

September 2007 Edition
Uncle Dave's Books of the Big Outside
[Under construction]

I am weary of civilization's madness and I yearn for the harmonious gladness of the woods and of the streams. I am tired of your piles of buildings and I ache from your iron streets. I feel jailed in your greatest cities and I long for the unharnessed freedom of the big outside.

--Will Dilg, founder of the Izaak Walton League, ca 1925

I've often argued that real understanding is out there—in the Big Outside, in the great loneliness; that wisdom is more likely to be found listening to goose music or watching the flow of a river than in books or classrooms. I believe that individuals can have direct and personal relationships to the natural world, to Aldo Leopold's "wild things," and need no go-betweens. Nevertheless, there are insightful and wise people who are able to eloquently articulate the wisdom from the wild, or who can draw profound lessons from human history that are in harmony with such wild wisdom. The books they have given us are a priceless resource for defenders of things natural.

I have become worried lately that many new conservationists, including some who work for conservation groups, do not read nearly enough. Without becoming familiar with classic conservation books, conservationists do not know the lore of our family; moreover, they can get their facts confused or just plain wrong when they speak in public or write articles. I don't mean this as a put-down of folks who work their hearts out for the wild; it is a cold, hard fact of our overworked conservation community. Of course, there are exceptions—I'm often asked, "What books are most important for me to read?" Bringing back "Books of the Big Outside" is my answer to the problem and to the question.

The purpose of this part of The Rewilding Website is to make important books known to the defenders of wild Nature. Many books included here are little known and cry out to be read. The great battles for wild Nature are here, as are the lessons learned from them. It's also through these books that we can share the campfire with John Muir, Aldo Leopold, Bob Marshall, Rosalie Edge, Edward Abbey, Celia Hunter, Dave Brower, and Olaus and

Mardy Murie. Also here is essential information about wild Nature: conservation biology, conservation ethics, and how conservation is done on the ground. The many threats to the diversity of life and the quiet of wilderness are described in the books reviewed here. I hope that my descriptions of books will help you decide which are of most value to you. I am, of course, alternately damned and praised for my strong opinions, so be aware that my descriptions and selections reflect my biases.

Books are organized by category—Ecological History, Biography, Conservation Biology, and so forth—to help you locate those of most interest to you. Determining the category in which to place a particular book is a somewhat arbitrary process. Therefore, you should check several categories for a title of interest. I hope you'll browse the entire Books of the Big Outside section—you may find books you want in an unexpected corner. The order of books within each category is rather arbitrary, although titles by the same author are grouped together.

Many of the books reviewed here are available from Island Press. Others are available from Amazon. We have click-on links to take you to their respective websites. A handful of books are for sale by the Rewilding Website.

I generally will restrict reviewed books to those currently in print, though, due to the vagaries of the publishing industry, books come in and out of print. I also will list certain classic conservation books whether or not they are in print. Please let me know about the status of books—I can't keep up alone. I am interested in receiving suggestions from readers, authors, and publishers of other books to list in the Books of the Big Outside webpage. I welcome copies of newly published books from publishers and authors for me to review here. All of the books reviewed and listed in this version of Books of the Big Outside are from my personal library and, yes, I've read most of them.

Of course, conservation bibliophiles with any age dragging on them will see that this webpage is drawn from my Books of the Big Outside catalog in the early nineties. What we put up on the web in the late summer of 2006 was from the old catalog. Doing this exercise was enjoyable for me, but it made me realize just how much has changed in the world of conservation books during the last eleven years! I've cut a raft of books from the catalog because they are out of print or because they have not stood the test of time. I have added books published since 1995 to this listing, and will add

others as I learn about them. For now, I'm merely adding the title, author, and publisher for recent books. I'll write reviews for these books as I can get to them. Have patience! It will take awhile. *Also, please note that many of the reviews of older books are pretty much unchanged from 1995.* I will slowly revise those. Please visit this site every month or so to see what is new.

Please tell your friends, colleagues, students, or professors about Books of the Big Outside. Mention it in your conservation group's publications or website. This site is a free service of The Rewilding Institute and our Rewilding Partners. If you'd like to help keep it going, click here to donate and become a Rewilding Partner.

—Dave Foreman, Sandia Mountains Foothills

August 2007

Remember: this book list is for browsing! Pour a nice glass of wine, lean back in your recliner or lawn chair, pet the cat on your lap next to your laptop, and...Browse.

Books of the Big Outside 2006 Book of the Year

Last Great Wilderness by Roger Kaye

A SIX-PACK OF BOOKS FROM UNCLE DAVE

I'm often asked to recommend the most important conservation books for wilderness activists. Although I think most of the books in this catalog are worthwhile, very few of us are going to read them all. In my descriptions of the various books, I try to indicate the more important ones. But if I had to recommend just six books that every conservationist should read, highlight, tag, and have in his or her personal library, it would be the following:

A Sand County Almanac by Aldo Leopold (Land Ethic)

Overshoot by William R. Catton (Population Explosion)

The Arrogance of Humanism by David Ehrenfeld (Land Ethic)

Desert Solitaire by Edward Abbey (Natural History)

Wilderness And the American Mind by Roderick Nash

(Conservation History)

The Future of Life by Edward O. Wilson (Conservation Biology)

Reading these six books will give you a solid grounding in conservation.

A Second Six-Pack From Uncle Dave

After you've polished off your first six-pack, you'll need another. As with the first, share with your friends!

Continental Conservation edited by Michael Soulé and John Terborgh (Conservation Biology)

The World According to Pimm by Stuart Pimm (Extinction)

The Idea Of Wilderness by Max Oelschlaeger (Eco-Philosophy)

Requiem For Nature by John Terborgh (Conservation--General)

Preserving Nature in the National Parks by Richard West Sellars (National Parks)

The Spirit in the Gene by Reg Morrison (Human Nature)

A NEW SIX-PACK FROM UNCLE DAVE

Books of the Big Outside features "A Six-Pack From Uncle Dave" and "A Second Six-Pack From Uncle Dave," which I've just listed. These are the books I most recommend to conservationists. I'll also regularly revise "A New Six-Pack" for the best recently published conservation books.

Last Great Wilderness: The Campaign To Establish the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge by Roger Kaye (University of Alaska Press, 2006) (Wilderness)

Predatory Bureaucracy: The Extermination of Wolves and the Transformation of the West by Michael J. Robinson (University Press of Colorado, 2005) (Wolves)

Let My People Go Surfing: The Education of a Reluctant Businessman by Yvon Chouinard (The Penguin Press, 2005) (Biography and Autobiography)

The Winds Of Change: Climate, Weather, and the Destruction of Civilizations by Eugene Linden (Simon & Schuster, 2006) (Collapse)

Rewilding North America: A Vision for Conservation in the 21st Century by Dave Foreman (Island Press, 2004) (Conservation Biology)

The Enduring Wilderness: Protecting Our Natural Heritage through the Wilderness Act by Doug Scott (Fulcrum Publishing, 2004) (Wilderness)

Note that the section in which to find a book is in parentheses.

By the end of 2007, I plan to update and revise my old list of The One Hundred Most Important Conservation Books, and will post it here. Watch for it!

Index
History
Ecological History
Conservation History
Biography & Autobiography

Conservation
Extinction
Conservation Biology
Conservation General
Wildlife Protection
Wilderness
National Parks
Forestry
Rivers and Dams

Values
Land Ethic
Eco-Philosophy
Natural History
Fiction and Literature

Crisis
Population Explosion
Collapse
Human Nature

History

Ecological History

As a historian, I have been pleased to see the development of a new approach to interpreting the history of civilization — that of ecological history, which looks at human history as natural forces shape it. This

recent school of thought has brought profound revisions in our view of the "rise" of Western Civilization and, indeed, of the development of civilization. It is an approach long overdue. How peculiarly arrogant we are to have written our history and left out all of the non-human players except as a stage on which the drama of humankind occurs! Why do irrigation-based societies from the Mesopotamians to the Hohokam collapse? How was the brute Cortez with his small gang of thugs able to overthrow one of the most powerful empires on Earth in a few short weeks? How have Europeans managed to dominate the world? What have humans done to change the face of the Earth? The past inability of history to adequately address these questions lies in not asking the right questions, in ignoring human ecology, in downplaying such simple actors as smallpox and dirt. The books in this category tell a far wiser and more complete tale than the history texts you studied in school. Henry Ford said, "History is bunk." It is indeed, if we ignore the land.

DESERTS ON THE MARCH by Paul B. Sears. Professor Sears was a highly respected botanist and leading academic during the middle of the last century. In this American conservation classic (originally written in 1935), he asks the question, "Is the human race digging its own grave in North America?" He discusses the destruction of virgin prairie, the despoiling of natural waterways, the hewing down of great forests, and the indiscriminate killing of wildlife. "Man has become the sponsor of a biological experiment without known parallel in the history of the earth ... He no longer accepts ... the pattern in which he finds himself, but has destroyed that pattern and from the wreck is attempting to create a new one. That, of course, is cataclysmic revolution." I read this book when I was beginning my conservation career and it remains one of the greatest influences on me. 256 pages, index, illustrations. Island Press, 1988 (1935).

TOPSOIL & CIVILIZATION Revised Edition by Vernon Gill Carter and Tom Dale. The jacket description reads, "Civilized man and civilization as we know it depend on the soil for nurture and sustenance. Examining the broad sweep of human history, they point out that civilizations rise and fall according to their use or abuse of topsoil." In 1955, the authors, hailing from the Soil Conservation Service and National Wildlife Federation, wrote this

landmark history of the world from the viewpoint of the soil. *Topsoil & Civilization* opened the way for the ecological histories that have come since. Updated in 1974, this is still a vital work; I know of no other book that covers the subject so well or so fully. It is an effective counter to traditional history that looks only at people and not the stage on which they have played. Index, bibliography, black & white photos, 292 pages. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, 1974 (1955).

THE MARCH OF FOLLY: From Troy to Vietnam by *Barbara Tuchman*. This great book by the intrepid historian Barbara Tuchman is not overtly about conservation. But its thesis certainly applies to how leaders make foolish decisions about conservation and environmental issues. Using as prime examples the defeat of Troy, the Protestant Reformation, the American Revolution, and the Vietnam War, Tuchman argues that a leading factor in history is folly: "the pursuit by governments of policies contrary to their own self-interests." Tuchman further defines folly as meeting three criteria: being seen as "counter-productive in its own time;" a better way is offered but rejected; and a group, not an individual, makes the foolish choices. Whether it is global heating, overfishing, population growth, or any of a myriad of other ecological crises, today's governments and other institutions are guilty of the ultimate folly. After reading *The March of Folly*, you will understand much better why groups in control seem blind and mad today on conservation issues. I don't think we can understand the past or the present of humankind without acknowledging the weighty role of folly. "Persistence in error is the problem." Index, endnotes, 447 pages. Ballantine Books, New York, 1984.

BEYOND GEOGRAPHY: The Western Spirit Against the Wilderness by *Frederick Turner*. The *Atlantic Monthly* says, "*Beyond Geography* is clearly a work of brilliance and imagination, a compelling, disturbing, and uncommonly literate exploration of one of mankind's most basic dilemmas." Turner has also been accused of writing poetry for history. This genius has cut through layer upon layer of "rational" irrationality and civilized historical myth to get to the heart of the human relationship with the land. *Beyond Geography* is a great work in every sense, and is necessary for anyone wishing

to comprehend what we Europeans have done to North America and to ourselves by destroying the wilderness. Index, bibliography, 329 pages. Rutgers University Press, 1983 (1980).

THE MYTH OF THE MACHINE: (Vol. 1) Technics and Human Development by *Lewis Mumford*. Ed Abbey introduced me to the writings of the late Lewis Mumford and I was fortunate to find both volumes of his landmark *Myth of the Machine* in a local used bookstore. Mumford was the greatest critic of the modern madness and remains one of the great scholars of all time. His “machine” is the imperial state created by the mass organization of human beings. To understand where we are and how we got here, one should read this two-volume set. Mumford's work is the beginning for all other critiques of “progress” and the state. Volume 1 covers the period from the beginning of civilization to the threshold of European exploration. Index, bibliography. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1967. If it is not in print, search used bookstores and the web.

THE MYTH OF THE MACHINE: (Vol. 2) The Pentagon of Power by *Lewis Mumford*. In Volume 2, Mumford takes up with the European expansion 500 years ago and follows the monstrous growth of the imperial machine to the middle of the twentieth century. Here, Mumford offers the most penetrating and exhaustive critique I have found of modernism and the anti-life tendency of civilization. He also offers an alternative direction for us to take. Index, bibliography. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1970.

ECOLOGICAL IMPERIALISM: The Biological Expansion of Europe, 900-1900 by *Alfred W. Crosby*. Why has Europe been so successful during the last thousand years? Crosby, a prominent University of Texas history professor, synthesizes old and new information, to at last answer this key question. He argues that the Azores and Canaries, North America, Argentina, Australia, and New Zealand have become “Neo-Europes” through a combination of European people, diseases, domesticated plants and animals, pests and weeds. Indeed, he convincingly argues that it was not military or economic might (or ideology) so much as biology (opportunistic weeds) that Europeanized these lands. This book is a first step toward an ecological history of the world, and shows how

the land community is a continual and active participant in human affairs. Note that it was written before most recognized the threat of exotic species. Index, references, maps, illustrations, 368 pages. Cambridge University Press, 1986.

PLAGUES AND PEOPLES by *William H. McNeill*. This book, by one of America's most distinguished historians, helped launch the current school of ecological history. His revolutionary thesis is that one of the major actors on the stage of history has been epidemic disease and, in fact, only disease can account for such events as the conquest of Mexico by Cortez. Moreover, McNeill undertakes a historical and ecological analysis of the role of macro- and micro-parasites in human society. This book blazed the trail for ecological history. Whenever I'm really depressed, I reread it. 291 pages, index, footnotes, appendix. Doubleday, 1976.

THE HUMAN WEB: A Birds-Eye View of World History by *J.R. McNeill and William McNeill*. This son-father team of historians lays out a sweeping big-pattern view of human history to help answer basic questions about the rise of agriculture, civilization, and industrialization. One part of the book of interest to conservationists is how they explain the emergence and rise of epidemic diseases as local populations became large enough to allow certain diseases to persist. Early agricultural civilizations formed webs of culture, disease, and so forth around themselves. When webs touched one another, diseases were transferred to new populations causing great die-offs in epidemics. This kept populations down. It was only around 1800 CE that the world's disease webs really came together and most human communities developed resistance. This was a key breakthrough that allowed human populations to explode. *The Human Web* provides an essential element for understanding our domination of Earth. Further reading bibliography, index, 350 pages. W.W. Norton, New York, 2003.

THE HUMAN CONDITION: An Ecological and Historical View by *William H. McNeill*. This brilliant and succinct work is based on two lectures McNeill gave at Clark University. He writes, "Although it is absurd to try to distill the human adventure on earth into the narrow space of two lectures, I propose to do just that." And he does it very well. McNeill sees humans beset upon and

controlled by two kinds of parasites: microparasites, such as diseases and pests, and macroparasites, such as raiders, rulers, and other human exploiters of their own kind. The development of agriculture greatly increased microparasitism and brought about macroparasitism. Throughout, McNeill uses an ecological perspective to explain the human condition. I think *The Human Condition* offers a splendid background for understanding the biodiversity crisis. It is very readable and short. I think it is also a much stronger theory of why hierarchies and domination arose than either Marxists or capitalists have proposed over the centuries. Index, 88 pages. Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ, 1980.

GREEN HISTORY: An Anthology of Environmental Literature, Philosophy and Politics edited by Derek Wall. *Green History* is one of the first anthologies to trace ecological writing through history. Among the anthologized are William Blake, Henry Thoreau, Percy Bysshe Shelley, Emma Goldman, Alice Walker, Aldous Huxley, Lewis Mumford, John Muir, George Orwell, and Mary Shelley. Early accounts of environmental and ecological problems are offered, and the concept of the Noble Savage as the First Ecologist is critically examined. 304 pages. Routledge, 1994.

A FOREST JOURNEY: The Story of Wood and Civilization by John Perlin. Some of the best books on conservation tell the story of human civilization through the abuse of the land—*Deserts on the March* and *Topsoil and Civilization*, for example. Perlin's book belongs on the shelf with them. If you want to understand the destruction of the Pacific Northwest ancient forests and the tropical rainforests today, you will do well to read about the five thousand years of forest destruction outlined here. A particular emphasis is given to forest destruction in England and early America, although ancient Mesopotamia, Crete, Greece, Rome, North Africa, and Europe are well attended to. Updated Edition. Foreword by Lester Brown, footnotes, index, illustrations, 463 pages. Countryman Press, Woodstock, VT, 2005 (1989).

AMERICANS & THEIR FORESTS: A Historical Geography by Michael Williams. Cambridge University Press, New York, 1989. This is a huge and exhaustive book with fascinating tidbits throughout.

A GREEN HISTORY OF THE WORLD: The Environment and the Collapse of Great Civilizations by *Clive Ponting*. Historian Ponting shows how degradation of ecosystems through the ages has led to the collapse of advanced civilizations from Mesopotamia, Rome, and the Mayans. Beginning with hunter-gatherers, he explores the effects of agriculture, population growth, pollution, and industrialization. Throughout he makes clear the implications for today's society. This is primarily history from an environmental as opposed to a conservation perspective. Ponting is much more concerned with effects on people than on ecosystems. Still, this is a worthwhile summary of the growth of human population, expansion of industry, exploitation of natural resources, and their negative impacts. St. Martin's Press, 1992.

CHANGES IN THE LAND: Indians, Colonists, and the Ecology of New England by *William Cronon*. Here is a gem of ecological history. Cronon carefully compares how New England Indians and early English colonists used the land and how the land changed as the English replaced the Indians. This book is fundamental for Northeastern conservationists, and also for anyone who wishes to understand the flawed genesis of the American relationship to the land. We need comparable books for every region of our nation. Cronon is no biocentric conservationist, but this is a damn good book. 241 pages, index, footnotes, bibliographic essay. Putnam, 1983.

GUNS, GERMS, AND STEEL: The Fates of Human Societies by *Jared Diamond*. During the twentieth century historians and other social scientists laid down a strict no-no against so-called "environmental determinism" to the extent that they foolishly denied or overlooked the role of non-human factors in explaining history. Recently, more and more scholars have been violating that rule, even though they go through the motions of denying that they are environmental determinists. In this terrific book, Jared Diamond tries to answer the question of why European civilization dominates the world, instead of his New Guinea friends. Diamond finds his answers in biogeography. It is a fascinating and eye-opening study. W.W. Norton, New York, 1997.

IN THE SPIRIT OF THE EARTH: Rethinking History and Time by *Calvin Luther Martin*. Award-winning historian Martin offers a provocative account of how the hunter-gatherer image of nature was lost—with devastating consequences for the land and the human spirit. He traces our alienation from nature back to the earliest farming and domestication of animals. This alienation is revealed in our technology, in how we speak about the Earth, and in the god-awful devastation we have visited upon the land. Martin also critiques the discipline of history as part of the problem due to its human-centered consciousness, ideas of order and progress, and concept of linear time. He finishes by asking whether we can reclaim some of what we have lost in order to heal the Earth and ourselves. This is an excellent book. I gained much from reading it. 160 pages. Johns Hopkins University Press, 1992.

THE CONQUEST OF PARADISE: Christopher Columbus and the Columbian Legacy by *Kirkpatrick Sale*. Christopher Columbus remains one of America's most enduring heroes. In this heretical and controversial reconsideration of one of the few men to have a federal holiday in his honor, Kirk Sale de-lionizes Columbus. Sale shows Columbus to have been a rootless, unhappy man incapable of appreciating the new world he discovered for Europe. *The Conquest of Paradise* is more than the debunking of a “great man,” however; it is a scholarly work of ecological history that explains the political and ecological repercussions of Columbus's voyages. Index, notes, source notes, 453 pages. Plume Penguin, 1991 (1990).

THE REDISCOVERY OF NORTH AMERICA by *Barry Lopez*. This little book is like a treasure chest buried in the sand of a Caribbean beach. Instead of jewels and doubloons, though, something far more precious and rare is within it: wisdom and humility. In his extended essay, Lopez grapples with the implications and lessons of Columbus's “discovery” and the resulting conquest of the land and native people. Vintage, 1992 (1991).

MAJOR PROBLEMS IN AMERICAN ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY: Documents and Essays *edited by Carolyn Merchant.* This anthology includes both historical documents and essays analyzing the issues raised. Among the topics: what is environmental history; Native American ecology and European contact; the New England forest in the 1600s; soil exhaustion in the early tobacco South; farm ecology in the early republic; nature versus civilization in the 1800s; the cotton South; mining the West; destruction of the Plains; the rise of resource conservation; wilderness preservation; urban pollution in the 1900s; the emergence of ecology in the 1900s; and the contemporary movement. Contributors include the usual suspects and some nice surprises: Worster, Cronon, Crosby, Merchant, Martin, Jefferson, Audubon, Crevecoeur, Catlin, Emerson, Thoreau, Olmstead, Plenty-Coups, Austin, Muir, Nash, Runte, Callicott, Clements, Tansley, Leopold, Odum, Marshall, Roosevelt, Carson, Hopi elders, Hays, LaDuke, and many more. 544 pages. DC Heath, 1993.

ECOLOGICAL REVOLUTIONS: Nature, Gender, and Science in New England *by Carolyn Merchant.* Rod Nash writes that *Ecological Revolutions* is “A landmark in intellectual and ecological history.” Merchant describes and analyzes the ecological transformation of New England by the early English settlers and then the ecological and social transformation wrought by the capitalist revolution. She argues that what took place in New England between 1600 and 1850 was an accelerated recapitulation of what occurred in Europe over a period of 2,500 years. 379 pages, index, footnotes, graphs, charts, black & white photos, illustrations. University of North Carolina Press, 1989.

Donald Worster

UNDER WESTERN SKIES Nature and History in the American West *by Donald Worster.* No one understands the American West better than Donald Worster. He is also the top ecological historian. Reading *Under Western Skies* is the best quick way I know for someone—even a historian, conservationist, and native Westerner like me—to better understand the American West. Worster has rounded up some of his best insights in this collection

of essays, with titles like *Beyond the Agrarian Myth*, *New West True West*, *Cowboy Ecology*, *Hydraulic Society in California*, *Hoover Dam: A Study in Domination*, *Freedom and Want: The Western Paradox*, *Grassland Follies: Agricultural Capitalism on the Plains*, *The Black Hills: Sacred or Profane?*, *Alaska: The Underworld Erupts*, *Grounds for Identity*, and *A Country Without Secrets*. If we are to defend the wilderness of the West, we must understand what the West is, historically and socially. Worster is the key. Index, footnotes, 292 pages. Oxford University Press, 1992.

THE DUST BOWL: The Southern Plains in the 1930s *by Donald Worster*. My momma lived through the Dust Bowl on a hardscrabble pinto bean farm on the high plains of eastern New Mexico. When I first read *Dust Bowl* many years ago, I gave it to ma. She read it and said that it was all true. Worster goes far beyond merely recounting the history of the Dust Bowl, however. He looks into its causes—primarily the attitudes Americans had toward the land. Ideas caused the Dust Bowl, and Worster unfortunately finds these same ideas alive and well in America today. Worster is the dean of modern ecological history and one of today's most brilliant and articulate writers. Oxford University Press.

THE ENDS OF THE EARTH: Perspectives on Modern Environmental History *edited by Donald Worster*. This anthology exemplifies the scope and importance of ecological history: connections between climate and food supplies, demographic pressures and technological innovation, and social change and environment in pre-colonial Europe, and the impact of European conquest on the ecosystems and peoples of the rest of the world. The history you learned in school is a play without the stage or main characters; this book begins the process of returning the stage and the non-human leads. Contributors include Worster, Alfred Crosby, and Raymond Dasmann. Index, bibliography, footnotes, some charts, maps, and tables, 341 pages. Cambridge University Press, 1988.

WEALTH OF NATURE Environmental History and the Ecological Imagination *by Donald Worster*. Worster collects here a group of essays he terms as “my own intellectual turning to the land.” In doing so, he turns his wise eye to the American relationship to the land, the field of environmental history, Aldo Leopold, agriculture, soil erosion, water development, sustainable

development, the science of ecology, the disequilibrium of modern industrial society and restoring a natural order, the roots of American environmentalism, and the modern attitudes that have caused the ecological crisis. 304 pages. Oxford University Press, 1993.

AN UNSETTLED COUNTRY: Changing Landscapes of the American West by *Donald Worster*. University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque, 1994.

Conservation History

There are those in every activist generation who think they invented the movement and who think that their accomplishments and travails are unique. The more mature and thoughtful activist comes to recognize that she is retracing the steps of those who came before, and that she can learn much from the grand fights and obscure battles of yesteryear. These books tell the story of the preservation cause and help us know those on whose shoulders we stand.

THE AMERICAN CONSERVATION MOVEMENT: John Muir and His Legacy by *Stephen Fox*. Both a history of the conservation movement and an important biography of John Muir, this book is crucial to understanding the conservation movement. Fox's thesis is that the history of conservation can be told as the ongoing struggle between passionate amateurs (John Muir) and conservative resource professionals (Gifford Pinchot). Fox discusses important fights within conservation groups, such as Rosalie Edge's efforts to reform the National Audubon Society in the 1930s, and spotlights little-known but important conservation leaders. *I just reread this book and was struck by how vital it is for today's conservationists to read it in this era of professionalization and institutionalization elbowing Nature lovers out of control in the conservation community.* Well-written, heavily footnoted, index, with photographs of key conservation leaders, 436 pages. University of Wisconsin Press, 1985 (1981).

BATTLE FOR THE WILDERNESS by *Michael Frome*. Mike Frome is a National Treasure. For decades he has stood as a lighthouse of integrity—in journalism, in conservation, in outdoor adventure. *Battle for the Wilderness*, done originally for The

Wilderness Society, is the down-in-the-trenches history of wilderness area protection. Mike has known most of the people and been in most of the places that appear in the book. Unlike any other conservation history book so far, *Battle* is our book, the book about wilderness protection from the standpoint of wilderness protectors. Much of the lore of our movement is here as well as a solid case for protecting all the wilderness we can. In this revised version, Mike adds the story of conservation biology and shows how and why it must become part of the wilderness cause. I highly recommend this book by my mentor Mike Frome.

CONFESSIONS OF AN ECO-WARRIOR by *Dave Foreman*. *Confessions* is my story of 1980s conservation. The warp and woof throughout *Confessions* are the ecocentric idea of wilderness for its own sake and the need for personal action to defend wilderness. Other topics include the founding, evolution, and breakup of Earth First!; detailed analysis of and justification for monkeywrenching; proposals for ecological wilderness preserves; grazing and other issues; and reforming the mainstream conservation movement. My sister likes this book. Maybe you will, too. Index, beautiful cover by Jack Dykinga, 228 pages. Harmony Books/Crown, 1991. Out of print, but look on the web.

COYOTES AND TOWN DOGS *Earth First! and the Environmental Movement* by *Susan Zakin Lordy*, it's hard to review this with any detachment. In addition to being a thorough and insightful history of the modern conservation movement, *Coyotes* is also a psychological biography of yours truly. The early influence of the Church of Christ on me is analyzed as to the organization of Earth First!. *Coyotes* does an excellent job of analyzing RARE II and covering the evolution of the movement from the '70s to the '80s. Zakin, whether consciously or not, follows the theme of Fox's *The American Conservation Movement* of passionate amateurs (coyotes) and professionals (town dogs). Unlike most other histories of the movement, this one looks at grassroots conservation activists as well as professional staff. Zakin interviewed a remarkable number of people for this book and has a fine talent for getting them to open up completely and say things they may later regret (the mark of a great interviewer). Of course, there are some factual errors and

misinterpretations, and the focus on wacky personalities and sensational direct action ignores some of the more important contributions of Earth First! such as the application of conservation biology (it's hard to believe that Reed Noss is not even mentioned), and I disagree with her conclusions regarding a few of my friends, but *Coyotes and Town Dogs* is the best history of the post-'60s conservation movement; it takes an honored place beside Nash's *Wilderness and the American Mind* and Fox's *The American Conservation Movement*. This book made some people very mad and stirred a lot of controversy. As such, it becomes part of the history of the wilderness movement itself. Today's conservationists should read it partly to get the gossip on folks who are now old farts in the movement. 448 pages. Viking, 1993.

GREEN RAGE: Radical Environmentalism and the Unmaking of Civilization by *Christopher Manes*. Scholar and long-time Earth First! insider Christoph Manes wrote a powerful manifesto for the radical environmental movement in the late 1980s. Manes considers the origins and history of Earth First! and other "radical" groups, builds an antimodernist foundation for militant action, analyzes the effectiveness of controversial tactics like monkeywrenching, and rebuts criticism from right-wingers and socialists alike. 291 pages, index, bibliography, footnotes. Little Brown, 1990.

PROTESTANTISM, CAPITALISM, AND NATURE IN AMERICA by *Mark Stoll*. University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque, 1997. This unfortunately little-known book traces conservation history along a curious path—that of Calvinist Protestants (mostly Scots-Irish). Stoll sees their major influence among both passionate, fundamentalist conservationists and equally passionate, fundamentalist anticonservationists. Leading examples of the anticonservationist Calvinists are several robber barons and Gifford Pinchot. The leading examples of Calvinist conservationists are John Muir, David Brower, and Dave Foreman. Needless to say, I found this fascinating and also found that it rang true. Though the three of us left Calvinist Protestantism behind (to varying degrees), we applied Calvinism to our style of conservation. Now, who do you think is my opposite in this thesis? None other than James Watt. I hope that this teaser will encourage some of you to track

down *Protestantism, Capitalism, and Nature in America* and read it. I think it adds a vital element to the study of Americans and the land, as well as more fully explains conservationists the like of Brower and me. Index, bibliography, endnotes, 276 pages.

