

# FRIENDS OF THE EARTH

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## Champion of the Sierra Madre

*Indigenous Leader from Mexico Receives  
2005 Goldman Environmental Prize*

**Preventing Terrorism**

**Gold Mine  
Sparks Protest**

**Top Ten Jetski-free  
Waterways**

# Making Environmental Progress Despite the Odds

**IN 1964, I GRADUATED** from Duke University with a degree in math and planned to spend my life teaching math and philosophy in college. But you never know what will cross your path. The grotesque air and water pollution in the late 1960s in Washington, D.C., prompted me to attend the environmental teach-in at the University of Maryland on the first Earth Day, April 22, 1970. I was finishing a doctorate in philosophy at Maryland, but I wanted to learn what, if anything, citizens could do to clean up the Potomac River that reeked of sewage in the summer months. The Friends of the Earth table provided an eye-opening experience with information about environmental issues I was unfamiliar with. For example, David Brower's gripping film about fighting dams in the Grand Canyon brought out the capacity of modern engineering to completely transform the landscape of our planet. I decided to volunteer for Friends of the Earth that year, and 25 years later wound up as president of the organization.

## Challenges to Environmental Advocacy in the 21st Century

Friends of the Earth approaches its work in a non-partisan manner. None of the Friends of the Earth International groups around the world are permitted to affiliate with any political party. Over the past 35 years we have worked and continue to work collaboratively with members of both major parties. Some of the outstanding environmental leaders in Congress have been Republicans, such as John Saylor of Pennsylvania who led efforts for wilderness protection and Silvio Conte of Massachusetts who fought



Brent Blackwelder, President

to stop congressional spending that was destroying wildlife habitat. The only pro-environment amendment won in the House of Representatives in the last Congress – the amendment to cut road building subsidies in Alaska's Tongass National Forest – was offered by a Republican, Steve Chabot of Ohio.

The administration of George W. Bush has been the most anti-environment administration I have witnessed over the past 35 years. It is doubly damaging because the initiatives to weaken protections, whether it be the arsenic rule (one of Bush's first acts) or the evisceration of the Roadless Rule that protected 58 million acres of National Forests (his most recent act), are all couched in Orwellian doublespeak. White House adviser Frank Luntz advised Bush that the public did not support reducing environmental protection and counseled the President to use words like 'clean,' 'clear,' 'healthy,' and 'safe' when characterizing actions with environmental consequences.

The real tragedy is that at a time when the world most needs vigor-

ous environmental leadership in the United States to tackle ecological challenges, our nation has moved in the opposite direction. In the early 1970s, the United States was a world leader in passing landmark environmental protections like the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts, the Endangered Species Act, and the National Environmental Policy Act.

## Making Progress...

Effective environmental advocates learn from past victories and defeats. The importance of habitat conservation and good environmental policy is illustrated with the recent rediscovery of the ivory-billed woodpecker in Arkansas—a bird whose last confirmed sighting was in 1944. This dramatic woodpecker was thought to be extinct. Its survival is a testament to the importance of habitat protection and the value of laws like the National Environmental Policy Act.

## Conclusion

I am frequently asked whether or not I am optimistic as we confront the challenges to life on this planet. Yet, why waste time contemplating the odds that climate change will melt all the world's ice caps and species extinction will end biodiversity? Let's take a pragmatic view of our obligation: we need to create good plans of action to remedy problems tailored to our location and capacity and then carry these out. Let the chips fall where they may, and don't waste psychic energy worrying about eventual outcomes.

The above text was excerpted from the commencement address by Brent Blackwelder to the 2005 graduates of the Nicholas School of Environment at Duke University.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brent Blackwelder". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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# Champion of the Sierra Madre

*Indigenous Leader from Mexico Receives  
2005 Goldman Environmental Prize*

*By David Rothschild and Ricardo Huerta Niño*

**BEFORE COMING TO THE UNITED STATES**, Isidro Baldenegro had never been among more than a few hundred people at once. But on one evening last April that all changed as he slowly ascended onto the stage of the San Francisco War Memorial Opera House and turned to face more than 3,000 people. He was an impressive sight: a stocky, handsome man with a gentle smile,



photo credit: R.G. Huerta Niño

Baldenegro with family and friends at home in Coloradas de la Virgen

dressed in a traditional tunic, open-toed sandals and a bright red headband. Every eye in the audience was focused on him, awaiting his speech as he accepted the 2005 Goldman Environmental Prize for North America.

Baldenegro is a community leader of the Tarahumara, an indigenous people of northern Mexico (they call themselves “Rarámuri,” which means “the runners”). His hometown of Coloradas de la Virgen is one of the many Tarahumara communities spread across the

remote Sierra Madre mountain region in the state of Chihuahua. It is a dusty, sparsely populated region cut-off from most of the outside world. Despite its great beauty, over the last few decades it has become a battleground as the Tarahumara have sought to protect their land from illegal logging and drug trafficking. Baldenegro has been on the front lines of this often deadly fight. And, on this balmy April night his heroism was being recognized.

