

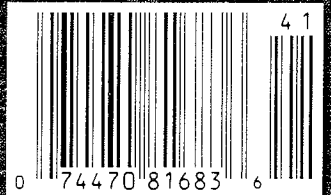
WILDLIFE EARTH



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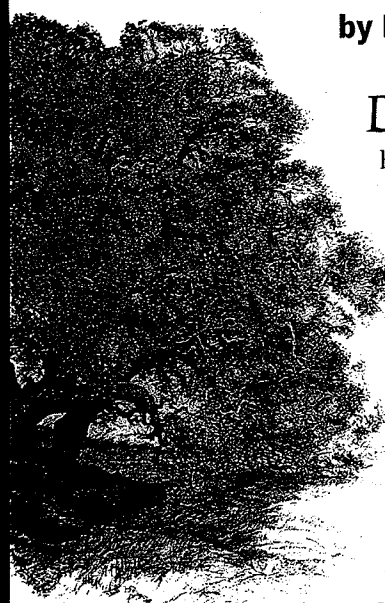
*Coming Home
to the wild*

\$4.95 US / \$6.50 Canada



Wilderness and Spirituality

by Harvey Locke



Deep down, many conservationists are haunted by a nagging sensation that we are not doing enough. We fear that Nature's fabric is unraveling all over the world and that we work in a valiant, but doomed cause. How can it be that the Pacific is in danger of losing some species of wild salmon? How can the Atlantic be almost out of cod? How can it be that the shimmering ice of Bow Glacier in Banff National Park contains industrial pollutants?

We fear we labor in a doomed cause because we do not yet see a change in society's relations with Nature. We humans are now practicing what Stan Rowe described as "species selfishness" on a global scale, appropriating most of Nature's bounty to ourselves.

Conservationists continue to articulate arguments for protecting Nature but are stymied by the response that the economy is more important. Until humanity embraces Nature as something more than an object of greed, we will inflict on this Earth an extinction event equivalent to the death of the dinosaurs.

Many of us, in our hearts, fear this end. Is there another possible end? The Wildlands Project proposes we follow a different path—toward reconnection and health for North American ecosystems. But our vision of connected reserves and rewilding does not alone create the societal conditions that will result in the implementation of that brighter vision. How do we create such conditions? The answer may lie in a return to the roots of the conservation movement and in embracing the spiritual community. We need to restore a sense of the sacred to Creation if we are to save it; this will require reaching beyond the traditional conservation community to people of faith. We must reach out to those who have religious and spiritual impulses and, with them, strive to protect the full diversity of life on Earth.

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About Wild Earth and The Wildlands Project



Wild Earth is a quarterly journal melding conservation biology and wildlands activism. Our efforts to strengthen the conservation movement involve the following:

- We serve as the publishing wing of The Wildlands Project.
- We provide a forum for the many effective but little-known regional wilderness groups and coalitions in North America, and serve as a networking tool for wilderness activists.
- We make the teachings of conservation biology accessible to non-scientists, that activists may employ them in defense of biodiversity.
- We expose threats to habitat and wildlife.
- We facilitate discussion on ways to end and reverse the human population explosion.
- We defend wilderness both as concept and as place.



The Wildlands Project is the organization guiding the design of a continental wilderness recovery strategy. Through advocacy, education, scientific consultation, and cooperation with many regional groups, The Wildlands Project is drafting a blueprint for an interconnected, continental-scale system of protected wildlands linked by habitat corridors.

Wild Earth and The Wildlands Project are closely allied but independent nonprofit organizations dedicated to the restoration and protection of wilderness and biodiversity. We share a vision of an ecologically healthy North America—with adequate habitat for all native species, containing vibrant human and natural communities.

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