

# The Naked Fish



We dare to print the naked truth!

We Remember.

## Where is the Spirit of 1776?

By Douglas Bandelin

When we were young our parents told us the story of America. A couple of decades ago, when our children asked us about America and what made it so great, we remembered our parents' words and we talked about the people and the land; but we also talked about the government. Without good government a great people and a great land would be like, well, you can think of a couple of places that would not be so nice to live. So then, what kind of government did we say we had? Well, aside from democracy there were other features of good government that were very important, at least to us and we thought that America had them.

But alas, times change as does, it seems, government. We can no longer say American government (in this case, King County) has the three attributes we consider most important. Those attributes are responsiveness, responsibility, and efficiency. Let me explain a little. We live in a small valley between the towns of Renton and Issaquah. Historically May Valley has been an area of small farms of hops, beans, strawberries, and dairy cows. The last structures were built in the 1970s and most built before that, many in the 1930s. In the early years the valley flooded in the winter, but the floodwaters quickly with the help of a well-maintained drainage ditch, and the ground was dry most of the year. In the 1940s, however, the area began to be urbanized. Homes, many, many homes, were built on the surrounding hills, and, as more water came into the

valley, it carried with it a great deal of silt and debris that clogged the ditch. As a result the valley would not drain as it had in the past. The flooding became worse and is getting worse still.

Now, what is interesting to us is the fact that King County knew of the plight of this valley early on. In 1965 King County did a study of the area and came to two conclusions.

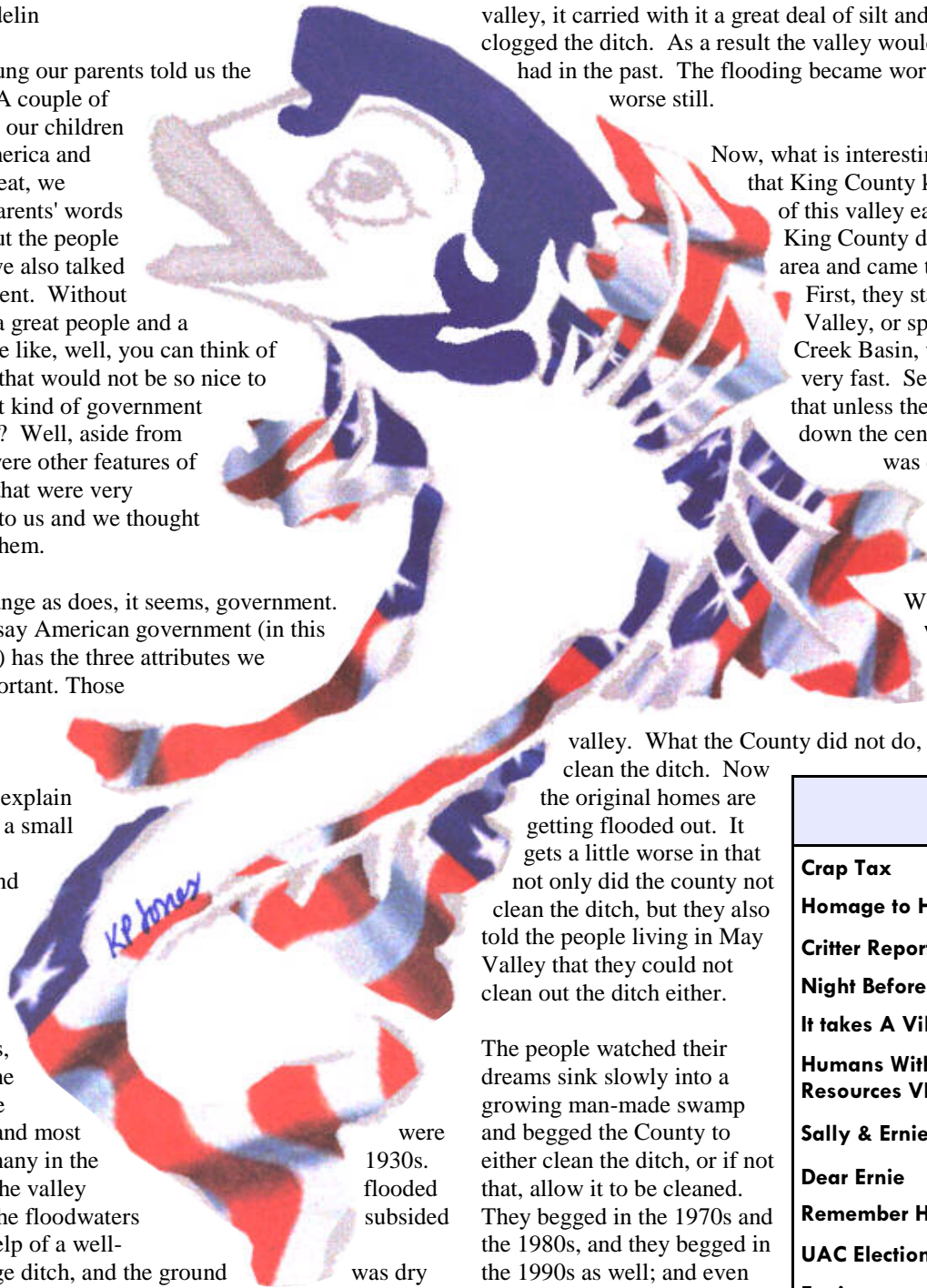
First, they stated that May Valley, or specifically, the May Creek Basin, was going to grow very fast. Second, they stated that unless the ditch running down the center of the valley was cleaned out, the people who lived in the valley floor were going to lose their homes.

Well, the County was right; many homes were built on the hillsides surrounding the

valley. What the County did not do, however, was to clean the ditch. Now the original homes are getting flooded out. It gets a little worse in that not only did the county not clean the ditch, but they also told the people living in May Valley that they could not clean out the ditch either.

The people watched their dreams sink slowly into a growing man-made swamp and begged the County to either clean the ditch, or if not that, allow it to be cleaned. They begged in the 1970s and the 1980s, and they begged in the 1990s as well; and even though plans were drawn up after each one of those pleas,

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# Crap Tax

## Crap Tax Flushes More Money

### Down the Toilet

Public Health – Seattle & King County (PH) has been floating a proposal for a new tax around the County. Yes, I know they call it a fee for service but a tax by any other name still smells like crap if it serves no useful purpose. Several MVEC members attended the public meeting held on November 21, 2001. We learned that the department has been proposing that whenever you have your septic pumped, the pumper would be forced to collect 20 additional dollars and send it to PH along with the report they already send in. It seems that the State Legislature in its infinite wisdom some five years ago decreed that PH would, within five years, create a monitoring and education program dealing with onsite sewer systems (OSS). They of course did not provide funding for the new mandate. The King County Council in typical “Me too! Me too!” fashion piled on with a similar mandate. At least they provided \$250,000.

