

The Private Sector

The Wise Use Memo

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The Wise Use Memo

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Governing:

Leadership Conference Report: What a Success!

If we saw anything at the 1995 **Wise Use Leadership Conference** in Reno, it was enthusiasm! More than 150 delegates from all over the nation attended the 8th annual event, aimed at "Fixing the Endangered Species Act."

Emcee **Kathleen Marquardt** of Putting People First said, "This was the best, most intensive conference ever." **Rob Gordon** of the Washington, D.C.-based National Wilderness Institute was the featured luncheon speaker, and challenged wise use leaders to rise to the opportunities presented by the new Republican-dominated Congress.

Perry Pendley, President of Mountain States Legal Foundation roused the audience with his optimistic assessment of our chances in the courts. He made the presentation of the conference's Activist of the Year Award to **Kathleen Benedetto** of the Womens Mining Coalition. Congratulations, Kathy!

Jim Burling of Pacific Legal Foundation gave a sobering overview of the case law that has evolved around the ESA.

Our agenda has become the national agenda, **Rep. Helen Chenoweth** (R-Idaho) told wise use leaders in her keynote address. A member of the House Resources Committee's ESA Task Force, Rep. Chenoweth has heard testimony all over the nation. She gave a detailed assessment of fixing the ESA's problems.

Chuck Cushman, head of the American Land Rights Association and **Kathleen Marquardt** gave the well-received workshop, "Peaceful and Fun Ways to Influence Public Policy." Chuck once again proved his legendary ability to poke fun at our opponents while making a strong point to the public.

The Center thanks all the wise use leaders who spoke and the dozens of organizations that co-sponsored this hugely successful event!

Announcing the Center's SPEAKERS BUREAU

Now Your Group Can
Help Us Spread the Wise Use Message

Ron Arnold, Center executive vice president, has announced the formation of the Free Enterprise Speakers Bureau.

The permanent project will help spread the inspiring wise use message to an ever broader audience. Ron himself will at last be available to personally address any organization in the world.

"Now that the Center's heavy publishing schedule is running smoothly, I can be part of this new project," said Arnold. A roster of distinguished speakers is taking shape.

Speaking engagements will be accepted for motivational seminars, annual meetings, technical conferences, and more.

Ron Arnold has recently taken several interesting engagements, one to address the Student Animal Legal Defense Fund, an animals rights group at Portland, Oregon's Northwestern School of Law. That was an interesting confrontation!

Ron was also dinner speaker for the Alliance Conference in Tucson, Arizona. This address to pro-pesticide alliances was booked by the American Crop Protection Association of Washington, D.C.

For bookings, arrangements and honoraria rates, call the Center at 206-455-5038. Ask for Susan. FAX us at 206-451-3959. Help spread the message!

News from Around the Movement

Environmental Grant-makers Association 1995 Fall Retreat at Michigan resort

Big Money Foundations

Meet: The EGA, control center of environmental movement, in closed strategy sessions

The Center for the Defense of Free Enterprise has learned that the Environmental Grantmakers Association, the command center cartel of eco-money, scheduled its 1995 Fall Retreat for October 11 through 15 at Sugar Loaf Resort near Cedar, Michigan.

The keynote address, "Everything Else: The New Green Agenda," is delivered by Denis Hayes, executive director of the Seattle-based Bullitt Foundation. They're clearly planning to come after "everything else," the rest of our resources and our freedoms.

Speakers include Theo Colburn of the World Wildlife Fund, Timothy Weiskel of Harvard Divinity School, and an assortment of experts in trashing the economy.

Wise users have staged protest demonstrations at two EGA Fall Retreats. 1995's: Sugar Loaf Resort, 4500 Sugar Loaf Mountain Road, Cedar, MI 49621-9755, telephones 1-800-968-0576 or 616-228-5461, FAX 616-228-6545. EGA sessions are closed.

Wise Use Leadership Conference set for May

Moved Earlier in Year:

The ninth annual meeting in Reno to bring leaders together

In response to many requests, the Wise Use Leadership Conference date has been advanced from its usual time in mid-July to early May for 1996, according to Charles S. Cushman of the American Land Rights Association, a major co-sponsor of the event.

The 1996 Conference will be held May 10, 11 & 12 at John Ascuaga's Nugget in Reno, Nevada.

Conference emcee Kathleen Marquardt of co-sponsor Putting People First said, "This will allow many to attend who otherwise could not."

The Nugget has advised all attendees to book their rooms *three* months in advance to assure your reservation. The block of rooms held for us will be released to the general public 30 days prior to the event. Call 1-800-843-2427 for reservations.

Wise Use goes to college

Kelly Corbin, a student at Florida's Broward Community College, submitted a paper to his English class based on *Trashing the Economy*, published by the Center. Corbin's paper, titled, "False Prophets are Raping the Profits," got an A!

Help Dwight Hammond Defend his Property Rights!

Free Enterprise Legal Defense Fund comes to aid of Oregon rancher:

He was attacked by federal eco-police, thrown in jail and hauled off in chains for defending his water rights.

Dwight Hammond, a soft-spoken, hard-working rancher respected for his integrity, is another victim of federal bullying to steal his water rights. After a confrontation instigated by U.S. Fish & Wildlife officials on his Southeastern Oregon ranch, Hammond was brutally jailed and hauled to federal court in Portland in chains—a scene like something out of a Roman Empire movie.

