

# Earth First!



## What! Not Another Environmental Group....

"What?!" you say, "Another wilderness/environmental group? There are more environmental outfits than plague fleas on a New Mexico prairie dog! I already belong to the Sierra Club, Wilderness Society, Audubon Society, Greenpeace . . . Why another one? Why EARTH FIRST!?"

Because we're different.

✓ To begin with, we do not believe that it is enough to preserve some of our remaining wilderness. We need to preserve it **all**, and it is time to **recreate** vast areas of wilderness in all of America's ecosystems: identify key areas, close roads, remove developments, and reintroduce extirpated wildlife.

✓ It is not enough to oppose the construction of new dams. It is time to free our shackled rivers and tear down Hetch Hetchy, Glen Canyon, New Melones, Tellico and other concrete monstrosities.

✓ EARTH FIRST! does not compromise. We set forth the pure, hardline position of those who believe Earth comes first. We are emotional, passionate, and angry. And we have a sense of humor.

✓ While many environmental groups are members of the American political establishment and essentially adopt the anthropocentric (human-centered) worldview of Industrial Civilization, we say the ideas and manifestations of Industrial Civilization are anti-Earth, anti-woman, and anti-liberty. We are developing a new biocentric paradigm (worldview) based on the intrinsic value of all natural things: Deep Ecology.

✓ Lobbying, lawsuits, letter-writing and research papers are important and necessary. But they are not enough. Earth First!ers also use confrontation, guerrilla theater, direct action and civil disobedience to fight for wild places and life processes. And while we do not engage in monkeywrenching as a group or necessarily advocate it, we do present a forum for the exchange of ideas on creative opposition to the juggernaut of "progress," including ideas about monkeywrenching.

✓ To avoid co-option, we feel it is necessary to avoid the corporate organizational structure so readily embraced by many environmental groups. EARTH FIRST! is a movement, not an organization. Our structure is non-hierarchical. We have no highly-paid "professional staff" or formal leadership. No board of directors. There are various autonomous but cooperating elements within the EARTH FIRST! tribe, including dozens of local EF! groups, the Earth First! Foundation, the EF! Direct Action Fund, various task forces, **The Earth First! Journal**, and the Round River Rendezvous.

✓ Earth First! does not represent any particular religious or political philosophy. We tolerate each others' varying beliefs, but are united in our concern for Earth above all else. Quite simply . . .

✓ EARTH FIRST! believes in wilderness for its own sake.

## The Problem

Today is the most critical moment in the three-and-a-half billion year history of life on Earth. Never before—not even during the mass extinctions of the dinosaurs at the end of the Cretaceous, 65 million years ago—has there been such an intense period of extinctions as we are now witnessing, such a drastic reduction in the biological diversity of this planet.

Over the last several hundred years, human civilization has declared war on large mammals, leading some respected ecologists to assert that the only large mammals living twenty years from now will be those we humans choose to allow to live.

Other prominent biologists, looking aghast on the wholesale devastation of tropical rainforests and temperate old growth forests, rapidly accelerating desertification, and destruction of "charismatic megafauna" due to habitat destruction and poaching, say that Earth could lose one quarter to one third of *all* species within twenty years.

Not only is this blitzkrieg against the natural world destroying ecosystems and their associated species, but our activities

are now beginning to have fundamental, systemic effects upon the entire life-support system of the planet—upsetting the world's climate, poisoning the oceans, destroying the ozone layer in the atmosphere which protects us from excessive ultraviolet radiation, changing the CO<sub>2</sub> ratio in the atmosphere, and spreading acid rain, radioactive fallout, pesticides and industrial contamination throughout the biosphere.

Indeed, biologists have recently warned that vertebrate evolution may be at an end due to the activities of humans.

Clearly, the conservation battle is not one of merely protecting outdoor recreation opportunities, nor a matter of elitist aesthetics, nor "wise management and use" of natural resources. It is a battle for life itself, for the continued flow of evolution.

We—this generation of humans—are at our most important juncture since we came out of the trees six million years ago. It is our decision, ours today, whether Earth continues to be the marvelously living, diverse oasis in the blackness of space which it now is, or whether the "charismatic megafauna" of the future will consist of Norway Rats and cockroaches.

## WHY EARTH FIRST!?

Because Earth First! is different from other environmental groups, there may be some things about us which are confusing. So, here are some things to keep in mind about Earth First! and some suggestions for being an active and effective Earth First!er.

\* First of all, Earth First! is not an organization, but a movement. There are no "members" of Earth First!, only Earth First!ers. It is a belief in biocentrism (Deep Ecology) and a practice of putting Earth first that make one an "Earth First!er."

