

Chapter 9:

Environment and Natural Resources

Pollution

Gore

Bush

National Parks and Land Management

Gore

Bush



IN THEIR OWN WORDS
SOURCEBOOK FOR THE 2000 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

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Pollution - Gore

Al Gore

Trigen Philadelphia Energy Co.

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

June 27, 2000

Energy Security & Environment Protection

...

All of you who drove to work today know that the cost of gasoline is simply too high for America's working families. In the first part of this year, oil company profits increased nearly 500 percent. That's why I've called for a federal investigation of concentration, non-competitiveness, and pricing practices in the oil industry. Now that the investigation has started, I would like to call for public hearings so the voices of American consumers can be heard.

But now is also the time to recognize that the challenge we face is even broader than soaring gasoline prices. We see the same underlying problem in our aging power systems that are becoming less reliable. And we see it in the old engines and power plants that waste so much energy and in doing so create way too much pollution—that makes our air unhealthy, and our world warmer.

But we don't have to accept a future of more pollution. We don't have to accept a future where kids and grandparents have to stay indoors on a muggy day, and where the days themselves get muggier still.

Here's the good news: we have the means and the technology to meet all these challenges. Because of American ingenuity and invention - because of the remarkable strides that are being made by our leading companies and our leading scientists - we stand today on a new frontier

of energy independence and environmental protection.

It is time to abandon old ways of thinking that hold us back. For example, it's an old, timid way of thinking to say that we have to trade off our economy and our environment; it is a new, bold way of thinking to see that environmental protection can actually fuel economic growth.

...

If you believe those who cling to timid, old ways of thinking, who say there is no alternative to breathing more air pollution if we are to have the freedom of the highway—and no alternative to emptying our wallets each time we try to get there—then I'd like to tell you a story about what America can do.

Just before the turn of the last century, as our cities grew, they faced an environmental challenge: the massive proliferation of horses and horse-drawn carriages. It was potentially a serious crisis: feed lots were crowding out farm land. And I'm told that other problems also mounted up. Then American inventors came up with the answer: the motorized carriage—soon known as the automobile. Of course, this quickly grew into a major industry, employing millions of Americans and leading the world in yet another benchmark of creativity and well-being.

Then, decades later, when smog increasingly shadowed our great cities, we decided it was time to reduce the pollution from automobiles. And once again, those who clung to timid, old ways of thinking said it couldn't be done. But they underestimated what American genius can achieve.

The solution was the invention of a small device called a catalytic converter, now put into every car. Today, as a result, automobiles produce 90 percent less pollution. That's a big part of the reason why Los Angeles went an entire summer last year without a single full-scale smog alert. And that's also why America leads the world in yet another

industry—exporting billions of dollars worth of catalytic converters.

And that's just the beginning of what we can do - from transportation, to power plants, to industry.

We are close to the day when Americans can buy cars with new fuel cells that truly revolutionize fuel efficiency.

We've worked for this in a public-private partnership with our leading auto makers. The only emission from these cars will be water; they create no greenhouse gases at all—which means they combat global warming. And lest you think that this is a pie-in-the-sky prediction many years from the market, one version on display at this year's auto show got over 100 miles per gallon—and we learned just last week that buses powered by this technology will be driving on America's city streets within two short years.

Nearly a decade ago, when I wrote “Earth in the Balance” critics rushed to assail the idea that we could create cleaner, more efficient cars, and end our dependence on the internal combustion engine over a period of, say, 25 years.

Today, I have to admit: I was wrong. Now, because of American innovation, our auto executives and workers believe we can do it in less than 25 years— while preserving and creating good jobs.

It's not just the auto industry that is leading the way in the right direction. Here at this plant, you are producing power that is more than twice as efficient as the average power plant. And you have cut your greenhouse emissions in half. Your business is thriving.

...

Today, I'm proposing that we invest in even more of this kind of innovation and industry; that we cut taxes so families and small businesses can afford to buy the cars and products of the future; and that we work with private industry to develop not just a new generation

of vehicles, but a new generation of light rail and mass transit, and a new generation of cleaner, more reliable power systems.

Just over the horizon is a future where you can cool your home in the summertime, drive your car to pick up the kids after school, and light up your backyard for an evening barbecue—all without using a single drop of oil or gasoline; all without lowering the quality of the air your children breathe.

Just over the horizon is a future where you can power your own home with solar energy, and then make money by selling some of the energy you generate back to the local utility. In fact, right here in Philadelphia there are families now doing just that.

This is the future we can all have. But it's not going to just happen on its own. It's something we have to make for ourselves—together.

I know that some want to hold back this progress, and keep things just as they are—with both pollution and energy prices rising every year. They argue that pollution is the price we somehow have to pay for prosperity. Maybe it's because they're the ones who make their money by cutting corners, in refusing to take responsibility for the pollution that they dump on everybody else. They argue that protecting our Earth in ways that create jobs is simply impossible. They imply that even caring about the environment at all is “extreme.”

These are the same apologists for pollution who also complain about high gasoline prices, after they've previously called for higher oil prices to raise industry profits still more. Let's face it: one hundred years ago, they would have been the ones who tried to block the automobile as a threat to the horse and buggy industry.

