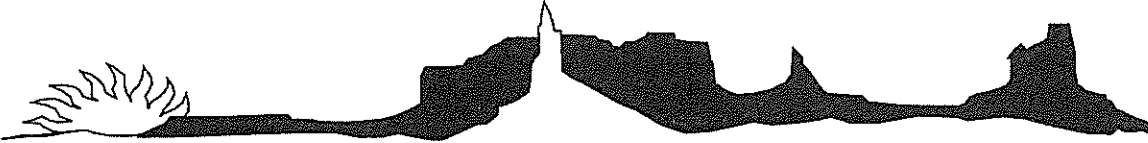


Rio Grande Sierran



November / December 2001

News of the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club

Rio Grande Chapter: What's Happening? What Can We Do?

by Jim Hannan

Chapter Chair

It has been a real honor to serve as the Chair of the Rio Grande Chapter since March. I have been very proud of the way that the Club has responded to the serious challenges posed by our new federal government. In particular, our Club has been tenacious in its response to the energy plan put forth by the Bush/Cheney team, and has had an incredible influence in the debate. Everywhere that President Bush went to sell his plan, our fellow Club members turned out in force. As a result, most Americans now distrust this administration on energy policy and agree with the Sierra Club that conservation has to be at the top of the list of energy solutions.

Here in New Mexico, the Chapter's four conservation campaigns continue to generate positive results. The Wilderness campaign is now moving forward with a tangible, realistic proposal to set aside a large tract in the Cabelon Peak area. The Club will seek to partner with other conservation groups and local partners to bring this area to the attention of Congress. Our Sprawl campaign in Santa Fe has had recent success with the passage of both the Highway Corridor Plan and the Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) ordinance by the Santa Fe County Board of Commissioners. We anticipate that other New Mexico jurisdictions will now look at TDR's as a way of promoting smart growth patterns. The Sand and Gravel campaign has entered a new phase, with the creation of a legislative task force to study the proposed legislation. The Club will continue to work closely with the State Land Office on this effort. Finally, the Water campaign will continue to track the many pressing water issues facing all of us in the Chapter. The Chapter and all five of our groups are all directly affected by issues of water quantity and quality from our common watershed.

We are always looking for volunteers

I urge you to step up your own level of commitment to the Club. We are always looking for volunteers, whether leading a hike or running for the Board. I also recommend that you increase your awareness by signing up for the Club's activist network. You can sign up by going to www.sierraclub.org, then going to the "take action" button. All members of the network receive a monthly issue of "The Planet", our activist newsletter.

Terrell Johnson: First Recipient Of Michael S. Currier Award

by Kevin Bixby

The New Mexico Community Foundation will present the first Michael S. Currier Environmental Service Award to wildlife biologist Terrell H. Johnson for his ornithological work, particularly efforts in New Mexico related to the peregrine falcon and other threatened and endangered species.

Johnson received the Currier Award at a presentation dinner on September 7 in Santa Fe.

"Terry Johnson epitomizes the qualities of humility, care and originality that characterized Michael Currier's environmental activism," said Fr. Robert Stark, Executive Director of the New Mexico Community Foundation, which administers the award on behalf of the Thaw Charitable Trust, its sponsor.

The Currier Award will be given not more often than every two years. It will honor an individual for the substance and originality of his or her contributions to the environmental health of the American Southwest. The honoree may work in any field of endeavor within the Four Corners states and the adjoining region of northern Mexico. A small committee, working anonymously, forwards nominations for the award to the community foundation and the sponsor. Unsolicited nominations will not be considered.

See *Currier Award* on Page 4

Chapter Meetings

by Jim Hannan

Chapter Chair

The Rio Grande Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) and Conservation Committee (ConsCom) will hold their quarterly meetings at the Sevilleta Wildlife Refuge on December 8th and 9th. We encourage Club members to attend these meetings.

The ConsCom meeting begins at 9:00 A.M. on Saturday and usually runs until about 3:00 P.M. The ConsCom will be reviewing the Chapter's four conservation campaigns: sand and gravel, wilderness, water and sprawl. The campaigns have now been in place for a year, so the ConsCom will evaluate their effectiveness. The ConsCom will then decide whether to continue these campaigns or select new ones.

In addition, the ConsCom will review ongoing conservation issues, including mining, wildlife and air quality. The ConsCom also offers an opportunity for Club members to bring up new conservation issues during its meeting.

