



Weyerhaeuser confronted for Human rights abuses in Grassy Narrows



Despite downpouring rain, activists repel from the roof of Quadrant Homes' headquarters to deliver a message to Weyerhaeuser and Quadrant, surprising office workers and bringing traffic to a crawl on Interstate 90.

On the eve of Weyerhaeuser's annual general meeting on April 20, RAN activists scaled Quadrant Homes' headquarters in Bellevue, Wash., and unfurled a gigantic banner reading: "Weyerhaeuser: Human Rights Abuser." The logging giant has refused repeated calls from environmental and human rights organizations, Indigenous leaders, organized labor, and socially-responsible investors to stop sourcing wood from massive clear-cut logging operations within the ancestral homeland of the Grassy Narrows First Nation. Wood clear-cut without consent from Grassy Narrows is used to build track homes throughout the U.S. by Weyerhaeuser's homebuilding subsidiaries Quadrant Homes, Pardee Homes, Maracay Homebuilders, Trendmaker Homes and Winchester Homes.

Weyerhaeuser is depriving the people of Grassy Narrows of their fundamental human rights to culture, health and livelihood through

the degradation of the forest landbase on which they depend to survive. The community uses the land for hunting, fishing, spiritual ceremonies and other cultural activities, all of which have suffered due to rampant clear-cutting. Years of opposition to the logging, including the longest-running Indigenous blockade in Canadian history, have been largely ignored by the Canadian government and by companies such as Weyerhaeuser and Abitibi Consolidated that continue to profit from logging.

In mid-April, Amnesty International conducted a 4-day fact-finding mission in Grassy Narrows to document the impact of logging and other industrial development on the community. The aim of the mission was to shed light on the community's plight and convince all parties to respect the call by Grassy Narrows' leaders for a moratorium on all industrial development on their land without prior consent.

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Gloria, Warren and Maria traveled more than 3,500 miles to deliver a clear message to Weyerhaeuser: "We'll leave your home when you leave ours!"

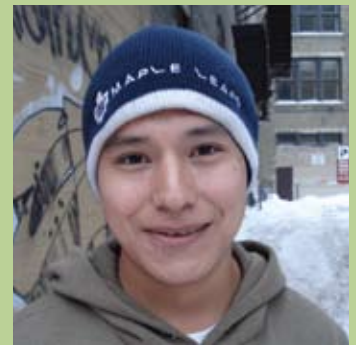
In March, RAN sponsored a two-week speaking tour that featured Grassy Narrows community members Warren Ashopenace, Gloria Kejick and Maria Swain. The trio traveled more than 3,500 miles to deliver a message to executives at Weyerhaeuser's Federal Way, Wash., headquarters. During the hour-long meeting, they spoke about the continued destruction of their homeland and asked the stunned Weyerhaeuser executives to listen to their hearts and honor the community's demand to end the clear-cutting.

On March 14, with no immediate response forthcoming from Weyerhaeuser, Warren, Gloria and Maria joined with RAN and members of the Seattle Rainforest Action Group to occupy the roof of a model home at a Quadrant Homes development. The activists draped the front of the house with a banner that read "Weyerhaeuser: We'll Leave Your Home When You Leave Ours." The scene caused a stir in the Seattle area as television news helicopters swirled overhead and residents from the surrounding area got to learn firsthand about the struggle to protect Grassy Narrows.

While these inspiring events have brought tremendous pressure on the world's largest logging company to respect Indigenous rights and protect endangered forests, RAN's work with the community of Grassy Narrows is far from over.

It's time that Weyerhaeuser and subsidiaries like Quadrant Homes respect the rights of the Grassy Narrows First Nation and immediately stop buying wood from the region.

 **Tell Quadrant Homes to get Weyerhaeuser out of Grassy Narrows. Write to: Steve Orser, CEO, Quadrant Homes, 14725 SE 36th St., Suite 200, Bellevue, Wash., 98006 or visit FreeGrassy.org.**



Warren Ashopenace is a youth who has been involved in the blockade at Grassy Narrows since day one. He has traveled across North America, Russia and Sweden to speak about the stand he has taken with his community.



Gloria Kejick works with the Grassy Narrows Youth Group. She facilitates activities and assembles resources to support their projects. Gloria also teaches traditional knowledge and spirituality.



Maria Swain and her family have been longtime supporters of the logging blockade at Grassy Narrows. She is an expert fisher.

