

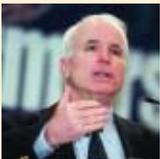
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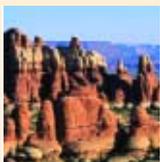
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## McDonald's cuts antibiotic use

**NEW POLICY TO KEEP DRUGS EFFECTIVE FOR HUMANS**

A young child is brought to the hospital with a high fever and severe stomach pains from food poisoning. Doctors prescribe antibiotics, but the drugs have no effect.

Such troubling and increasingly frequent scenarios are raising alarms that some drugs are losing their effectiveness because of overuse. McDonald's, the world's largest quick-serve restaurant chain, worked with Environmental Defense to announce recently that it would do something about the problem.

Responding to concerns that antibiotics use in farm animals contributes to making the drugs less effective for people, McDonald's has required its meat suppliers to curtail antibiotic use. We worked with drug manufacturers, scientists, suppliers and doctors to help shape the policy, which sets a new industry standard.

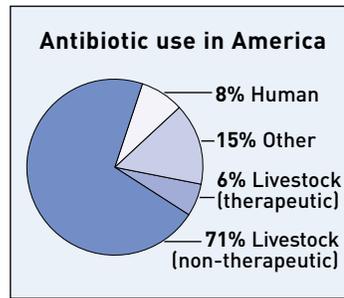
"This is a landmark step toward preserving the power of human medications," says Dr. Glenn Morris, chair of the Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine at the University of Maryland.

McDonald's purchasing clout could change the way animals are raised in many countries. The policy will affect meat produced for 30,000 restaurants in 118

nations. "We would love to be a catalyst for change industry-wide on antibiotic use,"

says McDonald's senior director of social responsibility Bob Langert.

The announcement garnered attention worldwide. *The New York Times* predicted: "As McDonald's changes the standards of meat production, other corporations will follow suit."



Union of Concerned Scientists (estimates)

### A GROWING DRUG PROBLEM

More than 70% of antibiotics in the United States are fed to healthy farm animals to make them grow faster and prevent disease, according to a recent estimate. "Often these drugs compensate for the stressful, unsanitary conditions in many large animal-production facilities," says Environmental Defense scientist Dr.

*Please see Cover Story, page 2*



Grant Heitman

McDonald's policy will govern 2.5 billion pounds of beef, pork and chicken bought by the restaurant chain each year.

## Denial is no solution to global warming



The Bush administration repeatedly has called for more study of global warming. It is disappointing to learn, then, that the White House recently deleted

inconvenient climate findings from a state-of-the-environment report, promoting instead an industry-funded study so widely discredited that the editors of the journal publishing it have resigned. The administration's actions are eerily reminiscent of the tobacco industry's refusal to acknowledge the harms of smoking.

Rather than hiding the facts, the administration should endorse cost-effective solutions. Instead, EPA has hushed up its own findings that a plan

to limit greenhouse gases along with other power-plant emissions would save more lives and produce about \$50 billion more in health savings at an extra cost of just \$2.2 billion.

If the United States doesn't start to address global warming economically, businesses could find it far costlier to

### Businesses will suffer from U.S. inaction

make steeper pollution cuts down the road. Several major companies like our climate partners BP, DuPont and Shell are commendably cutting greenhouse gases today. Voluntary actions, however, will not give us the guaranteed nationwide emission reductions we need.

Fortunately, leaders in Congress are

standing up. The Climate Stewardship Act by Senators John McCain (R-AZ) and Joseph Lieberman (D-CT) has emerged as the litmus test of political responsibility on the gravest environmental problem of our age. (See story, p. 7)

A Massachusetts Institute of Technology study shows the bill's impact on the economy would be negligible. With bipartisan support growing, the bill is scheduled to be voted on this fall as a free-standing measure. We hope the president will come to support it. Over time, with your help, we will make it imperative that elected officials support action to protect us and our children from this looming threat.

## COVER STORY: McDonald's says no to antibiotics

Continued from page 1

Becky Goldberg.

While not all these antibiotics are used in humans, a growing body of evidence demonstrates that the practice causes bacteria to grow resistant to the drugs. These "superbugs" threaten people infected from undercooked meat or contaminated food surfaces.

In 2001, we reported that many of the "wonder drugs" doctors use to fight infections are losing their effectiveness.

The American Medical Association and more than 300 other groups have joined us in calling for an end to the routine use of medically important antibiotics in healthy food animals. We are pressing Congress to pass the Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act. This bipartisan bill would require a phase out in the use of medically important antibiotics as feed additives for farm animals.

McDonald's new policy requires its direct poultry suppliers to phase out the use of medically important antibiotics as growth promoters by the end of 2004.

Tyson Foods, the world's largest chicken producer, is one such supplier. The policy also gives preference to indirect suppliers of beef and pork who follow the guidelines.