See *Chapter Meetings* on Page 3

"Un-Canalizing" a River

Ecologically, the Rio Grande can't function without curves, at least not in the lower elevations of New Mexico and Texas.

It turns out that the river's twists and turns create a variety of water velocities, which in turn produce a mix of slow and fast water habitats, which in turn sustain the aquatic life that comprise the river's ecosystem.

**The river's twists and turns
create a variety of water velocities,
producing slow and fast water habitats,
which in turn
sustain the aquatic life that
comprise the river's ecosystem.**

Unfortunately, there is very little sinuosity remaining in the 200 miles of the river in southern New Mexico and west Texas.

Beginning in 1935, the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) straightened the river below El Paso as part of its "Rectification Project," reducing the river's length by nearly half in the process. Levees were built and the river's banks armored to confine the river to its new alignment.

See *UnCanalizing* on Page 5

The Wildland Urban Interface: Destroy a Forest to Save it? No!

by Sharon Galbreath

Executive Director

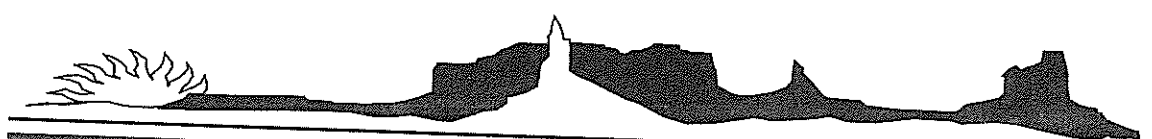
Southwest Forest Alliance

The Southwest Forest Alliance has started a Community and Forest Protection campaign with the goal of protecting forest wildlands from extreme thinning and restoration logging projects. In an effort to protect communities from forest fires, Congress has appropriated thirty-four million dollars of National Fire Plan money with the purpose

**Many existing logging projects
are being billed
as urban interface treatments**

of thinning three million of acres of forest lands in Arizona and New Mexico. The Community and Forest Protection campaign will ensure that these federal fire protection dollars get spent where they will be most effective.

See *Southwest Forest Alliance* on Page 5



Rio Grande Chapter Directory

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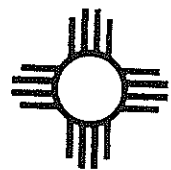
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Sierra Club Structure

The Club has three structural levels. The National Board of Directors determines the overall direction of the Club. The National Organization is subdivided into Chapters, and each Chapter is further divided into Groups. One representative from each Chapter reports to the National Board through the Council of Club Leaders.

The largest part of the Chapter's budget goes to the salary and expenses for Jennifer and a part-time lobbyist, followed by the printing and mailing of this Newsletter.



www.riogrande.sierraclub.org

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| | Roger Peterson | 983-7559 | rogpete@aol.com |

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- | | | | |
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| Inner City Outings | Ted Mertig | 915 852-3011 | tmertig@earthlink.net |

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Ted Mertig, Susan Martin
- Council of Club Leaders Delegate**
Barbara Johnson; Norma McCallan (alternate)

Sierran

- Editor** **John Buchser** 820-0201 jbuchser@earthlink.net
223 N. Guadalupe #419, Santa Fe, NM 87501 (email preferred!!)
- Advertising** OPEN

All phone numbers area code 505 unless otherwise noted.

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Make address changes by contacting Membership Services at 415 977-5649 or send member name and number to address.changes@sierraclub.org

Non-member subscriptions at \$10.00 per year are available. Send checks to Blair Brown, Treasurer; 2226B Wyoming NE, PMB 272, Albuquerque, NM 87112. Please allow 8 weeks for processing.

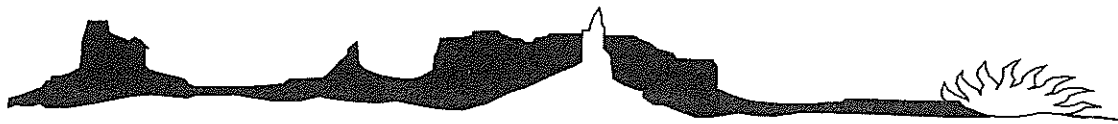
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Contributions are welcome from members. Email contributions preferred. Send to jbuchser@earthlink.net or mail to John Buchser, 223 N. Guadalupe #419, Santa Fe, NM 87501. All submissions MUST be received by the 10th of the month prior to publication. (The Rio Grande Sierran is published in early January, March, May, July, September, and November) Photos, artwork and poems are also welcome. Letters and articles are subject to abridgement.

