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Safe Harbor fulfills its promise

Kerry Russell remembers the day U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service agents arrived at his ranch with a low-bid purchase offer and the threat of confiscation through eminent domain if he refused to sell. Russell's 130-acre spread on the edge of Austin, TX, is prime habitat for two endangered birds, the golden-cheeked warbler and black-capped vireo.

Russell grew up on his land, wanted to stay but distrusted the government. Then he discovered our Safe Harbor program. This Environmental Defense initiative helps landowners restore critical habitat voluntarily without adding new federal restrictions on their property. Safe Harbor is vital for wildlife, since most endangered species inhabit private lands.

"I prefer to help the birds on my own terms," says Russell. "You folks help me do it the right way. Safe Harbor is a breath of fresh air—the first concerted effort to work with landowners by a national organization that I've seen."

Golden-cheeked warblers are true Texas natives. Because of urban sprawl and brush clearing, however, their habitat has shrunk to a sliver of the state. Six warblers live on Russell's property, but now, he noted, "they've done nesting and are rounding up and heading to Guatemala."

Russell is rallying his neighbors to join Safe Harbor and encouraging his children to help conserve this unfragmented landscape. "I'd still be fighting the U.S. government if it weren't for Environmental Defense," he says. "Thanks to you guys, I've seen a huge change in how Fish and Wildlife works."

More than two million acres in seven states are now enrolled in Safe Harbor, providing an ark for endangered species. The program has been used by public and private organizations including The Nature Conservancy, Ducks Unlimited, Amoco and Westvaco, a forest products company. The Peregrine Fund used it to reintroduce the northern aplomado falcon into the wild. And on the island of Molokai, we are helping reestablish the nene goose, Hawaii's state bird.

"This program buys desperately needed time for vanishing wildlife," says our scientist David Wolfe.



The golden-cheeked warbler: a Texas survivor.



Taking the long view

Along with millions of other Americans, I went to a national park this summer. As I walked out onto the south rim of the Grand Canyon and let my eyes roam over a magical world, I discovered that the famous view had been clouded by a haze of particulates. Visibility in the canyon, I was told, is now only one-half to two-thirds of what it once was and should be.

Constant vigilance is required to keep our national parks healthy. These fragile treasures depend on an intricate and sometimes obscure safety net of regulations. Without them, our parks would quickly deteriorate.

A cloudy future for national parks?

In 1999, Environmental Defense helped achieve historic EPA regulations controlling haze in national parks. A park, we argued, cannot function without clean air. Now these EPA regulations are under attack. Numerous electric utilities and mining companies, claiming distress, have filed suit to overturn them. We're spearheading a coalition of 15 groups helping the government fight off this challenge in federal court.

Why, you might ask, are we assisting the federal government? Simple. Our involvement helps ensure that the government defends our national treasures with the utmost vigor. We'll be keeping you posted.

—Fred Krupp



Has the U.S. missed the train on global warming? With America sidelined at the sixth Conference of the Parties (COP 6) in Bonn, we worked with Japan and others.

A breakthrough on global warming CLIMATE AGREEMENT PUTS U.S. IN THE HOT SEAT

This summer, 178 nations hammered out an agreement setting in place the rules requiring industrialized countries to cut emissions of greenhouse gases linked to global warming. The eleventh-hour agreement in Bonn rescued the Kyoto Protocol from collapse.

Six months ago, success seemed impossible. With the U.S. on the sidelines, Environmental Defense worked behind the scenes with delegates from Japan, Russia and the European Union to reach consensus. "This agreement is a monumental achievement," said our executive director Fred Krupp, whose advice at a critical moment helped Japan's efforts on the compromise.

The final agreement, adopted unanimously, allows industrial nations with the highest emissions of greenhouse gases to achieve their cuts with greater flexibility, something the United States has long advocated. "It is a sad irony that the U.S. was absent at its own victory party," said our chief scientist Dr. Michael Oppenheimer.

The Bonn agreement incorporates several ideas championed by Environmental Defense, including a firm compliance regime and an inter-

national emissions trading system that allows countries to achieve reduction targets cost-effectively. Although the accord fails to address tropical deforestation, it does provide a framework for partial crediting of carbon "sinks."

