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# Hawaii's Hottest Issue: Update on Geothermal Development

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# Tribal Lore. . .

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potentially momentous decision expanding state sovereignty over interior waterways including those in national conservation units. Although a number of court cases establish federal management authority over waters on federal lands, it is unclear if and how these cases will be applied in Alaska. Placer mining already occurs along Wild and Scenic Rivers, including the Fortymile and Birch and Beaver Creeks, and the new ruling could open national conservation units to hovercraft, airboats, and other non-traditional uses.

Other legislative disappointments were the defeat of measures to protect Marmot Island, which has the world's second largest Steller Sea Lion rookery, to ban bear baiting, and to create a huge remote recreational area in the Susitna Valley north of Anchorage. While the Legislature passed five bills strengthening oil spill laws, it failed to pass a key enforcement bill.

—Dave McCargo

## Los Angeles EF! Enjoys a Redwood Summer

It was Redwood Summer in Los Angeles! The first of two planned Redwood Summer protests in Los Angeles, on April 21, was the largest protest L.A. EF! had ever organized, with 100-150 demonstrators participating. It was held at the Pacific Lumber/Maxxam offices, a few blocks from the Westwood Federal Building, scene of a recent protest of FBI tactics used against EF!ers. This is also the location of L.A.'s first highrises, representing the assault by developers on the mountain oak and chaparral surrounding and separating the seaside desert valleys.

Many of the demonstrators wore spotted owl and coyote masks, some played ceremonial drums, and guitarists sang EF! songs in a protest that was at once a small monument to the environmentally oriented peace movement and the beat generation of the 50s and 60s. Three women and two men chained themselves to a door at the front of the building, closing one entry way. One of the locked protesters sat half-naked, covered copiously in maple syrup representing sap, the blood of the trees.

The police were hardly to be seen. It was clear they preferred not to arrest us. Left behind after the protest were the images of three logos on many banners: Earth First!'s shining fist, the Wobbly globe and stars, and Seeds of Peace's budding fruiting symbol. Wilderness, Peace, the Rights of Labor to what it creates; it was another festive cry for Life before the corporate tombs.

—Peter Bralver

## Bush Opposes Plan to Strengthen EPA

An opportunity to create the 15th cabinet-level department of the US government is at hand. The Senate is now considering elevating the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to the status of the Department of Environmental Protection, and may vote to do so in October. Elevation of the EPA to cabinet-level status would facilitate the coordination of federal natural resource and environmental policies.

Senator John Glenn (D-OH), Chair of the US Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, met with President Bush in June of 1989 to discuss the proposal. S. 2006 was introduced into the US Senate with President Bush's support in January. A companion bill, H.R. 3847, authored by Michigan Representative John Conyers, was passed in the House in March by a margin of 371 to 55. The Senate Governmental Affairs Committee held hearings in February to discuss S. 2006. Present were several House and Senate legislators as well as key department executives and representatives of several environmental organizations. The Sierra Club was represented by Club Chairman Michael McCloskey.

In 1970, President Nixon, in response to Earth Day, proposed the creation of the EPA. Since then, the parameters of the EPA have been greatly expanded. In June of this year, the Government Accounting Office determined that the EPA accounts for 2% of the GNP, or \$86 billion. Despite the EPA's growing responsibilities, during the Reagan administration, funding for EPA programs steadily eroded. President Bush, however, suggested early on that if the Act passed into law he would appoint the extremely able William Reilly, current EPA Administrator, to the elevated position of Secretary of Environmental Protection.

Cabinet status would strengthen the EPA's effectiveness and enable the US to execute national and international environmental policy from a much stronger position.

In this modern era, environmental protection often involves global initiatives that require delicate negotiations with foreign nations.

The US is recognized internationally as a leader in environmental issues, yet we continue to present ourselves with sub-ministerial level officials for high-level political negotiations. Most European nations, Canada, Mexico, Japan, New Zealand and Australia have ministries of environmental protection. The Department of Environmental Protection would be charged with developing and enforcing environmental policies, domestically and internationally.

