# This Place

**S**PREADING ACROSS BRITISH COLUMBIA, IDAHO, Washington, Oregon, and adjoining parts of Alaska, Montana, and California, the Pacific Northwest is home to 15.5 million people, along with diminished but still impressive numbers of salmon, eagles, grizzly bears, killer whales, and wolves. It boasts an economy—concentrated along Interstate 5 and its Canadian equivalent, Route 99—that generates more than \$400 billion worth of goods and services each year, enough to make northwesterners some of the richest people ever.<sup>1</sup>

Long united by similar indigenous cultures, this region, often called "Cascadia," was once briefly a single political unit—the Oregon Territory—shared by several nations. It remains one place shared by different political jurisdictions, now with a dawning sense of itself: a place bound by salmon and rivers, snowcapped mountains and towering forests.<sup>2</sup> The Northwest has traditions of innovation in the public and private sectors; a well-educated populace; and, above all, a commitment to conservation. Indeed, the environment is, in many ways, the Northwest's defining issue. This biological region retains a larger share of its ecosystems intact than perhaps any other part of the industrial world. It has helped set the conservation agenda for the continent—with the first bottle bills and urban growth management laws in the 1970s; trend-setting energy conservation and curbside recycling efforts in the 1980s; old-growth forest protection in the 1990s; and, now, the first endangered species listings to affect major cities.<sup>3</sup>

But there's a broader environmental challenge to which the Northwest is just beginning to rise—not conservation but sustainability: gradually but fundamentally realigning the human enterprise so that both economies and their supporting ecosystems can thrive. Daunting, complex, systemic, seemingly quixotic, sustainability is nonetheless more attainable here than anywhere else on this continent.



Aikido is the subtlest of martial arts: students never meet their opponents' force head on; rather, they deflect it. With precise timing and dancelike movements—graceful gestures that apply redirecting pressure to strategic points of an opponent's anatomy—students use their antagonists' own momentum to throw or pin them.

Many of aikido's techniques grew out of jujitsu, the ancient Japanese samurai's "gentle art" of hand-to-hand combat. Jujitsu techniques allow practitioners to overcome opponents of greater size and strength. As used by the samurai, jujitsu was, if brutally effective, anything but gentle. In contrast, aikido—founded in 1942 by Japanese military hero Morihei Ueshiba after a lifetime of developing its techniques—strives not to harm but to protect opponents, to turn their destructive aims to constructive ends. Aikido means "way of harmony" or, literally, "way to harmonize with nature's energy."<sup>4</sup> IKE THE EASTERLY AND WESTERLY WINDS THAT HOWL up and down the Columbia Gorge, controversy has whipsawed the Northwest since the new millennium began: the Internet bubble burst, gasoline prices surged, elections went haywire, electricity went south, the economy flirted with recession, an earthquake shook Puget Sound. And controversy is as impossible to ignore as icy gorge winds when they sweep the streets of Portland.

But beneath the gusts of controversy that grabs headlines, deeper forces are shaping the Northwest. In the gorge, while air currents hold the attention of sailboarders and power generators (who are erecting the largest wind-electric plant in the world there), the Columbia itself—the biggest Pacificbound river in the Americas—presses steadily westward. Its current, deep and slow beneath the wind-driven waves, gnaws down the Cascades as it has for millions of years.<sup>5</sup>

In the Northwest this past year, most of the changes felt in homes, businesses, and communities have flowed not from the headlines but from the region's deeper, slower current: the enormous scale—and growth—of the human enterprise. Make no mistake: elections, energy crises, Wall Street squalls, and earthquakes alter life in the Northwest, but their effects are like the wind atop the river.

Even with a tempering economy, the human presence in the Northwest expanded impressively in 2000:

The cash value of all goods and services sold in British Columbia, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington grew by about \$15 billion—an increase larger than the entire economy of Guatemala. (If the Northwest were an independent country, its economy would now be the 15th largest in the world, ahead of Mexico's and Russia's. In per capita purchasing power, the Northwest would trail only the United States.)<sup>6</sup>

- The human population of the Northwest rose by 250,000, a slightly smaller increase than during many recent years but more than the number of travelers on the Oregon Trail in all the decades it brought pioneers to the region. (The Northwest's population surpassed that of the Netherlands during 2000. Were the Northwest an independent nation, it would be the 57th most populous.)<sup>7</sup>
- The number of households—as important as sheer population size because households are the basic units of consumption for environmentally critical goods such as homes, vehicles, appliances, and energy—swelled by an estimated 100,000. The number of houses and apartments grew by approximately the same amount.<sup>8</sup>
- The region's fleet of motor vehicles increased by more than 200,000, with truck sales outpacing car sales. If current trends continue, trucks will outnumber cars in the region in 2005.<sup>9</sup>

Growth brought benefits: it raised families' incomes, including those of poor northwesterners; it expanded the Northwest's diversity of economic and cultural offerings; and it made the region's cities more cosmopolitan. It also imposed costs, including rising real estate prices, crowded parks, and congested highways. Above all, growth augmented the scale of human actions that erode ecosystems. That scale was already staggering: on average last year, through the global economy, the 15.5 million northwesterners consumed each day their body weight in natural resources—resources extracted from farms, fisheries, forests, mines, and grasslands. Each day, they also consumed more than 1,000 gallons (3,785 liters) of water apiece (Idahoans pumped more water per person than the citizens of any nation in the world) and emitted nearly their body weight in climate-changing air pollutants.<sup>10</sup>

As a consequence of northwesterners' everyday actions, during 2000, their region:

- Paved or otherwise developed more than 100 square miles (260 square kilometers) of rural land.<sup>11</sup>
- Clearcut about 700 square miles (1,800 square kilometers) of previously unlogged forest.<sup>12</sup>
- Consumed more than 5 trillion gallons (19 trillion liters) of water, mostly for irrigation.<sup>13</sup>
- Watched as the number of orcas in Puget Sound and Georgia Strait dwindled, their bodies containing higher concentrations of toxic polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) than any other mammals in the world.<sup>14</sup>
- Struggled with little success to reverse the decline of endangered wild salmon runs in much of the region, even as more than 130 other species on official lists of endangered species faced peril and perhaps ten times as many, not listed officially, also fared poorly.<sup>15</sup>
- Released about 5.5 million tons of regulated pollutants into the air, water, and land.<sup>16</sup>
- Burned enough gasoline and other fossil fuels to inject 200 million tons of climate-changing carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.<sup>17</sup>

For this generation of northwesterners, the defining challenge is to redirect the deep current of growth in ways that enable its benefits to accrue while deflecting its costs. More simply stated, our calling is to achieve sustainability: an economy and way of life in which both people and nature flourish, a culture that can last. This mission is not unique to this place; it is a global goal, defined by the great paradox of recent history: our success is undermining itself. We are the most successful species on likely the only planet in the Milky Way that's home to complex animal life. We have adapted to virtually all terrestrial habitats and generated more living matter, or protoplasm, simultaneously than any other single species ever. In the last 300 years, we have increased our average body size by half; doubled our average lifespan; multiplied our population tenfold; and increased our use of water, soils, and other resources many hundredfold. But this remarkable success has jeopardized much of Earth's rich living sphere, destabilizing the global climate, dooming species to extinction at a rate exceeding one per hour, and lacing the world's food webs with synthetic chemicals.<sup>18</sup>

Reconciling economy and ecology in the Northwest would be globally significant, inspiring other regions to do the same. But sustainability entails dramatic change. A case in point: If humanity is to stabilize global climate, it must reduce its emissions of greenhouse gases by 60 percent or more. Population growth and increased fuel consumption in developing countries are inevitable, so, to do their share in stabilizing the climate, northwesterners must trim their collective emissions of greenhouse gases by a disproportionate amount. Reasonable assumptions lead to the target of an 80 or 90 percent reduction within the span of a century at most. What's more, northwesterners will have to achieve these reductions in the face of growing population and income.<sup>19</sup>

Fortunately, such change has precedents. Humans are amazingly adaptable. Our society remakes itself constantly as new laws, technologies, and demographic and cultural forces shift behavior and change the humanmade infrastructure. The Northwest converted from the horse to the car in less than 50 years and is in the midst of a similar conversion to a society based on the microchip.<sup>20</sup>

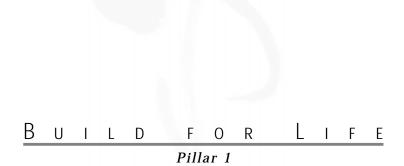
Unquestionably, in the next century the region will change profoundly, and northwesterners can seize the opportunity to alter their trajectory. The audacious energy that dammed and diverts the Columbia and other Northwest rivers can steer the current of growth toward ecological reconciliation. Even small deflections can push the current in radically different directions. The Northwest reduced its per capita emissions of carbon dioxide by 3.1 percent a year between 1973 and 1983, when energy was even more expensive than in this past year. Matching that pace would reduce emissions twothirds by 2100, even if the population grew as fast as it did during the second half of the twentieth century. If the region's population grew at half that rate during the twenty-first century, greenhouse gas emissions would decline by almost 90 percent by 2100. And if either population stabilized or per-person emissions of greenhouse gases declined by 4 percent annually, the Northwest would approach an 80 percent reduction in just 50 years.<sup>21</sup>

Still, a 3 or 4 percent annual rate of change is swift, a speed the Northwest can achieve only if it finds the strategic points where a little reverse engineering—a weir or culvert here, diking or breaching there—will shift the current. The existing flow streams from innumerable discrete actions. Northwesterners, to cite three examples, made tens of billions of purchases last year, drove vehicles on 10 billion trips, and—speaking of root causes of growth—had sex perhaps 180 million times.<sup>22</sup>

Achieving sustainability is impossible unless the Northwest can influence actions by the millions and billions, not merely by the hundreds or thousands. Fortunately, the region's tax codes, government budgets, land-use plans, insurance regulations, medical rules, and environmental standards form the channels through which the human enterprise flows. And these channels are replete with points where deflection, artfully applied, can turn the Northwest's demographic, economic, and social current in new directions.

For example, in 1997 the US federal government allowed Americans to keep, free from income tax, profits from sales of their homes. Previously, homeowners had to apply the proceeds toward the purchase of another home within two years until they retired, when they were allowed one chance to "cash out" their home free of tax. This obscure new policy is factoring into the thinking of millions of people, encouraging many empty-nesters to trade down to smaller homes, often closer to the center of town, thus slowing suburban sprawl. Slowing sprawl protects rural lands and the ecosystems there. It also makes the urban human habitat more compact, which makes driving less necessary; less car travel in turn improves local air quality, diminishes crash deaths, and even helps stabilize the global climate. Now, that's deflection.<sup>23</sup>

Deflection is a routine practice in hydrology and optics, but its fullest human use may be in the martial art of aikido. And aikido, as Amory and Hunter Lovins of the Rocky Mountain Institute have long suggested, forms a nearly perfect metaphor for the political approach most appropriate to the challenge of sustainability. Aikido politics is a respectful, patient dance that redirects the momentum of business as usual toward positive ends.<sup>24</sup>



A ikido rests on six clusters of techniques, called pillars. The first pillar, the "four-directions throw," requires continual practice but is often the first technique taught to beginners. In its several variants, the four-directions throw makes full and efficient use of space to draw the opponent to the center of a tightening spiral.

Lesson: An attacker swings at your temple. Quickly back out of reach and grab his oncoming fist. As his fist passes your head, push it onward in the direction it was already going, continuing the attacker's momentum. Still guiding his fist, circle the attacker quickly and direct his fist in a closing spiral, like a tetherball wrapping itself to the pole. His body rotates out of balance as the momentum of his lunge pushes him toward where you used to be, while you twirl him around. He ends up on the ground in the very center of the spiral.<sup>25</sup> THE ESSENCE OF AIKIDO'S FIRST PILLAR—THE FOURdirections throw—is to use space wisely, draw an attack off-balance, and send the momentum spinning in on itself. In the Northwest, the force fragmenting, paving, clearing, and depleting ecosystems comes from the cumulative impact of northwesterners' everyday choices—made rationally and in good faith. Northwesterners want safe, friendly neighborhoods to live in; convenient access to shops and services; the opportunity to play in beautiful, unspoiled places; and the freedom to turn hard work into financial security. Timely pressure applied in the right places can send this momentum spinning inward, yielding compact, livable cities that provide for human needs while leaving intact open spaces where wild nature can thrive.

