of our tax dollars going to the already obscenely bloated Pentagon budget means fewer tax dollars available for vital environmental programs and agencies, such as the Environmental Protection Agency. Even as I write this, President Bush is proposing an environmental budget for 2005 which slashes about \$600 million or 7.2 percent from the EPA's budget. At the same time, spending on the military continues to rise, with much of our military currently engaged in securing oil supplies around the world.



In 1995 Chevron named their largest oil tanker (136,000 tons) the *Condoleezza Rice*. At the time, current National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice was on Chevron's board of directors. In May 2001, presumably at the behest of the Bush Administration, Chevron renamed the tanker the *Altair Voyager*. In the words of Chevron's Fred Gorell, "We made the change to eliminate unnecessary attention caused by the vessel's original name."

At a time when more enlightened governments have recognized the extreme dangers inherent in a warming planet and have begun to move away from a reliance on fossil fuels, the Bush Administration has refused to sign the Kyoto Climate Change Treaty and employed a propaganda campaign to try to deny the existence of global



A U.S. Air Force B-52 bombs an al-Qaeda terrorist training camp in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

warming. Instead, they are moving full steam ahead with a plan to secure the world's remaining reserves of petroleum and natural gas, while simultaneously lining the pockets of their friends and associates in the energy industry.

Many Americans, though not nearly enough, understand that Iraq's oil reserves, third largest in the world (112 billion barrels), were one of the major reasons underlying our illegal invasion and occupation of that country. Fewer Americans realize that the vast oil and natural gas reserves of the Caspian Basin were a major motivation for our invasion and occupation of Afghanistan. Even fewer Americans know much about Colombia,

our third largest recipient of military aid and seventh largest oil supplier, where US troops are guarding Occidental Petroleum's oil pipeline and where the so-called coca eradication efforts of our "Plan Colombia" are coincidentally concentrated in the oil producing regions of the country.

And then there is Venezuela, our fourth largest source of foreign oil, where the Bush Admin-

istration has been attempting to overthrow democratically-elected, but oil company-unfriendly, President Hugo Chavez.....and our military involvement in the Philippines, and Indonesia, both rich in oil and natural gas..... and the permanent US military bases being constructed in Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan around the oil and natural gas-rich Caspian Basin.....and our increasingly bellicose language directed at Iran, with the world's second largest oil reserves (132 billion barrels).

If anyone doubts the oily motives I have ascribed to the Bush Administration, I strongly encourage them to read *Rebuilding America's Defenses: Strategy, Forces and Resources For a New Century* (September 2000) published by the Project for the New American Century (PNAC) and available online at <http://www.newamericancentury.org/publications-reports.htm>. The PNAC is a neoconservative Washington think tank whose goal is to further U.S. dominance. But the PNAC is not just any ordinary think tank. Many PNAC members now hold key positions in the White House, Defense and State Departments - among them, Dick Cheney, Donald Rumsfeld, Paul Wolfowitz, Richard Perle, Elliot Abrams, Lewis Libby, and John Bolton, along with others in lesser positions - and the document *Rebuilding America's Defenses* is a blueprint for many of the present actions of the Bush Administration.

The guaranteed environmental drawbacks of a fossil fuel-based energy plan (global warming, air pollution, oil spills, etc.) are bad enough to cause a sane person to begin to look elsewhere to meet our energy needs. The wars to secure foreign fossil fuel supplies are environmental disasters in and of themselves. Additionally,

however, there is the distinct possibility that the militaristic and imperialistic adventures of President Bush, particularly in the politically volatile Middle East, could trigger far, far greater damage to the environment - a nuclear confrontation that would wipe out all our forests, and every other living ecosystem on the planet, in one fell swoop.

Of course, I am sure that President Bush has carefully considered all the serious implications of his actions, and the statements I have made above are certainly not meant to imply that our president does not have a keen understanding of the vitally important energy issues. If you doubt his grasp of the issues, just refer to these quotes from our astute leader.....

*"We need an energy bill that encourages consumption."*  
- President Bush, Trenton, New Jersey, Sept. 23, 2002

*"First, we would not accept a treaty that would not have been ratified, nor a treaty that I thought made sense for the country."* - President Bush on the Kyoto Climate Change Treaty, Washington Post, April 24, 2001

*"Natural gas is hemispheric. I like to call it hemispheric in nature because it is a product that we can find in our neighborhoods."* - President Bush, Austin, Texas, Dec. 20, 2000

*"The California crunch really is the result of not enough power-generating plants and then not enough power to power the power of generating plants."* - President Bush on the California energy crisis, January 14, 2001



## Highlights of the Bush Administration's Energy Policy

It is unprecedented in that no industry in the history of the republic has had former industry executives occupying the positions of both President and Vice President. Between 1998 and 2004 the oil and gas industry gave more than \$1.7 million to the campaigns of George W. Bush, more than three times the amount given the number two recipient of their largesse. This is what the industry got for its money....

### January 2001

George W. Bush announces a proposal to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil development.

### March 2001

EPA Administrator Christie Todd Whitman announces that the Bush Administration will not support ratification of the Kyoto Protocol, the international treaty to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This announcement by the Bush Administration comes just weeks after the world's eight largest industrialized nations issue a declaration that they would strive to reach an agreement on the treaty. Bush also abandons his campaign promise to regulate power plant emissions of carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas that scientists consider a major cause of global warming.

