

**Up Late?**  
Improve Concentration  
High Caffeine Coffee  
[nealys.com](http://nealys.com)

Large hall and classrooms with commercial kitchen available.  
Perfect for dances, parties, receptions and corporate training or meetings.  
Pricing starts at \$250/day  
Call Robert Norris at (979) 822-1600  
Tues.-Fri. 8am-5pm

**BRAZOS BINGO** 1805 Briarcrest BRYAN 979-776-0999  
Play Electronic Bingo Magic 2000  
**LOWEST PRICES EVER!**  
COME ONE! COME ALL! COME EARLY!  
— STARTING TIMES —  
Tues 6:45 Wed-Thur-Sat 6:45 & 9:00 Friday 7:15 & 9:00 Sunday 6:00 & 8:00  
**EXPERIENCE THE THRILL OF WINNING**  
LARGE NON-SMOKING ROOM  
\*Door Prizes • Great Food • Security • Pull Tabs and Much More!  
Due to recent changes, no one under 18 is allowed to enter  
**OVER \$30,000 WON EACH WEEK**  
St. Joseph Catholic Social St. Joseph Catholic Club FREE SPACE BVCASA BRAZOS VALLEY ELKS #809

**OFFICE SERVICE**  
**Ron Gordon's Repair & Recycling**  
Printer, Fax and copier repair and sales. Can repair most brands, parts no trouble. I have over 10 years experience in this area. Lowest rates in town. We also buy empty OEM laser toner cartridges. Please call Ron at 979-779-2757 or 979-229-7203.

**Shuttle to Houston (G. Bush) Intercontinental Airport**  
for only **\$19.99**  
Leaving C.S.: 5:30am  
5:30pm  
Leaving Houston: 9:15am  
9:15pm  
Reserve Online at [www.groundshuttle.com](http://www.groundshuttle.com) or (979) 739-2836  
\*Additional Schedules for Holidays online

# 'Healthy Forests' allows for increased brush cutting, more logging protection



President George W. Bush waves to the audience after a signing ceremony for the Healthy Forests Restoration Act in Washington Wednesday. The new legislation is intended to help prevent devastating wildfires that have annually plagued western states.

**By Robert Gehrke**  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — More timber and brush can be cut and cleared with less environmental scrutiny under a "Healthy Forests" law President Bush signed Wednesday. He said it will help protect communities from devastating wildfires.

"This law will not prevent every fire, but it is an important step forward, a vital step to make sure we do our duty to protect our nation's forests," Bush said while standing in front of rows of wildland firefighters. "We'll help save lives and property and we'll help protect our forests from sudden and needless destruction," he said.

The Healthy Forests Restoration Act signed by the president is the first major forest management legislation in a quarter-century. It seeks to speed up the harvesting of trees in overgrown woodlands and insect-infested trees on 20 million acres of federal forest land most at risk to wildfires.

It does that by scaling back required environmental studies, limiting appeals

and directing judges to act quickly on legal challenges to logging plans.

Critics said the bill would let timber companies cut down large, old-growth trees in the name of fire prevention.

"There's a real danger that the president's pen might as well be a chain saw," said Amy Mall, a forestry specialist with the Natural Resources Defense Council.

Rep. Scott McInnis, R-Colo., sponsor of the legislation, said those complaints are from groups out of touch with the mainstream.

"Of course when you thin out forests you're going to have logging. You're going to have to," he said. "But people want these forests managed. People want the science used."

Legislation aimed at speeding decisions on where to allow timbering in national forests was bogged down in Congress for three years — until California blazes whipped by Santa Ana winds burned 750,000 acres, destroyed 3,640 homes and forced a compromise.

Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., said language added to Bush's initial proposal will

protect old-growth and large-diameter trees.

"The signing of this forest bill into law shows what can be accomplished when all sides are willing to put aside partisanship and do what is best for communities threatened by deadly and destructive wildfires," he said. "This new law protects old-growth forests while providing substantial support for hazardous fuels reduction."

Even after the California fires, 2002 was a below-average fire year. So far, 2 million acres have burned. Twenty-eight firefighters died battling the blazes, according to the Wildland Firefighting Foundation. In 2002, nearly 7 million acres were charred.

The Bush administration estimates that 190 million acres are at heightened risk of a severe wildfire — an area the size of Idaho, Montana and Wyoming combined.

Mike Dombeck, Forest Service chief during President Clinton's second term, said Congress should have demanded stronger protections for old-growth and roadless areas. Nonetheless, he called the new law "a step in the right direction."

"We need to completely rethink our approach to fire and our human interaction with fire and the wildland urban interface. It's obvious where we've been in not wanting," said Dombeck, now a forestry professor at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

But Dombeck said none of the changes the bill would have prevented the fires that tore through swaths of California, Arizona and Colorado over the past two years.

