

# The Naked Fish

A Publication of the May Valley Environmental Council

October - November 2003

## May Valley After 5 Inches in 24 Hours



**DICK COLASURDO'S PASTURE**

After the record setting rain in October, almost all of May Valley was under water. The picture above shows the water nearly to May Valley Road on Dick Colasurdo's pasture. Dick says the flooding the past couple of

years has been the worst since he has lived in May Valley. When the pictures above were taken, the water was right at the edge of the asphalt on 148th Avenue near the bridge.



**May Valley Flood Reduction Site**

The picture on the right is of the King County owned property just below the bridge on 164th Avenue. County staff calls that parcel the May Valley Flood Control Site and claims that it is one of the most

often flooded properties in the valley. Yet after the most rain in recorded history, it was high and dry. If you are going to spend \$300,000 to control flooding, you just as well start with property that doesn't flood!

## RECENT TOURS OF MAY CREEK PROVE PROMISING

In early October, Jim Osborne, Rick Spence and Rodney McFarland hosted a tour of May Creek for Troy Fields, Executive Director of Mid-Puget Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group (Mid Sound). He was accompanied by William O'Neil, the environmental lobbyist for Associated General Contractors of Washington.

Mid Sound was established in 1991 as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt non-profit organization that conducts fisheries enhancement and stream restoration in King and Kitsap Counties in Washington State. It is one of fourteen Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups (RFEG) in Washington state, authorized under RCW 77.95.060. Mid Sound is a volunteer-based organization that has completed over 200 projects since 1991. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife oversees any enhancement projects performed by the RFEGs so King County permitting and the SEPA process are typically not required.

Mid Sound relies on voluntary participation by land owners involved in the projects it does. Unlike King County regulators, Mr. Fields spoke of enhancements that actually made sense. He agreed that removing silt from the channel would be an enhancement.

Mr. Fields will get back with MVEC after he has had a chance to think further about projects that may be suitable for May Valley. Overall, the tour was very encouraging. The entire tone was different than the typical tour for King County staff. MVEC looks forward to working with Mid Sound.

On October 30, 2003, King County Councilman David Irons hosted a tour of May Creek for Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Region 4 Director Bob Everitt and three of his staff. With King County DNR staff and two MVEC members the 15-passenger van was full. The purpose of the tour was to familiarize WDFW personnel with the watershed and to get their input on what types of projects that they could permit.

The tour started at the mouth of the creek at the Barbie Mill and proceeded upstream. Stops along the canyon included the new trail in Newcastle and the Devil's Elbow area in Renton. A fair amount of time was spent at the bridge on 148th Avenue. Mr. Everitt proposed the addition of two culverts at the low spot in the road to relieve the backup created by raising the roadway over the years.

DNR engineer, Glenn Evans estimated the cost to do so at approximately \$200,000. Water and Land Resources Director Daryl Grigsby was asked to consider using the \$250,000 that went unused in May Valley this year to fund that project. The WDFW staff indicated that they could easily and quickly issue permits for such a project.

The next stop was at the McFarland's property where examples of sediment plugs, vegetation plugs, and the King County dredging project of last year are all easily accessible. WDFW staff agreed that the sediment needs to come out and suggested that working with Mid-Puget Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group would be the most likely way to get that done. They had some of the most recently published data available that shows that the largest problem with Coho egg survival in May Valley is excess sediment.

After having maintained that sediment is a major problem for the last few years, the MVEC members were delighted to hear it from professionals with the credentials to back up the common sense assessment. We hope that the King County representatives present were listening.

The tour continued on up the creek and included all three tributaries that combine to become May Creek. The WDFW staff were very encouraging that a true enhancement project could be done that would help both fish and flooding in May Valley. They indicated that the RFEGs as nongovernmental entities can get projects done that neither their own department nor King County can.

MVEC would like to thank Councilman Irons for arranging this tour and Director



**October Flooding in Upper May Valley**

**Complimentary Copy — See page 2 for details of how to receive future issues**

## The Give Take and Take of Politics

One of my neighbors had a conversation with one of the candidates for mayor of Renton the other day. My neighbor was attempting to explain some of the things that we are trying to achieve in May Valley and combat the lie that has been spread amongst our downstream neighbors – the lie that says if we do anything to relieve flooding in May Valley it will somehow harm the lower half of May Creek. The candidate for mayor listened politely and then told my neighbor that his only concern was doing what was best for Renton even though it might harm Renton's neighbors. I have heard that same line myself from a former mayor of Newcastle. Those same politicians scream loud and long if the neighbors outside of their jurisdictions even hint at taking the same attitude. Fortunately, the present mayor of Newcastle understands the situation better and is a much better neighbor.

Those of us who worked towards sensible changes to the basin plan as originally proposed by King County Department of Natural Resources made a huge tactical blunder. We naively thought that compromise would be reciprocated. The bureaucrats arrayed against us pretended to compromise but in fact had their fingers crossed behind their backs. The things we gave up seem to be gone forever while the things that they gave up are forced down our throats by different sets of bureaucrats. Words that we fought for are twisted and spun and used against us.

The basic argument is that in order for the residents of May Valley to be good neighbors to those downstream we must stand idly by while our property is destroyed by the ever increasing flood waters. And the folks downstream will be good neighbors by encouraging King County to force us to flood via biweekly letters. So much for reciprocity!

The concern in the lower half of May Creek is erosion. Flooding is the problem in May Valley. The dividing line is, for purposes of this discussion, 148<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The real line is just slightly west of 148<sup>th</sup>. The problems with erosion vary depending on location on May Creek. In preparing the 1980 May Creek Basin Plan, King County did extensive engineering studies on the causes and cures for erosion in lower May Creek at that time. An independent consultant determined that 80% of the erosion problems in May Creek were caused by floodwaters in Honey Creek and below. The engineer who did that study says that percentage is still accurate under current conditions. And yet the bureaucrats make the argument that if May Creek were put back to 1980 conditions, erosion would destroy lower May

Creek. There is no doubt that there is twice as much water coming down May Valley as in 1980. While some bureaucrats try to lay the blame on development in May Valley itself, the truth is that all the new water comes from development of the hills surrounding May Valley. May Valley was built out long before flooding became a problem. The bureaucrats that consume our surface water management tax will argue that the May Creek Basin Action Plan 2001 has strict rules to minimize surface water runoff from new developments. Those rules only apply to new plats, whereas most of the hills around May Valley are already platted. The rules have absolutely no effect on the waters that are already flooding us. The bureaucrats justify their salaries with this argument but they are shutting the barn doors after the horses are loose!