The DEP would develop a corps of professional employees while minimizing the importance of political qualifications for appointment. Regional Administrators would be appointed on the basis of experience, not political persuasion. The National Enforcement Training Institute would be created to train attorneys as well as criminal and civil investigators to focus on environmental law-breakers. An office of pollution prevention and recycling, and an office of environmental statistics would give the public greater access to environmental information.

Advisory bodies would consist of representatives from environmental, consumer, health, industry, and state and local government. The DEP would require that all federal facilities adhere to the Resource Recovery and Conservation Act which outlines the treatment, storage and disposal of all hazardous and solid waste.

S. 2006 represents some of the finest legislation to come out of Congress. Recently, however, President Bush reversed himself because he feels that a cabinet-level Department of Environmental Protection would be too powerful and might usurp the jurisdictional authority of other departments. He has threatened to veto the bill.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Write to both your state's US senators and ask them to co-sponsor and support S. 2006, "The Department of the Environment Act of 1990." Tell them that the US must have a cabinet-level Department of Environmental Protection to effectively negotiate international environmental policy with foreign governments. Also, write to President Bush and tell him that elevation of the EPA is long overdue.

\*senators, US Senate, Washington, DC 20510

\*President George Bush, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, DC 20500

## Citizens Have Tool to Fight Toxics

Did you know that by federal law anyone can get an inventory of federally defined toxic chemicals and hazardous substances from any chemical processing or storage facility? These facilities are public or private companies that mix, store, ship, or repackage chemicals considered a threat to human health.

Signed into federal law in October 1987, the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act provides for the establishment of a state agency and a local agency, acronymically known as the LEPC and SERC. The SERCs, or State Emergency Response Commissions, have already been established in all fifty states by gubernatorial appointments. Each state SERC has divided its area into local districts or LEPCs, Local Emergency Planning Committees. A concerned individual makes her request (demand) for a company's chemical inventory list to the LEPC in whose district the targeted facility resides. The LEPCs are responsible for collecting the appropriate data. Also provided within this act are stiff penalties for companies that do not comply, and accommodations to file lawsuits against companies and government agencies to force them to comply. A list of a state's LEPCs are available from the state's SERC. The governor's office can provide the contact for the SERC.

The Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act is the short title of Title III of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA, Title III), public law 99-499, 99th Congress. This law was designed to disseminate information about chemical hazards within communities, and thereby to preclude such chemical disasters as the one in Bhopal, India in 1984, where a cloud of methyl isocyanate gas escaped from a Union Carbide plant and killed 2500 people. A similar but not as serious chemical release happened in West Virginia shortly thereafter.

The supporters of this law are well intended, but there is a bottleneck: perhaps one more environmental sneer bequeathed by the Reagan Administration, that is, providing no funds for its implementation. Deadlines for the law's realization are past.

The LEPCs should become more efficient as concerned citizens make increasing demands on them for chemical inventory lists. More funds will be allocated as interest

grows.

For more information about this law, contact your state's EPA office and ask for the guide book, *Chemicals In Your Community, A Guide to the Emergency Planning And Community Right-To-Know Act*.

—Davidmark Burton

## Glacier National Park Yellowstonewalls

*ed. note: The following is adapted from the 6-90 Glacier Park Eco-Watch, the newsletter of Protect Park Resources (POB 422, Hungry Horse, MT 59919), a coalition dedicated to promoting compliance with preservation law.*

Superintendent Gil Lusk of Montana's Glacier National Park has been trying to change the management direction of Glacier Park since his arrival from Texas in 1986. In 1987 he perpetrated a new management document called "Future Focus." No public review was involved and secret seminars were held where park planners arbitrarily decided a "new direction" for the Park.

