An Introduction to Bioregionalism

A bioregion is a life region whose rough boundaries are determined by changes in flora, fauna, water, climate, geology and in the human cultures shaped by these characteristics. Bioregionalism is an awareness that bioregions are whole systems comprised of sets of diverse, integrated natural subsystems, and that human culture and society must work in harmony with the bioregion in order to be sustainable. The Cascadia Bioregion is characterized by evergreen-covered mountains towering over deep waters fed by clear streams filled with salmon. It includes most of western Oregon, western Washington, and southwestern British Columbia. As with all bioregions, the boundaries are soft, reflecting the naturally dynamic qualities of all life.

Cascadia Bioregional Congress

In late July, 1986, over 100 ecologically-oriented people from throughout the Cascadia Bioregion gathered at The Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington for the first Cascadia Bioregional Congress. The purpose was to establish a congress of peers working to realize an ecologically grounded and socially equitable basis for life and community in Cascadia.

This was a participatory meeting of those who wished to help shape the future of our bioregion; a decision-making congress rather than an educational conference. Participants came as representatives of a watershed, town, species of plant or animal, environmental group, or any other inhabitant of Cascadia. They were asked to look beyond themselves, and examine what is at stake for the dwellers of Cascadia.

Congress Structure

The structure of the Congress included plenary meetings of all participants, and smaller working sessions in Committees and Forums. The committees met for four 2-hour sessions to prepare documents examining the underlying philosophies and values, desired goals and proposed action strategies for their issue areas. Forums met for two 2-hour sessions to identify their common concerns, and prepare any documents they felt were needed.

These documents were then presented to the Congress as a whole during plenary session. If the wording of a document was fully consensed upon during plenary session, it became a Resolution of the Congress. If a document was generally agreed to, yet not completely endorsed, it became a Statement of the Congress. The high number of Resolutions in these proceedings speaks well of the positive vision for Cascadia shared by Congress participants.

North American Bioregional Congress

Cascadia has now joined the Ozarks and Great Lakes bioregions in convening an actual deliberative congress. Many other bioregional gatherings occur regularly throughout the North American continent, culminating every two years in the North American Bioregional Congress.

Proceedings from the first NABC, held in the Ozarks in 1984, are available from the Bioregional Project, Box 3, Bixey, MO 65618. NABC II was held in the Great Lakes bioregion in 1986, and the proceedings are available from Harl Publishing, Box 1010, Forestville, CA 95436.

The third North American Bioregional Congress is currently being planned for August of 1988 at Paradise Valley, north of Vancouver, BC. For more information, write NABC III, Box 69004, Station K, Vancouver, BC V5K 4W3.

Local Hosts

The first Cascadia Bioregional Congress was hosted by Greenet, a student group at The Evergreen State College, and the South Sound Bioregional Network, a community-based group active with waste management, old growth forestry and community communications issues. Those most active with the Cascadia Bioregional Congress were:

* Peter Moulton
* Rusty Post
* Bill Fiorilli
* Kate Crockett
* Rebecca Lowe
* Rhys Roth
* Dave "Zoom" Newhouse
* Joe Craigin

Spread the Word

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GRASSROOTS DEMOCRACY
AND COMMUNITY-BUILDING

RESOLUTION

Grassroots democracy and community-building involves people getting together to take responsibility for making the decisions that affect their lives in the places where they live and work. This can best be accomplished by groups of people within small areas such as communities and watersheds, with similar interests and issues, meeting face-to-face. Politics is a holistic process involving all aspects of our lives; democracy is the touchstone of the kind of politics we wish to create.

Democracy depends on community-building because people need to form bonds between each other in order to make decisions together. Communities empower, nurture, support and educate people. They provide opportunities for people to work together and build a common, sustainable culture. Community-building depends on individual development among all members of the community. This process relies on open, non-manipulative communication that unites individuals and gives them a shared focus and vision.

Goals

* Analyze our values and actions
* Appreciate our successes and integrity
* Admit our errors
* Seek out our common personal histories
* Take actions that create win/win situations, as well as taking risky actions, to sustain the movement
* Intentionally involve all segments of society such as sexes, classes and races
* Develop regional and subregional networks
* Tolerance for and valuing diversity
* Empower people and set up mechanisms to maximize their own initiative
* Do service that embodies our values and develop activities that strengthen people's relationship with the earth
* Share information without offending
* Incorporate bioregionalism into education
* Learn nurturing techniques of conflict resolution
* Embody a sense of fellowship, inspiration and play
* Work toward improvement of community safety
* Maximize local and democratic control of our economic lives as workers and consumers
* Promote physical forms and structures that facilitate cooperation, sharing and harmony amongst people and between people and the natural environment
* Encourage the recognition of arts of all forms as a way of community-building

Strategies

Why Resolutions - or - Why are We Here?

