

Forests...

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according to the forest service.

In Massachusetts, the nation's third most densely populated state, about 60% of the land is covered with forest today. The goal of the Harvard forest proposal is to keep 50% of the state forested—forever.

The 30-year plan is to use government restrictions, tax relief, easements and other incentives for owners to keep forests intact, *but managed*, in much the same way as farmland is managed by owners. "Some owners want to keep forests as part of the natural infrastructure in their lives," says Mr. Foster. "People aren't doing this (saving forests) for true market value. They want a nice place to live."

Still, the idea of helping the forest by cutting some trees runs counter to widely perceived environmental wisdom. Perhaps this is because some logging was done so badly in the past that the very word conjures up images of a devastated landscape of tree stumps.

The overboard environmentalists arguments of the 1960s and 1970s for getting man out of the forest and leaving nature to itself were a response to some ruined forest land. But, now this prescription is found to be detrimental to forest health. *Managed forests are the answer, not "man is the forest enemy."*

Some environmental groups and misguided individuals, including students, set up protest tables and signs, picket, and collect signatures on petitions to protest any proposal for logging operations. In forest management classes, students almost always say, "don't cut the trees." When asked where they will get the wood products they need, only then do they become receptive to the idea of harvesting forests and "managing" them.

More than two generations have been inculcated with the "don't cut the trees" mantra—and it continues in some of our schools today, especially in the

lower grades. This wrong teaching must be changed to the more promising notion of managed forests by individuals. A few years ago, Vice President Dick Cheney observed that environmentalism is a "personal virtue." Each of us should do our "thing" to preserve the environment.

There was a time, not long ago, when the prevailing view matched Mr. Cheney's. Americans used their resources, to be sure, but also felt a responsibility as individuals to preserve bees and trees. In the 1970s with the passing of massive legislature that gave government control over things environmental (Endangered Species Act, Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, etc.) all that changed. Americans not only lost interest but became, in many cases, enemies of the very goals they once pursued.

These government intrusions became a goldmine of ever-flowing funds to some environmental groups. With their lawsuits against companies and government agencies the settlement funds have placed many groups in la-la land. Never have so many paid so much to so few. Most green groups no longer maintain that they are saving species, water, or clean air—they are simply in the money-making business at mostly taxpayer expense.

With the feds threatening to freeze up their land if a spotted owl comes to call, rural Americans adopted a new philosophy toward species preservation, the three S's—shoot, shovel and shut-up. This helps to explain why, 30 years after the Endangered Species Act was passed, only a total of 10 out of the 1304 listed have been recovered. A litigation and regulation-driven environment doesn't work. Government working with individuals to manage the environment responsibly is enlightened thinking

Cut some trees—save the forests.

—Wally Reemelin
Excerpts, *Wall Street Journal*

ACLU...

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But has the leopard changed its spots? During the 1950s and 1960s the ACLU courted controversy over defending the American Nazi Party. When the Nazi's planned a march in the heavily Jewish Chicago suburb of Skokie, Illinois, home to many Holocaust survivors, in 1977, the ACLU went to court to support their right to march. Such longtime allies as the American Jewish Congress deplored the ACLU involvement. ACLU executive director Aryeh Neier resigned and described the dilemma of majority will and minority right in his 1979 book *Defending the Enemy*.

"The alternative to freedom is power," wrote Neier, who was born in Nazi Germany. "If I could be certain that I could wipe out Nazism and all comparable threats to my safety by the exercise of power, perhaps I would be tempted to choose that course. But we Jews have little power. As a Jew, therefore, I want restraints on power."

Aryeh Neier, now 78, assumed the presidency of liberal philanthropist George Soros' Open Society Institute in 1998, a New York-based foundation that describes its mission as promoting pluralism in democratic societies. George Soros is more recently noted for spending some \$15 million to defeat George Bush in the 1994 national election. *Soros worked hand-in-glove with Berkeley-based activist group Move On to support presidential hopeful John Kerry, and to challenge purported voting irregularities in Ohio, Pennsylvania and Florida.*

Neier's fear of a powerful majority imposing its will on a nonconsenting minority brought the ACLU to oppose mandatory school prayer in the 1962 Supreme Court case *Engel vs. Vitale*, and

oppose Bible reading in public schools in the 1963 *Abington vs. Schempp* case. It was paired with the more famous case, *Murray vs. Curlett* filed by atheist Madalyn Murray O'Hare.

"These Supreme Court rulings completed the process of disestablishing Protestantism as the nation's unofficial religion, separating church and state" wrote ACLU member Walker.

The ACLU's more recent caper has involved it in the race for mayor in Los Angeles. That contest pits current Mayor James Hahn against City Councilman Antonio Villarigosa. Black voters in L.A. are upset with Hahn ousting black Police Chief Bernard Parks amid a morale crisis in Mr. Parks' department. However, the black voters are also quite religious.

The local ACLU group pressured the city to remove a tiny cross on the seal of Los Angeles County as conflicting church with state. Mayor Hahn's father, Kenneth Hahn, a powerful county supervisor and friend to the black population—almost revered by them—helped design the county seal depicting the Hollywood Bowl Amphitheater and nearby *hillside cross*, and to represent the then half-rural county images of oil wells, a fish, a cow and engineers calipers are all arranged around an image of Pomona, a *Pagan Goddess*. The ACLU did not object to Pomona.

Villargosa is a former union organizer and past ACLU leader. Now, the son of the man who designed the seal is running against the former ACLU president that pushed to remove the seal.

Has the ACLU shed its past, or do its spots still show?

—Wally Reemelin
Excerpts, *Washington Times*

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