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SIERRA CLUB BRIEF: HOW TO ENGAGE IN THE NFGT FOREST PLAN REVISION

Every 10 to 15 years the U.S. Forest Service revises the Forest Plan, the management strategies used in a natural area. The Forest Plan for National Forests and Grasslands in Texas (NFGT) is 21 years old, making it long overdue for revisions. The revision process starts with assessment of all available information. In order to collect as much data as possible, the Forest Service is hosting six public meetings in Spring 2017 to solicit information about the NFGT from the people who use and visit

- Angelina National Forest,
- Davy Crockett National Forest,
- Sabine National Forest,
- Sam Houston National Forest, and
- Caddo-Lyndon B. Johnson National Grasslands

More information on the public meetings is below including meeting dates and recommended points to bring up during the meetings.

The first public meetings for the Forest Plan revision will be held on:

1. **Monday, March 20, 2017 from 6pm-8pm**, Decatur Civic Center (Chisholm Suite), 2010 US 380, Decatur, TX
2. **Wednesday, March 22, 2017 from 6pm-8pm**, San Augustine Chamber of Commerce, 611 W. Columbia St., San Augustine, TX
3. **Monday, March 27, 2017 from 6pm-8pm**, North Montgomery County Community Center, 600 Gerald St., Willis, TX
4. **Tuesday, March 28, 2017 from 6pm-8pm**, Sabine Ranger Station, 5050 Highway 21 East, Hemphill
5. **Wednesday, April 5, 2017 from 6pm-8pm**, Davy Crockett Ranger Station, 18551 State Highway 7 East, Kennard, TX
6. **Thursday, April 6, 2017 from 6pm-8pm**, Pitser Garrison Convention Center, 601 North Second St., Lufkin, TX

Visit the [Forest Service Website](http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/texas/planrevision) (www.fs.usda.gov/goto/texas/planrevision) for more information on the revision process.

RECOMMENDED TALKING POINTS

Below are some talking points you can bring up to the Forest Service:

1. Add additional **scenic or special management areas** along Henry Lake/Double Lake Branches, East Fork of the San Jacinto River, and blackland prairies/savannahs in Sam Houston National Forest and Piney Creek in the Davy Crockett National Forest.
2. Continue expansion of the **Red-Cockaded Woodpecker** population along with corridors (links between high quality habitats) to connect and allow for migration.
3. Reduce the amount and impacts of **oil/gas development** in the NFGT.
4. Adapt to climate change via protection of **core areas** (high quality, maximum sized areas), **corridors**, and **buffers** (lands surrounding cores and corridors that serve as an intermediary between development and wilderness) that allow plants and animals to migrate.
5. All **trails** need a corridor which protects each trail and its scenery.
6. Use **prescribed burns** as a management tool to protect Red-Cockaded Woodpeckers and other wildlife and assist forest ecosystem restoration.
7. **Snags (standing dead trees) and downed trees** are important forest features. They are habitat niches that help restore forest ecosystems and should be maintained.
8. Protect and enhance the **solitude, quiet, and natural sounds** of the forests.
9. Our national forests and grasslands are surrounded by urbanized areas. Collaborative measures and methods are needed to protect them from the **impacts of urbanization**.
10. Feral hogs, Chinese Tallows, and other **non-native species** compete with native wildlife and must be controlled. Control measures should be humane and effective while minimizing ecological impact to the forest.

More information on these and other forest management topics can be found on the [What Needs To Be Done?](#) page on the Lone Star Chapter's [Forests and Grasslands](#) webpage.

Whether you can or cannot attend the public meetings, please use one or more of these 10 issues to write a personal letter or email to the U.S. Forest Service that expresses your support for better protection of the NFGT. Send your letter or email to:

Mr. Robert Potts
NFGT
2221 North Raguet
Lufkin, Texas 75904

Email: robertpotts@fs.fed.us

The Sierra Club wants people who love forests to get engaged. If you want to be a part of the Sierra Club forest team, visit and get to know Sam Houston National Forest, and provide input into the revised Forest Plan contact Brandt Mannchen at 713-664-5962 or brandtshnfbt@juno.com, or you check out the Lone Star Chapter's website for more information. On the website you can sign up for the Lone Star Chapter's newsletter, follow the blog, or visit the [Forest and Grasslands](#) webpage. Our forests and grasslands are too important not to speak up. We hope to see you at the public meetings and in the forest!