

## **PROFILE OF RON ARNOLD: PROPHET FOR PROFITS**

Greenpeace Research  
December 5, 1993

"Our goal is to destroy, to eradicate the environmental movement ... We're mad as hell. We're not going to take it any more. We're dead serious - we're going to destroy them."

- Ron Arnold in an interview with Katherine Long, Seattle Times. Published also in the Toronto Star, 21 December 1991.

### **CENTER FOR DEFENSE OF FREE ENTERPRISE**

"Arnold, 56, is executive vice-president of the Center for the Defense of Free Enterprise, a national organization with 125,000 supporters and 8,000 core members. He's also one of the principal writers and organizers of a philosophy - and a movement - known as Wise Use."

- Toronto Star, 21 December 1991.

President of Center for the Defense of Free Enterprise is Alan Gottlieb, not to be confused with the former Canadian Ambassador to the United States with the same name. This Alan Gottlieb "also headed the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms and the Second Amendment Foundation, was one of the U.S.'s leading direct-mail fundraisers for far-right candidates and causes in the 1970s and early '80s. In April, 1984, he pleaded guilty to filing false income-tax returns for 1977 and was sent to prison."

- Toronto Star, 21 December 1991

The Center was founded in 1976, but did not gain attention until a series of media articles, including Newsweek, the Christian Science Monitor, the Washington Post, U.S. News and World Report, and Outside magazine in late 1990 and 1991. The Center is run from Bellevue, Washington State, near Seattle.

### **FUND-RAISING**

"In the world of mail-order fund-raising, it helps to have what Alan M. Gottlieb calls ""an evil empire" -- the specter of an enemy to raise potential contributors' fears and open their wallets.

For conservative fund-raisers like Gottlieb, the enemies

were Sen. Edward M. Kennedy or the threat of gun control.

But now Gottlieb has found a better target. "For us," said Gottlieb, who runs a vast direct-mail network from his headquarters in the Seattle suburb of Bellevue, "the environmental movement has become the perfect bogeyman."

- The Houston Chronicle December 22, 1991

"...Arnold, who charges \$ 3,000 a day as a speaker..."

- The Houston Chronicle December 22, 1991

### **PUBLISHING ARM:**

Free Enterprise Press, which among other things has published a 167-page book entitled The Wise Use Agenda.

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### **THE MOONIE CONNECTION**

"The Multiple Use Strategy Conference [\*], which took place in Reno, was sponsored by the Centre for the Defence of Free Enterprise, a Bellevue, Washington-based organization that shares offices and directors with the American Freedom Coalition.

The AFC is one of the lead political and organizational agencies of Rev. Sun Myung Moon's Unification Church, a cult that gained a notorious reputation in the '60s when Moon's followers, called "Moonies" became fixtures on American campuses where they sought recruits. Following Moon's conviction for tax evasion in 1982 the church has kept a relatively low profile.

Ron Arnold, executive director of the Centre for the Defence of Free Enterprise, is the registered agent of the AFC, according to the corporate registrations office of the secretary of state, in Bellevue.

Arnold is also a member of the speaker's bureau of the Confederation of Associations for the Unification of the Societies of the Americas - CAUSA.

CAUSA is an umbrella organization that was established in 1980 with funding from the Unification Church.

According to an Internal Revenue Service income tax form, CAUSA USA obtained all of its 1987 funding - \$1.1 million - from the Unification Church.

One of CAUSA's tactics is to organize and sponsor conferences that attract politicians, journalists and public figures - associating them with Moon's network often without their knowledge."

- The Vancouver Sun DATE Sat 08 Jul 89

"...Arnold denied the Unification Church was involved in any way with the [Multiple Use Conference in Reno] conference and stated emphatically: "I am not a Moonie."

He said the Centre for the Defense of Free Enterprise does not receive funding from the Unification Church.

"We never got a dime."

He said at first that "The Unification Church has no connection with the Centre whatsoever."

But he later clarified his position, stating: "The Centre for the Defence of Free Enterprise is allied in a movement (with the Unification Church) but has no affiliation with it in terms of money exchange."

At the same time Arnold admitted the AFC, with which he is involved, is funded by the Unification Church. But he said the AFC is a coalition that gets money from other sources as well.

