

Scientific Panel Backs Individual Fishing Quotas

In a move that will help America's troubled fishing industry, a National Academy of Sciences panel has endorsed the idea of individual ("per fisherman") fishing quotas to limit the catch of vulnerable species. The panel urged Congress to lift a moratorium on the use of such quotas, which it had passed in 1996 amid questions about their potential social and economic effects. The panel backed several approaches, strongly endorsed by EDF, to insure that fishing quota plans are equitable and fair.

With individual fishing quotas, the annual "total allowable catch" is divided up into shares and allocated to individual fishermen, who may buy or sell quotas to adjust their fishing or to enter or leave a fishery. The value of their exclusive share increases as fish stocks are rebuilt, giving fishermen a direct economic stake in the long-term sustainability of a fishery.

By contrast, traditional methods of limiting catch—such as shortening the fishing



Natalie B. Fobes

Shortening fishing seasons to reduce catch can lead to highly competitive, unsafe fishing "derbies" with too many boats fishing long hours to maximize their catch.

season—are often counterproductive and even dangerous. Fishermen buy bigger boats, use more gear, and fish longer hours in frenzied fishing "derbies," striving to catch the most fish before the season

expires. In the wild race for fish, non-target species are killed and gear is lost that continues to snag and kill fish long afterwards in so-called "ghost fishing."

Introducing quotas in fisheries that have become frenzied derbies allows fishermen to spread their fishing over a longer season, matching vessel size and gear to their quotas. Slowing the pace of fishing enables fishermen to fish more safely and can prevent the destruction of ocean habitat and reduce the high rates of wasteful killing of unwanted species that typically occur when there is no time to change gear or handle it more carefully or to move to areas with fewer unwanted species.

"EDF joins the Academy in calling on Congress to lift the moratorium on individual fishing quotas," said Douglas Hopkins, who heads EDF's Oceans program. "Fishery management councils urgently need this new tool to solve the problems of overfish-

Continued on page 8.

Climate Change Issue Advances in Washington

Efforts to address the threat of global warming are moving ahead in both the Administration and Congress. President Clinton's budget for the year 2000 proposes a \$4 billion package of climate change investments and tax breaks. In the Senate, bipartisan legislation that would give credit to businesses that take early action to cut greenhouse gas emissions has been introduced (S547). EDF is supporting these efforts and is working with the sponsors to craft improvements to the bill.

The President's budget includes \$200 million for a "clean air partnership fund" to help states and localities reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants from automobiles and coal-fired power plants. It provides \$1.4 billion for research and devel-



Andrew Revkin

Children cool off in a fountain in New York City, where about 13 days a year are above 90°. By the year 2100, 32 days a year could be that hot.

opment of energy-efficient technologies and renewable energy programs, and another \$1.4 billion in tax incentives to spur the introduction of clean-energy technologies that will reduce U.S. reliance on fossil fuels.

The Senate bill was introduced last year by Senators John Chafee (R-RI), Joe Lieberman (D-CT), and Connie Mack (R-FL), with additional co-sponsors this year. It provides credit for companies that take early steps to reduce their domestic emissions of greenhouse gases, prior to the introduction of any mandatory U.S. greenhouse-gas reduction requirements. These credits could be saved for use in meeting future emissions-reduction requirements or sold to other companies that might

Continued on page 5.

Inside

3 Dell Partnership Seeks Greener Computing

As computers grow faster and more powerful, the EDF-Pew Alliance and Dell Computers will explore ways to minimize the environmental impact.

4 New Perils for Beleaguered Wildlife

Wholesale slaughter of wildlife has given way to even greater threats from habitat destruction, alien species, and pollution.

6 Looking to the Future

David Yargas is a passionate advocate for a better future.

NJ Residents Soon Can Choose Cleaner Electricity

New Jersey residents will soon have the power to choose cleaner electric companies. Governor Whitman has signed the state legislature's energy-restructuring bill, which also strengthens the state's commitment to energy efficiency and renewable energy. Pub-



Fredrica Georgia/Picturesque

Cogeneration—reusing energy generated in industry—is a clean renewable electricity source.

lic interest and environmental groups, including EDF, worked diligently to strengthen the bill's environmental provisions.

The groups' lobbying efforts paid off, including faxes sent by EDF members in New Jersey in response to an Action Alert. The new measures, which will allow customer choice by August 1, 1999, require electric power suppliers to disclose their emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases and their fuel mix. This itemization will allow consumers to monitor which companies use cleaner technologies. The bill also provides funding for eight years for energy efficiency and renewable energy programs, such as solar and wind power.

"The challenge is to change the marketplace," said EDF energy policy analyst Natalie Patasaw. "Electric bills will now state where the company's energy comes from. Consumers can switch to renewable energy sources. It's voting with your pocketbook."

NYC Plan for Tracking Trash Could Hurt Neighborhoods

New York City's giant Fresh Kills landfill, now taking in 12,000 tons of residential trash per day, lacks modern environmental protections and must close by 2002. The city's current post-closure plans for residential trash could harm the low-income communities that host commercial transfer stations, which now receive another 12,000 tons of trash daily from the city's businesses. Most of it is shipped in and out in big trucks that bring fumes, noise, odors, and danger. Instead of using barges to ship the residential trash, as it does now, the city may permanently resort to using the truck-based transfer stations; its short-term plans already call for this.

