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How far have we come since then? Did Earth Day really make a difference?

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Earth Day: Past, Present & Future

by Carrol L. Henderson

MAY 2 9 1990

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Table ofContents:



th Day • Earth D • Earth Day • Ea h Day • Earth Day



Earth Day-INC Beginnings

THE DAY IGTO

Editorials

Earth Day

arth Day! April 22, 1970. It was the end of a decade—the turbulent '60s. It was a day young people around the world tried to tell adults that they were living as if there were no tomorrow. People were fouling the earth with nuclear wastes, sewage, garbage, pesticides, plastics, and polluted skies. Earth Day carried desperate doomsday messages of frustration, anger, and impatience about environmental degradation.

Earth Day was also the beginning of a decade. As such, the Earth Day messages carried a sense of hope for the future. There was hope that we could change our indifferent, polluting lifestyles.

On April 22, 1990, we observe the 20th anniversary of Earth Day. How far have we come since then? Did Earth Day really make a difference? Or was Earth Day just a one-time '60s-era "happening" like Woodstock?

It has become apparent that Earth Day was, indeed, a pivotal day in a long evolution of attitudes, ethics, and actions about land stewardship.

Early Mediterranean civilizations like the Roman Empire helped shape both European and American culture—like our legal system based on Roman law. Unfortunately, the Romans flunked natural resource conservation. In the third century, the Christian Tertullian wrote of Italy:

"All places are now accessible ... all open to commerce ... cultivated fields have subdued forests; flocks and herds have expelled wild beasts ... marshes are drained....Everywhere are houses, and inhabitants, and settled governments, and civilized life. What most frequently meets the view is our teeming population; our numbers are burdensome to the world."

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EarthDay Teach-In

On April 22, 1990, we observe the 20th anniversary of Earth Day. How ar have we come since then? Did Earth Day really make a difference?'

Somehow traditional historians seem to have missed the point that the fall of the Roman Empire may have been integrally related to the misuse and destruction of their natural resource base.

Nearly 1,500 years later, someone noticed. George Perkins Marsh was a brilliant American statesman and scholar who might well be 'considered the nation's first Caucasian environmentalist. He carefully observed the changes that

people caused in the forested regions of his native New England. Later, he saw human-caused changes in the natural environments of other regions of the world. During his distinguished career, he served as a lawyer, member of Congress, and minister to Turkey and Italy. In 1864, when in his '60s, he wrote a monumental book titled "Man and Nature; or Physical Geography as Modified by Human Action."

Marsh recognized that several older civilizations declined as they destroyed their woodlands and watersheds. At that time, America was young and most people were busy killing, cutting, and otherwise using up the apparently unlimited natural resources. Marsh recognized that Americans were treating the land just like Mediterranean civilizations had. His arguments were powerful, but few listened.

Another early voice for American conservation was Gifford Pinchot, the nation's first federal forester. In 1907, he helped transform the complex message of Marsh into a concept of stewardship that was easy for all to understand:

"...the use of the natural resources for the greatest good of the greatest number for the longest time."

The word coined to describe this concept was "conservation." It was derived from the word *conservancies*, which described large areas of wellmanaged government forest lands in British India. The word and concept were proposed to President Theodore Roosevelt. He immediately embraced the idea and became the most outspoken and outstanding presidential conservation advocate the nation has ever known.

Teddy Roosevelt is also credited with recognizing the differences between "renewable" resources and "non-renewable" resources. Renewable resources include wildlife, forests, air, waters, and soil. These resources are able to renew themselves through natural processes, even though they may be used by humans. Non-renewable resources are those created over such long geologic periods that, once used, they are gone. Examples are oil, coal, and natural gas.

h Day • Earth Day • Earth Day • Ea**2**th Day • Earth Day • Earth I • Earth Day • B • Day • Earth I The next major step towards Earth Day was the development of game management by people, including Aldo Leopold and Durward Allen. Their writings provided a cornerstone for the development of the art and science of wildlife management: *Game Management* by Leopold and *Our Wildlife Legacy* by Allen.

