

# GRASSROOTS RISING

Volume 1: January 29, 2025

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1. Nature-Based Solutions to Climate Chaos: Superior to technological solutions.
2. Consumer Liberation: Use it up, wear it out, make it do, or do without.

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## Bioregional Activism to Change the World

*By Tijn Tjoelker, Karin Müller,  
Celina Whitehead, and Noa Lodeizen  
January 20, 2025*

**Note from Iona:** I participated in an event on January 20, 2025 and received this follow-up email.

### Dear participants of the Bioregional Hope event,

We hope you have experienced that the bioregional movement of changemakers that protect, restore, and regenerate the places we call home, is on the rise.

To support this emerging movement, we created an overview of vital resources to help 'Changemakers' get started with 'Bioregional Weaving.'

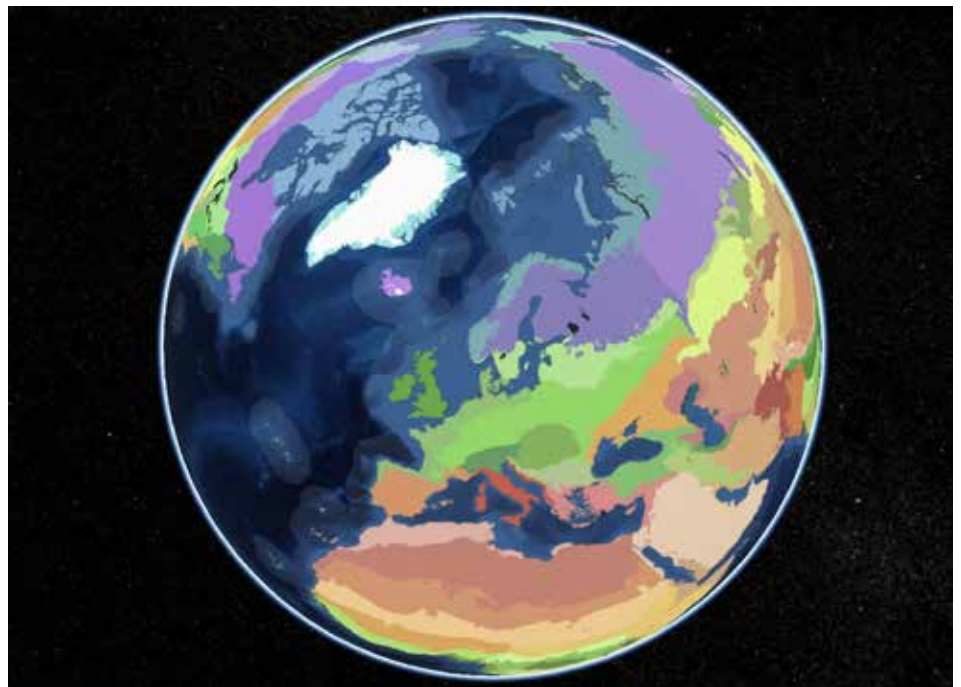
The Mycelium cross-posted a post from Bioregional Weaving Labs (<https://bioregionalweavinglabs.substack.com>)

### Tijn Tjoelker: January 21, 2025 The Mycelium

After much hard and loving work, it's finally here: essential resources for mobilizing changemakers to restore, protect, and regenerate land and sea.

It's an ideal follow-up after our event 'Bioregional Hope,' as it contains many practical resources to help you get started with 'Bioregional Weaving'!

A bioregion invites us to inhabit a place in a way that is full of relationship. Seeing where the natural bound-



*Bioregions: Nature's Map of the Earth. By One Earth. No more political, nation-state boundaries; people live according to and withing their ecosystems, bioregions.*

aries of our bioregion are, we can then see the many ecosystems and human systems alive within it. All of these systems like fresh water and biodiversity or transport and health are connected.

There is also a connecting story that starts in deep geological time, shows up in the landscape and soil, and then in human culture. Bioregioning is the collective practice of bringing vitality to these connections, angling the systems towards regeneration, and taking actions for a climate resilient and biodiverse future.

### The Bioregional Learning Centre

The Bioregional Weaving Labs Insights Report is at <https://www.ashoka.org/en-us/files/insights-report-bioregional-weaving-labs-march-2022lowrespdf>

### The Bioregional Weaving Guide

Essential resources for mobilizing 1 million changemakers to restore, protect, and regenerate 1 million hectares (2.47 million acres) of Europe's land and sea.

#### This Guide Includes

- Three essential resources to help
- Continued on next page**

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4 key dimensions of 'Weaving' by The Weaving Lab. "Weaving is the practice of connecting people and projects in synergistic and purposeful ways. Weaving involves connecting people to each other and to a shared purpose; fostering collaborations for systemic impact; facilitating collective learning and iteration; and embodying the change we wish to see."

you get started;

- 6 Books, 14 courses, and 20+ articles and videos to dive deeper;
- And much more!

This overview is incomplete and will continuously evolve. If you know any other valuable resources, please leave a comment or add suggestions to this Google Docs <https://docs.google.com/document/d/12G2PkTz1pgKfu0jbz2vcrn8GJB5A35PDvQ56pZGpDJM/edit>

**Please note:** Not all sources below directly involve bioregioning, weaving, or changemaking. Yet, through experience, these sources have proven

to be conducive to bioregional and regenerative development.

*Looking at your bioregion, you are looking at your true home. The river is your blood, the soil is your body, the rain and fog are your breath. When you care for one, you care for all.*

~ Inspired by Thich Nhat Hanh ~

### Start Here

1. Listen to "The Future is Local: Bioregioning 101" by Nate Hagens from The Great Simplification with Daniel Christian Wahl, Isabel Carlisle, and Samantha Power at <https://natehagens.com>

[substack.com/p/the-future-is-local-bioregioning](https://substack.com/p/the-future-is-local-bioregioning).

### The Great Simplification

The past century has been marked by the rise of globalization in every sense of the word – through production, culture, agriculture, consumption, and more. This trend has brought great wealth and opportunities to many people – but what have we lost and forgotten through this process?

Read more at <https://natehagens.com/p/the-future-is-local-bioregioning>

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## How to Subscribe

Dear Friends,

If you'd like to receive future issues of my newspaper, please email me at [grassroots-coalition@pa.net](mailto:grassroots-coalition@pa.net). Also, email me if you have stories and photos you'd like me to consider publishing in future issues. I publish a Messages page similar to Letters to the Editor, so if you want to share your thoughts, please do so.

I'd like this to be a team effort as it has been in

the past, but we need time to develop this project and figure out ways to work together.

This is a labor of love but I always appreciate donations, which you can send to: Iona Conner, 157 Chambersbridge Road 4A, Brick, NJ 08723. If you use Zelle or PayPal, money goes directly to my bank account via [dosomething@pa.net](mailto:dosomething@pa.net). Cash is OK, too. Thank you!

For the Earth,

*Iona*



**Fair Use Symbol** <https://copyright.gov/fair-use/more-info.html>

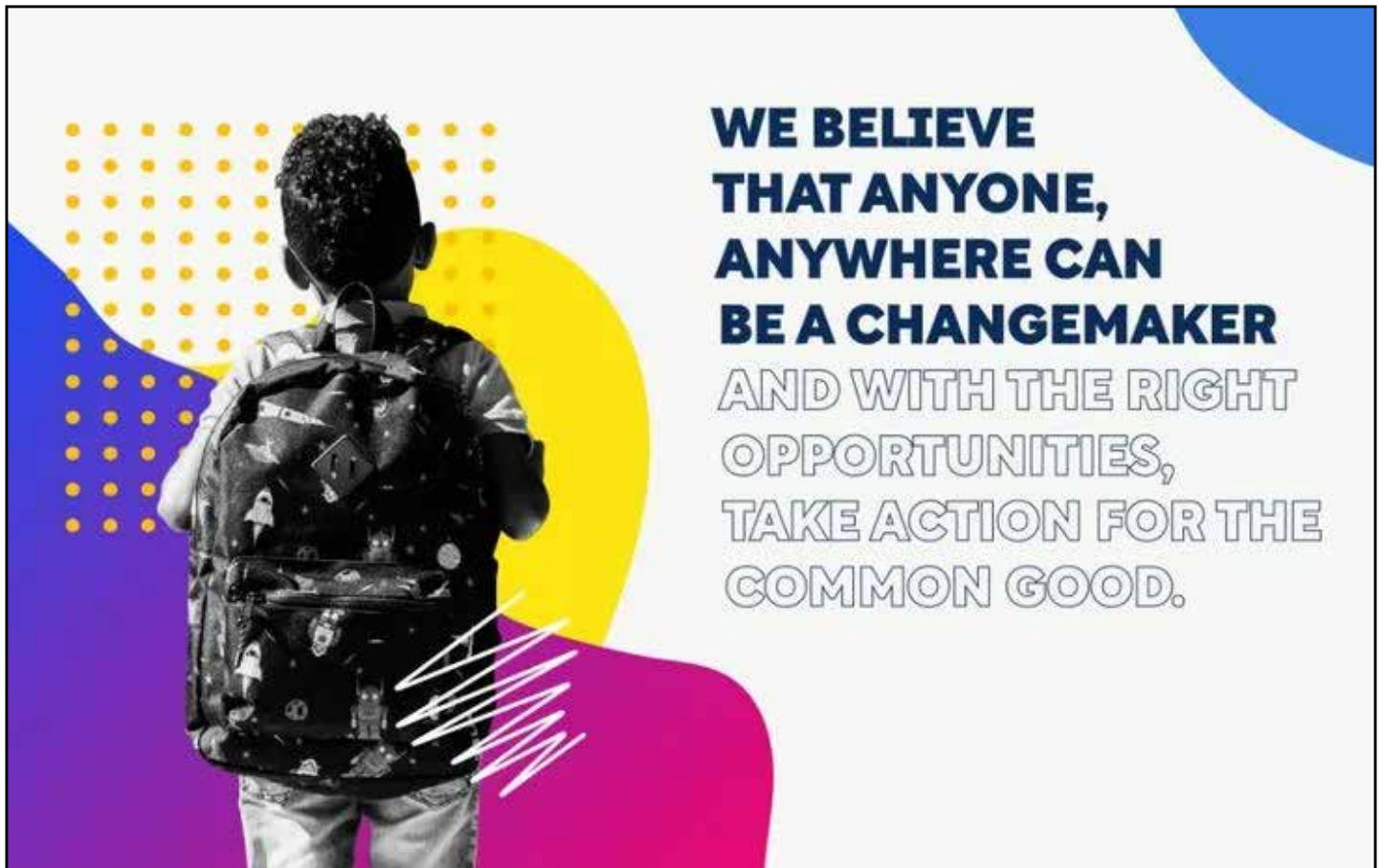


Fair use is a legal doctrine that promotes freedom of expression by permitting the unlicensed use of copyright-protected works in certain circumstances.

