

NEWSLETTER

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Wall Street Journal.....

SCENE & HEARD

It's Not So Green in the Dark

The lights go out in California. Armchair environmentalists had it coming.

BY KIMBERLEY A. STRASSEL

Thursday, February 8, 2001 12:01 a.m. EST

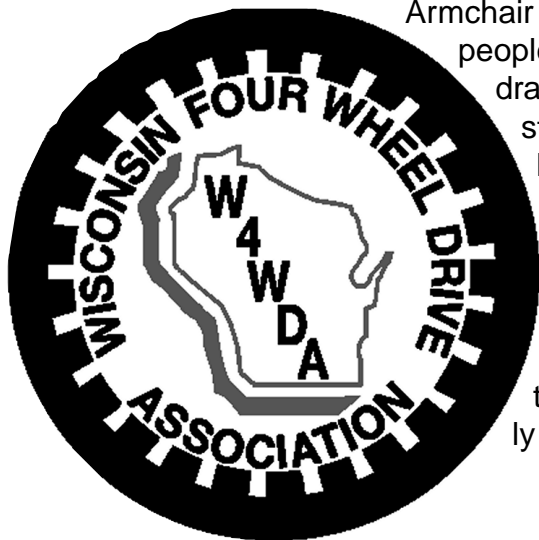
Well, boo hoo hoo. That's the most sympathy I can muster for all those Californians currently tripping over their espresso makers in the dark. For once we have some justice. Very bad decisions mean very cold hot tubs.

I'm not talking here about deregulation (though the bureaucrats sure botched the job). I'm talking about supporting extreme environmentalism.

California is home to any number of earth-saving groups. More to the point, it's home to an inordinate number of people who fund them. From the Napa Valley to the Imperial, middle-class, left-leaning types have stumped up quite a bit of booty for "good environmental causes." Californians consider themselves some of nature's best friends.

But now these armchair environmentalists are faced with a big decision. A decade's worth of ill-advised programs are starting to cramp their cushy lifestyles. California enacted some of the strictest environmental rules in the world and refused to build any new dam or plant. Now, with supply low and prices high, the state is flailing. And so the armchair crowd must decide: Will they support radical environmentalism or pragmatic conservation?

Armchair environmentalists are very much a product of our times. They're the people who say we mustn't cut down trees or drill in the tundra, but then drag their children through Yellowstone in a gas-guzzling SUV and start campfires on the side of the road. They sit in their four-bedroom houses, on nice one-acre plots at the edge of town, and fret about urban sprawl. They own energy-sucking computers and televisions, but adamantly oppose new hydroelectric dams. Once a year, perhaps twice, they sit down and write fat checks to the Sierra Club or Greenpeace. And they feel very good about themselves. There are a lot of these folks. They qualify for the "armchair" label, because they actually know very little about the environment. They don't really need to, because their mission isn't really to do right



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Paul Harvey; About Dirt Roads

What's mainly wrong with society today is that too many Dirt Roads have been paved. There's not a problem in Canada or America today....crime, drugs, lack of education, divorce, delinquency that couldn't be remedied, if we just had more Dirt Roads. Dirt Roads give folks character.

People that live at the end of Dirt Roads learn early on that life is a bumpy ride. That it can jar you right down to your teeth sometimes but it's worth it, if at the end is home ... a loving spouse, happy kids and a ugly dog. We wouldn't have near the trouble with our educational system if our kids got their exercise walking a Dirt Road with other kids, from whom they would learn how to get along.

There was less crime in our streets before they were paved. Criminals didn't walk two dusty miles to rob or rape if they knew they would be welcomed by 5 barking dogs and a double barrel shotgun. And there were no drive-by shootings then either.

Our values were better when our roads were worse! People didn't worship their cars more than their kids, and motorists were more courteous, they didn't tailgate by riding the bumper or the guy in front would choke you with dust and bust your windshield with rocks.

Dirt Roads taught patience. Dirt Roads were environmentally friendly. You didn't hop in your car for a quart of milk, you walked to the barn for your milk. For your mail, you walked to the mail box. What if it rained and the Dirt Road got washed out! t? That was the best part, then you stayed home and had some family time, roasted marshmallows and popped popcorn and pony rides on Daddy's shoulders and learned how to make prettier quilts than anybody.

At the end of Dirt Roads, you soon learned that bad words tasted like soap. Most paved roads lead to trouble, but Dirt Roads more likely lead to a fishing creek or a swimming hole. At the end of a Dirt Road, the only time we even locked our car was in August, because if we didn't some neighbor would fill it with too much zucchini. At the end of a Dirt Road, there was always extra springtime income from when city dudes would get stuck, you'd have to hitch up a team and pull them out. Usually you got a dollar..... but always you got a new friend..... at the end of a Dirt Road.

