



Friends of the Earth

Fall 2004 Newsmagazine

Volume 34, Number 3

Under Our Skin

Personal Care Products Linked
to Cancer & Birth Defects



CFC
#0908

Friends of the Earth International Network: Campaigning Around the World

This past July I had the opportunity to visit part of the Friends of the Earth International network with member groups in 68 countries. I traveled to the Secretariat in Amsterdam and to Friends of the Earth Europe in Brussels as well as to two of our largest member groups, Friends of the Earth Netherlands and Friends of the Earth England, Wales & Northern Ireland. In each place I encountered creative and outstanding work to protect our planet.

For example, Friends of the Earth Europe is conducting a “Carbon Dinosaur” Tour of 23 European countries from May through October to dramatize the need for action on climate change. The entire tour can be followed on the Friends of the Earth Europe’s website: www.foeeurope.org/dinosaur. The campaign calls for 10 major actions by European countries, including improvement in auto fuel economy and elimination of public subsidies for coal, oil and gas.

Friends of the Earth Netherlands has an imaginative program involving students urging public officials to take action on global warming. Classes can make bets with the Dutch environment minister or another public official that they can reduce more greenhouse gas emissions in two months than the public official can. The Dutch minister agreed to pay a school 2,000 Euros (\$2,500) if he loses.

The U.S. administration’s attempt through the World Trade Organization to force genetically engineered foods into Europe has Europeans especially angered. Our



Brent Blackwelder

Friends of the Earth member groups have put together an extraordinary worldwide documentation of a decade of failure in genetically engineered crops. Biotech companies have marketed crops that have created novel and alarming problems, including genetic contamination, while not delivering promises of safer, cheaper and better quality food.

In the United States, we continue to have success in stopping new crops like genetically engineered wheat from being commercialized, and in calling into question the risky nature of growing prescription medicines and industrial chemicals in the middle of corn fields.

Twenty years ago, Friends of the Earth helped launch the campaign to reform the World Bank, and we were hoping for a major breakthrough this past summer. But, the Bank turned its back on an excellent report about its lending for oil, mining and gas projects – a review the Bank’s own President Wolfensohn commissioned. World Bank financed projects have

devastated tropical forests, polluted rivers and resulted in serious human rights abuses, but the Bank refuses to make any meaningful shift in its energy lending to clean, renewable alternatives. (*see article on page 12*)

Friends of the Earth’s pioneering efforts with the Green Scissors program continue to bear fruit at both the federal and state level as we seek to prevent taxpayer dollars from being spent on activities that harm the environment. In a rare victory in the current U.S. House of Representatives, the Congressional co-chairs of the newly formed Green Scissors Caucus successfully offered an amendment to cut timber subsidies for logging in Alaska’s Tongass National Forest.

Friends of the Earth scored a triple set of victories in legal actions to protect lakes and rivers, to save salmon and to stop unnecessary roads. In Texas, we won a water pollution victory against the Chevron Chemical Company. In Vermont, we halted a sprawl highway that threatened forests near Burlington. And, in Oregon, we forced the Army Corps of Engineers to keep more water flowing over its dams to help young salmon in their essential migration to the sea.

As a member of Friends of the Earth, you have helped win these significant victories – I just want to say thank you. And, remember to help the environment this election cycle by voting for candidates that care about the environment and public health.



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Our Mission: Friends of the Earth defends the environment and champions a healthy and just world.



Earth Share

Earth Share giving campaigns allow you to designate a donation to Friends of the Earth. Federal employees can donate through the Combined Federal Campaign by marking #0908 on their pledge forms. To set up an Earth Share campaign at your workplace, contact Rosemary Greenaway at 202-222-0722.

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UNION
BUG

Toxics in Our Personal Care Products? It's Time to Come Clean



Our Safe Cosmetics campaign joined 1 million activists at the “March for Women’s Lives” in Washington, D.C. Women and men of all ages are exposing themselves to toxic chemicals linked to cancer and birth defects when they use personal care products such as deodorant, nail polish and shaving cream.

By Marc Ethier

Liz Jones thought she had cancer beat. The San Jose accountant and mother of two, diagnosed with breast cancer in 1993, had endured a lumpectomy, chemotherapy and radiation treatments, endured the hospital visits and the long road of recovery. Ten years later, as she prepared to climb California’s Mount Shasta with other members of the Breast Cancer Fund, Jones thought of herself as a survivor of the disease that affects one in seven women in the United States.

Liz Jones was a success story. “Then,” she said, “I found a lump in my other breast.”

A week and a decade after her first diagnosis, Jones was again dealt a blow that women hope never to experience once. While she was overcome by the reality of having to once more fight a

disease that costs 372,000 women their lives each year, something besides fear, anger and doubt flooded Jones’s mind. She had questions.

“Being re-diagnosed really got me to looking at what happened in my life that would have made me so prone to

breast cancer, because there’s no history in my family,” she said. “I’m the one and only woman who’s been diagnosed (in my family). There’s a lot of other cancer in my family, but not breast cancer.

“So I started paying a lot more attention to the environmental issues.”

Jones grew up in the Niagara Falls area of New York and lived there until she was 18. Notorious for its chemical processing plants – including Hooker Chemical, the principal culprit in the Love Canal disaster for whom Jones’s father worked – Niagara Falls was a chemical hotbed for much of the last century, and the negative environmental and health effects are felt there to this day.

