

Holistic Management:

A New Environmental Intelligence

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"This is a good world
We need not approve of all the items in it,
Nor of all the individuals in it,
But the world itself,
Which is more than its parts or individuals,
Which has a soul, a spirit, a pull,
A fundamental relation to each of us
Deeper than all other relations,
Is a friendly world."

Jan Christian Smuts
Nationalism and Evolution, 1926

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Introduction

When I first learned about Holistic Management, like many others, I thought it was about cows. But as I talked with Savory Center members in my role as Membership Support Coordinator, I soon discovered the myriad ways that Holistic Management has improved peoples' lives and land base, even if they didn't own any cattle or any land.

I heard from members who used this process to make all kinds of personal decisions to help themselves and their community, but the stories that stuck with me the most were those that demonstrated the grassroots environmental restoration efforts that are the heart of the Holistic Management movement.

In a time when environmental issues loom so largely and in such devastating proportions, these stories gave me hope that there were answers out there. People were already finding ways to address the loss of wildlife habitat, productive agricultural land, and rural communities; pollution; desertification, global warming; and the need for healthy food production.

I will not inundate you with statistics that demonstrate the seriousness of the situation. As a person concerned about our environment, you know what we are up against. The news carries the grim details on a daily basis. What is often lacking, however, is the stories about the everyday heroes and heroines who are doing something to turn the tide.

That is why we are sharing these stories with you.

These people are not only effectively addressing these problems, they are doing it in a way that increases their quality of life and helps their communities. And the simple and common sense approaches they use only add to the beauty of it all.

What underpins all these stories is a passion for the land, a deep belief that we must reverse the degradation we have caused as a species. Their agenda is not

conservation, but restoration in a truly sustainable manner. They know that if environmentalism is divorced from the human need for stable, thriving communities, then such a movement or solution will never succeed or address the root cause of environmental degradation.

A new environmental intelligence is called for to help all of us see the bigger picture of how nature works so we can make the decisions necessary to be positive contributors to the planet's health whether we live in urban or rural areas. Nature sustains civilization and we must create a civilization that works with nature, using resource management that mimics nature.

The people in these stories have used Holistic Management to help them tap their human creativity and the resources in their community to produce truly astonishing results, especially given the issues they've faced. I also believe that the number of Savory Center members who have won environmental awards for the work they have accomplished is an indicator of what is possible as momentum grows within this movement.

The stories compiled here are a small sample of the accomplishments of our membership. Choosing which ones to include was a challenging task, as each person or group has addressed numerous issues in such unique ways. To me, that is the beauty of Holistic Management—people can use this innovative process in a manner that feels right to them. With that kind of ownership, they can move mountains.

As you read these stories, I hope you are inspired to consider how you might address the environmental concerns that face your community. I also hope these stories demonstrate to you that no matter how insurmountable these problems appear, there is an answer if people are willing to make use of the tools and resources available to them and keep their minds and hearts open to the possibilities.

Ann Adams
Savory Center Membership Support Coordinator

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Environmental Achievements

A Partial List of Awards given to Holistic Management practitioners

- 1989 Jerry & Ann Palen and Joe Foster, Cheyenne, WY—Environmental Protection Agency Outstanding Environmental Service Award
- 1989 Butch Ellis, CO—Excellence in Grazing Management Award (Colorado Section of Society for Range Management)
- 1989 Alan Kessler, Mayer, AZ—Range Manager of the Year (Arizona Society for Range Management)
- 1990 Rollie & Gloria Stab, Ord, NE—Nebraska's Good Earth Family (National Soil and Water Conservation Programs)
- 1991 Frank Hayes, Los Lunas, NM—Conservation Professional of the Year (New Mexico Wildlife Federation)
- 1991 The Maddox Family, Colorado City, TX—Renew America's Searching for Success Merit Award (Successful Environmental Programs)
- 1991 Tom Sidwell, Capitan, NM—Outstanding Accomplishments for Resource Conservation (Goodyear/National Association of Conservation Districts)
- 1991 Rollie & Gloria Stab, Ord, NE—Renew America's Searching for Success Merit Award (Successful Environmental Programs)
- 1992 Gordon Claassen, Paso Robles, CA—California Farmer/Rancher of the Year (National Endowment for Soil and Water Conservation)
- 1992 Gerda Hyde, Chiloquin, OR—Environmental Leadership Award (Oregon Cattlemen's Association)
- 1992 J. Rukin Jelks III, Elgin, AZ—Range Manager of the Year (Arizona Section of the Society of Range Management)
- 1992 Bart and Debbie Gillan, Llano, TX—Land Stewardship Award for Excellence in Wildlife Conservation (Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society)
- 1992 Gerda Hyde and family, Chiloquin, OR—Alexander Calder Conservation Award
- 1992 Frank & Johnny Mestas, Alamosa, CO—Outstanding Conservationists (Soil Conservation Service)
- 1992 Jack & Teresa Southworth, Seneca, OR—Conservation Ranch of the Year (Grant County Soil & Water District)
- 1994 Roger Bowe, San Jon, NM—Environmental Stewardship Award (Regional Award by the National Cattlemen's Association)
- 1994 Blair & Joseph Fitzsimons, Carrizo Springs, TX—Texas Cattlemen Environmental Stewardship Award
- 1994 Doc & Connie Hatfield, Brothers, OR—Renew America (honored for role in watershed management project)
- 1994 Kirk Hanna, Pueblo, CO—Colorado Riparian Steward of the Year
- 1994 Gerda Hyde and family, Chiloquin, OR—Environmental Stewardship Award (Regional Award by the National Cattlemen's Association)
- 1994 Tom Sidwell, Capitan, NM—Outstanding Accomplishments for Resource Conservation (Goodyear/National Association of Conservation Districts)
- 1994 Tom Sidwell, Capitan, NM—Outstanding Rancher (Upper Hondo Soil and Water Conservation District)
- 1994 Phil Knight, Wickenburg, AZ—State Environmentalist of the Year (Arizona Game & Fish Department)