Section 107 of the Copyright Act provides the statutory framework for determining whether something is a fair use and identifies certain types of

uses – such as criticism, comment, news reporting, teaching, scholarship, and research – as examples of activities that may qualify as fair use. Section 107 calls for consideration of the following:

- (1) Purpose and character of the use, including whether the use is of a commercial nature or is for nonprofit educational purposes. . . .



Anyone, anywhere can be a changemaker. By Ashoka. “A changemaker is someone who imagines a new reality, takes action, and collaborates with others to bring that new reality into being for the good of others.”

**2.** Explore The 4 Returns Framework in Practice by Commonland at <https://4returns.commonland.com/lesson/introduction/>. It’s a practical guidebook for holistic landscape restoration that everyone can understand and use.

**3.** Find your community through the Bioregional Mycelium at <https://4returns.commonland.com/lesson/introduction/>

### The Bioregional Mycelium Map

The Bioregional Mycelium is a map with 150+ bioregional initiatives.

To support the growing bioregional movement, we’ve mapped 150+ initiatives working on bioregional regeneration so that you can find your bioregional tribe. We highly recommend to join already existing communities like Design School for Regenerating Earth at <https://design-school-for-regenerating-earth.mn.co/> and The BioFi Com-

munity of Practice at <https://www.hylo.com/groups/biofi>.

Do you know any bioregional initiatives that are missing in the overview?

Add initiatives and make changes to the map by editing this public database, or simply leave a comment on this website and we’ll make sure to include it. <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1pzu5Htvli2Ip3lv1-X9b-9JRVlgBeBWnzFrM-046p1Gk/edit>

The public database is linked directly to The Bioregional Mycelium Map.

### Videos

The Bioregional Hope event was a celebration of the inspiring changemaker films we created with the support of Woka Foundation and in collaboration with bioregional weaving teams in Austria, Greece, Ireland, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, and Spain; local filmmakers; and Brechtje

Smidt from Dutch Picture Industry.

These films highlight the unique challenges faced by different landscapes and cultures, while weaving together concrete, regenerative practices.

We asked the local weavers for three call-to-actions to support their bioregional weaving work, which are listed below the videos.

**Note from Iona:** At the January 20th event, participants were able to watch some of these videos and listen to the people who created them. This kind of thinking and acting are what I believe to be the best, most logical ways to a future that is way better than the present. I’ve been aware of bioregionalism for decades but have not seen anything organized like this is.

**Source:** <https://bioregionalweavinglabs.substack.com/p/bioregionalweaving-guide>

# Nobel Laureates Join Call for Ramped Up Food Production to Avert Global Hunger Catastrophe

“Today’s challenges of access to food will be exacerbated by production challenges tomorrow. We are not on track to meet future food needs. Not even close,” according to a letter published Tuesday.

By *Eloise Goldsmith*  
*Common Dreams: January 14, 2025*

A group of some of the world’s foremost thinkers is sounding the alarm on the globe’s looming “hunger catastrophe” and are calling for “moonshot” efforts to stave off the crisis, according to an open letter published Tuesday that was signed by 153 winners of the Nobel Prize and World Food Prize.

The luminaries who signed the letter include the economist Joseph Stiglitz; the spiritual leader the 14th Dalai Lama; the Nigerian playwright and political activist Wole Soyinka; and Emmanuelle Charpentier and Jennifer Doudna, who discovered the CRISPR/Cas9 genetic scissors.

The letter notes that there are 700 million people worldwide who are currently food insecure and “desperately poor” – and about 50% of them don’t know where they can expect their next meal. Some 60 million children under five are cognitively and physically impaired for life from nutritional deficiencies.

As hard as those numbers are to fathom, it’s about to get worse, according to the letter. Due to climate change, the world is expected to experience a decrease in the productivity of most major food staples, even though the planet is projected to add another 1.5 billion people to its population by 2050. “For maize, the major staple for much of Africa, the picture is particularly dire with decreasing yields pro-



*A few of many Top Agri-Food Pioneers featured at <https://www.worldfoodprize.org/>.*

jected for virtually its entire growing area,” according to the letter.

Extreme weather and weather events linked to climate change will threaten crop productions, as will additional factors like “soil erosion and land degradation, biodiversity loss, water shortages, conflict, and policies that restrict innovation.”

In sum, according to the letter, “Today’s challenges of access to food will be exacerbated by production challenges tomorrow. We are not on track to meet future food needs. Not even close. While much can and needs to be done to improve the flow of food to those in need, food production and accessibility must rise sharply and sustainably by mid-century, particularly where hunger and malnutrition are most severe.”

The appeal was coordinated by Cary Fowler, joint 2024 World Food Prize Laureate, who is also the outgoing U.S. special envoy for global food security at the State Department. He is also known as the “father” of the Svalbard Global Seed Vault. [<https://www.commondreams.org/news/2019/03/27/we-cant-trust-permafrost-anymore-doomsday-vault-risk-norway>]

“We know that agricultural research and innovation can be a powerful

lever, not only for food and nutrition security, but also improved health, livelihoods, and economic development. We need to channel our best scientific efforts into reversing our current trajectory, or today’s crisis will become tomorrow’s catastrophe,” Fowler said in a statement Tuesday.

The efforts the group is calling for include investment and prioritization in agricultural research and development, as well as other potential moonshot initiatives such as enhancing photosynthesis in crops such as wheat and rice, transforming annual to perennial crops, creating nutrient-rich food from microorganisms and fungi, and more.

Mashal Hussain, the incoming president of the World Food Prize Foundation, said in a statement, “If we can put a man on the moon, we can surely rally the funding, resources, and collaboration needed to put enough food on plates here on Earth. With the right support, the scientific community can deliver the breakthroughs to prevent catastrophic food insecurity in the next 25 years.”

The letter will be discussed during a Senate Committee event in Washington, D.C. on Tuesday.

**Source:** <https://www.commondreams.org/news/153-laureates-hunger-crisis>



# Degrowth Is Inevitable

Critics of ‘degrowth’ economics say it’s unworkable – but from an ecologist’s perspective, it’s inevitable.

**Editor’s note:** This article was written over a year and a half ago. Things are so much more worse now.

*By Mike Joy, Te Herenga Waka – Victoria University of Wellington  
Deep Green Resistance News Service  
January 18, 2025*

*Photo: Shutterstock/Matt Sheumack*

You may not have noticed, but earlier this month we passed Earth overshoot day, when humanity’s demands for ecological resources and services exceeded what our planet can regenerate annually.

Many economists criticizing the developing degrowth movement fail to appreciate this critical point of Earth’s biophysical limits.

Ecologists on the other hand see the human economy as a subset of the biosphere. Their perspective highlights the urgency with which we need to reduce our demands on the biosphere to avoid a disastrous ecological collapse, with consequences for us and all other species.

July 24, 2025 is Earth Overshoot Day, the baseline for the Earth’s resources we can sustainably use. First described in 1971 the overshoot day was December 25th. After that date we will be in ecological debt, humanity’s demand for nature’s resources will be exceeding the Earth’s capacity to regenerate

Many degrowth scholars (as well as critics) focus on features of capitalism as the cause of this ecological overshoot. But while capitalism may be problematic, many civilizations destroyed ecosystems to the point of collapse long before it became our

dominant economic model.

Capitalism, powered by the availability of cheap and abundant fossil energy, has indeed resulted in unprecedented and global biosphere disruption. But the direct cause remains the excessive volume and speed with which resources are extracted and wastes returned to the environment.

From an ecologist’s perspective, degrowth is inevitable on our current trajectory.

## Carrying Capacity

Ecology tells us that many species overshoot their environment’s carrying capacity if they have temporary access to an unusually high level of resources. Overshoot declines when those resources return to more stable levels. This often involves large-scale starvation and die-offs as populations adjust.

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Access to fossil fuels has allowed us to temporarily overshoot biophysical limits. This lifted our population and demands on the biosphere past the level it can safely absorb. Barring a planned reduction of those biosphere demands, we will experience the same “adjustments” as other species.

One advantage humans have over other species is that we understand overshoot dynamics and can plan how we adjust. This is what the degrowth movement is attempting to do.

To grasp the necessity of reducing ecological overshoot we must understand its current status. We can do this by examining a variety of empirical studies.

### Material Flows and Planetary Boundaries

Analysis of material flows in the economy show we are currently extracting more than 100 billion tons of natural materials annually, and rising. This greatly exceeds natural processes – erosion, volcanic eruptions, and earthquakes – that move materials around the globe.

