

SHAWNEE TRAILS

Shawnee Group, Sierra Club

JULY 2000

General Meeting

Shawnee Group, Sierra Club
July 2000

There will be no general meetings of the Shawnee Group during the months of June, July, August.

Regular meetings of the Shawnee Group are 7:30 PM on the second Thursday of the month and will resume at the Unitarian Fellowship building, in September.

The Unitarian Fellowship is located at the corner of University Avenue and Elm Street, in Carbondale, Illinois.

Hope to see you there in September!

Summer Party at Stan Harris's (Saturday, July 15)

The gathering would begin at 3 PM for those who would like to swim in his pool or just relax on the screened porch with a potluck at 5:30 PM. Stan's address is 98 Edgewood Lane, Carbondale. To get to his house, take New Era Road about 1 1/2 mile north to just before Charles Road. Turn left; Stan's house is the first house on the left on Edgewood.

Comments on Proposed Roadless Initiative Needed Deadline is July 17, 2000

By Barb McKasson

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) announced its preferred alternatives for Clinton's Roadless Initiative Proposal on May 9th. We really need as many people as possible to write comments on the national proposal to speak up for Shawnee Forest roadless areas, and for stronger alternatives in the national roadless area policy. The alternatives presented by the USFS essentially gut Clinton's original proposal, which was to protect 50-60 million acres of "roadless areas" in our national forests from the destructive effects of logging, road building, and off-road vehicles. We need to push for alternatives that give stronger protection. In plain language, the Forest Service preferred alternatives state they wouldn't build new roads or upgrade existing roads in the roadless areas, but they would allow local supervisors to decide whether or not to allow off-road vehicles, logging, etc. in the "roadless areas."

There are many problems caused by old, eroding logging roads that prompted this initiative. The Forest Service has built over 380,000 miles of roads, many of which are causing severe erosion and siltation problems, which in turn cause mudslides that bury houses and siltation which has helped cause the near collapse of native salmon populations. It is estimated that it would take \$8.4 billion to maintain or obliterate these roads. Also, roadless areas needed to support wildlife are fast disappearing, thus endangering the survival of many species.

We need to counter the gutless USFS proposals, and "wise use" comments from across the country. We also need to support the areas on Shawnee Forest that deserve "roadless area" protection, especially Burke Branch, Ripple Hollow, and Camp Hutchins, plus smaller inventoried roadless areas, such as Murray Bluff. In addition, we want the USFS to protect the Tongass National Forest in Alaska.

The final proposed rule should include:

- all roadless National Forest land west of the Mississippi 5000 acres and larger, plus smaller areas that are biologically important
- all roadless national Forest land east of the Mississippi that is 1000 acres and larger, plus smaller areas that are biologically important

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- an end to commercial logging in roadless areas
- an end to off-road vehicle use in roadless areas
- an end to mining, and oil and gas leasing in roadless areas
- all areas previously identified as roadless
- the Tongass National Forest in Alaska, protected immediately and not delayed until 2004, as proposed. Delay would mean many more roads built, and much old growth cut.

Specifically, the protected roadless areas in Shawnee National Forest should include:

- The inventoried roadless areas of Burke Branch and Ripple Hollow, which were recommended as part of the roadless initiative.
- Camp Hutchins, which was not recommended as part of the roadless initiative, and which has a lot of nice, large trees which some people in the Forest Service probably want to cut.
- Inventoried roadless areas close to designated wilderness areas (e.g. Murray Bluff), which were not made part of a wilderness area because they were cut off by private inholdings. Even without any logging roads, some logging would still occur, using helicopters and other approaches. Nor does the draft policy specifically prevent the use of dirt bikes, 4-wheelers, and other off-road vehicles in roadless forest areas. Finally, the draft does not apply to the nine million roadless acres in Alaska's Tongass National Forest, the only largely intact rain forest left in the world's temperate zone. We are urging the Forest Service to correct these shortcomings in order to make the final plan, due late this year, live up to the vision outlined by President Clinton last fall at the beginning of this process.

