

Environmental Planning
Office of Safety and Environment
Management Directorate
Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to oppose the National Homeland Security's proposed directive, "Environmental Planning Program", that exempts the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Coast Guard, Border Patrol, and more than a dozen others - from environmental regulations, review and assessments of their operations.

"The DHS directive raises major questions about the fine line between protecting national security and jeopardizing public and environmental safety," said Brian Segee, associate counsel for Defenders of Wildlife, adding that the Bush administration is using fear tactics to roll back protections purely for the sake of cutting corners. "We're all for expediency and keeping secrets when it's necessary, but if our government refuses to tell us that there is hazardous waste in our backyard, or that environmental damage is occurring on our public lands, are we truly safer as a nation?"

Is FEMA really hampered by having to properly dispose of its trash? Does the Border Patrol really need to be able to secretly blaze roads through national forests for the sake of our security? Will we be safer if the feds log more trees or spray more pesticides? Is any of this really going to prevent terrorist attacks on America?

I don't think so. We can be strong and sensible at the same time.

Thanks,
Sarah Webb