The purpose of these resolutions is to actualize them in our personal lives and create a common focus for people at the Congress to include in the everyday actions of their lives. A secondary purpose is to share them with others in the bioregional movement. We encourage people to use them as a basis for the creation of statements which can be used for outreach to the general public.

Plans to Recone

Local Congresses will meet over the next year and maintain communications with each other. Regional Congress will meet the following year.

Bioregional Guideline Map

We suggest that a committee of the Cascadia Bioregional Congress be formed for the creation of a set of informational maps; made up of overlays including the following elements:

* Landforms (geology)
* Water elements (watersheds, drainages)
* Air movements (flow patterns)
* Soils
* Plant life resources
* Animal life resources
* Population

These maps should not be a set of 'boundaries,' but guidelines of the Cascadia Bioregion. The overlapping of these characteristics should help distinguish true 'natural' guidelines. These maps would help distinguish common interest and bring forth a focus for understanding of the Cascadia Bioregion.
RESOLUTION

Whereas, since the modern human economy up until now has largely ignored ecological realities, as bioregionalists we believe that the economic activities must be clearly in sustainable alignment with ecological systems and directed in a humane and just fashion towards providing for both the survival and life-enhancing needs of current and future inhabitants of the Earth.

Overriding all other principles, we promote the consciousness and balance between ecological sustainability, self-reliance, economic democracy and responsibility to the whole web of life.

1. ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY AND REGENERATION

Whereas, the Earth and its resources are the common heritage of all life on the planet, we promote policies of land use and access to resources that reflect and further the practice of trusteeship and stewardship. We promote an economy which should be self-regulating and self-regenerating, and consistent with promoting the web of life, modeled after and in alignment with the Earth.

2. SELF-RELIANCE

Whereas, over-centralized ownership and control underlie most current economic processes, thus leading to disenfranchisement of large sections of populations from productive processes, and from the self-determination of systems that effect their lives: we promote and encourage individual, community and regional self-reliance and autonomy, wherever possible, in meeting survival and life-enhancing needs. We encourage a sense of responsibilities to the well-being of the region.

3. DEMOCRATIC, EQUITABLE, JUST AND COOPERATIVE

Whereas, cooperative, worker-owned, democratic forms of economic activity promote trusteeship and stewardship in the production and service process, and whereas, the current economic process exploits social classes, sexes, races, ages and other oppressed groups of people: we promote economic forms of production, distribution and ownership grounded in a social contract on consent, justice, and ecological consciousness.

4. SOCIAL AND GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITY

Whereas, the concentration and centralization of capital, resources and industrial productive capacity as occurs, for example, in multinational corporations, reduces the ability of most of the Earth’s inhabitants to meet their basic needs: we promote the exportation of resources only when a bioregion’s own needs have been met, the equitable redistribution of resources regionally and globally, and the minimalization of consumptive patterns in a way that empowers the self-reliance of individuals, communities and regions worldwide without jeopardizing sustainability.

5. QUALITY OF LIFE

The community is responsible for seeing that basic human needs are met: food, shelter, health care, education and a spiritually nurturing environment. Human beings need fulfilling work and vocations of choice. Basic survival needs should be the concern of the larger community as well as the individual and not be dependent upon the selling of our labor. We are working toward an economy where the individual has an opportunity for a democratic and holistic involvement in work processes and toward the future economy as a healthy environment. The future economy shall provide work that is socially useful and ecologically sound. It should reward what has been traditionally been unpaid labor, such as parenting, homemaking, care of elders and childcare. The job structure should recognize the human needs for leisure time, recreation and community life.

Goals

- Establish a local exchange trading systems (LETS) task force
- Support "Oregon Economic Conversion Initiative"
- Establish a worker-owned communication cooperative
- Establish a locally based voluntary tax cooperative
- Reform current tax structure toward economy, simplicity and equity; reversing, recirculating and redistributing the concentration of wealth
- Support the current proposal before the Governors’ Council and Mayors’ Council sending more taxes back to communities
- Develop an economic model for urban places similar to Rodale’s Economic Regeneration Project and The Homegrown Economy by David Morris
- Develop regional cooperative banks as sources for technical assistance and loan monies to enterprises consistent with the First Cascadia Bioregional Congress principles and goals with the capacity to advise on local community economic development
- Develop regional or local networks of interacting and interlinking, worker-owned cooperatives and self-managed firms which mutually support each other
ENERGY AND APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY

RESOLUTION

Technology shall be appropriate when the use of that technology minimizes interference with the physical and spiritual well-being of humans and other species, minimizes depletion of the non-renewable energy base, contributes to the further development and reestablishment of species in their rightful ecosystem, is responsible to future inhabitants of the earth and bioregion and is harmonious with the natural and human history of the region.