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The People vs. Chevron

By Michael Brune, RAN Executive Director



Dear friends,

Rainforest Action Network is a small organization with a big network of volunteers and supporters. One of the secrets to our success over the years has been our ability to focus on and direct our resources toward only the most important campaigns. Whether it's pushing Home Depot to stop selling old growth wood or convincing banks to stop bankrolling bulldozers in the Amazon, our staff and supporters identify the highest priorities and dig in until we get results.

But sometimes issues arise that we simply can't ignore. Consider the case against Chevron. According to the company's advertising, Chevron is a paragon of virtue and corporate social responsibility. To the contrary, Chevron is truly setting new standards for duplicity and shameless profiteering.

Chevron is struggling to defend itself in a landmark lawsuit brought by 30,000 impoverished residents from the rainforests of Ecuador. For several decades, oil operations by Texaco (since acquired by Chevron) and its partners dumped millions of gallons of oil and toxic waste directly into the Amazon watershed and in leaky pits. The contaminated area covers more than 3,000 square miles and is one of the largest environmental disasters in history – even larger than the Exxon Valdez spill. The contamination's effect on the fragile ecosystem and the thousands of indigenous families who depend on it for their survival will take decades and countless resources to reverse.

Chevron refuses to accept responsibility. According to William Langewiesche's brilliant article "Jungle Law" in last month's *Vanity Fair*, Chevron "denies that the judge is fair, denies that the plaintiffs have legitimate complaints, denies that their soil and water samples are meaningful, denies that the methods the company used to extract oil in the past were substandard, denies that it contaminated the forest, denies that the forest is contaminated, denies that there is a link between the drinking water and high rates of cancer, leukemia,

birth defects, and skin disease, denies that unusual health problems have been demonstrated—and, for added measure, denies that it bears responsibility for any environmental damage that might after all be found to exist."

It's so gratifying to see a company take responsibility for its actions.

RAN is adding its voice to the efforts of our friends at Amazon Watch, Amnesty International, Pachamama Alliance and others who will hold Chevron accountable for cleaning up its mess in Ecuador. RAN entered this campaign with an unusual offer to Chevron: we asked them to join us.

On April 25, I attended Chevron's annual shareholder meeting and spoke before its Board of Directors and CEO David O'Reilly. I told Mr. O'Reilly that it wasn't helping employee morale to see their company operating unethically, and that it threatened investors' confidence to see Chevron plagued by scandals in Ecuador, Nigeria and Iraq. I asked him whether it was all worth it. Two years ago, it would take several months and tens of thousands of dollars to compile video footage documenting Chevron's crimes. Today, with a few hours of editing, we can post such a video to YouTube and expose Chevron's actions to millions.

The reality is that we may have a long way to go to transform the Chevrons of the world. But as environmental awareness grows, people's tolerance for corporate bullies diminishes. Chevron, Weyerhaeuser and other corporations will lose their social license to operate unless they adapt quickly to a changing world.

With your continued support, we'll keep challenging these companies to become part of the solution and not part of the problem.

For a better world,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Brune". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional but personal style.

Executive Director

To learn more about the international campaign to hold Chevron accountable for its toxic contamination of the Ecuadorian Amazon, visit www.ChevronToxico.com.

Step It Up 2007:

Largest grassroots mobilization ever against global warming



RAN “Steps It Up” to stop banks from funding climate change

On April 13, RAN organized demonstrations in 15 U.S. cities targeting several of the world’s largest financial institutions for their contributions to climate change by providing financial support to the development of new coal power plants. The series of creative actions was part of *Step It Up 2007!*, the largest national day of action to stop global warming in U.S. history.

Actions ranging from theatrical appearances by the “Billionaires for Coal” to coal miners displaying the dirty consequences of continued investment in coal were united in sending a clear message to Wall Street: No New Coal!

RAN’s demonstrations in New York City, Washington, D.C., Boston and elsewhere coincided with thousands of other events planned as part of *Step It Up!*. The banks targeted by RAN – which included Goldman Sachs, Citi, Merrill Lynch, Morgan Stanley, JPMorgan Chase, Credit Suisse and Lehman Brothers – are among the leading financiers of new, polluting coal-fired power plants and the coal companies that supply them.

Actions took place in Washington, D.C.; New York, N.Y.; Boston, Mass.; San Francisco, Calif.; Houston, Texas; Fort Worth, Texas; Austin, Texas; Detroit, Mich.; Providence, R.I.; Athens, Ohio.; Berkeley, Calif.; Santa Cruz, Calif.; Madison, N.J.; and Sarasota, Fla. More than 1,300 other climate-related demonstrations took place around the nation making Step It Up a huge success!