We learned of the unfunded mandate when we asked the purpose of the new tax. Rephrasing the question to “What problem is this trying to solve?” got the question bounced around to various staff members who didn’t have the answer. The closest we got to an answer was that people are fixing their septic systems without getting the required permits. I’m sure that is quite the problem for PH which brags about being a fee driven agency like DDES.

It is interesting that on November 30, 2001, PH released a report of death trends in King County. Deaths due to onsite sewage system problems are either non-existent or so few that they did not rate a mention in the report. Yet we are asked to fund a new system to the tune of about \$1,000,000 per year to monitor this trivial or non-existent problem. Maybe we could give the sheriff back the officers he has to cut with the 2002 budget instead.



Public Health approved two-holer

It soon became apparent that the “monitoring” funding was to finish entering OSS into the computer. They only have half of the 100,000 systems in there currently. How that would help solve any problems—real or theoretical—was never answered. By the end of the meeting the emphasis had moved to “education” as the main use for the money. One of the many commercial pumpers at the meeting said that his company runs seminars in Pierce County to educate system owners. They do it for free as advertising. An MVEC member’s suggestion that one-time mandatory seminars costing \$20 would be preferable to \$20 every pump-out was brushed aside as ridiculous.

The stated purpose of the meeting was how to collect the fee, not why. Most of the time was spent in that discussion. Whether PH will rework their proposal remains to be seen but there is one thing certain. It is all about money, not crap.

The same staff went before the King County Board of Health on December 7, 2001 to get approval for fee increases for other programs. They set fees for three years at a time. They were proposing a 16% increase for restaurant inspection fees. There is a state statute that limits fees to the actual cost of services rendered. When Board Members Irons and Pullen asked how they could do 16%, which is well above the rate of inflation, their accountant pointed out that PH gets about \$1,000,000 of their funding from the Council so they were still under actual costs. So much for bragging about being fee based.

The crap tax will come before the board in January. There will be public testimony at that time. It would be wise to attend and suggest to the Board that monitoring is already in place via the reports the pumpers have been sending in for seven years. The pumpers appear willing to handle the education part. **No new system or funds are needed.**

## George Washington's Outhouse

Once there was a little boy who lived in the country. They had to use an outhouse, and the little boy hated it because it was hot in the summer, cold in the winter and stank all the time. The outhouse was sitting on the bank of a creek and the boy determined that one day he would push that outhouse into the creek.

One day after a spring rain, the creek was swollen so the little boy decided today was the day to push the outhouse into the creek. So he got a large stick and started pushing. Finally, the outhouse toppled into the creek and floated away.

That night his dad told him they were going to the woodshed after supper. Knowing that meant a spanking, the little boy asked why. The dad replied, “someone pushed the outhouse into the creek today. It was you, wasn’t it, son?” The boy answered yes. Then he thought a moment and said, “Dad, I read in school today that George Washington chopped down a cherry tree and didn’t get into trouble because he told the truth.” The dad replied, “Well, son, George Washington’s father wasn’t in that cherry tree!”

## Where Is The Spirit of 1776? (con't)

*(Continued from page 1)*

none of the plans mentioned cleaning the ditch. So we can only conclude that the government of King County is not very responsive to the needs of its citizens.

Going along with the same story, we have the problem of irresponsibility on the part of the government.

It pains us to see our government accept blame for, say, slavery, or ethnic bigotry, or gender discrimination but simultaneously ignore the destruction of the value and function of the property of lifetime residents.

We would like to see a government responsible not only for errors gone past but also for errors on going. Instead, we have seen the slow degradation of life in our valley. That degradation is the direct result of government neglect and government interference. The government is negligent in that they could have fixed the problem they had caused and continue to exacerbate. The government interferes in that they flatly refuse to allow the people to fix the problem themselves. Our government even goes to extremes in threatening economic ruin to octogenarians who try to help themselves.

And now we come to the third necessary attribute of government, efficiency. Here we are saddest of all. We had mistakenly believed that government was a powerful but lazy horse. We believed that once roused, this powerful horse was capable of accomplishing great tasks as well as a simple little one like cleaning a ditch. It is this belief that sustained us during the last year, when we organized, wrote letters, made phone calls, met with and begged government officials yet again.

But we did it collectively this time, and finally in April 2001 a basin plan was passed that included the magic words "clean the ditch." This plan was passed unanimously by the Council of Thirteen. Even the county executive, Ron Sims, was involved. Mr. Sims came to our valley and spoke to a crowd at Pioneer Park. There he stated our ditch would be cleaned, and we cheered.

But alas, even though everyone wanted the ditch to be cleaned government (King County government) had reached such a state that it was in fact impossible to clean the ditch. Official after official came out, saw the problem, and declared it impossible to solve. There was no way they could get permits. Of course, none of them took responsibility for the problem. They all pointed accusing fingers at departments other than their own.



*(Continued on page 11)*

## Homage To Hysteria

by Chuck Pillon

### Environmental Extremism and The Cost To Freedom

Extremism, it should be said, is always its own reward. No matter the quality of the underlying cause, whenever advocates of a given crusade resort to unreasoned fascism to advance their agenda, they invariably do great harm to the ostensible purpose of their passions: religious objective, political cause or environmental concern. In addition, they so polarize any real or imagined opponents that reaction nearly always exacerbates the initial harm that they have, themselves, have done.

There couldn't be a better contemporary example of extremism than dear Mr. Osama B and his cronies whose own current reward for extremism is the destruction of a vicious world of religious extremism. Their version should not, of course, be confused with the decent practice of one of the world's greatest religious persuasions, Islam. Any who ponder the rage and violence of these men should not forget that it has, as a very certain part of its genesis, its roots in the outrage and carnage inflicted on the followers of the founder of Islam, the Prophet Mohammed. Just a few short centuries ago Christianity, the dominant religion of Europe and the Americas, sought to reform these peoples with its own version of extremism.

Then, as now, a religious leader labels the people of another faith "infidels" and sends an all-too-willing army to slaughter any who won't renounce their heresies. Said army takes such great delight in the inevitable plunder and rape that even those who see the so-called "light" are granted no quarter. This time, it's Osama and the all-stars; back then it was our crew in the Vatican; same difference; you can also check the box scores in the land of the Hindus and Sikhs for confirmation; what goes around, comes around.

It might seem ludicrous to reckon with the results of extremism in such a modest realm as modern environmentalism, particularly in the face of the human suffering religious wars have caused. But never mind the apparent lesser aspects of this phenomenon, in its place it has substantial implication for the greater milieu of our modern free society with its seminal commitment to the dignity and responsibility of the individual.