Community groups and EDF are pressing the city to reassess its commercial and residential systems together, and the city is beginning to listen. The groups have called on the city to assess the effects of the existing commercial transfer stations and to explore using trains and barges to move all of the garbage. The city must also aggressively reduce waste

and recycle; the volume of New York's waste has become a political issue in recipient states.

"By thinking outside the box a little, we can improve conditions in communities that already have too many environmentally destructive activities," said EDF General Counsel James T.B. Tripp. "As we



Tim Connor

Serving New York City residents, Fresh Kills landfill on Staten Island is the world's largest. By law it must close by 2002.

prepare to close Fresh Kills, we must also get these garbage-hauling trucks off our interstate highways and reduce the amount of trash produced."

Cod Compromise: A Fishery's Uncertain Future

In February, the New England Fishery Management Council voted to adopt an expanded series of rolling fishery closures for the Gulf of Maine, which extends from waters off Cape Cod north to Canada. The plan aims to rebuild the area's beleaguered cod stocks by reducing fishing by 80%, as Federal scientists had recently recommended.

The closures, timed from March to November, will move through the Gulf of Maine, coinciding with the densest fish concentrations. The Council also voted to cut daily cod catch from 400 to 200 pounds per boat. If these and existing measures fail to cut the total cod catch

sufficiently, a fallback measure will be triggered, allowing the National Marine Fisheries Service to reduce the daily cod limit to as little as five pounds per boat.

"The most bitter medicine is called for now," said EDF attorney Doug Hopkins, who sits on the New England Council. "These new measures, although considerably more restrictive than those currently in place, may again be insufficient." The Commerce Department must still approve the Council's plan, which would take effect May 1. Next fall, the Council will re-examine closing the fishery if this year's cuts prove insufficient.

EDF Letter

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Director's Message

Time for Bipartisanship

As the parties begin considering candidates for Congress and the Presidency, I find myself asking how we can speed the slow pace of environmental progress. As environmentalists, we should press both Democrats and Republicans for commitments, ideally setting up an "auction" for the support of people who care about the environment.



Fred Krupp

For many reasons, the environmental community has recently been associated mostly with Democrats. But the environment need not be a partisan issue. Teddy Roosevelt was a Republican deeply committed to protecting natural resources, and Richard Nixon created the Environmental Protection Agency and signed into law the Endangered Species Act. Many current Republicans in Congress care about the environment. But when one party is perceived to have a lock on the environmental constituency, incentives to form the bipartisan coalitions needed to pass legislation are reduced, slowing or even blocking progress.

Although environmental policymaking often has been a pitched battle, there are a few "win-win" ideas that offer more environmental protection at lower cost. One such win-win idea is the legislation we helped develop to reward businesses for early reductions of greenhouse gas emissions, now gathering bipartisan support. Others are "Safe Harbor," which offers private landowners incentives to restore valuable habitats on their property, and Individual Fishing Quotas, which give fishermen a direct economic stake in restoring dwindling fisheries.

Economic incentives work. Aligning economic signals with society's needs will unleash people's energy to craft new solutions. The challenge is to direct these powerful forces to help restore ecosystems and safeguard the environment. Why not have economic signals that support the environmental ethic, instead of asking the ethic to overcome the misaligned incentives that exist all too often today?

EDF is dedicated to getting results. We are committed to working in a cooperative, bipartisan spirit with all who share our vision of environmental solutions that are lasting, efficient, and fair.

Fred Krupp

Dell and EDF-Pew Alliance to Seek "Greener" Computing Solutions

The Alliance for Environmental Innovation and Dell Computer Corporation are partnering to address issues that are important to the personal computer industry. The Alliance, a joint project of EDF and The Pew Charitable Trusts, works with industry leaders to find environmentally preferable ways of doing business.

Dell, the No. 2 PC manufacturer in the United States, considers environmental protection a high priority in its design and manufacturing. The Alliance's partnership with Dell will focus on finding new and innovative

ways to provide eco-efficient products and packaging that are economically viable and meet Dell's performance and safety specifications.

The Alliance and Dell will also establish environmentally preferable criteria for Dell's suppliers to ensure product components meet high environmental standards. Finally, the Alliance will conduct market research for Dell to explore ways to expand markets for environmentally preferable computer systems. This project is an integral part of Dell's ongoing program to expand its environmental stewardship.

EDF-McDonald's Partnership Began the Alliance Approach

EDF's groundbreaking work with industry began in 1990, when it approached McDonald's with the idea of a joint task force to

the elimination of the bulky foam-plastic hamburger box and later to a 42-point action plan to reduce, reuse, recycle, and compost McDonald's solid waste.

The EDF-Pew Alliance was formed as an outgrowth of the McDonald's project, with the goal of continuing to combine the expertise of environmental scientists and economists with the business skills of major corporations to create solutions that make both environmental and business sense. Alliance partners include industry leaders such as SC Johnson, Starbucks Coffee Company, and United Parcel Service.