As she is quick to point out, it’s impossible to say why Jones seems especially susceptible to breast cancer. Any number of factors over the course of her lifetime could have contributed to occurrence of the disease. But her

“...a cosmetic manufacturer may use almost any raw material as a cosmetic ingredient and market the product without an approval from FDA (FDA 1999)”

Listed below are the products with the highest health concerns in 25 different product categories, according to an Environmental Working Group Safety Assessment Rating for personal care products. They contain ingredients linked to cancer, birth defects and other potential health issues.

- Clairol Natural Instincts Haircolor, Level 2, Sahara 02
- Elizabeth Arden Ceramide Plump Perfect Moisture Cream SPF 30
- Skin Success Eventone Fade Cream, for Oily Skin
- Klear Action Acne Treatment System
- Nivea for Men After Shave Balm, Mild with Bonus Face Wash
- OPI Nail Treatments Nail Envy, Natural Nail Strengthener
- St. Ives Apricot Scrub, Gentle for Sensitive Skin
- Neutrogena T-Gel Shampoo, Stubborn Itch Control
- NARS Balanced Foundation
- Dove Face Care Essential Nutrients, Cream Cleanser
- DDF Anti-Wrinkle Eye Renewal Treatment
- Revlon SkinLights Face Illuminator Powder Bronzer, Warm Light
- Dial Antibacterial Hand Soap with Vitamin E Moisture Beads
- Maybelline Full 'N Soft Mascara
- Alpha Hydrox Moisturizing Body Wash, Sea Mist
- Nioxin Bionutrient Actives Scalp Therapy, for Normal Hair
- Igia Epil-Stop & Foam, 6-in-1 Hair Removal System AT956
- St. Ives Apricot Hand & Foot Scrub
- Murad APS Oil-Free Sunblock Sheer Tint
- Healing Garden Green Teatherapy Exfoliating Body Scrub, Balance
- NARS Cream Eye Shadow Compact
- Te Tao Tea for Body, Anti-Stress Bath Soak
- Biolage by Matrix Daily Leave-In Tonic
- L'Oreal Visible Lift Line Minimizing Concealer
- DDF Fade Cream SPF 30

second diagnosis triggered something in Jones, who began to ask what those other factors might be, and how prevalent in our everyday lives they are. And she began to wonder how many other women and men have been – and still are being – unknowingly exposed to potentially dangerous chemicals in the places they live, the food they eat and the products they use.

For Jones, living in Niagara Falls may have been only the beginning of a lifetime of exposure to carcinogens, mutagens and other dangers. Her fear is that all of us may be at risk, every day, because of chemicals in many of the household and personal-care products we use.

“The Breast Cancer Fund in the last three years has really completely focused on identifying and eliminating environmental causes of the disease,” said Jones, a volunteer for the organization for the last eight years. “So this whole experience of mine has just widened my view of where things could be coming from and what we need to look at.”

Activists from a diverse coalition of environmental, health, and social

justice groups are beginning to sound the same alarms. The Campaign for Safe Cosmetics (www.SafeCosmetics.org) was launched this year by a coalition of several groups including Friends of the Earth, Health Care Without Harm, the Environmental Working Group and the Breast Cancer Fund in an effort to convince the cosmetics industry to stop using chemicals known or suspected of causing cancer, birth defects and other health effects in everyday products like shampoo, deodorant, lotion, nail polish and shaving cream. The product list is staggering; the need for action independent of government is necessary, the campaign insists, because the Food and Drug Administration has no purview over industry and the industry’s own watchdog committee, the Cosmetic Ingredient Review (CIR) panel, has no authority to force companies to comply with its recommendations.

The FDA, in fact, is powerless short of legal action to make actionable demands of the cosmetics industry. According to its own website, to remove a cosmetic product from the market the government agency “must

first prove in a court of law that the product may be injurious to users, improperly labeled or otherwise violates the law.”

The depth of the problem that concerns so many people like Liz Jones – whether they have been personally affected or not – has prompted the groups of the Campaign for Safe Cosmetics to publish and promote their own extensive, and often damning, reports. One recent study, titled “Skin Deep,” was published in June by the Environmental Working Group and painstakingly details some 7,500 common, name-brand personal-care products and their often-untested chemical ingredients.

What the EWG found was that of 10,500 ingredients documented in the course of the study, 89 percent had not been tested or evaluated in any way by the FDA or the CIR. Even more alarming, 54 chemicals were discovered that violate the CIR’s own safe-use recommendations.

“Most of the products you use have chemicals that haven’t been tested for safety at all,” said Dr. Tim Kropp, a

(continued on page 6)

toxicologist with EWG. “I think that’s surprising to most people. Most people assume that if you see something on the shelf, it’s safe for you. The findings of our study really contradict that.”

The EWG and other groups have petitioned the CIR with the findings of the new study and other information as it comes to light. The response has been tepid at best, Kropp said. While individual scientists on the panel have shown concern and even agreed that more oversight and more testing are desirable, the Cosmetic, Toiletry and Fragrance Association, which convenes the CIR, was “dismissive.”

“They said, ‘We’re doing this as a service to the companies, and if they want to listen to us, that’s fine,’” said Kropp. “But if you make a recommendation and no one listens, that’s a useless board.”