Small-scale, decentralized energy sources and conservation are to be encouraged as beneficial to the self-reliance of both the individual and the bioregion.

Nuclear energy, owing to its high centralization, unsolved waste disposal problems, and huge future ecological and economic debt, is not an option and should be discontinued.

Goals

* Move toward increased bioregional self-reliance in energy, food production, fisheries and forestry
* Educate ourselves to be wise users of technology
* Technology should enhance the quality of life, encourage personal growth, and discourage consumerism
* Appropriate technology should support greater regional autonomy

STATEMENT

Criteria

* My usage doesn't jeopardize others' enjoyment, well-being and health, including other species (special emphasis on mortality)
* True replacement cost(s) taken into account
* Doesn't violate inherent aesthetic sensibility
* Durability and/or simplicity of design
* Transition - phasing out of "bad" technologies for "good"
* Evaluating entropic properties of technologies
* Educating people as to quality of life issues vs quantity
* Pursue appropriate technologies applicable to 3rd world countries
* Centralized "heavy" technologies may be inappropriate
* Local labor, local materials = local resource utilization
* Promote cyclic and sustainable technologies
* Future focus and stewardship
* Concern for human and natural history of the place (which were sustainable)
* Leaves behind planned obsolescence in favor of planned durability, information value-added, quality assurance
* Promotes "right livelihood"

Implementation within Specific Technologies

* Solid Waste
  - Home Recycling
  - Home Gardening
  - Ban styrofoam or make it biodegradable, or tax it adequately with "value subtracted tax"

* Transit
  - Bullet train from Vancouver, BC to Eugene
  - Gas tax to support light rail
  - Hitchhiker stop zones
  - Lower percentage of land devoted to parking (10% vs 35%), limit private cars in downtown areas, promote peripheral park & rides and ride-sharing
  - Oppose metro bus tunnel in Seattle
  - Facilitate bicycle access, improve bike trails, encourage integration of cycling with mass transit

* Energy
  - Encourage block rates that discourage energy waste (home energy budget in kilowatts)
  - Goal of having majority of homes generating their own power
  - Preference for solar, then geothermal and hydropower
  - Highest use of non-replacement fuels
  - Phase out all nuclear power in the bioregion
* Medicine and Healing
- Education for health and diet
- Funding for holistic medical education
- Funding for nutritional research
- Insurance should pay for "soft" medicine
- Take personal responsibility
- Stop subsidizing tobacco growers
- Ban cigarette advertising
- Encourage nonviolent, noninvasive technologies
- Encourage freedom of choice in medical techniques and technologies
- Decentralize medicine

* Building Technology
- Homes clustered around courtyards, row houses sharing backyards, tools, recycle bins, and cars
- Concentrate offices in cities to encourage mass transit
- Ban conversion of agricultural to developed lands, i.e. support farmland (and wetland) preservation
- Discourage buildings over six stories
- Wood frame houses, wooden structures are appropriate for earthquake zones
- All-solar homes with conservation steps
- zoning and tax breaks

* Weapons Technology
- Bilateral disarmament
- Local, regional nuclear-free zones
- Reallocate R&D money from weapons to energy, light rail, etc.
- Oppose SDI
- Ban germ and chemical warfare research & storage
- Promote citizen diplomacy
- Ban handguns
- Work towards elimination of conventional weapons

* Space Technology
- Promote international cooperation in a spacestation
- Oppose human migration off-planet as a "lifeboat"
- Oppose militarization of space, ban military use of shuttle

* Telecommunications and Computers
- Computers and communications used responsibly are appropriate technologies
- The right to privacy is critical: citizens' personal records should be protected from misuse and abuse by government or government officials. The Freedom of Information Act should provide unquestioned access to all personal files
- Universal access to personal computers, governmental support for public data bases
- Encourage public access television

**Political Implementation**

* Congressional lobbying
* Olympia legislative watchdogging on key issues
* Mobilize support on key issues
* Corporations:
  - lobbying
  - socially-responsible investing
  - training and education
  - change in PAC laws
* Local government
  - participate in local council meetings
  - organize recycling
  - model neighborhoods
* Home gardening

The prolific Waste and Pollution Committee hard at work
WASTE AND POLLUTION

RESOLUTION

We of the Cascadia Bioregion are deeply concerned about the abuse of our natural resources and the extent to which we have already poisoned our planet and interfered with its ability to protect itself.

