

# OZARK SIERRAN

One Earth

One Chance

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JULY/AUGUST 2001



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<http://www.sierraclub.org/chapters/mo/>

## Bush Administration Attempts to Derail Roadless Area Initiative

by Caroline Pufalt  
*Ozark Chapter Conservation Committee Chair*

Last year 14,727 Missourians contacted the U.S. Forest Service to comment on the Roadless Area Conservation initiative. Of that number only 183 expressed general opposition to the proposal. A full 14,222 stated support for stronger roadless protection. Missourians were not alone in their overwhelming support for roadless area conservation. Across the country 95% of comments received were in favor of the draft proposal or even stronger measures of protection.

Thus when the Bush administration was trying to plot its strategy to defeat the proposal and reward its campaign contributors from the timber and mining companies, it faced a dilemma.

How could it derail such a popular proposal without appearing to show its true anti-environmental colors? Well, here's the strategy it came up with:

- First, delay for 60 days implementation of the rule that was completed at the close of the Clinton administration and scheduled to take effect March 12, 2001.
- Second, all but refuse to defend it in court as it faced challenges from the timber and paper companies. Remember nominee attorney general John Ashcroft's pledge to uphold the law? I didn't believe him either.
- Third, release an announcement from Bush's new appointments in the Department of Agriculture and the Forest Service that the administration will propose its own rule that seriously weakens the new one. Bush administration spokesmen were careful to state that the President and the agencies now under his control will protect roadless areas, but the details say otherwise. Bush's new rule would

undercut the existing work and public input of the past two years. Bush's plan puts roadless area protection all up for grabs at the individual forest level at the discretion of the individual Forest Supervisor.

Just as ominous is the stated position of the new Secretary of Agriculture, Ann Veneman, on roadless area protection. (Remember that the Forest Service is part of the Department of Agriculture.) Veneman has emphasized that roadless areas need to be protected from insects, disease and fire. While that may sound harmless enough, in practice for the Forest Service, "protection" from fire and pestilence often involves maintaining and building extensive roads.

Just how the Bush policy will unfold is not clear at this writing. On June 7, Forest Service Chief Bosworth released a statement to Regional Foresters that he was temporarily taking jurisdiction over any timber sales in roadless areas but shifted ultimate resolution of the roadless area to the forest planning process. However, that planning process is itself in flux. A revised planning process developed during the Clinton administration has been withdrawn by the Bush administration. Now,

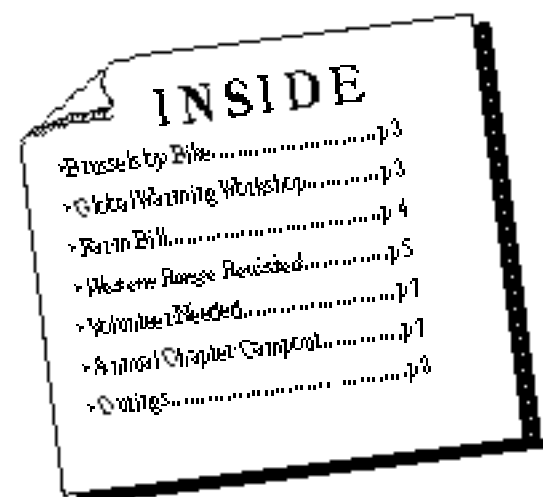
## Governor Holden to Army Corps: Conduct a Full Study on Honam

Governor Bob Holden has responded to the concerns of state and federal agencies and environmental groups about the multiple problems expected to be generated by Honam Inc's plans in Ste. Genevieve County. (These problems were detailed in the last issue of the Ozark Sierran.)

Citing the numerous permits needed and the desire for considering all the impacts in a comprehensive fashion, Governor Holden has formally requested that the US Army Corps of Engineers conduct a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as outlined in the National Environmental Policy Act. An EIS is required when a project is deemed to be a major federal action or has the potential to cause significant environmental harm.

### Thank you!!

Governor Holden deserves the gratitude of all of us. Write and express your thanks:  
Governor Bob Holden  
State Capitol Building  
Jefferson City, MO 65102



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Roadless Area.....continued from page 1

the Bush administration is rewriting the planning process so the public does not know what involvement will be available for further input.

We will keep you updated in the Ozark Sierran, but you may wish to receive updates

directly from the Forest Service. If you would like to keep abreast of this issue and be in a position to comment on any further proposals, send a letter to the Forest Service supervisor at the Mark Twain National forest and express your support again for the original Roadless Area Conservation initiative

and ask to be kept on the mailing list for any further roadless area or forest planning steps. You may send your letter to:

MTNF Supervisor Randy Moore  
401 Fairgrounds Road  
Rolla MO 65401

## Call for Chapter Executive Committee Nominations

**W**anted: People committed to fighting for Missouri's environment by leading the Sierra Club's activities in the state.

Must plan on devoting several hours per week to the cause. Involves frequent communication by e-mail or phone to stay on top of current issues. Demands preparation for and participation in Sunday meetings held once every other month in January, March, May, July, September and November. Can include taking an office or committee chair position.

You decide Chapter direction and priorities by approving volunteer and staff activities, Chapter policies, membership activities and monetary fundraising and expenditures.

To nominate yourself or others, contact any of the Chapter officers listed below.

The Ozark Chapter Executive Committee and Missouri's environment thank you. 🌲

### Chapter Executive Committee

#### AT LARGE:

**Keet Kopecky**, Chapter Chair, SC Council Delegate  
9211 Olmstead, Kansas City, MO 64138,  
kkopecky@kc.rr.com, (816)966-9544

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**Gina DeBarthe**  
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(816)383-6497 or (816)257-1198

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**Tom Moran**, Political Chair  
Columbia, MO  
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**Caroline Pufalt**, Conservation Chair  
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**Legal Chair: Defered Gifts Officer: Roger Hershey**  
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**Terri Folsom**, Chapter Coordinator

**Carla Klein**, Global Warming Campaign Organizer  
**Sheila Siegal**, Sprawl Campaign Organizer

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The *Ozark Sierran* is published six times a year by the Ozark Chapter of the Sierra Club. Annual dues of Sierra Club members pay for subscription to this publication. Non-members may subscribe for \$15 per year.