A Surge in Public Opinion

Industry may not be listening but people across the country are starting to, and activists and campaigners aren’t the only ones doing the talking. Olivia James is one of the many ordinary people spreading the word.

James, a former model who currently lives and works in New Jersey as a financial analyst with Dow Jones, knows the impact that chemicals from personal-care products may have on a woman’s health and reproductive system. Her son, Darren, was born with a physical defect linked to phthalates, which are found in everything from cosmetics to plastic wrap to shower curtains. Phthalic acid is used in the synthesis of dyes, perfumes, and other organic compounds but has been shown in laboratory studies to cause cancer, birth defects and other health problems.

James is confident her son, who is now seven years old and healthy, was born with hypospadias, a malformity of the urethra, because of the preponderance of chemicals that bombarded her body during her 15 years as a



Friends of the Earth and allies organized this demonstration outside the Cosmetics Ingredients Review (CIR) Panel’s meeting in Washington, D.C. Unlike food and drugs, cosmetics and personal-care products aren’t regulated by the FDA but are overseen by the industry itself, under the guise of the industry-funded CIR.

model. Gels, lotions, perfumes, nail polish, foundations, repeated colors and applications over 12-hour photo shoots, all combined to create a potent cocktail during her prime modeling years that she suspects made conception of her child difficult – she had a miscarriage before giving birth to her son at age 33 – and may cause countless problems for other women in the modeling industry.

“I have talked to models and many of the ones I’ve talked to have had troubles conceiving,” James said. “It could be phthalates, it could be other things, but I just think it’s kind of odd that we’re all in the same industry and we all have the same kind of problems.”

The time may be ripe for change. Friends of the Earth and partners in the Campaign for Safe Cosmetics are pushing for companies in the United States to adopt measures similar to those found in the European Union’s recently amended Cosmetics Directive, which requires manufacturers to remove carcinogens, mutagens and reproductive toxins from cosmetics and personal-care products by September of 2004. Companies like

Estée Lauder and Proctor & Gamble will be required to reformulate their products in the EU, though industry has yet to make the same steps in America or other markets they serve.

That kind of recalcitrance angers James, who says industry fully understands the dangers of phthalates, carcinogens and other chemicals forbidden in Europe and should take steps to remove them – to be “the bigger company” for the good of U.S. consumers.

“This is my issue with it: If you’re going to take out the toxins from your European distribution, why can’t you do it here?” James said. “I think it will happen, but they won’t do it out of the goodness of their heart. They’re going to do it for the publicity or something. It really doesn’t matter why they do it, as long as they do it.”

Of course, the other factor that could soon move industry – the chief factor, in fact – is public opinion. As the focus of concern shifted over the last 15 years from workers in chemical plants to the general populace, and a realization spreads across the demographic board that untested chemicals are a potential hazard to everyone,

efforts to reform the decades-old practices of the cosmetics industry have taken root and grown exponentially.

Charlotte Brody, executive director of Health Care Without Harm and Commonweal and a registered nurse who works on both coasts, has seen the shift firsthand. Fresh out of nursing school 30 years ago, she became involved in the care of textile workers afflicted with brown lung disease, which resulted from their exposure to cotton dust. She saw no efforts to question whether the disease might endanger the general public. Even 10 years ago, she says, the only focus on chemicals in nail polish would have been on factory and beauty salon workers, because of a perception that only large doses were dangerous. Now we know that's a misperception, Brody says.

"We've really started thinking about chemicals in an entirely different way, where small exposures matter. What we've really learned in the last 20 years, especially the last 10 years, is that we have to be thinking about danger in a second, really important way: How much might a mixture of exposures to chemicals impact the ability of a woman to have a healthy child? We have to look at the cumulative effect and not just on a long-term-exposed male worker, but on a young woman's ability to have a healthy baby, or to get pregnant at all," Brody said.

With that knowledge, more and more people are taking a closer look at what they buy – taking care as much with what they put on their bodies as what they put in them, says Jeanne Rizzo, executive director of the Breast Cancer Fund. The Campaign for Safe Cosmetics relies on and is partly responsible for that greater awareness.

A coalition of progressive groups converging on the issue would not have been possible even as recently as the early part of the 1990s, but just as 50 years of science analyzing and enumerating the dangers of tobacco finally resulted in widespread social change, the collaboration of disparate groups with one goal signals a break in the tide, and perhaps the beginning of a more safety-conscious era, she says.

Rizzo likewise hopes this is the start of an era that embraces preventive measures to keep breast cancer and other types of cancers and afflictions from happening in the first place. Because while reconstructive surgery alleviated Darren James's hypospadias, and a second round of chemotherapy and radiation has Liz Jones, who turned 60 on Aug. 23, believing she's beaten cancer again, both would have been better off if their health problems had never occurred. They – and we – would be better off if our living environment were not inundated by harmful chemicals.

That's the goal we should be aiming for, says Lisa Archer, campaigns

coordinator of Friends of the Earth's Health and Environment Program and the Campaign for Safe Cosmetics.

"With cancer, infertility and birth defects on the rise, it's common sense: chemicals linked to these diseases do not belong in products we use on our bodies every day," says Archer.