In the interests of global preservation and social harmony, we embrace the ideal that we are one species among many, responsible to the ecosystem for what we do. It is vital that each individual take personal responsibility for conservation efforts and pollution control, by maintaining a holistic perspective of the environment.

Current social norms, especially in the US, such as consumerism and the 'throw away' mentality, planned obsolescence, excess energy consumption, and the widespread belief that short term economic growth is defined as progress are the major factors that increase rate of consumption and neglect for the environment.

We work for and encourage any efforts toward appropriate energy usage, conservation, waste reduction and recycling, so that we may maintain unspoiled land, air and waters in our bioregion and on the planet. It is critically important to work toward increasing our society's awareness of these issues.

Strategies

In order to achieve these goals:

* We support a reassessment of the Atomic Energy Act, which removes control over all nuclear weapons parts and production issues from public scrutiny and input.

* We support the formation of nuclear free zones and encourage economic credits for conversion from nuclear weapons production.

* We call for a moratorium on licensing of any new nuclear power plants, and for phasing out all existing facilities.

* The US Department of Energy and all of its contractors should be required to comply with all existing statutes required of commercial installations and should clean up all existing radioactive wastes pursuant to those standards. We support the formation of a 'radioactive superfund' in order to clean up these wastes.

* We call for the appointment of independent agencies to monitor releases of radioactivity from Hanford and research the long term health effects of those releases.

Recycling

As we believe there is an infinite need to waste not want not, it is of critical importance to change the habit of throw-away mentality. This would aim at the source of the problem.

Our goals are to support levels of policy which require commercial adoption of discretionary bins of refuse. Furthermore, we feel it necessary to develop consumer guidelines for the adaptive reuse and conservation of material goods. Also, we feel we need programs to assess the ecological impact of manufactured products.

It also seems necessary to address the commercial lobby for unquestionable protracted resource use. This is an issue which brings to the forefront the heavy reliance of capital investment in work which is abstracted from necessity.

In this case, we feel that working for consumption without an intrinsic value connection to our daily lives, creates the waste with which we must now contend.

In our response to the consequences of a consumer society divorced from real work ethics, we need to attain the value of work that is rebonded to what is worthy of reverence, which is, for our way of life, the end of waste and pollution.

We resolve that the people of the Cascadia region will work toward establishment of accessible avenues for recycling, such as mandatory curbside pickup, regional and national resource recovery bills, an example of which is the bottle bill, and public education to raise awareness of waste issues as they relate to the consequences for the planet.

Littering

Littering may be considered a basic personal attitude problem that manifests itself as a thoughtless act that, with time, becomes habit.

The attitude that "my action doesn't make a difference in the world" is then reinforced each time a person litters and is carried over into other aspects of a person's life.

This cycle of apathy is aggravated as long as the habit of littering continues. Littering is not an aggressive act but a passive one with its roots in apathy.

To bring about change in regard to littering, the best thing we can do as bioregionalists is to bear witness to the act of littering. This means not only the act of recovering and recycling litter as many of us do, but to approach our fellow inhabitants when we witness an act of littering.

In doing so, it is important to recognize littering as a passive, thoughtless habit requiring a compassionate as well as urgent offering of help in breaking the cycle of apathy.
Nuclear Power

We of the Cascadia Bioregion are opposed to the use of nuclear power, because of its health effects during uranium mining and milling, the releases of radioactivity and possibility of meltdown during operation, the effects of and disposal problems of radioactive wastes, and the link to nuclear weapons production.

Be it resolved that we oppose any new nuclear power plant construction, and support phasing out all existing nuclear power plants, beginning with plants with the highest incidence of accidents and those that can be decommissioned with the least economic impact.

We support and work for any legislation requiring radioactive waste cleanup, plant decommissioning and adequate waste transportation and disposal methods.

We advocate compensation by the federal government and the nuclear power industry to radiation victims, from the soldier ordered to observe a hydrogen bomb explosion at close range to the miner who dug for uranium, neither of whom were warned of the consequences.

We support internalization of waste disposal costs as a means to this end, so that the true costs of nuclear power can be felt by the stockholders as well as the consumer.

We will work toward increasing awareness of conservation and developing appropriate technologies to reduce our reliance on nuclear power.

Liability insurance coverage for private and government owned nuclear facilities shall not be limited.

There must be full accountability and financial responsibility in the event of any accident.