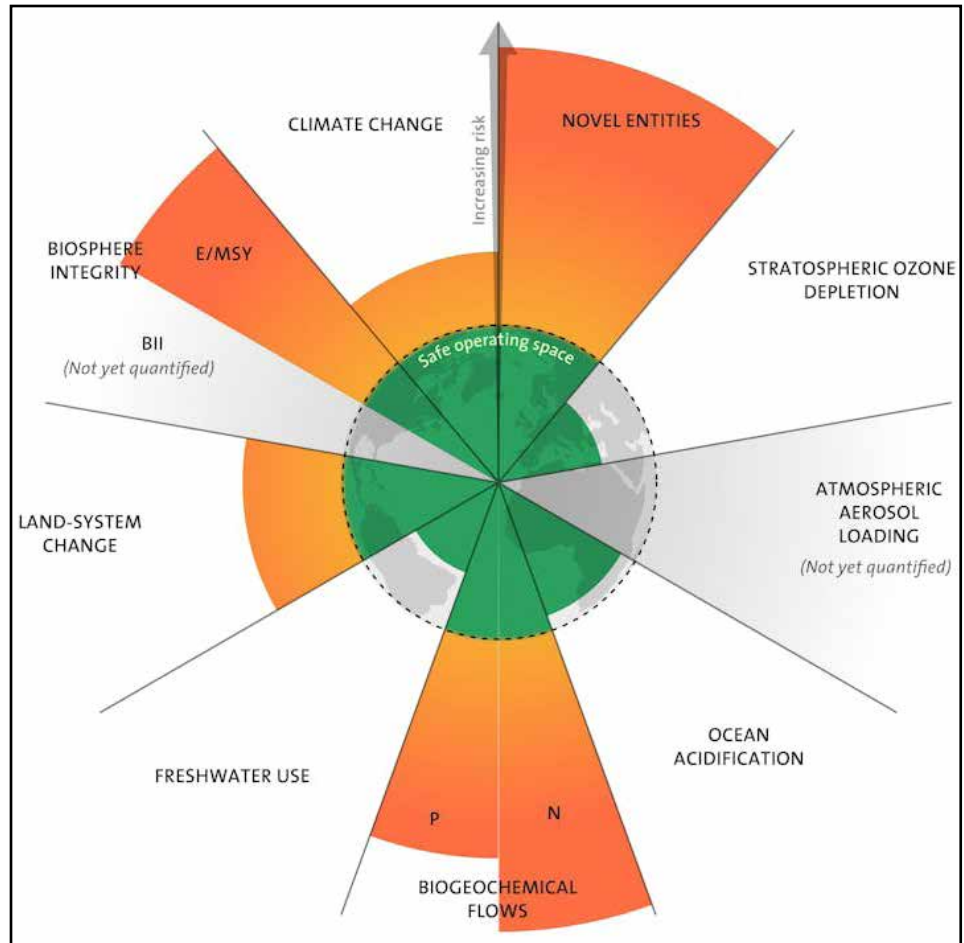
Such massive human-driven material flows can destroy ecosystems, cause pollution, and drive species extinct.

Only about 10% of these resource flows are potentially renewable. In many cases, we are harvesting more than can be regenerated annually (for example, many fish stocks).

Humans have now transgressed at least six of nine planetary boundaries. Each boundary has distinct limits, but in some instances the overshoot is at least double the safe operating level.

Both material flow analysis and planetary boundaries provide critically important information about our impacts on the biosphere. But they fail to capture the full picture. The former doesn't directly measure biosphere functioning. The latter doesn't capture inter-dependencies between various boundaries.

The biosphere is a holistic entity, with many self-organizing and interconnected subsystems. Our generally



We have now exceeded six planetary boundaries, and for some by at least double the safe operating level. Stockholm Resilience Centre, CC BY-SA

reductionist scientific methodologies are not able to capture this level of complexity. The methodology that comes closest to achieving this is the ecological footprint.

### Biocapacity

The ecological footprint measures the amount of productive surface on Earth and its capacity to generate resources and assimilate waste. These are two of the most fundamental features of the biosphere.

It then compares this available biocapacity with humanity's annual demands. Humanity's ecological footprint has exceeded the biosphere's annual biocapacity since at least 1970 and is currently almost twice the sustainable level.

The reason we can use more of what is generated annually is because we use stored biomass – ancient solar

energy captured over millennia – to power this draw-down.

“The global economy will inevitably contract, and humanity will suffer a major population ‘correction’ in this century.” New paper by Bill Rees (one of the people who conceptualized the idea of “the ecological footprint” just dropped...)

### The Human Ecology of Overshoot: Why a Major ‘Population Correction’ Is Inevitable

We must note that the ecological footprint is an acknowledged *underestimate* of our demands on the biosphere. Also, the biosphere isn't there only for us. At least 30-50% of the biosphere should be reserved as wilderness to protect other species and global ecosystems.

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Humanity exceeds its fair share of natural resources by more than 50%, and likely needs to reduce this demand by 70-80% to operate within carrying capacity. **Those with greater wealth are responsible for a disproportionately large share of overshoot.**

### It's Not Just a Climate Crisis

The political and public concern about climate change is considerable internationally and in New Zealand. But this is one of many environmental crises, together with soil erosion, groundwater pollution, deforestation, the rise of invasive species, biodiversity loss, ocean acidification, and the depletion of resources. They are all symptoms of overshoot.

The climate crisis is seen as a problem requiring a solution rather than a

symptom of overshoot. The problem is generally formulated as looking for a way to maintain current lifestyles in the wealthy world, rather than reducing overshoot.

The ecological perspective accepts that we exceed biophysical boundaries and emphasizes the importance of reducing energy and material consumption – regardless of how the energy is provided.

The scope of human disruption of the biosphere is now global. This ecological perspective highlights the current magnitude and closeness of significant and unwelcome changes to Earth systems. The reduction of humanity's demands on the biosphere is an overriding priority.

Ecological economics, with its

emphasis on a steady-state economy, is perhaps the most rigorous existing economic framework with specific proposals for determining priority actions. We urge scholars of all disciplines to examine these.

*The author acknowledges the contribution of Jack Santa-Barbara.*

*Mike Joy is Senior Researcher, Institute for Governance and Policy Studies, Te Herenga Waka–Victoria University of Wellington. This article is republished from The Conversation under a Creative Commons license. Read the original article at <https://theconversation.com/critics-of-degrowth-economics-say-its-unworkable-but-from-an-ecologists-perspective-its-inevitable-211496>*

**Source:** <https://dgrnewsservice.org/civilization/degrowth-is-inevitable>



## China's Great Green Wall: Recovering Deserts

*Science: Exploring Innovations  
Where Science Meets Possibilities  
December 7, 2024  
Photos: Screenshots by Iona*

**Submitted by Vin Palmeiri  
Brick NJ via LinkedIn**

Have you heard about China's Great Green Wall? This monumental project is designed to combat desertification by planting nearly 88 million acres of forests. Spanning approximately 3,000 miles in length and up to 900 miles in width, it is the largest tree-planting effort ever undertaken and is set to continue until 2050.

The initiative has shown encouraging results so far. Thousands of acres of shifting sand dunes have been stabilized, and sandstorm occurrences dropped by 20% between 2009 and 2014. Despite these successes, the project faces significant challenges.

Jennifer L. Turner from the China Environment Forum at the Woodrow Wilson Center points out that while tree-planting campaigns are frequent,

the long-term care of these trees is often overlooked, leading to high mortality rates. Many trees are planted outside their natural range, making them vulnerable to harsh conditions and causing unintended harm to local ecosystems by depleting groundwater needed by native plants.

A 2014 study by American and Chinese researchers raised questions about the project's broader ecological and socioeconomic impact, citing inconsistent local data. As climate change accelerates, it remains uncertain whether large-scale afforestation can provide sustainable solutions or if allowing ecosystems to regenerate naturally might be a better approach.

The Great Green Wall of China showcases humanity's ability to address environmental challenges but also highlights the intricacies and unintended consequences of large-scale ecological interventions.

**Source:** <https://www.linkedin.com/company/amazingscience/posts/?feedView=all>

### Follow-up Substack Information and Videos

Another story about China's Great Green Wall by Doug Rooney is at <https://lijingjing.substack.com/p/the-great-green-wall-of-china-explained>

Rooney's article of August 25, 2024 starts with:

"The Great Green Wall of China, or, more officially, the Three-North Shelterbelt Forest Program (TSFP), is the world's largest forest program, stretching a staggering 4,400 kilometers (2,734 miles) east to west across 13 northern, northwestern, and northeastern Chinese provinces.

