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Protect the
Planet

Sierra Sentinel

The Greater
Fort Worth
Group of the
Sierra Club
JUNE 2005

Can't see the forest for the logging trucks

Statement of Sean Cosgrove, National Forest Policy Specialist, Sierra Club

"By formally repealing the Roadless Area Conservation Rule, the Bush administration is, yet again, doing its hardest to ignore over 4 million public comments in support of wild forest protection as well as an exceptionally strong ruling from the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals upholding the legality of the rule.

"By creating a sham process requiring a multi-step unfunded mandate, the Federal government is shirking its responsibility to protect these few remaining roadless areas. The concerns of millions of Americans meet deaf ears, while the administration hangs on the words of a handful of timber industry lobbyists.

"Instead of finding ways to provide millions of dollars in subsidies to the timber industry, the government should be working to permanently protect all remaining roadless areas in each state and across the National Forest System. These are areas of national significance and they deserve a single, nation-wide policy to protect them--not a piecemeal

state-by-state approach.

"The original Roadless Rule was the product of exhaustive studies and scientific, economic and public input, including 600 public meetings.

Unprecedented in its overwhelming popularity, the rule garnered 10 times more public comments than any federal rule in history. Sadly, the Bush administration hastily replaced it with an ill-conceived plan that forces a convoluted process on governors and leaves America's last remaining wild forests at risk.

"By revoking the landmark Roadless Rule, the Bush administration is leaving wild forests across the country vulnerable to destructive commercial timber sales and road building. This move is part of the Bush administration's overall assault on National Forest protections. From day one, the administration has worked to weaken or eliminate the core protections for America's wild forests, putting the interests of the timber industry ahead of the clean water, recreational opportunities, economic benefits and wildlife habitat that these forests provide the country."

Of politics, religion, and the future of the environment

Excerpts from Planet Senior Editor Tom Valtin's interview with comedian Bill Maher on the environment. Maher will appear at September's Sierra Summit 2005.

Planet: The Sierra Club is opposed to Bush's environmental policies, but we've found that when we criticize Bush personally, people aren't as re-

ceptive. How do we oppose the policies without criticizing the person?

Maher: You're falling into the Al Gore-John Kerry trap, which is "Don't attack the president too much because it will offend his supporters." Who gives a #%! if it offends his supporters? This man needs to be attacked. You can't

Conservation Notes

Sierra Club, other groups reach agreement with EPA

An agreement to settle a lawsuit filed Oct. 1, 2004, by the Sierra Club, Blue Skies Alliance, Downwinders at Risk, and Public Citizen has been reached with the Environmental Protection Agency.

The organizations alleged that the EPA was in violation of their statutory requirement to implement a state clean-air plan by allowing delays since 1999, the original date of attainment for a plan. The delay was attributed to the contention that no plan could be put in place in North Texas until upwind improvements to air quality in the Houston area had been achieved.

The primary terms of the settlement approved by the four environmental groups, the EPA, and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality provide that the EPA and TCEQ will work together to approve a clean-air plan for Texas by June, 2007, and will be prepared to implement the plan before the federal deadline of 2010.

Another major provision of the agreement is that both agencies will provide studies on pollution control

Please see CONSERVATION, Page 2

The Board of Directors of America's oldest and largest grassroots environmental organization elected Lisa Renstrom from Charlotte, NC as the Sierra Club's 51th president. Renstrom has held local, state, and national posts with the Sierra Club for more than a decade. And . . . beginning with this issue, The Greater Fort Worth Group newsletter sports a new name.

separate the man from the policy. He is the policy, OK? People need to know he's a corrupt person, that he's selling his country and his countrymen down the river to pay back his friends in the energy industry. I would not hesitate to make this case at all. If people can't accept that, then I don't know what to tell you. The problem with the left, and the Democrats, and environmentalists, is not that they're too hard on this president, it's that they're too easy on him.

Planet: For much of the 20th century,
Please see INDIVIDUALLY, Page 4

Update!
Update!
Update!

Coming Events

June 15, Wednesday, 7 p.m.

Newsletter deadline. Submit articles, ads, letters, or other information in writing. Articles may be submitted by mail or email. B&W or color nature photos and electronic images (150dpi or greater) will be accepted (prints returned if submitted with SASE). Photographs

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Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club

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<http://sierraclub.org/chapters/tx/fortworth/index.html>

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Mission statement

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.

General Meeting

Wednesday, June 15

7:00 Main Auditorium, Univ. of N. Texas Health Science Center, Camp Bowie at Montgomery (exit Montgomery off I-30, go north to Camp Bowie). Program notes on Pg. 1.

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 1874, Burleson, Texas 76097-1874, bring to the ExCom meeting, the general meeting, or email jmoody166@mac.com.

June 24, Friday

Noon meeting for Sierrans unable to attend the evening general meeting. This group meets the last Friday of each month, 12 noon-1:00, at Local Color Art and Coffee, 208 W. Main St., Arlington. Boonie Bowman will be

Maher interview

CONTINUED FROM PG. 1

protecting the environment was a bipartisan endeavor. But recently the GOP leadership, at least at the national level, seems to have turned its back on this tradition. James Jeffords, a moderate Republican who cared about the environment, felt he had to bolt the party in 2001 because there was no longer a place for him there. Christie Todd Whitman says in her new book that her party has been hijacked. Is there a place for environmentalists in the Republican Party these days?