"This agreement is a turning point," said our attorney Joe Goffman. "It is now up to each country to ratify the treaty." Even though the U.S. is not party to the agreement, there is new momentum on Capitol Hill to pass legislation calling for mandatory cuts in emissions of carbon dioxide, a main provision of the Kyoto treaty.

Many corporate leaders are convinced the United States will eventually join the fight against global warming, and would prefer to begin making capital investments now, before the job becomes more expensive. Eight major U.S. corporations, including BP and DuPont, have voluntarily pledged to cap their greenhouse emissions through our Partnership for Climate Action.

"It's not too late for the Bush administration to reengage in the process," said Goffman. "If we fail to act, the global climate—and American competitiveness—will suffer."

Get Green tips save cash and the planet

New TV and radio ads will urge Americans to use energy more efficiently at home and on the road, saving money and reducing pollution. The campaign, called Get Green for its environmental and economic benefits, expands our 14-year partnership on recycling with The Advertising Council.

Last year the media donated more than \$100 million of ad time and space to our recycling campaign, ranking it first among the Ad Council's 30 major campaigns like "Take a bite out of crime," Smokey Bear and "Friends don't let friends drive drunk."

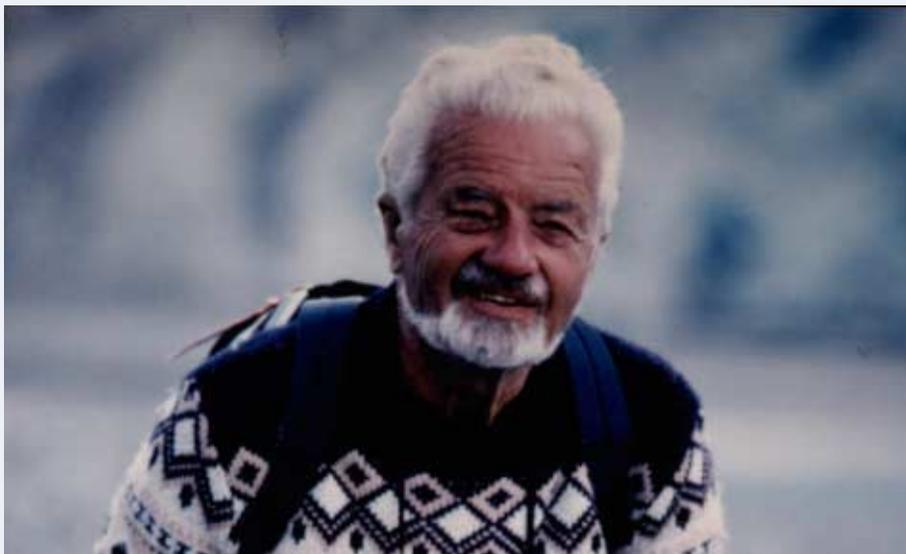
The humorous Get Green ads draw people's attention to simple energy-saving steps like adjusting your thermostat at home, having your car serviced regularly and keeping tires properly inflated. For more tips, viewers are directed to getgreen.com.

McCann-Erickson, the world's largest ad agency network, generously donated its services in creating the Get Green campaign. Additional support came from the Alliance for Clean Air and Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration and EPA.



Tim Connor

Underinflated tires threaten safety and waste more than two million gallons of gasoline a day.



What began as a hobby of painting and observing wildlife grew into a calling that inspired the modern environmental movement.

Dennis Puleston, 1905 - 2001

HE LEFT THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE

Dennis Puleston never forgot a skylark that began singing amidst the terror of the invasion of Normandy. For the rest of his life he repaid that bird. Puleston, the founding chairman of Environmental Defense, died June 8, at 95, having dedicated his life to environmental protection.

An expert naturalist and bird painter, Puleston was a close observer of Long Island's osprey colony. In the 1960s, he noted an alarming decline in osprey chicks because DDT thinned eggshells. He joined other scientists in legal action to stop local DDT spraying, pioneering the use of science and law to protect the environment and spurring the creation of our organization, then called the Environmental Defense Fund. In 1972, DDT was banned nationwide.

An old-style adventurer born in England, Puleston grew up in a fishing village on the Thames estuary, where he developed a love for the natural world and a curiosity about far-away places. In 1931, at 25, he set off in a 31-foot yawl to sail around the world. It took six years and included

encounters with cannibals, pirates, buried treasure, a pet boa constrictor and capture by the Japanese during the Sino-Japanese war. Puleston's captors were so impressed by a handwritten thank-you note from the emperor, to whom he had given his pet cockatoo, that they released him.