ECOLOGICAL RESISTANCE MOVEMENTS: The Global Emergence of Radical and Popular Environmentalism *Edited by Bron Raymond Taylor*. State University of New York Press, Albany, 1995.

PATRIOTS: Defending Australia's Natural Heritage *by William J. Hines*. University of Queensland Press, St. Lucia, Queensland, Australia. 2006.

NATURE'S ECONOMY: A History of Ecological Ideas *by Donald Worster*. This is a history of the science of ecology, and of the philosophical ideas it launched—and that launched it. Linnaeus, Gilbert White, Darwin, Thoreau, Frederic Clements, Aldo Leopold, and Eugene Odum are among the many whose contributions are discussed as Worster traces the tug-of-war between the Arcadian and imperial traditions in natural history and ecology. Is the study of biology an expression of love, wonder, and harmony for the living Earth, or a method to bring Nature to heel in service to imperial civilization? When I first read *Nature's Economy*, I was surprised (and delighted) at how much I learned. This is a fundamental book for understanding debates within the science of ecology—and you don't need to be a scientist to understand the different (and evolving) points of view. We too often ignore the role played by professional biologists in the history of conservation. Worster brilliantly rectifies that with this vital book. 422 pages. Cambridge University Press, 1985 (1977).

BEAUTY, HEALTH, AND PERMANENCE: Environmental Policies in the United States, 1955-1985 *by Samuel P. Hays*. In this standard of environmental history, Hays argues that conservation evolved into environmentalism during the 1960s and 70s. I disagree (they are two separate but intertwined movements—and I think the facts in this book show it). The major strengths I found in *Beauty* were Hays's analysis of the different facets of early resourcism, his

detailed look at anti-environmentalism, and his view that opinion molders have decided that the eco-crisis is overstated and a “balance” needs to be sought. Among the many topics in this comprehensive study are urban environmentalism, wildland conservation, rural issues, toxics, population and limits to growth, environmental philosophy, science and economics as related to environmentalism, environmental management, state government response, legislation and litigation, and the Reagan reaction. In some ways, this is as much an encyclopedia as a work of history. 645 pages. Cambridge University Press, 1989.

CONSERVATION AND THE GOSPEL OF EFFICIENCY: The Progressive Conservation Movement 1890-1920 by *Samuel P. Hays*. This is the peerless history of what I call resourcism or resource conservation. I consistently have drawn on *Gospel of Efficiency* in my own writing to explain the ideology of resourcism. Hays expertly tells the story of how the US Forest Service, Bureau of Reclamation, and other resource agencies came to be and how they were an outgrowth of scientific progressivism. They believed in applying then-modern methods of engineering to efficiently exploit natural resources. Hays mined a mountain of original sources to produce this landmark of conservation history. For conservationists who want to better understand the agencies with which we often fight, and why resource conservation and Nature conservation are separate, Hays’s masterwork is where to begin. Index, bibliographic note, footnotes, 297 pages. Atheneum, NY, 1979 (1959).

A FIERCE GREEN FIRE by *Phillip Shabecoff* Phil Shabecoff, environmental reporter at the *New York Times* for many years, was considered the dean of environmental reporters until the dull, gray editors at the *Times* reassigned him to the IRS beat in the early 1980s (too sympathetic? environment no longer an important issue?). This is his history of the modern environmental/ conservation movement from his insider's perch. He unfortunately ignores the grassroots aspect of conservation (this is a Washington, DC, book). Why do so many of the writers on the conservation and environmental movements act as though there are no local groups of the Sierra Club, no state-wide wilderness groups, no local conservation groups, no grassroots volunteers working on wilderness and public lands issues? In a review of Susan Zakin's *Coyotes and Town Dogs*,

Shabecoff wrote that he never understood Earth First!. He's right. Nonetheless, this is a good overview for a lay audience, though he shows much deeper understanding of and interest in environmental issues than conservation issues. In my forthcoming *Myth(s) of the Environmental Movement*, I set out my disagreements with Shabecoff. Hill and Wang, 1993.

TRACES ON THE RHODIAN SHORE: Nature and Culture in Western Thought from Ancient Times to the End of the Eighteenth Century by Clarence J. Glacken. University of California Press, Berkeley, 1967. I have difficulty understanding how any scholar could be so learned as to be able to write such a detailed yet sweeping study of how Western Civilization has viewed Nature through millennia. *Rhodian Shore* is not a breezy read by any means. It can be slow going, and it can make your head sputter. At least it did mine. But it is a peerless standard for understanding Western thinking about Nature and our relationship to it. You probably need a scholarly bent and an interest in Western philosophy to get through *Rhodian Shore*, but it will be worthwhile if you do. Index, bibliography, footnotes, 763 pages. University of California Press, Berkeley, 1967.

MAN IN THE LANDSCAPE: A Historic View of the Esthetics of Nature by Paul Shepard; Introduction by Dave Foreman. If Nobel Prizes were given for more important scholarly endeavors than is traditionally the case, Paul Shepard would have gotten one. First published nearly forty years ago, *Man in the Landscape* is a book of stunning insights. I wore out one hi-liter while reading it many years ago driving across Montana and North Dakota. I was both intimidated and honored when the University of Georgia Press asked me to write the Introduction to their reprint. This classic “explores the emergence of modern [environmental] attitudes in literature, art, and architecture—their evolutionary past and their taproot in European and Mediterranean cultures. With humor and wit, Shepard considers the influence of Christianity on ideas of nature, the absence of an ethic of nature in modern philosophy, and the obsessive themes of dominance and control as elements of the modern mind. In his discussions of the exploration of the American West, the establishment of the first national parks, and the reactions

of pioneers to their totally new habitat, he identifies the transport of traditional imagery into new places as a sort of cultural baggage." The last three chapters are of particular value to conservationists: "Fellow Creatures" is the best argument for hunting I have read; "Varieties of Nature Hating" is a brilliant and penetrating analysis of our enemies; and "The American West" is a provocative discussion of wilderness preservation. Don't think this book is out of date! University of Georgia Press, 2002, (1967). Paperback.

THE HISTORY OF THE SIERRA CLUB: 1892-1970 by *Michael P. Cohen*. Sierra Club Books, San Francisco, 1988. Very few officially commissioned "histories" of organizations are worth much, tending to dull, platitudinous PR. My friend Mike Cohen's *History of the Sierra Club* is the soaring, singing exception. Which explains why the Sierra Club establishment didn't like it, why Dave Brower didn't like it, and so on. Cohen was given access to oral histories and Club archives. He interviewed many Sierra Club leaders. And he told the story as true as anyone could. Although he delves deeply into the Brower controversy and firing, he also goes deeply into the earlier history of Club. If you want to understand the old Sierra Club, read Michael Cohen's book.

THE AUDUBON ARK: A History of the National Audubon Society by *Frank Graham, Jr.* University of Texas Press, Austin, 1990.

WITNESSES TO A VANISHING AMERICA: The Nineteenth-Century Response by *Lee Clark Mitchell*. Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ, 1981.

AMERICAN SPORTSMEN AND THE ORIGINS OF CONSERVATION by *John F. Reiger*. Revised Edition, University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, 1986.

THE QUIET CRISIS AND THE NEXT GENERATION by *Stewart Udall*, Foreword by *John F. Kennedy*. Udall's book, first published in 1963 when he was JFK's Secretary of the Interior, became a best seller and helped to launch the modern conservation movement. This classic of conservation history is updated in this edition to discuss the last 25 years of conservation as well. Stu Udall is the second-best Secretary of the

Interior this nation has had (Harold Ickes was best; Cecil Andrus was highly overrated). 320 pages, index. Gibbs Smith, 1991 (1963).

ECO-WARRIORS: Understanding the Radical Environmental Movement by Rik Scarce, Foreword by David Brower. *Eco-Warriors* is a journalistic but sympathetic account of the direct action side of Earth First!, Sea Shepherd, Greenpeace, and the Animal Liberation Front—it is the most comprehensive history of “environmental” direct action. The focus of *Eco-Warriors* is on civil disobedience, so it emphasizes the anarchist/West Coast aspect of '80s Earth First! instead of the conservation biology/biocentric aspect. Nancy and I are on the cover in David Cross’s classic photo. Scarce became (involuntarily) a freedom of the press hero by refusing to testify to a federal grand jury about his sources for *Eco-Warriors*. He was jailed in a great travesty of justice. The court set him free after realizing that Scarce's integrity was stronger than the government's bars. He’s now a college professor. Footnotes, index, 320 pages. The Noble Press, 1990.

WILD ANIMALS AND AMERICAN ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS by Lisa Mighetto. Dr. Mighetto, a history professor at the University of Puget Sound, has written a history of American attitudes and practices toward wildlife. Her history clearly identifies the roles played by popular writers, hunters, humanitarians, and ecologists in influencing attitudes toward animals. She uses this background to discuss predator control, biocentrism, elimination of exotic species, and other current topics. Whether you are an “animal rights” activist wishing to protect animals out of compassion or an ecocentric wilderness advocate wishing to safeguard natural processes and the Big Outside, Mighetto has much good history and clear thinking to offer. Index, footnotes, bibliography, many black & white photos, 177 pages. University of Arizona Press, 1991.

THE EVERGLADES: River of Grass by Marjory Stoneman Douglas, illustrated by Robert Fink. The first edition of this book helped establish Everglades National Park. Douglas was a revered conservationist in Florida, working to protect the Everglades her whole life (she lived to be over 100). *River of Grass* is a classic American book, and Douglas stands tall as a rebuke to those who thought and think that men were and are

the only top players in conservation. Revised Edition, Pineapple Press, Sarasota, FL, 1988.

THE GREEN REVOLUTION: The American Environmental Movement 1962-1992 by *Kirkpatrick Sale*. I was pleased when Sale's book came out. There finally was a history of the conservation/environmental movement that considered the role of Earth First! and was willing to critique the bigness and compromising of the mainstream groups. A quick and punchy read. Index, bibliography, 111 pages. Hill and Wang, 1993.

RECLAIMING PARADISE: The Global Environmental Movement by *John McCormick*. Although McCormick writes from an establishment perspective, his history is of value to American conservation activists to help us realize that Americans are not the only conservationists in the world, and that the conservation movement also has roots outside America. This is probably the best overview of international environmentalism. 280 pages, footnotes, bibliography, index. Indiana University Press, 1989.

THE WISDOM OF THE SPOTTED OWL: Policy Lessons for a New Century by *Stephen Lewis Yaffee*. Professor Yaffee (School of Natural Resource, University of Michigan) analyzes the controversy over the Spotted Owl and demonstrates the shortcomings of existing management institutions and natural resource policies. He looks into questions like the causes of the polarization of opinion and lack of communication, the failure of the decision-making process, and changes needed so we can deal more effectively with critical issues in the future. Tables, index, 350 pages. Island Press, 1994.

RADICAL ECOLOGY: The Search for a Livable World by *Carolyn Merchant*. In this work, Merchant examines the revolutionary ideas of visionary ecologists for a transformation of society and analyzes how they bring issues before the public. Among the many topics covered are: the global ecological crisis, Deep Ecology, spiritual ecology, social ecology, socialist ecology, greens, Earth First!, Greenpeace, direct action, ecofeminism, sustainable development, restoration ecology, bioregionalism, indigenous peoples, and contributions of radical theorists and activists. Unfortunately, Merchant shows a poor understanding of

Deep Ecology and wilderness. Marxism and the Myth of the Noble Savage color her analysis; by her definition of what “radical” is, I’ve never been one. Notes, index, figures, 288 pages. Routledge, 1992.

FORCING THE SPRING: The Transformation of the American Environmental Movement by Robert Gottlieb. Academics, politicians, reporters, the general public, and even most conservation activists believe in “The Myth of the Environmental Movement,” which argues that environmentalism grew out of the narrow wildlife and wildland conservation movement with Earth Day 1970. A far better analysis, I think, is that conservation and environmentalism are two separate movements with different constituencies, issues, and histories. Environmentalism is about human health issues of pollution and quality of life; conservation is about wilderness, wildlife, public lands, and biodiversity. The strength of this deeply flawed book is Gottlieb's tracing of the true roots of environmentalism to the public health, urban improvement, and workplace safety movements of the turn of the century. The author shows a strong New Left bias throughout, and displays an ignorance, disinterest, and even hostility to conservation concerns. *Forcing the Spring* completely ignores grassroots conservation, including local Sierra Club groups and small regional conservation groups (and the role of strong women in such groups). Index, 413 pages. Island Press, 1993.

AMERICAN ENVIRONMENTALISM: The U.S. Environmental Movement, 1970-1990 edited by Riley E. Dunlap and Angela G. Mertig. This is an exploration of the changes in the movement by an incisive group of ecological sociologists including the editors, Bill Devall, Mike McCloskey (of the Sierra Club), and others. Chapters look at 20 years of conservation and environmentalism from these perspectives: Overview, National Groups, Grassroots Groups, African-Americans, Deep Ecology and Radical Environmentalists, Global Environmentalism, An Insider's View, and Public Opinion. This is the best socio/poli-sci study I've read of the movement. Index, references, footnotes, graphs, charts, 121 pages. Taylor & Francis, 1992.

ENVIRONMENTALISTS: Vanguard for a New Society by Lester W. Milbrath. This was a much-quoted review of the environmental/conservation movement and a cross-cultural study of

beliefs and values. Milbrath, using the results of a detailed public questionnaire, contrasts the old Dominant Social Paradigm and the emerging New Environmental Paradigm. His discussion of how paradigms change is valuable and some of his insights are worthwhile. Unfortunately, the New Environmental Paradigm didn't come out on top. Valuable as a historical document. Index, references, charts, graphs, 180 pages. SUNY Press, 1984.

ENVIRONMENTALISM AND THE FUTURE OF PROGRESSIVE POLITICS by *Robert C. Paehlke*. I did not like this book at first, but I warmed to it the more I got into it. This is clearly a book about Environmentalism instead of Conservation, although Dr. Paehlke recognizes the importance of wilderness preservation. He constructs an environmental political ideology to oppose neoconservatism in the new political spectrum for the English-speaking world (he is Canadian), arguing that the old left and right are dead. This is an important analysis for conservationists and environmentalists making future plans. He rejects the "Malthusian" approach of Paul Ehrlich, *Limits to Growth*, William Catton, and Garrett Hardin for Amory Lovins's "soft energy path." Indeed, Paehlke constructs his new environmentalist political ideology around Lovins's approach. While I find much in that with which to disagree, this book has value for its distinction between conservation and environmentalism, his history of the modern "Malthusian" debate, and his effort to create a political ideology out of the worldview of environmentalism and the soft energy path. Like Milbrath above, Paehlke optimism didn't pan out. Both books are valuable now mostly for their representation of historical environmental thinking. Index, footnotes, 325 pages. Yale University Press, 1989.

INSIDE THE ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT: Meeting the Leadership Challenge by *Donald Snow*. A delicious irony (some would call it hypocrisy) within the conservation and environmental movements is that they are self-appointed critics of social institutions (government, industry) but are reluctant to have anyone look in their own closets. Discussions of strategy, organization, or activist ethics occur in few other books. Snow's book grew out of The Conservation Leadership Project, a two-year study of environmental groups and their leaders undertaken by The Conservation Fund. Even activists with much experience like myself learn something from this careful look. A healthy, effective, ethical

movement is a necessity for the job of preserving biodiversity. Index, bibliography, footnotes, questionnaire samples, 295 pages, recycled acid-free paper. Island Press, 1992.

MODELS OF NATURE: Ecology, Conservation, and Cultural Revolution in Soviet Russia by Douglas R. Weiner. There was a standing joke during the Cold War about the Russians claiming they invented everything first. Of course, we Americans had a good chuckle whenever such a boast appeared since we knew *we* had invented everything first. Certainly we were first with National Parks and Wilderness Areas. But, history professor Weiner shows that the Russians were ahead of us in setting up and managing extensive nature reserves for biological diversity—*zapovedniki*--long before we Americans got around to talking about transforming our scenic and backpacking parks to biodiversity reserves. This is fascinating and important history, as Weiner traces the establishment of Soviet reserves, and how biologists defended them through the ups and downs of Soviet politics and science. The worse consequence of the breakup of the Soviet Union is what has happened to the *zapovedniki*—budgets slashed, protection downgraded. The Wildlife Conservation Society is helping to defend the *zapovedniki*, but things are dire. Nonetheless, conservation biologists, historians, and wilderness activists should read *Models of Nature*—it will help us design nature reserves for the protection and restoration of biodiversity. Index, bibliography, footnotes, tables, black & white photos and illustrations, 312 pages. Indiana University Press, 1988.

Roderick Nash

WILDERNESS AND THE AMERICAN MIND Fourth Edition by Roderick Nash. Nash's peerless history of American attitudes toward the wilderness is the most important book available for understanding the dynamic interplay between humans and nature in the New World. Now in an expanded, revised fourth edition with greater emphasis on wildlands networks, and chapters on wilderness management, Wild & Scenic Rivers, Alaskan wilderness, and international perspectives, it is a must for every conservation bookshelf. *Wilderness and the American Mind* is the most complete history of the effort to preserve wilderness. *Wilderness and the American Mind* was my bible for knowing the wilderness movement

when I started out as a conservationist in 1971. I can't begin to say how honored I was when Yale University Press asked me for a buddy blurb for this fourth edition (and when they used it on the back cover). Index, 413 pages, footnotes. Yale University Press, 2001 (1967). *UNCLE DAVE'S SIXPACK SELECTION*

THE RIGHTS OF NATURE: A History of Environmental Ethics by Roderick Nash. Professor William Cronon said that Nash's book is "the most comprehensive and encyclopedic history anyone has yet written of the intellectual precursors of radical environmentalism." Indeed it is. *The Rights of Nature* is a family tree for those conservationists interested in our philosophical genesis. It is also a fine-grained whetstone for honing our arguments. The last chapter devotes considerable space to Earth First!. (I just hope I don't get my neck stretched like John Brown's, Rod!) 290 pages, index, footnotes, bibliography. University of Wisconsin Press, 1989.

AMERICAN ENVIRONMENTALISM: Readings in Conservation History, Third Edition by Roderick Nash. Nash introduces over fifty key writings from the last 200 years, ranging from soil conservation to monkeywrenching, for an encompassing survey of how America has approached conservation. This is the best overview of American conservation/environmental writing available, and is remarkable for the breadth of topics covered. The five sections of the book and some of the contributors for each are: The Conservation Impulse to 1878—Black Elk, William Cronon, George Catlin, Thoreau, George Perkins Marsh, Frederick Law Olmstead, Carl Shurz, John Wesley Powell; The Progressive Conservation Crusade 1901-1910—Gifford Pinchot, Theodore Roosevelt, Robert Underwood Johnson, John Muir, Samuel P. Hays, Rod Nash; Conserving Resources and Environmental Quality 1921-1965—Hugh Bennett, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Benton MacKaye, Robert Marshall, William Vogt, Aldo Leopold, Wallace Stegner, Lyndon Johnson; The Gospel of Ecology 1962-1972—Rachel Carson, Paul Ehrlich, Barry Commoner, Council on Environmental Quality, Ralph Nader, Gary Snyder, Garrett Hardin, William O. Douglas, David Brower; The New Environmentalism 1973-1990—Rod Nash, Paul Ehrlich, Wendell Berry, Gar Smith, Kirkpatrick Sale, Murray Bookchin, Ed Abbey, Dave Foreman, George Sessions & Bill Devall, Edward O. Wilson, Lester Brown & Sandra Postel, Robert Cahn. 364

pages, index, bibliography, chronology of American environmentalism. McGraw-Hill, 1990 (1976).

Biography and Autobiography

An eternal debate in history is the role of the individual in shaping events and ideas. I cannot adequately discuss here the opposing points of view of whether the "great men and women" of history create events, trends, and ideas, or whether great men and women are created by events. At the very least, though, certain individuals represent the larger society, and their lives serve as representations of their times. It is no different in conservation history. The following biographies and autobiographies introduce some of the giants of the conservation movement.

ADVENTURES WITH ED: A Portrait of Abbey by Jack Loeffler. Jack Loeffler was Ed Abbey's best friend and his companion in many adventures. *Adventures With Ed* is no academic biography. It's a night on a wild river beach listening to stories about Ed from a mighty voice in the dark. If you want to gain a small understanding of the outlaw who wrote *Desert Solitaire*, *Monkey Wrench Gang*, *Fool's Journey*...here's where you go. All great men and women deserve a Jack Loeffler. University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque, 2002.

EPITAPH FOR A DESERT ANARCHIST: The Life and Legacy of Edward Abbey by James Bishop Jr., Epilogue by Charles Bowden. Atheneum, New York, 1994.

EDWARD ABBEY: A Life by James M. Cahalan. University of Arizona Press, Tucson, 2001.

THE NEW WEST OF EDWARD ABBEY by Ann Ronald. Dr. Ronald is a professor of English at the University of Nevada. In this literary study, she considers in turn Abbey's early fiction, his non-fiction, and his later fiction up to *Good News*. If you're an Abbey fan, this book is a good path for developing a deeper understanding of the importance of Cactus Ed to American Literature and to the Defense of the Wild. Index, bibliography, footnotes, 255 pages. University of Nevada Press, 1988 (1982).

RESIST MUCH, OBEY LITTLE: Some Notes on Edward Abbey edited by James Hepworth and Gregory McNamee. Fifteen distinguished writers comment on Edward Abbey as a major American author. Contributors include Wendell Berry, Gary Snyder, William Eastlake, and

Barry Lopez. Also includes four interviews with Abbey. Harbinger House.

CONFESSIONS OF A BARBARIAN: Selections from the Journals by *Edward Abbey*, Edited by *David Petersen*. Johnson Books, Boulder, CO, 2003 (1994).

LET MY PEOPLE GO SURFING: The education of a reluctant businessman by *Yvon Chouinard*. The old Yosemite climbing bum and surfing bum Yvon Chouinard has become an essential citizen of the world, and he has done it in many fields. World-class climber. Skilled craftsman of climbing gear. Super-innovative businessman and owner of Patagonia outdoor clothing company. Organizational philosopher and hands-on doer. Conservationist. Trail-making philanthropist. And a Zen master-inspiration for how to live and work.

An autobiography from such a wild and deep man would be a substantial book. But *Let My People Go Surfing* is much more—nothing short of how to live and work with honesty and integrity. Many will see Yvon's example and message as most telling for businesspeople. More important, I think is the guidance it can give the conservation and environmental movements. I often see Patagonia as the best-run, most enthusiastic conservation group in the world. By reading *Let My People Go Surfing*, conservation leaders might see how their groups have come close to losing integrity and passion for wild Nature. They will realize why they need it. And they will learn how to put integrity and passion for the wild back into their nonprofit organizations and keep it there. No matter where you sit in the conservation movement, you will find that *Let My People Go Surfing* has much to offer you. It is, also, just a damn fun book to read! The Penguin Press, New York, 2005. Historic photos, 260 pages. *UNCLE DAVE'S NEW SIXPACK SELECTION*

YOUR LAND AND MINE: Evolution of a Conservationist by *Edgar Wayburn, MD, with Allison Alsup*. Sierra Club Books, San Francisco, 2004. Ed Wayburn is the last and best example of a certain rare type of conservationist: the well-to-do and well-connected citizen whose reputation allows him (or her) direct access to members of Congress, Secretaries of the Interior, and other top decision-makers. Until she passed away, his wife Peggy had the

same clout. Together they were an unprecedented and nonrepeatable power couple of conservation. Though not as well known as Dave Brower, Ed and Peggy were just as effective in protecting wilderness. In *Your Land and Mine*, Dr. Wayburn tells how he fell in love with the Sierra Nevada wilderness in the 1930s, and, after World War II, how he became one of the young turks with Brower who transformed the Sierra Club into a powerhouse of conservation. He recounts how he (and Peggy) picked one issue after another from the wildlands of Marin County through the Redwoods to the great campaign for Alaska parks and wilderness. *Your Land and Mine* is the conservation autobiography of a Great Man of the Twentieth Century. Read it and you will come away more inspired to fight for wild Nature. One of the great honors of my life was an unexpected phone call I received from Ed Wayburn in 1994 asking me to run for the Sierra Club Board of Directors. Index, historical photos, 319 pages.

ALL MY RIVERS ARE GONE: A Journey of Discovery Through Glen Canyon by Katie Lee, Introduction by Terry Tempest Williams. Johnson Books, Boulder, CO, 1998. I've been one lucky buckaroo the last twenty years or so to have Mother Nature for a friend. Now Mother Nature doesn't look like the artists all draw her: the sort of old hippie grandmother draped with flowers and a long flowing muumuu. Nope, my Mother Nature is a rootin' tootin' buck-naked river runner: Katie Lee. One of my prizes is a black-and-white photo of a side canyon to Glen Canyon. With Katie's splendid butt and backside against the slickrock. In *All My Rivers Are Gone*, Katie tells how, as a "struggling actress-singer-guitarist" in the 1950s, she fell in love with the Colorado River through Glen Canyon and the Grand Canyon. And she tells how she and her river friends fought the monstrosity of the Wreck-the-Nation-Bureau's Glen Canyon Dam. Joy, sorrow, and outrage. Here's your chance to know the Glen just a little bit from the woman who knew (knows) it better than anyone. Annotated bibliography, black-and-white photos, 260 pages.

SANDSTONE SEDUCTION: Rivers and Lovers, Canyons and Friends by Katie Lee, Foreword by Ellen Meloy. Johnson Books, Boulder, CO, 2004. Here is Katie's real autobiography from her wild days in Tucson and the Mexican border to Hollywood to the

canyons of the Colorado to wildness and wilderness wherever she can find it. Black-and-white photos, 240 pages.

ALDO LEOPOLD'S ODYSSEY by *Julianne Lutz Newton*. Island Press, Washington, 2006. Through countless hours of research and long conversations with Aldo Leopold's children and others who knew him, Julianne Newton has given us an inspiring view of another side of the many-faceted great conservationist. Leopold is properly celebrated as a wilderness champion, but he spent just as much time on farm conservation with the goal of bringing harmony between people and the land. My friend Julianne has done a great service here in helping us understand the man Aldo Leopold and his probing, questioning intellectual pack trip through life. Photos, reproductions of teaching diagrams, bibliography, detailed endnotes, index, 483 pages.

WILDERNESS FOREVER: Howard Zahniser and the Path to the Wilderness Act by *Mark Harvey*, *Foreword by William Cronon*. University of Washington Press, Seattle, 2005.

TWO IN THE FAR NORTH by *Margaret E. Murie*, *New Foreword by Terry Tempest Williams*. Alaska Northwest Books, Portland, OR, 1999 (1957). A touching yet grand remembrance of Mardy and Olaus Murie in the wilds of Alaska. I read *Two In The Far North* while in solitary confinement at Quantico Marine Brig in 1968; it was my lifeline to sanity.

OCEAN WARRIOR: My Battle to End the Illegal Slaughter on the High Seas by *Paul Watson*, *Foreword by Farley Mowat*. Key Porter Books, Toronto, 1994.

WOMEN IN THE FIELD: America's Pioneering Women Naturalists by *Marcia Myers Bonta*. Take a look at the other biographies here. Men, right? Except for Rachel Carson we generally ignore women in natural history and conservation. Bonta helps to rectify this with a biographical survey of 25 prominent American women naturalists and biologists from the colonial era to Rachel Carson. Index, extensive bibliography, black & white photos, illustrations, 299 pages. Texas A&M University Press, 1991.

GARY SNYDER: Dimensions of a Life edited by Jon Halper. On the 60th anniversary of Gary Snyder's birth, 60 friends and colleagues contributed their remembrances and evaluations of the life-so-far of a truly remarkable human being. Contributors range from Allen Ginsberg to Dave Foreman (I do get around). Index, black & white photos of Snyder, 452 pages. Sierra Club Books, 1991.

THE HOUSE OF LIFE Rachel Carson at Work by Paul Brooks. Rachel Carson was one of the great people of the modern era. She, more than anyone else, launched the popular environmental movement and shook the foundations of the American establishment. Her accomplishments are all the more remarkable because she was a woman at a time when women were decidedly second-class scientists. Paul Brooks was her longtime editor and a close friend. Don't miss this biography. 358 pages, 20 pages of photos and drawings. Houghton Mifflin, 1993.

ALDO LEOPOLD: His Life And Work by Curt Meine. If you have wanted to know more about the man who wrote *A Sand County Almanac*, Meine's book should satisfy your interest. Although highly readable, this is a thorough and analytic review of the most important conservation thinker of the 20th century. Meine makes abundantly clear in his study of Leopold as a boy, student, young forester, Forest Supervisor, game manager, pioneer ecologist, and university professor, that Leopold was always an activist on the forefront of conservation whether it be game protection, wilderness preservation, or wildlife management. 638 pages, index, footnotes, bibliography, photographs. University of Wisconsin Press, 1988.