**Items for publication:** Contact **Keet Kopecky** via E-mail at [kkopecky@kc.rr.com](mailto:kkopecky@kc.rr.com) or phone (816)966-9544, **PRIOR TO SENDING**, for information on how to submit articles.

The editors reserve the right to edit articles! Material may be edited for length, content, or clarity. It is our job to help you communicate. If you have strong creative ownership of your writing, and wish to review your edited article before publication, consider your deadline 10 days prior to the published deadline. With notice, we will be happy to work with you.

Reproduction quality photographs (prints) or artwork are dearly welcome. Please send us photos...

## OZARK SIERRAN

The published deadline is the real, honest-to-goodness, drop-dead deadline—not a couple of days or a week

later! Submissions received after the deadline are subject to the possibility they won't appear in the issue: you will feel bad and we will feel bad. Call us nasty, but we are determined this newsletter will come out on time!

The *OZARK SIERRAN* is produced on a Macintosh computer, so we strongly prefer to receive material electronically (E-mail), or on a Mac or PC disk (3.5"), **WITH A HARD COPY OF THE TEXT**. Typed articles are also OK (must be received a few days before the deadline). All submissions must include name, address, and phone number of the author. If you want your submission returned (including your disk), please include a SASE.

**Hard-working, All-volunteer Editorial and Production Staff: Keet Kopecky, Editor; Bob Sherrick, and Claus Wawrzinek**

## Membership

**Yes**, I want to help safeguard our nation's precious natural heritage. My check is enclosed.

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

### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

	INDIVIDUAL	JOINT
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CONTRIBUTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
LIFE	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
SENIOR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
STUDENT	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
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FOUNDED 1914  
**Sierra Club**  
P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO, 80322-2968

## Dates You Need to Know

7/14

Chapter ConsCom meeting:  
Cape Girardeau, Missouri  
contact Caroline Pufalt (314)878-3165

7/15

Chapter ExCom meeting:  
Cape Girardeau, Missouri  
contact Andrew Gondzur (314)772-8810  
[awgondzur@mac.com](mailto:awgondzur@mac.com)

7/28

SPACC Global Warming Workshop  
Kansas City, Missouri  
contact Nicole Holt (512)472-0004  
[nicole.holt@sierraclub.org](mailto:nicole.holt@sierraclub.org)  
see story page 3

# Brussels by Bike

by Claus  
Wawrzinek

I currently have the opportunity to live in Brussels, Belgium, as a part of a one year assignment with the company that I work with. I have lived here in Brussels since November of last year. I live fairly close to the edge of town and have only ten minutes to walk to a light rail stop or a subway stop of equal distance. Unfortunately, my workplace is not as well connected to the Brussels public transportation system, so I have to drive the 15 km to work each day.

There are several grocery stores, restaurants, and retail stores of all kinds within walking distance of where I live. Most parts of Brussels are also well connected with bicycle paths. Brussels is divided into French and Dutch (Flemish) speaking areas. The dividing line is just about in the middle of town. Areas with Dutch influence have a lot better bicycle routes than the French speaking area where I live. It is not too bad though, as I am able to find bicycle routes to all of the daily shopping I need to do.

I have recently hooked up with a bicycle advocacy group here in Brussels. The name of the group is "ProVelo." There are many other bicycle advocacy groups in town. They lobby municipalities and hold public events of all sorts. They offer traffic training on bicycle for children and adults. They rent bicycles to tourists and offer guided tours of Brussels every weekend. The guided bicycle tours are only in French but most everyone speaks English if necessary. The bicycle tours I have taken so far have really helped me connect better to the different areas in town. I have seen many places that I would have never visited otherwise.

The tours are anywhere from three to four hours in length. Usually bicycles can be brought or rented. Participation costs only a few dollars. Bike rental is also very reasonable. The size of the group can vary, but is usually between 20 to 40 people. It is very easy to maneuver around the city. Some streets are quite narrow and can be easily negotiated by bike. ProVelo offers a bike ride every weekend with a different theme. They explore architectural, cultural, and historic treasures in different areas of town. The trips are well advertised ahead of time. They also offer weekend rides and day trips by bike further away from the city.

Many other European cities also offer guided tours by bike that are offered for visitors and residents. Brussels is able to take advantage of its urban fabric for the many modes of transportation. The way Brussels has grown over time has allowed it to maintain a well connected transportation system that includes light rail, subway, and bus. Even so, politicians are still thinking of ways to interconnect the more urban modes of transportation to the not-so-well-connected suburbs. —



## Workshop: Home on the Range – Cooked by Global Warming

Global Warming Workshop July 28–29 in KC

Join us in Kansas City for an exciting workshop focusing on the regional impacts of global warming. The workshop will begin on Saturday, July 28, and continue through the morning of Sunday the 29th. The event, sponsored by the Southern Plains Regional Conservation Committee (SPRCC) with assistance from the Northern Plains Regional Conservation Committee (NPRCC), will be held at the Heartland Presbyterian Conference Center in a retreat setting convenient to the Kansas City airport. A range of topics will be covered, primarily focusing on the central United States: heat, drought, extreme storms and flooding, impacts on agriculture, rivers, lakes, coastal settings, urban quality of life, and human health.