Those same bureaucrats are the ones that promote the lie that cleaning May Creek (the bureaucrats like the word dredging because it is politically incorrect) will increase flows downstream. The plain truth is that the roadway (think dam) and bridge at 148<sup>th</sup> control the downstream flow. The road and bridge at 148<sup>th</sup> have a unique configuration. The bridge was not designed to pass peak flood flows and has never done so. Just to the north of the bridge the road was intentionally left lower than the bridge so that peak floods could flow over the road. That was a standard design back then and more recent King County documents agree that the design was intentional.

The problem, of course, is that motorists using 148<sup>th</sup> to get from their homes in the hills to their jobs in the city didn't like the inconvenience of the gravel road or water over that road. In the 1940s, King County paved 148<sup>th</sup> and raised the low spot approximately 18 inches. Twenty-five years later they resurfaced 148<sup>th</sup> and raised the low spot another 12 inches. An additional 6 inches was added in 1992 and another 8 inches was added in 1998. The water has not gone over the road since, though it was right to the edge of the pavement in 2003. Dick Colasurdo, who lives just upstream, had more of his land under water in 2003 than at any time since he bought his farm in 1942. His flooding was at its highest when the water touched the edge of the asphalt on 148<sup>th</sup>.

Everyone, even King County engineers, agree that large storm surges, not normal flows, are the primary cause of erosion in lower May Creek as well as any other watershed. It is not the total volume of the flood but the amount of peak flow that primarily determines the amount of erosion. King County-mandated retention/detention

ponds operate on that premise. They are designed to contain the peak flow and release the water over time. Because the opening under the bridge at 148<sup>th</sup> is not big enough to handle the flow from storm events, the lower half of May Valley functions like a large retention/detention pond. Because the road has been raised there is actually less flow going downstream now than there was in 1942. There is more total volume going downstream but that extra volume is being stored on the properties above 148<sup>th</sup> and released slowly. The downstream property owners should be writing thank you letters to their upstream neighbors, not blaming them for the erosion as some downstream property owners do now.

Because the 148<sup>th</sup> Avenue bridge will only pass so much water, the flow rate cannot be increased by any activity above that bridge. May Creek could be dredged 40 feet deep and 40 feet wide and those below 148<sup>th</sup> would continue to receive the same volume of water at the same rate as they have since 1998. The rate since 1998 has been slower than the rate between 1992 and 1998 because less water can go over the road. The rate before 1992 was higher yet because even more water went over the road. Remember, that is why they keep raising the road.

Why would the property owners above 148<sup>th</sup> want to clean the ditch if the flow won't increase? The fields in May Valley have a half-inch layer of impervious sediment about 2 to 4 feet below the surface. Water cannot flow through that layer. The water that collects in the fields used to flow over that impervious layer and into the creek channel but now the channel is full of the same impervious sediment and the government regulators won't let us remove it. The bottom of the creek used to be gravel in many places. The water could percolate down through the gravel into the aquifer. Now that the channel is plugged with impervious silt, that does not happen. Water coming down from the hills simply flows over the silt and on downstream, actually increasing the amount of water going past those downstream neighbors who cling to the status quo. Cleaning the creek would once again give the water in the fields somewhere to go. The pastures would not be flooded half the year, which kills the useful grasses and promotes the growth of wetland plants. If the fields can actually drain slowly between storms, there will be much more room to store water there during storms and May Valley can once more work as the retention/detention pond it once was. It is not a coincidence that erosion between 148<sup>th</sup> and Coal Creek Parkway has increased dramatically over the same period of time that residents of May Valley have been restricted from maintaining the creek.

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We hope you enjoyed this issue and will join us in our attempt to bring some sense and sanity to environmental issues in King County. Back issues of *The Naked Fish* are available at:  
[www.maycreek.com](http://www.maycreek.com)

Thinking cannot be carried on without the materials of thought; and the materials of thought are facts, or else assertions that are presented as facts. A mass of details stored up in the mind does not in itself make a thinker; but on the other hand thinking is absolutely impossible without that mass of details. And it is just this latter impossible operation of thinking without the materials of thought which is being advocated by modern pedagogy and is being put into practice only too well by modern students. In the presence of this tendency, we believe that facts and hard work ought again to be allowed to come to their rights: it is impossible to think with an empty mind.

J. Gresham Machen

*The Naked Fish* is published by May Valley Environmental Council (MVEC) a non-profit community group dedicated to sensible environmental management of private property. Articles in *The Naked Fish* cover subjects of concern both to local and national readers. We try to provide environmental information not commonly found in the major media. Articles with by-lines reflect the research, views and opinions of the author which may not reflect positions on the issues adopted by MVEC.

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### MAY VALLEY ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

MEETS EVERY MONDAY  
7:00 P.M.

IN THE BASEMENT  
OF LEONARD'S  
AT THE CORNER OF  
SR 900  
&  
164 AVENUE NE



# Lies, Dam' Lies, and Spin

By Rodney McFarland

In forty years of reading newspaper accounts of subjects with which I am more than passingly familiar, I have discovered that most articles get at least some (often most) of the facts wrong. Newspapers do a good job of reporting on the who, what, when and where of fires and burglaries and meetings, but on any subject where there might be two or more viewpoints they often fail to separate fact from fantasy. It is not the reporters' fault. They have been taught to find and listen to all sides before reporting. In their own self-interest, all sides will attempt to put the best possible "spin" (spin is distinguished from lying because it is usually technically true but only part of the real story) on their version. Politicians and bureaucrats are particularly good at spin and often employ a professional to do their spinning for them. King County DNRP's spinmeister is Carolyn Duncan. A good example of her craft was contained in Sara Bader's November 5, 2003, article about May Creek.

