



'Owl' ruling is new proof of Bush policy insanity

by H. Graham Lowry and Nora Hamerman

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Administration ruled on June 22 that the spotted owl is a "threatened species," throughout the entire timber range of the Pacific Northwest. The decision, set to be enforced July 23, threatens the U.S. lumber industry with extinction. It will deal the already embattled national housing industry a body-blow, and promises to bring new, unheralded dangers to the environment of the Northwest.

This pagan decree by the "Mother Earth" worshippers known as the Bush administration will set aside an additional 4 million acres of public forest land in California, Oregon, and Washington as "preserved habitat." On top of 4.5 million acres already off limits to timber harvesting, the spotted owl will rule an area equivalent to a four-mile wide corridor stretching from Portland, Oregon, to Washington, D.C., and larger than nine individual states.

Within this area, there will be no timber harvesting, no road building, and no salvage of timber in case of fire, insect epidemics, or other threats to the trees—if the full provisions of the Endangered Species Act are applied, requiring the protection of each tree in the owl's potential habitat.

'We're talking about eliminating wood'

The specific blueprint for economic ruin will be released June 26. If it includes the same restrictions on private timberland as well, the industry estimates the resulting loss to the economy will be doubled. Chris West, vice president of the Northwest Forestry Association, estimated June 22 the annual loss in board feet of lumber alone at "30-40% of the wood consumed by the entire nation"—for much of which the U.S. is already dependent on Canadian timber. "We're talking about eliminating wood in both domestic and international markets; we're talking about eliminating our country's productive capacity."

If the "threatened species" rules are applied to both public

and private timberlands within the spotted owl's supposed habitat, Northwest timber production will drop by 6-8 billion board feet per year—enough lumber to build a million homes, and equal to the output of approximately 200 sawmills. In that case, 50-60% of all the mills in Washington, Oregon, and California will disappear, industry sources predict. The resulting unemployment will be staggering, with estimates running as high as 60,000 jobs lost.

One indication is the situation in Skamania County, Washington, just north of the Columbia River. The county's unemployment rate already stands at 19%, directly resulting from the loss of timber production following the creation by Congress of the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area during the mid-1980s. Further losses due to the spotted owl ruling will push unemployment as high as 66%, according to projections made by the state's Department of Employment Security before the June 22 announcement.

Lunacy of summer solstice

The "spotted owl" travesty is only one of a series of extremist decisions taken against the U.S. economy under environmentalist pretexts, during the period of the summer solstice—which happens to be a religious holiday for the pagan Earth-worshippers.

- On June 18, the federal government filed suit against eight companies for pollution that occurred as far back as 50 years ago. Under a little known, and never before used, clause of the 1980 Superfund law, the government has now decided—as trustee for public natural resources—to assess polluters for restoration of decimated wildlife and habitat. Companies that discharged 30 to 200 years ago what was then considered safe effluent, are now liable for damages and huge penalties.

While the EPA has collected huge amounts to clean up

spilled oil, toxic waste, and polluted drinking water, this is the first time "polluters" are being forced to pay to restore lands, wildlife, and the ocean to its original "pristine" state. In the lawsuit, for example, the government charges that some of the plants discharged pollutants into the ocean in the early 1940s, and they now have to restore the Los Angeles harbor to 1930s conditions.

Defendants in the suit are the Montrose Chemical Corporation of California, Atkemix Thirty-Seven Inc., the Stauffer Management Company, ICI American Holdings, Inc., Chris-Craft Industries Inc., the Potlach Corporation, the Simpson Paper Company, and most incredibly, Westinghouse Electric, which does not even have a plant hundreds of miles from the areas "polluted."

● In the latest twist of the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill case, the National Wildlife Federation, the Natural Resources Defense Council, and others are suing Exxon in Alaska for \$1 billion on the premise that environmental groups are "trustees" of the environment. Leonard Schroeter of the green legal team told the *Los Angeles Times*, "What we are saying is that the law permits the citizenry" to bring suit, "and it is the environmental groups who best of all speak for the birds, the bees, the animals, the fish, the natural habitat." If the greens succeed, it opens the floodgates to tens of billions of dollars in lawsuits, in which the money will end up in the pockets of the greens.

