



The

Delta Sierran



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YOUR SIERRA CLUB RESOURCE

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Earl's Pearls

Sierra 1992: Pro-Pollution

by Earl Higgins

As George Bush begins the final year of his term, we Sierrans should pause and take stock of what effect "the Environmental President" has had. Let us not be negative; those who decry the president's failure to implement the ideal of his proposals do not understand life, the political process, or the use of language.

When the president announced "no net loss" as his policy concerning wetlands protection, many naive conservationists (Sierrans included) thought that he meant that wetlands would be saved. What he meant, of course, was that people fishing in the wetlands would be compensated for the loss of their crawfish nets.

So let's not get too excited when

the political reality is that only those lands covered by water 24 hours a day for the last 500 years are true wetlands under the Bush definition.

What we are experiencing is the Looking-Glass environmental presidency, inspired by Humpty Dumpty in *Through the Looking-Glass*: "When I use a word, it means just what I choose it to mean, neither more nor less."

Thus George Bush's policies can degrade the environment, eliminate heretofore protected wetlands, and he can with a straight face, proclaim himself the Environmental President and expect all to believe him.

In such an atmosphere, it is time for

the Sierra Club to quit being negative and critical. In 1992 the Sierra Club must follow George Bush's leadership and example, traverse the looking-glass, and announce the opposite of the policies we want to implement.

In this state of reality (or whatever you want to call it), the Sierra Club should announce that it is now in favor of trashing the environment, clear-cutting of the forest habitat of the spotted owl, and draining and development of the wetlands — beginning with the Atchafalaya Basin.

Louisiana is a good place to start with such a program. We have recently been through a gubernatorial

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The forgotten coast

PEARLS *continued*

(that word makes me think of swimming peanuts) campaign in which the limits of reality perception were tested.

We were told by one candidate that he has been a born-again Christian (a religion that stresses love of fellow human beings) even during a period that he was making a living peddling hate literature.

We were told by the other candidate, for whom the term "sleazy" seems inadequate, that he is going to give us good government.

Conservative republicans endorsed and voted for the populist democrat; fed-up, angry democrats voted for the republican.

Surely we and the rest of the country are ready for the Sierra Club

to speak of the joy of oil spills, the esthetics of fouled air, the taste of chemical-laced water, and the deep philosophical desire to pave the wilderness.

Let us therefore challenge our leaders at the group, chapter, and national levels to bring us into the Bush-speak 1990's.

If the Sierra Club adopts the policy of, for example, "Nuke the Whales!" then we will certainly have the support of the President in our efforts to limit nuclear weapons and power and to protect the great cetaceans.

"Drain the Atchafalaya!" should be our rallying cry to get the administration to keep that wetland wet and wild.

And if we cry "Give 'em the Bird!" loud enough, the spotted owls will get the protection they need.

The only victim of pollution and despoliation will be language — and it is probably beyond salvage anyway. Δ

Can't get enough eh?

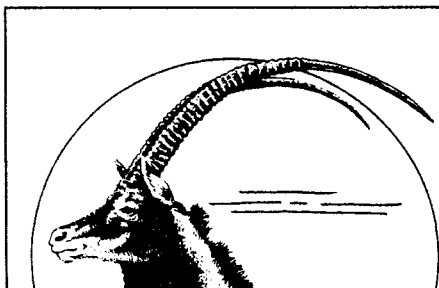
by Eddie Rowe, Ouachita Group

So, you just can't get enough of your Delta Sierran? You spend hours each month watching the mail box for your monthly Delta Sierran? Once it arrives you pour over it and soon find yourself wanting more? Well, now you can have your cake and eat it too!

Beginning in December, René Maggio and myself have embarked on the task of publishing the Delta Sierran via electronic means. The "original" copy is placed on my BBS for access by my callers here in Ruston, as well as anyone who would like to request a copy.

Does this sound ridiculous? Why would we do this? Well, there are literally thousands of people across the state of Louisiana with modems.

They use their modems to call services such as Prodigy, Compuserve, GEnie, and local Bulletin Boards. By



**Delta Chapter
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