Subsequent essays by Leopold were published in 1949 in A Sand County Almanac. One essay in particular has provided inspiration towards better stewardship of the earth: "The Land Ethic." Leopold proposed the creation of a new American ethic to govern the relationship between humans and the land.

Formerly, Americans regarded the land solely as property to be bought, sold, used, or abused. That arrogant attitude was resulting in the gross destruction and degradation of the earth's resources. Leopold proposed that we must extend the scope of human ethics and responsible actions beyond how people interact with each other and among human society as a whole. We must extend ethics to the "land," including the other wild living plants and wildlife, soil, forests, waters, and air that collectively comprise our environment. If we see



"One of the greatest revelations about the land whic concept was that it lifeady existed when the United States was settled by Europeans: It already stisted among Indian fultures..." humans as members of a natural community of interdependent parts, it will change our actions about how we treat those other parts.

One of the greatest revelations about the land ethic concept was that it already existed when the United States was settled by Europeans! It already existed among Indian cultures, but European settlers ignored Indian wisdom and had to spend more than 200 years rediscovering the land ethic concept.

The most profound, stirring expression of the land ethic concept among Indians was probably by Chief Seathl in the 1850s. The U.S. government was trying to convince native Americans in the Washington Territory to sell 2 million acres of land for \$150,000. Chief Seathl was the leader of the Puget Sound tribes. Following are some excerpts from his response to the President of the United States:

"How can you buy or sell the sky, the warmth of the land. The idea is strange

to us. If we do not own the freshness of the air and the sparkle of the water, how can you buy them ... this beautiful earth ... is the mother of the red man. We are part of the earth and it is part of us. The perfumed flowers are our sister; the deer, the horse, the great eagle, these are our brothers ... all belong to the same family.

"This shining water that moves in the streams and rivers is not just water but the blood of our ancestors. If we sell you land, you must remember that it is sacred, and you must teach your children that it is sacred....

"The rivers carry our canoes, and feed our children. If we sell our land, you must remember, and teach your children, that the rivers are our brothers.

"The air is precious to the red man, for all things share the same breath—the beast, the tree, the man, they all share the same breath ... the air shares its spirit with all life it supports....And if we sell you our land, you must keep it apart and sacred, as a place where even the white man can go to taste the wind that is

sweetened by the meadow's flowers

"The white man must treat the beasts of this land as his brothers....What is man without the beasts? If all the beasts were gone, men would die from a great loneliness of spirit. For whatever happens to the beasts, soon happens to man. All things are connected.

"You must teach your children that the ground beneath their feet is the ashes of our grandfathers. So that they will

"What is man without the beasts? If all the beasts were gone, men would die from a great loneliness of spirit." respect the land, tell your children that the earth is rich with the lives of our kin. Teach your children what we have taught our children, that the earth is our mother. Whatever befalls the earth befalls the sons of the earth....

"The earth does not belong to man; man belongs to the earth. All things are connected like the blood which unites a family.

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Unfortunately, Chief Seathl's wisdom was largely unnoticed at the time. It is still not apparent that Chief Seathl's message has yet reached Washington, . D.C. approximation of apparent that chief seathly approximately approxi

Nearly 90 years after Chief Seathl wrote those words and Marsh wrote his book; Marsh's book was used as the catalyst for the 1955 international symposium, "Man's Role in Changing the Face of the Earth." The symposium included presentations by some of the most brilliant scholars on earth: geologists, demographers, biologists, geographers, anthropologists, paleontologists, ethnologists, and archaeologists. Case studies documented how the earth was being trashed



"In 1962, distinguished marine biologist and nature writer Rachel Carson published *Silent Spring*, a book that helped stun the nation into environmental consciousness." by its careless human inhabitants. The case for taking action was slowly building.....