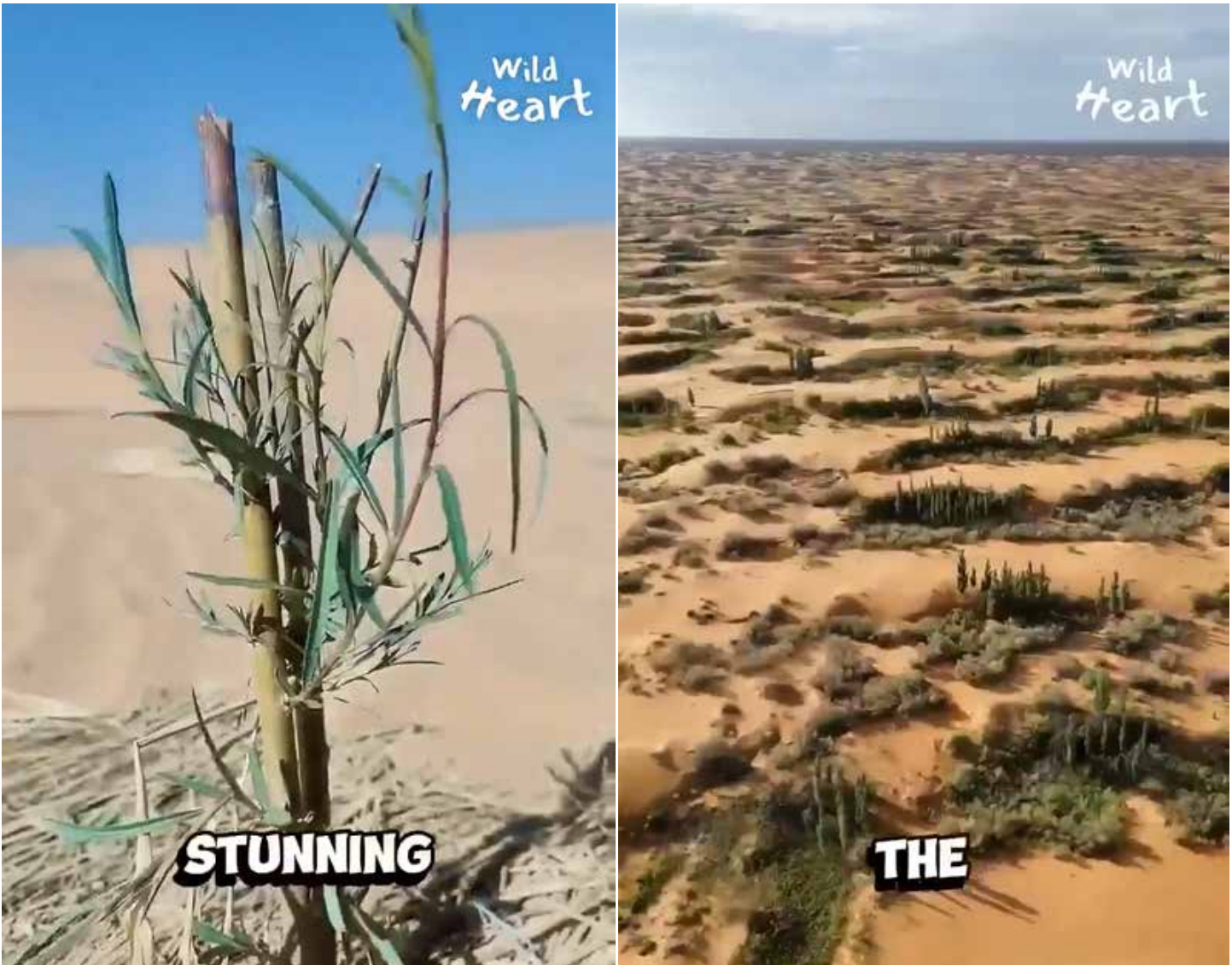
"The TSFP is a key component of China's long-term strategy to fight climate change and desertification and to build an ecological civilization. So, what is the Great Green Wall doing, and is it working?..."

### Desertification – A Growing Problem

According to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification,  
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the world has lost something like 33% of arable land to desertification since the 1980s. This is a serious issue as the growth of deserts into more habitable land is, through a process of soil erosion, water depletion, and vegetation loss, increasing food and water insecurity for hundreds of millions of people across the globe.

China was particularly vulnerable to

the forces of desertification as around 25% of the Chinese landmass was already desert, and by the end of the 1970s, 27.4% of the land had undergone some form of desertification, affecting nearly 400 million people.

Faced with the growing problem of desertification, the Chinese government acted in 1978 by beginning work on the Great Green Wall of China, or

TSFP. In 1983 the Chinese government would enshrine the TSFP as one of China's basic national strategies....

*Goosebumpy beautiful video at <https://lijingjing.substack.com/p/the-great-green-wall-of-china-explained> 52-minute video at <https://lijingjing.substack.com/p/the-great-green-wall-of-china-explained>*

**Are not all flowers the stars of the Earth?**

*~ Clara Lucas Balfour ~*



# Tribal Discoveries, Wildlife Protection Propel ITD Projects to National Awards

*By Reed Hollinshead  
October 31, 2024*

**Submitted by Linda L., Idaho**

Cultural discoveries on a highway construction project in northern Idaho that changes the narrative for Native American heritage in the area, and the state's first wildlife overpass, were the catalysts for a pair of awards October 31 from the nation's premiere transportation governing body.

The awards were presented to the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) at the annual meeting Thursday of the American Association of State Highway

and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

"These two AASHTO national awards again prove that our employees are fantastic," confirmed ITD Chief Deputy and Chief Operations Officer Dan McElhinney. "The SH-21 Lucky Peak wildlife crossing is a great partnering example, and the U.S. 95 McArthur Lake Bridge showcased excellent Tribal teamwork. Partnerships solved wildlife safety with cultural preservation success."

The cultural award was received by Jyl Wheaton of the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho and ITD Project Manager on the

construction, CarrieAnn Hewitt.

The project itself was fairly straightforward – an \$11M project in Boundary County that rebuilt an existing two-lane section, adding wider shoulders, and replacing a box culvert over Deep Creek, which provides an outlet to McArthur Lake. The existing width-restricted box culvert was replaced with a 300-foot span bridge to provide safe animal passage under the highway.

During excavation, tribal artifacts were found, requiring an orchestrated approach to planning for the preservation of these key cultural resources. A

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*U.S.-95 McArthur Lake Bridge construction.*

one-of-a-kind partnership was forged between ITD, the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, and contractors to preserve the rich history of the area's indigenous people.

One of the discoveries was a game-changer in terms of traditional thought. Native American artifacts were found that pre-dated the earliest-known timelines – these artifacts showed that the earliest human existence in the upper Columbia River Basin came some 4,000 years earlier than previously thought!

ITD's Scott Rudel managed the wildlife overpass project, built on State Highway 21 just east of Boise. The \$7.5M project constructed a 150-foot-long wildlife overpass and more than a mile of big-game fencing parallel to the highway to guide animals to the overpass, significantly reducing wildlife-vehicle collisions on this busy highway section. Improving motorist safety and protecting the

well-being of residents and commuters, along with wildlife alike, benefits the traveling public, hunting, and recreational heritage, and helps sustain the benefits our valuable wildlife resources and public lands provide. ITD wildlife-vehicle crash safety data and Dept. of Fish and Game GPS data determined the location of the overpass by finding where most migrating mule deer and elk crossed the highway. This is the next step in the long-range vision to promote safety, mobility, and economic opportunity along SH-21 between Lucky Peak and Idaho City. The goal is to reduce wildlife collisions in the area by 80%.

The AASHTO Awards are considered the highest honor for state departments of transportation. It is proof positive that ITD consistently produces great projects on behalf of the taxpayers of Idaho. The two awards mark 23 President's Awards received since 2014.

**Source:** <https://itd.idaho.gov/news/tribal-discoveries-wildlife-protection-propel-itd-projects-to-national-awards/>





# ‘It’s finally over’: President Biden Grants Leonard Peltier Clemency

By NDN Collective

January 19, 2025

Photo: NDN Collective

SUMPTERVILLE, Florida – Today, President Biden granted Leonard Peltier executive clemency and commuted the remainder of his sentence. The president’s decision is the result of decades of grassroots organizing in Indian Country and the unveiling of increasing amounts of evidence of prosecutorial misconduct and constitutional violations during the prosecution of Peltier’s case.

“It’s finally over – I’m going home.” said Leonard Peltier. “I want to show the world I’m a good person with a good heart. I want to help the people, just like my grandmother taught me.”

“Leonard Peltier’s commutation today is the result of 50 years of intergenerational resistance, organizing, and advocacy,” said Nick Tilsen, NDN

Collective Founder and CEO. “Leonard Peltier’s liberation is our liberation – and while home confinement is not complete freedom, we will honor him by bringing him back to his homelands to live out the rest of his days surrounded by loved ones, healing, and reconnecting with his land and culture.

“Let Leonard’s freedom be a reminder that the entire so-called United States is built on the stolen lands of Indigenous people – and that Indigenous people have successfully resisted every attempt to oppress, silence, and colonize us,” continued Tilsen. “The commutation granted to Leonard Peltier is a symbol of our collective strength – and our resistance will never stop.”

“Today’s decision shows the combined power of grassroots organizing and advocacy at the highest levels of government. We are grateful to President Biden and the leadership of Sec-

retary Deb Haaland. said Holly Cook Macarro, Government Affairs for NDN Collective. “All of us here today stand on the shoulders of three generations of activists who have fought for justice for Leonard Peltier. Today is a monumental victory – the day that Leonard Peltier finally goes home.”

NDN Collective is an Indigenous-led organization dedicated to building Indigenous power. Through organizing, activism, philanthropy, grantmaking, capacity-building, and narrative change, we are creating sustainable solutions on Indigenous terms.

**Contact NDN Collective**

**Phone:** +1 (605) 791-3999

**Address:** 408 Knollwood Dr.,  
Rapid City, SD 57701

**Website:** <https://ndncollective.org/>

**Source:** <https://ndncollective.org/president-biden-grants-leonard-peltier-clemency/>

## OUR FRIENDS IN ACTION



(left) Denis after the accident and before he tried going to the bathroom by himself and fell, undoing all that work. (middle) Amos helping Denis get used to using crutches. (right) Amos's wife, Akamushaba, helps support Denis. She takes the day shift with him in the hospital and Amos takes the night shift, sleeping on the floor, making sure Denis gets his 3:30 am meds, and getting up early to go to his job.

