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**Sierra Club Helps National Puerto Rican Day Parade Go Green
Celebrating the Natural Beauty of Puerto Rico**

New York, NY: The Sierra Club today helped celebrate the natural beauty of Puerto Rico at the 54th annual National Puerto Rican Day Parade. The Sierra Club float, complete with the mountains of El Yunque National Forest, costumed leatherback turtles and other “animals” helped lead the parade, giving the millions of attendees a glimpse of the important natural treasures unique to Puerto Rico.

“We were thrilled and honored that the parade leadership accepted ‘Celebrating the Natural Beauty of Puerto Rico’ as this year’s theme,” said Orlando Negrón, president of the Puerto Rico Chapter of the Sierra Club. “Nature has so much to offer. Whether in Puerto Rico or elsewhere it’s something that everyone should enjoy and work to protect no matter where they live.”

The Sierra Club is working across the country, and in Puerto Rico, to help families explore and enjoy the great outdoors-- offering hikes and other excursions to connect people with unique and threatened wild places, like the Northeast Ecological Corridor.

Puerto Rico’s Northeast Ecological Corridor is one of the last remaining and most important U.S. nesting and breeding grounds for the endangered leatherback sea turtle. The Corridor’s beaches and waters grow more important to the turtles every year, as changes in climate alter the world’s oceans—washing away nesting beaches, shifting currents and raising temperatures which affect the gender of turtle hatchlings.

The Northeast Ecological Corridor also supports an extraordinary array of tropical habitats - from coral communities, mangrove, coastal pre-Columbian forests and a bioluminescent lagoon, which are home to more than 50 rare, threatened, and endangered species, some found only in Puerto Rico.

“The future of Puerto Rico’s beauty rests in our hands,” said Camilla Feibelman of the Sierra Club’s Puerto Rico chapter. “Whether we take action in the States or in Puerto

Rico, we have to protect the places we love so that future generations can enjoy them too.”

For more information please visit: www.puertorico.sierraclub.org

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