



WVE

# WEAVINGS

WOMEN'S VOICES FOR THE EARTH

VOL 8, NO. 1

WINTER 2003

## SNOWMOBILES IN YELLOWSTONE: SERIOUS IMPACTS TO PUBLIC HEALTH IGNORED BY PARK SERVICE

**S**nowmobiles have been making headlines recently as the National Park Service revises its Winter Use plan for Yellowstone National Park. Pictures of park employees in gas masks have been front-page news. The debate, however, has centered around the rights of motorized winter recreationists and the economic impacts a snowmobile ban could have on outfitters in towns adjacent to the Park. Public health concerns from snowmobile pollution have been given remarkably little attention. Knowing that snowmobile pollution can be quite toxic, we became concerned about the impacts to the health of both Park employees and winter visitors as well. When Women's Voices for the Earth staff did some investigating, we were surprised to find out how unhealthy the situation really is.

### SNOWMOBILE POLLUTION— HOW BAD IS IT REALLY?

**S**nowmobiles release an enormous amount of dangerous pollutants to the air. To give some idea of the extent of snowmobile pollution, a single snowmobile operating for 4 hours, using a conventional 2-stroke engine, can emit between 10 and 70 times more carbon monoxide and between 45 and 250 times more hydrocarbons than an automobile driven 100 miles. On peak days in Yellowstone, there can be up to 2000 snowmobiles entering the park through the three main gates, where the pollution is concentrated.

### PARTICULATE MATTER

**P**articulate matter pollution (also known as PM-10 and PM-2.5) is of great concern in the Park. The National Park Service predicts that levels of particulate matter pollution due to snowmobile use this winter will once again exceed the national ambient air quality standard for PM-2.5 (smaller than 2.5 microns in length). In fact, particulate matter exposure to employees



*Photo by Tom Murphy.*

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

WEAVINGS is published quarterly by Women's Voices for the Earth (WVE), a nonprofit women-centered environmental justice organization. Our mission is to empower women, who historically have had little power in affecting environmental policy, to create an ecologically sustainable and socially just society.

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This issue of WEAVINGS was edited and prepared by WVE staff, and designed by Amy Kelley. Please send letters, news and announcements to Women's Voices for the Earth, 114 W. Pine, Missoula, MT 59802. (406) 543-3747.

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It's hard to believe another year has passed. In early November, WVE board and staff gathered in Helena to reflect on the challenges and accomplishments of 2002. WVE, like many other progressive organizations around the country, had specific financial challenges to surmount, but we grappled with those difficulties as a team and we are stronger for it. By delivering a creative and energetic outreach strategy and a clear message about who we are, WVE has successfully attracted the interest of several new foundations. Additionally, WVE has been the recipient of an enormous outpouring of support from new and existing members across the west. Although we remain financially cautious in 2003, we are supremely confident about WVE's potential.

WVE is taking a long, hard look at our current programs.

With a small staff, limited resources and a never-ending list of worthy issues to tackle, WVE has to curb an all too ambitious drive to "cover all the bases." Over the next year, WVE will work to fine-tune and focus our existing programs to improve their effectiveness.

On the national and international level, WVE is leading the charge to protect women and children from dangerous chemicals in beauty products. On the regional level, WVE is paving the way to close Idaho's medical waste incinerators, in favor of safer disposal alternatives. In Montana, WVE is building a young women's leadership program that will cultivate new activists. We are also monitoring the proposed expansion of Hamilton's Rocky Mountain Lab into a national bioterrorism lab, examining the relationship between toxic water pollution and community health, and—thanks to legislation introduced to the Montana Legislature by WVE's own Communications Director, Gail Gutsche—WVE is nurturing one of the nation's first Chronic Disease Registries to track human and environmental health. These are campaigns unique to WVE and where we have the skills and experience to succeed.

Finally, the WVE Board of Directors, small but committed, is poised to expand. As our program work takes us around the country, we want our board to better reflect the diversity of those citizens whom we serve. As such, we are currently recruiting new members with a wide array of geographic, life perspective, professional experience, ethnic and racial differences. This is a very exciting opportunity for WVE to grow in a thoughtful and distinct manner, consistent with our mission and objective.

As we look to the future, it is apparent that our work will not be easy. Congress is structured to escort the President's anti-environmental agenda and the international climate is clouded with threats of war. However, the bright spot in this rather gloomy picture is the public's intolerance to corporate abuse, the will to exercise political power, and the determination to protect community and environmental health. It is this wave of energy in our communities that will ensure WVE's success.