Nuclear Weapons and Hanford

We of the Cascadia Bioregion are opposed to the production and deployment of nuclear weapons and are of the belief that a non-ecocidal means of maintaining peace can be found.

A major issue of concern at present is the Hanford Nuclear Reservation and its related facilities.

We call for the immediate shutdown of the N-reactor at Hanford because of its similarity the Chernobyl plant, inadequate safety features, and its use as a nuclear weapons production plant. It is recognized that the electricity produced by this plant is part of a regional power surplus. The N-reactor poses a direct and immediate threat to the entire region.

We object to the potential selection of Hanford as a high level nuclear waste repository because of its unsuitable geology and proximity to the Columbia River. We call for a reassessment of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act and its methodology in determining the best method for disposal of existing radioactive waste.

We call for an end to all plutonium production because of the inability of the US Department of Energy to manage such a program, its detrimental effect to our bioregion, and its contribution to the threat of nuclear annihilation.

Be it resolved that nuclear weapons production and deployment is a direct threat to our planet and we resolve to do anything in our power, short of violent action, to halt the arms race. We will employ public education, cross-cultural awareness, legislation, litigation and nonviolent direct action to achieve these goals.

Transportation of Hazardous Materials including Nuclear Materials

Presently, there is inadequate management of hazardous materials transportation and poor emergency response to accidents. In many cases, improper marking and the inability to deal with certain accidents on the local level is cause for concern.

All hazardous materials cargoes should be clearly marked and registered with proper transportation authorities as to contents, activity, routes and proper means of spill containment and cleanup.

All hazardous materials carriers should be subject to strict standards as to vehicle and operator safety.

The public should be informed as to all transportation routes, schedules and cargoes, and adequate evacuation methods should be in place before hazardous materials may be transported through a community. Hazardous substance transportation should not be allowed through certain communities where population or location would preclude adequate evacuation methods.

The costs of proper transportation should be internalized and reflected in true cost to the consumer.

Household Hazardous Wastes

Action on household hazardous wastes should be of a multi-level approach.

Individuals should seek out alternative methods of pest and weed control, substitute solvents, etc.

Individuals should buy only those household chemicals they can immediately use, thereby reducing the amount stored.

Individuals should seek proper disposal of all waste oil, containers and hazardous wastes with appropriate local agencies and health departments.

Cascadia Bioregionalists should seek to implement local hazardous waste plans, such as those outlined in RCW 70.105 and should pressure local state and federal governments to fund such planning.

Bioregionalists should initiate or support activities designed to educate our neighbors regarding all aspects of household hazardous substances, alternatives, proper use, storage and disposal.

All household hazardous substance users should be educated as to the proper use and disposal of hazardous substances. All hazardous substances should include a tax or surcharge for safe disposal and transportation costs.
Hazardous Substances

The use of chemicals has proliferated beyond our ability to understand or control them. Our society has been lead to believe that chemicals are the answer to many of the problems confronting us, but solutions must be found in the roots of these problems, which are based in our socio-cultural situation.

Chemical pollution is caused by production of goods and services that are not essential, and are in fact detrimental to sustaining the life of the planet. This production by industrial corporations is a response to demand by consumers who have been physically and psychologically manipulated by the industrial corporations to falsely believe that our quality of life depends on what we have instead of what we believe and feel.

Chemicals are causing the destruction of ecological processes that sustain life. Although many people believe that we need chemicals in order to maintain production, we of Cascadia know that reliance on chemicals is causing irreversible destruction of the natural balance and is increasing dependence on a system that will inevitably self-destruct.

* We advocate a change in agricultural, industrial and forestry practices involving the use of hazardous substances and demand that all levels of government facilitate the elimination of and isolation from all hazardous substances, by any means possible.

* It is essential to research alternative means of production that do not promote chemical use, and to explore every possible means of implementing those alternatives.

* We urge that all chemicals being produced be researched and adequately tested for their toxicity, their synergistic relationships, and their effects on all life forms.

* We advocate freedom of information such that:
  - Product labeling clearly denotes:
    - Process of production
    - All contents
    - Effects caused by exposure
    - Initial remedies for alleviating condition of exposure
  - All medical facilities be automatically supplied with all pertinent information relating to the use, conditions, and effects of hazardous chemicals.

* We support "worker right to know" legislation, proper use, effects of exposure to hazardous substances, and penalties for failure to comply.

* We request that the government ensure availability of services, at an affordable rate, to anyone needing medical care resulting from exposure to hazardous substances, regardless of economic costs.

* We advocate development of a funding source to cover the costs of hazardous substance cleanup and disposal. We also propose that all costs of chemical production be internalized so as to make people aware of the true costs of their use.