### April 2001

The Bush Administration announces it will weaken the requirement to make air conditioners, which are a huge consumer of electricity, more energy efficient.

### May 2001

Bush releases his energy plan, calling for increased

reliance on oil, coal and nuclear power, and cutting the budget for energy efficiency research and alternative power sources by nearly a third.

### August 2001

The House of Representatives passes the Bush energy proposal, including plans to drill for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

### October 2001

On October 7th the Bush Administration unleashes its bombing campaign on Afghanistan, signaling the start of the administration's first oil war. Two days later, U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan Wendy Chamberlain meets with the Pakistani oil minister to discuss reviving the trans-Afghan oil pipeline.

### January 2002

For the first time, President Bush states support for Vice President Cheney's refusal to release information about industry representatives who met with Cheney's secretive energy task force.

The National Park Service concludes that expanding oil drilling in Florida's Big Cypress National Preserve would not harm the environment. Also, the Bush Administration tries to strip the State of California's right to review proposals for oil drilling off the coast.

### March 2002

The National Park Service issues a permit to allow BNP Petroleum Corp. to drill for natural gas within Padre Island National Seashore, a 69-mile stretch of barrier island off the southern coast of Texas. Also, the Forest

Service proposes opening up 140,000 roadless acres in the Los Padres National Forest to oil and gas leasing.

### April 2002

The Senate passes a version of the Bush energy plan that scuttles an increase in fuel efficiency standards and supports more domestic production from coal and other polluting sources.

The Bush Administration announces that U.S. military assistance to Colombia, which until then had been limited to combating the illegal drug trade, has included \$98 million to protect the Caño-Limón oil pipeline used by Los Angeles-based Occidental Petroleum.

Doing the bidding of ExxonMobil and other fossil-fuel industries, Bush Administration representatives to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) succeed in ousting Dr. Robert Watson from the science panel's chairmanship. Watson, IPCC chair since 1996, is a respected atmospheric scientist highly regarded for his strong leadership of the complex organization. But earlier in the month - immediately following closed-door talks with oil, utility and auto lobbyists - the Bush Administration announced it would not re-nominate him. That same week, the Natural Resources Defense Council releases a confidential memo from ExxonMobil to the White House asking that Watson be replaced.

### July 2002

The Bush Administration joins several utilities in opposing a provision of the Senate energy bill that would require power companies to produce 10 percent of

*continued on page 10*



I don't know what those wacko environmentalists are talking about," says President Bush. "I love the environment, it's a great place to drill."

got oil?

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## Highlights of the Bush Administration's Energy Policy

*continued from page 9*

their energy from renewable sources by 2020.

### August 2002

Just two days into the U.N. summit in Johannesburg, the U.S. joins Saudi Arabia and other nations in resisting promises to expand the use of clean, renewable energy technologies around the globe.

### October 2002

The Bureau of Land Management ignores concerns raised by the Environmental Protection Agency and a record-breaking amount of public input - more than 25,000 opposing comments - and approves a Houston company's request to embark on the largest oil and gas exploration project ever in Utah.

### December 2002

Ignoring a decade of peer-reviewed global warming science, the Bush Administration calls for at least five more years of study before taking any substantial action to stem the problem.

### March 2003

The Bush Administration invades Iraq, signaling the start of the administration's second oil war.

### April 2003

The Bush Administration makes good on its threat to boost oil and gas drilling on public lands, as the Bureau of Land Management streamlines its permitting requirements to expedite the permitting process.

### May 2003

The administration releases a long-awaited assessment of the environmental impacts of mountaintop removal coal mining. The study predictably concludes that mountaintop removal devastates the environment, but the administration's response is to further loosen restrictions on the coal industry.

### July 2003

The Bush Administration creates The Rocky Mountain Energy Council to develop ways to "streamline" the federal approval process for drilling projects in Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming.

### August 2003

An investigation by the General Accounting Office confirms what environmental groups have long contended: corporations played a significant role in formulating the Bush Administration's energy policy.

### September 2003

The Bureau of Land Management issues new guidelines that could open millions more acres across the West to oil and gas drilling.

### January 2004

Citing the need to tap new energy sources, Interior Secretary Gale Norton signs off on a plan to open nearly 9 million acres of Alaska's North Slope to oil and gas development. Located adjacent to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, the area contains pristine wilderness habitat for migratory birds, whales, seals and other wildlife.