I say to you today: at a time when America's automobile companies are developing products that can sharply reduce global warming—at a time when energy efficiency is thriving at companies like this one and

reviving the plants and factories where these new approaches are used—it is those who stand in the way of progress who are “extreme.” It is those who would continue to unnecessarily endanger our children with pollution who are “extreme.”

Cutting pollution is valuable to our economy. But this is about more than the value of our economy; it's about our values as a people. I want it to be said of us that we accepted responsibility for the choices that we made. On the economy, I want it to be said that we refrained from passing any debt of our own down to the next generation—and that instead we used our prosperity to lift our own debt from the shoulders of our children's grandchildren, and all those who come after us. ...

Today, I'm proposing a new Energy Security and Environment Trust—a bold and unprecedented commitment to achieve an even more prosperous economy, powered by cleaner, more reliable energy, in a healthy, truly livable environment.

First, we will modernize and improve our nation's power systems—to prevent future power outages before they affect you and your family.

We will ensure reliable and affordable electricity by providing new incentives to industry to improve our power lines.

And we will give special incentives to companies that want to use their own, more efficient power systems on-site—or use renewable energy, such as wind or solar power.

Second, we will do more to protect our kids and our parents from the smog and soot that cause asthma.

One of the best ways we can do this is by giving new incentives to industry to transform dirty old power plants into modern, clean sources of energy. For that, we will need enforceable, market-based standards that are comprehensive instead of piecemeal. And we need to end monopolies, and instead let competition bring us clean energy and

smaller energy bills.

We are blessed with abundant supplies of coal, petroleum, and natural gas; we have to use these resources wisely. With new technology, we can make all our energy sources cleaner, safer, and healthier for our families.

We will bring together the best minds from the private sector—and create an open competition to design the best incentives for old power plants and industries to change, to improve, to modernize and move ahead. Through the power of free markets, we will take a dramatic step forward for our children's health, which will also be a dramatic new step toward a stable climate.

Third, while we modernize our power systems and reduce pollution here at home, we must aggressively pursue the global market for new energy technology that is expected to reach \$10 trillion in the next two decades, as other countries also take steps to overcome pollution and the threat of global warming.

As the world implements the Kyoto treaty, we must ensure that all developed and developing nations do their part.

Fourth, as we reduce America's dependence on big oil and imported oil for the long term—by finding new and better ways to produce clean, affordable, and reliable energy here in America—we will work even more closely with industry and labor to bring cleaner cars, trucks, and buses to showrooms and streets around the world. This is a multi-hundred-billion-dollar industry; we've got to seize the lead, before Japan or any nation beats us to it.

Fifth, we will cut taxes so families can start buying those 100-mile-per-gallon cars as they hit the showrooms. Even the best innovations are of little use if they are stuck in a lab—unaffordable and unattainable to you, your family, or your business. But tax credits can make them

competitive and then mass production will bring the prices down even further.

We will also give tax credits so that it is not far-reaching fantasy to put a solar roof on your home, or to renovate your home to make it more energy-efficient, but an affordable and money-saving practicality.

We will also make major new investments in light rail and mass transit - to make your neighborhoods more livable, and to liberate families from having to buy gas at any price, if they'd really prefer not to.

Finally, we will do more than use the technologies of the future—we as a nation will aggressively invest in the skill and creativity of the people who discover them, and the factory workers who produce them.

There will be no new bureaucracies; no new agencies or organizations, because the era of old government is over. We'll measure performance carefully and ensure that we reach our goals with common-sense standards. But it is America's innovators and entrepreneurs, investors and working men and women who will forge the real solutions—not the federal government.

I know these challenges are not easy. And for me, they have never been without controversy. But my commitment to the environment has always run deeper than politics. We have to do what's right for our Earth because it is the moral thing to do. It involves all of our lives—from the simple security of having safe, reliable, affordable electricity for your home; to America's ability to keep building and selling the best new cars, trucks, and technology to the world; to guarding our children from the summer smog that is made worse by global warming, and securing for our grandchildren the expectation of a joyful array of seasons that we took for granted when we grew up ourselves.

...

Al Gore

August 2, 2000

TV Ad: "Environment"



[Announcer]:

Tonight in Philadelphia, you won't hear a lot about "the environment."

Maybe that's because back in Texas, George W. Bush appointed a chemical company lobbyist to enforce the environmental laws.

(On screen: Meanwhile back in Texas... George W. Bush appointed a lobbyist to enforce environmental laws. Washington Post, 10/15/1999)

Houston is now the 'smog capital' of the U.S.

(On screen: Houston is now the "smog capital" of the U.S. Houston Chronicle, 10/24/99)

Get the facts.

(On screen: For the facts, visit www.texasunderbush.com; Paid for by the Democratic National Committee)

Al Gore

August, 03, 2000

TV Ad: "Sign"



[Announcer]:

The issue: the environment.

Al Gore has taken on big polluters to protect our air and water.

The Bush plan?

In Texas he appointed a chemical company lobbyist to enforce environmental laws.

(On screen: Washington Post, 10/15/99)

He made key air pollution rules voluntary -- even for plants near schools.

(On screen: New York Times, 11/9/99, Austin American-Statesman, 1/21/99)

Schools now use smog meters to see if it's safe to play outside.

(On screen: Source: Associated Press, 11/9/99)

Texas now ranks last among all states in air quality.