The workshop is open to all Sierra Club members and, as space permits, to others interested in this topic. Considerable time will be devoted to discussing both regional and national actions that we can take to curb global warming. Participants will learn how to connect with the Sierra Club's regional and national Global Warming Campaign resources. For registration materials please contact Nicole Holt at the Sierra Club's Texas/Arkansas Field Office, [nicole.holt@sierraclub.org](mailto:nicole.holt@sierraclub.org) or (512)472-9094. —

# Spoiled Lunch Report Released at Big River Week

by Roy C. Hengerson

On Monday, June 11, as part of the annual Big River Week, the Sierra Club released copies of a new study and report entitled "Spoiled Lunch". The report chronicled how big agribusiness corporations make millions of dollars on the federal school lunch program while engaging in dangerous and illegal environmental and safety practices. The government does not screen out companies that have serious and repeated violations of environmental and occupational safety laws and regulations from being contractors to the government supplying food products for the school lunch and other institutional feeding programs.

Scott Dye, Ozark Chapter Staff and Agricultural Issues Coordinator, did much of the work of compiling the information that went into the report. Amy Maron and Ed Hopkins of the Sierra Club's Washington, D.C., staff pulled the information together and wrote most of the

report. Volunteers from around the country also helped develop and review the report. The report recommends that the Bush administration finalize and issue regulations developed under the Clinton administration that would strengthen requirements for government contractors, which would give the large food production companies an incentive to improve their environmental and safety records.

Big River Week has been an annual gathering of activists involved in river and water quality issues around the country for almost a decade. This year's conference was held in Washington, D.C., June 8 through 12. As part of the workshops and discussion sessions the CAFO / Clean Water Campaign Committee met to plan and strategize. CAFO stands for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (also known as animal factories). The trend in agriculture to large and more concentrated operations and away from family farms has had a devastating effect on rural landscapes, the air and water, and the rural economies

where large CAFO's have left a trail of pollution and social displacement.

The CAFO / Clean Water Campaign is one of the four major conservation campaigns of the Sierra Club. The committee, chaired by Hank Graddy of Kentucky, spent considerable time reviewing progress made, how the political landscape had shifted, and how and where the campaign should evolve to maximize its effectiveness. Because it is difficult to get better control of the problems caused by large CAFO's, the campaign has national, state, and local components. The committee focused on getting better coordination of the different elements of the campaign. It was felt that we need to define and promote good sustainable farming practices in addition to opposing practices and operations that pollute the environment and cause social injustice.

In addition to participating in the workshops and meetings, attendees of Big River Week then spent time lobbying Congress on various current environmental issues. —

# The Farm Bill: Let's Seize This Conservation Opportunity

by Roy C. Hengerson

Ozark Chapter Legislative Chair

Every five or six years Congress enacts major legislation that helps support farmers, generally known as the Farm Bill. The Sierra Club recognized that provisions of the Farm Bill could and would influence how farmlands were managed and taken care of. It has thus been involved in the last several iterations of the Farm Bill cycle.

Most Americans have given up farming as a way to make a living, migrating to cities to pursue the American Dream. However, agriculture still plays a vital role in people's lives, whether they understand this or not. And farming and how it is practiced has a major role in the health of our environment. Private crop, pasture, and rangeland make up 50% of the land area of the lower 48 states, and private forests account for another 20%. Government policy can have a significant influence on how farming is conducted on these lands.

Citizens should be concerned about and involved with Farm Bill issues. For one thing, your tax dollars fund programs to help farmers. Annual payments to farmers have risen sharply to \$32 billion in 2000, up from \$10 billion in 1990. Most of this money is used for commodity crop price supports. Included in these farm programs are various conservation programs; however, funding for these has not kept pace with either the needs or the overall level of farm support programs. The conservation farm programs have remained at a modest \$2 billion level, despite the three-fold increase in total farm support programs.

For another thing, issues of safe food are increasingly coming to the attention of consumers. In addition to the widespread concern about mad cow and hoof & mouth diseases, less publicized but much more common problems of bacterial contamination of food, heavy use of antibiotics in large concentrated animal factories (CAFO's), and overuse of pesticides threaten our food supplies. Federal government programs can help farmers use fewer antibiotics and greatly reduce pesticide use through crop rotations,

delayed spraying, and integrated pest management.

Yet, despite the needs to increase farm conservation programs, the Bush administration has proposed to cut or even eliminate some of these successful efforts. The Sierra Club is mobilizing to fight proposed funding cuts in the environmental programs under the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). These include the Wetlands Reserve Program, the Wildlife Habitat Protection Program, and the Farmland Protection Program. These programs have aided farmers in protecting their valuable wetlands and improving wildlife habitat. A broad coalition of environmental and sustainable agriculture organizations has argued that these programs need more funding, not less, if they are to meet the needs of farmers and improve rural ecosystems.



Farm conservation issues are especially relevant to Missouri, where farming and forestry are major economic sectors. Agriculture accounts for \$4.5 billion and forest-related activity accounts for \$3 billion yearly.

The last farm bill enacted by Congress, the 1996 Federal Agricultural Investment and Reform Act, is up for renewal in 2002. That 1996 Act included such critical programs as the Conservation Reserve Program, which helps farmers provide conservation benefits on marginal lands; the Wetlands Reserve Program, which helps farmers protect and restore wetlands on their farms; the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program,

which helps farmers manage land for wildlife benefits; the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, which provides assistance to better manage and conserve soil, water, and wildlife resources; and the Forestry Incentive Program, which assists forest landowners with sustainable forest management efforts. It is clearly in the interests of Missourians to enact a good Farm Bill by 2002, one that will protect farmers' economic interests while at the same time encourage them to practice the best conservation practices on their lands.

A broad coalition of environmental and sustainable agriculture groups have been discussing what is needed to support the important conservation programs related to agriculture. The Sierra Club has formed a Task Force to actively work for a strong, conservation-minded Farm Bill. We are suggesting that the \$2 billion for farm conservation be increased to about \$11 billion. We also want a significant increase in funding for wetlands protection and a stronger enforcement program that denies funds to farmers that fail to protect their wetlands. There is great interest in the farming community to strengthen conservation efforts; however, federal assistance is essential to meet the needs and opportunities out there on the land.