Editorial practices as developed by the Grand Canyon Chapter and adopted by the Rio Grande Chapter will be used in production of the Rio Grande Sierran. Letters to the editor over 500 words will be edited for length or returned to the author for editing. Submissions of Rio Grande Chapter members will take precedence over other submissions.

Content of Group pages are the responsibility of the editor for that group and any policies that are in place from the applicable Group. Contact editor for advertising policy and rates.

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Maintaining our Values

Outing Outlook

by Norma McCallan

What a difference September 11 made to all our lives and outlook. In the midst of New York's great tragedy, heightened security measures, bombs falling on Afghanistan, and the threat of unknown future catastrophes, one thing is constant. Our beautiful land is there to provide solace, renewal of hope, and a sense of peace. I recently participated in a Sierra Service Trip in Colorado National Monument. I asked our ranger what he thought the effect of September 11 would be on the Parks. He answered simply, I expect even more visitors, because people will want to connect with the land and its unchanging majesty. It's a good time for those of you who perhaps have never come on an outing before to try one out, and get involved in making sure our special places stay that way. Below are listed a selection of outings from around our Chapter. Be sure and check the Group pages for more details on these, and additional outings. Call the leader to confirm the trip, and arrange time and meeting place.

All numbers are area code 505, except as otherwise noted.

Sat Nov 3 **Santa Fe Baldy**. Phil Somervell 473-4797. Strenuous hike for the robust up Santa Fe's highest peak, 14 miles r.t., 3000' elevation gain.

Sat Nov 3 **East Fork Of The Jemez**. Warren Steckle/Miriam Oudejens 672-0414. Easy/moderate hike along this scenic river in the Jemez Mountains.

Sat/Sun Nov 3-4 **Whitewater Creek Backpack, Gila Wilderness**. Rollin Wickenden rwickgila@aol.com. Moderate backpack, 7-8 miles, via the Powerplant Road, just below historic Mogollon. Lots of old mines & mining paraphernalia.

Sun Nov 11 **Embudo Canyon Trail/Three Gun Trail, Sandia Mountains**. David Ther 260-1553. Excellent conditioning hike, fine viewpoints, 7 miles r.t.

Sat Nov 17 **Cooke's Range Exploration**. Jim Scanlon 524-6723. Joint trip with NM Wilderness Alliance to check out this remote WSA, near Deming. Options range from an easy hike to an ambush site on the Butterfield Stagecoach Trail to a bushwhack to the top of spectacular Cooke's Peak.

Fri-Sun Nov 23-25 **Thanksgiving Gila Wilderness Backpack**. Laurence Gibson 915-594-7342. Excellent way to work off your turkey dinner on this moderatebackpack into Mogollon Creek, north of Cliff, NM.

The Day That Changed The World

by Jennifer Ferenstein

Sierra Club President
jen@wildrockies.org

Along with much of the world, Sierra Club volunteers and staff have struggled to come to terms with the tragic events of September 11th. I am proud of how our members have reached out to comfort one another and to regain a sense of meaning and hope. As individuals and as an organization, we share in an awareness of the pain and suffering that directly touches many, and indirectly touches all.

Recently, the Board of Directors met by phone to discuss how these events might affect the Sierra Club, and I'd like to share some of that conversation with you because it reflects our common vision for how to proceed in these times of uncertainty.

The core values that define us as Americans — tolerance, generosity, freedom and love of country — have not changed.

September 11th is being called "the day that changed the world." Even if much is different today, the core values that define us as Americans — tolerance, generosity, freedom and love of country — have not changed. Nor has the mission of the Sierra Club changed. Now is the time for these values to emerge stronger than ever as we pull together to heal the wounds and ensure that appreciation for community and our living planet endure.

Sun Nov 25 **San Miguel Ruins, Dome Wilderness**. Norbert Sperlich 983-1962. Strenuous hike to a remote section of Bandelier National Monument.

Fri-Sun Dec 7-9. **Bosque National Wildlife Refuge Carcamp**. Fred & Bev Hartline (call Warren Steckle 672-0414). The Hartlines are briefly returning to NM to do a repeat of their successful carcamp last winter at the Bosque. There should be lots of birds by then!

As part of the healing process, the Sierra Club is launching a new feature on their website called A SPECIAL PLACE. The goal is to give browsers an opportunity to share their special places in nature with each other. Big majestic places, or everyday places, a place that was special when you were growing up, or just last weekend. Check it out at www.sierraclub.org/specialplace.