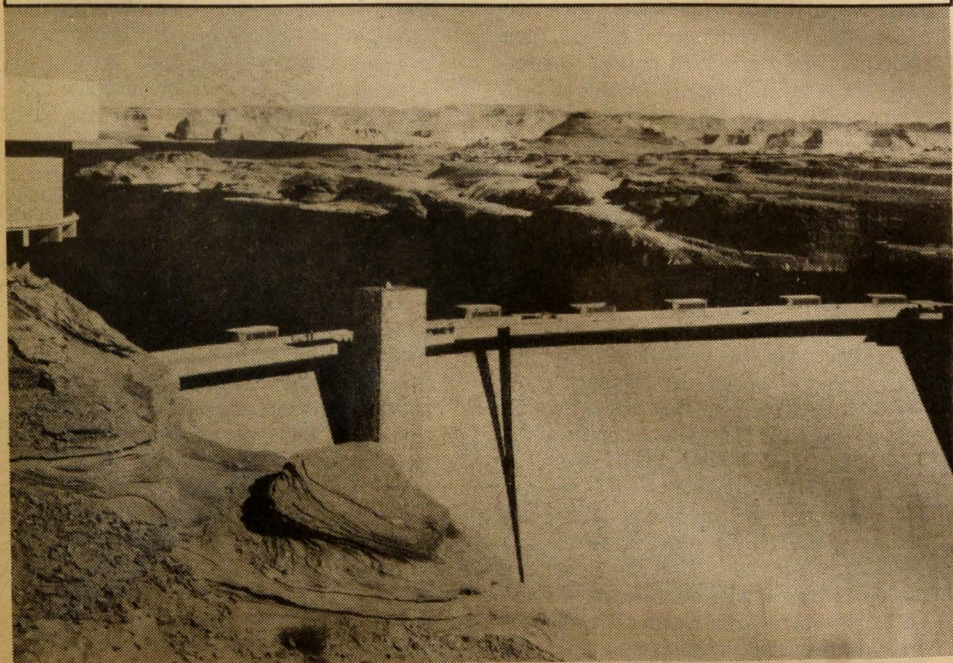
\* Because Earth First! is a movement, instead of a specific group, Earth First!ers can be active as Earth First!ers or as members of other environmental groups such as the Sierra Club. Regardless, we promote a philosophy of Deep Ecology, an uncompromising defense of natural diversity, and visionary wilderness proposals.

\* Because Earth First! is not an organization, there are no formal officers. There are "leaders" of course—but leaders in the sense of individuals who have won the respect and trust of others for what they have done and for their strategic sense—not because they hold an official title or fill an artificial office.

\* Earth First! was not formed to encompass the entire environmental movement, nor even all students of Deep Ecology or all militant environmentalists. The green fist and monkeywrench were consciously chosen as our symbols as was the name "Earth First!"—always with the exclamation point! We represent a specific point of view, a certain style, a particular vigor—and we

don't plan to change. We never envisioned Earth First! as being a mass movement. While there is broad diversity within Earth First!—from animal rights vegetarians to wilderness hunting guides, from monkeywrenchers to careful followers of Gandhi, from rowdy backwoods buckaroos to thoughtful philosophers, from bitter misanthropes to true humanitarians—there is a general comfortableness with both this diversity and with the "hardass" (in Stewart Brand's words) militant style of Earth First!. If you find yourself uncomfortable with it, don't try to change it—we've been through that a thousand times before. Either decide you can handle the militancy or find your environmental group elsewhere. (There are independent groups we've helped to establish such as the Cathedral Forest Action Group which contain people who are uncomfortable with Earth First!. That's fine. Everyone has to find their own tribe.) Local EF! groups also create their peculiar styles, and there are differences between Earth First! Oregon and Earth First! Montana, between Earth First! Florida and Earth First! Virginia, between Earth First! Bay Area and Earth First! Austin.

\*The different entities within the EF! stream—local groups, Direct Action Fund, the Rendezvous, the Foundation, different task forces, *The EF! Journal*, etc.—are independent and autonomous, but cooperating elements. Information on all these different entities is contained elsewhere in this publication.



Earth First! "cracks" Glen Canyon Dam, March 21, 1981.

photo by Ron Kezner

# DEEP ECOLOGY

*A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise.*

— Aldo Leopold

The central insight of John Muir and of the science of ecology was the realization that all things are connected, are related; that human beings are merely one of the millions of species that have been shaped by the process of evolution for three-and-a-half billion years.

With that understanding, we can answer the question, "Why Wilderness?"

Is it because wilderness makes pretty picture postcards? Because it protects watersheds for downstream use by agriculture, industry and homes? Because it's a good place to clean the cobwebs out of our heads after a long week in the auto factory or over the video display terminal? Because it preserves resource extraction opportunities for future generations of humans? Because some unknown plant living in the wilds may hold a cure for cancer?

No. It is because wilderness *is*. Because it is the real world, the flow of life, the process of evolution, the repository of that three-and-a-half billion years of shared travel.