After long years of public dialogue about growth and development, Northwest communities increasingly subscribe to the same vision of the future: Most population growth would concentrate in central cities and in satellite hubs. not spill into undifferentiated sprawl. Downtowns would again be ringed by dense middle-class neighborhoods, with lowincome and high-income housing mixed throughout, not in pockets. Streets would function well not only for cars but also for pedestrians, cyclists, and buses. Transit would knit cities together internally and connect seamlessly to train stations and airports. Urban streams, freed from the culverts into which engineers put them decades ago, would meander through restored green spaces-urban wildlife refuges that could double as parks and playing fields. Cities would have crisp edges beyond which ecologically sound farms, forests, and open spaces would stretch. And wildlands, off limits to

human development, would provide safe havens—some small refuges, some vast wildernesses—for the living nature the Northwest depends on.

To realize this vision, thousands of northwesterners are making their region a laboratory for the reinvention of humans in place. Knowing that every area rebuilds itself continually over the decades, they are practicing the four-directions throw vigilantly, attempting to recenter their communities and make wise use of space. Revitalization, they are finding, comes in small steps, and those steps have immediate benefits. Block by block, zoning hearing by zoning hearing, forest district by forest district, they are fashioning a living Northwest.

### 1. GROW CITIES UP, NOT OUT

Motor vehicles are now arguably nature's principal antagonist in the Northwest, and—despite popular perceptions to the contrary—the real alternative to cars is not better transit; it's compact neighborhoods. That's the lesson of rigorous research on driving patterns in cities worldwide. As population density rises, especially as it exceeds two broad thresholds, driving wanes. So rezoning close-in neighborhoods for larger populations, while holding growth boundaries tight on the periphery, will pull whatever growth is inevitable for the Northwest into the center of the region's cities.<sup>26</sup>

Low-density districts, including nine-tenths of greater Portland and greater Seattle and half of greater Vancouver most of what developers have built since World War II—leave their residents dependent on autos for virtually all trips. But at more than 12 people per acre (4,047 square meters), in medium-density zones such as the older in-city neighborhoods of Seattle and Portland and most of the city of Vancouver, enough riders make regular buses cost-effective. Reliable transit, in turn, frees households from needing as many cars.<sup>27</sup>

Scores of Northwest neighborhoods comprising singlefamily homes have populations within striking range of medium density. Loosening the restrictions preventing homeowners from renting out accessory apartments— "granny flats" or "mother-in-law apartments"—would throw many neighborhoods across this first threshold. One or two accessory apartments per block would often suffice, even while they enhanced the supply of affordable housing.

Crossing the second threshold, from medium- to highdensity areas at roughly 40 people per acre, brings destinations close enough that bicycling and foot travel flourish, people drive two-thirds less than in low-density districts, and as many as one-third of households do not own a car at all. Even affluent residents of high-density areas—think of Seattle's Belltown and First Hill or the booming high-rise neighborhoods around downtown Vancouver—drive less, and ride the bus more, than low-income residents of the suburban periphery. Transit thrives at high densities. In Vancouver's West End, buses run frequently enough—roughly once every seven minutes—that no one needs a schedule. And because those buses are usually full, most turn a profit.<sup>28</sup>

Vancouver's proliferating condominium towers remain the Northwest's most visible urban renaissance and the region's shining example for building "walking zones" at a city's center. Portland and Seattle too have experienced vigorous growth in downtown living in recent years, and smaller cities such as Bend, Boise, and Spokane have followed suit.

Living in compact neighborhoods, especially high-rises, is not for everyone, but most new downtown buildings fill fast. Market research in greater Seattle shows that although threefourths of people prefer detached houses to higher-density options, most people care more about the quality of the neighborhood and owning their own home than about housing type. In the right circumstances, more than 90 percent would trade low-density living for medium- or high-density neighborhoods: some would move into high-rises, others into low-rises, townhouses, or detached houses on small lots.<sup>29</sup>

In all the region's cities, planners can spin growth inward through zoning changes that redirect the thrust of sprawl toward vibrant urban cores where people can both live and work. They can hold the line on suburban expansion while encouraging downtown development.

2. DESIGN CITIES FOR WALKING AND BICYCLING If practiced continually, another four-directions throw can unleash the potential for walking and bicycling as full complements to the automobile. Applying pressure to the leverage points of community design—the mixture of land uses (homes, shops, and workplaces) and the arrangement of buildings, streets, and sidewalks—can make heels and skinny wheels attractive transportation options.

Choices about zoning and urban form can create, or destroy, pedestrian havens. Small city blocks and narrow lots make walking more interesting by creating an intimate ambience for foot travelers, for instance, and a traditional street grid provides better human-powered—and motorized—traffic flow than the sprawl model of cul-de-sacs, feeder roads, connector roads, and highways. Likewise, closely interlacing commercial and residential streets and blending these uses in the same blocks and buildings bring destinations within walking range: allowing apartments above stores, for example, would return to favor what was for generations the main form of affordable housing in Northwest towns. Likewise, replicating throughout the Northwest greater Portland's requirement that all new commercial buildings be close to the street, as in traditional downtowns, would boost walking. In Portland, such neighborhoods induce 15 percent less driving per person than average.<sup>30</sup>

The design of streetscapes is another chance for a fourdirections throw. Completing the infrastructure for humanpowered travel—sidewalks and bike routes—invites people out of their cars. Fully one-third of Seattle's city streets lack sidewalks, and most of the region's suburbs are even less well provided. Across the region, furthermore, many sidewalks are too narrow or lack the planting strip and street trees that shield pedestrians from moving cars. If anything, the infrastructure for bicycling is worse. No Northwest city has better than a rudimentary cycling network, and the most continuous networks of bike lanes are in smaller cities such as Bend, Eugene, and Victoria. The potential is huge. Upward of a quarter of all car trips in the United States are less than a mile long, and cities that build good routes typically see a tripling of bike travel.<sup>31</sup>

Finally, slowing cars by narrowing streets and installing speed bumps and traffic circles can increase human-powered travel on a street by 10 percent or more. Seattle, the region's leader in traffic calming, has reduced auto accidents by 95 percent at the thousands of intersections it has re-engineered since the 1970s. The next step there, as elsewhere in the region, is to extend traffic calming to larger roads, following the lead of Amsterdam and Tokyo.<sup>32</sup>

#### 3. MAKE BEST TRANSPORTATION BUYS FIRST

One transportation reform that would help spin urban growth inward is the application of least-cost planning, an arcane decision-making technique that's already required by an unenforced law, at least in Washington. Developed a quarter century ago, mostly by northwestern electric-utility planners, least-cost planning is common sense rigorously applied. For electricity, it involves cataloging every way to supply or conserve power, pricing each option (including long-term, social, and environmental costs), publicizing the results, and buying the best options first.<sup>33</sup>

Before the rise of least-cost planning, energy investments poured into massive new power plants, including nuclear stations. After the Northwest Power Planning Council in Portland applied least-cost planning to the regional power market in the early 1980s, however, the Northwest essentially stopped building large power plants. Instead, it invested in conservation, saved billions of dollars for ratepayers, cut growth in annual electricity use from almost 4 percent in the 1970s to about 1.5 percent since, and made the Northwest a world energy leader. Unfortunately, in the mid-1990s, low energy prices and the expectation of utility deregulation led to drastic cuts in conservation investment in the region, as in California, and power demand edged up on supply, helping to create the electricity crisis of early 2001.<sup>34</sup>

The Northwest's transportation sector is now what the energy field was in the 1970s—a tangle to which authorities have responded with ambitious proposals, this time for road expansions and rail transit lines. Again, least-cost planning might find better opportunities. A study of options for greater Seattle concluded that these proposals actually constituted the worst deals. The best buys involved expanding the network of transit and carpool lanes, mainly by rededicating freeway lanes; subsidizing carpools; distributing free bus passes; building more bike routes; and deploying more vanpools. Most of these options share the ability to make fuller use of existing space: roads already built and empty seats in vehicles already rolling.<sup>35</sup>

In Curitiba, Brazil, and elsewhere, dedicated bus lanes, "smart" traffic signals that turn green for transit vehicles (greater Portland installed 40 during 2000), and curbside fare collection have worked as well as a rail transit system for a fraction of the cost. Eugene is planning such a bus–rapid transit system, and Seattle has announced plans for bus-only lanes in two corridors. Also winners in least-cost planning, vanpool programs provide vans and match drivers with neighbors whose commutes are similar. The program in King County, Washington, is one of the best on the continent.<sup>36</sup>

Another promising transportation reform is taxi deregulation. Early in the automotive age, Model T drivers picked up riders at streetcar stops for a nickel a ride. Before streetcar companies convinced cities to ban such private part-time "jitneys" in favor of regulated taxis, this informal pay-carpool system moved some 50,000 riders a day in Seattle. On Northwest roads, the typical vehicle now holds a driver and four empty seats, and numerous cars are going the same places at the same times. Information technologies create a chance to slash this previously unavoidable redundancy. A Beaverton, Oregon–based consortium is developing a smart jitney system—a real-time ride-matching system that relies on handheld computers, a database of registered users, electronic payment, and a dispatching computer.<sup>37</sup> The essence of least-cost planning, however, is not any of these particular options; it is the discipline of choosing the best combination of investments—the best aikido moves.

## 4. "PROTECT THE BEST . . .

Humans have radically altered Northwest ecosystems, but the region still possesses many of its wild genes, native communities, and natural processes. Blessed with this wealth, northwesterners retain the means to weave into nature's fabric a durable human economy. Just as urban planners can spin the momentum of human development back toward city centers, others can use aikido to protect the region's unique communities and intact landscapes; they can safeguard the region's ecological options for generations to come.<sup>38</sup>

Among the Northwest's best natural strongholds are its vast wild spaces, which retain the ecological integrity vital to the region's prosperity and quality of life. Roadless forests and watersheds offer sanctuary for salmon and Sitka spruce; for keystone predators like grizzly bears, whose presence structures entire food webs; and for an invisible foundation of fungi and microorganisms. They also sustain the ancient regenerating rhythms of fire and flood and provide humans with benefits ranging from clean water and moderate climates to crop pollination and recreation. In Washington and Oregon alone, studies estimate the dollar value of forest ecosystem services at \$21 million annually; the value of such services in US national forests now surpasses that of timber.<sup>39</sup>

Marine reserves are no less vital; keeping certain areas of ocean off limits to human activity enhances the abundance and diversity of marine life not only within reserve boundaries but in surrounding waters as well. Gulf of Maine scallop fishers, for example, benefit from high catches along the edges of closed reserves, as young shellfish move outward and replenish harvested waters.<sup>40</sup>

Through public and private initiatives, the Northwest can expand its share of wildness. This share is already growing, though parks and monuments still concentrate in scenic and relatively barren alpine zones. Between 1991 and 2000, British Columbia doubled its protected lands, safeguarding 14 million acres (5.7 million hectares)—an area one-third the size of Washington. As 2001 began, the White House had designated close to a quarter million acres (100,000 hectares) of public land in Washington and Oregon as national monuments and ordered an end to road building and logging on all roadless tracts of federal land. Scheduled to take effect by the middle of 2001, the roadless area order will protect almost 26 million acres (10.5 million hectares) in the Northwest, including nearly 10 million acres (4 million hectares) in the Tongass National Forest. In eastern Washington, private donations halted logging on roadless tracts of the Loomis Forest, and BC created an adjacent provincial park, completing the largest contiguous body of protected lands along the 4,000-mile (6,436-kilometer) US-Canada boundary. All told, 16 percent of the region's land is off limits to industry.<sup>41</sup>

Marine protected areas are still scarce. The Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary covers just 2 million acres (809,000 hectares) of ocean off the Olympic Peninsula, and BC and the Canadian federal government are planning to have a system of marine protected areas in place by 2010. None of these areas will be entirely off limits, however.<sup>42</sup>

Outside of intact wildlands, choosing habitats carefully, reconnecting fragmented patches, and keeping whole water-

sheds off limits would also protect the "best." Across Oregon, for example, biologists have identified healthy watersheds that are key to retaining the state's aquatic diversity, and they have proposed a salmon-centered "anchor habitat" strategy for its western forests. Because 80 percent of salmon use 18 percent of the available habitat, this plan-which calls for protecting steep slopes; large trees, especially along stream banks; and the reaches and deep pools where salmon concentrate, spawn, and rear-does not set aside large areas but fosters coexistence of humans and fish. Working with the US Forest Service in Washington, the privately funded Cascades Conservation Partnership aims to purchase 75,000 forested acres (30,000 hectares) in the central Cascades to consolidate the checkerboard patches once owned by the railroads. And in the Willapa Hills, the Nature Conservancy has set its sights on purchasing an entire 5,000-acre (2,000-hectare) watershed, remarkable for its healthy estuary and its remaining lowland old-growth trees. If the Conservancy succeeds, Ellsworth Creek will be the only wholly protected coastal watershed between Canada and central Oregon.43