In 1941, Puleston settled on Long Island. He helped design the DUKW amphibious landing craft that brought troops ashore in World War II. For this President Truman gave him the Medal of Freedom.

At an age when most people retire to a rocking chair, Puleston began leading expeditions to acquaint people with the urgent need for international protection of Antarctica. His last environmental victory, over a proposed mall, came last year at age 94.

Nearly 350 people gathered at his home to celebrate his achievements. Many recounted how their lives intertwined with this modest, gentle, and compassionate man. "He persevered," said our executive director Fred Krupp. "He cared so deeply that he inspired others to care."

A new weapon against sprawl

When planners proposed changing the state land-use plan to allow high-density development in Alpha, NJ, some residents were taken aback. The proposal covered farmland and other environmentally sensitive lands they cherished. Rather than giving in to encroaching sprawl, they took action.

Armed with a state-of-the-art computerized analysis by Environmental Defense, the citizens convinced town officials to rethink their zoning. "The analysis served as a wake-up call," says Laura Oltman, a member of the Phillipsburg Riverview Organization, a local conservation group. "It also showed the state planning commission that it lacks the information it needs to make smart decisions."

Although it's too soon to declare victory in Alpha, the neighboring townships of Lopatcong and Pohatcong in the New Jersey Highlands have used our Geographic Information System (GIS) analysis to avert similar zoning changes.

Our (GIS) model displays the future impact of development decisions made today. It combines information from land-use plans, environmental maps, census data and other geographic details and presents it in a way the lay public can understand. "Towns often don't realize the implications of their decisions," notes our scientist Jason Patrick. "By examining the demographic, land-use and environmental impacts of development, planners can plan for smart growth."



Grant Heitman Photography

Our tool shows citizens the consequences of land-use choices.



Richard Cumming/Vesti Collection

At our urging, New York State is considering alternative energy.

New York takes a stand on greenhouse gas emissions

When New York State residents opened their energy bills recently, they saw a letter from Governor George Pataki offering a \$75 rebate for replacing inefficient air conditioners and discounts on compact fluorescent bulbs.

The governor's goal is to make New York State a leader in addressing global climate change. To that end, he has asked our General Counsel James Tripp to serve on the state's Greenhouse Gas Task Force. Charged with recommending policies and actions to achieve major greenhouse gas reductions statewide, the group comprises 18 people—six each from business, state agencies and environmental organizations. The recommendations,

due by year's end, will be a model for other states eager to combat global warming.

The task force created five working committees; Environmental Defense is represented on three. Economist Robert Bonnie is focusing on agriculture and forestry, Tripp is tackling transportation, and both Tripp and business liaison Andrew Aulisi are on the trading committee.

"This is a great opportunity to show how economic incentives can achieve cuts in greenhouse gas emissions," says Tripp. "At a time when the U.S. is getting a black eye worldwide for pulling back on international efforts, we're delighted that Governor Pataki is launching this major initiative."

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Contact the editor at 800-242-3251, by fax at 212-616-1489, or by email at editor@environmentaldefense.org.

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Family farmers recruited for a safe, clean environment

In Cortland County, NY, the average dairy farm nets \$27,000 a year. Karen Dove isn't in the business to make money. "You want to do right by the land," she says, "but conservation is expensive." A federal program has helped Dove and her husband install fences and paddocks to graze their 130 milk cows in rotation among separate pastures, allowing parts of the land to rest and protecting the Tioughnioga River.

Most conservation oriented farmers aren't as lucky. Even though a record \$32 billion was doled out to farmers last year, our research shows that most farmers who apply for conservation grants are turned down for lack of funds. Phil Ludwig, who administers federal conservation programs in Cortland County, reports a backlog of farmers who want to sign up. "At least in my small part of the world, this is government money well spent," he says.

Environmental Defense has targeted farm legislation now before Congress as the nation's best opportunity for improving water quality, wildlife habitat and human health.