### May 2004

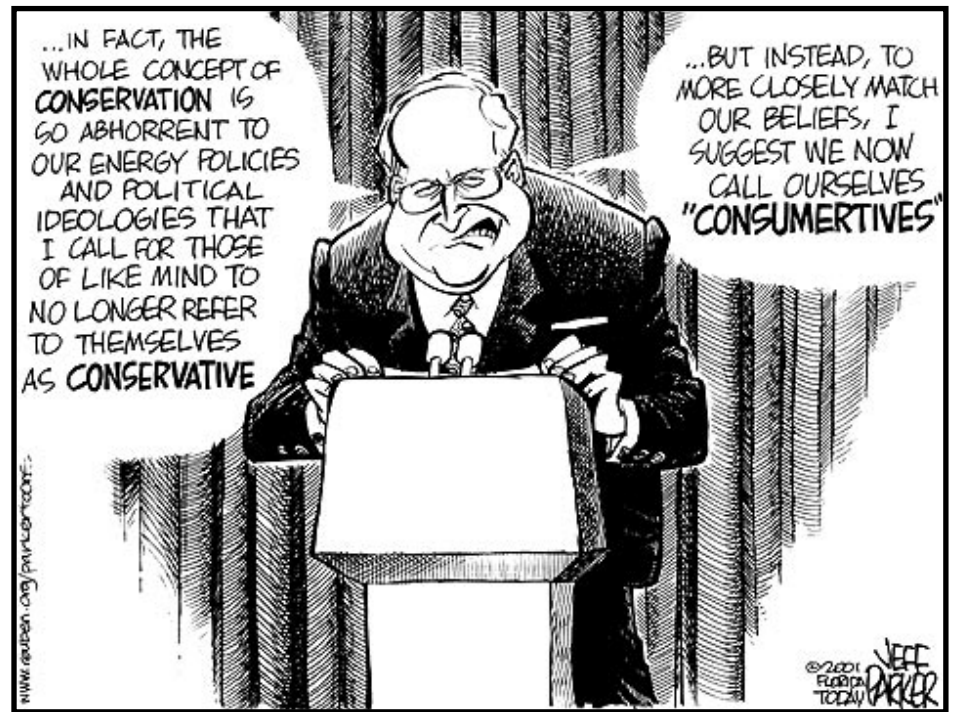
The Energy Department announces it will examine the feasibility of expanding natural gas drilling on federal lands that are currently off-limits to energy development. A study group composed of federal agencies will consider opening environmentally sensitive mountain and coastal areas where drilling is prohibited.

*Much of the information above comes from the National Resources Defense Council and Friends of the Earth. More information can be found on their respective web pages -*

*<http://www.nrdc.org/bushrecord/>*

*<http://www.foe.org/camps/leg/bushwatch/chron.html>*

*For more information on President Bush's oil connections, see the Center for Public Integrity's report The Politics of Oil on their website at: <http://www.publicintegrity.org/oil/>*



## More Environmental Policy Highlights from the Bush Administration

### February 2001

President Bush nominates Gale Norton as Secretary of the Interior. Norton formerly worked with one of the most anti-environmental organizations in the country, the Mountain States Legal Foundation.

### March 2001

The administration calls for "more study" of safe amounts of arsenic allowed in drinking water, and later ignored the study results.

### July 2001

EPA Administrator Christine Whitman goes to federal court to seek an 18-month delay on the Clinton-era ruling under the Clean Water Act requiring states to develop plans for pollution runoff.

### October 2001

The administration takes away the Interior Department's power to veto mining permits, even if the mining would cause "substantial and irreparable harm" to environmental, cultural or scientific resources. The department itself reverses key Clinton-era requirements for mining operations, including environmental performance standards.

### November 2001

The Army Corps of Engineers unilaterally issues guidelines that allow developers to severely undermine a national policy of "no net loss" of critical bogs, swamps and coastal marches around the country, a policy set out under the first President Bush.

### February 2002

Bush proposes a deceptively labeled "Clear Skies" plan that ditches regulations governing emissions of three major pollutants—mercury, sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide—in favor of setting voluntary targets. It significantly delays power plant reductions in sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide, and also repeals the haze cleanup requirements for National Parks. This feeble answer to the Kyoto Protocol doesn't even require industry to reduce outputs of carbon dioxide.

### March 2002

The head of regulatory enforcement at EPA steps down on the grounds that the EPA is now "fighting a White House that seems determined to weaken the rules we are trying to enforce."

### May 2002

The administration clears legal hurdles so mining and construction companies can dump waste into streams and rivers, including waste generated after coal mining companies literally rip the tops off mountains.

### June 2002

The Bush administration announces a plan that would gut a key part of the Clean Air

Act that requires America's oldest, dirtiest power plants and refineries to install pollution control equipment when they expand.

#### September 2002

Bush administration officials announce plans to rewrite Clean Water Act regulations in order to remove many wetlands, streams and other "isolated" waters from protection under the law.

#### October 2002

Data from the EPA reveal a sharp decline in enforcement of environmental laws under Bush's watch. The agency has initiated nearly 50 percent fewer enforcement actions against polluters than it did under President Clinton.

#### January 2003

Bush announces plans to weaken standards used to determine whether tuna is caught in a way that harms dolphins. Under the administration's plan, fish caught by encircling dolphins with dangerous "purse seine" nets would be deemed Dolphin Safe, rendering the Dolphin Safe tuna seal meaningless.

#### February 2003

The president's 2004 budget slashes funding to the EPA for clean water infrastructure by nearly 40 percent.

#### March 2003

The Bush administration finalizes a rule overturning a Clinton-era decision to phase out snowmobile use in Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks, despite acknowledging the adverse effects on wildlife, air quality, noise levels and human health.

#### April 2003

Interior Secretary Gale Norton signs a deal with the state of Utah allowing the development of thousands of "rights of way" on public lands. This land grab effectively opens the door to the paving of roads in national parks, refuges and wilderness areas across the country.

#### August 2003

An internal EPA report reveals that the agency bowed to White House pressure in the aftermath of 9/11, deliberately telling New York City residents that the air around the World Trade Center site was safe to breathe when they didn't have the data to back it up.