I have more than a passing knowledge of this subject. I have been involved daily since becoming involved in the negotiations leading to the May Creek Basin Action Plan that was adopted in 2001. I have attended every substantive meeting of King County bureaucrats or politicians and May Valley residents except one that took place when I was out of town on business. To my knowledge, Carolyn Duncan has never been at any meeting that I have attended. I have read all the documents, studies, etc. having anything to do with May Creek that I have been able to get my hands on, including the thousands of pages of internal DNR communications that May Valley Environmental Council obtained via public disclosure.

The current King County spin is that they have spent over one million dollars since the basin plan was approved to "improve flow and quality." King County has certainly spent over a million dollars. The question is: has it improved flow and quality? The best way to improve flow is to remove the silt from the channel and the way to improve

quality is to improve flow so that septic systems do not flood. Removing silt also improves quality. The projects and related expenditures were outlined in an August 11, 2003, email from DNRP's Ingrid Lundin to the Four Creeks Unincorporated Area Council. A close look at those expenditures reveals Ms. Duncan's spin. The table below was cut and pasted from Ms. Lundin's document. The following numbered paragraphs give the real story:

1. The Neighborhood Drainage Assistance Program projects were before the Basin Plan was in effect and no one I have talked to that lives in May Valley knows what was done.
2. The Small Habitat Restoration Program project on the Colasurdo property paid for fencing and tree plantings in the riparian area. The tree plantings had the negative effect of "bank building" along the creek, which has increased the flooding of Mr. Colasurdo's property. The increased flooding easily offsets any improvement that the fencing provides to quality.
3. The McFarland sediment removal project cleaned 256 feet of creek at a cost of \$550.78 per foot. Approximately \$20,000 was spent actually cleaning the channel

and planting the obligatory trees as mitigation. The other \$120,000 was spent on bureaucrat's salaries to engineer and permit the project. The project was exactly what May Valley residents have wanted since 1965. The cost to have DNRP do it (the only entity that King County's Sensitive Areas Ordinance will allow to remove sediment) seems excessive. It would cost over \$8 million to do the rest of May Valley.

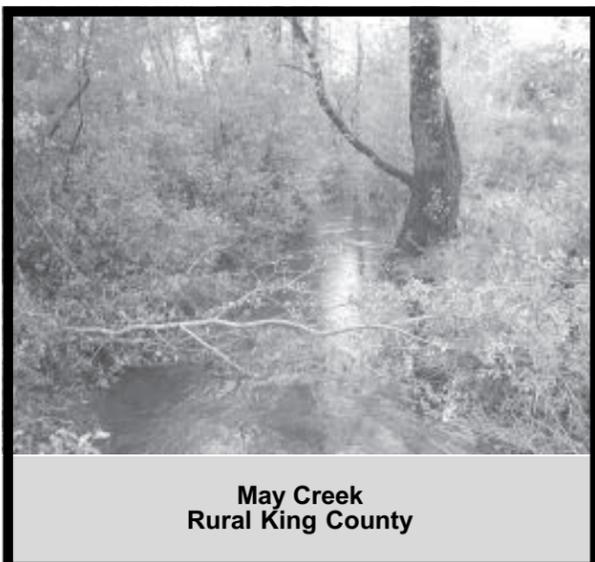
4. The Muncy/Pinkley acquisition also happened before the Basin Plan was approved. DNRP removed a home and out-buildings from one of the driest parcels in May Valley. No attempt was made to improve flow. In the future the flow will be reduced due to the large woody debris and trees planted on the property. The wood and trees will entrap additional sediment and attract even more beaver dam building causing increased flooding of properties upstream.
5. The Bruce acquisition, relocation, and demolition was heartily supported by valley residents. Most believe that the money could have been better spent on cleaning the creek thus solving the flooding problem on the Bruce property as well as adjoining properties. Removing this

- home did nothing to improve flow.
6. The Pillon abatement on the Muncy property has been an example of bureaucratic persecution of a citizen who had the courage and audacity to actually improve flow on property owned by the bureaucrats. Mr. Pillon removed sediment and garbage from a reach of May Creek where the most recent WRIA 8 documents identify the primary problem for coho survival as excess sediment. Most of the \$105,000 spent on abatement was merely to run up the bill on Mr. Pillon so that Pam Bissonette's off-the-cuff estimate of \$100,000 of environmental damage could be justified. Mr. Pillon's actions improved flow and decreased sediment. King County's "abatement" work (trees and large woody debris) will decrease flow and increase sediment.
7. The next-to-last row on the list includes a laundry list of items, only one of which has resulted in any flow improvement. In 2001 King County paid trapper Jensen less than \$2500 for trapping beavers in May Valley. The other \$149,000 was spent on words, paper and monitoring; great ways to justify bureaucrat's salaries but, so far, ineffective in improving flow.
8. The last line fails to show the \$60,000 per year (totalling \$240,000 for 4 years) cost of a basin steward to manage the words, paper and monitoring mentioned above. (Fortunately, we no longer have a county basin steward.) It also does not include the \$350,000 for the worthless fish ladder on tributary 291a.

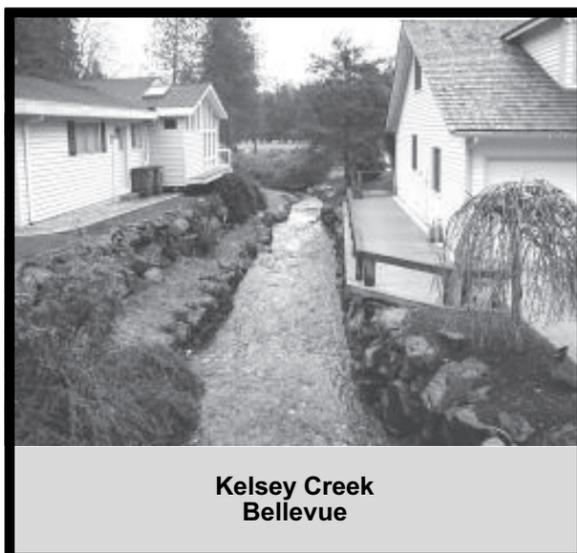
Let's give the County lines 1, 3, 5 and \$2500 of beaver trapping for a total of \$571,000. That leaves \$556,643 from Ms. Lundin's table plus \$240,000 for the basin steward and \$350,000 for the fish ladder for a grand total of \$1,144,143 in stupid expenditures. For every inflated dollar that might have done some good, they wasted two more dollars stupidly. And when May Valley residents refuse to spend more tax dollars on stupid projects, Carolyn Duncan labels those property owners as uncooperative — as though that is a bad thing.