(On screen: Source: EPA, "Toxic Release Inventory Report," 2000, 1999)

Houston -- the smog capital of the U.S.

(On screen: Associated Press, 10/28/99)

The Bush plan protects polluters instead of our families.

(On screen: The Bush plan protects polluters instead of our families;

1800thefacts.com; Paid for by the Democratic National Committee)

Al Gore

Springdale, Pennsylvania

August 12, 2000

Fighting against Pollution

And you know, I'd like to say before I make my talk, I'd like to comment briefly on what Lauren said. I asked her, just after she finished, whether or not she had read that use of the thinning shell in the way she used it as a metaphor for the way the environment protects us.

And she said, no, she had read about the thinning shell in Rachel Carson's work. And it had occurred to her that it was a way to describe what happens to the environment around us and the reason why it is important to us and future generations to protect the environment.

I think it was a remarkable insight and way of using the lessons of Rachel Carson and, you know, if you keep on speaking like that, Lauren, I have no doubt you'll not only be on the board, you may soon be chair of the board and may go on to be the next Rachel Carson. I'm very impressed.

Now, you're 14? Fourteen years old, and those of you from the Rachel Carson Homestead and Institute and group here, know very well that the first article written by Rachel Carson was an article she wrote when she was Lauren's age, at 14. She wrote a beautifully crafted essay on looking for birds' nest for a magazine called St. Nicholas, and I had the chance to read it before I came out here, and I was -- I was very impressed.

You know, if you look at some of the women and men who are doing the most to protect our environment today, you'll find that a lot of them had formative experiences when they were teenagers.

The Nobel Prize winner who has been protecting the ozone layer, Sherry Rowland, was 14 years old or thereabouts when he first started looking at the weather patterns, and there are many other examples. So you kids here, who went through the demonstration with me earlier, bear in mind that what you are learning today -- and I say this to all the young people here -- what you are learning today can shape your life for the rest of your life.

We need you to provide the kind of leadership and insights that Lauren demonstrated and that Rachel Carson demonstrated in her life. So keep at it. Keep doing what your hearts are leading to toward.

It is really for all of our children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren that we fight to protect the air we breathe and the water we drink, and it's for them that we also fight to honor the legacy of Rachel Carson.

For my entire life, long before I entered public service, I have been committed to safeguarding our air and our land and the earth itself. I remember as a young child walking with my dad over the farm that my mother still calls home -- I lost my dad a year and a half ago -- but in Tennessee the family farm is still there. Tipper and I own our own farm just across the river.

And when I was a boy, I learned to love that land. I loved it all the more, I guess, because a lot of the year I was in a big city, Washington, D.C., and when I got back home, to Carthage, Tennessee, I exulted in being able to walk across the farm and swim in the river and walk through the woods. And I was interested in reviewing Rachel Carson's life to note that this place and, of course, these trees mark the boundary between the part of her homestead or farmstead where she grew up and an area that has now been put to other constructive uses.

She had a 65-acre farmstead, and as a little girl, she used to love to

walk in the woods and listen to the birds and watch for all the critters and learn about nature. When I was a young child, I had similar experiences. Many of you have, as well. And then, as she got older, she began to learn more. Thank goodness, she turned her lessons into great teaching for the rest of us.

And when I was 14 years old, Lauren, my mother read "Silent Spring," and it had such a big impact on her that she shared it with my sister and me. Oh, for weeks, maybe months, we had conversations at the breakfast table and the dinner table which would often turn to some of the -- some of what she learned from that book. And she recommended it to me, and I read it when I was your age. And the main lesson that I took away from it was that there are problems that we can cause for the environment that are not immediately obvious to the naked eye. I had learned from those walks on the farm with my dad that when you saw a gully starting, you needed to stop it up and prevent it from eroding the land. And I learned from him how to see things I didn't notice at first. When a gully just begins to start, if you don't train your eye a little bit, you won't see it. But I learned from his trained eye how to find the earmarks, and those who work to protect the environment have trained eyes.

But even the most highly trained eyes could not see the connection between chemicals like DDT and the thinning of those eggshells. Rachel Carson spelled out that connection and used it as a way to teach the whole world about some of the brand-new concerns that we had to take into our hearts if we were going to express the caring for future generations that all of us have. And it really was it -- it was a major lesson for me.

It really shaped my life and prepared me to see some of the things that came at me later in my education. For example, when I went to

college, I was fortunate enough to have a professor named Roger Revell, who was the first person who propose that we start measuring the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, and he shared with that little class the first measurements that were coming from the skies way above Hawaii.

And, similarly, you know, Rachel Carson went on to Pennsylvania College for Women, that's now Chatham College where there is an institute, and let's hear it for Chatham College because it performed a major service here. And that was really when I used what I had learned from Rachel Carson to pay attention to what that professor was saying. That was before the first Earth Day. And then when the first Earth Day came along, I had been prepared to get a little bit more out of that.

And then later on, when I went into Congress, I started trying to learn more still. And I believe back then -- and I think more and more people agree now that those who deny global warming are just flat-out wrong, it is a real threat that we must confront and provide leadership to challenge... and I'm excited about all the opportunities and the positive changes that can come about if we do the right thing.

You know, Mark Twain once wrote, "Do the right thing. You'll gratify your friends and astonish the rest."

