



Working to Preserve a Reasonable Balance

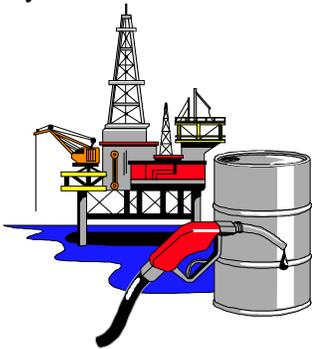
Preserve Unique Magnolia

A S S O C I A T I O N

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Declaration of Energy Independence

By Bonnie Sundance



The Natural Resources Defense Council, an environmental organization working to protect our natural world, is calling for a Declaration of Energy Independence. Among the truths to be self-evident it says, "Our

nation can never drill its way to energy self-sufficiency," especially not by looking for oil in the places of our Natural Treasures (which contain only 3% of the oil reserves of the world).

It suggests that wiser use of oil and other sources of energy will create greater energy independence. Some strategies it suggests: raising fuel economy standards for cars and light trucks to 40 mpg; offering tax incentives for hybrid and fuel cell vehicles, making motor fuel from crop wastes

I highly recommend getting and signing a copy of the declaration. You can find a copy on the web at www.savebiogems.org or you can write: Natural Resources Defense Council, 40 West 20th St. NY, NY 10011 or call: 212-727-2700. "Build a groundswell of national support for

clean energy solutions." The aim is to collect a million signatures.

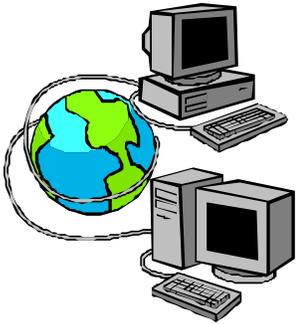
Another environmental organization, The Wilderness Society asks us to "Take the Pledge". "Our nation...consumes 25% of the world's oil. The truth is we simply cannot continue to consume oil at this pace. It's bad for the environment...and the nation." There are 4 simple things one can do to reduce oil consumption. Please commit to one or more of the 4 conservation action steps:

1. Drive 8% fewer miles. On a national level it would save 800,000 barrels of oil/day.
2. Keep your tires properly inflated
3. Buy fuel-efficient tires
4. Make sure your next car or truck gets 3-10 more miles per gallon than one you own today. (Over 15 years, it would save over 3 billion barrels of oil.)

I suggest you consider one day a month using alternative forms of transportation including car-pooling. It does mean making a sacrifice to give the gift of less pollution. We are all worth giving this gift to one another.

High Speed Internet

By Greg Ching



Access trial begins sometime in early April; twenty lucky Magnolia area residents will be the first to experience affordable always-on high-speed internet access. This initial trial group will be sharing the

equivalent of two T1 lines...or about 100 times faster than the typical Magnolia phone line.

This experiment ushers in a new era of telecommuters, home-based businesses, distance learning, remote monitoring, and other yet undreamed local services.

Over 15% of Magnolia area households have expressed interest in this not-for-profit project. The Magnolia Road Internet Cooperative (MRIC) incorporated as a State of Colorado Cooperative Association in December 2001. For about 6 months, volunteers canvassed Porter Ranch to Lazy Z looking for optimal placement to build a low-power, unobtrusive wireless network. A missed state grant due to budget cuts forced MRIC to rethink the network design to save money. Individuals contributed \$300 seed capital loans to build this network. Once trial subscribers give their approval, the general community will be invited to participate.

Initial monthly costs are \$50 but the hope is to very quickly drop the monthly cost to \$35 as the subscriber base grows. Eventually if enough residents join, the monthly cost may come close to typical dial-up costs in the \$20 range. More volunteers will be needed to help drive down the additional cost of supporting new subscribers.

See <http://www.magnoliaroad.net> for more details on this new service.