Some restaurant chains say their suppliers have cut down on antibiotic use, but McDonald's policy goes further. It applies worldwide, addresses beef and pork for

the first time and requires certified compliance.

"McDonald's has demonstrated that cutting down on antibiotics is practical and affordable," says our Environmental Alliances director Gwen Ruta. "We now call on other companies to adopt similar policies and send the message that antibiotic use must be curbed."



Our joint effort with McDonald's made headlines.



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



# MAILBAG

**Dear Environmental Defense:**

I found the article on FedEx trucks interesting (*A cleaner road ahead*, July-August *Solutions*). Considering the stop-and-go pattern of the nation's 444,000 school buses, wouldn't they be good candidates for regenerative diesel-electric drives?

**Bill Riley**  
New York, NY

**Our project manager Elizabeth Sturcken responds:**

School buses are a logical application for fuel-saving hybrid-electric technology. However, the initial cost for new technology is a major hurdle for financially strapped school districts. Environmental Defense is working on incentive funding but, for now, fitting existing buses with pollution traps is a better solution for the dangerous emissions, though it won't improve fuel efficiency.



Image State

**Dear Environmental Defense:**

I fully support your premise that ties oil dependence to national security (*Putting the brakes on oil demand*, May-June *Solutions*). This does not mean more drilling. We need to save what we have and reduce our dependence on imported energy supplies at the same time.

We can make a cleaner Earth by doing more with less waste, and in the meantime increase the strength and stability of our country.

**Kelly Layne Harper**  
Costa Mesa, CA

**PLEASE WRITE!**  
See addresses at left.

# Washington watch



## Just when you thought your favorite seacoast was safe

For 22 years, a bipartisan ban on off-shore oil and gas drilling has protected America's fragile coastlines. Now the moratorium is again under assault. At the behest of Senator Ted Stevens (R-AK), the Senate voted to undermine it and allow drilling in Alaska's Bristol Bay, the planet's richest fishery for prime sockeye salmon and a refuge for orca and beluga whales. The House still supports the moratorium, so a House-Senate conference committee will meet to resolve the issue. (*Help protect Bristol Bay. See page 11.*)

Hoping to push open the door even further, pro-drilling senators included a provision in the energy bill that would require a survey of oil and gas beneath the entire outer continental shelf. A similar effort was soundly defeated in the House, so a House-Senate committee will settle the difference.

The survey would use 3-D seismic technology and create intense underwater sound waves that may irreparably harm the hearing of marine mammals and fish.

Survey proponents insist their

curiosity is merely prudent and has nothing to do with the moratorium. "That's like a hungry person saying, 'I'm going to count the chocolate chip cookies in my cupboard, but I have no interest in eating them,'" said our legislative director Elizabeth Thompson.

### OCEANS IN THE BALANCE

Prompted by escalating concern, the government commissioned the first state-of-the-oceans report since the 1960s, due to be released this fall. The U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy will recommend to President Bush and Congress measures to restore the ocean's bounty by reversing loss of marine habitat, declines in fish stocks and coastal pollution. It will recommend the first comprehensive approach to oceans management, considering on-shore actions as well as fishing and other activities.

"Just as Teddy Roosevelt launched a new era of land conservation, President Bush should take bold action to protect America's oceans," says our Oceans director David Festa.



Judy Beltan/Lonely Planet

Drilling proponents claim they're "just curious" about what's off this coast.

## New marching orders for the Army Corps

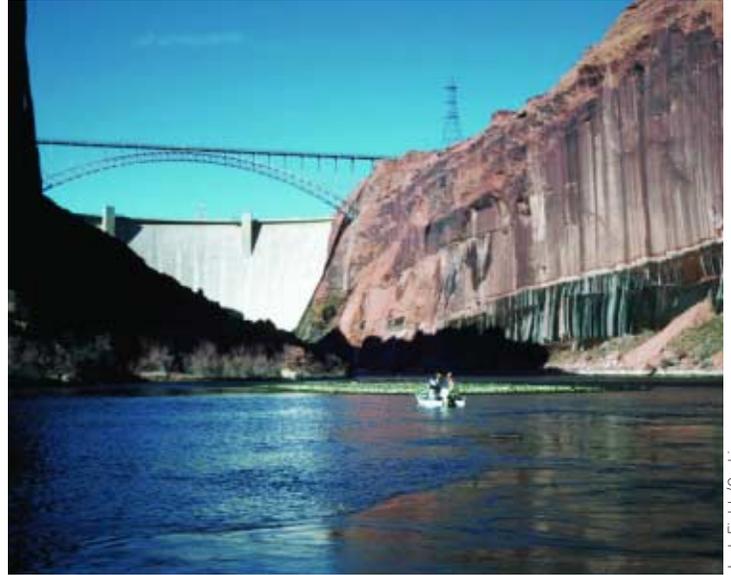
In their natural state, America's grandest rivers meandered past islands, shoals and shallow side channels where fish and migrating birds thrived. Their commercial fisheries employed thousands and even supplied much of the world's caviar.

