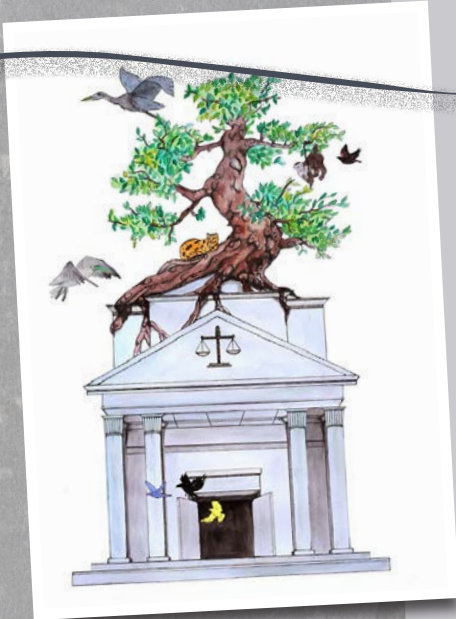


CELDF

DECLARING DISRUPTION



CELDF declares disruption!

Our frontline community support is about disrupting corporate power. Our education and training programs are about disrupting false narratives and ineffective organizing.

Our movement lawyering is about disrupting unjust law and opening up new legal frontiers for people and ecosystems.

Our 30+ years of truth telling through organizing support, education, and legal services has been about disrupting systemic inequality in order to usher in right-relationship.

Celebrate and support CELDF's Declaring Disruption Mid-Year Impact Report by getting caught up, tuned in, and donating to CELDF.



SEE WHAT'S INSIDE

- **Radical Visions: Reconnecting Academia and Nature**
- **Frontline communities**
- **CELDF's State of Rights of Nature Report**
- **America 250: A Revolutionary Perspective**
- **Truth and Reckoning on Substack**
- **Support that goes beyond the moment**

America 250
A REVOLUTIONARY PERSPECTIVE



CELDF's 50/20 Campaign! With your generosity and support we can reach our goal of raising \$50,000 and welcoming 20 new donors to CELDF!

**DONATE
TODAY**

RADICAL VISIONS: RECONNECTING ACADEMIA AND NATURE

Radical Visions: Reconnecting Academia and Nature, held in March, was CELDF's second truth, reckoning, and right-relationship convergence (TRRR). The two-day gathering was aimed at advancing community resistance and resilience by digging into the deeper systems that shape how we learn, how we teach, how we act, and who our education ultimately serves.

An intentionally intergenerational, transdisciplinary and immersive experience, students and faculty from several educational institutions in the greater Cleveland

area gave powerful testimony on how the current system is set up to



prepare them for corporate labor needs rather than for critical thinking, creativity or civic power.

Through testimony, art and roundtable conversations on topics about connections to local food systems and technology and AI and the harms to not just the environment, but to the physical and mental harms to the students of the future, it became clear that no one on the university campuses were talking about these issues, let alone connecting them to the larger system.

What *Radical Visions* revealed is that the current environment, culture, and business of academia has led to profound student alien-

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FRONTLINE COMMUNITIES

OREGON: Water Wars

For decades western Oregon watersheds have been under assault by clear cutting, toxic pesticide spraying, and local economic destabilization caused by wall street focused corporatization of timber. This happens because corporate friendly water and timber laws authorize unsustainable and harmful behavior despite the evidence demonstrating the disconnect between law and reality.

Undeterred by entrenched law, economics and politics, Community Rights Lane County (CRLC) has not backed down in the fight for democracy and the health of the natural environment. It has taken fourteen years for CRLC to even get a fair shot at the ballot box

due to deliberate corporate inference. Sadly though, on May 19th Lane County voters rejected a **rights of watershed law** (drafted with assistance from CELDF) thanks to \$500,000 spent by Weyerhaeuser and The Koch Brothers to spread lies and misinformation about the measure.

"We made a lot of new Rights of Nature friends. More people than ever before in our county support legal protections for the natural world. We will not turn our backs on the very real needs of the watersheds. . . We won't don't give up." - Michelle Holman,



Community Rights Lane County. CELDF has been with the CRLC from the beginning and will continue to be there for those warriors in Oregon.

