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## McDonald's helps curb antibiotic overuse

### FOOD GIANT SAYS 'NO' TO MODIFIED CIPRO IN CHICKENS

Chicken McNuggets never tasted so good. In an important step for public health, the 13,000 McDonald's restaurants in the U.S. have stopped buying poultry treated with fluoroquinolones, a powerful class of antibiotics including Cipro that is critical for treating many infections.

Considerable medical evidence shows these drugs' effectiveness for treating severe food poisoning in humans is being compromised by their use on poultry. "Based on the science, we decided this was the right thing to do," explained Bob Langert, senior director of social responsibility at McDonald's. Wendy's and Popeye's have taken similar action.

McDonald's made its decision more than a year ago, but only recently announced it publicly. "Environmental Defense made a compelling case that if we did this, perhaps others would follow suit," said Langert, noting the success of our longstanding partnership to reduce packaging waste.

Already, food producers such as Tyson Foods, Perdue Farms and Foster Farms claim they have drastically cut back on antibiotic use in healthy animals and are turning away from fluoroquinolones. After fluoroquinolones were approved for use in poultry, resistance among *Campylobacter*,

bacteria that cause food poisoning in humans, grew from an estimated 1% to 14%. "McDonald's is showing admirable leadership with this critical first step toward keeping these medicines effective," said our executive director Fred Krupp.

As we had urged, the Food and Drug Administration proposed banning fluoroquinolones in poultry. But Bayer, which makes a version of Cipro for poultry, has been fighting FDA's request. The American Medical Association and others have called on Bayer to comply with the ban voluntarily.

In October, Environmental Defense helped launch a national coalition to end the overuse of antibiotics in agriculture and is promoting legislation in Congress. We are also working with McDonald's as it takes a broader look at the issue. "The market for antibiotics fed to animals is shrinking fast," said our scientist Dr. Rebecca Goldberg.



More than 70% of all antibiotics used in the United States are fed to livestock and poultry.



## *The dirtiest machines*

During the 1996 Summer Olympics, reduced traffic congestion in downtown Atlanta resulted in a 40% drop in asthma hospital visits for children. Imagine the health benefits if America cleaned up the most under-regulated source of air pollution: non-road engines.

Non-road engines, which power farm machinery, dirt bikes, boats and other off-road vehicles, emit more sooty particles than the nation's cars, trucks and power plants combined. Indeed, a snowmobile emits as much air pollution as nearly 100 cars. Something needs to be done about these unfettered sources of pollution.

A good place to start would be to adopt air-quality standards at major construction sites like the

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*Non-road vehicles can be a source of cancer.*

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ground zero disaster site in lower Manhattan. Inexpensive steps such as installing oxidation catalysts on trucks, using low-sulfur fuel and reducing idling can cut cancer-causing diesel particulates by as much as 90%, according to a new report by Environmental Defense. Boston's air quality has benefited significantly from similar requirements at its Big Dig transportation project.

As Environmental Defense embarks on its 35th year of innovative solutions, it seems fitting that we help bring these outdated machines into the 21st century of pollution control.

—Fred Krupp



Image State

Congress is expected to butt heads over a number of issues this year. A major battle is expected over Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

## A critical year for the environment

### ROLLER COASTER RIDE AHEAD FOR GREEN ISSUES IN CONGRESS

What price a breath of fresh air or the sparkle of clean water? As Congress begins a critical 10-month session, it may pass laws that affect the environment for years to come. The good news is that we're in an election year, and even the most recalcitrant politicians know it's unwise to be seen as anti-environmental.

Environmental Defense and its allies are gearing up for several major battles in Congress. Big issues—particularly energy questions like fuel efficiency for vehicles and drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge—remain highly polarized. Other proposals have broad-based appeal, and we hope to pass favorable legislation on the Farm Bill, Army Corps of Engineers reform and our campaign to protect the effectiveness of antibiotics.

