



## RAN launches campaign to save Tasmania's endangered forests

[TreesNotGunns.org](http://TreesNotGunns.org)



Photo courtesy of Australian Wilderness Society

Old growth deforestation by Gunns Ltd.

On March 6th, RAN launched its new campaign to protect the world-class endangered forests of Tasmania (Australia) from the logging giant Gunns Ltd. Tasmania contains some of the most ancient and biologically unique forests in the world, including the world's tallest hardwood trees (Eucalyptus) at over 90 meters. Unfortunately Gunns is destroying these forests at an unprecedented rate using clear-felling and firebombing practices banned in many countries, while also killing hundreds of thousands of native wildlife using the highly controversial poison compound 1080.

To kick-off the campaign, RAN organized a global day of action with protests taking place at Australian embassies and consulates in the United States, Canada, Japan and the United Kingdom to decry the Australian government's legal support and massive subsidies for Gunns atrocious actions. Carrying signs reading "Stop Gunns" and "Save Tassie's Trees," forest defenders taped "GUNNS" over the mouths- in solidarity with 20 silenced citizens - including Greens Party leader Senator Bob Brown - in Australia who are currently being sued by Gunns for speaking out against the company's attacks on endangered forests and public health.

RAN's campaign joins the largest environmental movement in Australia, where opinion polls indicate that over 85% of people support full protection for Tasmania's ancient forests.

Gunns is one of the world's worst logging companies and RAN will fight until to stop its destruction until the voice of the Australian people is heard and the world-class forests of Tasmania are protected.

Take Action at [TreesNorGunns.org](http://TreesNorGunns.org)

## Five million acres saved

*Historic deal protects Canada's Great Bear Rainforest*

After more than ten years of struggle and negotiation, the British Columbian government announced in February the completion of an historic agreement between several First Nations, environmentalists, governments, industries and local communities that will help protect one of the world's largest intact areas of temperate rainforest. The long awaited agreement begins a new chapter in the struggle to preserve our planet's last remaining endangered forests and would not have been possible without the support of activists like you.

Independent scientists conclude that Great Bear Rainforest needs more protection than was won, but the compromise is a substantial step toward further protection for the region. The agreement protects five million acres of the globally unique Great Bear Rainforest from logging—an area twice the size of Yellowstone Park in a region that holds 25 percent of the world's remaining coastal temperate rainforests.

The announcement also commits the B.C. government to enact a more ecologically and socially sustainable model for regional communities—a critical step for the long term viability of the agreement.

Thousands of hours of work went into achieving this agreement. With our allies at Forest Ethics, Greenpeace and the Sierra Club, RAN represented a vital part of the effort to save the Great Bear Rainforest. A significant turning point in that work included a market campaign led by RAN that convinced Home Depot to adopt a policy to eliminate the purchase of wood from endangered regions around the world. The letters you sent, the demonstrations you attended, and phone calls you made were essential to this victory. We have much to be proud of and should all take a moment to appreciate what we have accomplished.

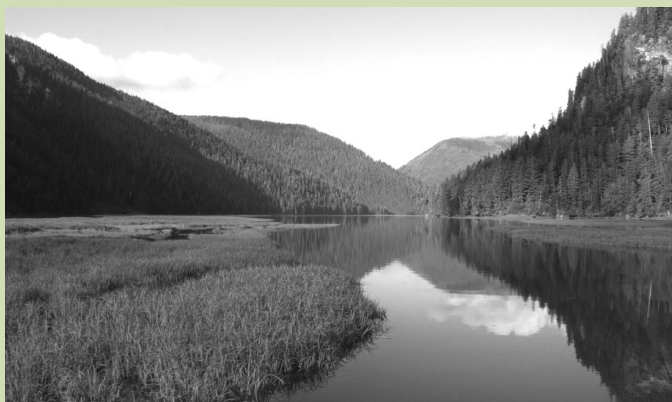


Photo: Mami Grosseman / Soulsapes.ca

Many unique plant and animal species exist in the Great Bear Rainforest: Grizzly Bear, white 'Spirit' bears, Northern Goshawk, Marbled Murrelet, bald eagles, wolves, steelhead and salmon including Coho, Chinook, Sockeye, Chum and Pink.

# 12-Step Program to Break America's Oil Addiction

By Michael Brune, Executive Director



Our President almost came clean in his State of the Union Speech on Tuesday night when he finally admitted that “America is addicted to oil”. Two years ago, deep in the Amazon jungle, I heard a similar analysis from a leader of the Kichwa Nation, an indigenous community in southern Ecuador. “Our people will never be free as long as your country drinks oil like it is water,” she told me. “Until you stop, we will never truly be free.” She was speaking of how oil exploitation threatened the traditional lifestyle of the native community, but she may have been speaking of America itself: our oil addiction threatens our national security, our environmental health, and our way of life.

