



Surveying the National Plunder

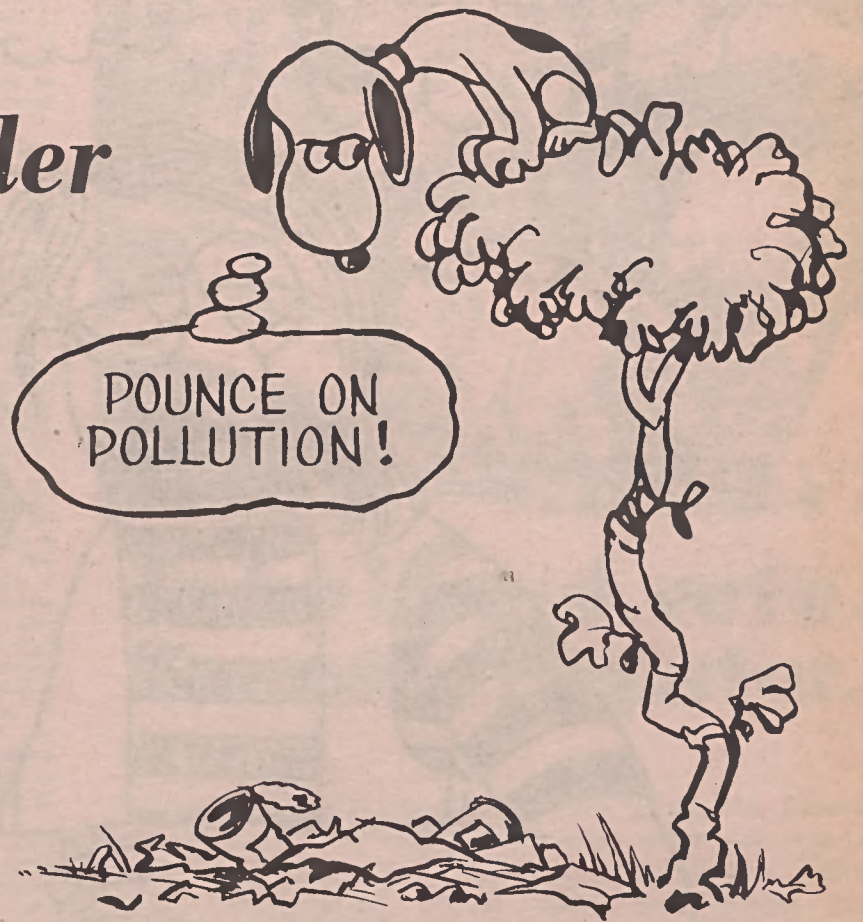
(Reprinted from Conservation News, January 15, 1972.)

--Smokey the Bear's stepdaddy says that Smokey is doing only half of his job. The former director of the New Mexico Dept. of Game and Fish and a well-known poet, Elliot S. Baker, who was the man originally responsible for donating the cub to the U.S. Forest Service, says that the original intent was that Smokey's life be dedicated to wildlife conservation as well as fire prevention. "Most unfortunately the U.S. Forest Service has through the years ninety percent of the time ignored the wildlife conservation provision."

--St. Louis University's School of Law and the Underwater Research Institute are co-sponsoring an Environmental Communication Workshop in St. Louis on Feb. 25-27, 1972. Contact Environmental Communication Workshop, School of Law, St. Louis University, St. Louis Missouri, 63108 for information.

--Two years ago, angry Spanish workers clashed with police in a protest against dirty air--two were killed and several others were injured. Although since that time, air pollution has made the headlines in Madrid, Barcelona, Zaragoza, and nearly everywhere else where Spain has industry and traffic, little has been done. Bilbao, the "Pittsburgh of Spain", is almost invisible on a smokey day. A recent provincial study showed that five of every 12 workers who fail to report to work do so because of respiratory problems. And 13 of every 30 workers declared invalids due to work have illnesses rooted in respiratory problems.

--In a petition to the FCC, the FTC has joined the National Wildlife Federation and other public interest groups in urging that broadcasters be required to grant free air time to those who want to challenge claims made by commercial advertising. "Advertising today is largely a one-way street," the FTC told the FCC, so advertisers have "enormous power to affect consumer welfare." Examples of commercials cited that would lend themselves easily to counter ads include ads by companies claiming their products contribute to solving ecological problems and ads for detergents which may be viewed as contributing to water pollution.



--A four-day course in game and fish management for conservation lay leaders and natural resource administrators is scheduled for Colorado State University from February 14-18, 1972. For information contact Prof. Dwight R. Smith, Dept. of Fishery and Wildlife Biology, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado, 80521, Tel. 303, 493-6678.

--The 37th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference is expected to follow the NWF into Mexico City's Hotel Camino Real on March 12-15, 1972. Further information on the conference is available from the Wildlife Management Institute, 709 Wire Bldg., Washington, D.C., 20005.

--A moratorium on all effluent discharge permits has been declared by the Army Corps of Engineers until the Federal government decides how to respond to restrictions ordered by Federal District Judge Aubrey E. Robinson, Jr. Robinson ruled that all discharges into non-navigable waterways are illegal and barred the government from legalizing them with discharge permits. The government may not even issue permits for navigable water discharge, Robinson said, unless it first prepares an environmental impact statement for each permit application. The moratorium, however, will probably not affect the nearly 20,000 industry applicants who are expected to continue dumping as usual.

--Results of a survey taken by the International Association of Chiefs of Police, Inc. show that an estimated 24,520 persons were arrested for littering in the U.S. in 1970. The median fine for the 18,705 persons convicted was only \$14.54.

--Thirty-six student Environmental Investigation Units are being prepared by the National Wildlife Federation and the Minnesota Environmental Science Center for classroom use for grades 1-12. A few of the units presently available include Plants in the Classroom, Vacant Lot Studies, Differences in Living Things, Shadows, Wind, Snow and Ice, and Man's Habitat--The City. Write to NWF for orders and further information.

--City planners of the future will have to reconcile human needs with the demand for faster traffic flow and more industrial space according to a National Park Service scientist, Theodore W. Sudia, in a newly-issued Interior Department publication, "Man/Nature/City". The publication is the first in an urban ecology series being produced by the National Park Service. It is available from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 20402.

--What's good for the moose in Maine, isn't necessarily good for the deer. The state's moose population has experienced a slight boom, from the mere 3,700 that existed in 1951 to the over 15,000 that now roam the back country. The revival of the moose is seen as a result of the regrowth of pole timber. The whitetail deer, however, "has been hurt by the regrowth past the stage where they can browse on the hardwoods, and they're really taking a beating from the cutting of Maine cedar swamps" (used in the construction of decorative cedar fences).



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