The natural land environment is host to mankind's perpetual struggle for freedom from the inevitable tyranny of government. This is the stage, as it was, for this ongoing drama; one that is at once both obvious and at the same time, obscure. Obvious because we are land dwellers, rather than sea creatures; but obvious and moving to obscure because the number (percentage) of owner/stewards of private property in proportion to the whole population has been declining for much of the past century, here in the "land of the free". More and more of us live disconnected from the land. It's not bad enough

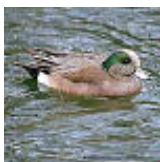
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# Critter Report

by Mick Zevart

Did you know we had Baldpates wintering here in the valley? Most average people living along the ditch would ask, "What the heck is a Baldpate?" They might be thinking of a "Baldface." A Baldface is a Hereford cow.

Well, "Baldpate" is a common name among waterfowlers for the American Wigeon duck, *Anas americana* (Gmelin, 1789; called *Mareca americana* by the American Ornithological Union until 1973).



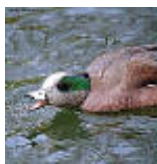
Before the Green River valley was commercialized, filled with gravel and covered with buildings, there were thousands of these ducks wintering in the valley. They ranged from where the old Golden Arrow dairy was, which was about

where the entrance to Southcenter off 405 is now, up to where the Southcenter Bon Marche is now. From there, you'd find them down as far as the present day Zoopa restaurant. As they were grass feeders like the Canada geese we have now, you would find them grazing in the cow pastures all the way down past Auburn.

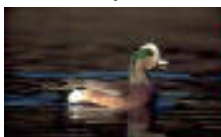


When hunting season started they would leave their feeding areas just before daylight, minutes before legal shooting time was to start, and head for Lake Washington. It was quite a sight to see thousands and thousands of these ducks

pass over in just a few minutes. They would return to feed just a few minutes before dark, just after the day's shooting time was over. I remember watching flocks of fifteen to twenty thousand Wigeon rafted up on the East Channel off Mercer Island, just off the old Kennydale dock. There they would sit on the water 'til it was time to fly back to the fields to graze. Lake Washington and the land within one quarter mile of its shores were considered a game reserve. No guns, dogs, or traps.



Like so many other good things of the past, those days are over. Some twenty years ago or so, when our yards and pastures began to flood and stayed flooded all winter, small flocks of these Wigeon ducks started to winter in our valley. Before that, the only time they would show up in the upper valley was during a real hard freeze when all the ponds and the flooded fields where they grazed would freeze over. Because the water in the ditch was moving, the ducks could



drink it after grazing. I remember seeing small groups along my fence line feeding on exposed grass, under my windrow of fir trees. The rest of the ground would be covered with snow and these ducks could find grass and

graze and then fly to the ditch for water. If you observe the feeding habits of this bird, you will notice that in a group they will graze away from the water, in some places grazing to higher ground. When they are full of grass they will fly back to the water and start all over again.

This bird breeds in northwestern North America, from the Yukon and MacKenzie region east to Hudson Bay. It winters from Alaska as far south as Costa Rica.

In his *Waterfowl of North America* (Bloomington and London: Indiana University Press, 1975) Dr. Paul A. Johnsgard describes these birds in the field:

The American Wigeon can be recognized on land and water by their grayish brown to pinkish body coloration....The short bill and similarly short rounded head are often evident, and when the male is in nuptial plumage his pure white forehead markings are visible for great distances... (p. 187)

Sometimes the American Wigeon's cousin, the European Wigeon, can be seen here in the valley. The most I have seen were three males. The females are quite the same in color as the female American Wigeon. I saw two of these males at Rodeo Ranch, where a small group winters, and you can always find a male among them. The other was in a small group on my place. I first took these sightings within minutes of each other, so I know I'm talking about different birds. These are European Wigeons, *Anas penelope* (Linnaeus, 1758; until 1973 called *Mareca penelope* by the A.O.U.). So if you come upon a flock of Wigeons grazing in the valley and you observe one with a reddish brown head, you have just seen your first European.



Some years back I was preparing my place and birds to be taken care of by my grandkids while I was off to the International Wild Waterfowl Association conference in Atlanta. While checking the overflow on the pond, I looked up to see the first returning Wigeons of the fall. There were five birds, and one of them was a European male. This was the first week in October.

I want to express my appreciation to editor Kathy Jones for allowing me to write here about ducks, one of our shared interests.

# The "P.C." Night Before Christmas

by Anonymous

"Twas the night before Christmas and  
Santa's a wreck.

How to live in a world that's politically correct?  
His workers no longer would answer to "Elves",  
"Vertically Challenged" they were calling  
themselves.

And labor conditions at the north pole  
Were alleged by the union to stifle the soul.

Four reindeer had vanished,  
without much propriety,  
Released to the wilds by the Humane Society.  
And equal employment had made it quite clear  
That Santa had better not use just reindeer.  
So Dancer and Donner, Comet and Cupid,  
Were replaced with 4 pigs, and you know that  
looked stupid!?

The runners had been removed  
from his sleigh;  
The ruts were termed dangerous by the E.P.A.  
And people had started to call for the cops  
When they heard sled noises on their roof-tops.  
Second-hand smoke from his pipe had his  
workers quite frightened.  
His fur trimmed red suit was called  
"Unenlightened."

And to show you the strangeness  
of life's ebbs and flows  
Rudolf was suing over unauthorized  
use of his nose  
He'd gone on Geraldo, in front of the nation,  
Demanding millions in over-due compensation.

So, half of the reindeer were gone;  
and his wife,  
Who suddenly said she'd enough of this life,  
Joined a self-help group, packed,  
and left in a whiz,  
Demanding from now on her title was Ms.  
And as for the gifts, why, he'd ne'er had a notion  
That making a choice could cause  
so much commotion.  
Nothing of leather, nothing of fur,

Which meant nothing for him.  
And nothing for her.

Nothing that might be construed to pollute.  
Nothing to aim. Nothing to shoot.  
Nothing that clamored or made lots of noise.  
Nothing for just girls. Or just for the boys.  
Nothing that claimed to be gender specific.  
Nothing that's warlike or non pacifist-ic.

No candy or sweets,  
they were bad for the tooth.  
Nothing that seemed to embellish a truth.  
And fairy tales, while not yet forbidden,  
Were like Ken and Barbie, better off hidden.  
For they raised the hackles  
of those psychological  
Who claimed the only good gift  
was one ecological.

No baseball, no football  
someone could get hurt;  
Besides, playing sports exposed kids to dirt.  
Dolls were said to be sexist,  
and should be passé;  
And Nintendo would rot your entire brain away.

So Santa just stood there,  
disheveled, perplexed;  
He just could not figure out what to do next.  
He tried to be merry, tried to be gay,  
But you've got to be careful  
with that word today.

