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AFTER READING THIS, ANYONE WHO SAYS THERE IS NO ONE-WORLD CONSPIRACY IS A FOOL!!!

PLEASE NOTE HOW MANY TIMES "U.N." IS IN THIS ARTICLE. NO ONE-WORLD CONSPIRACY, RIGHT?



# Cascadia:

## Bioregion in the making?

forestry 'E-ways'." Many of the Cascadia project activities are consistent with HUD's vision of 'sustainable communities.'

Why not? William D. Ruckelshaus is a member of the Board of Directors of the Discovery Institute that employs Bruce Agnew. Ruckelshaus is also a member of the President's Council on Sustainable Development (PCSD). The PCSD final report provided more than 150 specific recommendations. HUD's report to Habitat II is based entirely upon the PCSD recommendations. Cascadia is seen by some participants to be a cooperative effort to promote economic development. Others see it as a collaborative process to limit and control economic development while promoting the creation of a UN-type Bioregion.

Seattle University sociology professor, David McClusky, who the media describes as the 'unofficial Mayor of Cascadia,' says Cascadia represents "a deep yearning to find a home place here in this region. The strictly business approach could be fatal. The fear is that the I-5 elite will dominate the region and that with the free trade agreements, our regional elite are using Cascadia as a marketing device to cover up their takeover of the region. If business interests keep hijacking the wonderful concept of Cascadia, they will kill it." McClusky is not the only one concerned about how Cascadia is being developed.

In his 1990 book, *Confessions of an Eco-Warrior*, Dave Foreman identified 9 specific areas, containing more than 29.7 million acres, in the Cascadia region - that he said should become roadless wilderness. In 1992, the Greater Ecosystem Alliance set up shop in Oregon and quietly began to identify, catalog, inventory, and map natural resources to provide the data necessary to support proposals to create new wilderness areas and limit or prevent resource use within the region. Dr. Reed P. Noss is on the Advisory Board of the Greater Ecosystem Alliance. Noss is the author of the Wildlands Project, and a member of its Board of Directors, which is chaired by Dave Foreman. The Wildlands Project has been identified by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), in its recent publication, *Global Biodiversity Assessment*, as the model to be followed to develop a "system of protected areas" as required by Article 8 of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

In 1993, Bill Clinton ordered two Ecosystem Management Studies: the Eastside, and Upper Columbia River Basin (UCRB) BIS (Environmental Impact Statement). These studies cover portions of four of the five Cascadia

**B**ioregions cannot be created by fiat; they must be conceived, designed, and constructed amid conflicting ideas and objectives. Cascadia has been conceived, competition for the design is underway, and there is no shortage of conflicting ideas and objectives. Whether or not Cascadia becomes a full-blown Bioregion, consistent with the UN-planned vision of "sustainability," has yet to be determined. But the process is underway and other communities would be well advised to take heed.

Cascadia encompasses the states of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Alaska, and the Canadian Provinces of Alberta and British Columbia. The area is home to 17.2 million people who produce a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of \$350 billion. Cascadia's Main Street is the I-5 corridor which stretches from Eugene, Oregon to Vancouver, British Columbia.

Cascadia is a project of Seattle's Discovery Institute. It is co-chaired by Mayor Ruth Bascom of Eugene, Oregon and Mayor Bob Bose of Surrey, B.C. Bruce Agnew is the Project Director. State Senator Alan Bluechel, who is also President of the North West Economic Region, sees Cascadia as "our regional version of the European Economic Region." Bluechel's organization is underwritten by all five states and both Canadian provinces and works only on economic development issues. They promote Cascadia as "the two-nation vacation." International tourism is a major economic focus. The project has secured a commitment of \$2.7 million from Washington State to match a federal grant, and is working to get B.C. to contribute \$20 million.

Project Director Agnew is focusing on developing cross-border grass roots support for a high speed rail system from Eugene to Vancouver "which would also incorporate freight mobility issues," according to the *Puget Sound Business Journal*. Interestingly, Agnew's vision of a rail system sounds very much like the system described by the Department of Housing and Urban Development in its report to Habitat II. HUD's report goes on to say: "We will see all settlements linked up by extensive bike, recreation and agro-

# NGO = U.N = ONE-WORLD GOVT.

states.

