

IDIOT WIND: THE WISDOM OF BOB DYLAN¹

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Former Congressman Pat Williams told us at last year's Montana Chapter meeting that we—wildlife biologists in Montana—have won. As evidence, he stated that logging on public lands is down, that grazing isn't the issue it once was, and that economic growth in Montana is greatest near public lands and wilderness. I suggest and provide evidence that this could just as easily be evidence that we've lost—or at least are losing. In addition, global warming, resource shortages, oil and gas development, subdivision, human population growth, a volatile political climate, and lax zoning regulations challenge us today and will vex future generations of wildlife biologists. The North American Model of Wildlife Conservation is an excellent history of how we achieved success in the past and sometimes achieve success today but will be woefully inadequate, by itself, to address these and other emerging issues. New alliances with those sometimes viewed as traditional foes and first-time battles with those sometimes viewed as traditional allies will be necessary in the fight to save wild areas and wild things.

"What's good is bad, what's bad is good, you'll find out when you reach the top.
You're on the bottom." – Bob Dylan