

Scientists urge logging halt in nat'l forests

Six scientists at the University of Texas at Austin and Austin College in Sherman are among more than 200 conservation-minded scientists from across the nation who signed a letter to President Bush urging him to end commercial logging in our national forests and renew the original vision of forest protection.

The letter, released by Sierra Club, National Forest Protection Alliance, and U.S. Public Interest Research Group, addresses the benefits of forest protection to the economy, water quality, wildlife and recreation. Noted scientist signers include Edward O. Wilson, Harvard University professor and Pulitzer Prize-winning author, Dr. Anne Ehrlich, Associate Director of Stanford University's Center for Conservation Biology, and National Medal of Science winner Dr. Peter Raven, Director of the Missouri Botanical Garden.

"Drs. Stuart Reichler, Dean Hendrickson, David Hillis, Charles Jackson, Randy Linder, Peter Shulze and over 200 other scientists recognize the need to protect and restore the Sam Houston, Davy Crockett, Angelina and Sabine National Forests in East Texas, as well as national forests around the nation. We hope the President listens," said Andy Balinsky, volunteer Conservation Chair for the Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club. "The sweetheart deal the timber industry has on those forests will have to end."

"I would like to see the return of large mammals that have vanished from Texas forests," said biologist Dr. Stuart Reichler. "The presence of black bears, wolves and mountain lions is a sign of a complete and healthy ecosystem. Our national forests serve to provide clean water and refuge for humans and wildlife alike. If we want these habitats to remain intact, we must end the logging of our national forests."

Undersecretary of Agriculture Mark

Rey is the former timber lobbyist now charged with overseeing the management of the nation's 192 million-acre national forest system. Under his leadership, the agency is pursuing numerous avenues for increasing logging on our National Forests, including recent attempts to gut the Northwest Forest Protection Plan and rewrite the Roadless Area Conservation Rule to allow for more logging, mining and drilling.

The timber industry has turned our publicly owned national forests into a patchwork of clearcuts and logging roads. Commercial logging, subsidized by American taxpayers, drains nutrients from the soil, washes topsoil into streams, destroys wildlife habitat and intensifies the severity of forest fires.

On Texas national forests, tax dollars have paid for the construction of enough roads that, if lined up end to end, would reach from San Francisco to Chicago.

"Scientific research has repeatedly affirmed the tenet that wildlife need an abundant, healthy, and intact environment to survive. Unless the destruction of fragile ecosystems is immediately reversed through scientifically based restoration and recovery, the damage done to terrestrial and aquatic habitat will be irrevocable," the scientists write.

A list of statements from selected scientists:

"Our National Forests are home to a vast array of plant and animal species,

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New emission testing takes effect

A more stringent vehicle emissions testing program took effect May 1 for Tarrant, Dallas, Denton, and Collin counties. The previous test had two limitations: it did not test for emissions during normal operations, and it only tested for carbon monoxide and hydrocarbon; it did not test for oxides of nitrogen (NOx), a pollutant that helps form ground level ozone.

The type of test required depends on the model year of the vehicle. For 1996 or newer vehicles, On-Board Diagnostic II (OBDII) Test will be used. Newer vehicles feature a built-in computer system that monitors the fuel, ignition and emission components while adjusting and recording system operations. For 1995 or Older Vehicles, Acceleration Simulation Mode (ASM2) Test will be used.

This test measures emissions under simulated driving conditions. It's like

a treadmill stress test for your vehicle.

Before your annual time rolls around for your vehicle inspection, you probably should locate a qualified inspection station.

Test failure mandates corrective maintenance. Most air pollution in Texas comes from the 16 million motor vehicles registered in the state.

Poorly maintained vehicles are the biggest contributors to the air pollution problem. Pollution from one poorly maintained vehicle is equal to that of 25 properly functioning cars.

This new testing may be even more urgent than previously thought.

According to an article in The Dallas Morning News "The cars, trucks, and buses that cruise Dallas-Fort Worth highways – and jam up every rush hour – may be putting out twice as much pollution as the area's clean-air plan indicates, a federal-state study says."

