



News from the Foothills

August/September 2004

The Newsletter of the Piedmont Group of the Sierra Club

P. O. Box 5531, Charlottesville, VA 22905



Info/voice mail line: 434-990-0996

Calendar of Events

General Meeting of the Sierra Club at 7:30 p.m. 9/08/04 (Wed.)

All members are encouraged to attend this meeting.

“Determining environmental priorities”

The Piedmont Group of the Sierra Club will meet to discuss the most significant threats to the environment of central Virginia and to agree on a group action plan.

Sierra Club members are asked to attend this important meeting. All people interested in the welfare of our natural environment are welcome.

Free refreshments!!

Wednesday, Sept.15, 2004

7:30 p.m.

St. Mark Lutheran Church (Corner of Alderman Rd. & Ivy Rd.)

For more information please call John at 973-0373.

October 16, 2004 (Sat.) Piedmont Group Picnic. Location and time TBA.

Outings

August 21, 2004 (Sat.) Blue Ridge Railway Trail Outing (Four mile hike). Meet at 9:00 a.m. in front of the old railroad depot on Rt. 151 in Piney River, just north of the Nelson/Amherst county line. For more info call (434 263-6199) or email (jhc4x@cstone.net) Janet.

August 28, 2004 (Sat.) Old Rag Mountain Outing (7 mile loop). Meet at the Ruckersville Post Office (Rt. 29 just S of Rt. 33) at 8:15. For more info call Dean at 434-825-9997 or email at d.leshock@att.net

Piedmont Group Officers

Info Line: (434) 990-0996

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

Name _____


Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Introductory \$25 Phone (Optional) () _____

Individual \$40 Joint \$50

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.

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Please mail this to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, Colorado, 80322-2968

Join via the Web at: <http://www.sierraclub.org/membership>

Sierra Club Mission Statement

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 those objectives.

National Parks in Peril

President Bush promised to "restore and renew" our National Parks in 2001. But since he has taken office, the construction backlog in the nation's parks has steadily grown and air pollution that is damaging the parks and the visitor experience has grown steadily worse. From the Giant Sequoia National Monument to the Smoky Mountains region haze, acid rain and smog are threatening our national parks while the Bush Administration continues to advocate weakening the Clean Air Act. To find out more about the assault on our National Parks, go to: <http://www.sierraclub.org/wildlands/wildlandsatrisk/>

We hope you'll visit <http://www.sierraclub.org/petition/wildlandsatrisk/> to sign the petition to President Bush!

Bush Administration Attacks Roadless Area Conservation Rule

Help Protect Wild Forests - Keep Intact the Roadless Rule!

One of the most popular conservation policies in American history was dealt a crippling blow with the Bush administration's decision to abandon the landmark Roadless Area Conservation Rule. The Bush administration has proposed a convoluted process that will leave America's last wild forests open to destructive commercial logging and road building. This controversial decision forces Governors to petition the Department of Agriculture to protect their wild, roadless National Forests. The public comment period officially began on July 16 and continues through September 14, 2004.

Already, 440,000 miles of roads are carved into America's National Forests. The wildly popular Roadless Rule helped protect our remaining wild forests and the clean water, wildlife habitat and outstanding backcountry recreation opportunities from more taxpayer-subsidized commercial logging. The Roadless Rule was developed over three years of public hearings and scientific analysis. To date more than 2 million Americans have commented on the original rule, with 95 percent supporting the strongest wild forests protections.

This policy change is the Bush administration's latest effort to reduce or eliminate decades of National Forest protection and increase spending to benefit timber companies. Web article at <http://virginia.sierraclub.org/piedmont/roadless.htm>
Take Action: Submit a Comment Today via Email to: statepetitionroadless@fs.fed.us

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