- 1994 Billy Cordasco, Babbitt Ranches, Flagstaff, AZ—National Cattleman's Association Environmental Stewardship Award for Rangeland Improvement and Enhanced Biodiversity
- 1995 Sid Goodloe, Capitan, NM—National Cattlemen's Association Environmental Stewardship Award
- 1995 Tony Malmberg, Lander, WY—National Stewardship Award (Bureau of Land Management)
- 1995 Clarence Mortenson, Pierre, SD—National Cattlemen's Association Environmental Stewardship Award for Preventing Soil Erosion and Rangeland Improvement
- 1995 Argo Rust, Windhoek, Namibia—Land Degradation and Desertification Control Success Story (United Nations Environment Programme)
- 1995 Frank and John Mestas, Alamosa, CO—Excellence in Grazing Management Award (Colorado Section of the Society for Range Management)
- 1995 George Work, San Miguel, CA—Farm Steward of the Year (*Farm Journal*)
- 1996 Kirk Hanna, Pueblo, CO—Smart Growth and Development Award (Colorado)
- 1996 Tony Malmberg, Lander, WY—Wyoming Stockgrowers Environmental Stewardship Award
- 1996 Bunker Sands, Dallas, TX—National Wetlands Award for Land Stewardship & Development
- 1998 Dylan & Colleen Biggs, Alberta, Canada—Alberta Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Farmer of the Year Award (for humane handling of cattle)
- 1998 Tony Malmberg, Lander, WY—National Stewardship Award (National Cattlemen's Association)
- 1999 Dan Hanson, Lusk, WY—Wyoming Stock Growers State Environmental Stewardship Award
- 1999 Hoven Family Farm, Eckville, Alberta, Canada—Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Farmer of the Year Award
- 1999 Sid Goodloe, Capitan, NM—New Mexico Watershed Steward of the Year
- 1999 James Ranch, Durango, CO—Outstanding Wildlife Landowner of the Year (Colorado Department of Wildlife)
- 1999 Tony Malmberg, Lander, WY—Outstanding Environmental Achievement (Environmental Protection Agency Region VIII)
- 1999 Bill McDonald, Duncan, AZ—MacArthur Genius Award
- 1999 Mike and Cathy McNeil, Monte Vista, CO—Conservationist of the Year—Ranching Division (Colorado Association of Conservation Districts)
- 1999 Dennis Moroney, Prescott, AZ—Wildlife Habitat Steward of the Year (Arizona Game and Fish Commission)
- 1999 Dennis & Jean Wobeser, Lloydminster, Alberta, Canada—Emerald Award for Small Business (Foundation for Environmental Excellence)
- 2000 Dylan & Charlotte Biggs, Alberta, Canada—Growing Alberta Environmental Stewardship Award
- 2001 Dan Hanson, Lusk, Wyoming—Wyoming Stock Growers' NCBA Region V Environmental Stewardship Award
- 2001 Mike & Cathy McNeil, Monte Vista, CO—2001 Steward of the Land (American Farmland Trust)
- 2001 Mike & Cathy McNeil, Monte Vista, CO—National Wetlands Award in Land Stewardship and Development (Environmental Law Institute)