Aiming to expand conservation incentives, we helped write the Working Lands Stewardship Act. Introduced by Reps. Ron Kind (D-WI) and Wayne Gilchrest (R-MD), this bill



Agricultural Research Service

"Farmers are our natural allies," says our attorney Scott Faber. "They should be allowed to participate in conservation."

proposes \$8 billion in farm subsidies to help farmers who undertake conservation measures. It would provide \$500 million annually for open space protection, \$2 billion for water protection and \$750 million to help wildlife. It also boosts funding to restore habitat, plant trees along urban rivers and help farmers switch to organic farming.

The bill has rapidly gained support in Congress and now has over 100 co-sponsors. To accelerate its passage, we helped form a diverse coalition of environmentalists, farmers, ranchers, sportsmen and public health groups. The same coalition will be invaluable when Congress acts on the 2002 Farm Bill.

REDUCING FARM POLLUTION

Current farm policy subsidizes overproduction of commodity crops such as corn, soybeans, cotton, wheat and rice. Grown with heavy applications of pesticides and fertilizers, these commodity crops do significant damage to the environment. Farmland accounts for 55% of the land in the lower 48 states. Farm practices affect up to 80% of the water we drink and also have a major impact on estuaries. For instance, nitrogen from fertilizer washing down the Mississippi River from farms in the

Midwest has created a New Jersey-sized "dead zone" in the Gulf of Mexico. Reduced use of farm chemicals and increased waterside planting of trees can protect rivers from pollution.

At the same time, farms can be a positive environmental force. They are frequently the front line of defense against sprawl. But without help to purchase conservation easements to hold onto their land, farmers are often forced to sell. The number of farms has dropped from six million to two million, leading to increased urban sprawl and a loss of biodiversity.

"The incentives we helped introduce can help ensure a vibrant future for the family farm, healthier food and a cleaner environment," says our attorney Scott Faber.



Grant Heitman Photography

More than two million acres of rural land are converted to urban use each year.



NASA

Fertilizer washed into the Gulf of Mexico has created a "dead zone" the size of New Jersey.

Today's specials

The following resources explore the changing American diet. For a full list of organizations providing useful information, visit our web site at www.environmentaldefense.org/more/10542 or contact these groups directly:

The Agricultural Marketing Service lists farmer's markets nationwide. Director, Wholesale and Alternative Markets, USDA STOP 0269, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20250-0269; 800-384-8704.

The Center for Science in the Public Interest gives an overview of food safety. 1875 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 300, Washington, D.C. 20009; 202-332-9110.

The Co-op Directory Service provides state-by-state listings of food co-ops. 1254 Etna Street, St. Paul, MN 55106; 651-774-9189.

For online information on the best seafood choices, visit www.environmentaldefense.org/more/10543.

The Food Alliance supports sustainable agriculture and useful labeling programs. 1829 NE Alberta, #5, Portland, OR 97211; 503-493-1066.

Food First/Institute for Food and Development Policy works to establish food as a fundamental human right. 398 60th Street, Oakland, CA 94618; 510-654-4400.

The Robyn Van En Center maintains a national resource directory of Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA) projects. 1015 Philadelphia Avenue, Chambersburg, PA 17201; 717-261-2889.



Tim Connor

Organic goes mainstream. To meet the growing demand, big corporations now ship organic food long distances. If you have the opportunity, choose local products.

Healthy food for a healthy planet

WHO SAYS IT CAN'T TASTE GREAT?

Much of the popular, affordable fare favored by Americans is fat-laden and burdened with chemical additives. What's more, our food is often grown in ways that take a heavy toll on the environment. But after you cut down on these negative impacts, what's left to eat? Should you buy only free-range meat and eggs? Go organic? Become a vegan?

These are important questions. When the Union of Concerned Scientists studied consumer decisions that have the greatest impact on the environment, food choices came in near the top of the list, second only to transportation.

Here are a few tips for a sometimes confusing issue:

Look for USDA Organic. The new nationwide organic standard comes into play this year. The USDA Organic seal on produce, meat and dairy prod-

ucts certifies they were produced without the use of pesticides, genetic engineering, growth hormones, irradiation or antibiotics. Most supermarkets now have organic sections.

Join your local co-op. Food co-ops offer affordable produce (often organic) and other staples through the buying power of their members. The modern co-op movement has its roots in the 1960s back-to-the-land movement. Today's co-ops, however, offer everything from gourmet cheese to fat-free cookies.