MONEY CAN'T BUY YOU LOVE, BUT IT CAN HELP IN MAKING NEW RELATIONSHIPS

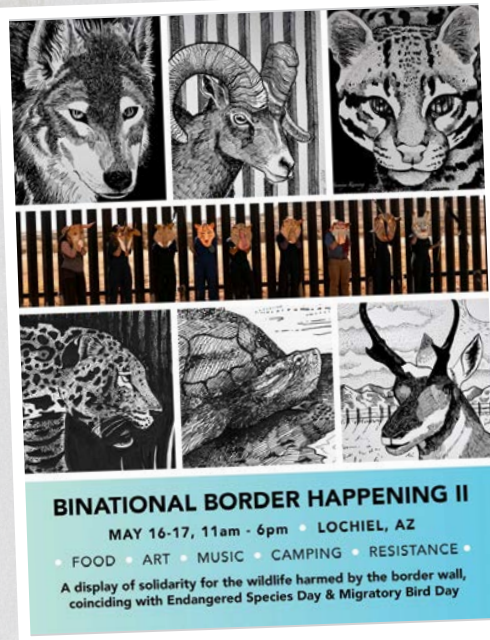
So much of what CELDF does is about relationships. Through those relationships, connections are made and actions ensue. Besides funding needed to develop the Truth, Reckoning, and Right Relationship Guidebook into a powerful tool, CELDF also needs your dollars to keep reaching out, making new connections, and nurturing relationships.

DONATE TODAY

ARIZONA: Tear Down This Wall!

Along the Arizona-Mexico border in the San Rafael Valley community members continue to resist the breakneck construction of the racist and ecologically-catastrophic border wall through critical jaguar and ocelot habitat. The undeterred resisters have held multiple protest camps and rallies, and allies in Texas successfully halted a plan to build a wall through Big Bend National Park.

CELDF is serving as a communication link and on-the-ground resource



to the Arizona border wall resisters through publicity support and strategic and tactical consultation. After CELDF's Executive Director Kai Huschke visited the wall construction site to participate in a rally and work with local organizers late last year, CELDF released an [interview with local organizers](#) and syndicated an op-ed in multiple media outlets. Unfortunately, since that visit in November, miles worth of wall has gone up and continues to advance. The need to resist is still very much mission critical.

The Revolution May Not be Televised but It Does Need Funding

Rights of Nature is a revolution of law. The move from seeing the natural world as rights bearing and not property is truly a transformative action when it comes to Western law.

As you can imagine, making it real and growing the Rights of Nature will not be accepted easily by those who profit from dominating the natural world. Donating to CELDF means you are helping us keep the integrity and potential of Rights of Nature robust.



**DONATE
TODAY**

RADICAL VISIONS: RECONNECTING ACADEMIA AND NATURE

Continued from page 2

ation, disengagement and anxiety. The framework of educational nurturing no longer supports deeply intertwined connections with nature, place and humanity, but has been supplanted with "information management", replaceable "skills" and superficial "credentials".

This convergence was not just an academic or climate event, but it was a reckoning with the structures that disconnect us from each other, from our histories and from the natural world.

Radical Visions was a direct offshoot from the first [CELDF truth, reckoning, and right-relationship with the Great Lakes held in 2023/2024](#). CELDF's consulting director began meeting with a few students in July of 2025 to conceive of, plan for, and create this convergence.

And to help expose many others to the TRRR framework, CELDF is working on a TRRR Guidebook as a resource for communities to use as a model for community building, in spite of the single issues and labels

that have divided us for too long. What both these gatherings highlighted was that intentional divisions through politics, cultural labels and even educational institutions, were keeping people in place-based communities fragmented when in reality there are a lot of common frustrations and shared values.

The TRRR model is a way to help people figure out ways to connect and re-establish community to work together on creating resilient, healthy communities into the future.

CELDF'S STATE OF RIGHTS OF NATURE REPORT



On September 19th Rights of Nature will turn 20 years old. Tamaqua Borough, Pennsylvania was the first place on the planet to adopt a Rights of Nature law thanks to CELDF. That

revolutionary action from 2006 launched a global push for Rights of Nature that has managed to find its way into legislation and court decisions in over 30 nations as of 2026. In the arc of transformational movements, Rights of Nature has gained ground in legal and cultural contexts extraordinarily fast.

CELDF has had its hands in a number of other break through Rights of Nature successes over the last 20 years, including Ecuador's constitutional adoption in 2008 and the passage of the Lake Erie Bill of Rights in 2019. CELDF continues to be called upon not just to lead but also to protect the integrity of the Rights of Nature movement.