## 5. ". . RESTORE THE REST"

Aikido politics would have northwesterners spinning the momentum for conservation inward from scenic rock and ice to the low-elevation forests, productive lowlands, flood-plains, wetlands, and estuaries surrounding the places where most people live. The monetary value of services provided by these ecosystems is considerable, perhaps as high as \$15–30 billion in just Washington and Oregon. Taking advantage of these services—the way Seattle does by barring access to the wooded watershed of the Cedar River, which supplies the

city's water—the Northwest can retain healthy landscapes, restore degraded ones, and save money as well.<sup>44</sup>

In suburbs ringing Northwest cities, development can align with natural dynamics while citizens help restore woods and streams. To help protect still-healthy salmon streams in Olympia, Washington, for example, planners rewrote the subdivision rules for the quickly growing and ecologically rich Green Cove Creek basin. The plan shrinks the paved area by narrowing streets, enlarging lot size, and retaining native vegetation. As a result, rainwater soaks into the ground rather than running off into pipes, reducing the need for expensive storm sewers and recharging groundwater sources. In a wooded suburban pocket east of Seattle, the Denny Creek Neighborhood Alliance is working with county officials to protect large trees, replant native streamside vegetation, and restore coho salmon to the creek.<sup>45</sup>

Following nature's lead in the forests and grasslands surrounding population centers would spare the Northwest the future heat and angry debate kindled by wildfire seasons such as the summer of 2000. The fires raged fiercest in managed forests and woodlands backed up against development, where a century and a half of fire suppression and timber cutting had removed the largest trees and left a buildup of flammable small trees and brush. Big old-growth forests in roadless areas did not burn. By thinning small trees, letting some lands burn, and allowing woods to regenerate and grow old, land managers would restore the forests' health and their ability to provide the goods and services northwesterners need.<sup>46</sup>

On Northwest floodplains, restoring natural cycles would bring similar benefits. Consider one particular mile along northeastern Oregon's John Day River. Following the advice of agricultural agencies in the 1970s, George Stubblefield removed fences on his ranch and opened his riverbank to cattle while the agencies "cleaned" the river of woody debris and stripped the shore of "thirsty" trees. The riverbanks eroded; the Army Corps of Engineers straightened the channel and built levees against flooding. Cold, clear water and fish like salmon and trout gave way to warm, muddy water and fish like catfish and bass. Appalled by the change, Stubblefield rebuilt his fences. No longer chewed or trampled, young trees and grasses regrew, slowing the river during high water and filtering enough fine silts to rebuild the banks. Erosion reversed, and complex habitats returned as the river sculpted its own meandering path. When devastating floods roared through Oregon in 1991 and 1995, they slowed and nourished Stubblefield's mile of stream, even as they cut away at his neighbor's shrinking pastures.47



" | f your partner pulls, let him pull," said aikido founder Morihei, "but become one with that pull." By blending with or entering the attack, the aikido practitioner redirects it. This technique, the "entering throw," is aikido's second pillar and perhaps its quintessential move. It requires placing oneself inside the "danger radius" of an attack by stepping in close to the assailant, leaving her no target and gaining control of her balance. Like a Frisbee caught on a fingertip, spun, and then sent onward with a flip of the wrist, the entering throw follows a contracting and expanding spiral that draws the opponent in, around, and ultimately out.

Lesson: An attacker swings at your temple. Slide swiftly in front of the blow, inside its circling trajectory, literally giving your opponent a hug—though an exceptionally well-timed one. Continue her rotation and redirect her momentum outward. Her balance upset, she spins and falls.<sup>48</sup> **F** THE MARKET PULLS, BECOME ONE WITH THAT PULL that's the essence of aikido politics' second pillar. The power of markets is hard to overstate; resisting is often futile. But directing markets' energy to sustainable ends holds great promise.

Amory Lovins and his colleagues put their fingers on this promise in their 1997 book *Factor Four:* 

Markets are very good—all too good—at what they do. The modern market economy harnesses such potent motives as greed and envy; in fact, as Lewis Mumford caustically noted, all the seven deadly sins except sloth. (Perhaps he was overlooking the entertainment industry.) But so effective is the profit motive that perhaps markets headed for unsustainability can best be redirected through creative use of market forces themselves, to harness their ingenuity, rapid feedback and diverse, dispersed, resourceful, highly motivated actors.<sup>49</sup>

Besides, directing markets is sound economics. Markets rarely operate in the real world as they do in textbooks. They are blind to nature, frequently dominated by monopolies, hamstrung by poor information, and distorted by incentives split among market actors. Governments, furthermore, sometimes prevent markets from operating at all. As a result, business as usual in the Pacific Northwest yields outcomes for society that often amount to "retail sanity and wholesale madness": Individuals respond rationally to the incentives and opportunities before them, but the collective result is bad for everyone.

Cunning use of market aikido—entering the center of the market's vortex and, through leverage well applied, sending it flying in a new direction—can correct market failures and create markets where there were none, effecting dramatic gains for sustainability. And across the Northwest and beyond, such innovations are emerging in encouraging ways.

### 6. CREATE MARKETS FOR CONSERVATION

Because they tap the expertise of millions of people, markets are brilliant at distributing commodities. Well-applied market aikido can harness this potential—instead of fighting against it—to find remedies for environmental ills.

The paragon of righting market failings with new markets is the US Environmental Protection Agency's sulfur dioxide program. Every year since 1995, the agency has issued pollution permits in declining numbers to regulated facilities. Each permit gives its owner the right to emit one ton of sulfur, and companies can trade permits like so many pork bellies. The program, which has helped halve emissions from these facilities, has stimulated a cheap cleanup: analysts forecast the value of each permit at \$600 in 1992, but permits sold for \$130 at the Chicago Board of Trade in late 2000. Northwesterners are forging similar markets to respond to challenges as diverse as reducing climate change and restoring dewatered rivers, overgrazed valleys, and depleted fisheries.<sup>50</sup>

The Oregon and Washington Water Trusts have begun prying open a market for water rights, braving the most convoluted, anticonservation thickets in all of Northwest resource law. Farmers do not own river water, only the right to use it, and they cannot sell water they save through improved efficiency. Worse, if they fail to use their full quota, they risk losing it. Predictably, many Northwest rivers run dry: in 80 percent of Oregon's watersheds, landowners' rights exceed what rivers can provide in late summer without sacrificing the minimum flows needed by fish and wildlife. The water trusts have found ways to pay landowners to leave water in streams, along 416 miles (669 kilometers) of Oregon rivers in 2000, for example. But only opening true water markets— by safeguarding minimum in-stream flows and allowing water users to trade rights above this threshold—would break the vicious circle of wasted water and dying rivers.<sup>51</sup>

Similarly, transferable grazing permits would turbocharge the emerging market for rangeland conservation. Holders of grazing permits for federal lands in the Northwest states also operate under a use-it-or-lose-it policy. For decades, conservationists have asked the federal government for grazing reforms on federal land, to no avail. Siding with ranchers, who view their long-held grazing permits as something close to property rights, conservationists could push instead to institute the principle that permits, though not true property rights, should nonetheless be tradable-and retirable-through transactions between willing buyers and willing sellers, at fair market value. Because the estimated value of all such permits in the region is only \$252 million, public and private funds could readily free federal lands of livestock—if such an extreme change is ecologically warranted—without the controversy of mandatory range reform.<sup>52</sup>

Beginning in 1993, the Idaho Watershed Project began attending auctions of grazing permits for state lands. Intending to leave the land untouched by livestock, the project bid highest more than 30 times, but the state, accustomed to granting the permits to local ranchers after perfunctory bidding, refused to honor those bids. Finally, in January 2000, the state recognized the project's right to participate in the auctions. Since then, the project has bought grazing reprieves for 12,000 acres (4,900 hectares) of degraded rangeland, and the Bonneville Power Administration, eager to offset salmon killing by its Columbia River dams, has paid to remove livestock from another 48,000 acres (19,000 hectares).<sup>53</sup>

Four innovative efforts in the region are developing entering throws for climate protection, though they will not gain momentum until governments mandate such protection. The Pacific Forest Trust of Boonville, California, arranges deals between property owners willing to leave their land in old forests, which absorb carbon dioxide, and polluters willing to pay to mitigate their emissions. The nonprofit Oregon Climate Trust supports efforts ranging from energy efficiency to tree planting, using funds—\$8 million since 1997—that it receives from new power plants forced to offset their greenhouse gas emissions to comply with state law. Since 1998, the Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Trading Pilot, based in Victoria, has kept approximately 23 million metric tons of greenhouse gases out of the atmosphere by brokering trades between companies willing to emit less and those willing to pay more. Individuals, meanwhile, can pay Victoria-based Climate Partners to offset their personal emissions, initially by underwriting a national carpool matching service.<sup>54</sup>

Tradable quotas for fish regulate access to both Canada's and Alaska's halibut fisheries. If applied throughout the Northwest, the approach would have great promise for trimming the region's overbuilt fishing fleet and the waste of resources, fish, and human lives resulting from frenzied fishing during short seasons, whatever the weather. Canada and Alaska began distributing tradable quotas for halibut in the early 1990s, and the ensuing long season and rational market have helped make North Pacific halibut the region's model sustainable fishery.<sup>55</sup> Urban policymakers are using new markets to concentrate development in urban centers, allowing rural landowners to sell their development rights to urban developers who want to exceed zoning caps. Meanwhile, the partial deregulation of electricity markets, whatever its downside, has at least created new niches for renewable power: more than a dozen cities, companies, and utilities are now buying certified green power from the Bonneville Environmental Foundation in Portland, and many others are selling sustainable energy too. These instances remain exceptions to the rule, but they demonstrate the impact of the entering throw. They show how the Northwest can tame capitalism's environmental excesses with a well-executed embrace of its principles.<sup>56</sup>

#### 7. DEREGULATE PARKING

Northwesterners end more than 90 percent of their auto trips in free parking spaces—actually, not free; somebody pays. In fact, the Northwest paid an estimated \$14 billion in 2000 to store vehicles during their 23 hours a day of downtime—more than it spent on fuel. But only about 10 percent of the parking bill is pay-per-use at meters, lots, or garages. Drivers pay another 40 percent, through rent and mortgages, for off-street parking at home. The other 50 percent is paid by their employers, businesses they patronize, and other citizens.<sup>57</sup>

Pay parking is rare because antiquated provisions in zoning and tax codes, along with misguided street designs, bloat the parking supply and glut the market. Entering throws to redirect present zoning codes, which mandate oceans of parking, would let supply contract until a market emerges and turns the massive hidden cost of parking into a new chance for northwesterners to save money. The 16 most populous Northwest counties and cities all require off-street parking; suburbs require even more parking than cities. Office buildings must provide up to four spaces per 1,000 square feet (93 square meters) of floor space, and retail developers in much of the region must devote more space to cars than to shoppers. Besides distorting the cost of driving, mandated parking lowers a community's density by 10 to 30 percent, leaving residents dependent on their cars.<sup>58</sup>

A few jurisdictions have recently begun shrinking parking requirements. Portland exempts downtown residential development from required off-street parking, and Olympia has no minimum requirements in its downtown core. Both cities have also set maximum amounts for off-street parking. A simpler throw would be full deregulation, allowing the market to decide how much parking space to provide. Many new developments would end up with less parking, lowering costs, especially for new rental housing. And metering or otherwise charging for curbside parking would ensure that drivers pay for using public rights-of-way, an approach Vancouver, BC, has effectively championed.<sup>59</sup>

Where communities are still being laid out, streets can be narrow, eliminating on-street parking. Olympia plans to build residential streets as skinny as 13 feet (4 meters) in one fastgrowing neighborhood—one-third the conventional width and a Northwest and national record—while Missoula, Montana; Eugene, Oregon; and Kirkland, Washington, have pinched some streets down to 20 or 24 feet (6 or 7 meters).<sup>60</sup>

These techniques would also work for existing developments. With no parking requirements, the owners of buildings now surrounded by concrete would have new choices: they could expand, sell land to others, or turn parking into plazas. Cities could convert some current on-street parking into broader sidewalks, landscaping, and bicycle or transit lanes. It might take ten years to absorb excess parking space, but scarcity—and a market—would develop.

Finally, the Northwest could eliminate inequitable tax provisions that favor driving over other transportation. At present, taxes encourage employers to supply free parking by treating it as a nontaxable fringe benefit. Under BC and Canadian law, free parking is taxable income, but Revenue Canada makes only token enforcement efforts. In the United States, meanwhile, employers may give employees parking worth \$175 a month as an untaxed fringe benefit—equivalent to pretax income that exceeds \$2,500 a year. They may also pay for transit fares, but only up to \$65 a month.<sup>61</sup>

"Cashing out" employer-paid parking would further dampen driving. A full-fledged cash-out policy requires that employers who give workers a free parking space also let them choose to receive instead the parking's dollar value in cash. Tests of this policy in Los Angeles show that as many as two in five commuters take the money and leave their wheels. California's tax law now requires large employers to offer cash-outs. Late-1990s revisions to the US tax code instituted a weak, partial cash-out policy: it allows—but does not require—employers to offer cash in place of parking, and it makes such cash fully taxable. In greater Seattle, the federal government is supporting efforts by local jurisdictions to encourage businesses to offer this cash-out.<sup>62</sup>

#### 8. SELL CAR INSURANCE BY THE SLICE

Owning a car is expensive, but driving one is cheap. Car insurance, for example, is sold like an all-you-can-eat meal

plan: once you've made the purchase, you may as well gorge. Just as for parking, dividing this large fixed cost of car ownership into a pay-as-you-go charge gives drivers a new chance to save money. Few discrete changes would so dramatically reduce driving—and the congestion, collisions, and pollution that driving entails.