On behalf of WVE's board, we would like to express our eternal gratitude for your moral and financial support.



*Dori Gilels*

Dori Gilels

President of the Board of Directors

## SHOULD THE DEQ PERMIT THE BURNING OF TIRES FOR FUEL ON THE HEADWATERS OF THE MISSOURI?

by *Kris Thomas*

Potential for toxic trouble is afoot in Three Forks, Montana where Holcim, Inc. (formerly Holnam), the Swiss multinational company that owns the Trident Cement Plant north of Three Forks, has applied to burn solid wastes. Montanans Against Toxic Burning (MATB) and the Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC) are working to stop the permit. MATB organized about 10 years ago when Holcim was hoping to burn hazardous wastes. Its controversial proposal was later withdrawn after several years of citizens' challenges to the plan. Now Holcim is back with a new plan to burn solid wastes.

Holcim is currently in the process of securing a permit to burn used "waste" tires. The application calls for the company to replace up to 15% of its fuel needs with approximately 650,000 scrap tires per year. The application is nearly "complete" according to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

Holcim's proposal is to drop whole tires into the kiln, replacing some of the coal or natural gas that must be burned to bake the mass of rock into cement clinker. Tires themselves are not considered to be hazardous waste—they can sit around in your garage for ages and not cause much damage. Until they burn. Then they melt and boil into chemical constituents which produce some nasty compounds like styrene and butadiene; toxic heavy metals like lead, mercury, and cadmium which are not destroyed at any temperature; and cancer promoting chlorinated compounds such as dioxins and furans.

The DEQ in Montana is underfunded which sometimes results in serious enforcement challenges and Trident is one of them. Trident is an antiquated plant that is prone to process malfunctions and major equipment failure which results in the release of excessive emissions. It is frequently out of compliance with its permitted emissions limits. Holcim Inc. has a long history of environmental violations in this country. In the 1990s Holcim Inc. facilities in other states were saddled with violations and fines in cases ranging from failure to report emissions to releasing more pollution than their permits allowed.

MATB, MEIC and other concerned groups, have been closely following the permitting process for the tire burning proposal. These groups have done considerable research on tire burning and contracted with professionals in this field to review the permit materials.

It has become quite clear that much of the permit application is based on flawed data and comes to illogical conclusions. The health risk assessment conducted for the air permit application underestimates risks to human health. The air dispersion modeling, which is the foundation for the health risk assessment, is inaccurate, and the calculated risk from ingestion of dioxins and other hazardous air pollutants (HAPs) is understated by several orders of magnitude.

This controversial proposal has worried many in southwest Montana who are concerned about air quality, local agriculture (a third of the state's dairy is produced here), and the many related health risks. Of particular concern are the health risks to children whose developing bodies are most vulnerable to toxins.

We've seen the effects in several Montana communities—such as Libby—where hundreds of people's lives have been devastated by toxins. We've witnessed the sad effects of this poisoning on families and farms and the greater community. And we know we need to protect the quality of life here if we're going to protect our jobs and economy. Please join us in addressing the DEQ on the issue of burning tires for fuel at the Trident plant.



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## TIRE BURNING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

The public will have a chance to comment on Holcim's tire proposal this winter and a public hearing will be held. MATB will get the word out as soon as the comment period and hearing have been scheduled. To be added to our mailing list contact us at MATB, PO Box 1082, Bozeman, MT 59771 or visit our website at [notoxicburning.org](http://notoxicburning.org). And, of course, donations are always appreciated.

*Kris Thomas is a board member of Montanans Against Toxic Burning. Montanans Against Toxic Burning is a broad-based group (including health professionals, small business owners, educators, students, ranchers, builders, and many other concerned citizens) that seeks to raise public awareness about the threats of waste incineration to public health and the environment.*



## Thank You WVE Volunteers!

**W**e had five terrific interns from the University of Montana working with us this fall. Thanks to all of you for your great work. We'll be sure to put your results to good use!

\* **Lesley Barry**, who also interned last spring, collected data for WVE on herbicide use by local and regional land managers, to add to our growing database of herbicide use trends.

\* **Shelly Connor** researched the health effects of mercury and PCB exposure from fish consumption. She also conducted a comparative analysis of fish consumption advisories of several different states.

