

'Eco-tage' terrorism kills and maims

by Rogelio A. Maduro

The ecological terrorist underground carries out thousands of attacks each year in the United States alone. Yet this "low-intensity war" against America's farmers, loggers, and cattlemen goes largely unreported, because the Federal Bureau of Investigation has refused to open any serious probe into this pattern of what Earth First! calls "eco-tage."

For each of the incidents that we cite here, thousands of similar attacks occur on a regular basis, causing hundreds of millions of dollars in property loss and scores of serious injuries each year.

May 1987: George Alexander, a 23-year-old sawmill worker at Louisiana-Pacific Corp.'s Cloverdale sawmill, is injured as the result of eco-terrorist "spiking." The saw blade at the mill hit a 15-inch nail embedded in a redwood log, and shattered. Alexander is nearly decapitated. Although horribly disfigured, he fortunately survives.

Driving metallic or ceramic spikes into trees is one of the favorite tactics of Earth First! Spiking techniques are detailed in *Ecodefense: A Field Guide to Monkeywrenching*, written by Earth First! founder Dave Foreman (see photo on page 31).

If a chainsaw hits the spike, it kicks back, causing injury to the loggers. The effect of spikes on a sawmill is even more devastating. The large saw blade shatters with a force equivalent to a 155 mm howitzer shell exploding, sending shrapnel all over the mill.

In response to the installation of metal detectors at lumber mills, Earth First! members now advocate the use of ceramic spikes, which can't be detected by such equipment.

January 1989: An arsonist nearly destroys a building in Dixon, California, where livestock auctions are held. The amount of damage is greater than \$250,000. An individual claiming to be a member of Earth First! takes credit for the action, in a phone call to the Associated Press office in San Francisco. The caller also takes credit for acts of vandalism against the offices of the California Cattlemen's Association, California Wool Growers Association, and the Agricultural Council of California.

Feb. 28, 1992: Animal Liberation Front terrorists firebomb a Michigan State University animal research facility, de-

stroying more than 30 years' worth of research and causing over \$200,000 in damages. Rodney Coronado is indicted for the attack and is ultimately placed on the FBI's Most Wanted List. Coronado was director of Sea Shepherd between 1987 and 1989, during which time he also participated in Earth First! actions. From 1987 to 1990, Coronado worked for People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), and then for Friends of the Animals.

May 6, 1994: Suzanne Pardee, who works in Greenpeace's Seattle office and is also a member of Earth First! and the Native Forest Network, sends the following message out on the Internet: "Hunt cows, not Cougars. That's right, shoot cows. They don't run. They can't bite. They don't charge. They don't maul. They produce only 2% of the beef from 70% of the public lands. A pound of beef requires 2,000 gallons of water; a pound of wheat only 20. There's WAAAY too many of them. Happy hunting."

July 31, 1994: David Littlejohn Logging Co., located in Washington state, is burned to the ground by a sophisticated arson attack. Damage is estimated at over \$350,000.

Aug. 9, 1994: The Washington Contract Loggers Association in Olympia, Washington receives a phone call from a person identifying himself as an Earth First! activist, taking responsibility for recent attacks suffered by timber companies in Washington state.

Sept. 28, 1994: Rodney Coronado of the Animal Liberation Front is arrested at the Pascua Yaqui Indian Reservation in southern Arizona, for his role in the firebombing of Michigan animal research facility.

November-December 1994: A letter from Coronado is published in the *Earth First! Journal*, boasting of his connections to Earth First!, the Sea Shepherd Society, the Hunt Saboteurs, and other radical organizations. Coronado takes credit in the letter for sinking two of Iceland's four whaling boats in 1986 and destroying that nation's whaling station.

September 1994: *Earth First! Journal* publishes detailed accounts of cattle shootings, like the following: "Frank C. McMurry, rancher, lost six head of cattle in July on a National Forest grazing allotment near Nathrop, Colorado. All animals were shot by a .270 caliber rifle. Sheriffs investigators said the cattle deaths were the work of an expert marksman intent upon killing the cattle, adding that there is reason to believe the marksman is anti-cattle, and possibly a member of a group opposed to cattle grazing federal lands forage."

During an Earth First! rendezvous in Ennis, Montana, an Earth First!er brags about killing cattle in Garfield County, Utah, where 21 cows and calves were killed by a sharpshooter.