Drivers pay an average of 5–6¢ a mile for auto insurance—only slightly less than they pay for fuel. The more you drive, the more likely you are to collide with something. Yet, concerned that odometer tampering would invalidate their billing systems, insurers calculating insurance rates have paid minimal heed to how much driving each household does. Consequently, car insurance overcharges those who drive little and undercharges those who drive much—in British Columbia, by up to \$200 a year.<sup>63</sup>

Electronic odometers and wireless communication technology now give insurers a chance to sell insurance by the mile. Progressive Insurance, the fourth largest US car insurer, is testing "smart" insurance in Texas. Car owners enrolled in the Autograph test-marketing program let Progressive install in their cars devices that record and periodically transmit how far they go and even where and when they drive—all factors that influence accident risk. As for any other insurance policy, the company also weighs considerations such as driving record. In late 2000, Progressive, pleased with the test marketing, was considering a national rollout.<sup>64</sup>

A low-tech alternative would be for insurers to simply offer drivers the option of reporting their own mileage, with periodic odometer checks at filling stations. Advocates in Washington have promoted this entering throw to the state's insurance commissioner, and the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia, a regulated provincial monopoly, has commissioned research on the subject.<sup>65</sup>

Neither the high-tech nor the low-tech approach forces anyone into distance-based insurance, but the dynamic of the market is likely to expand the popularity of such plans. As low-risk, low-mileage drivers leave the traditional insurance pool, traditional profit margins would decline and prices would rise, pushing more low-mileage drivers into the distance-based alternatives. An expanding spiral would gradually make distance-based insurance common, or even the norm. And that change would be an enormous victory for sustainability: households that pay for their insurance by the mile are likely to reduce their driving by 10 percent. The opening would then exist for governments to convert some lump-sum vehicle taxes, such as registration fees, to per-mile charges, giving northwesterners another chance to save money by driving less.<sup>66</sup>

An analogous aikido move would sell auto use itself by the mile and the minute, rather than by the car. Car co-ops and car-sharing companies in Victoria, Vancouver, Seattle, and Portland promise many households a way to shed one vehicle without sacrificing mobility. The pay-as-you-go plan reduces driving among participants, typically by one-third to one-half.<sup>67</sup>

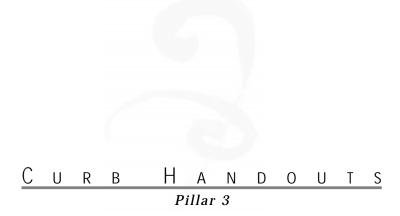
### 9. EXTEND THE BOTTLE BILL

A new twist on an old idea can multiply the reuse and recycling of materials. The old idea is the bottle bill, or depositrefund system, long standard for bottles and cans in British Columbia, California, and Oregon—jurisdictions that are home to more than half of northwesterners.<sup>68</sup> The new twist is the German philosophy of holding manufacturers responsible for their wares and packaging as long as these items exist. This "extended producer responsibility," or "take-back," approach to solid waste means, in effect, that if you make a consumer good, you own it forever. The consumer merely rents it for the services it provides, and when those services are done—say, after the last sip of soda pop—the good goes back to its maker, who must reuse or recycle it.<sup>69</sup>

Extended-responsibility legislation, enacted in 1991, increased the recycling of packaging in Germany sevenfold in five years, reduced per capita consumption of packaging by 13 percent overall, and revived reusable containers. Threefourths of the country's fresh produce, for example, is now shipped in durable crates. As important, end-of-life responsibility has transformed product design: manufacturers strive to eliminate anything that's hard to handle when their goods come back, such as toxic components and parts difficult to recycle or reuse. More than two dozen countries now require "take-backs" for packaging, and a dozen are planning takebacks for computers and other electronics.<sup>70</sup>

British Columbia is the Northwest's deposit-refund pioneer, having enacted North America's first bottle bill in 1970. Oregon followed with the first US bottle bill in 1971. It's amazing how a nickel refund motivates people: Oregon and British Columbia both collect 90 percent of beer cans and bottles, and Oregon collects a similar share of soft-drink containers. In contrast, Oregon recycles only 30–40 percent of drink containers exempt from the bottle bill, and Seattle, with no bottle bill but one of the best curbside collection programs anywhere, recycles just 61 percent of drink cans and glass bottles.<sup>71</sup> Though Oregon's bottle bill has changed little in a quarter century, British Columbia has since 1992 turned its deposit-refund program into a true take-back program, adding motor oil, paint, household solvents, pesticides, pharmaceuticals, and most types of drink containers not previously covered. The return rate for this last category soared to 77 percent in the two years after its inclusion. In other extensions of producer responsibility, King County, Washington, is experimenting with computer take-backs, and Oregon's Department of Environmental Quality has recommended applying this entering throw to carpeting and to mercurycontaining lights and thermostats. European countries, meanwhile, hold car and appliance manufacturers responsible for "cradle-to-cradle" product stewardship.<sup>72</sup>

Finally, companies need not wait for government mandates but can instead seek profits in reducing waste. Some corporations active in the Northwest have voluntarily taken responsibility for their goods' entire life cycle, a step in converting their business from a product-sales model to a service-contracts model. Xerox, for example, leases most of its copiers and, when the leases end, refurbishes the equipment for reuse. Herman-Miller, a furniture manufacturer, reclaims and reconditions its products for resale. Carpet maker Interface leases floor-covering services rather than selling rugs. The company retains ownership of its carpet, which it installs as tiles to allow periodic replacement of worn segments. At its factories, Interface separates the worn tiles into their parts and remakes them.<sup>73</sup>



"Open and turn," the third pillar of aikido, charts a path around a frontal assault and, sneaking up on the assailant sideways, turns his aggressive force back on himself. This pillar, like the others, embodies nonresistance. "If your opponent strikes you with fire," said founder Morihei, "counter with water, becoming completely fluid and free-flowing. Water, by its nature, never collides with or breaks against anything. On the contrary, it swallows up any attack harmlessly."

Lesson: An attacker strikes at your head from over his own, his hand coming down like an ax. Spin to his side to avoid his blow, and, as you do so, catch his descending arm. By continuing his arm's natural rotation—first down toward the ground, then backward toward his rear and, finally, up until his arm reaches the end of its range of motion—flip him completely over. The redirected momentum of his attack thus neutralizes him.<sup>74</sup> **E** ACH YEAR, NORTHWEST GOVERNMENTS REWARD activities that degrade the environment with billions of dollars in cash, tax breaks, and sweetheart deals, making a frontal assault on northwesterners' land, air, and water. But the region can open and turn these counterproductive subsidies with a few well-executed moves.<sup>75</sup>

Built up gradually over decades of political deal making, the Northwest's myriad subsidies—between them, Washington and Oregon alone have enacted 700 special exceptions in their state tax codes—dampen the economy, deplete natural wealth, and often penalize working families. Together, these policies form a juggernaut against sustainable living, but the Northwest can sidestep the onslaught, sneak up on it sideways, and flip it head over heels.<sup>76</sup>

Take endangered Columbia River salmon: In the headwaters, federally subsidized clearcut logging and public-lands grazing clog spawning gravels with silt. Downstream, farmsmany growing federally subsidized cattle feed with irrigation water chipped in free by the state and delivered from dams built with federal dollars-drain and pollute waterways. On the floodplains, locally subsidized real estate developmentsdevelopers rarely pay the full cost of roads and sewer lines pave watersheds, underwritten with federally subsidized flood insurance. Still farther downstream, government-funded salmon hatcheries-built to mitigate dams and the loss of upstream habitat-combine with federally subsidized dredging of river channels to further interfere with natural conditions. All these forces, including hatcheries, contribute to the decline of wild salmon. And that decline has forced an end to most salmon fishing, which, true to form, has occasioned new subsidies-aid for displaced fishermen and multimilliondollar programs to restore fish populations. Some say the Northwest cannot afford to save its salmon; perhaps it cannot afford to keep killing them.<sup>77</sup>

10. PAY FOR ROADS WITH DRIVING-RELATED FEES Drivers need roads, bridges, parking spaces, police, ambulances, and other services, but they pay only part of the associated costs through fuel taxes, vehicle registration and license fees, or parking charges. Taxpayers—regardless of how much they drive—pick up the rest of the tab. Most Northwest jurisdictions enshrine in law the principle that *all* revenue from fuel and other vehicle taxes be spent on roadwork, but road spending often exceeds the revenue from these taxes. An aikido reform would enshrine the parallel principle—that *only* fuel and vehicle taxes go to the automotive infrastructure.<sup>78</sup>

In 1998, the Northwest states spent on roads almost \$1 billion from sources unrelated to driving, including property, sales, and income taxes. This figure excludes what the region's cities and counties spend each year on services for motor vehicles, such as traffic policing, car fire protection, and traffic planning. In greater Seattle alone, such services amount to perhaps \$300 million a year; the regional total may exceed \$1 billion. Adding insult to injury, the revenue code also plays favorites toward cars. In British Columbia and Washington, buyers can subtract the value of trade-ins from the price of a new car before sales tax is calculated. And these jurisdictions and Idaho exempt motor fuels from retail sales taxes; in Washington in 1997, these two giveaways were worth \$334 million.<sup>79</sup>

Northwesterners can do aikido on the overuse of motor vehicles not by standing against them—they are, after all, incredibly useful machines—but through a countermove that rests on the user-pays principle. Requiring that motor vehicles pay for all roadwork, coupled with evenhanded tax treatment of cars and fuel, would push driving rates down and give other modes of travel a fair chance.

## 11. LET DEVELOPMENT PAY ITS WAY

Federal, state, provincial, and local policies in the Northwest foster sprawl by subsidizing home ownership and new development. In particular, they encourage northwesterners to live in big houses on big lots and to invest in second homes, which are often built on fragile slopes and shorelines. But charging developers for more of the basic services their buildings require, and fine-tuning federal spending and tax rules, would diffuse this force. Again, the key is to sidestep the momentum of northwesterners' desire to own nice homes and to instead seize on fairness, thereby redirecting that momentum toward more sustainable housing choices.<sup>80</sup>

In much of the Northwest, public infrastructure is fully used, so added households demand added facilities and services—schools, roads, water pipes, sewer and drainage, police, fire, and ambulance. To help pay for these necessities, many jurisdictions charge builders "impact fees" for each house or apartment. Nowhere, however, do the charges fully reimburse local treasuries for the expenses of development.<sup>81</sup>

In Oregon's cities, fees to the builder of a typical new three-bedroom single-family home range from \$2,000 to \$10,000. Yet the full cost of providing basic support for such a home is \$30,000 to \$35,000. Local taxpayers end up saddled with the difference. In Washington, typical impact fees are \$2,500 per house, though by one reckoning, the infrastruc-

ture to maintain the previous level of service after a new house is added would cost \$83,000—almost \$3 billion a year statewide. Two-thirds of the total goes to roads. In Washington's Thurston County, for example, the costs of keeping up with growth come to about \$1,200 per year per taxpayer. Since almost no Northwest jurisdiction has been able to keep up, northwesterners pay for growth partly in tax dollars and partly in overcrowded roads, schools, and other facilities.<sup>82</sup>

Charging developers full fare would make growth pay for itself; adjusting impact fees by location would deflect sprawl back toward urban centers. The costs of support for new houses on the suburban periphery are often twice as high as the costs of upgrading in-town infrastructure, but the low price of remote land is a strong magnet for developers. Impact fees that increase with distance from established urban services would counter this attraction, putting the public costs of sprawl into developers' ledgers and the price tags of outlying homes.<sup>83</sup>

Reforming two federal programs would further discourage dispersed development. Curbing or phasing out the US National Flood Insurance Program would work wonders for ecologically sensitive wetlands; the program offers subsidies that actually encourage home construction in harm's way, on floodplains and near exposed coastlines. And even a gradual shift of priorities in the US Forest Service's efforts to contain forest fires—away from saving remote ranches and vacation homes—would brake the proliferation of such rural sprawl in the fire-prone woodlands of the inland Northwest. Perhaps one-third of the quarter billion dollars or more that federal, state, and local governments spent fighting Northwest wildfires in 2000 went into saving private development. In one case, federal agencies spent about \$21 million controlling an Idaho fire to save private buildings with an assessed value of only \$3 million. The private insurance market would deter much building in fire-prone areas if the federal government made clear it would protect human life but not second homes.<sup>84</sup>