His sack was quite empty,  
limp to the ground;  
Nothing fully acceptable was to be found.  
Something special was needed,  
a gift that he might  
Give to all without angering the left or the right.  
A gift that would satisfy, with no indecision,  
Each group of people, every religion;  
Every ethnicity, every hue,  
Everyone, everywhere...even you.  
So here is that gift, it's price beyond worth...

*"May you and your loved ones  
enjoy peace on earth."*

# It Takes A Village To Kill A Salmon Run

by Douglas Bandelin

## Or it takes a village to kill 'em all

I would like to tell you a story, a story as old as life. It concerns populations of living things, how they grow and what happens to them. These are all populations and it always happens. For our story we will only be concerned with two populations. One of fish and the other of fish eaters, in this case humans.

Our setting is a small coastal bay somewhere in the Northwest. Salmon come into the bay and go up the several streams to spawn. One day humans came to the bay, saw that there was food there and decided to stay and form a village. It was a small village, say, 100 individuals and there were a lot of salmon; about 20,000.

Now each individual ate 100 salmon a year so the whole village ate 10,000 salmon which left 10,000 salmon to produce more salmon. This was a good deal and things were fine. Now the people of this village had plenty to eat and they did what all populations do when they have plenty to eat, they made more people. How many? Well, it doesn't really matter but let us say for this illustration that the village grew at a rate of 1 person per year. At the end of 50 years there would be 150 individuals eating 15,000 fish. But still there was no problem because there were 5,000 fish left to make more fish and fish make individuals very fast.

Time passed and more people were born, who all ate more fish. Then, there was the year of the final tragedy, when there were 200 people they ate 20,000 fish and there were no fish left to make more fish. What, then, do you think happened to the people? Well, they starved for certain and then, either moved to another place where the salmon run had not been destroyed, or they learned to eat something else. But no matter what they did, they always grew until they used up all the food, then starved and began anew. This is the way it is with life with limited resources and there is and always has been limited resources on the planet.

If there were no people in the next bay, they just moved in and destroyed that run and so on; it went up and down the coast. But one thing is certain: the year that began with 201 people, would not end with that because people would starve and the population would collapse and this collapse would be normal and natural.

This law of population size and food was most certainly in effect in the Pacific Northwest prior to 1850 and for any group of people to claim that they existed on salmon in

any given location for 3000 years is patently ludicrous. Early man moved up and down the coast, as all hunting/gathering societies do. And there was most certainly times of plenty when the population settled and grew, and times of famine when the population collapsed and they moved on.

Also there was warfare. Bitter wars fought over limited resources. There was war and slavery and even some cannibalism. Hardly a noble tradition here but a lot more human and honest than the pabulum being fed out to children in politically correct American schools.

So what then? Were the old natives anymore worse off than the new natives? I do not think so. I believe that they are both very ethnocentric and both environmentally blind. Perhaps there will come a time when we can agree that "the fish thing" is the real red herring.

What is really happening here in America has little, or nothing, to do with fish and a whole lot to do with a back-to-nature movement which considers mankind as the supreme invasive species.

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## MVEC Elections

by Rick Spence

Our annual elections are coming up this January and I want to encourage our members to seriously consider running for an office. We elect the full board each year including President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and three At Large board members.

An election committee has been formed and will be taking names of those who want to serve. Those who say I can't serve for this reason or that reason need to realize they're not only serving the greater good of May Valley but they're also serving their families and their preferred lifestyle. So when you are asked to seek an office, don't say this person has been great and so should continue or that person would be great but not me, say what can I do to make this a better council?

The election committee is headed by Mark Torretta. He can be reached at (425) 255-0384.

# Humans Without Resources

by Rodney McFarland

## Part VII - Conclusion

In 1969 the Cuyahoga River was on fire. President Nixon declared "The 1970s absolutely must be the years when America pays its debt to the past by reclaiming the purity of its air, its waters, and our living environment," as he signed the National Environmental Policy Act. Americans buckled down as Americans seem to do when the goal is worthy and succeeded beyond expectations. But the environmentalists leading the charge refuse to tell Americans of their victories.



Gregg Easterbrook, in his book *A Moment on the Earth: The Coming Age of Environmental Optimism*, states, "Pollution in all categories has declined, and pollution has declined even relative to domestic manufacturing output." The EPA estimates that 70% of our waters are safe for swimming and fishing, which may be a larger percentage than before man appeared. Since 1970 the population has grown by a third and both the gross domestic product and the number of miles we drive have more than doubled. But sulfur dioxide and carbon monoxide levels are down by 66%, nitrogen oxide by almost 40%, ozone by 30% and lead has effectively been banished from the air. Fish runs in the Northwest are so robust that hatchery managers must club the excess that aren't caught by commercial, sport, or tribal fishermen and eaten by people around the world. 6000 kings were killed on the Samish River alone this year by hatchery personnel.



But no one tells the people. Instead of accolades, they get continued forecasts of environmental apocalypse. In March of 2000, Environmental Defense (formerly the Environmental Defense Fund) commissioned an Earth Day poll. Of the 1000 adults polled, 57% said that U.S. environmental conditions are worse than 30 years ago. Steve Cochran, Environmental Defense's spokesman said, "We were surprised. It's clear that people haven't taken much heart in the progress that's been made." Jonathan Rauch, in a Washington Post article entitled "There's Smog in the Air, But It Isn't All Pollution" states, "Plainly, where the environment is concerned, the public and reality have parted ways."

Resources for the Future, an environmental think tank, noted that the nine major laws and hundreds of minor ones governing environmental policy result in policies that are "fragmented," "complex," "disjointed," beset by "rigidity and lack of coherence." Because the concerns in the 1970s were pesticides and carcinogens and smoggy air, environmental policy became

obsessed with cleanliness and chemicals, chasing smaller and smaller quantities of less and less dangerous substances. Peter Huber of the Manhattan Institute calls it "micro-environmentalism."



King County bureaucrats tell us it is illegal for our children to wade in May Creek (which the Clean Water Act says must be restored to swimmable condition) since they might cause some sediment to go down stream causing irreparable harm to our friends in Newcastle. The same sediment, of course, is perfectly OK in the upper half of the creek and must be left there or we will join our neighbor Chuck



Pillon down at the court house.<sup>1</sup> And those nuts at Resources for the Future have the gall to say that the policies are beset by "rigidity and lack of coherence!" So while the major battles have been won, the continuing war destroys once productive areas such as May Valley.