THE PATHLESS WAY by Michael P. Cohen. A tender yet critical, academic yet passionate, intellectual yet inspiring biography of John Muir. Unlike all other works on Muir, this book focuses on his evolving ideas, and ties Muir to Deep Ecology. With a Ph.D. in literature, an impressive mountaineering record in the High Sierra, and stature as a leading exponent of Deep Ecology, Cohen was uniquely qualified to write this book. 406 pages, heavily footnoted, index. University of Wisconsin Press, 1984.

REDISCOVERING AMERICA: John Muir in His Time and Ours by *Frederick Turner*. Fred Turner is an unusually perceptive writer, and *Rediscovering America* is an exceptional biography of the quintessential American conservationist—John o' the Mountains. 417 pages, index, notes on sources, black & white photos of Muir. Sierra Club Books, 1985.

SPIRIT OF PLACE The Making of an American Literary Landscape by *Frederick Turner*. Turner, author of the great *Beyond Geography*, here turns his perceptive eye to nine American authors and the landscapes that formed them and their finest literary works. Henry David Thoreau and Walden Pond and the Maine Woods; Mark Twain and the Mississippi River; George Washington Cable and the Louisiana bayous; Willa Cather and northern New Mexico; Mari Sandoz and the Great Plains; William Faulkner and the Southern forest; John Steinbeck and the Salinas Valley; William Carlos Williams and America; Leslie Marmon Silko and Laguna Pueblo. Here is American literature; here is the American land. The literature cannot be separated from the land. Index, bibliography, 384 pages. Island Press, 1992 (1989).

WILDERNESS VISIONARIES by *Jim Dale Vickery*. *Wild Earth* editor John Davis called this “one of the more enjoyable explorations of the lives of great ecologists ever to appear in print.” Vickery, canoe guide and writer from the Boundary Waters, explores man's hunger for wild country by examining the lives of six wilderness legends: Henry David Thoreau, John Muir, Robert Service, Robert Marshall, Calvin Rustrum, and Sigurd Olson. 220 pages, index, bibliography, illustrated. ICS, 1992 (1986).

RIGHTEOUS PILGRIM: The Life and Times of Harold L. Ickes 1874-1952 by *T. H. Watkins*. Ickes, who served under FDR, is still the best Secretary of the Interior this nation ever had. Ickes was a committed conservationist and an irascible curmudgeon—two qualities that need to be combined more often. His role in conservation history is too frequently overlooked. I hope that this perceptive, eloquent study by Watkins, late editor of *The Wilderness Society's* late magazine, *Wilderness*, will bring Ickes and his works their much-deserved recognition. Henry Holt, 1990.

DREAMERS AND DEFENDERS: American Conservationists by Douglas H. Strong. History professor Strong's biographical sketches of 12 American conservationists create a history of the ongoing movement. Henry David Thoreau, Frederick Law Olmstead, George Perkins Marsh, John Wesley Powell, Gifford Pinchot, John Muir, Stephen Mather, Aldo Leopold, Harold Ickes, David Brower, Rachel Carson, and Barry Commoner are profiled. I'm pleased that some of the important but lesser known conservation leaders of the past century and a half are included; this is the best source for learning about them. 295 pages, index, bibliography, footnotes, black & white photos. University of Nebraska Press, 1988 (1971).

WOMAN IN THE MISTS: The Story of Dian Fossey and the Mountain Gorillas of Africa by Farley Mowat. Warner Books, New York, 1987.

MARJORIE STONEMAN DOUGLAS: Voice of the River by Marjorie Stoneman Douglas with John Rothchild. Pineapple Press, Sarasota, Florida, 1987.

A WILDERNESS ORIGINAL: The Life of Bob Marshall by James M. Glover. The Mountaineers, Seattle, 1986.

Conservation

Extinction

Two things happened about 50,000 years ago: (1) Behaviorally modern humans evolved and began to spread around the world; and (2) A mass extinction, particularly of large animals, began. Coincidence? Not on your life. We've named ourselves Homo sapiens—wise man, but a better name would be killing man. The books in this section describe the most momentous and horrible event in 65 million years, and the most basic and urgent task of conservationists.

THE WORLD ACCORDING TO PIMM a scientist audits the Earth by Stuart L. Pimm (McGraw-Hill, NY, 2001). Pimm, one of the world's leading ecologists and experts on evolution, tallies how

much of Earth's Net Primary Productivity (NPP) humans use. He clearly, readably, and authoritatively shows that we are using 42% of Earth's yearly terrestrial biomass production, about one-third of marine NPP, and 50% of freshwater. His analysis is enlivened with delightful tidbits of classic scientific adventure. This essential book needs to be read by every conservationist. Maps, endnotes, index, 285 pages. *UNCLE DAVE'S SECOND SIXPACK SELECTION*

A GAP IN NATURE: Discovering the World's Extinct Animals by *Tim Flannery*, *Paintings* by *Peter Schouten*. Atlantic Monthly Press, New York, 2001. This coffee-table book features the most beautiful paintings and illustrations of extinct creatures I have ever seen. Flannery, a wide-ranging Australian paleontologist and passionate writer, provides an authoritative and riveting narrative. This book makes you want to cry.

THE FUTURE EATERS: An ecological history of the Australasian lands and people by *Tim Flannery*. George Braziller, New York, 1995. I'd heard rumors of this book from a few who read the early Australian edition and was overjoyed when Brian Miller found me a copy. *Future Eaters* is a detailed and daring study of the Megafauna extinctions in Australia and New Zealand by the early ancestors of the Aborigines and Maoris. I remain skeptical of Flannery's fire-ecology theory and his notion of how the abos achieved some kind of harmony with the land after the big extinction, but this is a real underground classic.

THE ETERNAL FRONTIER: An ecological history of North America and its peoples by *Tim Flannery*. Atlantic Monthly Press, New York, 2001. Flannery turns his wise and insightful ecologist's eye to North America and writes the best biography of our continent from the smash of the comet 65 million years ago to today. *Eternal Frontier* is nothing short of fascinating and eye-opening. You will learn a lot from reading it. We humans suffer terribly from shortsightedness. Flannery has the medicine to cure that malady. He clearly argues that the earliest humans in the New World did the deed in the extinction of the megafauna 13,000 or so years ago. The section where he covers the even-more recent history of North America is the only weak spot in the book, but that is easy to overlook in this sweeping story.

THE WEATHER MAKERS: How Man Is Changing the Climate and What It Means for Life on Earth *by Tim Flannery.*

Atlantic Monthly Press, New York, 2005. Flannery does a superb job in explaining the atmospheric and oceanic physics of global heating and convincingly shows that humans are causing it. The heart of the book, though, is his wide-ranging discussion of the impact of climate change on biodiversity and species extinction. *Weather Makers* is far and away the best coverage of the present and potential loss of species from greenhouse-gas poisoning. The last part, however, where he offers things to do to stop global heating, is disappointing. Nonetheless, I highly recommend this book for conservationists who want the facts on global heating's impact on Nature and evolutionary potential.

EXTINCTIONS IN NEAR TIME: Causes, Contexts, and Consequences *Edited by Ross D.E. MacPhee.* This is one of those expensive books intended for libraries and experts in the field. I find this to be unfortunate because *Extinctions in Near Time* is an essential resource for conservationists interested in really understanding extinction—past, present, and near future. MacPhee, Mammal Curator of the American Museum of Natural History, writes in the Preface, “From an anthropocentric point of view, the outstanding feature of near time [the last 100,000 years] is the fact that the evolution, cultural diversification, and global spread of *Homo sapiens* have all occurred within it. From a wider biological perspective, however, the hallmark of near time is better conceived of as being one of enduring, repeated loss....In the majority of cases, these losses occurred when, and only when, people began to expand across areas that had never before experienced their presence.” The book's scope is worldwide, from 100,000 years ago to the present, and includes all classes of vertebrates. Chapter authors are the top extinction experts, including MacPhee, Niles Eldridge, Paul Martin, David Steadman, David Burney, Tim Flannery, and others. I found all thirteen chapters to be fascinating and useful (albeit sad). The first chapter, by Eldridge, truly plows new ground for our understanding of the relationship between humans and Nature. Eldridge convincingly shows that with the development of agriculture and settled life, humans removed themselves from ecosystems thereby alienating themselves from Nature. I highly

recommend this book to conservationists, and I'm sure that it is in university libraries. Index, detailed references, maps, graphs, and other illustrations, 394 pages. Kluwer Academic/Plenum Publishers, New York, 1999.

DODO: A Brief History by *Errol Fuller*. Universe, New York, 2002.

THE SIXTH EXTINCTION Patterns of Life And The Future Of Humankind by *Richard Leakey and Roger Lewin*. Who better than the world's most famous paleoanthropologist and a renowned conservationist—Richard Leakey—to explain the terrible reality of the Sixth Extinction? With science writer Roger Lewin, Leakey has produced a good overview of the Sixth Extinction. To set the stage for better understanding today's human-caused mass extinction, they effectively examine past mass extinctions, the process of evolution and what it tells about human "uniqueness," and ecology and biodiversity. They also rebut Julian Simon's pooh-poohing of extinction and make him out to be the fool that he was. Index, footnotes, photographs, illustrations, 271 pages. Doubleday, NY, 1995.

ENDANGERED ANIMALS: A Golden Guide by *George S. Fichter, Illustrated by Kristen Kest*. St. Martin's Press, New York, 1995. I bought this little book as a Christmas gift for my six-year-old nephew last year, but kept it for myself after looking at it. It is an excellent introduction to the biodiversity crisis. Buy a copy for everyone on your gift list who is twelve or older.

WILDLIFE IN AMERICA (REVISED EDITION) by *Peter Matthiessen* (Viking, NY, 1987). A classic history of wildlife extermination in North America by one of our greatest authors. First published in 1959, *Wildlife in America* was updated in 1987. The story it unfolds, however, is timeless. The chapters each focus on ecoregions and Matthiessen tramps through the history of each from the standpoint of what we have done to the critters. It is a fine literary work and an authoritative reference. I frequently draw on it in my own writing. One very useful appendix is a detailed list of wildlife protection measures in the US. Another lists rare, extinct,

and declining species under the Endangered Species Act as of 1987. *Wildlife in America* deserves to be more widely known and it should be in every conservationist's library. Lovely illustrations including some color plates, maps, index, bibliography, endnotes, 332 pages.

THE CONDOR'S SHADOW: The Loss and Recovery of Wildlife in America by David S. Wilcove, Foreword by Edward O. Wilson. (Freeman, NY, 1999). Wilcove, one of the world's leading conservation biologists and experts on extinction, acknowledges that his book is modeled on Peter Matthiessen's *Wildlife in America*. But, he points out, Matthiessen wrote as a historian, while he (Wilcove) is an ecologist. Wilcove recounts the destruction of wildlife and examines how their loss harmed the ecosystems in which they ranged. This is critical information. I find that the two books complement each other in a splendid way, and that each should be read and studied. Exquisite portraits of endangered species, index, bibliography, endnotes, 339 pages.

ENDANGERED ANIMALS A Reference Guide to Conflicting Issues edited by Richard P. Reading and Brian Miller (Greenwood Press 2000). Species experts around the world analyze how humans have endangered 49 species, from the jaguar to the leatherback turtle.

SEA OF SLAUGHTER by Farley Mowat. A landmark study of the historic and on-going destruction of wildlife (seabirds, other birds, bears, wolves, fish, whales, seals) along the northern Atlantic seaboard of North America (including New England). Mowat undertook an exhaustive research project to produce this heavily documented book. I know of no other work that so thoroughly and accurately describes the venal, wasteful destruction of other species by humans. While Mowat charges corporations with guilt in this devastation, he does not fall into the craven liberal trap of excusing common folks for their part in the slaughter of wildlife. In fact, it is the bubbas of all flavors—Basque, French-Canadian, English, and so on—who come out stinking the most for their blood lust. *USA Today* says that "*Sea of Slaughter* deserves to stand with Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* as an outstanding indictment of man's stupidity in alienating himself from nature." Amen. Besides

detailing the orgy of killing, Mowat also documents the former distribution of species like Walrus, Polar Bear, Grizzly Bear, Elk, and Bison in the St. Lawrence region. For example, he provides strong evidence that Polar Bears commonly ranged as far south as coastal Maine and that Walrus hauled out on Cape Cod. Regardless of where you live in North America (or the world), you should read *Sea of Slaughter*. Wildlife illustrations by Rob Tuckerman, index, bibliography, 464 pages. Seal Books, McClelland-Bantam, 1989 (1984).

THE MINER'S CANARY: Unraveling The Mysteries Of Extinction by Niles Eldredge. Prentice Hall Press, New York, 1991.

LIFE IN THE BALANCE: Humanity and the Biodiversity Crisis by Niles Eldredge. Princeton University Press, New Jersey, 1998.

THE TRIUMPH OF EVOLUTION AND THE FAILURE OF CREATIONISM by Niles Eldredge. W.H. Freeman, New York, 2000.

AFTER THE ICE AGE: The Return of Life to Glaciated North America by E. C. Pielou. To understand the existing ecosystems of North America and the threats industrial humans pose to them, we need to understand their origins, evolution, and the factors shaping them after the great ice receded. This is a readable, fascinating, but authoritative account. It describes the many species lost during the Pleistocene extinction and the ecosystems of 10,000 years ago. Being solidly grounded in the history of North American ecosystems will make all of us more effective conservationists. Index, footnotes, species lists, many illustrations and maps, 366 pages. University of Chicago Press, 1991.

PLEISTOCENE MAMMALS OF NORTH AMERICA by Bjorn Kurten and Elaine Anderson. This magnificent reference book is not cheap, but it holds, in the seemingly dry lists in it, memories. It is the most authoritative tally of the American Megafauna in print. How many giant ground sloth species? When and where did they live? Ever hear of the Lake Cat? How far north did the jaguar range? The answers are here. For each species, extinct and extant, fossil locations, dates, anatomical characteristics, and such are given. Many illustrations, tables, references, indices for common

names, scientific names, locations, and authors, 442 pages. Columbia University Press, New York, 1980.

ICE AGE MAMMALS OF NORTH AMERICA: A Guide to the Big, the Hairy, and the Bizarre by *Ian M. Lange*, Illustrated by *Dorothy S. Norton*. This is an easy-to-read, enjoyable discussion about the Pleistocene megafauna and others for animal lovers. A good, authoritative book for anyone who is interested in big mammals. Like a dinosaur book. Mountain Press Publishing Company, Missoula, MT, 2002.

QUATERNARY EXTINCTIONS: A Prehistoric Revolution edited by *Paul Martin and Richard G. Klein*. Whodunit? 12,000 to 10,000 years ago (and much more recently on big islands), dozens of genera of large mammals, birds, and reptiles became extinct. In this impressive anthology, 38 scientific papers analyze whether climatic change or overhunting by humans caused the demise of mammoth, mastodon, smilodon, cave bear, cave lion, giant beaver, and others in North America, and other megafauna in South America, Australia, Oceania, Eurasia, and Madagascar. This book is essential to understanding the impact of our species on the rest of nature. Paul Martin's chapter "Prehistoric Overkill: The Global Model" is one of the most important scientific papers of the last 50 years. Index, footnotes, references, 892 pages, heavily illustrated with black & white photos, illustrations, maps, graphs, and charts. University of Arizona Press, 1984.

TWILIGHT OF THE MAMMOTHS Ice Age Extinctions and the Rewilding of America by *Paul S. Martin* (University of California Press, Berkeley, 2005). Paul Martin traces his career as a paleontologist seeking the whodunit truth about the extinction of North America's megafauna 13,000 years ago, and makes a thoughtful yet passionate call to restore the ecological richness and evolutionary potential of North America by returning the ecological equivalents of North America's lost camels, elephants, cheetahs, lions, horses, and other large species.

THE GHOSTS OF EVOLUTION Nonsensical Fruit, Missing Partners, and Other Ecological Anachronisms by *Connie Barlow* (Basic Books, New York, 2000). By looking at odd, rare plants,

whose fruits are no longer being dispersed, Barlow shows how the extinction of the North American megafauna discombobulated ecosystems and ecological and evolutionary processes throughout the continent. Connie is a visionary who has stirred up enthusiasm for Pleistocene rewilding. This is a very readable and entertaining book.

THE CALL OF DISTANT MAMMOTHS: Why the Ice Age Mammals Disappeared by Peter D. Ward. Copernicus, New York, 1997. Ward, a distinguished paleontologist at the University of Washington, gives a clear, highly readable study of mass extinctions and their causes. His main focus is the Pleistocene extinction, however, and by drawing on a sweep of research he makes a solid, convincing case that humans caused the extinction of megafauna around the world. Some of the strongest research he discusses is otherwise little-known. If I had to recommend just one book on the Pleistocene extinction, *The Call Of Distant Mammoths* would be it. Though its subject is heartbreaking (at least for me), it is a gripping, fascinating tour of the loss of the biggest terrestrial animals. Well illustrated, tables, references, index, 241 pages.

Conservation Biology

I remember grouching as a Wilderness Society rep back in the 1970s about how few biologists were willing to speak up publicly in defense of natural landscapes and wild critters. Happily, that is no longer the case. Professional ecologists and other biologists are now among the leading advocates of Nature preservation. Their influence has been a large factor in the evolution within conservation groups, who no longer just stress protection from standpoints of scenery and primitive recreation, but also from the deeper perspective of biological diversity. The books in this section are basic resources for those who wish to argue effectively for wildland preservation and protection of endangered species, and for those who wish to develop ecological wilderness proposals.

REWILDING NORTH AMERICA: A Vision for Conservation in the 21st Century by Dave Foreman (Island Press 2004). Order from The Rewilding Institute. *Rewilding North America* comes in three parts: Bad News, Good News, and Taking Action. The Bad News

section fills a hole in conservation writing that I've long wanted to be filled. Because no one else filled it, I decided to do it myself. The chapters in *Bad News* look at the Sixth Great Mass Extinction humans are causing in a detailed but succinct overview and with a "just the facts, Ma'am" approach uncluttered with a lot of pretty nature writing. I cover the history of how we became aware of mass extinction over the last 200 years, set it in the context of previous mass extinctions, explain biodiversity and extinction, and then show how the current mass extinction has blitzkrieged around the world in three waves. The first wave began 40,000 years ago as skilled human hunters left Africa and spread to the other continents and many islands. It is their hunting that provides the best explanation of why mastodons, saber-toothed cats, American lions, giant ground sloths, and dozens of other genera of large animals, reptiles, and birds became extinct. The second wave came as Europeans sailed out to explore and exploit the rest of the Earth from 1500 CE on. The third wave began around 1970 as the population explosion and globalization pushed people and extraction into remote areas. I also present the evidence for mass extinction happening today: facts on the ground, the species-area relationship, appropriation of net primary productivity, and so on. Finally, I look into recent North America and how human overpopulation and affluence drive seven ecological wounds that in turn cause extinction: direct killing, habitat destruction, habitat fragmentation, loss of evolutionary and ecological processes, exotic species, biocide pollution, and catastrophic climate change.

In the second section, *Good News*, I explain the knowledge and tools from the new science of conservation biology that can help us slow or even stop mass extinction through more scientifically selected, designed, and managed protected areas—our most valuable tool to protect species. I explain rewilding as a scientific and conservation approach that may be our best hope for combating extinction, by presenting research showing that large carnivores are vital for ecosystem health, that they need large protected roadless areas for security from human predators, and that safe wildlife movement areas are needed to link the protected areas together. I give a short history to show the evolution of biodiversity goals as a key part of conservation in the twentieth century, and I defend Wilderness Areas and other strictly protected areas as the most

effective tools for conservation and explain why we need many more of them in North America and around the world.

In *Taking Action*, the third section, I show how the knowledge and tools described in *Good News* can be used to fight the problems described in *Bad News*. The centerpiece for North America is the North American Wildlands Network made up of four continental MegaLinkages (now Continental Wildways): Arctic-Boreal, Pacific-Sierra, Spine of the Continent (Rocky Mountains), and Atlantic-Appalachians. Native species, especially large carnivores, should be returned to their homes. These large roadless areas should be protected as core habitat and connected to a network of wildlife linkages or general landscape permeability established in those parts of North America from Mexico to Canada that can be rewilded. Finally, I set out a laundry list of wildland and wildlife management reforms (primarily for the US) that could hasten continental rewilding. Island Press, 2006. Index, many references, illustrations, maps, 295 pages. Hardcover \$50, paperback \$25. *Signed copies available from the Rewilding Website. UNCLE DAVE'S NEW SIXPACK SELECTION*

CONTINENTAL CONSERVATION: Scientific Foundations of Regional Reserve Networks *Edited by Michael E. Soulé and John Terborgh For The Wildlands Project.* In 1997, Michael Soulé and John Terborgh convened a conference for The Wildlands Project where two dozen of North America's leading conservation biologists discussed the research and theory behind rewilding and continental-scale conservation. The book, *Continental Conservation: Scientific Foundations of Regional Reserve Networks*, is the direct product of that conference. It is the essential reference and guide for how conservation practitioners—citizen activists, conservation biologists, agency professionals, and landowners—can protect and restore wild Nature in North America. Anchored by two visionary, uncompromising clarion calls for bold conservation on a grand scale by Soulé and Terborgh, topics include: 1. The Policy and Science of Regional Conservation 2. The Issue of Scale in Selecting and Designing Biological Reserves 3. The Role of Top Carnivores in Regulating Terrestrial Ecosystems 4. Regional and Continental Restoration 5. Core Areas: Where Nature Reigns 6. Connectivity: Maintaining Flows in Fragmented Landscapes 7. Buffer Zones: Benefits and Dangers of Compatible Stewardship 8. Why We Need Mega-Reserves—and How to Design Them In addition to Soulé and Terborgh, contributors include many of

the leading conservation biologists in the world: Hector Arita, Diane Boyd-Heger, Eric Dinerstein, Rudolfo Dirzo, Dan Doak, Andy Dobson, James A. Estes, Mercedes Foster, Steve Gatewood, Barrie Gilbert, Michael Gilpin, Martha Groom, Deborah B. Jensen, David Johns, Richard L. Knight, Carlos Martinez del Rio, Dave Mattson, Brian J. Miller, L. Scott Mills, Lisa Mills, Elliott A. Norse, Reed F. Noss, Paul Paquet, Katherine Ralls, Sadie Ryan, J. Michael Scott, Daniel Simberloff, and Steve Trombulak. *Continental Conservation* is scientifically solid but is also readable and understandable for the nonscientist. The Rewilding Institute is honored to offer *Continental Conservation* for sale directly through our website. A conservation library without *Continental Conservation* isn't fit to be called a conservation library. \$29.00 postpaid from The Rewilding Institute. Island Press, 1999. *UNCLE DAVE'S SECOND SIXPACK SELECTION*

SOUTHERN ROCKIES WILDLANDS NETWORK VISION
A Science-Based Approach to Rewilding the Southern Rockies by Brian Miller et al. (Southern Rockies Ecosystem Project and Colorado Mountain Club Press, Golden, CO, 2004). Covers ecological wounds and healing ecological wounds in Southern Rockies.

SKY ISLANDS WILDLANDS NETWORK CONSERVATION PLAN by Dave Foreman et al. (The Wildlands Project 2000). Covers the ecological wounds and how to heal them in the Sky Islands of southern New Mexico and Arizona (this is the initial discussion of the healing-the-wounds approach). CD available from Kim Vacariu, The Wildlands Project, at 520-884-0875 or kim@wildlandsproject.org.

NEW MEXICO HIGHLANDS WILDLANDS NETWORK VISION by Dave Foreman et al. (The Wildlands Project 2003). Covers the ecological wounds and how to heal them in New Mexico. CD only available from Kim Vacariu, The Wildlands Project, at 520-884-0875 or kim@wildlandsproject.org.

WHAT EVOLUTION IS by Ernst Mayr (Basic Books, NY, 2001). This, the best and wisest survey of biological evolution by one of the greatest biologists of the 20th century, is an essential background to understanding the Sixth Great Extinction.

WHAT MAKES BIOLOGY UNIQUE? Considerations on the Autonomy of a Scientific Discipline by Ernst Mayr. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK, 2004.

HOPE'S HORIZON Three Visions for Healing the American Land by *Chip Ward* (Island Press 2004).

SAVING NATURE'S LEGACY Protecting and Restoring Biodiversity by *Reed F. Noss and Allen Y. Cooperrider* No one has done more to bring conservation biology to grassroots citizen activists than has Reed Noss. Maybe no one has done more to present the concepts of conservation biology to agency managers and scientists. And no scientist has been more courageous in taking hard public stands on conservation issues without regard to personal career. By doing all this and succeeding so well, Reed has blazed the path for other scientists to become courageously involved in fighting for biodiversity. In this thorough and readable study, Noss and Cooperrider translate the principles and techniques of conservation biology into practical land use management. They offer explicit guidelines on inventorying biodiversity, selecting areas for protection, designing regional and continental reserve networks, establishing monitoring programs, and setting priorities for getting the job done. Photos, tables, figures, glossary, index, 380 pages. Island Press, 1994.

WILD FORESTS Conservation Biology and Public Policy by *William S. Alverson, Donald M. Waller, and Walter Kuhlmann* One of the most important conservation lawsuits in the early 1990s was the effort to force the U.S. Forest Service to manage national forests in Wisconsin in such a way to protect and restore biodiversity and allow large tracts to become old-growth forest once again. Alverson and Waller are the University of Wisconsin botanists who (along with Steve Solheim) developed the trail-blazing proposal to restore old-growth forests, and Kuhlmann was the dedicated attorney who litigated the suit. In this book, they dissect forest management and how it threatens biodiversity. Then they present their proposal for an integrated network of "Diversity Maintenance Areas" and discuss how they've tried to implement it in Wisconsin. This is an important book for both conservation biologists and forest activists. Figures, index, 300 pages. Island Press, 1994.

LARGE SCALE ECOLOGY AND CONSERVATION

BIOLOGY *edited by P.J. Edwards, R.M. May, and N.R. Webb.* This British anthology looks at using a large-scale ecological approach for solving conservation problems. Among the topics covered are: the effects of spatial scale on ecological questions and answers; animal distributions; metapopulations and conservation; definitions and categories for describing the conservation status of species; turning conservation goals into tangible results; the ecological component of economic policy; and translating ecological science into practical policy. Among the questions the book attempts to answer are: What are the consequences of rapid climate change? What rate of exploitation of deep-sea fish stocks is sustainable? Can we predict the dynamics of epidemic diseases such as AIDS? Given the increasing rate of biodiversity loss, where should we direct conservation efforts? Illustrations, 416 pages. Blackwell Scientific Publications, 1994.

GLOBAL MARINE BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY: A Strategy for Building Conservation into Decision Making, *edited by Elliott A. Norse.* Nowhere is biodiversity crashing so precipitously as in the oceans, and perhaps nowhere is it so ignored and little understood. Here, 100 marine biologists, oceanographers, economists, and conservationists try to rectify that. Illustrations, tables, figures, index, 350 pages. Island Press, 1993.

LARGE SCALE ECOLOGY AND CONSERVATION BIOLOGY *edited by P.J. Edwards, R.M. May, and N.R. Webb.* This British anthology looks at using a large-scale ecological approach for solving conservation problems. Among the topics covered are: the effects of spatial scale on ecological questions and answers; animal distributions; metapopulations and conservation; definitions and categories for describing the conservation status of species; turning conservation goals into tangible results; the ecological component of economic policy; and translating ecological science into practical policy. Among the questions the book attempts to answer are: What are the consequences of rapid climate change? What rate of exploitation of deep-sea fish stocks is sustainable? Can we predict the dynamics of epidemic diseases such as AIDS? Given the increasing rate of biodiversity loss, where should we direct conservation efforts? Illustrations, 416 pages. Blackwell Scientific Publications, 1994.

NEW WORLD PARROTS IN CRISIS: Solutions from Conservation Biology edited by Steven R. Beissinger and Noel F.R. Snyder, Foreword by Joseph M. Forshaw. Most American conservationists know about the slap-in-the-face quick extinction of the super-abundant Passenger Pigeon in the 1800s. Fewer are aware of the concurrent extinction of the also abundant Carolina Parakeet (which ranged as far north as New York and Iowa) during the same period. Despite their popularity, parrots are one of the more imperiled groups of birds. This fine anthology, with pieces from the leading New World parrot researchers, is the definitive work on parrot conservation. Abstracts in Spanish and English. Black & white illustrations, 304 pages. Smithsonian Institution Press, 1991.

LANDSCAPE LINKAGES AND BIODIVERSITY edited by Wendy E. Hudson, Foreword by Rupert Cutler. This anthology is based on a Defenders of Wildlife conference concerning the need for connecting corridors between reserves to prevent fragmentation of habitats, and is one of the earliest books to deal with the issue. It includes an introduction by Doug Chadwick, J. Michael Scott on gap analysis, Reed Noss on landscape connectivity, Allen Cooperrider on conserving biodiversity on Western rangelands, Hal Salwasser trying to defend the Forest Service, Bennett Brown on The Nature Conservancy role, Michael Soulé on conservation corridors, Felice Pace on Klamath NF corridors, Larry Harris on faunal movement corridors, Gary Barrett and Patrick Bohlen on landscape ecology, and Keith Hay on greenways. Donald Waller, Blair Csuti, and Allen Cooperrider introduce the three sections of the book and summarize the papers. Index, figures, 214 pages. Island Press, 1991.

HUNTING FOR SUSTAINABILITY IN TROPICAL FORESTS Edited by John G. Robinson and Elizabeth L. Bennett. Columbia University Press, New York, 2000.