### Global Family Members Helping Others: Emails to Iona from Amos as He Works to Prevent Denis's Leg from Amputation, Money Needed Desperately

*(After email went to everyone with the immediate money Amos and Denis needed, four friends responded for a total of \$550, which went primarily to the crutches, wheelchair, and pain medication, but a lot more is required to pay the hospital bill of \$3688.80 so Denis can be discharged; that's how it is in Africa; no \$, no discharge.)*

Here are Amos's emails to me.

Thanks for the efforts as have so far received one message for inquiring from one person (\$150).

Am truly humbled.

Do you know what? Last night while sleeping on the ground in the hospital I dreamt that you came to see us in the

hospital, you and Mukama, and I got surprised as you left me in tears due to the surprise.

Regards,

Amos Mugarura (age 30)

Comforter of the Voiceless Child

Friend Space

Uganda

*[After a man in America sent \$150 of the \$5,000+ that Denis needs to save his leg, Amos sent this email]*

Absolutely 100%, am humbled, I have just told Denis' about this achievement, he is extremely happier than any other day since he got an accident. He said, "There is always love for the vulnerable people and this is

indeed the true definition of love."

*[email to the man who donated \$150 and me 1/21/25]*

**Hello my dearest ones.**

I have already deposited on his surgery the amount I received last night and I have as well got money as my salary loan worth \$550 that I have used to make a top up on the surgery and \$70 for me to start on next week as my son Liam is to start school. It's going to be a new experience for Liam but it's a big challenge amidst Denis's situation. His tuition will be a little bit high since he is going to be a new pupil but if at all Denis gets well, I know

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## OUR FRIENDS IN ACTION

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God will give us a way for Liam.

Denis' surgery is going to be conducted tonight but I have already sent \$550 to accounts making a total \$700 and I will be remaining pay \$1850.40 to clear up the surgery process which they have told me it's the main one at this moment basing on the status of his leg. And I have also sold one of our orphanage school's cows, which has helped us to cover the previous bills of all these days he has been under monitoring, plus more five days after surgery (previous \$450+167 five days) as we look for the remaining balance on the surgery, the rest will be done later one at time. These are the final remarks I can share with you for now from the doctors until he gets out of the theater (surgery) in the night.

**(1/21/25)**

Bill's support has truly come with a living blessing because when I even told my wife (Akamushaba) that am selling off the school's cow for the sake of Denis's life, she didn't become slow on her tongue to say yes. The operation has start already, hoping for good team.

I see we are soon becoming winners, the only challenge I will get shall be at discharge because I have no other idea on raising the remaining on the surgery bill as the rest shall be conducted at our clinic only by buying the prescriptions because I have requested it from the hospital of which they allowed and asked us to always take him there for review on a subsidized pay since Akamushaba will have done some part on our clinic, a lot would be done on it but we still lack standard equipment to use.

Oh yes it will be a good experience for Liam, am happy that I can now as well take my own [son] as well to school among the many I have supported in education because education is the only thing you can give to

someone in life and it lifts him or her to some level, not money, assets, etc.

I'm sure he will like it since we brought him up with a language of English that our official one here thus he won't get issues other than a change in atmosphere.

On 1/21/2025 10:11 PM, Amos Mugarura wrote:

**Hello Bill, Iona,**

YES, the surgery went successfully though they found a setback in his recovery but everything was conducted well. Am sorry I couldn't get back to you by the time he got out but since that time I have been so tight as you know he really wanted my time more than ever, he has now just got a sleep. All in all is that he is going to be well because all that I wanted to be done on surgery was done as per my desire.

My only worry now is on the balance and the walking sticks. In case the balance is found even in two days we can seek for a discharge because he told me that he feels relieved somehow.

What an angel in J.C. and you Mom, my courage of marking it all has gradually continued to grow stronger because of you my loved ones. You, Bill, J.C., you a million in the forest. I will let Denis know too when he gets out of his sleep. Mom, Denis's leg wasn't amputated, like I had told you before there was hope for maintaining it if given a clear attention and that's what I have been fighting for since day one because he has a bigger role to play in our orphanage, he has been operated on and his front bones have been again aligned into their order and supported by external afixotor only that they got broken into two, a lot was got between the injured part because it had seemed like rotting due to the infection he got in the period when medication was limited and he was only relying on antibiotics. His leg is promising to

get back to normal though there will be a change in its formality as well as movement since it's now shorter than the other.

The balance on this after confirming on the walking sticks, I will deposit it on medication that they have prescribed to us as calcium lactate that is meant to work on the rebuilding of bones that got broken which he was supposed to start on today but wasn't able.

The wheelchairs are rated differently but I think I will have to look for a cheaper one since it's time frame of use is six months as directed by the doctors if there continues to be a steady progress such that I focus on the balance on the surgery and affording for him medicine and payments for review. A wheelchair ranges from \$137 and above.

**(1/23/25)**

**Hello my beloved ones,**

Am glad to inform that we have got the walking sticks at \$31.30 and the rest has been deposited on medicines.

There is no way I can let you know about his happiness when he saw me entering into his admission room with his walking stick. It was a surprise. You can't imagine he tried to jump up because of what he never expected.

Am sure after him get some good energy I will give him the phone to write for you. A lot is still going through but am hopeful.

Thanks for this advice on how to use crutches, I have actually done like you said and he liked it because it looks more comfortable. His recovery is still promising and we hope to get discharged soon as we shall be required to clear the balance which continues to be my challenge.

**(1/25/2025)**

Oh yes, but I will catch up with my  
**Continued on next page**

## OUR FRIENDS IN ACTION

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lost sleep a day Denis will get out of hospital because at the moment he is still unable to do movements by himself so I have to keep near him for the whole night. I'm on my way going to the hospital.

Akamushaba told me that today they have given them an invoice and previous receipts and they told them to start on payment because any time from now Denis will be discharged since he is responding to the medicine positively. Am currently out of options.

(1/26/25)

Thanks again for your mighty prayers because a prayer is a source of comfort and hope.

I wrote my first message on a hurry because I was chasing the doctor for at least a pain killers for him which has been granted; that's why it looks unclear but that commitment fee specified is part of the remaining balance on what we cleared at the start of the surgery, so there will be no extra or increased pay from the initial one that was remaining on the surgery (out of \$1850.40 which included a wheelchair that I haven't secured for plus external afixator of \$520). I have been able to pay \$700 that includes a blessed donation of \$150 from one of our angels. With another deposit on medication as a balance on the money received for crutches \$100.

The commitment fee is just because our payments are slow so they told me that they aren't sure whether I will pay at the end of it all.

But God has remained faithful to me.

Regards to everyone.

I have to first take him for a bath. Such that he can relax as well. He only allows me alone to wash him.

Just stuck somehow because I am required to pay. Just arrived at the hospital and that's on the table a commitment fee of at least \$150 and above

for us to receive more medicine as of tonight and tomorrow and onwards.

(1/27/2025)

**Hello my beloved Mom,**

I will share with you most of our pictures with Denis such that people can see the struggle we are in.

Am also glad to inform you that I received the amount of dollars that you sent at night (\$150 anonymous) in our time and we were humbled that they received it and offered us the services.

Gave them hope for finishing up before discharge but we are still getting steady progress with Denis.

**Hello Mom,**

Here are the pictures of Denis and us that we took today as I was leaving and Akamushaba is going to cover me for the day.

Here are the crutches that we purchased, on the hand rest that's where we roll the cloth and at the up end point.

He is now coping with the walking as he is also in his journey of recovery.

Denis is an orphan, I met him in the time when he failed to complete his studies (a degree in Public Health) due to lack of tuition after his aunt who was taking care of him lost her husband.

He reached me and I sent him into a training/skill center where he learnt how to build houses and other related things. By following what I did to him, he decided to offer a service to our orphanage as a caretaker with small pay since he is old enough to care for others. He is now 27 years of age.

But since the day he joined us, I have been more like a parent to him. I have cherished his work, that's why I have tried my best to keep covering up his wounds and tears.

Oh yes, to the hospital it looks a good idea but they might at end make me repay two times because I don't trust their systems thus I don't want to

disappoint any kind person that labors to donate any single dollar to us by telling them that the money wasn't certified at the end of the day. This I believe in delivering our payments and move straight away with our receipts.

Previous debt of admitted days was too covered through our orphanage cow.

On surgery we have so far paid \$850 out of 1850.40.

On medication, paid their \$67 out of \$1035.

Review: nothing deposited yet out of 1200.40.

Required Total: 3,168.80.

Maybe some extras on his transport that I didn't budget for.

*[Dear Readers, there is an 8-hour time difference, so Amos is 8 hours ahead of us in the Eastern part of the U.S. and he's sending emails to me in the middle of the night.]*

On 1/27/2025 6:23 PM, Amos Mugarura wrote:

Am just waiting for his dose at 3:30 am, then I can rest for some time.

On Jan 28, 2025, at 2:38 AM, "grassrootscoalition@pa.net" <grassrootscoalition@pa.net> wrote:

*OHMYGOODNESS, THAT'S SO LATE. I hope you can sleep at 3:31, dear son. Are you still sleeping on the floor of the hospital?*

On 1/27/2025 7:09 PM, Amos Mugarura wrote:

Oh yes, in the hospital they only provide a bed for a patient and that's all but for the love of my next generation I have to endure because one day I believe Denis might do the reverse if not much more than this to any other person like the way he has been doing things in my absence and it their exact expectations of the orphanage.

So am not worried and above all in this am with almost the whole world,

Continued on next page

## OUR FRIENDS IN ACTION

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me am sleeping on the floor, some other people are thinking on how he or she can help, another one is trying to text me with words of hope, some bring food to Denis most especially which I couldn't have afforded and yet they are required to boost his immunity etc. so am not sleeping on the floor alone Mom. We are sleeping here as a family with linked hearts and souls.

