

# OZARK SIERRA

One Earth

One Chance

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## Club Questions Safety Testing for Genetically Engineered Foods

by Laurel Hopwood, Sierra Club Biotechnology Task Force Chair

Our government has helped slip genetically engineered foods (GEFs) onto our grocery store shelves without safety testing and labeling. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has stated it is “not aware of any information showing that foods derived by these new methods differ from other foods in any meaningful or uniform way.” By law, recognition of safety must be based on “scientific procedures.” Yet, neither the FDA’s records nor the scientific literature indicate that such a test exists for even one genetically engineered food. Without any scientific basis, the agency calls GEFs “substantially equivalent.” Using this assumption, the FDA has become a promoter, rather than a regulator, of GEFs.

Here’s the problem to human health in a nutshell—when you place a gene from an

unrelated species into a plant, and then people consume those genes, the consequences are difficult to predict. For one thing, the foreign genetic material can adversely alter cellular function. Another source of potential problems is the routine practice of fusing powerful promoters, which can end up causing overexpression of surrounding native genes, which can upset complex biochemical feedback loops and metabolic pathways. Each of the above types of disruption can induce unexpected toxins, carcinogens or allergens—or degrade nutritional value in an unpredictable manner.

The biotech industry has developed corn genetically engineered with a bacterial toxin that acts as an insecticide. Are we supposed to eat that ear of corn and be confident that there’s nothing in there that’s going to harm us? Preliminary independent studies show that the application of glyphosate

(Roundup™) to Roundup Ready™ soybeans alters their phytoestrogen levels. Antibiotic resistance genes, which are commonly used in most GEFs fed to farm animals and humans, will encourage the evolution of multiple antibiotic resistance in pathogenic germs.

The Sierra Club has called upon the Clinton administration for mandatory labeling, safety testing, and post-marketing surveillance on all GEFs. We have joined with numerous consumer, religious, community, and conservation groups with the stance that information must not be shielded from public knowledge and scrutiny. Please ask your representatives to cosponsor HR3377, the Genetically Engineered Food Right to Know Act, introduced by Representative Kucinich (D-OH). For further information or to get a list of cosponsors, please e-mail Laurel Hopwood at [jhopwood@wviz.org](mailto:jhopwood@wviz.org). —

## Does “Changing Minds” Take Too Long to Save the World?

by John Kurmann

In past issues of this newsletter, I’ve done my best to challenge the “environmental” movement’s past and present approach. Summed up, that approach is:

Discover (or suspect) that something undesirable is occurring—air/water is being polluted, topsoil is being depleted, forests are being clear-cut, and so on—then react to this by pressing for some sort of government legislation to address the problem, whether by regulating or banning the undesirable behavior (in most cases, the former). This doesn’t cover every single thing that’s been done or is being done, but I think it’s fair to say it covers the vast majority.

We have pointed out that, not only is this reactionary—it waits to act until something harmful is already happening, and

damage has already been done—it also serves to institutionalize the behavior. You don’t need to set up a program of regulation and management for an activity that has stopped, after all. And what about the harmful things we don’t even realize are happening because we don’t understand the system being damaged?

This approach starts from the premise that people are always going to be doing something to muck up the planet, so the best we can hope to do is chase around behind them, put out the fires we can (when we’re allowed to), and try to control the countless others. It’s clear to me that our fire brigade is much too small to keep up though, and in many cases we don’t even discover a fire has been raging until years after it started. Also, a home that’s been burned can never be restored to what it once was.

We have suggested a different approach, one based on the concept of changing minds. In short, if someone’s mind has changed, you won’t have to go around behind them putting out the fires they start, because they will do their best to avoid starting fires in the first place, and they will rush to put out any they do accidentally start.

A common response to this suggestion is that it will just take too long—we don’t have time to convince billions of individuals to change their own lives. Our only hope is to force them to change by forbidding them to do what they’re doing (laws and regulations) or by making it too expensive (fees, pollution taxes, etc.). Is that true though?

Right now there are estimated to be just over 6 billion people alive as part of earth. I’m going to make what I think is a low guess

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and assume that there are already 500,000 with changed minds worldwide. Let's see what they can do:

If each of those 500,000 people commit themselves to changing one other person's mind over the next year (a mind a year seems reasonable to me), then there will be one million changed minds a year from now.

And if each of those one million changes one mind over the following year, there will be two million two years from now.

And if those two million do the same, there will be four million three years from now.

And if those four million follow suit, there will be eight million four years from now—eight million out of the more than six BILLION humans that will most likely then be alive.

Pretty slow, eh? If this pattern continues, if we are only so successful as to each change one mind a year, then how long would it take to change everyone's mind?

Just fourteen years.

Do the math:

Five years from now, those eight million would become sixteen.

Six years from now, those sixteen would

be thirty-two.

Seven years from now, those thirty-two would be sixty-four.

Eight years from now, those sixty-four would be one hundred and twenty-eight.

Nine years from now, those one hundred and twenty-eight would be two hundred and fifty-six.

Ten years from now, those two hundred and fifty-six would be five hundred and twelve.

Eleven years from now, those five hundred and twelve would be one and twenty-four—one billion, twenty-four million, that is.

Twelve years from now, those one and twenty-four would be two and forty-eight.

Thirteen years from now, those two and forty-eight would be four and ninety-six.

And just fourteen years from now, those four and ninety-six would be eight and one hundred and ninety-two—eight billion, one hundred and ninety-two million.

The world's current human population is estimated to be just under six billion, so, even allowing population growth of another two billion-plus people, we could change the minds of all of them in only fourteen years if we just will commit ourselves to each

changing one mind a year. Is that doable? Is that too much to ask? I think we could do more.

No, changing people's minds alone will not save the world, but people with truly changed minds will lead truly changed lives. Changing minds isn't an end in and of itself. In my opinion, though, it is the foundation we must lay in order to begin

saving the world. Think of the human creative potential that would be unleashed by having hundreds of millions, then billions, of people setting their minds to figuring out new, sustainable ways (yes, ways, plural) to live.

We also don't need to set our goal at changing every single mind, for two reasons: First, the tribal peoples of the world are already living well without destroying the world, near as I can tell (though I don't know how many of them there still are). Second, there's no one right way to live. Quite a few of us (the people of civilization) must change if we're going to save the world, but not all.

And can any piece or package of legislation, any presidential initiative, or any armed revolutionary movement hope to save the world more quickly? The saving of the world cannot be imposed, from above, on people whose unchanged minds resist it. How many years have we been trying to do it that way so far? Are we anywhere near succeeding?

Changing minds may not save the world in time, but I don't see how any other strategy that has been proposed could possibly work more quickly.

And that's a challenge.

[While I wrote this piece, my thanks go to teacher/author Daniel Quinn (Ishmael and other books) for pointing out just how quickly changing minds can change the world. If you have any questions or comments, you may call me at (816)753-6081 or send an e-mail to dsdnt@kctera.net.] —

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# OZARK SIERRAN

The published deadline is the real, honest-to-goodness, drop-dead deadline—not a couple of days or a week

later! Submissions received after the deadline are subject to the possibility they won't appear in the issue: you will feel bad and we will feel bad. Call us nasty, but we are determined this newsletter will come out on time!

The *OZARK SIERRAN* is produced on a Macintosh computer, so we strongly prefer to receive material electronically (E-mail), or on a Mac or PC disk (3.5"), WITH A HARD COPY OF THE TEXT. Typed articles are also OK (must be received a few days before the deadline). All submissions must include name, address, and phone number of the author. If you want your submission returned (including your disk), please include a SASE.

**Hard-working, All-volunteer Editorial and Production Staff: Bob Sherrick, Editor, Keet Kopecky, and Claus Wawrzinek**

## Dates You Need to Know

3/25

**Chapter ConsCom meeting:**

**St. Louis, Missouri**

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3/26

**Chapter ExCom meeting:**

**St. Louis, Missouri**

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4/1

**May/June Ozark Sierran**

**Deadline**

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# SNAPSHOTS FROM SEATTLE

by Henry Robertson

Seattle, November 29, 1999... It is definitely not business as usual in this Pacific Rim port. Ordinarily the news would not elicit much interest; a Ministerial meeting of the World Trade Organization (WTO) is due to commence tomorrow—that and a cup of Starbuck's might jolt you awake. But today it seems like every time you turn a corner there's a protest march in progress. The mood on the streets is a strange mix—festive, angry, and anxious.

