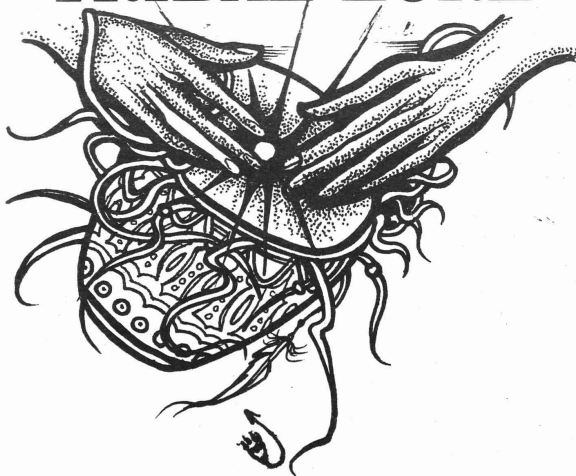


TRIBAL LORE



WOLF ACTION ALERT

BACKGROUND: Last January, a wave of protests from the United States and Canada brought international pressure on the British Columbia Ministry of Environment in opposition to the killing of wolves in the Muskwa Valley of northern BC. In February, as ecodefenders converged in the frozen North to oppose the kill, over 500 activists, including 200 Earth First!ers, stormed Canadian consulates, BC tourism offices, and the steps of the Parliament in Ottawa, to oppose BC's wolf killing policies. Upon being blocked by a court ruling from proceeding with the Muskwa kill, the Ministry vowed to resume the slaughter next winter.

PLANS FOR THIS WINTER: As planning by the Earth First! Wolf Action Network and Friends of the Wolf progresses, it looks the battle for British Columbia Gray Wolves this winter will occur on two fronts. Although the Ministry of Environment was legally blocked last winter from the Omineca Peace aerial kill in the Muskwa and Kechika Valleys, Environment Minister Strachan vowed to find a way to override the permit invalidation decision (see Eostar 88). In a recent conservation with Environment Ministry's carnivore coordinator, Wolf Action Network coordinator Tom Skeele was told that the legislation permitting the kill has been "tidied up," and that a new government technical report has again given ecological justification for the hunt. Thus it seems that the only stumbling block to this year's Muskwa hunt is public opinion. Wolf defenders will be prepared to intervene in this area. Activists will also be prepared to intervene in the Quesnel Highlands of central BC, where wolf killing is also scheduled.

Friends of the Wolf and the EF! Wolf Action Network are calling upon activists to join in a week of outrage, beginning January 9, against the BC wolf kill programs, and to hold public demonstrations and continue letter writing throughout the coming months. Appropriate targets are BC tourism offices, Canadian consulates, Air Canada travel outlets, and Canadian product importers such as beer distributors. EF! Wolf Action Network coordinator Tom Skeele will report on winter plans in our Yule issue (see also August 88 issue). Contact the Network (address in Directory) if you wish to join the team preparing to intervene in BC, or otherwise assist the effort. Meanwhile, wolf proponents should call the toll-free BC tourism number, 1-800-663-6000, and explain that you and your family and friends will boycott BC tourism until the wolf killing is stopped.

SUMMER 89 PLANS: In addition to its involvement this winter in wolf campaigns on mainland British Columbia, Friends of the Wolf is planning a campaign to begin next summer, on the northern rim of Vancouver Island, BC. Though we announced this campaign for last summer, only four persons responded to the call for renewed action, so it was necessary to delay the effort until 1989.

The facts are simple. Gray Wolves on the island are target of a year-round trapping program, because they are falsely blamed for declines in populations of

White-tailed Deer and Elk. The true cause of ungulate declines, is habitat destruction and poaching, which is rampant on Vancouver Island and elsewhere in BC. The Ministry employs wolf control because it is easier and cheaper to eliminate wolves than to eliminate poachers. The Ministry plans to aerially drop poison 1080 baits if the trapping fails to achieve the quota of 80% elimination of wolves on the island. If 1080 is used, it will kill other predatory species such as Cougar and foxes and even small omnivores such as Raccoons. Therefore, monkeywrenching the traplines would only push the wolves, and other predators, out of the frying pan and into the fire.