This month's program

What's the program for the May meeting of the Fort Worth Sierra Club? Rubbish, that's what. Literally. Dot Kent with the City of Fort Worth will give a program on new city garbage and recycling proposals. More details on Pg. 4.

Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club

P.O. Box 1925, Fort Worth, TX 76101
817/588-1167

All the following numbers are Area Code 817 unless otherwise noted

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Forests should be restored

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many in a delicate balance of survival. We must protect and restore these species, the fragile forest ecosystems on which they depend, and our natural forest heritage," said Dr. Peter Raven, Director of the Missouri Botanical Garden and 2000 National Medal of Science winner.

"It is critically important to reverse the trend of destruction in our National Forests that has prevailed for decades and focus instead on protection of what remains and scientifically-based restoration wherever possible. Most Americans appreciate the value of our National Forests for the wildlife and diverse other species they harbor and for recreational opportunities. Equally important, though not always appreciated, are the ecological services provided by natural forests, including sources of dependable, clean fresh water," said Dr. Anne Ehrlich, Associate Director of Stanford University's Center for Conservation Biology.

Text of the letter to President Bush:

"As conservation-minded scientists with many years of experience in biological sciences and ecology, we are writing to bring your attention to the need to protect our National Forests. Logging our National Forests has not only degraded increasingly rare and valuable habitat, but also numerous other services such as recreation and clean water.

"Our National Forest System was first established over 100 years ago to bring an end to the reckless destruction that had ravaged wildlife habitat and watersheds. At the time, Congress acknowledged that establishing National Forests would provide America with diverse wildlife, healthy watersheds, and a sustainable supply of wood products.

"Unfortunately, the past emphasis of management has been on logging and the original vision for our National Forests has failed to be fully realized. During the past several decades, our National Forests have suffered from intense commercial logging. Today almost all of our old growth forests are gone and the timber industry has turned our National Forests into a patchwork of clearcuts, logging roads, and devastated habitat. More than 3,000 species of fish and wildlife and 10,000 plant species-- including 230 endangered plant and animal species-- make their home in National Forests.

Scientific research has repeatedly reaffirmed the tenet that wildlife need an abundant, healthy, and intact environment to survive. Unless the destruction of fragile ecosystems is immediately reversed through scientifically based restoration and recovery, the damage done to terrestrial and aquatic habitat will be irrevocable.

"It is now widely recognized that commercial logging has damaged ecosystem health, clean water, and recreational opportunities -- values that are highly appreciated by the American public. The continued logging of our National Forests also wastes American tax dollars and diminishes the possibilities of future economic benefits. The Forest Service and independent economists have estimated that timber accounts for only 2.7 percent of the total values of goods and services derived from the National Forests, while recreation and fish and wildlife produce 84.6 percent. Annually, timber produces roughly \$4 billion per year while recreation, fish and wildlife, clean water, and unroaded areas provide a combined total of \$224 billion to the American economy each year. When the dramatic values of ecological goods and services are taken into account, it is clear that protecting National Forests creates more economic benefits than continued logging. Moreover, only 4 percent of America's timber supply comes from National Forests. Timber should no longer be extracted from our National Forests, especially when it comes at the expense of biological diversity and healthy ecosystems.

"Logging has caused devastating impacts on the ability of our National Forests to provide wildlife habitat and economically valuable goods and services. The loss of biodiversity is the folly our descendants are least likely to forgive us. National Forests are our largest source of wildlife habitat, clean water, and recreation areas. Without protection from further logging, the biological diversity we so greatly need could be lost. Mr. President, we urge you to end the destructive practice of commercial logging in the National Forests and to begin a scientifically based program to restore habitat and native species.

