

Cooperative Conservation - Beware of the wolf in green sheep clothing

Dear U.S.: - WEC, Media, Freedom Groups, Property Owners:

This sounds so familiar it makes me throw up. When are we going to outlaw all green government groups, especially those stealing our land? Why are the rural farm owners the only ones who can smell this two states away? The green stench that does this is so rotten they can only steal when the property owners are not represented. They like thieves in the night wait until no one is home to make their land grab. It is the same rotten government and environmental groups all over America that have a cookie cutter process.

All State legislatures need to work together and cut out this diseased part of the herd that is doing this and bury them where they can no longer infect everyone else.

"The least-represented, and the persons who have the most at stake are the farmers. Cooperative conservation will be using the "tools of the Farm Bill," and farmers have the most property which the stakeholders want to "share." There are a few organizations that supposedly represent farmers, but most farm organization representatives attending the meetings are personnel who have never had dirt under their fingernails."

Beware of the wolf in green sheep clothing saying:

"I'm from the government and I am here to help"...or any environmental group that claims they are YOUR FRIEND OR A FRIEND OR A 1000 FRIENDS.

Jack Venrick

Fed Up with Government lurking around my Land Eating up My Freedoms

Rural Property Owner

Enumclaw, WA

Subject: Cooperative Conservation: What is it all about????

Importance: High

I attended the session in Helena August 14. It did not smell good and this

article reveals why. This ties in with the heavy emphasis on conservation easements on farm lands incorporated throughout our Flathead County Growth Policy and Appendix A: Baseline Analysis, provided by the Long Range Planning Committee. Conservation easements and transfer of development rights both received heavy endorsement last night at the Interactive Flathead County Growth Policy workshop sponsored by Citizens for a Better Flathead. WE NEED TO COMMUNICATE MORE WITH OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS and all of us take a closer look at what this is all about. Clarice

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Are you "listening" as your property rights fade away?

By Joyce Morrison

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Sometimes red flags jump up when you read an article and you know "something" isn't quite right. But when red flags, and bells ring, and funny little things jump up and down, you know that "something" is trying to get your attention.

That is exactly what happened when I read about "Cooperative Conservation." It reeked of the feeling one has when mean little kids would visit and your mother would say, "Be nice - and share." You knew those kids could not care less about how hard you had worked to get your "things" and how carefully you cared for them. After those kids got hold of them, they would still be yours - but not in the same way, as they now had a stake in them.

Apparently the President felt there should be some sharing. On August 26, 2004, he issued an Executive Order on the "Facilitation of Cooperative Conservation."

The Executive Order basically says "everyone must play together, and if it is yours - you have to share." Thousands of people will be involved in the "resources" of your property, and you did not invite them to play with you, yet they will all have a stake in your sweat equity.

The Secretaries of Interior, Commerce and Agriculture, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Chairman of the White House Council on Environmental Quality have listed the dates and locations of the listening sessions on cooperative conservation and environmental partnerships.

The release said, "The listening sessions will give citizens an opportunity to exchange ideas on incentives, partnership programs and regulations that can improve results and promote cooperative conservation and environmental partnerships."

Issues that will be "listened to" at these sessions are:

- . How can the federal government enhance wildlife habitat, species protection, and other conservation outcomes through regulatory and voluntary conservation programs?

- . How can the federal government enhance cooperation among federal agencies and with states, tribes, and local communities in the application of environmental protection and conservation laws?

- . How can the federal government work with states, tribes, and other public- and private-sector partners to improve science used in environmental protection and conservation?

. How can the federal government work cooperatively with businesses and landowners to protect the environment and promote conservation?

. How can the federal government better respect the interests of people with ownership in land, water, and other natural resources?

"I'm from the government and I'm here to help you," rings loud and clear.

In August of 2005, by invitation only, 1300 representatives from environmental groups, government agencies, business entities and a handful of landowners attended a three day conference in St. Louis, MO on cooperative conservation.

The least-represented, and the persons who have the most at stake are the farmers. Cooperative conservation will be using the "tools of the Farm Bill," and farmers have the most property which the stakeholders want to "share." There are a few organizations that supposedly represent farmers, but most farm organization representatives attending the meetings are personnel who have never had dirt under their fingernails.

The Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) were highly represented at the meeting in St. Louis. The role the NGOs will play in cooperative conservation sounds very similar to United Nations Agenda 21's definition of NGOs working with Federal, state and local governments. Keep in mind, you do not elect the officials at The Nature Conservancy, Ducks Unlimited, Sierra Club, and other NGOs, but they will all be partners with the government in the private-public partnerships...regulating YOUR property.

The United Nations Habitat 1 held in Vancouver in 1976 - Preamble of Agenda Item 10 states:

"Land cannot be treated as an ordinary asset, controlled by individuals and subject to the pressures and inefficiencies of the market.. The provision of decent dwellings and healthy conditions for the people can only be achieved if land is used in the interests of society as a whole. Public control of land use is therefore indispensable. Governments must maintain full jurisdiction and exercise complete sovereignty over such land. Change in the use of land should be subject to public control and regulation of the common good."

Illinois River Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a cooperation conservation case study. In Illinois, the "key partners along the Illinois River are USDA Farm Service Agency, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Illinois Department of Agriculture, Illinois Department of Environmental Protection, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Illinois Farm Bureau, Illinois conservation districts, Ducks Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy, and farm producers."

Note how the farm producers are the last partner mentioned. Does this sound like Habitat I? How much do you think it costs per meeting for these agencies and NGOs to decide what to do about your property?

Few farmers have wealth in their pockets. They spend their lives worrying if the crops will make the farm payment, and how they can keep ahead of the operating expenses. But there is no more pride to be felt than a farmer farming his own land. Is this privilege about to be taken from the farmer who raises your food? Will he be replaced by ducks and weeds?

"The Nature Conservancy is assessing best management practices in the CREP project area to quantify the environmental benefits of these practices," according to their project summary. The contact for the project is the Illinois State Director of The Nature Conservancy.

Where are our elected officials?

The American Heritage Rivers Initiative falls under cooperative conservation. These are rivers named by former Pres. Bill Clinton. This initiative left the opening for severe restrictions in the heritage rivers' watersheds. Public opposition prevented a number of rivers from getting on his list.

Time to re-establish a property rights ethic, an article by Duggan Flanakin for Eco-logic [link](#) states, "We are in danger of abandoning our founding principles, and suborning our own future prosperity to an alien philosophy which, under the guise of group rights concentrates power in the hands of elites."

Conservation easements are used in "cooperative conservation." On August 17, a press release stated "Today, President Bush signed a measure into law that

will aid in the protection of thousands of acres of the nation's shrinking agricultural lands. Congressman Mike Thompson (D-CA) spearheaded efforts to create the new tax provision. It will increase deductions available to farmers, ranchers and other landowners who donate their property for conservation easements."

It is ironic that there is such a push to take farmland out of production to be used for wetlands, CREP, CRP, conservation easements and other programs, and yet millions of dollars are spent on projects to prevent sprawl, and on conservation, in the name of saving our land for agriculture.

At a meeting this month, Illinois Congressmen John Shimkus and Ray LaHood both said they had never heard of the cooperative conservation program. Apparently, Congress has not been fully informed of this vast production, to be performed by the government bureaus (bureaucrats) and the NGOs.

If this is truly a democracy, why have unelected officials in the government bureaus (bureaucrats) and the NGOs been given so much power to rule over the people, while spending our tax dollars? Could this be taxation without representation?

See biography for Joyce Morrison

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