But over the past century, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been called upon to build dams, levees and other structures in the name of flood control and to facilitate barge traffic, turning free-flowing rivers into confined canals. The resulting development in flood-prone areas has worsened the disaster when floods do occur, and in many cases the predicted barge traffic never materialized. To make matters worse, the environmental costs have been severe.

Damming the Snake River in eastern Washington, for example, has pushed salmon runs to the brink of extinction. Damming and straightening the Missouri River has led to the decline of scores of species, including the interior

least tern, an endangered bird first recorded by Lewis and Clark. Channeling the Mississippi has robbed Old Man River of its historic role in creating new side channels and replenishing its coastal delta, which serves as a nursery for one-third of America's seafood.

Protecting rivers and their biodiversity has been an Environmental Defense priority since our earliest days. In 1969, we helped stop construction of the Cross-Florida Barge Canal, which would have destroyed the Oklawaha River and its floodplain. President Nixon signed the order halting construction, noting, "In calculating [the project's economic]



Behind this dam, Lake Powell loses enough water each year through evaporation and seepage to supply the needs of Los Angeles.

return, the destruction of natural, ecological values was not counted as a cost, nor was a credit allowed for actions preserving the environment."

Not much has changed. Although masterful at civil engineering, the Corps often gets the economics wrong and understates environmental consequences. In recent years, we raised concerns about Corps proposals to enlarge North Carolina's Oregon Inlet and to deepen the Delaware River. Outside experts eventually found these projects were based on faulty predictions and economic analyses. In April, the Bush administration mothballed the Oregon Inlet project and decided to subject the Delaware River plan to greater scrutiny.

There were so many miscalculations in one Corps study that Congress's General Accounting Office questioned the "adequacy and effectiveness" of the entire agency. The cascade of faulty studies led *The New York Times* to characterize the Corps as "an incorrigibly spend-thrift agency whose projects over the years have caused enormous damage to the nation's streams, rivers and wetlands." Often there are less expensive and environmentally preferable solutions available, such as moving development out of flood-prone areas.

### A Corps economist blows the whistle

In 2000, courageous Army Corps economist Donald Sweeney (left) revealed that senior officials had ordered him to exaggerate the benefits of a \$1.2 billion project to lengthen Mississippi River locks. He turned to Environmental Defense attorney Tim Searchinger (right) for help. After we helped detail the abuses, a rush of investigations ensued. The Army's inspector general found officials had ordered Sweeney to cook the books, and the National Academy of Sciences concluded the Corps was using faulty economics and demanded improvements. Despite these findings, the Corps is still using questionable economics today.



John Rae

Environmental Defense believes that, if given new marching orders, the Corps can be a powerful force for good. We're calling on the agency to repair damaged rivers, lakes and wetlands. One promising area is an \$8 billion plan to restore the Florida Everglades. We're also working with the Corps to develop restoration plans for the entire Mississippi River and its delta, as supported by the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana.

Our general counsel James Tripp serves on Louisiana governor Mike Foster's coastal restoration commission and is building support in Congress. If the Mississippi River project is approved, it will be the most ambitious restoration effort in the nation's history.

Congress now is considering major bipartisan reforms that could weed out economically questionable and destructive water projects by requiring

outside review. Proposed legislation would also force the Corps to do a better job in replacing wetlands and other habitats destroyed by its activities.

"We've never been closer to lasting reform of this troubled agency," says our water resources specialist Scott Faber. "These reforms, if enacted, will finally end the era of water project boondoggles and lift the cloud of suspicion hanging over the Corps."

## The Mississippi: Crucible for Corps reform

The Mississippi is one of the world's most diverse ecological systems, home to hundreds of species, including 40% of America's migratory waterfowl.

But Mark Twain's meandering river has been reengineered by the Army Corps to serve as a reliable

artery for commerce. What little remains of the natural river is slowly being lost.

Today, we seek to balance the needs of the working river and the living river by engaging the Corps in scientifically sound restoration projects.



At our urging, the Corps changed dam operations to revive marsh plants, which nourish birds and fish. We're now pressing the Corps to undertake further restoration.



We've gone to court to reduce summer dam releases and protect the least tern, piping plover and pallid sturgeon from extinction.

The Corps is still using faulty economics to argue for lengthening barge locks, which would accelerate the loss of critical nurseries for wildlife.

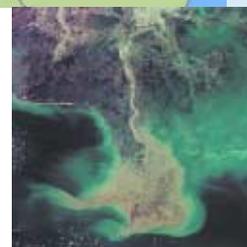


The Corps proposes to build a pumping plant that would harm 200,000 acres of wetlands. We've

worked with federal officials to pay farmers to restore bottomland hardwoods instead.



Transforming the Mississippi into a fast-flowing channel has caused sediments that once nourished the river's delta to rocket straight into the Gulf. We're working to restore coastal wetlands.