In his 38 years of life, never before had this modest, soft spoken man been in such a glaring spotlight. A silence spread over the crowd as he started to speak. He spoke first in Rarámuri, then in Spanish with translated English subtitles appearing below his face on the huge 20 foot video screen behind him. He thanked everyone for receiving him, glanced up at the thousands of eyes upon him – and faltered, losing his place in the speech. The opera house fell eerily silent. Anyone in the multitude could have heard a pin drop as all held their breath. The crowd shared a momentary feeling of panic with Baldenegro. Then his voice swept through the opera house and he continued, filled with emotion, yet very much in control, explaining his indebtedness to his father who was killed for defending the forest.

Baldenegro spoke of the difficulties confronting the powerful loggers that control the rural areas of the Sierra Madre. He spoke slowly and quietly, and three minutes later raised his eyes, and smiled. The crowd roared, and Baldenegro looked up to the distant third balcony where a huge group of youth was cheering particularly loudly; his smile widened. For a seemingly endless twenty seconds he stood proudly on stage, soaking in the

photo credit: Goldman Environmental Prize



Logging truck hauling precious trees from the Sierra Madre

standing ovation and the outpouring of emotion from the thousands that filled the darkened auditorium.

## The Sierra Madre Mountains of Chihuahua, Mexico

The spectacular Western Sierra Madre mountain range hosts one of the most diverse ecosystems in the world, ranging from snow-covered peaks to four separate canyons, each one deeper than the Grand Canyon in the United States. In addition to the 120 species of neotropical migratory birds that winter in the region, it is home to 26 threatened or endangered species including thick-billed parrots, spotted owl, northern goshawk, military macaw, as well as a number of native fish, reptiles and amphibians.

But the region's long history of resource extraction, violence and corruption threatens both the rich ecosystem and the indigenous communities. Ever since the Spanish invaded Mexico in search of precious metals, the Tarahumara and

other native peoples have sought refuge in the remote mountain valleys. In recent decades, the area's natural resources have come under intense pressure, the focus of a new wave of interests battling for control of the region. Loggers and ranchers seek lumber and land at any cost, forcing countless people to flee their homes and destroying the vast majority of old-growth forest. In fact, 99 percent of the region's old-growth forests have already been destroyed.

## In His Father's Name

The area is controlled informally by violent local crime bosses who gained power in the last thirty years by laundering drug money through logging and ranching operations. The government has been largely unresponsive to the violence, resulting in a network of regional criminals acting with impunity. Tragically, Baldenegro is acutely aware of the grave risks involved in defending the forest. As a boy, he witnessed

*(continued on page 6)*

(continued from page 5)

firsthand the assassination of his father, who was gunned down in front of his home because he opposed logging. In the face of these serious risks and repeated threats against his life, Baldenegro has chosen to stay and continue defending the forest and his community's ancestral lands.

In 1993, Baldenegro initiated a non-violent grassroots resistance movement to fight the logging, gaining support from local and international non-governmental organizations. In 2002, he organized non-violent sit-ins and marches, prompting the government to temporarily suspend logging in the area. The following year he mobilized a massive human blockade made up of mostly women whose husbands had been murdered. The action resulted in a special court order outlawing logging in the area.

## False Arrest

Following the 2003 blockade, Baldenegro was suddenly jailed on



photo credit: R.G. Huerta Niño

Rarámuri women gather for a community meeting

false charges of arms and drug possession (he was subsequently acquitted). His arrest generated international solidarity from important environmental and human rights organizations, and Amnesty International declared Baldenegro a prisoner of conscience. Released in June 2004 after 15 months in prison, he emerged even more determined,

encouraged by the immense international support. Soon after, he and his supporters won two more government logging suspensions. Motivated by his successes and the outpouring of international support, he established an environmental justice organization, which currently has cases pending in Mexico's federal courts to protect the forests.

## Defending a Way of Life

To reach the village of Coloradas de la Virgen takes several hours of driving on unpaved logging roads and dirt paths through steep and rough terrain. It is a tiny place in a beautiful valley inhabited by subsistence farmers who grow mostly beans and corn. Isidro Baldenegro and his family are no different. His is a small and humble home, with a dirt floor and modest belongings. But despite the challenges of poverty and spending much time traveling out of the area, he and his community have mounted a peaceful movement to challenge illegal and unsustainable logging. It is a long-standing struggle to defend the Tarahumara way of life and the



photo credit: R.G. Huerta Niño

Rarámuri children of Coloradas de la Virgen

Tarahumara way of sustainable living with the forest.

On April 18, 2005, Isidro Baldenegro was awarded the Goldman Environmental Prize for his efforts defending the lands of the Tarahumara. Baldenegro's courageous efforts have made him a national and international hero. He has brought world attention to the beautiful, ecologically crucial old-

growth forests of the Sierra Madre as well as the survival of his people.