GHOST BEARS: Exploring the Biodiversity Crisis by Edward Grumbine, Foreword by Michael Soulé. *Ghost Bears* uses the Endangered Grizzly of the Pacific Northwest to explore the causes and effects of species loss and habitat destruction. With no loss in scientific accuracy or credibility, Grumbine makes this book readable for all of us. At the time

of its publication, *Ghost Bears* was the best application of conservation biology to on-the-ground conservation issues, and the first basic treatment of conservation biology and the biodiversity crisis written for conservation activists, instead of for professional scientists.. Index, 336 pages. Island Press, 1992.

NATURE CONSERVATION: The Roles of Remnants of Native Vegetation edited by Denis A. Saunders, Graham W. Arnold, Andrew A. Burbidge, and Angus J.M. Hopkins. This book and the following two comprise an excellent series of large-format, color-illustrated conservation biology anthologies from Australia. This first volume in the series is based on a conference in Western Australia considering the role of patches of native vegetation remaining in a large landscape of agricultural lands. The contributed papers come in four sections: Ecological Studies as the Basis for Management, Fragmentation and Population Genetics, Measuring and Monitoring Dynamics of Remnants, and Management of Remnant Native Vegetation. Most chapters deal with Australia, although New Zealand and North America are also discussed. Most contributors are Australian scientists, but Paul Ehrlich is included. Many maps, graphs, tables, illustrations, color and black & white photos, index, references, 410 pages, large format. Surrey Beatty & Sons/University of Minnesota Press, 1987.

NATURE CONSERVATION 2: The Role of Corridors edited by Denis A. Saunders and Richard J. Hobbs. Based on a conference in Western Australia, contributed papers fall into four categories: Inventory and Assessment of Corridors, Values of Corridors, Movement of Biota Through Corridors, and Management of Corridors: Establishment, Maintenance, and Rehabilitation. Australia is again emphasized, but papers include some focusing on New Zealand and South Africa. Michael Soulé is a contributor as well. Despite the Australian emphasis, this volume is worthwhile for North Americans since the principles discussed have catholic application. The many illustrations—color and black & white photos, maps, graphs, tables, drawings—add greatly to the usefulness of this book for conservationists designing reserve systems. Index, references, 442 pages, large format. Surrey Beatty & Sons/University of Minnesota Press, 1991.

NATURE CONSERVATION 3: Reconstruction of Fragmented Ecosystems: Global and Regional Perspectives edited by D. Saunders, R. Hobbs, and Paul Ehrlich. The third in this fine series discusses the role of ecologists and conservation biologists in ecosystem reconstruction. Heavily illustrated, index, references, large format, 460 pages. Surrey Beatty & Sons/University of Minnesota Press.

ECOLOGY OF GREENWAYS: Design and Function of Linear Conservation Areas edited by Daniel S. Smith & Paul Cawood Hellmund, foreword by Richard Forman. Here is an authoritative and practical guide to designing biological corridors. Chapters include Overview: History, Ecological Context, Function by Daniel Smith; Landscape Ecology as Foundation for Greenway Design by James Thorne; Wildlife Corridors by Reed Noss; Riparian Greenways by Michael Binford and Michael Buchenau; Minimizing Conflict between Recreation and Nature Conservation by David Cole; Ecological Greenway Design by Paul Hellmund; and Greenway Case Studies by Daniel Smith. This well-illustrated book concentrates on corridors in urban, suburban, and rural settings—which makes it particularly important. If we are to link large wildlands throughout the continent, corridors will be vital through generally developed areas. A special value of this book is its consideration of greenway case studies in southeastern Wisconsin, Florida, the Rio Grande in southern New Mexico, the town of Boulder in Colorado, Santa Monica Mountains to Santa Susana Mountains in the great Los Angeles sprawl, South Platte River near Denver, the suburbs of Houston, and around Quabbin Reservoir in Massachusetts. Index, references, tables, and many illustrations—black & white photos, drawings, maps. 222 pages. University of Minnesota Press, 1993. Oversize hardcover.

ECOLOGY OF NATURAL DISTURBANCE AND PATCH DYNAMICS by S.T.A. Pickett and P.S. White. Reed Noss, at the time editor of *Conservation Biology* and Science Director for The Wildlands Project, told me that this was one of his favorite books. He strongly recommended it for understanding natural disturbance in wild ecosystems. Academic Press, 1985.

CONSERVING THE WORLD'S BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY by Jeffrey A. McNeely, Kenton R. Miller, et al. This book is based on the notion

that biodiversity preservation cannot be divorced from issues of social and economic development. The authors consider a wide range of practical approaches to preserving biodiversity around the world. It includes the World Charter for Nature and a history of international legislation on biodiversity. I consider this book to be one of the landmarks in the transformation of international conservation groups like the IUCN into private resource agencies, and the replacement of conservation and protected areas with the cracked dream of sustainable development. Read the books by John Terborgh and John Oates for excellent criticism of this flawed approach. Glossary, 200 pages. World Resources Institute, 1990.

KEEPING THE OPTIONS ALIVE: The Scientific Basis for Conserving Biodiversity by *Walter V. Reid and Kenton R. Miller*. This World Resources Institute report is in the same camp as McNeely's anthology above. Sections include: Why is Biological Diversity Important?, Where is the World's Biodiversity Located?, Extinction—How Serious is the Threat?, What's Happening to Agricultural Genetic Diversity?, Biodiversity Conservation—What Are the Right Tools for the Job?, Summary and Recommendations. Maps, tables, graphs, references, glossary, 128 pages. World Resources Institute, 1989.

ON THE BRINK OF EXTINCTION: Conserving the Diversity of Life by *Edward C. Wolf*. When this inexpensive chapbook from Worldwatch Institute (Paper #78) came out, I called it the best summary of biodiversity and conservation biology I had seen, and recommended "Every conservationist should own a copy and read it. Even more important, get a copy into the hands of your local Sierra Club leaders or your local Forest Supervisor or member of Congress." I don't know if it is still available or not, but it is a milestone in conservation writing. 54 pages, index. Worldwatch, 1987.

NATURE RESERVES: Island Theory and Conservation Practice by *Craig L. Shafer*. Shafer provides a thorough and understandable review of the theory of Island Biogeography, and then applies it to designing nature reserves. He delves into the so-called SLOSS (Single Large Or Several Small) debate on nature reserves, offers the pros and cons of connecting corridors, and asks hard questions at all levels of designing and managing nature reserves. He presents all sides of the discussion

over island biogeography and its application. At the time it came out, I wrote, "Shafer's general guidelines for nature reserve design are very important. Every conservationist who is drawing lines on maps should read this moderately-priced book." Since then, of course, conservation biology has come far, and debates about the value of wildlife movement linkages are in the past. For understanding the evolution of science-based protected-area design, Shafer is a key document. Index, 850-citation bibliography, heavily illustrated with black & white photos, aerial photos, graphs, maps, and drawings. 189 pages. Smithsonian Institution Press, 1990.

Edward O. Wilson

THE DIVERSITY OF LIFE by Edward O. Wilson. *The Diversity of Life* is a triumph. It is a profound book in an eloquent, popular style by a distinguished conservation biologist. Wilson describes, through the eons of time, the process of speciation that has flowered into the abundance and beauty of today's living Earth, and presents the concepts of conservation biology in a non-technical way. He also describes the dark forces that are devastating today's lovely wild exultation of life, and outlines ways for humans to halt the carnage and live in harmony with Nature. Wilson writes, "In the chapters that follow, I will describe the formation of life's diversity as it is understood by most biologists. I will give evidence that humanity has initiated the sixth great extinction spasm, rushing to eternity a large fraction of our fellow species in a single generation. And finally, I will argue that every scrap of biological diversity is priceless, to be learned from and cherished, and never to be surrendered without a struggle." At the time of its publication *The Diversity of Life* was the best general overview of biodiversity for the lay reader and for conservationists, and is still invaluable. Color and black & white photos and illustrations, maps, tables, graphs, index, glossary, further reading, 424 pages. WW Norton, 1993 (1992).

THE FUTURE OF LIFE by Edward O. Wilson (Knopf 2002). This is Wilson's worthy follow up to *Diversity of Life*. It is an authoritative, inspiring overview of biological diversity and the extinction crisis threatening it. *No other book does a better job of this.* With that said, let me mention a few reasons *The Future of Life* is so good. In tallying the causes of the extinction crisis, Wilson forthrightly discusses the population explosion. He also considers

human nature, arguing that we evolved to care about only small geographic spaces, and to be shortsighted. This, I think, is where Wilson's real power and insight springs from: his ability to push aside social-science ideology about humans and really see us for what we are as a product of evolution. Therefore, Wilson understands why our species destroys Earth and why conservationists have been unable to get the masses to care enough about Nature to change their behavior. He rightly calls us the "serial killer of the biosphere," and sums up reality thusly: "The noble savage never existed. Eden occupied was a slaughterhouse. Paradise found is paradise lost." He also curtly dismisses the wilderness deconstructionists. Throughout he rebuts the arguments of the anticonservationists and Nature haters. He ends the book with visionary (but absolutely essential) steps to take to halt the extinction crisis (wherein he praises the work and vision of The Wildlands Project). If there are weaknesses in this stellar book, they are Wilson's embrace of economic arguments to protect wild Nature, and his falling prey to the hopefulness that would require people to rise above their nature in order to solve the horrific problems we've created for the rest of life (of course, I'm a bit guilty of this, myself). Index, glossary, detailed endnotes, 229 pages.

UNCLE DAVE'S SIXPACK SELECTION.

BIODIVERSITY *edited by E.O. Wilson.* This collection of papers from a Smithsonian/National Academy of Sciences conference was called "the most comprehensive and easily read synthesis available to date on the consequences of destruction of biological diversity" by the *Library Journal* nearly twenty years ago, and it's still very useful. Some of the top conservation biologists (and other scientists) represented are E.O. Wilson, Paul Ehrlich, Norman Myers, Jim Nations, Hugh Iltis, Peter Raven, Dan Janzen, Jerry Franklin, Bryan Norton, David Ehrenfeld, Lester Brown, Michael Soulé, and James Lovelock. The loss of biodiversity, value of biodiversity, and techniques for preserving biodiversity around the world are covered. *Biodiversity* is comprehensive yet accessible to grassroots activists. A plus of this anthology is the inclusion of a couple of contrary papers from agency apologists ("biostitutes") who pooh-pooh the loss of biodiversity from human activities. It's good to know the arguments of the other side (though, I emphasize, most of the contributors to this thick book are on the side of "wild things

and sunsets"). 550 pages, index, color photos. National Academy Press, 1988.

THE THEORY OF ISLAND BIOGEOGRAPHY by Robert MacArthur and Edward O. Wilson. It could be argued that this book, written forty years ago, launched conservation biology. While portions of it are technical (math and formulas and all that), most of it is understandable to the lay conservation activist. It sets forth the basics for understanding why fragmented ecosystems lose species and why large reserves are necessary. 216 pages. Princeton University Press, 1967.

Michael Soulé

I wrote these reviews of Soule's early books around 1990 or earlier. I think I'll leave them as they are in honor of these classics of conservation biology.

VIABLE POPULATIONS FOR CONSERVATION edited by Michael Soulé. How many Grizzly Bears are necessary for a viable population? Mt. Graham Red Squirrels? Great White Sharks? One of the key questions for conservation biology is determining viable population size for Endangered, Threatened, or rare species. This discussion by leading conservation biologists and edited by Soulé is the basic resource. Among the topics covered are demography of chance extinction, minimum viable population (MVP) size in the presence of catastrophes, coping with uncertainty, genetic variation, spatial structure and population vulnerability, and interagency cooperation. Contributors include the most distinguished scientists in the field. I dropped out of grad school in biology because formulas and math made my eyes roll back in my head. There is a lot of that in this volume, but if you suffer from my ailment you can skip over the formulas and still gain a great deal. Particularly important chapters for conservation activists are Soulé's introduction and closing chapter, Mark Shaffer's excellent overview, and Gilpin's piece on metapopulations. This is required reading for conservation biologists and for activists who hope to apply conservation biology concepts to land and wildlife issues. Index, references, graphs, charts, maps, 189 pages. Cambridge University Press, 1987.

CONSERVATION BIOLOGY: An Evolutionary-Ecological Perspective edited by Michael E. Soulé and Bruce A. Wilcox. An

anthology of important research papers in four parts: Ecological Principles of Conservation, Consequences of Insularization, Captive Propagation and Conservation, and Exploitation and Preservation. Famed ecologist Raymond Dasmann writes, "*Conservation Biology* is one of the most important books on conservation that is now available. If I had my way it would be required reading for everyone actively concerned with conservation." If you want the best scientific ammunition for a conservationist point of view, here it is. 395 pages, index, bibliography, maps, graphs, tables, black & white photos, illustrations. Sinauer Associates, 1980.

CONSERVATION BIOLOGY: The Science of Scarcity and Diversity *edited by Michael E. Soulé.* This is a follow-up to the previous *Conservation Biology* (see above) and is just as important, with 25 chapters by leading experts covering Fitness & Viability of Populations, Patterns of Diversity and Rarity: Their Implications for Conservation, The Effects of Fragmentation, Community Processes, Threats and Management of Sensitive Habitats and Systems, and Dealing With the Real World. A must for serious defenders of natural diversity. 584 pages, index, bibliography, maps, graphs, tables, illustrations, black & white photos. Sinauer Associates, 1986.

RESEARCH PRIORITIES FOR CONSERVATION BIOLOGY *edited by Michael Soulé and Kathryn Kohm.* Soulé is arguably the leading conservation biologist in the world. His latest book "proposes an urgent research agenda designed to further our understanding of the basic mechanisms that fuel and maintain biotic diversity and to increase the effectiveness of these preservation efforts." Photographs, charts, graphs, appendices, 110 pages. Island Press.

Conservation—General

Many of the key topics of conservation have their own headings in Books of the Big Outside—Wilderness, Wildlife, Wild Rivers and Dams, Forestry, and National Parks. The books that generally deal with conservation topics or public lands are collected here.

Response to Anticonservationists

REINVENTING NATURE? Responses to Postmodern Deconstruction *Edited by Michael E. Soulé and Gary Lease.* Island

Press, Washington, DC, 1995. This anthology came out of a conference at the University of California Santa Cruz organized by Soulé and Lease to counter one at the University of California Irvine organized by William Cronon (*Uncommon Ground*). Contributors include the editors, Paul Shepard, Gary Nabhan, Donald Worster, Albert Borgmann, Katherine Hayles, Stephen Kellert, and David Graber. Soule's closing chapter, "The Social Siege of Nature," is one of the most important papers in the last 50 years. Soulé and Lease write that the contributors "agree that certain contemporary forms of intellectual and social relativism can be just as destructive to nature as bulldozers and chain saws." *Reinventing Nature* comes from the reality-based community, while *Uncommon Ground*, the anthology from the Irvine conference, comes not the faith-based community, but the unreality community. Yet the popular media, public intellectuals, and too many university departments celebrate the Nature deconstruction of *Uncommon Ground* and remain blissfully ignorant of *Reinventing Nature*. This is one the reasons I sometimes think the task of Nature conservation is hopeless. Our species seems willfully dumb. Nonetheless, if you tangle with resource managers, academics, reporters, and others who argue that wilderness is a social construction, you need to arm yourself with *Reinventing Nature*. Index, endnotes, 186 pages.

REQUIEM FOR NATURE by John Terborgh. Island Press, Washington, DC, 1999. John Terborgh is one of my heroes. Not only is he the world's leading tropical ecologist and a towering conservation biologist, he is the world's foremost defender of strictly protected areas. For over two decades, he has spent a significant part of the year in Manu National Park in the Peruvian Amazon. *Requiem for Nature* is grounded in his Manu experience, as well as in his work throughout the Amazon. *Requiem* is a sad book, but it is also one of the most unflinchingly honest conservation books in print. Terborgh stands for wild Nature and the sanctity of parks and other strictly protected areas against the woodenheads touting "sustainable development." Every conservationist needs to read Terborgh's book to begin to understand the realities of international conservation. If wild Nature still exists a hundred years hence, it will be because of John Terborgh and those like him, not the surrender monkeys of the IUCN, Nature Conservancy, and

international donor community. Index, endnotes, 234 pages. *UNCLE DAVE'S SECOND SIXPACK SELECTION*

MYTH AND REALITY IN THE RAIN FOREST: How Conservation Strategies Are Failing in West Africa by John F. Oates. University of California Press, Berkeley, 1999. Right next to *Requiem for Nature* on the shelf is *Myth and Reality in the Rain Forest*. Oates, a primatologist with decades of experience in West Africa, has written an outraged rejoinder to the surrender monkeys of IUCN, Worldwide Fund for Nature, and the donor community for their push to replace protected areas in West Africa with the phony promise of sustainable development. He argues that “the linking of conservation to economic development has had disastrous consequences for many wildlife populations in the rain forest zones of West Africa” and “contends that conservation agencies must recognize that economic development is intrinsically incompatible with conservation goals. He urges that conservation planners return to the principle on which many conservation organizations were founded: that nature is worthy of protection for its intrinsic value.” Michael Soulé writes, “This book is the most powerful analysis yet of the reasons why conservation is failing in Africa.” Maps, black-and-white photos, endnotes, bibliography, index, 310 pages.

EARTHFORCE! An Earth Warrior's Guide to Strategy by Captain Paul Watson, Foreword by Dave Foreman. In the mid-1990s, an NPR interviewer asked me who my hero was. Without a moment's hesitation, I said, “Captain Paul Watson of the Sea Shepherd.” Though my publisher titled my 1991 book *Confessions of an Eco-Warrior*, Paul Watson is the greatest Eco-Warrior of all time. Sailing on the high seas and driving drift netters back to port, inventing tree spiking, tracking down pirate whalers in their snug berths and sinking them, defending wolves against aerial gunning, or taking on seal clubbers on the ice floes, no one has done more to physically defend the wild than has Paul. But he is more than an audacious field commander. Paul Watson is the best strategist in the movement today. His unparalleled strategic sense comes from his study of great military strategists in the past and from his inherent strategic brilliance. All activists for the Earth are fortunate that Captain Watson has written this succinct primer on strategy. I know no activist—Sierra Club volunteer, Wilderness Society lobbyist, NRDC attorney,

conservation biologist, Earth First! blockader, or lone monkeywrencher—who will not profit mightily from reading and studying this book. Bibliography, index, 118 pages. Chaco Press, 1993.

THE WAR AGAINST THE GREENS: The “Wise-Use” Movement, the New Right, and the Browning of America by *David Helvarg*. Revised and Updated Edition, Johnson Books, Boulder, CO, 2004 (1994).

SCIENCE UNDER SIEGE: The Politician’s War on Nature and Truth by *Todd Wilkinson*, Foreword by *David Brower*, Introduction by *Jim Baca*. Johnson Books, Boulder, 1998.

THE REPUBLICAN WAR ON SCIENCE by *Chris Mooney*. Basic Books, New York, 2005. I learned quite a bit from this book even though I’ve been fighting the Republican war on science since the early 1990s. Mooney does a fine job of tying the mob of GOP attacks on science together by showing the underlying ideologically strategy behind them. This strategy was created by the tobacco industry as a means to sow confusion and doubt about the health consequences of smoking. The vicious anti-Enlightenment thugs making up the leadership of the Republicans controlling Congress after their takeover in 1994 embraced this strategy and used it against global heating, extinction, air pollution, evolution, sex education, and other health, environmental, and conservation issues. The Bush Junior Administration, of course, goosed this antiscience ideology and campaign into the stratosphere after it came to power. If you really want to understand the Dark Ages hooligans running the GOP, you need to read this book. Doing so will make conservationists more effective in fighting the antiscience ideology of our foes. Annotated list of interviews, detailed endnotes, index, 342 pages.

STRATEGIC IGNORANCE: Why the Bush Administration Is Recklessly Destroying a Century of Environmental Progress by *Carl Pope and Paul Rauber*. Sierra Club Books, San Francisco, 2004. Carl Pope and Paul Rauber write that “the Bush administration is full of influential officials who believe—from the bottom of their hearts, not just their wallets—that weaker laws on clean air, less

funding to clean up toxic waste dumps, and national parks and forests run for private profit are actually good for the country.” Although this book was written for the 2004 election, it is still highly relevant and useful. Pope, the longtime executive director of the Sierra Club, and Rauber, an editor of *Sierra* magazine, give all the details in explaining the subtitle of the book. Chock-full of good information, *Strategic Ignorance* is a useful resource for conservationists. Like many of the books reviewed in *Books of the Big Outside*, my copy of Carl and Paul’s book is decorated with lots of yellow post-it tabs. Index, endnotes, further reading, month-by-month record of Bush actions, 303 pages.

CONSERVATIVES WITHOUT CONSCIENCE by John W. Dean. Viking, New York, 2006.

BETRAYAL OF SCIENCE AND REASON: How Anti-Environmental Rhetoric Threatens Our Future by Paul R. Ehrlich and Anne H. Ehrlich. Island Press, Washington, DC, 1996.

LET THE PEOPLE JUDGE Wise Use and the Private Property Rights Movement edited by John Echeverria and Raymond Booth Eby. Conservation leaders, including Jon Roush, T.H. Watkins, Jim Baca, Gus Speth, Tarso Luis Ramos, Holmes Rolston III, and Michael Bean, take a look at the current incarnation of Two Gun Desmond—the know-nothing, pretend-populist thugs of mining, timber, and development corporations fighting the conservation of public lands under the guise of “private property rights.” Figures, index, 300 pages. Island Press, 1994.

A WOLF IN THE GARDEN: The Land Rights Movement And The New Environmental Debate Edited by Philip D. Brick and R. McGreggor Cawley. Rowman and Littlefield, Lanham, MD, 1996.

FEDERAL LAND WESTERN ANGER: The Sagebrush Rebellion & Environmental Politics by R. McGreggor Cawley. University Press of Kansas, Lawrence, 1993.

Grazing and Farming Problems

THE FATAL HARVEST READER: The Tragedy of Industrial Agriculture *Edited by Andrew Kimbrell.* Foundation for Deep Ecology / Island Press, Washington, 2002.

FATAL HARVEST: The Tragedy of Industrial Agriculture *Edited by Andrew Kimbrell.* Foundation for Deep Ecology / Island Press, Washington, 2002.

WELFARE RANCHING: The Subsidized Destruction of the American West *Edited by George Wuerthner and Mollie Mattson.* Foundation for Deep Ecology / Island Press, Washington, 2002.

THE WESTERN RANGE REVISITED: Removing Livestock From Public Lands To Conserve Native Biodiversity *by Debra L. Donahue.* University Press of Oklahoma, Norman, 1999.

FARMING AND THE FATE OF WILD NATURE: Essays in Conservation-Based Agriculture *Edited by Daniel Imhoff and Jo Ann Baumgartner.* Watershed Media, Healdsburg, CA. 2006.

FARMING WITH THE WILD: Enhancing Biodiversity on Farms and Ranches *by Daniel Imhoff, Designed by Roberto Carra, Foreword by Fred Kirschenmann.* Sierra Club Books, San Francisco, 2003.

SACRED COWS AT THE PUBLIC TROUGH *by Denzel and Nancy Ferguson.* This classic analysis of the abuses of the range livestock industry is back in print. Perhaps more than anything else, it launched the modern anti-public lands grazing movement. Every public lands activist should have a copy. The Fergusons discuss the wide range of impacts cattle have on natural ecosystems, and the social and economic costs of welfare ranching. They were two sure-enough heroes in how they stood up to the physical threats from their “neighbors” in eastern Oregon. Index, bibliography, 250 pages. Maverick Books, 1983.

WASTE OF THE WEST *by Lynn Jacobs.* I know of no one who has done more than Lynn Jacobs to expose the ecological, economic, and social destruction caused by the Western range livestock industry. After writing, publishing, and distributing free 100,000 copies of his 48 page tabloid *Free Our Public Lands*, Jacobs decided to write a book on public lands grazing. This monster of a book tells you everything you need to

know about cows in the West. It is a basic necessity for grazing and public lands activists. Contact list, statistics, 500-item bibliography, index, more than 1000 illustrations (photos, drawings, cartoons, graphs, charts, maps), oversized, 602 pages. 1991.

Public Lands

THESE AMERICAN LANDS Parks, Wilderness, and the Public Lands by *Dyan Zaslowsky and T.H. Watkins*. This is an updated, expanded second edition of a book Wallace Stegner called “the only indispensable narrative history of the public lands.” I agree, although it has been out for more than a decade (it will never be out of date). Zaslowsky, a regional correspondent for *Time*, and the late and missed Tom Watkins, former editor of The Wilderness Society's former *Wilderness* magazine, review National Parks, BLM lands, Wilderness Areas, Wild & Scenic Rivers, National Forests, Wildlife Refuges, Alaska lands, and National Trails, highlighting history, resource uses and policy conflicts, and a detailed agenda of management, expansion, and preservation goals. Photos, maps, appendices, index, 420 pages. Island Press, 1994.

THIS LAND IS YOUR LAND: The Struggle to Save America's Public Lands by *Bernard Shanks*. Sierra Club Books, San Francisco, 1984.

WESTWARD IN EDEN: The Public Lands and the Conservation Movement by *William K. Wyant*. Both a comprehensive history of the public lands, and a primer on the management and resource issues of these lands, Wyant's book is a very useful background reference for the conservation activist. Homesteading, public land giveaways, the Department of the Interior, oil & gas, mining, National Forests and logging, outer continental shelf, grazing, dam building, Alaska, and more is dealt with in a readable, informative way by a veteran journalist sympathetic to conservation and willing to expose the rip-offs of special interests. It is an excellent background for all public land—BLM, NPS, NWR, NF, and BuRec—issues. Index, bibliography, footnotes, black & white photos, 536 pages. University of California Press, 1982.

THESE AMERICAN LANDS: Parks, Wilderness, and The Public Lands by *Dyan Zaslowsky and T.H. Watkins*. Island Press, Washington, DC, 1994.

International

HOTSPOTS REVISITED: Earth's Biologically Richest And Most Endangered Terrestrial Ecoregions by *Russell A. Mittermeier et al.*, *Foreword by Harrison Ford*. Cemex, Mexico City, 2004.

WILDERNESS: Earth's Last Wild Places by *Russell A. Mittermeier et al.* Cemex, Mexico City, 2002.

SONG FOR THE BLUE OCEAN by *Carl Safina*. Henry Holt, New York, 1997.

Reference

STATUS AND TRENDS OF THE NATION'S BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (2 VOLS.) edited by *M. J. Mac, P. A. Opler, C. E. Puckett Haecker, and P. D. Doran* (U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Geological Survey, Reston, VA, 1998). A detailed reference by leading biologists on the ecological wounds in the United States. Sadly little-known, *Status and Trends* is an essential reference. I drew on it heavily when writing *Rewilding North America* (I may be one of very few people to have read both volumes cover to cover). I think it is the most worthwhile conservation publication ever from the federal government. You can be sure that the Bush Junior Administration would never have allowed it to be published. Also available on CD from USGS.

THE HUMAN IMPACT ON THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT Third Edition by *Andrew Goudie*. Textbook though it may be, *Human Impact* is of value to conservation activists as well as to academics. Geography professor Goudie (and this is what geography should be) covers in remarkable depth human impacts on vegetation, animals, soil, water, geomorphology, climate and atmosphere. Deforestation, desertification, species extinctions, erosion, floods, reservoirs, greenhouse effect, ozone depletion, and much more are analyzed. This is a useful resource for every serious

conservationist. Heavily illustrated with black and white photos, maps, graphs, tables, drawings; index, references, guide to further reading, 388 pages. MIT Press, 1990.

Vision

SILENT SPRING by *Rachel Carson*; Introduction by Vice President Al Gore. Few books launch national movements, but over forty years ago *Silent Spring* did. Damned on its publication by industry and the establishment (it was even controversial within the Sierra Club!), *Silent Spring* is now recognized as one of the most important books of the century—it was recently selected as THE MOST INFLUENTIAL BOOK OF THE LAST FIFTY YEARS by a panel including Jimmy Carter, Sandra Day O'Connor, and George Will. (See also the listing under Biography for *The House of Life: Rachel Carson at Work* by Paul Brooks.) Carson based her facts on solid science, but her writing is passionate, lyrical, and finely honed. A collector's edition. Illustrations, 464 pages. Houghton Mifflin, 1993 (1964).

HOPE'S HORIZON: Three Visions for Healing the American Land by *Chip Ward*. Island Press, Washington, DC, 2004.

WILD EARTH: Wild Ideas for a World Out of Balance Edited by *Tom Butler*. Milkweed Editions, Minneapolis, 2002.

THE FUTURE OF THE WILD: Radical Conservation for a Crowded World by *Jonathan S. Adams*. Beacon Press, Boston, 2006.

CROSSING THE NEXT MERIDIAN: Land, Water, and the Future of the West by *Charles F. Wilkinson*. Law professor Wilkinson has thought as deeply about the future of the West as just about anyone. In this book he establishes his place as one successor to Bernard DeVoto and Wallace Stegner. I recall a speech by Wilkinson years ago at the Environmental Law Conference where he said that we needed to drive deals and we needed to drive spikes. Hmm. *Crossing the Next Meridian* is the best statement of the faction in the West today arguing for a New West of healthy communities and healthy landscapes. As a fifth-generation

Southwesterner, I think the culture, customs, and economies of the Mountain West have been unsustainable, phony, and brutal from the beginning, and that we need to forget dreams of some mythical rural West. Nonetheless, *Crossing the Next Meridian* has been well recommended. Figures, index, 320 pages. Island Press, 1993.

