

# CONSERVATION CROSSFEED

Notes from AFCEE/ECC  
May 2000

## DON'T TOP TREES IN THE APPROACH-DEPARTURE CLEARANCE ZONE

The practice of tree topping is widely condemned by horticulturists, arborists, foresters, and right-of-way vegetation managers as ineffective, costly, and destructive. Lessons learned by the utility industry are directly applicable to the management of trees under the approach-departure clearance surface at Air Force installations. Researchers have concluded that tree topping damages trees, promotes insects and disease, is considered aesthetically displeasing, and is more costly than alternative vegetation treatments.

If a clear zone needs to be clear, then clear it, grub it (remove stumps), plant grass, and maintain it by mowing. If a tree infringes upon the glide slope, CUT IT DOWN. However, this does not mean that the entire forest must be cleared. Modern methods for controlling tree heights focus on the selective removal of fast-growing and tall-growing tree species followed by actions to promote the dominance of low-growing vegetation (i.e. grass, shrubs, or small trees).

The National Arbor Day Foundation publishes a leaflet entitled "Don't Top Trees", which can be ordered from: National Arbor Day Foundation, 211 N. 12<sup>th</sup> St., Lincoln, NE 68508. Check out the following website of the International Society of Arboriculture for info on topping: <http://www.ag.uiuc.edu/~isa/consumer/topping.html> or contact Kevin Porteck, Forest Program Manager at DSN 240-5631.

### **Wetlands Documentation:**

AF/ILEVP recently issued guidance clarifying requirements for the preparation of Findings of No Practicable Alternatives (FONPA) for actions taken in support of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) for Installation Restoration Program (IRP) activities. Although this guidance eliminates the need for preparing a FONPA only for CERCLA/IRP actions, a pending change to Secretary of the Air Force Order 791.1 will permit the delegation of all floodplain and wetland FONPA authority from the Deputy Under Secretary of the Air Force (Mr. McCall) to the Major Commands. This change should significantly reduce the administrative burden of processing FONPAs for actions effecting floodplains and wetlands by eliminating the need to send FONPAs to the Air Staff for review and approval by SAF/MIQ. We anticipate that the new delegation will be issued within the next two months.

### **Legacy Resource Management**

**Program:** On 15 March 00, we submitted approximately 35 FY 2001 Legacy pre-proposals to the Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Environmental Security). The DoD Legacy Office will now review all the pre-proposals and recommend those that meet the Legacy criteria to submit a full proposal that will be due by 19 Jun 00. Descriptions of each current and past Legacy proposal/project may be viewed at the Legacy Web site: [www.dodlegacy.org](http://www.dodlegacy.org).



A new **BIODIVERSITY** brochure is available, contact Mary Anderson (DSN 240-3808) for your copy.

Keep your eyes open -- ECC is working on their webpage with lots of new information and useful links. Any suggestions welcome.

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## CONFERENCES:

**17-19 May 2000.** 3<sup>rd</sup> National Mitigation Banking Conference, Denver CO. See sidebar for details. More information at: [www.terrene.org](http://www.terrene.org)

**9-12 Jun 2000** Annual Meeting of the Society for Conservation Biology, Missoula, MT. For more information check the conference website: <http://www.umt.edu/scb2000/>.

**8-10 Aug 2000.** BASH (Combined Canada and US), Minneapolis/ St.Paul International Airport (MSP), Minnesota. More information is available at: <http://www.birdstrike.org/meetings/mn.htm>

**6-10 Aug 2000.** Ecological Society of America, Snowbird UT. Communicating and Advancing Ecology focus. More information at: <http://esa.sdsc.edu/snowbird2000.htm>

Check out: <http://esa.sdsc.edu/meetingcal.htm> for an extensive list of NR related conferences and meetings.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### WETLANDS MONTH, May 2000

Every year in the month of May, WETLANDS are celebrated. There are a number of ideas and resources available for you to develop your own wetland awareness program. The Terrene Institute has an extensive list of environmental products (books, videos, educational resource kits, stickers, and much more).

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

### 3<sup>rd</sup> National Mitigation Banking Conference

This is a "how-to" conference on mitigation and conservation banking designed to foster a balanced approach to mitigation and conservation banking by connecting mitigation and conservation bankers throughout the country with entrepreneurs seeking to enter the field, those needing to mitigate wetland loss, conservationists, citizens, and federal, state and local policymakers and regulators.