"To the best of our knowledge about 60 per cent (of funding) comes from a television program, Christian Voice, and about 30 per cent comes from the Unification Church."

Christian Voice is a fundamentalist group that was founded by Gary Jarmin.

Jarmin was an official with the Unification Church in the early '70s.

Jarmin and Moon's chief lieutenant, South Korean former military attache Col. Bo Hi Pak, provided the initiative for founding the AFC.

U.S. News & World Report stated last March that Moon's church "is now trying to gain a foothold in right-wing Christian circles through a new organization, the American Freedom Coalition." According to the magazine, the AFC got \$5 million in loans from the Unification Church. The church also contributed 60 members as full-time paid organizers.

The AFC's main aim is to extend the political influence of the Unification Church.

An AFC publication states the organization has founded an environmental task force which is: "networking trade associations (as well as environmentalists and business groups that represent interests in recreation, water, timber, agriculture, mining, oil, air, etc.) with local government in order to achieve maximum cooperative results with minimum resistance and antagonism." The Nevada conference resulted in a book, *The Wise Use Agenda*, which was published by Arnold. The book was edited by Alan Gottlieb.

Gottlieb is president of the Centre for the Defence of Free

Enterprise and is a member of the AFC's board of directors.

Gottlieb has been involved in fundraising efforts for Moon-affiliated groups, according to The Seattle Times.

Following an investigation into the activities of the Unification Church, the Times recently reported that Moon's chief political operative in the Pacific Northwest is Matthew Morrison.

Morrison is the regional director of both CAUSA and the AFC.

Stated the Times: "Morrison is using his own charm - and his master's money - to build a network of like-minded and well-respected conservatives throughout the region."

The article cited Arnold and Gottlieb as key members of that network.

Dan Junas, a research associate with the Institute for Global Security Studies, said Morrison is Moon's top operative in the Pacific Northwest.

He said there is no doubt Morrison, Arnold and Gottlieb have close ties.

"It's pretty clear that they work together," he said.

"They have an office that houses the political offices of the Unification Church, the AFC and the Centre for the Defence of Free Enterprise."

Junas said networking conferences are a favorite tactic of the Unification Church.

"The Unification Church realizes that involvement with their name is controversial, so they work through an array of front groups. That's part of their style . . . They are looking for other groups to work through so that they can accomplish their own goals." - The Vancouver Sun DATE Sat 08 Jul 89 by Mark Hume

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## THE RENO CONFERENCE

[\*][Note: The Multiple Use Strategy Conference was also attended by representatives of MacMillan Bloedel, a fact acknowledged by MacBlo PR man Scot Alexander (in the same article). Alexander said he didn't know about the Moonie connection. Also attending from B.C.: Council of Forest Industries vice-president Tony Shebbeare, and Pat Armstrong, of Moresby Consulting Ltd. and mining industry lobbyist and one-time B.C. forests minister Tom Waterland; Port McNeil Mayor Gerry Furney.]

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MacBlo paid for some Alberni Share people to get to Reno as well:  
"I know in Alberni our people talked to the people in the  
community and said, 'Here's what's happening,' " Stubbs said. "I  
know we did assist a couple of people (in getting down to Reno)."  
[ Alan Stubbs, MB's vice-president of corporate communications,  
quoted in The Vancouver Sun DATE Tue 30 May 89 by Ben Parfitt.]

The "couple of people" were Port Alberni Mayor Gillian  
Trumper and Ald. Jack Mitchell, flown down in a MacMillan Bloedel  
company plane.

"The document grew out of a 1988 conference of more than 200  
industry, trade and political organizations claiming to represent  
nearly 10 million people. Participants and supporters listed in  
the back of the publication range from off-road motorcycle groups  
to the National Rifle Association, Exxon USA and the Los Angeles  
Department of Water and Power."

- The Washington Post May 16, 1991

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## WISE USE MOVEMENT

"The Wise Use movement believes that the planet's resources were  
meant to be exploited for human gain and profit. Arnold - a  
former Sierra Club member himself - talks of harvesting old-  
growth forests, eliminating or reducing the size of many national  
parks and recreation areas, opening up the Arctic National  
Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling and repealing the Endangered  
Species Act. And he believes the environmental movement must be  
destroyed because it holds a dark vision of mankind as spreading  
like a cancer on Earth. He believes the environmental movement  
has an anti-human agenda that ultimately includes the destruction  
of civilization and the eradication of human beings."