May Valley Expenditures to Year End 2002		
Project	Completion Date	Cost
Neighborhood Drainage Assistance Program – two projects	since 1998	\$52,000
Small Habitat Restoration Program – Colasurdo property	1998	\$25,643
McFarland Project – sediment removal	2002	\$141,000
Muncy/Pinkley - Acquisition, relocation, and demolition	2001	\$274,000
Bruce - Acquisition, relocation, and demolition	Since 1998	\$378,000
Abatement of Pillon dredge on KC parcel at 164 <sup>th</sup> St	2001-2002	\$105,000
Other activities including beaver trapping, meetings, information gathering, project scoping, negotiations with property owners over flood reduction, channel clearing, beaver dam and invasive weed removal projects, channel survey, water quality and quantity monitoring.	Since 1998	\$152,000
This list does not include expenditures that are directly associated with capital projects including Basin Steward services, drainage and water quality complaints and investigations.		
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$1,127,643</b>

## Buffer - Buffer! Who Gets the Bigger Buffer?



May Creek  
Rural King County



Kelsey Creek  
Bellevue



Honey Creek  
Renton  
(The creek is under the parking lot)

The environmental bureaucrats think that the salvation for fish and wildlife in King County is better habitat, usually defined as bigger stream and wetland buffers. Guess which of these three areas they think is most in need of additional buffer width?

If you went to school with any of the bureaucrats running the land use organizations in King County, you chose Rural King County! See the several hundred pages of the proposed Critical Areas Ordinance for details.

## Letter To The Editor

Dear Ed,

Even the most inbred, bucktoothed, banjo picking hillbilly back in Appalachia know [sic] you don't build your house in the bottom. You build your house on the ridge, and farm the bottom. Why? BECAUSE THE BOTTOM FLOODS! You people must have known, when you bought or built in May Valley, that the stream will flood. If you did not, please read the first sentence of this letter until you understand it! What you people should have done is bought, or built on the banks of the Los Angeles River in California, because what you want to make of May Creek is readily available there. Yes, sometimes giant ants come out of the culverts there, but that suit [sic] me OK. I would not pay ten cents for your ridiculous news rag, but I'll be glad to donate ten dollars [sic] the fund to establish a Home for People to [sic] Stupid to be Hillbillies, as long as you build it in L.A. where you belong!

Sincerely,

Keith Gilbert

[Over the years The Naked Fish has received a few letters to the editor but none have been as entertaining as this one. It also brings home the point that many of the rules and regulations promulgated by King County bureaucrats are an attempt to appease former Californians such as Mr. Gilbert. Mr. Gilbert is an obvious expert on the Los Angeles River but most of our other readers are probably not. The two pictures that are printed beside this column are of the Los Angeles River (top) and the stretch of May Creek that was cleaned in 2002 (bottom). The similarities that Mr. Gilbert points out are obvious.

The old-time farmers of May Valley would love to be able to farm the valley like they did back when they bought their properties. But the days of farming hops, beans, raspberries, and hay are long gone along with the dairies. Unfortunately, as a relative newcomer to our neighborhood, Mr. Gilbert is obviously unaware of the extensive history of farming in May Valley that is no longer possible because of the increased water coming from hillside homes such as his. Perhaps he could go to our website at [www.maycreek.com](http://www.maycreek.com) and peruse a few of our back issues and get up to speed.

So that Mr. Gilbert does not have to spend his entire yearly budget for educational materials on our rag, we are providing a year's free subscription to him. — Ed.]



Los Angeles River



May Creek Cleaned By King County

"If a man empties his purse into his head, no man can take it away from him. An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest."

— Benjamin Franklin

## Rural Contract

Washington state Republican Chairman Chris Vance announced in early October the following "Rural Contract."

1. Require that all environmental rules and regulations be applied uniformly to urban and rural areas throughout the state.
2. Require fact-based, peer-reviewed science be used as the basis for environmental rules, regulations or enforcement actions.
3. Ensure that water rights stay with landowners and other water users and not transfer to state ownership. Encourage Department of Ecology to expedite the processing of the backlog of water rights applications.
4. Reform the current one-size-fits-all mandatory Growth Management Act to allow counties to opt out.
5. Revise the Shoreline Management Act based on fact-based, peer-reviewed science to be applied on a site specific, case-by-case basis rather than one-size-fits-all.
6. Re-emphasize to state agencies that the burden of proof lies with the state when environmental charges are made by those agencies and their enforcement officers. Republicans stand behind the concept "innocent until proven guilty."
7. Educate and ensure that regulations adopted for public lands are not imposed on private lands.
8. Encourage federal elected officials to revise the Endangered Species Act to reflect the rights of the people and to justly compensate property owners.

"... rural areas depend on natural resources, farming, mining, fishing and so forth, and those have been decimated by Democratic policies that go too far," Vance said in an interview. "They talk about One Washington, but they're only talking about the people they can see from the observation deck of the Space Needle. Republicans aren't willing to give up on rural Washington."

Democrats responded by calling the contract "nothing but a cheap political gimmick." Gimmick or not, it is nice to know that at least a few politicians understand the destruction happening to Washington's rural areas in the name of the environment.



### Important Notice Comprehensive Plan 2004 Review Draft

The second major update to the King County Comprehensive Plan must be done by the end of 2004. A review draft has been released by King County and is available on the King County web site at <http://www.metrokc.gov/ddes/compplan/2004/PubRevDraft/>. Comments must be submitted by January 9, 2004.

