

# How Far Should We Go?

by Tom Stoddard

Some environmentalists say Earth First!ers are saboteurs, destroyers and even terrorists. They say we go too far and alienate potential friends. These anemic environmentalists are as flabby as Kobe beef, boozed and massaged by the system into near apathy. They want to save the Earth provided it is no more difficult and dangerous than walking to the corner for their newspaper. Their commitment to rescue this ailing sphere is about as ridiculous as Jimmy Swaggert's morals.

The humans trying to destroy Earth have passionate determination. They are motivated by that magic elixir, greed, and its first cousin, power. Using the destroyers' gauge, Earth First!ers look as pastoral as a mountain meadow. How far should EF!ers and other serious conservationists go to save this battered orb?

Maybe as far as water hungry promoters wanting to drain Mono Lake for profligate Los Angeles humans. Perhaps as far as auto makers and oil drillers bent on concreting the countryside and depleting natural resources. Hopefully as far as the R.J. Reynolds, Liggett & Meyer and Skoal go in providing air pollution, carcinogens, and litter. Certainly as far as Maxxam, Georgia Pacific and Boise Cascade in destroying our old growth forests. But probably not as far as the Catholic and fundamentalist crazies bombing Planned Parenthood Centers.

Possibly as far as Consolidated Coal and Kennecott Copper carving vast open pit wounds in the Earth. Surely as far as hazardous waste disposers, leaking underground tank owners and government deep mine radioactive burial experts polluting the aquifers. But perhaps not as far as Union Carbide and Dow Chemical creating Bophallic witch's brews of PCBs, DDT, aldrin and dieldrin.

Assuredly as far as dedicated litterers desecrating every stream and seaside with Bud bottles, Big Mac cartons, and plastic wine dispensers. Certainly as far as the humanistic and religious fanatics wanting to waste Earth's resources keep-

ing every misbegotten human alive at any cost. Undoubtedly as far as the Vicar of Christ and other religious ostriches who encourage every human to breed us into SRO population crises causing deforestation, drought, and desertification. But maybe not as far as poachers, hunters, furriers and smugglers who kill and deal in Black Rhinos, Snow Leopards, Cougars, Grizzlies, and Harp Seals for every shade of human superstition and vanity.

Maybe as far as every hamburger chomping ORV SOB who wants to leave the Earth a wasteland covered with 4 X 4 tracks of Bridgestone Desert Duelers. Reasonably as far as the gill net fishermen using and losing plastic nets which "incidentally" kill millions of sea mammals, sea birds, and non-commercial fish every year. Perhaps as far as farmers draining their deadly fertilizers and pesticides into Kesterson and other National Wildlife Refuges. Assuredly as far as the corrupt governments trying to liquidate the Inuit, Penan, Maasai and other native peoples who have lived for millennia in harmony with Earth.

Maybe not as far as the sheep ranchers who poison wolves, Coyotes, eagles, California Condors and other "varmits."

Potentially as far as the timber firms, slash and burn farmers, and hamburger ranchers who are destroying 75,000 acres of Earth's tropical rainforests every day.

Monkeywrenchers, Stumps Suck and Ecoavengers are not going far enough fast enough to outdo Mother Nature's enemies. Defenders have too long been too tepid and too slow. Maybe that is why we are losing the race to save our planet. If we resolve to go as far as the destroyers, it would leave damn little we can't do. If we want to save Earth we had better quit taking our marching orders from our friends and start taking them from our enemies. That is how far we should go!

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