



# Earth First! News

From the frontlines of anti-colonial, biocentric  
direct action to defend the Earth



*A treesitter surveys the landscape at the Yellow Finch blockade to stop the Mountain Valley Pipeline. Photo courtesy of Appalachians Against Pipelines, 2021. Interview on page 10.*

## From the Eco-Wars

December 2020 – February 2021

### **Dec 3 UK: Two Turkeys Liberated and Rat Traps Destroyed**

The birds were liberated from a farm in East Anglia during the night. Several rat traps on the premises were also destroyed, and at least three “dead bins” were each tagged with “ALF.”

### **Dec 4 Pennsylvania: Residents Reject Privatization of Sewage Treatment**

Norristown residents celebrated a successful campaign to dissuade the Aqua Penn-

sylvania corporation from acquiring the municipality’s sewer system. The efforts made by community organizers, especially Norristown Opposes Privatization Efforts (NOPE), included petition and protest.

### **Dec 4 Italy: ALF Hacks Italian Hunting Federation Website**

The Animal Liberation Front hacked the official website of the Italian Hunting Federation.

### **Dec 8 New York: Indigenous**

### **Peoples of the Americas Denounce the Commodification of Water**

In response to several sources reporting that Wall Street is now trading water as a commodity like sugar and coal, Indigenous authors at NATIVERESISTENCE.ORG released a statement denouncing this practice and hearkening to the efforts of the people of Cochabamba, Bolivia, the Maya Q’eqchi’ of Guatemala, and the Sunuwar of Nepal, who have all resisted the privatization of water in their communities.

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*A protestor delayed Mountain Valley Pipeline construction for four hours on April 20, 2021 by locking herself to construction equipment, and was arrested and released on bail with a trial date in May 2021. See interview on page 10.*

# Earth First!

Summer Gathering  
June 26th-July 1st, 2021  
North Woods - Great Lakes



\*Following Covid Guidelines for a Safer Camp

\*Alcohol Free Space

Trainings in:  
Direct Action  
Blockades  
Conflict Engagement  
Anti-Oppression  
Decolonization  
Climbing  
Boat Tactics  
and MORE

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This edition of Earth First! News is brought to you by Beetle, Earthworm, Gnat, Mala, Nada, Sage and Sunflower. Our deepest thanks go out to everyone who contributed to this newsletter. We are so grateful to those who have supported the *Journal* during our hiatus and restructuring. May we stay forever wild, and continue reporting from the frontlines of the ecowars for many decades to come!





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**Dec 8 Sweden: ALF Vandalize Ostrich Farm**

Several road signs were destroyed, and a statement was released reading, in part: “Comrades, until everyone is free, we fight for the animals! Fire to the prisons! Fire to the farms!”

**Dec 8 Canada: Lamb Freed and Given Name**

A very adorable lamb was freed from a farm in Quebec and given the name “Vanilla.” Pictured below: Vanilla being hugged by their masked liberator.



**Dec 11 Brazil: Land Occupation Continues Despite Threat of Eviction**

Since June 8, 2020, the Carlos Marighella Occupation, which includes at least eighty-five mostly poor and Black families fighting for the right to housing, has remained on the outskirts of Fortaleza, Ceará, on land that had formerly been unoccupied by people for at least twenty years. A scheduled eviction for this date was postponed, due in part to the strength and solidarity of those occupying.

**Dec 15 Germany: Two Hunting Towers Destroyed**

The towers were both toppled over and tagged with “ALF” and either “Murder” or “Fuck Hunters.” The communique stated, “It’s no sport, it’s murder.”

**Dec 18 Germany: Three Hunting Towers Destroyed**

The ALF claimed responsibility for toppling and destroying the towers. Some highlights of their statement include “We

are the ALF and we will come back to defend the forest” and “Smash speciesism!”

**Dec 21 Italy: ALF Destroys Animal Trap**

The ALF destroyed a “ladder trap” used to catch wild animals and released a video to declare responsibility for the action.

**Dec 23 Italy: ALF Frees Two Hunting Dogs From Cages**

The hunters’ dogs were living amid their own excrement, chained and caged, and now, according to the ALF statement, they will live “a life in freedom away from exploitation.”

**Dec 26 Czech Republic: Three Pigs Liberated**

Three piglets were rescued from a pork facility during the night. The rescuers’ stated: “At least for these three we have a better world.”

**Dec 29 Oregon: Nez Perce Re-acquire Ancestral Land**

After more than a century, the tribe purchased an ancestral village site on 148 acres of land named “the place of boulders,” or Am’sáaxpa, near the Wallowa River.

**December France: Seventeen Hunting Towers Sabotaged**

At the end of the month, seventeen steel hunting towers were destroyed. The ALF statement claiming responsibility for the actions read, in part, “as long as you kill... we will destroy.”

**Dec 30 France: Butcher Shop Vandalized**

Red paint was splattered on the storefront of La Bête à Cornes in Toulouse for the second time in less than a month.

**Jan 3 Worldwide: Websites Hacked**

The French web designer e-comouest and 30 of their websites were anonymously hacked because of their association with Le Drezen tuna net manufacturers and global commercial fishing.

**Jan 4 UK: Another Butcher Shop Vandalized**

Windows were smashed at The Ginger

Pig in London. The saboteurs’ statement read, in part: “Having your shiny things broken is the very least you deserve, murderous scum.”

**Jan 4 Sweden: Four Hunting Towers Destroyed**

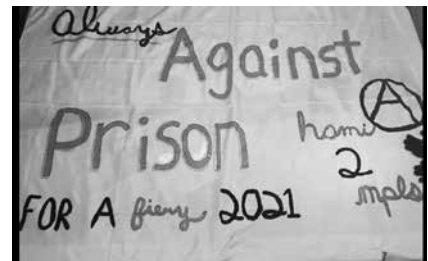
During the night, four hunting towers in Sweden were toppled to the ground and decorated with spray paint by the ALF.

**Jan 8 Greece: Hunger Strike at Domokos Prison**

Dimitris Koufontinas, long time political prisoner from the November 17 group, went on hunger strike after his transfer to Domokos maximum security prison. He was demanding to be moved back to Korydallos prison where he had spent the past 16 years until the day after new repressive prison laws were passed by Greek parliament.