No one expects an easy year. Many in government continue to advance anti-environmental rules. What's worse, our opponents are becoming smarter in how they dismantle existing protections. "No longer will they try a frontal assault on the environment," says our legislative director Elizabeth Thompson. "They will outwardly support a program such as cutting atmospheric pollutants, then secretly gut it by eliminating funding or taking legal action. We have to make

sure the public is aware of these politicians' actions and that politicians know the public is watching."

Delivering such a message isn't easy when you don't contribute to campaign coffers. Our advantage lies in our network of allies. "You have to be there in people's offices, ready to act fast when a Congressman tacks an anti-environmental rider onto a bill," says our strategic communications director Steve Cochran. "We found out about one such amendment at 9:00 pm and were able to defeat it the next morning."

Here's a look at key legislation Congress must pass:

- **The Farm Bill** Most farmers who now apply for conservation grants are turned down for lack of funds. With a new Farm Bill now in the works, we're leading the effort to win a major reallocation of funding to family farmers who improve water quality and wildlife habitat.
- **The Energy Bill** Congress and the administration could make the wrong choices, with potentially huge consequences. The House has already produced a very flawed energy bill featuring huge subsidies to big oil and drilling in the Arctic. The administration initiated and strongly sup-

ports these policies. On a positive note, Congress recognizes the need to improve conservation and efficiency measures. We see opportunities to boost renewable energy and tighten vehicle fuel-efficiency standards that have barely changed since 1985.

- **Climate change legislation** Congress is debating proposals to limit major air pollutants, but the administration is backing a House bill that fails to limit carbon dioxide emissions, which lead to global warming.
- **Army Corps of Engineers** Our efforts to compel the Corps to switch to environmentally friendly projects have gained support: The administration has proposed deep cuts in the Corps' budget and urged more environmental restoration.

#### HOW YOU CAN HELP

As a member, you can help our efforts by tracking the voting records of your representatives, and by signing up for our e-mail action alerts at [environmentaldefense.org/action](http://environmentaldefense.org/action).

### A great tax savings idea



When you make a life income gift to Environmental Defense, you will receive an immediate income tax deduction and can depend on regular income payments for your lifetime.

You may also avoid paying capital gains tax. All this, plus you'll know that your gift of cash, securities or real estate will ensure a healthy future for all living creatures.

For more information on how you can save taxes while helping the environment call Anne Doyle toll-free at 1-877-677-7397 or write her at Environmental Defense, 257 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10010.



Stephan Schwartzman

Into the future, sustainably. The Panará have won control of a vast swath of the Amazon. We're helping them develop a management strategy.

## Amazon Indians to protect the rainforest

### PANARÁ TRIBE WINS PRECEDENT-SETTING LAWSUIT

Brazil's timber trade is as old as Europe's 16th-century colonization of South America. Today, only one Latin American product is more profitable than Amazonian mahogany: cocaine. Mahogany loggers are in the forefront of those despoiling Indian rainforest lands. But Amazon Indians have made a major comeback in recent years, with help at key points from Environmental Defense and its partners. Now, in a pilot project with potentially broad applications, we are helping the Panará Indians find ways to use their forests sustainably, while holding off mahogany loggers and ranchers.

Amazon Indians have already won the rights to 20% of the Brazilian Amazon. "This is the largest area of rainforest under any form of protection anywhere, an area twice the size of California," says our anthropologist Dr. Stephan Schwartzman. Beginning in the 1980s, our International program helped convince the World Bank and northern governments to use their

influence to protect Indian lands. "These lands are the most important bulwark against frontier expansion," says Schwartzman. "What happens here has big implications for global climate and biodiversity."