When we do the right thing, to create the new jobs that can be created by building new cars and trucks and boilers and furnaces to cut down on the amount of pollution in the world, then we're not only going to reduce the number of greenhouse gases, we're also going to create a lot of good new jobs and corporate profits earned in the right way and help position the U.S. to lead the 21st century economy, the way we had the 20th century economy.

In order to do that, we've got to recognize that it's not an easy path. There are those who want to stop it from happening. In fact, again, if you

look back at Rachel Carson's life, when she published "Silent Spring" she was the target of a very well-orchestrated, well- financed attack from special interests that were profiting from pollution.

And I was looking inside the homestead there, at some of the propoganda that was put out at the time. They had kids this age walking around in the most awful cloud of DDT dust that you ever saw, and the caption was, This is completely harmless. It is wonderful. You don't need to worry about a thing."

And then they had a picture of a woman eating a hot dog and sipping a soda pop right in the midst of this cloud of pesticide, and they say, you know, "completely harmless."

Well, that was propoganda, and it was an effort to undermine and tear down the lessons that Rachel Carson was putting out. We've seen some of the same things in the battle to try to do the right thing about global warming and other forms of pollution.

Al Gore

September 28, 2000

TV Ad: "Oil & Water"



[Announcer]:

They say oil and water don't mix. Nowhere is that more true than in Texas. After 17 years in the oil business, George W. Bush ran for governor. Then passed laws to let big polluters regulate themselves.

(On screen: Source: New York Times, 11/9/99, Tacoma News Tribune, 7/9/00)

Today, Texas is number three in water pollution, number one in air pollution.

(On screen: EPA, "1998 Toxics Release Inventory," 5/00)

For over 20 years, Al Gore has fought against polluters and helped pass laws to clean up our air and water. America's environment is cleaner now. Do we really want it to look like Texas?

(On screen: 1800thefacts.com; Paid for by the Democratic National Committee)

Al Gore

October 11, 2000

TV Ad: "Needle"



[Announcer]:

There's nothing wrong with your screen. What you're seeing is the worst smog in America. The city? Houston, Texas. As governor, George W. Bush made key air pollution rules in Texas voluntary.

(On screen: Source: New York Times, 11/9/99; Time magazine, 2/21/00)
...even for some plants near schools.

(On screen: Source: SEED Report 1/9; Dallas Morning News, 1/21/99)

Last year, Houston overtook Los Angeles as America's smoggiest city.

(On screen: Source: Associated Press, 10/28/99; Houston Chronicle, 10/24/99)

Now take a deep breath and imagine Seattle with Bush's Texas-style environmental regulation. George Bush. Before he talks about cleaning up Washington, maybe he should clean up Texas.

(On screen: 1800thefacts.com; Paid for by the Democratic National Committee)

Al Gore

Democratic National Convention 2000

Los Angeles, California

Party Platform: Protecting Earth

Democrats know that for all of us there is no more solemn responsibility than that of stewards of God's creation. That is why we have worked for eight years to produce the cleanest environment in decades: with cleaner air, cleaner water, and a safer food supply; a record number of toxic waste dumps cleaned up; new smog and soot standards so that children with asthma and the elderly would be able to live better lives; and a strong international treaty to begin combating global warming - in a way that is market-based and realistic, and does not lead to economic cooling.

...

Democrats believe we must give Americans incentives to invest in driving more fuel-efficient cars, trucks, and sport utility vehicles; living in more energy-efficient homes, and using more environmentally-sound appliances and equipment. We need to clean up aging power plants. We must invest in rebuilding and improving our transportation infrastructure and ensure that we adequately maintain these systems for the future. Americans need and rely on diverse transportation sources, and our public infrastructure priorities should reflect that diversity.

We should invest in roads, bridges, light rail systems, cleaner buses, the aviation system, our national passenger railroad, Amtrak, and high-speed trains that would give Americans choices - freeing them from traffic, smog-choked cities, and being held hostage to foreign oil. We should ensure that urban communities affected by the presence of airports which create increased levels of noise and pollution be provided

mitigation support to address these concerns. We must also ensure that we maintain adequate public funding and public administration of publicly operated and delivered transportation services, without gutting collective bargaining agreements or long-standing worker-protections. In these and other areas, we will encourage project labor agreements, fostering labor-management cooperation, quality development, and efficient use of public monies. Today, technology has advanced to the point that we can drive the kind of cars we like and live in the kind of houses we like - while being kind to the earth. We should use some of our budget surplus to help Americans take advantage of these new opportunities. With the right investments, these new environmentally-friendly technologies can create new jobs for American workers.

America is blessed with abundant low-cost sources of coal, petroleum, and natural gas, but we must use them wisely and ensure that changes in the energy sector promote a workforce whose skills are expanded, utilized, and rewarded. Democrats believe that with the right incentives to encourage the development and deployment of clean energy technologies, we can make all our energy sources cleaner, safer, and healthier for our children. This responsibility includes disposing of nuclear waste in a scientifically-sound manner in accordance with standards designed to protect human health and the environment.

And we must dramatically reduce climate-disrupting and health-threatening pollution in this country, while making sure that all nations of the world participate in this effort. Environmental standards should be raised throughout the world in order to preserve the Earth and to prevent a destructive race to the bottom wherein countries compete for production and jobs based on who can do the least to protect the environment. There will be no new bureaucracies, no new agencies, no new organizations. But there will be action and there will be progress.