**Jan 7 Canada: Solidarity Banner Drop with Minneapolis Anarchists**

In response to state repression and in solidarity with those facing felony charges from the Minneapolis New Years noise demo, a banner was dropped over Highway 403 toward Toronto. Pictured below.



**Jan 15 Spain: Electric Companies Vandalized**

Windows were painted and smashed at various offices of major electric companies, and two Iberdrola vehicles were set on fire in response to higher energy prices, increased power cuts by Iberdrola and Naturgy companies in Madrid, and in solidarity with those standing up to capitalist exploitation worldwide.

**Jan 16 Greece: Two More Hunger Strikes at Domokos Prison**

Nikos Maziotis and Giannis Dimitrakis, comrades of Dimitris Koufontinas and also imprisoned at Domokos, announced

that they will be on hunger strike in solidarity with Koufontinas until his transfer back to Korydallos is fulfilled. Koufontinas' ongoing hunger strike has also sparked protests, rallies, and demonstrations of support across Greece.

#### Ongoing Nevada: Blockade At Proposed Lithium Mine

Starting January 16, two activists camped out to protest the proposed lithium mine at Peehee-mm-huh, or Thacker Pass. This open pit mine on Paiute and Shoshone territory (proposed to enter phase one of extraction in 2022) will impact nearly 5,700 acres of the Great Basin.



#### Ongoing India: Farmers' Protest Continues

Three new farming laws introduced in September triggered the largest farmers' protest in decades. After months of push-back, the government offered to suspend implementation of these laws so that representatives and farmers could "provide solutions" for the industry. The farmers continue to protest until three demands are met: the government must roll back

the laws, make it mandatory for buyers to pay state-set guaranteed prices, and take back police cases filed against protesting farmers. Pictured below.

#### Jan 20 North America: Keystone XL Pipeline Canceled

After over a decade of Indigenous-led opposition, the federal permit for the 1,200-mile, \$8 billion tar sands oil pipeline from western Canada to Gulf Coast refineries was rescinded.

#### Jan 20 Florida: Anti-ICE Rally

Anarchists gathered for a noise demo out-

side the Krome Detention Center in solidarity with detainees. They were met with dozens of cops with assault rifles. The demo marched to the end of the highway where lanes were blocked and protesters blasted music and waved flags and signs. No arrests were made.

#### Jan 22 Germany: Protest for Free Vaccines

800 anarchists took to the streets of downtown Hamburg demanding free vaccines for all residents of Germany, regardless of citizenship status.

#### Jan 22 Sweden: Mass Mink Liberation

600 mink were freed from cages at a fur farm in Tingsryd. This same farm was raided in 2019, when 1,500 were freed.

#### Jan 25 Canada: Lockdown Blocks Tanks Bound for Saudi Arabia

Anti-war activists blocked two trucks at Paddock Transportation in Hamilton. These trucks are said to transport Canadian-made tanks to arm Saudi Arabia's war on Yemen. This is one of hundreds

## HAPPY 40TH ANNIVERSARY, EARTH FIRST!

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DCSC - "Friday Night Lights"  
Under some bridges - "Jobs Are Good For War"  
Brooklyn - Ditch Witch - "High And Dry"  
Murmurations - "Creation Of Ea"  
The Sticky Fingers - "Shoplifter's Blues"  
Chia & Olin - "Trash Can"  
Scrubjay - "Last Will And Testament"  
S Wyly - "Lead In The Water"  
Danny Dolinger - "Dolby And A Quarter"  
Peg Millet - "Forest Song"  
Brad Will - "Free The Land"  
Singers In A Field In The Mountains - "Prayer Of Death"  
Her Dad's Banjo - "Forever Wild"  
Crowdad Choir - "Time"  
Penny Royale - "Juniper Blues"  
Ruddy & Farmer - "Drop of Water"  
Under some bridges - "Don't Pick Us Up"  
Brooklyn - Ditch Witch - "What's Up"

Carpe Noctem

Earth First! 40th Anniversary

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magazine: \$12

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of actions that took place for the global Day of Action for Yemen.

**Feb 2 Greece: Arson at the Courthouse in Athens**

On February 2, the Cell of Anarchist Attack placed incendiary devices at one of the entrances to the Evelpidon courthouse in Athens in solidarity with anarchist-communist political prisoner Dimitris Koufontinas.

**Feb 2 Italy: Repeaters Set on Fire**

Three repeaters in the Val Bisagno valley near Genoa, Italy were set on fire. One was owned by Radiotelevisione Italiana, one was owned by DEDALUS, and the third is unknown.

**Ongoing Myanmar: Spring Revolution Against Coup**

In response to a military coup on February 1, there have been ongoing decentralized protests including civil disobedience, strikes, walkouts, casserole (pot-banging), and other tactics. As of the end of March, at least 250 civilians have been killed by the state security forces and 3,070 people have been detained.

**Feb 6 Oregon: Portland Chase Banks Attacked In Solidarity with Line 3 Protests**

In the wee hours of February 6, Chase Bank branches all across the city of Portland, on occupied Chinook land, were attacked in solidarity with the movement to stop the Line 3 pipeline. Chase Bank was chosen because it is a major funder of Enbridge's Line 3 pipeline.

**Feb 10 Canada: Nunavut Judge Orders Injunction Against Inuit Blocking Airport**

Nuluujat Land Guardians, a group of Inuit hunters, had been blocking an airstrip used to fly workers into their community to expand the Baffinland's Mary River iron ore mine site. The Nuluujat Land Guardians are protesting Baffinland's proposal to build a 110km railroad to the ocean and to double the mine's output. Their main ask has been a face-to-face meeting, which the company agreed to.

**Feb 12 UK: Eight Chickens Liberated**

In the northern UK, eight chickens were liberated from a broiler farm. The liberators, who had previously found homes for them and scouted out the site, were ready to go.

**Feb 15 Texas: More Rent Strikes**

After years of unfixed maintenance issues creating dangerous living conditions—including lack of running water to which the management advised tenants to use the dirty discolored pool water—the tenants of Villas de Paseo formed a union and refused to pay rent until their living conditions are safe and healthy. Action pictured below.



**Feb 17 Texas: Mutual Aid in Response to Climate Crisis, Power and Water Outages**

Severe winter storms and cold fronts caused power and water outages to many parts of the country, and Texas (with a privately owned power grid) was hit particularly hard. Autonomous mutual aid groups rose to the occasion as the government let people die.

**Feb 19 Canada: Solidarity Rally for Nunavut Land Guardians**

Folks in Montreal held a solidarity rally for Nuluujaat Land Guardians who have been defending their territory from a gold mine expansion (see "Nunavut judge orders injunction against Inuit blocking airport" for more context).

**Feb 20 Indonesia: Anarchists Burn Police Station In Solidarity with Political Prisoner**

Anarchists burned a police station in Central Java in solidarity with Toby Shone and all anarchist political prisoners. Toby Shone, from Gloucestershire, England, was arrested on February 10 and charged with terrorism charges for running an anarchist website giving instructions to build improvised explosive devices.

**Feb 25 Canada: Solidarity Rally**

On February 24, a Haudenosaunee woman was arrested while in her car with her kids on charges related to her involvement in 1492 Land Back Lane. The next evening in Hamilton, Ontario, there was a solidarity demonstration outside the police station where she was held.

**Feb 25 Germany: Ravensburg Climate Camp occupy Altdorf Forest**

Climate justice activists take to the trees to prevent large parts of the Altdorf Forest from being cleared for a gravel pit at the initiative of the Meichle and Mohr company. The activists have set up treehouses and platforms and have stated that "If the CDU and RVBO have no respect for intact ecosystems and disregard their incalculable value, then perhaps at least the not insignificant police

costs will change their cool profit calculations".

**Feb 26 Turkey: Two Pitbulls Liberated From Kill "Shelter"**

ALF in Turkey liberated two pitbulls (a "banned breed" in Turkey) from a shelter where the dogs are confined to living their lives with cold concrete floors and small wire frame cells. These two, a mother-daughter pair, were taken to safe loving homes. ✂



# The State of The Movement: Reportbacks from Two Organizers Conferences

2020 Article by the Conflict Support Team  
2021 Responses by Sunflower

OVER A YEAR AGO IN THE SONORAN Desert, movement organizers gathered and got down to brass tacks about what's going on with us. We had some big questions to contend with. Is Earth First! still relevant? Should we keep hosting national gatherings? How can the *Journal* expand its reach and get more support? How can we do better to connect with and uplift Indigenous-led struggles, and what is our role in the broader environmental movement ecosystem? In this article, the Conflict Team's 2020 reportback from so-called Tucson begins to address these topics; my responses are based on our discussions just this April in so-called Florida. None of our questions will ever have final answers, but I hope this multi-year update on the state of the movement can be a cultural benchmark to guide us as we continue in our work.

## 2020

One of the goals of the Earth First! Conflict Support Team is to lift up unspoken undercurrents in our cultural spaces so that we can discuss and handle conflict around them better. To that end, two of us facilitated a workshop on the state of the movement

to help pull out strands of feelings, attitudes, and perceptions about Earth First!.

In our discussions, numerous themes came up that we want to share with those of you who couldn't be there. Topics included: the strategy and challenges of autonomous, leaderless movements; pros and cons of Earth First! as it stands in 2020; who is called an EF!er; who feels like one; and how and whether to define EF! as a movement. These questions were consistent themes in our group conversations throughout the Organizers' Conference.

We acknowledge that Earth First! as a movement has so much history that we feel proud of, and we want to take responsibility for those parts as well as the parts of our history that we do not feel proud of. Recently, problematic aspects of EF! history have been brought up in ways that feel distorted to the people who actually lived through them. Despite suggestions for a name change over the years, many of us believe that EF! has survived through many changes, and embracing our name and story is essential to

moving forward. For EF! to continue, we need to be responsible for both our own history and the broader social reality. For example, we say we need to address white supremacy culture in the movement because we all exist within a culture of white supremacy.

We discussed how important it is for a biocentric movement to exist. Biocentrism is an innate and even spiritual draw for many of us, motivating us to fight. We should give it more time in our agendas at gatherings, and spend more time talking about it at gatherings and back in our bioregions. Specifically, it may be useful to look to the context of Indigenous stewardship and land-based wisdom as a way to connect biocentrism with our commitment to dismantling manifestations of white supremacy culture in our spaces.

## 2021

This April, a small group of us came together in what was the first in-person Earth First! gathering since the pandemic began. It was intentionally small in order to minimize COVID-19 exposure, and included geographic representation from so-called California, Oregon, Michigan, Illinois,

Indiana, Ohio, Kansas and across Florida. We discussed many of the same dynamics tackled by the Conflict Support Team last February, but our conversations were not necessarily framed as a followup to last year's conference. However, after a year of intense political and personal turbulence, I'm sure we were experiencing similar emotional needs for clarity, structure, commitment and solidarity.

In Florida, we focused a great deal on reviving the *Journal*, as well as strengthening the connections between Earth First!, Indigenous struggles, and abolitionist movements. Two new and interrelated topics also rose to the surface: How can Earth First! separate itself from a growing ecofascist movement that is borrowing our imagery and tactics; and what does it mean to commit to "decolonization" as a fourth tenet of our movement? I believe the latter has the potential to be an appropriate response to the former, but each topic is worth exploring on its own merit. We sat in an unfacilitated circle in the shimmering

humidity, surrounded by live oaks and bromeliads, to ponder these pressing questions at what was likely the smallest OC in history. In the context of our ongoing discussions about Indigenous-based land wisdom and relationship to the living world around us, we came to a general agreement that it is time for Earth First! to openly embrace decolonization as a 21st-century addition to our 20th-century philosophies of biocentrism, direct action, and no compromise.

## 2020

The way we relate to other groups helps to affirm our own politics and build good will in the wider movement. We could focus more on pitching our skills and trainings to other groups, recruiting at related events or less radical movements, offering trainings or more roadshows, generally be easier to find as a movement (i.e., be "out" as an EF!er), and encourage and sustain more mentor/mentee relationships. We can also attend and listen at other events to learn and network with an eye towards movement ecology,

and we can teach and learn our own history of EF! from people who were there.

## 2021

Though our workshops did not delve into deeper thoughts on mentorships, trainings, roadshows or movement ecology, we did spend two days picking apart the dynamics at play in the 2020 collapse of the *Earth First! Journal*. As the only long-term editor and "business manager" of the *Journal*, I felt very personally supported throughout the process of unpacking past *Journal* problems, and by the end of three long workshops, we had pieced together a working model for the restructuring of the entire project. We even wrote a new mission statement. In our conversations, it started to feel as if many of the *Journal's* problems ran parallel to (or were symptomatic of) larger problems within Earth First!, and I believe that the steps we take to rebuild our movement's independent media outlet (i.e. committing to a living wage, addressing habits of white supremacy culture, connecting

*Organizers gathered in central Florida to discuss the the state of the movement, collaborate on reviving the Journal, and roast some marshmallows on the beach.*



with emerging players in the movement ecosystem) will align with the steps we need to take to rebuild Earth First! itself. Not that EF!ers are paid.

## 2020

For most of us at the workshop, these semiannual gatherings are very important to attend. The relationships we maintain here fuel our campaigns. Gatherings are spaces for movement-building and strategizing, and they help give us a sense of purpose and identity. Many of us feel politically isolated in our bioregions, so even if we are unable to throw down elsewhere, these gatherings help us stay connected to EF! and its values.

We also discussed how, in places with ongoing campaigns, attending a gathering could be distracting when we feel local organizing should take priority. Although we want and need these gatherings to continue, our capacity is all over the place. Some of us feel full with frontlines work in our bioregions; others have some fear of stepping up and risking taking responsibility for such a special event. Nobody wants to be blamed if things go wrong. "Hosting" a gathering in the future could mean simply finding a spot and letting a wider network of EF!ers create content and structure. Newer folks had energy and motivation for helping out, but found it hard to connect in a useful way.

Many of us get our social needs met at these gatherings, but not our emotional needs. This could be because of feeling pressure to attend every workshop and volunteer for every job, tensions around our relationship

to substance use, not having enough moments for sharing vulnerability, or feeling like we need to live up to our own reputations. We want to make spaces where our emotional needs are met and we still remain the political force we are. Socially, these spaces should be created by a group that loves each other. It should be a place where we feel we can still show up, even if we are struggling, and openly talk about our mental health (and allow parents to get quality adult time). We discussed and began planning for more dedicated, intentional spaces for healing and emotional support at upcoming EF! Events.

## 2021

The Florida gathering was a tough moment in our history. Early on, the planning team had conflict over COVID-19 protocols, and many long-time EF!ers never even considered attending. Some of us felt torn between coming together in the face of isolation and maintaining geographical distance as the pandemic continues to affect our social habits. We agreed to cap attendance to 40 people, but in the end, only 10 adults came. Those of us who did make the journey to the swamps felt rejuvenated by one another's stories and laughter and songs. The gaggle of children who were there seemed overjoyed to finally poke each other with sticks and chase lizards together again. It remains to be seen if the pandemic will affect attendance at the summer gathering in late June.

## 2020

We motivate and inspire one another. Spending time with each other

beyond campaigns and gatherings is nourishing for us and our movement. Maybe we should be in touch more regularly just to remind each other of our friendships and affinity, be more invested in using the *Journal* to communicate and share what we are up to, or have a "Support Team" to host smaller gatherings throughout the year. We can pay closer attention to shaming during our gatherings to help create an emotionally sustainable space for everyone.

## 2021

Dang, we really missed everyone. We kicked off the Florida gathering with a long go-around of intimate stories describing how and why we became Earth First!ers. We shared both laughter and tears as our life narratives unfolded, revealing just how similar many of our paths really are. Despite vast differences in our backgrounds and demographics, biocentrism has always been a key aspect of our lives, and keeps us coming back to Earth First!.

We also created a physical timeline of all the awesome EF! shit that's gone down in the last decade. This exercise helped us gather more collective wisdom to include in the 40th Anniversary issue of the *Journal*, and gave us some tactical inspiration to boot. We took stock of all the campaigns, roadshows, treesits, musicals and gatherings under our belts from 2010 to 2020, rehashing victories and losses alike. And when it comes to staying in touch beyond the national gatherings...our ridiculous Signal meme thread certainly covers a lot of the bases, in my opinion. ✂



# Calls to Action: Join the Movement!

## RAINFOREST FLYING SQUAD

For the past eight months, the Rainforest Flying Squad, a grassroots volunteer alliance of direct action organizers, has maintained logging road blockades to defend the last stands of ancient temperate rainforest on Pacheedaht territory, south Vancouver Island. These blockades began at the headwaters of the Ada'itsx/Fairy Creek watershed, the last unlogged watershed outside of the park system on south Vancouver Island. Since then, we have set up action frontlines in nine locations demanding that the BC government put a halt to the industrial destruction of the less-than-2 percent of old-growth forests.

LASTSTANDFORFORESTS.COM



## REDWOOD FOREST DEFENSE (pictured)

We are a bunch of wingnuts and queerdos holding down two tree villages in Tsurai, on Yurok territory on the north coast of California. These groves are mixed, redwood-dominant 100+ year old second growth, slated to be clearcut by the billionaire-owned corporation Green Diamond. We have lived aloft for over a year, through 2 rounds of logging. Contractors could return any day to cut more. Come join us and hold space on the ground or in the canopy! If you want to learn to climb and/or rig, come to practice and bring skills back to your region.

Email: REDWOODFORESTDEFENSE@PROTONMAIL.COM

Instagram: @REDWOODFORESTDEFENSE

## RESIST LINE 3

Water Protectors on Anishinaabe and Dakota territories in so-called Minnesota call on you to join in the fight to stop the Line 3 tar sands pipeline. Come to the frontline! If you cannot come, show solidarity where you are. Let banners fly! Fight Chase Bank, Wells Fargo, and other financiers of this destruction! Show creativity! Draw awareness! Together we will kill the black snake.

WWW.LINKTR.EE/STOPLINE3

WWW.PROTESTLAW.ORG/LINE3

Facebook, Twitter, Instagram: @GINIWCOLLECTIVE

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@WELCOMEWATERPROTECTORS

## THACKER PASS BLOCKADE

Thacker Pass is a low mountain pass in northern Nevada, near the Oregon border, north of the town of Winnemucca. We have set up Protect Thacker Pass protest camp to defend Thacker Pass from Lithium Americas corporation, which plans to build a massive open-pit mine by ripping out the heart of this rich desert ecosystem. We need your help! We need people at three levels:

- Permanent/long-term occupiers to join us at camp
- Temporary visitors to resupply us, connect with the land, and be ambassadors back in your communities
- Community support with digital and phone actions, pressure campaigns, media, fundraising, and more.

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*Want us to publicize your action camp, climb camp, or call to action? Contact us at COLLECTIVE@EARTHFIRSTJOURNAL.NEWS!*

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# Interview: Reflections From Yellow Finch

by Goldie and Pawpaw

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*Editors' Note: This is an excerpt from a longer piece. At the time of publication, two comrades from this campaign are still in jail for misdemeanors and without bail, with months to go until their trial date. For more information or to support the campaign, email [APPALACHIANSGAINSTPIPELINES@PROTON-MAIL.COM](mailto:APPALACHIANSGAINSTPIPELINES@PROTON-MAIL.COM) or visit [@APPALACHIANSGAINSTPIPELINES](https://www.instagram.com/APPALACHIANSGAINSTPIPELINES) on Instagram.*

THE BLUSTERY WINDS OF SPRING ARE whooshing and whistling today, with eddies of pollen flying by in the sunshine, coating the bright green grass—and every other surface—with a hazy golden hue. The long-awaited, yet undeniably turbulent arrival of springtime has us reflecting on the campaign, the past year of plague-time, and the very recent eviction of the Yellow Finch treesit blockade. Though inevitable after 931 days, the loss is still fresh and raw, and the grief for many of us is staggering. Acre and

Wren are locked up in a shitty jail that is presently wracked with COVID, where they might have to stay until they go to trial in May. Less than 24 hours after the huge crane the cops used to access them rumbled back out Yellow Finch Lane, chainsaw crews had dropped that last, long-protected stand of trees, connecting the easement on both sides in a stark, gaping path. While our anger runs like new sap in those fresh cuts, MVP's equipment yards are filling back up with heavy machinery, and jacked-up pipeliner pickup trucks with stupid stickers and plates from the fracklands of Texas and Utah are showing back up in increasing numbers. We await the next battles and actions. The fight will always continue. The fall of these long-held sits marks the end of an era, and so offers us an opportunity to share some tidbits and some takeaways.

Over the years that this pipeline fight has stretched on, there has been a really encouraging mutual support between “local community members” and the treehuggers who have arrived in the area from near-ish and far-ish to shut this thing down. “Get a job, hippie!” comes mostly only from the pipeliners themselves. Instead, folks have been warmly supported and treated like family by many locals, and the line has steadily been blurring between who is a “radical” treehugger and who are “supporters.” Way back at the start of this fight, folks were told, “Even if you don't see yourself locking to a thing to stop work, consider coming to a DA 101 training to see what this direct action stuff is all about.”

Hearings, lawsuits, monitoring, public comment—Yes, sure. Do it all. But know that, without a doubt, there will come a time when the permits are in place, the workers are in town, and the project is pushing ahead, despite all the other arenas of resistance. This is what happens with projects like this Every. Single. Time. Along the way, some folks have dropped off as things have gotten climber and lock boxier, but folks have still kept it positive in the public eye. And the dropouts have been minimal compared to the folks who have joined us, and continue to join us as we press on, even through our toughest legal battles and arrests.

2020 was certainly a distinct and strange time for the world, and that was no different for us. The past year's impact on the treesits, and more



*A furry friend joined the Yellow Finch treesits. The Appalachian forests are home to animals like this one.*

generally on the campaign, is difficult to attribute to just COVID-19 when it was actually a combination of so many things. In the simplest of terms, the pandemic meant less visitors for the treesits and, because MVP was already not able to work for the majority of 2020 due to a Stop Work Order and then the pandemic, there were no other actions taking place. It became sort of a forced time of reflection.

So. As another beautiful Appalachian spring bursts onto the scene, buds swelling into full bloom in the valleys, and treetips just turning pink and vermillion up on the ridges, and MVP continues to act like they have their shit together. They are moving along with the eminent domain process of their “Southgate Extension” into central so-called North Carolina, and facing organized pushback as they do. The MVP is also still lacking the permits it needs to do most of the outstanding work of churning their way across nearly a thousand streams, wetlands, creeks, and rivers. Their hopes of a rubber stamp from the Army Corps of Engineers were thwarted by legal challenges. Resistance continues to gum up MVP’s reckless plans to drill through Peters Mountain, under the Appalachian Trail, as the Forest Service’s decision for this crossing is granted, only contingent on the completion of every other part of this project. Lawsuit by lawsuit, lockbox by lockbox, this fight ain’t over yet.

As we scheme and process, our two friends still sit behind bars, having been denied bond after being extracted from the trees. While initially surprised, it makes sense that Virginia would be whole-heartedly embarrassed by the amount of time and money that went into that injunction and subsequent extraction (I mean, they used a frikin’ CRANE). It makes no difference to the State that the jail they sit in has been a hotbed for COVID, or that they were only charged

with a few misdemeanors and held without bond. So, all of this remembering we’re doing, and all of these lessons we’ve been reflecting on—it’s getting us somewhere, but overall, it’s incomplete. We need our friends back first. They’re keeping their spirits up and we can’t wait to see them again!

Now and forever, DOOM TO THE PIPELINE. ✂

### *Fun facts from Acre and Wren’s time in the trees*

*Acre’s book recommendations: “Non-violence Ain’t What It Used To Be: Unarmed Insurrection and the Rhetoric of Resistance” by Shon Meckfessel and “Dune” by Frank Herbert*

*Wren’s favorites: books by Octavia Butler and Ursula K. Le Guin*

*Acre’s favorite tree food: Boil in the bag curry, because it leaves clean hot water that can go in a hot water bottle*

*Wren’s favorite food: Crunchy peanut butter*



*Acre, one of the Yellow Finch treesitters currently in prison without bail, standing in protest on the day of their extraction, March 24, 2021. See “From the Cages” for information on how to support them.*



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# From the Cages: Eco-Liberation and Political Prisoners

## U.S. PRISONERS

### **FIDENCIO ALDAMA PÉREZ**

**fidenciolibre@protonmail.com (English or Spanish; no mail service)**

Fidencio is an Indigenous political prisoner from the Yaqui Tribe, serving 15 years and six months (until 2032) after being wrongfully convicted of homicide. It is believed that he was targeted due to his support for the Indigenous community's opposition to a gas pipeline.

### **MARIUS MASON**

**M. Mason (do not address envelope to Marius), #04672-061, FCI Danbury, Route 37, Danbury, CT 06811, USA**

Marius Mason is serving 21 years and 10 months (until May 4, 2027) for his involvement in an ELF arson at a University building carrying out genetically modified crop tests. Marius also pleaded guilty to conspiring to carry out ELF actions and admitted involvement in twelve other ELF actions.

### **JOSHUA "SKELLY" STAFFORD**

**#57976-060, USP McCreary, P.O. Box 3000, Pine Knot, KY 42635, USA**

Serving 10 years (until October 5, 2021) as one of the Cleveland Four entrapped by an FBI informant who created a scheme to bomb an area bridge, produced the explosives, and coerced four people from Occupy Cleveland into participating.

### **DOUG WRIGHT**

**#57973-060 USP Florence – High, PO Box 7000, Florence, CO 81226**

Serving 11 years and six months (until July 14, 2022) as one of the Cleveland Four entrapped by an FBI informant who created a scheme to bomb an area bridge, produced the explosives, and coerced four people from Occupy Cleveland into participating.

### **GAGE HALUPOWSKI**

**#21894460, Snake River Correctional Institution, 777 Stanton Blvd., Ontario, OR 97914-83305, USA**

Gage was arrested at a counter demonstration against a far-right rally in Portland, Oregon on June 29, 2019. He has been incarcerated ever since and is currently serving a six year sentence (until June 29, 2025).

### **OSO BLANCO**

**Byron Shane Chubbock, #07909-051, USP Victorville, P.O. Box 3900, Adelanto, CA 92301, USA**

Oso Blanco funneled money he stole from banks in the US to the Zapatista Army of National Liberation in Mexico. Although originally sentenced to 80 years for aggravated assault of federal agents, escape, and bank robbery, 25 years were taken off his sentence in 2016 when he won his Johnson v. US appeal. His projected release date is now September 16, 2049.

### **LEONARD PELTIER**

**#89637-132, USP Coleman I, P.O. Box 1033, Coleman, FL 33521, USA**

American Indian Movement activist serving life after being framed for murdering two FBI agents during the 1975 Pine Ridge siege.

### **MUMIA ABU-JAMAL**

**Smart Communications/PADOC, Mumia Abu-Jamal/#AM-8335, SCI Mahanoy, P.O. Box 33028, St. Petersburg, FL 33733, USA**

Mumia is a former Black Panther, vocal journalist, and supporter of the eco-revolutionary group MOVE who was framed for the murder of a cop in 1981. He was originally sentenced to death, but was taken off death row and is now seeking a retrial based on withheld exculpatory evidence.

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## ERIC KING

**#27090-045, FCI Englewood, 9595 West Quincy Avenue, Littleton, CO 80213, USA**

Eric was charged with an attempted firebombing of an unoccupied Congressperson's office in Kansas City, Missouri in September 2014 and sentenced to 10 years (until June 2, 2023). He is now facing up to 20 additional years for one count of assaulting a government official for an incident in August 2018 at FCI Florence.

## SEAN SWAIN

**#2015638, Buckingham Correctional, PO Box 430, Dillwyn, VA 23936, USA**

Serving a life sentence for the self-defense killing of a court official's relative who broke into Sean's home and threatened his life. He is an anarchist prisoner and former union organizer fighting his conviction by citing the US government's illegal occupation of native land, and ran for governor of Ohio from prison as a Zapatista candidate.

## FRAN THOMPSON

**#93341, Nebraska Correctional Center for Women, 1107 Recharge Road, York, NE 68467-8003, USA**

Serving life plus 10 years for killing a man in self-defense after he violently entered her home. Before her imprisonment, Fran was an eco, animal & anti-nuke campaigner and it is believed this biased the court against her.

## KEITH COLE

**#00728748, Stiles CF, 3060 FM 3514, Beaumont, TX 77705, USA**

Keith is a lifer involved in legal challenges to the extreme heat of Texas prisons, and spoke at the 2017 Fight Toxic Prisons Convergence.

## WAYLAND COLEMAN

**#W65484, NCCI Gardner, P.O. Box 466, Gardner, MA 01440, USA**

Wayland is a point person for addressing the toxic water crisis in Massachusetts prisons and is a supporter of the Fight Toxic Prisons campaign.

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## INTERNATIONAL PRISONERS

## PETER JANSSEN

**forthebulls85@gmail.com**

Peter is an animal rights activist serving 25 months (until August 2021) for an arson at a slaughterhouse in the Netherlands. At his trial in November of 2020, he stated that he had deliberately started the fire in protest against the slaughter of ducks and the enormous suffering that these animals have to endure inside the Duck-To Tomassen facilities.

## LADISLAV KUC

**Uvtos, Gucmanova 19/670, Priečinoik 7, Leopoldov, 92041, Slovakia**

Ladislav is an animal rights activist indicted on charges of illegal possession of arms and manufacturing of explosives for a bombing in front of a McDonald's in 2011 in which there were no injuries. He was traced after almost a year via a timer found at the scene and communications between him and the manufacturer. During a house search, police found material related to the ALF. Originally sentenced in 2014 to 25 years, in 2018 he was resentenced to 12 years (until January 2024).

## MARINA CUGNASCHI

**C.C. Bollate, Via Cristina Belgioioso 120, 20021 Milano, Italy**

One of the "Genoa 10" serving 11 years and nine months (until March 2024) for "devastation and looting" during the G8 summit in Genoa in 2001.

## FRANCESCO "JIMMY" PUGLISI

**C.C. Rebibbia, (Wing G9/Second floor), Via Raffaele Majetti 70, 00156 Rome, Italy**

Serving 14 years (until June 2027) after being arrested on June 5, 2013 and charged with "devastation and looting" during the G8 summit in Genoa in 2001.

*For information on how to write to and support political prisoners, visit [ABCF.NET/SUPPORTGUIDE](http://ABCF.NET/SUPPORTGUIDE).*

## ARRESTEES FACING CHARGES

### APPALACHIANS AGAINST PIPELINES TREESITTERS

**Contact** APPALACHIANSAGAINSTPIPELINES@PROTONMAIL.COM  
for more information on support work.

In March of 2021, two forest defenders were forcibly extracted from the Yellow Finch tree sit. They are currently being held without bond, even though they have only been charged with misdemeanor offenses. Donations will support legal defense, commissary, and continuing resistance.

### LOREN REED

#36045508, CAFCC, PO Box 6300, Florence, AZ 85132

Loren is a Diné (Navajo) man facing a trumped-up charge of "Threats to Damage and Destroy a Building by Means of Fire," which carries a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison. The charges stem from satirical comments in a private Facebook chat organizing a local protest against police brutality after George Floyd's murder. Loren has been held in pre-trial detention without bail since June 2020.

## RELEASED!

### STEVE MARTINEZ

Released on April 12, Martinez served over 60 in days in federal detention at Burleigh County Detention Center after refusing to testify before a secret federal grand jury investigating 2016 protests against the Dakota Access Pipeline.

## A LETTER TO ALL PRISONERS

**Dear Ms. Shit Fer Brains,**

In June 2021, I'm starting up a support service for prisoners who are in need of mail. This will pretty much be a free pen-pal service for men and women who are doing time in the prison system. I know how shit is in prison and mail can mean a lot to a person doing time. I usually just do punk rock zines. But, I figure that I have enough time on my hands to run a free pen-pal service. I'm currently doing prison time at the moment, so I know how it can be to get mail. I'll be getting out soon and I'll be home in June. So, I'll be able to find pen-pals for everybody that writes. If inmates could provide a self addressed stamped envelope that would be cool. If you don't have stamps that's fine. And if you're in the free world, meaning if you aren't in prison, and you want to correspond with an inmate just send in your address and I will send you an inmate's letter. I'm not sure how long this U.S. prison system will be on COVID-19 lockdown status. But, being in a cell 24/7 with only three showers a week fucking sucks. Which is why I thought it would be good to start this service for all the awesome people doing time. I pretty much know how it is in prison. And mail is gold. Next to toilet paper. So, feel free to pass the address on to your homies that are doing time with you. I'll also be accepting stamp donations. For all my homies that are locked up, you're not forgotten.

**In solidarity,  
BranScam**



**Conspire  
Prisoner Support  
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PO Box 2496  
Tuba City, AZ 86045**



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# Reportback: October Midwest Climb Camp on Occupied Shawnee and Kaskaskia lands

by **Sunflower, Tush and Elizabeth Lakes**

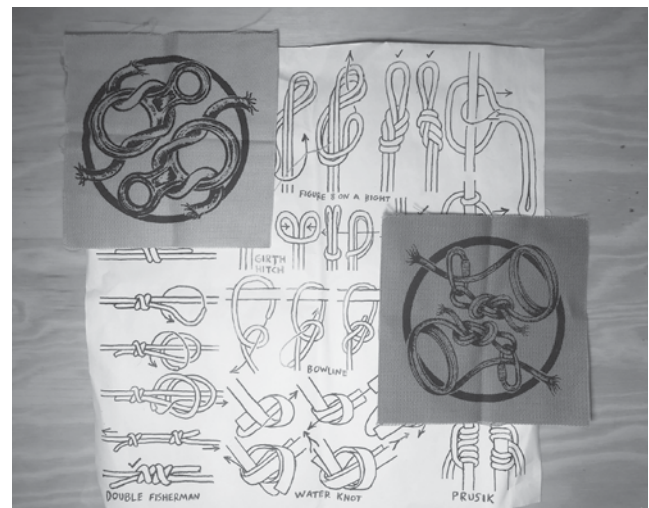
THE MIDWEST CLIMB CAMP, HOSTED BY KAW VALLEY EARTH First!, Glacier's Edge Earth First!, the Earth First! Climbers Network, and others in so-called southern Illinois last October was fun, inspiring, and pulled together smoothly by a small group of organizers and trainers.

We'd like to share our planning process and a quick recap in order to facilitate the organization of future gatherings and climb camps! Here are some hot tips:

- We aimed for a six to one trainee-to-trainer ratio, which worked well.
- We capped total camp attendance at 40 both because of the number of trainers available and the desire to maintain a low-risk environment to prevent spreading COVID.
- We requested a \$40 deposit from attendees but didn't turn people away for lack of funds. This, along with a \$1,000 grant from Rising Tide North America and \$300 from Southern Illinoisans Against Fracturing Our Environment, allowed us to cover supplies for camp, and provide gas money and stipends for all trainers and organizers.
- Organizing the camp was easy because early planning calls were kept to five or fewer people, with a facilitator and a note taker. We had a high level of follow-through and trust in one another's unilateral choices.
- Keeping the schedule to three days and not bringing in a communal kitchen, medic team, etc. kept logistics very simple. We used an IBC tote for communal water.
- For about 30 people (~20 trainees, ~8 trainers), it worked to have 12 climb lines and 12 gear kits. Everyone got their own harness for the weekend.
- Promotion on the Newswire was really important—it brought in some great new EF!ers, though most of our "promotion" was by word of mouth.

Our schedule worked so well! We set up stations for skill categories including throwing lines in trees, ascent and descent, ground and air traversing, platform rigging and platform hauling. Each station was taught by one or two trainers. Trainees picked a station for the morning and afternoon and moved up in skill level each day. Trainers set up climb lines and gear the day before camp and we had short trainer meetings each day to finalize who was teaching, and in what styles. A small group spontaneously added an accessibility- and modified-climbing/rescue workshop at the request of more advanced climbers.

People were tired at the end of the day, so we canceled our evening activities. Having some unstructured social time was a pretty good call in the end. We extended morning circle on the last day to talk about current treesit campaigns and local struggles.



*We made classy merit badges that trainees got when 1. they descended with a device and 2. they helped with hauling a platform up successfully.*

By the end of the weekend, some of us had also developed a connection with the land project and the land stewards who hosted us. A few of us returned to southern Illinois for a hands-on work weekend hosted by a group who has laid out a future for the 180 acres that includes a food forest and straw-bale structures.

For many of us, this gathering rekindled our fires after a long and difficult summer with no action camps, no Earth First! gatherings, and no in-person trainings or workshops. Ideally, the campers who trained with us returned home to share their new skills, practiced their knots, and planned exciting actions with these new tactics. We hope folks stay inspired by the friends they made (and the Direct Action Manuals they got!) at camp, and we look forward to seeing more effective interventions against wilderness destruction, so long as we all shall live.