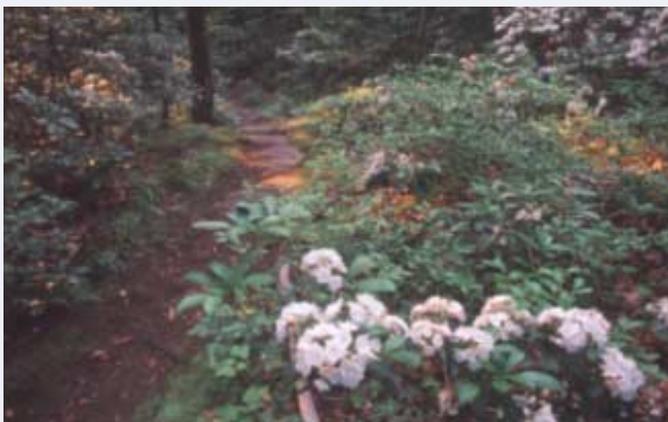
Schwartzman, who speaks the Panará language, helped the tribe regain 1.2 million acres of rainforest and win official recognition of its rights, rebuffing ranchers who were attempting to seize the area. All the Indians in the Amazon need money and many have been enticed by mahogany loggers into disastrous illegal logging deals. But the Panará, with our help, won a \$400,000 legal settlement for damages sustained when they were forcibly removed and nearly exterminated in the 1970s. This nest egg will help meet their needs while they develop a management strategy for the area. Our project is looking at possible economic options like seeds (including mahogany seeds), oils and native honey. What works here can be applied to other indigenous areas.

## Keeping the green in the Garden State

The fight to save the remaining open space in New Jersey rages on. Recently, Environmental Defense won an important battle to help stem the tide of sprawl.

Along with a coalition of other conservation groups, we filed a lawsuit against a company that planned to transform a former state park in the Highlands into a \$500 million resort that would include thousands of condos, stores and a hotel. Using our Geographic Information System mapping technology, we showed that the planned development would fragment the forest and threaten multiple endangered plants and animals. In July, a state superior court judge sided with us, ruling against a large portion of the company's plans. "This is a spectacular legal victory," says our general counsel James Tripp, who credited Edward Lloyd, a member of our litigation review committee, with much of the success.

Leann Foster of the New Jersey Conservation Foundation agrees, adding, "This decision may have implications for development across the state." The battle isn't over yet, though. Still under contention is whether or not the company can build a golf course on the property. That may become a moot point if the state gets its wishes. The state and the developer are now in discussion to turn the mountain back into a state park.



George M. Aronson

Our legal activity may help restore a state park.



AP Photo/Bob Bukaty

Wall Street needn't be hazardous to your health.

## New York's fresh air challenge

Governor George Pataki has asked the federal government to grant New York City a broad waiver from Clean Air Act conformity requirements as it rebuilds following the terrorist attacks. We maintain there is a way to speed redevelopment without sacrificing clean air.

Environmental Defense is working with the governor and city officials to find solutions that allow construction to go forward without compromising air quality. "Air quality is essential to revitalizing downtown," says Andy Darrell, co-director of our Living Cities program. "People won't return if they don't feel the air is safe."

We've proposed immediate and cost-effective steps such as installing filters on construction machinery.

Diesel-powered equipment emits cancer-causing fine particles that threaten the health of 4,000 children who live and play within blocks of ground zero.

We are also promoting transportation incentives to reduce traffic and clean the air. And we're urging officials to include parks in the mix. Meanwhile, our general counsel James Tripp is helping develop incentives for businesses to clean up and develop abandoned industrial sites, or brownfields, along the New York waterfront. This should help stem the flight of companies to the suburbs.

"Out of this terrible tragedy comes an opportunity to shape a healthy downtown," says Darrell. "We want to make sure that opportunity is realized."

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## Environmental Defense tapped for wildlife centennial commission

35  
years

As Environmental Defense commemorates 35 years of protecting the environment and human health, we will publish occasional articles highlighting how our work today is founded on and guided by past victories.

Michael Bean, leader of our wildlife efforts, has been named one of ten appointees to the National Wildlife Refuge Centennial Commission, charged with improving the status of the 93-million-acre wildlife refuge system.

In 1903, Teddy Roosevelt established the nation's first wildlife refuge on tiny Pelican Island off the Florida coast.

Today, the refuge system offers a home to the nation's endangered plants and animals and provides millions of Americans with wildlife-oriented recre-

ational opportunities. Nonetheless, the system faces a daunting challenge. Development of adjacent lands has left many refuges and their wildlife isolated, threatening the long-term viability of wildlife populations. A chronic funding shortfall has resulted in a backlog of maintenance.

