

Earth requires protection, concern for survival

What on earth can we do?

"Think globally, act locally." The people of Warm Springs can make a difference on this planet by helping to create biological diversity, by protecting human health and by working for sustainable resources. They can be working for protection of the planet from their own backyard.

Simple activities such as recycling, protecting streambanks, conserving energy, sharing concerns for the earth with

children, and getting involved are ways to counteract the effects of ozone depletion, the Greenhouse Effect, increasing waste, depletion of natural resource and the decline of many species of birds and animals.

Citizen awareness of the problems present on the planet Earth are becoming more pronounced as Earth Day 1990 approaches. Twenty years ago the first Earth Day, proclaimed

by Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin, made millions of people conscious that the quality of life on this planet was diminishing. Twenty million people participated in activities that day.

Soon after Earth Day 1970, laws that are now taken for granted were enacted including the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, and the Environmental Protection Agency.

In the 20 years since the first Earth Day, the far-reaching consequences of human activities have been observed. And even with that, human activities have not taken into account the fragile nature of the planet.

This year the Earth Day celebration is an international activity. The interrelationship of all the planet's inhabitants has become more obvious since Voyager II reminded us with photographs that we are all a part of the same world. We are also reminded of the influence we have on each other when acid rain from United States industry is killing the maple tree crop of Canada and fouling lakes and streams throughout the country. We are reminded of our interrelationship when fish populations are declining because of pollutants. Our influence on every facet of life is apparent as concern by the scientific community is expressed for the health of the planet because of chemicals emitted into the atmosphere.

Because of human activities scientists inform the world's citizens that the atmosphere surrounding the planet is changing. Chemical pollution threatens to alter the climate and expose populations to higher levels of ultraviolet radiation.

The Greenhouse Effect is resulting from increased temperature on the planet. Industry is producing gases which are released into the atmosphere. These gases, such as carbon dioxide, absorb more of the radiation produced by the earth and then return it rather than letting it escape. Predictions indicate that the Greenhouse Effect will increase the Earth's temperature between 1.5 and 4.5 degrees centigrade by the year 2030 if chemical emissions continue at the present rate. This rising temperature will affect the climate.

The earth's protection against ultraviolet radiation is diminishing at a rapid pace. Ozone, a molecule found in the atmosphere, is produced naturally. It breaks down and is created continuously. Chemicals can influence the speed at which the reactions occur, speeding up the process while increasing the amount of chemicals in the atmosphere.

Several chemicals produced industrially affect the speed at which the ozone is broken down. Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) are used as propellants in aerosols, in refrigeration technology, as foam-blowing agents in plastic production and as solvents in electronics. Other gases that speed up ozone breakdown are nitrous oxide and gases containing chlorine, fluorine and bromine.

On the surface of the Earth, human activities are responsible for declining species. Wetlands are being developed into urban centers and agriculture plots, forests are being removed from the landscape, waste is accumulating and water is being contaminated by pesticides and industrial pollutants.

Humans are only one of approximately 37 million species inhabiting the Earth today. Habitats of these species are being destroyed at an amazing rate. The extinction of one species may lead to the extinction of another species. The human population cannot exist as a single species on this planet. We are part of a complex ecosystem and we must maintain a balance.

As organizer of the first Earth Day celebration, Denis Hayes expresses, "Think globally, act locally" Everytime the heat is kept a few degrees lower than normal, or cans are recycled or a leaky faucet is repaired, resources are being conserved. It's easy to make every day, Earth Day.



What a marvel the third planet from the sun is, perfect for creating and maintaining life. It is crucial, therefore, that the planet's inhabitants realize the importance of ecological balance

and not foul the planet with wastes, or climate changes or pollution which could eventually lead to the extinction of the human species.

Earth Day activities set

Dear Tribal Leader:

On behalf of the Earth Day Oregon Coordinating Committee I am writing to invite your tribe to participate in the Earth Day celebration in Portland, Oregon to be held on April 22, 1990. This will be a day of celebration for our Mother Earth and a day when people will gather to express their love and caring for the planet.

In Portland, a large celebration is being planned. The intent of the celebration is to bring people together to work for a sustainable future.

There are a number of ways that your tribe may want to get involved, and I am listing a few of them and who the contact person is:

- Reserve a booth and offer something of your tribe which you feel is important in expressing love to the Earth at this time and which can help bring all of us together as one unified family. Call 1-228-1134 if you have questions.

- Consider being involved in the early morning sacred service that will kick off Earth Day. From 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Pioneer Square (located between Morrison and Yamhill streets and between Broadway and Sixth streets in Downtown Portland) there will be an

"Ecumenical Service and Native American Ceremony." If you wish to be involved in this please contact Tom Traphagen at 1-230-6944 or Ellen Lowe at 1-223-3056.

- Consider being involved in the noon 'til 1:00 p.m. opening ceremony. The ceremony will take place at the World Trade Center (located between Taylor and Main streets and between Second and Front streets in Downtown Portland). If you are interested in being involved please call Linda Neal at 1-628-2428 or Janelle Schmidt at 1-228-1134.

- Consider being involved in a drumming ceremony that is roughly scheduled between 12:00 and 12:30 p.m. and 4-5:00 p.m., also at the World Trade Center. The intent of the ceremony is to send love to the Earth. With than in mind I ask you to inform your most powerful spiritual tribal members to participate in this ceremony and also at the early morning service. If you are interested in the drumming ceremony please contact Pete Mesteth at 1-289-0680, or Rita McNoble at 1-643-1718.

