



In this issue:

*Imperiled Predators • Eastern Forest Recovery
Alabama Wilderness • Salmon/Selway Ecosystem
and much more...*

\$7

Around The Campfire

The response to the special issue of *Wild Earth* on The Wildlands Project has been heartening. Over the last several months David Johns, Rod Mondt, Reed Noss, John Davis, and I (and other TWP folks) have been going to conferences and meetings to promote the Wildlands vision. Hundreds of conservationists, including Nature Conservancy state directors, DC lobbyists, Forest Service employees, and grassroots activists have told us how the idea of the North American Wilderness Recovery Strategy has inspired and energized them.

But some (including a few foundations to which we've applied for grants) have yawned. Oh, it's a challenging idea, but isn't it a bit quixotic? Really! Be realistic. What practical or immediate application does it have?

Is The Wildlands Project just Wilderness in the sky?

Without going into detail, and without constructing an elaborate sand castle justifying visionary approaches, let me offer a handful of immediate practical benefits of The Wildlands Project.

TWP is a lonely hearts club for conservation biologists. We're like a computer dating service to introduce them to conservation groups who want to use their knowledge and expertise.

We're a little red schoolhouse to encourage conservation groups to learn the theories and applications of conservation biology. This knowledge will strengthen our proposals, make us stronger and more convincing in fighting local threats, and help us defend the notion of Wilderness and Parks based on biodiversity protection rather than on arguments grounded in scenery and primitive recreation. In short, we are marrying conservation biology and grassroots conservation activism.

TWP is encouraging regional conservation groups to apply the new insights of conservation biology to on-the-ground preservation proposals—such as for biological corridors between existing Wilderness Areas and National Parks. We will be drawing up guidelines on getting core wilderness, biological corridor, buffer zone, wilderness recovery alternatives into the new generation of Forest Plans. A major project for TWP will be to help coordinate a national effort of local groups proposing such conservation biology alternatives for their National Forests.

We will encourage the formation of regional conservation groups explicitly set up to work for their part of the Wildlands vision. The mushrooming of such conservation biology-oriented groups will help make conservation biology the heartbeat of modern conservation.

The sketching of a continental wilderness recovery network will allow local conservation groups to see where their immediate issues fit into the continental scheme. By taking an approach derived from island biogeography, we hope to bridge artificial barriers: different agency boundaries, private land, and international borders.

Our niche is the entire continent, not just the United States. We hope our approach demonstrates to all US and Canadian conservationists that we have as much (or more) to learn from Mexican and Central American conservationists as we have to offer them.



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WILD EARTH



SUMMER 1993

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On the cover: *Blackberries* by Peggy Sue McRae

Summer 1993 WILD EARTH 1

It's What We Do...

By being a clearinghouse for the scores of independent groups making up the New Conservation Movement, we hope to direct more funding their way, facilitate cooperation among groups, and strengthen the influence of the New Conservation Movement within the whole conservation/"natural resources" community.

And, by developing a continental wilderness recovery proposal solidly based in science and supported by grassroots groups, we will set a new conservation agenda. Whether they condemn it or praise it, whether they go into rapture or apoplexy over it, all conservation groups, government agencies, and industry groups will circle their discussions around our vision.

Is The Wildlands Project practical?
Does a bear shit in the woods?

The Wildlands Project, by the way, is looking for additional staff people. We want to hire a Ph.D. level ecologist to work with Dr. Reed Noss; we want to hire an office manager; and we want interns. See the announcements in this issue for details.

My big project for the summer is to draft a vision map for The Wildlands Project. The map will identify the existing and potential core wilderness complexes, suggest the most practical corridors between them, and point out regions where little has been done or is known regarding wildlands. For a glimpse of how our North American Wilderness Recovery plan will unfold, look at my article on Eastern Forest Recovery in this issue. It's excerpted from my chapter in the soon-to-be released *CLEARCUT* book from Doug Tompkins and Bill Devall.

Also in this issue, Howie Wolke focuses on the oft-overlooked largest wilderness complex in the lower 48—the Salmon/Selway country. Old growth expert Robert Leverett wanders the wildwood of the Southern Appalachians. And we have a proposal for Wilderness Recovery in Alabama. But I'm just offering you whiffs off the barbecue. We're serving up a real feast this issue. Dig in.