WHY CONSERVATION IS FAILING AND HOW IT CAN REGAIN LOST GROUND by *Eric T. Freyfogle*. Yale University Press, New Haven, 2006.

JUSTICE AND THE EARTH: Images for Our Planetary Survival by *Eric T. Freyfogle*. The Free Press, New York, 1993.

LET THE MOUNTAINS TALK, LET THE RIVERS RUN: A Call to Those Who Would Save the Earth by *David Brower with Steve Chapple*. HarperCollins, New York, 1995.

THE GREENING OF CONSERVATIVE AMERICA by *John R.E. Bliese*. Westview Press, Boulder, CO, 2001.

THE MAKING OF A CONSERVATIVE ENVIRONMENTALIST by *Gordon K. Durnil*. Indiana University Press, Bloomington, 1995.

ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES IN AMERICAN CULTURE by *Willett Kempton, James S. Boster, and Jennifer A. Hartley*. MIT Press, Cambridge, MA, 1996.

Economics

PRIVATE PROPERTY IN THE 21ST CENTURY: The Future of an American Ideal Edited by *Harvey M. Jacobs*. Edward Elgar Publishing, Northampton, MA, 2004.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN DIVIDE: Selling & Saving the West by *John B. Wright*. Conservation efforts in the West have focused on the extensive holdings of federal land—National Forests, Bureau of Land Management, National Parks, National Wildlife Refuges. Too often ignored have been private lands that frequently contain better and more sensitive wildlife habitat and which are strategically sprinkled through mostly federal land. A geography professor at New Mexico State and a consultant to

The Nature Conservancy, Wright compares preservation of private lands through land trusts in Colorado and Utah. At the time, Colorado had over 25 land trusts that have conserved over 42,000 acres of private land; Utah has one land trust and 220 acres conserved. As conservationists shift attention from scenery and hiking trails to biological diversity, protection of private land becomes more important. *Rocky Mountain Divide* may show us the trail. Bill Kittredge says it is “a truly *useful* book. Buy copies and send them around.” Index, bibliography, address list of land trusts, some maps, 275 pages. University of Texas Press, 1993.

ECONOMICS OF PROTECTED AREAS: A New Look at Benefits and Costs by John A. Dixon and Paul B. Sherman. I agree with David Brower that economics is a form of brain damage; I agree with David Ehrenfeld that conservation arguments based on the monetary value of species and habitats are generally self-defeating. Nonetheless, I am fundamentally a guerrilla—I believe in using the tools and tactics that work in particular cases. So long as we remember that economic benefit is not the *reason* for protecting wildlands and wildlife, it may sometimes be worthwhile to use cost-benefit arguments to bolster such protection in select cases. This book provides a methodology to assign monetary values to nature, and shows how these principles have been applied around the world. I'm still nervous about this approach. I feel like I'm sharing my sleeping bag with a rattlesnake. Maps, tables, index, 234 pages. Island Press, 1990.

NATURE TOURISM: Managing for the Environment edited by Tensie Whelan, Foreword by Peter Berle. Much ado is being made about ecotourism these days. While ecologically based tourism can encourage the preservation of wild places and wild critters, and can substantially contribute to local economies, tourism of any kind can have bad impacts on both ecosystems and societies. This anthology covers the scope of the issue with contributions from experts around the world. Dan Katz, president of the Rainforest Alliance, says, “Finally, there is a comprehensive and lively book that we can strongly recommend to the hordes of people wanting to invest in responsible travel.” Index, some maps and black & white photos, recycled acid-free paper, 223 pages. Island Press, 1991.

STEADY-STATE ECONOMICS: Second Edition with New Essays by *Herman E. Daly*. This classic of economics in harmony with carrying capacity is back in an updated edition. This is the foundation for sustainable economics. Figures, index, 300 pages. Island Press, 1991.

Anthologies

THE GREEN READER: Essays toward a Sustainable Society edited by *Dr. Andrew Dobson*. This anthology by a British professor of political science shows remarkable depth and breadth. Contributors include some of the leading conservation, environmental, and green thinkers of our century: Rachel Carson, Aldo Leopold, Aldous Huxley, Donella Meadows, Garret Hardin, David Ehrenfeld, James Lovelock, Murray Bookchin, Fritjof Capra, Kirkpatrick Sale, EF Schumacher, Petra Kelly, Ed Abbey, and even that scruffy rogue, Dave Foreman. David Brower said this book is “a treasury of the thinking that can spare people from the New World disorder toward which we are now headed.” Index, 280 pages. Mercury House, 1991.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS AND POLICY BOOK: Philosophy, Ecology, Economics edited by *Donald VanDeVeer and Christine Pierce*. This comprehensive university textbook is also of value to conservation, environmental, animal rights, and green activists. The editors offer an introduction to ethical theory and then preview the issues each chapter considers. The collected essays cover a wide range of topics including: preserving biodiversity, moral relations with nonhumans, moral standing of ecosystems, deep ecology, ecofeminism, third-world criticism of conservationists, market solutions, cost-benefit analysis, ecological sustainability, overpopulation, private property and “takings,” value of forests and wilderness, ozone deterioration, global warming, and modes of activism. Contributors include Lynn White, Jr., Alice Walker, Peter Singer, Barry Lopez, E. O. Wilson, Holmes Rolston III, N. Scott Momaday, Christopher Stone, Paul Taylor, Aldo Leopold, J. Baird Callicott, Bill Devall and George Sessions, Arne Naess, Murray Bookchin, Dave Foreman, Val Plumwood, Karen Warren, Vandana Shiva, Mark Sagoff, Herman Daly, William Ruckelshaus, Garrett Hardin, Ronnie Hawkins, Julian Simon, John Locke, Stephen Jay Gould, David Ehrenfeld, Norman Myers, Ramachandra Guha, Rachel Carson, Stephen Schneider,

Rik Scarce, and Paul & Anne Ehrlich. Whew! Looks like you can get it all here. Bibliography, footnotes, some illustrations, 649 pages. Wadsworth Publishing, 1994.

IN PRAISE OF NATURE *edited and with essays by Stephanie Mills, Foreword by Tom Brokaw.* This volume has a unique concept in natural history anthologies: Have leading conservationists and nature writers review the classics of the genre and then feature short excerpts from each work reviewed. Leave it to the crafty, literary mind of Stephanie Mills to come up with this approach. Included are: Peter Warshall on Lynn Margulis's *Microcosmos*, David Rains Wallace on Stephen J. Gould's *The Flamingo's Smile*, Joel Hedgpeth on Carl Sauer's books, Richard Nelson on Barry Lopez's *Arctic Dreams*, Peter Berg on Raymond Dasmann's *Environmental Conservation*, Peter Borrelli on George Perkins Marsh's *Man and Nature*, J. Baird Callicott on Aldo Leopold's *A Sand County Almanac*, Dana Jackson on Wendell Berry's *The Unsettling of America*, Stephanie Mills on Paul Ehrlich's books, Elliott Norse on E.O. Wilson's *Biodiversity*, Ed Grumbine on Ervin, Norse, and Maser's books on old-growth forests, Joe Kane on Catherine Caufield's *In the Rainforest* and Suzanne Head's *Lessons of the Rainforest*, Doug Peacock on Ed Abbey's books, Yaakov Garb on James Lovelock's *Gaia*, David Brower on Bill McKibben's *The End of Nature*, Harold Gilliam on Lewis Mumford's *Technics and Civilization*, Ernest Callenbach on Peter Berg's *Green City Program*, Tim Palmer on Marc Reisner's *Cadillac Desert*, Linda-Ruth Berger on Rachel Carson's books, Thomas J. Lyon on John Muir's books, Barbara Dean on anthologies of nature writing, Margot Adler on Stephanie Mills's *Whatever Happened to Ecology?*, Hazel Henderson on E. F. Schumacher's *Small is Beautiful*. Mind you, I've listed only about half of the contents of this thorough, but wisely succinct, anthology. Mills divides the book into five sections—Earth, Air, Fire, Water, and Spirit—each with an illuminating introductory essay. Also included is an annotated list of over 100 other important conservation books. At the time, *In Praise of Nature* was the best introduction to conservation/environmental/green writing. Index, bibliography, reviewer's bios, 288 pages. Island Press, 1991.

RADICAL ENVIRONMENTALISM: Philosophy and Tactics *edited by Peter C. List.* A new growth industry in the publishing field is books about the so-called "Radical Environmental Movement." This anthology

lets leaders and activists speak for themselves: Dave Foreman, Ed Abbey, Murray Bookchin, and key players from Earth First!, Sea Shepherd, Animal Liberation, and the like. Wadsworth Publishing Company, 1993.

Wildlife Protection & Endangered Species

Lois Crisler said that wilderness without wildlife is dead scenery and that wildlife without wilderness is a closed book. Our assault on the other denizens of our planet is the saddest chapter in the history of humankind, and our most grievous sin. Some of these books chronicle our destruction of our fellows; others open windows into their lives that may yet teach us humility.

LARGE CARNIVORES AND THE CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY Edited by Justina C. Ray, Kent H. Redford, Robert S. Steneck, and Joel Berger. By the late 1980s, field research led visionary conservation biologist Michael Soulé and others to recognize that large carnivores were key for maintaining and restoring healthy ecosystems and biodiversity. Generally, when large carnivores (wolves, big cats, sea otters, sharks, and the like) are removed from an ecosystem, that ecosystem tends to crumble. Researchers have also shown through studies after the restoration of wolves in Yellowstone National Park and with restored carnivores elsewhere that ecosystems begin to heal and many other species benefit after top predators return. This keystone role of the big hunters is the basis for rewilding and is explained elsewhere on the Rewilding Website. Although this notion was highly controversial when The Wildlands Project was founded in the early 1990s, it is widely accepted today all over the world. In *Large Carnivores and the Conservation of Biodiversity*, Justina Ray and her colleagues at the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) have pulled together case studies from around the world and papers from leading conservation biologists such as John Terborgh, Jim Estes, and Dave Maehr to thoroughly investigate whether or not large carnivores really do help maintain and restore biodiversity. With some exceptions, carnivores do play this key role, but the editors make clear that they should be protected even if they don't. "Large carnivores must be conserved, whether for their ecological function, their intrinsic value, or their value to humans." *Large Carnivores* is, I think, a useful and instructive book for carnivore

conservationists to read. Illustrations, references, index, 526 pages. Island Press, Washington, 2005.

LARGE MAMMAL RESTORATION Ecological and Sociological Challenges in the 21st Century edited by David S. Maehr, Reed F. Noss, and Jeffery L. Larkin (Island Press, Washington, DC, 2001). This is the comprehensive, authoritative how-to-guide for the central part of rewilding. In it, top field biologists discuss lessons in restoring large mammals (including carnivores) to the wild. Besides the editors, chapter authors include Paul Paquet, Brian Miller, Barbara Dugelby, Carlos Carroll, Wendy Brown, David Parsons, Tom Hoctor, Larry Harris, and Dave Foreman, just for starters. Critters discussed include wolves, elk, bison, bighorn sheep, grizzlies, black bears, tigers, Florida panthers, and manatees. A grand vision, love for the wild, and a praiseworthy ethic all are woven through the book, but it is also full of muddy boots, scratched and bloody flesh, sweat, and courage. *Large Mammal Restoration* is an essential books for rewilding. The closing chapter by Dave Maehr is a landmark, inspirational conservation essay. He writes, "The loss of...predatory work is the sound of evolution coming to a screeching halt. The return of large mammals, by contrast, is the sound of life returning to artificially simplified landscapes." Maps, graphs, literature cited, index, authors' addresses, 375 pages.

SAVING AMERICA'S WILDLIFE: Ecology and the American Mind, 1850-1990 by Thomas R. Dunlap. History professor Dunlap explores wildlife attitudes and conservation in America over the last 140 years, showing how and why such attitudes have changed. He especially looks at predators and government predator killing programs. *Saving America's Wildlife* fills an important void in conservation history literature. Although I may have minor quibbles, I learned a great deal from reading this book. Folks fighting trapping and predator killing, and working for reintroduction and protection of wolves and other predators should read this book to get a necessary historical grounding. Index, footnotes, 222 pages. Princeton University Press, 1991 (1988).

MONSTER OF GOD: The Man-Eating Predator in the Jungles of History and the Mind by *David Quammen*. W.W. Norton, New York, 2003.

WILD HUNTERS: Predators in Peril by *Monte Hummel and Sherry Pettigrew*. In this important book, Hummel (head of WWF Canada) and Pettigrew look at six large predators of Canada— Gray Wolf, Polar Bear, Black Bear, Grizzly Bear, Cougar, and Wolverine. They consider their life histories, status, threats, and develop an action plan to insure that they will continue to thrive. Noted wildlife artist Robert Bateman contributes stunning portraits of the six predators to the book. Maps, tables, index, bibliography, appendices, recycled paper, 244 pages. Roberts Rinehart, 1992.

RACKS: The Natural History of Antlers and the Animals That Wear Them by *David Petersen*, drawings by *Michael McCurdy*. I first met Petersen way back in 1984 when he interviewed me for the *Mother Earth News* "Plowboy Interview." Ed Abbey was a great fan of his. This is a fascinating natural history of the why, what, and how of antlers. A special treat is Petersen's Afterthought discussing the ethics of hunting and the justification for ethical hunting. Petersen is an unyielding conservationist and now works with Trout Unlimited on roadless area protection. Illustrations, maps, bibliography, 179 pages. Capra Press, 1991.

PRAIRIE NIGHT Black-Footed Ferrets and the Recovery of Endangered Species by *Brian Miller, Richard P. Reading, and Steve Forrest*. (Miller is a Rewilding Institute Fellow.) This is a thorough natural history of the ferret and a history of its near extinction. It is also an honest, shocking look at the chicken-shit struggles within wildlife agency bureaucracies that almost lost the ferret forever.

STONES OF SILENCE Journeys in the Himalayas by *George B. Schaller*. Dr. Schaller is the greatest big mammal conservationist of our time, and the conservationist whose career I most envy. He writes, "I have met many species without a future, and each time had the forlorn hope that somehow I might be able to extend their existence for at least a few years. Pen and camera are weapons against oblivion, they can create an awareness for that which may

soon be lost forever, and if this book has a main purpose, it is to induce others to care for the dying mountain world of the Himalaya." This book about his travels in the Himalayas of Pakistan and Nepal in the early 1970s recounts the sudden decline of large mammals due to human activities. 292 pages. University of Chicago Press, 1988.

WILDLIFE AND WILDERNESS A History of Adirondack Mammals by Philip C. Terrie. This is an excellent historical discussion of wildlife destruction, protection, and restoration in the Adirondack State Preserve of New York. Terrie particularly looks at moose, mountain lion, beaver, lynx, and wolf. He tells us much about our relationship to other beings and to wilderness. Certainly, every Adirondack aficionado should read *Wildlife and Wilderness*, but others interested in conservation history and wildlife protection should read it as well—its value goes far beyond the Blue Line. Black & white photos and illustrations, bibliography, index, 175 pages. Purple Mountain Press, 1993.

WOLVES

PREDATORY BUREAUCRACY: The Extermination of Wolves and the Transformation of the West by Michael J. Robinson. I've known Michael Robinson for more than 20 years and have had the pleasure of watching him grow into one of the leading wildlife defenders and conservation leaders in this country. At the hard-hitting Center for Biological Diversity, Michael primarily works on Mexican wolf and jaguar conservation. With *Predatory Bureaucracy*, he shows that he is also an indefatigable researcher and a clear, engaging writer. He is also one of those rare people who is able to see the whole forest and understand what it means after looking at every tree in it. Helped by colleagues digging through wolf bounty records in Colorado, Michael was able to delve deeper into the details of predator slaughter in the West than anyone else has. Combining extensive reading and studying the bounty records, he brings alive the persecuted wolves and their driven human killers—madmen all of one sort or another. Parts of the book read like a very good Western novel. Michael's genius, however, is shown by the larger story he weaves out of the details—that the slaughter of

wild beasts was essential to the physical and *psychological* domestication of the West.

He tells the counter-story, too, of how the American Society of Mammologists and conservation leaders like Aldo Leopold finally came to the defense of wolves and other predators, and how, more recently, we've restored gray wolves to Yellowstone and the Lobo (Mexican wolf; less successfully, so far) to the greater Gila region of New Mexico and Arizona. He doesn't pull any punches in shining a bright light on the corruption, cowardice, and politics that threaten successful gray wolf and Mexican wolf recovery. If you want to read just one recent book about Americans and wildlife, *Predatory Bureaucracy* is that book. I'll go so far as saying that reading *Predatory Bureaucracy* is essential for understanding the "conquest" of the West and the modern power struggles over the future of the West. It should be required reading for Western and frontier history courses. Bravo, Michael! Many historical photographs, references, endnotes, index, appendices with bounty records, 473 pages. University Press of Colorado, Boulder, 2005.
UNCLE DAVE'S NEW SIXPACK SELECTION

THE WOLVES OF YELLOWSTONE: The Inside Story by Michael K. Phillips & Douglas W. Smith, Photographs by Barry & Teri O'Neill. Voyageur Press, Stillwater, MN, 1996. Returning the gray wolf to its home in Yellowstone National Park after a 70-year absence is one of conservation's triumphs. This is the inside story by the dedicated rangers who carried out the operation. At first glance, this oversized book looks like a coffee-table photo book. The problem with most such books is that no one reads the text and just looks at the stunning pictures. That is not a problem here. Good and informative as the photos are, it is the text that stands out. I was particularly pleased by the scholarly history of the biocide of Yellowstone's wolves in the early twentieth century. There is also plenty of meat in the book about the biology of the wolf and good information about the actual restoration. The photos also are special in recording the restoration and go beyond pretty wolf photos. Among the best parts of the book are personal reflections from those involved. A damn good book about something of which America can truly be proud. Historical b&w

photos, many color photos, cartoons from local newspapers, tables, maps, index, 128 pages.

THE WOLF IN THE SOUTHWEST: The Making of an Endangered Species *Edited by David Brown.* Brown is the retired big game supervisor for the Arizona Game and Fish Department. Defenders of Wildlife says, "This well-researched and *readable* book tells the story of the building of a federal bureaucracy devoted to the killing not only of wolves but also of mountain lions, bears and other predators." Brown also includes considerable information on the natural history of the wolf in the Southwest—and the natural history of the wolf killers. 195 pages, index, bibliography, black & white photos, graphs, maps, charts, line drawings. University of Arizona Press, 1983.

OF WOLVES AND MEN *by Barry Holstein Lopez.* In an unprecedented blending of natural and social history, Lopez explores the wolf world where it touches the human world, with a poet's eloquence and understanding. One of the finest natural history books ever written. Illustrated, 309 pages. Charles Scribner's Sons, 1978.

BROTHER WOLF A Forgotten Promise *by Jim Brandenburg.* *Brother Wolf* lifts the wildlife coffee table book to a new level. Here the wolves of northern Minnesota (and their neighbors—ravens, bald eagles, moose, lynx) are portrayed in splendid photographs (my favorites are the interactions between wolves and ravens) and insightful text. Oversized coffee table book, 160 pages. NorthWord Press, 1993.

THE RETURN OF THE WOLF Reflections on the Future of Wolves in the Northeast *by Bill McKibben, John B. Theberge, Kristin DeBeers, and Rick Bass, edited by John Elder* (Middlebury College Press 2000). A thoughtful and eloquent discussion about possible recovery and restoration of wolves in New England and the Adirondacks.

COMEBACK WOLVES: Western Writers Welcome the Wolf Home Edited by Gary Wicker, Gregory McNamee, & Sue Ellen Campbell, Foreword by Mark Udall. Johnson Books, Boulder, CO, 2005.

BEARS

GRIZZLY YEARS: In Search of the American Wilderness by Doug Peacock. My buddy, Peacock, transcends the human; he is a force of Nature. Companion to many leading writers (such as Abbey, Matthiessen, and Jim Harrison), Doug joined the ranks of the literati with a book that was immediately recognized as a blockbuster. *Grizzly Years* is the intimate memoir of an authentic, caring, great-souled human, bouncing back and forth between the hell of Vietnam and the reality of the Grizzly-populated wilderness. Bears don't treat Peacock like a human; they treat him like a runty, but formidable Griz. 288 pages. Henry Holt, 1990.

TRUE GRIZ by Douglas H. Chadwick. Sierra Club Books, San Francisco, 2003.

THE SACRED PAW: The Bear in Nature, Myth, and Literature by Paul Shepard and Barry Sanders, with an Afterword by Gary Snyder. This is one of the most remarkable books of our time by one of the most remarkable scholars of our time—Paul Shepard. It is both a natural history of bears and a natural / mythological history of human relationships with bears. It is required reading for those who wish to understand the relation of humans to the natural world and who wish to uncover ways to return to harmony with the wild. A modern classic. Index, bibliography, black & white photos, illustrations, 244 pages. Penguin, 1992 (1985).

GRIZZLIES OF MT. MCKINLEY by Adolph Murie. Ade Murie, brother of Olaus, was one of the first wildlife biologists (Olaus was another) to defend predators. He based his views on many years in the Alaska bush and tundra observing Grizzly, Gray Wolf, and Wolverine going about their daily rounds. This book is one of the first science-based studies of the Grizzly Bear and is a classic of natural history. University of Washington Press.

THE GRIZZLY IN THE SOUTHWEST: Documentary of an Extinction by David E. Brown, with a Foreword by Frank C. Craighead, Jr. Brown, retired Arizona Game & Fish Department biologist and founder of the North American Bear Society, traces in detail the extirpation of the Grizzly from Arizona, New Mexico, southern Colorado, and northern Mexico. If you want to see the Grizzly in the Southwest again, read this book to understand why we once destroyed it.

THE LAST PANDA by George B. Schaller George Schaller has been at the head of the pack in international wildlife conservation for fifty years; he's spent his career in the wildest corners of the world, studying the remaining Pleistocene megafauna; he was an activist conservation biologist before it was cool for biologists to be activists; he has led an impeccable life of his own making...in short, Schaller has been one of my heroes for decades. *Panda* is the tale of his field studies of one of Earth's most loved but rarest mammals—the Giant Panda—in its natural habitat. It's also an informed, searing indictment of gross mismanagement and exploitation of the Panda by the Chinese government and of the botching of the issue by the World Wildlife Fund and other “conservation” groups. 27 color plates, 9 maps, 352 pages. University of Chicago Press, 1993.

CATS

TIGERLAND And Other Unintended Destinations by Eric Dinerstein. Island Press, Washington, 2005. I've long envied Eric Dinerstein, Chief Scientist of the US World Wildlife Fund (WWF). He has spent many months in exotic, wild places around the world working to protect wildlife and to establish protected areas. He has especially worked to protect the rapidly declining tiger from India to Far Eastern Russia. *Tigerland* is his spell-binding memoir of his work and adventures. Unlike so many who supposedly work on international conservation, Eric is a real conservationist and one of the most important conservation leaders in the world. He's up in the rarified atmosphere with George Schaller and a handful of others in my book. When The Wildlands Project was started, Eric was one of the first, if not the first, leader from another group to back our concepts and work. His personal integrity, deep love for wild things, and relentless work to protect wild Nature give the US

WWF credibility and help it stand out in the realm of international conservation. This is a wonderful book. Read it and be inspired. Index, 279 pages.

WILD CATS OF THE WORLD: The Ultimate Reference to Every Species Worldwide by Mel Sunquist and Fiona Sunquist. University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 2002.

JAGUAR: One Man's Battle to Establish the World's First Jaguar Preserve by Alan Rabinowitz. This classic of field wildlife research and conservation is finally available in a paperback edition. *Jaguar* tells the sometimes hilarious, sometimes terrifying story of zoologist Rabinowitz as he studies the Jaguar of the Cockscomb Basin in the Central American country of Belize. Rabinowitz is remarkably honest in his writing, and faces the impact his research may have on the Jaguar. He also worked to convince the Belize government to establish a Jaguar Preserve in the Cockscomb, so unlike many journals of wildlife field study, this one may have a happy ending. Index, bibliography, many black & white photographs, 370 pages. Bantam, 1991 (1986).

CHASING THE DRAGON'S TAIL: The Struggle to Save Thailand's Wild Cats by Alan Rabinowitz. Swashbuckling Alan Rabinowitz may be the closest thing to a real-life Indiana Jones, although his calling is far nobler and more important than hunting down and robbing archaeological treasures. In *Chasing the Dragon's Tail*, Rabinowitz recounts his four years of work studying and working for protection of Thailand's wild cats in that country's greatest wilderness, the Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuary. His story has all of the adventure of a fine novel, and it relates in a most accessible fashion the principles of wildlife biology and explains the ecology of the forest. Even more important, this is an honest book. Rabinowitz does not flinch from angry (and just) criticism of corrupt government officials and wildlife dealers (he documents, for example, how the much ballyhooed ban on logging in Thailand is phony). A higher level of honesty is his willingness to question the impact of research on the lives of the cats he studies. The most difficult honesty, however, is his courage to be politically incorrect as he looks at the hypocrisy of Buddhism, the corruption of the forest guards (Thailand's version of bubbas), and the destructive

impact of indigenous people on the ecosystem and animals. I respect this man. And I recommend his book to everyone. Index, bibliography, black & white photos, 241 pages. Bantam, 1991.

BORDERLAND JAGUARS: TIGRES DE LA FRONTERA by *David E. Brown and Carlos A. Lopez Gonzalez* (University of Utah Press 2001). Here is the history and natural history of the jaguar on the U.S.-Mexico border. Carlos Lopez's field research found the breeding population of big spotted cats in northern Sonora that the Northern Jaguar Project is now trying to protect.

MOUNTAIN LION An unnatural history of pumas and people by *Chris Bolgiano* (Stackpole Books 1995). David Brown writes, "This is an extraordinary book. Well-researched and authentic, [it] tells the story of America's love-hate relationship with its biggest cat in a literate, yet highly readable prose.

DESERT PUMA Evolutionary Ecology and Conservation of an Enduring Carnivore by *Kenneth A. Logan and Linda L. Sweenor* (Island Press 2001). Dave Maehr writes, "Logan and Sweenor's ten-year research marathon is a benchmark of field biology. Along with an important synthesis of puma ecology and a critique of human relations with America's lion, their population-scale experiment—unprecedented in research on the species—is destined to be a classic."

THE FLORIDA PANTHER Life and Death of a Vanishing Carnivore by *David S. Maehr* (Island Press 1997). Maehr is a Rewilding Institute Fellow and former head of the Florida Panther Study Project. Carl Hiaasen writes, "No one knows more about the spectral Florida panther than David Maehr—and no one has done more to save the great cat from vanishing forever from this earth."

COUGAR The American Lion by *Kevin Hansen*, Foreword by *Robert Redford*. This attractive book, published with the Mountain Lion Foundation, is the best book on one of the great predators of the Americas. Hansen covers natural history, life cycle, predation, cougars and humans, status of the cougar throughout the United States, arguments for protection, an action plan for protection, and a

section on what the reader can do. Hansen is a former National Park ranger and knows his subject well. Dr. George Schaller, the world's leading expert on large mammals, calls *Cougar* "an authoritative and indispensable source of information about this magnificent cat." Maps, illustrations, charts, graphs, tables, excellent color photographs, index, footnotes, bibliography, 129 pages. Northland Publishing, 1992.

THE SNOW LEOPARD by *Peter Matthiessen*. This is Matthiessen's extraordinary journal of his fall journey in the Himalayas with zoologist George Schaller in search of the elusive and endangered Snow Leopard, and in search of himself after the death of his wife from cancer. Index, footnotes, maps, 338 pages. Penguin, 1978.

Birds

THE GRAIL BIRD: Hot on the Trail of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker by *Tim Gallagher*. Houghton Mifflin, Boston, 2005.

NEW WORLD PARROTS IN CRISIS Solutions from Conservation Biology edited by *Steven R. Beissinger and Noel F.R. Snyder*, Foreword by *Joseph M. Forshaw* Most American conservationists know about the slap-in-the-face-quick extinction of the super-abundant Passenger Pigeon in the 1800s. Fewer are aware of the concurrent extinction of the also abundant Carolina Parakeet (which ranged as far north as New York and Iowa) during the same period. Despite their popularity, parrots are one of the more imperiled groups of birds. This fine anthology, with pieces from the leading New World parrot researchers, is the definitive work on parrot conservation. Abstracts in Spanish and English. Black & white illustrations, 304 pages. Smithsonian Institution Press, 1991.

WHERE HAVE ALL THE BIRDS GONE? Essays on the Biology and Conservation of Birds That Migrate to the American Tropics by *John Terborgh*. Biology professor Terborgh investigates why songbirds are disappearing from eastern North America. On their summer breeding grounds in the US and Canada, songbirds are suffering from habitat fragmentation, environmental contamination, and the conversion of natural forests to tree

plantations. Destruction of tropical forests in Central America is harming these Neotropical migrants in the winter. Terborgh treats the ecological consequences of habitat fragmentation, as well as the evolution of bird migration, bird behavior, and other topics. He also offers suggestions for reversing the decline. This is a key book for conservationists fighting the fragmentation of forests in the US and Canada. It is also an excellent analysis of what is causing tropical forest destruction. I have never been in the field with a better birder than John. Many photographs and illustrations, 202 pages. Princeton University Press, 1990.

