

The Importance of Public Participation in the Conservation of Our Natural Resources



Todd Schaller
Chief Conservation Warden

Some things to think about and discuss today.....

- **What is "conservation"?**
- **Why does it matter? Do you think this is an important issue for us as a society?**
- **What concerns do you have about our natural resources today?**
- **What are our the biggest challenges we face today in conservation?**
- **What is your role in conservation?**
- **How can you get involved in conservation decision making?**



What is conservation?

What mental models do we use to think about conservation?

Where did they come from?

North American Model of Wildlife Conservation

How it came to be - let's follow the trail...



1850 - 1900

Era of Decimation

Wildlife viewed as inexhaustible in supply...buffalo is emblematic...

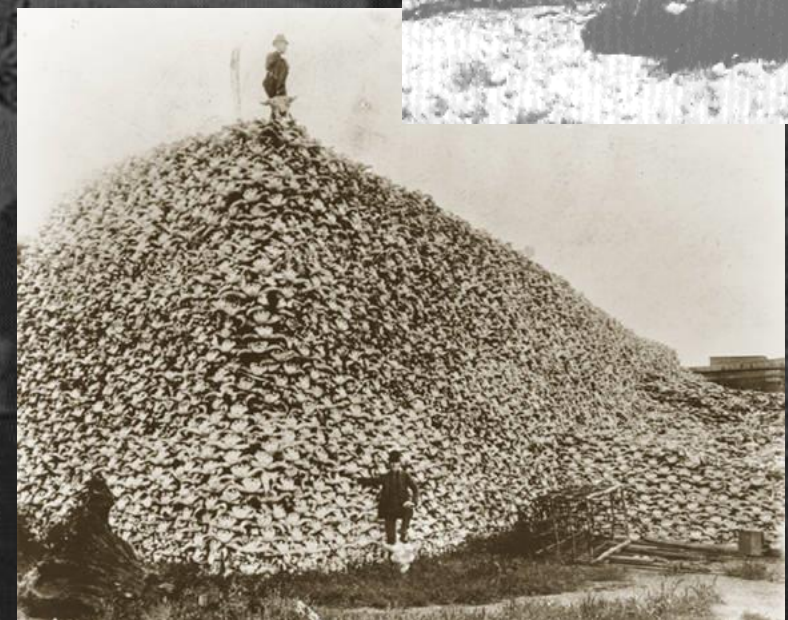
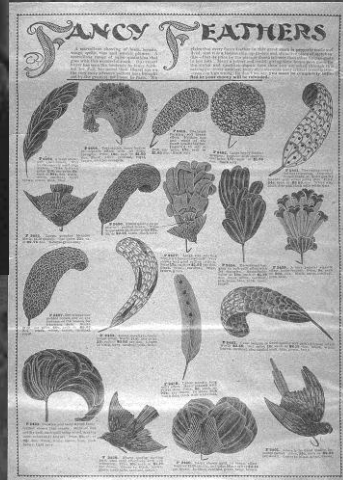