Last year, Lusk's attempt to rewrite the Park's Master Plan was stopped. The Master Plan emphasizes preservation, minimum new development, and close monitoring of visitor use impacts (a legal requirement the Park has ignored). Lusk and his chief planner (Army Corps background) have persisted with unnecessary development proposals since 1986.



Hawai'ians gather in Wao Kele O Puna to protest the destruction of this rainforest for geothermal development.

## HAWAII'S HOTTEST ISSUE

### Update on Geothermal Development

Walking through Hawai'i's Wao Kele O Puna rainforest, you can hear the coarse volcanic soil crunch underfoot. A surrealistic calm lingers in the thick air while songbirds call out from the understorey. Yet this is a forest under siege.

Geothermal developers want to tap the volcanic heat beneath the Wao Kele O Puna forest and use it to make electricity and profits. The electricity would be exported from the Big Island of Hawai'i to the island of O'ahu via an extensive overland and underwater cable system. The project would destroy a unique rainforest ecosystem (see May and August issues). Over 90% of Hawai'i's lowland rainforest has been destroyed already. The Wao Kele O Puna forest is part of the largest remaining expanse of tropical lowland rainforest in the United States, and is classified as a World Heritage Site.

The Big Island has some of the youngest land on the planet; 75% of the region's soil is less than 500 years old. It also has some of the planet's most fragile land. The Hawaiian islands have the highest percentage of endemic plant and animal species in the world, and the highest extinction rate. Indeed, 72% of all American extinct species were in Hawai'i. Habitat destruction and the introduction of exotic organisms are the main causes of extinction here.

Under the guise of "alternative energy," destruction is now being sanctioned and subsidized by the state and federal governments. Research has already cost \$13 million in state taxes, and the federal government has provided over \$27 million in grants. Yet, despite this investment, and despite the involvement of numerous federal agencies in the destruction, there has not yet been a federal environmental impact statement (EIS) for the project.

On May 17, the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund (SCLDF) filed suit in US District Court on behalf of the Sierra Club, Greenpeace Hawaii, and Blue Ocean Preservation Society. The lawsuit states that the federal agencies are in violation of the National

Instead of implementing the Master Plan, the international "Crown Plan" scheme was developed to promote greater visitation and marketability along with a new, \$10 million visitor center. A new bureaucratic position was created at Glacier to promote the Crown Plan while seasonals were laid off. This ex-state bureaucrat also recently authored an EIS giving oil/gas industry a 2-year "window of opportunity," an exemption from Montana environmental laws. Now this "ecosystem manager" is writing favorable comments from Glacier on federal oil/gas projects in the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem (including in Badger Two-Medicine roadless area). The Crown Plan has been circulated in violation of preservation laws for the last 6 months. Again, there was no public involvement process except political forums where proponents attempted to "sell" the concept.

Now Park administration is unnecessarily attempting to revise the entire Resource Management Plan (RMP) by improperly integrating "narrative" from Future Focus and the Crown Plan. This planning effort is in conflict with NPS planning guidelines for the RMP.

**WHAT TO DO:** Write in opposition to Lusk's complete RMP revision. Support Glacier Park's Master Plan direction. Oppose new developments in the Park. Write Superintendent Lusk, Glacier NP, MT 59936.

Photo by Paul Fauschich





ment until the PUC study is completed. By then it should be clear that geothermal development has no place in Hawaii's energy future.

Some of Hawaii's most spectacular and rare plant and animal species depend upon this rainforest, including the 'Io (Hawaiian Hawk), Happy Face Spider, Hawaiian Bat, and carnivorous caterpillars. The O'u, one of Hawaii's rarest honeycreepers, was last sighted in the Wao Kele O Puna forest. As a result of a recent SCLDF lawsuit, 186 new plants will eventually be added to the Endangered Species list. This is a major victory, as only 19 Hawaiian plants are currently listed. The lawsuit charged that delays in proposing plants for listing — a problem blamed on minimal staffing and massive red tape — violated the Endangered Species Act. The Fish & Wildlife Service has announced plans to add at least 50 species in Hawaii to its list by October, and the remaining 136 within the following two years. The developers will try to speed the destruction of the Wao Kele O Puna forest so as to avoid any "inconvenience" caused by Endangered Species.