Happy Trails.

—Dave Foreman

Moonshine Park, Blue Range Primitive Area, AZ



Wild Earth necessarily leaves most quickly-dated conservation news to other periodicals. We receive far more material than we can print; and as a quarterly, we try to restrict ourselves to articles of timeless import. So in the few column centimeters available here, I simply want to call attention to several matters we were unable to cover in this issue despite their great importance. (The groups mentioned below have all been profiled in past issues of *WE*.)

Clayoquot Sound and many other of British Columbia's temperate and boreal forest tracts may be killed this summer unless forest defenders' protests and blockades succeed. Friends of Clayoquot Sound and Western Canada Wilderness Committee are among the groups leading the defense.

Ned Fritz of Forest Reform Network has won a potentially precedent-setting lawsuit against the Forest Service in Texas. Activists may be able to use the precedent to stop clearcuts on National Forests throughout the country.

Representative Kennedy caved in to pressure from a Montana congressman and decided not to introduce the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act. The Alliance for the Wild Rockies hopes to convince Representative Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) to introduce the Act.

The Society for Conservation Biology conference earlier this month considerably advanced The Wildlands Project. The Project's symposium attracted more participants and enthusiasm than any other working session at the conference.

Wild Earth and The Wildlands Project also made presentations at meetings of The Land Institute, Society for Ecological Restoration, Natural Areas Association, and other groups keen on habitat. Links between conservation activists, conservation biologists, and ecosystem restorationists are growing strong and fruitful.

—John Davis; *Summer Solstice; Year of our Lord, Nineteen Hundred and Ninety-three*

It is time for a change. The Canton delegation of *Wild Earth* has decided to move. Beginning 1 August 1993, *Wild Earth* will publish from rural Vermont. All correspondence should be sent to **PO Box 455, Richmond, VT 05477**. The new phone number is not yet known but will be available in August by calling (315) 379-9940. Some confusion is bound to result from this move—there will be fliers, subscription forms and back issues floating around with the old address. We believe that merging the now separate editorial and production staffs of the magazine will result in far greater efficiency, and be well worth the temporary inconvenience. Of course, any mail sent to Canton will be forwarded to our new address. Readers can help us minimize confusion by pointing out the new address to others who may miss this announcement (in other words: talk it up for us).

Another mission for each of you, which could increase our membership significantly, is to find one person whom you feel could benefit by reading *WE*. By giving them a gift subscription, or just telling them of *Wild Earth* and handing them a current subscription form, you will help ensure the continued effectiveness of *Wild Earth*. Our niche is fairly small—but the way for us to exploit it fully is for current readers to proselytize. Few magazines depend on subscriptions for most of their funding. Because *WE*, by policy, only runs a few advertisements, consistent with our conservation ideals, income from ads is limited; subscription income is essential.

Canton has been good to us and we do not leave New York's North Country without nostalgia. In fact, we don't really leave it. We will remain active in Adirondack issues through the Buy Back The Dacks fund, letter writing, and a forthcoming Adirondack Wildlands Proposal. But for the office, it's off to Vermont...

—Marcia Cary

In May, after a hike in Daniel Boone National Forest's magnificent Red River Gorge, John, Mary and I ventured to the Forest Reform Pow Wow, this year held in the Knobs Region of Kentucky. Arriving a little late, I sauntered into the chapel with Rod Mondt, The Wildlands Project programs coordinator, just as Pow Wow patriarch Ned Fritz said "But" and the room full of people shouted back at him "The clearcutting continues!" I looked at Rod in surprise, wondering whether everyone would next shave their heads and head to the airports for rounds of synchronized chanting. On the contrary, I soon found myself surrounded by hard-working grassroots activists dedicated to preserving and recovering wilderness. Heartwood (see back cover) deserves many thanks for their fantastic job of organizing the gathering.