I'm here with four other St. Louisans, one of thousands of contingents, large and small, that have filtered into the City of Software from all over the world. There are union delegations in uniform jackets and young radicals in all their body-pierced, hair-dyed, ragged anti-glory. There are environmentalists, anarchists, human and indigenous and animal rights activists. Tomorrow we'll all be on the streets together for the main event, over 50,000 strong—and we will shut down the opening day of the WTO meeting.

You must admit it's impressive to have so many diverse people gathering over something as arcane and dry as dust as the WTO, a body designed to set rules and arbitrate disputes in international trade. But everyone here has some grievance against its mission of leveling all barriers to the movement of goods and capital.

It will level a lot of ecosystems, too. By churning up trade in wood and paper it will level forests as fast as the chip mills. The WTO condemns US laws against fishing methods that kill dolphins and sea turtles as barriers to free trade.

Every country that joins the WTO gives up part of its sovereignty. If the WTO declares that its laws are illegal trade barriers, it is obligated to change those laws. If it doesn't, then any country that has brought a successful complaint against it may be allowed to slap

retaliatory duties on its exports, as the US did against the European Union in a



dispute over bananas.

Intellectual property rights, including patents on genes and life forms, must be enforced everywhere, threatening the diversity of locally adapted crops while prying open new markets for agribusiness chemicals.

Increased global traffic means increased air pollution. Poor countries are promised accelerated development if they produce for the rich nations. How glutted must the rich countries become before the poor are allowed to prosper?

Tuesday, November 30... Bedraggled environmentalists gather in a small park for a pep rally sponsored by the Sierra Club. From there we proceed to a football

stadium where labor is assembling its contingent, over 20,000 union members. We listen to more speeches; meanwhile, without our knowing it, people are being teargassed downtown.

The big march is peaceful and upbeat, with an exhilarating feeling of being a part of history. Everyone knew this was going to happen. Yet, it seems to have caught everyone by surprise—not least, the police.

Confusion strikes when the Steelworkers leave the line of march prematurely. Apparently they've made their point and don't want to be too closely associated with the rest of us. It's no secret that we're not all on the same page of the hymnal here. Some think the WTO can be reformed by incorporating labor and environmental concerns into its processes. Others believe that, given its origin and purpose, it is irredeemable. In sound bite terminology, "Fix it or nix it?"

The leading edge of the march pulls up to the theater where the WTO opening ceremony is to be held. Delegations from Korea and the Philippines come dancing up with banners flying, traditional drums beating, and cymbals clashing; another group flies a banner for Tibet. Someone from the Philippines strikes up "The Internationale." My friends and I are within a few ranks of the riot police lined up just outside the theater with shields, plastic visors, and the long sticks. The standoff ends uneventfully but the opening ceremony is canceled.

By midafternoon the march has broken up, with some groups trying to find a way to slip through the police cordon around the World Trade Center where the WTO will meet. The police, caught unprepared, overreact.

We come upon an intersection blocked by three rows of seated protesters. A police sergeant parleys with them for permission to pass through and relieve his men; they relent. Then more policemen come up with a van. This time they don't ask; they wade in and start dragging the demonstrators aside,

continued on page 4...Snapshots From Seattle



# Bounded People, Boundless Land

by Eric Freyfogle

reviewed by Caroline Pufalt

**B**ounded People, Boundless Land, subtitled *Envisioning a New Land Ethic*, is a modest sized book that takes on a huge and difficult topic. Many environmental issues involve controversy surrounding private property rights and responsibilities. Given the almost sacrosanct stature private property holds in sectors of our society, private property rights seem to present an enormous stumbling block to environmental protections. The banner of private property rights may be used by individuals to avoid regulation, or it may be used by timid government officials as an excuse for inaction. But author Eric Fryefogle is not timid and he takes this issue head on.

Freyfogle is well qualified to do so. He is a law professor at the University of Illinois, specializing in property and environmental issues. His expertise in this area has given him a broad view of property rights issues in the US. He is a midwesterner and many of his examples are drawn from the plains, woods, and rivers in Illinois and surrounding environs. This makes his book especially interesting to read. One can often read about land use problems in the west, thus it is nice to have examples closer to home.

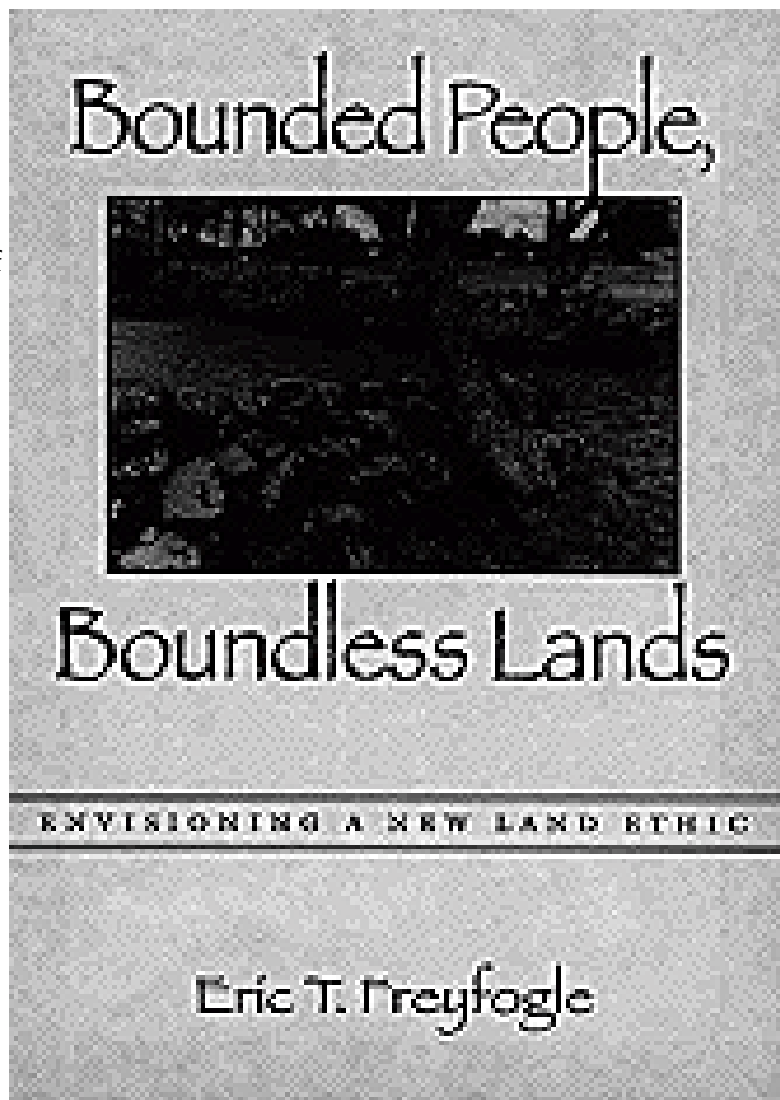
To begin a conversation regarding property rights from an environmental standpoint, one needs to have an idea of what one desires to protect. Often that includes a concept of land health. Freyfogle uses Aldo Leopold's classic concept of land health as a starting point. Leopold focused on the land's basic needs of soil integrity, water quality and flow, and a native plant and animal population as critical to land health. As one might imagine, consensus on what land health means in individual cases is not always easy to reach. But Freyfogle points out that it is not a definition based on personal preference, choices need to be made in conjunction with scientific information about ecological needs.

Understanding land health involves a broad perspective that crosses the many ownership and political boundaries we impose on the land. It also crosses time barriers as the land will outlive all our individual choices. Thus, when we impose unbridled individual property rights to landowners, land health may be ignored.