In 1962, distinguished marine biologist and nature writer Rachel Carson published *Silent Spring*, a book that helped stun the nation into environmental consciousness. The book dramatically explained how humans—particularly since the 1940s—had begun to introduce radioactive wastes, chemical pesticides, herbicides, and other deadly pollutants into the environment. Technology had hastened the processes of pollution and extinction.

The pesticide DDT was the culprit that helped Carson's

book become a national best seller. The pesticide caused dramatic population declines in peregrine falcons, brown pelicans, ospreys, and in our national bird, the bald eagle. Until then, the emergence of an ecological conscience had made inroads on academia. Now it was reaching the nation's citizens. When the bald eagle became an endangered species, it was the ultimate insult wrought by technology on our nation. If we were careless enough to allow our national symbol to become endangered, the outlook was bleak for other species. Concern for eagles and other endangered species like the timber wolf resulted in passage of the federal Endangered Species Preservation Act of 1966.

th Day • Earth Day • Earth Day • Ea5th Day • Earth Day • Earth • Earth Day • E h Day • Earth I In 1965, the Conservation Foundation organized a conference in Washington, D.C., titled "Future Environments of North America." The conference was essentially a 10-year update on the symposium that was held in 1955. It again revalidated Marsh's conclusion about the ability of humans to change the face of the earth—generally for the worse. The significance of that conference was that it brought together more than 40 scholars from diverse professions—wildlife biologists, demographers, economists, sociologists, regional planners, and public policy specialists—to discuss common environmental problems. They were beginning to realize that they had something in common: ecology.

The next major advance towards Earth Day was the emergence of "ecology" as a science relevant to everyone. Ecology is the study of the relationship between living organisms and their environment. It became a household word during the '60s, thanks to the work of scientists like Dr. Eugene P. Odum at the University of Georgia. Ecology became a window that allowed us to look into nature and understand natural processes; a window to look into the past and



"Ecology is the study of the relationship between liiving organisms and their environment.... Ecology became a window that allowed us to look into nature and understand natural processes...." understand how we had polluted our world; a window that gave us a grim look into the future. It was a bleak future if we did not clean up our polluting ways and our lack of land stewardship.

The beauty of ecology is that it provides relatively simple guidelines that relate to our environment and our lifestyles.

- 1. Resources are limited.
- 2 Resources in nature are recycled. (In nature there is no garbage.)
- 3. Everything in nature is interconnected.
- 4. Preservation of biological diversity is important.
- 5. Populations of people and other living things are limited in number to a carrying capacity.
- Natural communities, if disrupted by fire or other factors, can redevelop through processes of "succession" toward the original community condition. (Natural communities can "heal" their human-caused "wounds" if given the chance.)

arth Day • Earth Day • Earth Day • Earth Day • Earth Day • ay • Earth Day • Earth Day • Earth Day • Earth Day • Earth The next word that left an indelible imprint on sensitized American minds during the '60s was "diversity." It was also referred to as species diversity, biological diversity, or biodiversity. Raymond Dasmann, a distinguished biologist who once taught at the University of Minnesota at Duluth, published *A Different Kind of Country* in 1968. The book is an eloquent plea for diversity; the preservation of natural diversity and the creation of human-made diversity. It was a plea that current trends toward single species environments (monocultures) must be changed; the world must preserve the greatest possible human and natural variety.

Ecologist Paul Erlich also created ecological tidal waves with the publication of *The Population Bomb* in 1968. He stated that the earth has a biological limit (carrying capacity) to the number of people that can survive. Erlich stated that we can only resolve the rest of the earth's problems if we first bring the number of people in balance with the earth's resources.

Other significant ecological writings during this era were the essay "Tragedy of the Commons" by Garrett Hardin, and the book *Our Plundered Planet* by Fairfield Osbourne. The book by Osbourne was actually written in the 1940s but was not widely recognized or appreciated until the 1960s.

