

Randy Olson <randyolson@me.com>

To whom it may concern:

The quote below appeared in a recent [Oregonian article](#):

"Nearly 50 years ago, legendary Gov. Tom McCall's environmental agenda landed Oregon on the cover of National Geographic. He began cleaning up the polluted Willamette River before the Clean Water Act existed. He created a state environmental agency before Congress started the EPA."

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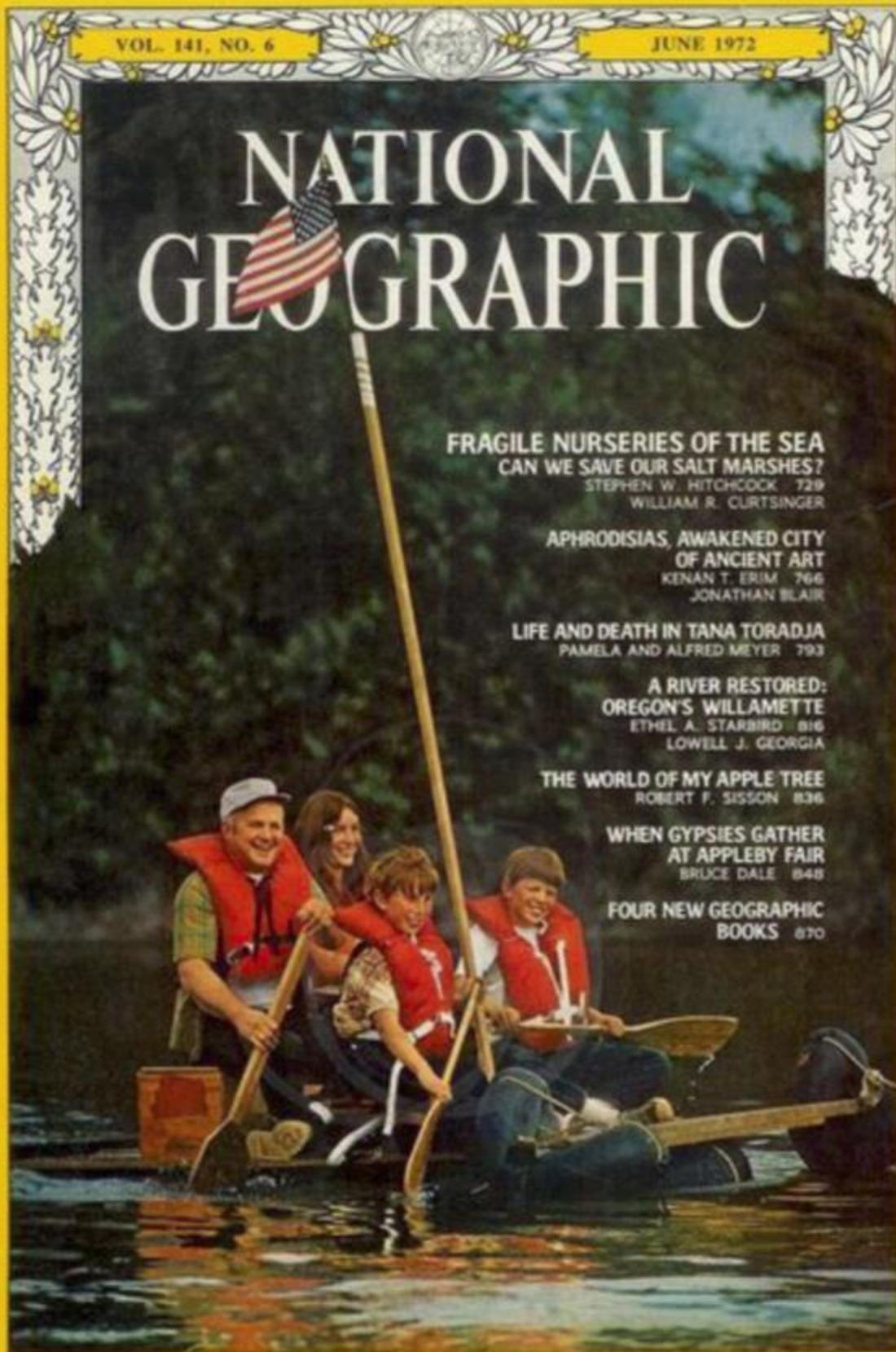
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I've worked as a photographer for National Geographic for the last 25 years, specializing in resource extraction around the world and how that affects indigenous communities.

I'm enclosing one photograph from Borneo where gold miners are using mercury amalgam in the only pond of water in their area... you can see miners with mercury and others bathing and brushing their teeth in the same water.