"Environmental groups and business are working together increasingly," said Alliance director Jackie Roberts, "and the result is a greener world for everyone. Environmental groups have secured real benefits for the Earth, and companies have found that eco-friendly business practices can save them money."



EDF biochemist Dr. Richard Denison and Alliance director Jackie Roberts tried their hands at flipping hamburgers during the EDF-McDonald's partnership in 1990.

find ways to reduce pollution and waste in the company's operations. That effort led to

Guide to Working With Businesses

Seeking to encourage the trend of environmental group-business partnerships, the Alliance recently issued guidelines for environmental advocacy groups seeking to work with business. The report, *Catalyzing Environmental Results: Lessons in Advocacy Organization-Business Partnerships*, provides strategies based on the Alliance's experiences and is a guide for advocacy groups seeking to achieve powerful results by working with companies. It is available free on request from EDF Publications, c/o the Washington office, or online at www.edf.org/more/10507.

Catalyzing Environmental Results

Lessons in Advocacy Organization-Business Partnerships

A Report Sponsored by the J.M. Kaplan Fund

The Alliance for Environmental Innovation
A Project of
ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE FUND and THE PEW CHARITABLE TRUSTS

America's Wildlife Today Faces a New Set of Threats

By Dr. David S. Wilcove, an ecologist in EDF's Washington, DC office.

The late 19th century and early 20th have been called the most destructive period in the history of American wildlife. The demise of the passenger pigeon and Carolina parakeet, the near-extinction of the sea otter and northern elephant seal, the slaughter of the bison, the rampant overgrazing in the Southwest, the clearing of the longleaf pine forests, the ruthless campaigns to eliminate wolves, grizzlies, and other predators, and the commercial exploitation of shorebirds and waterfowl all reached a crescendo then.

The modern environmental movement began partly as a backlash to this destruction, and, thankfully, it stopped the worst of the abuses. In subsequent decades, some of the most heavily persecuted species staged remarkable comebacks, showing a degree of resilience that few people would have anticipated.

The growth of America's human population and economy over the past 50 years has brought us once again to a similarly momentous juncture. At stake now is a far greater number of species facing a more diverse and powerful set of threats. Over-hunting, the bane of conservationists at the start of this century, is no longer a major threat to most terrestrial animals, having long been supplanted by three more ruthless and indiscriminate killers: habitat destruction, alien species, and pollution. Together, these three have ensured that a larger proportion of the American fauna is in danger of extinction today than at any time since the Ice Age.

Four Factors Thwart Species' Recovery

The Fish and Wildlife Service has placed nearly 1,200 U.S. plants and animals on the endangered list, thereby granting them protection. But according to the Service's most recent assessment, fewer than 10% of these species are actually recovering. Four factors in particular are responsible for this low rate of success.

Adapted from *The Condor's Shadow: The Loss and Recovery of Wildlife in America*. Copyright ©1999 by D. Wilcove. Reprinted by permission of W.H. Freeman and Company Publishers.

First, efforts to monitor wildlife populations are woefully inadequate. It is largely a self-imposed ignorance: Proposals to expand the monitoring capabilities of wildlife agencies inevitably draw fire from anti-environmental ideologues and their allies in Congress, who would rather not know about a problem affecting wildlife, lest it necessitate a costly or controversial solution.

Second, by the time a trend becomes too obvious to ignore, it is often too late to take effective action. The plants and animals that end up on the endangered species list typically are added only after their populations have dropped to critically low levels.

Third, when the relevant agencies finally step forward to protect vanishing species, they usually do so with inadequate resources. The amount of money available for endangered-species recovery programs (which was never enough to begin with) has not kept pace with the growing number of species recognized as imperiled.

Finally, until recently, we have failed to give landowners any incentive to encourage them to help endangered species. The Endangered Species Act relies on the threat of fines and jail sentences to discourage people from engaging in conduct harmful to vanishing wildlife. This approach is important and necessary, but it does little to motivate people to go beyond the basic requirements of the law and to actively assist endangered wildlife.

Hope for the Future

Stories of landowners' deliberate actions to keep endangered species off their land prompted the Fish and Wildlife Service to initiate a "safe harbor" policy in 1995. Under this policy, which EDF helped to develop, landowners who agree to restore or enhance the habitats of endangered species on their property—something they are not required to do by law—can receive permission to develop that land at a later date, even if it becomes inhabited by an endangered species. One hopes, of course, that



Nebraska State Historical Society

Unconstrained hunting effectively wiped out once-plentiful buffalo herds in the wild, although a few thousand animals remain in protected areas.

landowners will choose not to exercise that right, but without such an assurance, they will not agree to undertake the improvements. Moreover, even a temporary increase in the amount of habitat available to an endangered species may enable it to survive a drought, fire, or other natural disturbance or to disperse to a safer area.

The safe harbor policy has proved to be immensely popular in those states where it has been tried, with well over one million acres of land currently enrolled in the program. The next obvious step is to provide landowners with some sort of financial incentive to undertake the desired habitat restoration. Tax credits to landowners who restore habitats, along with cost-share programs and technical assistance, should become a cornerstone of wildlife conservation in the 21st century.