The Commission seeks to expand public interest in this relatively unfamiliar system of conservation lands. A major conference is planned this year. "My hope," says Bean, "is that our work will lead to an expansion of the refuge system so that it can protect all endangered species, just as Pelican Island protected the formerly endangered



David M. Barron/Oxygen Group

Our success in banning DDT helped save the brown pelican.

brown pelican."

The brown pelican, like the bald eagle and other magnificent birds, was nearly wiped out by widespread reproductive failure caused by the pesticide DDT. Thirty-five years ago, Environmental Defense led the successful fight to ban DDT. It was our first major victory.

## Texas shows the way to a clean energy future

On a windswept mesa in Sweetwater, TX, amidst the mesquite and oil derricks, 100 new wind turbines whir in the distance. "This wind farm generates enough energy for 50,000 homes," says Bo Thisted, manager of the facility. "Believe me, we wouldn't be doing this if it wasn't profitable," he adds, noting that the cost of wind power has dropped by 90% since the 1980s.

With entrepreneurs in the oil patch looking skyward, Texas has quietly become a national leader in wind generation. This is in part thanks to Environmental Defense staff who drafted clean-air provisions for the state's utility restructuring law. Under the law, Texas is required to generate 400 megawatts of renewable energy by 2003. The state has already doubled that target amount.

"The market helps us find the cheapest and best renewable resources," says Jim Marston, our Texas regional director. The promise of wind power is one of many highlights of our new energy report, *Safe and Secure: Meeting America's electricity needs*. Most of America's electricity comes from heavily polluting, coal-fired power plants connected by power grids that are susceptible to bottlenecks and to disruption from terrorists. "We need to try cheaper, cleaner and less vulnerable alternatives," says our executive director Fred Krupp.

The new report shows how the nation could greatly



Warren Gretz/NREL

Of no interest to terrorists: Wind offers secure, clean energy.

improve its energy security and reduce global warming by investing in efficiency measures and solar and wind power.

Voluntary conservation enabled California to avert electricity outages last summer. Efficiency measures ranged from Wal-Mart's installing white roofs to reduce cooling costs to the decision by the janitors' union to turn off lights in Los Angeles office buildings at night.

"As Texas and California show, there are many sensible things we can do today to improve our energy future without despoiling our natural heritage," says Krupp.

## Planet tenders

Contact these nonprofits mentioned in the story to find the right volunteer opportunity for you.

Break Away's SiteBank is at [www.alternativebreaks.org/members/sitebank](http://www.alternativebreaks.org/members/sitebank).

Earthwatch Institute; 800-776-0188; [www.earthwatch.org](http://www.earthwatch.org).

Environmental Defense ozone monitoring program; 202-387-3500 Ext. 3347; [ozone@environmentaldefense.org](mailto:ozone@environmentaldefense.org); [www.environmentaldefense.org](http://www.environmentaldefense.org).

Living Land and Waters; 309-496-9848; [www.cleanrivers.com](http://www.cleanrivers.com).

Student Conservation Association; 603-543-1700; [www.sca-inc.org](http://www.sca-inc.org).

Volunteer Match is at [www.volunteermatch.com](http://www.volunteermatch.com).

Volunteer Stories will inspire you with the work of others. See [www.volunteerstories.com](http://www.volunteerstories.com).

Wilderness Volunteers; 928-556-0038; [www.wildernessvolunteers.org](http://www.wildernessvolunteers.org).

*Green Volunteers: The World Guide to Voluntary Work in Nature Conservation*, edited by Fabio Ausenda: Via Valenza, 5, 20144 Milano, Italy. \$19.95.

*Invest Yourself: The Catalogue of Volunteer Opportunities*, edited by Susan G. Angus: The Commission on Voluntary Service and Action, P.O. Box 117, New York, NY 10009; 718-638-8487. \$8.



David M. Barron/Oxygen Group

Volunteering for the environment: a world of choices awaits.