\* **Michele Reinhart** investigated the municipal waste incinerator in Livingston, MT and waded through permits, compliance inspection reports and lots of other small print!

\* **Bethany Smith** looked into current research on levels of mercury recorded in Montana's water and soil.

\* **Joellen Shannon** examined Montana's biomonitoring proposal, focusing on impacts of herbicides on agricultural workers.

**T**welve terrific women committed to be GUTS! That group facilitators this year in several of Missoula's junior high and high schools. These wonderful women donate at least two hours of their time every week to meet with teenage girls after school. Thanks to **Molly Haislmaier, Jenny Daniels, Jennifer Graff, Anna McNairy, Jaime Troiano, Krista Whittlesey, Chelci Bruno, Ellen Lloyd, Mimi Rolan, Amy Esp, Sarah Richey, and Lindsey Clark** for keeping our chat groups active!

**W**e would also like to thank some wonderful volunteers who have helped us with numerous projects in the office throughout this fall: **Michelle Gianola, Paula Hoffman, Anna McNairy, Ron Mueller, Carrie Naughton, Carol Parker and Kira Pascoe.**

## GUTS! Winter Snow Adventure

Winter may mean cabin fever for some, but participants in WVE's young women's leadership program, Girls Understanding Their Strengths (GUTS)!, are beating the Missoula winter doldrums with the annual Winter Snow Adventure. On the weekend of January 25-26, approximately 15 girls between the ages of 11 and 17 will be heading to the mountains for some snow shoeing and cross country skiing, with a little sledding mixed in for good measure. If this trip follows in the tradition of past Snow Adventures, there is sure to be singing by the fire, hot cocoa, and a good deal of laughter in the mix of activities. Learning to appreciate the natural environment (and having fun doing it!) is one of the primary goals of GUTS!.



In addition to the upcoming winter adventure, GUTS! continues to grow, sponsoring weekly Chat Groups in Middle Schools and High Schools around Missoula, and monthly Community Conversation Potlucks in which women mentors and adolescent girls get together for constructive debate and activities. At the December Potluck, the GUTS! girls and their fearless mentors whipped up homemade bath products, including bath salts and lip balms. This activity served a dual purpose: the girls were able to distribute their bath products as Christmas gifts to the women at the Missoula YWCA, (the "Y" graciously donates meeting space for GUTS! monthly meetings); and learn how to make their own healthy beauty products, which contain none of the harmful chemicals present in many of the products offered in the stores today. (See [www.nottoopretty.com](http://www.nottoopretty.com) for more on harmful ingredients in beauty products).

This Spring the GUTS! program will focus on action and activism. Each chat group will choose one issue they wish to focus on and create an action or campaign they hope will make a difference in our community and the world. Watch for our GUTSy girls in the news.

If you know a girl, age 11-17, who is interested in participating in GUTS!, please have her contact Jen at WVE. We are also currently looking for dynamic and dedicated women who are interested in co-facilitating GUTS! Chat Groups this Spring. For more information call WVE at 543-3747.

## WANT TO BE A RADIO DJ?

WVE is looking for volunteers who would like to learn, or are already experienced at, producing radio shows. Once a month WVE produces an hour-long show for In Other Words, the radio show told from a feminist perspective. We are in search of a few good women who are interested in producing a show or two. Since WVE is an environmental justice organization, we generally pick topics of interest to WVE listeners. In the past year WVE shows have covered: activists working on the Bhopal, India chemical disaster; impacts of war on the environment; and the Montana Blue Green Alliance, a

coalition of labor and environmental groups working together to protect the environment and jobs.

Producing a show involves picking a juicy environmental topic, interviewing the subject(s), taping some music to go with the show, and finally, editing the entire work to just under an hour.

Sound like something you or a friend might be interested in doing? Got an idea for topic you'd like us to cover? Give us a call at 543-3747 or e-mail us at [wve@wildrockies.org](mailto:wve@wildrockies.org).



## SNOWMOBILES

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in Yellowstone was found to exceed the exposure experienced by rush hour commuters in Los Angeles!

This is a major health problem for both Park employees and visitors. PM-2.5 pollution has been researched extensively and is linked to a host of respiratory ailments. Air pollution “episodes” (short-term periods of very high levels of air pollution) have been shown to cause elevated heart rates in exposed persons. These types of “episodes” happen regularly in Yellowstone at peak times of snowmobile use. Several studies have shown direct correlations between high levels of PM-2.5 and increased deaths from cardiopulmonary disease and lung cancer.