Early 1800's = Estimated 30 Million



1902 - 23 buffalo

Market Hunting



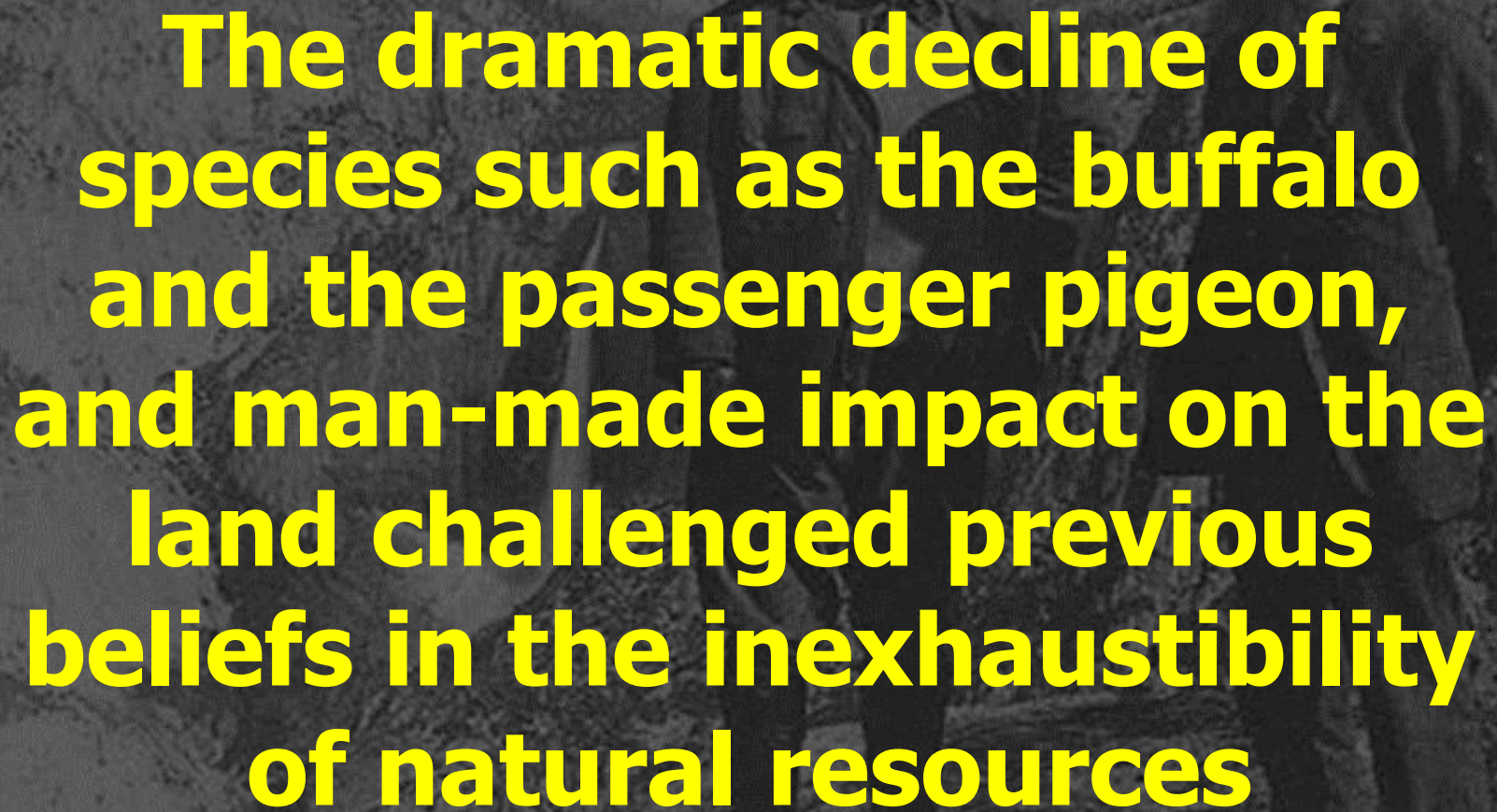
Extinction of Passenger Pigeon



© 1993 Smithsonian Institution

“The scale of the operation can be judged by figures that seem almost incredible but which were carefully recorded as part of a perfectly legal and highly profitable commerce. On just one day in 1860 (23 July) 235,200 birds were sent east from Grand Rapids in Michigan. During 1874 Oceana County in Michigan sent over 1,000,000 birds to the markets in the east and two years later was sending 400,000 a week at the height of the season and a total of 1,600,000 in the year.”

- Clive Ponting



The dramatic decline of species such as the buffalo and the passenger pigeon, and man-made impact on the land challenged previous beliefs in the inexhaustibility of natural resources

“Our natural resources are not limitless, our own self interest dictates we can not afford to be short-sighted in how we use those resources, and if we believe that future generations deserve a natural inheritance undiminished by present generations, we must conserve those resources through sustainable practices that strike an appropriate balance between human industry and nature’s capacity”.

The North American Model of Conservation

A conceptual framework that guides conservation:

- **Wildlife is a public resource. It's the governments responsibility to hold wildlife in trust for all citizenry in perpetuity.**
- **Democratic Rule of Law. Wildlife is placed in the arms of our democracy – not in the hands of a few. Everyone can participate.**
- **Prohibitions on commerce in wildlife. Wildlife would be harvested for individual use in a regulated manner, not for commercial or market purposes.**
- **Scientific Management of Wildlife. Decision making regarding wildlife management should guided by science.**
- **Wildlife is an International Resource. Boundaries of states and nations are of little relevance to wildlife, requires international cooperation.**

"The conservation of natural resources is the fundamental problem. Unless we solve that problem, it will avail us little to solve all others."

***-Theodore Roosevelt
U. S. President
Memphis, TN,
October 12, 1907***

Why did President Roosevelt say this?

Do you agree conservation of our natural resources an important issue for society?



What concerns do you have about our natural resources?



What do you see as the biggest challenges we face today regarding our natural resources?





June 22, 1969

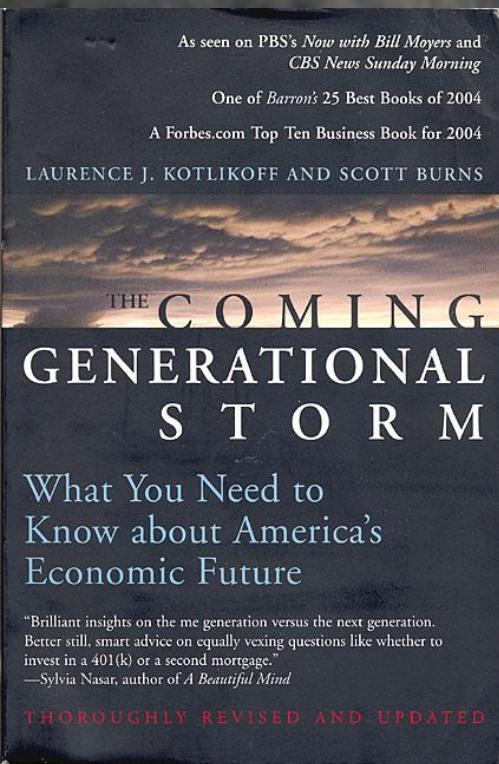
On August 1, 1969, *Time* magazine reported on the fire and on the condition of the Cuyahoga River.

Getting older.....

“Every eight seconds for the next 17 years,
one more baby boomer will turn 60 years old”

“People aged 65 and older made up 12.4 percent of the population in 2000.
They will make up 16.3 percent of the population by 2020.
In 2030 nearly 1 and 5 Americans will be 65 and older”.

Funding Conservation Programs?