As our nation makes plans for the future, environmental issues will continue to arise. The Sierra Club will engage in these discussions; we believe that protecting our air, land and water is a critical part of protecting our homeland. As policy-makers take up the nation's environmental agenda, we will continue to be vigorous, forceful and effective advocates for environmental protection.

And we will conduct our advocacy in a fashion and tone that helps Americans unite around our common environmental values.

Preserving and protecting the quality of our natural and human environments have been the Sierra Club's mission for 110 years.

We can, and will, disagree without being disagreeable, but our public lands, waters, air and wildlife must not be sacrificed by those who would choose to exploit the recent tragedies for short-term gain. Now is the time to put aside our narrow differences and work to create a legacy for the world's children that is safe, healthy and just.

Preserving and protecting the quality of our natural and human environments have been the Sierra Club's mission for 110 years. Today we reaffirm our commitment to this mission. Now, more than ever, we are dedicated to the defense of "America the Beautiful" our communities, our forests, wetlands and wilderness — and to the values infusing our international work and human rights campaigns. As we redouble our commitment, I ask you to share our resolve and to join us in our vigilance as we stand watch to protect the environment for our families, for our future.

Chapter Meetings from Page 1

The ExCom begins its meeting on Saturday afternoon and continues through Sunday morning. We try to finish by noon on Sunday. The ExCom oversees the Chapter's operations, including budget items, political endorsements and personnel matters. The ExCom also ratifies decisions made by the ConsCom.

Become acquainted with the activities and activists of the Club

Both meetings are open to all Club members. These quarterly meetings are a great way to become acquainted with the activities and activists of the Club here in New Mexico and West Texas. If you would like to attend, please contact Jim Hannan at 988-5760 for access information to the Refuge. There is also limited sleeping arrangements at the Refuge for Friday and Saturday nights.



Recognizing Excellence

Update on Energy Issues

by Gail Ryba

Chapter Energy Chair

The Rio Grande Chapter is working on both local and national energy issues.

National:

Since our own Senator Jeff Bingaman chairs the Senate Energy and Natural Resources committee, New Mexicans need to contact him to let him know we want the Senate to develop a good energy bill. The bill passed by the House last summer provides for drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Ref-

The bill passed by the House last summer provides for drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and subsidizes fossil fuels

uge and subsidizes fossil fuels and nuclear power. We want a bill that promotes renewables and energy efficiency, along with higher CAFE standards.

Contact Jennifer Degarmo, the local Sierra Club staff member in Albuquerque, to learn more.

Local:

The state of New Mexico is in a kind of limbo regarding deregulation of the electric utility industry, since deregulation was postponed for five years during the 2001 Legislative session. However, the Public Regulation Commission is pursuing new rules that will impact our power choices. This is the time for Sierra Club members to get involved in commenting on proposed rules in the PRC rulemaking process.

Meeting to Discuss Energy Issues

The Rio Grande Chapter is a member of the Coalition for Clean Affordable Energy, which is following the utility deregulation and

rulemaking process regarding renewable energy, stranded costs and other issues affecting our electric power choices in New Mexico. We are looking for folks willing to attend hearings of the NM Public Regulation Commission as they develop the relevant rules and policies. We'd like to develop a team of folks to go to these meetings, so that the job can be shared. To educate ourselves about the issues of the Renewable Portfolio Standards, Green Pricing, the System Benefits Charge and other relevant matters, please come to a meeting on Wednesday, November 14th, 7 p.m. Call 955-9578 for details on location.

Currier Award from Page 1

Michael S. Currier died in 1998 at the young age of 38. During his short life, he touched the lives of many other people through his philanthropy and his efforts relating to children, families, education, the environment, and other fields. The award honoring him carries a \$20,000 prize.

Johnson is a self-employed wildlife biologist who specializes in ornithology and lives in La Jara, N.M., with his wife, Jennifer Johnson, who is also an active conservationist. In 23 years of field work, he has documented much of what is known about the habitat and population dynamics of the peregrine falcon in the Southwest, the winter habitat and diet of bald eagles near Cochiti Reservoir, and the habits of the Mexican spotted owl in northern New Mexico.

His research has been indispensable to the development of management plans to protect those species and are contributing to broad reforms in public land management in northern New Mexico and the Southwest. Land managers use Johnson's research to develop management recommendations to protect raptors and improve their habitat for foraging and breeding.