Adjusting federal tax laws would also slow sprawl. US income tax law allows taxpayers to subtract mortgage interest, property taxes, and homeowners' capital gains (earnings from rising land values) from their income before calculating their tax bill. These deductions totaled \$87 billion nationwide in the United States in 1997. Partly because the deductions are larger for bigger, more expensive houses, more than half the benefit went to households with annual incomes above \$100,000; as a result, the US government gives more housing assistance to families with six-figure incomes than to the poor. State income taxes, most of which are tied to the federal tax, increase the amount and inequity of these handouts. Oregon lost \$383 million to homeowner tax breaks in 1996.<sup>85</sup>

The United States could do better by emulating Canada's tax subsidy for home ownership. Canadians receive an income tax credit for property taxes paid, but they may not deduct their mortgage interest. The same share of Canadians owns their homes as Americans, but Canadians live in smaller residences. The United States could head in this direction, for starters by gradually lowering the \$1 million cap on the amount of mortgage interest that's deductible.<sup>86</sup>

More ambitiously, the United States could replace its mortgage interest deduction with an income tax credit that's equal for all homeowners and set at the average value of the deductions, roughly \$1,200. Typical homeowners and the public treasury would see no change in cash flow, but the incentives and distribution of benefits would invert themselves. At present, the more you spend on housing—the bigger your house, lot, loan, and property taxes—the bigger the tax break. With a home ownership tax credit, in contrast, all homeowners would receive the same \$1,200 benefit, and no one would have a tax incentive to spend extra on housing.<sup>87</sup>

# 12. CHARGE FULL PRICE FOR THE PUBLIC'S NATURAL RESOURCES

All the Northwest's water, almost all its minerals, and 77 percent of its land belong to the public, yet irrigators, miners, and loggers have always paid bargain prices for these natural resources. Insisting on a fair return to public coffers would channel these industries' impacts in constructive ways.<sup>88</sup>

Though water itself is free to those with rights to use it in the Northwest states, irrigators—who use four times as much as all other northwesterners combined—do pay for its storage and delivery. They don't pay the full cost, however—typically ten cents on the dollar for water from the US Bureau of Reclamation's irrigation works along Northwest rivers such as the Klamath, Snake, and Yakima—leaving 90 percent of the tab to taxpayers. Farmers pay about a penny for 1,300 gallons (4,921 liters) to the Bureau's Minidoka Project, which covers one million acres (405,000 hectares) of Idaho's Snake River Plain. The lavishly subsidized farms in the Bureau's Columbia Basin Project in eastern Washington, meanwhile, get so much cheap water pumped to them that some farmers have built hydroelectric plants in their irrigation canals. Gradually easing farmers off these subsidies would prompt dramatic gains in water conservation and river restoration.<sup>89</sup>

Curbing handouts to mining would ensure that only highly profitable mines are developed. Such mines are better for the environment, too, because their rich ores require less disruption to extract. At present, gold, copper, and other hardrock miners pay no royalties anywhere on Northwest public land. British Columbia, which mines more than the rest of the region combined, collects royalties on oil and gas but not on minerals. Similarly, the US government charges 12.5 percent royalties on oil and gas, at least 12 percent on surface-mined coal, and 10–15 percent on geothermal steam but nothing for hardrock minerals from public land. Worse, US citizens and corporations have a legal right to mine on most public lands. For only \$5 an acre paid to the federal treasury, miners can make public land private property-a handout that has, over time, deprived the United States of assets worth tens of billions of dollars.<sup>90</sup>

To capture the full value from public timber in places where logging is appropriate, managers can establish strong environmental standards, carefully calculate the government's cost for each sale, set that amount as the minimum bid, and request sealed bids for permission to log. The BC Ministry of Forests, the region's largest landowner, administratively sets rates for logging, often below market values. For 1997, most credible estimates of the resulting annual subsidy fall between Can\$840 million and Can\$2.6 billion. The US Forest Service, the region's second-largest landowner, auctions most of its timber but accepts bids far below its own costs, which include building roads. In 1997, some 26 of the 35 national forests in the US Northwest lost money on timber, generating \$83 million of red ink all told. Halting these losses would more fully reflect the value of the public's forestlands.<sup>91</sup>

# SLOW POPULATION GROWTH Pillar 4

"A ikido," said founder Morihei, "begins and ends with breath." "Breath-power techniques" form the art's fourth pillar. In aikido's spiritual teachings, breath is the universal force of life upon which students may draw to overcome the brute strength of any opponent. In less poetic terms, breathpower is exquisite timing and concentration of energy on the right leverage points.

Lesson: The breath-power technique called "heaven and earth" begins like the playground game in which two children on a beam hold hands and try to throw their partner off-balance without falling themselves. Kneel facing your opponent as she grips your wrists from below. Yielding to that assault, lean back, drawing her off-balance. Then, to keep her off-balance, shift your own position several times—not with raw force but in swift, sudden bursts synchronized with your own breathing—to topple her.<sup>92</sup> **F** THERE WERE BOX SCORES FOR POPULATION GROWTH, the Northwest's pace since 1990 (1.9 percent annually) would put the region in the middle of the Third World, leading India, neck and neck with Egypt, and gaining on Ecuador. Expanding ranks of inhabitants—15.5 million and counting—are responsible for most of the Northwest's increase in energy and water consumption, solid waste generation, and greenhouse gas emissions, along with about half the region's growth in traffic and suburban sprawl. How much northwesterners consume apiece matters as much or more, of course, but population remains a determinant of the Northwest's sustainability.<sup>93</sup>

Recent growth has come not purely from conscious choices to have children or to move northwestward, but also from flaws in public policy. Well-timed pressure on the right leverage points can slacken its pace. During the 1990s, 68 percent of Northwest growth came from people moving into the region, though over the span of decades, almost as much has come from natural increase (births minus deaths). Natural increase is simpler to tackle than migration, which always comes in fits and starts. Besides, births matter not only to the Northwest's future but to the globe's as well, whereas migration simply shifts population pressures. So natural increase is an appropriate leverage point.<sup>94</sup>

The Northwest can, and has begun to, slow natural increase, not by limiting people but by sustaining them. This approach is both ethical and effective. A close reading of the evidence reveals that rising numbers of humans are a symptom of deeper maladies, including neglect of children and women. Consequently, if the Northwest takes better care of people, natural increase will take care of itself. In particular, the region can concentrate its energies on three leverage points—reducing child poverty, preventing child sexual abuse, and expanding health insurance coverage for contraceptives plus two opportunities for exquisite timing—making emergency contraceptives readily available during the three days after unprotected sex and making nonsurgical abortion available at the very beginning of pregnancy.<sup>95</sup>

#### 13. TARGET CHILD POVERTY

Most northwesterners are already on the zero-growth bandwagon, planning families with two children or fewer. But birthrates among the disadvantaged raise the average: roughly one-third of natural increase in the Northwest would not occur if none of the region's families were poor. Women who live in poverty have 50 percent more children on average than more affluent women because, as women's education and economic situation improve, they opt for smaller families.<sup>96</sup>

Poverty singles out the young in particular for childbearing. Much of the region's discussion of teen births misses the fact that, statistically, teen births are a function of disadvantage: fully 83 percent of American teen mothers grow up in low-income families. Teenagers gave birth to one-tenth of the Northwest's newborns in 1998, accounting for 24 percent of natural increase that year. As economic disparity expanded in the Northwest between 1979 and the mid-1990s, the timing of childbearing became a class issue. Just as income prospects diverged, so did childbearing patterns. The haves in the new economy began waiting until after graduate school to have children; the have-nots began during high school.<sup>97</sup>

To alleviate population pressures in the Northwest, therefore, the most effective breath-power technique would guarantee young people a fair start. A remedy for child poverty would weave the Northwest a social safety net of a new variety. The region's welfare reforms of the mid-1990s cleared away ossified social service schemes but left little behind as a ladder of opportunity. Possible rungs for that ladder abound, rungs that emphasize personal responsibility. California now guarantees college tuition to low-income students who finish high school with a C average or better. And economists are designing programs to help poor families obtain assets, since most of the rise in inequality in the region stems from disparities in ownership rather than in earnings.<sup>98</sup>

Even subtle changes to public policy, such as expanding the earned income tax credit in the United States or indexing minimum wages to inflation, as Washington State has done, can slash the poverty rate. The US Social Security system has cut senior poverty by two-thirds since 1960—one of the greatest poverty reductions ever, anywhere—and the credit for much of that achievement goes to the mundane 1972 reform of indexing benefits to inflation. Typical seniors in America now get \$17,700 a year in aid from the federal government; typical children get \$2,500. Add state and local spending, and these figures still favor seniors three to one. Northwesterners don't begrudge people at the end of life a secure retirement; why should they begrudge people at the beginning a secure childhood?<sup>99</sup>

## 14. PREVENT SEXUAL ABUSE

If poverty is the principal cause of teen births, sexual abuse is its silent partner. Two-thirds of school-age mothers have survived childhood rape or molestation—three times as many as among all teenage girls. And one-fourth of school-age moms go on to have at least one additional child before their 23rd birthday.  $^{\rm 100}$ 

Abuse survivors often look on reproduction as a way to heal, a chance for redemption. The profile of a statistically average school-age mom shows why: Beginning just before her 10th birthday, she is repeatedly molested by her stepfather. At 13, she is raped by a 23-year-old acquaintance, the first of three rapes. She begins voluntary sex—if you can call it that—at 14. Her partner is 19; he promises her love and protection but sometimes beats her. She changes partners frequently and becomes pregnant before her 16th birthday with a different 19-year-old man.<sup>101</sup>

Abuse puts children at risk for further abuse. It corrodes their self-esteem, making them desperate for approval, affection, and safety, and teaches them to expect violation as the price of these birthrights. For a girl thus victimized, the thought of having a baby can seem like a chance for a fresh start. Alleviating poverty helps prevent abuse, because destitution creates the conditions in which much abuse occurs insecurity, isolation, dysfunctional families, emotional disorders, and substance abuse. Poor children are many times more likely to be sexually abused than better-off children.<sup>102</sup>

A Northwest aikido tactic can also concentrate on fully funding child protection agencies, giving them clearer priorities, and unburdening them of the mountains of paperwork that keep workers at their desks rather than spending time with at-risk kids. A recent independent review in Washington reveals, as have most reviews elsewhere, a child protection agency in which staff are overloaded and have not been told whether keeping families together or safeguarding children should take precedence. These factors drive widespread employee burnout and rapid job turnover. Only half the reports of child abuse and neglect in Washington State are investigated, and experts believe that most abuse is never reported at all.<sup>103</sup>

As important, the region can monitor sexual abuse as rigorously as it monitors other crimes—or as its public health authorities track diseases. For these issues, the region compiles detailed information according to standard definitions and methods, generating a vast body of data that has helped reveal what works to fight crime and improve health. Without such monitoring, the region will never know how to invest in keeping kids safe. A first technique would emulate and improve on Washington State's Case Management Information System, which is among the best abuse-monitoring systems on the continent.<sup>104</sup>

Raising awareness would also help stem abuse. Six-yearolds have a better chance of knowing what to do if a stranger offers them candy than if a trusted adult tries to rape them. Sexual assault by a parent or parent substitute is 200 times more common than abduction by a stranger. The best prevention programs break the code of silence on which victimization thrives; they teach children a concrete body-safety rule to recognize abuse and then teach them to resist and report it.<sup>105</sup>

# 15. EXPAND INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR FAMILY PLANNING

The share of births from unintended pregnancies appears to have dipped during the 1990s after rising during the 1980s. Still, roughly 1 in 12 babies born in the Northwest are unwanted at conception, conceived accidentally by women who plan to have no children, or no more children. Another fifth or more of Northwest births result from pregnancies that the mothers regard as mistimed. These births, many of them to teens, usually happen one to three years earlier than desired.<sup>106</sup>

Experience in British Columbia shows that expanding insurance coverage for contraceptives is an effective breathpower technique for making unintended pregnancies less common. BC's universal health care system guarantees contraceptive coverage for all; at last count, unintended pregnancies were 40 percent rarer in Canada than in the United States. Since 1999, California and 13 other states have required all private insurers that pay for prescription drugs to cover the five prescription contraceptives: birth control pills, hormonal implants and injections, IUDs, and diaphragms.<sup>107</sup>