* We request that corporations and individuals be made accountable, economically and otherwise, for their negligence in providing all pertinent information regarding chemical production and use. They should also be made accountable for abuse of the environment and established laws and guidelines regarding production, transportation and use of hazardous substances.

* We advocate development of a system that provides protection of and support for people who report abuse of the environment and established laws and guidelines concerning hazardous substances.

We will make resources and information available, through established channels (newsletters, alternative journals), to interested individuals and groups as well as to anyone who may be able to use it. We actively pursue open communication and a cooperative effort to reduce dependency on and use of hazardous chemicals. We urge counties and other jurisdictions to use mechanical methods of controlling roadside growth, rather than chemical methods. This would be labor intensive, creating jobs as well as reducing pollution.

STATEMENT

Fossil Fuels

Our dependency on fossil fuels for the energy needs of the Cascadia region carries with it immediate as well as long term effects on the health of the inhabitants of this and other bioregions.

We are depleting non-renewable resources at the expense of the energy needs of future generations, and the continued overuse of fossil fuels affects Cascadia directly through the pollution of our environment.

Be it resolved, considering the planet's limited supply of fossil fuels and the impact of fossil fuel consumption on the environment, we as bioregionalists should work on reducing our dependency on these non-renewable resources.

One simple way to achieve these goals is to seek out and utilize energy efficient methods of transportation. We should actively support the research and development of appropriate energy sources for industry, homes and transportation needs.
RESOLUTION

From the smallest coastal streams--home of the silver coho and pink humpbacked salmon--the powerful rivers which run with the deep long-running chinook and steelhead the health of the salt water homes and the fresh water nurseries of our bioregion, Cascadia, has been synonymous with the health of the people who lived here. To learn again to respect and honor the family of the finned ones is to learn again to respect our home, each other and ultimately ourselves.

This evergreen region where glacial waters cascade from mountain peaks through green valleys to ocean deep is sacred and claims our respect and awe.

We hear and feel and are part of the web of life around us. We must speak and act in behalf of the life forms who cannot. The existing structure of human culture we acknowledge and it is with them that we wish to work to provide a cohesive plan for sustaining all life.

We recognize that we live in a bioregion that has a special totem, the salmon. The salmon represents only a part of all the people of this place; the fin people, the shell people, bird people, the human people and the forest people. We feel that the salmon represents to us when they come into our bioregion from the great mother ocean, when they return home to answer the call of their place. Human people have been a heavy influence on this place and have become hard of hearing but the spirit is here and still singing and this voice can be heard.

STATEMENT

We acknowledge the political bodies that exist within our bioregion and that exercise control over our fisheries resources; the Native Indian Nations, municipalities and regional authorities, the Province of British Columbia and the Northwest States, the Federal governments of the US and Canada, the Law of the Sea and the United Nations.

In support of Native Indian rights, we ask for a clarification from Indian Councils of their interpretation of the treaty rights regarding their own management of these rights.

Since transboundary bioregional concerns offer both opportunities and responsibilities (pollution, shared resources) we ask all governments to recognize their roles in the shared bioregion. We particularly encourage letters, phone calls and statements to the Puget Sound Water Quality Authority to communicate with agencies in British Columbia and Canada.

Multinational Exploitation

Multinational seafood corporations’ exploitation must stop their unchecked depletion of the resource.

Our economy must shift to a balanced sharing of our fisheries resources.

We must respect the sustainability of all life forms and their habitats by:

* Presentations at all related public hearings
* Boycotting specific brands
* Picketing corporate offices
* Distributing consumer information

Aquaculture

* Encourage indigenous species
* Use single indicator species (mussels) to monitor water quality
  - All aquaculture systems incorporate a feedback mechanism to keep tabs on water purity
  - Keep a few mussel racks since mussels are a good indicator
* Include responsible aquaculture; environmentally synergistic types, not destructive to environments
* Aquaculture systems which are not destructive to the environment, synergistic and which enhance indigenous species be encouraged
* Encourage cooperative to sell locally grown seafood
* Post recipes in cooperatives for using mussels, seaweed, etc., which are locally grown
* Research done on economics of scale; optimum size, environmental impact
* Research be done on optimum size of aquaculture systems and the environmental impact these systems would have

Committees spent long hours drafting their resolutions and statements
Education

1. OF THE CONSUMER
* Local direct marketing of seafoods be developed
* Co-ops be outlets for fisheries products-- seek out information from National Marine Fisheries Service, Sand Point, Seattle (Linda Chavez-Michaels Product Development Division)