## Earth angels

### HOW THE NEW VOLUNTEER SPIRIT CAN CHANGE THE WORLD

For several summers, Chad Pregracke was a one-man crew, working in his small boat to clean out trash from the Mississippi River. Then he recruited some volunteers, and the first Living Land and Waters' project was born. Pregracke and his volunteers hauled 500 tons of trash (including 4,952 tires, 1,133 steel drums and a topless school bus) from 100 miles of the Mississippi. Now 500 volunteers strong, the organization has taken on the Missouri and Ohio rivers.

There's never been a better time to volunteer for the environment. What was once a do-it-yourself activity is now well-organized, thanks to the Internet and new nonprofit groups that match volunteers with fascinating work in the United States and abroad. While many people canceled traditional vacations in the wake of September 11, others decided it was time to give something back. Volunteer groups report their bookings are filling up fast.

If you're thinking about pitching in

for the planet, here are some options. (See *box at left for contact information.*)

- **Destination outdoors.** Volunteering doesn't have to mean sitting behind a desk. Wildlife Volunteers promotes service in wilderness areas with agencies like the National Park Service and Bureau of Land Management. At the Hart Mountain National Antelope Range in Oregon, crews take on the daunting task of removing more than 300 miles of barbed wire left by cattle ranchers. The 275,000-acre refuge is now "cow-free," but the leftover wire is a hazard to wildlife, including pronghorn antelope and bighorn sheep. Volunteers pay \$198, plus plane fare.
- **Learn a lesson.** Longer in-the-field commitments are coordinated by the Student Conservation Association. Volunteers work on several different projects during a summer, from planting trees in Yellowstone Park to hauling

*This guest article is one of a series by the editors of E/The Environmental Magazine (for subscription information: 800-967-6572 or [www.emagazine.com](http://www.emagazine.com)). Opinions are the author's and not necessarily those of Environmental Defense staff.*

brush in Hawaii's Haleakala national park. Says the association's Jay Setz, "Volunteers get an in-the-face lesson about living on limited resources. By the time they get home, their views about leaving the water running or wasting food have changed."

- **Serve science.** Earthwatch Institute offers a chance to get involved in authentic scientific research. For \$700 to \$3,000, plus travel, you can study endangered manatees in Belize, help save lemurs in Madagascar or catalog rare plants in Kenya.
- **Surf to work.** VolunteerMatch.com is a web site that connects volunteers to

more than 18,000 organizations. You can find the type of work you'd like to do in a place you'd like to be by simply entering a zip code and category. College students looking for meaningful ways to spend vacation can visit Break Away's SiteBank of national nonprofits.

- **Summer in the city.** If you're spending your summer in a big city, Environmental Defense has a way for you to do something in your own neighborhood about air pollution. Our volunteers are trained to monitor ground-level ozone, commonly known as smog, and send their data to our web site, which posts daily

smog levels. People interested in setting up such a network should contact us (*see box*).

- **Direct contact.** If you prefer to arrange things on your own, several guidebooks make it easy to contact scientific projects and environmental organizations that use volunteers. An e-mail to the Sea Turtle Project in Phra Thong Island in Thailand, for instance, can soon have you signed up to protect olive ridley turtle eggs. "Volunteers must be prepared for long walks on the beach," the group warns. There are worse ways to spend a holiday.

By Jim Motavalli

## IN BRIEF

### CATALOGS SWITCH TO RECYCLED PAPER

Chico's, a retailer of women's apparel, has become the latest company to sign on to our campaign for using recycled paper in the 19-billion-circulation catalog industry.

More than a year ago, we joined forces with Norm Thompson Outfitters to prove the case for switching to recycled. After joint tests found recycled paper is price competitive and has no impact on customer response, the company, a major retailer, moved all its catalogs to recycled paper. We then presented our findings at a major industry conference. And industry took notice.

Chico's announced it will start using paper with 10% post-consumer recycled content in all its catalogs. Company representatives told Environmental Defense they felt no need to test the move after they saw our results with Norm Thompson Outfitters.