"A few years ago, awareness of the health and environmental impacts of pesticides and industrial agriculture caused consumers to demand healthier, more sustainably produced food. Now, organic food is growing by leaps and bounds. We have the power to make sure that all of the products we buy are clean, healthy and green. We simply have to stand up and demand that change."



Take Action!

The Campaign for Safe Cosmetics is part of our Cancer Prevention Program dedicated to eliminating the preventable causes of cancer. Help us give cosmetics companies a make-over! Please join our campaign and let cosmetics and personal care products companies know that their customers want safe products. Sign our petition, sign up for updates, join our action network, look up your products and find safer alternatives online at www.SafeCosmetics.org. You can also call Lisa Archer at 202-222-0712 or e-mail cosmetics@foe.org for action materials and to get involved. ■

The listed companies have signed the "Compact for America," agreeing to formulate the products they manufacture domestically and/or globally to use only ingredients that are not known or suspected of causing cancer, mutation or birth defects.

- Akamuti
- Arganat Inc.
- Barefoot Botanicals
- Canary Cosmetics
- Carrot Tree Soaps and Essentials
- Clearly Natural, LLC
- Dr. Bronner's Magic Soaps
- Dropwise Essentials
- Earth Mama & Angel Baby
- Ecco Bella Botanicals
- Exuberance
- Garden of Eve
- Holistic Skincare and Spa Therapy Co.
- Inky Girl Beauty
- Integral Sense Brands
- Juice Beauty
- Melaleuca
- Plant Life, Inc.
- Prestige Cosmetics Corporation
- Rooted Nomads
- Osea Skin Care
- Paul Penders Company
- Sunflower Essentials Bath & Body Care
- TerrEssentials
- Wild Thyme Botanicals

White House Opposes EU's Groundbreaking Chemicals Policy

By David Waskow

More than 80,000 chemicals that are used in the United States today are not regulated in any way. Our key chemicals law, the Toxic Substances and Control Act (TSCA), completely fails to assess the safety of any chemical that was on the market before 1976. Since industrial chemicals have been part of our society for more than a century now, the vast majority of chemicals simply escape scrutiny. As a consequence, Americans are constantly exposed to a chemical cocktail of unknown toxicity.

The 25 countries in the European Union face a similar situation, but its member countries are doing something about it. The proposed European law – known as REACH (Registration, Authorization and Evaluation of Chemicals) – is the most sweeping change in chemical policy in decades. The new law would require chemical manufacturers to register almost all of their products and provide the public with information about the potential risks posed by the chemicals. The law would also provide stricter regulations for thousands of the most potentially dangerous chemicals that are on the market.

Meanwhile, however, the Bush administration has decided to engage in an increasingly aggressive campaign against the European proposal. A Congressional report issued by Democrats on the House Government Reform Committee concluded that the Bush administration “at the request of the U.S. chemical industry, mounted a campaign to block the efforts of the European Union to regulate chemical



Once again, the Bush administration is putting industry ahead of public health. At the request of the U.S. chemical industry, the White House has launched a campaign to block the efforts of the EU to regulate chemical companies.

companies.” U.S. diplomats were even provided with a list of talking points urging them to voice objections to European officials.

In recent months, the Bush administration has gone one step further by making vague accusations that the European initiative violates World Trade Organization (WTO) agreements. But, despite the administration’s strong objections, U.S. officials failed to spell out how REACH would conflict with current WTO agreements.

In response to the Bush administration’s assaults on REACH, Sens. Frank R. Lautenberg (D-N.J.) and Jim Jeffords (I-Vt.) wrote to the U.S. Trade Representative Robert Zoellick, challenging the administration to detail their complaints. In that letter, the senators said, “We are troubled by reports that the position of this administration on REACH may reflect the interests of a narrow segment of U.S. industry

without consideration of the broader ramifications for the U.S. economy, national interest, public health and the environment.”

Despite the actions of the Bush administration, however, the European Union is moving toward adoption of the new chemicals plan.

Friends of the Earth groups in Europe have actively worked with other major European environmental groups to put the new chemicals requirements in place and recently wrote European officials to urge that they strongly resist Bush administration efforts to use the WTO to undermine REACH. In the United States, Friends of the Earth has been working collaboratively with our European colleagues to oppose the political assault by the U.S. government on Europe’s new – and badly needed – approach to chemical regulation. ■

Campaign Updates

Victory! Controversial Nominee Blocked from Largest Federal Circuit Court



The Senate blocked the nomination of anti-environmental advocate William Myers to a lifetime seat on the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. Myers is a former cattle industry lobbyist whose recent tenure as the Interior Department's top lawyer was plagued by ethical concerns.

The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals is one of most important courts in the country for protecting public lands. It has jurisdiction over nine states, 500 million acres of treasured public lands and the lives of more than 55 million Americans.

During the past three years, the Bush administration has staffed top environmental posts with lobbyists from industry. And, Myers has a record of welcoming industry input while ignoring environmental concerns. Myers lacked impartiality, an essential quality in a judge.

This is the first judicial nominee the Senate has defeated primarily for environmental reasons. The nomination failed by a 53-44 vote.



For more information visit: <http://www.foe.org/camps/eco/interior/myersfacts.html>

Victory! Tongass National Forest Protected, Taxpayers Save \$35 million a Year

By a 222 to 205 vote, the House of Representatives passed an amendment offered by Reps. Steve Chabot (R-Ohio) and Rob Andrews (D-N.J.) to the Interior appropriations bill that prevents the Forest Service from building logging roads in the Tongass National Forest. Chabot and Andrews are Co-chairs of the newly formed Green Scissors Caucus.