People with compromised lung function, such as asthmatics or others with chronic lung disease are particularly vulnerable to particulate pollution. The levels of particulates experienced in the Park even over short periods of time can cause serious health effects and even death in these vulnerable populations.

### CARBON MONOXIDE

Carbon monoxide is also a constituent of snowmobile pollution that is causing health problems in Yellowstone. Winter levels of carbon monoxide measured at the West Yellowstone gate have come close to the allowable national ambient standard. Carbon monoxide poisoning leads to respiratory failure and death. Early symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning include headaches, fatigue, visual impairment and other perception problems. Complaints of exactly these symptoms are reported regularly by both employees and visitors to the Park.

### TOXIC POLLUTANTS

Toxic pollutants generated by snowmobile pollution include volatile organic compounds (VOCs) such as benzene, toluene, and xylenes, as well as acetaldehyde and formaldehyde. These air pollutants are generated by snowmobiles’ use of gasoline. One major source of VOCs comes from the roughly 30 percent of gasoline used which passes straight through a snowmobile and is emitted unburned. Levels of VOCs in the air at the West Yellowstone gate were found to be similar to the levels found in the air by the pumps at local gas stations.

### BENZENE

Benzene exposure is a particular problem in the Park. At lower levels benzene exposure leads to drowsiness, headaches, confusion, rapid heart rate. Again, these are all symptoms reported to the Park Service by visitors and workers. Benzene exposure can also cause chronic



*Photo by Tom Murphy.*

problems, such as anemia and leukemia that may take years to develop. We know that Park employees (including West Entrance gate workers, mechanics and some patrollers) are currently exposed to benzene at levels higher than the minimum risk level set by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). Median benzene concentrations at the West Entrance to Yellowstone were found to be about 15 times higher than concentrations found in a comparable study of downtown traffic in Rome, Italy!

### EFFECTS ON WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Certain populations are particularly vulnerable to snowmobile pollution. For example, the Park Service acknowledges that “women may metabolize more benzene than men, which raises concern about how protective certain occupational standards are for female workers.” Benzene also affects women in different ways. One study showed that women workers who breathed high levels of benzene for many months had irregular menstrual periods. When further examined, these women showed a decrease in the size of their ovaries. Pregnant women are also at great risk as many snowmobile pollutants including benzene, toluene and 1,3, butadiene have been shown to cause birth defects in lab animals breathing them.

### SYNERGISTIC EFFECTS

An unknown factor of considerable concern is the combined impact of exposure to many pollutants all at once. For example, research has shown us that certain exposures to formaldehyde can cause cancer. We don’t know, however, if the cancer risk is raised or lowered when a person is exposed to high levels of benzene simultaneously. The few synergistic effects we do know

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## MAKING THE LINK: CHRONIC DISEASE TRACKING AND BIOMONITORING, COMING SOON TO MONTANA

Over the past six months, Montana's Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) has received two exciting grants to begin working on the links between toxic pollution and public health problems.

The first grant is from the national Center for Disease Control (CDC), to establish a Chronic Disease Registry in Montana. Congressional legislation now mandates state and national networks to track chronic disease and some environmental exposures. Montana is one of 20 states or municipalities to be awarded a CDC grant for tracking. With the grant (totaling \$510,566 each year for five years) Montana will hire a state epidemiologist and health service specialist (tracking coordinator).

The grant for Montana was written around a pilot project to study the possible connections between air pollution and asthma, but Michael Spence, Montana's State Medical Officer, says the state is not limited to that study.

"We could look at heavy metals and see if they are connected to chronic disease or cancer, or we may look at agricultural chemicals and see if there is a correlation between their use and Parkinson's disease, or we may look at the perceived rise in MS on the highline and investigate whether that has a connection to chemical exposure or pollutants," says Spence. "We're not locked into any one disease or exposure."

Spence says important questions to ask include: What kind of data do we need to collect? What agencies do we need to work with and which agencies need to work together? What industries do we need to look at?

The state plans to start working on the tracking system as soon as the new employees are on board.

A second grant, received last August by the Rocky Mountain Biomonitoring Consortium, will be used to set up a statewide biomonitoring program. The purpose of this program is to identify at-risk and sensitive populations and test them for exposures to chemicals such as pesticides, mercury, lead, arsenic and dioxin. Montana is one of six states in the consortium, including Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming. In Montana, the grant will be administered through the DPHHS.