Read the Rest of the Story

"...an exceptional-ly useful book..."

—Peter Matthiessen, author of *Wildlife in America*



To order David Wilcove's *The Condor's Shadow*, use the order form opposite this page. (Hardcover; 339 pages 5 3/4" x 9", with 10 beautiful photographs.) \$30 per copy postpaid.

Seeking Smarter, Cheaper, More Humane Chemical Tests

Scientists at three major universities and EDF have announced a new research project called "TestSmart" to investigate alternatives to traditional tests for chemical toxicity, particularly alternatives that reduce or eliminate testing on laboratory animals. Funded by a grant from the Vira I. Heinz Endowment, TestSmart participants include Johns Hopkins University, Carnegie-Mellon University, and the University of Pittsburgh, as well as EDF.

EDF launched a campaign to generate better information about the safety of the nation's top-selling chemicals with its publication of *Toxic Ignorance* in 1997. Negotiations with the Environmental Protection Agency and the Chemical Manufacturers Association followed and resulted in an agreement to test the 2,800 top-selling chemicals for their potential impact on people and ecosystems.

While those negotiations were underway, EDF also initiated a partnership with university researchers to see if new approaches could produce the needed scientific data with less time and expense, and in a more humane manner. EDF strongly believes in the need for health screening of major industrial chemicals. EDF also seeks to eliminate unnecessary testing on animals.

"Through TestSmart, we seek to assure that

the vital work of screening widely used chemicals is conducted as humanely, swiftly, and cheaply as possible," said EDF toxicologist Dr. Ellen Silbergeld. "The use of laboratory animals for toxicity testing has long played a fundamental role in the science of toxicology and pharmacology. Emerging techniques, however, appear to offer opportunities to reduce animal use significantly while obtaining data that are of at least equal scientific value, and are cheaper and faster as well."

EDF attorney Karen Florini outlined three objectives of the TestSmart project: (1) to expand the use of alternative techniques already known to be reliable; (2) to evaluate the reliability of emerging techniques; and (3) to identify areas where further research is needed to develop new



Black Sheep

To assess the potential impact of major industrial chemicals on people and ecosystems, the TestSmart project is looking for ways to test chemicals more humanely, swiftly, and cheaply than traditional methods.

approaches. "The overall goal is to get new alternatives into practical use as soon as possible," said Florini.

Added EDF attorney David Roe, "Both industry and government experts have told us that EDF's focusing attention on the issue of toxic ignorance will act as a major stimulant in accelerating the development and use of alternative approaches to chemical testing."

Greenhouse Gas Cuts

Continued from page 1.

need them to help manage their own reduction schedule. EDF has advocated incentives for early reductions for more than a year, and several key elements of EDF's proposal are reflected in the bill.

"The Administration's package of tax incentives and technology investments combined with efforts to reward early action by businesses are important steps toward a healthy environment and economy," said EDF legislative director Steve Cochran. "These Senators and the Administration are demonstrating a willingness to work together for meaningful, practical, bipartisan solutions to the climate challenge."

EDF atmospheric physicist Dr. Michael Oppenheimer added, "Every ton of greenhouse gas pollution that is emitted into the atmosphere today will warm the Earth for decades. Early reductions of greenhouse gases are critically needed to reduce the likelihood of disruptive global warming in the future. Action now to limit warming is the prudent thing to do."

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For David Yardas, It's the Water, and a Whole Lot More

When David Yardas was growing up just north of the Golden Gate Bridge, his mother once remarked to him that German was hard to learn. Yardas took the innocent comment as a challenge, and soon mastered the language. Anyone who knows Yardas today won't be surprised at this anecdote. It was simply a sign of things to come.

Yardas not only excelled in high school German, but also became an accomplished trumpet player, an Eagle Scout, and a member of the track team. In college, he learned French and Russian, improved on his Spanish, and began playing other instruments—all while actually majoring in economics.

"I studied economics because I found it relatively easy and I knew it would be marketable after graduation," he explains. "That allowed me to pursue my true interests—languages, political science, and history. I didn't think I was going to be an environmentalist. I was mainly interested in international diplomacy."

After graduating from the University of California at Davis, Yardas landed a job at the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, working on Social Security finance reform. He then stayed in Washington to work for Resources for the Future, a natural resources think tank.

In 1982, Yardas returned to the West Coast to earn his M.S. in Energy and

"What is California going to look like a generation from now, based on the decisions we make today?"

Resources at the University of California at Berkeley. Before he knew it, he had become an environmentalist. In 1986, he was offered a job at EDF's Oakland office, quickly got to work, and never looked back.

When asked to describe his job at EDF, Yardas laughs, then modestly says, "I work on water issues and finance related to water issues." That's it? Not by a long shot. For if there is anything that informs his work, it is his deep concern for future generations and the future of the land. "What is California going to look like a generation from now, based on the decisions we make today?" he asks. "How we manage growth is vital. How



T. Charles Erickson

Economist David Yardas wants to leave the Earth a better place for his two sons – and for all future generations.

does California play into the international economy and food supply system? And how do water decisions, however arcane, fit into that equation?"