It is because of how fast and far the Rights of Nature have traveled that

CELDF felt it was time to premier our [State of Rights of Nature Report](#). The object of the report is to help others keep up on the happenings of Rights of Nature including distinguishing between helpful and hurtful Rights of Nature efforts.

Despite major successes and the tremendous potential still to be tapped into with Rights of Nature, the movement has also reached a point where it is vulnerable to cooptation, watering down, and being turned into a gimmick - like putting Rights of Nature on a corporate board of directors. In addition, and maybe one hard pill to swallow for Rights of Nature advocates, is that global ecological destruction has not slowed down because of Rights of Nature. This last point is not because the Rights

Continued on page 7



CONSULTATION: How Can We Help?

For over 30 years CELDF has fielded calls for assistance from frontline communities under assault from the corporate state. CELDF continues to receive inquiries on a weekly basis from people in the United States and internationally. Their questions, concerns and requests vary from resistance against data centers to assistance with Rights of Nature being the most requested topics in 2026. Besides assistance requests from frontline communities, CELDF is also hearing from academics, journalists, and other NGOs also keen on absorbing the vast experience and know-how of CELDF.



Money Matters

CELDF has operated on a no fee for service basis even when it has come to legal representation. We've been able to do so because individual donors have been generous enough to support our operations so that CELDF can focus on supporting others. Your money matters to CELDF and our community action matters require your money.

DONATE TODAY

America 250 A REVOLUTIONARY PERSPECTIVE



This year marks the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. In these waning days of the American empire, CELDF's [America 250 - A Revolutionary Perspective](#) series offers a point of view that jettisons the jingoism of the official celebration to get closer to the truth. Through written word, pithy videos, and spot-on conversations, we cover topics and themes the "official" version of America 250 would rather we forget.

Ideals vs. Realities

We are taught to "remember" 1776 as a high point in western civilization, a turning point away from oppressive aristocracies and toward democracy for the people. But did winning independence from British tyranny and the genius of the founding fathers really create a land of liberty and justice for all?

Revolution

The meaning of the word "revolution" is as distorted as official American history. CELDF's America 250 - A Revolutionary Perspective takes the real meaning of revolution to heart and concludes that the American revolution failed in 1776 while the Federalist counter-revolution succeeded. We make the case that it's time to pick sides in the ongoing class war against the poor, the planet, and the future.

Systemic racism and sexism

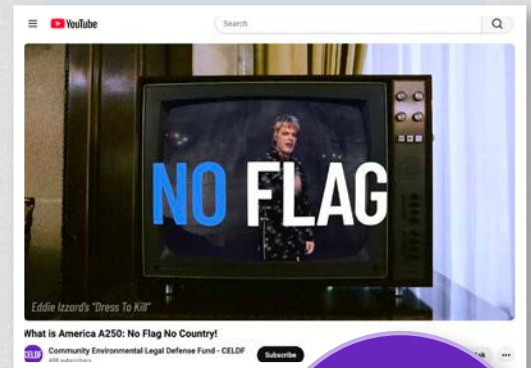
The words of the Declaration are clear. "All men are created equal." Men, not women, and who is a man in the eyes of the law? In essays and podcasts, [CELDF staff and special guests](#) explore toxic American exceptionalism and how systemic racism, misogyny, culturecide, and genocide are part of the true history of the American empire.



American nightmare - "The American Dream Is a Nightmare" by badlyricpolice is licensed under CC BY 2.0. Cropped

Demands and Creating What We Need

The Declaration of Independence listed 27 grievances against the British to justify the war for independence. We review how each of the justifications for revolt listed in the Declaration of Independence has yet to be satisfied by the government that took over the reigns from Britain.



DONATE TODAY

Invest in Unlearning

CELDF has been a truth teller since day one. We've also come to understand that we can't really learn and reckon with the truth until we unlearn the myths and falsities we've been exposed to. Your dollars help us produce projects like this. Help us keep at the necessary unlearning with a donation.