BIRDS IN JEOPARDY *The Imperiled and Extinct Birds of the United States and Canada* by Paul R. Ehrlich, David S. Dobkin, and Darryl Wheye. This is the first comprehensive review of the status of 184 endangered or extinct bird species in the United States (including Hawaii and Puerto Rico) and Canada. *Birds in Jeopardy* was an early alert to critical factors in the conservation and recovery of birds. Striking color portraits by Wheye. 259 pages. Stanford University Press, 1992.

Wilderness

Without wilderness, we're all rats in a psychologist's sick experiment. Give me wilderness or give me death.

LAST GREAT WILDERNESS: The Campaign To Establish The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge by Roger Kaye. I envy my friend Roger Kaye. As a wilderness manager and the bush pilot for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, he has had wilderness experiences most of the rest of us can only dream about. Knowing our flagship wilderness in all seasons and moods has led him into thinking deeply—perhaps more deeply than any other living person—about the host of values wilderness holds. Roger's deep exploration of wilderness values comes through in *Last Great Wilderness*, the top conservation book of 2006 in my judgment. I read the book on a three-week canoe trip in the Arctic Refuge last year and was mightily impressed. In this short review I cannot begin to do justice to it. Let me just point out several features of the book that make it a standout.

Arctic Wilderness is the detailed history of the decade-long campaign in the 1950s to set aside a big chunk of northeastern Alaska as some kind of wilderness preserve. In recounting that history, Roger plumbs the *values* that captivated and drove the various conservationists, giving us the most intelligent and thoughtful review of wilderness values in print (more on that later). Conservation histories too often focus on the same cast of well-known (to literate conservationists, anyway) characters. For example, Olaus and Mardy Murie are seen by just about everyone as the leaders and key players in the campaign for the Arctic. Roger gives the Muries their due, but brings out the other worthies of the campaign, too, particularly Lowell Sumner and George Collins of the National Park Service—the two greatest conservationists of the twentieth century that you never heard of. Beyond the big players, Roger gives grassroots activists center stage. Quoting extensively from them, he shows that Alaskans, like bush pilots Ginny Wood and Celia Hunter, were original wilderness thinkers who didn't need to rely on experts. He shows that hunters in Alaska and the lower 48 were a significant force behind protection. Roger also gives a fair portrayal of the opponents of protection (insightfully showing how the opponents and the supporters used competing concepts of the last frontier to bolster their arguments). In order to showcase such views, Roger's research involved reading personal letters, hearing records, and letters to the editor, and conducting interviews with still-living folks on all sides.

What gripped me most was how Roger discussed the role of values. Evolution was the key thing to be protected in the eyes of Sumner and Collins. They and others saw that only an immense wild region could protect the ongoing process of evolution and all of its building blocks: "Sumner expressed the hope that this place might always have 'freedom to continue, unhindered and forever if we are willing, the particular story of Planet Earth unfolding here...where its native creatures can still have freedom to pursue their future, so distant, so mysterious.'" Moreover, many of the grassroots activists, as well as Sumner, Collins, and the Muries, believed that the Arctic wilderness should be protected for its own sake. Sure, there were benefits to people, but Roger shows that some supporters were not shy about their biocentrism. I came away

marveling that the wilderness movement was philosophically more advanced in the 1950s than it is today.

A choice tidbit that Roger reveals is the role of a certain Alaskan—now a top politician and unyielding foe of conservation—who may have been the essential actor in getting the Secretary of the Interior to establish the Alaska National Wildlife Range in 1960 after Congress failed to act. I'll leave it to you to find out who this mystery person is. Finally, Kaye lays out the evidence that setting aside the Arctic Range may have been a trade-off for opening up the Arctic Petroleum Reserve to the west. University of Alaska Press, Fairbanks, 2006. Lots of historical photos, index, endnotes, detailed references, 283 pages. *UNCLE DAVE'S 2006 CONSERVATION BOOK OF THE YEAR!*

NO PLACE DISTANT Roads and Motorized Recreation on America's Public Lands by David C. Havlick, Foreword by Mike Dombeck (former Forest Service Chief) (Island Press 2002). I've written that "the army of wilderness destruction travels by road" and Michael Soulé calls roads "daggers pointing at the heart of nature." As bad as roads are, off-road vehicles of many kinds are also a source of evil. ORVers have always been the outlaws of outdoor recreation; in recent years they have gotten much worse. David Havlick learned about the problems roads and ORVs cause when he worked for the Predator Conservation Alliance. In *No Place Distant* he looks at the history and extent of roads on public lands, their ecological and recreational impact, the groups pushing for roads and motorized use, ORVs and their uncontrolled use, and how to deal with the problem, including the new effort to legally and physically close roads and illegal vehicle trails. I highly recommend this book for conservationists; it is a tool for stopping and healing the road and ORV blight. Reed Noss writes, "David Havlick's well-written book does a splendid job of illuminating the many challenges that roads and motorized recreation pose to our society." Contact list of relevant conservation groups, photos, bibliography, endnotes, index, 297 pages.

DRIVEN WILD How the Fight Against Automobiles Launched the Modern Wilderness Movement by Paul S. Sutter. Sutter clearly shows that Aldo Leopold, Bob Marshall, Benton

MacKaye, and the other founders of The Wilderness Society and the Wilderness Area movement were primarily motivated by the threat automobiles and the “good road movement” posed to the dwindling backcountry after WWI. There was an alliance between wilderness defenders and other antimodernists. He also shows how the natural areas movement, led by ecologist Victor Shelford, began separately but came to influence wilderness leaders so that by 1940 both unmotorized recreation and unmodified ecosystems were the essence of Wilderness Areas. *Driven Wild* is an important book and offers a compelling new interpretation of what motivated early wilderness champions. *Driven Wild* was a helpful resource for me in writing the wilderness chapters of *Rewilding North America*, and will continue to be useful. I strongly recommend *Driven Wild* to all wilderness activists, paid or volunteer, today. *Know your stuff!* Wonderful gallery of historic photos, index, extensive source list and endnotes, 343 pages.(University of Washington Press 2002).

ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE: Seasons of Life and Land *a Photographic Journey by Subhakar Banerjee, Foreword by Jimmy Carter.* Mountaineers Books, Seattle, 2003.

WHERE WILDERNESS PRESERVATION BEGAN: **Adirondack Writings of Howard Zahniser** *Edited and with an Introduction by Ed Zahniser.* North Country Books, Utica, NY, 1992.

THE ENDURING WILDERNESS: Protecting Our Natural Heritage through the Wilderness Act *by Doug Scott.* Fulcrum Publishing, Golden, CO, 2004. Through his long career with The Wilderness Society, Sierra Club, and now the Campaign for America’s Wilderness, Doug Scott has probably done as much as anyone to shepherd wilderness designation bills through Congress. He is also a recognized expert on the history and evolution of The Wilderness Act. His experience and knowledge is on display in this slim, necessary explanation of and guide to the National Wilderness Preservation System and the process of adding areas to it. Doug particularly shines in deconstructing myths about wilderness that have been used by agencies, wilderness opponents, and now postmodern deconstructionists to limit wilderness designation. He proves, for example, that the insistence for candidate wilderness

areas be “pure” and pristine has no basis in law, precedent, or in the minds of the members of Congress who shaped the Act. *The Enduring Wilderness* is the long-needed technical manual for wilderness conservation. If I could recommend only one book for wilderness conservationists to read and use, it would be *The Enduring Wilderness*. Maps, historic photos, tables, well-referenced endnotes, further reading, 184 pages. *UNCLE DAVE’S NEW SIXPACK SELECTION*

THE WILDERNESS ACT HANDBOOK *Edited by Jay Watson and Ben Beach.* Fourth Edition Revised, The Wilderness Society, Washington, DC, 2000. When The Wilderness Society (TWS) hired me in 1973, legendary Clif Merritt began my education about wilderness. He pretty much expected me and the other field reps to know The Wilderness Act, chapter and verse. Our text was The Wilderness Act Handbook (First Edition) with the text of The Wilderness Act and a section-by-section explanation of it by Stewart Brandborg, ED of TWS. While much has changed in TWS since the 70s, I’m glad they’ve kept publishing The Wilderness Act Handbook. This Fourth Edition includes key sections from wilderness designation acts since 1964 that modify wilderness management directions in the original act (few of these changes have been for the better), a map of the National Wilderness Preservation System, and a bibliography. Everybody who works to protect wilderness has a duty to study this little booklet. Otherwise you are trammled by ignorance in your conservation efforts. I think you can order a copy from www.wilderness.org. Some historical photos, 84 pages.

THE BIG OUTSIDE: A Descriptive Inventory of the Big Wilderness Areas of the United States *by Dave Foreman and Howie Wolke.* This book started around a campfire in 1981 or so, when I told Howie Wolke that I’d like to hike in every US roadless area of a quarter million acres or larger. We started brainstorming such a list of areas. That campfire conversation spawned eight years of detailed research—whenever we could grab a spare moment—that culminated in the 1989 publication of the first edition of *The Big Outside*. In the early 1990s, Howie and I updated our information and maps (for example, this revision gives figures on Wilderness

legislation passed since 1989 for Arizona, Nevada, and other states; some roadless areas have shrunk due to logging and roading; and we have added 20 areas we previously overlooked). We describe and analyze 385 large roadless areas in the lower 48 states—every roadless area over 100,000 acres in the West and over 50,000 acres in the East. We give location, ecological description, some history, and analyze threats and status of protection. Our inventory covers National Parks, National Forests, other federal land (including military), state land, Indian reservations, and private land—in other words, the land instead of administrative boxes. We did it all without GIS or computers. Our more reliable database came from paper maps, our own knowledge, and the knowledge of wilderness experts around the country. I've been amused several times by news reports of some new technical, computerized study that arrives at information Howie and I published twenty years ago. Introductory chapters discuss the history of wilderness preservation, why ecological wilderness is big wilderness, and the myriad threats to wild country. Reading list, address list of wilderness groups, Bob Marshall's 1936 and 1927 roadless area inventories, lists of roadless areas by size and by state, 21 maps, 490 pages. Harmony Books/Crown, 1992 (1989). *The Big Outside* is out of print but used copies sometimes show up on Amazon and in used bookstores. I was horrified just recently to find that I have only one copy. So, I'm looking, too.

THE MAINE WOODS by Henry David Thoreau. In my opinion, whatever it's worth, this is Thoreau's finest book, far deeper and more important than *Walden*—though I'm sure some will grit their teeth and blame my opinion on my meat eating. And, I admit, I have, on occasion, been tempted to snatch up a woodchuck and eat it alive and squirming to get to the very marrow of life. On his two trips into the deep Maine wilderness, down rivers and up Ktaadn, Thoreau got to the marrow of life and had the Epiphany that enabled him to realize that “in wildness is the preservation of the world.” Ktaadn, not Walden, changed American intellectual history. Penguin.

COLORADO BLM WILDLANDS: A Guide to Hiking & Floating Colorado's Canyon Country by Mark Pearson, *photographs*

by John Fielder. Don't be misled: this is not a run-of-the-mill guidebook. It tells one how to hike or float BLM Wilderness Study Areas in Colorado, yes, but it also discusses the BLM wilderness review process and presents the proposals of Colorado conservationists for BLM Wilderness. This is a well-done, useful, handy, and valuable tool in the cause of BLM Wilderness. Excellent color photos, good maps showing access, acreage and status summaries, and descriptions of 46 areas. Mark Pearson knows more about wilderness in Colorado than any other five people and John Fielder is the preeminent wilderness photographer of Colorado. Index, references, addresses of BLM offices and conservation groups in Colorado, 208 pages. Westcliffe Publishers, 1992.

THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO COLORADO'S WILDERNESS AREAS *by Mark Pearson and John Fielder.* Westcliffe Publishers, Englewood, CO, 1994.

CALIFORNIA'S WILDERNESS AREAS: The Complete Guide *by George Wuerthner.* Westcliffe Publishers, Englewood, CO, 1997.

THE GREAT NEW WILDERNESS DEBATE: An Expansive Collection of Writings Defining Wilderness From John Muir to Gary Snyder *Edited by J. Baird Callicott and Michael P. Nelson.* University of Georgia Press, Athens, 1998.

TROUBLED WATERS: The Fight for the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness *by Kevin Proescholdt, Rip Rapson, and Miron L. Heinselman.* North Star Press of St. Cloud, St. Cloud, MN, 1995.

ARCTIC REFUGE: A Circle of Testimony *Compiled by Hank Lentfer and Carolyn Servid.* Milkweed Editions, Minneapolis, MN, 2001.

WILD NEVADA: Testimonies on Behalf of the Desert *Edited by Roberta Moore & Scott Slovic, Foreword by Michael Frome.* University of Nevada Press, Reno, 2005.

National Parks

The National Park idea has been called America's greatest gift to the world. Both America's love affair with National Parks and our failure to adequately protect and manage them go to the heart of the American soul and to the core of the biodiversity crisis. If the United States can't take care of its National Parks, what hope is there for the future? What hope, indeed?

PRESERVING NATURE IN THE NATIONAL PARKS: A History by Richard West Sellars. Yale University Press, New Haven, 1997. Sellars, a National Park Service historian out of Santa Fe, has written the most important book about the U.S. National Park Service. Although he works for the agency, this is not a puff piece. *Preserving Nature* is about the struggle biologists and other scientists in the NPS have had with the bureaucrats, engineers, landscape architects, and cops who dominate and run the agency. He reveals ecologically destructive acts by the NPS to exterminate predators, spray DDT and other biocides, build resorts in sensitive places, and so on. These outrages were opposed by NPS biologists, such as George Wright and Lowell Sumner, who get their much-deserved due at last from Sellars. Overall, he shows that from the beginning until the 1990s, the leadership of the NPS was not interested in ecological integrity. Since the book came out in 1997, he, of course, does not cover the horror story of the laughably incompetent hacks that have run the NPS under Bush Junior. Conservationists cannot fully understand the National Parks and the agency that runs them without reading *Preserving Nature in the National Parks*. UNCLE DAVE'S SECOND SIXPACK SELECTION

OLYMPIC BATTLEGROUNDS The Power Politics of Timber Preservation by Carsten Lien. When President Franklin Delano Roosevelt saw industrial logging outside Olympic National Park he snarled, "I hope the SOB responsible for that is roasting in hell." Had FDR lived and stayed President into the fifties, he could have roasted some SOBs in the National Park Service. Yep, the Park Service allowed some of the finest ancient forest in Olympic National Park to be clear-cut in the 1950s to keep the timber barons of Washington State happy. We can hope that those SOBs have a special spot in Hell. But, I froth at the mouth. Longtime Seattle conservationist Carsten Lien discovered the illegal logging as a young seasonal ranger fifty years ago and resolved to write the true

story of the titanic struggle to establish Olympic National Park and of the unending battle to safeguard it against the barbarians at the gate *and from its supposed protectors*. In writing about Olympic, Lien has produced a major revisionist history of the National Park Service and of the entire conservation movement. Two leading scholars of the National Parks, Al Runte and Michael Frome, both praise this history. I consider myself something of a backtrail scholar of conservation history. After reading *Olympic Battleground*, I realized that you can't fully understand the history of conservation until you read this book. It was a shocker for even a jaded bastard like me. I CANNOT RECOMMEND THIS BOOK TOO STRONGLY. READ IT. (And find out which prominent scholar oft featured in Books of the Big Outside was the park ranger in the fifties who led the fight against logging in Olympic.) Black & white photos, cartoons, illustrations, maps, tables, index, bibliography, references, footnotes. Sierra Club Books, 1991.

MAKING PARKS WORK: Strategies for Preserving Tropical Nature Edited by John Terborgh, Carel van Schaik, Lisa Davenport, and Madhu Rao. Island Press, Washington, DC, 2002. I am not an expert on sustainable development or on international conservation. However, I have the next best thing: friends, teachers, mentors, and colleagues who are the world's leading experts—such as John Terborgh. To really understand the plight of international conservation and the false path of sustainable development, I recommend the anthology *Making Parks Work: Strategies for Preserving Tropical Nature* edited by Terborgh and his colleagues at Duke University's Center for Tropical Conservation and at the Wildlife Conservation Society, and featuring contributions from the world's top tropical conservationists and ecologists. The first chapter in *Making Parks Work* by Terborgh and Carel van Schaik, "Why the World Needs Parks," is a landmark conservation paper. Were I to edit an anthology of the most important conservation papers of all time, their chapter would surely be included. They write,

"No apology should be required for adhering to the accepted definition of a (national) park as a haven for nature where people, except for visitors, staff, and concessionaires, are excluded.... Parks are absolutely vital to the perpetuation of biodiversity in a human-dominated world. And

sustainable development, whatever the term may mean in practice, cannot substitute for strictly protected areas....Sustainable development other than ecotourism is incompatible with nature conservation because, for one, humans and animals do not mix well....humans, even in low numbers, are incompatible with the persistence of megaherbivores and top carnivores, two groups of animals that are among the most crucial to maintaining normal ecosystem functioning....'sustainable use' is more a utopian ideal than a reality, and that many positive assessments of sustainable use systems are either speculation or wishful thinking."

In a later chapter, van Schaik and Herman Rijksen add, "Conservation is impossible without law enforcement," and "Parks are simply not the proper arena for resolving societal inequities." I pull these quotes out of *Making Parks Work* because they succinctly and unapologetically sum up reality. I think they recognize human nature and past experience the way they are, not the way some would like to pretend they are. Not only are they true in poor countries, but also I think they are just as true in the United States, Canada, Australia, Europe, and other wealthy countries. Maps, graphs, tables, endnotes, index, 511 pages.

REGREENING THE NATIONAL PARKS *by Michael Frome.* It has been my great, good fortune to have had Mike Frome for a mentor. Since the close of World War II, he has been involved as a journalist and activist with virtually all aspects of conservation, especially National Parks. He has long been the conscience of public land management in this country. Here is his long-awaited magnum opus on the National Parks. Blasting the Park Service for bureaucratization and politicization from his insider's perspective, Frome presents a ten-point program to restore the National Parks and the Park Service to the standards and example they should set. This is vital reading for anyone concerned with the National Parks. (One caveat: the story about me is slightly exaggerated!) 250 pages. University of Arizona Press, 1991.

STRANGERS IN HIGH PLACES The Story of the Great Smoky Mountains Expanded Edition *by Michael Frome, Foreword by Wilma Dykeman.* Few successful conservation battles are as inspiring and full of hope as that to establish the Great Smoky Mountains National Park from the holdings of twenty-two lumber companies, and after designation to defend the Park from overdevelopment.

And few conservation writers can write with as much hope and inspiration as can Michael Frome. Frome tells the story of the Smoky Mountains and their friends. In this expanded edition, he discusses events of the last quarter century and also looks at areas outside the Park. Those of us working today to establish large new biodiversity preserves stand on the shoulders of the folks who protected the Smokies. We can learn from and be heartened by their story. Bibliography and notes, maps, black & white photos, index, 392 pages. University of Tennessee Press, 1994 (1966).

NATIONAL PARKS: The American Experience *by Alfred Runte*. This revised second edition is a landmark of conservation history. Not only does Runte provide a comprehensive history of National Parks in America, he develops a penetrating analysis of the pitfalls of arguing for National Parks on the basis of recreation, monumental scenery, and worthlessness of the lands. He also discusses the creation of new Parks in Alaska, how untraditional Parks, such as National Seashores, fit into the system, and biological issues like fire ecology. Footnotes, index, bibliographic note, photographs, 335 pages. University of Nebraska Press, 1987 (1979).

YOSEMITE: The Embattled Wilderness *by Alfred Runte*. Runte here looks at one of the best known, over-loved, and mismanaged Parks. Unless we can do it right in Yosemite, can we do it right anywhere? This book is a place to start. One example from the book shows just how badly the Park Service has missed the boat in Yosemite. In the late 60s and early 70s, the NPS slaughtered black bears in Yosemite—200 carcasses were dumped over a cliff. One irate sixth grader wrote, “Bears have a right to live just like you and me and maybe even more.” The smarmy chief ranger at Yosemite patronizingly replied, “You'd be surprised at how much damage a bear can do—many thousands of dollars a year.” Maybe we'd be better off with sixth graders running Yosemite. Illustrations, maps, 271 pages. University of Nebraska Press, 1990.

CRUCIBLE FOR CONSERVATION: The Struggle For Grand Teton National Park *by Robert W. Righter*. Grand Teton Natural History Association, Moose, Wyoming, 2000 (1982).

MOUNTAINS WITHOUT HANDRAILS: Reflections on the National Parks by Joseph L. Sax. A conservation classic by a law professor from the University of California. Roderick Nash says, "Sax has drilled to the core the most important question facing the national parks of today." It is a bold and far-reaching defense of the preservationist position on National Parks. 152 pages, index. University of Michigan Press, 1980.

Forestry

It can be argued that American conservation has been more involved with forestry issues than with any other. Certainly today's debate over forest practices and our remaining natural forests is as contentious and intense as is any discussion. The effective forest activist is the one who knows what she is talking about. Fortunately several books, some from the leading scientific students of forest ecosystems, back up in considerable detail the gut feelings of those of us who cringe at the gaping wounds of commercial forestry.

CLEARCUT The Tragedy of Industrial Forestry edited by Bill Devall Coffee table books are not generally used as bludgeons in political debates. *Clearcut* is big enough and heavy enough to use as a physical weapon, but its power really comes from its images of industrial devastation of our forests and the deep wisdom of its essays. 180 pages of color photographs and 120 pages of text and black & white photos expose the horror of industrial forestry and make it the ugliest Nature coffee table book ever printed.

Photographers include some of the best in the business like Jack Dykinga, Gary Braasch, Daniel Dancer, Galen Rowell, Trygve Steen, and George Wuerthner. Essays are from some of the best in the business, too: Chris Maser, Herb Hammond, Mitch Lansky, Warwick Fox, Alan Drengson, Reed Noss, Dave Foreman, Ed Grumbine, Felice Pace, Jim Cooperman, Colleen McCrory, and Orville Camp. This was the first of the activist big picture books produced by Doug Tompkins. 300 pages, 13" x 12". Sierra Club Books and the Foundation for Deep Ecology, 1994.

WILDFIRE: A Century of Failed Forest Policy edited by George Wuerthner. Foundation for Deep Ecology / Island Press, Washington, 2006.

THE WILDFIRE READER: A Century of Failed Forest Policy
Edited by George Wuerthner. Foundation for Deep Ecology / Island Press, Washington, DC, 2006.

TIMBER AND THE FOREST SERVICE *by David A. Clary.* The former chief historian for the Forest Service wrote this excellent analytic history of how timber production came to dominate the US Forest Service. Although it is a work of impeccable scholarship, it is accessible to anyone interested in the National Forests, and is indispensable to all National Forest activists. It is my first choice of the book to read to understand the United States Forest Service. In fact, I'll go so far as to say that if you haven't read *Timber and the Forest Service*, you don't fully understand the Forest Service and why it is driven to cut trees and build roads. 252 pages, index, footnotes, maps, black & white photos. University Press of Kansas, 1986.

ANCIENT FORESTS OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST *by Elliott Norse.* Written by the staff ecologist at the time for The Wilderness Society, *Ancient Forests* is a well-written and comprehensive reference for ancient forest activists. It pays to know what you are talking about. Dr. Norse's ecological primer on ancient forests is perhaps the quickest way to gain access to the facts. 327 pages, index, further reading, photos, graphs, illustrations. Island Press, 1990.

A CONSPIRACY OF OPTIMISM: Management of the National Forests since World War Two *by Paul W. Hirt.* University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln, 1994. Paul Hirt has unique insights among conservation historians. He was a leading volunteer conservationist in Arizona (coordinating the campaigns for a couple of wilderness bills in the 1980s) before he went to graduate school. His academic expertise is built upon his activist experience when it comes to the US Forest Service. *Conspiracy of Optimism* (based on his dissertation) is evidence of his deep understanding of the Forest Service. His thesis is that the Forest Service's folly of mismanagement after World War II was partly caused by their near-religious faith in optimism—particularly of their own skill.

Rivers and Dams

Moving water affects different people in different ways. Little boys who never grow up become engineers and lust to dam, riprap, divert, and control rivers. Others realize that there is magic in free-flowing water. Some of the definitive battles of the conservation movement have been fought over rivers and dams; others remain to be fought.

RIVERS OF EMPIRE Water, Aridity & The Growth of The American West by Donald Worster. Although this excellent history by Worster (author of *Dust Bowl* and other ecological histories) covers the same events and personalities as Marc Reisner's *Cadillac Desert*, it goes beyond *Cadillac* in placing the history of water "development" in the arid West in the context of a theory of history—that of "hydraulic civilization." Worster clearly shows that hydraulic civilizations are societies built on sand. Index, footnotes. Oxford, 1985.

CADILLAC DESERT: The American West and Its Disappearing Water by Marc Reisner. Meticulously researched and remarkably readable, this is the epic story of America's water "development" and a history of the Bureau of Reclamation and the Army Corps of Engineers. It features engineering "triumphs" and dam failures, irrigated deserts and poisoned water tables, along with a cast of thousands, ranging from thugs like William Mulholland who brought Los Angeles water from the Owens Valley, to driven bureaucrats like Floyd Dominy who literally screwed himself out of his job as Commissioner of Reclamation, to dam-loving politicians like Mo Udall, Cecil Andrus, and Dick Lamm, to heroes like David Brower. An essential primer for anyone interested in Western water issues. 582 pages. Penguin, 1986.

LIFELINES: The Case for River Conservation by Tim Palmer. Island Press, Washington, DC, 1994.

THE WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS OF AMERICA by Tim Palmer. My conservation career began with fighting dams in 1971; I helped form the first national river conservation group (now American Rivers) in 1973; one of my proudest achievements as a lobbyist for The Wilderness Society was the designation of the Rio Grande Wild & Scenic River in Texas in 1978; and I spend an

average of a month every year rafting and canoeing. Wild rivers are in my blood. *The Wild and Scenic Rivers of America* is the comprehensive book on river protection. Palmer covers the importance of protecting river ecosystems, state and local protection systems, descriptions of each of the major rivers in the National Wild & Scenic Rivers System, how and why rivers are chosen for inclusion, continuing threats to rivers, and what can be done to make the system more effective and more inclusive. It is still a worthwhile resource. Index, 32 page photo section, 339 pages. Island Press, 1993.

ENDANGERED RIVERS And the Conservation Movement by *Tim Palmer*. Although dams and other river-destroying projects have played a major role in the history of the conservation movement, the National Wild & Scenic Rivers System is the least known and most neglected of our nation's preservation systems. While a number of good books have been written about the legacy of river destruction and "water development" in the United States, none have focused on the effort to preserve free-flowing rivers until Tim Palmer's exhaustively researched and finely crafted history came along. This is a necessary addition to the field of conservation history and no wild river lover should be without it, even though it is 20 years old. Includes 40 full-color photographs by the author. 316 pages, index, references, appendices. University of California Press, 1986.

A STORY THAT STANDS LIKE A DAM: Glen Canyon and the Struggle for the Soul of the West by *Russell Martin*. Although the construction of Glen Canyon Dam and the struggle against it occurred before my time as a conservationist, it was one of the definitive events in my life. David Brower, who carried the scars of his compromise to his death, writes, "Glen Canyon Dam ushered in the modern environmental movement and Russell Martin's book tells that story forcefully, dramatically, truthfully." Index, bibliography, maps, 368 pages. Henry Holt, 1991.

ECHO PARK: Struggle for Preservation by *Jon M. Cosco*, Foreword by *David R. Brower*. Johnson Books, Boulder, CO, 1995.

KILLING THE HIDDEN WATERS: The Slow Destruction Of Water Resources In The American Southwest by Charles Bowden. Ed Abbey called Bowden the “best social critic and environmental journalist now working in the American southwest.” Chuck's first book examines groundwater depletion in southern Arizona and the Oglalla aquifer (southern Great Plains) by European cultures and the earlier efforts by the Pima/Papago and Comanche to live in harmony with their dry lands. 206 pages, 36 photos, 6 maps. University of Texas Press, 1977.

Values

Land Ethic

The best way to develop a land ethic is through direct, personal experience in the wilderness. However, a few writers have articulated their experiences and feelings so well that they can help us mosey down that wilderness trail. Some of my favorite books are grouped here.

THE FALLACY OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION by John Livingston. Livingston, a Canadian naturalist, argues brilliantly for an ecocentric approach to land and wildlife management as he criticizes anthropocentric “game management.” *The Fallacy of Wildlife Conservation* should sit on the shelf next to *A Sand County Almanac*, *Desert Solitaire*, and *Arrogance of Humanism* in every conservationist's library. McClelland and Steward, 1991 (1981).

BIOPHILIA by E.O. Wilson. A classic expression of love for the Earth by the renowned conservation biologist, E.O. Wilson. He argues that we humans are programmed to enjoy natural landscapes, especially savannas. Some excellent natural history is here also, drawn from Wilson's research on ants in the tropics. 176 pages. Harvard University Press, 1984.

THE NEARBY FARAWAY: A Personal Journey Through the Heart of the West by David Petersen, Foreword by Ann Zwinger. Johnson Books, Boulder, CO, 1997.

HEARTSBLOOD: Hunting, Spirituality, and Wildness in America by David Petersen, Foreword by Ted Williams. Island Press, Washington, DC, 2000.

ON THE WILD EDGE: In Search of a Natural Life by David Petersen, Introduction by John Nichols. Henry Holt, New York, 2005.