Paul Harvey

by the planet but to ease their own guilt over the good economic times. And so they lazily support causes that sound good: affirmative action, campaign finance and ... nature.

Armchair environmentalists have done little to follow up on their environmental investments. The groups they funded sallied forth to Washington during the 1990s, and, finding an all-too-willing Clinton administration, became shrill and extreme in their demands. Reasonable suggestions for preservation gave way to backroom deals on animal research, severe restrictions on logging, and ill-considered decisions to stop building fire roads in millions of acres of forest land. And hey presto, look what the armchair dwellers got. Their prized Western vineyards are being shut down in deference to a supposedly endangered salamander. Wealthy upstate New Yorkers have had their backyards turned into protected wetlands. Snowmobiling, that favorite weekend treat of hardworking executives, may be barred from national forests. Electricity prices are soaring because no plants have been built. And with all those blackouts, how are Californians supposed to charge up their electric cars? Now the armchair crowd is whining: This wasn't what we meant!

California is an amusing lesson of cause and effect. It takes all those worst-case scenarios that responsible conservationists have been warning about for years and makes them reality. It shows, step by step, what happens when pie-in-the-sky environmental policies--initiated by environmental groups, paid for by armchair environmentalists and pushed through by ambitious politicians--win out over a reasoned balance between humans and nature.

California energy demands have risen 25% over the past eight years, while the supply of new electricity has risen 6%. What makes for the difference? Well, a coalition of environmental groups spent decades fighting the building of the Auburn Dam, a hydroelectric facility with immense electrical potential. The Rancho Seco nuclear reactor near Sacramento was shuttered after environmental groups campaigned against it. Calpine Corp. has been barred from building a plant in the Coyote Valley. Severe air pollution regulations have kept plants from running at full capacity. The list goes on. No major power plant has been built in California for 10 years, each one stopped because of environmental protests.

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From the Net...

This time around we are going to provide some internet links that can be great resources for those seeking additional information.

<http://www.pirate4x4.com> - The Pirates of the Rubison website is a great resource for tech information. Their bulletin board forum is very active and individuals from around the world post there.

<http://www.outdoorwire.com> - Outdoorwire.com is another good site, with tech information, an active bulletin board, and good online articles.

<http://www.ih8mud.com> - Toyota Land Cruiser resource...all the tech available.

<http://www.offroadhq.net> - FREE web hosting - they host many Wisconsin clubs.

Dates to remember...

- **Lake States Fundraiser Banquet - March 10th in Wausau**
- **MW4WDA Spring Convention - April 21-22, Neenah**
- **National Trails Day - June 2, (most likely the Pipeline)**
- **Ducks Unlimited Fest - August 17-19, Oshkosh**
- **March of Dimes 2001 - September 15-16, Antigo**

Do you have special events you want announced? Pop me an email at w4wda@hotmail.com and I'll be sure to include them!

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A friend recently mourned the days when environmental groups gathered like-minded people to appreciate nature and think of ways to care for it. There still are some: Hunting organizations across the U.S. organize cleanup days when members go out into the forest to pick up litter. Many private charities use their money not for lobbying but for buying pieces of land at market prices and then working hard to preserve the flora and fauna on their plots.

But most of these grass-roots organizations have given way to radical groups demanding heavy-handed government intervention. This is partly because the people who funded them didn't bother to understand what they supported. It was partly because younger idealists came to their helms. It was partly because Eastern lawmakers, ignorant of the West and its needs and practices, had these special interests to lunch and made them promises. Either way, these groups no longer care about stimulating public interest in the natural world. They have their own, fanatical views of how nature should be managed and intend to make us live by their rules. The eco-terrorist who has been burning down houses in Arizona because they obstructed his mountain-biking views has been egged on by environmentalists of all stripes. This shouldn't surprise us; it's the next logical step for people who believe humans play second fiddle to trees.

George W. Bush has said when he leaves office he wants cleaner air and water than when he arrived. But Mr. Bush and his interior secretary, Gale Norton, realize the way to do this is through forward-looking ideas like market environmentalism, an approach that holds that market incentives encourage individuals to conserve resources and protect the environment. By putting market values on our resources (like water for electricity, or land for grazing rights) we as a nation can decide how much we are willing to pay for our conservation, how much for other activities, and then make intelligent tradeoffs.

Of course, I could be wrong. If you're a Californian and you have ideas for how to keep enjoying your plump lifestyle without exploiting natural resources, by all means e-mail them to me. Oops, I forgot, you can't. You don't have any power for your computer.