The actions also helped raise the profile of RAN chapters at the University of Ohio, Drew University, Brown University, and UC Santa Cruz, and helped jump-start chapter-formation efforts in Sarasota, Berkeley and Detroit.

To find out how you can get involved with RAN’s grassroots chapters, please visit www.ran.org/connect or email jwolk@ran.org.





There are over 150 new coal-burning power plants currently on the drawing board. Let's keep them there.

Don't fund global warming. Stop investment in all new coal-burning power plants.

Coal-burning power plants are the world's largest greenhouse gas polluters and a direct threat to our future. Yet prominent financial institutions, including JPMorgan Chase, Goldman Sachs, Citigroup, Morgan Stanley, Merrill Lynch, Credit Suisse and Lehman Brothers, are eager to finance their construction. The truth is, every dollar invested in coal is a dollar that could be invested in energy efficiency and wind and solar power. Help us make sure these coal-burning power plants are never built. Tell Wall Street that investing in coal is simply too risky. Visit www.ran.org to join the fight.

NO NEW COAL RAN 221 Pine Street, #500, SF, CA 94104 www.ran.org **RAINFOREST ACTION NETWORK**

New York Times ad challenges banks: No New Coal

On March 23, RAN launched an advertisement campaign in *The New York Times* telling the world's largest banks to get tough on climate change and to stop funding new coal plants. The ad read: "There are over 150 new coal-burning power plants currently on the drawing board. Let's keep them there."

The ad identifies JPMorgan Chase, Goldman Sachs, Citigroup, Morgan Stanley, Merrill Lynch, Credit Suisse and Lehman Brothers as lead funders of new coal-fired power plants in the United States. Coal-fired power plants are the world's largest source of destabilizing greenhouse gas emissions, and every dollar invested in dirty, dangerous coal is a dollar that could be invested in energy efficiency and wind and solar power.

To view the ad and learn what you can do stop coal-fired power plants from being built, visit DirtyMoney.org.



Climate change activists drop 20-foot banner challenging Toyota's eco-hypocrisy inside the entrance to the New York Auto Show.

The truck that's changing the climate

On the heels of the Supreme Court's monumental decision granting the Environmental Protection Agency the authority to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from tailpipes, Freedom from Oil activists unfurled a dramatic 20-foot banner inside the Javits Convention Center at the New York Auto Show challenging Toyota to become a true environmental leader. Spoofing Toyota's current ad campaign for its new gas-guzzling mega-truck, the banner read, "Toyota Tundra: the Truck that's Changing the Climate," and depicted the truck driving over a mangled globe.

The vast majority of the world's leading scientists, governments, business leaders and citizens now acknowledge that global warming is a serious threat to our future, that it is being caused by human activity, and that we must act now to avoid irreversible damage. That's why the Freedom from Oil campaign is demanding that Toyota and the rest of the Big Six automakers drop their 11 lawsuits across the country challenging states' rights to regulate tailpipe emissions; stop lobbying against fuel-economy standards; reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and offer concrete production commitments and timelines for putting Plug-In Hybrid Electric Vehicles on the roads as soon as possible.

While Toyota leads the Big Six in the production of hybrid vehicles, the Prius accounts for less than four percent of Toyota's U.S. sales. The introduction of the Tundra marks Toyota's perilous entry into the full-size truck market. Plans include opening new dealerships in rural cities throughout the U.S. and western Canada. At just 14 miles per gallon, the Tundra guzzles more gas than some of the largest trucks coming out of Detroit.

As part of the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers, which represents the Big Six automakers, Toyota has argued against the EPA's ability to regulate greenhouse gas emissions and has stood in the way of landmark efforts by California and other states that would limit global warming-causing tailpipe emissions.

Toyota, which recently surpassed GM as the world's top automaker in overall vehicle sales, can't have it both ways. Being a leading producer of hybrids does not give Toyota a free pass to accelerate into the mega-truck market while continuing to stand in the way of states' and citizens' rights to regulate greenhouse gas emissions.



Take Action! Tell Toyota to become a real environmental leader. Write to: Hideaki Otaka, President and Chief Executive Officer, Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc., 19001 South Western Ave., Dept. WC11, Torrance, CA 90501 or visit FreedomFromOil.org.



photo courtesy of Felix Kramer / CALCARS

Palo Alto Mayor Yoriko Kishimoto stands in front of a PHEV that gets while holding an electric plug with Freedom From Oil Campaign Director Sarah Connolly (left) and Bluewater Network's Danielle Fugierre (right).