Allowing timber companies to build new roads makes bad environmental sense for the Tongass, which boasts pristine old growth trees and abundant species. And throwing money at new roads makes even worse economic sense in the Tongass, which already has a \$900 million road maintenance backlog.



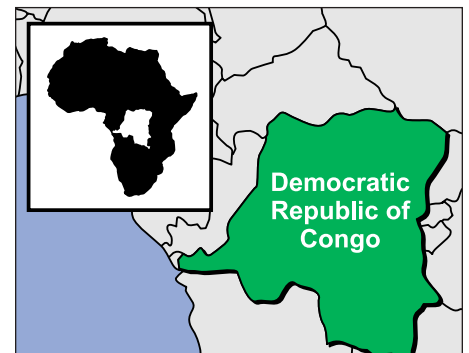
By leading this fight, Congressmen Chabot and Andrews stood up for taxpayers and the environment. Thanks to their hard work, taxpayers will save millions each year and the Tongass will continue to be protected.



For more information visit: <http://www.greenscissors.com/publiclands/tongass.htm>

Complaint Filed with State Department Against Three American Companies Named in UN Report

Friend of the Earth and the UK-based group Rights and Accountability in Development filed a formal complaint with the U.S. State Department against three American companies. In October 2002, a United Nations Panel of Experts accused these same companies of helping to fuel the war in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).



The Panel cited Cabot Corporation, Eagle Wings Resources International and OM Group, Inc. for violating the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's (OECD) "Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises," a set of international standards for responsible corporate behavior.

It was necessary to file an official complaint because the State Department, which has oversight for determining whether U.S. companies have breached the OECD Guidelines, declined to undertake an independent investigation into whether these companies might have contributed to the war in the DRC.



For more information visit: www.foe.org/new/releases/84drccomplaint.html

Cooking the Books: Scorching the Planet

Friends of the Earth explains how companies are hiding climate change-related risks from their investors in violation of Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) disclosure rules in a new report.



The report, which is the third such annual survey performed, reviewed climate change disclosure in 2003 SEC filings of companies likely to be impacted by climate change (i.e. companies in the automobile, integrated oil and gas, property and casualty insurance, petrochemicals and electric utilities sectors). It found that compared with last year, the overall rate of climate change reporting has stayed the same (39 percent), and the quality of climate disclosure has generally improved.

Along with the release of the report, Friends of the Earth and 13 members of Congress hosted a bipartisan symposium on corporate disclosure of environmental issues in financial statements and SEC filings. The event featured remarks from Sen. Corzine (D-N.J.), Rep. Donald Payne (D-N.J.), as well as Government Accountability Office Environmental Division Director John Stephenson and SEC Commissioner Roel Campos.



For more information visit www.corporatesunshine.org.

Road to Ruin: Spotlight on Most Wasteful Highway Projects

As lawmakers are deciding the fate of the federal transportation bill, Friends of the Earth teamed with Taxpayers for Common Sense to release a new report calling for the elimination of the nation's most wasteful and environmentally harmful highway projects, many of which are key factors of the boondoggle legislation.

Road to Ruin: The 27 Most Wasteful Road Projects in America chronicles the nation's most wasteful and environmentally harmful highway projects and ranks the 10 worst. Elimination of all 27 projects would save federal taxpayers more than \$24 billion.



The report highlights wasteful highway projects in 21 states: Alaska, California, Florida, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia and Wisconsin.



For more information visit www.foe.org/new/releases/504r2r.html.

Court Rules in favor of Salmon



A federal judge in Oregon ruled in Friends of the Earth favor and issued a preliminary injunction prohibiting the Army Corps of Engineers from curtailing the late summer spill over several dams. The suit was brought by a coalition of environmental organizations and was supported by several Tribes and the State of Oregon. We argued that curtailing the spill over the dams would have jeopardized chinook salmon critical habitat and especially impacted juvenile fish. The judge found that "plaintiffs have not just shown a likelihood of success on the merits but, instead, have convinced the court that the defendants were arbitrary and capricious in adopting and approving the modified spill plan."

Read an Interview with Friends of the Earth's President

On Sept. 20, Brent Blackwelder, president of Friends of the Earth, was interviewed on the interactivist section of Grist Magazine – www.grist.org. After the initial Grist interview, people had a chance to submit questions to Brent. If you missed the opening date, you will still be able to read the interview online for a couple of weeks. Grist is an online environmental magazine that tackles environmental topics with irreverence, intelligence and a fresh perspective. ■

Administration Threatens America's Wild Heritage

By Sara Zdeb

More than 200 years ago, wild salmon helped save

Lewis and Clark from starvation as they journeyed through the Pacific Northwest. Today, these iconic fish provide important cultural and economic benefits to Native Americans, fishermen and indeed the entire region.

Unfortunately, habitat destruction from dams, logging, urban development and other activities has left these salmon in danger of extinction.

This summer, the Bush administration unveiled an unusual proposal to deal with this crisis: count fish raised by humans in hatcheries when assessing the overall health of Pacific Northwest salmon stocks. While this policy could give the appearance of a more robust salmon population, it would in reality provide a false sense of security and remove important incentives to protect habitat for wild salmon. Worse, counting hatchery fish along with wild salmon could ultimately lead to the removal of Endangered Species Act protection for 27 species of wild salmon that are currently listed as threatened or endangered.

