

# Forest Service's use of photo to support logging criticized

By Scott Sonner  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RENO, Nev. — The Forest Service has been accused of misrepresenting forest conditions by using misleading photographs in a brochure that urges more logging to prevent wildfires in the Sierra Nevada.

The pamphlet, created by a public relations firm, explains that fire risks have risen as the Sierra's forests have grown more dense the past century. Six small black-and-white photos spanning 80 years appear beside descriptions of how the "forests of the past" had fewer trees and less underbrush, making them less susceptible to fire.

The 1909 photo shows an open, park-like forest with large trees spaced widely apart. More trees and underbrush appear in each successive picture — 1948, 1958, 1968, 1979 — and finally a photograph thick with trees in 1989.

"Today's forests, dense with green, may seem beautiful, but in fact are deadly," the pamphlet reads. "Our old-growth forests are choking with brush, tinder-dry debris and dead trees which make the risk of catastrophic fire high."

However, the 1909 photo does not depict natural conditions — it was taken just after the forest had been logged.

And the pictured forest is nowhere near the Sierra Nevada. It's in Montana.

"I was looking at the picture and I thought it looked awful familiar," said Chad Hanson, director of the John Muir Project in Cedar Ridge, Calif. "I started looking around and sure enough, the industry has used it before in Montana. It's from the Bitterroot Valley."

Then Hanson used a magnifying glass to make another discovery.

"You can see huge slash piles and stumps in the background," he said. "They give the impression this represents natural, pre-settlement conditions, but the picture was taken after logging had occurred and most of the trees had been removed."

The same shot taken near Como Lake in the Bitterroot National Forest southwest of Hamilton, Mont., appeared in a 1983 Forest Service research report entitled "Fire and

Vegetative Trends in the

Rockies: Interpretations of 1871-1982 photographs."

The caption in that report said the photo shows "clear operations on the Lick Creek timber sale."

The site also appears in another research report in 1995 showing an "immediate growth derosa stand at Creek in 'immediate before cutting' photo shows forest three times denser than post-logging photo."

The agency has used same photo minus the logging site in support of logging in the Northwest, too.

"I can't believe they are doing this," said Tom Ingalsbee of the Western Ecology Center in Eugene, Ore. He said the agency used same sequence of photos in 1983 and misrepresented it to seem like it came from the forest just above Ashland, Ore.

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— Chad Hanson  
director of the John Muir Project

**IN THE AFTERNOON!**  
Radio News from the newsroom of  
**THE BATTALION**  
campus and community news  
1:57 p.m.  
Monday through Friday  
on **KAMU-FM 90.9**  
College Station / Bryan

**Parents' Weekend**  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY  
*One Spirit... One Family... One Weekend.*  
April 16-18, 2004  
University Awards Ceremony  
Maroon & White Game  
Bevo Burn BBQ  
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More...  
http://parentweekend.tamu.edu

**Bleed to Read**  
American Red Cross Blood Drive  
sponsored by Alpha Phi Omega  
Help educate local youth!  
For every unit of blood donated this week, a book will be donated to a local school.  
AΦΩ

**April 12-16**  
Monday - Friday  
Rudder Building 10:00am - 4:30pm  
Sbisa 11:30am - 7:00pm  
The Commons 12:00pm - 7:00pm  
Bio Bio Building 10:00am - 4:00pm  
Zachry Building 10:00am - 3:15pm  
Wehner Building 10:00am - 4:30pm (Tuesday and Wednesday only)  
Join the challenge and do your part to **BEAT T.U.**  
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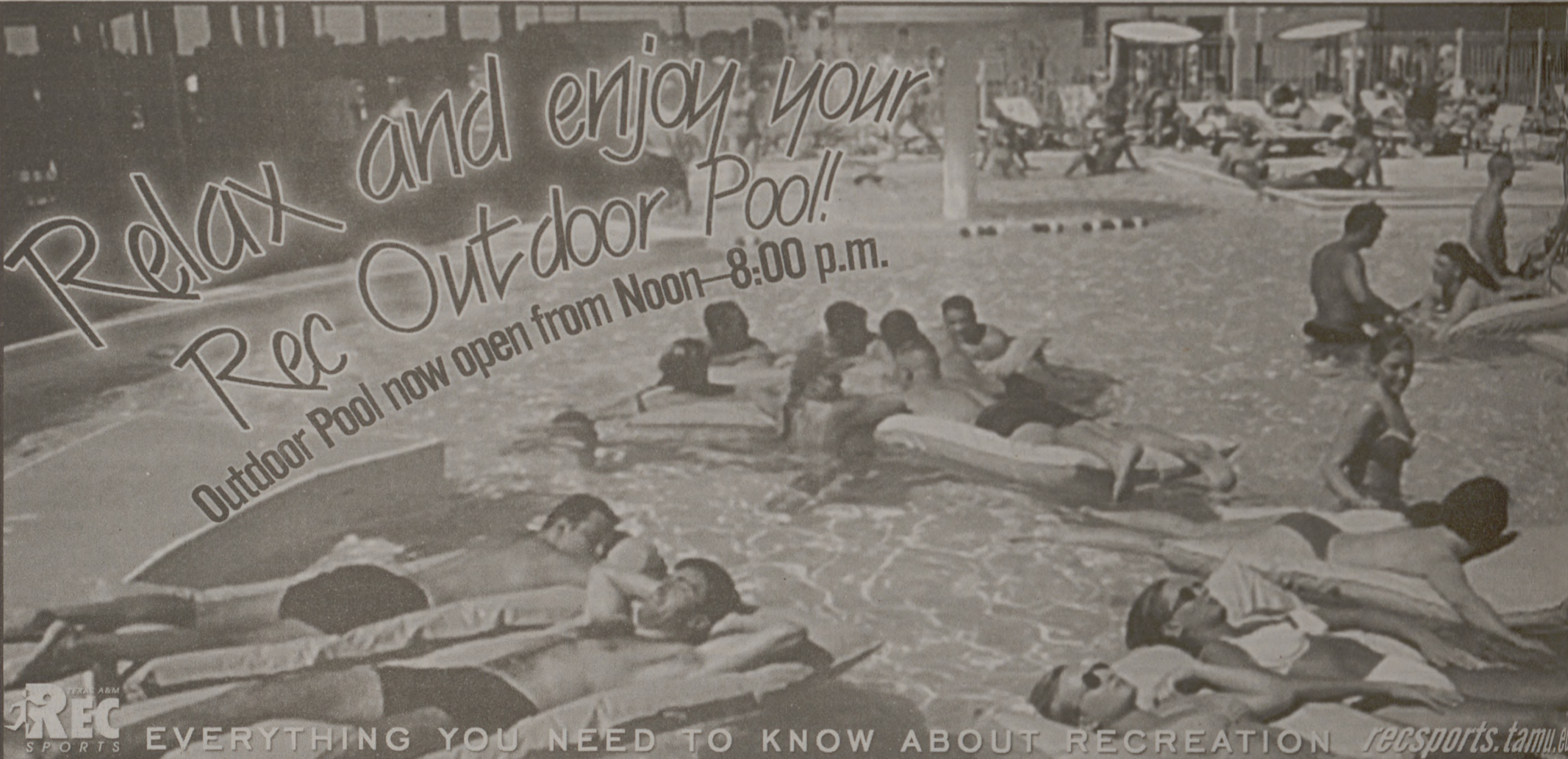
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**NEWS IN BRIEF**