- Toronto Star, 21 December 1991

In late 1991, Arnold was scheduled to speak to the New Mexico  
Cattlemen's Association; the Minnesota Wheat Growers'  
Association, the International Council of Shopping Centers in San  
Francisco, the Maine Conservation League and a Society of  
Professional Journalists meeting in Kennewick, Wash.

"Among the myths he believes environmentalists have perpetuated:  
\* The disappearance of the spotted owl. Arnold contends the birds  
are not on the verge of extinction; they actually prefer

second-growth forests.

\* The ozone hole. Arnold suspects it has always been there. If chlorofluorocarbons really destroy ozone, why isn't there a hole over chlorofluorocarbon factories, he asks.

\* The greenhouse effect. "There isn't any such thing," Arnold says. \* Acid rain. "The problem is 1 per cent of what it's been claimed to be," he says."

- Toronto Star, 21 December 1991

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## QUOTES:

### "HEADLINE: QUOTE OF THE DAY

'The sword (of political power) has two purposes. To carve out a niche for your agenda ... and to kill the bastards.'

- Ron Arnold, a founder of the "wise-use" movement. "

- Greenwire, September 21, 1992.

[note the full quote ended with the statement "...kill the bastards. We don't do violence, that was a metaphor."]

"We want you to be able to exploit the environment for private gain, absolutely," he says. "And we want people to understand that is a noble goal."

- Toronto Star, 21 December 1991

Arnold has described environmentalists as "bigoted and prejudiced" and as "the new pagans who worship trees and sacrifice people."

- Canadian Press Newswire DATE Tue 27 Jun 89

"Wise use" founder Ron Arnold of Seattle calls enviros "the third great wave of messianism to hit the planet, after Christianity and Marxism/Leninism." Stewart Udall, a former congressman and secretary of the interior, "suggests that environmentalists have become the far right's substitute for communism since the collapse of the Soviet Union."

- Greenwire October 22, 1992

"We intend to take the money and members away from the environmental movement by showing that they are destroying the American economy," said Ron Arnold, executive vice president of the Center for the Defense of Free Enterprise and co-publisher of Wise Use Agenda, which grew out of 1988 conference hosted by the

center. Arnold and his partner, Alan M. Gottlieb, have also made a specialty of direct-mail fund raising and have collected about \$ 3 million in the past five years on behalf of like-minded organizations."

- The National Journal February 1, 1992

"systematically destroy the environmental movement. It is not valid and it is toxic because the love of nature is polluted with a hatred of humans."

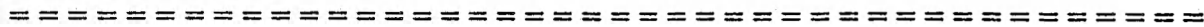
- Ron Arnold, quoted in Los Angeles Times October 11, 1992

"Ron Arnold, one of the movement's leaders, explains that "environmentalism is the new paganism. It is evil. And we intend to destroy it. . . . We will not allow our right to own property and use nature's resources for the benefit of mankind to be stripped from us by a bunch of eco-fascists. . . ."

- St. Petersburg Times February 25, 1992

"People like [Interior Secretary James] Watt and Mr. Arnold really don't see that there is much value to anything unless you can put a dollar sign on it. "They'll deny it and say they want 'balance.' But if you look at that 'balance,' it's all in favor of unrestrained exploitation of natural resources," he said.

- Gaylord Nelson, chairman of the Wilderness Society and a former Wisconsin senator, quoted in United Press International November 10, 1982



**FOREST INDUSTRY CONNECTIONS:**

"American Ron Arnold, who has advised the B.C. logging industry, the Association of B.C. Professional Foresters and the Share the Stein Committee. When Arnold helped organize a conference in Nevada, in 1988, MacMillan Bloedel Ltd., Western Forest Products Ltd., Furney Distributing Ltd., the Council of Forest Industries and various Share groups attended.... Arnold has advised industry to "turn the public against environmentalists," and to start "punching the environmentalists" through pro-industry activist groups "

- Mark Hume, The Vancouver Sun DATE Wed 07 Mar 90

"Appearing at the Association of B.C. Professional Foresters

annual convention, Arnold encouraged the founding of an institute modelled on his own Centre for the Defence of Free Enterprise. Such an institute, he said, would "create a long-term unfinishable agenda and train interns to carry the multiple use philosophy into every corner of Canadian society."