Among the focuses of the Pow Wow were ancient forests. Many groups are devoted to protecting the Northwest forests; but I would like to highlight the Native Forest Council, and strongly encourage readers to donate time and money to NFC efforts (see Victor Rozek's article in this issue). NFC's Zero Cut Solution is essential for the preservation of the Pacific Northwest forests and, I believe, the best answer yet offered to the nation-wide crisis in our forests.

Across the country, Save America's Forests in DC is working to pass HB 1164, which would stop clearcutting on all National Forests and other federal lands. SAF has issued an open invitation for individuals visiting Washington to receive instruction in lobbying. SAF will provide budding citizen lobbyists with background information on pertinent legislation. I urge readers to take advantage of this opportunity.

Enjoy the issue, enjoy summer, and I hope to see you all at the Dacks Bike-a-thon. (See Announcements.)

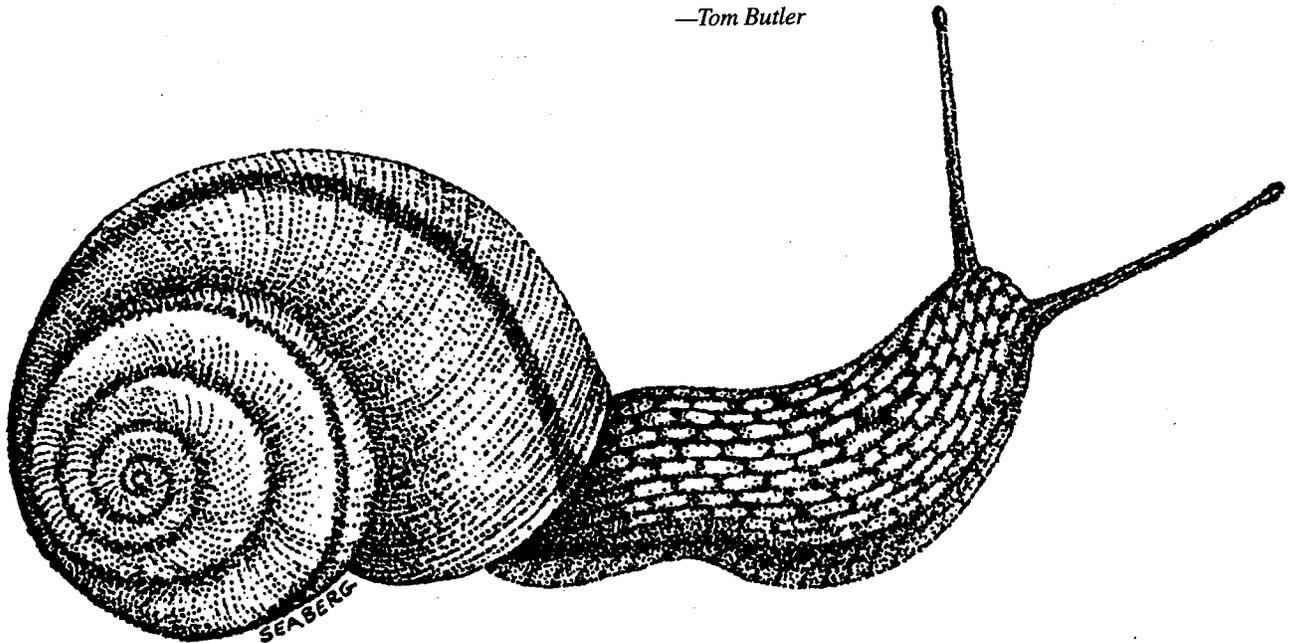
—Kathleen Fitzgerald

Somewhere, a computer believes I'm a stamp collecting recreational vehicle enthusiast who loves to bowl. It's probably only a matter of time before it instructs its direct marketing masters to sell me philatelic supplies, monogrammed bowling shirts and fuzzy dice for the ol' Winnebago. Alas, their pitches are unlikely to result in a sale—I was untruthful when describing my income and hobbies when filling out the warranty card the last time I purchased so-called durable goods.