Johnson's studies involving peregrine falcons address habitat characteristics, the effects of humans, aircraft and electric lines on peregrine behavior, and the relationship of breeding performance to the production of insecticides and peregrine population change. Johnson's work on spotted owls built on early surveys conducted by his wife, Jennifer, to develop ecological models to identify habitat

for management. His work on wintering bald eagles interrelated numbers, diet, and habitat.

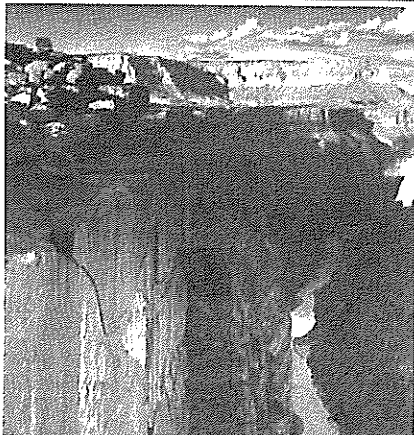
Johnson's contributions include innovations in the hands-off gathering and analysis of quantitative data on living wildlife populations and the development of mathematical models that quantify important habitat features to identify suitable habitat. He has also studied the effects of forest fires on avian populations.

Johnson holds a master's degree in physics from California Institute of Technology and a bachelor's degree in physics from Purdue University. He has consulted with most of the state and federal agencies that are responsible for land, water and wildlife management. Johnson also has been recognized for his work by the New Mexico chapters of The Nature Conservancy, which awarded him its Leopold Conservation Award in 1991, and of The Wildlife Society as Professional of the Year in 1991.

Currier founded the New Cycle Foundation in 1985 to reach out to underprivileged children through projects that gave inner-city youth a chance to strengthen their self-esteem. He later expanded his vision to include grants to international and human rights efforts, environmental causes and health research.

Currier moved to Santa Fe in 1989 and became involved in family issues, bringing his personal vision and leadership to efforts in community economic development, land conservation and energy efficiency. Most of his support was made through anonymous grants.

You Can Make A Monumental Difference!



Sierra Club members were instrumental in persuading President Clinton to declare Grand Canyon-Parashant a National Monument. Join us today and make a monumental difference.

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Backpack!



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STUDENT	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
LIMITED INCOME	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32

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Our Rivers and Forests

UnCanalizing from Page 1

Several years later IBWC did the same thing in southern New Mexico as part of its "Canalization Project." The purpose of these projects was to ensure efficient water deliveries, provide flood control and stabilize the international boundary.

These projects eliminated more than meanders. They destroyed essential fish habitat, and were a major reason (along with the annual dewatering of the river every winter since Elephant Butte Dam was built in 1916) for the disappearance of two-thirds of the native fish species in the river.

Management of the projects through the years has also been detrimental to the river. IBWC mows between the levees every year, preventing native (and non-native) riparian vegetation from becoming reestablished. In some areas it allows grazing of livestock. It also dredges the channel and stabilizes the banks with riprap. All these actions are inimical to a healthy river system.

Now, for the first time in its history, the IBWC is thinking seriously about other ways of managing the Canalization Project. The impetus is two fold. A 1996 study suggests the project may not be able to convey

its design flood, so the agency is proposing to raise or rebuild 56 percent of the levees. The agency also pledged in a 1998 agreement with Southwest Environmental Center (SWEC) to look at management actions that can support river restoration, including non-structural approaches to flood control.

An environmental impact study analyzing different management alternatives is currently under development. The public will have 45 days to comment on the draft EIS after it is issued (currently scheduled for November). The importance of this study cannot be overestimated. It will be impossible to restore the river to any significant degree of functionality and self-regulation without allowing it to reestablish a more natural meander pattern. It may be possible to do this within the existing levees in places, but more likely it will require setting back the levees or finding other ways to widen the effective floodplain, through the purchase of adjacent land or flood easements.

The Canalization Project EIS is a high priority for river advocates. We don't expect IBWC to restore the river by itself, but we do expect it to do its part. To date, IBWC has shown a reluctance to look outside the levees. Although the agency is leaning to-

wards a preferred alternative that calls for many ecological enhancements within the levees, it has yet to do the kind of analysis needed to understand what a restored Rio Grande would look like and how it would function. Nor has it done the hydrologic modeling needed to understand the potential for managing floods without raising levees, i.e. non-structural methods. Without these studies, we don't believe it can fulfill its legal requirements under NEPA and the 1998 agreement with SWEC. Any enhancements may end up being just expensive, short-lived band-aids.

