

Energy Dept. may turn cancelled super collider site into buffalo range

The Associated Press

AUSTIN — Where scientists once hoped to discover more about the forces of the universe, may become a home where the buffalo roam.

State officials and conservationists have proposed restoring the site of the defunct superconducting super collider near Waxahachie into native blackland prairie.

If the restoration goes forward, it would cover 10,000 acres with grasses several feet high, scores of wildflowers and a small herd of bison.

The conversion would be the largest prairie restoration in the United States.

"We're surprised and delighted that our proposal has been so well received," said Jeff Weigle, director of science and stewardship for The Na-

ture Conservancy of Texas.

Last year Congress canceled the collider, which was to have allowed scientists to examine the collision of subatomic particles accelerated through a 54-mile underground tunnel.

Officials directed the Energy Department to make the best use of the \$2 billion in state and federal funds that had been invested in the project.

In addition to the blackland prairie proposals, several other post-collider alternatives include a regional computing center, advanced research in cryogenics and superconductivity and cancer research.

The blackland prairie restoration is supported by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

"Our native blackland prairies once

covered more than 12 million acres in Texas. Today fewer than 5,000 acres remain," said former Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby, now a member of the Parks and Wildlife Commission.

Until the 1880s, much of the blackland prairie was intact, stretching from the Red River in northeast Texas to the Colorado River in central Texas. The rich, heavy, clay soils supported large herds of bison, as well as pronghorn, an antelope-like deer.

But the crush of agriculture transformed grassland into farmland.

Complete restoration of the area would take decades, Weigle said.

The Nature Conservancy has recommended that the federal government set aside \$30 million, and that private sources pay for the rest of the project.

Heart-healthy exercise



TAMU students, friends and family work out to a step aerobics routine to raise money for the American Heart Association on Saturday.

Coach offers to take caning for Singapore vandal

The Associated Press

HARLINGEN — A high school coach is offering to put his hide in the place of an Ohio teen-ager who faces a public flogging in Singapore as punishment for a vandalism spree.

"(The teen-ager) will have to be present when I receive this punishment for him," Daniel Vogler wrote in

a letter to Singapore officials and the White House.

"I can assure you that justice will be served when he has to watch another person punished for his crime," said Vogler, head freshman football coach at Harlingen High School South and a former Marine sergeant.

"I have a pretty high threshold for pain," he said.

Michael P. Fay, 18, faces three lashes on his bare buttocks with a narrow rattan cane in Singapore after pleading guilty to vandalism, mischief and possession of stolen property.

His family and President Clinton are urging Singapore officials to grant clemency to Fay, who recently has claimed his confession was coerced.

It's a jungle out there!

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The Battalion

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The Battalion is hiring staffers for the summer and fall semesters. All positions are open.

If you are interested in applying for a position, please take advantage of an informal meeting with the editors. The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 19 in Reed McDonald 003 (in the basement).

Applications may be picked up in 013 Reed McDonald or in the MSC — across from the elevators.

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