

# THE CANYON COUNTRY WATCHDOG

WITH DOUG MEYER IN FLAGSTAFF, ARIZONA



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## The Fat Lady Warms Up

In case you hadn't heard, China is now in front of the line for the Earth's dwindling oil reserves. The US officially lost the war in 2008, when oil markets signaled the end of global growth. After all, it was the US sub-prime deadbeats that couldn't pay their bills, while China, with its 300 million consumers and another billion wannabes, had the financial elites salivating. Of course the power class saw this coming long ago and events are proceeding according to plan. That plan was to destroy oil demand in the US in favor of China. Keep in mind that your kids, grand-kids, great-grand-kids, etc. will be forever paying off the \$2 billion that the US borrows every single day from China, so you can forget about the military. They never worked for you anyway.

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What is it that has destroyed the Earth?  
It's always been the economy, stupid.**

Though we've reached "plateau-oil", with the world's 800 biggest oil fields in a 7 per cent annual decline and not nearly enough new supply coming online to offset it, it's important to understand that the constraint now is really more about the market price not always being high enough to justify going after that very hard to reach remaining oil. China will get a bigger and bigger share of what's left while US consumers simply can't afford to stay in the game. In any competition over energy prices, China will out-bid the US.

So, because we can't grow our oil use, *there will never be* another general economic recovery in the US. Our oil-based infrastructure ensures that. Should a general recovery start, US gasoline prices would spike just enough to kill the demand while still not creating incentive to undertake the costly seven year investment needed to bring new supplies online. And by the way, it takes a lot of oil to make an electric car. And it takes a lot of capital, fossil-fuel energy, and material resources to make a corporate wind farm or solar thermal plant. You watch those paper "renewable energy" scams disappear as soon as the stimulus money runs out.

No oil è no general recovery è no way out of debt è no "green economy". Get it?

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## Greenwashing is Renewable on the Rez

Thinking about the Unsustainable States of America just seven years ago, when "progressives" and "conservatives" alike stuck their plastic 9/11 flags back on their SUV's and proudly bought their gas on credit in support of the invasion of Iraq, we see the depth of denial that our spineless progressive friends are capable of. Now, as their pathetic cries for a "green economy" begin to fade into debt-soaked American history, all we ask for is a little surrender. Instead, the progressive media machine is on auto-pilot, programmed to keep pumping out lies about our future in the green never-never land.

A mind-numbing article in the April 2010 *Inside Outside Magazine*...

[http://www.insideoutsidemag.com/issues/2010/April/Sustainable\\_Empowerment/](http://www.insideoutsidemag.com/issues/2010/April/Sustainable_Empowerment/)

...transports us into an Obama-era world of hope "against all odds" on the Navajo reservation. Despite ravaging impacts of coal mines and power plants where "enormous metal transmission towers march like an enemy army across the

landscape", a so-called "middle way" of native life on the rez is emerging, as we are cajoled into believing. Small-scale residential solar systems are presented as the saving technology, not only allowing remote home-sites their only real chance for basic electrical power, but creating a "vibrant economy" based on, you guessed it, financing, installation and maintenance of exorbitantly priced systems for people with no money. Oh joy.

Enter those rich, guilty white folks (in the form of the Grand Canyon Trust) who shut down Mohave Generating Station thereby putting some Navajo coal miners out of work, and who then sued to take money from a corrupt cap and



trade market in California and give it to the Navajo Nation, which in turn provides a credit allowing a few rural Navajos to go into debt on solar panels. That's meaningful change? That's grassroots? That's a "Just Transition"?

All this would be standard fare progressive folly but for a far more sinister lie embedded in the happy greenwash of the article. Because Jen Jackson presents the theme of small-scale solutions in sharp contrast with the devastation of energy profiteering and corporate plunder of the landscape, we'd certainly hope that none of the article's good guys would in reality be pushing big-time energy players onto a small Navajo chapter. Think again.

"Sustainable Empowerment" relies heavily on the story of the Shonto Rural Renewable Energy Company. Here's what the Grand Canyon Trust has to say in the 3rd paragraph of its own web page describing the very same project that we are told in the article was to be for local benefit only:

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*"The possibility of utility-scale renewable energy projects to offer power to western Navajo communities and, ultimately, distant markets was also discussed. The Shonto Chapter has now authorized Citizens Wind Energy to begin assessing the viability of a utility-scale wind energy development."*

Yep, that's the same Citizen's Wind Energy run by Joe Kennedy Jr., of the Hyannis Port Kennedy's, the same family that fought the wind farm off Cape Cod. And Citizen's is the same company that failed to win over the Cameron chapter during its fight with the Navajo Nation over development rights to Gray Mountain last year.