It is true that our leaders are exhibiting the classic signs of an addiction – denial, aggression, avoidance, blaming others – and as a country we are falling far short of reaching our full potential. America is a country that liberated Europe from Nazi fascism, invented rock and roll, put a man on

the moon, and mapped the human genome, yet our stubborn dependence on oil erodes bedrock American values. For it, we will go to war, support unstable and undemocratic regimes, destabilize our climate, decimate our forests and parks, threaten the health of our children, and weaken our economy.

The President admitted to a national problem, but stopped well short of committing our country to a full recovery program. We already have the technology. What we desperately need is the courage to act now. Our leaders – government and corporate – have demonstrated a clear lack of leadership and political will to meet this challenge. It is time for nothing short of a national intervention, and a 12-step program to break America's oil addiction. Here's how it works:

**Step one** – Let's admit that we have a problem, and commit deeply and truthfully to a national recovery program to break our oil addiction. Our country, and the world, deserves better. Transitioning to a clean energy economy will create millions of clean jobs; clean our air; protect our water supplies, our forests, and our climate; and will help to build a safer and more secure world for us all. But breaking our addiction requires humility and an unwavering commitment to change at every level of society. No one gets a free ride anymore, especially the world's richest energy companies.

**Step two** – Separate Oil and State. Every year, oil companies continue to “invest” millions of dollars in political candidates at every level of the U.S. government. In turn, elected officials dole out more than \$20 billion a year to prop up fossil fuel projects internationally. One of the first steps to ending our collective addiction to oil is to reduce the oil industry's influence over public governance, and to eliminate government handouts for dirty oil.

**Step three through six** – Jump-start Detroit and redesign American mobility. The transportation sector accounts for more than two-thirds of all oil consumption in the U.S. Our passenger train system scrounges for funding in Washington while one out of every seven barrels of oil in the world is consumed on America's highways alone. Led by Ford Motor Company, the American automobile industry is driving in reverse. The average Ford vehicle gets worse gas mileage than the Model T did almost one hundred years ago. Thomas Friedman is right – the stability and very existence of the American automotive industry depends upon American automakers building affordable, fuel-efficient cars that all patriotic Americans can support. Pioneering engineers have already built Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles (PHEVs) and new companies are inventing super-efficient biofuels made from agricultural waste with no help from Detroit or Washington.

**Steps seven and eight** – Start a rooftop revolution and green the grid. California is enacting regulations to build one million homes with rooftop solar power, generating 3000 megawatts of power. Studies show that solar energy supports up to ten times more jobs than dirty fossil fuel energy. A green grid powered by the wind and the sun can recharge car batteries and help us kick our transportation oil habit.

**Steps nine and ten** – Wean to Green and Fund the Future. Simply put, follow the money. Capital investment from the world's largest banks is the fuel in the engine, so to speak, of the oil-based economy. Through their investment decisions, large banks can either help to keep us hooked on oil, or rapidly steer us towards a clean energy future. Multinational private banks must publish full accounting for their contributions to climate change – and commit to reduce their environmental footprint – or they will continue to be part of the problem, not part of the solution. Some banks, including Wall Street powerhouse Goldman Sachs, are leading the way, proving that it is indeed possible to do well by doing good.

**Step eleven** – Adopt a “Low-Carb” Energy Diet – Any comprehensive strategy to break our oil addiction must include aggressive measures to reduce energy consumption. A low-carbon energy diet will reduce energy costs and increase competitiveness for American businesses, lower emissions, and produce clean jobs for workers. Efficiency improvements in the last thirty years have doubled the amount of work we get from each barrel of oil. According to the Rocky Mountain Institute, current proven technologies can double oil efficiency again, for less money than would be required to buy the oil we save.

**Step twelve** – vote. Could it be any clearer that we need responsible and visionary leaders at all levels of government?

Like a smoker who says he's going to quit someday even as he lights up another cigarette, the President offered little hope that he would actually break our country's oil addiction. For a country that uses enough oil to fill a football field 2500 ft tall every day, it will take a lot more than a speech and a few research dollars to set us free from oil. Freedom from oil will help our nation to create clean jobs, protect forests, make our foreign policy more just and more effective, and help to stabilize our climate. Let's get to work.



Jumpstart Ford activists lock down to oil barrels at a Ford dealer in Palo Alto, CA to protest Ford Motor Company's bottom-of-the-barrel fuel efficiency standards.

Photo: David Stone / RAN



## Grassroots victory: Santa Monica Co-op dumps Weyerhaeuser

RAN activists Wendell Covalt and David Rosenstein led a victorious effort to compel the Santa Monica Co-Opportunity natural foods store to stop purchasing paper bags from forest destroyer Weyerhaeuser. Through a combination of skillful negotiations and grassroots actions, the co-op has terminated their purchase of Weyerhaeuser bags.