There's still plenty of room for improvement in the catalog industry, which consumes 3.6 million tons of paper annually. Our 1999 survey found catalog retailers used virtually no recycled paper and many doubted consumers care about the issue. So next time you place a catalog order, do forests a favor. Call your favorite catalog company and let them know you'd like them to start printing on recycled paper.

### CAR DEALERS ENLISTED TO REMOVE A TOXIC HAZARD

Mercury is a highly toxic substance that each year threatens hundreds of thousands of infants with brain damage.



Hadas Erdeliman

Local heroes: This dealership was one of many in 13 states that we persuaded to remove mercury from cars.

Yet automakers have continued to use mercury in lights and brakes, despite the availability of substitutes.

So our engineer Dean Menke arranged with the Saturn dealership in Silver Spring, MD, to remove the mercury lighting switches for free from any car (including Menke's Escort) and replace them with a low-cost, safe alternative. The deal was part of a nationwide "Switch the Switch" event we helped launch last fall with auto dealers in 13 states. Our goal is to convince automakers to stop using mercury altogether, and to remove and dispose of tons of mercury in cars already on the road. Mercury is released into the environment when cars are scrapped.

## New Jersey plans to expand wetland protection

After an analysis by Environmental Defense last summer revealed that New Jersey's fragile wetlands lack basic protections afforded them by law, state officials decided to do something about it. Acting on our study, New Jersey has proposed improving wetland protections statewide. The new rule would save thousands of acres in perpetuity, from the Highlands in the north to the great estuaries of the south.

New Jersey's renowned wetlands are home to dozens of threatened or endangered species, including bald eagles and osprey. Recent rollbacks in national wetlands protections make the new rule even more important. "Wetlands are the cornerstone of a healthy environment," said our scientist Jason Patrick, who worked with other members of the Highlands Coalition. "They serve as spawning ground and home to a vast array of animals, act as a natural water filtration system and provide valuable open space." The new rule, now open for public comment, will be completed this summer.



Elliot Cohen/Janelco

Some 900 wildlife species, like this bullfrog, depend on wetlands for their survival.



Zach Willey

Oregon farmer John McElheran (in red hat) has left his field unplowed after harvest. A new agreement rewards such practices, which help curb global warming.

## Farmers and electric company strike unique deal to slow global warming

An introduction was in order: Entergy Corporation, a major electric utility, has been searching for ways to keep global warming gases like carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) out of the atmosphere. Meanwhile, hundreds of farmers in the Pacific Northwest want to plant their crops in an ecologically healthy way, leaving carbon stored in the soil.

Our economist Dr. Zach Willey saw a unique opportunity. He contacted Entergy, which, as a member of our Partnership for Climate Action, has set aside \$25 million to stabilize its domestic CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Entergy agreed to pay the farmers of the Pacific Northwest Direct Seed Association not to release 30,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> that the farmers' direct-seed methods will sequester as carbon in the ground.

By poking small holes when

they plant, the farmers avoid plowing, a practice that releases CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere. Direct seeding also reduces fuel use and cuts use of nitrogen-based fertilizers, both of which contribute to greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, it cuts erosion and sedimentation in streams that support salmon and steelhead.

"This is more than just a CO<sub>2</sub> deal," says Jeff Williams, Entergy environmental analyst. "It's good for the environment in other ways, and it's good for farmers." Tanya Wojtowych, director of the seed association, agrees. "Over 100 farmers are ready to go on this," she says. "I'm getting calls from around the country."

"This transaction helps set standards for carbon stored in soils," explains Willey. "It points the way to the global carbon-trading markets of the future."



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finding the ways that work

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## Houston, we have a problem

Seven years after a 1994 deadline set by the Clean Air Act, it took a lawsuit by Environmental Defense and others to get the state of Texas to submit a clean air plan for Houston. When we found out the plan requested another delay—to 2004—to study how to get the job done, we sued again.

“Putting off hard decisions is a recipe for failure,” says our scientist Dr. Ramon Alvarez.

Our suit charges Houston with failing to protect public health. The city’s plan allows 56 more tons per day of nitrogen oxides than allowed under the Clean Air Act’s limit for ground-level ozone, or smog.