Also, the administration also uses the Northeast power blackout as an excuse to gut clean air enforcement rules for the nation's oldest and dirtiest power plants

#### October 2003

The Superfund trust fund runs out of money after the Bush administration fails to renew the "polluter pays" fees that fund it. Now, taxpayers – not polluters – will be forced to foot the bill for cleaning up toxic waste sites across the country.

#### January 2004

The Environmental Protection Agency issues a new rule that will limit how often federal and state regulators can require industrial plants to monitor pollution from hundreds of smokestacks.

After convincing Congress last year to exempt the Defense Department from the nation's wildlife protection laws, the Pentagon now wants immunity from federal air and hazardous waste protections so that

the military won't have to obey the Clean Air Act, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and the toxic waste (Superfund) cleanup law. The Bush administration insists that environmental protections hamper military training and readiness – despite never having produced any evidence to support this claim.

In a move that will boost the destructive practice of mountaintop mining removal, the Bush administration proposes lifting restrictions on coal mining near streams. The rule change would end an existing ban on mining activity within 100 feet of a stream unless a company can prove that it will not affect water quality or quantity.

MERCURY. IT'S WHAT'S FOR DINNER



SERVED UP BY THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION

Instead of protecting public health, the Bush administration has rolled back regulations on mercury. Over the course of the last four years, the Bush administration has: downgraded mercury as a toxic substance, allowing relaxed pollution controls; allowed industry lobbyists to literally write our environmental regulations concerning mercury; deliberately misled the public about the risk of mercury exposure and the correlation between power plant emissions and increased mercury levels in fish; proposed new regulations which would actually increase mercury emissions compared to the existing laws – in the name of "Clear Skies;" instructed EPA staff not to analyze the health impacts of alternative approaches to reducing mercury pollution; and opposed international efforts to decrease global air releases of mercury. For more information, visit the website of Environment2004 at: <http://www.environment2004.org/story.php?id=298>

#### February 2004

Bush's budget proposal slashes funding for endangered species recovery by almost \$10 million, putting it at its lowest level since the president took office.

Sixty scientists – including 20 Nobel laureates and 19 recipients of the National Medal of Science – issue a statement accusing the Bush administration of "deliberately and systematically" distorting scientific fact and misleading the public in order to further its own partisan political objectives.

In an effort to supposedly protect industrial facilities from terrorist attacks, the Environmental Protection Agency decides to stop requiring industrial summaries of worst-case scenarios for public review.

The Bureau of Land Management proposes changes that would overturn Clinton-era rules, giving ranchers greater grazing access to 160 million acres of public lands while limiting public participation and the government's ability to intervene and prevent environmental damage.

#### March 2004

For the benefit of a few industries, the Bush administration reneges on an international agreement to end the widespread use of methyl bromide, an ozone-destroying pesticide. Under the 1987 Montreal Protocol, the United States and a host of other countries agreed to phase out the use of the fumigant by January 2005.

The Environmental Protection Agency's inspector general issues a report concluding that senior EPA officials have repeatedly made misleading statements about purported improvements in U.S. drinking water quality. The inspector general's report cited numerous claims by senior Bush administration officials in 2003 and 2004 that incorrectly "portrayed [the EPA's] success at improving drinking water quality."

Less than six months after igniting a firestorm of criticism over its suggestion that lifting a ban on importing endangered species would be a good idea, the Bush administration makes good on its threat. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed easing federal restrictions so that the pet industry, trophy hunters and non-accredited zoos in the United States can import threatened and endangered species -- or what is left of them after being killed.

#### April 2004

Government scientists once again accuse the Bush administration of manipulating science to suit its political agenda. In this case, federal air experts in each of the Environmental Protection Agency's 10 regions voice dissent internally about a new administration policy that they say threatens air quality over national parks and wilderness areas.

In with the U.S. chemical industry, succeeds in a behind-closed-doors effort to weaken a plan by the European Union to require chemical manufacturers to test their products and disclose any public health effects before selling them in Europe.

#### May 2004

The Environmental Protection Agency's top air pollution regulator, Jeffrey Holmstead, and other senior agency officials with previous ties to the timber and chemical industries help plywood manufacturers escape stringent pollution standards by forcing the EPA to recalculate the "safe" level of

exposure for formaldehyde, a known carcinogen.

A new report sheds light on how corporate contributions to the Bush administration are paying off big for polluters. Since 1999, 30 power companies that own the nation's dirtiest power plants have raised \$6.6 million for President Bush and the Republican National Committee, according to an analysis by Public Citizen. One of the Bush administration's biggest, most damaging environmental policy changes to date would weaken the Clean Air Act to allow power plants to emit more smokestack pollution.

#### June 2004

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration faces debilitating budget cuts for fiscal year 2005 thanks to the Bush administration's reluctance to combat global warming. A budget document from the NOAA's Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research reveals that the president's fiscal year 2005 budget will virtually eliminate the agency's research on abrupt climate change and its effects on human health.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposes a regulation to shield military bases from compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), and to allow the Department of Defense to make its own determination of whether its actions cause harm to wildlife.