Silicon Valley plugs into PHEVs

Plug-In Bay Area and the Silicon Valley Leadership Group have partnered to encourage businesses and municipalities throughout Silicon Valley to invest in fuel efficient plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs). At a press conference outside Palo Alto City Hall on March 22, Palo Alto Mayor Yoriko Kishimoto and Tom Hayes, president and CEO of Newark-based ETM-Electromatic, Inc., endorsed the partnership and hailed plug-ins for their ability to improve air quality and reduce costly fuel consumption. Hayes used the opportunity to announce his placement of a “soft order,” which is a declaration of intent to purchase plug-ins once they become commercially available, on behalf of his company.

The partnership is an important step toward establishing plug-in hybrids as a realistic alternative to the gas-guzzling vehicles being promoted to consumers by America's oil-addicted auto industry. It will also result in more businesses placing soft orders and jump-starting the development of a viable market from within one of the nations' most influential business sectors.

To learn more about Plug-in Bay Area, visit PlugInBayArea.org.

Supreme Court rebukes Bush EPA on global warming

In a landmark decision, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the Environmental Protection Agency must act to regulate pollutants that contribute to global warming under the Clean Air Act. The ruling is a huge victory for states' and citizens' rights to hold big greenhouse gas emitters accountable. The decision also sets the stage for a showdown over California's “Pavley Law,” (AB 1493) which would give the state the authority to regulate tailpipe emissions from automobiles. The auto industry has sued California and 11 other states in order to block this and other similar laws across the country.

Venezuelan indigenous groups win fight against coal mines

On March 20, Venezuela's Minister of the Environment Yubiri Ortega de Carrizalez announced a prohibition on new coal mines in the state of Zulia. The announcement is a victory for indigenous communities, including the Yukpa, Wayúu and people of the Sierra de Perijá, against the expansion of coal mines that have displaced communities throughout the region while polluting rivers and streams.

Cargill soy plant shut down in Brazil

On March 23, Brazilian federal officials shut down Cargill's Santarém port along the Amazon River in the state of Pará. The Minnesota-based agribusiness giant failed to submit a credible Environmental Impact Statement to the Brazilian government and was forced to close down its massive soy port while it appeals the court decision. Soy plantations have become a leading cause of deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon, and Cargill is the leading exporter of soy from Brazil.

RAN spotlights NSTA hypocrisy at national conference

RAN made a splash at the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) conference held in St. Louis from March 29 through April 1. The NSTA rejected an offer of 50,000 free copies of Al Gore's Oscar-winning documentary *An Inconvenient Truth* to distribute to its members. Evidently, the NSTA is unwilling to jeopardize the funding it receives from its contributors – which include ExxonMobil, Weyerhaeuser and Peabody Coal – by distributing a film that identifies logging, oil and coal as leading causes of global warming.

The NSTA's stance reveals a much larger problem: the pervasive influence of corporate interests over science and education. Indeed,

the NSTA conference itself was riddled with industry representatives pushing their agenda on science teachers.

RAN's presence at the conference was a breath of fresh air. In addition to tabling and distributing hundreds of copies of *An Inconvenient Truth*, RAN organized a special meeting for educators to strategize about how to kick the corporate agenda out of science curricula.

To find out how you can get involved with RAN's Education Program, please visit RainforestHeroes.com or email education@ran.org.



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Making a difference



Every six months, the children of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto (UUCPA) choose an organization to give money to from portions of their Sunday collections. Over the past two years, the children have chosen RAN, donating a total of nearly \$2,000! The UUCPA recently applied to the Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth to be certified as a Green Sanctuary. Their commitment comes as no surprise given that one of the Unitarian Universalist principles is to affirm and promote “Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.” The children and congregation of UUCPA believe that protecting the rainforest and other endangered beings embodies the UU ethics of “open mind, helping hands, and loving heart.”

“RAN makes it easy for us to actively engage with our passion to protect the Earth.”



Become a part of the solution

Supporting the work of Rainforest Action Network is direct action for the Earth. RAN does not accept money from governments or from big corporations in order for us to be free to wage our markets-based campaigns. This makes your support even more important and more powerful.

There are many different ways that you can support RAN's work that are both exciting and creative. Contact our Development department to find out more. With your help, we are changing business as usual on Wall Street and beyond.

Contact our Development department at (415) 398-4404 x342 or visit www.ran.org/donate today!