Sincerely,
221 PhD. Scientists

The Greater Fort Worth Group of the Sierra Club

Greater Fort Worth Group Sierra Club Outings

Fort Worth Sierra Club outings are open to members and nonmembers. Trip leaders serve in a volunteer capacity and assume no responsibility above that of organizing the trip. If you have special needs or medical requirements, notify the leader prior to the trip. All outings officially begin at the trailhead. Leaders cannot assign carpools, but may help coordinate ride sharing. Many outings require advance reservations at the trip designation as well as from the participant. Notify the trip leader promptly if you must cancel. Donations of \$3 per person and \$5/family are requested for overnight trips to be used for conservation efforts of the club. Any park and/or camping fees are the responsibility of the participant. In order to participate on one of the Sierra Club's outings, you will need to sign a liability waiver. If you would like to read a copy of the waiver prior to the outing, please see <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms> or call 415-977-5630.

May 11, Saturday

Walking tour of Clymer Meadow. Tour this 1,000-acre virgin Blackland Prairie on the rolling hills of northwestern Hunt County, near Greenville. Join our Nature Conservancy guide as we explore one of the largest and most diverse remnants of the Blackland Prairie and one of the most scenic areas in North Central Texas. On this easy day hike we will learn about the meadow's plants, history and efforts to preserve it. A \$5 per person donation to the Nature Conservancy will be collected to help further their conservation efforts. Contact Mark and Jeanni Capell to sign up. Capells@earthlink.net or 214-821-7557.

May 16-19 Thursday-Sunday

Canoe a section of the Buffalo River in central Arkansas on Friday and Saturday, a distance of 13-14 miles per day on this national wild and scenic river. Camp each night at Tyler Bend State Park, at the midpoint of the canoe trail. You must leave on Thursday afternoon due to the 7-hour drive to the campsite. Arrange shuttle service and canoe rental in advance by contacting the outfitter at 870-439-2888. The number of canoes available is limited. The website is gilbertsstore.com. No shuttles are provided by the canoe outfitter for personal craft. This trip open to experienced canoeists and requires approval of trip leader. It's not a technical river, but there's a current and basic canoeing skills are needed. Leader: Marilyn Sumner (Turnage), 817-491-2382, e-mail, marilynturnage@msn.com or Claudia Blalock, 817-924-6242 (e-mail, cpblalock@msn.com).

May 25, Saturday

Join Don Bowles for another bike ride for a worthy cause – MADD Ride in Denton County. The ride starts at Pilot Point which is east of Lake Ray Roberts on Rt. 377. The ride commences from the Pilot Middle School at 8:30 a.m. There is a \$20 early registration fee, \$25 after May 18. The MADD registration form has all the information and a map. Call 940-387-8814 to request the form. Registration fee includes a free picnic lunch for paid registrants. Contact Don Bowles if more information needed at 817-571-9778 Remember this is a Ride, Not a Race.

June 22, Saturday

Canoe the backwaters of the Fort Worth Nature Center with veteran canoe guide Jim Walling. Plan to be at the Nature Center at 8 a.m. Signs will be posted at the entrance for the meeting place. We will canoe parts of Lake Worth and the backwaters of the nature center looking for birds, reptiles, and solitude. Canoes furnished by the Nature Center. Some experience canoeing is recommended. Bring water and a snack. We will canoe at least 2 hours. For more information, call Jim Walling at 817-444-4416

June 30-July 5, Sunday-Friday

Canoe the Boundary Waters Wilderness Area of northern Minnesota along the US-Canadian border. Get looney with a group of approximately 8 Sierrans for a week of canoeing and camping in this pristine wilderness void of motorcraft. Listen to the call of the wild with loons, moose, and wolf. This week-long trip is a repeat of a similar trip in 2000 and will depart from Tuscarora Outfitters on the Gunflint Trail near Grand Marais, Minn. Outfitter will provide food, camping gear, and boats at a cost of less than \$50 per day. Transportation from Fort Worth is not included in this cost and is the responsibility of each person. The trip leader would like to coordinate travel plans to get a group airline rate. Leader: Marilyn Sumner (Turnage), 817-491-2382 or e-mail marilynturnage@msn.com.

September 5-8, Thursday-Sunday

Canoe the Illinois River in SW Oklahoma with car camping. This is flat water paddling suitable for beginners. Leave the Metroplex on Thursday

evening for canoeing all day Friday and Saturday. For details, contact Marilyn Sumner (Turnage), 817-491-2382 or marilynturnage@msn.com.