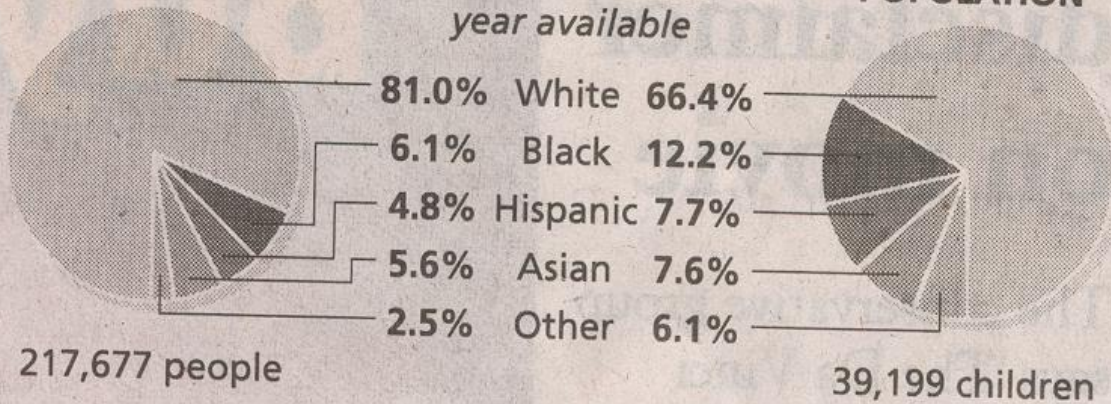
Demographic differences, by age

People living in the Madison School District who are younger than age 18 are much more likely to be racial minorities than the population as a whole.

TOTAL POPULATION

2000 data,
the most recent
year available

UNDER AGE 18 POPULATION



SOURCE: National Center for Education Statistics

State Journal

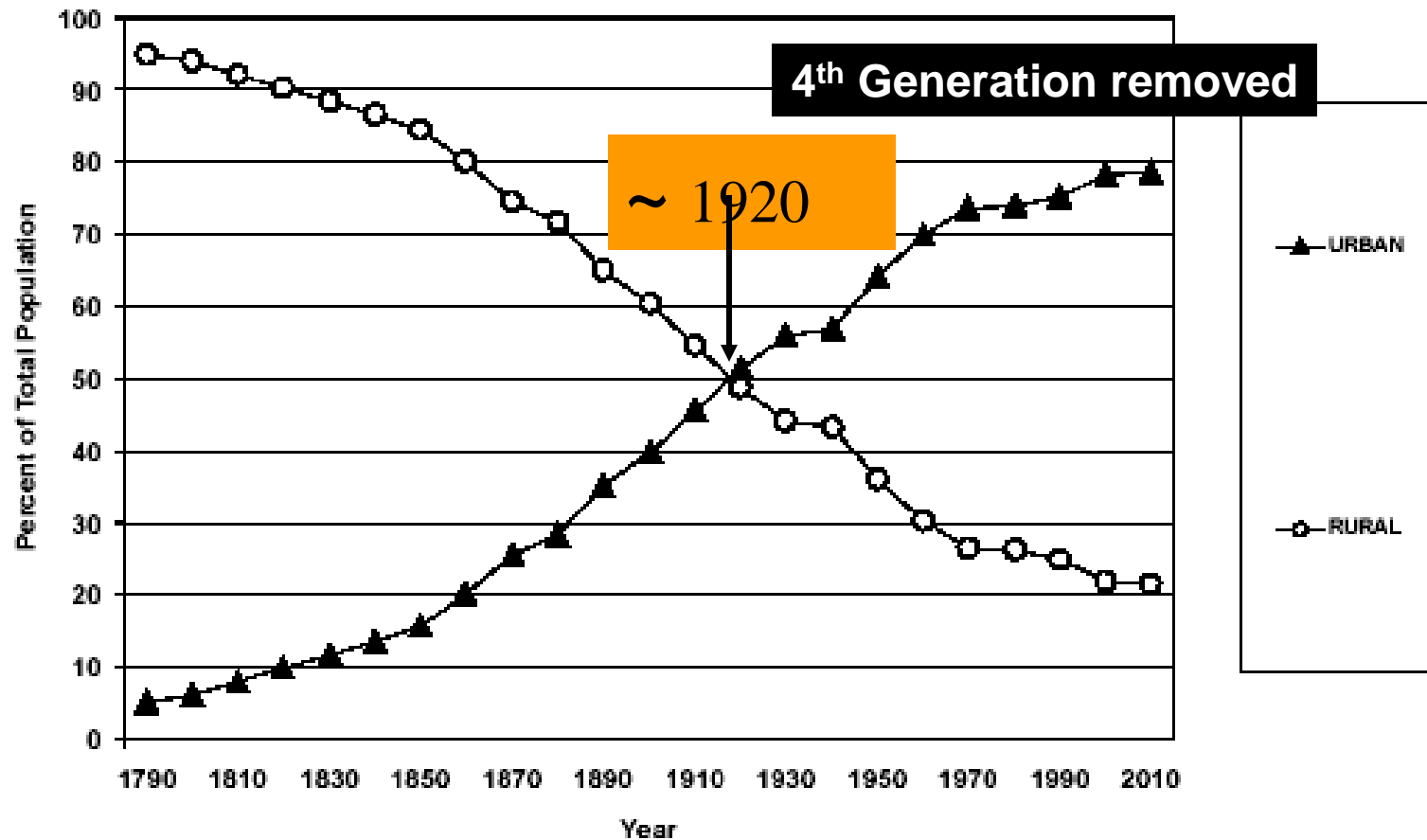


The future stewards of our natural resources will be more diverse.....

Figure 1.

The Percent of Population (All Ages) in Urban Versus Rural Housing

Data from U.S. Census Bureau



Becoming more urbanized.....