One hope for the wolves remains: an assault against the poachers. Both trapping and poaching occur year-round on the island. We aim to enter the region next summer in the midst of a boycott campaign, and to draw attention to the poaching problem by confronting these killers.

Further announcements about the summer 89 campaign will be made after the winter campaigns. Cost will be \$200 per person to cover expenses. Contact Friends of the Wolf USNW, 3517 1/2 Fremont N #7, Seattle, WA 98103, if you wish to join or to donate equipment or for information. Or call 604-688-SEAL in BC.

TWO ALASKANS PROTEST WOLF HUNT

On September 26, Wolf Hunter Hunter and his companion, Coda, a 66% Timber Wolf hybrid, held a Howl of Protest on the Alcan Highway at the Canadian border, in support of the International Day of Howls Against the Killing. Tourists heading into Canada became aware of the plight of the Gray Wolves in Canada and the efforts of Earth First! to stop the killing.

Wolf Hunter Hunter and Coda drove from Valdez, the spinster of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline, through Wrangell-St. Elias National Park to the Alcan on the eastern border of Alaska. South-central Alaska is one of the wildest areas of North America, but is threatened by new development courtesy of Alyeska Pipeline and the US Defense Department.

The morning of the 26th, the two friends moved through the spruce forests at the border into position to unfurl banners. Before the protest could begin, a US border patrol official pulled up and asked them to move to another location. "We don't allow signs on US government property." They moved the demonstration to the parking area.

Most surprising of those who stopped to chat were Jeff Turner and his wife Sue of British Columbia. They have been traveling throughout BC, Yukon Territory and Alaska filming wolves for a program on CBC called "The Nature of Things." They were documenting the wolf control efforts in these three areas and showing what wolves in the wild are really like. They had been unaware of EF!'s efforts to stop the carnage in BC, but after discussion with Hunter Hunter and Coda, they filmed the two on the protest line.

Jeff said there is a growing awareness of the killing in Canada and a growing protest from Canadian citizens. But he added that environmental groups from the US are the only active opposition to official BC policy. He was amply supplied

with information and addresses from Earth First! and the Wolf Action Network and returned to BC an EF! supporter.

The protesters left the Canadian border with a final howl, satisfied that a blow had been struck to protect Coda's sisters and brothers in the wild. They returned to Valdez to continue to fight the pipeline threatening to strangle the Alaskan wilderness.

EF! DECLARES NEW RANGE WAR

Most of the arid lowlands of the West are managed by the Bureau of Land Management, which controls over 340 million acres, and which is under the thumb of the livestock industry. Cattle and sheep have reduced biological diversity more than any other agent in the American West and (barring agriculture) in the world. They trample streams into mudholes, compact soils, and devour native vegetation. Almost all indigenous herbivores suffer as a result. And to prevent natural mechanisms from restoring the balance, ranchers wage war on all carnivores.

If we can get livestock off BLM land, as well as Forest Service and other public land, we will have set the stage for the recovery of vast wildernesses. With cattle and sheep off the public domain, soils and watercourses can begin to recover. Native grasses, forbs, and trees will follow. Elk, Bison, Bighorn Sheep, Desert Tortoise and Pronghorn populations will rebound in turn. And it is not unlikely that within five years of the end of public grazing, Jaguars will be reintroduced to the Southwest and Gray Wolves and Grizzly Bears to many Western states. Strong public support for predator reintroduction is currently thwarted by one tiny minority - public lands ranchers.

With that in mind and heart, Earth First! will kick off a new range war in 1989 - Earth First! against the welfare ranchers. Every January, ranchers from throughout the country show off their cows at the Denver Stock Show, billed as the largest display of cows in the world. This January, EF! will be there too, with a major action on the 14th. Activists from throughout Turtle Island are invited. Floor space is available for your stay [not at the show, of course].

We will use the stock show as a forum to inform the public about the devastation wrought by livestock. But that will only be the beginning. Everyone in the West can follow with actions against the BLM and FS. We'll make predator reintroduction an issue at the same time, to impress on the public how related the two issues are.