Before returning to his seat that memorable April evening, Baldenegro left the audience with a simple yet profound thought, especially for a man who has confronted so much hardship defending the lands of his people: "We all deserve to be, at least for a few minutes, surrounded by so many friends with so

much happiness. Sometimes we forget about reality and we think that everything is difficult. But today I know nothing is impossible." ○

David Rothschild is a Program Officer for the Goldman Environmental Prize.

Ricardo Huerta Niño is a Candidate for Master of City Planning at the University of California, Berkeley and a consultant for Goldman Environmental Prize as well as the Indigenous Peoples Law and Policy Program at the University of Arizona.

## BACKGROUND

### About the Goldman Environmental Prize

The Goldman Environmental Prize is given each year to six grassroots environmental heroes - one from each of six continental regions: Africa, Asia, Europe, Island Nations, North America and South/Central America. The Goldman Environmental Prize allows individuals to continue winning environmental victories against the odds and inspire ordinary people to take extraordinary actions to protect the world. The Goldman Environmental Prize was created in 1990 by civic leaders and philanthropists Richard N. Goldman and his late wife, Rhoda H. Goldman.

The Goldman Environmental Prize winners are selected by an international jury from confidential nominations submitted by a worldwide network of environmental organizations and individuals. Prize winners receive \$125,000 and participate in a 10-day tour of San Francisco and Washington, D.C., for an awards ceremony and presentation, news conferences, media briefings and meetings with political, public policy, financial and environmental leaders.

For more information and to read the stories of all of the prize winners, see <http://www.goldmanprize.org>.



photo credit: Lisa Matthes

Friends of the Earth and the Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL) hosted a reception honoring the 2005 Goldman Environmental Prize winners this spring. The reception was held at Friends of the Earth's office. Front row, left to right: Isidro Baldenegro, Kaisha Atakhanova (Kazakhstan), José Andrés Tamayo Cortez (Honduras), and Stephanie Danielle Roth (Romania). Back row, left to right: Dan Magraw (President, CIEL), Brent Blackwelder (President, Friends of the Earth), Tim Wirth (President, UN Foundation), Corneille Ewango (Congo), and Chavannes Jean-Baptiste (Haiti).



photo credit: Lisa Matthes

Former Senator Tim Wirth who now heads the United Nations Foundation gave an address at the reception honoring the Goldman Prize recipients.

# Preventing Terrorism

By D.C. Councilmember Kathy Patterson

**TODAY IT IS NOT A MATTER** of *if*, it is a matter of *when*, terrorists will strike again in the nation's capital. That thought is never far from the minds of the residents of Washington, D.C.

In the days and weeks that followed 9/11 those of us with responsibilities for protecting Washington, D.C., took stock of our preparedness. We rewrote the city's Emergency Response Plan. The mayor created an Emergency Preparedness Council that meets regularly. We jointly wrote comprehensive legislation, the *Omnibus Anti-Terrorism Act of 2002*, to improve our planning and response capability. Significantly, within weeks of 9/11 the city's Water and Sewer Authority eliminated one of the greatest risks to our security by ending the use of chlorine in water treatment.

In 2003, the Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace, and Sierra Club brought to my attention the continuing danger posed by truck and rail through shipments of highly toxic chemicals within four blocks of the U.S. Capitol. In October 2003, I introduced the first version of what became the *Terrorism Prevention in Hazardous Materials Transportation*

*Act of 2005*, designed to address the threat that terrorists might attack one of these cargoes, causing a massive explosion and/or release of toxic chemicals. The law prohibits transport of large quantities of ultrahazardous materials within 2.2 miles of the U.S. Capitol unless rerouting is deemed cost-prohibitive or the city's Department of Transportation determines that an emergency exists.

**In January 2004, the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory gave testimony to a D.C. Council Committee indicating that an attack on a 90-ton railcar carrying toxic chlorine gas could kill or seriously injure up to 100,000 persons in the first 30 minutes.**

The rail and chemical industries and the Bush Administration spoke against the legislation, claiming it was not needed and that it was preempted by federal law. Witnesses included CSX Transportation (CSXT), the city's sole freight railroad.

The following month, officials with the U.S. Departments of Homeland Security and Transportation announced the D.C. Rail Corridor Project to "address the security issues of hazardous materials transportation by rail." This study was to produce a policy and a plan to keep D.C. residents safe from the threat of attack on toxic rail cargo. Throughout the spring and summer the chairman of the Council's Committee on Public Works and the Environment, Councilmember Carol Schwartz, held off reporting the bill out of committee because of the federal assurances.