"You begin to believe that your water comes from the faucet, gas comes from the gas pump, your heat comes from the stove, your food comes from the store". - Cal Dewitt

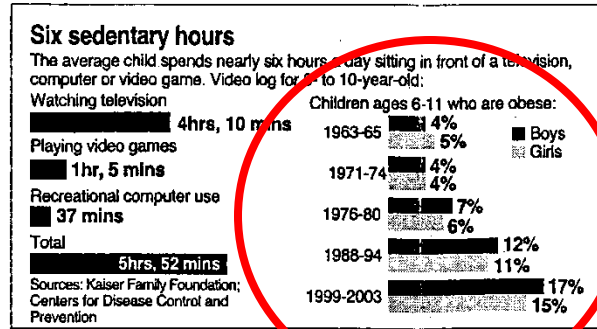
Childhood increasingly moving away from outdoors

Video interests overwhelmingly keep kids home

By Dennis Cauchon
USA Today

BELLBROOK, Ohio — Being a kid isn't what it used to be.

Dakota Howell, 9, went fishing here the other day with his mom, dad and little brother. "It's fun," he says, happily reeling in sunfish from Spring Lake during a fishing derby



them because he was afraid of being kidnapped.

The relationship between kids and their bikes is especial-

percent decline, according to Bicycle Industry and Retailer News, an industry magazine.

"Bikes used to be empowering for children," says Marc Sani, publisher of the magazine. "My parents didn't care where I went as long as I was home for supper. Now, parents are afraid to let kids out of their sight."

Many children have substituted skateboards and scooters to get around. But skateboards and scooters travel short distances and their use peaked in 2001 and 2002 respectively, according to the NSGA survey.

cer camps are in full bloom this summer, although non-organized soccer games are uncommon.

Organized outdoor activities have kept children moving. They are declining, but much more slowly than unstructured outdoor play.

Little League participation has fallen to 2.1 million children, down 14 percent from its peak in 1997. But overall baseball playing — pick-up games, catch, pickle — has declined nearly twice as fast, the NSGA surveys show.

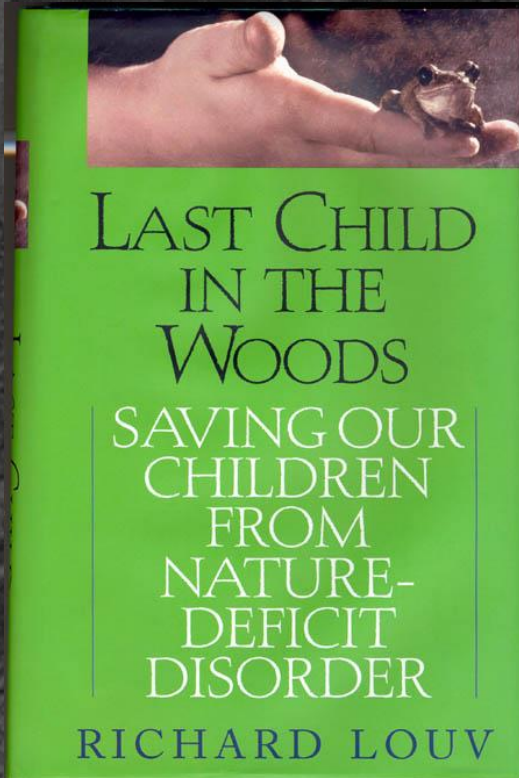
"As a kid, I'd throw my

Pa. "That doesn't appeal to kids as much today. They have many other choices — and not just video games."

In generations past, children's play tended to be open-ended, following whatever game or adventure a child's imagination could generate. Children and parents now prefer structured entertainment, whether it's a video game or a day at the pool.

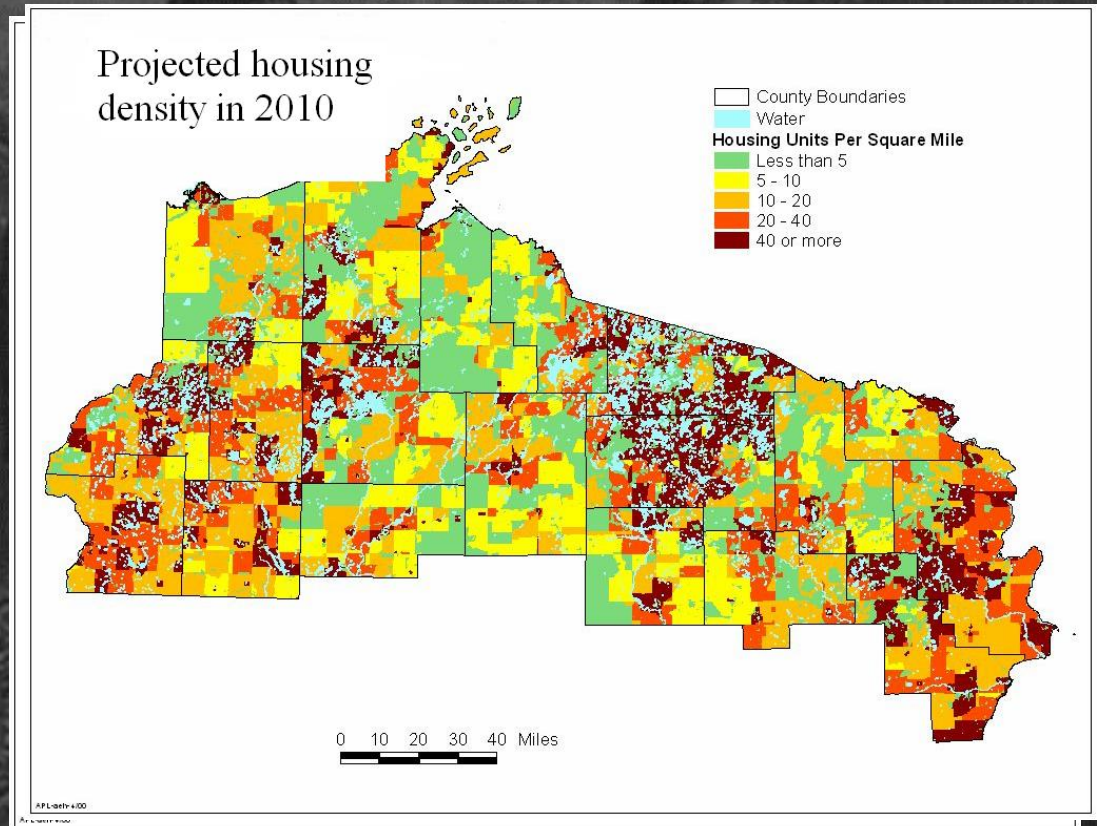
Spring Valley Pool in Granville, Ohio, closed this year after 70 years.