*All natural things have intrinsic value, inherent worth.* Their value is not determined by what they will ring up on the

cash register of the GNP, nor by whether or not they are good. They are. They exist. For their own sake. Without consideration for any real or imagined value to human civilization.

Even more important than the individual wild creature is the wild interconnected community — the wilderness, co-evolution, the stream of life unimpeded by industrial interference or human manipulation.

These twin themes of interconnectedness and intrinsic value form the core of the ideas of such pioneer ecological thinkers as John Muir, Aldo Leopold and Rachel Carson, and are the basis for action by Earth First!ers. This biocentric worldview, as opposed to the anthropocentric paradigm of civilization (and the reformist position of mainstream environmental groups), has been recently developed into the philosophy of Deep Ecology by philosophers such as Arne Naess of Norway, John Seed of Australia, Alan Drengson of Canada, and George Sessions, Bill Devall and Dolores LaChapelle of the United States, among others.

Earth First!, in short, does not operate from a basis of political pragmatism, or what is perceived to be "possible." Wilderness, natural diversity, is not something that can be compromised in the political arena. We are unapologetic advocates for the natural world, for Earth.

## Earth First! Foundation

The Earth First! Foundation was created to receive and disburse tax-deductible monies for the support of research and education projects that serve the cause of uncompromising ecological defense. Thanks to the phenomenal — and heartening — growth of the Earth First! movement, contributions to the Earth First! Foundation, a modest bureaucratic adjunct, have also been growing. This growth has increased the Foundation's ability to assist Earth First! activists and campaigns whose radical vision is as yet controversial, and difficult to fund through mainstream philanthropy.

Earth First! Foundation grants have gone to support a variety of information efforts, from investigative reporting to documentary photography to children's book publishing to mapping projects, all in hopes of motivating greater numbers of humans to protect, defend, and expand the wilderness that is Earth's true nature.

Applications for support from the Earth First! Foundation may be short and simple but they must be substantive, detailing the aims of the project, the expense, and the expertise of the perpetrators. Foundation grants range from \$500 to \$5,000 with the majority clustering at the low end of the scale.

Contributions to the Earth First! Foundation in any amount are eagerly sought and tax-deductibly welcomed (the Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charity under IRS regulations). No other foundation dedicates itself exclusively to the purpose of nonviolent ecodefense. No other foundation can claim such a diverse and experienced, activist-oriented, and frugal management team (the board of directors). Thus far the Foundation's business has been conducted by its volunteer board of directors, although success may change that practice somewhat. Very few foundations can promise to serve the cause of maintaining North American biodiversity as directly and effectively as the Earth First! Foundation can.

We distribute your gifts to Earth-savers (some of whom you might not otherwise be able to connect with) who are giving their all to keep every possible acre of this land forever wild.

So if you care about the planet, and the green energy you're able to share is of the financial hue, don't be embarrassed to engage in a little philanthropic activism.

Earth First! Foundation, POB 50681,  
Tucson, AZ 85703.



Greg King demonstrates his opposition to the cutting of Coast Redwoods in Humboldt County, northern California.

## EARTH FIRST! TASK FORCES

In addition to local groups, Earth First!ers have formed task forces on a variety of issues to deal with these problems on a national or international basis. Among these are the following:

### RAINFOREST ACTION GROUPS

Earth First! works closely with the Rainforest Action Network and has successfully used direct action and colorful demonstrations to pressure corporations like Burger King and institutions like the World Bank to cease or reform their destructive activities in the tropical rainforests. The involvement of Earth First! in the rainforest campaign has had a major role in raising the public's awareness of the rainforest issue.

### GRIZZLY BEAR TASK FORCE

Preservation of the Grizzly Bear in the Northern Rockies and the reintroduction of Grizzlies to their historically occupied habitat elsewhere in the West has been a major Earth First! campaign for several years. Demonstrators dressed in bear suits have become a common sight in Yellowstone National Park and dozens of EF!ers have been arrested there. More information on this campaign is contained in an EF! Grizzly Bear tabloid.

### BIODIVERSITY PROJECT

A goal of EF! is the use of the Endangered Species Act and other laws and regulations to protect sensitive, threatened and endangered species, their habitats and the entire natural community (or ecosystems). EF! focuses on both "charismatic megafauna" like the Florida Panther and Mountain Caribou, and "enigmatic microflora" like Gooddings Onion and Running Buffalo Clover.

### OVERGRAZING TASK FORCE

EF! activist Lynn Jacobs and his grazing tabloid (*Save Our Public Lands!*) have done much to raise public consciousness of the dire environmental consequences of public lands "welfare ranching." This task force is working to mobilize widespread national opposition to this rip-off of the land and the federal treasury.