Meanwhile, the protests continue. Two anti-geothermal resolutions were recently adopted by international gatherings of environmentalists — one by the World Rainforest Movement meeting in Malaysia, and another by the Wilderness Is the Last Dream (WILD) conference in Honolulu. It has been a year now since the three-mile road into Wao Kele O Puna was bulldozed. So far, we have kept additional exploration to a minimum. Currently, an archaeological survey has stopped exploration while it investigates possible Native Hawaiian burials in the forest.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Senator Inouye (D-HI) requested an additional \$15 million in federal funds from the Senate Appropriations Committee. Because of the hard work of many people, this has since been reduced to \$2 million by the Subcommittee on Energy and Water. A Senate floor vote on this \$2 million request is likely soon. Please write to your senators and ask them to vote down all requests for funding of this geothermal project.

—Paul Faulstich, HI EF!

## More News From Hawai'i

On June 9 two neighbors of Puna Geothermal (Ormat) showed their frustration: A Hawaiian brother, with bare hands and feet, damaged an air monitoring and equipment station. When the police came to arrest the Hawaiian, his companion told the police to leave her property, at which point she was forced to defend her rights with force.

Their frustration was justified. In the months since the air monitoring station was placed next to Aurora Martinovich's property, Ormat has posted 24 hour guards, some of whom have threatened her, and a halogen light has been pointing in her bedroom window. All this psychic harassment has worn down Aurora, a tireless geothermal opponent. Her boyfriend Keala Kaipou, tired of the genocide of his culture, people and land reacted in a most natural way. Yet these two fine people may suffer undeserved loss of freedom for their actions.

Last February (as reported previously in the Journal) I was arrested for hanging an 80 foot banner on the 167 foot True Geothermal drilling rig. I was released on my own recognizance. At my trial on June 4, the judge found me guilty of Criminal Tampering because I "seriously inconvenienced the 5 member drill crew." (Due to high winds it took me 3 hours to tie down the banner.) Although this event was pictured in an August 13 *Time Magazine* article, the local Hawaii media responded with a complete blackout, never mentioning the event or trial.

On August 21 Pele Defense Fund and Big Island Rainforest Action Group sponsored a demonstration at the Kona Surf resort, targeting the International Geothermal Symposium, a gathering of scientists and industry representatives. We started the day with signs and songs along the sand. By noon a flotilla was launched. Fifty people floated, swam, and sailed in front of the hotel. Chanting "No geothermal in Hawaii"

and "Love the Land," they targeted a lunch-eon being held next to the water.

Next we went to our Hospitality Suite in the hotel, which we had rented so that we could invite symposium participants to talk with us. The Kona Surf gave us a half-price rate on the suite, which turned out to be well worth the \$200 spent! Many of our objections to geothermal in Hawaii were validated by the international experts, such as the impression that the resource is simply not there and state plans for 500 MW are pure science fiction. Also, we learned that these people are very unhappy with True and Ormat for making the geothermal industry look bad with all the controversy in Hawaii. Both the state and the developers have handled the situation with intolerable unprofessionalism.

As people were talking with us we received a phone call saying one of our people had died. Veteran environmental activist Dexter Cate had gone back into the water with his son after the flotilla was over. While free-diving, he blacked out on his way back to the surface, apparently suffering what is called shallow-water black-out. In a training exercise, he had dived first to 40 feet, then to 60 feet, and on his third attempt was trying for 100 feet. His son, sitting in a kayak, saw his father come up to within a couple of feet of the surface then start to sink back down.

He was retrieved from 90 feet under by the Coast Guard and pronounced dead an hour later at the hospital. We were shaken by the news but continued as best we could.