Consider community-supported agriculture. CSAs are a new variation on the food co-op. Groups of consumers buy shares in a local farmer's crop, thus ensuring themselves a weekly supply of fresh food and the farmer a regular income. This cuts down on transportation impacts,

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). Opinions are the author's and not necessarily those of Environmental Defense staff.

helps hold the line against sprawl and may be the best deal yet in terms of freshness and taste.

Visit the farmers' market. Without joining anything, you can shop at one of the 2,800 farmers' markets operating throughout the United States. Here, consumers get access to locally grown, farm-fresh produce and growers skip the middleman to deal directly with the customer.

Choose seafood wisely. Many of the fish we love to eat are disappearing from the world's oceans, while other species are abundant and caught in environmentally sustainable ways. Make an informed choice by consulting the "fish finders" offered by Environmental

Defense, the National Audubon Society and other groups. (See box at left.)

Drink shade-grown coffee. Traditional growing methods use little or no fertilizer and pesticides and preserve songbirds. Not all shade-grown coffee is organic or vice versa, but there is a natural connection.

Push for better labeling. Environmental Defense is pressing for labeling of genetically engineered foods (to protect consumers who may be allergic to an introduced gene) and is partnering with The Food Alliance to label certain foods produced using certified sustainable agriculture methods.

By Jim Motavalli

A Different Kind of Gift

Making a Charitable Gift Annuity to Environmental Defense will help perpetuate your commitment so that we can keep the world healthy



for all living creatures. With a gift of \$10,000 or more, you earn a fixed annual sum for life and receive an immediate charitable deduction.

To learn about how your gift can make a big difference, please check the box on the form facing page 5, call toll-free 1-877-677-7397 or write:

Anne B. Doyle
Environmental Defense
257 Park Avenue South
New York, NY 10010

Mexican oil giant joins us to reduce greenhouse gases

One of the world's largest oil companies has joined forces with Environmental Defense to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions voluntarily. The state-owned Petróleos Mexicanos (PEMEX), which supplies all of Mexico's oil and gas, has begun a company-wide program to cut carbon dioxide emissions. We will help develop the program and ensure it cuts emissions substantially.

"Saving energy reduces costs and preserves natural resources," says PEMEX director general Raul Munoz Leos. "We're honored to receive support from Environmental Defense for [the program's] design."

During the first six-month phase, the company will use an internal emissions-trading program to reduce gases 1% below 1999 levels. It will then set an extensive, 10-year reduction target.

Implementing a cap-and-trade approach that we pioneered, PEMEX will establish an overall cap on emissions and allocate it to the company's subsidiaries. Each facility can then trade its assigned reductions with other facilities. In this way, the lowest-cost reductions will be found while the overall cap will not be exceeded.

"We applaud PEMEX for taking an emissions cap," says our executive director Fred Krupp. "Part of the responsibility of a world-class company is to address climate change."

Reducing emissions "won't be easy in a period of growth," says our business liaison Millie Chu. "This



Cliff Hollenbeck/International Stock

PEMEX supplies the oil and gas for every car in Mexico.

requires a shift in the mindset of the entire company down to the worker adjusting valves in a refinery."

The agreement comes at a time when 180 countries are poised to ratify the Kyoto Protocol on global warming. The U.S. administration has criticized the pact for, among other reasons, failing to require commitments from developing countries. "This agreement is critical because PEMEX appears to be the first company from the developing world to commit itself to firm greenhouse gas reductions," says our chief scientist Michael Oppenheimer.

Turner helps species

Environmental Defense has joined forces with the Turner Endangered Species Fund to initiate Florida's first-ever Safe Harbor program. The initiative at Ted Turner's 2,800-acre Avalon Plantation Annex in the Florida panhandle will restore habitat for the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker. Safe Harbor, pioneered by us, insulates landowners from increased regulation.