The professional doomsayers and politicians, in order to keep the money flowing, are telling us that the fight has moved from micro to macro issues such as extinction, global warming, and urban sprawl. The public doesn't buy it. The Gallup Organization found that the public frets a lot about air and water pollution, worries less about ozone depletion, rain forests and habitat loss, and cares hardly a fig for extinction and urban sprawl. At the bottom of the list was global warming. The Environmental Defense poll turned up similar results, with global warming ranked second to last ahead of urban sprawl.<sup>2</sup>

Perhaps it is time for the professional habitat evangelists to declare victory. They would then be free to do something useful for society like produce food, clothing or shelter. Medicine would be an acceptable field also, given the looming shortage of nurses for the baby boomers. Having them contribute something besides regulations and bureaucrats would certainly improve my habitat.



Politicians being what they are it is unlikely that they will believe the polls and undo the labyrinthine rules and regulations that are destroying us. They will simply continue more of the same while they cut police, fire, and other secondary services in favor of more environmental idiocy while blaming "initiatives" passed by stupid voters.<sup>3</sup>

Take heart. America is in pretty darn good shape. We have the best environment in the world. We are the most productive

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## Humans Without Resources—Part VII (con't)

(Continued from page 7)

people on earth living in an area with abundant resources. While most great societies suffocate underneath their bureaucracies, our modern ability to



communicate may well prevent that. We just need to get the truth out to the people. This publication is put together by one tiny little community but we are certainly not alone. If the things you have read in this series of articles have made sense to you or even caused you to think more thoroughly about the issues, please help us to continue enlarging our readership. Pass your issues along to a friend. Join MVEC or send money for a subscription. Send articles or letters for publication. Every little bit helps.

<sup>1</sup>Chuck Pillon is the May Valley Samaritan who tried to help King County save some money by removing silt from their portion of May Creek. The May Creek Basin Action Plan 2001 called for removing obstructions, including sediment, from May Creek. King County staff promptly decided that the Basin Plan (passed 13-0 by the King County Council and signed by the Executive, Ron Sims) should be ignored and Chuck is in deep trouble.

<sup>2</sup>J. Rauch, "There's Smog in the Air, But It Isn't All Pollution," *Washington Post*, April 30, 2000

<sup>3</sup>A cabal of eight King County Council members cut police and court budgets for 2002 while increasing Water and Land Resources staff by 19% and blamed all the problems on the "stupid voters" who voted for Initiative 747 limiting increases in property taxes.

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## Homage To Hysteria (con't)

(Continued from page 3)

that we have become an urban-dwelling population but it's even worse that a growing number of people will never know the joy, and challenge, of land ownership. They are consigned by the numbers and a certain agenda to be renters all their lives.

Americans are a "landed people" – the first in recorded history to invest true ownership of the land in the hands of ordinary folk. This phenomenon acts as a natural base for the maintenance of political power by the people; power to control one's destiny and fortune, free from unwarranted government interference. Our Founding Fathers knew that it, the great leap to freedom for "everyman" from the tyranny and servitude of the Old World, could have no other vehicle but ownership of the land. The consequence of this great exercise in true freedom for the common people is magnificent; the accomplishments of the "children" of this grand experiment have changed forever the course of civilization. For at least in our most recent history, wherever "America" has taken root, the quality of life is blessedly better; wherever American blood has been shed, freedom has always followed.

It is tragic that the only real threat to this grand, good manner of self-governance has been spawned here in our very midst. The generals of despotic regimes have never conquered us, and never will. But a core of a type of extremism, pervasive in the so-called environmental movement, is increasingly destructive to the quintessential cornerstone of all freedom: ownership of the land. To identify this development, to shine a light on this extremism and its consequence, is not to damn or demonize but to educate the many, well-intended adherents to the real cause of environmental stewardship. The extremist always plays on fear. With Osama it has been the fear of foreigners (us, in this case); scapegoating outsiders to mask the role of his own, wealthy class in the midst of the misery so common to their part of the

world. Ordinary folks in the Islamic world can be stampeded as certainly as Hitler or Mussolini or Tojo stampeded the masses in their time.

So, too, with some in our culture. Environmental gurus spouting doomsday send a message born of fear and half-truths to those growing legions of well-intended but ignorant folk who rally to their side. A blind assault on freedom there then follows in the form of the "sheepsclothing" of THE CAUSE. Catastrophe is predicted, indeed guaranteed in the wake of each new "discovery" that one or another arcane species of flora or fauna is about to disappear. Ever greater restriction or outright ban on endeavors related to the ownership or stewardship of private land (not to mention vast areas of public land) is demanded and is too often served up by legislators and regulators - many of whom share the agenda of hysteria driving the "sainted few" of THE CAUSE. That these hysterical "issues" are usually clothed in the guise of genuine environmental concern serves to make THE CAUSE all the more seductive to the marginally informed or ignorant. Thus from Snail Darter to Spotted Owl, from Love Canal to Hanford, from Sacharine and Alar, the "end is at hand". How about a little asbestos scare thrown in for good measure? Nevermind that time and again, when intelligent people from the real world gather (real scientists, industry and government and landowners) solutions inevitably are forthcoming. And the most poignant of all is the remarkable resilience of the natural world all around us. Even as the dirge was sounding for that elusive little avian, the Spotted Owl, the little guy emerged to haunt the forest clearcuts - the very same retreats that was said to spell the end of his world. Remember that grand old symbol of the Land of the Free, the Bald Eagle? This bird was said to be history in the 1970's, but they have rebounded to near nuisance levels in some environs.

(Continued on page 9)

## Homage To Hysteria

(Continued from page 8)

In each of these concerns, the “stampede effect” is increasingly easy to promote as a function of that aforementioned factor. This effect has seen increasing numbers in a populace who are disconnected from land ownership and stewardship, and thus are unwittingly motivated into a “them or us” mindset that has, at its extreme, the desire to literally terminate private land ownership. The political motive and ramifications of this policy are far too demanding and serious for any brief exercise here. Suffice it to say it would be the beginning of the end of personal and political freedom as we know it, and have so courageously defended it.

It is important to reflect a moment on the history of man and the environment in the context of the “American Experiment”. Over the brief, but ever prospering three centuries of development of the land (the means to support our remarkable evolution of the human condition) we have elevated human freedom and dignity to its greatest stature; not just at home, but increasingly, around the globe. Notwithstanding our faults, we have excelled. Early on, and continuing until roughly a half century ago, we were sometimes woefully inadequate environmentally. We had no true sense of the somewhat finite nature of...nature itself.

Population growth, and the greater production of goods this required, coupled with the unforeseen or ignored consequences of industrial and other technological expansion, has placed enormous stress on nature. There is no more ironic an example than our methods of development with its increasing use of potent pesticides and herbicides. In an effort to control or eradicate of some lowly and aggravating neighbors like the minuscule mosquito, we imperil others: the earlier aforementioned national symbol, the Bald Eagle, not to mention a whole host of its cousins. A lady named Rachel Carson penned a warning in *Silent Spring*, circa 1960. She set the stage for intelligent environmentalism that has since become the passion of everyone who loves the land; none more certainly that those of us who are currently blessed with land stewardship.