But millions of northwesterners still have medical insurance that pays for childbirth but not for contraception. In Washington, for example, even among the women who are enrolled in large, mainstream health plans, fewer than one in four are covered for all prescription contraceptives. (In contrast, nationwide, more than half of all prescriptions for the impotence drug Viagra are partly underwritten by health plans.) This penny-wise, pound-foolish approach to reproductive health puts highly effective methods such as hormonal implants out of reach for those who cannot afford the upfront cost. Health insurers would save money by covering prescription contraceptives, because accidental pregnancies are expensive. The cost to an insurer of a single delivery would pay for 15 years of contraceptives.<sup>108</sup>

In July 2000, a Seattle pharmacist brought a class-action lawsuit against her employer for sex discrimination, arguing that insurance plans covering most prescriptions must include contraceptives. In late 2000, the US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ruled in a similar suit that employers who cover preventive medicine must cover prescription contraceptives. In early 2001, Washington's outgoing insurance commissioner mandated coverage of contraceptives in that state, though the mandate was then put on hold for another year. But employers can get ahead of the courts by joining the hundreds of Northwest companies whose health plans cover all contraceptives. And Northwest state legislatures and the US Congress can pass the bills introduced in recent years to mandate equality in prescription coverage: during their reproductive years, American women now pay 68 percent more than men for prescription drugs.<sup>109</sup>

Because many northwesterners—13 percent among women of childbearing age in Washington, for example—lack insurance, the region could further bolster its private insurance market with publicly funded contraception programs. In the Northwest states, public support for family-planning services helps women prevent more than 50,000 unwanted pregnancies each year. Yet US federal support for family-planning services declined sharply during the 1980s and has yet to recover the lost ground. Some 55 percent of low-income Washington women who need contraceptive services lack access to a federally supported family-planning clinic.<sup>110</sup>

# 16. BROADEN ACCESS TO EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION

Each day, more than half a million Northwest couples have sex; most of them do not aim to conceive a child. In the heat of passion, perhaps 40,000 of these couples dispense with birth control and take their chances on pregnancy; in some 2,000 more cases, a condom inadvertently tears or slips. Almost 60 Northwest women become pregnant each day from condom failure alone. For such occasions, a Washington program has demonstrated a timely way to arm sexual partners with emergency contraception: the "morning-after" pill. Extending the program across the region would make unintended pregnancies much more rare.<sup>111</sup>

If taken within 72 hours of unprotected sex, emergency contraception—two special doses of hormones used in birthcontrol pills—prevents pregnancy. Though it has been available from doctors in the Northwest for 30 years, relatively few women have used it. For one thing, scheduling a special doctor's appointment within three days of a slipped condom is no easy feat, especially if a weekend intervenes. For another, many northwesterners have no idea that the option exists, or they decide to take their chances.<sup>112</sup>

Western Washington boasts a breath-power program that has tilted the balance in favor of emergency contraception more than perhaps any other initiative in the world. Launched in 1997 by a coalition anchored by the Seattle nonprofit PATH (Program for Appropriate Technology in Health) and since embraced by health-care and pharmacy institutions, this effort makes the morning-after pill available from any druggist who signs on to the voluntary program—with no appointments and no need to squeeze the errand into medical office hours.<sup>113</sup>

Under a Washington law that allows pharmacists to directly provide certain prescriptions through prior arrangements with individual medical practitioners, Washington's program has trained more than 800 pharmacists and, at last tally, was distributing roughly 750 prescriptions a month. At one chain pharmacy, prescriptions for emergency contraception increased 60-fold under the program. In its first year, the program targeted its advertising to women in the Puget Sound area, raising awareness of the technique as a backup to other methods. On very conservative assumptions, pharmacy distribution of morning-after pills in Washington is preventing 42 pregnancies each month, roughly half of which would have ended in abortion and half in births. Washington recorded one of its largest-ever declines in abortions in 1998, in part thanks to this program.<sup>114</sup>

PATH is now replicating the program in eastern Washington, and organizations in Alaska, Oregon, and California are following Washington's approach. British Columbia also inaugurated pharmacy access to emergency contraception throughout the province in late 2000. On a less optimistic note, retail giant Wal-Mart refuses to stock emergency contraceptives in its 90 Northwest pharmacies, fearing reprisals from the drug's most vocal opponents.<sup>115</sup>

A similar aikido move would expand women's access to very early abortion by granting government approval to the drug mifepristone (often referred to by its laboratory name RU-486). The United States completed this move in September 2000. In Canada, the BC government has pushed Ottawa to approve mifepristone for use there, and in mid-2000 a Vancouver, BC, gynecologist began conducting the necessary clinical trials.<sup>116</sup>

Developed in 1980 in France and used since then by more than half a million women in Europe and Asia, mifepristone ends pregnancies early by inducing something akin to a natural miscarriage. According to women who participated in the American clinical trials, it is more private, less invasive, and more natural-feeling than surgical abortion. Still, it is not "easy," as some critics have worried; mifepristone abortions typically involve painful cramping and heavy bleeding. What's key about medical abortion is its timing: it takes effect the instant a woman becomes pregnant. The availability of this choice encourages women and their partners to test for pregnancy very early: they can then choose whether to end the pregnancy or to start early prenatal care.<sup>117</sup>



Used to subdue an adversary, the "pinning techniques" of aikido's fifth pillar are familiar to anyone who's watched a police show in which an officer twists a villain's arm behind his back, wrist cocked. Improperly applied, pins can seriously injure the opponent; properly applied, they allow firm control of aggression and even limber up the attacker by stretching the muscles and joints. Pins are best executed gradually, with minimal force.

Lesson: An assailant grabs for your right arm with his right hand. Intercept his hand as it passes with your own left hand, grasping the back of his hand. Your palm should be across his knuckles, your thumb on his palm between his thumb and fingers, and your fingertips wrapped around the knuckle of his little finger. The force of his thrust, redirected by your grip, causes his wrist to bend backward into a right angle and twist his arm the "wrong" way.<sup>118</sup> **T**AX CODES ARE THE AIKIDO PINS OF THE ECONOMY. As awesomely powerful as they are painful, they change almost every price in the marketplace, influencing the decisions of millions of consumers and businesses. When you tax something, you get less of it. So what does the Northwest tax? Mostly things northwesterners want more of: paychecks (payroll and income taxes), commerce (sales and business taxes), and investment (property tax). In contrast, many things northwesterners want less of remain untaxed: pollution, congestion, sprawl, and resource depletion. The tax system manages to send the wrong signals to almost everyone, yielding a Northwest that is both poorer and less livable.<sup>119</sup>

An approach taken to reform taxes in Europe, called tax shifting, uses taxes as aikido pins for sustainable economies. Nine European governments have begun reducing taxes on "goods," such as paychecks, and replacing the revenue, dollar for dollar, with taxes on "bads," such as toxic waste. And the move has helped both economy and environment.<sup>120</sup>

Environmental taxes put hidden costs—such as childhood asthma worsened by pollution—onto business ledgers and consumer receipts. They make prices tell the ecological truth. To quote the *Economist*, "Green taxes are good taxes." Some 2,500 economists, including eight Nobel laureates, have endorsed tax shifting as a response to global climate change, and the idea is gaining adherents in the Northwest. The Oregon legislature came close to passing a bill in 1999 to establish a task force on tax shifting; it is considering similar legislation for 2001. And in March 2000, British Columbia launched a pilot tax shift affecting the burning of sawmill waste.<sup>121</sup>

Tax shifting is a menu, not a prescription, and the menu is as long as the region's tax codes. A top-to-bottom overhaul of the Northwest's public finances could gradually replace most existing taxes with green alternatives, making long-term sustainability a regional priority. But opportunities also abound for narrow starter shifts in tune with the day's politics.

## **17. TAX POLLUTION, UNTAX ENTERPRISE**

Each year, northwesterners send more than 3.5 billion pounds (1.6 billion kilograms) of harmful substances—100 million pounds (45 million kilograms) highly toxic—into the region's air, water, and land. This pollution causes hundreds of premature deaths yearly in the region and contributes to other ailments. The region's innumerable combustion devices also unlock from fossil fuels about 200 million tons of carbon dioxide each year; added to the atmosphere, this gas now hastens climate change.<sup>122</sup>

Taxing—even incompletely—the society-wide drip and hiss of pollution would allow governments to slash charges on profits and paychecks, charges that sap enterprise and work. And the infrastructure for pollution taxes is already sturdy enough to begin a decades-long transition in their direction. Most jurisdictions in the Northwest already require factories and other major polluters to report some of their emissions, and most charge these polluters administrative fees. Washington levies a small tax on oil and other hazardous substances and another on packaged foods associated with litter. California and Oregon now require pesticide users to report the chemicals they spread on the land, and a tiny tax on pesticides helps pay for California's reporting program.<sup>123</sup>

Where pollution comes from a factory, the region can build on top of existing regulatory fees to tax every pound of pollution and toxic waste emitted into the air, water, or ground. But pollution that does not come out of a smokestack or other fixed source is a growing menace. To tame the rising share of nonfactory pollution, the region can tax agrochemical sales and tailpipe emissions. At the regular air-quality inspections required in the region's metropolitan areas, officials can bill drivers in proportion to their emissions and miles driven. Such pollution-tax pins, set at rates that reflect the pollution's damaging impacts, would raise more than \$3 billion a year regionwide. That sum would be enough to eliminate most business taxes: corporate income taxes in British Columbia, Idaho, and Oregon; BC's corporate capital tax; and Washington's business and occupations tax.<sup>124</sup>

Pollution taxes on this grand scale would double the price of many pesticides, boost prices of consumer goods such as nonrecycled paper, and make driving more expensive—by \$135 a year per car, on average. A few heavy polluters would probably leave the region or shut down, but most firms would benefit. In fact, a pollution tax shift would strengthen the Northwest's stature as a magnet for nimble, low-pollution companies at the economy's vanguard. And the Northwest can apply pollution taxes slowly, perhaps starting with a tax on the most toxic substances, one that pays for a tax reduction divided between employers and employees. Or the region can begin with a slim tax on fossil fuels levied in proportion to their carbon content. Even a tax of \$10 per ton of carbon dioxide would likely reverse the rise in climate-changing pollutants now under way in the region.<sup>125</sup>

**18. TAX RESOURCE DEPLETION, UNTAX INCOME** To leave more money in northwesterners' paychecks and pocketbooks and to invigorate conservation and recycling throughout the economy, governments could trim income and sales taxes and make up the difference from levies on water, hydropower, timber, and minerals. Industrial extraction of these resources—the economy's feeding end—causes a disproportionate share of ecological degradation.

To reflect the cost of decimated salmon runs and other consequences of damming rivers, for example, Northwest jurisdictions could follow Idaho's lead by taxing hydropower. Furthermore, governments could prepare for any deregulation of power markets that awaits the Northwest and through price-triggered taxes on private dams—gain from windfall profits that deregulation could bring to the region's dam operators. Just as oil and gas royalties pay for two-thirds of Alaska's government, hydropower royalties could help pay for other Northwest governments, lessening the need for revenues from existing taxes. Like BC's tax on windfall profits from natural gas extraction, hydropower taxes could be minuscule when prices are low and rise as prices rise.<sup>126</sup>

Northwest governments could turn existing timber taxes into true environmental levies. All Northwest jurisdictions, except Oregon, already collect modest taxes on standing private timber as a substitute for property taxes. All the jurisdictions could separate a harvest tax from a property tax, as Oregon does, making it clear that there is no tax on growing trees, only on cutting them down. They could also extend such a harvest tax, as does Washington, to public as well as private timber. And they could offer a lower tax rate for the harvest of certified sustainable timber. British Columbia does impose a tax on logging, but Ottawa effectively assumes this tax burden by counting every dollar a company puts toward the logging tax against the company's federal tax bill. If Canada ended that exemption, the province would have an environmental tax on logging.

Taxing diversions of water from rivers, and its extraction from underground aquifers, would drive water conservation and safeguard aquatic ecosystems. A tax of just 6¢ per 1,000 gallons (3,785 liters) would have generated more than \$600 million in 1995, mostly from irrigators, who use 80 percent of Northwest water. In Idaho, which pumps more water per person than any country in the world, it would offset about half the state's sales tax. Yet such a tax would raise the cost of an order of French fries from Columbia Basin potatoes by, at most, one-twentieth of a cent.<sup>127</sup>

All together, at substantial but reasonable rates, these and other "pins" on resource depletion—applied gradually could generate \$5 billion in the Northwest each year, enough to replace one-third of the state and provincial personal income and sales taxes. British Columbia could generate enough from natural resource taxes to exempt every family below the median income from provincial income taxes. Washington could cut its state and local sales taxes by one-third—a bold stroke for social equity, because Washington's extreme reliance on the sales tax gives it the dubious distinction of having the most regressive tax system in North America.<sup>128</sup>

### 19. TAX SPRAWL, UNTAX BUILDINGS

Most Northwest jurisdictions combat sprawl with the regulatory tools of land-use planning; none applies taxes to the same task. Yet shifting the property tax partially or entirely off buildings and onto land values would turn it into a powerful incentive for investment in city and town centers and adjacent neighborhoods. And that investment is the best alternative to sprawl, because urban decay is the mirror image of suburban creep. In every Northwest city, there is ample room for development around town centers and in close-in neighborhoods, where land speculators commonly hold many vacant lots and rundown, low-rise buildings.