**Snapshots From Seattle**.....continued from page 3  
swinging their nightsticks. A couple of protesters are left bloodied on the pavement. In the distance we can see a fire burning in the street.

Evening finds us in a hotel bar watching the local news coverage on TV. There has been some window-breaking and looting; the camera focuses on a newspaper vending machine burning in

Freyfogle examines the evolution of property rights in the US. He exposes how extremists like Richard Epstein arrive at their conclusions regarding the issue of takings. Epstein is a libertarian who views virtually any government regulation as a taking and his writings have been the inspiration of much property rights rhetoric in recent years. In Epstein's world many of the basic safety and health standards we take for granted would be at risk, as well as ecological health standards. Many who use the banner of takings are unaware of the rather dark vision of their spokesperson.



But there are other examples and legal precedents in the US that point to a more moderate approach and an approach flexible enough to encompass evolving understandings of ecological health and its tie to our overall well-being. Freyfogle sees in those traditions a chance to forge a new ethic of land ownership. Included in that new ethic needs to be an appreciation of the natural role of individual pieces of land within a larger landscape. Wetlands, for example, need to be

the street. Darkness adds an air of drama to scenes of police backed up by armored cars "taking the streets back one block at a time."

The destruction is blamed on a small faction of nihilistic anarchists and opportunistic local toughs looking to get in on the action. That's what it takes to get the media's attention

The talks broke down from internal

understood as providing flood control, wildlife habitat, improving water quality, etc. Landowners need to respect those functions and the community may set appropriate standards.

That goal can only be reached if citizens understand its importance. Therefore Freyfogle advocates the hard work of laboring on local land use issues in a manner involving land owners that will create the basis for better land use. He uses the work of the Nature Conservancy and many citizens along the Mackinaw River in Illinois as an example.

Freyfogle argues that the best land stewardship often comes from landowners who take the time to know their land intimately. However, in today's world this local knowledge is often challenged by the economic pressures of development, suburban sprawl, large international agricultural or timber companies, etc. Although many property rights advocates decry national standards, it is often those standards that can protect local entities from more powerful forces. Because of this Freyfogle envisions a blend of broad based standards tempered with the knowledge of local conditions as a good mix for achieving the goals of land health.

Freyfogle also addresses the issues of compensation. Extreme property rights advocates demand maximum compensation for virtually any inconvenience to landowners. Clearly, there is no requirement for compensation for measures taken to avoid pollution. Polluting is a harmful activity that the community has the right to ask all landowners to avoid. But on issues like development the matter is less clear due to the problem of fair distribution. Some types of development, such as that in sensitive habitats, are to be avoided in virtually all cases. Therefore, a restriction is fair to all landowners. Fairness is more difficult to reach in other cases. There is a certain degree of uncertainty in any ownership situation and the community

is not required to cover individual landowners for every environmentally based cost. Freyfogle examines some more innovative ways to ensure fairness, such as regional development credits that could be traded within defined areas.

Bounded People, Boundless Land is a pleasure to read. Freyfogle is able to discuss legal distinctions in a manner the lay person can understand and endure. His references to writers such as Wendell Berry, Aldo Leopold, and Robert Frost add a poetic perspective. —

discord as well when Third World delegates, encouraged by the voices of protest, refused to sign up for a process they felt excluded them. It's safe to say we got the WTO's attention. Our message was that the pursuit of material wealth and financial power through unbridled trade comes at too high a human and environmental cost. In Seattle we marched against this greater destruction. —

# Please Don't Call Them Farmers

by Martha Stevens

I live, work, breathe, and LOVE my little piece of Heaven—our family farm. Over the years we have raised wheat, corn, soybeans, hay, cattle, horses, sheep, hogs, a goat, dogs, cats, and farm kids. Not to mention numerous “critters” who wandered by—and stayed—content to languish in or under our shade trees and tolerate the human presence in exchange for a free handout. And we loved every minute of it.

Our neighbors were warm and friendly, helpful in a time of crisis, and considerate of our feelings. Their children were our children; our children, theirs. Our community was close knit; we worked well together toward common goals, enjoyed the great outdoors and rural life in general. Our biggest mistake was in thinking that idyllic scenario would continue indefinitely. We were unprepared for the upheaval headed into our lives; unprepared for our neighborhoods being turned into virtual war zones; unprepared for division within our social structure.

The corporate invaders came to our area with empty promises of increased tax receipts, jobs, and constantly ringing cash registers. They painted a beatific picture of “state of the art” facilities, happy hogs, and responsible community improvement. Our city, county, and state officials believed; they welcomed them with open arms. They ignored our concerns; we were called radicals, against progress, irresponsible—and

worse.

With much fanfare, they built their huge confinement facilities, filled them with over 80,000 sows, and were praised in the press for their “greater efficiency and modern technology.” We watched in disbelief as the division began. Those living near the facilities were soon gasping at the stench, unable to enjoy an evening under the stars in their own yard; unable to even open their windows lest the stench invade their home.

The additional tax moneys were non-existent or minimal at best; the cash registers did not ring as those companies purchased their goods and services elsewhere; feed, tire, and hardware stores closed. And the animals did not sport the happy, smiley faces of contentment, but rather exhibited behavior resembling that of humans with serious psychotic disorders.

Understandably, those unfortunates in the “stink zone” created by over 1.5 million hogs complained bitterly; supporters of the mega-facilities, primarily those living far removed from that “stink zone,” continued to see no problem. Even recurring fish kills from the waste spilling into the rivers we had all enjoyed in years past failed to upset the pro-pig-factory residents of the area; former friends and allies became foes. The community spirit that had been shared was no more.

The hog factory filed bankruptcy and sold the press on the idea that they were in the “best financial shape ever.” Of course they were! They had just written off a

\$300,000 debt and proclaimed that “no one got hurt!” The victims of this company (which now, some four years later, has never shown a real profit) included the electric company, gas company, truckers, construction contractors, investors, and local tax entities. But still, they say, “no one got hurt.”

The hog factories like to call themselves “farms.” They aren’t. They name their sites pretty names like Whitetail, Somerset, Wildwood, South Meadows, Hickory Creek, Hedgewood, and Green Hills. But in the land of hog factories, there are no whitetail deer; no pretty meadows; no leafy trees or wildflowers; and certainly no rolling green hills or pristine creeks. The bulldozers removed all that to make way for the rows and rows of shiny tin buildings and putrid cesspools filled with hog waste. There are “keep out” signs, gates, and roads that are little more than an obstacle course of pot holes—those that the company has not closed to the public.

The definition of a farmer is “steward of the land”—a caretaker. An apt description of a small family farmer who is a responsible steward of the environment in which he lives. The hog factory is little more than a pollution factory; its owner lives hundreds—even thousands of miles away; he cares not for the land, the neighbor, nor the community. Profit is his only interest; money his god. He is an agriculture integrator, interloper, despoiler of the land.

But please don't call him a farmer! —

## Farmers Exhibition

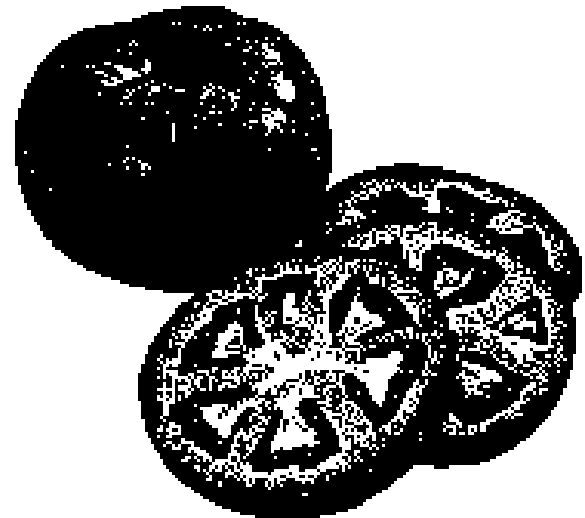
“April Foods Day”

Buy Direct from Local Family Farmers

- \* High quality, organic vegetables by subscription and on site
- \* Free-range, natural meats
- \* Organic veggie seedlings for spring gardens
- \* Free info on sustainable agriculture & gardening
- \* Hear Food Nutrition Specialist speak on benefits of eating locally and sustainably produced food

Where and When:

- \* Saturday, April 1, 2000
- \* 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
- \* Free Admission to the public
- \* Penn Valley Community College Gym  
3201 SW Trafficway, K.C. Mo.
- \* Call (913)334-0556 for more details



“Pull the Plug on Factory Farms”

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# Are Energy Taxes A Good Idea?

by Jim Rhodes

This is probably not the best time to be making a pitch for higher energy taxes. For one thing, gasoline prices are up significantly. The national political scene is currently focused on presidential politics and on whether the projected budget surplus should be used to pay down the national debt, shore-up social security, or just give more big tax cuts to the wealthy classes. However, there is this persistent thing called global climate change that just doesn't seem to want to go away.

