



STEWARDS OF OUR EARTH *All of God's Creation*

Social Justice Committee, Holy Cross Parish, Mt. Airy, June 25, 2023

Summer 2023: Some Good News as We Enter a New Season

As we move into a new summer season, let's take a moment to celebrate some good news on our environment. These successes certainly will need reinforcement and expansion; thus, we must remain on alert, but it brings hope and strengthens determination to **celebrate the small victories along the way.**

"Two of America's wildest places are now more likely to stay that way, thanks to new actions.... First, the wolves, moose and other wildlife that live in Minnesota's Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness won't be poisoned by an extremely toxic form of mining upstream for at least another 20 years (or, we hope, forever).

And, the bald eagles, grizzly bears and all five species of Pacific salmon that thrive in 9 million wild acres of Alaska's Tongass National Forest will be spared the noise, pollution and ecological disruption of logging and roadbuilding.

[This is because] the Interior Department withdrew 225,000 acres of public lands from a leasing program that could have resulted in a toxic copper mine upstream from the Boundary Waters. And its Department of Agriculture reinstated 'Roadless Rule' protections for more than half of the Tongass." (*Environmental Action*, 2/4/23)

A Philadelphia ban has prevented 200 million plastic bags from being used — the equivalent to filling City Hall with bags every eight months, according to a report released in April. (Frank Kummer, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, 4/27/23)

"The largest coal-fired power plant in Pennsylvania recently became the latest to announce its retirement plans, prompting questions about its future use and highlighting the debate over the state's transition to a green economy.

After wavering in and out of bankruptcy and operating at less than 50% capacity for the last seven years and at around 20% capacity since 2022, per the Sierra Club, the Homer City Generating Station in Indiana County, in southwestern Pennsylvania, will cease operations on July 1.

It is now the fifth of five coal-fired power plants in the commonwealth to create plans for decommissioning by 2028." (Audrey Carleton (Capital & Main), *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, 5/16/23)

On May 11, 2023, "EPA Administrator Michael Regan announced **stringent new limits on climate pollution from power plants.** These standards are part of a suite of federal tools that the administration will use to help our country meet our recent climate commitments.... While frontline and fenceline communities have borne the increasing burdens of the climate crisis, power plants have been allowed to pump deadly carbon dioxide pollution into the air we breathe and the planet we call home with nearly no federal limits -- Until Now." (Ben Jealous, *Sierra Club*, 5/11/23)

If you supported any of these actions, Thank You! We celebrate you as good stewards of the place we call home.