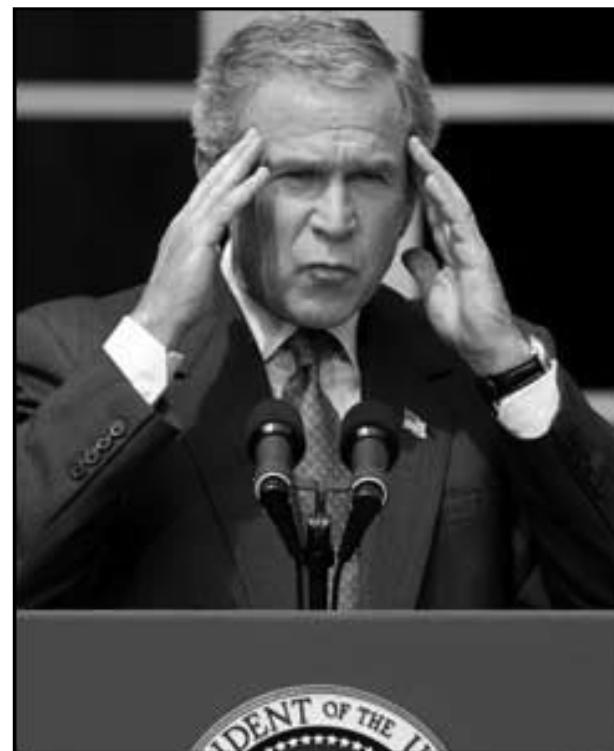
*Much of the information above comes from the National Resources Defense Council and Friends of the Earth. More information on the Bush Administration's environmental policies can be found on the respective web pages of these organizations at:*  
<http://www.nrdc.org/bushrecord/>  
<http://www.foe.org/camps/leg/bushwatch/chron.html>

# President's Budget Is Out of Touch With American Conservation Values

by Bonnie Galvin

February 2, 2004 - The President's Budget showcases the Administration's real priorities for the year. That's because, once all the talking is over, what gets funded is what gets done. This year, the budget lays out a disturbing under-investment in the parks, forests and wildlife refuges that form a critical piece of what makes America a beautiful and unique country. This budget weakens protection of America's lands and includes provisions

open space. It is so popular that, during the 2000 campaign, then-Governor Bush promised to fully fund it. But this budget provides only \$314 million for LWCF's real programs – federal land acquisition and stateside grants (managed by the National Park Service). It then tries to disguise this shortfall by shoehorning more than a dozen other, ongoing programs under the LWCF name.



*"Wait, wait...I'm getting a picture....it's a picture of a beautiful countryside....a countryside free of ugly trees.....a beautiful countryside, criss-crossed with roads and covered with oil derricks and open pit mines, with plumes of black smoke rising on the horizon."* George W. Bush, December 14, 2003, speaking to the American Association of Professional Psychics.

alternative, renewable sources of energy. Such cynical schemes don't negate the fact that the American people don't want drilling in the Arctic Refuge, and Congress has rejected it every year since 2001. No matter how you package it, drilling in the Arctic Refuge would ruin one of our last wild places for what the USGS estimates is less oil than the U.S. uses in six months, and it wouldn't get here for ten years or more.

## Selling Off Our Lands

The budget also proposes new authority allowing the Bureau of Land Management to significantly expand its authority to sell off public lands under its jurisdiction – and to use the funds for infrastructure maintenance. This raises serious concerns about the potential privatization of our nation's public lands.

*Bonnie Galvin is the director of the Budget and Appropriations Program for The Wilderness Society. See their website at [www.wilderness.org/](http://www.wilderness.org/)*



that would make it easier to sell public lands for private profit. Then it adds insult to injury by using 'smoke and mirrors' budget tricks to try to mask these cuts.

Clearing away the sleight-of-hand, this budget:

- Falls far short (to the tune of almost \$600 million) of the President's claim that he is "fully funding" the Land and Water Conservation fund;
- Assumes revenue from opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas drilling; and
- Opens the door for a sell-off of wildlands managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

In good times and in bad, we have always invested in the places and wildlife that make America special. This budget is out of touch with mainstream American values and priorities. Americans want and deserve a consistent commitment to conservation spending.

## Shortchanging the Land and Water Conservation Fund

Once again, the Administration's budget seeks to take credit for "fully funding" the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) at \$900 million, while actually providing only one-third of the money needed for the purpose. LWCF is organized around a simple principle – take some of the money our government raises each year by extracting natural resources owned by the taxpayer and use it to protect other important natural resources. LWCF has for decades been our nation's premiere tool to create and preserve parks, forests, wildlife refuges and

## Conservation Trust Fund

It didn't have to be this way. In 2000, a bipartisan Congress enacted a roughly \$2 billion/year conservation funding mechanism called the Conservation Trust Fund, designed to ensure that, in good times and in bad, the country always had enough money to meet our most important conservation, recreation, wildlife and preservation needs. But this budget abandons the Conservation Trust Fund, with the result that our parks, forests and other wild lands will suffer.

## Arctic Refuge in the Crosshairs

By assuming speculative revenues from oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, the President's budget shows itself to be out of touch with political and economic reality. In a cynical political move carried over from last year, the Administration's proposal would earmark some of the revenues from Arctic drilling for research into



# Scientific Integrity in Policymaking - An Investigation into the Bush Administration's Misuse of Science

An excerpt from the 2004 Union of Concerned Scientists report  
*Scientific Integrity in Policymaking*

The U.S. government runs on vast amounts of information. Researchers at the National Weather Service gather and analyze meteorological data to know when to issue severe-weather advisories. Specialists at the Federal Reserve Board collect and analyze economic data to determine when to raise or lower interest rates. Experts at the Centers for Disease Control examine bacteria and viral samples to guard against a large-scale outbreak of disease. The American public relies on the accuracy of such governmental data and upon the integrity of the researchers who gather and analyze it.