Smog triggers asthma attacks and causes other serious health problems, particularly for children, the elderly and people already in poor health. Houston has already surpassed Los Angeles as the city with the worst smog levels in the nation.

We want to improve the air without harming the economy. For example, people can be encouraged to drive less by giving them cash in lieu of free parking spaces or reforming car insurance rates to reflect the number of miles driven. “Such measures need to be considered now, not later,” says our attorney Jim Marston. “The people of Houston have waited long enough.”



AP Photo/David J. Phillip

Stuck in traffic: Houston needs an air plan that works.



Michael Forsberg

Only 180 whooping cranes remain in the wild. They depend on the Platte during their yearly migration to the Northwest Territories.

## Going with the flow on the Platte River

For thousands of years, an 80-mile stretch of the Platte River has been the nexus of an annual wildlife spectacle that rivals Africa’s Serengeti plains. Every March, more than seven million ducks and geese and 500,000 sandhill cranes, along with about 180 endangered whooping cranes, roost in the broad shallows and feed in the wet meadows of the Platte’s Big Bend before flying on to their northern breeding grounds.

This avian congregation depends on the Platte, but much of the river has been dammed and diverted for farm irrigation. Environmental Defense helped broker a 1997 agreement between Colorado, Nebraska and Wyoming and the Interior Department to

restore the river without causing economic hardship to the region.

Our scientist Dr. Daniel Luecke and others have agreed on the water management plan required under the agreement. Before the Platte was dammed, high water from snowmelt flushed vegetation from its channel, leaving a “braided” river of shallow sandbars, perfect for the migrating birds. Since then, year-round low flows have transformed the river, creating heavily wooded islands, many of which will need to be cleared and bulldozed.

“This is a complex system that has been degraded for a century,” Luecke explains. “We want to restore more natural flows in a scientifically sound and flexible way.”

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Online at [www.environmentaldefense.org](http://www.environmentaldefense.org)

## A year of success for Citizen Ozone Monitoring Network

Ground level ozone (smog) levels are steadily rising in the United States, exacerbating respiratory illnesses such as asthma. In response, our Citizen Ozone Monitoring Network project spent last summer training and deploying citizens in a number of cities to monitor the air and protect their health. The project has succeeded in influencing local decision-making and is now expanding to other cities.

Our volunteers use a handheld monitor to collect data on ozone pollution at the neighborhood level, where information is otherwise unavailable. The objective is to identify how different populations are affected. Volunteers follow guidelines developed by NASA, exposing a chemically treated badge to the air for one hour. The badge is then inserted into a photo-optic device and the resulting data is posted on our website [environmentaldefense.org](http://environmentaldefense.org).

The program has made substantial progress in Atlanta, Buffalo, Cleveland, Dayton, New York and Washington, DC. "The information we gathered raised questions about the allocation of health resources and the effectiveness of local ozone reduction programs," says our outreach coordinator Halley Rosen. "Now it's time to act."

If you would like your community to get involved in ozone monitoring, call Tracy Freuder at 202-387-3500, ext. 3341, or e-mail [ozone@environmentaldefense.org](mailto:ozone@environmentaldefense.org).



Tim Connor

Citizens wanted: Use this monitor to test your local air.



Michael Forsberg

Only 180 whooping cranes remain in the wild. They depend on the Platte during their yearly migration to the Northwest Territories.

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## North Carolina maps its future

In the year 2100, what should North Carolina's ecosystems look like? It's a question that environmentalists, fighting a variety of battles against unmanaged growth and sprawl, have never had a chance to ask. Until now.

Environmental Defense is spearheading work on a comprehensive plan intended to serve as a guide for every concerned North Carolinian. The plan will present an ecologically based vision of the future for the state and will be accompanied by a practical roadmap of how to get there.

Over the next ten months, the state's most prominent ecosystem experts will create an integrated view of an environmentally healthy North Carolina. They will incorporate a variety of existing ecosystem and regional plans and take into account the latest information about demographic trends and climate change. The group will make every effort to avoid becoming bogged down in political and economic considerations.