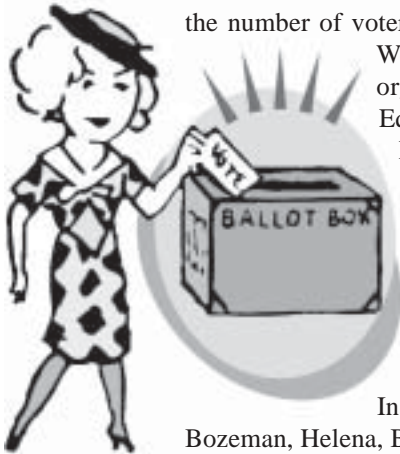
There are two overarching goals of the biomonitoring program: 1) explore the link to environmental exposures and public health, and 2) track the link between bioterrorism and disease outbreaks.

Spence says the first question for the Consortium is deciding which states will do what. For instance, if Arizona chooses to look at agricultural chemicals and exposed populations, Montana might choose something entirely different such as testing children in mining communities for exposure to lead. However, the states will swap information and specimens, so that people in a Montana agricultural community could still be tested for farm chemical exposures by sending specimens to Arizona.



## MONTANA WOMEN VOTE!

**E**lection results on November 5 were not exactly what we had hoped for in terms of electing a majority of environmentally friendly legislators, but the Montana Women's Vote! (MWV) project did help elect some new green legislators and increased the number of voters in four key precincts in Helena and Billings. As a member of MWV, Women's Voices for the Earth (WVE) joined the following women-based organizations: Women's Opportunity Resources (WORD), Working for Equality and Economic Liberation (WEEL), the YWCA, Planned Parenthood, Montanans for Choice, Blue Mountain Clinic, and the Domestic Violence Coalition to increase the number of Montana women who participate in the democratic process. This nonpartisan coalition did not endorse candidates but simply worked to increase voter turn out by educating Montana women about the issues and where candidates stood on those issues. Statewide, MWV registered 4,000 new voters, mostly low income women, and helped elect pro-choice, pro-environment, pro-women legislators in four districts.



In addition to registering voters, MWV held get-out-the-vote drives in Missoula, Bozeman, Helena, Billings and Great Falls, and mailed 25,000 voter's guides statewide.

Now that the election is over, MWV plans to keep the political pressure on our elected officials. In December, MWV hosted a legislator tea in Missoula where representatives from each of the member organizations presented issues, concerns and legislation pertinent to their organization and to the lives of all Montana women. In addition, Terry Kendrick, WORD, presented the Status of Women report which features details about how women in our state are faring in terms of the economy, health care and child care. Eight Missoula legislators attended the tea.

Plans for the upcoming legislative session have already begun. A MWV lobby day was held on Friday, January 10 from noon to 1:30 PM at the Capitol in Helena. All 150 House and Senate members were invited to attend to hear about constituent concerns on these issues.

For more information about MWV please visit the web site at: [montanawomenvote.org](http://montanawomenvote.org).

### Legislature Poised to Dismantle More Environmental Protections: Take Action!

The 2003 legislative session kicked off on January 6 and from the looks of early bill draft requests, it appears there will be an all out affront on environmental laws, again. Here's a taste of what's on the docket: revising the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA), (it was already gutted last session); permitting coal bed methane with no regulations; amending the Mining Reclamation Act; repealing I-137, the ban on open pit cyanide leach mining; and limiting our right to a clean and healthful envi-

ronment. None of this is good news for Montanans, no matter where you live.

Please join our legislative e-mail alert list, so that we can keep you informed of the status of important bills like those listed above. We'll let you know when hearings are and ask you to contact your legislator to let he or she know where you stand on dismantling environmental laws. To join the e-mail alert list, please send your name, address, city and zip code, e-mail address and the precinct or house district you live in, if you know it (it's on your voter registration card) to [wve@wildrockies.org](mailto:wve@wildrockies.org). We'll send out regular legislative updates and ask for your help in protecting Montana's wild and beautiful places.

# GREAT WOMEN OF THE EARTH

## HARRIET MARBLE

“I knew I wanted to be outside,” Harriet Marble said, reflecting on herself in 1964 as she left Atlanta to come to the University of Montana for graduate school. Harriet found herself studying wildlife management as the first woman in Montana’s graduate forestry program.