The Earth truly is in the balance - and we are the guardians of that harmony.

Eight of the ten hottest years ever recorded have occurred during the past ten years. Scientists predict a daunting range of likely effects from global warming. Much of Florida and Louisiana submerged underwater. More record floods, droughts, heat waves, and wildfires. Diseases and pests spreading to new areas. Crop failures and famines. Melting glaciers, stronger storms, and rising seas. These are not Biblical plagues. They are the predicted result of human actions. They can be prevented only with a new set of human actions - big choices and new thinking.

Working with the America's great automakers, Al Gore has led the Partnership for a New Generation of Vehicles which has helped spur the development of high-performing cars that get far better gas mileage while meeting emissions standards. Now we need to give Americans help in being able to afford these new cars - getting them out of the showrooms, onto the streets, and into our driveways. At the same time, we are committed to improving fuel economy in a way that preserves and creates jobs for American workers, and delivers products that consumers want to buy. To further this kind of progress, we now need the oil industry to join us in producing much cleaner fuels that will allow automotive environmental equipment to achieve the maximum possible reductions in emissions.

We have also created a new 21st Century Truck Initiative to build highly-efficient heavy duty pick-up and delivery trucks, even long-haul 18-wheelers. Now we need to work in partnership with industry to create a new generation of mass transit and a new generation of cleaner, more reliable power systems. Al Gore wants to swap every dirty, smoke-belching city bus for a cleaner, less polluting one.

Al Gore

Democratic National Convention 2000

Los Angeles, California

Party Platform: Disruption of the World's Ecological System

The disruption of the world's ecological systems - from the rise of global warming and the consequent damage to our climate balance, to the loss of living species and the depletion of ocean fisheries and forest habitats - continues at a frightening rate. We must act now to protect our Earth while preserving and creating jobs for our people. In 1997, we negotiated the historic Kyoto Protocols, an international treaty that will establish a strong, realistic, and effective framework to reduce greenhouse emissions in an environmentally strong and economically sound way. We are working to develop a broad international effort to take action to meet this threat. Al Gore and the Democratic Party believe we must now ratify those Protocols.

Pollution - Bush

George W. Bush

August 9, 2000

TV Ad: "Agenda"



(On screen: Paid for by the Republican National Committee)

[Announcer]:

While George Bush offers a positive issue agenda, more negative attacks from Al Gore. The truth? George Bush is cleaning up Texas. The Environmental Protection Agency reports that Texas leads America in reducing toxic pollution.

(On screen: Toxic Release Inventory, Environmental Protection Agency, 1995- 1998)

And Al Gore? Gore has allowed mining companies to mine zinc from his property.

(On screen: Bill Turque, Inventing Al Gore, 2000, p. 106)

They've been cited for polluting the source of local drinking water...

(On screen: Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Notice of Violation, May 16, 2000)

... all while Gore's made half a million dollars in mining royalties.

(On screen: Al Gore's 1999 Executive Branch Personnel Public Financial

Disclosure, filed May 15, 2000)

Even on the environment, Al Gore says one thing but does another.

(On screen: www.gorepollution.com)



IN THEIR OWN WORDS
SOURCEBOOK FOR THE 2000 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

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National Parks and Land Management - Gore

Al Gore

Nashville, Tennessee

July 19, 2000

Saving the Imperiled Salmon

As I have said, if I'm entrusted with the Presidency, I will bring together all interested parties to find a real solution to restoring the salmon of the Pacific Northwest.

Governor Bush should stop playing politics with this issue. Sound science must govern here—not political scare tactics. Saving the imperiled salmon is one of the most difficult environmental challenges our nation has faced. I have consistently said that extinction is not an option and neither is severe economic dislocation. We must save the salmon and build the economy of the Pacific Northwest. The way to achieve these ends is through an objective, science-based process—not by rushing to rash judgments.

As for the strategy described today the Administration, I feel it provides a solid foundation for restoring the salmon while strengthening the economy of the Pacific Northwest. It places the highest priority on those actions with the greatest prospect of delivering real benefits for threatened salmon throughout the Columbia River basin. And it calls for a strong partnership with the states and tribes, whose efforts will be absolutely essential to our success.

At the same time, this strategy recognizes that more aggressive actions may be necessary. That is why it establishes scientifically-based standards to measure the success of our efforts. If sufficient progress toward recovery is not being made, we may then have no choice but to

pursue options such as dam breaching. But we must first exhaust all reasonable alternatives.

Al Gore

The Democratic National Convention

Los Angeles, California

Party Platform: Protecting Natural Lands

...

From the Redwood forests to the Florida Everglades, from the Grand Canyon to Yellowstone to Yosemite, we have protected millions of acres of our precious natural lands. We stopped development in America's last wild places. Teddy Roosevelt saw our national parks as the playground of the people - there for average families to enjoy with camping and hiking. Today's Republicans see them as the playground of the powerful - there for big businesses to exploit with drilling and mining. The Republicans have tried to sell off national parks; gut air, water, and endangered species protections; let polluters off the hook; and put the special interests ahead of the people's interest. They are wrong. Our natural environment is too precious and too important to waste.