8:04 pm EST = 4 am in Uganda

The nurses have finished up the ward round for the later night dose. I have to rest a bit and regain energy for travelling for my work early in the morning and leaving him with Akamushaba.

Previous debt of admitted days was too covered through our orphanage cow.

On surgery we have so far paid \$850 out of 1850.40.

Debt of external fixator, those are the metals you see running on top of the leg \$520.

On medication, paid their \$67 out of \$1035.

Review: nothing deposited yet out of 1200.40.

Required Total: \$3688.80. I had missed out the figured for external fixator in the exact amount which is supposed to be covered a day before discharge and scheduling us for reviews.

And maybe some extras on his transport that I didn't budget for.

**(1/28/2025)**

Oh yes Mom, Akamushaba is a professional Enrolled Midwife though on a certificate level. She has been in that field of health for the past five years. Her dream is to see me take her back to school for a diploma level but due to a number of responsibilities in the orphanage, haven't made it pos-



sible for her. I always tell her to keep patient and calm because where she is, a lot of people never got a chance to make it, thus I requested her to first let me do some humanitarian work and the rest will be added to us because it's as well my wish to enroll for a degree but due to the same I haven't. By looking on that, she understood me and cooperated with me in giving life to in need a meaning.

I have made an order for the wheelchair for Denis already though its price is higher than what I thought but I tried to negotiate with them from \$230 up to \$189 and I have already deposited so I think by the time I get back to the hospital I will find it there.

I gave them the exact description you gave so, am hoping for a best one because Akamushaba advised the same because she said when Denis gets

well, it can still be of a service to others at our clinic. Soon I will update you in the next 3 hours.

The wheelchair is already at the hospital. This has been delivered with less pay of \$39. Found Denis with joy after I had not yet seen it to ask him, he told me that someone sent him a surprise because I had not told him that I placed an order for him. He made a breath of peace after me telling him that it has been got through our global family. With a smiling face, he prayed for blessings to everyone that has continued to stand with me in his journey of giving his leg a second chance to move.

With discharge according to my own understand and the situation how Denis is responding to treatment. I believe and think these people are still maintaining us without giving us a specific day of discharge just because they still demand more money from us for the services they have offered to

Denis.

Whenever I try asking them about it, they only tell me to be looking on finishing up the pay as they continue to monitor him and trying different scanning of his leg to check the development of bones.

**The total amount mentioned of \$3688.8 for us to be able to get discharged.**

**(1/29/25, clarification)**

It was a car accident Mom and the driver till now is still in hiding and no justice for us until he is found. Damages made are: damage of his leg and loss of his one tooth on the position where you see the scar on the upper lip but that was managed and got well though a missing tooth leaving an open space.



## OUR FRIENDS IN ACTION



# Ramblings from Your Organic Farmers in New Jersey: 2025 CSA Updates

*By Hannah Conner  
Ramblin' Sol Farm  
January 17, 2025*

\*Just purchased all of our soil building cover crop seed thanks to our members!

\*Next Sugar Maple Jerseys Dairy Group order (for 2025 members only please): February

\*2025 Season begins the 1st week of June

\*Register at <https://ramblinsolfarm.com/csa-registration/>

We met Charlotte and Sebastian the year we got married. The woman who officiated our wedding invited us out to dinner all together one night. Because we all had started passion-driven businesses recently, we had a lot to talk about.

Since then, whenever we can, we visit Charlotte's farm-to-table restaurant that features ingredients from the small farm she and Sebastian and their three kids live on and operate together. While we definitely come to their restaurant to eat until we can't breathe, we are also nourished by the conversation and experience.

This week, as we shoveled in home-grown chocolate and banana pancakes, Charlotte remarked that it is good to talk to other people who understand the suffering! That day we talked a little about farming and business but mostly about our kids growing up amidst our chaos.

Then she told us a story of her two oldest sons planning amongst themselves in the back seat of their truck to open another restaurant on the farm itself. We laughed as we recalled

Emmy's\* detailed plans to open her own store on our farm and for a moment our doubts fell away.

It breathes new life into everything we do knowing that we are inspiring these young people to feel that they are a part of all of this. We hope that it gives them purpose, motivation, and the confidence they need to navigate the world.

Thanks for helping support an empowered next generation!

Ready to join our local movement? Contact us at Ramblin' Sol Farm, 779 Arneytown-Hornerstown Rd., Cream Ridge, United States of America  
<https://ramblinsolfarm.com/>

Peace and Carrots from your farmers,

Hannah, Joey, & Crew

\*Emmy is Hannah and Joey's three-year-old daughter.

## OUR FRIENDS IN ACTION



### Save LBI Sues U.S. Agencies and Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind, Challenging Federal Approvals Greenlighting Marine Ecosystem Devastation, Including Risks to Critically Endangered Whales

*Press Release*

*Save Long Beach Island, Inc.*

*January 13, 2025*

*Photo: Hornbaker Chelsi, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

LONG BEACH ISLAND (LBI) – Save LBI, an organization that has been actively litigating issues surrounding marine mammal, human health, economic, and other impacts connected to offshore wind industrialization off New Jersey since 2022, has filed suit against the U.S. Depart-

ment of Commerce, National Marine Fisheries Service, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, U.S. Department of Interior, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind project for violations of a number of federal environmental statutes.

“This lawsuit serves as the first of its kind, launching a wide-ranging challenge against Atlantic Shores’ federal approvals, based on violations of environmental statutes such as the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endan-

gered Species Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, the Coastal Zone Management Act, and the Clean Air Act,” said Thomas Stavola, Jr., Esq., the attorney representing Save LBI. “We believe we have organized a compelling case that will demonstrate that these federal agencies were derelict in their respective duties to take critical information into account, and moreover, made arbitrary assumptions that entirely failed to disclose and

**Continued on next page**

## OUR FRIENDS IN ACTION

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consider the injurious impacts of the Atlantic Shores South project.”

Bob Stern, Ph.D., the primary plaintiff and president of Save LBI, further explained, “For example, ‘The agencies assume, incorrectly, that no North Atlantic right whales will suffer injury or death as a result of the Atlantic Shores South project. The evidence contradicts that assumption. In fact, our review and independent mathematical analysis shows a systematic underestimation of impact, and clearly indicate that the noise caused by pile driving, and, soon after, perpetual operational noise, will injure and kill high numbers of marine mammals, and, yes, injure and kill a number of North Atlantic Right Whales, a critically endangered animal that cannot afford to suffer any deaths given their numbers are now less than 340 total.’”

The lawsuit ultimately seeks to have all federal approvals rescinded and the Atlantic Shores South project halted – stopping construction and preventing devastation to marine mammal life in the NJ/NY Bight Regional waters.

Eight other co-plaintiffs have joined Save LBI in this action, many of whom will be severely economically impacted due to the egregious harm to the marine ecosystem and the aesthetic, recreational blight imposed

on the Jersey Shore via the circa 200 1,000-foot-plus-high monstrosities slated to be constructed starting less than nine miles east of Long Beach Island.

These inexcusable damages by the Atlantic Shores South project are not limited to marine mammal devastation, but also include significant impacts to tourism, shore economies, statewide energy bills, national defense, vessel navigation, and home values – all of which have been swept under the rug by much of the mainstream media, many elected officials, the Atlantic Shores company, and the federal agencies in their inexplicable haste to approve a project still in search of a clear purpose and need.

“We hope this lawsuit will serve as the vehicle to finally illuminate the damage being wrought here and to impose significant pressure on Atlantic Shores to withdraw, as their obfuscation of the true project’s effects are indefensible. The agencies simply cannot objectively argue that their approvals were made in accordance with the best science,” concluded Bob Stern.

This lawsuit was filed in federal court in the United States for the District of New Jersey on January 10, 2025.

### About Save LBI

Save Long Beach Island (Save LBI) is an organization of citizens and businesses on and off the Island working together to protect the ocean and Long Beach Island and neighboring communities from the destructive impact of the Atlantic Shores project and potentially other offshore wind projects. As a not-for-profit, non-partisan entity, we do not endorse any political candidates but vigorously pursue policies and actions that protect the Island and New Jersey communities.

The organization is led by Beach Haven resident Bob Stern, a Ph.D. engineer with experience in environmental law who previously managed the U.S. Department of Energy’s office overseeing environment protection related to energy programs and projects.

Save LBI is fighting to stop the ill-conceived Atlantic Shores projects. Please visit [SaveLBI.org](http://SaveLBI.org) to join the fight and consider making a donation.

**Contact:** Bob Stern, Ph.D., President

**Email:** [info@savelbi.org](mailto:info@savelbi.org)

**Phone:** 917-952-5016

**Contact Attorney:** Thomas Stavola, Jr., Esq.

**Email:** [tstavolajr@stavolalaw.com](mailto:tstavolajr@stavolalaw.com)

**Phone:** 732-539-7244

**You must cherish one another. You must work  
– we all must work –  
to make this world worthy of its children.**

*~ Pablo Casals ~*

## OUR FRIENDS IN ACTION

# After Pallone's Push, Biden Permanently Protects Atlantic and Other Coastal Waters from Oil Drilling

*Press Release  
Congressman  
Frank Pallone, Jr.  
January 6, 2025*

WASHINGTON, DC – Following years of tireless advocacy by Congressman Frank Pallone (NJ-06), [former] President Joe Biden has permanently prohibited offshore oil and gas development along the entire East and West Coasts, as well as the Eastern Gulf of Mexico and areas of the Northern Bering Sea off Alaska.

Pallone pushed Biden to use his authority under Section 12(a) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to issue an Executive Order that safeguards coastal communities and ecosystems from the dangers of fossil fuel development.

“For decades, I’ve fought to protect our shores from those who would sell off our way of life to make a buck from dangerous offshore drilling, and today, that fight has paid off,” said Pallone. “President Biden’s action ensures that our coasts are permanently off-limits to ‘drill baby, drill’ exploitation. This is a commonsense win for everyone who relies on clean, thriving oceans. Protecting our coastal waters from oil drilling safeguards our fishing and tourism economy and critically-endangered North Atlantic right whales.”

As recently as November, Pallone co-led a letter to [former] President Biden with Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva (D-Ariz.) signed by House Democrats, highlighting the economic, environmental, and public health risks posed by offshore drilling and urging the administration to cement its climate and conservation legacy by taking this



*A look back at the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Photo: darkroom.baltimoresun.com*

decisive step.

“By taking this bold move, President Biden is showing the world that the United States can lead in combating the climate and wildlife extinction crises,” Pallone added. “This decision prioritizes clean, safe energy over the outdated and dangerous practices of fossil fuel extraction. It reflects the hard work and values of coastal communities like ours that have never stopped fighting for a better, cleaner future.”

Protecting American coasts from offshore drilling is widely popular, with nearly two-thirds of registered voters expressing support. More than 390 municipalities across the Atlantic, Pacific, and Gulf coasts have formally opposed the expansion of offshore drilling.

Presidents of both political parties have used their 12(a) authority to protect U.S. waters from energy development. Barring an act of Congress, President Biden’s Executive Order is permanent...

This decision is part of the Biden administration’s climate legacy, which includes historic investments in affordable clean energy and good-paying jobs through the Inflation Reduction Act and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law – efforts Pallone spearheaded as the top Democrat on the House Energy and Commerce Committee. It also significantly advances [former] President Biden’s goal to protect 30 percent of U.S. oceans by 2030.

Environmental groups and local leaders commended Pallone’s decades of advocacy, including the COAST Anti-Drilling Act (HR 1320), crediting his leadership with helping to secure this critical protection for the Jersey Shore and the nation.

**Source:** <https://pallone.house.gov/media/press-releases/after-pallones-push-biden-permanently-protects-atlantic-and-other-coastal>

## OUR FRIENDS IN ACTION

### Tackling Ocean Acidification and Shoreline Erosion: A Blueprint for New Jersey's Future



## Tackling Ocean Acidification and Shoreline Erosion: A Blueprint for New Jersey's Future

*By Stephen N. Zielinski, Sr.  
Let's Work Together New Jersey  
Zielinski 4 Green 2025*

As your candidate for Governor of New Jersey, I am committed to addressing critical environmental challenges that directly impact our state's future. Ocean acidification and shoreline erosion are pressing issues that threaten our environment, economy, and communities.

Ocean acidification endangers our seafood supply and fishing industry, while shoreline erosion compromises coastal habitats, local tourism, and the resilience of our waterfront communities. These challenges also present opportunities to innovate, create jobs, and position New Jersey as a leader in sustainable practices and economic growth.

### The Threat of Ocean Acidification

Ocean acidification occurs as carbon dioxide emissions are absorbed by our oceans, lowering the pH levels of seawater. For New Jersey, the consequences are dire:

- **Impact on Shellfish:** Economically vital species such as Atlantic sea scallops, ocean quahogs, Atlantic surfclams, blue crabs, and eastern oysters struggle to form shells in more acidic waters. This disruption affects their reproduction, growth, and overall health, jeopardizing a cornerstone of our state's seafood industry.

- **Economic Consequences:** New Jersey's fishing and aquaculture industries provide over 50,000 jobs and contribute more than \$1 billion annually to our economy. Southern New Jersey counties, in particular, are

highly dependent on shelled mollusks. The stakes couldn't be higher for the communities relying on this industry.

- **Environmental Compounding Factors:** Ocean acidification interacts with other climate challenges like warming temperatures, algal blooms, and heavy freshwater runoff. These factors exacerbate the strain on marine ecosystems, further endangering our seafood supply.

### Protecting New Jersey's Coastline: Addressing the Impacts of Shoreline Erosion

Shoreline erosion is a growing concern for New Jersey, with rising sea levels and stronger storms accelerating the loss of our coastal areas. Key impacts include:

- **Threatened Homes and Businesses:** Coastal erosion puts thousands

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# OUR FRIENDS IN ACTION

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There's absolutely no reason we should have to pay to use our own public beaches. From parking to food, games, and more, the revenue is there. It's time to get rid of the beach badges that have existed far too long in New Jersey. Read More: [These eight New Jersey beaches are actually free](https://nj1015.com/these-eight-new-jersey-beaches-are-actually-free/) | <https://nj1015.com/these-eight-new-jersey-beaches-are-actually-free/> Photo: Canva

of properties at risk, leading to costly damage and displacement of residents.

- **Compromised Infrastructure:**

Roads, bridges, and utilities along the shoreline face increased vulnerability, disrupting daily life and economic activities.

- **Ecosystem Disruption:** Vital habitats such as wetlands, dunes, and marshes are eroding, threatening biodiversity and natural coastal defenses.

- **Increased Flooding Risks:** With weakened natural barriers, inland areas become more susceptible to flooding, jeopardizing public safety and property.

- **Economic Consequences:** Tourism, fishing, and other coastal indus-

tries face long-term impacts as the shoreline recedes and natural beauty diminishes.

## Turning a Crisis Into Opportunity: A Multifaceted Approach to Coastal Resilience, Economic Growth, and Sustainable Innovation

### Integrated Kelp and Shellfish Farming for Shore Protection

Kelp farms, when integrated with oysters, mussels, and scallops, provide an innovative solution to shore erosion and ocean health challenges. This approach offers several environmental benefits:

- **Wave Attenuation:** Kelp forests act as natural breakwaters, reducing wave energy and protecting shorelines from erosion.

- **Sediment Stabilization:** The dense structures of kelp and shellfish beds trap and stabilize sediment, preserving coastal ecosystems.

- **Coastal Buffer:** Expanding kelp farms creates a protective buffer against rising sea levels and increasing storm intensity.

- **Nutrient Absorption:** Kelp and shellfish absorb excess nutrients, improving water quality and preventing harmful algal blooms, contributing to overall coastal stability.

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# OUR FRIENDS IN ACTION

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- **Habitat Creation:** These farms enhance biodiversity by creating complex habitats that support fish and other marine life, fostering coastal resilience.

- **Carbon Sequestration:** Shellfish contribute to carbon storage through the formation of calcium carbonate shells, helping to mitigate climate change effects linked to increased coastal erosion.

By integrating kelp farming with shellfish aquaculture, New Jersey can adopt a holistic strategy to combat ocean acidification, protect shorelines, and enhance marine ecosystems.

## Economic, Nutritional, and Environmental Benefits

### 1. Expanding the Seafood Industry

- o Investment in sustainable aquaculture practices will strengthen shellfish populations, stabilize seafood supplies, and support long-term industry viability.

- o New Jersey's seafood industry has the potential to double in size within the next three years, significantly increasing employment and revenue.

- o A thriving industry will create thousands of jobs and provide a robust foundation for economic growth, especially in coastal communities.

### 2. Promoting Kelp as a High-Value Product

- o **Nutritional Benefits:** Kelp is a nutrient-rich superfood, packed with protein, Omega-3 fatty acids, vitamins, and minerals, making it a valuable addition to the human diet.

- o **Diverse Uses:** Kelp can be used as food for humans, feed for livestock, fertilizer for agriculture, and even as a base for biofuels. Its versatility attracts investment and opens up new markets.

- o **Economic Impact:** Encouraging kelp farming will diversify income for aquaculture businesses and position New Jersey as a leader in innovative

kelp-based industries.

### 3. Developing Processing and Manufacturing Businesses

- o A booming seafood and kelp industry will attract seafood processing plants and manufacturing businesses, creating skilled jobs in production, logistics, and distribution.

- o Expanding the kelp and shellfish supply chain supports the development of new industries, from health-focused food products to sustainable energy solutions.

### 4. Job Creation and Economic Resilience

- o Integrating kelp farming with sustainable seafood practices will transform seasonal aquaculture jobs into stable, year-round opportunities.

- o Increased revenue from a robust seafood and aquaculture sector will benefit coastal communities, enhancing their resilience against economic fluctuations while supporting environmental sustainability.

## A Vision for New Jersey's Blue Economy

The fight against ocean acidification is not just about preservation – it's about transformation. My administration will:

- **Invest in Research and Innovation:** Partnering with universities, marine biologists, and industry experts to explore cutting-edge solutions to acidification.

- **Create a Public Bank of New Jersey:** Financing initiatives like kelp farming and seafood industry expansion through sustainable and transparent funding mechanisms.

- **Promote Education and Training:** Equipping workers with the skills needed to excel in emerging industries such as sustainable aquaculture and kelp processing.

- **Encourage Private Investment:** Offering incentives to businesses that develop and adopt technologies ad-

ressing ocean acidification.

## A Vision for New Jersey:

### Building a Sustainable Future

With its abundant resources, coastal access, and innovative spirit, New Jersey is uniquely positioned to lead the nation in sustainable aquaculture.

By prioritizing kelp farming and shellfish integration, we can protect our marine environment, create new economic opportunities, and provide healthier, more sustainable food options. Doubling the seafood industry within three years will bolster employment, increase state revenue, and set a national example for climate-resilient economic development.