He said the institute must influence the media to shift the intellectual climate in favor of the forest industry and against environmentalists.

During the same month in which Arnold delivered his message to B.C.'s foresters, the B.C. Environmental Information Institute was founded by Gerry Furney, mayor of the logging town of Port MacNeill.

Furney's institute, which is trying to raise \$1 million for an educational campaign, has sent a brief to all MLAs and B.C. MPs, informing them: "There is a well-organized movement out there . . . against orderly and rational development of any kind that creates instability in resource communities which are the backbone of our provincial economy."

- - Mark Hume, The Vancouver Sun DATE Wed 07 Mar 90

#### CANADIAN PULP AND PAPER ASSOCIATION (CPPA)

"It would be an embarrassment to be associated with Arnold, says Pierre Gervais of the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association, even though the association employed the outspoken activist as a consultant, according to the report."[\*]

- The Ottawa Citizen DATE Tue 17 Aug 93

[\*] The 1991 report of the Parliamentary Library on Share Groups, written by Library researcher Claude Emery.

#### ONTARIO FOREST INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION

"'Unfortunately', Arnold and others like him serve a purpose for the forestry industry, says Marie Rauter, president of the Ontario Forest Industries Association, which also employed Arnold, according to the report.

"If you're going to have extremists on one side, you almost need extremists on the other side to provide a balance," says Rauter.

"You almost need that for industry to be able to come down the middle of the road with moderate environmentalists."

- The Ottawa Citizen DATE Tue 17 Aug 93

#### ALBERTA FORESTERS' ASSOCIATION



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Alberta Registered Professional Foresters' Association had Ron Arnold as speaker at its inaugural meeting, in June 1989. One member of the association: Ken Higginbotham, director of forestry research at the Alberta Forest Service - Canadian Press  
Newswire DATE Tue 27 Jun 89

Another anti-environmentalist group: Alberta Forest Non-Government Association, Spokesperson, Chuck Geale, director of program support, forestry, Government of Alberta. "His association uses grants from industry and the provincial government to sponsor public forums and to print school information packages."  
- - Canadian Press Newswire DATE Tue 27 Jun 89

#### TEXAS FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

Texas Forestry Association issues a press release pushing Ron Arnold's speech to "a group of approximately 300 people representing the wood products industry" in Diboll, Texas.  
Southwest Newswire May 26, 1989

#### NEW ENGLAND/MAINE FOREST COMPANIES

"Ron Arnold of Seattle, whose stated goal is to "destroy" the environmental movement, has visited the Northeast repeatedly, most recently to attend a regional wise use conference in South Portland, Maine, last month....  
Leon Favreau, in Bethel, Maine "founded the Multiple Use Association in 1988 to fight back. Today, 300 of the 500 members are forest-products companies, and the Wood Products Manufacturers Association gave him \$ 2,500 to help pay for the conference in Maine last month."  
- The Boston Globe October 20, 1992

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#### MINING

Ron Arnold was scheduled to speak at the 57th annual convention of the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC), March 5-8, 1989 in Toronto: "Addressing the topic "multiple land use -- cultivating citizen supporters" at the late Tuesday afternoon session will be Ron Arnold, consultant for the Centre

for Defence of Free Enterprise and a former director of the Sierra Club, the international environmental lobby group."

- The Northern Miner DATE Mon 27 Feb 89

## OIL INDUSTRY

"The petroleum industry must organize its public relations effort to put environmental groups on the defensive, Ron Arnold, executive vice president of the Center For Free Enterprise told the U.S. National Ocean Industries Association. He said the industry: (1) must establish a non-profit association that citizens can join, (2) mount a litigation effort against environmental groups, (3) publish books on critical energy issues, (4) mount campaigns on specific environmental issues, and (5) establish a media influence program."