"We'd like to give our best scientists a chance to think boldly, outside the box," says our ecologist Dr. Douglas Rader. "We want to be completely unfettered."

"The environmental community should be proud of some important strides," says our policy analyst David McNaught. "But that progress has been piecemeal, and it's likely to be swamped by population pressures. We need to chart a course that will benefit our grandchildren."



Richard Reynolds

What will this land look like in one hundred years?



Ken Lindeman

Offshore dredges like this one bury reefs that support fish habitat.

## The Corps and the shore

When the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers proposed a massive dredge-and-fill project in Vero Beach, FL, last year, Environmental Defense and partners raised a red flag. The \$10 million project would have buried 57 acres of near-shore reef designated as essential habitat for more than 500 species, including endangered green sea turtles.

To avoid an environmental impact statement for the entire project, the Corps has broken it up into four parts. "The cumulative impacts will be similar," warns our scientist Dr. Ken Lindeman. "This piecemeal approach is an effort to delay comprehensive assessment."

Over the last four decades, 50 million cubic yards of fill (equal to

125,000 dump-truck loads a year) have been dumped in shallow waters off east Florida. Beachcombers can see the surface impacts: millions in taxpayer dollars spent in a futile attempt to overcome the forces of wind and tide. What they don't see is the damage wrought on near-shore reefs.

We are working with local groups to protect these habitats, which are already stressed by overfishing and coastal pollution. A letter calling for a comprehensive analysis of dredging projects, signed by more than 70 Ph.D. scientists, has helped scale back projects in Ft. Lauderdale and elsewhere. "Independent scientific oversight is beginning," says Lindeman, "but this difficult issue is far from resolved."

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## Solving California's water woes

Big water projects in California's Bay-Delta have changed dust bowls into fertile cropland. In the process, however, aquatic habitats have been destroyed and many species such as salmon and steelhead have been left on the brink of extinction.

In the eternal struggle over water, urban and agricultural interests have repeatedly won out over the environment. In 1994, the state and federal governments joined to implement a comprehensive plan to improve water management and restore ecological health in the Bay-Delta.

Acting as a watchdog, our hydrologist Spreck Rosekrans developed computer models that track California's water use. On several occasions, he has discovered that project operators misallocated large amounts of water promised to the environment, once involving an amount large enough to serve a city of 300,000 for a year. Rosekrans notified authorities and the mistake was corrected.

"Helping enforce regulatory standards is important, but ultimately we must address the issue of demand," says Rosekrans. To that end, Environmental Defense is promoting legislation that would require beneficiaries to pay for any new dams. "California's massive water subsidies have led to overconsumption and inefficient use," explains our analyst Angela Sherry. "If users were required to pay, there would be fewer proposals for new dams."



Chuck Mason/International Stock

If we do it right, there is enough water to protect our environment and serve California's growing population.



Michael Forsberg

Only 180 whooping cranes remain in the wild. They depend on the Platte during their yearly migration to the Northwest Territories.

## Going with the flow on the Platte River

For thousands of years, an 80-mile stretch of the Platte River has been the nexus of an annual wildlife spectacle that rivals Africa's Serengeti plains. Every March, more than seven million ducks and geese and 500,000 sandhill cranes, along with about 180 endangered whooping cranes, roost in the broad shallows and feed in the wet meadows of the Platte's Big Bend before flying on to their northern breeding grounds.

This avian congregation depends on the Platte, but much of the river has been dammed and diverted for farm irrigation. Environmental Defense helped broker a 1997 agreement between Colorado, Nebraska and Wyoming and the Interior Department to

restore the river without causing economic hardship to the region.

Our scientist Dr. Daniel Luecke and others have agreed on the water management plan required under the agreement. Before the Platte was dammed, high water from snowmelt flushed vegetation from its channel, leaving a "braided" river of shallow sandbars, perfect for the migrating birds. Since then, year-round low flows have transformed the river, creating heavily wooded islands, many of which will need to be cleared and bulldozed.

"This is a complex system that has been degraded for a century," Luecke explains. "We want to restore more natural flows in a scientifically sound and flexible way."

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