

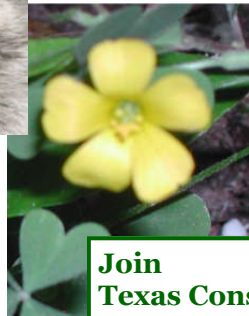
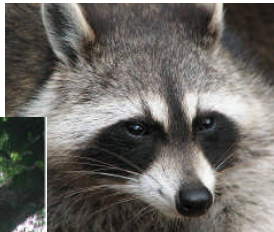
National Forest Management

Recent years have seen significant change in management of the National Forests in Texas – and Texas Conservation Alliance has been part of that change!

For decades national forest management was a major conservation controversy in Texas and throughout the country. Citizen groups protested the widespread clearcutting and conversion of natural mixed hardwood/pine forests to pure pine. Over time the U.S. Forest Service has shifted its focus from managing almost solely for timber. Today's ecosystem-based management seeks to balance the demand for timber with the need to protect wildlife, maintain samples of nature for our children's future, and provide outdoor recreation to fast-growing populations.

In the 1980's Texas Conservation Alliance, then called Texas Committee on Natural Resources (TCONR), led a landmark Endangered Species Act suit to protect red-cockaded woodpeckers. The decision halted most clearcutting on nearly 300,000 acres of national forest land in Texas and established the new ecosystem-oriented management now in use throughout the Southeast.

Today, the Alliance collaborates with Forest Service staff to manage for a wide array of public needs. The director of our Sustainable Forests Campaign, Larry Shelton, reviews management proposals and identifies hardwood tree areas and other important sites to be protected during logging and controlled burning operations. Forest soils and streams now enjoy the highest level of protection ever.



**Join
Texas Conservation Alliance's
Forest Task Force!**

**Alliance@TCAtexas.org
903-592-0909
TCAtexas.org**



Continuing Problems

Texas' four national forests, totaling 637,621 acres, have always been fragmented – intermixed with private land and crisscrossed by roads. The road mileage continues to grow.

Hardwood trees valuable to wildlife, such as oaks, hickories, beeches, elms, and dogwood, are becoming increasingly rare throughout east Texas. Logging, road-building, and excessive cutting of hardwoods for red-cockaded woodpecker management are reducing upland hardwood numbers on the national forests.

Budget cuts and management decisions are reducing the recreational opportunities on national forests, with campgrounds and trails being closed.

A 30-mile Off-Road Vehicle Trail proposed for the Angelina National Forest would destroy wildlife habitat, cause soil erosion and stream sedimentation, and interfere with quieter recreational pursuits.