There are also environmental justice concerns related to farm policy. Many of the current farm support programs mostly help wealthier farmers, and do little to reward farmers who practice good conservation methods, who are involved in alternative farming practices which protect the environment, or who are starting out in farming. Too little is invested for research, production, and marketing systems that advance sustainable agriculture.

By becoming better informed and participating in the national debate over the Farm Bill, you can help influence the outcome. Your assistance is crucial if a coalition of urban and rural citizens can prevail on our government to enact a strong Farm Bill and adequately fund farm conservation programs.

For more information contact: Roy C. Hengerson, 2201 Weathered Rock Road, Jefferson City, MO 65101 (573)635-8066 roy.hengerson@sierraclub.org —

# State of the State Legislature: What happened and why or why not?

by Ken Midkiff  
Ozark Chapter Director

This past session of the General Assembly did have its moments when partisan differences were allegedly put aside in the interest of the public good. Of course, the leadership of the Missouri House and Senate define “public good” from their own political perspectives.

Ultimately, any and all decisions made in the State Capitol are political ones. From passage of re-districting for U.S. House of Representatives to failure of the Total Transportation Plan, partisan (some would say petty) politics were in the mix.

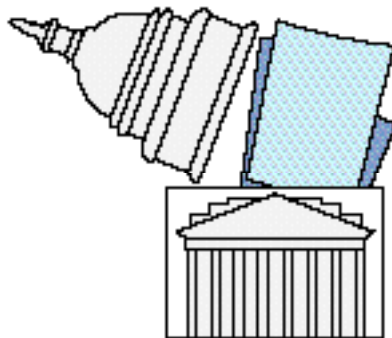
The defining moment in this legislative year was in January when the Republicans gained control of the Missouri Senate. Up to this point, things were cranking along at the usual pace, with the usual suspects sponsoring legislation that would advance through committees that they headed.

But, when the Minority Party became the Majority Party, everything was turned upside down. Those who had depended upon Democratic state Senators to carry their bills found that those bills were more or less headed for the trash heap. Republican state senators replaced their Democratic counterparts as committee chairs, and all of a sudden the bills sponsored by Democrats were pushed aside.

While there was much fear and trepidation among Jefferson City insiders (primarily lobbyists) and game plans went by the wayside, in the end

the moderate Republicans ruled the day. Despite all sorts of wild rumors about what would happen, when the dust settled after the gavels went down on May 18, the Capitol Building was still standing.

Akin to other groups, environmentalists had depended in the past upon the Democratic leadership to “take care” of our bills. After all, they were in charge. With, for once, admirable foresight we looked at the political climate and predicted a season of uncertainties. Consequently, we set aside two major pieces of legislation that we had developed for sponsorship and decided not to push any of our legislative projects.



This year, with one exception, was devoted to defense. With the assistance of the new Republican leadership, we were successful. The perennial anti-environmental bills, Department of Natural Resource rules can be ‘no stricter than federal’, Environmental Audit, Privilege, and Immunity (aka

Dirty Secrets), and Takings, while introduced, never even made it out of committee.

There was one bill that we pushed for passage. That bill would have allowed citizens equal status with polluting industries by granting impacted persons the opportunity to administratively challenge wastewater discharge permits. The Senate Bill was rather hastily withdrawn by Senator Harold Caskey on the morning it was to be heard by the Commerce and Environment Committee, and the House Bill, sponsored by Representative Sam Berkowitz, was heard by the Energy and Environment Committee, but never brought up for a committee vote.

At the end of the session, in the last waning days, an amendment was placed on several bills that prohibits the Department of Natural Resources from placing water quality protections on dredge and fill permits issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to the Department of Transportation. This amendment was stuck on HB 924 (Total Transportation), HB 453 (a “Christmas Tree” of hodgepodge measures) and HB 501 (Water Bond issues). HB’s 453 and 501 passed with the amendments intact, and we are now engaged in a campaign to secure the Governor’s veto of these messy and unnecessary bills.

Other than these skirmishes, it was a relatively placid session for environmental bills. The best that can be said: “Not much happened.” And that is usually good. —

## The Western Range Revisited

by Debra Donahue  
A Book Review  
by Caroline Pufalt

Although Missouri is the gateway to the west and at the start of the tallgrass prairie, most Missourians probably have little appreciation for the volatile issue of grazing on public lands in western states. Reading *The Western Range Revisited* would remedy that ignorance. Debra Donahue’s book is an interdisciplinary study of livestock grazing on western public lands. The book’s subtitle, *Removing Livestock from Public Lands to Conserve Native Biodiversity*, summarizes her evaluation and recommendation for protecting western grasslands.

Her book will be of special interest to many Sierrans. The club recently adopted a new policy on federal public lands grazing and its recommendations closely follow Donahue’s. To view the club’s new grazing policy see: <http://www.sierra-club.org/policy/conservation/grazing.asp>. The club has many activists working on grazing issues in western states. Here in Missouri there are some grazing leases on the Mark Twain National Forest, but that activity is minimal compared to the grazing impacts on National Forests and Grasslands and Bureau of Land Management lands out west.

Donahue focuses her attention on western public lands receiving 12 inches or less annual rainfall. Her book caused a storm of criticism from western grazing interests. Her book is published by the University of Oklahoma Press, but Donahue is a professor at University of Wyoming Law School. A Wyoming state senator was so upset by her book that he sought to dissolve that law school.

Fortunately that effort failed. Now critics still need to cope with the comprehensive and persuasive argument that Donahue makes.