It's this specter of removing Endangered Species Act (ESA) protection that worries environmentalists. And unfortunately, when it comes to the ESA, the Bush administration's backward-looking salmon proposal is the rule and not an exception.



The administration's proposed salmon plan would allow the federal government to include hatchery-reared salmon in population counts for endangered Pacific salmon species, undercutting salmon protection under the Endangered Species Act.

Environmental groups contend that the administration has worked to systematically weaken this 30-year old law, which protects endangered plants and animals by safeguarding the habitat they depend upon.

Case in point: The administration has dramatically decreased the number of species being "listed," or added to the law's endangered list. According to *The Washington Post*, the Bush administration has added an average of 9.5 species each year, compared with 65 each year during the Clinton administration and 59 each year under the former President Bush.

In addition, the Bush administration has removed the Fish and Wildlife Service from important decisions on species, even though it's the agency charged with implementing the law and staffed by biologists and other experts. For example, the administration recently proposed allowing the Forest Service to determine whether or

not harmful logging and road building projects aimed at reducing the risk of wildfire would impact species. Environmentalists have taken the administration to court over this proposal, which would remove expert input from biologists on projects that could destroy critical natural habitat.

To make matters worse, administration allies in Congress have pushed additional proposals to weaken the Endangered Species Act. Just this month, House Resources Committee Chairman Richard Pombo (R-Calif.) shepherded two bills through his committee.

One would make protecting species more difficult by raising the bar the federal government must meet in order to designate "critical habitat." The other would increase red tape surrounding any decision under the law, requiring additional review of decisions to list species or designate critical habitat.

Unfortunately, these proposals together spell big trouble for America's wild heritage. From Pacific wild salmon to grizzly bears to wolves, threatened and disappearing species are at more risk than ever.

Take Action!

The Bush Administration is holding a public comment period on its hatchery policy through the end of September. Visit www.wildsalmon.org to submit a comment today.

Review of World Bank Funding: Reform Necessary

By Colleen Freeman

Four years ago, during a public forum at the annual meeting of the World Bank, Ricardo Navarro, the El Salvadoran chair of Friends of the Earth International, decided to voice the concern of citizens around the world.

Navarro called directly on World Bank President James Wolfensohn to address the problem: “Oil, gas, and mining operations have left a legacy of ecological destruction and social upheaval on the world’s poorest in the 20th century. If the World Bank truly seeks to end poverty and suffering, there is no justification to carry these investments into the 21st century.”

What fueled Navarro’s outrage? Oil spills, gas flaring and improper waste disposal result in toxic releases that are dangerous and even deadly to humans. This pollution can poison groundwater, livestock and marine resources, which the poor depend on for subsistence. Pipeline projects often cut through sensitive ecological zones, including untouched rainforests and coastal zones. And locally affected communities rarely get any of the “modern” benefits of such projects like fuel or electricity, or even the financial benefits from the revenues that such projects produce.

After Navarro issued his challenge to the World Bank, Wolfensohn’s response stunned the Bank’s staff. He agreed to set up an outside, “independent” process to review the Bank’s track record and see what, if any, future role there should be for the World Bank in oil, mining and gas sectors. Soon thereafter, the “Extractive Industries Review”



The Chad-Cameroon pipeline cuts through Cameroon’s coastal rainforests, home to Bagyeli communities.

(EIR) of World Bank financing in those sectors was born, led by former Indonesian environment minister Emil Salim. During the review process, Friends of the Earth groups from around the world voiced their concerns about the public financing of fossil fuel and mining projects.

The result of this review, after more than two years of consultations, was a set of far-reaching and progressive recommendations to the World Bank. Some of the most surprising recommendations were that the Bank should stop investing in coal immediately, stop investing in oil by 2008, establish a human rights policy, create ambitious renewable energy lending targets, recognize sensitive habitat like tropical forests as “no go zones” for fossil fuel drilling and mining and obtain the prior, informed consent of indigenous communities before supporting projects on their lands.

To ensure that royalties and other revenues paid to governments by oil companies won’t be misused by corrupt officials but for actual poverty alleviation and social development goals, the review also recommended that the Bank leverage its influence to require project

sponsors to report how much they pay to governments.

Despite the fervent voices of environmental, human rights, indigenous and other advocates, the World Bank resisted taking on most of the recommendations from the EIR. On the positive side, the World Bank adopted two of the EIR recommendations: increased investment in renewable energy and transparency requirements for payments made by companies to governments.

With renewable energy, the Bank will seek to scale up its activities in the renewable energy sector, and has set an initial target to increase its renewable energy and energy efficiency portfolios by 20 percent annually over the next five years.

Meanwhile, the revenue transparency initiative will develop a more systematic approach to disclosure of revenues from oil, mining and gas companies in developing countries.

Yet these limited steps forward should be viewed against the backdrop of the World Bank’s continued determination to finance fossil fuel and mining projects and the vague promises it made about how it will oversee these investments in the future. The key question now is how the Bank will implement any future projects.

