

Brigid's Arrow

Can Gophers Save California?

That's why they call them "Golden"



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Mt. St. Helen's 35 years after volcanic destruction



Flowers Bursting at the Foot of Mt. St. Helens

Image from Canva, edited by SJCherry

With all due respect to Steve Schmidt's Substack on how nothing can save or replace California (and hence, the whole US and global world order), I respectfully disagree. This way of thinking represents a clear example of Human Exceptionalism — that is, thinking the only active agents on this planet are humans.

When Mt. St. Helen's erupted some forty years ago, the devastation made the possibility of ecosystem repair seem out of the question in a spot where ash was so deep it swallowed and covered cars with death.

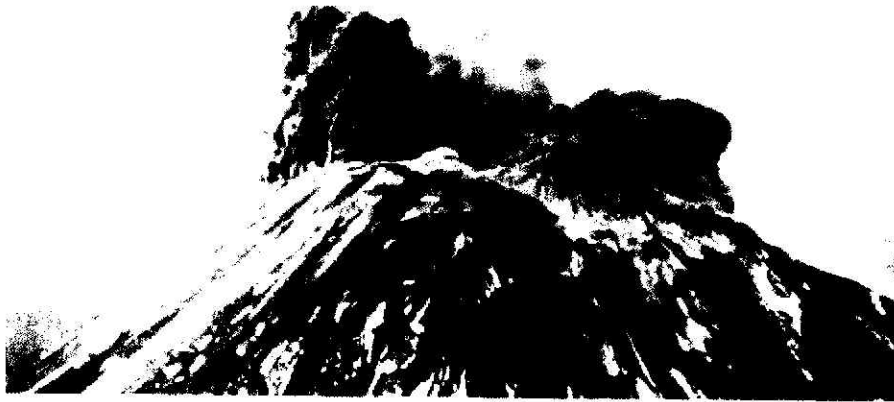


Photo from the [National Archives and Records Administration](#)

But that was before the gophers arrived. Scientists studying a variety of gophers from another adjacent ecosystem, wondered if the excellence of this indefatigable little animal at digging might impact the deathscape of soil and life caused by the eruption, now thought lost beyond repair.

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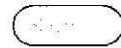
Wow, could they ever! Forty gophers from a nearby forest were transported to Mt. St. Helen's left devastated section, while another formerly clear-cut, parcel of land now buried in ash was kept gopher-free for a control to compare to the gopher tended area.

Forty gophers worked for just one day, digging through the ash returning rich, fertile soil onto the charred surface. Along with the simple act of digging, they also deposited beaver poop, with its abundant components of seeds, hairs, micronutrients, and other beneficial contents..most especially

spores, fungi, Carbon, Nitrogen, and the mycorrhizal fungi that support plant life.

The gophers were only at work for 24 hours before being captured and

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were astonished at what the beavers had achieved in such a short time. Even rainbow trout now bigger than before had returned to the area that gophers had terraformed.

Never have so many owed so much to the plucky animals most humans arrogantly dismiss as nuisance pests.

In short, it seems we have good reason to think that Nature knows what she is doing, making use of natural remedies and creatures to restore diversity and an interdependent web of life to a region once so hopeless! Yes, the curious humans definitely had a transport role in matching the worker to the job that needed doing. So, perhaps the curious and dedicated humans carefully tending coral nurseries, protecting Honey bees from murder hornets are engaging in any number of projects, working hand in glove with other species and Life itself to restore the Edens we have so arrogantly squandered and named "Development" or "Progress."

Let no man put asunder this net of relationships, microscopic bonds between fungi, soil, trees and all kinds of life.

We are not alone, and let the people say, "AMEN!"

Climate Change

Narcissistic Abuse

Nature

Humanity

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