The last major event of the '60s that set the stage for Earth Day was the memorable voyage of Apollo 11 to the moon in July of 1969. Until then, our visions of the earth were generally limited to an eye-level perspective only 5 or 6 feet above the earth's surface. Our view of the earth was one of unlimited horizons. If we used up or polluted the resources in one place, we could just move to another place and start over. In the mid-'60s, Stewart Brand, a hippie and former biologist, asked the question, "Why haven't we seen a photograph of the whole Earth yet?" The Apollo mission provided that stunning view of the Earth for millions of people to see.

There she was. Earth. A beautiful blue living sphere. There were no more unlimited horizons. The Earth was a living spaceship in its own right, with its own ecological life-support system.

Now everybody knew it. We realized that we were all travelers in space, sharing common environmental problems across city, county, state, national, and

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"The last major event of the '60s that set the stage for Earth Day was the memorable voyage of Apollo 11 to the moon in July of 1969."



international boundaries. And we could now see that resources were definitely limited.

Astronaut Ed Mitchell, one of 12 astronauts who have walked on the moon, said that this new perspective of the earth could be the greatest spin-off benefit of the NASA space program. Mitchell said, "It could save the planet from

> destruction." Mitchell and other astronauts who have seen the earth from outer space have arrived independently at three philosophical conclusions:

1. The Earth is intensely alive and interconnected.

2. The Earth is a world without boundaries.

3. The Earth is threatened by pollution and local politics.

"One significant aspect of the Gala Hypothesis is that it is an example of 'global vision' that is vital to our future." These attitudes helped contribute to the development of the Gaia Hypothesis by James Lovelock. Gaia was the mythological Earth Mother of the ancient Greeks. Somehow the concept of Mother Earth seemed to fit. Lovelock proposed a hypothesis that Earth, or at least all life collectively on Earth, resembles a single biological organism with the intelligence (ability) to regulate its own biosphere. Humans have greatly disrupted this self regulating function. One significant aspect of the Gaia Hypothesis is that it is an example of "global vision" that is vital to our future.

Earth Day April 22, 1970

Il of the events previously mentioned kindled a national outpouring of concern about what we were doing to the Earth, and led to an event called Earth Day. People across the nation and around the world attended lectures, participated in demonstrations, collected litter, created public displays, and pointed fingers at industrial polluters. Many doomsday predictions were made, but there were also alternatives offered to our polluting lifestyles. Earth Day was also a day for children, because the focus was on the kind of world we were creating for them. Earth Day contained an essence of hope that we could adopt self-sustaining lifestyles before it was too late.

One of the most memorable items from Earth Day was the Pogo cartoon that contained the expression, "We have met the enemy and he is us!" That statement characterized the source of our environmental problems: us. We are each responsible for the lifestyles we lead. Our current lifestyles are tainted with an abundance of bad habits that contribute to the Earth's pollution.

Earth Day was the day that consumers realized that they could personally help save the Earth.

As the concept of conservation had evolved during the 20th century, conservation education efforts were initially directed toward obvious resource



users such as loggers, farmers, miners, hunters, and fishermen. These people were considered "consumptive" natural resource users. People who were not directly involved in cutting, killing, or otherwise harvesting natural resources were called "nonconsumptive" users.

Earth Day destroyed that concept. As Don "Duck Man" Helmeke from Minneapolis has pointed out, there are no nonconsumptive resource users. We are *ali* consumptive resource users, every time we turn on a

light, eat a steak, drink coffee in a styrofoam cup, or drive a car, we are using consuming—resources. In other words, we have met the enemy and he is us.

What we really have are users who care and users who don't care. Earth Day was a dramatic effort to reach millions of users who didn't care—citizens, politicians, and corporation executives. It was an effort to tell them that there are many reasonable ways to improve our lifestyles by using ecologically sound techniques that contribute to sustainable life on earth.

