

OPERA INFORMATION BULLETIN:

Numerous articles of interest to landowners are published in the globally-circulated monthly magazine of ECO-LOGIC, the largest coalition of landowner organizations in the United States. As an ECO-LOGIC member, OPERA monitors those articles to compare trends and developments in landowner issues occurring in both Canada and the U.S.

Many powerful Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), endorsed, if not invented, by the United Nations, are headquartered in the U.S. and some of them operate Canadian branch plants as well. The major, but disguised, focus and certainly the unpublished but proven talent of these influential lobby groups is identical on both sides of the 49th parallel. Which is to "advise" public agencies in transferring control of private land to the state by regulation without compensation while collecting millions of taxpayer dollars in government grants and lush consultant fees.

As implied in one of the following ECO-LOGIC editorials, searching public scrutiny of The Nature Conservancy is long overdue. The Canadian clone of TNC has been a 1/3 partner in the Natural Heritage Information Centre at Peterborough for the last 10 years. This massive and impenetrable database, initiated with a \$600 thousand "gift of taxpayer dollars from the Ontario government, catalogs, without owner prior knowledge or consent, any land on which allegedly endangered plant, animal, bird, aquatic or bacterial species are reported to reside or are believed to reside or might someday reside. This is the same organization that's distinguished by "stakeholder" status and presence on countless provincial land use boards, commissions, and workshops, owns multi-thousand acres of rural property on which no municipal property taxes are levied, provides corporate executives for revolving government appointments at unpublished compensation and enjoys charitable tax status although its annual income is reported to exceed annual expenses by a substantial margin.

FROM: Liberty Matters News Service - September 1, 2006

Initiative 933 Gathers Attention and Money

The Washington State property rights protection measure, Initiative 933, seems to be a money magnet, on both sides of the issue. The controversial measure has generated over \$1.6 million in cash, goods and services with the anti-property-rights groups shelling out over \$1 million to defeat it. The Nature Conservancy is prominent among the opposition with its \$72,000 donation, coming in third behind the anti-property rights group Futurewise with \$142,000 cash and \$22,812 in-kind; and Seattle environmentalist Duncan Hass, who donated \$75,000.

The Property Fairness Coalition, the pro-933 group, has so far come up with \$492,083 in cash and \$150,844 in-kind donations. Americans for Limited Government, a group that is backing similar initiatives around the country, has donated \$200,000. The Nature Conservancy is increasingly and more boldly expanding its scope of influence over issues affecting the property rights and daily lives of the American (Canadian?) people. Its veil of respectability has slipped to reveal a sinister organization constantly seeking to expand its power and control over both private and public lands.

U. S. Forest Service "Open Space "Propaganda

The U. S. Forest Service has published a propaganda piece touting the benefits of conserving "open space" in rural America. The brave new ideas for protecting rural America from rural Americans is the main reason behind the series of 24 "listening sessions" the federal government is conducting across the country. L. M. Schwartz, Chairman of the Virginia Land Rights Coalition, (VLRC) soundly denounced the government's attempt to hoodwink the public. "The report is filled with green half-truths and bogus solutions for non-existent problems. It is not even a veiled attempt at collectivism, but could only have been written by Marxist propagandists and proponents of Bertram Gross' Third Way-Friendly Fascism..." Schwartz writes. "Smart Growth, Sustainable Development, public-private partnerships, conservation easement, transfer of development rights, regulatory buffer zones...it's all there, right out of the UN's globalist planbook, part of The Wildlands Project agenda to eliminate most humans from 'protected lands' and crowd them into 'sustainable cities.'" The Forest Service intends to focus on the "Four Threats" that will require "working across jurisdictional boundaries to conserve open space in rural America...[W]here forests are in private ownership, as the majority are," the report claims, "residential growth alters the ability of these forests to provide ecosystem services and public benefits..." Mr. Schwartz says the report is further evidence that the greens, from The Nature Conservancy to the American Farmland Trust, "have infiltrated the upper (political) ranks of the USFS and are now influencing and even dictating the 'new' FS policy nationwide."

November 10th - 11th, in Salt Lake City, Utah will be the first "Unite to Fight" conference, sponsored by the American Land Foundation, Liberty Matters and Stewards of the Range. It is designed to teach individuals and local leaders how to win locally while uniting nationally. The first day will be packed with expert presentations on key issues facing landowners such as NAFTA Superhighway, North American Union, Conservation Easements and Cooperative Conservation, precedent setting cases, and other key topics.