"Kids expect entertainment at a pool, not just pleasure or



Land Use and Ownership Patterns

- **Fragmentation of large tracts into numerous smaller tracts**
- **Forest owners aging - largest intergenerational transfer of private forest lands in history in the next 20 years.**
- **60% of all forested land in US currently owned by people over 55.**



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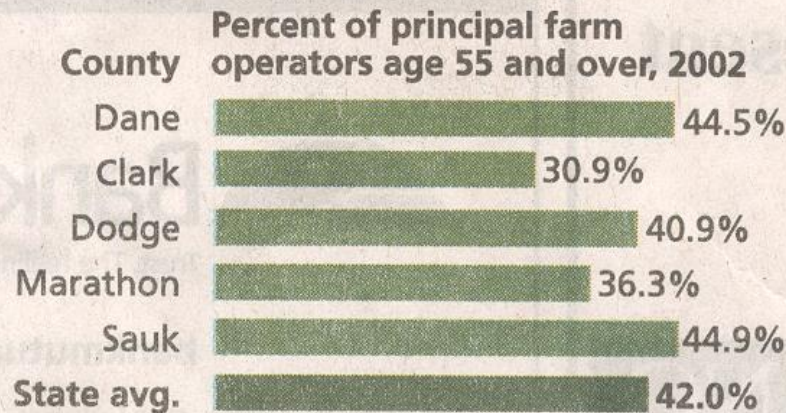


ECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

Principal farm operators approaching retirement age

In 2002, Dane and Sauk counties had a higher percentage of principal farm operators age 55 and over, compared to other top agriculture-producing counties in the state. As these farm operators approach retirement, many farmers could be presented the opportunity to sell their land, potentially for uses other than agriculture.

Part 3 of this month's series on Wisconsin agriculture
Next week: Farming and the cost of petroleum



Economic Snapshot is a weekly feature provided by the Center for Community and Economic Development, University of Wisconsin-Extension.

SOURCES: 2002 Agricultural Census

Additional statistics are available at http://www.nass.usda.gov/Census_of_Agriculture

QUESTIONS: Contact Matt Kures, Center for Community and Economic Development, University of Wisconsin Extension at matthew.kures@uwex.edu.

UW
EXTENSION

AMERICAN CITY & COUNTY

January 2005
Serving Local and State Governments Since 1909

Draining resources

Local governments are m... b... water their...

THE 411 ON 511
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Getting the lead OUT

Reducing lead in the nation's

YOUR HOSE IS CONNECTED TO THIS RESERVOIR



WWW.LBWATER.ORG

services.

FLUID INVESTMENTS

p. 28

System unifies multi-agency response p. 34



WHAT'S IT WORTH?
Calculating ROI for technology projects p. 38



A Prism Business Media Publication

July 2002, water utilities throughout the country began scrutinizing their practices for controlling waterborne lead. Managers knew that, in sufficient quantities, lead consumption could be dangerous to residents, particularly young children, infants and fetuses.

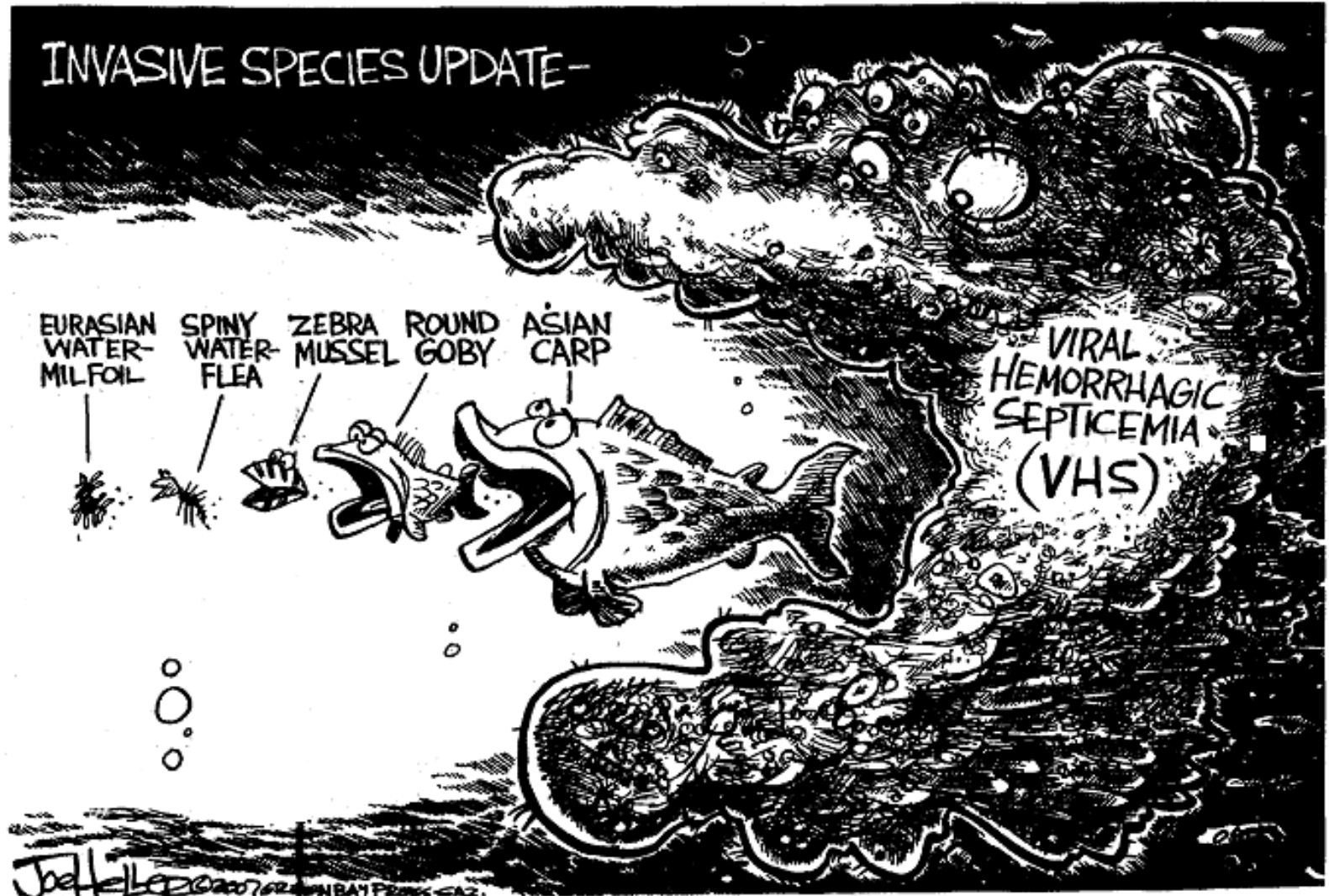
In most circumstances, lead is not present in the drinking water produced at municipal water treatment plants. It