By fall those assurances had worn thin: the federal officials refused to share the results of the rail corridor project, citing a need for secrecy (for the record, they have not shared those results to date). I urged my colleague to report the bill, and indicated I would attempt to secure passage of the law as emergency legislation. On Nov. 4, 2004, Councilmember Schwartz arranged a closed-door briefing and federal officials and CSXT described steps to secure a section of the rail line. She then scheduled a public hearing Nov. 22, 2004, with the expectation that the federal offi-

# in Your Backyard

cials would finally unveil their security plans.

We learned from the closed-door meeting and the public hearing that the Bush Administration had not, and would not, order rerouting of toxic cargoes around Washington, D.C. And, CSXT would not state publicly whether it was, in fact, rerouting “toxic by inhalation” chemicals, though the company’s witness left the clear implication that rerouting was taking place.

On Feb. 7, 2005, I successfully moved the emergency legislation, which would be in effect for 90 days, and a temporary version that would be in place for 225 days thereafter. Mayor Williams signaled his strong support by signing both versions of the legislation. The permanent bill is still pending in committee.

CSXT, joined by the Bush Administration, immediately challenged the law in federal court. CSXT revealed publicly for the first time that while it had voluntarily rerouted “loaded cars carrying TIHs, compressed flammable gasses, and certain other hazardous materials” along its north-south line (near the Capitol), it continued to ship the toxic materials on its east-west line

through other Washington, D.C., neighborhoods.

In recent weeks we have won and lost in court. On April 18, 2005, U.S. District Court Judge Emmet Sullivan denied CSXT’s request for a preliminary injunction. Judge Sullivan agreed that the national government had failed to address the terrorist threat here and said his ruling should hold “until the federal government has more thoroughly addressed the threat of terrorist attack on trains and has put sufficient safeguards in place.”

In his ruling, Judge Sullivan cited Richard A. Falkenrath, former deputy homeland security advisor in the Bush administration. In recent statements, Falkenrath called chemical plant and hazmat transporta-

tion security risks his top security concern. He also acknowledged, “There has been no meaningful improvement in the security of these chemicals moving through our population centers.”

The rail company immediately appealed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit and won a decision by a three-judge panel overturning Judge Sullivan’s opinion. The preliminary injunction was granted and the law is not being enforced.

For more information about the Safer Neighborhoods Campaign and the CSXT v. D.C. lawsuit, visit:

[www.foe.org/railsafety](http://www.foe.org/railsafety) 

Councilmember Patterson has served on the D.C. Council since January 1995, and from 2001-2005 chaired the council’s Committee on the Judiciary with oversight responsibility for emergency preparedness.



## UPDATE!

We are happy to note that other at-risk cities have taken encouragement from efforts in Washington, D.C. Recently, Baltimore, Cleveland and California have introduced similar ordinances. Citizens in other target cities such as Boston, Cincinnati, San Francisco, Oakland, and Philadelphia have also made moves towards enacting their own protective ordinances.

– Fred Millar, Safer Neighborhoods Campaign



# Last Child in the Woods

## Saving our Children from Nature Deficit Disorder

By Richard Louv

**AMERICA'S GENIUS HAS BEEN** nurtured by nature – by space, both physical and mental. What happens to the nation's intrinsic creativity, and therefore the health of our economy, when future generations are so restricted that they no longer have room to stretch? What happens when all the parts of childhood are soldered down, when the young no longer have the time or space to play in their family's garden, cycle home in the dark with the stars and moon illuminating their route, walk down through the woods to the river, lie on their backs on hot July days in the long grass or watch cockleburrs, lit by morning sun, like bumble-bees quivering on harp wires? One might argue that the Internet has replaced the woods, in terms of inventive space, but no electronic environment stimulates all the senses. So far, Microsoft sells no match for nature's code. Nature is imperfectly perfect, filled with loose parts and possibilities, with mud and dust, nettles and sky, transcendent hands-on moments and skinned knees.

In the most nature-deprived corners of our world we can see the rise of what might be called cultural autism. The symptoms? Tunneled senses and feelings of isolation and containment. Experience, including physical risk, is narrowing to about the size of a cathode ray tube, or flat

panel if you prefer. Atrophy of the senses was occurring long before we came to be bombarded with the latest generation of computers, high-definition TVs, and wireless phones. Urban children, and many suburban children, have long been isolated from the natural world because of lack of neighborhood parks or lack of opportunity – lack of time and money for parents who might otherwise take them out of the city. But the new technology accelerates the phenomenon.

**“...the world is not entirely available from a keyboard.”**

The late Edward Reed, one of the most articulate critics of the myth of the information age, wrote, “There is something wrong with a society that spends so much money – as well as countless hours of human effort – to make the least dregs of processed information available to everyone everywhere and yet does little or nothing to help us explore the world for ourselves.” None of our major institutions or our popular culture pay much notice to what Reed called “primary experience” – that which we can see, feel, taste, hear, or smell for ourselves. We are beginning “to lose the ability to experience our world directly,” wrote Reed.