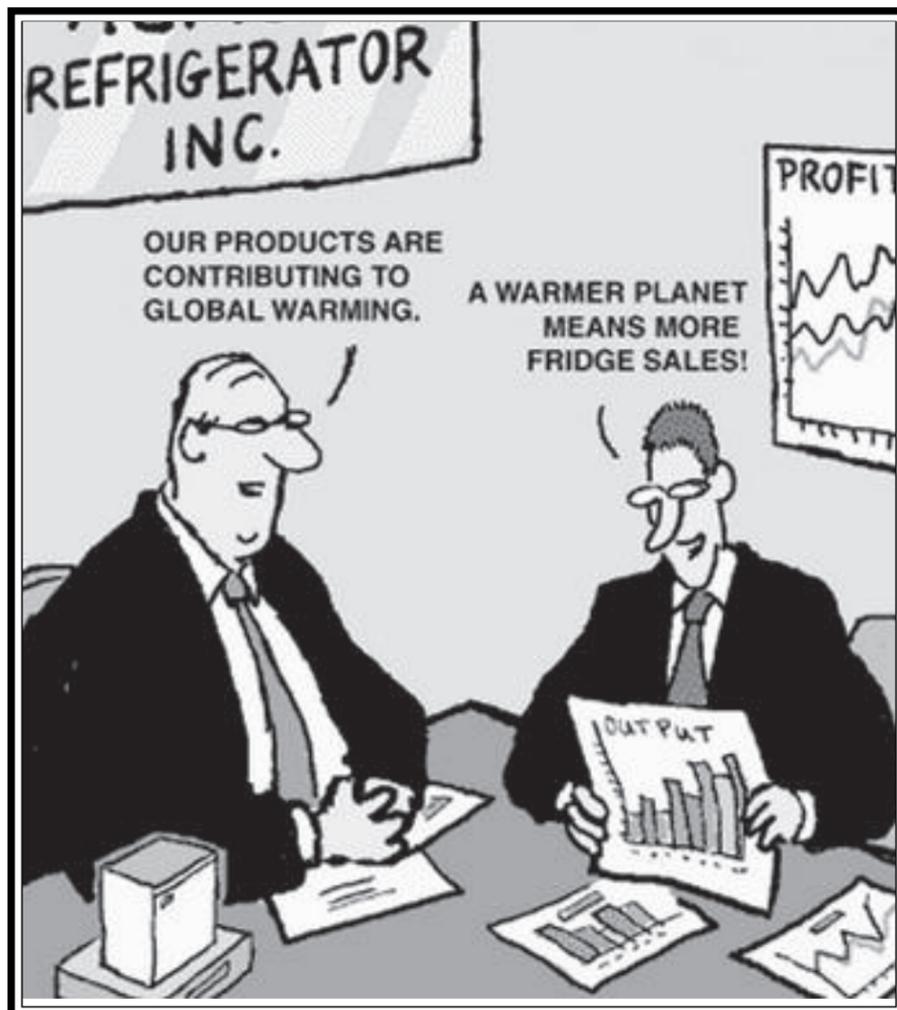
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40	37.63
45	63.00
50	98.88
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60	252.00
65	435.73
70	831.25
75	1588.13

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# Studies Lack Hard Evidence That Warming Is Human-Induced

By Sallie Baliunas, Ph.D.

The decision to mount America's largest military invasion, the D-Day landing on the Normandy beaches, relied on a weather forecast.

Meteorologists studied decades of weather maps from the North Atlantic in order to gain forecasting acumen. Then on June 4, 1944, 5,000 ships carrying 86,000 soldiers crushed against the waters of the English Channel, while 13,000 support aircraft held for an unfavorable June 4 weather forecast. But the June 5 forecasts indicated improved conditions, so Gen. Eisenhower ordered the D-Day invasion for the next day. If that forecast hadn't been accurate, the assault troops might never have reached Normandy's beaches. Thus, modern soldiers have come to know the importance of reliable weather forecasts for technological battlefields.

Today a scientifically accurate understanding of weather and climate is essential for economies built on technology. Human use of coal, oil, natural gas and other fossil fuels has increased the concentration of carbon dioxide in the air. The belief is that this added CO<sub>2</sub> is causing a significant warming of the climate.

The latest report of the U.N.'s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), using several computer simulations, forecasts a human-made global-warming trend between 1.4 and 5.8 degrees C by 2100, with a middle value of about 2.8 degrees C.

To prevent the warming, the Kyoto agreement asks America to drastically cut its CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and energy use by about 40 percent from today's consumption, which surely will yield a worldwide economic disaster. Yet are the forecasts of human made global warming in the century ahead reliable? Will things turn out as badly as some say? And can cutting back fossil fuel use really reduce global warming?

The answer to the first question is "not very." The second, "not likely." The third, "not much, if anything at all." To know why, we need to look at the scientific record.

## Natural Causes or Not?

Yes, CO<sub>2</sub> is a greenhouse gas, which helps keep some of the sun's energy from returning to space. The IPCC forecast of the climate's response to this small amount of extra energy comes from the encoding of present ideas about climate into sophisticated computer simulations. These simulations say that the temperature near the surface and through the first five miles of air, the troposphere, should warm. Has that happened? Compared to the previous five centuries or so, the 20th century did show a warming trend, with a globally averaged surface temperature rise of 0.5 C.

But look deeper, and the proof of human-induced warming dissipates like so much hot air.

First, most of the warming occurred before 1940 - before 80 percent of the CO<sub>2</sub> from human activities was added to the air. This means that the early 20th century warming must be mostly natural.