Maher: That's a great question. There should be, and there are—I mean, John McCain just made an appearance with Bobby Kennedy. I think he's on that page. I think any Republican who's not beholden to the Christian right is on that page. The Republican Party has been hijacked by this Christian wing of the party, and the problem is that pollution isn't mentioned in the Bible, so it's not really important to them. I'm sure you're familiar with the James Watt quote that I think says it all, about the environmental movement and Christianity. He was answering questions from angry senators about why he wasn't doing his job of guarding the henhouse, and he said, "I don't know how many more generations we can count on before the Lord comes back and ends the world." So in other words he was saying, "Look,

heading up this meeting.

July 4, Monday

Newsletter folding party at Braum's, 6770 Bridge St. at 6:30 p.m. Call Steve Turner, 457-7131.

July 5, Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.

Fort Worth Sierra Club ExCom Meeting, 6:30 p.m., at Panera Bread, 1700 S. University Dr. For more information, contact Susan Haney, 254-582-8228.

July 5, Tuesday

Outings Meeting immediately following the ExCom meeting to plan new outings and reminisce about old trips. See location above. Contact Claudia Blalock, 817-924-6242.

July 12, Tuesday, 7 p.m.

The Conservation Committee meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. All members are welcome. For meeting location, contact: Chair Glenn Ford, 469-6540 or Earl Burnam, 244-2328 or Bob Scott, 282-1372.

the Bible says the world's going to end soon, so what are we really knocking ourselves out for protecting the planet, because the end is near." Use it or lose it—that was his attitude about the environment. You cannot argue rationally with religious people, so as long as this country is on this path toward theocracy, the environmental movement is greatly threatened. And it's going to be a self-fulfilling prophecy because the world will end—not because God came down, but because we actually destroyed it.

Conservation

FROM
PG. 1

technology for the cement industry and electric generating plants.

Tarrant and Collin counties have voluntarily agreed to be parties to the settlement, and Dallas and Denton counties have indicated support of the agreement. The Portland Cement Association and the Association of Electric Companies of Texas, industrial trade groups who have been involved with the negotiations, did not agree to be bound by the settlement. Ellis County, home of several cement manufacturers, also declined to be a party to the agreement.

Wise County injection well planned

Please see Well, Page 3

No pets, firearms or radios are allowed on Sierra Club outings. All children (17 years or less) must be accompanied by a parent on any outing. All overnight trips require preregistration with the trip leader. A donation of \$5 per person to the Fort Worth Sierra Club is requested for all overnight trips.

June 10-12, Friday-Sunday

Camp and water fun on South Llano River near Junction, Texas. We will camp Fri. and Sat. nights at South Llano River SP in the walk-in camping area. Reserve your campsite as soon as possible by calling the TP&W office at 512-389-8900 or visit its website. Hiking and tubing are options Saturday on the Llano River. Sat night, we will visit the James River Bat Preserve which requires a high clearance vehicle. We can carpool for this event. The Llano River is a spring-fed river, flowing over limestone rocks. There is wonderful scenery and wildlife in this park, 250 miles from Fort Worth via Hwy 377. Two good websites: tpwd.state.tx to access the South Llano River SP site, and Canoeman.com for great information on the river. Contact Marilyn Turnage at 817-491-2382 or marilynturnage@msn.com to signup and for more info.

June 18, Saturday

Bike with Tolbert Greenwood in the annual MADDER' HELL BICYCLE RALLY at Isle du Bois State Park just north of Denton. Register or find de-

Club Outings

tails at www.madd.org/tx/northtexas and click "events." This is a fun ride not a race and is well supported by snacks, drinks, free lunch, snow cones, and sag wagons. There are rides of 25, 50, and 78 miles through pretty horse farms and the 50 mile ride goes around Lake Ray Roberts and is really pretty IF you are up to that distance. Call me at 817/737-8698 to confirm or email me at greentol10@yahoo.com and I will advise of the meeting place.

July 9, Saturday

River Legacy day hike - EAST. We'll hike 4-6 miles on a paved trail on the newly-opened trail in north Arlington. We will have opportunities to observe the Trinity River bottom forest, wildlife and open areas east of River Legacy Park. The river and wildlife (herons, egrets, beaver, turtles and more) are more visible on this section than along the west trails of River Legacy Park. Pace of hike will be about 3 mph. Bring water and sunscreen. Directions: From I-30 in Arlington, exit Collins and take Collins north past Green Oaks Blvd. After crossing Green Oaks approx. 400 feet, turn left into the new River

Legacy Park east entrance and park at the south section (walk south from the parking lot to find the map). Meet at 9 a.m. by the large park map and drinking fountains. Leader: Claudia Blalock 817-924-6242 and Judy Cato. Please no dogs on hike. No reservations needed - just show up.

Injection

*Continued
from Pg. 2*

Pioneer Exploration, Ltd. of Houston has made application to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to dispose of oil and gas drilling residue into wells in the community of Greenwood, near Decatur in Wise County. Property owners in the vicinity are contesting the injection well application, contending that such use would endanger ground water supplies and worsen air quality. Interested parties may contact Texas Citizens for a Safe Future and Clean Water, P.O. Box 632, Greenwood, TX 76246.

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