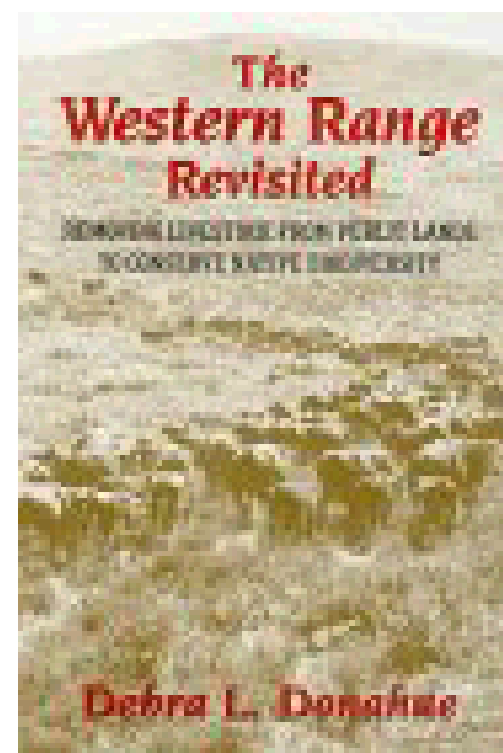
She looks at the ecological impacts of grazing and the great harm that activity does to native biodiversity. She seeks to evaluate other uses and amenities that could come from a landscape undamaged by grazing and shows that these arid lands have much to offer in watershed protection, wildfire protection and recreation. She sadly recounts the profound impact of livestock grazing and how its impacts can reach irreversible levels.

Donahue gives a thorough review of the legal history of public lands livestock grazing through such legislation as the Taylor Grazing Act. She examines the legislative history behind attempts to study and regulate livestock grazing. Livestock grazing on public lands has always received support from powerful western senators who have blocked reforms. Leases for livestock grazing are often sold below market rate and the federal government is obligated to fund projects for range “improvement” which primarily benefit ranchers but result in greater financial loss for the taxpayer. Livestock grazing on federal public lands has very minimal impact on beef supplies. Only two percent of forage for U.S. livestock comes from western public lands.

Ranchers who graze livestock on public lands may be large landowners (even absentee landowners) or small ranchers. Donahue examines the economic impact public lands grazing has on local economies and concludes that although impacts vary, overall its contribution is much less than its vocal supporters claim.

While *The Western Range Revisited* may not be

appropriate for everyone’s summer reading list, a general understanding of its topic is important to anyone who cares about our native biodiversity. For those Sierrans who travel west this summer and visit a National Forest or BLM lands it would be a good idea to take note of the quality of our grasslands. For example, ask the local forest ranger where one can visit a healthy native grassland that has been free from livestock grazing. See what you can find. —



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# The Ones Who Were Here

by Ken Midkiff

While backpacking recently in the Mark Twain National Forest on the Ozark Plateau, I was impressed once again by the immensity of this region of publicly owned wooded hills. While this is not a “pristine” area, as evidenced by old sawed-off stumps and long-abandoned logging roads on some of the ridges, civilization has exercised benign neglect.

The first day out, however, I had noted a cemetery, miles from any road, marked on the topographical map. Ducking under overhanging branches of a massive oak tree, I found the rusty gateway leading into the graveyard.

The cemetery had received some attention in the recent past — brush had been cut and the openings between the markers had been cleared. Consequently, the rough stones were exposed to view.

The engravings and inscriptions were blurred, but a bit of peering and guessing revealed that most of the 50 or so graves dated back to the late 1860’s to early 1900’s. The most recent stone was of a granite commercial nature and was clearly decipherable: “Thomas Bockman. Father. Born 1849. Died 1933.”

I didn’t linger in the cemetery. While my rational nature told me that all that was present were bones of long-dead persons, childhood superstitions and genetic memories are strong. As I

ducked under the oak branches to leave the graveyard, I glanced over my shoulder to ensure that I was still alone.

A few days later and miles away, my wanderings took me to a remote stream flowing out of a cave opening. At some time in the distant past, someone had constructed a wall in the cave mouth, and once a door had hung in an opening in this wall. A partially hidden wooden sign declared that this was Bockman Spring.

A bit of exploring turned up remnants of a fence and some large worked stones that may have been the foundation of a building. There were timbers (a barn?) slowly returning to the soil from whence they came. The clearings in the valleys, which hard hours had prepared for the plow, were now being reclaimed by cedars, black locusts, shrubs and other pioneer species. Thomas Bockman or one of his kin had lived and labored here.

Most of what is now the Mark Twain National Forest was then in private ownership. The devastation wrought by the timber industry in the late 1800’s had rendered the land unfit for human habitation. The wild animals that local residents had depended upon for food had vanished along with their habitat. Soil and gravel from eroding hillsides had filled fishing holes in the creeks. Not even the pigs could find acorns. The oaks were gone.

In the space of a few short years, the timber

beasts had stripped the hills and valleys and had moved on. The population of the Ozark Plateau plummeted. Lands were abandoned, and the government acquired through tax forfeitures much of what is now the Mark Twain National Forest.

The residents of the area didn’t leave much of a written record. There is very little note of these hardy folk in any history texts. Some local historians have acquired old photographs of inhabitants of nearby small towns. But the lives of the inhabitants of the vast woodlands of the Ozarks are obscure and passed unnoticed.

Their time here is only evidenced by a few surviving remnants: a lonely graveyard, a walled-in spring, a barn returning to the earth, fields that once were turned by the plow now sheltering cedars and songbirds.

The demise was conducted in the name of “progress.” The timber of the Ozarks, the lifeblood of its residents, was taken to supply a growing nation. Towering oaks and massive pines became railroad ties and housing timbers. A century later and the scars of this progress are still there.

But the scars are healing. The stumps and old logging roads will be obliterated by time.

Soon the bams, the fields, and all vestiges of those who lived in and presumably loved these hills and valleys will be gone. But have we learned anything?

Or are we doomed to destroy that which supports and sustains us? —

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# The Sixth Extinction: And Then There Were None

by John Kurmann

How would you feel if I told you that one-half of your extended family would be killed in a matter of seconds, that a few are already dead, and many more are about to die? How would you feel if I told you that your actions would cause these deaths?

Something very like that is happening right now, but the family at risk is the family of life, our kin in this magnificently blue and beautiful world that is our one and only home. The family members that have died, and the many more that may soon be dead, are whole species of plants and animals: species of monkeys and lizards and flowers and trees and beetles and spiders and butterflies and whales and many, many more.