A property tax is actually two conflicting taxes rolled into one: it's a tax on the value of structures and a tax on the value of the land under those structures. Taxing built structures discourages building; taxing land values encourages it, especially in urban centers, where land values are typically hundreds of times higher than in rural areas.<sup>129</sup>

To encourage construction of affordable multifamily housing, for example, Portland and Seattle already provide temporary exemptions from paying tax on the value of qualifying new buildings. Oregon applies property taxes to the value of timberlands but not to the value of timber growing there. And every jurisdiction taxes the value of farmland but not the value of crops growing on it. The logic of these policies is impeccable and merits extending to all buildings, as it was in western Canada between 1903 and 1913 and as it is now in Australia, Taiwan, and Pennsylvania.<sup>130</sup>

Taxing sites but not buildings would turbocharge growth management, spurring development of the most valuable locations in developed areas. Parking lots, a common holding pattern for land speculators, would give way to buildings. Supplies of apartment and office space would increase. Rental prices would moderate. Lot-by-lot analysis in three counties, two in Washington and one in Oregon, suggests that a complete shift of the property tax off buildings would more than double taxes on parking lots and vacant lots, increase taxes by up to one-quarter on car-oriented commercial strip development, and moderately reduce taxes on pedestrian-oriented neighborhood shopping districts. It would reduce taxes by about one-third on the most land-efficient forms of housing, apartments and condominiums, and by about 5 percent for most single-family residences.<sup>131</sup>

A full-fledged aikido pin on land values would turn urban growth inward, and it would bring economic benefits by stimulating investment. And this reform is not all or nothing. States and provinces, for example, could simply give localities authority to reweight their property tax bases between land and buildings. Cities given that option could exert tremendous leverage on their own. They could end land speculation in their cores, and induce a burst of new development that would concentrate growth. Similarly, leaders could move only part of the tax burden off buildings or, if a property tax reduction is warranted, employ the same principle by lowering the levy on buildings but not on land. In British Columbia and Montana, which tax different classes of property differently, officials could restrict the reform to commercial zones.

20. TAX TRAFFIC CONGESTION, UNTAX COMMERCE The next time you're stuck in traffic, think of Soviet bread lines. Socialist planners believed bread should be cheap, so they commanded the economy to make it. What little bread farmers and bakers made, the government sold for a pittance. Demand far exceeded supply, and, without any price mechanism to stimulate production or moderate demand, shoppers began paying with their time: they stood in line. Making more bread would not have ended Soviet bread lines; only creating a working market for bread could do that. The road transportation sector is among the world's largest remaining examples of Soviet-style central planning. Governments build the roads, then give away their use. Lacking any price mechanism, urban drivers pay for road use with their time, by waiting in traffic.

The best-kept secret among transportation experts is the near-universal agreement that variable tolls—known as congestion pricing—offer the only real solution to worsening gridlock. "Phantom tollbooth" scanners would deduct tolls from prepaid smart cards posted on cars' dashboards; the tolls would rise as rush hours approached and taper off as traffic dwindled. Demonstrated in Ontario and southern California, such tolls could generate more than \$2 billion annually in the Northwest, offsetting many local taxes while easing the congestion that annually squanders more than 130 million hours of time and 143 million gallons (540 million liters) of gasoline in Northwest cities.<sup>132</sup>

The keys to public acceptance of this pinning technique are creating pilot projects for drivers to experience and first making toll lanes available where there are also free lanes. When new pay-per-use lanes opened on southern California's State Route 91, only 45 percent of drivers approved of congestion pricing; one year later, as many as 75 percent did. The idea of paying variable tolls was offensive; the reality was welcome. Just so, northwesterners would warm to toll roads after driving on them, and no sooner.<sup>133</sup>

Short of installing phantom tollbooths on existing roadways, traffic planners can accustom drivers to the technology by installing it at parking garages and ferry docks. (The Port of Portland is considering the technology for its new airport parking facility.) They can also introduce pay-to-drive as a way for single-occupant vehicles to travel in carpool lanes, many of which can accommodate more vehicles without slowing. Such high-occupant-toll (HOT) lanes have succeeded in San Diego and Houston.<sup>134</sup>

Congestion pricing is inching closer to reality in the Northwest. In Washington, tolls—which the state could easily make variable—will pay for a planned expansion of the Tacoma Narrows bridge. In Oregon, greater Portland's regional government recently began studying the potential for congestion pricing for each highway expansion project and is actively seeking a first chance to use variable tolls. And in late 2000, public pressure moved greater Vancouver's new transportation planning and financing authority, TransLink, to ask the provincial government for authority to use tolls to pay for transit and road projects.<sup>135</sup>

One reason to believe traffic taxes will ultimately arrive in the Northwest, even if piecemeal and incrementally, is the lack of alternatives. For example, even if the citizens of greater Seattle tax themselves almost \$1 billion extra each year, for mass transit, roads, and other transportation improvements as specified in the region's approved master transportation plan, afternoon gridlock will still spread to almost half the freeway network in the central Puget Sound region by 2020. The time residents spend stuck in traffic will triple; average freeway traffic speed will fall to 21 miles (34 kilometers) per hour. Tolls, on the other hand, could tame congestion even while generating enough money to repeal local sales taxes.<sup>136</sup>

**21.** SPREAD CLEAN TECHNOLOGIES WITH "FEEBATES" The Northwest's resource appetite is determined, to a surprising degree, by customers' choices when buying major new resource-consuming goods such as cars, appliances, and new buildings. Choosing a gas-guzzling new truck means filling

that truck's tank for 15-odd years; building a drafty house bloats the region's energy budget for generations.<sup>137</sup>

Fuel-economy standards, appliance regulations, and building codes already set a baseline for new goods in the region, but a policy called feebates is better aikido. Still awaiting their Northwest debut, feebates are point-of-purchase incentives—fees charged to the buyers of less-efficient products and rebates to the buyers of more-efficient ones—that systematically nudge consumers toward cleaner goods. As average efficiency increases, the feebates reset themselves around the new average, manufacturers raise their wares' efficiency to compete, and consumers set their sights still higher. Efficiency snowballs.

Just as other tax shifts leave government revenue unchanged, a feebate's fees pay for its rebates. And, like other tax shifts, feebates can be powerful pins: the cleaner the device, the bigger the rebate; the dirtier the device, the bigger the fee.

The closest the Northwest has come to feebates was in the early 1990s when the California legislature passed, but the governor vetoed, a new-car feebate, structured to favor cars that were safer for local air and global climate. Feebates then sat neglected in the region. Maryland tried a feebate on new cars briefly, before legal issues ensnared it. Since 1992, Ontario has charged a steep tax on gas guzzlers and given tiny rebates for gas sippers, but the program is not a true feebate. Similarly, energy and water utilities in the Northwest have demonstrated the effectiveness of rebates for efficiency, but they've paid for these incentives from their own limited funds because they lack the authority to charge fees.<sup>138</sup>

Feebates counteract the market's blindness to environmental costs and three other documented market failures. First, buyers-often choosing under pressure, as when the furnace goes out in midwinter-lack information about longterm costs. Second, a "payback" gap separates consumers from producers of electricity and other resources: appliance consumers typically demand a 2-year payback for investments in greater efficiency, while electricity producers build power plants expecting only a 20-year payback. Third, the motivation to minimize life-cycle costs is diluted by split incentives: landlords choose new water heaters, for example, but tenants pay the electric bills. These flaws cause massive, unnecessary investment in power plants, pipelines, and other facilities and amplify the ecological wake of daily life. Feebates untangle these twisted incentives, with surprising results. If the United States enacted feebates on new cars of only \$70 per rated mile per gallon, new-car fuel economy would rise on average about 1 percent a year.<sup>139</sup>

Feebates could soon emerge from the shadows in the Northwest. Oregon endorsed national vehicle feebates to combat climate-altering pollution in 1995. And in 2000, British Columbia assembled a panel to advise the government on vehicle feebates and published a discussion paper on numerous feebate options. Unfortunately, protest from rural citizens at the mention of fees as high as Can\$4,000 for new trucks has put the matter on hold.<sup>140</sup>

# <u>Reveal What's Hidden</u> *Pillar 6*

"Rear techniques," the sixth pillar of aikido, heighten awareness of what is happening beyond the range of vision and prepare practitioners to diffuse an attack even when they're blindsided. A form of attentiveness to events we cannot see, they are associated in aikido teachings with presence of mind, good judgment, quick reflexes, and a "sixth sense" for anticipating and averting trouble. Advised founder Morihei, "Rather than smashing your partner with brute force, diffuse an attack by leading it around you."

Lesson: Stand with your arms at your sides. An attacker grabs your wrists from behind. Yield to her forward grab by bringing both hands forward while bending at the knees. In yielding, you use her own energy to pull her off-balance. As she falls toward you, slip to her side, under her arm, and let her tumble forward, head over heels, her lunge for your wrists turned into a graceful somersault.<sup>141</sup> Northwesterners inhabit an economy that is hardly local anymore: it roams the entire planet, burrows into its crust, and soars to the edges of the atmosphere and beyond. Consider the typical mouthful of food: it travels more than a thousand miles from farm field to dinner plate. In such an unbounded economy, the consequences of northwesterners' decisions—whether as workers operating factories, citizens electing leaders, or consumers choosing groceries—ricochet through vast institutions and make themselves felt in distant watersheds and communities, beyond our range of vision. Unintended consequences also make themselves felt locally, again often in ways we barely sense day to day. We scarcely notice the gradual waning of quality of life in our communities, for example, or the imperceptible ebb of the health and diversity of living nature.

The techniques of aikido politics' sixth pillar seek to expand the range of our senses, letting us see and better understand these elusive consequences, and letting us grasp the profound impacts of our actions on our neighbors and the millions of life-forms with which we share our place. These techniques create an artificial nervous system; they funnel new information into the marketplace and the political arena, exposing counterproductive practices in business and land management. Fully applied, mandatory pollution reporting, certification and labeling of sustainably produced goods, and monitoring of ecosystem health would help give the Northwest the sixth sense it needs to live within its planetary means.

### 22. BOLSTER THE RIGHT TO KNOW

In 1986, the US Congress inserted into its main law regulating toxic substances a provision requiring certain industries to file annual inventories of toxic air emissions, water discharges, and waste disposal. These reports, catalogued by government agencies, allowed anyone to look up the pollution records of local manufacturing plants.