# Regional update

## To rescue the Rio Grande

This May there was no queen of the Onion Festival in Presidio, TX. The annual extravaganza was canceled. No onions were to be had.

After a decade of drought, cut off from its headwaters by dams and sucked dry by irrigation, the once mighty Rio Grande has been reduced to a trickle. In the remote 200-mile stretch known as the Forgotten River, thickets of non-native tamarisk (also known as saltcedar) soak up what little water there is, destroying the channel that once defined the U.S.-Mexico border.

For vegetable farmers like Terry Bishop, the crisis has forced changes. When he learned of an Environmental Defense workshop on restoring the river, Bishop decided to attend. “As a farmer, I care deeply about the environment,” he says, “but I’d never been invited to such a meeting. The Rio Grande is our lifeline.”

Our water analyst Karen Chapman, working with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, persuaded local farmers to apply for Farm Bill funds to restore the river by conserving irrigation water.

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**“I just want to see the river my father remembers.”**

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We’re also working to replace the tamarisk with native vegetation and improve dam management.

If all goes well, native willow and cottonwood forests will once again line the banks of the Forgotten River, and sweet onions will flourish. Says 16-year-old Presidio resident Kimberly Baeza: “I just want to see the river that my father remembers.”



Gibson Photography

For the first time in 50 years, the Rio Grande dried up in Big Bend National Park.



Tony Perotte/Ambient Images

The brand new park. In total, five miles of riverfront will be reclaimed.

## Nurturing life on Manhattan’s Hudson River shore

An oasis has bloomed along Manhattan’s crumbling industrial waterfront, thanks in part to years of work by Environmental Defense. This spring, Governor George Pataki and Mayor Michael Bloomberg cut the ribbon on the first section of the Hudson River Park. When completed it will run five miles from downtown to 59th Street. Pataki called it “the Central Park of the 21st century.”

Environmental Defense helped coax the park to life as a founding member of the Hudson River Park Alliance. The alliance pooled the clout of river, park and community advocates to break a political deadlock and win \$100 million each from the city and state, which formed a rare partnership to oversee the greenway.

Our alliance also crafted the legislation authorizing the park. It protects open spaces and secures revenue

for the park from restaurants and other commerce within its boundaries.

“This project can serve as a model for urban parks across the nation,” says our Living Cities manager Andy Darrell.

The 550-acre park provides public access to the Hudson for the first time in

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**The new park is a model for other cities.**

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80 years, with 13 public piers and a “water trail” for canoes and kayaks. It features an already completed bikeway and also will include a sanctuary for marine life such as the striped bass, which use pier pilings in the river as a nursery.

Environmental Defense is pressing for more parks to be built along New York City’s 578 miles of shoreline.

# D-Day for Senate vote on climate

The heat is on. And it's going to stay on.

When Senators John McCain (R-AZ) and Joseph Lieberman (D-CT) announced plans this July to introduce their Climate Stewardship Act as an amendment to the energy bill, opponents of action on global warming ran for cover.

In the waning hours of the energy debate, Senators McCain and Lieberman secured a unanimous agreement that guarantees a clear vote on their climate initiative this fall.

"This is great news," said our climate specialist Melissa Carey. "For the first time the Senate will vote on curbing greenhouse gases." The McCain-Lieberman bill calls for a comprehensive, economy-wide policy to cut U.S. emissions of heat-trapping gases. According to a recent Gallup Poll, 75% of Americans favor mandatory controls on greenhouse emissions.

The achievement came despite frantic efforts led by Jim Inhofe (R-OK) to debunk the science on global warming. Citing a widely discredited study, industry lobbyists had radically exaggerated the amendment's impact on jobs and the economy.

McCain, however, was undeterred. "It took me seven years to get



The New Yorker

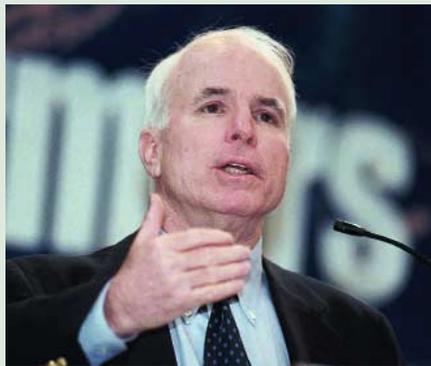
Congressional inaction is becoming a joke.

campaign finance reform," he said. "We're in this for the long haul."

To focus attention, Environmental Defense launched a broad media campaign, including televised spots on CNN and print ads in *The New York Times*. We also gathered almost 135,000 petitions from "citizen cosponsors" and mobilized key supporters to call on senators directly. Prompted in part by our campaign, newspapers from the *Bangor Daily News* to the *San Jose Mercury News* opined in support of the McCain-Lieberman initiative.