2. OF THE FISHERS
* They have a holistic view of their work
* They enforce workers' rights and safety measures
* That fishers look for local marketing opportunities
* That fishers participate in food coops
* That fishers consider a change in lifestyle
* Find aware fishers & encourage their grassroots organizing

COMMUNICATIONS

RESOLUTION

* The First Cascadia Bioregional Congress supports The Alliance as a bioregional newspaper and encourages additional locally initiated editions

* Explore the possibility of The Alliance serving as a nonprofit umbrella organization for communications and fundraising for the bioregion, if needed

* Encourage groups and individuals to assertively approach major media to encourage more socially responsible programming

Water Quality

RESOLUTION

The level of water quality to be achieved in any particular water body should directly reflect the needs of species relying on that body. Indicator or totem species should be identified in each water body and the water quality should then meet the needs of those species.

Examples of species appropriate for water totems are salmon for rivers and streams, trout for lakes, and mussels, oysters and Orcas for the Puget Sound.

Human needs and "pure" water may then be dropped as criteria for water quality standards.

Ish River Bioregionalists should make concentrated, continued efforts to be involved in the policy planning and implementation process of the Puget Sound Water Quality Authority Board. This and other similar government programs provide important opportunities to affect change through existing programs. The Puget Sound Water Quality Authority program covers water pollution to the Puget Sound and therefore may set guidelines for other water bodies.

Though acid rain has not reached levels comparable with Northeastern US or central Europe, we should not ignore its devastating effects in those regions and the potential impact on Cascadia. We should develop an awareness of potential and existing sources. Indicator species would serve to identify these problems early.

Radioactive contamination of our water to any extent, should not be allowed.

We should strive to assure aquifer protection throughout Cascadia. Opposition to point and non-point sources of aquifer pollution, such as landfill, agricultural runoff, industries and nuclear installations, should be of primary concern to us.

Dave Haenke (The Bioregional Project) and Mike Barnes (Portland Alliance)
RESOLUTION

The corporate-industrial model of forest monoculture management destroys land and water habitat; wildlife; and sustainable economic viability. It tears at the social ecology of local communities and native peoples, and the ecosystems on which all life is dependent.

Goals

A bioregional approach to Forestry begins by acknowledging that the forests of our region are one of her greatest gifts. The forests are the skin and lungs of the Earth. Economic value can only be a part of the true value of a forest we choose to manage for 'right livelihood'. Forestry should be part of a culture attuned to the needs of the whole ecosystem. We need to ask what the Bioregion asks of us.

Strategies

* We endorse the following characteristics of a bioregional approach to forestry:
  - Large sacred preserves remain unviolated
  - Forests are managed intensively only in appropriate areas
  - There is a diversity of ages and species
  - Labor intensive practices are used, generating an equal or increasing yield for future generations
  - Selective cutting rather than clearcutting
  - Yields fulfill rather than create markets, and conservation and recycling of forest products is encouraged
  - Appropriate biological methods
  - In addition to timber, products such as bees, berries, and mushrooms are integrated into forest practices
  - Decision-making is community-based, including the interests of elders, children, future generations, etc.
  - The forester works intimately and holistically with the forest and community
  - Watershed-based cooperatives are responsible for holistic forest practices through the generations

* We endorse a moratorium on the logging of Old-Growth forest, and recommend the following strategies:
  - Promote immediate and intensive study of these ancient ecosystems, i.e. insect life in the upper canopy, mycorrhizal roles, etc.
  - Identify and inventory Old Growth in the bioregion. Publicize this. Attend timber sales. Identify areas within each watershed that could become Old Growth
  - Encourage people to get involved in the process of protection
  - Get people out in the woods!

* We endorse and recommend the promotion of the following model of long-term ‘Stewardship Contracts’ for public lands:
  - Local operators are responsible for all aspects of the work process, i.e. planting, thinning, harvesting, milling, etc.
  - Entire watersheds are viewed as unitary biotic zones where all values, including fish, wildlife, genetic diversity, recreation and utilization are considered
  - There is inter-agency cooperation within watersheds, with entire watershed stability and health in view

* We endorse the bond concept for timber sales. An amount approximately 10% of expected profit is placed as surety of purchaser’s proper adherence to contract regulations. Bond money is returned or partially returned with interest accrued, or is withheld in accordance with the findings of post-cut inspection. Purchasers who violate regulations three times are no longer eligible to bid on units sold.