Second, the climate record of the past 1,000 years suggests this temperature rise is hardly unique. New information about historical climate change obtained from trees, glaciers, ice cores, coral and the like indicate a widespread Medieval Warm Period from about 800 to 1200 A.D. Subsequently, tempera-

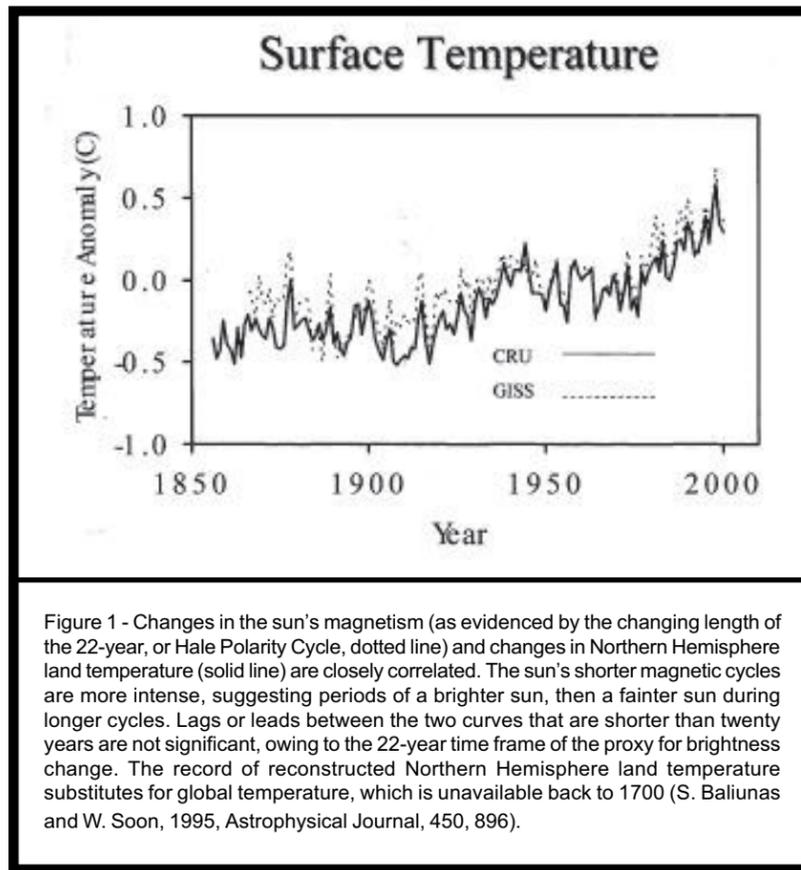
tures dropped markedly, creating a Little Ice Age that persisted nearly to the 20th century. So the 20th century's warming seems largely a natural rebound from the cold spell.

But what about the past several decades, when the CO<sub>2</sub> content of the air rose most dramatically?

A critical problem for those claiming human-induced warming is that the computer climate simulations predict both surface temperatures and those of the lower troposphere should rise together. Moreover, the lower troposphere should warm the most.

in two- to seven-year periods. They provide no proof that mankind is causing global warming to occur.

But what is causing surface temperatures to rise? A chart of surface temperatures going back more than 240 years shows a strong correlation between them and cycles of the sun's magnetism. Satellite measurements of the past two decades demonstrate the sun is a variable star, with its total energy output changing in step with periodic changes in its magnetism. This correlation suggests that changes in the sun's energy output of a few tenths of a percent over decades may explain



For more than three decades, surface temperatures actually fell slightly before starting to rise again in the late 1970s. Tropospheric temperatures showed no warming from the inception of measurements by balloon-borne instruments in 1957 until 1976. From 1976 to 1977, an upward shift occurred. But between 1979, after the advent of daily global-satellite measurements of tropospheric temperatures, and the present, neither satellite nor balloon data show a manmade warming trend.

Proponents of human-made global warming say soot from industries has acted as an aerosol to mask a larger warming trend. But that unravels because whereas CO<sub>2</sub> disperses globally, aerosols tend to stick more closely to where they are released. And the southern hemisphere, which is relatively free of aerosols, actually showed a cooling trend.

The point is that the best data collected from satellites and validated by balloons to test the hypothesis of a human-induced global warming from the release of CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere shows no meaningful trend of increasing temperatures, even as the climate models exaggerated the warmth that ought to have occurred from a build-up in CO<sub>2</sub>.

## What's Wrong with Models?

Climate models are too simplistic. They must deal with more than 5 million variables, including many that are uncertain or unmeasured. For example, the models lack key information about two major climate effects: water vapor and clouds. Little wonder that these models haven't reproduced the major features of present or past climate, such as the El Niño oscillations, that occur

many of the temperature changes over the centuries. Measurements made at Mount Wilson Observatory in Los Angeles of hundreds of other sun like stars indicate the amounts of such changes are entirely possible.

Evidence of any substantial human-induced warming is, at best, weak. But wouldn't such warming, if it were going on, be dangerous? Why not take precautions and cut back our use of fossil fuels?

First, the warming is likely natural, and second, warming probably poses less of a threat than cooling would. People benefited from the Medieval Warm Period, with its equable climate conditions, compared to the subsequent deterioration during the Little Ice Age. Fig trees grew in Koln, Germany; vineyards were found in England; and Vikings sailed the seas to colonize Iceland, Greenland and possibly Newfoundland. After the onset of the Little Ice Age, growing seasons shortened, the North Sea became stormier, and life expectancy dropped back by about 10 years due to starvation and harsh weather conditions of a colder climate.

The 20th century's warming has extended growing seasons, too. And increased CO<sub>2</sub> also has helped increase crop yields to feed more people.

No deleterious global climate effects can be identified with energy use. Instead, vast numbers of people have been raised from poverty by the economic growth that energy use produces.

By contrast, a rash cutback in energy use, as required by the 1997 Kyoto Protocol could

trigger a prolonged worldwide recession. Even economists from the Clinton administration now admit that the price tag for America would run to hundreds of billions of dollars annually. The rising energy prices needed to enforce conservation would especially hurt lower-income workers, who spend a greater proportion of their incomes on energy. And their sacrifice would accomplish little. According to the computer models global-warming alarmists rely upon, temperatures, after implementing the Kyoto Protocol, would decline less than a few tenths Celsius by the year 2100 -beneath notice, given the bounds of natural climate change.

America has led the scientific study of global warming with approximately \$18 billion in research funding over the past decade. That research shows the threat of catastrophic warming is miniscule against the backdrop of natural change. The best thing now would be to improve the climate simulations and better pinpoint any human effect, while readying cost-effective measures in mitigation and adaptation.

As soldiers can understand, the nation needs a more reliable climate forecast before launching an assault on global warming that could swamp the economy in energy regulations from which the world might never recover.