### PRESERVE APPALACHIAN WILDERNESS (PAW)

PAW is coordinating the growing advocacy by Earth First!ers in the eastern United States for the establishment of large ecological Wildernesses and Wilderness Recovery Areas, along with the reintroduction of extirpated species. Among other projects, PAW calls for the estab-

lishment of a 10 million acre Maine Woods Wilderness Preserve complete with Woodland Caribou, Wolverine, Gray Wolf, Lynx and Cougar.

### WOLF ACTION NETWORK

A North American network of Earth First! activists has formed to oppose wolf extermination in British Columbia, Montana and Alaska, and to encourage the reintroduction of Gray Wolf in Yellowstone and elsewhere in the Northern Rockies, Mexican Wolf in the Southwest, Gray Wolf in New England and the Adirondacks, and Red Wolf in the South.

### ORV TASK FORCE

Appalled by the continuing destruction of wild lands and wildlife by bozos on dirt bikes, ATVs, muscle wagons, dune buggies and other gasoline-powered toys, Earth First!ers have organized to fight this menace.

Addresses for these and other EF! task forces appear in the EF! Directory in *The Earth First! Journal*.

## Road Shows

Several musicians, speakers, and/or poets will sometimes organize a tour to part of the United States, bringing an Earth First! road show to universities and communities where local EF!ers wish to promote such an appearance.

Road shows are a major outreach tool for the EF! movement and one of the best ways to communicate our message of biocentrism to the public. Many current activists became involved with Earth First! after attending a road show.

The Earth First! movement believes strongly in the use of music to inspire and motivate activists. Indeed, it is a central tenet of Deep Ecology that an appreciation of the natural world can be better raised through "right-brain" approaches like music, poetry, art and dance, than through "left-brain" rational analysis and argument. Rousing and soulful music is a key part of any EF! road show.

Projected road shows are generally announced well in advance in the pages of *Earth First!* and those interested in promoting an appearance in their area can write for details. Sample promotional materials are usually made available to local organizers.



Sue, Myra and Renee preparing for their first skydives with their instructor. The Davis EF!ers parachuted into the Muskwa Valley in northeast British Columbia in February, 1988 to disrupt the BC government's aerial wolf hunt.

# WILDERNESS PRESERVES

The central idea of Earth First! is that humans have no right to subdue the Earth, that we are merely one of many millions of forms of life on this planet. We reject even the notion of benevolent stewardship, as that implies dominance. Instead, we believe, as did Aldo Leopold, that we should be "plain citizens" of the land community.

The practical application of this philosophy is that large sections of Earth should be effectively zoned off-limits to industrial human civilization, as preserves for the free-flow of natural processes and the continuation of evolution. Most designated wild areas in National Parks and Wilderness Areas are too small to protect sensitive species or to allow evolution to continue. It is not enough to preserve the roadless, undeveloped country remaining. We must restore wilderness encompassing large regions: move out the cars and civilized people, dismantle the roads and dams, reclaim the plowed land and clearcuts, reintroduce extirpated species. Significant areas of Earth should be immediately zoned for such preserves: much of Australia, the North American Arctic, the Amazon Basin, Tierra del Fuego/Patagonia/Southern Andes, New Guinea, Borneo, Greenland, Antarctica, Baja and the Sierra Madre in Mexico, the Galapagos Islands, the Falklands and South Georgia islands, the Sahara, the Congo Basin, the Kalahari Desert/Okavango Swamp, Siberia, the Tien Shan/Gobi/Sinkiang region of central Asia, as well as large realms of the oceans. While gasoline, asphalt and concrete would be banned, indigenous peoples living in traditional pre-European contact lifestyles would remain.

Even in "developed" countries, much can be done to restore ecological diversity and balance. A large percentage of the United States should be returned to its natural condition. We should have large wilderness preserves for all of our biological communities.

Earth First! has developed a two-stage approach to establishing large ecological wilderness preserves in the United States. The first stage consists of preparing alter-

natives to Forest Service (FS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), National Park Service (NPS), and Congressional programs to establish Wilderness Areas under the 1964 Wilderness Act. This is the standard process through which the Sierra Club, Wilderness Society, and state wilderness groups like the Oregon Natural Resources Council make Wilderness proposals. In becoming involved in this process, Earth First!, however, takes a visionary approach and is not bound by the narrow parameters set by government agencies. Earth First! groups have proposed detailed alternatives to National Forest Plans which call for protecting all remaining roadless areas, establishing wilderness recovery areas to reclaim roaded, logged and otherwise damaged landscapes back to a wilderness condition, and reintroducing extirpated wildlife. EF! groups have also developed state-wide wilderness proposals for Forest Service or BLM lands in several states. Some examples of these proposals follow (with acreage proposals of "mainstream" groups like the Sierra Club in parentheses):