Global climate change is by now an established fact. Virtually every reputable scientific organization that has studied the problem is on record as being in agreement with this statement. If we want to avoid big problems in the century ahead, it is clear that the world must shift away from our heavy reliance on fossil fuels to less polluting and more sustainable sources such as solar, wind, and geothermal.

This will happen eventually anyway since fossil fuels are limited and these sources will become more expensive as they get scarcer. However, even though world petroleum production is expected to peak sometime in the next few decades, there are still substantial quantities of coal and natural gas that will be available well into the next century. Countries such as China are expected to increase their use of coal as they attempt to improve their living standards.

In order to prod the shift to renewable sources, governmental action is necessary.

One way to cut fossil fuel use is to mandate energy efficiency standards such as the CAFE standards. CAFE stands for "Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency" and is the average gas mileage that fleets of vehicles sold in the United States must achieve. Now set at 27 miles per gallon for passenger cars, the Sierra Club and other organizations are pushing to get this standard increased to 45 miles-per-gallon. Also, SUVs and smaller pickup trucks now constitute over 50 percent of new vehicles sold in the U.S. and these vehicles are currently not required to meet the CAFE standards.

Another type of governmental strategy is to offer tax breaks for installing energy efficient measurements. The Clinton administration has chosen this route since tax incentives constitute a "carrot" approach in that they are voluntary instead of mandatory. In theory, the market will respond to these incentives and gradually the U.S. economy will move to higher energy efficiency.

However, energy taxes may be the ultimate "silver bullet" for slowing global warming. The Union of Concerned Scientists published "The Consumer's Guide to Effective Environmental Choices" last year and in it they suggest that people ask the government to tax pollution as a strategy to improve environmental quality. Energy taxes are a form of pollution tax and authors state, "From an economist's standpoint, a well-crafted tax is an easy and fair way to increase the price of a polluting activity so that it includes those external social costs that would otherwise be ignored. Economists also

like the fact that even as taxes provide financial reasons to take better care of the environment, they ultimately leave the final decision on what to buy and do up to consumers acting through the free market. MIT economics professor Paul Krugman has observed that 'virtually every card-carrying economist' believes pollution taxes are a good idea."

Ultimately, governments have to get their tax revenues from somewhere and there is no reason why an energy tax could not be coupled with a general reduction in income tax rates so that the whole package is revenue-neutral. Some economists have even advocated elimination of the income tax in favor of a graduated consumption tax. Cornell economics professor Robert Frank published the book *Luxury Fever* last year to advocate just such a tax. Such a tax could be easily implemented and has the potential to eliminate the annual task of preparing an income tax return.

Since climate change is a global problem, governments around the world must be able to agree on a strategy that is both fair and effective. This strategy will most likely involve a mix of mandatory and voluntary measures coupled with either tax incentives or an energy tax. From an ethical perspective, the United States has an obligation to lead the world in reducing fossil fuel consumption since we are the biggest consumers. Other countries are not going to take voluntary measures to reduce their own use of fossil fuels unless they see that the U.S. is also doing the same. —

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## FEMA HONORS SIERRA CLUB STAFF FOR WORK TO PROTECT WETLANDS, REDUCE FLOOD DAMAGE

On January 25, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) honored two Sierra Club employees for their efforts to save the nation's wetlands and protect communities from floods. The award marks the first time in recent years FEMA has recognized the disaster prevention work of an environmental organization. FEMA recognized the Sierra Club's Kathryn Hohmann and Brett Hulsey with the FEMA Award for Outstanding Public Service for their leadership in protecting wetlands in the wake of the 1993 Mississippi River floods and in the years since. David Conrad with the National Wildlife Federation was also honored.

"The Sierra Club is delighted that FEMA and other government agencies are working with the environmental community to meet common goals," said Hohmann, Director of the Sierra Club's Environmental Quality Program in Washington, DC. "Working together is just good common sense. By combining efforts, we can protect more wetlands and save more families from flood disasters."

"Environmentalists and FEMA are linking arms to fight sprawl and protect families from floods," stated Hulsey, Senior

Regional Representative with the Club's Midwest office in Madison, Wisconsin. "With leadership from FEMA, we're making strides in stopping developers from building in our nation's wetlands."

The Sierra Club is currently working with FEMA to revise the national wetlands permit program. This rubber-stamp program, which has approved more than 85% of all development proposals, will now have safeguards to protect the nation's floodplains.

"By working together with FEMA to reform the permit rules, we can protect our precious wetlands and keep people out of harm's way," added Hohmann. "Plus, the reforms will mean taxpayers don't have to financially bail out homeowners who bought properties in places along the floodplains — dangerous places to call home."

Wetlands are the first line of defense against flooding. Wetlands soak up rain and store excess floodwater runoff, then slowly release the water back into streams, lakes, and groundwater. With more than 115,000 acres of wetlands disappearing each year, the Sierra Club is working to protect these fragile ecosystems while saving families from floods, protecting water quality, and restoring wildlife habitats.

"The goal of the Sierra Club wetland protection program is three-fold," said Hulsey. "We want to protect families from flooding, protect habitats that store flood water, and educate citizens on the hazards of building in floodplains."

The efforts of the Sierra Club have proven to dramatically decrease flood damage. In the 1995 flooding of St. Charles County, Missouri, the Sierra Club helped reduce flood damage 95% by working with homeowners to relocate their homes away from the floodplain. The Sierra Club has also helped save over 100,000 acres of wetlands along the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers using the wetlands reserve program and fish and wildlife refuges.

The Outstanding Public Service Award is given to employees of Federal agencies, state and local governments, private citizens, and organizations in recognition of significant contributions to the field of emergency management or service. More information on the award can be found at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov). More information on the Sierra Club campaign to protect wetlands can be found at [www.sierraclub.org/wetlands](http://www.sierraclub.org/wetlands). —



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# New Developments in Missouri's Air Pollution Regulations

by Wallace McMullen

The Ozark Chapter filed a lawsuit in November, 1998, asking that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) classify St. Louis as a serious non-attainment area because its air quality is below the legal standard. One result of this suit has been considerable activity by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR) pertaining to air pollution. DNR requested an extension of the date by which attainment of air quality standards will be required for St. Louis. (Our lawyer has filed a brief which vigorously states that the law prohibits EPA from granting such extensions. This does not seem to bother either the EPA or DNR).

EPA's guidance for granting an extension requires, among other things, an "approvable attainment plan." The DNR Air Pollution Control Program has prepared a massive document titled the "SUPPLEMENTAL 1-HOUR OZONE ATTAINMENT DEMONSTRATION PLAN," which was submitted to EPA last November (1999).

This "Attainment Plan" strategy includes reduced emissions of nitrogen oxides (NOx) from Missouri electric utilities, especially those which burn coal as an energy source. Therefore, DNR is now busy promulgating a new regulation which will curtail NOx emissions from electric generating facilities.

Nitrogen oxides (NOx) are nasty air pollutants which contribute to smog, acid rain, and are precursor chemicals to the formation of ozone. So the planned limitation of NOx emissions is arguably one of the

beneficial consequences of our air quality — particularly for the St. Louis metropolitan area.