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Her awards include the Newton-Lacy-Pierce Prize of the American Astronomical Society, the Peter Beckmann Award for Scientific Freedom and the Bok Prize from Harvard University. She has written over 200 scientific research articles. In 1991, *Discover* magazine profiled her as one of America's outstanding women scientists. She was technical consultant for a science-fiction television series, "Gene Roddenberry's Earth: Final Conflict," airing 1997 - 2001. She received her M.A. (1975) and Ph.D. (1980) degrees in Astrophysics from Harvard University. Her research interests include solar variability and other factors in climate change, magnetohydrodynamics of the sun and sunlike stars, exoplanets and the use of laser electro-optics for the correction of turbulence due to the earth's atmosphere in astronomical images.

## \$12 Million and the Fish Are Dying

The environmental evangelists like to pretend that they understand our environment well enough to justify the promulgation of the rules and regulations that prevent us from using much of our land. They like to pretend that they understand what habitat is good for salmon and what habitat is not good for salmon. They love to “educate” the rest of us so that we will volunteer our labor and money towards providing that good habitat. One of their showcase projects of an “enhanced” salmon stream is shown in the accompanying pictures. The pictures are of Longfellow Creek in West Seattle.

Longfellow has been the recipient of at least \$12 million and countless hours of volunteer time. It is a beautifully “restored” salmon creek. Large woody debris has been added extensively so there are abundant pools. The bottom is gravel. The water is cool, clean and full of oxygen. The blackberries have been removed from the banks and replaced with the correct “native” vegetation. The problem is that 80-90% of the salmon that return to it die before they spawn. No one, including the fish “experts”, knows why.

Last year they blamed it on runoff from the roads and parking lots. They said that the first rain of the year caused a “first flush” of pollutants to enter the creek just as the fish started up it. This year we got five inches in one day early on and the fish are still dying during the second major rain. Even the fish experts are admitting that they don’t know why. They have tested for all the man-made culprits normally blamed and come up empty. Fish kept in tanks full of the water from Longfellow Creek don’t die.

Fauntleroy, Kelsey and other “restored” creeks in King County have had similar mortality problems with returning spawning coho.

Could it be that the expert’s “enhance-

ments” aren’t really enhancements in the eyes of the fish? Maybe the experts aren’t really experts after all! Maybe Dr. William McNeil, former Oregon State professor of fisheries, was right back in 2000. After studying 20 years worth of salmon data collected on the Columbia River and its tributaries, he found an amazing fact. Streams labeled as having “poor” habitat by the human experts had more than double the production of actual fish than the streams labeled as having “good” habitat by those same experts. Streams labeled “fair” had triple the production of streams labeled “good.”

A very extensive and on-going study of two streams on Vancouver Island shows similar results. The Keogh River has been extensively “enhanced” using all the techniques currently in favor by the experts. The neighboring Waukwaas River was left alone. Guess which river has the best fish production? That’s right, the Waukwaas! Part of the way into the study they had to start artificially fertilizing the Keogh in an attempt to get production back up.

Right here in King County a recent study of “enhanced” streams by Marit Larson (Effectiveness of Large Woody Debris in Stream Rehabilitation Projects in Urban Basins-2000) show that the results of all the work have been neutral to slightly negative in terms of fish habitat.

The moral of the story is that the fish experts don’t really know what it is going to take to sustain the enormous harvests of salmon that we have come to expect. It is good that they are experimenting with various methods. There are still numerous hypotheses that need testing. They are, however, not at the point where they can show successful or repeatable results. Until they reach that stage, their work should not be considered “best available science” and should not be used as the excuse for land use regulations that destroy private value in the name of public good.



### Buy A Noble Fir - Build A House

**Christmas Trees For Sale**

by

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Youth Group**

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**Sunday 12-9 p.m.**

**Mon-Fri 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.**

**Saturday 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.**

This will be the 4th year that Issaquah Christian Church will be sending a team to Mexico. The team will be working with others from churches in Washington and Oregon and building houses for poor families in Tijuana and its suburbs. They will also be conducting vision clinics and Vacation Bible Schools. The funds raised from selling Christmas trees will go to pay for supplies for the house building projects, clinics, and transportation, lodging and food.



## Critical Areas Ordinance – King County’s Draft 2

By Rodney McFarland

Ten years into the debacle known as the Growth Management Act (GMA), Washington’s cities and counties are being required to fine tune their regulatory control of growth using “Best Available Science” as mandated by a 1995 administrative rule added to the GMA by state bureaucrats. In order to better understand King County’s currently proposed regulatory changes affecting land use, we need to understand the science involved and its relation to the politics that control King County government.

There are three broad categories of science that come into play in this issue. They are physical science, biological science and political science. Physical and biological sciences encompass the systems and procedures that humans use to understand and describe the workings of the universe in which we live. They attempt to ascertain the facts about our world. Physical sciences such as physics and chemistry that use the scientific method of observation, hypothesis and experimentation determine their facts with the highest degree of certainty. The biological sciences, which include environmental science, have a harder time establishing their facts with a high degree of certainty due to the difficulty of controlling all the variables involved.

Political science is the process by which a community’s decisions are made, rules for group behavior are established, competition for positions of leadership is regulated, and the disruptive effects of disputes are minimized. Facts may have no bearing on the conduct of politics. The book, *People, power, and politics. An introduction to political science*, by Donovan, Morgan, and Potholm makes the claim that “Politics is the father of lies.”

Politics and science would seem to be strange bedfellows.

Politicians usually make their decisions based on a wide range of inputs and considerations. While scientific facts as we currently know them can be one of those considerations, science is certainly not the driving force of politics. The politicians that

lifestyle. Slipping in a change via administrative rule that implies that science has the answer only proves the correctness of the statement that “Politics is the father of lies.”