However, at a time when one might expect the federal government to increasingly rely on impartial researchers for the critical role they play in gathering and analyzing specialized data, there are numerous indications that the opposite is occurring. A growing number of scientists, policy makers, and technical specialists both inside and outside the government allege that the Bush administration has suppressed or distorted the scientific analyses of federal agencies to bring these results in line with administration policy. In addition, these experts contend that irregularities in the appointment of scientific advisors and advisory panels are threatening to upset the legally mandated balance of these bodies.

The quantity and breadth of these charges warrant further examination, especially given the stature of many of the individuals lodging them. Toward this end, the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) undertook an investigation of many of the allegations made in the mainstream media, in scientific journals, and in overview reports issued from within the federal government and by non-governmental organizations. To determine the validity of the allegations, UCS reviewed the public record, obtained internal government documents, and conducted interviews with many of the parties involved (including current and former government officials).

## Manipulating the Scientific Process on Forest Management

In an incident involving the management of national forests, the Bush administration created a five-person "review team" made up of predominantly nonscientists, 70 of whom proceeded to overrule a \$12 million science-based plan for managing old-growth forest habitat and reducing the risk of fire in 11 national forests.

This so-called Sierra Nevada Framework, which was adopted by the Clinton administration in 2001 after nine years of research by more than 100 scientists from the Forest Service and academia, had been viewed by the experts who reviewed it as an exemplary use of credible science in forest policy.

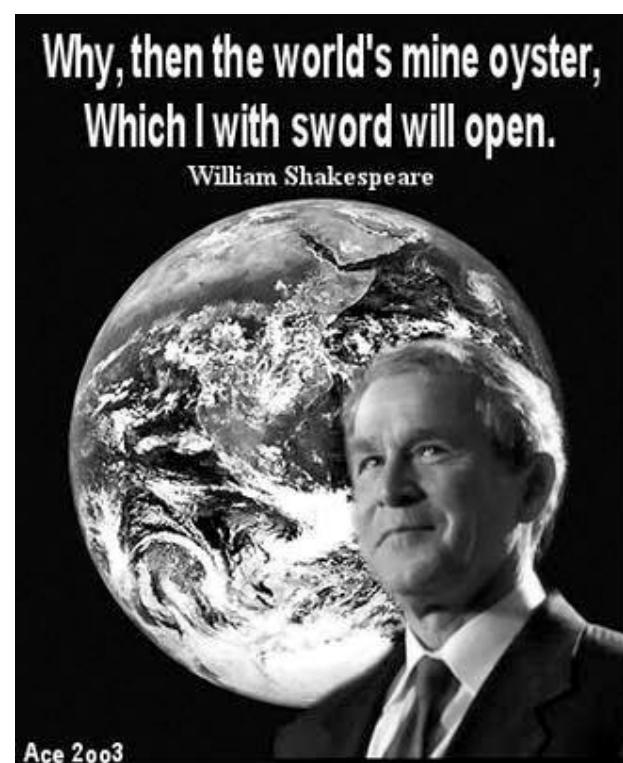
The Bush administration's proposed changes to the plan include harvesting more of the largest trees, which may double or triple harvest levels over the first 10 years of the plan. Other changes call for relaxing restrictions on cattle grazing in some areas where the original plan significantly reduced grazing due to the potentially critical impact on sensitive species.

Forest Service officials justified these changes in part by stating that the original plan relies too much on prescribed burning and would fail to "effectively protect the general forest areas from fire." Contrary to Forest Service claims that their recommendations are based on



"new information and findings," the proposed revisions appear to lack any scientific basis. In fact, a scientific review panel put together by the Forest Service found that the revisions failed to consider key scientific information regarding fire, impacts on forest health, and endangered species.

For a copy of the full report, go to: [http://www.ucsusa.org/global\\_environment/rsi/index.cfm](http://www.ucsusa.org/global_environment/rsi/index.cfm)



The White House tore the science out of an EPA report on the environment, censoring whole sections on global warming. Basic statements of science such as "Climate change has global consequences for human health and the environment" were removed.

## Bush to Phase Out Environment by Late 2004

**"All Species Under Review, President Says."**

Just days after Christine Todd Whitman departed her post at the Environmental Protection Agency, President George W. Bush announced ambitious new plans to phase out the environment altogether in 2004.

"In addition to cutting taxes, it is the goal of this administration to cut our wasteful, bloated environment," Mr. Bush said in a speech before the Association of Indiscriminate Applauders in Washington, D.C.

While plans to eliminate the environment entirely are still being formulated, the general strategy of the White House is to phase out the environment gradually "so that hardly anyone will notice it's gone," an aide said today.

Apparently, the plan to phase out the environment may have prompted Ms. Whitman's decision to leave the EPA, since the agency's mission seemed increasingly nebulous in the absence of an environment to protect. "Christie decided to move from the EPA to New Jersey because a year from now New Jersey will still be around," one source said.

The President's plan to eliminate the environment calls for a comprehensive review of all species currently living in the United States and the accelerated extinction of all superfluous organisms by the end of 2004.

The plan also calls for a gradual reduction of air and water, with water most likely to get the axe.

"If it comes down to choosing between air and water, the President will probably scrap water," one aide said. "After all, the Iraqis haven't had water in months and look how well they're doing."