- California Desert BLM and NP Wilderness 17 million acres (8.8 m)
- New Mexico BLM Wilderness 5.3 million acres (1.9 m)
- Arizona BLM Wilderness 19 million acres (4.1 m)
- Utah BLM and NP Wilderness 16 million acres (5.2 m)
- Idaho NF Wilderness 9 million acres (2.9 m)
- Montana NF Wilderness 9.3 million acres (2.8 m)

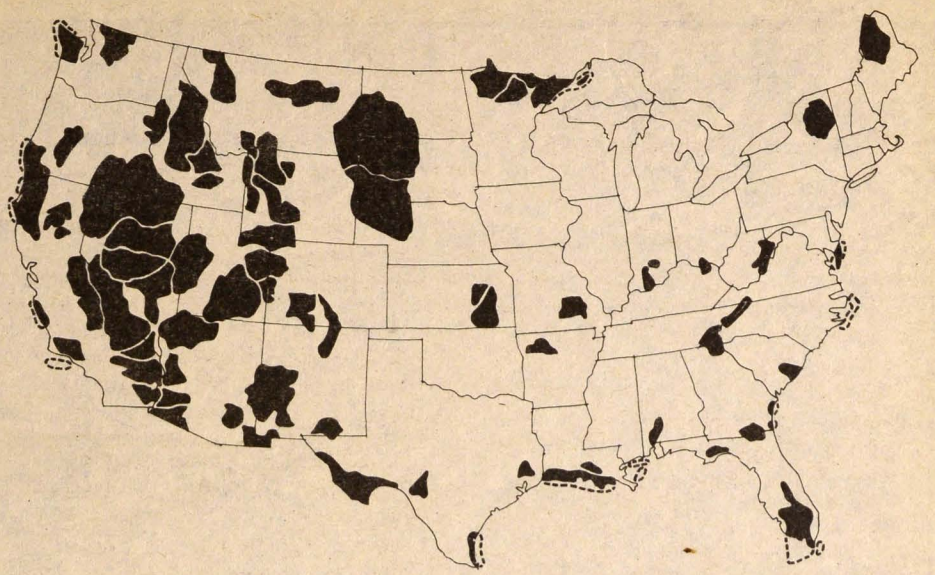
Although these proposals include such areas as a 5 million acre Grand Canyon/Arizona Strip Wilderness, a 3 million acre Escalante Wilderness in Utah, and a 6 million acre Central Idaho Wilderness, they are still interim measures essentially bound to existing laws and procedures. Several years ago Earth First! developed a far more visionary plan for a Wilderness Preserve System that would encompass 716 million acres (about one third of the land area of the United States outside of

community if there is none.

Local groups are the backbone of the Earth First! movement, and they coordinate EF! campaigns in their areas involving organizing demonstrations, developing wilderness proposals, engaging in civil disobedience, and hosting EF! road shows. Some of the older and more established groups maintain their own mailing lists (separate from that of the *Journal*), and issue their own newsletters, as well as sell t-shirts and the like for fundraising. All of the groups utilize the pages of *The EF! Journal* to publicize their activities and to make announcements.

Since there is no national hierarchy in the Earth First! movement, local groups in EF! are more than merely local groups. They are, essentially, Earth First!.

**Bob Kaspar, EF! Local Groups Coordinator, 305 N. Sixth St., Madison, WI 53704 (608)241-9426.**



The Earth First! Wilderness Preserve System: Proposed EF! preserves are shown in black on the map.

Alaska). This proposed system, unprecedented anywhere in the world, uses the Bailey-Kuchler ecosystem map to identify examples of all ecological communities in the contiguous 48 states that have the best potential for recovery to at least a quasi-wilderness condition. Although re-creation of such meaningful wilderness will, in some areas, require the relocation of several thousand people or the removal of major installations, this draft proposal strives to exclude significant population centers, agricultural and industrial zones, important highways, railroads, and powerlines. Nonetheless, its first priority is protection of intact ecosystems.

The general guidelines for these preserves include:

- ✓ No permanent human habitation except, in some cases, indigenous peoples living traditional (pre-1500 CE) lifestyles.
- ✓ No use of mechanized equipment or vehicles.
- ✓ No roads.
- ✓ No logging, mining, water diversion, industrial activity, agriculture, or grazing of domestic livestock.
- ✓ No use of artificial chemical substances, including pesticides and herbicides.
- ✓ No control of wildfire.
- ✓ Reintroduction of extirpated species including Grizzly Bear, Gray Wolf, Red Wolf, Jaguar, Ocelot, Elk, Bison, Moose,

Mountain Caribou, Mountain Lion, Fisher, Wolverine, River Otter.

- ✓ Removal of exotic species where possible (tamarisk, burros, etc.).
- ✓ Dismantling, removal or destruction of dams, roads, powerlines, buildings, toxic substances, etc., where feasible, or allowing them to deteriorate over time.
- ✓ No overflights or landings by aircraft.
- ✓ Elimination of outside adverse influences such as acid rain.
- ✓ Priority given to preservation of the ecosystem and native species over the safety and convenience of the human visitor.