WHY I'M AGAINST IT ALL: Rants and Reflections by Ken Wright. Raven's Eye Press, Durango, CO, 2003.

ALDO LEOPOLD

A SAND COUNTY ALMANAC And Sketches Here and There by Aldo Leopold. *A Sand County Almanac* is the most important, the loveliest, the wisest book ever penned. It was selected by more reviewers in *Sierra* magazine's overview of significant environmental books than any other. All modern conservation activism begins with one book; that book is *A Sand County Almanac*. 228 pages. Oxford University Press, 1987 (1949); various other editions. *UNCLE DAVE'S SIXPACK SELECTION*.

ROUND RIVER From the Journals of Aldo Leopold by Aldo Leopold. Conservationists are fortunate to have this essential Leopold work back in print. 208 pages. Fine pen and ink illustrations by Charles W. Schwartz. 286 pages. Oxford University Press, 1993 (1953).

ALDO LEOPOLD'S SOUTHWEST: Twenty-six Early Writings by the Author of A Sand County Almanac edited and with interpretive comments by David Brown and Neil Carmony; Foreword by Dale A. Jones. This book is a lagniappe for fans of Leopold. Reading this eclectic collection of twenty of Leopold's essays, otherwise unavailable, gives us new insight into the man on whose shoulders we all stand. The evolution of the conservation movement recapitulates the personal evolution of Aldo Leopold. You can see that clearly in these pages. These writings focus on Leopold, the Southwestern forester and hunter, rather than Leopold, the Wisconsin professor. 250 pages, black & white photos. University of New Mexico Press, 1995.

THE RIVER OF THE MOTHER OF GOD and Other Essays by Aldo Leopold edited by Susan L. Flader and J. Baird Callicott. *A Sand County Almanac* was but a small portion of what Aldo Leopold wrote on wilderness, wildlife, and the land community—and the

ethical obligations of humans to them. The sixty essays included here range from one written in 1904 by a 17-year-old Leopold to one written in 1947, a year before his death. This is a superb survey of Leopold's work. All of the major issues with which he dealt in his career—wilderness, predators, wildlife management, sustainable agriculture, soil conservation, grazing, and the land ethic—are well represented in this extensive anthology. This volume does a splendid job of showing how Leopold evolved as a conservationist and philosopher, and how he integrated the above themes. The editors are to be particularly complemented for including Leopold's criticisms of livestock grazing in the arid West; his insights decades ago still have not made it into the feeble thought processes of most ranchers, many agency managers, and even some conservation leaders. 400 pages, illustrations, bibliography of Leopold's works. University of Wisconsin Press, 1991.

COMPANION TO A SAND COUNTY ALMANAC:

Interpretive & Critical Essays *edited by J. Baird Callicott.* Aldo Leopold thought harder than anyone else in 20th century America about wilderness and our relationship to it. His posthumously published book, *A Sand County Almanac*, ranks as the finest discussion of conservation ever written. With this collection of essays by leading historians and conservation thinkers, Callicott has produced a sustained study of Leopold from perspectives of art, philosophy, history, and social commentary. Contributors include Curt Meine, Rod Nash, Susan Flader, Phil Pister, Holmes Rolston, and several others. It is an excellent book for better understanding Leopold. 288 pages. University of Wisconsin Press, 1987.

FOR THE HEALTH OF THE LAND *by Aldo Leopold, Edited by J. Baird Callicott and Eric T. Freyfogle.* Island Press, Washington, DC, 1999.

David Ehrenfeld

THE ARROGANCE OF HUMANISM *by David Ehrenfeld.* Ehrenfeld is a Professor of Biology at Rutgers and a founder of the Society for Conservation Biology (he was the first editor of the *Conservation Biology Journal*). In this powerful book, he explodes the myths of humanism (the dominant worldview) such as “all problems are soluble by people using either technology or social

sciences; resources are either infinite or have infinite substitutes; human civilization will survive." He demonstrates the problems of rationality, and argues convincingly for emotion. He then analyzes arguments for the preservation of natural diversity and concludes that only those based on intrinsic value, not economics or human benefit, are valid and even politically effective. As they do at Catton's *Overshoot*, the Christians, Marxists, and capitalists will howl at *Arrogance*, but he's right on all counts. This is an absolutely fundamental book for biocentric activists and should be re-read about every three years. Were I supervising staff for conservation groups, I would require new employees to read *The Arrogance of Humanism* during their first month on the job. Index, references, 286 pages. Oxford University Press, 1978. *UNCLE DAVE'S SIXPACK SELECTION*.

BEGINNING AGAIN People & Nature in the New Millennium by David Ehrenfeld. Gary Nabhan writes about *Beginning Again*: "Not since *Sand County Almanac* has an ecologist given us so many enduring insights and principles to inspire and guide our lives on this planet." *Beginning Again* is a collection of essays; within them are some of the most important ideas and arguments for conservationists. Ehrenfeld writes in a winning, humble, and deeply wise style. Index, suggested readings, 216 pages. Oxford University Press, 1993.

SWIMMING LESSONS: Keeping Afloat in the Age of Technology by David Ehrenfeld. Oxford University Press, New York, 2002.

GARY SNYDER

THE PRACTICE OF THE WILD by Gary Snyder. Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Gary Snyder is one of the elders of my tribe. His deep, unpretentious thinking about humans and nature, his unfailing kindness, and his dirty-fingernails work at reinhabitation place him among America's greatest voices and activists. This collection of essays is an eloquent guide to living in harmony with the wild, and a piercing analysis of the relationship of wilderness to society and to individual lives. 190 pages, bibliography. North Point Press, 1991.

THE REAL WORK: Interviews & Talks 1964-1979 by Gary Snyder. All through the decades from the Beat Era to the Deep

Ecology movement, Gary Snyder has been at the cutting edge of American thought and action. This collection provides a view into the mind of an authentic American and citizen of the planet. We all can learn much from this wise man. Index, 189 pages. New Directions, 1980.

Eco-Philosophy

*Since the 1970s, when Norwegian philosopher (and mountain climber and conservationist) Arne Naess differentiated between shallow environmentalism and deep ecology, professional philosophers have grappled more and more with "environmental" ethics and with the relationship between humans and nature. Although some of these books can be slow going for the layperson, they have great value to conservation activists for articulating more sophisticated and convincing arguments for the inherent value of other species and natural communities. I include the technical books on this topic in this category; more popular books are listed under **Land Ethic**. [Note: some of these reviews are largely unchanged from when I wrote them in the early 1990s; I don't know which books are still in print.]*

DEEP ECOLOGY: Living As If Nature Mattered by Bill Devall and George Sessions. This trail-blazing and easy-to-follow book presents the philosophical fundamentals for the defense of Earth, as it discusses biocentrism, intrinsic value, and ecological resisting. Start here with your reading in Deep Ecology. This is the most important work on ecophilosophy for conservationists, and it is much less technical than the other books in this category. Devall and Sessions were respected professors, but they were grass-roots wilderness activists as well. Appendices by Dolores LaChapelle, Gary Snyder, John Seed, Carolyn Merchant, Robert Aitken, and Arne Naess. 263 pages. Peregrine Smith, 1985.

CONSERVING NATURAL VALUE By Holmes Rolston III
Beyond the biological questions of how to conserve species, ecosystems, and natural processes, lies the ethical question of "Why?" Rolston argues forcefully that what we ought to conserve depends on what we ought to value. The inherent values in nature answer our philosophical questions. Why should we care about endangered species? What good are they? Why save them? Is this a

matter of prudence or principle? What are our responsibilities to other creatures? Finally, how do we mix these values with the values to be defended in human culture? 264 pages. Columbia University Press, 1994.

PHILOSOPHY GONE WILD: Environmental Ethics by *Holmes Rolston, III*. This is a good book on Eco-Philosophy. It has two attributes Eco-Philo tomes often lack: 1) It is not turgidly written—hard to digest for all except those who relax with Kant the way the rest of us relax with Sunday comics; 2) It is grounded in the real world of the wilderness, by a person who gets outside, instead of being abstract pontifications about Platonic “pure concepts.” *Philosophy Gone Wild* is an anthology of essays written by Rolston over the last two decades. They vary in strength and in utility for the activist. While some chapters offer a very weak ecocentric approach and are a bit disappointing, those that treat wilderness more specifically are very useful to the activist. The chapter on Endangered Species is the best argument I have yet to read for valuing species more than individual creatures. It is one of the most important modern conservation essays. Index, footnotes, some illustrations. Prometheus Books, 1989.

ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS: Duties to and Values in The Natural World by *Holmes Rolston, III*. Professor of Philosophy at Colorado State, Rolston here offers an accessible overview of the values carried by the natural world, coupled with an inquiry into human duties toward animals, plants, species, and ecosystems. His comprehensive philosophy of nature is illustrated by examples of ethical decisions made in encounters with bighorn sheep, whales, ducks, butterflies, sequoias, and other species. 391 pages, index, bibliography, footnotes. Temple University Press, 1988.

IN SEARCH OF THE PRIMITIVE: A Critique of Civilization by *Stanley Diamond*. Anthropology Professor Diamond draws on his fieldwork in Africa, the Middle East, and among the Iroquois in this reflective, self-critical critique of anthropology and the civilization that produced it. Gary Snyder says, “*In Search of the Primitive* is a door-crack of light from a forgotten outdoors of the spirit: the old and future world of true human nature in nature ... Stanley Diamond is an upper-upper paleolithic intellectual-hunter on the

track of the biggest game of all—the State.” Index, footnotes, 387 pages. Transaction Books, 1974.

THE ANIMAL RIGHTS/ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS DEBATE: The Environmental Perspective *edited by Eugene C. Hargrove.* Gene Hargrove, founder and editor of the peer-reviewed journal *Environmental Ethics*, assembles here a wide-ranging survey of the sometimes-acrimonious academic debate between Animal Welfare Ethics and Environmental Ethics. Many of the usual suspects are featured: Richard Watson, J. Baird Callicott, Bryan G. Norton, Paul W. Taylor, Mary Midgley, Eugene C. Hargrove, Mary Anne Warren, and John A. Fisher. Note that the Animal Rights position is not directly defended in this book—this book is meant to present the position that has been ignored in the many books advancing the Animal Welfare Ethics position. The division between these two positions is very real, and very important for coming to terms with what the human relationship to the “others” of this world ought to be. Let us remember, though, that many activists have not found it necessary to dwell on the differences when sweating in the pits against the common enemy. Index, footnotes, 273 pages. SUNY Press, 1992.

FOUNDATIONS OF ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS *by Eugene C. Hargrove.* Hargrove is the longtime editor of the peer-reviewed journal *Environmental Ethics*. Few people have done more to get professional philosophers to consider the question of the human relationship to Earth and its life. This general review considers applied ethics, philosophical attitudes, land use attitudes, aesthetic and scientific attitudes, wildlife protection attitudes, therapeutic nihilism and environmental management, an ontological argument for environmental ethics, and beyond economics: toward a balanced value system. Index, footnotes, 220 pages. Prentice Hall, 1989.

RESPECT FOR NATURE: A Theory of Environmental Ethics *by Paul W. Taylor.* Can an argument for biocentrism and the intrinsic worth of all living beings be logically developed within the context of rational, Western philosophy? Dr. Taylor, Professor of Philosophy at Brooklyn College, has done it. Although his argument is somewhat abstract, this is an important book for those interested in arguing for biocentrism. I personally favor Aldo

Leopold's holistic community approach over Taylor's view, which is based on ethical relationships between individuals, but I applaud Taylor for a fine contribution to the biocentric cause. Index, bibliography, footnotes, 329 pages. Princeton University Press, 1986.

IN DEFENSE OF THE LAND ETHIC: Essays in Environmental Philosophy *by J. Baird Callicott.* Baird Callicott has done as much as anyone in America to develop the field of eco-philosophy. This excellent collection of his best essays consists of five parts: criticism of animal ethics, development of a holistic environmental ethic, nonanthropocentric value theory, American Indian environmental ethics, and Leopold's land ethic. Callicott is an Aldo Leopold scholar, an explicator of Leopold's land ethic; he offers cutting criticism of non-ecological environmental philosophy like animal rights; yet some of his recent writings (not in this book) support the positions of what I consider to be the "New Anti-Wilderness Movement"—humanistic liberals deriding wilderness areas and national parks as misanthropic, elitist, and irrelevant. But even when he's lost the trail, he makes us think. Index, 224 pages. SUNY Press.

THE DEEP ECOLOGY MOVEMENT: An Introductory Anthology *Edited by Alan Drengson and Yuichi Inoue.* North Atlantic Books, Berkeley, 1995.

ENVIRONMENTALISM AND POLITICAL THEORY: Toward an Ecocentric Approach *by Robyn Eckersley.* A fellow at the University of Tasmania, Eckersley here discusses the impact of ecocentrism on political thought. She evaluates eco-philosophy from resourcism to animal liberation to ecocentrism, explains and defends ecocentrism (Deep Ecology), and then, from an ecocentric standpoint, critiques Marxism, Critical Theory, Ecosocialism, Murray Bookchin and other "eco-anarchists," and bioregionalism. This is a major defense of Deep Ecology against Social Ecology and other leftist critics. She very properly sets a two-part litmus test for ecocentric conservationists: a priority on wilderness preservation, and recognition of overpopulation as a fundamental problem. I found this to be a very readable and well-argued book. I strongly recommend this book to anyone with at least a passing interest in

the philosophy of Deep Ecology and how to defend it against its critics—it is peerless in that regard. However, I have two criticisms of Eckersley's book: she virtually ignores all non-academic conservationists in her analysis, and she reveals no personal gut feeling for “wild things and sunsets.” (In fairness, I can make these same criticisms about several of the books in this cubbyhole.) Index, bibliography, footnotes, 274 pages. SUNY Press, 1992.

MAX OELSCHLAEGER

THE IDEA OF WILDERNESS: From Prehistory to the Present *by Max Oelschlaeger.* This is the most important scholarly book about the concept of wilderness; gladly, it is very readable and accessible to those of us outside the field of philosophy. Although Philosophy Professor Oelschlaeger covers some of the same ground as Nash does in *Wilderness and the American Mind*, it is a very different book and quite complementary to Nash's classic. This intellectual history examines the culture of prehistoric hunter-gatherers, the transition to agriculture, the role of Greek and Hebrew thought in removing value from non-human nature, and the idea of wilderness as a key component in opposition to “modernism.” The book then reflects on five giants of American thought—Henry David Thoreau, John Muir, Aldo Leopold, Robinson Jeffers, and Gary Snyder. Oelschlaeger concludes with a penetrating analysis of modern ecophilosophy and calls for a return to “Paleolithic consciousness.” He sees the wilderness idea as the essence of postmodernism, countering human-centered “Greens” eager to chastise wilderness activists for irrelevancy and misanthropy. I heartily recommend this book to all wilderness defenders and to anyone interested in eco-philosophy. 488 pages, index. Yale University Press, 1991. *UNCLE DAVE'S SECOND SIXPACK SELECTION*

THE WILDERNESS CONDITION: Essays on Environment and Civilization *edited by Max Oelschlaeger.* Ten key wilderness thinkers here weigh the conflict between wilderness and civilization. Gary Snyder argues that wilderness values can renew our culture; Paul Shepard points his finger at agriculture as the cause of the ecological crisis; George Sessions contrasts Pinchot and Muir; and so on. Chapters by Michael Cohen and Pete Gunter are especially good. The essays are drawn from papers presented at a

conference in 1989. An important book. Footnotes, 345 pages. Island Press, 1992.

AFTER EARTH DAY: Continuing the Conservation Effort edited by Max Oelschlaeger. Ten of North America's leading eco-thinkers—including George Sessions—contribute to this anthology. Essays cover Conservation Politics, Environmental Science Today and Tomorrow, Conservation Economics and the Corporation, Environmental Philosophy, and Religion and Conservation. Index, 264 pages. University of North Texas Press, 1992.

CARING FOR CREATION An Ecumenical Approach to the Environmental Crisis by Max Oelschlaeger No theist, I (we backslid Campbellites make tenacious atheists), but I'm all for attempts to bring ecological respect into the world's religions, as Oelschlaeger tries to do here. Holmes Rolston III writes, "This excellent book emphasizes a theme with an intensity not met elsewhere—that religion is necessary if we are to solve the environmental crisis politically." 296 pages. Yale University Press, 1994.

ARNE NAESS

ECOLOGY, COMMUNITY, AND LIFESTYLE: Outline of an Ecosophy by Arne Naess, translated and revised by David Rothenberg. Arne Naess, Norwegian professor of philosophy and mountain climber, originated the term "Deep Ecology" and is the foremost international proponent of it (and an utterly delightful human being). This is the basic philosophic work on Deep Ecology. 223 pages. Cambridge University Press, 1989.

IS IT PAINFUL TO THINK? Conversations with Arne Naess by David Rothenberg. Doug Tompkins and Dolores LaChapelle, who could both hike me into the ground, tell stories of how eighty-year-old Arne Naess has hiked them into the ground [I wrote this in 1993]. Arne, of course, is the foremost and most distinguished eco-philosopher of our time and the man behind Deep Ecology. This book is the most accessible presentation of Arne's ideas and reveals the playful mountaineer who really is Arne Naess. There is more than a little controversy, however, about Rothenberg's intentions and about how fairly Naess's views are presented through unedited transcriptions of relaxed conversations. Rothenberg did not allow him, for example, to elaborate on or better explain some of his comments, which he felt were incomplete and could give a false

impression of his views. 192 pages. University of Minnesota Press, 1992.

WISDOM IN THE OPEN AIR *The Norwegian Roots of Deep Ecology* edited and translated by Peter Reed and David Rothenberg. This is an anthology of classic articles and interviews with Norway's great pioneers of Deep Ecology including Arne Naess, Sigmund Kvaloy, Peter Wessel Zapffe, Finn Alnaes, Nils Faarland, Johan Galtung, and Erik Damman. 288 pages. University of Minnesota Press, 1992.

Natural History

Some of the wildest and loveliest books gather around this water hole. But it time for me to say a few words about "nature writing." There are many beautiful works of natural history by fine writers. Many of them are not to be found here. I want to snatch them up like Thoreau's woodchuck and shake them. The only natural history in this age of human-caused mass extinction that is worth a damn is activist natural history.

Henry David Thoreau

THE NATURAL HISTORY ESSAYS by Henry David Thoreau. All of Thoreau's known essays on natural history are collected in this inexpensive paperback, including "Huckleberries," "A Walk to the Wachusett," and "Autumnal Tints." The heart and soul of the book, however, is "Walking," arguably the most revolutionary and important essay in American history. It is the first true defense of wilderness in American letters, and is the source of Thoreau's well-known comments about wilderness, including the immortal, "In wildness is the preservation of the world." In "Walking," Thoreau leaps off the highway of American history, plunges back into the wildwood, backtracks to Plymouth Rock, finds the path less traveled, and points us in the right direction.

FAITH IN A SEED *The Dispersion of Seeds and Other Late Natural History Writings* by Henry David Thoreau Edited by Bradley Dean, Foreword by Gary Nabhan, Illustrations by Abigail Rover What? A new book by Thoreau? But ol' Henry's been dead for nearly a hunert and fifty years! But here it is. And what a book. This edited volume of mostly previously unpublished natural history shows Thoreau not as just an original American philosopher but as a pioneering

and brilliant American scientist. 250 pages, 60 black & white illustrations, editor's notes, index. Island Press, 1993.

REFUGE: An Unnatural History of Family and Place by *Terry Tempest Williams*. Larry McMurtry called Ed Abbey “the Thoreau of the American West.” I wonder what I should call Terry Tempest Williams? The Mormon Thoreau? The Female Thoreau? The Thoreau of the Great Basin? *The Female Abbey*? No, I think *Terry Tempest Williams* is all that is needed. Jim Harrison says of *Refuge*: “It is isolated from nearly all others of the genre by Ms. Williams ‘greatness of soul’—there is no other way to express the dense beauty and grace of this book.” Using twin themes—her mother's cancer and the rise of the Great Salt Lake, which threatens shorebirds—Terry has created a modern masterpiece. Bird list, 304 pages. Vintage, 1992.

ALASKA WILDERNESS Exploring the Central Brooks Range by *Robert Marshall*. One of the great joys of my life occurred way back in 1975 at a Wilderness Society Council meeting as I listened to George and James Marshall tell me about “Brother Bob.” Bob Marshall had become my hero five years earlier when I read Rod Nash's *Wilderness and the American Mind* and then devoured the back issues of *Living Wilderness* magazine in the basement of the University of New Mexico library. More than any of the other giants of conservation, Bob Marshall exemplifies to me JOY! Joy in being alive, joy in immersing yourself in wilderness, joy in hiking, and joy in good companions. This splendid volume, edited by George Marshall from his brother's journal of his explorations in the untracked central Brooks Range of Alaska from 1929- 1939, fairly shouts with Bob's joy at being free in the great land. I've read my share of books about travels in the wilderness. Only *Desert Solitaire* has called to my soul as much as *Alaska Wilderness*. Second edition, Foreword by A. Starker Leopold, Introduction by George Marshall. Maps, index, black & white photos by Bob Marshall, 173 pages. University of California Press, 1970 (1956).

SONGS OF THE NORTH: A Sigurd Olson Reader edited and with an introduction by *Howard Frank Mosher*. Sig Olson now inhabits the Wilderness Olympus with John Muir, Aldo Leopold, Bob

Marshall, Olaus Murie, and Howard Zahniser (Mardy Murie and Celia Hunter have now joined that company, too). Both as a conservationist and as a writer, Sig came to symbolize the Boundary Waters Wilderness of northern Minnesota. It was my pleasure to meet him in 1974 when he represented The Wilderness Society at the 50th Anniversary celebration of the Gila Wilderness. This book is a fine introduction to a great wilderness defender and wilderness essayist—it largely consists of his wilderness travel adventures. I read it while canoeing Sig's home turf of the Boundary Waters. 267 pages. Penguin Nature Library, 1987.

A NATURALIST IN ALASKA *by Adolph Murie.* The Murie brothers, Adolph and Olaus, were among the first professional wildlife scientists. They also were instrumental in tearing down the prejudices even conservationists had against predators. This is fine reprint of Ade Murie's classic describing his wildlife studies and explorations in Alaska in the early decades of this century. 302 pages. University of Arizona Press.

LAND OF LITTLE RAIN *by Mary Austin.* Few books remain in print for a hundred years. This one has. I predict it will be in print a hundred years hence (if anything is in print then). A great classic of American nature writing and a loving, lyrical tribute to the desert. Desert rats—don't cheat yourself any longer. Read it. Penguin.

THE DESERT *by John C. Van Dyke.* A classic of American nature writing, reissued in an inexpensive paperback edition. In 1898, Van Dyke, an art historian suffering from asthma, took off alone into the Colorado and Sonoran Deserts for three years. This lovely, profound book is valuable not only for its meditations on the desert but as an early heresy against modernism. 272 pages. Peregrine Smith, 1991.

GILA DESCENDING: A Southwestern Journey *by M. H. Salmon.* By canoe and foot, accompanied by a hound dog and tomcat, Dutch Salmon traveled 200 miles down the Gila River. Salmon has been described as a “passionate and original defender of wilderness *with its hair on.*” Ed Abbey writes, “No reader could ask for a finer river to read about than the Gila, or a better

companion to explore it with than M. H. Salmon." 201 pages, line drawings, map. High-Lonesome Books, 1986.

WALKING WITH THE WILD WIND: Reflections on a Montana Journey by *Walkin' Jim Stoltz*. Lone Coyote Publications, Big Sky, Montana, 2003.

Edward Abbey Non-Fiction

DESERT SOLITAIRE by *Edward Abbey*. In the minds of many of us, *Desert Solitaire* was Ed's masterpiece. It inspired a generation of wilderness defenders, and it played the key role in bringing wilderness area campaigns down from the high peaks with jewel-like lakes to the harsh, unforgiving deserts. *UNCLE DAVE'S SIXPACK SELECTION*

ABBEY'S ROAD by *Edward Abbey*. This collection of essays is Abbey's Road. Take it. Penguin.

THE JOURNEY HOME: Some Words in Defense of the American West by *Edward Abbey*. Illustrated by Jim Stiles. An anthology of Abbey's best essays in defense of wildness. Includes the classic "Freedom and Wilderness, Wilderness and Freedom." 242 pages. New American Library, 1977.

ONE LIFE AT A TIME, PLEASE by *Edward Abbey*. A book of essays and magazine articles featuring Cactus Ed at his controversial best with topics including immigration, anarchy, ecodefense, sex, "sportsmen," cowboys, San Francisco, and several "travel" pieces. In his "Preliminary Remarks" to this book, Abbey writes, "If there's anyone still present whom I've failed to insult, I apologize." 225 pages. Henry Holt, 1978.

BEYOND THE WALL: Essays from the Outside by *Edward Abbey*. Ten essays on wild places from the interior of Alaska to the Sea of Cortez. This is "nature writing" with heart and spine. 203 pages. Henry Holt, 1984.

THE BEST OF EDWARD ABBEY by *Edward Abbey*. Here, Ed selects a sample from each of his published works of fiction and non-fiction. This is a delightful smorgasbord that will only leave the reader with an appetite to read all of Abbey's books. Sierra Club Books, 1984.

A VOICE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS (Vox Clamantis in Deserto): Notes From a Secret Journal by *Edward Abbey*. Abbey collected this delightful and outrageous volume of aphorisms from his notebooks. They were the seeds for future essays and stories. I only regret that Ed didn't live for another century or two so he could have fleshed them all out! I can't think of any book better to browse through as an antidote to the modern banality. St. Martin's Press, 1989.

CHARLES BOWDEN

DESIERTO: Memories of the Future by *Charles Bowden*. My friend, Chuck Bowden, is the *gusano*—the worm in the bottom of the tequila bottle of modern Sunbelt life. But his words are sharp little flint knives slicing open the fishbelly-white underbelly of this strange brave new world and spilling out the horrifying guts polite society ignores. Charlie Keating, Mexican cocaine dealers, Seri Indians—what do they have in common besides an ability to fascinate Bowden? Read *Desierto* and find out. At least I'm only referred to obliquely and not by name. 225 pages. WW Norton, 1991.

MEZCAL by *Charles Bowden*. At Ed Abbey's wake in 1989, I stumbled off alone into the desert because I couldn't talk—to anyone. Bowden was stumbling around the cat claw and ocotillo, too. He didn't speak. He just handed me a crudely made clear glass bottle of purely vile mezcal—a picture of a Jaguar eating a deer was on the label. This memoir of Bowden's search, through drugs, sex, radical politics, Mexico ... for home, is a similar gift. The mescal bottle, by the way, still sits on the bookshelf above my computer desk—next to the Coors tallboy can that Ed had me drink in *Hayduke Lives!* And that I really drank during my talk at his memorial service in Arches. 152 pages. University of Arizona Press, 1988.

BLUE DESERT by *Charles Bowden*. This is an eloquent and penetrating study of the darker side of the Sunbelt. One chapter is about the early days of Earth First!—the crazed funeral ritual/pirate ship attack on Jim Watt's 20th anniversary celebration for Glen Canyon Damn (Spurs and Howie still can't drive a house boat). But he must have gotten my belly confused with someone else's.

Belongs on the shelf next to Abbey's *Desert Solitaire*. 178 pages. University of Arizona Press, 1986.

FROG MOUNTAIN BLUES by Charles Bowden with photographs by Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer Jack Dykinga. A stunning discussion in prose and photography of the Catalina Mountains outside of Tucson, and of the interaction between wilderness and the city. "... a case history of how America destroys itself," says Gary Snyder. Dykinga is a buddy of mine, too, and is responsible for my scowling portrait on the cover of *Confessions of an Eco-Warrior*. The Catalinas are far more photogenic than I am, however. 16 full-page color photos, many black & white, 165 pages. University of Arizona Press, 1987.

Fiction & Literature

As with history and philosophy, literature has not often focused on nature per se or on conservation. Edward Abbey is the primary novelist who opened the doors to considering the land.

ED ABBEY FICTION

THE BRAVE COWBOY by Edward Abbey. Abbey's great novel of anarchism was made into the classic movie *Lonely Are the Brave* (1962) starring Kirk Douglas as Jack Burns.

FIRE ON THE MOUNTAIN by Edward Abbey. Written when Ed still liked cowboys, this is the story of a gruff, wilderness-loving cowman in New Mexico fighting to keep his ranch from the United States Air Force. It is told through the eyes of the rancher's 12-year-old grandson who is entranced with the mountain and the mountain lion who inhabits it. Inspired by the military takeover of White Sands Missile Range. 181 pages. University of New Mexico Press, 1982 (1962).

GOOD NEWS by Edward Abbey. Abbey's great post-apocalyptic novel set in the ruined landscape of Tucson after the crash. I'm still in love with Dixie Dalton. Penguin.

THE MONKEY WRENCH GANG by Edward Abbey. If there is any book in Books of the Big Outside that needs no description, this is it. Well, I wrote that line in 1992. I fear that today many conservationists may not know this book, which has become mythological in its own right. Abbey shaped my generation of

conservationists in the West, and *The Monkey Wrench Gang* was our fantasy.