James F. Rathbun, a former Supervisor for the U.S. Forest Service, has been following the project since its inception. In a letter to the UCRB EIS Team Leader, Steve Mealey, Rathbun said: "I have been involved with Forest Service planning for 35 years, either as a supervisor/planner, or as a reviewer and commenter. I have never seen planning conducted as the Forest Service is doing it today in the UCRB. Chief Thomas is famous for his fast-track-to-hell-with-the-public, the-Forest-Service, -real-science, the-facts-and-the-law performance and attitude, with respect to planning. I'm sorry to see that so many, of what I thought to be, dedicated and professional people, are following his lead." Rathbun has concluded that the "centerpiece" for the Upper Columbia River Basin Project is essentially the Wildlands Project. Little wonder. Reed Noss was selected by the Department of Interior to conduct a nation-wide survey of endangered ecosystems. His report finds that in the Pacific Northwest (Cascade Mountains and westward) ecosystems have experienced the following losses: 83-90% loss of old-growth forests in Douglas fir; 96% of original temperate rainforests; 92-98% loss of old-growth ponderosa pine forests; 99.5% loss of native grasslands and oak savannas; 99.9% loss of native prairie; 85% loss of marshlands in Coos Bay area; 70% loss of marshlands in Puget Sound; and 33% loss of wetlands. With such widespread environmental devastation reported as the official report of the Department of Interior, the federal government should have adequate justification for any kind of corrective policies it cares to initiate. One could wonder, though, why such environmental devastation would provide such an attractive tourist destination to the promoters of Cascadia?

DO IT THEN CURE IT!

WHAT? TREES HAVE "NO VALUE" WHAT?

The Sierra Club, too, just after Cascadia. In its 1994 special edition of *Sierra*, which redraw the map of North America into 21 Bioregions, Cascadia is only a part of their proposed Bioregion which would extend all the way to the Mexican border. Like Reed Noss, the Sierra Club considers planted trees to be of little environmental value: "Many of the butchered slopes up and down the coast have been replanted. These plantations frequently fail, but...the young Douglas fir have taken hold, and eventually they'll grow into some poor version of a forest - genetically homogeneous, biologically sparse, dull to the eye and limited in use." The Sierra Club's published agenda for the Bioregion includes: permanent protection for the remaining ancient forests; establishment of new wilderness areas; protection of all remaining free-flowing rivers; restoration of all wild salmon and steelhead runs; remove toxic threats to urban communities and prevent new contamination; significantly increase wetlands acreage; revise water pricing and policies; and ban all oil and gas leasing along the entire Pacific Coast. Dave Foreman is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Sierra Club.

Cascadia is home to a number of NGOs most of which espouse similar visions of a Bioregion restored to its pre-settlement conditions. The Oregon Natural Resources

Council, led by Andy Kerr, is one of the more formidable NGOs to be dealt with by the Cascadia economic development interests. Kerr says: "We've lost too much wilderness. We must not only conserve every acre that remains, but restore much that was lost." Sixty percent of Oregon is already publicly owned, Kerr says "another 20% of Oregon needs to be public and wild again." Kerr says that two-thirds of Oregon's population should go away and that consumption of material goods should be decreased by 75%. Kerr's group relies on citizen activism and litigation to achieve its objectives. His group received a portion of the \$1,005,512 federal payment of attorney fees awarded by U.S. District Judge Helen J. Frye, in recent spotted owl litigation.

HOW? HOW?

Cascadia is also home to no less than nine Biosphere Reserves. These areas are a part of UNESCO's world-wide Biosphere Reserve Program which is designated to be the "learning laboratories" for the creation of sustainable communities within protected ecosystems. Biosphere Reserves form the nucleus of the system of protected areas described in the Wildlands Project. These areas are eventually to be connected by corridors of wilderness and surrounded by buffer zones under the management of public/private (NGO/government) partnerships.

The process of converting Cascadia into a Bioregion is sure to be tumultuous and the outcome is by no means certain. Perhaps the most crucial factor in the eventual outcome is the creation and success of "stakeholder councils" which is the mechanism by which authority and control is wrested from local elected officials and placed in the hands of NGO-dominated councils and "management boards." Dave Foreman describes why this factor is so important in his book: "I can rave for hours about the ineptitude and stupidity of members of Congress, their lack of interest in things natural, and the control industrial corporations have over them. But Congress is a shining beacon of ecological enlightenment when compared to most state legislatures or worse yet, to a rural county commission." The President's Council on Sustainable Development (PCSD) may be less colorful, but shares Foreman's attitude in their "We Believe Statement" number 8: "We need a new collaborative decision process that leads to better decisions; more rapid change; and more sensible use of human, natural, and financial resources in achieving our goals."

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As this new collaborative decision process is formulated throughout the various communities in Cascadia, regional councils will be organized to address multi-county and multi-state issues, and finally, a council will emerge to represent all the lower-level councils and a truly Bioregional Council will reign. This is the process envisioned by the *Global Biodiversity Assessment*, and it is the process which the UN-funded Commission on Global Governance expects to draw from to select representatives to the UN Trusteeship Council and the UN Assembly of the People. It is a process now underway in Cascadia.

NO OWN SPIRIT

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