The greatest numbers of the “gurus”, if not most all of them, come from the cities of our land. True, there are many powerful environmental voices in the near-wilderness; but they are mostly temperate voices who understand the greater truths of the natural world: all nature is evolutionary and exceedingly resilient.

If we were to adopt the unreasoning stridence of those sainted few, theirs would become a different world indeed. Imagine their response if we set out to force the “ruralification” of their favored haunts: the cities. The roadways and infrastructure would be demolished to return things to nature. Wetlands and dangerous flooding would inundate the great areas of the cities. All sorts of “indicator species” like devil’s club, nettles and poison ivy would flourish in the yards, parks and schoolyards. There would be, of course, appropriate fines for all that dare tamper with the established rules. Imagine some hapless “urbel” (opposite of “yokel”) standing in line to get a “permit”

to extricate his child from a patch of devil’s club. You could throw in an occasional hungry cougar, and it’s back to nature.

They would doubtless try to laugh us off; laughter that would turn to hysteria if we really got serious. In point of fact, most the cities just a few generations ago, were far more “natural” settings if you hold with the “guru’s” line of reasoning. But don’t fall for it. Cities are the best “natural” settings for human beings as population and technology evolves. Far from representing the destruction of nature, they are the most efficient means of minimizing population impact on the environment, as we work to resolve the perpetual challenge to the natural affinity that all living species represent.

Modern cities have their important place in the scheme of things. It’s sad that they do, as we have said before, as they limit the connection to the land for the greatest number of people. Nevertheless, they strike the balance that is needed to prevent the real desolation that surely would result from today’s masses wandering about the landscape seeking subsistence, at best, in the manner of aboriginal peoples of days gone by. The “hunter-gatherer” traded the prairie for the city in an evolution as natural as any other. This was done with a natural instinct as certain as that of the eagle to nest. We, and other creatures, are equipped to do what it takes to survive. Cities are the only haven for the great populations of our kin to maintain. Seeing the subtle but vital balance of the urban (natural) and the rural (more natural), in terms that have more to do with the inherent quality of natural forces to balance things out for the greater good, it is very important to our ability to steward that which we share with all else in nature. It allows us to take an intelligent and properly humble look at things. It is happy irony that it also disarms the zealots who seek to keep things polarized for the benefit of themselves and their agenda.

The challenge, then, is to educate by means of the most compassionate and constructive means, the consequence of the continued destruction of a great people’s linkage to its land. This is a great challenge for a worthy people. We must always bear in mind that we own and steward the land in the interest of those masses that may never know or appreciate our struggle. It may seem to some that we are burdened, more than we are blessed. Most people I know are so fulfilled in the rewarding process of “life in the country” that no price is too great.

With apologies to Woody Guthrie, “this land is (truly) my land...this land is your land”, for all of God’s children.

[www.maycreek.com](http://www.maycreek.com)

# Join MVEC!

Join the May Valley Environmental Council for just \$40 per year. You'll

receive The Naked Fish, MVEC's monthly newsletter where we dare to print the naked truth! You'll learn the real science about salmon and their habitat, and read special features that affect your life in King County.

Leonard's Grill at the corner of 164th Ave SE and Renton-Issaquah Road (SR-900).

New information is added to our website, [www.maycreek.com](http://www.maycreek.com), every month including photos of MVEC sponsored events.

Just leave your name, address, phone and email address on our message phone (425-656-9401) and a board member will confirm your application.

Meetings are held every Monday night at 7 PM at

## The Fine Print

This publication prints articles from many authors. The content of the articles is determined by those authors and does not necessarily represent the official position of May Valley Environmental Council. We do not have the necessary resources to check all facts and figures presented but instead rely on the authors to have done their homework.

**Living on Earth is expensive, but it does include a free trip around the sun.**



# Dear Ernie

Here are Ernie's questions for this week.

Dear Ernie: Did you get what you wanted for Christmas? Dick Desilter

Dear Dick: No! I wanted my house cleaned but King County still won't let anyone do that for me. I guess the beavers have all the clout around here.

Dear Ernie: Are you depressed because your house is still silty? Dick Desilter

Dear Dick: Yes I am. I went to my psychiatrist to see what I should do about my depression. He said that depression is just anger without enthusiasm so I am trying to get more enthusiastic.

Dear Ernie: If you ate pasta and antipasta, would you still be hungry? Chef Louie

Dear Chef Louie: I'm always hungry. I prefer herring.

Dear Ernie: Are you wild or hatchery? I hear the two have different gene pools. Joe Biologist

Dear Joe: I have to say wild or you'll have to club me to death. There is only one gene pool but it has a real problem — no lifeguard!



## Where Is The Spirit of 1776?

*(Continued from page 3)*

We were stunned. A government that has never accepted responsibility and only responded after *forty years* of pressure had become so inefficient that it was incapable of action. The political arm said, "Yes, clean the ditch"; the people said, "Yes, clean the ditch"; and even the county staff said they wanted to clean the ditch; but the ditch is not going to get cleaned. Why? Because it can't be done. Given all this, it is our sad duty to report that America is no longer a great place. Oh, the people are great and the land is great, but the government is neither responsive, nor responsible, nor efficient. We are afraid if it does not change soon that not even democracy will endure, and then we will truly fall.

We sincerely hope it is not too late to change. We hope that a government of the people by the people and for the people can again be established so that liberty and justice for all might again prevail. It is to that end that we dedicate this issue of *The Naked Fish*.



King County Executive  
Ron Sims



DDES Director  
Greg Kipp

**It is the common fate of the indolent to see their rights become a prey to the active. The condition upon which God hath given liberty to man is eternal vigilance; which condition if he break, servitude is at once the consequence of his crime and the punishment of his guilt.**

**John Philpot Curran (1750-1817)**

**A well constituted state is when the people obey the rulers, and the rulers obey the law.**

**Solon (600 B.C.)**

**The state is a device for taking money from one set of pockets and putting it into another.**

**Voltaire (1694-1778)**

# Remember Herschel?

by Douglas Bandelin

Remember Herschel, that voracious salmon snacker of the Ballard locks? Remember all the effort, money and time devoted to limiting his fin-y repast? Heck we even flew his flippered fanny down the Oregon coast not once, but three times and yet he always came back. Today, while the county and the tribes are demanding that the rural citizens relinquish thousands of acres of land for free, there is not just one Herschel but hundreds of Herschels.