Feeling the heat of an informed populace, legislators, agency administrators, and plant managers replied with pollution prevention laws and voluntary reduction programs, which worked wonders. Between 1988 and 1998, reported releases of monitored chemicals fell 45 percent nationwide, and economic growth outpaced reported releases six to one in the Northwest states. When, in 1994, Canada required annual disclosure from major toxic polluters, British Columbia's reported releases declined 74 percent in just four years.<sup>142</sup>

Still, the accomplishments of these rear techniques are dwarfed by their potential. Expanding the laws' reach and closing loopholes would magnify the success of pollution reporting. Monitored chemicals remain a small fraction of toxics generated—perhaps even as low as 5 percent. The reporting laws in both the United States and Canada exempt all but large facilities, all but select industries, and all but 600—in Canada, 250—of the 70,000-odd synthetic chemicals circulating in the economy. Additionally, facilities report only what they themselves classify as waste, not all toxics used in production, so some companies reclassify chemicals to avoid reporting. Recognizing these weaknesses, both countries have gradually added chemicals and industries to their reporting lists to uncover previously hidden poisons.<sup>143</sup>

A model sixth-sense solution came in 1996, when Eugene, Oregon, adopted full materials accounting for toxic chemicals. The law requires facilities within city limits to submit a detailed accounting of hazardous chemicals from the moment they are purchased or produced to the end of their lifetime at the company. Every year, for each chemical, inputs must balance outputs. The law also mandates reporting for more than twice as many substances as the national statute—and for quantities as little as 500 times below national requirements.<sup>144</sup>

Public disclosure rules extend beyond toxics. Both the US Clean Air and Clean Water Acts include pollution reporting as part of their permitting processes. Any US citizen can examine a facility's permit history for its record of air emissions or wastewater discharges. British Columbia also makes such records public. Despite a rapidly growing economy, the Northwest states' emissions of the principal air pollutants have stayed flat for 15 years.<sup>145</sup>

Required reporting gives northwesterners the right to know who pollutes the region's water, but who uses it is another question. State laws require water users, including irrigators and municipalities, to measure the amount they divert from streams or pump from the ground. But no state enforces this provision. An early 2000 superior court ruling ordered the Washington Department of Ecology to begin enforcement, making the state the Northwest's test case for water-use monitoring. Requiring high-volume users to reveal the amounts they pump would accelerate conservation.<sup>146</sup>

The latest extension of the right to know has come in Oregon, where in 1999, lawmakers required all pesticide users to report each application. First enacted ten years ago in California, laws to report pesticide use give communities the right to know what chemicals are sprayed near schools, parks, and homes in their watersheds.<sup>147</sup>

# 23. LABEL WHAT'S SUSTAINABLE

On the cloud-covered central coast of British Columbia, oldgrowth forester Esmond Preus has been meeting with conservationists. But the meetings are not a protest. These conservationists have agreed to grant Preus's harvest—4,500 logging truckloads from government-owned land—the Forest Stewardship Council seal of approval. Preus will leave 40 percent of the forest standing, and the logs, processed and sold by certified businesses, will wear the council's label.<sup>148</sup>

With the Forest Stewardship label, Preus joins a growing number of Northwest aikido practitioners who are revealing the hidden consequences of their industries and turning buyer preference for environmental practices into profit. The technique is most effective when major buyers drive demand. Home Depot, the world's largest home improvement retailer, pledged in 1999 to sell only Stewardship Council–certified lumber by 2002. Added to the purchasing power of European buyers' groups, Kinko's, and others, Home Depot's pledge helped expand the market for certified wood sevenfold over the past two years.<sup>149</sup>

The potential is powerful, though it takes time for companies to shift practices. Many timber companies, like giant Weyerhaeuser, are opting for environmental standards created by industry groups or the International Standards Organization. These standards will not win products a place on Home Depot's shelves, however, because they do not trace timber from the forest to the customer's hands. Over time, Home Depot's pledge may lead companies like Weyerhaeuser to consider the Stewardship Council's more stringent label.<sup>150</sup>

Parallels to forest certification are emerging in other industries. The Marine Stewardship Council is a saltwater equivalent of the Forest Stewardship Council, writing rules for sustainable fisheries. The Unilever Corporation has committed to purchase only certified seafood by 2005—no small promise for the company that controls one-fifth of the market for boxed frozen fish in Europe and the United States. In fall 2000, Alaska's closely monitored salmon fishery became the first US fishery to gain the Marine Stewardship Council's seal, and its fishers hope the label will buy them access to certification-friendly markets, including the giant Unilever.<sup>151</sup>

Seattle and Portland both recently approved policies mandating that new or newly remodeled city properties follow the US Green Building Council's LEED (leadership in energy and environmental design) standard for nonresidential buildings. As initial projects demonstrate the economic viability of "green building," the industry is incorporating new ideas, such as recycled building materials, rainwater collection systems, and efficiency-maximizing designs.<sup>152</sup>

Renewable energy producers are using certification to stimulate creation of new power sources. In deregulated electricity markets, consumers can purchase certified "Green-e" renewable energy directly from suppliers. And a dozen Northwest utilities in regulated markets offer customers an option to pay a premium for certified energy. Contracts for renewable energy can translate into new wind turbines or solar generators in place of an oil, gas, or hydroelectric power plant.<sup>153</sup>

The veteran green label belongs to certified organic food. A decade of annual sales growth higher than 20 percent is convincing greater numbers of Northwest farmers to go organic. The US Food and Drug Administration's adoption of a national organic standard in December 2000 could further increase organic farming by making certification easier for farmers and consumers to understand. The success of certified organic food underscores the potential of consumers' sixth sense to overturn practices whose impacts ripple throughout the economy.<sup>154</sup>

## 24. MONITOR LIVING SYSTEMS

Quietly, mostly beyond our range of vision, ecosystem integrity is unraveling. Rear techniques to repair the tatter would evaluate the health of living systems and spur appropriate action. One such technique, biological monitoring, can do both. It uses living indicators, such as insects, fish, or plants, to uncover the biological consequences of human decisions. Already used to manage rivers worldwide, biomonitoring systematically applied and made the report card for resource management in the Northwest—would drive dramatic improvements in the health of regional ecosystems.<sup>155</sup>

Ohio—whose fish populations were so depleted by 1880 that wardens believed "the total extinction of fish life is drawing near"—has used biomonitoring since the 1980s to diagnose river ills and speed recovery. The state relies on biological indexes modeled after economic indexes like the Dow Jones industrial average, but these indexes follow river organisms, not companies. Such indexes told Ohio that, of stream and river reaches meeting chemical water quality standards, nearly half were unhealthy biologically; the indexes also helped pinpoint why. On the Scioto River, which runs through Columbus, for example, biomonitoring revealed that effluent from wastewater plants was killing life downstream. In response, plant managers instituted changes that raised downstream health from "poor" to "good" and even "exceptional" over a decade. Ohio has since made biological indexes the centerpiece of its clean-water strategy. The effects are manifest statewide—in rising numbers of river miles now meeting Clean Water Act standards, greater abundance of native species, and recovering populations of endangered fish.<sup>156</sup>

Faced with their worst river crisis ever, the Northwest's water managers can follow Ohio's lead. Salmon populations have plummeted. Some 54 percent of Washington's—and 70 percent of Oregon's—rivers and streams are impaired according to chemical and physical measures. But if, as in Ohio, full biological assessments double such tallies, the Northwest's waters are actually in worse shape. Systematic biomonitoring, which is slowly catching on, would direct authorities' attention toward root causes and cures.<sup>157</sup>

Every Northwest state and British Columbia uses biological assessments to describe the health of some rivers, and Montana does so for wetlands: the information often drives specific land-use decisions. But no Northwest jurisdiction has vet set numeric biological targets for river health—beyond counts of bacteria that sicken people—or held authorities accountable for reaching the targets. Ironically, Idaho-under court order in the mid-1990s for failing to meet Clean Water Act provisions—now leads the Northwest in monitoring river health; it has applied biological indexes to almost 1,900 stream sites. Oregon has biological indexes for the Willamette River and Coast Range streams and is developing numeric biological criteria for Clean Water Act compliance. In addition to sponsoring watershed biomonitoring projects to evaluate forestry practices, British Columbia has made "ecosystem integrity" a top goal of its freshwater strategy.<sup>158</sup>

Biological monitoring is gradually spreading, among citizens and among agencies, and from waterways to land. University of Washington scientists have trained volunteers to monitor dozens of Puget Sound streams and are developing biological indexes for terrestrial ecosystems, starting with the inland Northwest's sagebrush-steppe. Schoolchildren in Washington are using similar techniques to examine neighborhood streams. And, research shows, volunteers' data are as reliable as professional scientists'. When authorities make the results of expanding biomonitoring efforts the mark of their own success, ecosystem health will begin the prolonged recovery so needed in the region.<sup>159</sup>

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## Every aikido technique presupposes multiple attackers; the movements remain essentially the same regardless of the number of opponents. But the six pillars gain their full potential not in separate use but in their combination. The various throws, pins, rear techniques, and breath-power techniques together, as executed by masters, are almost unbelievable. They look like magic. Even diminutive aikido masters can handle four or more strong opponents at once.

Yet this mastery does not come from simply knowing the techniques; it comes from developing a stance, physically and mentally, that is profoundly relaxed yet charged with energy. The proper stance is supremely attentive to everything that is happening. From it flows readiness to seize fleeting opportunities and diffuse attacks, even attacks by several assailants. Deceptively simple, developing such a stance is one of the hardest parts of aikido.160

A IKIDO POLITICS IS ABOUT LEVERAGE. IT'S ABOUT small changes that make a huge difference, about acting on the hidden points in the Northwest's body of rules, institutions, and practices to shift the momentum of that body toward sustainable ends. Surprisingly disparate things turn out to be pressure points: handheld computers that arrange carpools, new prescribing privileges for pharmacists, expanded markets for water permits. With so many unexpected leverage points, aikido politics seems to thrive on paradox: dense, "unnatural" urban centers are a key to protecting both wildlands and global climate; alleviating child poverty slows population growth; monitoring living systems sets in motion political forces that help restore them. And, as a final paradox, aikido politics finds global leverage in local changes; by succeeding, the Northwest can inspire success elsewhere.

This Place on Earth 2001 describes two dozen techniques, but it's still a preliminary guide to aikido politics for a sustainable Northwest. In future editions, NEW expects to document other techniques and rank them with the help of dozens of knowledgeable northwesterners. This year's volume describes few techniques for reforming the region's antiquated water laws, for example. Or for restructuring the perverse and convoluted public financing systems for roads and transit spending. Or for speeding the region's shift to low-impact practices in agriculture, fishing, and forestry. It ignores entire categories of throws: voluntary changes in business accounting methods that set sustainability as a corporate objective; proven public education campaigns that curb waste; and changes not in specific policies but in the process of governance itself.

For example, perhaps other metropolitan areas need to emulate greater Portland's regional governing council if they are to achieve meaningful integrated planning. Similarly, the region's countless localities and overlapping agencies may need to cede power over some issues to higher, regional authorities to succeed at restoring Columbia River salmon. And swift progress toward sustainability may require improvements in democracy—reforms in how political campaigns are conducted or in the citizens' initiative process, which has recently outflanked legislatures in Oregon and Washington.

Our book does not address the role of leadership in aikido politics: the power that comes from defining public issues by setting stark challenges. In May 2000, for example, Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber issued an executive order declaring sustainability one of the state's highest goals. The order reads, in part, "The state of Oregon shall develop and promote policies and programs that will assist Oregon to meet a goal of sustainability within one generation—by 2025." This directive may not prove to have much leverage. It is neither a law nor an amendment to the state constitution; it simply directs state agencies to develop plans for improving their own internal environmental performance. Nonetheless, it does finally invoke sustainability as a top priority and declare an audacious timeline—"within one generation." If the public accepts this principle, it could set a popular standard against which to judge government actions.<sup>161</sup>

Neither does this volume indicate which techniques of aikido politics are most powerful. Increasing urban density, reducing child poverty, and overhauling the tax system tentatively stand out as the most promising. Unfortunately, they may also be among the most difficult to execute because they demand so much political finesse. Selling car insurance by the mile, bolstering the right to know, and rigorously monitoring ecosystem health may be easier first techniques for the region to master.

And finally, *This Place on Earth 2001* does not explore how best to combine aikido moves. The full potential of the listed reforms would be realized only if skillfully combined. Consider greenhouse gas emissions, which the region needs to cut by 80 to 90 percent within a century to lead the world toward climate stability. Climate-altering pollution would be reduced by:

- Communities that were increasingly compact, walkable, and tied together with cost-effective alternatives to driving alone.
- The reduced driving that results from selling insurance by the mile.
- A slowing of population growth brought on by safe, secure childhoods for all and universal access to prescription and emergency contraceptives.
- Protection and restoration of ecosystems, such as old forests, that soak up carbon dioxide.
- Thriving consumer markets in conservation, pollution reduction, and certified sustainable products, including renewable electricity.
- The energy conservation yielded by bottle bills and other forms of extended producer responsibility.
- The tremendous reductions in fossil fuel combustion, forest clearing, and other greenhouse gas generation that would result from elimination of taxpayer subsidies to driving, sprawl, and other high-impact activities.
- The even larger reductions in emissions that would come from comprehensive feebates and from shifting the bur-

den of taxation off paychecks and enterprise and onto pollution, resource depletion, and habitat disruption.

Mixed and given time to work, these catalysts might well bring the required decline in emissions. Indeed, their cumulative effect over decades might be a phasing out of fossil fuel use altogether in favor of renewable alternatives. Other aikido techniques used together can likely safeguard the functioning and diversity of the region's ecosystems, improve quality of life for time-crunched families, and expand economic opportunities for working northwesterners. Yet *how* to combine the moves is a question for another year's edition of this annual book.

What we hope this edition does is demonstrate the power, the opportunity, even the necessity of using leverage to throw the Northwest toward a way of life that can last. It may also show that doing so will have ripple effects far beyond the borders of this region of salmon, rivers, and rainforests. When the Greek mathematician Archimedes first defined the principle of leverage 23 centuries ago, he said, "Give me a place to stand, and I will move the Earth." He was not simply bragging. In a universe without fixed objects, an immovable point would confer enormous powers on someone with a long lever and knowledge of how to use it.<sup>162</sup>

Aikido politics is about leveraging Earthly movement, not in Archimedes's literal sense, but in the sense of turning the current of human affairs into a channel that leads to recovery for the nonhuman realm and continued flourishing for human communities. Northwesterners have a place to stand. If they master the leverage of aikido politics, perhaps they will move the world.

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