Regular readers of the Ozark Sierran will recall previous articles on proposed NOx regulations ("Reducing Nitrogen Oxide Pollution," Ozark Sierran, May/June 1999, page 4). The regulations which EPA proposed, known as the NOx SIP Call, were more stringent than the rules DNR is now proposing. Those regulations are currently stalled by litigation brought by big industry.

The proposed DNR regulation will establish a limit of 0.25 lb. NOx emitted per million BTU's of heat input in the eastern third of Missouri, and a limit of 0.35 lb. NOx emitted per million BTU's for the western two-thirds of the state. This differential is proposed because the current ozone air quality problems are occurring in the eastern part of the state. (Memphis area emissions are also threatening problems in the bootheel area).

In the proposed statewide rule the major coal-fired Missouri electric generating facilities would be permitted to emit approximately 43.8 thousand tons of NOx during the ozone season, assuming that fuel input remains constant at 1997 level. If fuel input increased, the upper emissions limit would also increase since the rule does not include an emissions cap. By comparison, the NOx SIP Call rule would have imposed a NOx emissions cap on Missouri electric generating units (EGU's) of approximately 24 thousand tons of NOx during the ozone season. In 1997 these EGU's actually emitted about 82.4 thousand tons of NOx.

The proposed regulation also includes tradable allowances for EGU's which emit

less NOx than the limit during operation. Low-emission plants like UE's Rush Island will have some "surplus" allowances to sell or trade. Even after the allowances are applied, Missouri's major coal-burning EGU's would still emit about 39 thousand tons of NOx more than the NOx emissions allowable under the standards in the proposed rule. (Using numbers from 1997, which seemed like a more or less typical year). The remainder of the excess — at least 34 thousand tons — couldn't be offset by allowances and electric generation utilities will presumably have to install emissions controls to reduce NOx emissions by this amount.

We hope that the requirement to reduce emissions will have two positive effects:

- 1) The air in Missouri will become cleaner,
- 2) the day when dirty, polluting coal-fired electric generating plants are mothballed, and cleaner power sources (solar, wind, etc.) are employed will come closer to reality. That day can not come too soon.

Even a "clean" coal-fired facility like Rush Island puts out a lot of pollution, reporting annual emissions of 27,409 tons of sulfur oxides, 7105 tons of NOx, 143 tons of volatile organic compounds, 804 tons of fine particulates (PM10), and 1196 tons of carbon monoxide for 1998. We need clean, renewable sources of electricity.

Information sources for this article included the EPA website <http://www.epa.gov/acidrain/emission/index.htm>, DNR files, and the DNR Energy Center. —

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## NRC Confirms Global Climate Change

by Jim Rhodes

A report just released by the National Research Council (NRC) has confirmed that global climate change is real. The report, called "Reconciling Observations of Global Temperature Change" examines the discrepancy between ground-based temperature readings and satellite measurements. The NRC is part of the National Academies of Sciences and was set up to provide accurate, objective, and up-to-date scientific information to Congress.

Funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Aluminum Corporation of America, the study was prompted by the need to reconcile these temperature differences. The ground-based readings have shown that global temperatures have risen somewhere between 0.7 and 1.4 degrees Fahrenheit during the past century. However, satellite measurements taken over the past 20 years do not correlate well with ground-based temperature records taken and instead show that the atmosphere in the low-to-mid troposphere may actually be cooling somewhat!

The NRC concluded that both sets of data are correct. The cooler satellite readings may be due to dust and other pollutants in the low-to-mid troposphere. However, the ground-based readings, taken over a much longer period of time, show that temperatures near the ground have been steadily increasing. According to John M. Wallace, chair of the NRC panel, "The differences between the surface and upper-air trends in no way invalidates the conclusion that the Earth's temperature is rising." Wallace also stated that "the rapid increase in the Earth's surface temperature over the past 20 years is not necessarily representative of how the atmosphere is responding to long-term, human induced changes, such as increasing amounts of carbon dioxide and other 'greenhouse' gases. The nations of the world should develop an improved climate monitoring system to resolve uncertainties in the data and provide policy-makers with the best available information."

The ground-based temperatures are significant in that this is where we humans and nearly all other living things actually are. We know, for example, that the ice cap over

the North Pole has been getting significantly thinner, at least since nuclear-powered submarines have been moving under the ice cap. We also know that the last decade has been the warmest on record for at least several centuries.

The solution to global climate change is still being debated. There are profound ethical, political, economic, and social issues that must be resolved before international agreement on effective strategies can be reached. The Kyoto treaty on global climate change has yet to be ratified by the US Senate. In the meantime, the Sierra Club and other organizations are pushing the federal government to adopt higher CAFE standards for automobiles sold in the United States.

Others believe that stronger measures are needed. (See "Are Energy Taxes a Good Idea?" in this issue). However, the longer the world waits to act, the worse the problem is likely to become. Once weather patterns change, the change is likely to be with us for a long, long time. Global climate change could even lead to rapid shifts in weather patterns due to chaotic, unpredictable feedback effects. More data and more research are still needed. But, as the NRC report indicates, the preponderance of evidence shows that global climate change is indeed real. —

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Contributions, gifts or dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to SIERRA magazine and \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

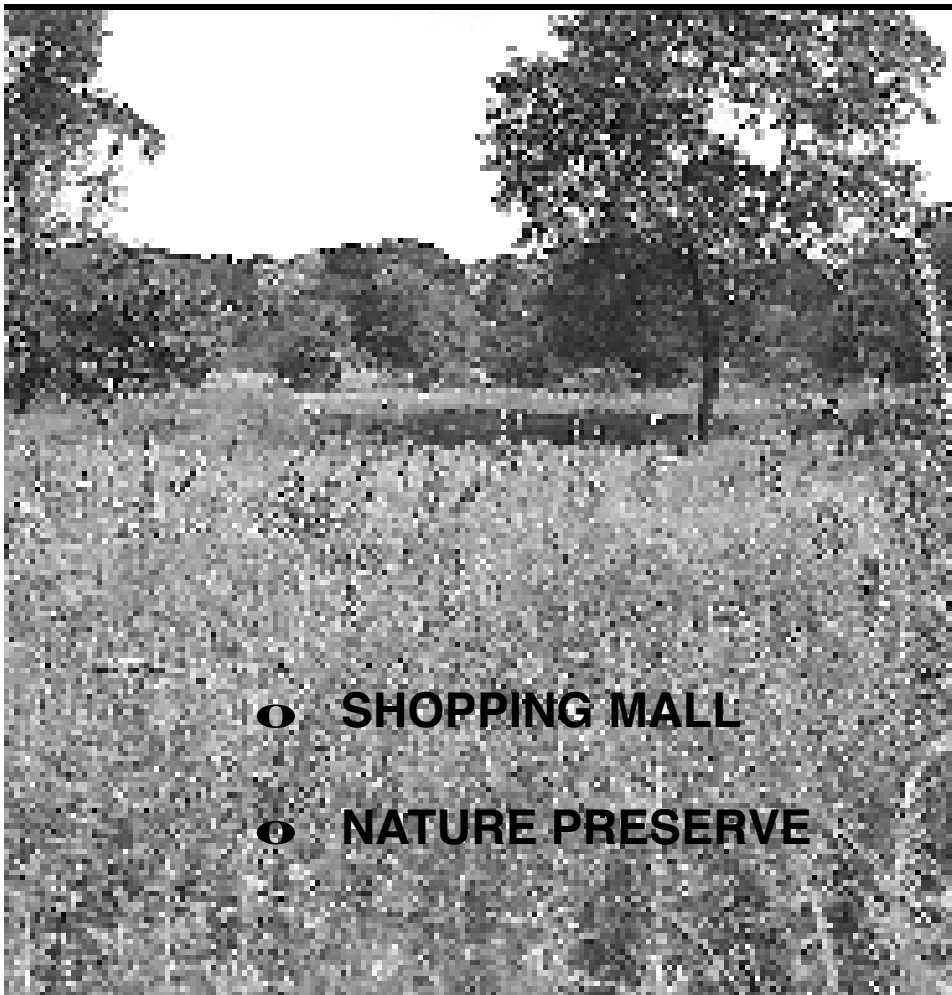


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### Learn About Controlling Air Pollution!