Pagan policymaking

The Bush administration's decision on the spotted owl follows the dictates of the pagan cult of environmentalism currently attempting to take over the United States. It was released just two days after the terrorist cult Earth First! blockaded logging trucks in Eureka, California, demanding an end to timber harvesting in their "ancient forests." Factions of the cult have publicly threatened to "resort to violence if necessary" to turn the timberlands into desolate wilderness, until federal or state interventions impose the same result. Moreover, as *EIR* reported in our June 8 issue (p. 65), some of Earth First!'s actions seem designed to enrich a Wall Street raider, Charles Hurwitz, at taxpayers' expense.

With bomb-making charges pending against two Earth First! leaders, the Establishment media stepped in with a massive propaganda blitz designed to rehabilitate the cult's shattered image as "non-violent" lovers of nature. Local police in California have released a 1989 photograph of Judy Bari, arrested in last month's bomb incident, posing with a machine gun.

But 150 U.S. and foreign media representatives were on hand June 20 to cover Earth First!'s carefully staged, "peaceful" obstruction at Louisiana Pacific's loading docks near Eureka, where 44 demonstrators were arrested, while others danced in condor and owl costumes to conga drums, flutes, and bells. The reporter for the *New York Times* gushed, "The protesters evoked memories of the Summer of Love in

1967 and provided rich photo opportunities for journalists from as far away as London."

The face of genocide

The actual picture of Earth First! is much uglier. Its founder, Dave Foreman, is an open advocate of genocide. Asked about the mass famine in Ethiopia during 1988, he told the Australian magazine *Simply Living*, "The best thing would be just to let the people there starve." Foreman was arrested in 1989 on charges of conspiracy to destroy electrical transmission lines supplying nuclear power plants in three states. Foreman has previously called humans a cancer on the earth. Two members of his group nearly killed themselves recently, when an explosive went off in the car they were driving.

The *Earth First! Journal* in its Sept. 22, 1989 issue, urged people with terminal illnesses to tie dynamite to their backs, and carry out kamikaze attacks on dams on the Colorado River, and other targets. The piece begins, "Are you terminally ill with a wasting disease? Do you have AIDS, ALS, brain cancer, or syphilis? Don't go out with a whimper; go out with a bang! Undertake an eco-kamikaze mission.

"Yes, terminally ill Earth defenders can perform the ultimate act of Ecodefense while cheating the Grim Reaper of all the wasting and suffering that precedes these hideous, industrial age deaths.

"Seek martyrdom at Glen Canyon Dam. Blow up yourself and that monstrosity. Free the Wild Colorado!

"The possibilities for terminally ill warriors are limitless. Dams from the Columbia and the Colorado to the Connecticut are crying to be blown to smithereens, as are industrial polluters, the headquarters of oil spilling corporations, fur warehouses, paper mills. No doubt you already have a favorite target in your own watershed.

"Here's how it works: Your doctor tells you have [sic] 6-18 months to live. Your condition will steadily worsen. You decide that, rather than endure all that suffering, you'll go out in a flash—taking out, say, the Southeast power grid," the newsletter suggests.

Earth First! also welcomes the AIDS epidemic. In its newspaper of May 1, 1987, a columnist stated, "If the AIDS epidemic didn't exist, radical environmentalists would have to invent one." The same columnist declared in the Dec. 22, 1987 issue, "The AIDS epidemic, rather than being a scourge, is a welcome development in the inevitable reduction of human population."

Given these murderous objectives of the environmental cultists, it should come as no surprise that their public reaction to June 22's ruling on the spotted owl, was that the decision "does not go far enough." Industry observers believe the environmentalist lobby may use the Fish and Wildlife decree to seek court injunctions shutting down all timbering, to further "protect" a bird which has been thriving during more than a century of logging—and already has 4.5 million acres of wilderness preserves to nest in.