

Group suing to cut off logging plans by state

by Mike Kienzler

An environmental group has filed suit in Jersey County to block state Department of Conservation plans for logging in Pere Marquette State Park.

The suit, brought by the Sierra Club Great Lakes Chapter, is part of a growing protest against what some environmentalists say have been a series of "intrusions into the sanctuary of state parks."

Speakers from throughout the state are scheduled to appear at a State Fairgrounds meeting on the issue Saturday.

A department spokesman, however, defended the logging plan and said the groups are seeking to manage the parks themselves.

The Jersey County lawsuit seeks a declaratory judgment against logging any state park or conservation area.

The DOC has announced plans for selective logging of a 345-acre section of the park in southwestern Illinois where a forest fire took place in 1974.

"State parks are parks, not tree farms," said the Sierra Club's state chairman, Ted Woodbury, in a press release announcing the suit. "Parks are inviolate areas where living things such as trees should be protected and preserved. Protected strongly by Illinois

law, parks should be free from man's manipulation by politicians, bureaucrats or private interests."

The department has no legal authorization to allow the logging, the suit charges.

"We're trying to manage the parks for the best use of the public," replied DOC spokesman Gary Thomas Thursday.

Only trees selected by department foresters will be removed, he said, and none will be taken that have any value to nesting birds or as animal dens.

The logging operation will remove potential breeding areas for insects or diseases that could harm other trees and will allow regeneration of what formerly was a mixed oak and hickory forest, Thomas argued.

The Sierra Club contends fire is part of the natural life cycle of any forest; that no insects or diseases have struck Illinois hardwood forests within memory; and, in spite of some remaining evidence of the fire, the area is not unsightly.

Saturday's meeting, which begins at noon, will feature speakers from the Sierra Club, including Woodbury, and from the Audubon Society, Defenders of Wildlife and others.

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Conservationists rally for Carpenter Park protest

by Jim Tinen

Conservationists rallied Saturday to protest the gradual erosion of parks by hunting and housing.

But Mother Nature showed one of her more petulant moods as temperatures in the 50s and sharp winds kept the crowd to about 50 persons huddled by the bandstand on the State Fairgrounds, and also forced speakers to hurry their speeches.

In a letter read to the rally, Dr. Richard Graber of the Natural History Survey in Urbana protested against a housing subdivision planned for near Carpenter Park.

Although there is no sure way of predicting what effect any development will have on a wildlife area, "There are too many examples of

natural habitat areas being turned into something like a city park," the letter said. "It would be a tragedy if that happened to Carpenter Park."

Another protest against development in the Carpenter Park area came from David Bohlen of the Illinois State Museum. A housing area has many direct or indirect effects on nearby parks, he said.

For example, he said, domestic cats and dogs if allowed to roam in a wildlife area can wipe out many species there, he said. Fences seldom keep out dogs and cats, who can easily tunnel beneath them.

Although Illinois ranks 49th among the states in the amount of park land per capita, the number of state parks is decreasing, accord-

ing to Cheree Mason of Defenders of Wildlife in Chicago.

In 1974 there were 74 state parks, but now there are only 59, she said. The parks are lost when they are downgraded to conservation areas or historic sites, thus losing some of their protective status.

"Maybe soon we won't have state parks," she said. "The idea seems to be, 'Just rename them and anything goes.'"

Ted Woodbury of Godfrey, head of the state chapter of the Sierra Club, protested against the proliferation of activities allowed in parks, especially logging and hunting.

"National parks are single-use," he said. "In Illinois, multiple use has become multiple abuse."

ALTON TELEGRAPH

Serving Madison, Jersey, Macoupin, Greene and Calhoun Counties

Vol. 143 No. 229

Est. Jan. 15, 1836

Thur., Oct. 12, 1978, Alton, Ill.

TWURS, Oct 12, 1978, A.

4 Sections 52 Pages

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Club sues to prevent logging in Marquette park

BY JOHN STETSON
Telegraph Outdoor Writer

After continued protests by the Sierra Club to the Illinois Department of Conservation over timber cutting in Pere Marquette State Park near Grafton, the Sierrans have filed a lawsuit seeking to stop the DOC proposal.

Filed in the Seventh Judicial Circuit Court at Jerseyville late Wednesday, the motion states: "logging is the latest incompatible, incongruous encroachment on Illinois state parks by administrators and politicians."

The legal action was filed on behalf of the national Sierra organization, but is the direct result of research conducted by members of the Piasa Palisades group and the Great Lakes Chapter of the national conservation-preservation group.

In June, during a public hearing in Alton by DOC Director David Kenney and his staff, Sierra Club members attacked the proposal of the DOC to remove timber from 345 acres within the largest of Illinois' state parks.