Frank Wilson, professor of neurology at the Stanford University School

of Medicine, is an expert on the co-evolution of the hominid hand and brain; in *The Hand*, he contends that one could not have evolved to its current sophistication without the other. He says, “We’ve been sold a bill of goods – especially parents – about how valuable computer-based experience is. We are creatures identified by what we do with our hands.” Much of our learning comes from doing, from making, from feeling with our hands; and though many would like to believe otherwise, the world is not entirely available from a keyboard. As Wilson sees it, we’re cutting off our hands to spite our brains. Instructors in medical schools find it increasingly difficult to teach how the heart works as a pump, he says, “because these students have so little real-world experience; they’ve never siphoned anything, never fixed a car, never worked on a fuel pump, may not even have hooked up a garden hose. For a whole generation of kids, direct experiences in the backyard, in the tool shed, in the fields and woods, has been replaced by indirect learning, through machines. These young people are smart, they grew up with computers, they were supposed to be superior – but now we know that something’s missing.” ○

From LAST CHILD IN THE WOODS by Richard Louv. © 2005 by Richard Louv. Reprinted by permission of Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill.

# Glamis Gold's Mine in Guatemala Sparks Protest



photo credit: Centro de Acción para el Desarrollo y el Derecho

Construction of the Marlin mine has left a scarred landscape.

**WHETHER IN THE WESTERN** highlands of Guatemala or the desert of California, Glamis Gold is a mining company with a penchant for causing trouble.

Based in Reno, Nevada and officially incorporated in Canada, Glamis has provoked outrage over its gold mining operations in the United States and in other countries.

There is a common thread in the company's activities. Both at home and abroad, it has sought to carry out destructive gold mining operations on or near the lands of indigenous peoples.

In Guatemala, indigenous communities make up half of Guatemala's population. The country's western highlands are rich in gold and silver ore, and Mayan communities there view the land and the environment as a collective resource that is owned by the entire community.

Despite significant opposition from the local communities, Glamis pressed forward with plans for min-

ing gold and silver in 2004, at a site called the Marlin mine. With support from the Guatemalan government, the company successfully acquired financing for the mine from the private sector lending arm of the World Bank, the International Finance Corporation.

Tension over the mine reached the boiling point on January 11, 2005 when police cracked down on local residents in the town of Los Encuentros. Residents of the town blocked the road to the mine after workers started dismantling a pedestrian bridge built to smooth the way for mining equipment. The Guatemalan government sent in police and troops to end a 40-day protest, leaving one man dead and injuring a number of others.

Residents continue to protest the way in which their concerns about the impacts of the mine have been addressed.

Indigenous communities were granted specific rights to their land by the peace accords at the conclusion of Guatemala's 36-year civil war in 1996. But the Guatemalan government rushed to sell mining permits to Glamis with minimal consultation of indigenous communities. Also, community members doubt that the

project will provide substantial local economic benefits.

Local communities have grown increasingly concerned about the environmental impacts of the project. In this semi-arid region where water is a scarce and critical resource for subsistence farmers, residents are worried that the mine will deplete water supplies. Community members are also worried that the open pit cyanide leaching process to be used at the mine will contaminate their remaining drinking water supplies.

The tension around the mine continues. A recent report by Amnesty International has documented death threats against several local community members who oppose the mine. Guatemalans are concerned that the

*(continued on page 15)*

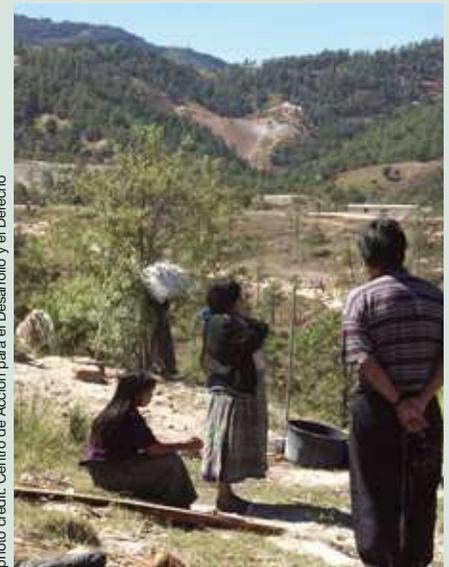


photo credit: Centro de Acción para el Desarrollo y el Derecho

Members of the community near the mine look at the barren areas where the mine is being constructed.

*(continued on back cover)*

# Campaign News

photo credit: Bruce Jackson



Steens Mountain in Oregon (pictured above) is part of the National Landscape Conservation System.

## Protecting the Natural Treasures of the American West

In June 2000, the National Landscape Conservation System – perhaps the most innovative American land system created in the last 50 years – was established to protect the crown jewels of America’s public lands. The system is managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and protects 26 million acres of contiguous “landscapes.” This system of lands is so remarkable because for the first time the Department of the Interior has been charged with managing lands for conservation rather than multiple uses like resource extraction or recreation.