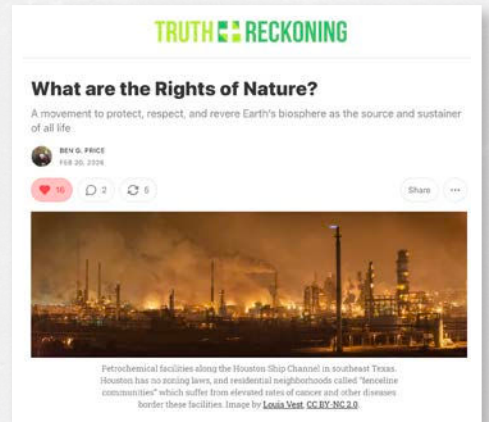
Over the first half of the year, CELDF's Truth and Reckoning has featured ~25 analytical essays, in-depth conversations with grassroots organizers, and breaking news regarding our work. Among our favorites were our recent exposé on corporate money flooding into opposing Lane County's watershed rights initiative, 9 frontline communities CELDF is supporting, a conversation with Truckers Movement for Justice, and a discussion around slowing down, energy use, and alternative transportation with Jeff McFadden who drives a donkey cart instead of a car.



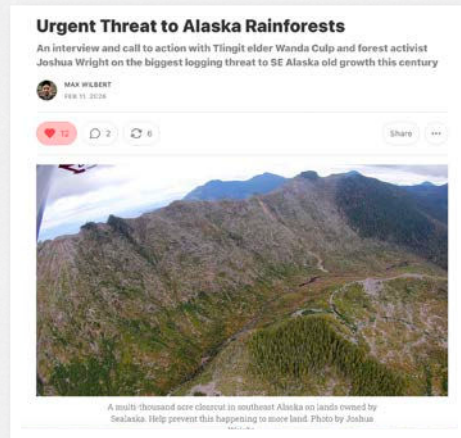
CELDF's Community Resistance and Resilience Co-Director Max Wilbert interviewed powerful and outspoken voices Tlingit elder and matriarch Wanda Culp and forest defense activist Joshua Wright regarding an attempt to privatize over 115,000 acres of National Forest in southeast Alaska.

Other recommendations:

In January, CELDF's Consultation Director Tish O'Dell interviewed three community organizers in Virginia who, inspired and informed by CELDF's May 2025 interview with a biologist regarding threats to Terrapin habitat in their area, launched a protest movement and pro se lawsuit, which CELDF has been lending support to.



Sometimes simple is best. Several months ago, CELDF's Education Director Ben Price helped us publish a piece titled "What are the Rights of Nature? A movement to protect, respect, and reverse Earth's biosphere as the source and sustainer of all life" which has been one of our most popular of the year.



The Truth May Hurt, but It Also Heals

Launching and operating Truth and Reckoning is like running a newspaper and a radio station simultaneously. It takes a lot of effort to pull together the truth-tellers we do. Time is money and we need your donations so we can continue to offer this valuable service from CELDF.

DONATIONS = COMMUNITY ACTION

CELDF

SUPPORT THAT GOES BEYOND THE MOMENT

At a time when many donors are re-thinking where their support can have the greatest impact, legacy giving offers a powerful way to extend that impact well beyond a single moment.

For those nearing or planning for retirement, it is an especially practical time to consider the opportunity afforded by planned giving. CELDF offers numerous options for extending your long-term support well into the future through:

- Bequests
- Beneficiary designations
- Stock gifts
- Qualified Charitable Distributions
- Real estate contributions
- Charitable trusts and annuities

Legacy giving expands what is possible. It allows supporters to invest in structural change, not just short-term relief. The gaslighting and unraveling is still in its early stages. CELDF is built for sustained, long-term work, and legacy giving is one way to ensure your support continues alongside it.

Align your long-term financial planning with the values you share with CELDF by visiting celdf.org/donate.

CELDF'S STATE OF RIGHTS OF NATURE REPORT

Continued from page 4

of Nature aren't viable, it has more to do with the power of the capitalistic system and its view that nature is not sentient but merely an object, property, to be controlled and manipulated for the benefit of people. This means [Rights of Nature](#) laws alone aren't enough; there is a real need to adopt a Rights of Nature mentality especially where laws continue to fail us and the planet.

[CELDF's State of Rights of Nature Report](#) covers aspects of the history of Rights of Nature, significant Rights of Nature events over the years, calling attention to principles of how Rights of Nature laws get constructed as well as the foundation that such lawmaking should be rooted in, a short list of Rights of Nature happenings from 2025, and a critique of Rights of Nature efforts from what we call the good, the bad, and the the ugly.

**DONATE
TODAY**

CELDF's 50/20 Campaign!

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