- Distribute maps of relevant sites within specific watersheds. Name these sites (no lot #’s)
- Pursue legal suits to prevent destruction of these sites. Learn the legal-bureaucratic process. Participate in timber sale appeals, attend workshops, get involved
- Articulate the values of Forests, educate the public
  a) Schools - Forest awareness week
  b) Neighbor-to-neighbor
  c) Old Growth week
  d) Networking
- Expand coordination and synergy between groups protecting wilderness
- Clearcut consciousness!
  a) Clearcut picnics
  b) Concert in clearcut
  c) Aerial photographs
- Nonviolent direct action
- Meet with loggers, millers, and other forest workers where they are comfortable, and invite union representatives to bioregional forestry meetings
- Develop a catalogue of bureaucratic mis-terminology, i.e. ‘scenic corridors’
- Spiritual and educational signs in our National Forests
- Publicly address the hidden costs of Old Growth logging in terms of fishing, tourism, hunting, shellfish, and costs to the public such as dredging sediment, subsidizing road-building, flood damage and herbicide damage

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Congress participants gathered in a grassy field for the closing ceremony. They formed a single, large circle clasping hands.

The circle was conjured:
Parting/leaving
starting/weaving
conjure artful
circle heartful
in the cycle cast by feeling
craft anew the wheels of healing

The quarters were called:
Guardian of the north, I conjure thee!
answer: I am the earth, who contains all
Guardian of the east, I summon thee!
answer: I am air, the dancing spirit of wind
Come, you great changer, Guardian of the South!
answer: I am fire, source of light and warmth
Guardian of the West, come to us!
answer: I am water, element of life.

The circle was then proclaimed:
These are the spirits of the sacred circle
that contains us, and which we are.
Revere them, for this is what and who we are.
Blessed be.

The participants began to chant, and as we chanted, we danced a spiral dance, to the center of the circle.
The earth, the water, the fire, the air
returns, returns, returns, returns
The earth, the water, the fire, the air
returns, returns, returns, returns
The earth is our mother, we must protect her
returns, returns, returns, returns
The ground on which we walk is sacred
returns, returns, returns, returns

We danced until the spiral was solid, when we knelt. A
seed, some earth, and some water were passed along the spiral
to the center point, where the seed was planted. A
spontaneous, soft chant arose:
The earth is my body
Air is my heart
Water is my blood
Fire is my spirit.

The spiral returned slowly to the original, large circle.
We danced a Sufi dance, with people facing each other and
moving forward to meet the next person in the circle,
accompanied with expressions of open arms, giving, and
receiving:
To you I give
From you I receive
Together we share
By this we live.
CREDITS

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Methow Valley Steelhead
Sammamish Watershed
Bull Run Watershed
Port Gardner Bay
Snohomish Valley
Folks that haven’t realized the need for change
People born 20 years from now

Special Thanks
Caroline Estes, Master Facilitator from Alpha Farm, deserves more thanks than she’ll ever acknowledge for serving as the Congress facilitator. She made us all appreciate effective process as she walked the line between impassioned commitment and professional detachment.

David Haenke, with his many years of experience in the bioregional movement, provided us with his considerable wisdom and wit. His guidance is always appreciated.

Jim Scott, Cecelia Ostrow and "All Life is Equal" presented us with a wonderful evening of song, as Robert Sund, Tom Jay, Tim McNulty and Clifford Burke enticed us with the spoken word.

Chefs’ Surprise
One of the uniting forces of the Congress was the incredible feasts. Not only were they offered with smiles, but they were filled with love. Lynn Bernstein, in concert with Lisa Taylor and Kate Glass, coordinated the purchasing and cooking of food that was mostly organic and locally produced. We owe them a heartfelt thanks for allowing us to concentrate on our hearts and minds and not empty stomachs. We also thank the following providers of local, quality food for their interest and support:

* Blue Heron Bakery
* Olympia Food Coop
* Pacific Soyfoods
* Bob Gillis - Sprouts
* Farmers' Wholesale Coop
* Bob Bussabarger - Blueberries
* Dairy Fresh Farms
* Allen Fitzthum - Honey

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Erik Haglund
Mike Hooper
Mark Killgore
Rebecca Lowe
Constance Maytum
Dave McCloskey
Nan McMurry
Peter Moulton
Rusty Post
Rhys Roth

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Locally grown organic buffets, beautiful weather and excellent company

Erik Haugland and Dave McCloskey unfurl the Cascadian colors before a Coordinating Committee meeting; the star and crescent on a field of blue with green and white stripes

The morning after for local hosts (l to r) Bill Fiorilli, Rusty Post, Peter Moulton, Lynn Bernstein, Lisa Taylor and Dave Newhouse

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The Cascadia Bioregional Congress proceedings were produced by:

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