The Alliance for the Rio Grande Heritage (of which the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club is a member) and SWEC are committed to helping IBWC come up with a management alternative for the Canalization Project that allows the agency to meet its legal obligations for water delivery and flood control, but also opens the door for restoring the Rio Grande ecosystem. Developing this alternative is probably not possible under the current time frame for the EIS. For this reason, we urging IBWC to delay issuance until the needed analysis can be completed.

For more info, contact the Southwest Environmental Center at 522-5552.

Southwest Forest Alliance from Page 1

The Southwest Forest Alliance is supportive of efforts focused on managing the Wildland Urban Interface to protect communities from the threat of forest fire. However, many projects seeking to take advantage of federal fire protection funds lack a clear definition of what constitutes the Wildland Urban Interface. Consequently, many existing logging projects are simply being billed as urban interface treatments to take advantage of available funding.

On Tuesday, July 31, 2001, in testimony before Congress, the U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO) released a report on the implementation of The National Fire Plan, which concludes that the Forest Service and other Federal Agencies are not organized to effectively and efficiently spend taxpayer dollars to protect forest communities from the risk of fire. The GAO Report supports the Southwest Forest Alliance position that National Fire Plan dollars should be targeted for projects that treat forests directly adjacent to communities, rather than restoration and logging projects that thin forests miles from any houses. Both the GAO Report and a May 24, 2001 Southwest Forest Alliance report, Protecting Communities from Forest Fires: Effectively Treating the Wildland-Urban Interface, point out the urgent need to identify and prioritize communities at risk from wildland fire and a thorough definition of the Wildland-Urban Interface in order to effectively and efficiently implement the National Fire Plan.

The Southwest Forest Alliance has reviewed the existing literature, and has found

that the scientific community and the Forest Service's own fire researchers have already defined the most efficient and effective ways to protect communities from forest fires. The Southwest Forest Alliance report explains that community protection depends on treating individual properties and creating a narrow but effective "defensible space" around houses and communities. This is the best way to protect houses and communities, and is by far the best use of the National Fire Plan money.

The seemingly benign and admirable effort to provide community protection poses a significant threat to biodiversity in the Southwest. Most proposed community protection projects make no clear distinction between forest restoration and thinning for fire protection. Consequently, these proposals lack the required ecological criteria necessary to protect important wildlife species and their habitats.

The Forest Service in Region Three (Arizona and New Mexico) has started a planning process to amend all eleven management plans for national forests in New Mexico and Arizona to modify standards and guidelines for the Mexican spotted owl and northern goshawk so that wildland-urban interface treatments can be implemented on a large scale. The current urban interface boundaries are so extensive that twenty-five percent of all Mexican spotted owl critical habitat areas will be impacted by these projects.

The forest plan amendment process will give environmental groups in the Southwest the opportunity to do public education and grassroots organizing around appropriate

community and forest protection efforts. The Southwest Forest Alliance Community and Forest Protection campaign will assist the public with participation in the forest plan amendment process and how to become involved in projects that will effect forest lands where they live.

The Forest Service is currently planning 750 projects which plan to thin a minimum of 150,000 acres in Arizona and New Mexico this fiscal year. In New Mexico the Forest Service is proposing to log unnecessary fuel brakes miles from Angel Fire; and log Mexican spotted owl habitat on the Lincoln National Forest. The Heber-Overgaard Ecosystem Management project on the Apache Sitgreaves National Forest in Arizona proposes to create twenty-five miles of fuel breaks, six hundred and sixty feet wide, primarily along forest roads that extend six to seven miles from the communities they are supposed to protect.

If you would like information on proposed projects adjacent to your community please contact Brian Nowicki at the Southwest Forest Alliance. Please visit the Southwest Forest Alliance web site at www.swfa.org to download a copy of Protecting Communities from Forest Fires: Effectively Treating the Wildland-Urban Interface and to learn more about Southwest Forest Alliance campaigns.

The Southwest Forest Alliance is a coalition of sixty-three environmental and community organizations in Arizona and New Mexico working together to protect old growth forests and restore damaged forest ecosystems and watersheds.



