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## Administration proposing plan o open more forests to logging

By Bob Fick THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Saxons ar BOISE, Idaho — The Bush adminir drums in the taration Monday proposed lifting a na-ilk a few more tonal rule that closed remote areas of ional forests to logging, instead sayh, like one battling states should decide whether to keep Others are boring an on road-building in those areas. ork that makes for Environmentalists immediately critigof characters. Ozed the change as the biggest timber ds as handsome, ndustry giveaway in history.

(Ray Winstone) Under the proposal, governors would children, providave to petition the federal government block road-building in remote areas he is no knight of national forests. Allowing roads to be flat on its face wilt would open the areas to logging. The rule replaces one adopted by feamera time, whe Clinton administration and still unacres of national forest nationwide.

The Bush administration heralded the plan as an end to the legal uncertainty overshadowing tens of millions of acres of America's backcountry.

'Our actions today advance the Bush administration's commitment to cooperative conserving roadless areas," Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman said in announcing the plan in the Idaho Capitol Rotunda.

Trust President Philip Clapp called the administration proposal the biggest giveaway to the timber industry in history, arguing that many western states would likely press for development to help struggling rural economies.

"The idea that many governors

his ferocious & Sharon invites Labor Party into his coalition

ers about 58 million of the 191 million political snake pit of managing the national forests in their states is laughable," he said. "Besides, the timber industry has invested heavily for years in the campaigns of governors with the largest national and state forests, giving almost equally to Republicans and Democrats.

Under the proposal, the 58.5 million acres designated as roadless among the 191 million acres of national forest will be protected from development for another 18 months.

In 2006, each governor may submit a proposal either to continue protecting the roadless land or allow it opened to multiple use. The federal government would consider each state petition and then issue a regulation determining the

## would want to jump head first into the extent of future roadless protection. challenge in federal court. It cov-

presence is kn By Gavin Rabinowitz ience may even THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

e once the amy JERUSALEM — Prime nister Ariel Sharon on onday invited the moderate or Party into his shaky lition, and warned rebels his Likud Party that he'll early elections if they try block the partnership.

An alliance with Labor uld boost Sharon's plan withdraw from the Gaza ip and four isolated est Bank settlements by 05. Coalition hard-liners e been trying to saboe a pullback.

ome sticking points nain in coalition negotions, including wrangling er senior portfolios, particarly the job of foreign minter for Labor chief Shimon res. Both sides said they IAL RATE expect a deal quickly.

union appears to be coming way: This situation cannot from Likud hard-liners opposed to a Gaza withdrawal

and senior Likud ministers who, fearing they'll lose their jobs, have threatened to stir a rebellion in the party.

Sharon warned Likud legislators Monday that he'll call early elections if they make good on their threats. He told the

legislators that he has no choice but to expand the coalition by bringing in Labor. "But if you don't want this or that, we can go to elections, that's the way it is," Sharon said. "I am saying morning. Both sides said the

The main threat to such a this in the clearest possible talks had gone well. continue."

The coalition talks were

held as U.S. Mideast envoys were in the region If the Labor to discuss Party enters the Gaza the withdrawal coalition it will plan. White bring a cancer into House officials Elliot the Likud. Abrams and Steve Had-

> — Uzi Cohen ley were to Likud party member meet with Palestin-

> > ian Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia on Monday and with Sharon on Tuesday, a U.S. Embassy spokesman said. Sharon and Peres met pri-

vately for an hour Monday

"He gave me a formal invitation to enter into negotiations to create a government including the Labor Party,' Peres said at a meeting of Labor lawmakers. The party was expected to accept the invitation on Tuesday, setting the stage for negotiations to begin.

Sharon turned to Labor, which supports the Gaza withdrawal, after facing increasing opposition from far-right coalition partners and hard-liners in Likud. Defections have deprived him of his parliamentary majority.

Many Likud hard-liners still oppose the union. "If the Labor Party enters the coalition it will bring a cancer into the Likud," said Uzi Cohen, a member of the party's powerful Central Committee.

**Hot pepper** 



shop for Oriental Peppers at The Farm and produce.

Junior nutrition major Kristen Patch Monday afternoon. The Farm Anderson, left, and her sister Jenna Patch sells a variety of fresh flowers

**NEWS IN BRIEF** 

## **Al-Yawer issues** warning to insurgents

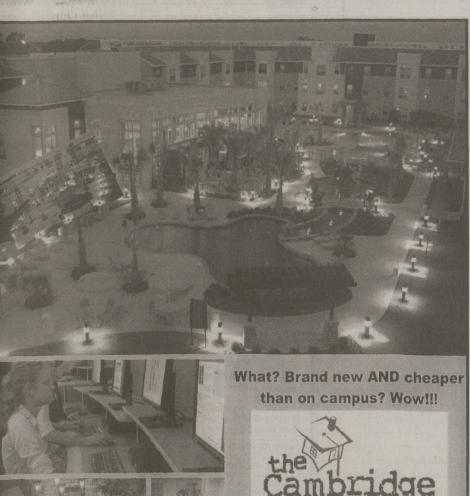
BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Iraq's interim president issued a warning Monday to guerrillas who have killed hundreds of Iraqis, promising to use a "very sharp sword" against anyone threatening the country's security.

The new Iraqi government has been discussing offering a limited amnesty to militants to put down the insurgency. But it has also been talking increasingly tough about those who keep carrying out attacks.

"Terrorism isn't just killing and blowing up bombs; whoever threatens the ordinary life of the people is a terrorist," President Ghazi al-Yawer told reporters. "We have a very sharp sword ready for anyone who threatens the security of this country.'

Al-Yawer's words appeared carefully chosen, reflecting a classical Arab symbol of might in the sword and threatening militants, some of whom have beheaded hostages, with their own chosen weapon.

In a crackdown Monday night, dozens of Iraqi police fanned out in the capital's Bab Alsheikh neighborhood, setting off small gunbattles in which one suspect was killed and two were wounded. Hundreds of people were detained.



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