**American Airlines, vendor point fingers over privacy flap**

WASHINGTON (AP) — In an effort to shield themselves from potential lawsuits, American Airlines and one of its technology providers are pointing fingers at each other over who allowed some 1.2 million passenger records to be shared with four companies doing aviation security research for the government. AMR Corp., the parent of American Airlines, dis-

closed late Friday that it authorized Airline Automation Inc., to share the passenger data with the Transportation Security Administration in June 2002. However, the Fort Worth, Texas-based airline said never gave Airline Automation the authority to share the data with the four research companies — Airline Automation, Infoglide Software Corp., Access Technology Inc. and Lockheed Martin Corp. Airline Automation, a provider of revenue management technology based in Tucson, Ariz., disputes that claim.



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- BANQUET AND EVENT SERVICES**—Have your next meeting, party or presentation at the Rec. Rec Sports now offers banquet and event services for Texas A&M affiliated organizations and departments. For more info call 845-7826.
- MASSAGE THERAPY**—Give yourself the gift of relaxation with a one hour Swedish Massage! Appointments are available every day of the week during the academic semesters!

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Program	Registration	Cost
Advanced Scuba	NOW-April 12	\$110/\$130
Lifeguard Training	NOW-April 18	\$110/\$130
Lifeguard Challenge	NOW-April 18	\$25/\$35
Lifeguard Training	NOW-April 25	\$110/\$130
Lifeguard Challenge	NOW-April 25	\$25/\$35
Adult Learn to Swim	NOW-May 2	\$25/\$35
Lifeguard Training	NOW-May 2	\$110/\$130

- LIFEGUARD TRAINING / CHALLENGE COURSES**—Get certified by the American Red Cross or renew your CPR-FPR certifications. You'll get the training you need to be prepared for aquatic emergencies. If you're looking for a great summer job or a challenging career as a professional lifeguard don't miss this opportunity!
- GO FOR A SWIM**—Outdoor Pool now open from Noon-8:00 p.m!

**Go All Out with TAMU OUTDOORS**

Upcoming Events	Event Date	Registration
Lead Climbing Clinic	April 13	NOW-April 12
Intro to Fly Fishing Workshop	April 16	NOW-April 12
Solo Canoe Wkshp/Trip	April 16-18	NOW-April 12
Day Hiking Trip	April 16-18	NOW-April 12
Climbing Tech Clinic-Games	April 20	At Event-FREE
Dutch Oven Cooking Clinic	April 20	NOW-April 12
Climb Cracks-Enchanted Rock	April 23-25	NOW-April 20
Backpacking Trip	April 24-25	NOW-April 20
Family Camping Trip	April 24-25	NOW-April 20
Rafting Day Trip	April 25	NOW-April 20
Bike Clinic-Brakes/Shifts	April 28	NOW-April 20

**Day Hiking Trip**—A day of hiking and orienteering in the Piney woods of Bastrop State Park! Learn map and compass techniques and enjoy exploring the variety of vegetation and wildlife of the Lost Pines of Texas.

**DRIVE ON-TEXAS A&M GOLF COURSE**

- NEW Full Length Driving Range**—Come by and enjoy one of the Golf Course's newest additions, the full length driving range. Buy a bucket of balls and practice your swing, or warm up before a round of 18 holes!
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**SPRING 04 IMs, HAVE YOU SIGNED UP?**

The following IM sports **CLOSE** for registration April 13th:  
Baseball Hitting **FREE**  
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