News from the Chair

Don Dearholt

The first Gathering of the Green was held on Friday, September 28, 2001, at Preciado Park on the NMSU campus, from about 5:30 until after 8:00 p.m. It was intended for all who are interested in conservation and environmental issues. Forty adults were in attendance, representing (at last count) fourteen conservation organizations having local presence. After a fine potluck dinner, time was provided for all organizations to describe their objectives and current projects, and thus facilitate the potential synergy from common interests; indeed, several points of common interest became evident as the discussion proceeded. It appears that a likely outcome will be to have monthly or bimonthly breakfast or lunch meetings of representatives from these organizations.

General Meetings

Executive Committee Meetings are typically the first Wednesday of the month--all members are welcome to attend. Call Cheryl at 524-4861 for time and place.

COMING EVENTS:

Outings

Baylor Pass Hike: Saturday, November 17. Over and back. This is a moderate rated day hike of about 12 miles. *Phone 522-4527 for departure time and place and to obtain more information.*

There is likely to be a cross-country skiing outing in January if there is interest and if weather and snow permit.

Potluck Party

December 14 6:00-9:00 p.m. at the Mesilla Visitor Center. The visitor center is located on the west side of Highway 28, just north of the stoplight on Highway 28 at Calle Parian/Boutz. This is a small building across from San Andres High School, in the middle of the block between Calle Parian/Boutz and Calle Santiago. Parking is adjacent and to the north of the building. Bring a dish and your own plate/utensils, we'll provide drinks. If you'd like to bring a reading having environmental interest, or a song to play or sing or lead, please do so. Interested persons and members are welcome! *Call Cheryl at 526-6220 (daytime) for more information/directions.*

Dog Canyon South of Alamogordo

December 8, Saturday, Moderate day hike; *call 522-4527 for meeting time and more information.*

Rabbit Ears Plateau in the Organs

January 12, Saturday, this is a strenuous day hike with off trail scrambling. *Call 522-4527 for more information.*

Cloudcraft Cross Country Ski Trip

January 26, Saturday, hope for snow! *Call 526-7811 for details.*

PROGRAMS

Thursday, Nov. 15: Watershed Problems in New Mexico Dr. Karl Wood, Director of the Water Resources Research Institute, NMSU. 7:00 p.m., SH 107, on the NMSU campus.

Thursday, Jan. 17: Border Environmental Health Problems in Southern New Mexico. Vicki Simons, Border Environmental Health Coalition, Inc. 7:00 p.m., SH 107, on the NMSU campus.

Group Directory

Southern N.M. Group
Executive Committee

P.O. Box 3705 UPB

Las Cruces, New Mexico 88003

Don Dearholt
Chair

522-3035

dearholt@cs.nmsu.edu

Margo Wilson

Vice Chair, Chapter Rep.

744-5860

margotwilson40@hotmail.com

Cheryll Blevins

Treasurer/Secretary

524-4861

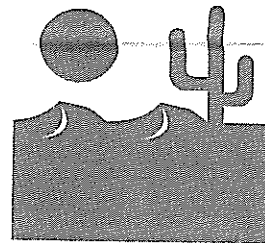
spotblev@earthlink.net

David Farrell

Legislative Issues

895-3352

dafarrell@hotmail.com



The Log--So.New Mexico Group News

BALLOT; IMPORTANT

Southern NM Executive Committee
Elections

RETURN BY DEC. 10 TO:

Southern NM Group Sierra Club

P.O. Box 3705

Las Cruces, N.M. 88003

Vote for as many as 4 (2 year terms)

member

1 2

Don Dearholt

Cheryll Blevins

_____ (write in)

_____ (write in)

your membership number(s)

1. _____

2. _____

Candidate statements:

Cheryll Blevins: I have been on the excomm since 1985, serving in various capacities as past chair and vice chair and currently, treasurer. Our membership in Southern NM has increased, but we still need for members to actively participate. Recent current events will bring the return of pressure to use and exploit resources on our public lands. However, opportunities are created to revive concerns from years past that focused on decreased reliance on foreign oil by supporting renewable energy, energy conservation, and new technology. Now would be an excellent time for members to become involved in issues they care about that will affect us nationally and locally. I hope there will be an active constituency here in Southern N.M. and that my contribution can help.

Don Dearholt: I was active in the SNMG, serving as chair and in other capacities, prior to departing for Mississippi in the summer of 1990, and have enjoyed immensely being back in the southwest for a little over a year. I'm interested in revitalizing the SNMG, and urge all who would like to help in this effort to call me (505-522-3035) to discuss ways we may work together in helping the SNMG reach its considerable potential. Your suggestions and energy are hereby solicited--please join us!