Biologists are now telling us that we are in the midst of what they are predicting will be the Sixth Extinction, the sixth major extinction episode in the history of the planet. In each of the five previous extinction episodes, at least one-quarter, and averaging one-half, of the world’s species were wiped out over a relatively short period of time. The last extinction episode — the Fifth Extinction — occurred about 65 million years ago and ended the age of the dinosaurs.

No one can say exactly what the dimensions of the current extinction are. Still, biologists estimate that from 17,000 to 100,000 species are being driven to extinction every year. Dozens, maybe hundreds, are extinguished every single day. Most of the variation in the estimates is due to the fact that we don’t know how many species there are, with estimates varying from 10 million to 100 million.

That’s not the worst of it. It’s now projected that one-half of all the species currently alive will be driven to extinction over the next one hundred

years, which is the reason many scientists are convinced that the Sixth Extinction has begun.

Now, please, don’t let the reality of what I’ve told you get lost in the mind-boggling numbers. Stop, take a breath, and focus on that projection: one-half of all the world’s species could be wiped out in the next 100 years. Millions of species, maybe as many as 50 million, could be exterminated within the lifetime of a baby born today. I’m not kidding — stop reading and take a moment to imagine what it would be like to live in that kind of world. I’ll wait right here.

Thanks for coming back. Do you feel like screaming in the streets? If you’re thinking “No,” I feel I must ask, “What’s happened to you? What unspeakable things have been done to your heart?”

I’d run screaming through the streets if I thought people would listen to me that way. One hundred years is not all that long, and no mass extinction has ever taken place over such a short period of time. Is that the kind of barren, ravaged, and fragile future we want to bequeath to our children and grandchildren?

If we let the Sixth Extinction continue, it will be the end of life as we know it. It’s not a random or unavoidable end, though. Earth hasn’t been hit by a massive meteor like the ones that are thought to have been the primary factors in the Third and Fifth Extinctions. If we don’t act to stop the Sixth Extinction, we will be the killers of the world as we know it.

Not killers in the sense of murderers, mind you. I’ve never met anyone who truly intends to kill the world. No, what we’re perpetrating is a sort of reckless world-slaughter. We kill the world by pursuing a lifestyle that wasn’t designed to destroy the world, that doesn’t destroy the world on purpose, but that does so all the same because of its inherent character.

What character am I talking about? Simply put, we live a lifestyle founded on growth: growth of our population, of our towns and cities, of our economy. We see only two choices, growth or death, so we are convinced that we must keep growing. As long as we cling to this addiction, the Sixth Extinction cannot be averted. Why is that?

The world, by all evidence, is a finite place, which means it can only support so much biomass, or living matter. As we turn ever-more of the world’s biomass into us and our stuff, ever-less of it can be anything else in the community of life. Consequently, our continued growth is a direct attack on the biodiversity of the world, and it’s an attack that will ultimately result in our own destruction if we persist in carrying it out.

Just how do we “turn ever-more of the world’s biomass into us and our stuff”? Most fundamentally, we do it by working to manufacture more food year after year, which fuels population growth year after year. In just the last century, we’ve increased food production to such an extent that we’ve fueled population growth from less than 2 billion people to more than 6 billion people. If the current level of annual population growth (estimated at between 75 and 80 million people per year) continues, we will add another billion people in less than 15 years.

Increasing food production isn’t the only way we turn ever-more of the world’s biomass into us and our stuff. We also do this by increasing our use of other life-forms for things other than eating, like felling trees for wood products, or growing cotton and hemp for fiber, flowers for decoration, coca and cannabis to numb the drowning anguish of our unfulfilled lives, and so much more. Though this consumption doesn’t directly increase the number

continued on page 7.....the Sixth Extinction

of people in the world, increasing the share of the world's life-giving energy that supports our non-food crops is also a direct attack on the diversity of life.

It's vital that we recognize our way of life is killing the world. It's at least as important we understand that, though we're destroying the world, this doesn't mean that humanity, by its very nature, destroys the world. The genus Homo, which includes all the human species that have ever existed, emerged in the community of life some three million or so years ago, and no mass extinction ensued. Humans thrived quite nicely through those millions of years as part of the world without waging war on their kin in the community (though this doesn't mean that humans never caused any extinctions over those millions of years). Even if we only consider fully modern humans, Homo sapiens sapiens, the evidence shows that these ancestors of ours lived for hundreds of thousands of years without causing a Sixth Extinction episode.

Eventually, however, something changed, but the change only took place among the members of one culture of humanity. That change began about 10,000 years ago in the Fertile Crescent when the people of that one culture began to develop a lifestyle founded on farming, settlement, and growth. Over the years that followed, this culture spread out in all directions from the Fertile Crescent, swallowing up and destroying other cultures, until today it encompasses more than 99% of the world's people. Even so, there still are other cultures with other lifeways in existence, cultures which are not taking part in the destruction of the world.

All of this evidence makes quite clear the fact that people are not world-destroyers by their nature, but can become world-destroyers through their culture. In other words, what's important to understand is that it is not humanity but that one growth-addicted culture, now our culture, which set in motion the Sixth Extinction.

Destroying the world isn't in our genes, it's in

our minds. We can stop. Even if self-preservation is our only concern, we'd be wise to do so, because one of the species wiped out in the Sixth Extinction could very well be our own. The forces we've set in motion that are destroying tens of thousands of other species every year could also prove lethal to us, eventually. Every bit of evidence we have tells us that we are woven into the web of life with all the rest. If we destroy it, we will destroy ourselves.

For more information on the Sixth Extinction, visit the American Museum of Natural History's website [www.amnh.org/exhibitions/hall\\_tour/biosphere.html](http://www.amnh.org/exhibitions/hall_tour/biosphere.html); the World Conservation Union's website at [www.iucn.org](http://www.iucn.org); and [www.well.com/user/davidu/extinction.html](http://www.well.com/user/davidu/extinction.html) where you'll find quite a few links to related articles.