Ms. Strassel is an assistant features editor of The Wall Street Journal's editorial page. Her column appears on alternate Thursdays.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

36 CFR Part 294

RIN 0596-AB77

Special Areas; Roadless Area Conservation: Delay of Effective Date

AGENCY: Forest Service, Department of Agriculture.

ACTION: Final rule; Delay of effective date.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the memorandum of January 20, 2001, from the Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff, entitled "Regulatory Review Plan," published in the Federal Register on January 24, 2001, this action temporarily delays for 60 days the effective date of the rule entitled Special Areas; Roadless Area Conservation, published in the Federal Register on January 12, 2001, 66 FR 3244. That rule concerns the establishment of prohibitions on road construction, road reconstruction, and timber harvesting in inventoried roadless areas on National Forest System lands. To the extent that 5 U.S.C. section 553 applies to this action, it is exempt from notice and comment because it constitutes a rule of procedure under 5 U.S.C. section 553(b)(A). Alternatively, the Department's implementation of this rule without opportunity for public comment, effective immediately upon publication today in the Federal Register, is based on the good cause exceptions in 5 U.S.C. section 553(b)(B) and 553(d)(3). Seeking public comment is impracticable, unnecessary and contrary to the public interest. The temporary 60-day delay in effective date is necessary to give Department officials the opportunity for further review and consideration of new regulations, consistent with the Assistant to the President's memorandum of January 20, 2001. Given the imminence of the effective date, seeking prior public comment on this temporary delay would have been impractical, as well as contrary to the public interest in the orderly promulgation and implementation of regulations. The imminence of the effective date is also good cause for making this rule effective immediately upon publication.

DATES: The effective date of the Special Areas; Roadless Area Conservation, published in the Federal Register on January 12, 2001, at 66 FR 3244, is delayed for 60 days, from March 13, 2001 to a new effective date of May 12, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Marian P. Connolly, Regulatory Officer, Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, P.O. Box 96090, Washington, DC 20090-6090, telephone (703) 605-4533.

Dated: January 29, 2001. Ann M. Veneman, Secretary. [FR Doc. 01-2869 Filed 2-2-01; 8:45 am] BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

A Poem for Computer Users over 30

A computer was something on TV
From a science fiction show of note
A window was something you hated to clean
And ram was the cousin of a goat

Meg was the name of my girlfriend
And gig was a job for the nights
Now they all mean different things
And that really mega bytes.

An application was for employment
A program was a TV show
A cursor used profanity
A keyboard was a piano.

Memory was something that you lost with age
A CD was a bank account
And if you had a 3 1/2" floppy
You hoped nobody found out.

Compress was something you did to the garbage
Not something you did to a file
And if you unzipped anything in public
You'd be in jail for a while.

Cut is what you did with a picket knife
Paste is what you did with glue
A web was a spider's home
And a virus was the flu

I guess I'll stick to my pad and paper
And the memory in my head
I hear nobody's been killed in a computer crash
But when it happens they'll wish they were dead.

Wisconsin Clubs...