To this end, Yardas analyzes the social, economic, and environmental impacts of California's massive networks of dams, irrigation projects, and hydropower facilities. He has long believed in the use of markets and pricing as critical tools for sustained environmental improvement. Yardas applies his background in economics and hydrology to a diverse array of efforts that range from basic research to computer modeling to collaboration, negotiation, and legislative involvement. His work has been central to no less than three Acts of Congress, enactment of the largest environmental water bond in California history, and the establishment of a variety of stakeholder-based collaborative projects.

Forging an EDF Alliance with The Nature Conservancy

Nor does Yardas confine his work to the Golden State. In Nevada, for example, he helped design and implement a voluntary water-rights acquisition program in partnership with The Nature Conservancy, helping to protect Pyramid Lake and surrounding wetlands habitats for waterfowl, shorebirds, and other species.

According to Graham Chisolm, Nevada

state director of The Nature Conservancy, "David got the Conservancy involved to see if we could help develop a water market and find solutions. Our work has led to a strong and productive relationship between EDF and the Conservancy." He describes Yardas as "a guy who is extraordinarily smart and unusually gifted in his ability to focus, both on details and on the big picture. But David is not just analytic, he is also compassionate, and interested in how his ideas work on the farm."

Leslie Johnson, The Nature Conservancy's senior government relations advisor in California, has worked with Yardas for a decade. "The first thing I remember about David," she says with a smile, "is that he's a very accomplished juggler."

"But what impresses me most about him, something most people aren't aware of, is that he is personally responsible for generating more Federal, state, and use-based funds for environmental conservation in California than any other person I know. Groups like The Nature Conservancy wouldn't be able to do what we do without the more than a billion dollars in funding that David has helped to create."

The Years of Being Single

Clearly, though, it's not just about water and finance. Yardas recalls that his first years at EDF were dominated by being single. "By which I mean," he hastens to add, "that I was able to put a ton of time, energy, and effort into my work, almost without limit. I'm still doing that intense work today, but my personal priorities have shifted." Yardas married his wife, Zanna, "a Delta farmer's daughter," in 1995, and they now have "two great boys"—Nico, three, and Olek, seven months. He enjoys spending time with his family in Zanna's family's cabin in California's Lake Tahoe region, hiking the high Sierra in the spring, summer, and fall and cross-country skiing in the winter.

"What really motivates and challenges me now," says Yardas with a smile, "isn't proving my mom wrong about how hard it is to learn German. Instead, it's doing what I can, through my work at EDF and otherwise, to leave the planet a better place for my kids—and to enjoy every minute that I'm with them today, since I know it's gonna go by real fast."

By Jerry Emory

Helping Endangered Salmon in the Pacific Northwest

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has approved a \$500 million program to restore forested areas along rivers in Oregon and Washington in an effort to rebuild dwindling salmon runs. A total of 200,000 acres of forest will be restored, with 80% of the cost paid by the Federal government and the remainder by the states.

EDF attorney Tim Searchinger conceived these joint Federal-state projects, called Conservation Reserve Enhancement Programs, as a way to benefit water quality and wildlife. They combine state funds with the massive Federal Conservation Reserve Program to plant trees, grasses, and wetland vegetation on surplus cropland around rivers and estuaries.

The Northwest's chinook and coho salmon and steelhead trout runs once numbered in the millions but have dwindled to the thousands. In some once-teeming rivers, only a handful of salmon now return from the ocean to spawn. Salmon populations have been harmed not only by large dams and overfishing, but also by the cutting of forests directly alongside rivers. Restoring the forest buffers will cool the streams with

shade, shield them from sediment that now smothers salmon eggs, and contribute woody debris that creates habitats for newly hatched salmon.

The new plans in Oregon and Washington join previous plans approved for Illinois, Maryland, Minnesota, and New York and bring the total approved acreage to more than 700,000 acres. This is the largest program in the nation restoring critical wetland habitats. Searchinger provided background materials and advice to officials in all six states.

"Coastal coho salmon should benefit directly from these programs because they do not need to navigate huge Columbia River dams between the ocean and spawning



Ralph A. Clevenger/Westlight

The restoration of forests along riverbanks in Oregon and Washington should help to rebuild dwindling runs of once-plentiful salmon.

streams," said Searchinger. "And when long-term solutions are reached for the big dams that now block runs of chinook salmon, these programs should help assure that stream habitats exist to reward salmon for their efforts."

The Race for Fish

Continued from page 1.

ing, overinvestment in boats, and depletion of fish stocks."

EDF staff have been working nationwide to advocate the use of individual fishing quotas to rebuild fisheries to sustainable levels. The EDF team includes scientist Dr. Rod Fujita in the Pacific region, scientist Pamela Baker and economist Dr. Peter Emerson in the Gulf region, scientists Dr. Michelle Duval and Dr. Douglas Rader and attorney Dan Whittle in the mid- and south-Atlantic regions, and attorney Hopkins in the Northeast region.