See the map for the general location of these Preserves. Some of the larger Preserves have been divided into several units by major transportation corridors. These corridors should be as narrow as possible and highways, railroads, powerlines, pipelines, population centers and visitor facilities should be tightly confined.

This Wilderness Preserve System will allow true wilderness to coexist with human civilization on the North American continent. Of course it is ambitious. Yet it is impractical and outrageous only in the context of the bizarre utilitarian philosophy which separates one species (*Homo sapiens*) from its place in the biosphere and from its relationship with the land community and the life cycles of the entire planet.

## Local Groups

Like a Pleistocene hunter-gatherer tribe, Earth First! is composed of various bands in specific localities. These are the autonomous state and local groups of Earth First!. EF! local groups establish their own agendas, have independent bank accounts, and are engaged in a wide range of activities. Active EF! groups are now located in all sections of the United States and have recently appeared in several other countries. An up-to-date directory of all EF! groups is published regularly in *The Earth First! Journal*. Consult it to find the group in your area or for information on how to start an EF! group in your

community if there is none. Local groups are the backbone of the Earth First! movement, and they coordinate EF! campaigns in their areas involving organizing demonstrations, developing wilderness proposals, engaging in civil disobedience, and hosting EF! road shows. Some of the older and more established groups maintain their own mailing lists (separate from that of the *Journal*), and issue their own newsletters, as well as sell t-shirts and the like for fundraising. All of the groups utilize the pages of *The EF! Journal* to publicize their activities and to make announcements. Since there is no national hierarchy in the Earth First! movement, local groups in EF! are more than merely local groups. They are, essentially, Earth First!. **Bob Kaspar, EF! Local Groups Coordinator, 305 N. Sixth St., Madison, WI 53704 (608)241-9426.**

## EARTH FIRST! JOURNAL

*EARTH FIRST! The Radical Environmental Journal*, a 40-page tabloid, is an independent periodical published eight times a year (on the old European nature holidays). While *Earth First!* (in italics to distinguish it from the Earth First! movement) is not the "official" newsletter of the Earth First! movement, it is a forum for discussion within the EF! movement. The views presented in it, including editorial positions, do not necessarily reflect the views of the EF! movement, other EF! groups, or individual EF!ers. It is meant to be provocative, controversial and diverse in content and style.

*The Earth First! Journal* regularly includes: 1) news and announcements about the EF! movement and other militant environmental groups; 2) review and criticism of the entire environmental movement; 3) book, music, movie and poetry reviews of interest to EF!ers; 4) articles on the preservation of biological diversity and wilderness rehabilitation; 5) features on visionary EF! wilderness proposals; 6)

essays exploring Deep Ecology topics; 7) letters to the editor ("Dear Shit Fer Brains"); 8) major investigative pieces funded by the EF! Foundation's Research Fund; and 9) an ongoing discussion page on monkeywrenching - "Dear Ned Ludd." Special tabloids, which cover topics such as Grizzly Bears and National Forest management, are sometimes included.

Subscriptions are \$20 a year (see subscription form in this tabloid). A sample copy is available free. The subscription list is kept entirely confidential (our list is not sold or loaned to anyone) and aliases are welcomed.

Earth First! Trinkets & Snake Oil includes a variety of t-shirts, hats, patches, bumperstickers, music cassettes, books, etc. advancing the Earth First! message. They are available for mail order through *The EF! Journal* and help fund publication of the newspaper.

**Earth First! Journal POB 5871, Tucson, AZ 85703 (602)622-1371**

- Please send me a one-year subscription to *The Earth First! Journal* for \$20 (US\$30 Canada & Mexico and surface overseas; US\$45 airmail overseas)
- Please send me a sample copy of *The Earth First! Journal* (donations appreciated)