“For the World Bank to fulfill its mission of alleviating poverty, it must take much more seriously the warnings in the EIR about the impacts of these projects,” said David Waskow, director of Friends of the Earth’s International Program. “The Bank still hasn’t shown that these investments will help the poor and won’t cause serious harm to the environment.”

Health Risks of Hormones in Meat

By Bjorn Gangeness

Since the early 1970s, hormones have been used extensively in the production of beef and milk in the United States, with hormone development research starting as far back as the 1950s. As many as two-thirds of cattle raised in the United States are treated with these hormones.

Photo Credit: Farm Sanctuary



Up to 90 percent of U.S. veal calves are being fed synthetic testosterone illegally, and it is unknown if the hormone is harmful to people who eat veal.

Hormones in our food supply?

Although growing numbers of consumers and scientists have expressed concerns about potential human health risks of this practice, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) have approved the use of six hormone growth promotants (HGP) in the cultivation of beef cattle, and one more hormone used to increase milk productivity. Only a few other countries have approved the use of HGP, while many others have banned their use.

The hormones are implanted or injected into cattle in various stages of maturity, but are not allowed in calves. Hormones used in beef cattle include the male hormone testosterone and its synthetic equivalent trenbolone acetate, and the female hormone progesterone including three synthetic derivatives zeranone, 17 beta-estradiol and melengestrol acetate.

Illegal Hormone Use in the Veal Industry

The USDA recently found the veal industry using banned hormones in growing up to 90 percent of its veal calves, and this has reportedly been a common practice for decades. These hormones include all six HGP approved for use in adult cattle, but they have never been approved for calves.

The safety or side effects of injecting calves with hormones intended for heifers and steers over 700 lbs has never been evaluated, but it is suspected that these hormones may be metabolized differently in the young calf's body, which could lead to greater amounts of hormones consumed by people who eat veal.

Hormones and Cancer

The European Union has banned the importation of American and Canadian beef grown with the use of any growth hormone. The European

Commission, Health and Consumer Directorate found that 17 beta-estradiol to be a "complete carcinogen." This synthetic form of progesterone shares similar characteristics with a class of other molecules called endocrine disruptors that imitate other human hormones in the body and have been linked to diseases such as cancer.

Ohio State

University scientists

exposed breast cancer cells to zeranone-treated beef and found significant increases in cancer growth – some showed an increase even with zeranone levels 30 times below the level the FDA considers safe. It should also be noted that the FDA does not permit any residual melengestrol acetate to show up in beef residue testing. And, it is considered a suspected carcinogen by the USDA.

Given the potential of growth hormones to act as carcinogens and reproductive toxins, combined with the demonstrated downstream effects of hormone run-off from feed lots, Friends of the Earth recommends that people seek organic or hormone-free meat, or meat alternatives. These are the surest ways of avoiding consuming unwanted additives in your meat.

Locations of providers of free-range, organic meats may be found at the website, www.eatwellguide.org, or at many local natural food stores or cooperatives. ■

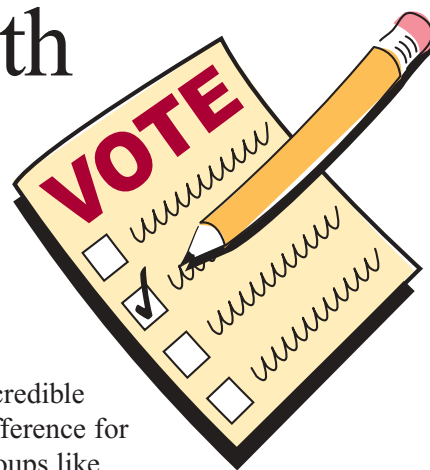
Vote for Friends of the Earth this Fall

By Chris Pabon

A very important election will be taking place for Friends of the Earth, and we need your help. Starting in October, if you are a member of Working Assets (www.workingassets.com), they will mail you a ballot. Working Assets has a combined donations pool that it distributes to a select few organizations every year based on the voting of its

members. Friends of the Earth is on the ballot this year, and we ask that you please vote for our organization. One small stroke of your pen can make a difference of thousands of dollars for us.

Also, if you are not yet a member of Working Assets and would like to participate in the voting, all you need to do is sign up for their phone service or credit card. And please, keep on rounding up your bills at the end of the month. Just a few cents makes



an incredible difference for groups like Friends of the Earth. You will also be able to vote on the Working Assets website and we will have a link to vote from our website, www.foe.org. Thank you so much in advance. ■

Be Heard! Take our Online Survey

We want to know what you think in order to shape a message that will convince the public to take action and spread the word about critical environmental issues. We would like to know what you think of our website. Can you find what you're looking for? Do you have suggestions for how to make it better? Please visit www.foe.org to find a link to our anonymous survey. It should only take you 5 to 10 minutes to complete.

And, since you'll be on our website, check out our Action Center. Friends of the Earth needs your help to urge Congress not to pass a transportation bill that wastes billions of taxpayer dollars. With just a click of a button, you can send a letter to your member of Congress. Visit www.foe.org/action.

If you want to get the latest on the issues you care about, sign up for our

Friends of the Earth

Mobilize for Action! Survey

Web site Survey

Please rate the site:

	Excellent	Above Average	Average	Below Average
a. Content:	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Appearance:	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. Ease of Navigation:	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

2a. Did you come to this site looking for something specific?

Yes No

If yes, what were you looking for?