Kenney and State Forester Al Michelson explained at the hearing the reason for proposing removal of the timber was for sanitation purposes and a rehabilitation program for that section of the park.

DOC officials said the area had been damaged by a fire in 1974, but Sierra Club people argued the fire wasn't severe and logging would set a precedent dangerous to forests within state parks.

After a state official explained removal of the fire-damaged trees would be let out on bids to commercial logging firms, one opponent asked if any DOC member had

any tie with any commercial logging firms.

Ted Woodbury, chairman of the Great Lakes Chapter of Sierra Club, and a member of the Piasa Palisades Group, says "state parks and conservation areas should not be exploited or meddled with for timber."

The Sierra Club contends forest fires are a natural part of the life of a forest. One researcher points out that the infrequency of fires in Illinois hardwood forests in recent years actually has hindered the development of oaks in the state.

Meanwhile DOC officials are still planning to go ahead with the logging.

Bids for logging the area in question are scheduled to be closed on Oct. 14 and the successful bidder to be announced Oct. 18.

'Save our Parks' rally scheduled in Springfield

Concerned groups and individuals from across the state will gather for a "Save Our Parks" rally at the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield Saturday to protest the "attempted misuse" of state park lands.

Area chapters of the Sierra Club and the Illinois Audubon Society, as well as students from Principia College, SIUE and Alton Senior High, will attend the rally to voice protest over the recent policy which will allow logging in Pere Marquette park and the continued practice of game hunt-

ing there.

According to Ted Woodbury, president of the local Sierra Club, 345 acres of Pere Marquette park have recently been opened for logging for the first time in the park's history. Bids on the land are now being accepted from logging firms.

Game hunting in the park was introduced in 1973 by Gov. Dan Walker and has been continued under Gov. James Thompson's administration.

"Illinois is park-poor. We are 49th in the nation in reference to state park land per capita," Woodbury said. "Therefore we

don't feel that the state should come in and attempt to misuse what park land that we still have left."

Woodbury added that these types of practices are incompatible with the very concept of a state park.

"Such practices disrupt the wildlife, the forest and everything else within the boundaries of that park. They are incompatible with the public's right to use the park peacefully for hikes, cook-outs, camping and all the things you should be able experience there," he said.

The rally will be an attempt to educate the public to these issues, as well as similar ones across the state, and to make the state legislature more aware of the protests.

Woodbury said he anticipates more than 100 participants at the rally, which will begin at noon Saturday.

"We welcome everyone who is concerned to come and express their feelings," he said. "Illinois is in a desperate plight and it is becoming more and more difficult to protect our lands. Once gone, these lands are lost forever."

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Sierra Club sues to stop logging in state parks

CHICAGO TRIBUNE, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1978, P. 2

Sierra Club sues state on logging

THE SIERRA Club has filed suit in Jersey County Circuit Court against the Illinois Department of Conservation charging that a plan to log 345 acres of state park land is illegal.

The suit, filed Wednesday, charges that the Department of Conservation may be proceeding without statutory approval in its plan to log 345 acres of Pere Marquette State Park near Grafton in southwestern Illinois, according to Sierra Club spokesman Bob Freeman.

The trees in this area were severely damaged in a 1974 forest fire, explained David Kenney, director of the Department of Conservation. "The area requires rehabilitation. There is a lot of dead wood and [dead] trees. This is a way of reducing the threat of disease,"

he explained.

Freeman said the trees, if left alone, could eventually provide homes for small animals.

THE SUIT ALSO pointed out that the logging job—for which contracts are to be awarded in Jerseyville on Oct. 18—will earn money for the state in timber sales.

Kenney said the money is "inconsequential." "This is essentially a sanitary and an energy saving program," he said.

Kenney added that "it is clearly legal for us to do this."

Another spokesman for the Department of Conservation pointed out that the department does have authority to cut timber on certain state properties.

Jerseyville (AP)

The Sierra Club conservation organization has sued the state Department of Conservation and its Director David Kenney to halt commercial timber harvest in state parks and conservation areas.

The lawsuit was filed Wednesday in Circuit Court in Jersey County.

Last May, the agency said it would seek bids and award a contract for logging selected trees in a 345-acre section of Pere Marquette State Park north of Alton. The area was damaged by a forest fire in 1974.

The conservation club contends that logging in state parks is illegal.

The club says it will sue any logger who harvests trees in Pere Marquette or any other state park or conservation area, according to club spokesman Ted Woodbury.

But the state agency contends that trees to be cut are to be marked by state foresters, and the project will be designed to protect recreational, environmental and other forest-related uses.

The Sierra Club says forest fires are a natural part of the life cycle of forests.