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

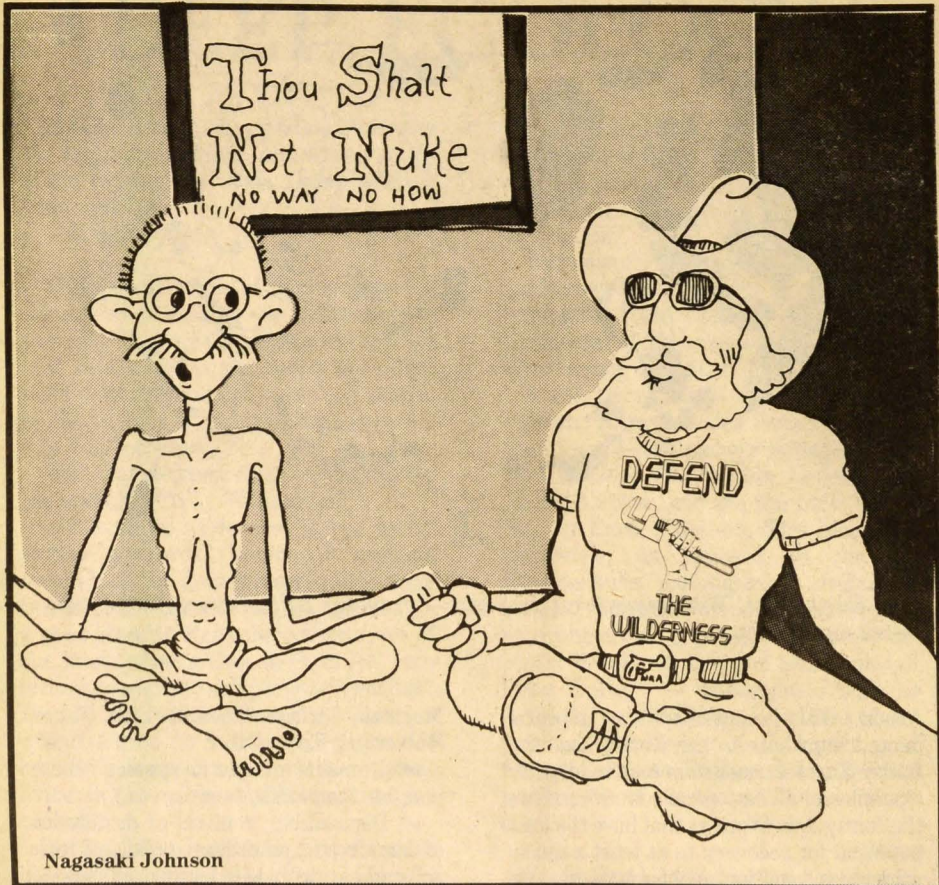
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please print legibly



Texas Earth First! stops the Forest Service tree crusher "Godzilla" in the proposed Four Notch Wilderness, Oct. 21, 1986. The late Bugis Cargis is chained to the machine on the left, and Jumpin' James Jackson is in a tree above.

# DIRECT ACTION



Nagasaki Johnson

## Monkeywrenching

*I'm tired of people who don't do any harm. I'm tired of soft weak passive people who can't do anything or make anything. Except babies.*

— Doc Sarvis

Monkeywrenching. Ecotage. Ecodefense. Billboard bandits. Unauthorized heavy equipment maintenance. Desurveying. Road reclamation. Tree spiking.

Monkeywrenching is a step beyond civil disobedience. It is nonviolent, aimed only at inanimate machines, and at the pocket-books of the industrial despoilers. It is the final step in the defense of the wild, the deliberate action taken by the Earth defender when all other measures have failed, the process whereby the wilderness defender becomes the wilderness acting in self-defense.

Although Earth First! is often associated with the practice and mystique of monkeywrenching, the organized elements of the Earth First! movement do not engage

in monkeywrenching. Although some individual Earth First!ers are active monkeywrenchers, the Earth First! movement officially neither advocates nor condemns monkeywrenching. *The Earth First! Journal*, however, carries a regular column, "Dear Ned Ludd," about monkeywrenching and does take an editorial position in favor of the practice.

Whether or not to monkeywrench is ultimately an individual decision.

The book, **ECODEFENSE: A Field Guide to Monkeywrenching**, published by Ned Ludd Books (available from *The Earth First! Journal* for \$13.50 postpaid from POB 5871, Tucson, AZ 85703), contains detailed information on monkeywrenching techniques as well as careful discussions of security, safety, strategy and justification. The book is 311 pages and is heavily illustrated. Any potential monkeywrencher would do well to carefully study it before embarking on the clearly illegal and potentially dangerous path of ecotage.

Since Earth First! was founded in 1980, Earth First! activists have traveled to remote wilderness areas as well as to big city offices to put their beliefs into action. Facing difficult odds and taking great risks, Earth First!ers have been involved in non-violent campaigns to protect endangered wildlife habitat around the US. Earth First! has pioneered the use of theatrical demonstrations and civil disobedience in the defense of natural ecosystems by preservation groups.

Earth First!ers have "cracked" Glen Canyon Dam on the Utah-Arizona border; climbed high into old growth Douglas-fir in Oregon and Coast Redwoods in California to prevent logging; sat in front of logging trucks in Washington; blockaded oil & gas drilling in New Mexico and Wyoming; occupied offices of anti-wilderness legislators in Montana; chained themselves to tree-crushing machinery in Texas; occupied uranium mines in Arizona; sailed with Paul Watson's Sea Shepherd Society on the *Divine Wind* to stop Japanese drift netting in the North Pacific; hiked into the Nevada test site with Greenpeace to protest nuclear tests; occupied caves in Texas to save 5 proposed Endangered Species; blockaded, while dressed in bear costumes, the notorious Grant Village and Fishing Bridge developments in Yellowstone National Park; and confronted land-raping Secretaries of the Interior Jim Watt and Don Hodel.