2b. Did you find what you were looking for?

Yes No Not Applicable

bi-monthly e-newsletter, or subscribe to one of our targeted campaign updates, such as the Genetically Engineered Food Update or the Global

Action Network. Visit our action center at www.foe.org/action.

If you have any questions please contact Lisa Grob at 202-222-0744 or lgrob@foe.org. ■

Now is the Season for Workplace-Giving!

Many employers sponsor workplace giving programs to encourage employees to support organizations important to their communities. Employees can donate a small portion of their salary to a specific charity through payroll deduction. Friends of the Earth participates in hundreds of these campaigns directly and in many places through Earth Share. Our designation number is **0908**.

If your employer participates in the Combined Federal Campaign, United Way or other giving campaigns

at the state or local level, you can support Friends of the Earth directly.

Earth Share



Earth Share, a nationwide network of America's leading non-profit environmental and conservation organizations, works to

promote environmental education and charitable giving through workplace giving campaigns.

You can make your gift directly to us or as a national member of Earth Share, Friends of the Earth will receive

a percentage of all undesignated gifts given to Earth Share.

Earth Share now participates in campaigns at hundreds of government and corporate workplaces, including the federal government's Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). Find out if Earth Share participates at your workplace and to get more information visit www.earthshare.org



For more information contact Rosemary Greenaway, director of membership, 202-222-0722 or rgreenaway@foe.org

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

Thanks for the really thorough and detailed article by Bruce Barcott on the New Source Review and other environmental issues. This article explained things in a way that my husband (who just happens to work for the EPA and who is generally very good at explaining such matters) never quite got across to me. Now how do we get more people to read and understand this???

From,
Vivienne Lenk, New York

To the Editor:

Bruce Barcott's article is typical of the biased criticism of the George W. Bush administration.

1.) The power companies who Carol Browner believed violated the Clean Air Act are still subject to fines and penalties. None have been dropped. 2.) Opposition to the Bush

administration's Clear Skies Initiative is mostly along party lines. 3.) Criticism of the Bush administration's environmental policies is strictly along party lines. 4.) Carol Browner's EPA proposed many unattainable rules, many of which were also unnecessary. 5.) The Bush administration has had environmental successes. Shouldn't these also be written up by Friends of the Earth?

Sincerely,
Curt Beck

Dear Mr. Beck:

Thank you for sharing your thoughts on our recent cover article. Unfortunately, the Bush administration's air policy has indeed pulled the rug out from under attempts to enforce the Clean Air Act. But don't take it from us: former EPA director of air enforcement Bruce Buckheit stated that the administration's clean air

plan has frozen investigations into and undermined settlement negotiations with polluters.

Criticism of the administration's environmental policy crosses party lines, on issues including clean air, clean water, energy and public lands. Indeed, Friends of the Earth has worked with Republican members of Congress such as Rep. Chris Shays (R-CT) and Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) to block administrative attempts to weaken environmental laws.

Sincerely,
Keira Costic, Editor

Please send your comments and suggestions about our newsmagazine to:

Letters to the Editor
Friends of the Earth
1717 Massachusetts Ave, NW,
Suite 600
Washington, DC 20036-2002

Your Vote Matters!

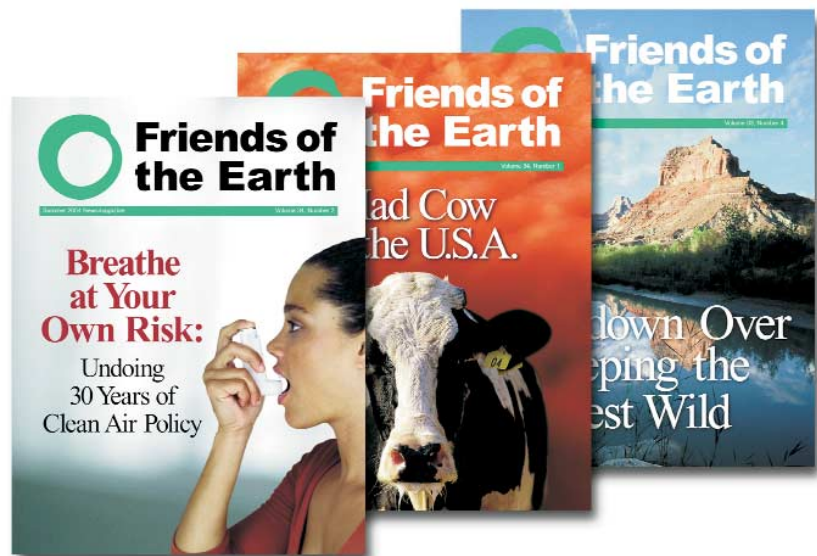


Whatever you do, don't forget to vote Nov. 2! One way to be an effective, environmental activist, is to vote for candidates – state, local and federal – who make environmental protection a priority. And, it's important to spread the word about environmentally friendly candidates. Visit our website, www.foe.org, to register to vote.



A Great Gift Idea!

Need a gift idea? Why not send a 1-year subscription to Friends of the Earth Newsmagazine to friends and family? Use the enclosed envelope to send a \$25 check or fill out your credit card information. And, remember to include the name and address of the gift recipient. Contact Rosemary Greenaway at 202-222-0722 or rgreenaway@foe.org to purchase a gift subscription or to ask any questions.



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