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Earth Day April 22, 1990 20th Anniversary

"On April 22, 1990, we observe the 20th anniversary of that first Earth Day. How much progress has society made during that 20-year period?" If April 22, 1990, we observe the 20th anniversary of that first Earth Day. How much progress has society made during that 20-year period? Human overpopulation, acid precipitation, groundwater pollution, nuclear wastes, toxic wastes, soil erosion, rain forest destruction, and ocean pollution continue to make the headlines. These problems still create feelings of frustration, impatience, and pessimism.

We have made progress, however. Several endangered species such as bald eagles, ospreys, peregrine falcons, and brown pelicans have staged dramatic comebacks as "hard" pesticides have been banned.

Politically powerful Green Parties have emerged in Europe to advocate environmentally responsible government policies and actions.

During his presidential campaign, George Bush declared, "I am an environmentalist." This statement presented a dramatic contrast to previous administrations.

There is new concern about human health as a factor related to environmental quality. Expanding interest in personal health and fitness, and concerns about how pollution affects human health, make it easier for people to understand that we must preserve the health and fitness of our environment.

There have been a multitude of educational nature and wildlife programs produced for television. *The Living Planet*, for example, is an outstanding nature series that fosters greater understanding and concern for the earth. Programs on whales, sharks, gorillas, wolves, tigers, bears, and many other species have also helped nurture appreciation for species that were previously feared, misunderstood, or perceived only as varmints to be killed on sight. Environmental education programs like Project WILD and Project Learning Tree have also been implemented across the nation.

Another dramatic development during the past 20 years has been the creation of state nongame wildlife programs, natural heritage programs, and scientific and natural areas programs. These three new types of programs have initiated recovery and management projects for endangered species and also for nongame species. These programs have as their goal the preservation of biodiver-

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sity, and they are growing rapidly in public support and in funding.

Within Minnesota, significant environmental developments have included establishment of a state water bank program, Conservation Reserve Program, the Minnesota Environmental Education Board, prairie management specialist, the Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota, International Wolf Center, Reinvest In Minnesota program, Nongame Wildlife Checkoff, and the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund.

Another important development during the past 20 years has been the recognition of the multiple values of wetlands—marshes, swamps and estuaries. Formerly regarded as wastelands to be destroyed and converted to "productive" uses, wetlands are now valued for their multiple ecological functions, including flood control, water quality, soil conservation, fish and wildlife production, and natural beauty. Private, state, and national programs have been undertaken to save and restore wetlands. Minnesota has been a leader in the wetland preservation effort.



During the last 20 years, lead has been recognized for what it really is—a poison. Lead has been removed from paint and gasoline; and lead shotgun pellets will be banned nationwide for waterfowl hunting by 1991.

Asbestos has also been identified as a major contaminant. It is no longer being dumped into Lake Superior and has been deleted from the composition of building products.

State and federal pollution control agencies and environmental protection agencies have been

created and are directed to serve as environmental watchdogs to restrict or prevent pollution.

We have seen the emergence of new, specialized conservation groups. Many are dedicated to species like the timber wolf, common loon, bald eagle, eastern bluebird, purple martin, kestrel, ruffed grouse, trumpeter swan, prairie chicken, pheasant, deer, sharp-tailed grouse, bobwhite quail, and wild turkey. There has also been growing support for older conservation groups like the Na-

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"Another important development during the past 20 years has been the recognition of the multiple values of wetlands—marshes, swamps and estuaries."



tional Audubon Society, National Wildlife Federation, The Nature Conservancy, the Sierra Club, and Defenders of Wildlife. These groups have shown impressive political sophistication in attacking ecological problems in the political arena. In addition to these groups, we have seen the creation of groups like the Windstar Foundation (founded by John Denver) and the Better World Society. These environmentally inspired groups are having a profound influence on helping shape our future.