The momentum is reflected in other legislation as well, including a multi-pollutant bill introduced by Senator Thomas Carper (D-DE) that calls for a cap on carbon dioxide emissions from power plants. Senator Lamar Alexander (R) from Tennessee, a major coal-burning state, has now joined a number of other cosponsors of the bill, demonstrating its broadening support.

"Lawmakers traditionally shied away from bills that include carbon dioxide," said our new Climate director Peter Goldmark. "Suddenly carbon is front and center in the Senate. This is a big shock to some, and a sign of real progress on the issue."



Morningside News, Dank Ackerman/AP Photo

John McCain: "All Americans should know where their Senators stand on global warming."



Become a citizen co-sponsor of the Climate Stewardship Act at [www.environmentaldefense.org/go/actioncenter](http://www.environmentaldefense.org/go/actioncenter).

## A burning issue

Recent hundred-year floods in the Midwest and scorching wildfires in the West warn of what may lie ahead if we fail to act on global warming.

That's why it was big news this summer when Maine became the first state to set specific goals and timelines for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Under its new law, the state will cut carbon emissions to 1990 levels by 2010.

We helped support Maine's initiative as well as California's law to reduce greenhouse emissions from vehicles, and we are working with other states, including Connecticut, New York and North Carolina. The Campaign for Environmental Defense provides crucial resources to allow these initiatives to continue. State efforts are important both to reduce emissions and to advance the cause for national action, such as the McCain-Lieberman bill in Congress.

At a recent meeting on climate policy with Senator John McCain, several Environmental Defense supporters, including National Council member Sara Shallenberger Brown, decided to help. "The United States, the greatest user of energy, must show leadership in reducing carbon dioxide emissions. To wait is to court disaster," said Mrs. Brown.

Continued progress depends on meeting our campaign goals. To date, \$191 million has been raised. For campaign information, please call Paula Hayes at 212-505-2100.



John Eastcott/Yva Momatink/DRK Photo

Melting ice caps are harbingers of global warming. Will we heed the warning?

# A ray of hope for the Amazon rainforest

## 22 MILLION ACRES OF EXTRACTIVE RESERVES TO BE CREATED

In its heyday, the Amazon rubber boom put tires on the Model T Ford and revolutionized the bicycle. Then came synthetic rubber. Cattle ranchers and miners moved in and tore up the tropical forests that had been carefully managed by the rubber tappers. Decades of violence and expulsion followed.

Seeing an opportunity to stem the tide of destruction in the Amazon—and preserve traditional communities—Environmental Defense joined forces with the legendary union leader Chico Mendes in the 1980s. With our support, Chico's National Council of Rubber Tappers introduced the concept of extractive reserves in the rainforest, preserving some 13.5 million acres in the process.

Extractive reserves help impoverished rubber tappers, nut gatherers and fishermen by preserving the forest that is the basis of their livelihoods. A community commits to sustainable use of the rainforest in exchange for land rights,

health care and education. Activities such as large-scale deforestation, commercial exploitation of wildlife and mining are prohibited. These reserves are similar to the indigenous peoples' reserves that Environmental Defense also supports.

Although Mendes was murdered in 1988 by hired thugs, we still work with the Council, mobilizing local communities to petition for reserves.

This summer, Environmental Defense helped rubber tappers win government approval to enlarge the reserves dramatically. We helped communities negotiate inclusion of 22 million acres of new extractive

reserves in a recently approved \$30 million World Bank fund. "Traditional communities are critically important for forest protection," says our anthropologist Dr. Stephan Schwartzman. "Strengthening these communities has preserved more tropical forest than any other initiative."



Stephan Schwartzman

A healthy rainforest community means a healthy rainforest.

## Texas stays the course on renewable energy



Ken Sherman/Bruce Coleman, Inc.

Garbage is not a clean fuel.

Environmental Defense helped pass the most successful renewable energy program in the United States, and then we helped thwart a move to weaken it.

At stake was a Texas program calling for 2,000 megawatts of new renewable energy by 2009. Meeting this goal would represent an 80% increase in the nation's supply of non-hydro renewables. The program encourages competition

among suppliers to lower costs. As a result, the initial goal of 400 new megawatts by last January has been surpassed, as 1,000 megawatts, most of it wind power, were brought online at lower cost than expected.

The threat arose with a state Senate bill to allow power generated by burning waste—including tires and batteries—to qualify as renewable. Such activity can emit 40 times more nitrogen oxides than a new natural gas power plant.

Persistent advocacy weakened the bill, allowing it to succumb to a parliamentary maneuver. "Hand-to-hand politics saved the day," says our energy expert Mark MacLeod. "We just walked the halls and went to each member's office."

"Environmental Defense provided a firm underpinning for the effort to stop the bill," says Russel Smith, director of the Texas Renewable Energy Industries Association. "The renewable energy industry is grateful to them."