So far, Oklahoma Representative Mike Synar has been the most visible Congressional critic of public lands grazing, but he has only tried to eliminate the welfare aspect of it by raising grazing fees. We will pressure Western members of Con-

gress not indentured to livestock interests (there are a few) to introduce legislation freeing public land of private vermin. But while we want the force of law behind protection of the land, the legislative route will not, of course, supplant other efforts. It is rumored that here in Colorado, Arapaho and Cheyenne spirits wander at night, avenging the Buffalo and the extinct Plains Wolf with fence cutters and bows and arrows.

For information on joining the January action or to get a packet of materials for doing your own actions contact Colorado EF!, Box 1166, Boulder, CO 80306. For suggestions on night work, reread the anti-grazing chapter of *Ecodefense*.

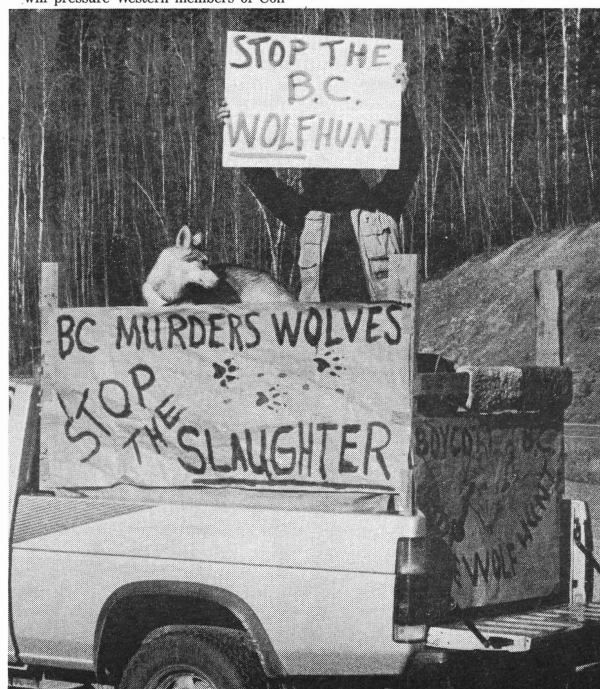
-Michael Robinson, Boulder, CO

SAPPHIRE SIX SUIT APPROACHES DECISION

As you may remember, six EF! protesters were sued last year by a logging company as a result of their action in the North Kalmiopsis area of Oregon's Siskiyou National Forest. Michele Miller, Karen Wood, Kamala Redd, Kelpie Wilson, James Jackson and Val Wade locked themselves to the yarder of Huffman & Wright logging company in the Sapphire timber sale. In addition to their sentences of 15-20 day jail terms, 10-15 day suspended jail terms, \$1800 in restitution, \$250-350 in fines and \$150-250 in suspended fines, the logging company brought a civil suit against the "Sapphire Six" for \$57,818, claiming damages due to trespass. \$50,000 was in "punitive" damages (to teach us a lesson, I suppose), and \$7818 was in "compensatory" damages, in addition to the \$1100 in restitution that had already been levied (the remaining \$700 restitution goes to Coos County for their "rescue team" that brought Val down from the yarder tower).

Over the past year, the case has been fought by David Atkin, David has been in the forefront of timber sale appeals here in Oregon, and is a co-initiator of the Siskiyou National Park proposal. He has based our defense on our freedoms to petition our government and of speech, arguing that our actions are not subject to a claim for punitive damages because they are constitutionally protected. He recently filed a motion arguing that their entire claim is invalid, since it is based on a claim of trespass, and we were on public land (National Forest). To date, David has filed 12 motions in the case, taken 15 depositions and argued 3 motions in front of the judge. The next big hearing is on October 21, and the trial is scheduled for November 1. We have filed a counterclaim against the company and some of the individual workers for assault, as rocks, hardhats, and rape threats were thrown at us, and one worker grabbed James and tried to haul him down off the yarder.

The case was initially moved out of Curry County to Douglas County because



One-person, one-wolf protest at the Canadian border.