To contact John Kurmann, please send an e-mail to [dsdnt@mshadow.com](mailto:dsdnt@mshadow.com). Please also visit the on-line column I co-host at [www.mind-like-water.com/Tide\\_Turning/RTW/RTWindex.html](http://www.mind-like-water.com/Tide_Turning/RTW/RTWindex.html).

## Join us September 7-8-9 for our Annual Ozark Chapter Campout and Reunion!

With summer all around us, it's that time of year again when we start thinking about the Annual Campout and Reunion. It will be held September 7-9 at beautiful Cuivre River State Park — a nature lover's paradise! We will once again be lodging at Camp Sherwood Forest, with its big dining hall and familiar rustic cabins.

We hope that with the campout being close to St. Louis, lots of folks will turn out to enjoy the weather, the beautiful colors, and the strolls through the park where the prairie grasses can tower over your head!

Cuivre River is one of the state's largest and most rugged parks. Three natural areas — noted for their high quality ecosystems — feature native prairie, sinkhole ponds, woodlands and a clear, rock-bottomed stream. Big Sugar Creek is one of the finest undisturbed streams left in northeastern Missouri. Several trails lead through the Lincoln Hills Natural Area and its many unique natural features. You will find it to be an Ozark-like island in north Missouri's rolling plains.

As with every campout, there will be plenty of good food prepared by friendly fellow Sierrans. If you like to cook, feel free to volunteer to help. There will be special activities for kids, and indoor stuff to do in the event of less than perfect weather.

Send in the registration form with your check by August 25th, and a packet will be sent to you with all the information you will need to have an enjoyable weekend with some of your fellow tree-huggers. Tent camping may also be available on a first come first served basis. Hope to see you there!

## Volunteer Leadership Position Available: Chapter Treasurer Needed

The Ozark Chapter is currently seeking a volunteer treasurer. We have recently changed the procedures so that the basic check writing, deposits, and bank reconciliations are done at the chapter office by our very capable Chapter Administrative Assistant, Terri Folsom. This means that the treasurer's job does not require as great a time commitment as it once did. It is also not necessary that the treasurer be an accountant, although we would welcome someone with that expertise. Training will be available for anyone



interested. The job does require someone who is good with numbers and details...if you don't ever balance your checkbook, you probably need to volunteer in some other area! The following are the duties of the treasurer as we currently see the position:

- \$ Review the General Ledger (detailed transaction report) and financial statements prepared by Terri every other month before the Chapter Executive Committee meetings.

- \$ Prepare an annual budget and keep an eye expenditures in order to notify the

Program Director and the Executive Committee if

we need to raise additional funds to cover these expenses.

- \$ Prepare the Annual Report to the National Sierra Club Headquarters, combining the Chapter financial activities with those of the Groups. This is done on spreadsheets provided by the national club and is not very complicated.

- \$ Review the Quarterly Statements provided by the Sierra Club Foundation and initiate grant requests if funds are available.

- \$ Be available to answer questions from Terri, Ken, or the Executive Committee.

Please consider volunteering for this position. This is a good opportunity to get involved in the statewide activities of the Sierra Club. If you have any questions, please contact Donna Clark Fuller at (816) 779-7284 or [donnadan@gvi.net](mailto:donnadan@gvi.net).

Fri. Sept 7 — Sun. Sept 9

### Registration Form for '01 Camp-Out

Send in your registration form today! deadline Aug. 20th

name \_\_\_\_\_  
 (please list names of all persons you are registering)  
 address \_\_\_\_\_  
 city/state/zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 evening phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

#s	\$s	
child: 0-3 yrs.	free	
child: 3-6 yrs.	\$8	\$
child: 6-12 yrs.	\$15	\$
adult: (13 yrs. & over)	\$30	\$
adult, partial weekend *	\$20	\$
limited income	\$15	\$
Saturday dinner <u>ONLY</u>	\$10	\$
total ♦	fee enclosed \$	♦ total
maximum fee for a family		\$80

Fees include cabin camping, and 5 meals (Sat. breakfast through Sun. lunch).

\* "partial weekend" defined as less than 3 meals

- ♦ Make checks payable to "Ozark Chapter, Sierra Club"
- ♦ Mail form and checks to:  
Andrew Gondzur, 4037 McDonald Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63116
- ♦ Any questions, phone : Andrew Gondzur at (314) 772-8810 or e-mail [awgondzur@mac.com](mailto:awgondzur@mac.com).
- ♦ We must receive your reservation by August 20th
- ♦ Camping fees will be refunded for cancellations received prior to Aug. 31th
- ♦ We will mail you an information packet containing map in advance of the Camp-Out date.



# OZARK CHAPTER SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS

*Sierra Club Outings Leaders are unpaid volunteers who need your cooperation to make the trip safe, pleasant and rewarding. Please call the leader well in advance for details, approval, or if you plan to cancel. Outings start officially at the trail head or river access. Travel responsibility rests on each participant. Car pooling is encouraged but leaders can not be responsible for its organization. The Sierra Club does not provide insurance for transportation. Passengers reimburse drivers for expenses. Be adequately equipped and prepared. No guns, pets, or radios are permitted on trips. Please leave the area cleaner than you find it.*

## Eastern Missouri Group

**July 13 (Fri) Bike riding or a hike.** We have lots of fun and interesting lunches afterwards. Suzanne Smith, (618)281-4762 (after 7:00 pm, week nights only).

**July 14 (Sat) Cuivre River State Park.** Hike through a field of purple blazing star flowers on this easy trail. Kathy Wodell, (636)240-0675.

**July 21 (Sat) Tour the karst wonderland of Fisher Cave and then explore one of Meramec State Park's trails.** \$2 cave tour fee. Glade restorers get in free with red cave passes. Children with accompanying adult are welcome. Plenty of room in the cave. Ann Eggebrecht, (314)725-1560, or Sherry Boeckelmann, (314)832-4811.