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Texans Favor Clean Energy

Texans are being offered the choice of how their future electricity will be generated, thanks to EDF-supported 1995 legislation governing electric utilities. Cleaner energy sources, such as a wind-power plant recently built in the state, appear to have overwhelming public support.

Last year, a "deliberative poll" of Texas energy customers discussed the benefits and costs of various energy alternatives, including coal, gas, wind, solar, hydroelectric, and biomass fuels. Utilities found overwhelming support for renewable energy and energy



Wind power is popular with Texans.

Lower Colorado River Authority

conservation: 96% of those polled favored renewable energy sources for Texas. Participants also expressed willingness to pay an average of \$5 or more per month to support cleaner alternatives.

"The planning process has shown that the public desires renewable energy such as wind power," said Mark MacLeod, EDF director of state energy programs, "and they are willing to pay for it. EDF, government, and industry have cooperated to secure on-the-ground capability to provide it."

Although MacLeod is pleased with Texas's new wind-power project, he stresses that it represents less than one-half of one percent of state electric usage. "These relatively small projects may be threatened by electricity deregulation. We must not only strengthen our cleaner energy production, but also make sure that future competitive electricity markets will sustain the renewable energy alternatives that Texans clearly demand."

EDF Supports Reduced-Sulfur Gasoline Across the West

The Environmental Protection Agency plans to require oil companies to reduce the amount of highly polluting sulfur in gasoline to one-tenth the current level, but the oil industry is lobbying to keep high-sulfur gas in Western states. EDF, automobile manufacturers, and a broad coalition of citizen and health groups are opposing the industry's efforts. EDF and the coalition it helped spearhead have called on the governors of Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, North Dakota, Nebraska, New Mexico, Nevada, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming to support EPA's requirement for low-sulfur fuel.

The Association of State and Local Air Pollution Control Officials estimates that, if oil companies were required to meet low-sulfur fuel standards, it would be comparable to eliminating hundreds of thousands of vehicles from Western roads. It would cost-effectively eliminate more than 115,000 tons

of smog-forming pollutants and more than 11,000 tons of fine particulate matter that threatens human health and scenic vistas.



South Coast Air Quality Management District

Low-sulfur gas and new technology can mean cleaner Western air.

"Low-sulfur fuel and the new clean vehicle technology work hand-in-glove," said Vickie Patton, attorney with EDF's Rocky Mountain office. "The oil companies claim that the West does not need low-sulfur fuel and that EPA should not require it. However, low-sulfur fuel will help clean up the infamous brown clouds over cities in the West and Southwest and protect the spectacular vistas in our national parks."

A New Strategy to Fight Denver's "Brown Cloud"

In an effort to protect Colorado's air quality and avoid future costly cleanup, EDF and Public Service Company of Colorado (PSC) have agreed to a plan that would reduce sulfur dioxide emissions from PSC coal-fired plants by 70% and nitrogen oxide emissions by 40%. The plan has been approved by the Colorado General Assembly and the Air Quality Control Commission and endorsed by the Denver Post, the Colorado Association of Homebuilders, the Colorado Mining Association, and the Regional Air Quality Council. The final challenge is to convince the Public Utilities Commission to allow PSC to recoup the pollution-control costs over the next 20 years.

"For the price of a candy bar a month, Coloradans can protect their health,

improve their quality of life, and help eliminate the infamous 'Brown Cloud' that obscures scenic views and congests our cities," said attorney Jim Martin of EDF's Rocky Mountain office. "If this goes through, we all benefit. If not, we're likely to see far more costly, after-the-fact cleanup costs in the near future—and the Brown Cloud will grow unabated."

Martin lauds Colorado for its current innovative and cost-effective pollution control, much of which was spearheaded by past EDF efforts. "It is precisely this forward-thinking attitude that has enabled Colorado to meet or exceed current Federal requirements. Let's hope we choose to stay ahead of the curve, saving both our environment and our pocketbooks."

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Clean Production, Environmental Justice Are Topics for Detroit Meeting on Sustainability

Representatives of industry, government, and community and environmental organizations, including EDF, will discuss ways to build a sustainable future at a National Town Meeting, May 2 to 5 in Detroit. The President's Council on Sustainable Development, on which EDF executive director Fred Krupp sits, is sponsoring the meeting.



Uniphoto

Detroit will host a National Town Meeting in May.

EDF staff will offer specific ideas for promoting both clean production and environmental justice, based on long experience

in improving environmental performance in the auto industry and other businesses that dominate the economy and environment in older Midwestern cities such as Detroit.

Clean production involves improving both what is made and how it is made to eliminate pollution from products over their entire life cycle. For example, automobiles can be designed to be lighter, to require fewer materials and toxic substances in manufacturing, to use less energy and produce less pollution during use, and to yield reusable and recyclable parts at the end of their useful life.

"Cities and businesses are routinely missing opportunities to apply this kind of thinking to improve the environment and economy," said attorney Kevin Mills, head of EDF's Pollution Prevention Alliance. "Faced with low-income and minority neighborhoods that bear a disproportionate environmental burden, government and business leaders too often have argued that protecting these communities will necessarily cost jobs."