- Badgerland TNT 4x4 Club** - Jim Dickman, 1448 Woodland Drive, Grafton, WI 53024-1207, 262-377-2601
- Badger State 4-Wheelers** - Todd Prissel, P.O. Box 325, Ellsworth, WI 54011-0325, 715-273-5220
- Central Wisc. Mudrunners** - Craig Tessmann, P.O. Box 374, Schofield, WI 54471, 715-362-3164
- Clear Water 4-Wheelers** - Jon Riggs, P.O. Box 331, Eau Claire, WI 54702-0331
- Damage Inc.** - Roger Couch, 315 E. Ryan Road, Oak Creek, WI 53154, (414) 764-5479
- Extreme Offroaders** - Lynn Cottrell, 226 Guenther Street, Oshkosh, WI 54902-5746, (920) 231-8831
- 4x4 Forever, Ltd.** - Mary Hoernke, 203 Gruenwald Avenue, Neenah, WI 54956-2040, 920-722-3777
- 4 Lakes 4-Wheelers** - Luana Schneider, 6793 CTH C, Deforest, WI 53532-2852, 608-837-7409
- Fly N' Hi 4 Wheelers** - Scott Schoenhere, P.O. Box 650, Watertown, WI 53094-0650, (920) 261-8113
- Gopher Wheeling O.R.C.** - Jeff DeBauche, 1817 Pleasant Street, Manitowoc, WI 54220-1127, 920-682-3691
- Green Bay HighRiders Ltd.** - Helen Wagner, P.O. Box 13403, Green Bay, WI 54307, 920-499-9391
- Lakeshore 4-Wheelers** - Fred Firkus, P.O. Box 534, Manitowoc, WI 54220-0534, 920-732-3001
- Land Cruiser Legends** - Brian Swearingen, 813 E. Harrison Street, Appleton, WI 54915, 920-991-9134
- Legendary CJ's** - Doug Richter, 209 N. Counry Hwy S, Cato, WI 54230-8407, 920-775-4946
- Northwest Trailfinders** - Chris Novak, P.O. Box 235, Chetek, WI 54728-0235, 715-837-1239
- Prairie State 4WD Club** - Rick Stanley, 1916 Kingston Ln, Schaumburg, IL 60193, 847-352-9050
- PYT Offroaders Association** - Randy Thomas, 522 McKinley Avenue, Hartford, WI 53027, 262-673-6841
- Ridgerunners Jeep Club** - Mike Rodewald, 201 Pine Tree Road, Hudson, WI 54022-5178, 651-776-3859
- River City 4-Wheelers** - Orlin Clark, 810 4th Avenue North, Onalaska, WI 54650-2212, 608-783-4619
- River City Trailriders Ltd.** - Steve Dunn, P.O. Box 161, Watertown, WI 53094-0161, 920-927-5745
- River Valley Swamp Rats** - Dan Romberg, 527 13th St. S. #220, Hudson, WI 54016, 715-386-2883
- Roadside 4 Wheelers** - Sheri Zahler, P.O. Box 216, Mt. Horeb, WI 53572, 608-437-6203
- Trailgators 4 Wheelers** - Mark White, P.O. Box 222, Green Lake, WI 54941-0222, 920-748-7852<
- TrailRunners Inc.** - Ken Walters, 10990 Hillside, Edgerton, WI 53534, 608-884-4318
- Twin City Bushwackers** - Chris Hannis, 2091 Claireville Road, Oshkosh, WI 54904-9106, 920-235-9125
- Wide Open Wheelers** - Ken Dibble, W2851 Johnson Lane, Neosho, WI 53059-9719, 920-474-7407

To the best of my knowledge, this above list is correct for all member clubs, all contact names, and all club addresses. If you have changes, corrections, etc. please be sure to bring this information to the Spring Convention or forward it to me. I'll be sure it gets in the correct hands to ensure your club information is accurate.

Brian

Spring Convention 2001 - Neenah WI

See enclosed flyer for information - please distribute to all club members!!

On the Trail with the VP-Region C...

by Brian Swearingen

Well, another holiday season has been survived and another Winter is being its usual unpredictable self. As is typical around here, one month is snowy and the next is warm...and never when you expect it. A few of us did a snow ride in January and to be honest, it was one of the easiest wheeling days I've had on a while. The fluffy snow was a breeze to drive thru, and was only about 20" deep. We still had our fair collection of damage tho...my rear locker died, Jon cut a Bogger, we stuck a log thru the sidewall of a new Goodyear MTR, Reuben's birfield shattered, Scott took a tire off the rim, and Jeff lost his tranny mount. Most of us have the repairs made and are getting set for another run this month. With the warm weather and the fresh wet snow, things should be much more difficult. (I hope!)

Political changes are perhaps the biggest item to hit in the past years. Clinton is out, the Democrats are out, and Bush is putting his plans into action. There aren't two people who agree on everything regarding the election, but the Republican party is more likely to allow us to get involved with our trail systems rather

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than just close them off. This is an important opportunity for us. NOW is the time to get out there and start pushing for involvement. I believe the next two years are the critical first steps to see things swing towards responsible use and away from blatant closure.

Do you have your summer trips planned yet? sports-in-the-rough.com has their rides listed and they've got quite a selection this year. Trails Day 2001 is slated for June 2nd, so keep that weekend free for some more Pipeline projects. So far, I've got Attica and Dresser on my trip list. Both are fun places with some good challenges.

See you on the trails!
Brian

The Wisconsin 4WD Association Newsletter is published between 6 and 8 times per year. Deadlines for submissions are the 10th of each month. (next deadline is March 10th) Printing occurs on/about the 15th of the month and mails about the same time. The newsletter editor is Brian Swearingen, and other contributors will be credited with articles they either write or send in to me. If you want to send in info, email is the best - send to w4wda@hotmail.com. Otherwise you can mail photos to my home address, 813 E. Harrison Street, Appleton, WI 54915. I strongly prefer to not duplicate information already running around the egroups list, so if you plan to public post, don't expect to see it in the newsletter. Opinion letters/articles are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the organization as a whole. Newsletters are mailed to 2 contact addresses within each club, plus officers and individual members.