There are over 1,500 sea lions eating about 3,000 metric tones of food annually. That's about 1,000 fish for each sea lion or 1.5 million total fish. A lot of fish, don't you



think? Now I ask you, does the county, do the tribes need to steal my land just so they can feed a bunch of sea lions? Oh, and before I forget the other pest, the smaller harbor sea, there about 20,000 of those guys swimming

around Puget Sound as well. The harbor seals eat salmon as well. Not only the big ones but the little ones, the small salmon who are but a year old or so when they flush out into the sea. And when harbor seals are not eating salmon, they are eating salmon food: the herring, meaning less food, less salmon.

Harbor seals are so devastating that they have been recorded eating up to 46% of the fall Chinook in the Portledge Watershed of British Columbia.<sup>1</sup> A side thought here, there were no seals/sea lions in the area from about 1850's on through the 1960's. We were using them for hats and coats or shooting them on sight. So what does this have to do with my farm? Is that four acres that the environmentalists and tribes want to steal from me going to make any difference? Maybe it will make lunch for ¼ of a harbor seal or 1/10 of a sea lion. I personally do not believe it will do even that. Anyway, I have a cheaper, simpler way for the tribes to get more fish. This holiday season think "seal steaks"! it's a win-win deal, unless you are a young, fat, juicy seal, of course.

So you want to help; don't want to be left behind? Join MVEC, read The Fish, send money, write letters, call the responsible and vote the rascals out. Hey, we can use the help. There are not many of us left. Rural cleansing is taking its toll. Help us STOP THE URBANIZATION OF KING COUNTY - CALL RON SIMS at (206) 296-4040 or EMAIL [exec.sims@metrokc.gov](mailto:exec.sims@metrokc.gov)

<sup>1</sup>From appendix "d" "Initial Snohomish Basin Chinook Salmon Conservation/Recovery Technical Work Plan 199 page 117

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## 4 Creeks UAC Election Results

The 4 Creeks UAC election results are final and the winners included quite a few greater May Valley area residents. The winners include Marshall Brenden for Dist. 7, Dave Rockabrand for Dist. 1 and Tami Harris for Dist. 4. At Large members include Oscar Bandelin, Chuck Pillon and Dave Dahlin. At the induction meeting on Wednesday Dec. 20, 2001 the Council voted in new officers which were the following: President, Oscar Bandelin; Vice President, Marshall Brenden; Secretary, Tami Harris; Treasurer, Cynthia Green. Way to go, everyone!

includes 17 years in the print industry manufacturing signs, banners, posters, decals and labels. His company also provides graphic design and is starting to get involved in web site design. "I'd like to see the UAC get a good handle on the "temperature" of its constituents", Dave says. "I'd like to raise awareness of issues such as education, safety, urban sprawl, environment and infrastructure and implement a plan to see positive action addressing them. I'd also like to see the UAC set an example for the rest of our elected officials for a fair and honest government".

Two of the newest members of the 4 Creeks Council are Dave Rockabrand and Tami Harris.

Dave is a 12 year resident of King County, with 11 of those years spent in the Renhill area. He tells us that he is a homeowner and a single parent, an occasional golfer and all-around fair person. Dave lived in the greater Chicago area for 31 years.

He moved to the Northwest to escape the political and environmental mire common in the big city government there. He felt that moving would provide his son (then 18 months old) a better living environment and that experience has given him a useful perspective concerning quality-of-life issues.

After starting and running successfully two small businesses, Dave currently works from home in order to be a full-time dad to his son. His business background



**Marshall Brenden**



**Oscar Bandelin**



**Tami Harris**



**Dave Rockabrand**



**Dave Dahlin**



**Chuck Pillon**

Tami Harris has been in the May Valley area for the past 6 years. She grew up in Alaska and spent 2 years in the late 1980's at the University of Alaska at Fairbanks. Tami moved to Washington in 1995 and currently works in Data Processing/ Information Services at Rotary Offset Press in Kent. Tami says, "I am quite excited about becoming more involved with my community. I want to learn

about current and future issues that will affect our daily lives, and hope to make a difference for the better".

These two sound like they will be great additions to the UAC! MVEC welcomes them and the other council members. We look forward to an exciting year for the UAC.

# Environmental Hoaxes and the Conspiracy to Destroy American Culture

by Roger A. Lowe

## INTRODUCTION

I am writing to describe hoaxes and propaganda used as a basis for regulations that alter land use in our river valleys. The regulations and the changes destroy an important part of our American culture. The hoaxes and propaganda appear to be part of a conspiracy.

The United States has traditions and a culture that has made this a great nation. Our culture has brought many benefits to our nation and to the world. Our culture values individual productivity and making our land and water productive as well. We value our environment and wild places, and are world leaders in protecting natural areas and wild species and in limiting pollution. We also value honesty, fairness and compassion.

Our rivers and river valleys have been highly altered to minimize flooding and allow farms, dairies and development in the valleys. Our farms and dairies were important to our recovery from the Great Depression and our success in World Wars I & II and the Cold War.

In much of the west our current use of our river valleys is being opposed by an effective minority who want to return the rivers and river valleys to the condition prior to European occupation of America. Flood protection is being reduced, and river migration across the valleys encouraged. Maintenance of waterways is being forbidden, and wood is being placed in them to obstruct flow and encourage channel migration. Farming and other land use is being limited or made impractical by regulations that have no scientific basis.

There appears to be a conspiracy employing false arguments, hoaxes, distortions and propaganda. The participants include extreme environmental organizations, the tribes and individuals within regulatory agencies including National Marine Fisheries Service, US Fish and Wildlife, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, US Forest Service, and state and local governments.

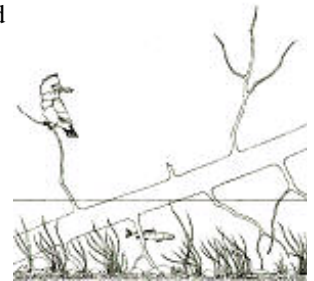
The following are examples of the hoaxes and deceptions.

## WOOD IN RIVERS HOAX

There is a widely made argument that placing wood in our rivers creates fish habitat and that the wood will protect river banks against erosion. The material most often used is tree boles, (tree trunks) with the root mass included. These are anchored with the roots projecting out into the current and angled in the upstream direction. These and similar materials are referred to

as Large Woody Debris. (LWD)

There are studies showing that there can be increased fish densities related to LWD. There are other changes to rivers that are associated with LWD. LWD advocates jump to the conclusion that this proves LWD benefits fish. However, scientific measurements of the survival or productivity of salmon show that there is no benefit but can even bring harm to salmon. In a study by Phillip Roni and Thomas P. Quinn, published in Vol. 58 #2, Feb 2001, 283, Canadian Journal of Fish and Aquatic Sciences, they state "Numerous authors have reported no significant biological response or even decreases in salmonid abundance following restoration." (with large woody debris), (clarification in parenthesis by Roger Lowe.) For more information please see "Best Habitat Information" at <http://www.main.net/riversense>. LWD is most often placed on the outside of a river bend, where river currents would normally carry debris or people toward the LWD. These constructions are an extreme hazard to anyone unlucky enough to be in the river. When floods move the LWD or accumulations of wood recruited by the LWD, the wood becomes deadly missiles destroying homes and structures in their way.