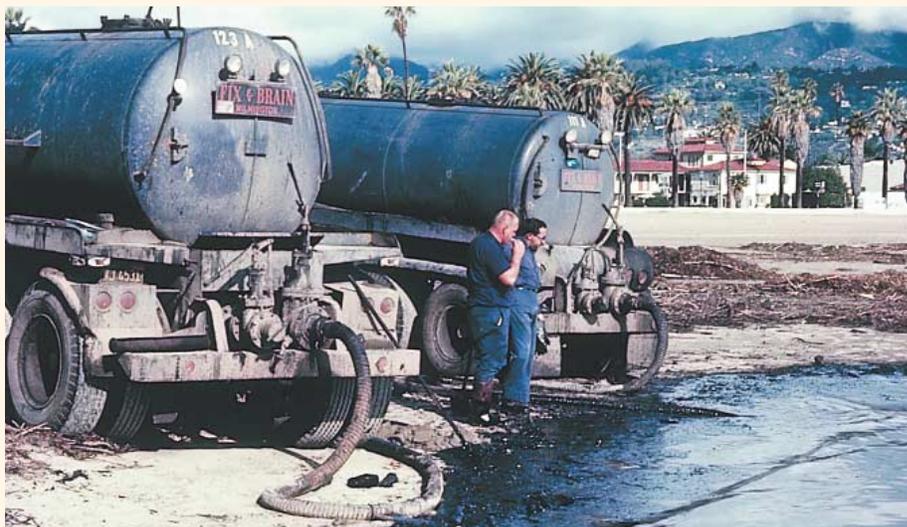
"Ted's goal is to use this project as a template to persuade other landowners to participate," says Greg Hagan, who manages the Turner properties in the Southeast. "We're big believers in Safe Harbor. It offers landowners flexibility."

Turner is America's largest individual landowner with a keen interest in endangered species. His Avalon plantation is distinguished by its stands of rare, old-growth longleaf pine favored by the woodpeckers. "This is some of the nicest fish habitat I've ever seen," says our economist Robert Bonnie.

"Environmental Defense lent our project a lot more credibility with government," says Hagan. Building on the success of our Turner effort, Florida is planning a statewide Safe Harbor program for the woodpecker.



Prime habitat: Turner's Avalon plantation.



Robert Sollen

A 1969 oil rig blowout off Santa Barbara served as a national wake-up call.

Drawing the line on offshore drilling

The cold waters of the North Atlantic meet the Gulf Stream off Cape Hatteras at a place named The Point. Endangered right whales, sea turtles and migratory fishes congregate here to feed in the nutrient-rich waters. "Ecologically, this is one of the most important areas of the Western Atlantic," says our scientist Dr. Douglas Rader.

The Point may also contain natural gas deposits and is coveted by oil companies. For nearly 20 years, the Outer Banks—and much of the U.S. coastline—have been protected by an annual moratorium on new offshore oil leases. Now the Bush administration wants to lift it and has targeted the Outer Banks for possible exploration. "This could become Ground Zero for new drilling," says Rader.

Working with congressmen and shoreline communities, we helped lay the groundwork for both the House

and the Senate to pass bipartisan bills this summer favoring an extension of the moratorium. We also successfully urged the Bush administration to significantly scale back its proposal to lease tracts off the Florida panhandle not included in the moratorium.

We are also working to close a major loophole exploited by oil companies. An amendment by Senators Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and John Kerry (D-MA) would block oil companies from conducting seismic tests in waters covered by the moratorium. "The amendment will ensure that these activities cannot be conducted by stealth in protected areas," says our marine advocate Richard Charter.

These successes offer a measure of protection for national treasures such as The Point. "We must remain vigilant," says Charter. "Victories may only be temporary, but our losses are permanent."



ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE

finding the ways that work

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Paradise lost ... and regained?

“This milk-and-honey wilderness,” is how ecologist Aldo Leopold described the Colorado River delta in 1922. Back then, the vast, fertile wetland supported abundant wildlife along the U.S.-Mexico border. Ten dams and 80 diversions later, “less than one percent of the water actually reaches the delta,” says our scientist Jennifer Pitt.

By 1980, headlines proclaimed that the ecosystem, once larger than Rhode Island and Delaware combined, was dead. Yet that same year the tide began to turn.

With the last reservoir finally full, high-water years sent floodwaters to the delta for the first time in decades, reestablishing riparian habitat for animals like the vaquita porpoise, the world’s smallest and rarest marine mammal. A prolonged drought, however, could again reduce the amount of water reaching the delta to a trickle.

Responding to recommendations by Environmental Defense and its partners, the U.S. and Mexico have agreed to study restoration plans for the delta. Pitt is helping organize a symposium in Mexicali this month to brief stakeholders on current scientific understanding of the river. With bi-national cooperation, we may yet preserve the delta that inspired Aldo Leopold’s words.

Our report, *A Delta Once More*, is available at www.environmentaldefense.org/more/10546.



Better water management can save the Colorado Delta.



New microturbine generators produce less pollution without diesel.

Clamping down on small and filthy diesel generators

The Clean Air Act succeeded in regulating most large coal-fired power plants. But it has done little to curb emissions from highly polluting, small-scale electricity generators. These facilities, most of which are fueled by diesel, have remained largely unregulated.

Until recently these generators were used only in emergency situations. But in California and Texas this year, small generators have been fired up routinely, a result of electricity restructuring and warnings of price spikes. “They pollute 40 to 100 times more than larger power plants,” says our energy specialist Mark MacLeod. “They undermine the air quality gains we’ve made under the Clean Air Act.”

The issue wasn’t on the radar screen of the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission until MacLeod helped bring it to their attention last spring. After months of intense debate, the agency became the first in the nation to establish stringent clean-air standards for small generators. The rules will cut emissions by up to 80% and severely restrict the use of diesel fuel.

Over the next 20 years, the government estimates that small generators could contribute up to 20% of the nation’s new electricity. Realizing that something needs to be done, and inspired by the new Texas rules, California and New York are considering similar steps.

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Member services: 800-684-3322 or members@environmentaldefense.org

Environmental Defense Offices
New York, NY • Washington, DC • Oakland, CA
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Citizens track smog

Our intern Jamie Ramsay warns her friends not to phone after 3:00 pm. That's when the volunteers in her hometown of Dayton, OH, call her to report smog levels they've measured in their neighborhoods that day using special hand-held monitors we've provided. Ramsay passes on the data to our Pollution Prevention Alliance and by morning it's on our web site for all to see.

The Dayton network, organized jointly with Ohio Citizen Action, is one of several programs using the monitors. Working with neighborhood activists, we've started similar programs in Cleveland and Atlanta. Activists are equipped with the small devices and trained to take daily readings of ground-level ozone (which leads to smog) to pinpoint hot spots.

EPA monitors only three Dayton neighborhoods for smog. Our program monitors ten. In producing the new data, we are working with city and county officials who have begun sending us their employees to be trained.

"Our data is not as precise as EPA's," says our economist Carol Andress, "but it's valuable. We can say, 'Here are places with consistently high ozone levels. Perhaps we should focus strategies or health services there.'"

For the latest smog levels visit www.environmentaldefense.org/more/10545.



John Bowman

Our volunteers are trained to uncover pollution hotspots.



John Rae

At our urging, EPA stood firm against a food giant.

StarLink corn banned for humans

The Environmental Protection Agency has decided not to let even trace amounts of genetically modified StarLink corn into human food. The decision follows the release of a report by an agency advisory panel to which we contributed information.

StarLink was never approved for human consumption but last year it leaked into the food supply, causing the recall of taco shells. Its maker, Aventis, then petitioned EPA to allow the corn in human food.

StarLink contains a bacterial gene for a protein that kills pests. To evaluate its safety, the government tested 17 people who complained of allergic reactions to StarLink and found no evidence that they were allergic to the corn.

But the EPA panel concluded there is a "medium likelihood" that the protein in StarLink is an allergen. Our scientist Dr. Rebecca Goldberg made comments to the advisory panel, reminding it that Aventis has neither fully evaluated potential exposure to the toxin nor taken into account the greater susceptibility of children.

"There is no safe margin for allergens," said Goldberg. "Even a small amount can trigger a reaction." EPA then decided against the company.

We continue to press for stricter biotech standards. Due in part to our efforts, EPA recently finalized its regulations for genetically engineered crops with pesticidal traits.

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Citizens track smog

Atlanta smog reports come from a single EPA monitor located 18 miles west of downtown. So where can an asthma sufferer from another part of the city turn for local air-quality information?

Environmental Defense has equipped and trained volunteers in 25 areas around Atlanta to measure ground-level ozone (which leads to smog) using cell-phone-sized monitors in their backyards every weekday. The readings are phoned in and posted on the Environmental Defense web site.

This Atlanta effort, organized jointly with the Moorehouse School of Medicine, is the latest ozone monitoring network we've established, following ongoing programs in Cleveland and Dayton, Ohio. Smog causes numerous health problems and induces attacks among asthma sufferers, and Atlanta's case is particularly urgent. The city is classified as being in "severe non-attainment" for its smog, which routinely exceeds federal air quality standards. Yet Atlanta has fewer monitors than other cities with similar air quality problems.