**July 27 (Fri) Hike of the night sounds.** Enjoy a pleasant night hike at Shaw Nature Reserve. Helen McCallie, (636)742-4380 (h) or (636)451-3512 (w-toll free).

**Aug 4-5 (Sat-Sun) Two-day float on the beautiful**

**Gasconade.** We'll camp Friday night at an outfitter campground and canoe 15 to 20 miles over the weekend. Jim Rhodes, (314)821-7758.

**Aug 11-12 (Sat-Sun) Annual meteor shower camp out.** If the skies are clear we should see some great meteors all night long. We will camp at either silver mines or Council Bluff Lake. Call for more details. Glenn

Wolters, (314)845-5859, Glenn27@hotmail.com, or Suzanne Smith, (618)281-4762 (after 7:00 pm, week nights only).

**Aug 18 (Sat) Hike along the Riverfront Trail.** We will walk north out of downtown along the Mississippi River before returning to our cars and a meal. Paul Stupperich, (314)429-4352.

**Aug 18 (Sat) Clifty Creek Natural Area near Rolla,** has a scenic 40 foot natural bridge carved through Gasconade dolomite. We will walk the creek to explore this beautiful area. Kathy Wodell, (636)240-0675.

**Aug 31-Sep 3 (Fri-Mon) The mother of all Ozark hikes.** In the Ozark National Forest. near Mountain Home, Arkansas. See natural wonders that are probably seen by fewer than half a dozen people per year. The hike features a large natural arch, huge overhangs, pools, a 50 foot waterfall, narrow canyons, many cascades, an overhang with signs of native American habitation and much more. This is a moderately difficult creek hike and will be limited to 10-15 adventurers. For a full description send SASE to Jack Longacre, P.O. Box 70, Arcadia, MO, 63621. Jack Longacre, (573)546-5255.

## Osage Group

None submitted.

## Thomas Hart Benton Group

**July 14 (Sat, 10 am) Parkville Nature Sanctuary,** Parkville, MO. An easy hike through hilly, wooded

terrain and elevated boardwalks over wetlands, past waterfalls, butterfly gardens and beaver ponds, followed by lunch in Parkville. Ana Royal, (816)584-9274, anaroyal@kansascityhomes.com.

**July 28 (Sat) Prairie Center at Sunrise, Olathe, KS.** We'll hop over to the Prairie Center and watch the wildlife wake up, followed by breakfast at Mom's Restaurant in Olathe. Steve Hassler, (913)599-6028, hassler@gvi.net.

**Aug. 5 (Sun) Prairie State Park, Lamar, MO.** We will hike the prairie and enjoy the Liatris which should be in full bloom. Bob & Doris Sherrick, (816)779-6708, bjsherrick@aol.com.

**Aug. 9 (Thur, 7 pm) Sierra Night at Kaufmann Stadium, KCMO.** Join us as we watch the Royals battle the Orioles. Dan & Donna Clark Fuller, (816)779-7284, donnadan@gvi.net.



**Aug. 18 (Sat) Star Party, Powell Observatory, Louisburg, KS.** See a program on asteroids put on by the Kansas City Astronomical Society. Ellen Brenneman, (816)523-2944, ebrennl@hallmark.com

**Aug. 25 (Fri) Kansas City, MO Water Treatment Plant.** Is your water safe to drink? Find out on this tour. Dan Fuller, (816)779-7284, donnadan@gvi.net.

**Sep. 7-9 (Fri-Sun) Ozark Chapter Campout, Quivre River, MO.** The annual reunion of the Ozark Chapter with dayhikes and great food. Keet Kopecky, (816)966-9544, kkopecy@kc.rr.com.

## Trail of Tears Group

**July 28 (Sat) Cool Caving! Either a local trip or a tour to Mammoth Cave.** Which do you prefer? Call Cheryl at (573)332-0261.

## The Not So Bad Ozark Trail

by Bob Gestel and Wayne Miller

There's no doubt about the ambition: walk from the Mississippi River to Ft. Smith, Arkansas via the Ozark trail — what a project! Yes, it emulates the Appalachian Trail, but the Ozark Trail is still a work in progress, with about 300 miles complete, and many miles to go. Most of the completed sections are on public land (MTNF, DNR, MDC, Corps of Engineers, and National Park Service property).

The original assumption was that the land managers would be responsible for trail maintenance; however, due to budget limitations, maintenance on the lightly-trod sections has



become a low priority for the U.S. Forest Service. In the last three years volunteer maintenance efforts have been organized and coordinated by the creation of the Ozark Trail Team, a project run by the Conservation Federation of Missouri, and funded by a grant. Contact them at trailteam@socket.net to see how you can volunteer to participate.

We think you'll find good, well-marked trails in the Current River, Trace Creek, Taum Sauk, Wappapello, and Victory Sections. There are parts of the remote Karkagne Section that are not suitable for a hiker who needs trail markers in clear view and trails free of fallen trees. In some of these parts, the OT trail markers seem to have become "collector's items," especially along roads.

As for the Blair Creek section, that part consists of about eight miles on Mark Twain National Forest (MTNF) property, plus 14 miles on the privately owned Pioneer Forest, and eight more miles on Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) property.

The Sierra Club's volunteer trail maintenance within the Pioneer Forest is a popular, ongoing project of 20 years duration, engaging many volunteers — some regular, some occasional, some men, women, newcomers and longtime members. In the year 2000 we had seven trail maintenance missions, each including the 160 mile roundtrip drive to this remote area for a day of work, an evening of fun and fellowship, then more work on Sunday.

We welcome you to join us for one of our trail maintenance outings along the Ozark Trail. We'll bring the tools, teach you about pulaskis, put up trail markers with you, cook your supper, and spin tales about mountain lions. Consult the EMG Outings listing for details on how you can sign up. —