EPA and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources will offer training on how to use the provisions of the Clean Air Act's Title V to combat air pollution from factories and power plants through permitting regulations. The workshop will be in St. Louis, in late May or early June, and hopefully on a Saturday. We expect to know a definite date and location by February 25.

Anybody interested will be welcome to participate. If you would like to be informed about the precise date and location of this workshop when we receive the information, please contact the Chapter office: email [ozark.chapter@sierraclub.org](mailto:ozark.chapter@sierraclub.org), phone 573-815-9250 or 800-628-5333, or mail to 914 N. College, Columbia, MO 65201.



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# Combine adventure and advocacy. Join a Sierra Club millennium activist outing!

by Vicky Hoover

## Activist — outings?

Don't activists sit in meetings and send in agency comments, and don't outings just have fun? Not if you're helping the Sierra Club's priority campaign to protect America's wildlands by going on one of our year 2000 national activist outings. This year we offer eight great opportunities to blend conservation activism with enjoyment of nature in beautiful surroundings. Among these eight choices, everyone can find something special to savor, from river rafting to backpacking to bicycling:

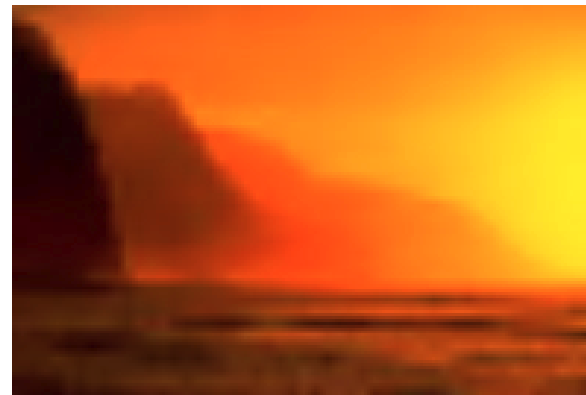
**Trip 101A: Nevada's Black Rock Desert/High Rock Canyon:** May 28 to June 3, 2000. The obscure northwest corner of Nevada has just become a sizzling, political hot potato as Nevada's two senators stand on the verge of introducing legislation to establish a National Conservation Area. Trip leader Carol Tresner provides two base camps in this scenic, historic but remote part of our country's most mountainous state. Learn how to become a key advocate for this and other Nevada wildland preservation issues. Price: \$445.



**Trip 102A: Seeking Yosemite's Lost Twin; Hetch Hetchy Backpack,** Yosemite. July 16-22, 2000. Longtime backpack leaders Cal and Letty French and Sierra Club Hetch Hetchy task force chair Ron Good take you on a journey through the spectacular headwaters of the Tuolumne River and its canyons and glacial domes in northern Yosemite National Park to discover what can be done to restore the fabled lost Hetch Hetchy Valley, lost by a dam infamous in Sierra Club history. Expect a visit from John Muir to the trip to remind folks that dams may not be forever. Price: \$350.



**Trip 422A: Hawaiian Hot Spots:** Kauai, Hawaii. July 22-29, 2000. The second activist outing to Hawaii is the first to the garden isle of Kauai. Explore verdant valleys and mountain canyons, dryland forests and coasts, as you learn about development, endangered species, and pollution threats to the Na Pali Coastline, Waimea Canyon and the surrounding Kokee State Park forest preserve, and the Wailua River Valley. With accommodations in rustic cabins at the Kahili Mountain Park above Poipu, this trip led by Jennifer Taddei and Lucienne de Naie offers a comfortable setting for its unique blend of adventure and advocacy. Price: \$745.



**Trip 103A: Northern California Whitewater and Wilderness,** Klamath River. July 23-29, 2000. River and wildlife protection, wilderness and forest preservation mesh together with this ingeniously designed river rafting trip. Northern California's Wild and Scenic Lower Klamath River in the beautiful Siskiyou Mountains with its varied wildlife, sparkling side creeks, waterfalls, and hidden swimming holes, is the stage. The need to preserve wild salmon habitat, saving the Headwaters Forest, and California's new wilderness campaign are the classic play, and leader Margaret Pennington will help you be star actor. Price: \$745.



**Trip 104A: The Copper River,** Alaska. The majestic Copper River rises in Wrangell-St. Elias, our nation's largest national park, and flows into Prince William Sound near Cordova, in the Chugach National Forest. It provides a magnificent setting for a float trip that also studies the issues surrounding a road building proposal across the fragile Copper River delta. The Copper River delta, a critical staging area for shorebirds and other waterfowl, supports world renowned salmon runs and large

predators. It is the largest wetlands on the Pacific coast of North America. Starting with land-based exploration and a glacier hike at picturesque McCarthy, the raft trip led by Blaine LeCheminant goes from the Kennicott River to the Chitina to the Copper — an unforgettable adventure. Price: \$1995.



**Trip 105A: Montana Wilderness:** how much is enough? August 13-19, 2000. The northern Rockies ecosystem contains some of our most extraordinary yet unprotected lands. Guided by leader Roger Grissette, you'll learn about wilderness proposals for unprotected roadless areas and the need for biological corridors. The Kootenai National Forest and the Flathead National Forest serve as bases for two separate, short backpack ventures, that show both over-exploitation of forest resources and still pristine resources worth fighting for. The famed Yaak River Valley and Swan Valley will be focal high points, connected by a car shuttle. Price: \$395.

**Trip 106A: Book Cliffs Bicycle Odyssey,** Utah. Sept. 2-9, 2000. Leaders Vicky Hoover and Jim Catlin guide this mountain bike trip on remote dirt roads forming the boundaries of proposed wilderness in the remote Book Cliffs of eastern Utah. Abundant wildlife, the vastness, and an austere rugged beauty make the Book Cliffs one of the most important areas included in the 9.1 million-acre Citizen's Wilderness proposal for Utah's Bureau of Land management lands. Join the nationwide campaign for Utah wilderness while enjoying moderate cycling in the East Tavaputs Plateau portion of the Book Cliffs. Lofty plateaus and intricate canyons are the backdrop for our vehicle supported venture. Price: \$425.

continued on page 10...Activist—Outings?



# Landmark Conservation Bill set for house floor action

## Significant Problems Still Linger

by Dana Wolfe,  
Washington, D.C. Sierra Club Office,  
Associate Representative,  
Wilderness, Land Acquisition

Late last year, a key committee of the U.S. House of Representatives approved a massive conservation bill that would fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), a critical tool in efforts to preserve vanishing wildlands throughout the country. However, the Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA) contains some major stumbling blocks. As reported by the House Resources Committee, H.R. 701 creates incentives for oil and gas drilling in sensitive offshore areas, and would provide funding for projects that could damage our coastal environment.

### Paying for the Protection of Our Natural Heritage

The LWCF was created in 1964 to preserve "irreplaceable lands of natural beauty and unique recreational value." The Fund uses revenues from offshore oil and gas leasing to purchase land in and around National Parks, Wildlife Refuges, National Forests and other public lands. The Act also set up a state matching grants program, under which states and local governments can get aid for wildlands preservation, and

for outdoor recreation facilities. Unfortunately, the tremendous promise of the LWCF Act has never been fulfilled. Of the \$900 million promised annually, only a fraction has ever been provided.

A groundswell of public demand for the protection of our natural heritage spawned a host of LWCF revitalization initiatives last year. President Clinton's Lands Legacy Initiative, a funding package announced last winter, got the ball rolling with a proposal to fully and permanently fund the LWCF at its intended level, and to fund several other crucial conservation programs. Congress followed with several bills to do the same.

After much late-night negotiating, a compromise H.R. 701 is headed for a floor vote, with strong support in the House. But the negotiated bill still contains language that threatens sensitive marine and coastal areas, especially in Alaska. The bill allocates so-called "coastal impact assistance" to coastal states and local governments based on their proximity to offshore oil production. This proximity-based formula could be a major incentive for local governments in Alaska and other producing states to accept more leasing and development. To make matters worse, while the bill lays out several good conservation uses for coastal impact aid, it also allows funding to be spent on infrastructure projects that could potentially

harm the environment. In general, H.R. 701 does not distribute conservation dollars equitably, and the bulk of the \$1 billion dollar impact aid program would go to just six coastal states.