PUMA Chipping 2001 Summary

By Greg Ching



Over 60 slash chipping projects took place between May 30th and November 18th in 2001. About 2000 cubic yards of

broken branches were mulched in about 100 hours over 12 working days. The longest slash project took over 8 hours but the typical project took between 1 and 2 hours. Overall, chipping reduced landfill waste as well as mitigated the ever-present fire danger.

Under the Boulder County Wood Chipping Assistance Program (under the Land Use Department), PUMA applied for a subsidy from Boulder County. Based upon receiving \$2,331, Magnolia Road area residents received a 27 percent discount off the already discounted (no set-up fee) cost. Thanks to everyone who paid their much delayed chipping bills promptly! Special thanks to Andrea & Gregg Bell, Craig Irwin, John Kauzlaric, Eve Passerini, Parmita Pushman and Brian Whitney for their guidance during this 2001 season.

D & D Logging did an awesome job!!! If you have time, sending a thank you note or e-mail to the Boulder County Commissioners would help fund the subsidy program in future years.

Burning slash is dangerous and polluting...please consider joining the chipping program in 2002. The first chipping days will take place in May. You can e-mail greg.ching@sun.com or call 303.442.8855 if you'd like to be on the 2002 chipping list. Volunteers to help coordinate chipping schedules and speed up billing are also needed.

Wildlife Report

By Cherie Long



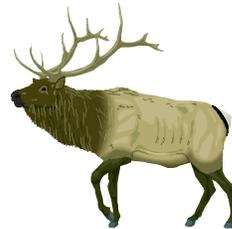
Since the spring of 1995 there has been an ongoing inventory of the Magnolia area wildlife - mostly birds and mammals, but

sometimes including insects, reptiles, and amphibians. This has been supplemented by a breeding bird survey in 1996 and an ongoing long-term bird survey each summer. So far 37 species of mammals have been documented and 157 species of birds. The actual numbers tabulated fall far short of the number of each species in the area, but are good indications of the relative numbers actually present. This is probably so even though the observations are skewed in favor of birds which appear at feeders and those like jays, crows, hawks and magpies which are readily seen overhead.

Crows and magpies were rather uncommon in 1995 and before. Now the crow is by far our most common bird ---twice as numerous as the runner up Dark-eyed Junco. Black Billed Magpies (previously uncommon), Mountain Chickadees, Pygmy Nuthatches, and Stellar Jays close in on the junco in number. As do Evening Grosbeaks due to a large flock seen in January. They had been almost completely absent the previous year. European Starlings are the next most common bird in our area.

The volunteers of the long-term survey find the more reclusive and rarer warblers and flycatchers. We all enjoy the flights of swallows in the summer. Although reports of mammals favor the unusual larger animals, there were two firsts in the less obvious creatures. Jerry Griess gave us a first Badger in March and Marianne Stilson reported a Solitary (White-tailed) prairie dog).

Reports of bear have decreased since 1998 even though bear are seen more often. People now take them as a matter of course. In 1996 there were 7 bear reports. Prior to that bear sightings were rare. Lion sightings have remained uncommon at 4 to 6 scattered throughout the year. Raccoon reports have also decreased. Whether this is due to an actual decrease of the animals in the area or "better food sources" at non-reporting households would be interesting to know. Sightings of coyotes remain common, but bobcat sightings have increased markedly this year. Mule deer sightings have increased



yearly since the inventory began. Elk remain our most numerous large mammal. Counts of the small rodents are hard to estimate, but are numerous.

Kudos go to Kathy Teuber who has been doing the monthly data entry for the past two years as well as to the faithful monthly contributors: Marianne Stilson; Dorene and Ken Leonard, Rob and Ananda Ellis and Sandy McMannis, Vivian Long, Kathy and Lee Teuber, Cherie Long (me). Many thanks to all who contribute periodically to the inventory effort.

There is now a data sheet on the kiosk on Magnolia Road for anyone wishing to make entries. You may also call Cherie at 303-447-0922 or e-mail cherielong@earthlink.net. More monthly contributors would be appreciated, especially from the areas not now regularly covered ---Lazy Z, Magnolia below the town site, and Magnolia west of County Road 97. Contact Cherie, if you are interested in participating.