"If we pinpoint neighborhood hot spots, that could focus efforts to deal with this serious health threat," says our Atlanta-based attorney John Bowman.

For the latest smog levels visit www.environmentaldefense.org/more/10544.



John Bowman

Our volunteers are trained to uncover pollution hotspots.



Corbis

Giant farms cause giant water pollution problems.

Hog moratorium extended

The North Carolina legislature extended the state's moratorium on new factory hog farms until 2003, but waste disposal standards for today's highly polluting farms remain unchanged. In response, we have stepped up our campaign to eliminate open-air waste lagoons, which are responsible for air and water pollution and public health problems.

The world's largest hog producer, Smithfield Foods, has a pact with North Carolina's attorney general to replace its lagoons by 2005. But until then, it seems to be business as usual for Smithfield. The company has applied for permits to build several large hog farms in South Carolina using outdated lagoons.

South Carolina quickly passed its own moratorium on new factory farms. Soon afterward, the Canadian province of Quebec, one of the world's largest producers of pork, said it would cap hog farm size in 165 towns for environmental reasons.

Environmental Defense aims to convince the attorneys general of North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia to join forces and eliminate harmful waste lagoons in favor of improved technologies. "The problem of hog lagoons knows no boundaries," says Jane Preyer, our North Carolina office director. "Our lawmakers must ban lagoons at factory hog farms once and for all."

See Hog Watch at www.hogwatch.org.

Environmental Defense Newsletter

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Contact the editor at 800-242-3251, by fax at 212-616-1489, or by email at editor@environmentaldefense.org.

Member services: 800-684-3322 or members@environmentaldefense.org

Environmental Defense Offices
New York, NY • Washington, DC • Oakland, CA
Boulder, CO • Raleigh, NC • Austin, TX
Project Offices: Boston, MA • Los Angeles, CA

Online at www.environmentaldefense.org

Paradise lost ... and regained?

"This milk-and-honey wilderness," is how ecologist Aldo Leopold described the Colorado River delta in 1922. Back then, the vast, fertile wetland supported abundant wildlife along the U.S.-Mexico border. Ten dams and 80 diversions later, "less than one percent of the water actually reaches the delta," says our scientist Jennifer Pitt.

By 1980, headlines proclaimed that the ecosystem, once larger than Rhode Island and Delaware combined, was dead. Yet that same year the tide began to turn.

With the last reservoir finally full, high-water years sent floodwaters to the delta for the first time in decades, reestablishing riparian habitat for animals like the vaquita porpoise, the world's smallest and rarest marine mammal. A prolonged drought, however, could again reduce the amount of water reaching the delta to a trickle.

Responding to recommendations by Environmental Defense and its partners, the U.S. and Mexico have agreed to study restoration plans for the delta. Pitt is helping organize a symposium in Mexicali this month to brief stakeholders on current scientific understanding of the river. With bi-national cooperation, we may yet preserve the delta that inspired Aldo Leopold's words.

Our report, *A Delta Once More*, is available at www.environmentaldefense.org/more/10546.



Better water management can save the Colorado Delta.



New microturbine generators produce less pollution without diesel.

Clamping down on small and filthy diesel generators

The Clean Air Act succeeded in regulating most large coal-fired power plants. But it has done little to curb emissions from highly polluting, small-scale electricity generators. These facilities, most of which are fueled by diesel, have remained largely unregulated.

Until recently these generators were used only in emergency situations. But in California and Texas this year, small generators have been fired up routinely, a result of electricity restructuring and warnings of price spikes. "They pollute 40 to 100 times more than larger power plants," says our energy specialist Mark MacLeod. "They undermine the air quality gains we've made under the Clean Air Act."

The issue wasn't on the radar screen of the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission until MacLeod helped bring it to their attention last spring. After months of intense debate, the agency became the first in the nation to establish stringent clean-air standards for small generators. The rules will cut emissions by up to 80% and severely restrict the use of diesel fuel.

Over the next 20 years, the government estimates that small generators could contribute up to 20% of the nation's new electricity. Realizing that something needs to be done, and inspired by the new Texas rules, California and New York are considering similar steps.

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