Wild Earth is asking readers to be more candid with us—no, not about educational background and leisure activities—but about how well or poorly the magazine is serving its readership. We need feedback on our performance...on what we're doing well and what needs improvement. Though we often receive favorable notes (and the occasional grumble), we're soliciting thoughtful responses on a few key points: Are we fulfilling the objectives outlined in the mission statement? How can we better serve New Conservation Movement groups and further our common goals? Have we successfully introduced conservation biologists to wildlands activists? Have any such unions birthed babes of protected habitat? How might *Wild Earth* move adynamic mainstream groups to adopt positions based on ecological, not political, reality? What about the magazine's appearance—is the format accessible? Is the information useful? What needs tinkering?

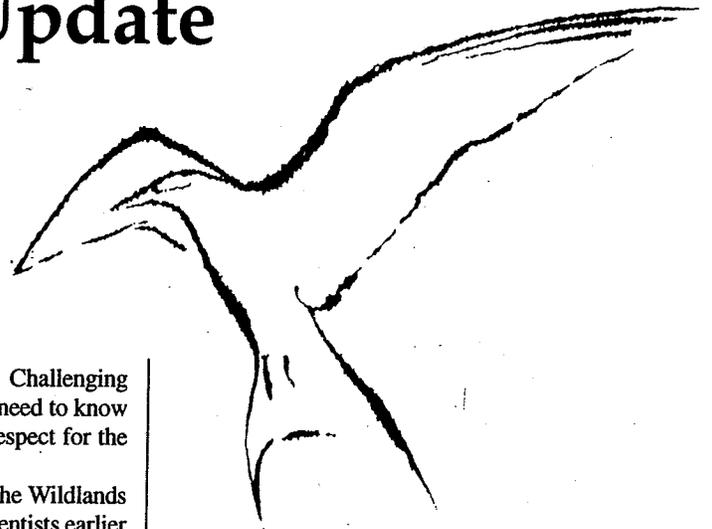
We are ever aware of the costs in energy and resources that producing this periodical entails. By periodically assessing *Wild Earth's* effectiveness (admittedly a subjective business), we can justify to ourselves the use of those resources, improve our performance, or choose to perish. We think *Wild Earth*—thanks to its large array of talented artists and writers—is doing well at speaking up for untrammelled nature, and for the restoration of wildlands across the continent. Let us know how we can do better.

—Tom Butler



Land Snail by Kurt Seaberg

Wildlands Project Update



Fighting local threats to wildlife is important. Challenging the destruction of biodiversity on the front lines is essential. But we also need to know where we are going. We must have a vision infused with our love and respect for the wild. That is the task of The Wildlands Project.

With the publication of the Special Issue of *Wild Earth* devoted to The Wildlands Project and its distribution to tens of thousands of conservationists and scientists earlier this year, a big step was taken toward establishment of a continental system of reserves to protect and restore all indigenous plant and animal species. Radio and print media interviews were given in response to the press release covering the Special Issue. Articles are appearing in many periodicals this spring and summer. The response of the conservation and scientific communities has ranged from highly supportive to uncontrollably enthusiastic.

Project staff and board members have attended dozens of regional and national meetings to speak about our mission and goals. The support of the environmental community, especially regional grassroots groups, is essential to the development of reserve proposals such as the recently published Oregon Coast Range Plan. (Available from Coast Range Association, POB 148, Newport, OR 97365, \$15 or from TWP office.)

The current focus of TWP is two-fold: establishing cooperative relationships with regional groups to develop scientifically sound and conservation-wise reserve proposals, and drafting a vision map.

TWP has established a clearinghouse to link groups with needed scientific, mapping and organizational resources. TWP will help groups with data collection, writing and mapping of proposals, peer review and publication of proposals, as well as building coalitions in support of reserve proposals. TWP will soon distribute a data sheet for people to fill out, saying what skills they would like to contribute to wildland recovery. TWP will cosponsor conferences in each region throughout the continent during the next three years to aid in reserve design.

The Noss reserve design model is currently being translated into Spanish and a slide show introducing the Project is being prepared for distribution. The Project is working on solutions to conservation and restoration of private lands—a big task often neglected due to the focus on public lands.