The above article is satire from [www.toppleshush.com](http://www.toppleshush.com)

# The Forest Ecology Network Bookshelf

## Bush Versus the Environment

by Robert S. Devine

Paperback - 270 pages

June 2004

Anchor Books, New York

ISBN: 1400075211

George W. Bush is the worst environmental president in American history. The Bush Administration has undermined or is trying to gut hundreds of laws and regulations that protect our health, our wildlife, our public lands, our air, and our water. At every turn the President's actions favor corporate interests over the public interest. If the White House is allowed to carry out a significant portion of its agenda, America will effectively have little environmental law left. We may still have statutes on the books, but they will be unenforceable and America will be like Mexico, which has wonderful, even poetic environmental laws, but they're toothless. Few people know of them and almost nobody complies.

Consider New York City's reservoir system. As the chief prosecuting attorney for Riverkeeper I've worked for almost 20 years to protect that 2,000-square-mile watershed, reaching far upstate into the Catskill Mountains. This area is largely undeveloped and has been protected from pollution for more than 100 years. Last year we were shocked to learn that the fish in these reservoirs are unsafe to eat due to mercury contamination from the air. Most species of fish in New York are now unsafe to eat regularly because of mercury, as are the fish in more than 40 other states. The principal source of airborne mercury in America is 1,100 dinosaur coal-fired power plants. A plan developed by the Clinton administration would have required these power plants to eliminate their mercury emissions within three and a half years, but the Bush administration scuttled that plan for a proposal that will allow the mercury discharges to continue for decades.

This angers me both as a citizen and as a father. My kids are among the millions who can no longer enjoy the seminal American experience of fishing locally with their dads and eating their catch. But other children suffer far greater problems from mercury. Society has long known that mercury in the environment can severely harm people, a fact confirmed and elaborated on in recent reports from the National Academy of Sciences, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and even Bush's own Environmental Protection Agency. Even small doses of mercury, particularly when ingested by pregnant women, can cause deficits in attention, fine-motor function, language, visual-spatial abilities, and memory. Exposed children often struggle in school and require remedial classes or special education. Studies show that nearly 8 percent of American women of childbearing age have unsafe levels of mercury in their bodies, and 600,000 American children born each year are at risk. And it's only going to get worse under Bush's plan.



The power plants that emit so much mercury also belch pollutants that have sterilized half the lakes in the once pristine Adirondacks with acid rain and that trigger the asthma attacks that afflict millions of America's children, including three of my own kids. The costs of this pollution to our country are enormous, not just in health care and lost school days and workdays from pulmonary illness, but the loss to the next generation of Americans of the opportunity to live in communities that provide them with the same potential and enrichment as the communities that our parents gave us.

The coal industry and the utilities that own those polluting coal-fired power plants donated millions of dollars to the President's election campaigns, and they are now reaping billions of dollars in regulatory favors. King Coal and the utilities are representative of many other industries that likewise are supporting Bush and getting favorable treatment as a payback. But those corporate profits come from transferring billions of dollars in costs onto the American people in lost lives, illness, and a degraded natural environment. In making themselves rich these industries are making the rest of us poor, raising standards of living for their executives and owners by lowering the quality of life for everyone else.

There's no stronger advocate for free-market capitalism than myself, but in a true free-market economy you can't make yourself rich without also enriching your neighbors and your community. Show me a polluter and I'll show you a subsidy - a fat cat who is using political clout to escape the discipline of the free market and forcing the public to pay his costs of production. When the utilities burn dirty coal without removing the pollutants, they're imposing costs on the rest of us through dirty air, sick children, acidified lakes, depleted fisheries, and damaged building facades that, in a true free-market economy, would be reflected in the price of their products in the marketplace. Polluters externalize their costs-imposing them on the rest of us-by stealing the commons, the public trust assets like air, water, wandering animals, wet-lands, and fisheries. Since ancient times the public's interest in those communal assets has been protected by laws that ensure that everyone has a right to use them but never in a way that will diminish their use and enjoyment by other members of the community. Pollution is theft, and the thieves, through the legalized bribery of campaign contributions, have been permitted to privatize the commons. Those coal plants have stolen the fish in 45 states-fish that belong to the people of those states. They've also stolen the air from my children's lungs.

The federal environmental laws passed after Earth Day 1970 were meant to restore the ancient legal protections to the commons and also restore the free-market economy by forcing polluters to internalize their costs the same way they internalize their profits. I don't even consider myself an environmentalist anymore. I think of myself as a free marketeer who goes out into the marketplace and catches the cheaters and forces them to begin paying the true costs of bringing their product to market. Because when someone cheats the free market, it distorts the entire marketplace and none of us gets the advantage of the efficiencies and democracy that true free-market capitalism promises our people.

But the Bush Administration despises the free market that requires strong regulations to maintain. They favor instead corporate crony capitalism, which is as anti-

thetical to democracy in America as it is in Nigeria. The Bush Administration tries to portray sound environmental protections as anti-business, but this is misleading. Good environmental policy is always identical to good economic policy, if we measure our economy-and this is how we ought to measure it-based on how it produces jobs and how it preserves the value of our nation's assets over the long term. The current Washington regime wants us to treat America as if it's a business in liquidation and convert our national resources to cash as quickly as possible. This may produce profits for a few corporations and fuel a few years of pollution-based prosperity, but our children are going to pay for that joyride with poor health, denuded landscapes, vanishing wildlife, and huge cleanup costs that they will never be able to pay. Environmental injury is deficit spending. It's a way of loading the costs of profits onto the backs of other people and future generations.