October 18-20, Friday-Sunday

Miss the Halloween trip to Caddo Lake we used to do 10 years ago? It has been revived complete with a full moon. We will camp at Caddo Lake State Park near Marshall in east Texas about 3 hours from Fort Worth on Friday night. On Saturday, we canoe about 1 mile to a nearby island to enjoy the seclusion and beauty of Texas' only natural lake. Saturday night meal will be a potluck affair complete with campfire and ghost stories. Canoe rentals are available through Pine Needles Lodge (903-665-2911) and are limited so contact immediately to reserve your canoe. Call Texas State Park Reservations at 512-389-8900 or visit on-line at <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us> to reserve your campsite for Friday night. This trip is open to families. Trip ends with a catfish lunch at noon on Sunday. Leaders: Tolbert Greenwood, 817-346-3140 (tgreenwood@canteyhanger.com) and Marilyn Sumner, 817-491-2382, (marilynturnage@msn.com).

ANWR 1, Big Oil 0 (for now)

Quote of the Day: "The next thing you know, they'll be saying drilling in the Arctic Refuge is the only way to bring back Oprah's book club" - Senator Joe Lieberman, Arctic champion.

Thanks to you all, Arctic Drilling is off the Table! (At least for now.)

What a win! Years of organizing, lobbying, blood, sweat, and tears paid off when the Senate rejected a proposal to drill in the Arctic Refuge. Drilling advocates resorted to a string of desperate schemes to push their proposal through, but lawmakers saw through their tricks. Fifty-four senators stood up to heavy pressure from big oil and the Bush administration to safeguard one of our greatest national treasures.

The current energy bill is still a far cry from what America needs for a clean energy future, so the fight isn't over yet. But this vote – which was due to the tireless efforts of environmentalists across the country, who refused to let the oil industry plunder this unique area – is a victory we can all be proud of.

Coming Events

May 9, Thursday, 6:30 p.m.

Fort Worth Sierra Club ExCom Meeting, 6:30 p.m. at LaMadeleine's Restaurant, 305 Main St. For more information, contact Tolbert Greenwood, 346-3140.

May 15, Wednesday, 7 p.m.

Fort Worth Sierra Club General Meeting. See box at right for details.

Newsletter deadline. Submit articles, ads, letters, or other information in writing. Articles may be submitted by mail, email, or on Iomega Zip disks accompanied by hard copy. B&W or color nature photos and electronic images (150dpi or greater) will be accepted (prints returned if submitted with SASE). Photographs of outings or other club activities are particularly encouraged. Identify subject of photo and state photographer's name. Please do not write on the back of photos. Mail submissions to Newsletter Editor, P.O. Box 1925, Fort Worth 76101, bring to the ExCom meeting, the general meeting, or email jmoody166@aol.com.

Sierra Singles Events

On Friday and Sunday, May 10-12, join us at Caddo Lake for a canoe/camping trip. We will camp in shelters at Caddo Lake State Park and canoe rentals are available for \$30 per canoe.

General Meeting

Wednesday, May 15

Program: Dot Kent with the City of Fort Worth will give a program on the new city garbage and recycling proposals.

7:00 Main Auditorium, University of North Texas Health Science Center, Camp Bowie at Montgomery (exit Montgomery off I-30, go north about a mile to Camp Bowie).

Maximum 24 people, including leaders, allowed on this trip so sign up early! A \$15 deposit is required to hold your spot. This trip is almost full but there will be a waiting list, if necessary. After you officially sign up you will receive a more detailed trip description. Leader: DeAnn McDaniel, (469) 467-7007 or ouraybelle@yahoo.com; co-leaders Jenny Lehman, Larry Shindel and Beth Burgeson.

On Monday, May 20 at 7 p.m. join us for dinner at Abuelo's Mexican restaurant, 824 Airport Freeway in Hurst. Contact: Jenny Lehman.

