

Welcome back to another edition of the Earth First! Journal. We are delighted, humbled, and honored to serve up another fresh collection of musings, critiques, communiques, and instructions on how to survive and fight the current onslaught of colonial capitalist violence against ourselves and Mother Earth. As we write this, we watch with the world as horrific genocidal atrocities are carried out in Gaza and across Palestine. We mourn the dead, and we honor those who fight bravely for their freedom. We see the grotesque violence of settler claims to innocence there, and we know the same violent entitlement operates here on Turtle Island to steal, displace, contaminate, eliminate, and destroy. This isn't a metaphor or allegory—we know it's the same monster, and we take seriously our responsibility to fight it. Our hearts break for Gaza and for every other place where genocide has taken place at the hands of fascism and empire, but we refuse for our heartbreak to be the end of the story. May our deep grief move us to action to bring about a world where Palestine will be free. We are encouraged to see that people in practical solidarity with Palestinian resistance are using direct action tactics, many of them familiar to earth first!ers. Direct action in all its forms continues to get the goods.

Speaking of tactics, we could go around and around about them. And we do. A lot, actually. We welcome letters or essays that individuals or affinity groups wanna throw together to continue this discussion so that our frontline movements don't fall into stale formulas or rigid ideology. What we think isn't helpful is shitting on actions just because you and your friends don't personally like one. A pitfall of radical rags (this one and others) is that they can descend into arrogant punditry, disassociated from the frontlines where comrades are playing the ball as she lies and doing their best in changing conditions, making mistakes, learning from them, and keeping things moving. The anti-authoritarian principles of freedom of association and a respect for a diversity of tactics remind us to lend our skills where our desire and energy leads us, and to freely walk away when our desire or ethics lead us elsewhere. Of course, there is always room to grow and be better and make sure we aren't destroying ourselves in the process of destroying civ. We remind ourselves and our resistance community to stay humble and open. We all need to periodically check our ratios and make sure our contributions are as robust as our critiques.

This is all to say, resistance is alive and well. People are doing the damn thing. In this issue, we have updates and voices from the fights in Atlanta and Appalachia and Thacker Pass and the Mattole. We have grapplings with critical minerals, green tech, and the opportunistic coopting of people's climate fear to justify more extraction and violations of sovereignty and self-determination. We have report backs from the various EF! gatherings that took place last year. We have a very

sweet reflection from last spring's climb camp. Dear Shit Fer Brains is on point (or off) as ever. We have an interview with several movement legal advocates who offer ways to continue building repression resilience. We are committed to solidarity with those locked in cages. This issue features a statement and some poetry from Victor Puertas, who was arrested on bullshit charges in Atlanta. We are trying to build out our prisoner support section here, and we continue to send over 100 journals to people on the inside.

Knowing that if the state takes our capacity to grieve and feel we're fucked, in this issue we take the opportunity to grieve recent losses together. We honor the importance of poetry as a medium of remembering and as an expression of our love for those who have shifted to a different realm. May our efforts and actions make them proud.

You'll find an update from Black Mesa, because herding sheep and hauling firewood is direct action. Sometimes victories take the form of continued presence (proclaiming "we are still here") and sometimes campaigns burn slow over decades and decades. The recent victory at the Roof Depot in Minneapolis shows that sometimes winning means stopping additional violence on an already damaged landscape and preventing more harm to already poisoned communities.

After a messy campaign, a painful action, or a bad experience with defendant solidarity, some of us may wonder "is there even a POINT", "do we ever WIN?" "is this WORTH IT?" We hope this jampacked issue offers an enthusiastic "YES" to those questions. Together in struggle, we can remember and rebuild transformative, sometimes older, ways of relating to each other and to the land. We aim to offer a spirited reminder to others with sore hearts that there are like minded wingnut weirdos in many corners of the world, people who know in our bones that there's no other way to be but to fight. As a friend recently told us, our movements may lack some things, but we sure don't lack heart. From our hearts to yours, thanks for reading!

For the Wild,

The Earth First! Journal Collective