Now the federal government is harassing Hammond with lawsuits designed to run him out of money so they can take his ranch away from him.

The Center's division, the Free Enterprise Legal Defense Fund is asking for your financial help in defending Dwight Hammond. Please send your tax-deductible gift to FELDF right away. The need is urgent. We must save the Hammond family from economic ruin by an arrogant federal government.

I will help Dwight Hammond and kindred victims of federal bullying

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What Do We Believe?

Is there such a thing as a "wise use philosophy"? And if so, what would it contain? Here's a preliminary assessment.

Hardly a week goes by that the Center does not receive inquiries about what the wise use movement believes. With more than 1,500 varied organizations loosely falling under the rubric of "wise use," trying to find a single positive statement that all would agree upon is impossible. But there are general principles most of us could support. Here is a distillation of many ideas from literally hundreds of wise users, presented for your comment and critique. Let us know what you think.

1) *Humans, like all organisms, must use natural resources to survive.* This fundamental truth is never addressed by environmentalists. The simple fact that humans must get their food, clothing and shelter from the environment is either ignored or brushed aside by suicidal statements such as this one made by an animal rights activist: "I would rather see a blank space where I am—at least I wouldn't be harming anything."

If environmentalism were to acknowledge our necessary use of the earth, its ideology would lose its meaning. To recognize the legitimacy of the human use of the earth would be to accept the unavoidable environmental damage that is the price of our survival. Once that price is acceptable, the moral framework of environmentalist ideology becomes irrelevant and the issues become technical and economic.

2) *The earth and its life are tough and resilient, not fragile and delicate.* Environmentalists tend to be catastrophists, believing that any human use of the earth is "damage" and massive human use of the earth is "a catastrophe." An environmentalist motto is "We all live downstream," the viewpoint of helpless victims.

Wise users, on the other hand, tend to be cornucopians, seeing themselves as stewarding and nurturing the bountiful earth as it stewards and nurtures us. A wise use motto is "We all live upstream," the viewpoint of responsible individuals.

The difference in our sense of life is striking. Environmentalism inevitably promotes feelings of guilt for existing, feelings that eventually degenerate into dark pessimism, self-loathing and depression.

Wise use by its very nature promotes feelings of competence to live in the world, generating curiosity, learning, and bright action toward improving the earth for the use of future generations.

The glory of the "dominant Western worldview" so scorned by environmentalists is its metaphor of progress: the starburst, an insatiable and interminable outreach after a perpetually flying goal. Environmentalists call humanity a cancer on the earth; wise users call us a joy.

3) *We only learn about the world through trial and error.* The universe did not come with a set of instructions, nor did our minds. We cannot see the future. Thus, the only way we humans can learn about our surroundings is through trial and error. Even the most sophisticated science is systematized trial and error. Environmental ideology fetishizes nature to the point that eco-activists will not permit others to make errors with the environment, dead-ending in no trials and no learning.

There will always be abusers who do not learn. People of good will tend to deal with abuse by education, incentive, clear rules and administering appropriate penalties for incorrigibles.

4) *Our limitless imaginations can break through natural limits to make earthly goods and carrying capacity virtually infinite.* Just as settled agriculture increased earthly goods and carrying capacity vastly beyond hunting and gathering, so our imaginations can find ways to increase total productivity by superseding one level of technology after another. Taught by the lessons learned from scientific trial and error, we can close the loops in our productive systems and find endless ways to do more with less.

5) *Man's reworking of the earth is revolutionary, problematic and ultimately benevolent.* Of the ideas behind wise use, this is the most oracular. Humanity is itself revolutionary and problematic. Problems are our milieu. Danger is our symbiote. We win some, we lose some. We don't give up.

Humanity may ultimately prove to be a force of nature forwarding some cosmic teleology of which we are yet unaware. Or not. Humanity may be the universe awakening and becoming conscious of itself. Or not. Our reworking of the earth may be of the utmost evolutionary benevolence and importance. Or not. The only way to see the future is to be there.

We invite your comments on these ideas.

Q: What is it about the wise use movement that's politically correct?

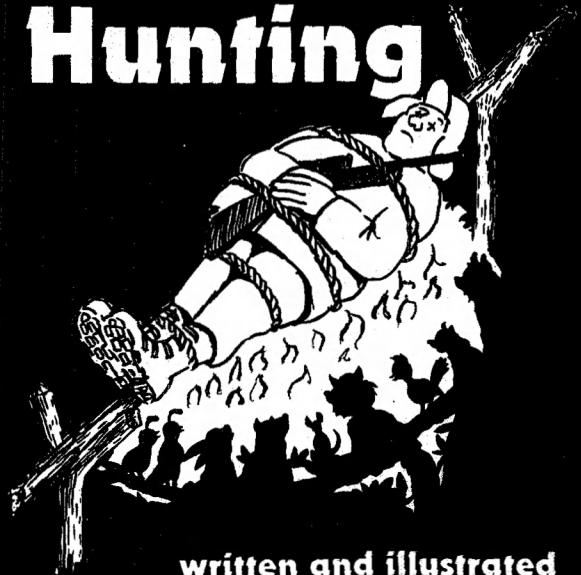
A: Nothing, stupid! Especially not these dumb books!

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