The commitment to clean up our planet has been renewed several times during the past 20 years by major environmental disasters: the nuclear power accident at Three Mile Island in New York, the toxic waste dump disaster at Times Beach in Missouri, the Chernobyl nuclear meltdown in Russia, the Exxon Valdez



oil spill in Alaska, the murder of rain forest advocate Francisco Mendez Filho in Brazil, and the slaughter of elephants and rhinoceroses in Africa.

These disasters point out that even though we have made progress, we still have a long way to go. And time becomes an increasingly more critical factor as decisions to clean up our environment are delayed. We have seen environmental consciousness first transferred from academia to consumers. During the last few years we have seen environmental consciousness transferred from consumers to some politicians.

Environmental problems are still pressing, however. Here are some examples:

More than 11 percent of the world's 9,000 bird species are in danger of extinction.

 About 300,000 to 450,000 acres of ecologically valuable wetlands were destroyed in the United States in 1988.

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"The commitment to dlean up our planet has been renewed several times during the past 20 years by major environmental disasters..."

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- About 40 percent of the nation's wetlands that still remain are severely contaminated.
- Burning of fossil fuels added 20 billion tons of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere in 1988.
- The United States produces 18 tons of carbon dioxide for every person in the country every year.
- Carbon dioxide contributes to the greenhouse effect and possibly cata-, strophic global warming.
- Air pollution in Mexico City is now causing serious acid precipitation in the rain forests of Mexico and Central America.
- Tropical rain forests, which comprise only 6 percent of the earth's surface, contain at least 50 percent of the world's species. Rain forests are disappearing at the frightening rate of about 55 acres per minute.
- About 4,000 species are becoming extinct every year, some before they are even named by scientists.
- Many of the world's ocean fisheries resources are being exploited like those of George's Bank off the coast of Rhode Island.
- The United States is the largest consumer of paper in the world, using 67 million tons per year, which is 600 pounds per person. Most of the paper is not recycled.
- Most plastic products are not biodegradable. Even biodegradable plastics are environmental pollutants that do not break down into basic compounds. They only break down into smaller pieces of plastic.
- About 2 million sea birds and 100,000 marine mammals die every year after eating plastic or becoming tangled in plastic debris.

Vo what do the next 20 years hold for us—and the earth? I believe the key word will be "convergence." This is a concept proposed by Spencer Beebe, the vice president for resources of Conservation International.

13

Convergence means that the key to achieving long-term sustainable

The Next 20 Years



existence on Earth is for social, political, economic, and ecological interests to pool their collective wisdom and resources to attain sustainable social, cultural, and economic lifestyles that preserve biological diversity through ecosystem level management.

New heights of international cooperation will be necessary. Economists, ecologists, and politicians will need to talk with each other and not at each other. Finally, the world's corporate interests must become committed and involved.

We must all cooperate to put the costs of preserving a healthy Earth up⁻ front in our consumer costs and at the top of our tax revenue priorities. That still allows for free enterprise and profit margins in the corporate world.

We may even find a profound relationship possible between peace on Earth and peace with nature. Former Costa Rican President Daniel Oduber Quiros was given the Albert Schweitzer Award in 1976. His acceptance speech included the following comments:

"Our respect for our people today extends to future generations and our respect for diversity within human society extends to a desire to maintain and preserve the diversity of nature....

"This is why Costa Rica firmly and emphatically rejects the view that preservation of the natural environment is a concern of the privileged and wealthy nations, and a luxury which poor and developing countries cannot afford. We are a developing nation, and yet we see the preservation and protection of the natural environment as vital to our country.

"Conversely, I believe that where nations have shown little or no respect for the environment ... human relations inside those nations are also likely to be characterized by a lack of respect for individuals and for human rights....

"We need no violence against people or nature in order to develop our country and defeat poverty."