Through such tactics, for which hundreds

of EF!ers have been arrested, the lethargic environmental movement has been reenergized and the news media has again focused attention on ecological issues. EF!ers, putting their bodies on the line, have given new life to environmental activism and have shifted the conservation movement spectrum.

Like other aspects of Earth First!, demonstrations and civil disobedience are grounded in the grassroots, decentralized structure of local EF! groups. In addition, there is the Earth First! Direct Action Fund, which raises money to help experienced volunteers travel to wilderness hot spots, and to assist local groups whenever needed. The DAF has helped EF! volunteers provide training, additional bodies, and much-needed cash for Earth First! actions in Oregon, Montana, California, Yellowstone, Grand Canyon and elsewhere, as well as coordinating the 1987 blockade of the rainforest-destroying World Bank in Washington, DC. In addition, the DAF sends out periodic action alerts to the EF! activists network.

Like the rest of the EF! movement, the Direct Action Fund has no paid staff or fancy office. It is experienced and capable, but volunteer and grassroots-oriented. To offer your energy, time, expertise, or to contribute money or equipment, contact the DAF coordinator, Mike Roselle.

**The Earth First! Direct Action Fund,** POB 210, Canyon, CA 94516 (415)376-7329.



On Sept. 30, 1986, EF! organized over three dozen demonstrations protesting the World Bank's support of rainforest-destroying projects around the world.

## ROUND RIVER RENDEZVOUS

The Round River Rendezvous is the annual tribal gathering of Earth First!. Traditionally, this week-long campout is held around the 4th of July, and attracts several hundred Earth First!ers from every state in the West, many Eastern states, and several other countries. The gathering includes workshops on important issues, rituals, music and the rousing Sagebrush Patriots Rally. Of course, the most impor-

tant part of the Rendezvous is the informal networking (and partying!) that goes on.

The Round River Rendezvous is coordinated by a volunteer RRR committee. Details about each Rendezvous are published in the Beltane (May) issue of *The Earth First! Journal*.

In addition to the Round River Rendezvous, many state and regional rendezvous are held each year. These gatherings are particularly important for the development of a cohesive activists' network and plans of action on a local level. They are also announced in *The Earth First! Journal*.

photo by David Cross



In July, 1986, Earth First! blockaded Fishing Bridge in Yellowstone National Park to protest the continuing destruction of Grizzlies and their habitat. Nineteen were arrested.



This introductory guide to the Earth First! movement was produced by *The Earth First! Journal* as a service for Earth First! local groups.

## How To Become Active With Earth First!

1) Come to the Round River Rendezvous (see above), chew the fat and drink a beer around the campfire, meet other folks, discuss the issues and make plans for action.

2) Get in touch with your local contact listed in the Earth First! Directory (found in every issue of *The Earth First! Journal*) and become active with other Earth First!ers in your area. If there is no local EF! group, help start one.

3) If you're already active in an environmental group, try to get it to take a biocentric and more hardline stand on issues. Encourage the Sierra Club, Audubon Society, state-wide wilderness groups, etc. to be tougher. By becoming active with such groups, you can work your way up into a position of influence, and slowly lead them to stronger positions.

4) Testify at hearings as an Earth First!er. Develop EF! positions on issues, organize others to support them. Take a visionary, no-compromise stand.

5) Develop EF! wilderness proposals in your area. Guidelines on how to do an EF! wilderness proposal are available from *The EF! Journal*.

6) Organize demonstrations to focus attention on important environmental issues. Read *EF!* for ideas on what other EF!ers have done in this regard. Be creative. Don't be afraid to flop!

7) Set up an EF! meeting in your area.

*EF!* will send out a mailer to all the subscribers in your area (at no charge to you) or run an announcement in its pages. Meet other folks, establish priorities, make plans. Two or three EF!ers can accomplish a lot.

8) Show the movie "The Cracking of Glen Canyon Dam." Or show the EF! Grazing slide show. You can get either from *EF!*.

9) Arrange for your state-wide environmental group or university to invite an Earth First! spokesperson to speak. An Earth First! Speakers Bureau represents two dozen musicians, poets and speakers covering a wide variety of topics from an EF! perspective. Contact Bob Kaspar (305 N. 6th St, Madison, WI 53704 (608)241-9426) for information.

10) If you're facing an important local issue, you may want an experienced EF! outside agitator from the Direct Action Fund (DAF). See the separate article on Direct Action.

11) Get involved in an Earth First! task force (see separate article).

12) Set up a regional meeting of EF!ers in your area. Contact the other regional contacts to plan this.

13) Write letters in response to articles in *Earth First!*.

14) Read *Earth First!*, get ideas, be creative, and do something!