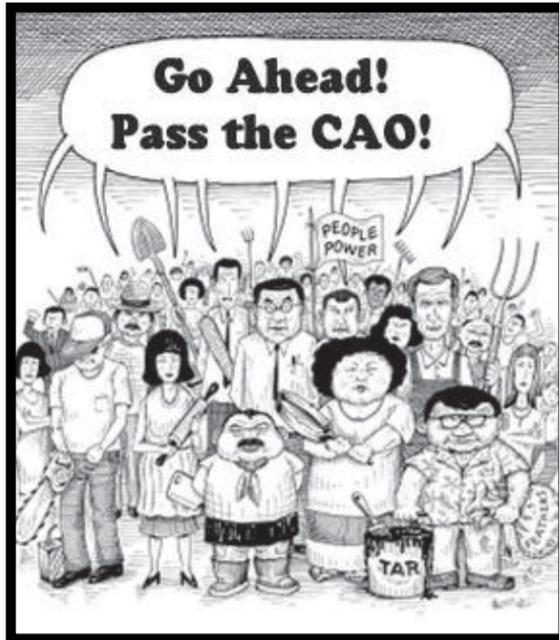
Even if we bought off on the argument that science could save the GMA, the science being touted is very elusive. Much of it is unproven hypothesis that has not made the leap to theory let alone law (scientific law

politicians to decide how best to balance all the factors. The revisions proposed in the Critical Areas Ordinance and associated ordinances seem to ignore most of those other factors.

The revisions add an ever-increasing burden of regulation to the rural areas of King County. They ignore the social and economic impacts that bear disproportionately on rural residents, the very residents that have best cared for their “critical areas” while giving a pass to the urban residents who have destroyed theirs. Science does not dictate that a small minority of property owners must pay the cost of saving “critical” areas. Politics is dictating that! If the new regulations do indeed benefit the entire public, then the entire public should bear the cost as provided for in Article 1, Section 16 of the Washington State Constitution.

People and businesses are leaving King County. It is not the destruction of “critical” areas that is driving them away. It is the destruction of our economy and failure to attack real problems, such as transportation, that are driving them away. The number one issue in all the polls is transportation. King County’s spending only \$80 million a year on transportation, out of a \$3 billion total budget borders on malfeasance.

Hiding behind the shield of science while jousting imaginary environmental windmills does more harm than good. Instead of dragging science down into the gutter with them, perhaps the politicians need to step up and face the real issues and once again make this county and state a desirable place to live and a safe place to own property.



sculpted the GMA are the ones that made the decision to use regulatory force to attempt to achieve results desired by a minority of Washington voters. That decision started us down the road leading to the current disconnect between the stated goals of the GMA (see the February 2003 issue of *The Naked Fish* for information about the goals of the GMA) and the actual results of increased traffic, decreased economy, higher housing costs and the destruction of rural

that is). Many scientists not employed by state or county agencies question the facts of the science being used. Science didn’t make the decisions necessary to implement the GMA, politicians and bureaucrats did.

The GMA itself mandates that the politicians and bureaucrats of Washington’s cities and counties look at numerous other factors in achieving its stated goals. It is up to those

**We can not solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them!**  
— Albert Einstein

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## Congratulations to These MVEC Endorsed Candidates



David Irons  
King County Council



Steve Hammond  
King County Council



Pam Lee  
Newcastle City Council



Bill Erxleben  
Newcastle City Council

## The Night Before Christmas

As Reported by Dale Koler

Twas the night before Christmas and all through May Valley  
not a creature was stirring, not even Bert or Sally –  
they were stuck in the silt.

The stockings were hung on the 164<sup>th</sup> bridge with care  
Hoping Saint Nick soon would be there.

Residents were asleep in their beds  
While visions of clean water danced in their heads



Out in Pioneer Park there rose such a clatter  
They jumped from their beds to see what was the matter.

What to their wondering eyes should appear but a King County car  
With Chris Tiffany at the wheel and Ron Sims by her side.

They said not a word but went straight to their work  
Posting code violations throughout the Valley.

As they worked they were heard to say, “those MVEC  
people are putting up one hell of a fight!  
And to all a good night!”

[Editor's Note: We originally ran this piece last year. We had high hopes that by this Christmas, with King County's help, we would have removed some of the silt from May Creek so that Bert and Sally could join us for Christmas. Unfortunately, the only positive step the County has taken so far has been the reassignment of Chris Tiffany.]

## From the President

Jim Osborne



Here we are at the end of another year during which King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP) has done nothing to benefit the residents or fish of May Valley. The 2003 budget called for \$250,000 to be spent in May Valley. DNRP will tell you they have spent over a million dollars in May Valley since the May Valley Basin Action Plan was passed in 2001. Over half of that money has proven to be of no benefit whatsoever.

The one hundred and something thousand spent at McFarlands' helped – that project was way over-priced, but it helped. The \$330,000 to buy out and move Jullianne Bruce and her children helped. All the rest was just wasted money!

The County property at 164<sup>th</sup> is being advertised as flood storage by the county but was high and dry the day we had 5" of rain. Almost half a million has been spent on this property with no benefit to fish or residents.

I always wonder why the county never includes the fish ladder that the fish can't get to and how much it cost. Estimates are around \$350,000. Anybody see a pattern here?

The county spin doctors will tell you that the residents will not cooperate. I tell them, "If you spend our money wisely, you will have full cooperation. If you insist on throwing money away on projects that have no benefit, either to people or the environment, then, yes, we have a cooperation problem!"

Over the last month we have met with and developed relations with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), the Washington Department of Transportation (DOT), and Mid-Puget Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group. DOT has the money, Mid Sound and WDFW have the leadership, the expertise and the desire. It's funny that these groups say that for May Creek to be a good salmon bearing stream the silt has to go. WDFW showed us charts of what kind of fish and how many are coming up the stream but with the silt all spawning is a waste of time. A term we came up with that I personally love is "recreational spawning". ie. the fish come up, they lay their eggs, the males fertilize, and then they get buried in silt and produce no fish.

I'm very excited to see what happens in the coming year. We now have true fish professionals that see the problem and are willing to work with us, and an agency with the money to spend. And the biggest encouragement is that they have some desire! After dealing with King County, this is very nice to see. DNRP tells us that if we remove the silt and vegetation from the channel, it will kill the fish. Nothing is further from the truth. I have come to the conclusion that either King County needs to learn what is really good for fish and people or they need to disband DNRP and save the taxpayers a lot of money on a useless bureaucracy.

## May Valley Environmental Council

Would like you to come to our

**Community Potluck**

**Monday**

**December 8, 2003**

**6:00 p.m.**

**May Valley Alliance Church  
16431 SE Renton-Issaquah Rd**

**Meet your neighbors!  
Enjoy good food and conversation!  
Become part of our community!**