## A Call to Action: Let's Lead the Way

New Jersey stands at a crossroads. Ocean acidification threatens our environment, our economy, and our future. But together, we can turn this challenge into an opportunity for growth and innovation.

As your candidate for Governor, I am committed to safeguarding our marine ecosystems, expanding our seafood industry, and creating thousands of well-paying jobs through bold, sustainable solutions.

This is our moment to build a thriving blue economy – one that not only combats shoreline erosion and ocean acidification but also ensures a sustainable and prosperous future for all New Jerseyans. Let's seize this opportunity to create a legacy of resilience, innovation, and prosperity for generations to come.

Join me in transforming New Jersey into a leader in sustainable industry and economic development. Together, we can make a difference.

Stephen Zielinski For Governor

**Phone:** 609-469-3371

**Website:** Zielinski4Green2025.com

**Email:** info@Zielinski4Green2025

## OUR FRIENDS IN ACTION



*By Stephen Zielinski, New Jersey  
January 20, 2025*

My wife, Cathy, is my inspiration. She passed away from cancer 7 ½ years ago – a devastating loss for me and everyone who knew her. She never smoked, never drank, and believed she was eating healthy, yet cancer still took her. Unfortunately, too many of us know this pain all too well. Too many of us have loved ones who are fighting this same battle or have been taken from us too soon.

Cathy's legacy lives on in every student she taught, every life she touched, and now in this campaign. I know I'm not alone in this pain – every one of us knows someone like Cathy. Someone

whose story reminds us why we must push for change.

This is not about politics as usual. I'm not a politician, and I don't want to be. What I want is to use every ounce of my energy and experience to create a healthier, fairer, and more sustainable New Jersey. My vision is to make New Jersey the first fully organic state in the nation – not just for the environment, but for our health, our communities, and our children's futures.

I've spent my life in the food industry, from creating Crazy Steve's Concoctions to raising hundreds of USDA-certified animals and delivering organic turkeys at Thanksgiving – all with the goal of raising awareness about what we put on our plates. Food isn't just

fuel; it's the foundation of our health and our connection to one another.

This campaign is about more than me. It's about all of us who want something better. It's about ideas, collaboration, and bringing people together without the influence of money and special interests. I don't have all the answers, but I'm ready to listen, learn, and work with people who share this vision.

New Jersey can lead the way – together, we can make our state a model for the nation. Thank you for believing in this mission and in me. Let's do this for Cathy, for our loved ones, and for every New Jerseyan who deserves a healthier, brighter future.

In Solidarity,  
#Zielinski4Gov



## Messages from Our Friends

Lets us wait and see if his lies and decision-making will not be exposed to the ignorant voters after one year in office.

**Duke Ajuma**, Nigeria

Hi Iona. Thank you for sending me your *Earth Speaks* newspaper! It is always nice to receive them. I am mortified by the election of Trump, not to mention both houses of Congress being republican. I thought we were done with him...and them... especially him. What's even more alarming is the number of people who voted for him...and how easily duped they are. Anyway, thanks so much and I hope you are doing well.

**Doug Davis**, New York USA

We are busy again with legislation in the Virginia General Assembly session which goes through February. I am personally advocating for some PFAS bills, restrictions on menhaden overfishing which harm the osprey diet, and putting funding in the budget for a permanent nesting habitat in Hampton Roads, Virginia, for the migrating seabirds.

Glad you are back at your paper – I always enjoy it and learn a lot from your articles.

Lots of love,

**Tyla Matteson**, Virginia USA

I agree with the *Common Dreams* article on many accounts, but not its subheading “Join other movements.” I'd say instead that this is a good time for people committed to the environment to work on local area initiatives – and – if anything – to put even greater energy into educational efforts.

Not to say that participating in other movements is a bad thing. Mutual cooperation and understanding is always important!

**Dan Adams**, Pennsylvania USA

**Dear Iona,**

I appreciate the latest issue of your newsletter in advance of the presidential inauguration on January 20, 2025.

You said, “I rushed this through because I wanted Americans to know that there is going to be a protest at Trump's inauguration in Washington DC, story on page 1. I have also included some antidotes to the horror the world faces with the U.S. election results, both for people and the environment.”

I am also very worried, and certainly I am not alone. The cartoon in *The Washington Post* on January 5, 2025, says it well: Winslow says to Carmen, “I hear the crazy coming...”

Lots of love, especially in anticipation of four years of crazy, to put it mildly.

**Tyla Matteson**, Virginia USA

The rally speeches ended earlier than I presumed, but watching **all those people** march with an endless diversity of signs and spontaneous chants and is actually **better** than any “planned” remarks ...

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1b6CnB45\\_yE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1b6CnB45_yE)

The Redressor stopped attending organized protests 10 years ago.

I will **counter**-protest Trump at his inauguration parade on **January 20** – like I did eight years ago. If Monday's forecast for arctic weather comes true, it should be even better than 2016 when I rained on Trump's parade along Pennsylvania Ave. between 13th & 15th streets. Thanks to huge gaps in his low-energy “crowd” along the sidewalk, my solitary protest literally dominated the scene. I saw one mother **shielding** her children's curious gaze at the mere sight of my sign. As the presidential limo cruised by however, she became distracted and her kids got

a **good peek** – smiling at me from behind her.

The reason I stopped going was because my angry temperament no longer conformed to the organized choreography that these so-called “protests” had become.

Moreover, before I stopped participating in these protests, I observed organizers collude with police to maintain “order.” At the ripe old age of 75, I'm so over “orderly” protests.

Besides, it's more fun getting in the fascists' faces at counter-protests, than chanting “Kumbaya” in the amen chorus. I scared Roger Stone and his comely young date so badly outside a Trump ball at the *National Building Museum* eight years ago that – in order to avoid confronting me – they diverted ... directly into a much larger counter-protest.

Roger is a best bud of Trump's, but was so bad even Nixon had to finally fire him ...

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roger\\_Stone](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roger_Stone)

**Redressor**, Washington DC, USA

I love the *Adbusters* message.

Monday will be a day of despair. Since our bad governor in Virginia will fly the flags. I told Glen we could fly one upside down just on inauguration day – we'll see. Then, the next day, I want to fight any evils the man perpetrates on behalf of what America should be.

**Tyla Matteson**, Virginia USA

I just saw this on my friends FB page. She posted it because people asked her. Why did she live in Garden Valley? Anyway, I thought it was absolutely perfect just for you. I'm printing it in color because I can't copy the picture that she had on her page with it.

Continued on next page

# Messages from Our Friends

Continuation from previous page

**And she went to the forest...**

**She stopped and she heard  
What the trees said to her  
And she sat there for hours,  
Not wanting to leave  
For the forest said nothing,  
It just let her breathe!**

I just saw this on the TV weather station a place called Milton Florida, which is on the panhandle above Pensacola, got 9.4 inches of snow!!! And Pensacola got 8 inches. Holy crap those people don't know what to do in snow let alone how to get it off their roads. They don't have snow equipment there. Yikes!

And here is another fire in Southern California, but it is up in the mountains by a lake 45 miles from LA and going to the east, not coming towards LA. It is over 5,000 acres just today!!!! All that beautiful mountain area and lake area. So many people think people are setting these fires! The police and sheriff did arrest several people setting fires over this whole ordeal. I think those people should be shot, too. OK, I think I'm getting a headache. No, I'm not no I'm not no I'm not no I'm not no I'm not no I'm not. I'll go drink more water.

(later) My cousin said her news said Pensacola got 10 inches of snow!! She got 6 inches! I saw pic-

tures of Alabama, Mississippi, and Florida cities with all the roads to total ice. That's horrible to have that kind of ice on the roads.

**Linda L.**, Idaho USA

## Afternoon all.

Further to part 1 of this series, previously advised – 'The Geopolitics of Elite Insanity: Teetering on the Brink of Armageddon'

<https://www.transcend.org/tms/2024/12/the-geopolitics-of-elite-insanity-teetering-on-the-brink-of-armageddon/>

– part 2 has recently been published:

'The Geopolitics of Elite Insanity, Part 2: Creating Eretz Yisrael to Reshape World Order'

<https://www.eurasiareview.com/30122024-the-geopolitics-of-elite-insanity-creating-eretz-yisrael-to-reshape-world-order-part-ii-oped/>  
Love,

**Robert Burrowes & Anita McKone**, Australia

**Email:** [flametree@riseup.net](mailto:flametree@riseup.net)

**Websites:** <https://wearehuman-wearefree.org/> (We Are Human, We Are Free)

<https://thepeoplesnonviolencecharter.wordpress.com/> (Nonviolence Charter)

<https://tinyurl.com/Flametree> (Flame Tree Project to Save Life

on Earth)

<https://tinyurl.com/whyviolence> ('Why Violence?')

<https://feelingsfirstblog.wordpress.com/> (Feelings First)

<https://nonviolentstrategy.wordpress.com/> (Nonviolent Campaign Strategy)

<https://nonviolentliberationstrategy.wordpress.com/> (Nonviolent Defense/Liberation Strategy)

<https://anitamckone.wordpress.com/> (Anita: Songs of Nonviolence)

<https://robertjburrowes.wordpress.com/> (Robert)

<https://globalnonviolencenetwork.wordpress.com/> (Global Nonviolence Network)

My article is hardly existing. I am so overwhelmed by groups asking me to sign petitions and donate money and go to meetings (all because of Trump who can sit around shooting off imperial fiats all day). I am stressed anyway.

My goal is to tell people to slow down and focus their limited human energies. I still think focused, creative, human action is more effective than the firehose of information on the internet that is keeping us chained to our screens all day long.

Quality over quantity!

**Bill Boteler**, Maryland USA

## SYMBOLISM FROM THE TRUMAN SHOW