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"We must all cooperate to put the costs of preserving a healthy Earth up front in our consumer costs and at the top of our tax revenue priorities." It is fascinating how all of these ideas essentially validate the original philosophy of Chief Seathl: "We are part of the Earth; all things are connected; respect the land; the Earth is our mother; the Earth does not belong to man man belongs to the Earth; whatever befalls the Earth befalls the sons of the Earth."

With this enlightened attitude, we can face the next 20 years with the optimism that we can bring about changes for the better. Following are some changes that I predict will occur:

- Technology will be used to develop biodegradable, recyclable products, with declining dependence on solid waste disposal and the creation of toxic wastes. We will either phase out internal combustion engines for passenger cars, or improve our mileage to at least 100 miles per gallon.
- The word "garbage" will become obsolete. Everything will be reused or recycled.
- We will include the right to a clean, healthy, diverse environment in our Bill of Rights.
- We will seek consumer-supported taxation to pay the costs of cleaning up and maintaining a healthy environment. We will take pride in a healthy environment.
- We will see adoption of environmental ethics by more politicians.
- We will see adoption of environmental ethics by more corporations and in corporate decision-making processes. We will see massive global efforts to save and restore the Earth's air, rain forests, and oceans.
- There will be significant progress to reduce acid precipitation.
- We will see the addition of staff ecologists to city, county, state, and federal levels of government and industry to incorporate ecology into routine decision-making processes.
- There will be more emphasis on resource management by ecosystem, natural community, watershed, or airshed. There will be less emphasis on single species management.
- There will be intensified efforts to reduce the presence and detrimental effects of exotic (non-native) plant and animal species.

• Earth Day • Eart

"There will be significant progress to reduce acid precipitation."

- There will be intensified efforts to save endangered species, endangered natural communities, and remaining indigenous human cultures.
 - We will see the establishment of natural biological diversity (biodiversity) as a major criteria by which we judge the success of our environmental protection efforts.
- There will be major shifts in our patterns of wildlife and nature-related recreation. More emphasis on nature activities such as camping, backpacking, canoeing, wildlife photography, ecotourism, and wildlife observation. The level of participation in these activities will increase significantly.

Whether or not we achieve major breakthroughs in cleaning up our environment in the next 20 years depends on you as a *voter*, as a *consumer*, and as an *environmental organization member*. You have the power and influence to change the face of the earth from a frown to a smile! As a voter, you can vote for politicians who are sincerely committed to a clean, healthy environment. Let politicians know your position on legislative issues that affect the environmental legislation. When politicians support progressive environmental legislation, don't forget to thank them!

You can also exert great influence for the Earth as a consumer.

- Learn how your daily actions and decisions can limit pollution of the Earth.
- Buy environmentally sound products.
- Reduce your dependence on plastic and styrofoam products.
- Recycle your household wastes.
- Learn how to make your home energy efficient.
- Car pool.
- Use consumer products from companies that are environmentally responsible.

- Use public transportation when possible.
- Buy fuel-efficient cars.



All of these actions send a deafening message to industry. Their goods and services will eventually reflect what people like you want.

You can also make a difference for the future by "shopping" for conservation and environmental organizations that reflect your attitudes toward the environment. Look for groups that are objective, professional, effective, and that promote their causes through active, responsible lobbying efforts. Then join them and support them as much as you can. They can help ensure that your interests are being heard at state and national levels. You can help ensure that Chief Seathl's message will finally reach Washington, D.C., within the next 20 years.



You can make a difference for the future! You are the person who will help determine whether the 40th anniversary of Earth Day on April 22, 2010, will be a celebration of the Earth —or a memorial service.





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About the Author

Carrol L. Henderson has been the supervisor of the Nongame Wildlife Program in the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources since 1977. He has been personally involved with wildlife recovery and restoration efforts for bald eagles, peregrine falcons, bluebirds, trumpeter swans, and river otters. In addition to developing Minnesota's Nongame Wildlife Program, he has served as president of the Nongame Wildlife Association of North America and has contributed to the development of state nongame wildlife conservation programs across the nation.