EDF, along with groups such as the Ecology Center of Ann Arbor and Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice, will bring to the meeting ideas for simultaneously promoting economic growth, equity, and the environment.

Ohio and Michigan Launch E-Mail Action Networks

EDF and a coalition of national and local public-interest groups announce the expansion of electronic Action Networks in Michigan and Ohio. These rapid-response systems enable citizens to express opinions on critical environmental issues affecting their communities. Action Network members receive e-mail notices on key environmental issues in their state about ten times a year. Simply by replying to the e-mail notice, a member can trigger a free, personalized fax to legislators, agencies, or business leaders urging action to support a healthy environment.

"Our efforts don't just guarantee the public's right to know about ecological and health threats," said EDF Action Network coordinator Benjamin Smith. "They also help unite the public behind policies and actions that will protect them from those threats."

Michigan's Action Project (MAP) has already generated an estimated 20,000 e-mails and more than 1,000 faxes on six separate Action Alerts. MAP was co-developed by EDF, the League of Conservation Voters Education Fund, the Michigan Environmental Council, Michigan United Conservation Clubs, the National Wildlife Federation, and local chapters of the Sierra Club.

In Ohio, EDF is working with several statewide environmental organizations to form the Sustainable Ohio Action Partnership. SOAP is currently recruiting Ohio activists into the Action Network and hopes to begin sending alerts soon.

EDF members and others are encouraged to join EDF's nationwide Action Network to help influence vital legislation. Visit www.edf.org/more/10509 to sign up now.

Rare Wildlife Species Return To South Dakota and Wisconsin

Overall most endangered species are not yet clearly improving—particularly on private lands. Yet, a recent EDF study reports that in every state some progress has been made in bringing wildlife back from the brink of extinction.

In South Dakota, years after disappearing from the state, black-footed ferrets are once again doing well. Captive-bred ferrets were released there in 1994, and the population is now multi-generational, with the young of released ferrets giving rise to yet another generation. Bald eagles are also returning to South Dakota, where no pairs were found in 1990. In 1997, eight pairs occupied territories in the state.



Michael H. Francis

Gray wolves are expanding their range in the Western Great Lakes states.

In Wisconsin, biologists have found evidence that the winged mapleleaf mussel is reproducing, for the first time since its 1991

listing as an endangered species. This species is found only in a small area of the St. Croix River in Wisconsin and Minnesota.

Gray wolves are increasing in number and expanding their range in the western Great Lake States. At the end of the winter of 1997-98, an estimated 180 wolves inhabited Wisconsin. Bald eagles numbered 645 pairs in 1997, up from 358 pairs in 1990. Endangered peregrine falcons are also increasing in number; surveyors counted 12 pairs in Wisconsin in 1997.

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Vital Sargassum Habitat is Protected in Southern Waters

The South Atlantic Marine Fisheries Council has voted to phase out the harvest of pelagic sargassum seaweed in U.S. waters. Floating lines of sargassum provide critical habitat for a wide variety of sea life, including dolphin fish (also called mahi mahi), juvenile sea turtles, and seabirds. EDF and its environmental colleagues played a major role in convincing the Council to adopt the phase-out, which will allow low levels of harvest for two years, followed by a ban.

“Sargassum seaweed is the single most important fish habitat in the blue waters off the Atlantic Coast,” said marine ecologist Dr. Douglas Rader, who heads EDF’s Oceans program efforts in the Southeast. “It is one of the few sources of energy in an otherwise nutrient-poor and energy-poor part of the ocean.” Despite its importance, this plant is not protected by any treaty, and it is routinely harvested for use in such products as plant fertilizers and hog feed supplements. “The next step,” said Rader, “will be to protect sargassum seaweed beyond U.S. waters, especially in the Sargasso Sea, where the plant originates.”

Decision Not to Widen U.S. 1 Will Protect Florida Keys

Recent local and Federal agency actions have effectively blocked a plan for massive expansion of the road connecting the Florida Keys to the mainland, removing a major threat to the ecology of the Keys. Florida has long sought to widen the 18-mile, two-lane stretch of U.S 1 between Florida City and Key Largo, which runs through wetlands adjacent to a popular coral reef that already suffers from pollution, bleaching, and disease.

In 1990, the U.S. Department of Transportation approved a state plan to elevate and widen the road. The planned four-lane design would have tripled the road’s footprint across wetlands. Local opponents blocked state wetland permits, and EDF marine ecologist Dr. Rod Fujita and transportation engineer Michael Replogle helped 1000 Friends of Florida and the South Florida Sport Fishing Association challenge the inadequacies of the environmental impact study. “The impact study failed to consider the effects of increased travel demand and land use,”



Widening U.S. Route 1 between the Florida Keys and the mainland would have harmed wetlands and an adjacent coral reef.

Replogle said.

Late last year, Federal resource agencies decided the project could not proceed without a supplemental environmental impact study, and the Monroe County Commission—the local Keys government—passed a resolution withdrawing its support from the widening plan. “These decisions are part of a trend toward smarter development in the Keys,” said Fujita. “They effectively stop action and remove—for now—one of the many threats facing one of America’s most treasured coral reefs.”