This summer, Friends of the Earth and Americans who love nature and open space are celebrating the fifth anniversary of the National Landscape Conservation System. To ensure that these

extraordinary places remain wild and wonderful for future generations, we are calling on the BLM and Congress to protect these irreplaceable treasures from vandalism, development, and illegal off-road vehicle use.

Help save western habitats, lands, culture, and waters. To learn more and to take action, visit: <http://www.foe.org/take-action>.

## Cleaning Up Cruise Ships

Cruise ships transport millions of people through our nation’s coastal waters. But these super-sized ships leave a trail of waste in their wake. A single luxury liner in a one-week voyage generates 210,000 gallons of sewage, one million gallons of dirty water from sinks, showers and galleys, and 35,000 gallons of oil-contaminated water. All of it is dumped into the sea, sometimes treated, sometimes not. The Clean Cruise Ship Act of 2005 will stop cruise ships from flushing sewage and dirty water within 12 miles of America’s coastlines. This urgent federal bill has bipartisan support, but we need your help to get it passed. Please contact your members of Congress and urge them to co-sponsor the Clean Cruise Ship Act of 2005. For more information go to: <http://www.bluewaternet.org/>

## Off-Road Vehicles at Cape Hatteras

Cape Hatteras National Seashore in North Carolina is the poster child for parks that need to address the impact of off-road vehicles. Cape Hatteras has seen increasing off-road vehicle use over the last 30 years, impacting pristine dunes, beaches and wildlife (including endangered species) with tire tracks and noise. The National Park Service is conducting a much-needed overhaul of the Cape Hatteras management plan and creating a working group to address the issues associated with off-road vehicle use. Bluewater Network has petitioned the Park Service for a rule to protect

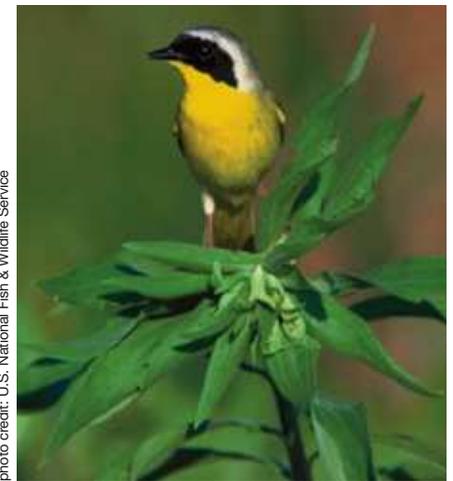


photo credit: U.S. National Fish & Wildlife Service

The common yellowthroat wood warbler is a frequent visitor to Cape Hatteras from May through October.

all national park units from off-road use and will keep up the pressure to protect this area.

## Troubled Waters

Bluewater Network, a division of Friends of the Earth, recently testified before a House subcommittee

about the damages of jetski use in national parks. The National Park Service's jetski policy is haphazard, with some parks allowing jetskis and others prohibiting them. The Gulf Islands National Seashore in Florida allows the thrill craft despite the fact that a 2001 determination by the Park Service found that jetskis damage park resources, wildlife and public safety. This decision was made without any justification, and Bluewater is poised to challenge it.

### Keep Amtrak Running

As President Bush continues trying to permanently derail Amtrak, Friends of the Earth is working with members of Congress to ensure that the system is not only maintained, but improved. Despite being one of the most environmentally friendly ways to travel, Amtrak has suffered from a lifetime of underfunding that has forced the system into a state of disrepair. Recent problems with the high-speed, fuel efficient Acela trains are just the latest result of Amtrak's annual starvation budget. In response, several of Friends of the Earth's closest allies on Capitol Hill formed a bipartisan Passenger Rail Caucus to make sure Amtrak has the support it needs to develop into

the 21st century transportation option that America deserves.

Friends of the Earth and the Rail Caucus are already working hard to chart the best course for Amtrak. We are reviewing legislation and deciding on key principles for the system. Even though Amtrak has vocal and powerful opponents, by holding news events, briefings, and political rallies, we plan to build up the support needed for strong funding of our nation's passenger rail system. We have a solid base of support, but there is a long way to go! Help us out by taking action at:

<http://www.foe.org/takeaction> and tell your elected officials that you are another American for Amtrak!

### Energy Bill: Handouts to Big Oil & Gas

With gas prices soaring, congressional leaders are again attempting to pass the Bush administration's backward looking energy plan – even though the administration itself admitted that its energy bill would do nothing to reduce prices at the pump. The House narrowly passed the measure this spring and at press time, the Senate was considering a similar version.



America needs an energy plan that reduces our dependence on oil, protects our environment and helps consumers. But the Bush administration's own Energy Department concluded that under the current energy bill, oil imports would rise an astonishing 85 percent by 2025.

