

## A New Belief System

Beginning sometime in the 1960's a new belief system began to emerge across America. Environmentalism was in vogue. Hard work, self determination and free enterprise were no longer important it seemed. People were living better - life expectancy was increasing. Everyone seemed to have plenty to eat. New homes were springing up, here, there and everywhere.

Yet everyone seemed to be unhappy. Enterprise was bad we were told. Mankind was polluting the earth, wildlife was suffering, something had to be done. And so the Clean Air Act was passed, the Clean Water Act was passed, and the Endangered Species Act was passed, and on and on it went. Everyone seemed to be on board. New regulations and licensing were coming out of the woodwork - on the county level, on the state level, and on the federal level. Freedom and liberty were out, while more and more governmental oversight was in.

The Forest Service, the B.L.M., the State Department of Wildlife, the media - all were telling us, there had to be change. Cattle were bad, sheep were bad, and grazing was bad. Roads were bad, fences were bad, oil and gas and exploration were bad. Coal was bad, and even dams were bad. Whatever mankind did, or whatever he was going to do, was bad.

And so it's been for more than 40 years now. Apparently it's a religious thing. The truth does not matter, history does not matter, science does not matter - heck, we can change and distort all that. What matters is to bring back a natural balance. Stop the plowing and stop the farming. Protect the rivers, the lakes and the country sides. Protect the wild horses, the wolves and the predators. There can be only one solution. Let nature prevail and all will be well.

And so, after all these years, are things improving, with all the government and all the oversight - is everyone happy now? Not by appearance they aren't - not if you listen to the bureaucrats, or to television or the radio. Now we have a health care crisis, an environmental crisis, a global warming crisis, and an economic crisis.

And then we are told that our new president wants change - and I'm thinking, hasn't most of the change already occurred. You hardly hear anyone talking about how important it is that we uphold the Constitution anymore - or any other law for that matter. I always understood that when a law was passed, the government was obligated to uphold and enforce that law. Isn't that what government by law is about? Why is there so much selective enforcement these days? Are we not all supposed to be treated equally under the law? What happened to truth and justice? Why is it that no one is afraid of big government anymore? Why is it that everyone looks for government handouts today? Aren't government handouts unconstitutional? Why is it that so many of the principles which this country was founded upon have now been abandoned? Where do our problems lay - is it with the people we elect to office, or is it us? Do we really care as a people, or don't we?