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Comments:

We often hear the proponents of new encroachments upon our ever shrinking natural areas, which I would categorize as anything that hasn't yet been totally denigrated and paved over, say they are seeking to "strike the right balance" between our economic needs and the preservation of those areas they are determined to exploit. Such statements presume that a healthy, natural environment exists as a surplus, either in the excessive quality of a wilderness area or in the vast amount that is available for development. Such statements reveal a certain level of ignorance related to the very nature of the ecology of an area or are intentionally designed to mislead the public regarding the intended damage that is being proposed. Pristine areas start out as already balanced, which is why they are deemed ecological. The current ecological condition of our planet is far from balanced, as is evidenced by the factors of climate change, species extermination, vanishing wetlands, and the proliferation of plastic in the global environment, just to name a few.

We may as well strike the term "preservation" from our dictionaries, since it obviously refers to only the limited shelf life of anything that we presume to preserve. Sooner or later, the need to "strike a balance" will rear its ugly head and the good intentions of our forebearers will be swept into the dustbin of history, along with the natural areas we once thought valuable enough to preserve in the first place, when their abundance was greater and the stresses on our environment were less.

To date, there has been no fair trade when it comes to designating natural areas for disposal. Until we adopt a policy of creating realistic multiples in either quality or amount, we must apply a hands-off standard regarding our natural world. In other words, for every piece of the planet that we remove from our limited store of natural areas, we need to create several to replace it that are of equal or greater value. No far sighted person can deny that to do otherwise is nothing more than a plan for our own extinction.