The measure authorizes Congress to dedicate \$760 million a year for timber projects. At least half of the money can be spent on projects near homes and communities.

Jay Watson, wildfire expert with the Wilderness Society, said important changes were included in the bipartisan compromise bill that added money for thinning and required half the funds be spent in forests near communities. But the law is implemented will determine if it is helpful to the forests or a payback to timber companies, he said.

The Center for Responsive Politics says the timber industry has contributed \$1 million to political campaigns since 1980, 80 percent of it to Republicans. It also has spent \$23.8 million on lobbying efforts since 2000, according to a report compiled by Political Money Line.

**Discover Research Inc.**

You may qualify for a clinical research study if you have any of the following conditions:

**SINUS INFECTION?**

- Males and Females 18 years of age or older
- Have a frequent cough, facial pain, pressure and/or tightness
- Up to \$400 paid for time and travel.

**SORE THROAT?**

- Males and females between the ages of 2 and 12
- Have a sore throat/scratchy throat, pain or swelling
- Reimbursement for time and travel.

Medical assessments, study-related diagnostic tests, and investigational medication are provided to qualified participants at no charge.

(979) 779-3303 or 888-438-9586 toll free

**It's Never Too Late to Join the Corps!**

**Who Knows Where it May Lead You.**

Learn more about the Corps of Cadets or to join the Corps, call the recruiting office at 979-845-9232 or visit us at the Sanders Corps of Cadets Center

## Pentagon assigns lawyer for Guantanamo Bay prisoner

**By Matt Kelley**  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — An Australian prisoner at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, has become the first foreign terrorist suspect to be given a U.S. military lawyer, the Pentagon announced Wednesday.

Marine Corps Maj. Michael Mori will represent David Hicks, the Defense Department said in a brief statement.

Hicks is one of six prisoners at the Navy base in Cuba that President Bush named as possi-

ble candidates for trial by a special military tribunal for terrorism suspects. One other Australian citizen is among the more than 660 men and boys being held there.

Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz will make the final decision on which Guantanamo prisoners, if any, will face trial. Wolfowitz has not decided on Hicks' case, the Pentagon statement said.

The announcement came a day after the Pentagon announced an about-face in the case of a Louisiana-born terror-

ism suspect being held in the United States as an "enemy combatant." The Defense Department agreed to let Yaser Esam Hamdi meet with a lawyer, a reversal from its previous refusal to do so.

The United States and Australia announced last week they had reached an agreement on how Hicks would be tried before a U.S. military tribunal. Australian officials said they were satisfied Hicks would get a fair trial.

U.S. officials assured Australia that Hicks would not face the death penalty and would not have his convictions by American troops. The Bush administration also has agreed to allow terrorism suspects like Hicks to have lawyers from their home countries act as advisors during any trial, a measure which was not allowed in the original rules for the tribunal.

WONDERING WHERE TO GO TO SELL YOUR BOOKS?

**LOUPOT'S BOOKSTORES**

GET 10% MORE ON BOOK RETURNS AT BUYBACK  
NORTHGATE . SOUTHGATE . WOLF PEN

[www.loupots.com](http://www.loupots.com)

RESERVE ONLINE NOW!

**CROSS CANADIAN RAGWEED**  
UP FRONT & CLOSE

**FRIDAY**

WITH SPECIAL GUEST **TROY JOHNSON**

**DECEMBER 5TH 2003**

TICKETS IN ADVANCE SUGGESTED.  
AVAILABLE AT ROTHER'S BOOKSTORE, CAVENDERS BOOT CITY

ADVERTISING AND MARKETING BY DICKSON PRODUCTIONS HOME OF THEMUSICFEST.COM

**HURRICANE HARRY'S**

DOORS OPEN @ **8PM**

**SAS TRADING COMPANY**  
JEWELRY, HANDBAGS & MORE

Necklaces	1,00 styles	Necklace Sets	500 styles
Earrings	3,000 styles	Purses	500 styles
Artwork	250 pieces		
Hair Jewelry	Toe Jewelry	Sterling Jewelry	Body Jewelry
Rings	Belts	Watches	& Misc. Items

**5,500 Square Feet of Shopping Heaven!**  
1707 Texas Ave. S., Culpepper Plaza, College Station  
**695-0400**  
[www.sastradingcompany.com](http://www.sastradingcompany.com)

**UNITED**  
Realty & Investment Company

**FREE LOCATOR SERVICE**  
**260-1200**

PRELEASING NOW for Jan, May & August 2004  
Across from campus, next to Taco Bell.  
[www.united-rico.com](http://www.united-rico.com)