- Offshore December, 1990

## ROOTS: EARLY RON ARNOLD

### FOUGHT OUTDOORS REPORT

Ron Arnold was one of a group of Conservatives who launched a law suit to prevent publication of Ronald Reagan's President's Commission on Americans Outdoors. Reagan's advisors, after spending 15 months and \$1.9 million in study, called for public spending to acquire public wilderness - an idea too far left for Arnold. [see: Los Angeles Times February 6, 1987]

### WROTE ADORING BOOK ON DISCREDITED REAGANITE INTERIOR SECRETARY, JAMES WATT

"Eye of the Storm: James Watt and the Environmentalists" by Ron Arnold. "... His book comes out of deep right field (it was underwritten by the conservative Free Congress Research and Education Foundation, a cousin of the equally conservative Heritage Foundation)..."

- THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR March 11, 1983

[The book was published by Regenery Gateway, 360 W. Superior St., Chicago, Ill., 60610. 301 pp.]

"Arnold was commissioned to write the book by the Free Congress Foundation, a New Right think tank founded by Paul Weyrich."  
- Inside Energy/with Federal Lands November 15, 1982

A quote from Arnold in his Watt book:

"The implicit goals of environmentalism--to drastically reduce or dismantle industrial civilization and to impose a fundamentally coercive form of government on America--are real."

- U.S. Chamber of Commerce 1983 March, 1983

### NON-POSITION WITH THE SIERRA CLUB

Almost every article mentioning Ron Arnold states that he was a former "director" or "official" or "organizer" in the Sierra Club, but then became disenchanted. But the Sierra Club in 1982 denied this, saying he was a volunteer, but never a paid staff member.

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For example: "Ron Arnold (past director of the Sierra Club)"

- Vancouver Sun DATE Thu 08 Oct 92

Editorial Share group opposes The Sun's Moonie link

BYLINE Art Duhamé (Share group leader)

"The Free Congress Foundation said Arnold "spent five years as an organizer for the Sierra Club."

Polly Freeman of the Sierra Club's Washington office said Arnold apparently was a club volunteer in the Seattle area at one time, but "as far as we know he's never actually been an employee of ours." She described Arnold as "a professional critic of the environmental movement."

- The Associated Press November 9, 1982

"Arnold describes himself as a former environmentalist who served on "the Conservation Committee of the Sierra Club's Puget Sound (Wash.) Group in the 1960s and 1970s."

Club officials acknowledged Arnold had some "grass-roots-level" involvement with the activist group. But John McComb, director of the Sierra Club's Washington office decribed Arnold as "a professional critic of the environmental movement."

"He's no more a credible and unbiased observer of environmentalists and the Sierra Club than James Watt is," McComb said."

- United Press International November 8, 1982

AN EARLY APPEARANCE BY RON ARNOLD:

"At a recent meeting of the Society of Weed Sciences in Wilsonville, Ron Arnold, a communications consultant from Bellevue, Wash., reported the results of his research into the Alsea studies on spontaneous abortions."

- United Press International October 30, 1981

[Arnold was there to discount the possiblity of forest herbicide 2,4,,5-T causing abnormal abortions in women....Arnold suggested the real causes were "oral contraceptives, heavy use of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, hallucinogenic drugs, household chemicals and pesticides. He then attacked the lifestyles of each of the women...]

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**B.C. SHARE GROUPS**

"Share B.C. is an umbrella organization for 22 groups that claim more than 20,000 members.... Morton said Share B.C. has a \$100,000 proposed budget this year, but "not a nickel" of it has been donated by forest companies. But he also said the companies provided "maybe 60 per cent" of last year's \$100,000 budget."

- Business Information Wire DATE Tue 03 Mar 92  
[\*] executive director of Share B.C., Mike Morton

North Island Citizens for Shared Resources (NICSR)  
Spokesperson Art Duhamel (92)

The Cariboo-Chilcotin Share group  
Spokesperson, coordinator Cheryl Flinton (92)

"I do not support or advocate the views of Ron Arnold."

- PATRICK E. ARMSTRONG

President, Moresby Consulting Ltd., 515 East 8th Street  
North Vancouver

(former director of "Our Land Society" Share group.)

"Furthermore, I don't subscribe to this [hostile] view of the environmental movement, or in any way endorse the small-minded and parsimonious ramblings of Ron Arnold or any of his ilk on either end of the spectrum."