Atlanta Transportation Becomes a Crossroads of Clean Air and Environmental Justice

In December, EDF and nine Georgia-based environmental justice, civil rights, and community groups gave notice of their intent to sue Federal, state, and Atlanta regional transportation agencies concerning their approval of \$700 million in sprawl-inducing highways. The groups claim that these road-building projects—which were “grandfathered” and exempted from Federal air-pollution requirements without adequate environmental review—will increase pollution, hurting Atlanta residents’ health.

“Atlanta is a front line in the national struggle for clean air and transportation civil rights,” said EDF Federal transportation director Michael Replogle. “These agencies



Proposed Atlanta highway projects would increase pollution and congestion, and harm low-income communities.

cannot continue expanding highways without considering the effects of these projects on air quality and on access to jobs for low-income and minority residents. Transportation funds must be reallocated to projects that cut air pollution, remedy the harm to communities from growing traffic, and improve transportation equity.”

EDF and its partners seek a change in Clean Air Act regulations so that problems such as those in Atlanta don’t happen again. The groups also want Federal standards detailing how transportation plans must comply with the Civil Rights Act. “Cities and states must be held accountable for meeting the requirements of the law,” said Replogle.

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EDF Fights to Change Dam-Happy California Water Plan

EDF and a broad coalition of conservation, fishing, and urban groups successfully blocked a last-minute agreement between the U.S. Department of the Interior and outgoing California Governor Pete Wilson that would have continued the legacy of publicly subsidized dam-building, damage to fisheries and habitat, and inefficient use



Wetland habitats like this one in the San Francisco Bay Delta would be harmed by the current plan.

of state water resources. The ill-formed plan instead was issued for public comment as a “work in progress” by CalFed, the state-Federal body responsible for developing practical water policy. EDF has charged that, among other problems, the plan overestimates water demand, continues inequitable

tax burdens, poorly addresses environmental impacts, and ignores cheaper alternatives such as water transfers, conservation, and better groundwater management.

“For years, we have been developing cost-effective, environmentally beneficial alternatives to address California’s water woes,” said EDF analyst David Yargas, one of a half-dozen EDF staff involved in the complex CalFed process. “Despite the fact that similar market-based strategies have proven effective elsewhere, CalFed appears to be favoring traditional water development and old-style water management under the guise of ecosystem restoration—and then asking taxpayers to foot the bill. That’s a long way from the durable solution that CalFed was chartered to develop.”

While encouraged by some of CalFed’s early implementation efforts, such as a science-based process to ensure that ecosystem restoration funds are spent wisely, Yargas stressed that, without appropriate economic incentives for water management, both taxpayers and the environment will continue to suffer. “We hope that the incoming Davis administration will consider the workable solutions we have proposed as key elements in a revised and durable CalFed plan.”

Pacific Fisheries Plan Could Decimate Key Species

EDF and its colleagues in the Pacific Ocean Conservation Network are calling on the U.S. Secretary of Commerce to reject a misguided fishery management plan proposed by the Pacific Fisheries Management Council. The plan spells doom for some fish species and violates the 1996 Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

The Magnuson Act requires fishery management plans to avoid overfishing, help rebuild overfished populations, protect essential fish habitat, and minimize bycatch (the accidental catch of unwanted fish). The Pacific Council’s plan *appears* to address overfishing by curbing fishing of any species whose population falls below 40% of its unfished, natural level, and halting

fishing altogether at levels of 10% or less. A loophole in the plan, however, allows continued fishing of ling cod, already below 10% of natural levels, and bocaccio, now below 4%. The long life spans—up to 140 years—and low reproductive rates of these fish make them prime candidates for extinction if such overfishing continues.

“By ignoring EDF recommendations such as marine reserves and observer programs, this plan allows continued ‘slash-and-burn’ fishing, which has nearly decimated species like the Pacific ocean perch,” said EDF scientist Dr. Rod Fujita. “We hope to overturn this flawed plan in favor of one that seriously addresses the sustainability of this critically important fishery.”

EDF California Office Chooses Green Electricity



Taking part in a trend it helped to initiate, EDF’s California office (*above*) has opted for “green” electricity. The Oakland office chose Green Mountain Energy Resources’ “Wind for the Future” service, which generates 75% of its electricity from renewable sources, including 10% from newly constructed wind-power projects and 65% from small hydroelectric and biomass sources. Green Mountain is one of several environmentally preferable services available under recent California laws deregulating the electricity industry.

In most parts of the state, customers can now choose their electricity supplier, either staying with electricity from polluting fossil-fuel and nuclear plants or selecting power from cleaner, environmentally preferable sources.

In Oakland, EDF energy program analyst Daniel Kirshner is pleased. “We’ve sent letters to our California members urging them to switch to cleaner electricity. We’re practicing what we preach and making the switch, too. EDF encourages other concerned individuals and organizations to take this opportunity to do a simple thing to improve the environment.”

For detailed information on how you can switch to a “green” electricity provider, go to www.edf.org/more/10508.

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