The victory is crucial because Texas's program became a national model by encouraging competition, promoting tradable credits and levying effective penalties. A renewable standard passed by the U.S. Senate is based on it. "This victory illustrates the need for continuous vigilance," says MacLeod.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Endangered San Joaquin kit foxes finally get their chance

If you're too small to fight and you can't run away, you die. That was the fate of many San Joaquin kit foxes in California's Central Valley before an agreement brokered by Environmental Defense gave them a chance at survival. The tiny, swift foxes, listed as endangered since 1967, were being killed by larger coyotes. It was just a question of time until their population would be wiped out.

Under the agreement recently signed with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Paramount Farming Company (outside Bakersfield,

CA) has installed artificial burrows that give the foxes a new lease on life. Because



With their grassland habitat paved over for malls, kit foxes couldn't dig the narrow burrows they use to avoid predators. Our plan gives the foxes a place to escape.

Safe Harbor provisions we developed allow Paramount to protect the foxes with no strings attached, the coyote-proof burrows won't expose the company to any new legal liabilities.

"This agreement gives the foxes a lifesaver without handcuffing the farmer," says our attorney Michael Bean.

### Judge this shampoo by its cover

Environmental Defense is helping Aveda, the popular personal-care products company, reduce its impact on the environment.

Aveda is using software we designed to help companies develop more environmentally sound packaging. Among the improvements for the company: It has boosted the post-consumer recycled content in its polyethylene bottles from 45% to 80%, saving about 150 tons of virgin polyethylene a year, which also reduces the use of fossil fuels to make new plastic.

The software tool, MERGE, was designed by our scientist Dr. Richard Denison to help consumer-product developers factor in environmental impacts easily. It rates packaging on seven metrics from toxic chemicals to greenhouse gases. It is the only tool of its kind developed by a major environmental organization. For more information on MERGE, visit [www.environmentaldefense.org/alliance/merge/merge.htm](http://www.environmentaldefense.org/alliance/merge/merge.htm).



Our simple-to-use software helps businesses save resources.

### Juarez and El Paso air is cleaner

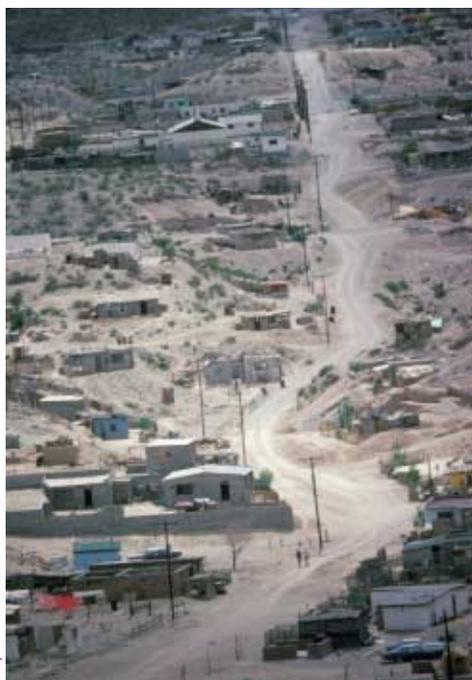
For a car, few fates would seem worse than life in the Mexican border city of Ciudad Juarez. Dust-choked with miles of unpaved roads, Juarez hosts some 500,000 vehicles in various stages of decrepitude, spewing pollution. Vehicles

account for 82% of regional emissions.

Environmental Defense scientist Dr. Carlos Rincon is working to reduce car pollution. Rincon has long advised the U.S. and Mexican governments on improving air quality along the U.S.-Mexico border. Thanks in part to his work, the international airshed plan for managing emissions in Juarez and El Paso, TX, has become a model for border communities, reducing pollution for more than two million people.

Rincon persuaded the city of Juarez to transform a voluntary pollution inspection program for vehicles into an expanded, mandatory program. He also organized more than 2,000 free diagnostic clinics for motorists and launched mechanics' training clinics to maintain pollution control equipment. We then helped mandate cleaner gasoline.

Thanks to these improvements, over the past four years, El Paso has not registered a single air pollution violation. "We needed to make cars cleaner and engage the car owner," says Rincon. "Otherwise nothing would have improved."



Thanks to our efforts to reduce vehicle pollution, Juarez is on the road to cleaner air.

## Playing defense

To learn more about how to protect ecosystems against exotic species, try these resources:

The Nature Conservancy's Invasive Species Initiative shows alien species that may be lurking in your backyard and gives tips on removing them: [nature.org/initiatives/invasivespecies](http://nature.org/initiatives/invasivespecies) (scroll down to "Related Links").

The agency responsible for keeping invasive species out of the U.S. is the Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service; 4700 River Road, Riverdale, MD 20737-1231; [www.aphis.usda.gov](http://www.aphis.usda.gov). Call 301-734-7799.