State sued to stop logging in parks

SPRINGFIELD (AP) — The Sierra Club has sued the state Department of Conservation and its Director David T. Kenney to halt commercial timber harvest in state parks and conservation areas, the group's Illinois president said Thursday.

The suit, filed in Circuit Court in Jersey County at Jerseyville, seeks a court order to stop the Oct. 18 scheduled awarding of bids by the department.

No hearing date was set.

"Logging of Illinois parks is strictly illegal according to statutes," said Edmund Woodbury of Godfrey, president of the Great Lakes, or Illinois, chapter of the club. "State parks and conservation areas should not be exploited or meddled with for their timber."

Kenney said he had not been informed of the suit.

However, he labeled as "wishful thinking" the group's claim that the department doesn't have authority to conduct a "sanitary and salvage operation" involving 345 acres at Pere Marquette State Park north of Alton.

Last May, the agency said it would seek bids and award a contract for logging selected damaged trees in the section hit by a forest fire in 1974. The department's aim is to produce firewood and some lumber, said Kenney.

The 6,000 member Sierra Club says forest fires are a natural part of the life cycle of forests and the cutting therefore should not be allowed.

St. Louis Globe-Democrat Illinois

Illinois Edition / Thursday, October 12, 1978 / Pages 1-8

ST. LOUIS GLOBE DEMOCRAT, THURS, OCTOBER 12, 1978 (ILLINOIS, p1) Lawsuit filed to block logging

By **BILL ANDERSON**
Globe-Democrat Staff Writer

EDWARDSVILLE — The Sierra Club has filed a lawsuit in Jersey County Circuit Court seeking to prevent commercial timber harvesting in Illinois state parks and conservation areas.

Ted Woodbury, chairman of the Great Lakes (Illinois) Chapter of the Sierra Club, said the lawsuit, which was filed Wednesday, names the Illinois Department of Conservation and its director, David Kenney, as defendants.

The suit is in response to an announcement last May that the Conservation Department would solicit bids and award a contract for logging selected trees in a 345-acre section of Pere Marquette State Park north of Alton which had been damaged by a forest fire in

1974.

The Sierra Club contends that logging in state parks and conservation areas is illegal. The club will file a lawsuit against any logger who harvests trees in Pere Marquette or any other Illinois state park or conservation area, Woodbury said.

THE 6,000-MEMBER Great Lakes Chapter is funding the suit, which was filed by the national Sierra Club, he said.

Last May, state officials said harvesting dead or damaged, but still usable trees would rehabilitate the burned area on the eastern edge of the park.

Trees to be cut are to be marked by state foresters, and the project will be designed to protect recreational, environmental and other forest-related val-

ues, Kenney said in a press release.

"The salvage operation will aid in returning the forest to its original species composition, while making use of severely damaged trees," the statement said. "To help maintain wildlife populations, damaged trees that are being used or are likely to be used as dens or nesting sites will not be removed ..."

State officials contend removing the rotting timber will reduce forest fire fuel, lessen the potential for insect and disease outbreaks and provide openings to promote growth of natural vegetative cover.

THE SIERRA CLUB contends that forest fires are a natural part in the life cycle of forests, and that recent research at Illinois State University indi-

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Suit filed to block logging

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cates the infrequency of forest fires in Illinois in recent years has hindered the growth of oak trees, Woodbury said.

The burn area in Pere Marquette is not aesthetically displeasing, he added.

The club also claims there has been no attack by insects or disease on Illinois hardwood forests within recent memory.

"Furthermore, the devastating ice storm during the winter of 1978 caused widespread damage to trees over a large area of Pere Marquette State Park, yet no attempt is being made to clean up the tons of small diameter, unmarketable wood that lies dead on the forest floor," Woodbury said.

Terms like "forest rehabilitation" are generally associated with the logging industry, not park practices, he said.

"In the absence of strict guidelines, 'rehabilitation management' opens the door to mischievous and illegal intrusions by man in parks and other protect-

ed lands," he said.

THE LAWSUIT CONTENDS that logging in state parks and conservation areas is illegal under Illinois law and counter to the policies of the state, according to Woodbury.

Citing an 1899 lawsuit, he contended any contract for logging will be invalid. A timber cutter would have to replant any area harvested at his own expense and face criminal penalties of up to one year in jail for each tree he cuts, he said.

Contracts for logging are scheduled to be awarded later this month, according to Woodbury. Conservation officials could not be reached for comment.

In its statement last May, the Conservation Department named Sand Ridge State Forest, Baldwin Lake Management Area and Trail of Tears State Forest as among those areas where rehabilitation was planned.

Woodbury said the Piasa Palisades Group of the Sierra Club, located in the Alton area, will contribute to the cost of the lawsuit.