All my relations,
Gary Spanovich

Celebrate Earth Day on April 22

Environmental changes have occurred since the 1970's

The 1990's will become known as the "Decade of the Environment." In 20 years, since the first Earth Day was celebrated, many changes have taken place—some good, some not so good for the environment. As a point of reference, listed are some worldwide statistics about the environment in which we live.

- *World human population in billions in 1970: 3.72. Projected for 1990: 5.32.

- *Number of species on the official U.S. endangered and threatened list in 1970: 92. In 1989: 539.

- *Estimated global pesticide sales in 1975: \$5 billion. Projected for 1990: \$50 billion.

- *Number of national wildlife refuges in the United States in 1970: 331. In 1989: 452.

- *Number of whooping cranes in existence in 1970: 71. In 1989: 217.

- *Number of California condors in 1986: 60. In 1989: 30.

- *Number of dusky seaside sparrows in 1970: about 1,000. In 1989: 0.

- *Number of beverage cans used in America in 1963: 11.5 billion (mostly steel). In 1985: 70 billion (mostly aluminum).

- *Of every federal dollar spent, the amount directed toward natural resources and the environment in 1976: 1.5 cents. In 1978:

- 3 cents; in 1989: 1.5 cents.

- *World military expenditures (in 1984 dollars) in 1970: \$450 billion. Projected for 1990: \$750 billion.

- *Estimated number of U.S. wetland acres lost in 1970: 500,000. Projected for 1990: 300,000.

- *Miles of designated U.S. Wild and Scenic rivers in 1970: 868. In 1989: 9,278.

- *Billions of board-feet of timber harvested from U.S. Forest Service lands in 1970: 11.5. In 1988: 12.6.

- *Median age of U.S. population in 1970: 27.9. Projected for 1990: 33.

- *U.S. population served by municipal wastewater systems providing secondary treatment or better in 1960: fewer than 10 million. In 1984: more than 125 million.

- *Millions of tons of solid waste generated in the United States in 1970: 10. In 1986: 158.

- *Millions of dollars appropriated by Congress from the Land and Water Conservation Fund to buy parkland and wildlife habitat in 1970: 48. In 1986: 45.9. In 1989: 207.

- *Parts per million of DDT in human adipose tissue in the United States in 1970: 8. In 1983: 2.

- *North American population of breeding mallards in 1970: 10,379,000. In 1989: 6,119,000.

- *Number of states with formal, funded nongame wildlife

- programs in 1970: 2. In 1989: 50.

- *Total U.S. energy consumption (excluding wood) in quadrillion BTUs in 1970: 3,934. In 1986: 5,225.

- *Number of whales killed worldwide in 1970: 42,105. In 1989: 300 (estimated).

- *Number of U.S. homes using passive or active solar energy in 1970: 35,000. In 1987: 1,700,000.

- *Millions of tons of sulfur dioxides emitted into America's air in 1970: 27. In 1985: 21.

- *Thousands of metric tons of lead polluting America's air in 1970: 204. In 1985: 21.

- *Number of states with working bottle bills in 1971: 1. In 1989: 9.

- *Number of catalogued pieces of artificial space debris (softball-sized or larger) counted by Space Command in 1970: about 2,000. In 1987: 6,985.

- *Millions of acres of U.S. agricultural land transformed into urban areas between 1970 and 1980: 13.

- *According to analyses of government reports, the amount of federal rangeland that was overgrazed and in "poor to fair" condition in 1977: 70 percent. In 1989: 70 percent.

- *Estimated number of African elephants in 1970: 4.5 million. In 1989: 500,000-650,000.

Information taken from the National Wildlife magazine published by the National Wildlife Federation. Statistics gathered by Chris Wille.

By the year 2000...

Scientists estimate that by the year 2000:

- *Nearly 70 percent of the world's tropical rainforests will be gone;

- *Fifty percent of the landfills now operating in the United States will be closed;

- *As much as one-fourth of the world's reliable water supply could be rendered unsafe for use.

A free guide is available which suggests effective ways to help cure specific environmental ailments. The citizen action guide, available through the National Wildlife Federation, has personal solutions to prob-

lems such as: overflowing landfills and toxic trash; water shortages and pollution; ozone depletion; and air pollution and global warming.

Your Choices Count contains a chart telling how to dispose of household toxics, and it lists ways the workplace can become more earth-friendly. Also listed are ways to get involved in the political process and where more information can be obtained.

For the free guide write: Publication #77012, Educational Publications Coordinator, C/O School Programs, National Wildlife Federation, 1400 16th St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20036 2266.

Plastics do not decay

Plastic waste threatens marine and beach environments, wildlife, and continuously grows in landfills. It totals seven percent of the waste stream or 1,000 pounds from each U.S. citizen per year.

A plastic container remains unchanged for several hundred years. It is difficult to compress, toxic to burn and does not decay.

Plastic does float. Six pack ring binders are frequently found on the muzzles of seals, and plastic bags result in the death of turtles and other marine animals that try to ingest them.

It is estimated that one million tons of garbage is dumped in the ocean worldwide each year. Commercial fishing fleets lose about 12 miles of plastic drift nets every day during a five month fishing season.

Plastic foam cups, plastic caps, rings, toys and disposable razors have been found in the gullets of dead sea birds, fish and mammals.

On land the plastic crisis occurs in landfills. Waste of all types totals 1.1 billion pounds per day. Growing populations and increasing waste adds to landfill problems. Within the next decade it is estimated that waste will total 13,500 pounds per person annually.

Recycling is part of the answer to waste problems. Research continues in recycling technology. Industry, which creates plastic containers and conveniences, funds some recycling technology but it is accused of not pulling its fair share.

One solution other nations have found practical is packaging in containers that do decay