LWD installations have been used repeatedly since the 1930's, but have always been found to be failures in terms of bank protection. Please see "Best Habitat Information".

King County claimed to have rediscovered the benefit of LWD as bank protection, and obtained several Federal grants to place LWD in some of our rivers. There were massive failures, and they now are anchoring the LWD using very large rock, or cables tied to 2' x 2' x 6' concrete "ecology blocks" buried in the banks.

King County and others are trying to claim this kind of construction is natural. However the appearance, location and anchorage of the artificial LWD is very different from that of naturally occurring LWD.

There are a number of geomorphologists, geologists and engineers, who recognize that LWD does cause rivers to change. In general, the LWD partly obstructs the flow, slowing the river and raising the river levels during flood. Also, because river velocities are reduced, gravel and other sediments accumulate which further reduces flood capacity and raises flood levels.

*(Continued on page 15)*

## Environmental Hoaxes *(con't)*

*(Continued from page 14)*

Because some gravel and sediments are naturally being added to the rivers, the capacity of our rivers to transport flood flows is gradually reduced. As the effects become more pronounced, the rivers will jump their banks and cut new channels. This happened recently on the Green River in King County. See "Environmental Tragedy on the Green River" at <http://www.main.net/riversense>.

The effect and real purpose of the LWD installations is to make rivers unsafe for people, and cause flooding and the cutting of new river channels through farms and developments.

### **BUFFER HOAX**

Skagit County farmers and landowners are being forced to provide buffers along river and ditch banks. This makes a large portion of the land unavailable for use. The buffers are supposed to be planted with trees that ultimately will provide LWD in the rivers. The width of the buffers is supposedly based on science showing that LWD is a benefit, and on science showing that the required buffer widths are justified.

A graduate student at the University of Washington, Sara Jo Breslow, interviewed a number of Skagit County farmers and public officials, and also reviewed material provided by some environmental advocacy organizations. She noted that the County employees admit that there was no scientific basis for the buffer widths adopted, and that the "not so hidden purpose" of wide buffers and resulting LWD, was to convert the valley back to a wild state. Her report is available electronically. I can forward it if you would like.

### **RECONNECTION HOAX**

The Department of Fish and Wildlife has adopted as official policy "reconnection of rivers to their flood plains where possible" The "where possible" is not defined. This policy is part of the basis for denying farmers and others permits for maintaining drainage ditches and flood control facilities. The DF&W claims that this policy creates a more natural river, and will benefit fish.

I have written to the DF&W several times asking for information justifying their policy. They have replied, but have not been responsive to the issue.

No one has demonstrated that the DF&W policy, or the "more natural" rivers as they were prior to European occupation are better able to support current salmon harvest levels than does our current hatchery programs and highly modified rivers.

Harvests of salmon now are much greater than before European occupation. There is very little quantitative data, but indications are that current salmon harvests are 10 to 30 times greater than harvests prior to European occupation.

Our most productive river in the state for Sockeye Salmon is the Cedar River. The Cedar is dammed, diverted, ditched, diked and dredged. The watershed has been logged to an extreme. The river has been subjected to toxic drainage from coal mines, a superfund hazard site and extensive urban areas. With the exception of the Green River in King County Washington, it is the most highly modified of all of our rivers. So one of our most unnatural rivers is one of our most productive.

The Green River in King County Washington is even more highly modified than the Cedar River. Yet it is one of the most productive in Puget Sound for Chinook Salmon.

### **CANDIAN LYNX HOAX**

The Seattle Times published two articles by Linda Mapes concerning an apparent hoax related to the Canadian Lynx in the United States. The articles appeared in the December 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> 2001, editions, together with an editorial on December 19<sup>th</sup>. I will try to make these available on the internet.

The articles disclosed "that Federal and state of Washington employees on Washington public lands had sent bogus lynx-hair samples to a lab." "The samples are used by federal scientists surveying the presence of the threatened Canada lynx, and they play a part in determining whether logging and wintertime motorized recreation should be restricted to protect the animals." "The Forest Service has known about the hair samples since the fall of 2000."

### **SUMMARY**

It appears that there is no genuine effort to resolve our fisheries and environmental problems scientifically. As far as I can determine, only token investigations are being made and there is no systematic or scientific analysis of the problems, and no program of research, experimentation or investigation to resolve these issues. I believe that the absence of a coherent scientific investigation shows that the regulations are not intended to protect our environment or endangered species. Their real purpose is manipulation to serve special interests.

The regulations and river modifications are being made with no regard for public safety, property rights, maintaining salmon abundance, or protection of our environment.

The sum of my information and observations indicates that there effectively is a conspiracy to change our land use back to that before European occupation, when there was only a hunter/gatherer society.

There is a lot more information, and I am working to make it available on the internet. Call or send an email if you have questions or would like additional information.

Roger Lowe (425) 820-7454 [rloewe@main.net](mailto:rloewe@main.net)



## A Message from the President

**“As the year ends,”** says MVEC President Rick Spence, **“we find** ourselves reflecting on what we’ve achieved. Those achievements may seem minor to some but in fact they have been huge. Before we formed MVEC the valley was populated with citizens individually struggling with an unresponsive and punitive county government. Each landowner believed he or she was the only one who was incurring fines, facing illegal trespass by county employees or left on hold. By forming MVEC we came to know the extent of the coercion by county officials, the abuses and the lies. Our members have realized strength in numbers and have seen with their

own eyes how a group of many can have impact with the County Council and the media. We have passed a basin plan that the citizens actually support. We have gotten very favorable responses in print, on the radio and on television; from both the media and their audiences. MVEC is currently forming alliances with other community groups and is educating them on how to best to deal with their issues with the County. How great a leap would it be to see large groups of people banding together to put pressure on the King County Council to fire inept and unresponsive County staff? What a great day that would be!

“This month also sees a changing of the guard at the 4 Creeks UAC. The Council had remained a constant in the

community but had tended to remain too rooted. A few in the valley have been politically awakened and felt the time was ripe for their contribution to 4 Creeks. Congratulations to the people elected or re-elected. Their desire to serve, combined with the motivated members of MVEC, will help keep the bureaucracy in check and bring the entire 4 Creeks Area together for the betterment of the whole community. Their efforts will represent good schools, good roads, good environment and, most pointedly in this rainy season, good drainage.”

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**Protect  
Historic  
May Valley!**



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