

FROM THE EDITORS

The ecological perspective begins with a view of the whole, an understanding of how the various parts of nature interact in patterns that tend toward balance and persist over time. But this perspective cannot treat the earth as something separate from human civilization; we are part of the whole too, and looking at it ultimately means also looking at ourselves.

Vice President Al Gore

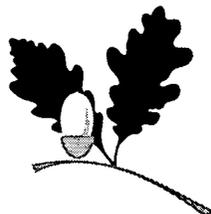
Earth in the Balance: Ecology and the Human Spirit (1993)

Environmental legal policy is constantly changing to maintain the balance between demands of the growing human community and resources of the natural earth. As the Vice President suggests, our fluctuating environment requires close scrutiny in order to restore and maintain balance in our relationship with the earth. Only through continuing commitment to the environment and thoughtful evaluation of our priorities will we be able to formulate policy and legal rules dedicated to sustaining our planet. Our children will inherit the resulting legacy.

This issue of *ENVIRONS* provides the reader with individual perspectives on how to improve the balance in distinct policy areas. First, **Paul Littlepage** examines the siting of undesirable land uses from an environmental justice viewpoint, using compensated siting proposals as an illustration. Next, **Michelle L. LeBeau** discusses the aboriginal gathering rights of California Indians along with traditional land management practices and their relationship with current federal land management policies. **Steven Cribb** then explores the use of the Endangered Species Act to restore endangered wolves to the wild.

The threat of species extinction also motivates **Steven Yoshida** in his article on dolphin conservation measures and the importance of international cooperation in the balancing of human need and environmental protection. Finally, **Jeffrey B. Slaton** provides a third look at endangered species policy by reviewing the Ninth Circuit's decision regarding critical habitat designation. These five articles capture the essence of Gore's vision to maintain an "earth in the balance."

ENVIRONS thanks next year's editorial principals, Keith Wagner, Jeffrey Slaton and Graham Lyons for their contributions to this issue.



Jennifer Harder and Jeffrey Marks
June 1998