- Patrick E. Armstrong Los Angeles Times September 23, 1992

Share our Resources committee of Port Alberni.

Share the Stein committees of Boston Bar and Lytton

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**ALLIED GROUPS**

"Florida is "one of the central most important states" for wise-use organizations, Arnold says, because of its growth-management law. Groups like his consider the statute too restrictive. Modeled after a similar law in Oregon, Florida's law requires each city and county to plan for development.

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At least one out-of-state group has set up an office in Florida to lobby against the law. The Claremont Institute of California houses its Florida Growth Policy Studies office in Altamonte Springs."

- Orlando Sentinel Tribune May 10, 1992

"People for the West is an outgrowth of the Western States Public Lands Coalition, a Pueblo, Colo., advocacy group backed financially by, among others, Chevron, Homestake Mining Co. and uranium producer Energy Fuels Corp., according to executive director William Grannell."

- The Washington Post May 16, 1991

### CONSUMER COALITION

"The 1989 Consumer Coalition, spearheaded by Consumer Alert, begins its fourth day of events for National Consumer Week with 3 press conferences at the National Press Club, 14th and F streets N.W., Washington, on Thursday, April 27.

10 a.m. -- The Center for the Defense of Free Enterprise (CDFE) will chair a panel to discuss pending legislation that could virtually wipe out the timber industry in the Tongass National Forest in Alaska. CDFE's Executive Director, Ron Arnold will be joined by the authors of a new book entitled "People of the Tongass." Arnold and authors K.A. Soderberg and Jackie DuRette will explain that the Tongass, America's largest national forest, has not been harmed in any measurable way by decades of logging. Reporters will receive a free review copy of their book."

- Consumer Coalition press release  
PR Newswire April 26, 1989

Charles Cushman, the executive director of the National Inholders Association

### THE QUAYLE CONNECTION

"Also shown is David McIntosh, deputy director of VP Dan Quayle's Council on Competitiveness, addressing a gathering of wise-use leaders (9/20)."

- Greenwire September 21, 1992

[referring to CBS' "60 Minutes" reported on the wise-use movement and the use of violence against environmentalists.]

"But wise-use advocates have been given new voice, and new legitimacy, thanks in part to Quayle and the White House Council on Competitiveness, which he heads. In a telephone interview, Arnold of the Center for the Defense of Free Enterprise, said the Council on Competitiveness had given wise-use advocates a point of access to President George Bush's administration. Arnold, 55, who is known as a philosophical leader of the movement, praised David McIntosh, the executive director of the council and Quayle's chief domestic aide. "He has reshaped the whole political debate," Arnold said. Referring to the wise-use movement's own growth, Arnold said, "Our overall program was invisible in the public's mind as it was taking shape, but it is having political repercussions in this campaign." McIntosh of the Council on Competitiveness was a main speaker at the "Wise Use Leadership Conference" in Reno, Nev., in June. Among themes of discussion during the three-day gathering: Private Property Protection; Who Funds the Environmentalists?; and Suing Environmental Organizations. Jeff Nesbit, a spokesman for Quayle, said neither Quayle nor McIntosh had made any secret of their support for property rights and some of the views of wise-use advocates.

- St. Louis Post-Dispatch September 7, 1992

"They have formed many groups, some with names that seem to conflict with their goals, such as the National Wetlands Coalition, the National Wilderness Institute and the Environmental Conservation Organization, of Illinois. Their activities include: In Wyoming, the Common Man Institute is trying to block plans to reintroduce gray wolves into Yellowstone National Park. The institute argues that ranchers spent decades ridding the land of marauding predators. The Maine Conservation Rights Institute is fighting a federal plan that would prevent lakefront forest land from being subdivided into lots for houses or camps."