### What Sierra Club Members Can Do

Because the bill contains such historic levels of funding for land acquisition and protection and wildlife programs, the Sierra Club is not trying to stop the bill dead in its tracks. Rather, volunteers and staff are working to make changes in the legislation as it moves through the House and Senate. Actions to amend the bill on the House floor are critical if we are to protect our coasts and secure important conservation funding.

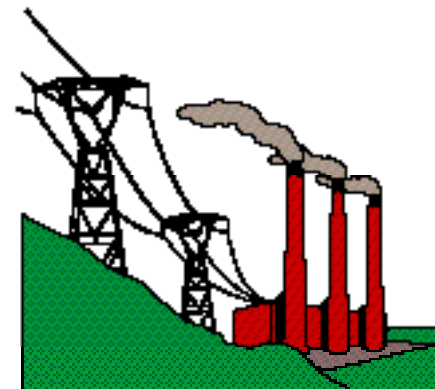
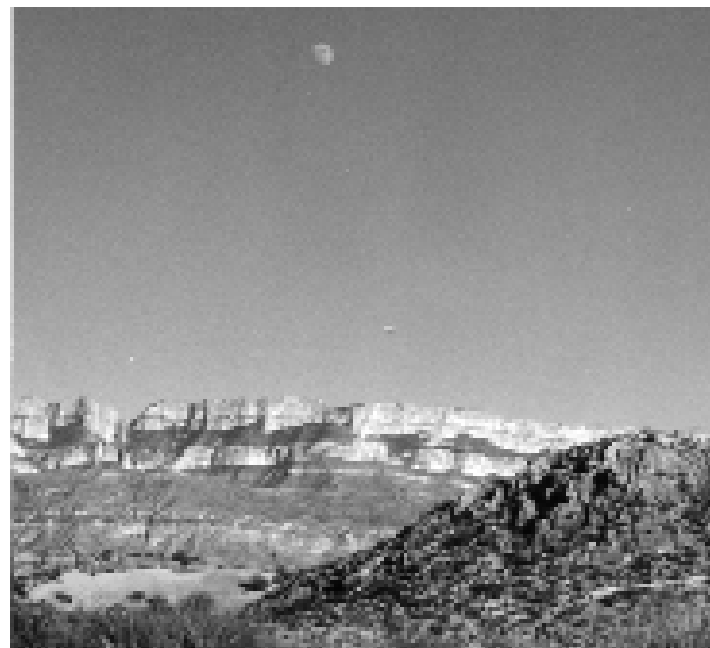
Please contact your member of Congress right away, and urge support for amendments to H.R. 701 to protect our fragile coastal areas. Also urge that they fight efforts on the floor to weaken the LWCF. This legislation presents a momentous opportunity for restoring our coastlines, preserving our wildlands, and protecting valuable wildlife habitat — but we must not sacrifice our fragile coastal environment. To get an up-to-the-minute update on the bill, call or e-mail Dana Wolfe in DC at (202)675-6690 or [dana.wolfe@sierraclub.org](mailto:dana.wolfe@sierraclub.org) —

Activist—Outings?.....continued from page 9

Trip 107A: Blue Skies over Big Bend, Texas. October 29 to Nov. 4, 2000 (New trip just added — not in Outings Issue of Sierra!) National parks are supposed to be protected areas, but it's a knotty problem how to protect a rugged, wild place like Big Bend National Park from encroaching regional haze, caused by sulfurous particulates from power plants, mainly across the Mexican border. During the scenic backpack with leader Rich Schiebel, participants will learn how the Blue Skies Bi-national Network is encouraging Texas governor George Bush and Vice President Al Gore to help control power plant emissions. Big Bend country's famous views from the Chisos Mountains to the volcanic badlands near Mule Ears Peaks are the goal of our moderate trail backpack

with vehicle support and day hikes. Price \$395.

For more information, contact Vicky Hoover, activist outing chair, at (415)977-5527 or [vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org](mailto:vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org). Ask about partial scholarships for applicants for whom cost is a deterrent. Some Chapters may be able to help if you become an official Chapter issue representative. For a trip brochure and application form, or to sign up, call the Sierra Club Outing Department's 24-hour voice mail at (415)977-5522, or visit [www.sierraclub.org/outings](http://www.sierraclub.org/outings). —



# Outings Continued

What do you do when you are a Forest Watcher? Find out at our general meeting. Missouri Botanical Garden, 7:30 p.m. Presentation by Hank and Katie Dorst.

**Apr. 29 (Sat) Walk-a-thon at the Arboretum.** Enjoy springtime's natural attractions on a variety of scenic trails. Approx. 5 miles. See newsletter article for specifics. John Patrick (314)533-1138.



**Apr. 29-30 (Sat-Sun) Day hike in the canyon country of Southern Illinois.** Our route through spectacular Jackson Hollow will follow the base of imposing, sixty-foot high sandstone cliffs, wind through building size boulders and past hundred-year old beech trees. We will depart on Saturday afternoon, camp in a Shawnee Forest campground that night and day hike on Sunday. Hiking boots will be required because of the rugged terrain. Terry Allen (618)398-1087 or Steve Viggers (314)984-8752.

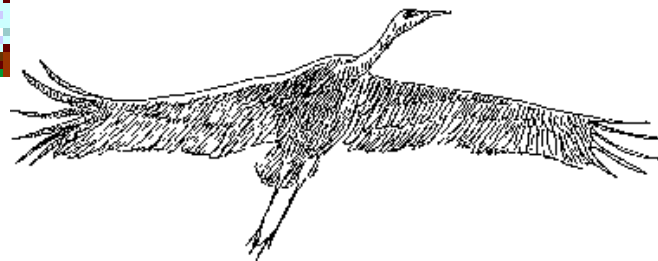
## Thomas Hart Benton Group

**Mar. 3-5 (Fri-Sun) Caney Creek Wilderness, Mena, AR.** Our first visit to Caney Creek (featured in May '99 Backpacker) promises the best Ouachita National Forest has to offer. Bob Wilshire (913)384-6645.

**Mar. 10 (Fri) Gastronomic Outing.** Join us at the Elbow Room, 7820 Quivira in Lenexa. Gale Burrus by March 5 (816)763-5120.

**Mar. 11 (Sat) Perry Lake, KS Trail Maintenance.** This will be our first Perry Lake Trail maintenance trip of the 2000's. Bring water, lunch, bow saw, and/or loppers. Steve Hassler (913)599-6028.

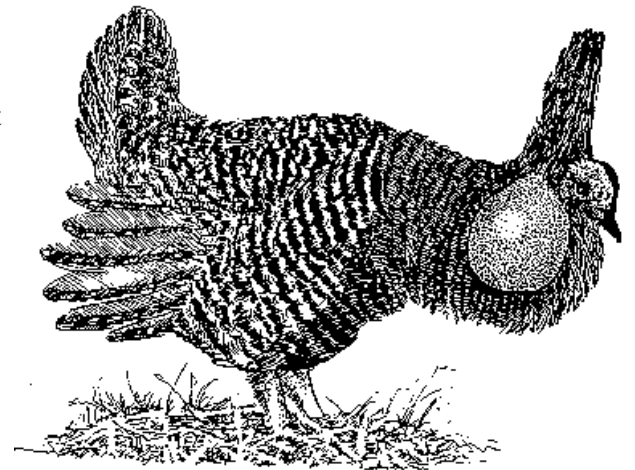
**Mar. 18 (Sat) Quivira National Wildlife Refuge, Great Bend, KS.** This refuge in south-central Kansas is one of the best places for birding and wildlife viewing. Melissa Blakley (816)741-8200.



**Mar. 25-26 (Sat-Sun) Hemmed-In Hollow, Ponca, AR.** We return to an old favorite for early spring back-packing among dogwoods in bloom and scenic bluffs. Bryan Ohrman (816)252-7664.