Biodiversity

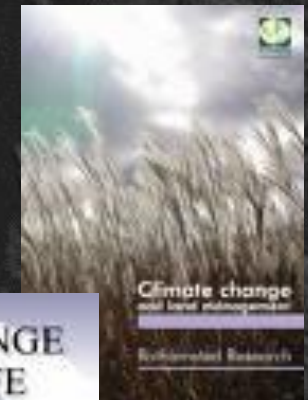
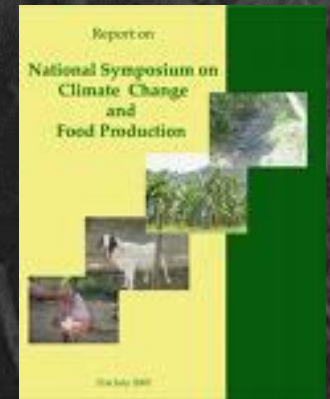
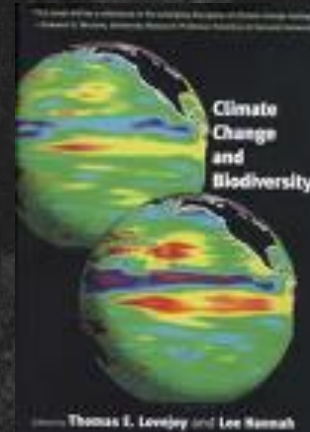
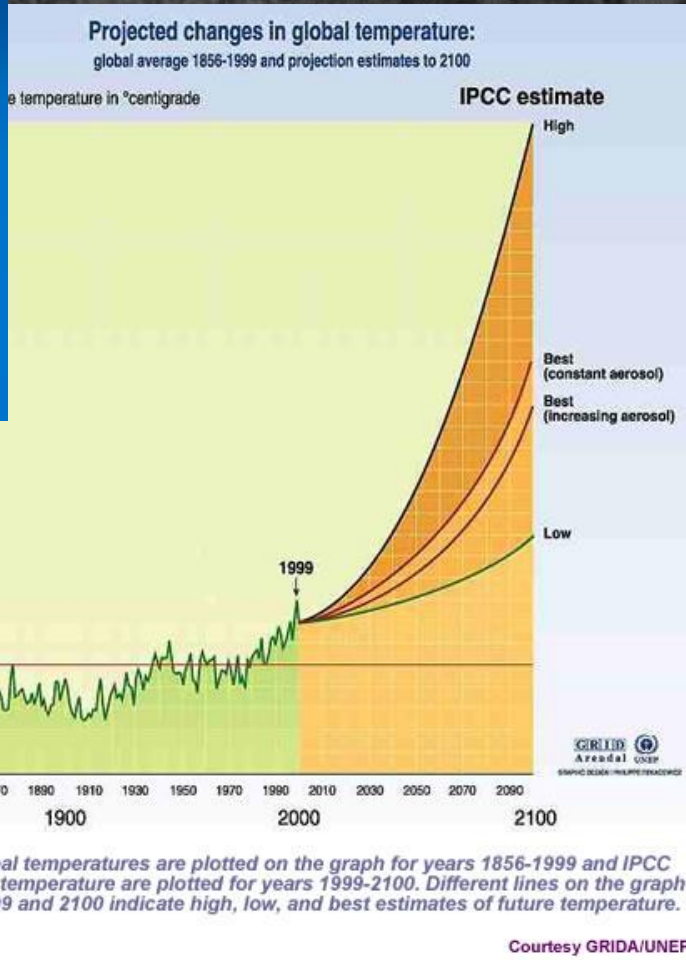