Dexter had been a superb eco-warrior for the past 20 years. He created and led the organization "Save the Whales-Hawaii," later renamed "Earthtrust." A founder of the global Greenpeace movement, and Vice President of Greenpeace Hawaii, Dexter was a deep ecologist before the name came into being, fighting for the rights of all species. In 1980 Dexter spent 80 days in jail in Japan for freeing 300 dolphins about to be fed into a grinding machine to make fertilizer. Dolphins were special to Dexter. He considered them the "people of the sea." To end the pointless killing and move toward a world where humans and dolphins could coexist in peace was perhaps his fondest dream. It was in furtherance of this dream that he began his training program to meet dolphins on their terms. And in this effort he met his final fate. But in his death we all gain strength, and his spirit and the fruit of his actions benefit all.

That same evening another brother on the other side of the island climbed up the 150 foot smoke stack at the HELCO (Hawaii Electric Light Co.) power station in Hilo and hung a banner that read "Malama Ka Aina - No Geo" which means love the land. When

he came down the police held him while a group of HELCO workers pummeled him. This was Tom Brennon's fifth arrest for geothermal protesting.

Most of the charges against the 141 protesters arrested on March 23, at the huge rally against the geothermal project threatening Wao Kele O Puna, were dropped to simple trespass.

—Tom Carney

## Wilderness Clearcutting in East Texas

In early May, the US Forest Service began clearcutting and pesticide spraying in the Little Lake Creek Wilderness Area of East Texas, claiming that a pine bark beetle infestation would destroy the habitat of the Red Cockaded Woodpecker, an Endangered Species. Pesticide spraying is not a permitted use of a Wilderness Area, and the cutting is probably a violation of the Wilderness Act and the Endangered species Act. Already, at least one woodpecker colony tree has been cut. To top it all off, the FS is selling the cut trees at pennies on the dollar to local timber interests. Lawsuits against the FS have been filed, but the cutting hasn't stopped. WE NEED HELP! Send suggestions and donations to EFI, POB 1214, College Station, TX 77841.

# Sea Shepherd Sabotaged!

On 15 June 1990 the *Sea Shepherd II* was ready for departure from the port of Seattle. The drift net fleets of the North Pacific were within a few days reach.

The big eight cylinder Mirlees diesel was started. As she revved, one of the engine room crew noticed a small noise in the turbo-charger. He brought it to the attention of the chief engineer. The chief ignored the warning and revved up the engine higher.

When engineer Jim Heddenshaw recognized the unmistakable sound of an object impacting the blades of the turbo-charger, he ran to the control panel and began to shut down the engine. Chief engineer Graham Forbes intervened and ordered Heddenshaw out of the engine room.

Forbes continued to increase the power to the main engine. The noise in the turbo-charger grew louder.

By the time Heddenshaw was able to notify Captain Watson of his concerns, the noise had stopped. In the engine room, Forbes turned and calmly said, "Well, it looks like we're not going anywhere for awhile."

We had been sabotaged. An object had been placed into the manifold intake of the turbo-charger. Revolving at over 16,000 RPM the 74 precision blades of the turbo-charger had been mangled beyond repair.

We located a loose inspection port in the manifold through which another object could have been placed. The saboteur had struck at the most expensive, complicated and precise piece of equipment on board.

As an organization that physically attacks the ships of illegal whalers, sealers and dolphin slayers, it is not fitting for us to whine about a similar attack on us by our enemies. This is not the first sabotage against us and it will not be the last. We have a host of enemies among those who ruthlessly exploit the oceans. We must be prepared to accept retaliation and carry on.

Within hours, the dedicated volunteers



Engineer Reynel Chaves inspects damage to the fan blades of the turbocharger on "Sea Shepherd II". Other parts suffered extreme heat damage.

of the engine room crew had dismantled and hoisted the 1/2 ton turbo charger, then scoured the engine room for further acts of sabotage. We found foreign objects in the diesel generators, a nut strategically placed so as to shatter the camshaft, and wires reversed on some of the electric motors.