**Mar. 30 (Thur, 7 p.m.) Outings planning meeting for summer/fall 2000.** Help us plan our summer and fall outings. Contact an outings chair for additional information.

**April 1-2 (Sat-Sun) Konza Prairie, Manhattan, KS.** For the first time in several years, we're going back to see the prairie chickens during mating season. Scott Hooper (913)722-3882.



**April 8-9 (Sat-Sun) Prairie State Park, Lamar, MO.** Beginning backpack to one of the few remnants of prairie left in Missouri. Limit: 10. Bob & Doris Sherrick (816)779-6708.

**Apr. 15 (Sat) "Touristy Frou-Frou" Transit Hike.** Once again, we hike down the proposed KCMO transit corridor. Ron McLinden (816)545-5223.

**Apr. 21 (Fri) Gastronomic Outing.** Come dine at Eden Alley on the Country Club Plaza. Gale Burrus by April 16 (816)763-5120.

**Apr. 29-30 (Sat-Sun) Backpacking, Buffalo River, AR.** A ten-mile backpacking trip along the Upper Buffalo River Trail in scenic northern Arkansas — spring hiking at its finest. Jeff Pierce (913)599-3966.

**May 1 (Mon) Sierra Night at Kaufmann Stadium.** Watch the Royals battle the Oakland Athletics. Dan & Donna Clark Fuller (816)779-7284.

## Make A Difference

We send out an appeal in March to each of our members, asking for contributions directly to the Ozark Chapter. You will not receive any contributions requests from national Sierra Club in this time period, as we want you to concentrate on your local Chapter.

These contributions really do make a difference to us, and are an important part of our Chapter's budget. When you make a donation to the Ozark Chapter, you support the Sierra Club's work in your own backyard. You allow us to continue our work to protect wilderness and wildlife, to improve the quality of life in our cities, and to promote the enjoyment of nature.

Please be as generous as you are able — remember, these funds directly affect your way of life in your neighborhood.

## Thank You

# OZARK CHAPTER SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS

## Eastern Missouri Group

**Mar. 1 (Wed) Beginner backpackers' planning meeting at the club office at 7:30 p.m.** You need not own any equipment. We will show and discuss equipment and tell you where you can borrow, rent, or buy equipment.

**Mar. 4 (Sat) Get your kicks at Route 66 State Park.** This will be a 7 mile day hike on mostly level terrain at a new state park. We will see the visitor's center with the Route 66 memorabilia. Hike will be of moderate difficulty and it could be cold. Jim Rhodes (314)821-7758.

**Mar. 5 (Sun) Hike Weldon Spring, KATY Trail, and forgotten paths.** Approx. 7 miles of easy walking. Wayne Miller (314)569-0094.

**Mar. 11 (Sat) Highway cleanup.** It's time to free the roadside of refuse so the fledgling fiddlehead ferns can find the flame of old sol. Diane DuBois (314)721-0594.

**Mar. 11 (Sat) Stream Team cleanup at St. Louis City's O'Fallon Park Lake.** Cosponsored by Metropolis St. Louis, Sierra Club and Stream Team, 9 a.m. – noon. We'll provide the gloves and trash bags, you bring water to drink and lunch money. We will continue to work on removing illegally dumped trash from the lake and wooded area at the park. After the work, we'll adjourn to Crown Candy Kitchen, a St. Louis landmark, to enjoy a tasty lunch, homemade shakes, or ice cream. Rose Schulte (314)890-0795, or Claralyn Price-Bollinger (314)773-5748, or e-mail(claralyn@hotmail.com).

**Mar. 11–12 (Sat–Sun) Glade restoration at Meramec State Park.** Removal of Eastern red cedar will allow the return of many native grasses and wildflowers which attract birds, butterflies, and other wildlife that are adapted to glade and savanna. Come one day or both. Penny Holtzmann (314)487-2738.

**Mar. 11–12 (Sat–Sun) Beginners' backpack trip.** A two day overnight trip with instructions on equipment, wilderness travel, safety, etc. A planning meeting will be held Wed., Mar. 1 at the club office. Bob Gestel (636)296-8975 or Paul Stupperich (314)429-4352.

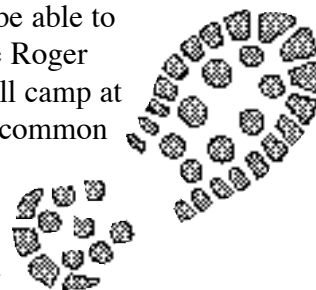
**Mar. 18–19 (Sat–Sun) White water races on the St. Francis River.** The Sierra Club provides judges for the slalom races through the rapids of Mill Stream Gardens. We need volunteers for one day or both. Free camping nearby at Silver Mines. This is a fun weekend and your chance to see some of the best kayakers and canoeists in the area negotiate slalom gates on white water. Alternate weekend in case of poor river conditions is March 25–26. Jim Nyberg (314)725-0767.



**Mar. 19 (Sun) We will hike a different part of Taum Sauk S.P.** This is an 8–10 mile hike with waterfalls, glades, and many other things. This is a real hiker's hike. Paul Stupperich (314)429-4352.

**Mar. 24 (Fri) Let's look for early spring bloomers or peepers. 5–6 mile hike about one hour from St. Louis.** Optional barbecue stop afterwards. Suzanne Smith (618)281-4762 (after 6:30 p.m., weekdays only).

**Mar. 25–26 (Sat–Sun) Trail maintenance of the Blair Creek section of the Ozark Trail.** Or we may be able to begin work on the Roger Pryor Trail. We will camp at Himont and have common commissary on Saturday night. Bob Gestel (636)296-8975 or Paul Stupperich (314)429-4352.



*Be sure to check your GROUP newsletter for more or current out - ings!*

**Mar. 25–26 (Sat–Sun) Intermediate back pack at Washington S.P.** For those who want a little more challenge than a beginner's trip but are not yet ready for the trail humpers or Mr. Extreme. We'll hike approximately 10 miles in two days and camp on a glade where Sierrans have been helping with restoration work. Kathy Wodell (636)240-0675.

**Apr. 1 (Sat) Day hike.** A new twist to an old trail? From Jack's living room you'll visit the locally famous boy scout rock pile and monument. Then hike to the highest point in Missouri on a route that takes you past a couple of thong trees. We'll top this off with a hike to the highest waterfalls in the state. 5 miles, moderate. Bring an ingredient for a community pot of goulash back at Jack's. Limit 10. Jack Longacre (573)546-5255.

**Apr. 2 (Sun) Glades and savannas will greet us on this hike.** With springs, great views, and interesting rock outcroppings. Paul Stupperich (314)429-4352.

**Apr. 8 (Sat) Day hike at Washington S.P.** If you like wildflowers, you've got to see the Blue-eyed Mary along the Thousand Steps Trail. This will be approx. 5–6 miles at an easy pace. The date could be later depending on bloom time. Kathy Wodell (636)240-0675.

**Apr. 8 (Sat) Virginia Bluebell hike at Shaw Arboretum.** Woodland wildflowers should be plentiful. Helen McCallie (636)742-4380 (h) or (636)451-3512 (w–toll free).

**Apr. 8–9 (Sat–Sun) Glade restoration.** Last chance this season to join this human community repairing a biotic community at Washington State Park. Penny Holtzmann (314)487-2738.

**Apr. 14 (Fri) 5–7 mile day hike at Rockwood Reservation to look for spring flowers.** Optional late lunch in Eureka. Suzanne Smith (618)281-4762 (after 6:30 p.m., weekdays only).

**Apr. 15–16 (Sat–Sun) Trail maintenance in the Pioneer Forest.** We will be camping near our cars but there are no facilities. Common commissary Saturday night. Menu suggestions welcome. Bob Gestel (636)296-8975 or Paul Stupperich (314)429-4352.

**Apr. 22 (Sat) Half day hike at Weldon Spring in search of white trillium.** Last year the trillium and many other flowers were wonderful. 5–8 mile hike depending on the wishes of the group. Kathy Wodell (636)240-0675.

**Apr. 27 (Thu) Forest Watchers presentation.** What is a Forest Watcher? How do you become one? Is this a secret Druid group?