National Wildlife Federation offers a searchable Native Plant Guide to find plants suitable for your region: [www.nwf.org/backyardwildlifehabitat/native-plants.cfm](http://www.nwf.org/backyardwildlifehabitat/native-plants.cfm).

## Bookshelf

The Brooklyn Botanic Garden has published a useful handbook, *Invasive Plants: Weeds of the Global Garden* (\$9.95, order at [www.bbg.org](http://www.bbg.org) or 718-623-7286). Portions online at [www.bbg.org/gar2/topics/sustainable/handbooks/invasiveplants](http://www.bbg.org/gar2/topics/sustainable/handbooks/invasiveplants).

Books on alien species and how they move around the world include: *A Plague of Rats and Rubbervines* by Yvonne Baskin; Island Press/Shearwater Books, \$25 and *Tinkering with Eden: A Natural History of Exotic Species in America* by Kim Todd; W.W. Norton, \$15.95.



Robert W. Ginn/PhotoEdit

Leaving your car unattended can be risky. Kudzu grows five inches a day.

## Alien invaders

### HOW TO KEEP EXOTIC SPECIES FROM TAKING OVER YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Ever wonder why so many American small towns have Elm Streets but no elm trees? The stately American elm was decimated by Dutch elm fungus in the 1930s. Because our elms had evolved separately from the opportunistic fungus, they'd never developed defenses against it. The trees never had a chance.

About 8,000 non-native animals, plants, insects and microbes cause severe harm to the environment or the economy, which loses a whopping \$137 billion to them each year.

The non-natives get here in many ways. Gypsy moths imported by an entrepreneur in 1869 to make silk failed in the textile industry, but were quite effective at defoliating millions of acres of trees. Highly destructive, pipe-clogging zebra mussels arrived in ships' ballast water.

Congress has enacted legislation and appointed task forces to control such dangerous species, but—aided by free imports and highly mobile populations—the pests still slip through our porous

borders. While you can't stop the invaders by yourself, here are some steps you can take.

**Garden varieties.** Home gardeners should forego exotic ornamentals and choose native plants. Pests like purple loosestrife sport lovely spiked flowers but choke wetlands and destroy wildlife habitat. English ivy is a looker and a popular groundcover plant, but it displaces native plants and even topples trees. Ask where a plant comes from, and how and if it spreads—those roots may be made for walkin'.

**It's in the water.** Giant salvinia looks pretty in garden ponds and aquariums but this Brazilian invader quickly takes over. Eurasian milfoil forms dense mats in lakes and ponds that interfere with swimming and boating. These and other pests attach themselves to boats and trailers, which need to be cleaned off with hot water before entering another waterway. Anti-fouling paints can be effective (but avoid paint with marine

*Guest columnist Jim Motavalli is editor 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 those of Environmental Defense staff.*

toxins like TBT, diuron or irgarol).

**Bad bugs.** Spruce budworms are munching their way through spruce and fir forests. South American medflies have Florida's citrus industry in their sights. Asian long-horned beetles, now killing trees in New York City, Chicago and 29 other sites around the country, particularly relish sugar maples and could destroy the U.S. maple sugar industry. If you spot signs of infestation, call your local forestry officials immediately.

**Cute is not enough.** Exotic animals may be great to impress the neighbors, but they make poor pets. About 90% of popular macaque monkeys are infected with herpes B virus; prairie dogs carry monkeypox and bubonic plague; and most reptiles can pass on potentially deadly salmonella bacterium. Respect wild animals (and discourage poaching) by leaving them in their natural habitats. If you do take in a domestic pet, make sure you can care for it.

By Jim Motavalli

## Tired of an uncertain market?

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Charitable gift annuities to Environmental Defense perpetuate your commitment so we can keep the world healthy for all living creatures.



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## ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE ACTION CENTER

### Time for automakers to get the lead out

Environmental Defense played a central role in ridding paint and gasoline of lead, but automakers continue to use the toxic metal. In fact, each car contains about 27 pounds of lead, most of it in batteries. Lead gets into the air and soil when it is produced or recycled, and water is polluted from disposal of batteries. Children are most vulnerable to lead's effects, which include learning disabilities and behavioral problems. Despite the dangers, and a European law reducing lead in cars, American automakers are not investing enough in safer alternatives.



Read our report on lead use in cars and send a message to auto executives asking them to stop toxic lead use in America's vehicles. Go to [www.environmentaldefense.org/go/actioncenter](http://www.environmentaldefense.org/go/actioncenter).

### Don't let Congress stifle public input, trash clean air and destroy parks

Long-standing laws protecting clean air and public health are in danger. The rules could be weakened in a bill set to be voted on in Congress this month that spends billions of your tax dollars on road projects around the country. Key congressional leaders support proposals that could lead to more sprawl, traffic and pollution contributing to asthma, heart disease and even cancer. These proposals could leave Americans breathing polluted air for decades and damage our communities and open spaces.