The energy bill would lavish more than \$22 billion in taxpayer handouts on the oil, gas and other energy industries, even though these companies are seeing record profits. Congressional leaders are pushing this massive bill even though the president himself remarked, "With oil at more than \$50 a barrel, by the way, energy companies do not need taxpayer-funded incentives to explore for oil and gas." In addition, the bill would rollback the clock on environmental protection, granting the oil and gas industry special exemptions from clean water and safe drinking water laws.

Congressional leaders have a tough road ahead as they attempt to pass the bill. The House and Senate have been unable to reconcile differences between their versions of the legislation for the past four years, and will face similar problems this year. ○



# Planning a Vacation: Visit One of America's Top Ten Jetski-free Waterways

**BLUEWATER NETWORK** – a division of Friends of the Earth, released its listing of the top ten jetski-free waterways for 2005. This year's list is a testament to the communities that have taken a stand against the billion dollar jetski industry and protected their waterways from these highly-polluting and dangerous craft.

## Florida Keys National Wildlife Refuges – Florida

The waters surrounding the Great White Heron and Key West National Wildlife Refuges, which contain picturesque settings, and spectacular fishing opportunities, have been closed to jetskis for more than 10 years. However, the jetski industry is bringing new pressure upon the state and federal government to overturn the ban. Thankfully, the Bush administration appears to be standing up to industry's efforts for now.

## Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore – Michigan

Despite environmental assessments showing that a continued jetski ban is the best way to protect Pictured Rocks' resources and wildlife, the Park Service is considering allowing the machines at this beautiful lakeshore.



photo credit: National Park Service

Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore

## San Juan Islands – Washington

Well-known for its spectacular beauty and marine wildlife, San Juan County was the first local government to ban jetskis. The San Juan ban has served as a model for other communities seeking to regulate jetskis.



Biscayne National Park is home to several species of sea turtles including this Green Sea Turtle.

## Biscayne National Park – Florida

Last year, the personal watercraft industry pulled out all the stops in a well-funded effort to inject their thrillcraft into this park, which is home to the endangered Florida manatee. Bluewater Network's grassroots effort stopped them.

## San Francisco Bay Area – California

Over the past ten years, city, county, and federal agencies in the San Francisco Bay area have enacted at least nine jetski closures affecting hundreds of square miles of regional waters. Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge, in the

North Bay, is the most recent site to ban the machines.

## Kachemak Bay State Park – Alaska

Jetskis are prohibited in this park near Homer, Alaska. In 1999 local business leaders, homeowners, and other concerned citizens ran a grassroots campaign against the industry and protected their home waters.

## Cape Hatteras and Cape Lookout National Seashore – North Carolina

These two national seashores provide some of the best fishing and surfing on the east coast, in part because jetskis are prohibited, though the Park Service is under pressure to let the machines back in.



photo credit: National Park Service

Cape Lookout National Seashore

## Lake Willoughby – Vermont

Local activists armed with little more than the facts, the law and some help from Bluewater weathered an all-out industry lobbying blitz and protected this idyllic lake. Located in northeastern Vermont, Lake Willoughby is known for its crystal clear water, natural sand beaches and great fishing.

## Gulf Islands National Seashore – Florida/Mississippi

The tranquil waters of the Gulf Islands are in jeopardy due to a pending Park Service decision to lift a ban on jetskis, which Bluewater is working to stop. Currently, visitors can enjoy white sand beaches, blue waters, coastal marshes, maritime forests and two islands protected as federal wilderness areas without the intrusion of the craft.



Photo credit: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

The king rail, which makes a home near the Missouri River, often remains hidden in its marshy habitat.

## Missouri National Recreation River – South Dakota/Nebraska

When the Park Service considered allowing jetskis back into this area, the public responded with a resounding “no” – and the agency listened. Today, visitors can experience the river and its wildlife without jetskis. ○

## INTERNATIONAL

(continued from page 11)

tension created by the mine will lead to a revival of antagonisms from the civil war.

But Guatemala is not the only site of Glamis Gold’s environmental trouble-making or its conflicts with indigenous communities.

Closer to home, the company recently sued the United States for \$50 million under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Using the highly problematic “investor rights” rules in NAFTA, and its alleged status as a Canadian company, Glamis is demanding millions in compensation by asserting that California’s new mining laws will undermine its future profits there.

The suit follows years of attempts by Glamis to start a gold mining operation in a largely pristine area in

southeastern California that is sacred to the Quechua Indian Nation. The huge mining operation is slated to use the same dangerous cyanide leaching technology as the mine in Guatemala. The California mine would also consume up to 389 million gallons of water annually from the desert groundwater aquifer.

Glamis used an outdated U.S. mining law from 1872 to acquire 1,500 acres of claims on federal public lands simply by putting up posts to mark the claim and by registering the claim with the Department of the Interior. Glamis was then entitled to mine the minerals located on that land without paying any royalties on it.

In 2003, the State of California passed legislation requiring that the holes created by open-pit mining

operations be “backfilled” and that the landscape in the area be re-contoured once mining operations have been completed on or near sacred sites or areas of special concern. Now Glamis is using NAFTA to challenge that legislation and to increase its profits.