“I wasn’t there to chase the men,” Harriet said emphatically. But being a student in a traditionally male program came with challenges. Her advisor informed her she would never get a job in this field. And her presence made several male professors uncomfortable. Harriet mentioned one particular professor who used “colorful language” in his lectures. “I think he was trying to scare me out of class by swearing and then singling me out by saying ‘Excuse me ma’am.’” After three days of this treatment, Harriet finally burst out loudly, “You know, I DON’T GIVE A GODDAMN!” The professor never called attention to her again.

In the summer of 1966, Harriet worked in Glacier National Park. “Things were different then than they are now,” Harriet said. Women naturalists were not allowed to wear the ranger hat or badge. Differences went deeper than clothing. Part of Harriet’s job was to take tourists out onto Grinnell Glacier but the lead “ice rescue” instructor refused to teach females. “We were in a bad spot,” said Harriet, “not trained to deal with potential emergencies.” Fortunately, one of Harriet’s fellow rangers, Art Sedlak, taught her ice rescue himself. Harriet said of Art, “If there’s a mountain man left out there, he’s the one.”

In 1967, Harriet and her husband Don Marble graduated and moved to Havre where Don was to work as a lawyer for Legal Services, providing legal help to rural Montanans. Harriet applied for an opening as a Game Biologist in the state department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks—the last Montana department to hire women in roles other than secretaries. In response to Harriet’s application—clearly stating her interest in the biologist position—she received a letter stating, “We don’t have any openings for secretaries.”

Rather than fighting the issue, and facing that the best outcome would likely be a job offer far from her husband, Harriet and Don decided to settle into their home on the “hi-line” in Montana (they live there in Chester, Montana now) and began to have a family. Harriet became active in the League of Women Voters. She was on the League’s State Board, in charge of their Clean Air and Water portfolio, testifying to the state legislature. Harriet remembers how different it was to work on environmental issues in the early 1970s. “‘Environment’ was a new word for state legislators then,” Harriet said. “Most didn’t understand basic concepts of ecology.”

In the early 1970s, the governor appointed Harriet to Montana’s new Environmental Quality Council.” Council members went on regular “field trips”, like to Colstrip when they were beginning to build the coal-fired generating plants. “I remember thinking, ‘what is it going to do to the air and water here?’ Ranchers were very concerned and many were opposed to the construction for fear of what would happen to their water supplies.”

Over the eight years she served, she had to pay someone to follow her with her two babies. “I had to leave meetings in order to nurse.”

When Montana Audubon formed, Harriet joined and became president of the state board for six years. (“I remember dragging children to those meetings as well!”) In 1988, she was elected to the National Audubon Society Board, representing the mountain states region. She traveled to Costa Rica to meet with the president of the country. “Here I was, this little woman from Chester. That was when I had to buy real clothes!” Harriet laughed.

Harriet continues to serve on Montana’s state Audubon board, and was recently elected chairperson for the Montana Bird Records Committee, a volunteer group of bird specialists who oversee rare bird sightings in the state. She describes her life now as “BBQ”, bird watching, bicycling and quilting. She and Don live in Chester, and her sons, Justin and Jay, have grown up and moved to Arizona.

When I asked Harriet about her family, I learned that she comes from a line of “Great Women of the Earth.” “Much to my father’s chagrin, my mother was the biggest ‘libber’ around!” She marched against hunger in Washington, DC and for equal rights in Atlanta. “My mother would go to any march for any cause,” Harriet said. And she financially supported them as well. “When other people gave my mother checks for money they owed her, she would just sign them over to organizations like the American Civil Liberties Union—this way she kept from upsetting her husband with how much money she was sending and to whom.” Thanks to Harriet, and her mother, for their great life’s efforts on behalf of this earth and its many creatures!



# SUSTAINING OURSELVES

## YES! I WANT TO...

JOIN WVE       RENEW MY MEMBERSHIP

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city \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip \_\_\_\_\_

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Here is my check for \$25 for a one-year membership.

I've enclosed an additional \$\_\_\_\_\_ to support the work of WVE.

**MEMBERSHIP IN WVE** brings you four issues of the newsletter, notices of upcoming events, a 100% organic cotton T-shirt, and a voice in the cause for environmental justice, health, peace, and ecological sustainability.

T-shirt/circle one — size S, M, L, XL

Yes you may list my name as a supporter in publications.