Onward for the wild! ✂



*A trainee learns how to rig a platform for the first time.*

### **Our COVID-19 prevention practices included:**

- ✂ Capping attendance at 40 people; about 30 came overall
- ✂ Setting up three handwashing stations and hand sanitizer everywhere. Everyone sanitized their hands before and after touching communal gear.
- ✂ Mask-wearing and social distancing (except when in certain training situations), unless given express consent by everyone around.
- ✂ No communal kitchen! Groups who had traveled together made their own food, and this also helped keep the climb space as the main socialization area, instead of the kitchen. Bonus benefit: there wasn't a burnt-out kitchen crew at the end who didn't get to hang out with everyone else! In the future, we could provide kits or guides on what to bring for easy camp food.
- ✂ Being very transparent in the registration form about the risk management plan.



# Eco-Action Directory

**Rising Tide North America**  
RISINGTIDENORTHAMERICA.ORG

**Arizona**  
**Black Mesa Indigenous Support**  
SUPPORTBLACKMESA.ORG

**Black Mesa Resistance Camp**  
DEFENDBLACKMESACAMP@PROTON-MAIL.COM

**No Más Muertes/No More Deaths**  
NOMOREDEATHS.ORG

**Arkansas**  
**Arkansas Rising**  
ARKANSASRISING.INFO  
FACEBOOK.COM/ARKANSASRISING/

**California**  
**Diablo Rising Tide**  
FACEBOOK.COM/DIABLORISINGTIDE

**Earth First! Humboldt & Mattole Blockade**  
EFHUM@RISEUP.NET  
(707) 336 - 2231

**Redwood Forest Defense**  
REDWOODFORESTDEFENSE@PROTON-MAIL.COM  
REDWOODFORESTDEFENSE.ORG

**Santa Barbara Earth First!**  
FREEAWARENESS@GMAIL.COM  
(805) 708 - 7817

**Save Our Little Lake Valley**  
SAVELITTLELAKEVALLEY.ORG

**Colorado**  
**Southwest Earth First!**  
SOUTHWESTEARTHFIRST.WORDPRESS.COM

**Florida**  
**Everglades Earth First!**  
FACEBOOK.COM/EVERGLADESEARTH-FIRST

**Eternal Springs Earth First!**  
SABALTRAILRESISTANCE.WORDPRESS.COM

**Idaho**  
**Wild Idaho Rising Tide**  
WILDIDAHORISINGTIDE.ORG

**Maine**  
**Stop the East-West Corridor**  
STOPTHECORRIDOR.ORG

**Michigan**  
**Lake Effect Earth First!**  
FACEBOOK.COM/LAKEEFFECTEARTH-FIRST

**Michigan Coalition Against Tar Sands**  
FACEBOOK.COM/MICHIGANCATS

**Rising Tide Michiana**  
RTMICHIANA.ORG

**Montana/Idaho**  
**Buffalo Field Campaign**  
BUFFALOFIELDCAMPAIGN.ORG

**Seeds of Peace**  
SEEDSOFPEACECOLLECTIVE.ORG  
SEEDSOFPEACE@RISEUP.NET

**Wild Buffalo Defense**  
FACEBOOK.COM/WILDBUFFALODEFENSE

**Nebraska**  
**Earth First! Nebraska**  
BUFFALOBRUCE1@GMAIL.COM

**New Jersey**  
**Split Rock Sweetwater Camp**  
FACEBOOK.COM/SPLITROCKPRAYER-CAMP

**New York/Pennsylvania**  
**Hudson Valley Earth First!**  
HUDSONVALLEYEARTHFIRST.ORG  
FACEBOOK.COM/HVEARTHFIRST

**Rising Tide NYC**  
RISINGTIDENYC@RISEUP.NET

**Marcellus Shale Earth First!**  
MARCELLUSEARTHFIRST.WORDPRESS.COM

**Wetlands Activism Collective**  
WETLANDS-PRESERVE.ORG

**FANG (Fighting Against Natural Gas)**  
THEFANGCOLLECTIVE.ORG

**North Carolina**  
**High Country Earth First!**  
HIGHCOUNTRYEF.WORDPRESS.COM

**Smoky Mountain Eco-Defense**  
SMED.BLACKBLOGS.ORG

**Doomsday Mountain Earth First!**  
DOOMSDAYMTNEF@RISEUP.NET

**Ohio**  
**Appalachia Resist!**  
APPALACHIARESIST.WORDPRESS.COM

**Oklahoma/Texas**  
**Great Plains Tar Sands Resistance**  
GPTARSANDSRESISTANCE.WORDPRESS.COM

**Oregon**  
**Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project**  
BLUEMTNSBIODIVERSITY.WORDPRESS.COM  
(541) 385-9167

**Coast Range Forest Watch**  
COASTRANGEFORSTWATCH.ORG  
FACEBOOK.COM/COASTRANGERS

**Cascadia Forest Defenders**  
FORESTDEFENSENOW.COM

**Northwest Ecosystem Survey Team**  
NESTCASCADIA.WORDPRESS.COM

**Portland Rising Tide**  
PORTLANDRISINGTIDE.ORG

**Southern Oregon Rising Tide**  
SORISINGTIDE.ORG

**Utah**  
**Canyon Country Rising Tide**  
CANYONCOUNTRYRISINGTIDE.ORG

**Utah Tar Sands Resistance**  
TARSANDSRESIST.ORG

**Vermont**  
**Rising Tide Vermont**  
RISINGTIDEVERMONT.ORG

**Tidewater Earth First!**  
TIDEWATEREARTHFIRST@RISEUP.NET

**Washington**  
**Seattle Rising Tide**  
FOLKRIOT@RISEUP.NET

**West Virginia**  
**Appalachians Against Pipelines**  
APPALACHIANSAGAINSTPIPELINES@PROTONMAIL.COM

**Radical Action for Mountains' and People's Survival**  
RAMPSCAMPAIGN.ORG

*Contact us at COLLECTIVE@EARTHFIRSTJOURNAL.NEWS for help finding activist groups in your area, and please let us know of any groups you feel should be added to (or taken out of!) this somewhat-outdated directory. A longer Eco-Action Group Directory, which includes international environmental groups, is available at the back of a regular issue of the Earth First! Journal.*

*Our mailing address has changed. Please send donations, letters, subscription requests, art and poetry, and sibling publications to The Earth First! Journal at PO Box 411892, Kansas City MO 64141.*