Al Gore is committed to restoring the Everglades; protecting the coasts of California and Florida and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from oil and gas drilling; and preserving our untouched forests, including the Tongass, from logging and development. With regard to public lands, Democrats believe that communities, environmental interests, and government agencies should work together to protect our public resources, critical habitat areas, and wildlands while ensuring the vitality of local economies. We will work together to find land-based alternatives and decontamination technologies that will permanently end the ocean disposal of contaminated dredge spoils.

Once Americans were led to believe they had to make a choice between the economy and the environment. They now know that this is a

false choice. But there is a real choice to make in 2000: whether we will protect our environment in ways that are practical and achievable or go back to the policies that led to generations of environmental devastation and degradation.

We have to do what's right for our Earth because it is the moral thing to do. It involves all of our lives - from the simple security of having clean safe, reliable, affordable electricity for your home; to America's ability to build and sell the best new clean cars, trucks, and technology to the world; to guarding our children from the summer smog that is made worse by global warming, and securing for our grandchildren the expectation of a joyful array of seasons that we took for granted when we grew up ourselves.

...

National Parks and Land Management - Bush

George W. Bush

Sand Harbor State Park

Lake Tahoe, Nevada

June 1, 2000

Land Conservation

The American West has been called the “native home of hope,” and today we are in one of its greatest landmarks. There is so much beauty here – everywhere around us the touch of our Maker's hand. We need to preserve places like this, to appreciate and to protect them. It will take work and ingenuity and cooperation, but I believe that it can be done. We will need inspiration as well – and that, too, is all around us.

Since the days of Teddy Roosevelt, there has been a consensus that Americans have a common interest in protecting our natural lands and watersheds. As president, I will speak for that great national goal. It is our duty to use the lands well, and sometimes not to use them at all. It is our responsibility as citizens, but more than that it is our calling as stewards of the earth.

The federal government has a crucial role to play in conservation – particularly in managing our national forests, our park system, wilderness areas, and national wildlife refuges. At its best, the federal government can lend support to local and state conservation efforts. A good example is right before us. The federal government can and should cooperate in the effort to preserve the beauty and clarity of Lake Tahoe.

We have a national consensus about the importance of conservation. But problems arise when leaders reject partnership, and rely solely on the power of Washington – on regulations, penalties, and dictation from

afar. Unfortunately, this is exactly what we've seen over the last seven years. We have seen millions of acres of land declared off-limits and designated national monuments – just like that, with no real public involvement and no regard for the people affected by these decrees. And we have seen a steady decline in funding for the state and local component of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. For three decades, this Fund had provided needed resources for state and local conservation efforts.

This Washington-centered mindset breeds resentment and needless conflict. It creates a false choice, overlooking private and local conservation efforts. The federal government and the states, local communities and private landowners, must respect and work with one another to preserve our natural heritage.

It's time to build conservation partnerships between the federal government and state governments, local communities and private landowners.

This is the approach we've taken in Texas. All but three percent of the land in our state is privately owned. And yet we have remarkable biological diversity – thousands of animal and plant species, and a greater variety of birds than any other state.

Our challenge has been to protect both the claims of nature and the legal rights of private property owners. And we have succeeded – not by antagonizing people, but by inviting them to become part of the solution.

With sound, conservation policies, we turned landowners across the state into avid and knowledgeable conservationists. We proved that private land management is an effective way to ensure wildlife and habitat conservation.

Nearly ten million acres in Texas – an area larger than most New England states—are under wildlife management plans. Under our Private

Lands Enhancement Program, Texas provides technical assistance to landowners who want to make conservation a priority. And the Texas Landowner Incentive Program encourages that choice – helping landowners in 16 separate counties enhance habitat for rare species, even while continuing to farm and ranch on their land.

Thanks to this common-sense approach, the Aplomado Falcon was spared from extinction. Hardly seen in the United States since the 1950s, this magnificent creature now has a chance – owing to private and local conservation efforts. This is a testament to the potential for private stewardship everywhere.

We can learn from these successes, and the successes of other states – like Wyoming, where revenue from the sale of wildlife permits goes to funding youth-led conservation projects. Or Utah, where the state has partnered with private landowners and conservation groups to protect the watershed on a 7,000-acre working ranch – thereby securing the water supply of local residents. Or Colorado, where landowners who donate conservation easements receive a tax credit.

In all these efforts, we see the future of conservation. What is the federal role? To provide the scientific and financial resources to help states, local communities and private landowners preserve land and wildlife. To provide flexibility, decentralization, and positive incentives to involve more Americans in the responsibility of conservation. And at the end of the day it will require leadership – a president who will set a new tone in Washington. A president who will reach across partisan lines and bridge political differences. That's what I intend to do.

I will seek to fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund – to its authorized level of \$900 million. I will propose that half of those funds be devoted to state and local conservation. I am pleased that there is bipartisan progress in Congress to support these efforts.

Of that \$900 million, I will ask that \$50 million be used to help states set up Landowner Incentive Programs, similar to ours in Texas. And \$10 million for a Private Stewardship Program – making grants available to individuals and groups engaged in private conservation.

I will establish the President's Awards for Private Stewardship, to recognize outstanding examples of private stewardship, and to publicize innovative techniques in natural resource management.