TWP's vision map, being drawn in consultation with activists and scientists in every North American region, will provide a first glimpse of what the continental system will look like. Based on existing data, which vary widely, the vision map will roughly outline core areas, corridors, and buffers. The vision map will be published as an art quality poster and in an information oriented format, to stimulate work on reserve proposals.

The Wildlands Project depends on your support. Please contribute.

TWP thanks the Foundation for Deep Ecology, the Paradam Foundation and World Wildlife Fund-Canada for their generous support. We are deeply grateful also to the numerous private donors who have contributed generously to our work.

—David Johns, TWP Executive Director

Dr. Reed Noss, Science Director for The Wildlands Project, has been selected as a 1993 Scholar by the Pew Scholars Program in Conservation and the Environment. The Pew award honors those who have demonstrated leadership and commitment to both scholarship and environmental action in preserving biodiversity.

Reed Noss has applied science to the protection and restoration of regional landscapes. He authored The Wildlands Project model being used throughout North America to design core reserves, corridors and buffers, and has applied the model in several regions as exemplified by a *Preliminary Conservation Plan for the Oregon Coast Range*. As TWP Science Director, Reed facilitates conservation planning efforts for dozens of regional groups across the continent.

The recognition of Reed's work by the Pew Scholars Program will allow him, in conjunction with his editorship of the journal *Conservation Biology*, to continue to provide creative leadership in the protection of biodiversity. Reed and nine other Scholars were chosen from a field of many highly qualified candidates.

—Rod Mondt, TWP Programs Coordinator

- TWP Staff Openings: Please see Announcements on p. 90 for details on positions available at The Wildlands Project.

No Harm Done

New Variation on an Old Theme

by Mollie Matteson

She dances along the perimeter of a dew-glimmering, early-morning meadow. Muzzle low to the ground, stop and start, she is keeping a pact with the voles, the pocket gophers, the *Peromyscus*. Long ago, their kind agreed to run, to hide, and to breed maniacally. Her kind assented to search out the slow, the stupid, the unlucky, and to also breed, though not so profligately as those they chased. And all made a bargain with death. Like a moody, glacier-fed river, the rhythms of death could be unpredictable, sudden, sparse, overwhelming. The answer was this: to suck down air and push lungs to bursting, to feed, to leap, to rest, to fight or hide, and always, to make more of one's kind.

The Coyote lifts her head to catch a tantalizing current. The pungent, oily smell emanates from the direction of the gravel road. She knows this line of dust, mud, and weeds brings both good things and bad. Roaring, unstoppable monsters that crush jackrabbits, snakes, deer, even Coyotes. Men that crawl out of the bellies of these monsters, pointing long, odd limbs at her brothers and sisters, and making them dead. But this road seems good to walk on too, when in winter she is weary of falling through snow. And when another is unlucky on this road—a hare smashed by a monster that rolled through in the night—she is in luck, and puts meat in her belly.

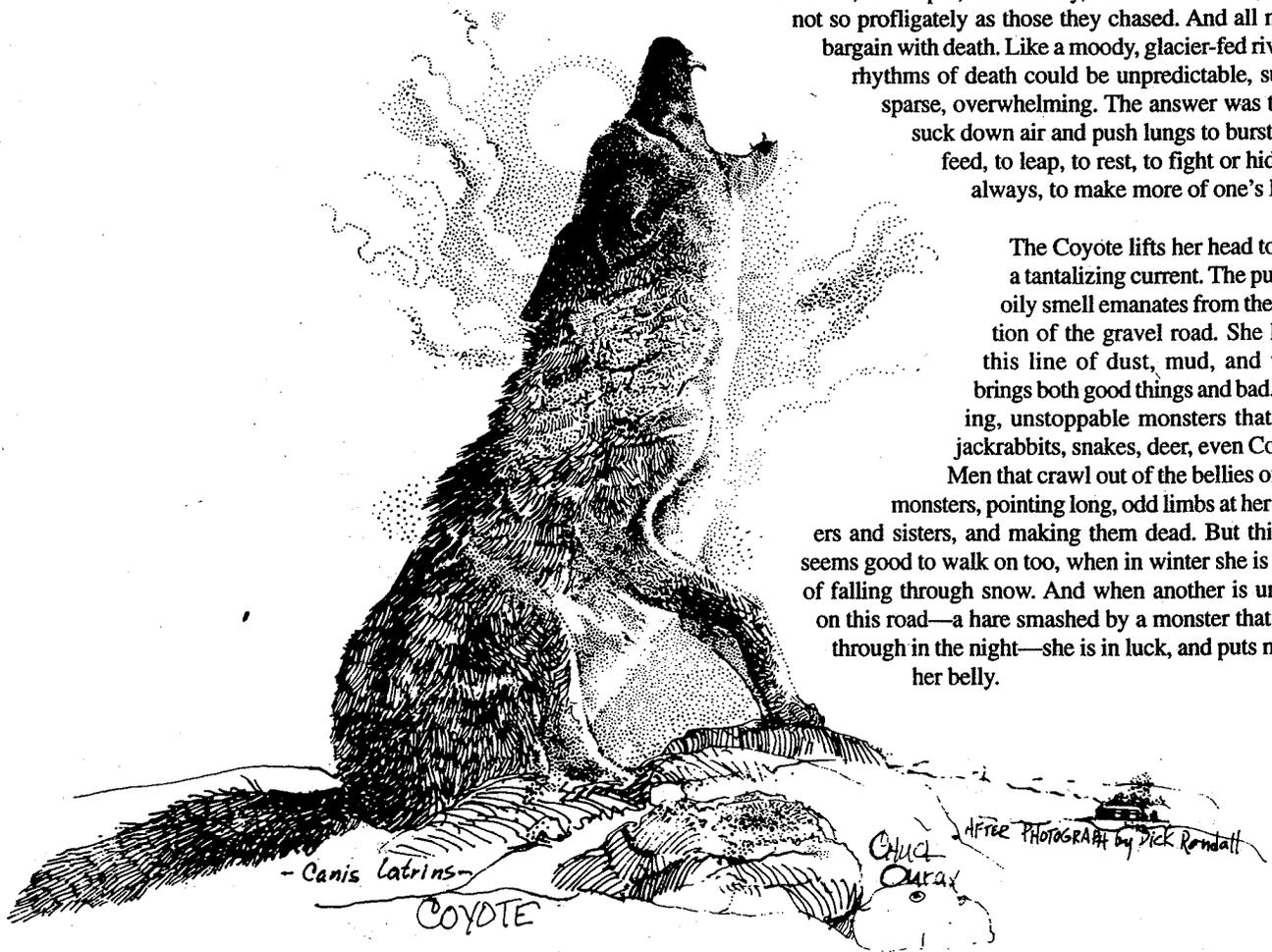


illustration by Chuck Ouray

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We will have found yet one more way to kill the wild, and with this technology, will be able to kill even before there is a life to take away.

The odor draws her on. Her nose seems the only part of her eager for discovery. The rest hangs back, stretched out and low to the ground. When she reaches it, she stares. It is quiet and round, like a stone. But unlike a stone, it is glistening, rumply, white, and redolent of one languid fall afternoon, when she and her family feasted on a fat bull Elk, fallen in the trees, beyond the reach of a hunter who had aimed badly. She is cautious, clever, but young. She snatches the tallow ball, gulps it like she would a deer mouse, and glancing up and down the long scar of bare earth, sprints for the woods.

She lives. She will hunt more pocket gophers, take battered roadkills, converge on fawns with the aid of another meadow-dancer/vole-seeker whom she encounters, and with whom she stays. But that day, without her knowledge or consent, her pact was broken. She will not make more of her kind.

This is a scenario we may anticipate if researchers at the University of Wyoming are successful in a new enterprise: developing a vaccine to permanently sterilize targeted animals. There are benefits—mostly for the animals we have made irretrievably dependent on us, or those species shoved to the brink of existence by swelling non-native populations. Overall, though, I see a dark future, for the wild, stretching out of a dark past. Barren, instead of bloody; silent instead of screaming. But dark and wrong, nonetheless. We will have found yet one more way to kill the wild, and with this technology, will be able to kill even before there is a life to take away.

At present, the vaccine is available in injected form only. It will take time to develop an active oral vaccine and testing is now confined to domestic sheep, lab mice and rabbits. The immediate goal is to be able to control the reproductive capacity of livestock, pets, and other captive and domestic animals, without the use of expensive and sometimes brutal surgery (castration). The technology may help to solve the problem of wild (but non-native) horses on fragile Western rangelands, exotic goats on Santa Cruz Island, or introduced Mountain Goats in the Olympic Mountains. An animal welfare group, along with the US Department of Agriculture is funding the research project, so the interest in more humane treatment of animals is clear and to be commended where it extends to domestic animals and troublesome exotics. The difficulty comes when the misguided, the fearful, the arrogant and domineering lose sight of proper limits and attempt to sweep a net of control over the whole world.

Most research on animals, including wild ones, is aimed at a select few: those we use, or those that get in the way of our use; those we love and those we hate. The research and work directed toward animals that get in our way has focused primarily on ways to kill more. But death, particularly the kind brought about by agencies like Animal Damage Control (ADC) can be ugly. Coyotes, skinned and piled in a heap. Mountain Lion, foot clamped and mangled, left to scorch in the desert sun. Poisoned birds. Drowned Beaver. Stiffened Bobcat. Public outrage, and subsequent effort to reform or eliminate ADC have forced the agency, and others involved in the business of controlling "damag-

ing" animals, to rethink the emphasis on mortality. Unfortunately, the change seems to go only so far as finding other, less blatantly hideous, means of control.

They still don't get it. Unfortunately, the public may not get it either, once the killing slows and a quieter campaign begins. UW researcher Ray Field demonstrates this inability to truly perceive the issue: "It would not do any animal any harm," he says of the vaccine. He refers specifically to non-target species that may ingest a dose of Coyote contraceptive, but his wording suggests that not even the target species is being harmed. Perhaps he really believes this, but would he, and others involved with management of wildlife populations, find it acceptable if contraceptives were scattered widely for valuable game species—Elk, trout, Bighorn Sheep—to consume. What he really means, what state fish and game departments mean when they berate anti-hunters for "worrying about individuals," what ADC officials mean when their rejoinder is "Well, we aren't going to make _____ (fill in the blank) extinct," is this: Harm is being done only when populations are not increasing or decreasing the way we would like, and when they are not the size we deem acceptable. There is no harm when Coyote numbers are shrinking. There is no harm when multitudes of deer and Elk are blasted in an autumn orgy of killing, the biggest and the strongest hauled away in the beds of pick-ups. "Objectivity is what does not happen to you," says feminist author and activist Andrea Dworkin. I would add that harm is what happens to you that you do not favor.

In addition to Coyotes, Bison, prairie dogs, Beaver and other species may be targets for sterilization. According to UW researcher Bill Murdoch, the ability to "deliver" oral contraceptives to wild animals is still a decade or two away. Nonetheless, he expects "...the day will come when we're controlling animal populations without surgery." The attempted suppression of populations by pushing down natality, like the old-fashioned method of forcing up mortality, will no doubt be followed by unexpected, perhaps undesirable (even to the wildlife controllers) consequences. Target species may undergo changes in social structure and behavior, changes in distribution, and changes in the functional role they play in their native ecosystems.

This latest, insidious attempt to domesticate what remains wild, to control what has not yet totally submitted to our dictates, to break the pacts binding species and natural systems together—this must be recognized and resisted.

We must imagine another scenario, a day when a sweep of glistening grass will be unbroken by any road. A day when the meadow-dancer will scent only the clean wind, find only foods that will nourish and strengthen her. She will know no roaring monsters that crush brothers and sisters, that vomit death-makers. And she will make many of her own kind.

Postscript: The author urges readers to support the development of effective, safe, inexpensive and readily available contraceptives for the species that really needs them: *Homo sapiens*. Also, if someone could figure out how to produce a handy little bovine birth control pill, to be scattered discreetly on one's favorite grazing allotment...

Mollie Matteson (POB 273, Livingston, MT 59047) is a wildlife biologist and writer who has studied Gray Wolves, Coyotes, trout, and other denizens of the Rockies.