## Citigroup to cut carbon emissions by ten percent

Building on their landmark policy developed with RAN in 2004, Citigroup announced a commitment to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions on a global basis by ten percent by 2011. This voluntary initiative places Citigroup as pursuing the most aggressive targets in the U.S. financial sector. Citigroup also announced joining the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Leader Program, which works to adopt aggressive goals and strategies for curtailing greenhouse gas emissions at manufacturing and other facilities.

## 2005 hottest year on record

A surprising Arctic warming spell is responsible for new data from NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies indicating that Earth's global temperature in 2005 reached its highest overall number since instrument recordings began in the late 1800s. The report is 'notable' considering global temperature did not receive a boost from a tropical El Nino, which typically gives rise to global temperatures through warm ocean currents.

## Toronto Dominion: Bankrolling Boreal Forest destruction



Photo: Jeremy Williams / www.JeremyWilliams.ca

Toronto Dominion Bank (TD), Canada's third largest bank, continues to fund destructive projects around the world, including many throughout the Canadian Boreal. In the Rocky Mountain Foothills of Alberta, TD is bankrolling the clearcutting of critical

habitat designations for caribou herds and aggressively funding tar-sands development, one of the worst climate polluters and absolute dirtiest sources of oil available.

Along with Canada's Big Five top banks, TD is lagging far behind in adopting social and environmental policies that match industry best-practice standards set by top US banks like Citigroup, JP Morgan Chase, and Goldman Sachs.

On March 30, RAN and ForestEthics released TD Greenwash: Bankrupting the Future, a corporate irresponsibility report uncovering TD's poor environmental and social performance. The report was hand-delivered to shareholders attending the bank's annual general meeting in Vancouver. Inside the meeting, Global Finance Campaigner Bill Barclay called on TD to make a commitment to adopt safeguard policies that protect our natural heritage while presenting CEO Ed Clark hundreds of signed letters from RAN members.

While groups remain hopeful that TD and Canada's Big Five will catch up with their global peers, RAN is gearing up for a sustained campaign to reform TD Bank.



**Tell TD to join with other leaders in the banking industry and start taking responsibility for the destructive impacts of their investments.**

**Write to: Ed Clark, CEO, Toronto Dominion Bank, c/o General Counsels Office, PO Box 1, Toronto Dominion centre, Toronto, ON M5K 1A2**

**Or send an email at [DirtyMoney.org](http://DirtyMoney.org).**

## FreeGrassy.org launched in support of Grassy Narrows

The Grassy Narrows First Nation in northern Ontario has waged a three year-long blockade to keep logging giants Weyerhaeuser and Abitibi from clear-cutting their land without their consent. On February 28th, RAN assisted Grassy Narrows in releasing a letter from the community to Weyerhaeuser and Abitibi warning them to withdraw from further logging and destruction of their ancestral territory or face a fierce campaign of resistance in the woods, in the streets and in the market place. At the same time, RAN sent letters to Weyerhaeuser's top 100 investors calling on them to support resolutions filed by The International Brotherhood of Teamsters and Calvert Group for Weyerhaeuser's upcoming Annual General Meeting. The resolutions demand better corporate governance and call on Weyerhaeuser to adopt Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification, respect the rights of indigenous communities, and adopt a comprehensive environmental policy to protect endangered forests.

**Visit [FreeGrassy.org](http://FreeGrassy.org) to sign the petition and support Grassy Narrows**



Photo: Jon Schiedewitz

*The Grassy Narrows First Nation has maintained the longest running logging blockade in Canadian history.*



221 Pine Street | 5th Floor | San Francisco, CA 94104

also on the web at   
[RAN.org](http://RAN.org)

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA  
PERMIT NO. 191

## Rainforest Heroes launches educational video game



Help Salmon Sally make her way upstream back to the place she was born amidst the Great Bear Rainforest, home of Sappy, the young tree that stars in our *Forest Family Forever!* video.

Five different levels challenge Sally to make her way past oil spills, fishermen, dams, bears and eagles, and a forest that has been clearcut. Each level is followed by a quiz question that is thematically tied to the challenges Sally faces during the game.

Students will learn a lot about the relationship between people and the natural world in the Great Bear Rainforest and beyond.

Visit [RainforestHeroes.com](http://RainforestHeroes.com) to learn more!

## RAN gets results



Photo by Bruce Hill

### Double Your Support for RAN!

Did you know that more than 1,000 of the nation's largest businesses offer to match the gift workers make to nonprofit groups?

If your company is eligible, request a matching gift form from your employer, and send it completed and signed with your next gift. We will do the rest. The impact of your gift to RAN may be doubled or possibly tripled!