But whether at home in the United States or abroad, the actions of Glamis Gold will not go unwatched. Friends of the Earth groups in Guatemala, Canada, and the United States are paying close attention to Glamis and are working to get it to clean up its act. ○

You can support indigenous communities in Guatemala by telling Glamis to stop construction on the mine until meaningful discussions have been held with affected communities and the government as to how – or whether – development of the mine should proceed: <http://www.foe.org/takeaction>

A copy of the latest Financial Report and Registration filed by this organization may be obtained by contacting us at Friends of the Earth, 1717 Massachusetts Ave. NW Suite 600, Washington DC 20036-2008. Toll-free number: 877-843-8687. Or, for residents of the following states, by contacting any of the state agencies: **CALIFORNIA** – A copy of the Official Financial Statement may be obtained from the Attorney General’s Registry of Charitable Trusts, Department of Justice, P.O. Box 903447, Sacramento, CA 94203-4470 or by calling 916-445-2021. **FLORIDA** – A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE, WITHIN THE STATE, 1-800-435-7352. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. Florida registration # CH960. **KANSAS** Annual financial report is filed with Secretary of State #258-204-7. **MARYLAND** For the cost of copies and postage: Office of the Secretary of State, State House, Annapolis, MD 21401. **MICHIGAN** MICS 10926. **MISSISSIPPI** – The official registration and financial information of Friends of the Earth, Inc. may be obtained from the Mississippi Secretary of State’s office by calling 1-888-236-6167. Registration by the Secretary of State does not imply endorsement by the Secretary of State. **NEW JERSEY** INFORMATION FILED WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL CONCERNING THIS CHARITABLE SOLICITATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY BY CALLING 973-504-6215. REGISTRATION WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT. **NEW YORK** Office of the Attorney General, Department of Law, Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271. **NORTH CAROLINA** FINANCIAL INFORMATION ABOUT THIS ORGANIZATION AND A COPY OF ITS LICENSE ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE STATE SOLICITATION LICENSING BRANCH AT 1-888-830-4989. THE LICENSE IS NOT AN ENDORSEMENT BY THE STATE. **PENNSYLVANIA** – The official registration and financial information of Friends of the Earth may be obtained from Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free within the state 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement. **UTAH** – Permit #C495. **VIRGINIA** State Division of Consumer Affairs, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, P.O. Box 1163, Richmond, VA 23218; 1-800-552-9963. **WASHINGTON** – Charities Division, Office of the Secretary of the State, State of Washington, Olympia, WA 98504-0422; 1-800-332-4483. **WEST VIRGINIA** West Virginia residents may obtain a summary of the registration and financial documents from the Secretary of State, State Capitol, Charleston, WV 25305. Registration does not imply endorsement.

# Friends of the Earth Meets Standards for Charity Accountability!



Friends of the Earth is one of a select few national charities that are currently participating in the Better Business Bureau Wise

Giving Alliance's National Charity Seal Program. Inclusion in this list means that: the Alliance evaluated materials provided by Friends of the Earth and concluded that it met the Standards

for Charity Accountability. The evaluation is freely accessible to the public at <http://www.give.org>. ○

## NOTICES

## In Memory Of...

### Helen Mills, 1930-2005



A true friend of the earth, Helen Mills demonstrated her appreciation of the natural world as one of the earliest

activists in the environmental movement. She served for many years on the Friends of the Earth Board of Directors and was involved with numerous other environmental causes. Her dedication to environmental protection inspired and influenced those who came to know her through her environmental work and stands as one of her great legacies. Helen had a passionate interest in politics and public affairs and was an active member of the "Peanut Brigade," traveling

across the country to campaign for then Governor Jimmy Carter. Her papers in support of his candidacy and on environmental issues are archived in the Carter Center. At age 75, Helen Mills passed away in April of 2005.

### Dr. Marc Lappé, 1943-2005

Dr. Marc Lappé, an author, educator and prominent toxicologist and medical ethicist, passed away this May. He was 62. Dr. Lappé's work was interconnected with Friends of the Earth in many ways. In 1976, Dr. Lappé published *Of All Things Most Yielding* (Friends of the Earth/McGraw Hill) with his friend, Friends of the Earth and Sierra Club founder David Brower, which combined the stunning photographs of Glen Canyon with classic Chinese poetry.

His own words continue to define our work and times:

"Three interrelated issues mark our times: We have altered the planet with our chemicals; we are transforming agriculture with bioengineering; and we are contemplating the recreation of humankind through genetic technologies. All three compel us to reexamine how we use scientific knowledge: will our new technologies be greeted with 'hurrahs' or a whisper of despair from the species that we have decimated, crops that are gene-contaminated and people who, though yet to be created, may yet curse us for our technological prowess?"

– Marc Lappé



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