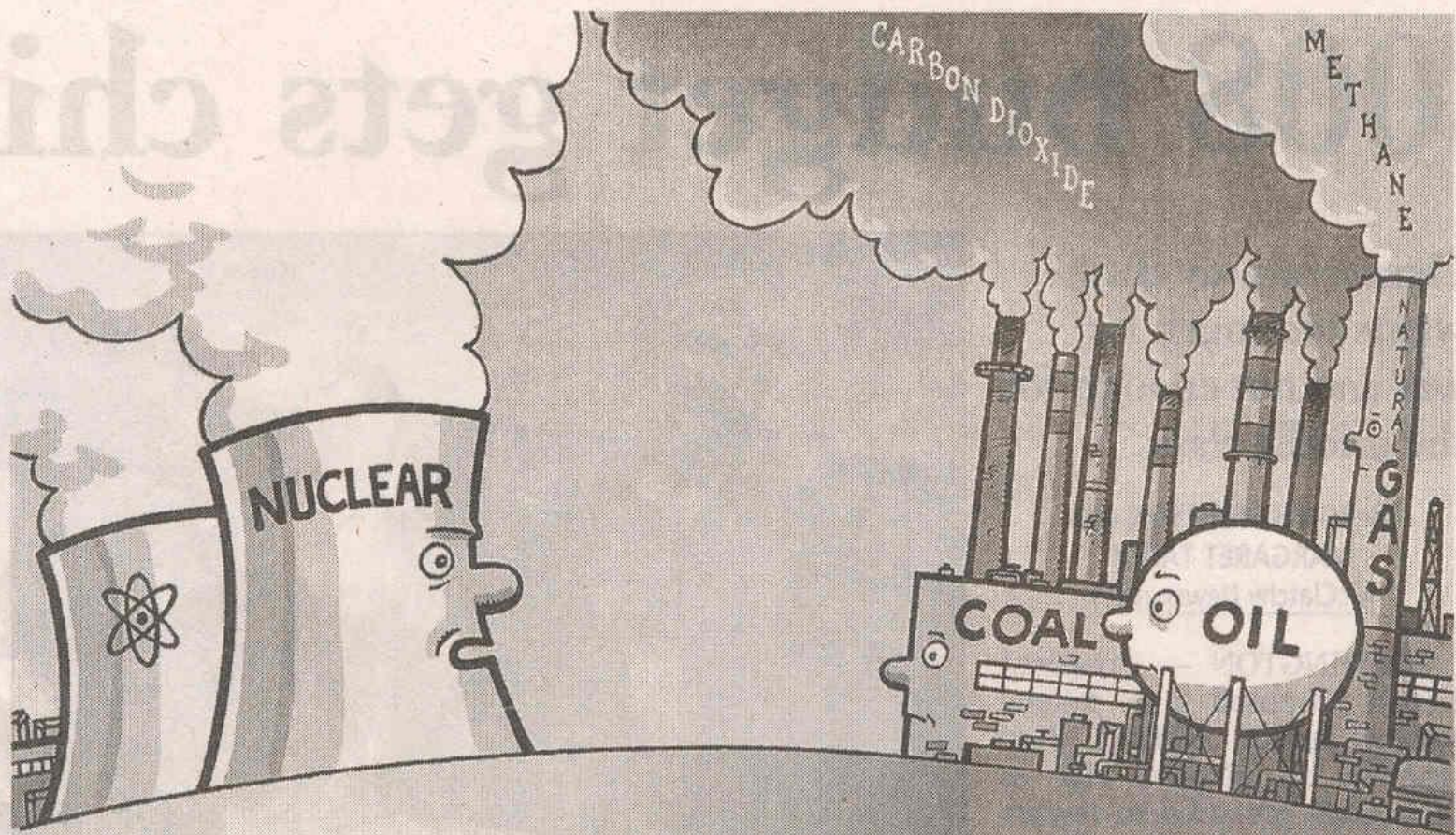
Future Challenges...Biological Pollution Invasive and Exotic Species

VILAS CO. NEWS-REVIEW 6-6-07



Climate Change – Mitigation and Adaptation





©WATSON ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

cap/leam

"THERE'S NO SAFE PLACE ON EARTH TO STORE YOUR WASTE, EITHER!!"



A black and white photograph of two men standing on a rocky ledge overlooking a deep canyon. The man on the left is wearing a wide-brimmed hat, a dark jacket, and a bow tie. The man on the right is wearing a similar hat and a dark suit. The canyon below them is filled with rugged, layered rock formations. The text "What is your role in conservation?" is overlaid in the center of the image in a bright yellow font.

**What is your role in
conservation?**

How You Can Get Involved



Conservation Cadets

- **Individually**
 - Personal practices
 - Career Choice?
- **Organizationally**
 - Form/Join an organization
 - Participate in a conservation organization or project.
- **Participate in the public policy making process.**
 - Stay informed
 - Join an organization
 - Participate in the legislative process
 - Go to legislative and Commission hearings and present your opinions and views on issues



Examples of Conservation Organizations



Sturgeon Patrol




Outdoor Skills Events



Learn to Hunt Events



A black and white photograph of two men standing on a rocky ledge overlooking a deep canyon. The man on the left is wearing a wide-brimmed hat, a dark jacket, and a bow tie. The man on the right is wearing a similar hat and a dark jacket. The canyon below them is filled with rugged, layered rock formations. The overall scene is dramatic and suggests a historical or exploratory context.

How can you get involved in conservation decision making?

Where and how does conservation decision making take place?

- **Federal Level – Congress**
 - Your local Senator and Congress person
 - House Committees
 - Senate Committees
- **State Level – Legislatures**
 - Your local state legislators
 - House/Assembly Committees
 - Senate Committees
- **State Fish and Wildlife Agencies**
 - Commission Model of Decision Making (Natural Resource Boards)
 - Other means of input - Conservation Congress, Round)
- **NGO – Non Governmental Organizations**
 - National – National Wildlife Federation, National Wild Turkey Federation, Sierra Club, etc
 - State
 - Local Conservation Organizations – local clubs and organizations



**Natural Resources
Board**



The Wisconsin Conservation Congress provides Wisconsin citizens with a local avenue for input and exchange concerning conservation issues.