We found ground glass in the engine oil and found that the filters in line to catch this contaminant were loosened so as to allow the oil to pass through to the engine unfiltered. Had this happened it would have severely damaged the engine.

Although we have some evidence who the saboteur could be, we will continue to gather evidence before we file formal charges.

Initially we thought we would be delayed two weeks until we could repair or replace the turbo-charger, but our enemies had done their homework. The turbo-charger was written off as beyond repair. The

model in question for our 30 year old ship is no longer manufactured and an alternative is available at a cost we can afford only with your help. It will cost more than \$40,000 to repair the damage.

What has not destroyed us only makes us stronger. We must repair the damage, acknowledge the set-back and continue. As we pick up the wrenches, we ask you to write us a check. Your navy has been struck a blow by the enemy. We need your help to recover and to strike back harder. It is not just the drift nets that we must stop. We need to counter the escalation in whaling by Japan, Iceland and Norway. We need to fight the return of sealing in Canada and the attempts to develop new sealing industries in South Africa and Chile. We need to stop the senseless killing of Pilot Whales in the Danish Faeroe Islands.

—Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, Box 7000-S, Redondo Beach, CA 90277

# Environmentalism and the Mideast

by Mark Gaffney

The environmental movement ignores the Middle East at its own peril. Given the consuming US addiction to that region's principal resource, oil, and the limited supply of this drug, environmentalists should long ago have seen the connection between environmentalism and the Middle East.

The connection ought to have been apparent by 1973 with the Arab oil embargo (and one could well argue that oil spills push the date back much earlier). The embargo was engineered by Saudi Arabia's King Faisal in support of Anwar Sadat's war to regain Sinai; and it led to the White House decision to open Alaska's Prudhoe Bay oil field in the name of "energy independence." The White House logic at the time was false, of course, since it was proposing not a true expansion of energy resources, but rather an even more accelerated drawdown of a particular liquid fuel for which no adequate substitute had been found. (See *Overshoot*, by William Catton.) These events showed that Middle East issues are environmental issues, yet neither Washington officials nor environmentalists learned the lessons.

Iraq's recent invasion of Kuwait has pushed the matter into our faces again. At a minimum, Iraqi aggression will complicate environmental battles here. Within months President Bush can be counted on to raise anew the issues of drilling off-shore and in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. A range of other threats are just as likely. In fact, in a climate of hysteria the invasion could even hurt efforts unrelated to oil, such as the campaign to save Oregon's Klamath River from hydro-electric development. With enough hysteria, the fact that electric generation hardly displaces demand for oil could well be ignored.

What all this means is that we environmentalists must work harder. While committing ourselves to a truly global view, and working on local issues, we must also find time to study the Middle East in depth. We need to understand the crucial role that United States foreign policy has played for many years in exacerbating tensions throughout the region, as elsewhere.

Bankrupt though it is, US policy does not excuse Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait — an execrable act that should be condemned unconditionally on all sides.

Understanding US policy does help explain events, however. How many EFlers know, for instance, that in April of this year five Arab states, including Syria and Iraq, proposed a comprehensive ban on chemical and nuclear weapons for the Middle East? It was an important proposal. Indeed, how often do five Arab states agree on anything? Yet a week later the US brusquely rejected the offer. Here's a quote from State Department spokesperson Richard Boucher: "We have made clear that we opposed linking the elimination of chemical weapons systems to other issues or weapons systems."

Aside from the obvious idiocy of rejecting such an offer — an arms ban is desperately needed for the world's most volatile region — the curious wording of the US rejection bears closer scrutiny. Boucher's statement did not even mention the word "nuclear", a conspicuous omission pointing to the hypocrisy of the US position. Boucher was really saying, between the lines, that the US would continue to back a nuclearized Israel, while refusing to acknowledge that the Israeli arsenal exists. Other recent statements by US diplomats lend support to this

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