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR WRITTEN COMMENTS to the Forest Service by July 17th:

SNAIL MAIL: USDA Forest Service - CAET, Attention: Roadless Area Conservation Proposed Rule, P.O. Box 221090, Salt Lake City, UT 84122*

FAX: (877) 703-2494

EMAIL: On the USFS website at: **roadless.fs.fed.us**

*If sending comments by snail mail, plan mailing to ARRIVE at the FS Office by July 17th.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- Check the **USFS** website at: **roadless.fs.fed.us**
- Contact **Shawnee National Forest Office** at **1-800-MYWOODS**
- Contact **Illinois Chapter Sierra club** at **(312) 251-1680**, ask for Doug Chien
- Call **Barbara McKasson** at **(618) 529-4824**



SHAWNEE OUTINGS

No official outings scheduled this month
but read on



Moonlight Canoe Outing, August 12, Touch of Nature on Little Grassy Lake

We will meet by the sign at the Murdale parking lot to car pool to Touch of Nature at 7 PM. We will have a short lesson in canoe paddling and safety at 7:30 PM. Then we will canoe for about 1 to 1 1/2 hours in the moonlight on Little Grassy Lake. We then return to Touch of Nature. They will have a campfire built for us on the beach, where we can sing, socialize, make s'mores, etc. for as long as we want. Cost is \$4 per person. Families with children are welcome. They will provide safety jackets, but for children under 60 lbs., you must bring your own life jacket. We need people to sign up ahead of time to make sure we have the 10 person minimum for the outing. Please call Barbara McKasson if interested at (618) 529-4824.

Conservation Committee Meeting Thursday, July 6th, 7 PM

The **conservation committee** will be meeting to discuss issues related to Shawnee Forest - the forest plan, proposed wilderness, trails planning, etc. Other issues, such as the status of Crab Orchard Lake, the Rend Lake Refuge, etc., may also be discussed. We always welcome any member who wants to attend. Please call Barb McKasson if you are interested at (618) 529-4824 for details.

WANTED: Environmentally Aware Person who would like to help out Mother Earth by reorganizing the **Shawnee Group phone tree**, and activating the phone tree on conservation & environmental issues about once/month. **Reward:** getting to know many other like-minded people, knowing that you are doing your part to protect our environment and natural areas. Contact Barb McKasson at (618) 529-4824 if you are interested.

SAVE YOUR QUALITY "JUNK" FOR THE SEPTEMBER YARD SALE!! If you are cleaning out your garage, closets, etc., please save those items that you don't want but others may be glad to pay a little money for. Our biggest fund raiser for the year is usually our booth at the Arena Yard Sale in September. But we need your help and your "junk" - everything but clothing. Just put it in a box marked Sierra Club, and we will be collecting it when it gets close to yard sale time. Thank you!

CALENDAR ITEMS:

June 29th (Thurs.) - Next Master Trails Planning meeting. Meets at Marion Hotel and Conference Center 6:30 - 8:30. Call Pat York at the U.S. Forest Service Office at 1-800-MYWOODS for details, information, agenda.

July 17th - Deadline for comments on the USFS Roadless Area Initiative - See article.

Antibiotics and Our Health

Overuse of antibiotics can lead to the development of many drug resistant strains of bacteria. Check out this months insert on concerning the problem and the ways you can take action to stop the spread of these bacteria.

Environment Discussed at meeting of Peace Coalition--Tuesday, July 11

The Peace Coalition has had to change the date of our forum on National Priorities from June 13 to July 1. The Peace Coalition Forum on Critical Needs: "Good Tax Dollars/Bad Tax Dollars" has been **RESCHEDULED** from Tuesday, June 13 to Tuesday, July 11. Time and location will remain the same, 7pm at the Senior Citizens Center in Carbondale. Elizabeth Lewin will be addressing Education's critical needs and Mark Donham will be available to talk about the environment and particularly the impact of the gaseous diffusion plant in Paducah.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE & FOLDING

Every month we get together to fold the newsletter for the newsletter mailing. We **welcome all the help we can get**. The deadline for the August newsletter will be July 23 with folding on July 27 at Don Lawrence's house at 5:30 pm. To check on directions call Don at 457-8989.

EXCOM MEETING

Our July meeting will be held on July 20, 5:30 PM, at Clara McClure's house. All members are welcome to attend. For directions call Clara at 457-2025.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SAVE PAPER AND RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER BY E-MAIL?

Simply send a signed letter by regular mail or an e-mail message to <<donaldlaw@aol.com>> indicating that you would like to receive it by e-mail and I will put you on the e-mail list and take you off the regular mail list. Please give your name and regular PO address in your request.



Shawnee Group
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Shawnee Trails Newsletter Editor, Computer Committee, Marine Chair—Don Lawrence, 457-8989, donaldlaw@aol.com

Yes, I want to join! I want to help safeguard our precious natural heritage. My payment is enclosed.

My Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State: _____ ZIP: _____

Check enclosed Please charge my MasterCard Visa E-Mail (Optional): _____

Cardholder Name: _____

Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Contributions, gifts or dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible. They support our effective, science-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

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PROTECT AMERICA'S ENVIRONMENT.
For our Families... For our Future



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