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Some closing thoughts....

Conservation- the Last 130 Years



- **Restored game populations.**
- **Significantly cleaned our air, land and waters.**
- **Benefited an array of other species and habitats and landscapes.**
- **Diverse public and political sectors began to realize the enormous value – culturally, recreationally, and economically – of a sustainable use approach to our natural resources.**
- **Increased the demand for recovery and protection of our natural resources resulted in creation of state agencies staffed with professionals.**
- **Partnerships with land owners and a proliferation of non-profit conservation organizations who engage in political action and raise money to preserve habitat and restore wildlife.**
- **International Treaties were established.**
- **Devised funding mechanisms for conservation.**



**The Next Chapter in
Conservation History.....**

**A defining moment...how will
you participate in the this
moment in history?**



Conservation of our natural resources is critical to the future vitality of our country. Everything is ultimately a subsidiary of the natural world.

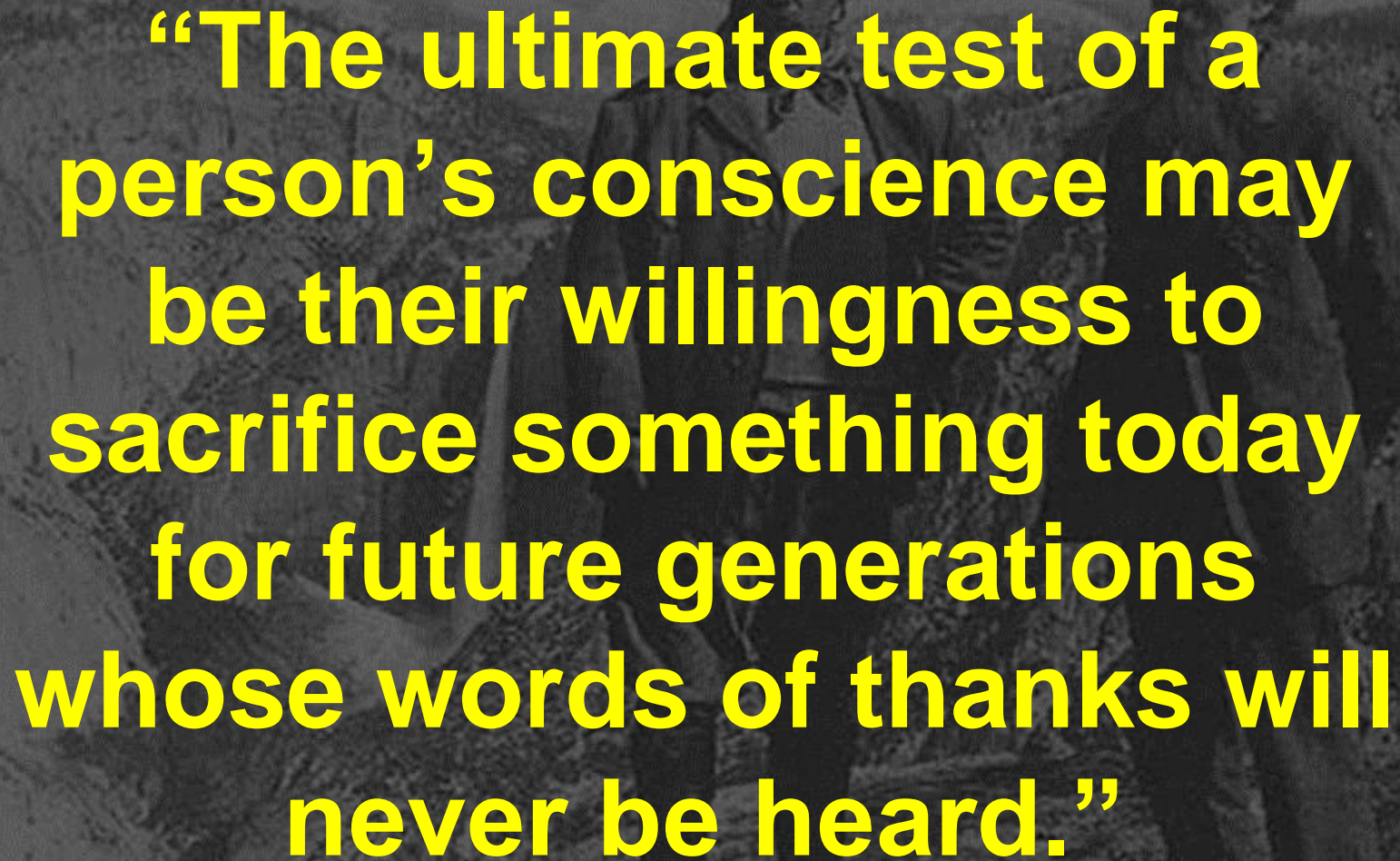
Outdoor experiences and participation in conservation are a means for an increasingly urbanizing society to remember we do not weave the web of life, we are merely a strand in it.

It's important we have experiences in the natural world – to experience an element in the human existence that is critical to perpetuating a world that is both sustaining and sustainable.



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How Rich Will We Be
When We Have Converted All Our Forests, All Our Soil,
All Our Water Resources and Minerals into Cash?



“The ultimate test of a person’s conscience may be their willingness to sacrifice something today for future generations whose words of thanks will never be heard.”

- Gaylord Nelson