During the 1970s Congress passed dozens of major environmental statutes, including such landmark laws as the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Endangered Species Act, and it created the Environmental Protection Agency to apply and enforce these new laws. Polluters would be held accountable; those planning to use the commons would have to compile Environmental Impact Statements and hold public hearings, and citizens were given the power to prosecute environmental crimes. Right-to-know and toxic-inventory laws made government and industry more transparent. American citizens could participate in the dialogue and decisions that determined the destinies of their communities.

However, between the 1970s and the present, the government/business complex has not been idle. With lavish funding from corporate coffers, it made strong bids to undo environmental progress during the 1980's and the mid-1990's, but with little success. The new generation of would-be robber barons kept running into the broad, bipartisan support for robust protections. Polls show that about 75 percent of the public favors strong environmental laws, and there's little difference between registered Democrats and Republicans. My own experience confirms those polls. I speak all around the country, often to politically conservative organizations, and invariably I receive strong positive responses even from people and organizations considered right-wing and business-oriented. Most Americans care about this country and the outdoors, and they understand that we have to practice some self-restraint. They also know that over the long term what is good for the environment is good for the economy.

The Bush Administration's rollbacks are the latest manifestation in a relentless campaign by big polluters and the political toadies to weaken America's environmental safeguards. Aware of past failures to overrun environmental safeguards, the Bush Administration and its cronies in industry are using stealth and outright deceit to mask their agenda. Robert Devine's *Bush Versus the Environment* exposes the slippery tactics and underhanded methods employed by the White House. The book's detailed exploration of how the Bush Administration operates is as important as the book's revelations about what the Administration is doing. Whether they're Democrats or Republicans, the more that citizens learn about Bush's environmental agenda, the less likely it is to succeed. If they learn the truth, most Americans would share my fury that this president is allowing his corporate pals to steal America. If we get the message out, we win.

*The preceding is from the book's forward by Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.*

# Bush Administration: **Money Talks!**



## **America's biggest corporate polluters have buried George Bush in political contributions...**

### *What has he done to repay them?*

- BROKE HIS PROMISE TO REDUCE CARBON DIOXIDE EMISSIONS FROM POWER PLANTS.
- REWROTE CLEAN WATER ACT RULES TO ALLOW DUMPING OF INDUSTRIAL WASTE IN RIVERS AND LAKES.
- STALLED EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN THE STANDARD FOR ARSENIC IN DRINKING WATER.
- PROPOSED LETTING NATION'S WORST POLLUTING FACTORIES EXPAND WITHOUT INSTALLING AIR POLLUTION CONTROLS.
- OPENED PRISTINE NATIONAL FOREST AREAS TO LOGGING.
- APPROVED MINING PROJECTS IN PRISTINE WILDERNESS AREAS.
- PUT CORPORATE LOBBYISTS IN CHARGE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCIES.
- WROTE NATIONAL ENERGY PLAN IN SECRET MEETINGS WITH OIL INDUSTRY EXECUTIVES.
- REFUSED TO SIGN THE GLOBAL WARMING TREATY.

THE PATTERN IS CLEAR. Instead of protecting the environment, George Bush is handing it over to his corporate contributors to pollute and abuse for profit. At *your* expense.

**President Bush: Put Our Health and Environment First,  
- Not Your Corporate Contributors!**



Be part of the solution. Go to [www.foe.org](http://www.foe.org).

# THE LAST WORD

In the interests of fair play, we allow our venerable leader a chance to speak for himself.....

*It isn't pollution that's harming the environment. It's the impurities in our air and water that are doing it.*" - Governor George W. Bush

*"People that are really very weird can get into sensitive positions and have a tremendous impact on history."* - Governor George W. Bush

*"It would be helpful if we opened up ANWR (Arctic National Wildlife Refuge). I think it's a mistake not to. And I would urge you all to travel up there and take a look at it, and you can make the determination as to how beautiful that country is."* - President George W. Bush at a White House press conference, March 29, 2001

*"I know the human being and fish can coexist peacefully."* - George W. Bush, Sept. 29, 2000

*"The legislature's job is to write law. It's the executive branch's job to interpret law."*  
- President George W. Bush, Austin, Texas, November 22, 2000

*"We are ready for any unforeseen event that may or may not occur."*- Governor George W. Bush, September 22, 1997

*"I do know I'm ready for the job. And, if not, that's just the way it goes."* - George W. Bush, August 21, 2000

*"I have made good judgments in the past. I have made good judgments in the future".* - George W. Bush

*"I have opinions of my own -- strong opinions --but I don't always agree with them."* - George W. Bush

*"I know what I believe. I will continue to articulate what I believe and what I believe—I believe what I believe is right."*- President George W. Bush, Rome, July 22, 2001

*"I think anybody who doesn't think I'm smart enough to handle the job is underestimating."*  
- George W. Bush, U.S. News & World Report, April 3, 2000

*"They underestimated me."* - George W. Bush, Bentonville, Arkansas, Nov. 6, 2000

*"I think the American people—I hope the American—I don't think, let me—I hope the American people trust me."*- President George W. Bush, Washington, D.C., Dec. 18, 2002



## Join the forest ecology network

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

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zipcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

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