All the stories I've done about resource extraction's harm to humans all over the world have a couple of things in common. There is always a "tragedy of the commons" component because extracting the resource is more important than clean water, clean air, or human health. And the governments I deal with are corrupt and paid off by the resource extraction interests.

My parents are getting older and and we want to be closer, so we are in the process of moving to Oceanside OR - a community that will have it's entire watershed logged in June of this year.

Logging the Rockaway Beach watershed and the documented harm to human health and the [Oregonian article](#) listing unfettered financial access to our legislators that we depend on to keep our environment healthy is a mind-bending experience for me. I had no idea that what I documented about human harm, greedy-resource-extraction and corrupt governments would come to roost in my new backyard.

We are moving from Sewickley (a community outside Pittsburgh PA) to Oceanside OR but still have homes in both places.

I consider Oceanside's water system to be fragile infrastructure and submit the enclosed the EPA water violation reports as evidence. I've copied EPA violation reports for Portland, Oceanside and our town (Sewickley) in Pennsylvania.

We buy (5 gallon bottles of water) in Sewickley PA and don't drink the tap water because there is fracking all around us and we live in the industrial east... the largest petrochemical buildup is being hatched up river from us... it's a land of zinc smelters, pollution from heavy chemical industry and superfund cleanup sites left over from the days Pittsburgh ran on steel.

Sewickley's water has less violations than Oceanside's... I had to use two pages to print out the violations for Oceanside, but Sewickley fits neatly on less than a page.

It's IRONIC we're considering moving from a place in PA that seems so polluted but we might have better water than we have here in Oceanside. And that is BEFORE our watershed is logged.

Please pass HB2656 and protect our coastal water systems.

Thanks,

Randy Olson  
Oceanside OR

EPA Water System Violation Report Page

[https://ofmpub.epa.gov/apex/sfdw/f?p=108:11:0::NO:11,RIR:IREQ\\_PWSID:OR4100657](https://ofmpub.epa.gov/apex/sfdw/f?p=108:11:0::NO:11,RIR:IREQ_PWSID:OR4100657)

Portland OR Water Violations

| PWS ID    | PWS Name              | EPA Region | Primacy Age | Population S | Rule Name                                    | Violation Cod |
|-----------|-----------------------|------------|-------------|--------------|--|---------------|
| OR4100657 | PORTLAND WATER BUREAU | Region 10  | Oregon      | 614,059      | Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment | 42            |
| OR4100657 | PORTLAND WATER BUREAU | Region 10  | Oregon      | 614,059      | Total Coliform Rule                          | 22            |
| OR4100657 | PORTLAND WATER BUREAU | Region 10  | Oregon      | 614,059      | Total Coliform Rule                          | 21            |
| OR4100657 | PORTLAND WATER BUREAU | Region 10  | Oregon      | 614,059      | Total Coliform Rule                          | 21            |
| OR4100657 | PORTLAND WATER BUREAU | Region 10  | Oregon      | 614,059      | Synthetic Organic Chemicals                  | 3             |
| OR4100657 | PORTLAND WATER BUREAU | Region 10  | Oregon      | 614,059      | Arsenic                                      | 3             |
| OR4100657 | PORTLAND WATER BUREAU | Region 10  | Oregon      | 614,059      | Inorganic Chemicals                          | 3             |
| OR4100657 | PORTLAND WATER BUREAU | Region 10  | Oregon      | 614,059      | Inorganic Chemicals                          | 3             |
| OR4100657 | PORTLAND WATER BUREAU | Region 10  | Oregon      | 614,059      | Inorganic Chemicals                          | 3             |
| OR4100657 | PORTLAND WATER BUREAU | Region 10  | Oregon      | 614,059      | Inorganic Chemicals                          | 3             |
| OR4100657 | PORTLAND WATER BUREAU | Region 10  | Oregon      | 614,059      | Nitrates                                     | 3             |
| OR4100657 | PORTLAND WATER BUREAU | Region 10  | Oregon      | 614,059      | Inorganic Chemicals                          | 3             |
| OR4100657 | PORTLAND WATER BUREAU | Region 10  | Oregon      | 614,059      | Arsenic                                      | 3             |
| OR4100657 | PORTLAND WATER BUREAU | Region 10  | Oregon      | 614,059      | Inorganic Chemicals                          | 3             |
| OR4100657 | PORTLAND WATER BUREAU | Region 10  | Oregon      | 614,059      | Radionuclides                                | 3             |
| OR4100657 | PORTLAND WATER BUREAU | Region 10  | Oregon      | 614,059      | Radionuclides                                | 3             |

Sewickley PA Water Violations



Oceanside OR Water Violations