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donate online at [www.wildrockies.org/wve/membership.htm](http://www.wildrockies.org/wve/membership.htm)**



# WVE

Women's Voices For The Earth

## WVE Has a New Logo

For years WVE has wanted a new logo to reflect the organization's growth and diversity. We would like to thank Roman Kuczer and Jim Parker with **WestRidge Creative** in Missoula, Montana for their work in designing our new logo and letterhead. We highly recommend their work to other groups in need of excellent design services at affordable prices. We would also like to thank Suzanne Truman who generously donated our original logo back in 1995.

## SNOWMOBILES

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of also raise a concern. We know that toluene exposure can affect your hearing. Further research indicates that combinations of toluene and some common medicines like aspirin and acetaminophen may increase this effect significantly. Given the constant noise emitted by snowmobiles it is entirely possible that both aspirin and acetaminophen are regularly interacting with toluene exposure.

### WHAT ABOUT THOSE NEW "CLEAN MACHINES" WITH 4-STROKE ENGINES?

One of the main arguments the snowmobile industry is putting forward to reverse the previously proposed snowmobile ban, is that new 4-stroke snowmobile technology significantly reduces emissions of pollution. In recent tests, under the best of conditions, some 4-stroke engines are capable of reducing hydrocarbon emissions by 90% and carbon monoxide emissions by 70%. While this is possible, it is unlikely we will see similar 90% and 70% reductions in the ambient pollution levels in the Park anytime soon. Snowmobiles with 4-stroke engines are currently harder to find, and are roughly \$3,000 - \$5,000 more expensive than a standard 2-stroke engine machine. It will be many years before these types of engines become standard and are readily available. In addition, there is the threat posed by the recently introduced new "high-performance" 4-stroke engine snowmobiles. While they may have

similar emissions reductions per horsepower unit, these high performance machines can have three times the horsepower of a regular touring snowmobile! This leaves very little net benefit in terms of emissions reductions over all. Improved snowmobile technology might slightly improve air quality in Yellowstone, but it certainly cannot guarantee the results we'd like to see.

### HOW HEALTHY DO WE WANT YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK TO BE?

This is the question the public and the National Park Service need to ask. When it comes right down to it, are we, the American public, okay with the fact that Yellowstone National Park is a workplace where employees need to wear gas masks and ear plugs to prevent serious impacts to their health? Are we comfortable with allowing the air to be impacted so that pregnant women, children and anyone with compromised lung function should be advised to avoid a visit to Yellowstone in the winter? Unfortunately, these are the very real conditions we are allowing to occur today. Despite years of analysis, research and discussion on the impacts of snowmobiles in Yellowstone, the only thing we have done to mitigate the serious health impacts for the winter of 2002-2003 is to hand out a few gas masks. The Park Service is not even issuing warnings to vulnerable populations who will be certainly be impacted again this winter. Our National Parks were established to conserve areas of pristine beauty to be enjoyed by all generations, present and future. We must act with these values in mind as the fate of Yellowstone's air quality is decided.

## PRODUCTS CAUSING BIRTH DEFECTS: IT'S NOT TOO PRETTY

In our Fall 2002 newsletter, we reported on our efforts to remove harmful chemicals known as phthalates from health and beauty products. This group of chemicals has been shown to cause birth defects in laboratory animals—particularly to the reproductive organs of developing males.

Phthalates are found in many health and beauty products—deodorant, perfumes, body lotion, hair conditioners, nail polish, hair spray—and also in PVC baby toys, vinyl flooring and wall covering, plastic food packaging, blood bags and tubing. In recent months, several important new developments on phthalates have arisen.

On November 7, the European Union (EU) passed a preliminary ban on two types of phthalates used in health and beauty products (dibutyl phthalate, DBP, and di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate, DEHP). Unfortunately, around the same time, the industry-funded Cosmetics Ingredients Review Panel met in Washington, DC but refused to take similar action on the issue. To pressure the panel, Women's Voices for the Earth joined with two other groups and ran the ad (shown on this page) in the Washington Post, similar to an ad we ran in the New York Times in July. This ad asked the review panel and the Food and Drug Administration to remove phthalates from health and beauty products.

“Chemicals linked to birth defects do not belong in products marketed to women,” said Bryony Schwan, National Campaigns Director of Women's Voices for the Earth, who traveled to Washington for the meeting and a press conference. “Now is the time for the federal government and companies to act decisively. The FDA must require labeling so consumers can make informed choices, and cosmetics manufacturers must remove these chemicals from their products.”