- St. Louis Post-Dispatch September 7, 1992

Another Ron Arnold connected group: Oregon Lands Coalition, Jackie Lang, coordinator

**SAMPLE OF RON ARNOLD RHETORIC, AN ARTICLE HE WROTE:**

□ St. Louis Post-Dispatch  
February 25, 1992, TUESDAY, FIVE STAR Edition

SECTION: EDITORIAL; Pg. 3C  
LENGTH: 778 words

**HEADLINE: DON'T INDULGE THE ALARMISTS ... ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS  
CARE MORE ABOUT POLITICS; THAN PRESERVATION**

The words "wise use" have been in a lot of headlines lately. Widely read stories quoted me as saying my organization wants to destroy the environmental movement. That raised blood pressures everywhere. These quotes are accurate but not true - because the second half of the sentence was omitted: by offering a better alternative. I want to promote the growing wise-use movement. No, I don't want dirty air, filthy water and ravaged land. I don't want greedy rape, scrape and ruin. Nobody does. The headlines accused me of wanting to exploit nature. Exploit means to "use badly," the exact opposite of my intent, the wise use of resources.

It's hard for some to understand my message. As simply as I can say it, I want to save nature for people, not from people. Eco-groups say humankind has no right to use the Earth. Take that idea to its logical conclusion before you buy it. I say humans and nature can live together in productive harmony. Most of all, I want people to see the difference between the environment and environmentalism. Wise use is not against the environment. More than 400 groups form the loose alliance of the wise-use movement. Their members live, work and play in the environment - farmers, ranchers, fishers, loggers, miners, recreationists - and homeowners worried about no-growth regulations that eliminate their property rights. They have a real, everyday stake in using the Earth wisely.

Environmentalism, on the other hand, is not about the environment, it's about politics. The top 25 eco-groups spend more than 90 percent of their big budgets - over half a billion dollars in 1991 - not on improving the environment but on



politics. They spend millions every year lobbying for tangled regulations, clogging the courts with overblown lawsuits and paying for store-bought candidates. A better name for their movement would be "political ecology." And it's blindly turning our economy off. Eco-lobbyists have shrunk the places where we can legally cut timber, mine minerals, drill for oil and graze cattle to less than a tenth the size they were only 25 years ago. Even farms are being shut down - for having "wetlands" that aren't wet.

The cumulative impact of 25 years worth of excessive environmental laws is strangling our economy. Most of those laws do little to help nature but much to punish industry. The cumulative cost of over-regulation is turning a normal recession into a Green Depression. It happened because eco-groups use fear tactics to create the illusion of crisis - scares over global warming, acid rain, the ozone hole, Alar on apples causing cancer and the spotted owl.

The list goes on and on. They are all false alarms. Robert M. White, president of the National Academy of Engineering, wrote in Scientific American that no global warming trend has been detected. Zero. Yet we're willing to shut down all industry as if it were real. The National Acid Precipitation Assessment Program found that only 240 Northeastern lakes out of 7,000 were badly acidic, and only 0.1 percent of forest decline is caused by acid rain. That's a problem, not a crisis. Professor Robert Pease, a noted climatologist, has shown that the ozone hole over Antarctica is a natural seasonal phenomenon that's been there forever, not recently caused by chlorofluorocarbons. Alar never caused a single case of cancer, and apple growers are suing the Natural Resources Defense Council and CBS News' "60 Minutes" for bankrupting them by saying it's a carcinogen.

Soon after the spotted owl was listed under the Endangered Species Act, nearly a thousand of them were found in private second-growth forests where they aren't supposed to live. The owl isn't threatened. The government didn't de-list the owl, however; it stopped timber harvesting in those private second-growth forests. Eco-group leaders don't pay the slightest attention to inconvenient realities. The illusion of crisis is the basis of their fund raising. They don't let facts stand in their way. Or people.

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Eco-groups want everything for themselves, nothing for you: They cut whole forests to make millions of fund-raising mailers every year so they can lobby forest products out of your future. Their hypocrisy is shameless. That's why the wise-use movement has arisen to fight environmentalists - but not to fight the environment. We're saying give a fair shake to the people who feed, clothe and shelter us all. It's time to put a stop to destructive eco-group illusions. There's a better way: We want wise use. Doesn't everybody? Ron Arnold is executive vice president of the Center for the Defense of Free Enterprise, Bellevue, Wash.

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ANOTHER SOURCE:

"A. You'll find profiles of both Arnold and Alan Gottlieb, founder of the center, in the Dec. 16, 1991, issue of Legal Times, the Washington weekly newspaper covering law, lobbying and politics in the capital. The profiles by Jon Krakaouer..."

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