Now perhaps this particular page on the GCT site :

[http://www.grandcanyontrust.org/native-america/energy\\_actions\\_shonto.php](http://www.grandcanyontrust.org/native-america/energy_actions_shonto.php)

.....was published after Ms. Jackson's research for the article was complete. But whether she was aware of the page or not, the effect of *Inside Outside's* "Sustainable Empowerment" piece then becomes nothing less than a gruesome lie. Here we have the Trust's Tony Skrelunas as quoted in the article:

*"Communities here have said we want something that fits our values and our culture. There's a whole movement of embracing community-based development. Every time you incorporate the cultural values, the teachings, the vision - all of this ends up being green. That always comes out."*

Yes, that always comes out in the greenwash. I guess it's too bad for rural folks that "community-based development" is just a smokescreen for a permanent landscape-destroying wind-farm with transmission towers forever "marching like an enemy" over the people and places of the remote northwestern Navajo Nation.

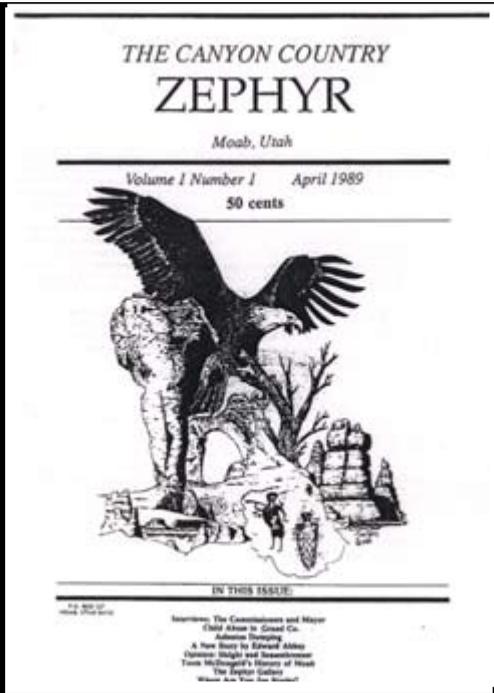
Thank goodness the residents of Shonto are a lot smarter than Tony Skrelunas and the Grand Canyon Trust. We know the white man's world is in full collapse. Future generations needn't live with the nightmare of hundreds of towering hulks of rusted metal monsters that only express our generation's greed, arrogance and desperation.

Nope, it's very simple: Just don't trust the Trust.



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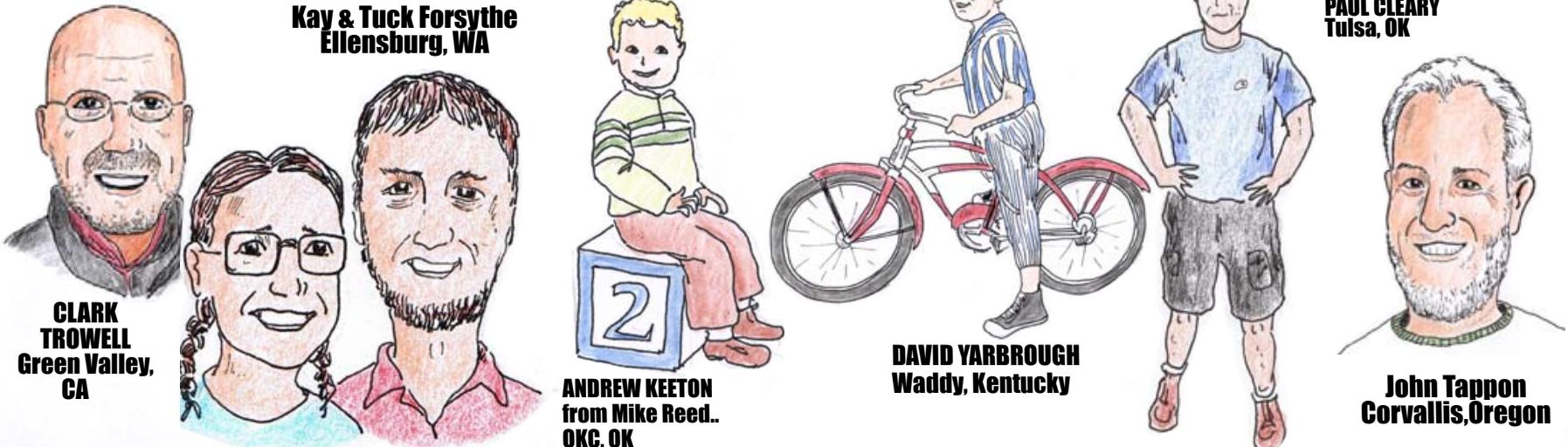
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