Charlotte Brody of Health Care Without Harm asserted, “The decision of the review panel protects the cosmetic and chemical industries at the expense of American consumers. The panel essentially said that, yes, phthalates can be dangerous, but not at the low levels present in cosmetics. However, the panel failed to act on the scientific reality that consumers are repeatedly exposed to these chemicals through multiple beauty products and other common items—such as vinyl shower curtains, toys and car seats and the levels are adding up to harm.”

Only three weeks after the cosmetics panel failed to act, Harvard researchers released a study documenting the damage done by phthalates to sperm in adult men. The study found a correlation between damage to DNA in sperm and exposure to diethyl phthalate (DEP) at levels already present in the men. Recent tests of cosmetics found the chemical in 71% of fragrances, hair sprays and deodorants tested in the United States. DEP is also the phthalate found in the highest levels in people, according to the Centers for Disease Control and confirmed by the new study.

“The link with DEP is a concern because, until now, DEP has been considered one of the least toxic phthalates,” said Dr. Ted Schettler, science director of the Science and Environmental Health Network. “The correlation found in this study is extremely troubling and deserves urgent follow up. The last thing you want is DNA damage to sperm, which can lead to infertility and may also be linked to miscarriages, and birth defects, infertility and cancer in offspring.”

Several companies have now responded to this issue. The Body Shop International has announced that it will phase out phthalates from all of its products. Aveda and Neways have declared their products phthalate-free. “We're proud of these companies for stepping forward and modeling responsible business practices to protect consumers. The cosmetics industry knows how to make products free of phthalates, these companies are demonstrating leadership and accountability,” said Bryony Schwan.

For more information, visit our website at [www.nottoopretty.org](http://www.nottoopretty.org).

**Something has come between me and my Calvins**

**Toxic chemicals in beauty care products.**  
Calvin Klein's Eternity, Aqua Net Hair Spray, Salon Selectives Hair Mousse, Dove Solid Antiperspirant. All these cosmetics and beauty aids have two things in common. They're manufactured by Unilever, the Dutch-based consumer products conglomerate. And they all contain toxic chemicals called phthalates (THA-lates). Phthalates have been shown to damage the lung, liver and kidneys, and to harm the developing testes of male offspring. These results come from animal tests which, according to government scientists, are relevant to predicting health impacts in humans.

Last week, the European Union ordered a phase-out of two phthalates in cosmetic and beauty products. Today, the U.S. Cosmetics Ingredient Review Panel will decide whether American consumers will be protected. Safe alternatives to phthalates are already being used in many beauty products. Now is the time for the federal government—and for companies like Calvin Klein and Unilever—to act decisively. After all, Eternity is a long time.

**Learn more at [www.NottooPretty.org](http://www.NottooPretty.org)**

This ad sponsored by Women's Voices for the Earth, Environmental Working Group and Health Care Without Harm.  
Women's Voices for the Earth, 114 West Pine Street, Montpelier, VT 05602

*This ad, sponsored by WVE, Environmental Working Group, and Health Care Without Harm, ran in the Washington Post on November 19, 2002.*

# WILD WOMEN!

## Sea Kayaking in Beautiful Baja

**W**ant to swim with sea lions? Snorkel in emerald seas? Squish your toes in the sand? Drink margaritas on the beach? All, while in the company of other glorious and wild women? Then stick with us, because we've got your ticket out of the winter doldrums. WILD (the Wilderness Institute for Leadership Development) Women, a project of WVE committed to offering exceptional wilderness experiences for women, is offering a week-long sea kayaking trip to beautiful Isla Espiritu Santo in Baja California Sur. Dates of the trip are March 1-8.

Women of all ages and experience are invited to join us on this active sea kayaking adventure in the sparkling waters of the Sea of Cortez, Mexico. We'll circumnavigate Isla Espiritu Santo in sea kayaks, exploring, swimming and snorkeling as we go. Learn about the history, ecology and geology of the island and the country while paddling in one of the most famous and beautiful seas anywhere. The scenery is varied and spectacular offering everything from white sandy beaches to towering cliffs and bizarre rock formations.



Early-bird registration cost (before Jan. 31st) is \$795 which covers all food, equipment, instruction and accommodations. After Feb. 1st, registration is \$850. The trip is limited to 12 women. Pre-registration required. For inquiries or to register contact us at: 406/543-3747 or [wve@wildrockies.org](mailto:wve@wildrockies.org).



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