I will seek an additional tax incentive to encourage private conservation. Some such incentives already exist in the tax code, but only if the land is given away. Many private landowners want their property to be conserved, but are in no position to give it away. Under my proposal, the seller would receive a 50 percent break on his or her capital gain if the land is sold for conservation purposes.

Finally, I will ask Congress to abolish the death tax. This tax often leaves citizens with no choice but to sell farmland or open space to developers to meet their tax bill – when they would much rather pass it along intact for future generations to enjoy.

The demands of development have sometimes been harsh on the natural world and its inhabitants. Some fear that places like this are scenes from a passing world. But it need not be so – if we bring to conservation the same vision and ingenuity we bring to development. This is a responsibility all of us should welcome – to protect gifts that all of us should appreciate.

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George W. Bush

Monroe, Washington

September 13, 2000

***Salmon Recovery Effort & Trusting Local communities to Make
Environmental Decisions***

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First, I know that the people of local communities, the people of the states like Washington, love their land and wildlife and will act in positive ways to protect them.

And secondly, I believe the federal government acts best when it supports the state and local conservation efforts.

These principles will set my course should I become the president. Instead of relying on regulation alone, we'll provide incentives for progress. Instead of ignoring local efforts, we will encourage them. And instead of command and control, we'll provide a helping hand.

I will urge Congress to fully fund the Land & Water Conservation Fund at \$900 million a year, and I will insist that half of those funds...

I will insist that half of those funds go to state and local conservation efforts, because protecting our environment must be a shared responsibility.

This new approach holds special promise for the state of Washington, which has often been the battleground of environmental war and environmental policy. Washington faces important challenges and there's no greater challenge than to save the salmon. For fishing families and businesses the salmon are a vital resource. For Native Americans they are a cultural cornerstone. For all of us these fish are a wonder of nature and they must be preserved.

There are two points of view about what to do. One says we must

breach the dams to save the salmon. The other says we can save the salmon and save the dams. One is a Washington, D.C., point of view. The other is a state of Washington point of view.

Here's what I believe.

Here's what I believe. We do not need to breach the dams to save the salmon, and should I become the president, we won't.

These dams are vital to jobs and agriculture in the Pacific Northwest, and at a time of increasing dependence on foreign oil and rising concern about the quality of our air, the dams are a clean source of hydroelectricity.

I take great hope, though, across the state of Washington, that people, such as the folks I met with today, are providing there are better ways to save the salmon. Volunteers and professionals are spending a lot of time and effort to restore the salmon runs, working through groups like Long Live the Kings, the Northwestern Chinook Recovery and the Mid-Sound Salmon Enhancement Group.

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George W. Bush

Republican National Convention 2000

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Party Platform: Stewardship of Our Natural Resources

“As an avid outdoorsman, I know all our prosperity as a nation will mean little if we leave future generations a world of polluted air, toxic waste, and vanished wilderness and forests.”— George W. Bush

Today’s Republican party stands in the proud tradition of Teddy Roosevelt, the first president to stress the importance of environmental conservation. We approach both the national and individual stewardship

of natural resources in the spirit of his maxim: "The nation behaves well if it treats the natural resources as assets which it must turn over to the next generation increased, and not impaired, in value." Over the past three decades, we have made progress. Air and water are cleaner. Some endangered species have made comebacks. Wetlands are being preserved. Recycling is commonplace in our homes. That progress itself has brought us to the threshold of a new era in environmental policy. The lessons we have learned over the last three decades, along with the steady advance of environmental technology, gives us the opportunity to explore better ways to achieve even higher goals.

Our way is to trust the innate good sense and decency of the American people. We will make them partners with government, rather than adversaries of it. The way current laws have been implemented has often fostered costly litigation and discouraged personal innovation in environmental conservation. We need to get back on a common track, so that both the people and their government can jointly focus on the real problems at hand. As a basis for that cooperation, we propose these principles:

Economic prosperity and environmental protection must advance together. Prosperity gives our society the wherewithal to advance environmental protection, and a thriving natural environment enhances the quality of life that makes prosperity worthwhile.

Scare tactics and scapegoating of legitimate economic interests undermine support for environmental causes and, what is worse, can discredit actual threats to health and safety.

Environmental regulations should be based upon the best science, peer-reviewed, and available for public consideration.

We support the federal, local, state, and tribal responsibilities for environmental protection. We believe the government's main role should

be to provide market-based incentives to innovate and develop the new technologies for Americans to meet — and exceed — environmental standards.

We condemn the current administration's policy of resorting to confrontation first. Instead we should work cooperatively to ensure that our environmental policy meets the particular needs of geographic regions and localities.

Environmental policy should focus on achieving results — cleaner air, water, and lands — not crafting bureaucratic processes. Where environmental standards are violated, the government should take consistent enforcement.

While the very nature of environmental concerns at times requires federal intervention, the heartening progress made by many of the states and localities demonstrates their unique ability to solve problems at the local level. As the laboratories of innovation, they should be given flexibility, authority, and finality by the federal government. Many states have enacted environmental education and voluntary self-audit laws to encourage people to find and correct pollution; the Congress should remove disincentives for states to achieve these goals. Strong leadership by governors, legislators, and local officials is the key to solving the emerging environmental issues of this new century. For example, the reauthorization of the Safe Drinking Water Act by the Republican Congress enabled states and communities to take stronger action to ensure reliable and safe water supplies. Another example is the way states are handling the problem of brownfields. In 35 states, voluntary programs are cleaning up thousands of brownfield sites faster and more effectively, and with less litigation, than under the federal Superfund program. A case in point is Texas, where, under Governor Bush, the number of brownfield sites restored to productive use climbed from zero

to 451, not only improving the environment but restoring more than \$200 million in property value to local tax rolls, most of it in poor communities.