On Monday, June 10 join us for a Texas Rangers v. Cincinnati Reds baseball game at the Ballpark in Arlington. The Reds were my favorite childhood team. Game time is 7:05. Details on ticket prices and where to meet TBA.

The June dinner is tentatively scheduled for Monday, June 17 at 7:00 at Champs, 5910 N. MacArthur in Las Colinas (same complex as BD's Mongolian).

Just a reminder that all events officially begin at the event site/trailhead.

You may just show up at an event unless specifically told to RSVP. The general rule is that you may show up for day hikes and dinners, and you need to RSVP for weekend camping trips.

Contact for Sierra Singles information: Jenny Lehman, (817) 263-1357 or lehje30@hotmail.com.

May 28, Tuesday

Conservation Committee meeting, 7 p.m., at the University of North Texas Health Science Center, Library Building, Room 306. Contact: Don Callaway, 214-674-5636.

June 3, Monday

Newsletter folding party, Smoky's Ribs, 6 p.m., 5300 E. Lancaster. Eat, or have the beverage of your choice, while working with other Sierrans to prepare the newsletter for mailing. Call Steve Turner, 457-7131.

June 5, Wednesday

Outings Committee Meeting, 7 p.m. at the Great Outdoors, one block west on Camp Bowie from the Camp Bowie and University Drive intersection in the Cultural District. Contact Claudia Blalock, 817-924-6242.

As Maine goes . . .

Gov. Angus King of Maine is supporting legislation to withdraw that state from the Texas-Maine-Vermont radioactive waste "COMPACT." The agreement, which was passed by all three states and ratified by Congress in 1998, attempted to establish a joint disposal site for the three states' waste in Texas.

Texas legislators should close a loophole in the Compact that would allow a Texas disposal facility to receive low level radioactive waste from states across the nation, and also from U.S. Department of Energy facilities. The Legislature should delete the section that allows governor-appointed commissioners to contract with other states or companies to import unlimited amounts of waste for disposal in Texas.

During the 2003 legislative session, the state could send changes in the COMPACT to Congress, which is obligated to review the compact every five years after its effective date.

The Greater Fort Worth Group of the Sierra Club



Linda Zombeck, Jeanni Capell, and Claudia Blalock dayhiking at Mineral Wells State Park on April 21. This was a joint car camp, day hike, and bike ride with the Fort Worth and Dallas Sierra Clubs

Snowmobiles inappropriate for national parks

The National Park Conservation Association lists 10 major parks that are endangered mainly due to lack of sufficient funding and pollution.

It has asked for our help, letters etc., to urge more funding, and to ban usage of snowmobiles, jet skis, & PWCs in certain parks. The timing is right to address one of these issues: ban of snowmobiles in Yellowstone and the Grand Teton national parks. Write to the NPS to show your support for removing recreational snowmobiling from Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks. You must include your name and return address. (You may use the following sample letter or use your own words):

Winter-Use Draft SEIS Comments
Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks

P.O. Box 352
Moose, WY 83002

Dear National Park Service

I strongly support immediate implementation of a snowmobile ban to protect the parks, the wildlife and their visitors. Ten years of planning and a three-year public planning process supported a decision to ban snowmobile

use in the parks.

The National Park Service was created by the Organic Act of 1916 to "conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

Snowmobiling in the parks would not protect the park's air, wildlife, visitors, soundscapes, and staff as they de-

serve. A guided, snowcoach-only transit system outlined in the draft SEIS would allow all people to experience the winter wonderland of both parks and would provide park visitors with top-quality, environment-friendly transportation.

Or email (by May 29) to the NPS at grte_winter_use_seis@nps.gov. You might also send a copy to Fran Mainella, Director, NPS ; 1849 C Street, NW; Washington, DC 20240. fran_mainella@nps.gov.

Membership

Yes, I want to join the Sierra Club! My check is enclosed.

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The purposes of the Sierra Club are: To explore, enjoy and protect the wild places of the earth; to practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources; to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment and to use all lawful means to carry out these objectives.

Mission Statement

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