HAYDUKE LIVES! by *Edward Abbey*. When Ed died in 1989, he left the still-somewhat-rough sequel to *The Monkey Wrench Gang* on his desk as, I think, a gift to his friends, in which some of us appear in various guises. *Hayduke Lives!* features that wild and crazy outfit Earth First! along with the familiar cast of characters from the MWG, and the world's largest shovel. Nancy comes off better than I do in *Hayduke Lives!* (why'd you have me drinking Coors, Ed?). Abbey's description of the 1987 Earth First! Rendezvous on the North Rim of the Grand Canyon is priceless. 308 pages. Little, Brown, 1990.

THE FOOL'S PROGRESS: An Honest Novel by *Edward Abbey*. Cactus Ed's "fat masterpiece," *The Fool's Progress* is a major work of American fiction and a great legacy by an authentic American. It is a semiautobiographical novel of a search for home and family. Ed came to visit me while I was laid up in the hospital with a brown recluse spider bite and left a copy-hot-off-the-press to entertain me. 513 pages. Avon, 1990 (1988).

BLACK SUN by *Edward Abbey*. This was Ed's personal favorite of all his novels. It's a bittersweet love story between a middle-aged fire lookout and a college student. Set in the Grand Canyon. 176 pages. Capra Press.

EARTH APPLES: The Poetry of Edward Abbey Edited by *David Petersen*, Artwork by *Michael McCurdy*. St. Martin's Press, New York, 1994.

THE LOBO OUTBACK FUNERAL HOME: A Novel by *Dave Foreman*, Foreword by *Doug Peacock*. You can't be serious! A sexy novel about conservation biology? In this hard-hitting, action-packed eco-thriller, I write about commitment, or, rather, about the consequences of shirking commitment. Jack Hunter, disillusioned and burned-out on conservation activism after years as a Sierra Club lobbyist, leaves Washington, D.C., for his family's cabin in southwestern New Mexico's Diablo National Forest, convinced there is nothing he or anyone else can do to stop humankind's war on Nature. Nevertheless, he finds himself falling for Dr. MaryAnne McClellan, a conservation biologist who is as accomplished and tough as she is beautiful. The leader of the Diablo Wilderness

Committee, she tries to draw Hunter into the campaign to protect the area from Forest Service logging plans, and she also wants to involve him in the closely held secret that a pack of lobos—Mexican wolves—has surprisingly appeared deep in the back country. Refusing to commit to either MaryAnne or the lobos, despite the very real threats to both, Hunter is soon caught up in the bloody consequences of his cynicism, discovering the true cost of not taking a stand for what he loves. “What Foreman also brings to this juicy sprawl of a novel is an abundance of raw autobiographical musing, testosterone and detailed accounting of the daily workings of the conservation movement....the shop-talk in *Lobo* is, among other things, an historical contribution, a valuable menu of what it was like to plan and strategize, of how went the mundane world of the preservation world. Where else is this sort of daily detail recorded?”—Doug Peacock from the “Foreword.” WARNING: For mature audiences only. Attorney General John Ashcroft has determined that the racy sexual situations and graphic violence in *Lobo* will undermine the norms of proper society. \$18.00 postpaid from The Rewilding Institute (paperback). Johnson Books, 2004. *Signed by the author.*

A FLASH OF GREEN by John D. MacDonald. In December 1992, outgoing Sierra Club executive director Michael Fischer, former Friends of the Earth executive director Mike Clark, and I had a private conference for a week up in Montana. At least that's what we told our wives. Actually, we just drank beer, cross-country skied, and told war stories. Fischer and I were happy to discover we were both Travis McGee fans; Michael told me about a John D. MacDonald novel, not in the Travis McGee series, with a specific conservation theme. He was right. *A Flash of Green* may be the best novel ever written about a conservation battle. Any conservationist will immediately identify with the truth of this great work of fiction. All the standard characters are here, from corrupt politicians, greedy businessmen and - women, violent bubbas, a cynical reporter who resists personal involvement, and dedicated bird watchers and conservation activists. A handful of conservationists fighting a huge subdivision and bay-filling project in a small Gulf Coast Florida city face economic pressure, community ostracism, threatening phone calls, property damage, and beatings. Sound

familiar? It's the reality many of us face today. What is astonishing about *A Flash of Green* is that MacDonald published it in 1962—**forty-five years ago!** No, Virginia, the conservation movement did not begin with Earth Day 1970 and attacks on activists did not start only after Earth First! hit the scene. *A Flash of Green* is timeless and timely, encouraging and depressing, and real as today. 336 pages. Fawcett Gold Medal, 1962.

BARRIER ISLAND by *John D. MacDonald*. In addition to his Travis McGee mystery series, MacDonald has written many other fine novels. This is one of my favorites. The setting is the proposed Gulf Islands National Seashore in Mississippi. The characters include an honest, conservation-oriented real estate man (really!), a sleazy developer, a crooked judge, a gutless assistant US attorney, and a noble National Park ranger. The action has sex, corruption, mayhem, and murder. Through it all is a love for wilderness and a condemnation of greed. A classic ecomystery from one of America's great novelists, this was MacDonald's last novel before he died, and was so close to the truth that he was threatened with a lawsuit. 259 pages. Ballantine, 1986.

ANIMAL DREAMS by *Barbara Kingsolver*. A stunning novel about the hidden horror of mining contamination in an Arizona company town, and the strong women who stand up to it. 342 pages. HarperPerennial, 1991.

SKIN TIGHT by *Carl Hiaasen*. *Skin Tight* is my favorite Hiaasen novel. It's more violent and gonzo than any of the others. The hero is a neurotic take-off on Travis McGee. The heavy is a six-eight geek with bad skin and a weed whacker prosthesis. The villain is a corrupt plastic surgeon. There's a bimbo who worries that her nipples aren't level... Enough. Read it and roll on the floor. Hiaasen is great therapy for all of us who know the world is going to hell in a hand basket but who are stubborn enough that we aren't going to let the bastards do it without one hell of a fight. 373 pages. Fawcett Crest, 1989.

TOURIST SEASON by *Carl Hiaasen*. *Tourist Season* is about, well, it's about ... it's about Tourist Season. Yep, a bunch of real eco-terrorists declare open season on tourists in southern Florida as a way of getting people to move back to New Jersey. I think it was

Captain Ahab who said that his methods were entirely sane and rational, it was his goal that was mad. For the *Noches de Diciembre* gang (mistakenly called the Nachos by the media), their goals are eminently sane, but their methods are mad. John D. MacDonald praised Hiaasen, a rowdy and popular columnist for the *Miami Herald*, for doing a better job than any other writer in combining violence and humor. Hiaasen also does a superb job of exposing boosterism and the gobble-gobble school of economics for the madness they are. A madcap, bitter newspaper columnist, a former pro-football player turned Black militant, an inept Cuban revolutionary, a mystical Seminole bingo millionaire, and a Saltwater Crocodile take on the Florida establishment with its Orange Bowl pageant, chamber of commerce, and advertising-dollar driven newspaper. For gawd's sake, don't emulate the Nachos, but reading about them is good therapy! Warner Books.

DOUBLE WHAMMY by *Carl Hiaasen* A murder in a high-stakes Florida bass fishing tournament. A private eye named Decker trying to solve the murder, keep from getting murdered himself, and get into his remarried ex-wife's pants. An ex-governor of Florida who eats road kills and hates developers. A sleazy, money-hungry televangelist/developer. Sexpots. Violent inbred bubbas. Fishermen. Swamps. Everything you expect from Hiaasen is here. This is what fighting developers is supposed to be. 320 pages. Warner Books, 1987.

NATIVE TONGUE by *Carl Hiaasen* Skink is back. If you've read *Double Whammy*, that should be all you need to know to order a copy of *Native Tongue*. Heartless brutes have stolen the blue-tongued mango voles from the Amazing Kingdom of Thrills (a seedy imitation of Disney World) on North Key Largo. A tongue-tied businessman with a tattoo of Mickey and Minnie Mouse making whoopee, a pretty girl in a raccoon suit, a poetic telephone sex worker, a cynical ex-reporter turned PR hack, a steroid-mainlining chief of security, a horny dolphin, a conservation group of retirees led by a fast-gun grandma with two petty criminals in tow—Skink has to work hard to be the most colorful character here. Once again Hiaasen dissects the “get bucks” real estate mentality of Florida with devastating and hilarious results. 407 pages. Fawcett, 1992 (1991).

THE BIG SKY by *A. B. Guthrie, Jr.* Every American writer wants to write the Great American Novel. Only two people have done it. Mark Twain wrote about a kid and a slave on a raft on the Mississippi. A hundred years later, Hemingway said that all American literature came from one book and that book was *Huckleberry Finn*. Mark Twain wrote the Great American Novel of the Nineteenth Century. Bud Guthrie's tale of the mountain men is the Great American Novel of the Twentieth Century. In *The Big Sky*, Guthrie deals with the question most fundamental to the American soul: Why do we kill that which we love? Nobody has rassed with it better. Aldo Leopold wondered what good forty freedoms are without wild country to be young in. Boone Caudill had it all—wild country, freedom, youth. The Shining Mountains in the Shining Time. But even Boone Caudill was an American. 367 pages. Bantam, 1972 (1952).

THE LIES THAT BIND by *Judith Van Giesen* Albuquerque lawyer and gumshoe Neil Hamel is back, with a client who can't remember if she committed the murder she's accused of. My favorite tough gal detective hunts for the real killer through the funky Southwest, encountering drug dealers, Argentine death squads, and a homeless poet. 256 pages. HarperCollins, 1993.

NORTH OF THE BORDER by *Judith Van Giesen* The first in the Neil Hamel series. The poisonous Waste Isolation Project (WIPP), a national radioactive waste dump near Carlsbad, New Mexico, is the focus. Pocket Books, 1993.

THE WOLF PATH: A Neil Hamel Mystery by *Judith Van Giesen*. Neil Hamel is a tough, sexy, female attorney and gumshoe, here trying to help a radical environmentalist in New Mexico accused of murdering a federal official. The conflict delves knowledgeably and believably into the issues of wolf reintroduction, and presents New Mexico in all its funky glory. 232 pages. Harper Collins, 1992.

RAPTOR: A Neil Hamel Mystery by *Judith Van Giesen*. A Montana bird-watching guide and conservationist is jailed and charged with the murder of a slimeball trying to capture a gyrfalcon for sale to a Saudi prince. Tough New Mexico lady attorney Neil Hamel enters a dangerous world of poachers and falconers as she tries to find the real killer. Good portrayals of bird-watchers, too!

An excellent mystery with a strong conservation theme. Pocket Books, 1990.

AT PLAY IN THE FIELDS OF THE LORD by *Peter Matthiessen*. One of the great novels of our century. Stuck in a hellhole of a town in the forbidding Amazonian Rain Forest, an American half-breed mercenary and a fanatical American missionary clash over the fate of wild Indians. Matthiessen captures with great eloquence the state of being the natives possess in the rainforest. A motion picture was released in early 1992. 384 pages. Vintage.

HOME IS THE RIVER by *M.H. Salmon*. A latter-day mountain man fights the destruction of a wilderness river in New Mexico against Sunbelt boosters. The author is a leading conservationist in New Mexico. 250 pages. High-Lonesome Books, 1989.

ISHMAEL by *Daniel Quinn Ishmael* received the largest literary prize ever given in America (\$500,000 from the Turner Tomorrow Fellowship) in the early 1990s. The story deserving all this? An intellectual Lowland Gorilla conducts a telepathic Socratic dialogue with his human student (the narrator). The wise ape sets out the story of humankind—The Takers. They believe that the world belongs to us, that we do not belong to the world. The Takers refuse to share Earth with other species. The end result is disaster for all. 266 pages. Turner Books/Bantam.

A FRIEND OF THE EARTH: fiction? By *T.C. Boyle*. Viking, New York, 2000.

TIETA A Melodramatic Serial Novel in Five Sensational Episodes, with a Touching Epilogue by *Jorge Amado*. We all know that *Earth First!* was inspired by a certain rollicking novel. Few know, however, that *The Monkey wrench Gang* wasn't its only fictional inspiration. In 1979, Ron Kezar and I read a marvelously demented and lusty novel from Brazil. *Tieta* was a major inspiration to us. The madam of the ritziest bordello in Sao Paulo returns to her backcountry hometown twenty-six years after banishment for promiscuity. She is welcomed with open arms by her greedy family

who believe she is a wealthy widow. To spoil her idyll comes an evil group of German industrialists to build a polluting titanium dioxide plant on the pristine beach. Tieta and a zany collection of locals fight the spoliation of their paradise with every weapon at their disposal. Sex, drunkenness, violence, and conservation make this comedic masterpiece hard to put down. 672 pages. Avon, 1980 (1977).

Crises

Overpopulation & Carrying Capacity

Here's where I get into trouble with fetus worshippers, cornucopian economists of the right and left, and those who jack Humankind up onto a pedestal. So be it. There are too damned many clothed apes mucking up Earth for every other critter. Say what you will about maldistribution of "resources," if we could control our unbridled sexual productivity, there would be a lot more of what everyone needs to go around. Overpopulation is the basic cause of the biodiversity crisis and the mass extinction. Despite our glorious civilization and technology, we have not escaped biology. If we don't halt the population explosion, it will be halted for us—and it will happen very unpleasantly.

OVERSHOOT: The Ecological Basis of Revolutionary Change by William R. Catton, Jr. Dr. Catton lucidly applies ecological concepts to the human condition, and coins piercing new terms to describe our situation ("Cargoism: delusion that technology will always save us from Overshoot: growth beyond an area's carrying capacity, leading to Crash: die-off.") Catton expertly demolishes the fantasies of the Cargoists, Cosmeticists, Cynics, and Ostriches to demonstrate that we have indeed surpassed our carrying capacity. After Aldo Leopold's *A Sand County Almanac*, this is the book I most strongly recommend. (If you believe the humanist bunk that there is no overpopulation problem, you definitely need to read it!) Index, glossary, references, 298 pages. University of Illinois Press, 1982 (1980). *UNCLE DAVE'S SIXPACK SELECTION*

THE POPULATION EXPLOSION by Paul and Anne Ehrlich. In this classic, the Ehrlichs argue convincingly that overpopulation—

especially in the United States and other overdeveloped nations—substantially contributes to the problems of African famine, global warming, acid rain, air and water pollution, the garbage crisis, and AIDS. Let the cornucopians whimper and snivel; this book is must reading for those who want to deal with the primary cause of ecocatastrophe and of social injustice: gross human overpopulation. 320 pages, index, footnotes, “what you can do” section. Simon & Schuster, 1990.

OUTGROWING THE EARTH: The Food Security Challenge In An Age Of Falling Water Tables And Rising Temperatures by Lester R. Brown. W.W. Norton, New York, 2004. *Outgrowing the Earth* is about how feeding near-future populations will be made even more difficult due to falling water tables and rising temperatures. Lester Brown, of course, is the world’s authority on the subject. The world is going to get hungry probably much faster than we can imagine. The best book on the topic. Maps, illustrations, endnotes, index, 239 pages.

LIVING WITHIN LIMITS: Ecology, Economics, and Population Taboos by Garrett Hardin. I’ve been called an “eco-brute” by worshippers of Lord Man (Lady Woman?) all across the political and cultural spectrum, but Garrett Hardin boils the bile of humanists even more than I do. The central fact of today is that there are too many human beings; Hardin faces that fact more squarely than anyone else. David Ehrenfeld devotes a chapter of his new book, *Beginning Again*, to Hardin. He says, “Hardin is a taboo hunter.... His principal target ... is the democratic and liberal notion that what is good and true for the individual must by extension be good and true for everyone.” Notes and references, index, 20 line drawings, 332 pages. Oxford University Press, 1993.

LIMITS TO GROWTH: The 30-Year Update by Donella Meadows, Jorgen Randers, and Dennis Meadows. Chelsea Green Publishing Company, White River Junction, VT, 2004. Early on in my conservation career, the shit hit the fan when the prestigious Club of Rome commissioned some scientists at MIT to do a computer study about the limits to industrial and economic growth.

That book, *Limits to Growth*, unglued every cornucopian lunatic in the four corners of the world, from Marxist commissars to captains of industry to Southern teevee preachers to Pollyanna free-market economists to Third World dictators to class-struggle organizers. That's the kind of reaction you get when you confront crazy people with a dose of reality. Unfortunately, the lunatics are still running the asylum and haven't learned a damned thing. With infinite patience and goodwill, Donella Meadows and her colleagues return once again to talk sense about the real physical limits of this planet. *Limits:30* is a thorough update. Anthropocentric and way too optimistic, *Limits:30* still has lots of useful information and warnings. Many illustrations, well referenced, index, 338 pages.

Collapse

THE CASSANDRA CONFERENCE: Resources And The Human Predicament *Edited by Paul R. Ehrlich and John P. Holdren.* Texas A & M Press, College Station, 1988. An anthology from a 1985 conference, this book is realistic and hard-hitting as its title promises. Ehrlich, Holdren, Garret Hardin, Peter Raven, Stephen Schneider, Donella Meadows, and half-a-dozen other experts are chapter authors. Noteworthy for its early (1985) attention to global climate change. Index, footnotes, some illustrations, 350 pages.

OUR FINAL HOUR: A Scientist's Warning: How terror, error, and environmental disaster threaten humankind's future in this century—on earth and beyond *by Sir Martin Rees.* Basic Books, New York, 2003.

THE FUTURE IN PLAIN SIGHT: Nine Clues to the Coming Instability *by Eugene Linden.* Simon & Schuster, New York, 1998. Linden recognizes the role of population growth in causing instability. One of his nine clues is immigration. An excellent study of possible collapse. Index, 282 pages.

THE WINDS OF CHANGE: Climate, Weather, and the Destruction of Civilization *by Eugene Linden.* Simon & Schuster,

New York, 2006. Gene Linden is one of America's best science writers. What I like best about him is that he doesn't succumb to humanistic arrogance and political correctness in the questions he asks and the words he writes. *Winds of Change* is probably the best and most honest book on climate change and its consequences. For that reason alone, conservationists should read it so they are well grounded in the issue. Linden looks at how climate change may have caused the collapse of past civilizations, explains the history of the science of paleoclimatology (determining ancient climates on the basis of evidence left in ice caps, lake bottom sediments, etc.) and the science of climatology on unraveling how climate works and changes. Then he brings all of this to bear on understanding and foreseeing the climate change at hand—global heating brought on by our huge production of greenhouse gases. He also discusses what the consequences of global heating might be and how world leaders are or aren't dealing with it. A big plus to *Winds of Change* is that Linden doesn't tell us ten easy little things we can all do to stop catastrophic climate change. He is a very smooth and informative writer whether he is explaining scientific matters, ancient history and archaeology, or the battles between scientists and with others. *The Winds of Change* will give a reader a solid grounding in this most momentous threat to the diversity of life and future evolution. Simon & Schuster, NY, 2006. Index, chronology, 302 pages. *UNCLE DAVE'S NEW SIXPACK SELECTION*

COLLAPSE: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed by Jared Diamond. Viking, New York, 2005.

RESOURCE WARS: The New Landscape of Global Conflict by Michael T. Klare. Henry Holt, NY. 2001. I learned a lot from this well-crafted book by a security expert. Klare sees the wars and geopolitics of today and tomorrow as being over resources, especially oil and water; he points out the flash points where things might erupt. Very useful for getting ready for the future. Klare also acknowledges the role of overpopulation. Maps, notes, index, appendices, 289 pages.

BLOOD AND OIL: The Dangers And Consequences Of America's Growing Dependency On Imported Petroleum by Michael T. Klare. Henry Holt, NY, 2004. Klare studies the history of

the U.S. and the oil states of the Middle East since World War II, and shows the dangers this history with its short-sighted policies have led us into. Maps, graphs, notes, index, 277 pages.

THE PARTY'S OVER: Oil, War and the Fate of Industrial Societies by *Richard Heinberg*. New Society Publishers, Gabriola Island, BC, Canada, 2003. Maybe the best of the crop of books about running out of oil. Heinberg considers population growth and doesn't weave corporate-government conspiracies. Nor does he offer "easy" ways to solve the crisis. Illustrations, bibliography, endnotes, index, 274 pages.

SANDS OF EMPIRE: Missionary Zeal, American Foreign Policy, and the Hazards of Global Ambition by *Robert W. Merry*. Simon & Schuster, NY, 2005. Primarily a devastating attack on Neoconservative imperial foreign policy, *Sands of Empire* also takes on the Idea of Progress and forthrightly acknowledges how the population explosion in Islamic countries helps create a powder keg. Index, bibliography, notes, 302 pages.

THE LONG EMERGENCY: Surviving the Converging Catastrophes of the Twenty-First Century by *James Howard Kunstler*.

Human Nature

Paul Shepard asked why do humans destroy their habitat? I'm convinced that much of the answer lies in human nature itself. The hallmark of behaviorally modern Homo sapiens—us— is abstract thinking. Some books listed here describe Ice Age ecosystems, the ecosystems that evolved into today's. Still others examine the paleontological and archaeological record of Homo sapiens to try to figure out who the hell we are, how we got here, and—gulp!—where we might be going. I will be adding more books from the field of evolutionary psychology and human evolution soon.

THE SPIRIT IN THE GENE: Humanity's Proud Illusion and the Laws of Nature by *Reg Morrison*, Foreword by *Lynn Margulis*. Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY, 1999. Australian

photojournalist Reg Morrison wrote a shocking, stunning book almost ten years ago searching for the explanation of why our species is ravaging the rest of life. I've read it three times so far. It is not sugarcoated. E.O. Wilson wrote of it, "Reg Morrison offers varied and often fascinating documentation from ecology, economics, and natural history to portray human history for what it is, A Greek tragedy in which our greatest strengths are no less our most dangerous flaws." Morrison traces human evolution to come to terms with our true nature. "He convincingly depicts human spirituality as an evolutionary strategy that helped rescue our ancestors from extinction and drive the species toward global domination. Morrison concludes that this genetically productive spirituality, which has influenced every aspect of our lives, has led us to overpopulate the world and devastate our habitats," reads the inside cover in a succinct, accurate description of the book. Early on, Morrison warns, "The graph of human population growth over the last ten thousand years is disturbingly similar to the population growth of an animal entering what we would commonly describe as a plague phase." He piles on the evidence to show that like any other plague phase growth graph, ours too will crash. If conservationists are able to accept this, we will find new strategies to do what is the ultimate task of conservation: to save as many building blocks of evolutionary diversity as possible so evolution can clean up the emptiness and mess we have made. Photos, graphs, other illustrations, endnotes, bibliography, index, 286 pages.

UNCLE DAVE'S SECOND SIXPACK

FIRE, NATIVE PEOPLES, AND THE NATURAL LANDSCAPE edited by Thomas R. Vale (Island Press 2002). In *Fire*, physical geographers (as opposed to cultural geographers) study their regions of expertise in the United States to determine the relative role of Indian use of fire to "domesticate" the continent before Columbus. They find that wilderness deconstructionists and others grossly overstate this role and that natural ignition sources (lightning) better explain the prevalence of fire. This anthology is the best counter to belief in the Noble Savage and the postmodern deconstruction of wilderness. The anthology is also an excellent overview of the incidence and ecological role of fire in many North American ecosystems.

THE THIRD CHIMPANZEE: The Evolution and Future of the Human Animal by *Jared Diamond*. Diamond is a leading conservation biologist, New Guinea explorer, ornithologist, professor of physiology, and linguist. Whew! This monumental achievement is one of the best explanations of who and what we are, where we've been, and where we're going (unless we get our act together). Part One discusses our close relationship to the other two species of chimps (yep, we're the third species of chimp). Part Two looks at our bizarre sexuality and life cycle. Part Three considers those things that make us human— language, art, agriculture, drugs—and finds precedents among other animals. Part Four examines our role as world conquerors and practitioners of genocide. Part Five disputes notions of the noble savage and golden age with studies of Pleistocene Overkill. Diamond then shifts into the mass extinction and loss of biodiversity we are causing today. I cannot recommend this book enough (even though I disagree with the author about Neanderthals). Who was it that said, “The proper study for man is man”? Never mind, it was probably some ancient Greek sitting in a marble courtyard ignoring the trees and lions outside. *The Third Chimpanzee* is a topnotch study of humans because it does not ignore the wild world outside. I think this is the best and most unabashed of Diamond’s blockbusters. I fear he has steadily made his writing more palatable to establishment critics and mainstream readers as his status and readership have grown. Nonetheless, *Guns, Germs, and Steel* and *Collapse* are terrific and fascinating books. Index, further reading, some illustrations, black & white photos, maps, 407 pages. Harper Collins, 1992.

CANNIBALS AND KINGS: The Origins of Cultures by *Marvin Harris*. Dr. Harris, distinguished American anthropologist, argues through example after example that the variety of cultural behavior can be explained by adaptation to particular ecological conditions. Harris says, “My purpose in this book is to replace the old onwards-and-upwards Victorian view of progress with a more realistic account of cultural evolution.” As he analyzes the rise of early states and concludes with “The Industrial Bubble,” Harris gives those of us with doubts about the progress of civilization facts to use in criticizing the modern madness. His analysis of the

emergence of the state is an important foundation for any critique of modernism, and his discussion of such topics as the development of industrial cannibalism among the Aztecs is fascinating. This is a very important and readable book and one I encourage for all readers as a basic text in understanding why modern industrialism is doomed. Index, bibliography, footnotes, 368 pages. Vintage, 1991 (1977).

OUR KIND: Who We Are, Where We Came From & Where We Are Going: The Evolution of Human Life & Culture *by Marvin Harris*. Harris is my favorite anthropologist. And *Our Kind* is a terrific study of our kind. In about one hundred very short chapters, he discusses such topics as human evolution, races, why we eat too much, acquired and innate tastes in food, sex, breasts, incest, reproduction, homosexuality, aggression, war, cannibalism, agriculture, chiefdoms and the rise of the state, religion, conquest of the Aztecs and Incas by Europe, and lots more. This is a fascinating subject (subjects!) written in a lucid, refreshing style by a man who knows as much about our kind as anyone (at least anyone before recent scientific advances in evolutionary psychology, neuroscience, and such . Index, bibliography, notes and references, 548 pages. Harper & Row, 1989.

THE BIOPHILIA HYPOTHESIS *edited by Stephen R. Kellert and Edward O. Wilson* Aldo Leopold wrote that there are those who cannot live without wild things and sunsets; I've argued there is a wilderness or "Neanderthal" gene; and E.O. Wilson postulated the presence of "biophilia," a biologically based love of the natural world inherent in human beings. This anthology brings together some of the most creative scientists of our time to explore Wilson's concept of biophilia from perspectives of biology, psychology, culture, aesthetics, and symbolism. Contributors include the editors, Jared Diamond, Richard Nelson, Gary Nabhan, Paul Shepard, Lynn Margulis, Michael Soulé, Holmes Rolston III, and David W. Orr. This book could change the way we think of the relationship between humans and nature, and provide powerful new arguments for the preservation of the wild and natural. Figures, tables, index, 450 pages. Island Press, 1993.

THE DAWN OF HUMAN CULTURE: A Bold New Theory On What Sparked The "Big Bang" Of Human Consciousness by *Richard G. Klein with Blake Edgar*. Nevramount Publishing, NY, 2002.

ON HUMAN NATURE by *Edward O. Wilson*. Harvard University Press, Cambridge, MA, 1978.

CONSILIENCE: The Unity of Knowledge by *Edward O. Wilson*. Vintage, New York, 1999.

THE MIND IN THE CAVE by *David Lewis-Williams*. Thames & Hudson, New York, 2002.

GILGAMESH: A New English Version by *Stephen Mitchell*. Free Press, New York, 2004.

CONSTANT BATTLES: The Myth Of The Peaceful, Noble Savage by *Steven A. LeBlanc with Katherine E. Register*. St. Martin's Press, New York, 2003.

WAR BEFORE CIVILIZATION: The Myth Of The Peaceful Savage by *Lawrence H. Keeley*. Oxford University Press, New York, 1996.

DEMONIC MALES: Apes and the Origins of Human Violence by *Richard Wrangham & Dale Peterson*. Houghton Mifflin, Boston, 1996.

THE HUNTING APES: Meat Eating and the Origins of Human Behavior by *Craig B. Stanford*. Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ, 1999.

ROGUE PRIMATE: An exploration of human domestication by *John R. Livingston*. Key Porter Books, Toronto, 1994.

PAUL SHEPARD
(Reviews forthcoming)

MAN IN THE LANDSCAPE: A Historic View of the Aesthetics of Nature by *Paul Shepard*, Foreword by *Dave Foreman*. University of Georgia Press, Athens, 2002 (1967).

THE TENDER CARNIVORE & THE SACRED GAME by *Paul Shepard*, Foreword by *George Sessions*. University of Georgia Press, Athens, 1998 (1973).

THINKING ANIMALS: Animals and the Development of Human Intelligence by *Paul Shepard*, Foreword by *Max Oelschlaeger*. University of Georgia Press, Athens, 1998 (1978).

NATURE AND MADNESS by *Paul Shepard*, Foreword by *C.L. Rawlins*. University of Georgia Press, Athens, 1998 (1982).

THE OTHERS: How Animals Made Us Human by *Paul Shepard*. Island Press, Washington, DC, 1996.

THE ONLY WORLD WE'VE GOT: A Paul Shepard Reader Edited by *Paul Shepard*. Sierra Club Books, San Francisco, 1996.

COMING HOME TO THE PLEISTOCENE by *Paul Shepard*, Edited by *Florence R. Shepard*. Island Press, Washington, DC, 1998.

ENCOUNTERS WITH NATURE: Essays by Paul Shepard Edited by *Florence R. Shepard*. Island Press, Washington, DC, 1999.