We will replicate Governor Bush's success on the national level. We will use Superfund resources to actually clean up places where people live and labor, rather than waste it on costly litigation. The old approach of mandate, regulate, and litigate has sent potential developers away from brownfield neighborhoods. The result: no new businesses, no new jobs — only dirty and dangerous sites. Governor Bush has pledged to transform this failure into an environmental win for those communities, just as he did in Texas, and we heartily endorse his agenda for doing so.

Wherever it is environmentally responsible to do so, we will promote market-based programs that are voluntary, flexible, comprehensive, and cost-effective. The Endangered Species Act (ESA), for example, is sometimes counter-productive toward its truly important goal of protecting rare species, 75 percent of which are located on private land. Its punitive approach actually encourages landowners to remove habitat to avoid federal intervention. This serves as a disincentive for private landowners to do more to restore habitat and become private stewards of wildlife. The legislation needs incentive-based cooperation among federal, state, local, and tribal governments, and private citizens. The result will be a more effective ESA that better protects wildlife diversity.

As environmental issues become increasingly international, progress will increasingly depend on strong and credible presidential leadership. Complex and contentious issues like global warming call for a far more realistic approach than that of the Kyoto Conference. Its deliberations were not based on the best science; its proposed agreements would be ineffective and unfair inasmuch as they do not apply to the developing world; and the current administration is still trying to implement it,

without authority of law. More research is needed to understand both the cause and the impact of global warming. That is why the Kyoto treaty was repudiated in a lopsided, bipartisan Senate vote. A Republican president will work with businesses and with other nations to reduce harmful emissions through new technologies without compromising America's sovereignty or competitiveness — and without forcing Americans to walk to work.

George W. Bush

Republican National Convention 2000

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Party Platform: Protecting Property Rights

We link the security of private property to our environmental agenda for the best of reasons: Environmental stewardship has best advanced where property is privately held. After all, people who live on the land, work the land, and own the land also love the land and protect it. As Governor Bush has said, "For the American farmer, every day is Earth Day." Conversely, the world's worst cases of environmental degradation have occurred in places where most property is under government control. For reasons both constitutional and environmental, therefore, we will safeguard private property rights by enforcing the Takings Clause of the Fifth Amendment and by providing just compensation whenever private property is needed to achieve a compelling public purpose.

George W. Bush

Republican National Convention 2000

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Party Platform: Land Conservation

Collaborative conservation represents the future for the 657 million acres of America we call the "Public Lands." Working from the grass roots up, local groups are finding solutions for the problems of the public lands in their areas. Republicans want to encourage that approach, for it holds the greatest promise of sound environmental stewardship and productive use of the nation's natural resources. We will change the operating culture of the federal agencies that manage public lands, giving a greater role to states and to their political subdivisions in order to foster a creative partnership with the American people. As a sign of that partnership, we applaud Governor Bush's intention to make all federal facilities comply with the environmental laws by which the American people live.

If there had been any doubt that major reform is needed in the management of public lands, it was burnt away in the catastrophic wildfires of recent months. This avoidable devastation was the price innocent people and helpless communities paid for the extreme policies — and environmental arrogance — of the current administration. Greater tragedies await the people of our Western States if those policies are not changed. Republicans will employ the best techniques of forestry science to implement a national management strategy for public lands that minimizes the risk to local communities while preserving our natural heritage.

Our national parks are the crown jewels of the country's environmental heritage. They belong to all Americans and should be

accessible to all. Congressional Republicans have taken the lead in reversing years of neglect and abuse of these treasures, and we will continue that proactive agenda to keep the park system healthy and accessible to all. We should make it a priority to alleviate the maintenance and operations backlog at our national parks. Rather than adding to this magnificent legacy by unilateral executive branch action, such as the administration's recent National Monument designations, we will seek to actively involve Congress, as well as affected states and local communities, in land acquisition decisions.

We support multiple use of public lands conducted in an environmentally and economically sustainable manner. We are committed to preserving high priority wilderness and wetlands. The Everglades are a crucial example of a special federal responsibility. We call for a review of lands owned by the national government — half the total territory of our Western States — to develop a comprehensive plan to better manage existing holdings. In some cases, that may mean transferring or sharing responsibility for managing those lands with state or local governments, while all levels of government should recognize existing rights to water, minerals, and grazing. We reaffirm the traditional state primacy over water allocations and will continue the availability of renewable rangeland under conditions that ensure both expanded production of livestock and protection of the range environment. We also reaffirm our commitment to preserve access to public lands for multiple use.

We recognize the vital role the timber industry plays in our economy, particularly in homebuilding, and we support its efforts to improve the health of the country's forests. Because so many people in rural America rely on public forests for their livelihood, a Republican administration will promote sustainable forest management, using the best science in

place of the no-growth policies that have devastated communities in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska.