



# NEWS RELEASE

## USDA Forest Service Northern Region



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Dr. Char Miller, Historian, Author, and Professor Kicks Off Forest Service 2005 Centennial**

Regional Forester Gail Kimbell announced today the first of several events being planned in commemoration of the upcoming Forest Service Centennial in 2005. In celebration of this historical event, the U.S. Forest Service and the National Museum of Forest Service History are sponsoring Dr. Char Miller in a presentation titled, 'The Greatest Good: 100 Years of Forestry in America.'

Dr. Miller will kick off the Forest Service Centennial at the University of Montana, Urey Lecture Hall, on Wednesday, September 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. (doors open at 6:30 p.m.), followed by a question and answer forum and a book signing opportunity.

"An entertaining evening is planned for those wanting to learn more about the U.S. Forest Service, and the environmental and political history that has shaped the agency, over the last 100 years," said Kimbell. "This is an opportune time to look back and reflect on our history, and the legacy that helped shape the American conservation movement of the early 1900's. It's also a time to look ahead to the future, and evaluate our mission and lessons learned in managing public lands," she said.

Miller, author of the award-winning *Gifford Pinchot and the Making of Modern Environmentalism*, offers a dynamic retelling of the origins of the Forest Service, the role of its founding chief, Gifford Pinchot, in its development, and suggests ways that the past continues to shape the present. Throughout the evening, Miller takes his audience on a journey as he weaves an exciting tale about the Forest Service's contributions to the nation and the controversies that swirled around its actions.

Dr. Miller is traveling around the country presenting the Centennial Road Tour for the U.S. Forest Service. The heavily illustrated presentation is one of 30 being given by Miller throughout the nation during the U.S. Forest Service Centennial year.

The presentation and parking are free. Parking is available in lots B, G, or the parking garage by the University library.

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**CHAR MILLER BIO INFO:** Char Miller is professor and chair of the history department at Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas. He is co-author of *The Greatest Good: 100 Years of Forestry in America*, and editor of *Fluid Arguments: Five Centuries of Western Water Conflict* and *On the Border: An Environmental History of San Antonio*. Miller, on leave in 2004-05 so that he can present the Centennial Road Tour for the US Forest Service, specializes in American environmental, social, and cultural history. He served as department chair from 1998 to 2004, and was named a Piper Professor for teaching excellence in 2002, a state-wide prize awarded by the Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation for excellence in teaching and service to higher education; in 1997, he was awarded the Dr. and Mrs. Z. T. Scott Faculty Fellowship for Excellence in Teaching at Trinity University. He has the M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Johns Hopkins University. A Senior Fellow of the Pinchot Institute for Conservation, he is a contributing writer of the *Texas Observer*, serves on the Editorial Board of *Environmental History*, *Pacific Historical Review* and the Trinity University Press, and is on the Board of Directors of the Forest History Society; in San Antonio, Miller is on an advisory board for the Witte Museum, and has served on the City of San Antonio's Open Space Advisory Board and its Tree Preservation Ordinance Panel.

*Gifford Pinchot and the Making of Modern Environmentalism*, first published in 2001, is the first Pinchot biography to be published in four decades. It has won five major awards and critical acclaim across the country. It is now available in paperback and is part of a new series from Island Press, entitled *Pioneers of Conservation*.

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