Let Congress know that you want a transportation bill that protects public health and the environment. Take action at [www.environmentaldefense.org/go/actioncenter](http://www.environmentaldefense.org/go/actioncenter).



Gerry Ellis/Minden Pictures

Will orcas continue to thrive in Bristol Bay?

### Stop the attack on Alaska's Bristol Bay

Another natural treasure in Alaska is under attack from oil interests. The Senate has voted to undo a long-standing ban on offshore oil and gas drilling in Bristol Bay, the planet's richest salmon fishery and home to a diverse array of marine life including orca and beluga whales. (See story, p. 3.) A congressional negotiating committee will decide whether to uphold the ban, which both the House and the Bush administration have supported. Opening Bristol Bay to drilling could lead to an erosion of similar protections for much of the coastal United States.



Tell Congress to keep the oil industry out of Bristol Bay at [www.environmentaldefense.org/go/actioncenter](http://www.environmentaldefense.org/go/actioncenter).

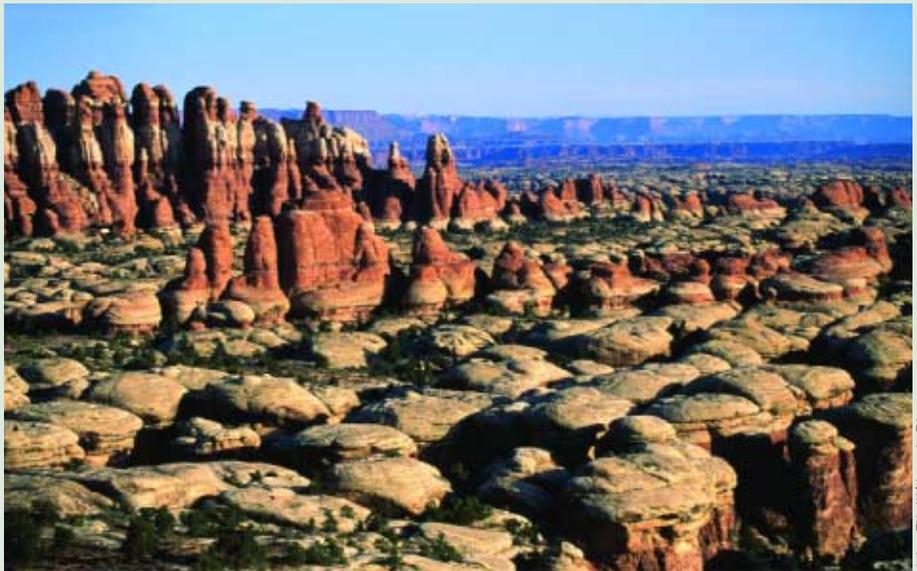


## Earth index

- Global water consumption is doubling every 20 years, twice the rate of population growth.
- U.S. carbon dioxide emissions were 14% higher in 2000 than in 1990.
- The average tuna caught in the 1950s was twice as large as its counterpart caught today; marlin were four times as large.
- Recycling one aluminum beverage can saves enough energy to light a 100-watt bulb for 3.5 hours.
- In Northern Europe, fewer than 40% of trips are by private auto, compared to 86% in the United States.
- The United States is losing 100,000 acres of wetlands per year.

### Welcome Peter Goldmark

Peter Goldmark joined Environmental Defense in August as director of our Climate program. Goldmark, who until recently was CEO of *The International Herald Tribune*, brings exceptional depth of experience and policy expertise to our global warming program. Previously he served as president of The Rockefeller Foundation, executive director of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and New York state budget director. We welcome him.



John Elk III/Lonely Planet

On a perfect day, the colors of Utah's Canyonlands National Park can be breathtaking.

## Clearing the air over western national parks

Jake Owens traveled to Arches National Park in Utah this summer expecting a spectacular view. "I had high expectations," admits Owens. Instead, he was met by a veil of haze that muted the normally vibrant landscape.

Air pollution in America's national parks has become a serious problem. Some days, the air at Grand Canyon is so murky that the far rim, just 10 miles away, isn't visible. Western power plants, tankers in Los Angeles and even lawn mowers in Las Vegas contribute to the haze.

For more than a decade, Environmental Defense has been working with western states, tribes and regulatory agencies to solve the problem. In a landmark agreement this May, EPA approved a regional plan that could clear the air by setting

a declining cap on air pollution from power plants and industrial sources.

The cap is based on lowering emissions of sulfur dioxide—the leading contributor to haze—from uncontrolled western power plants by 85%. Any new plants (several coal-fired plants have been proposed) would need to fit under the cap.

"For the first time, a regional strategy has been put in place to protect scenic vistas," says our attorney Vickie Patton. Many utilities support the plan because it permits the market to determine cost-effective reductions.

States must adopt the plan by the end of the year. "Air quality won't improve overnight," says Patton, "but emissions are heading downward."

With the new rule, the skies over some of America's most revered national parks will become clearer.



## Solutions

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