Group Directory

Pajarito Group of the Sierran Club

Ilse Bleck Chair	662-2358 ibleck@yahoo.com
Matt Heavner Vice Chair	829-3645 heavner@jemez.com
Carole Jacobson Sec./Treasurer	672-9579 abc.jacobson@worldnet.att.net
Chuck Pergler Conservation	661-6169 perNEPA@gateway.net
Fred Hartline	661-9031 fbhartl@earthlink.net
Abe Jacobson	672-9579 abc.jacobson@worldnet.att.net
Sallie McNulty	661-7174 mmcnulty@swcp.com
Ilse Bleck Chapter Representative	662-2358 ibleck@yahoo.com

General Meetings

All meetings are held in the upstairs rooms in Mesa Public Library at 7 PM and are open to the public. General meetings are on the first Wednesday, conservation meetings the second Wednesday, and excom meetings the third Wednesday.

Other Meetings:

November 7th:

Meet John Mack, the new Chief of Resource Management at Bandelier National Monument. He came to Bandelier from Yellowstone, where he became an expert on bison. He will speak to us on bison and bison management.

December 5th:

Dr. John Brown, Director of Los Alamos National Laboratory, will be the speaker at our general meeting. He will address the environmental work the Laboratory is involved in. A Question and answer period will follow his presentation.



Outings

November 3

Hike the East Fork of the Jemez River. For more information call *Miriam Oudejans and Warren Steckle*, 672-0414

December 7-9

Join Bev and Fred Hartline and Rainer Bleck for a reprise of the Pajarito Group's very successful weekend camping and birding trip last December to *Bosque del Apache*. The campground is car accessible, off the main road inside the reserve. Port-a-potties, picnic tables and fire grate available. The winter bird population should be well established by then. Camping is limited to the first 30 who sign up (others interested in joining the birdwatching activities can arrange for and stay in lodging in Socorro or other nearby communities). Imagine going to sleep and waking up among tens of thousands of snow geese and cranes! Be prepared for cold nights. Call 630-243-6494 or email fbhartl@earthlink.net for more information or to sign up. Note: you must register in advance, and we especially welcome knowledgeable birders.

Look under *Santa Fe Group* for more outings in northern New Mexico.

Notices:

You now can access The Pajarito Group's link on the Sierra Club web page at <http://riogrande.sierraclub.org/pajarito/>

Elections:

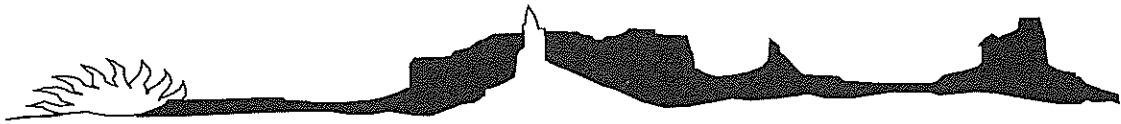
The Pajarito Group of the Sierra Club has seven ExCom members. Three of those will be carrying-over: Matt Heavner, Abe Jacobson, and Chuck Pergler. Four members will be seeking (re)election: Jody Benson, Ilse Bleck, Carole Jacobson, and Kim Manley. Their candidate statements follow:

Jody Benson: She got recruited to the Pajarito Group in 1997, and since then, has worked with local development and sprawl issues. Although her personal views are radical in that she prefers no open-space development at all, her goals are: to end sprawl onto public lands, guide new development to "brown fields" rather than breaking vacant lands, and help private-lands developers understand how they can enhance both their profits and the community's quality-of-life by building with a focus on the environment.

Ilse Bleck: I have been an active member of the Sierra Club for 25 years. I lived in Miami, Florida for 22 of those years, where I served as an outings leader and was responsible for the labeling and mailing of the monthly newsletter. In Los Alamos I am currently serving as chair of the Pajarito Group and as the group representative to the Rio Grande Chapter.

Carole Jacobson: The Pajarito Sierra Group offers an opportunity for action through volunteerism. The club could be pivotal in building bridges with the Forest Service and the Native American and Hispanic communities. For example, at a time of diminished funding, the Forest Service uses volunteers to alleviate a potential abuse of archaeological sites by recreational and traditional users. Beside road and canyon clean-up, and forest thinning, the Pajarito Group should be in a position to initiate other creative volunteer programs.

Kim Manley: Dr. Kim Manley, currently a teacher and consulting geologist in Los Alamos, has taught college-level geology courses intermittently for over 30 years and has been a mapping geologist for the US Geological Survey for 10 years. Her special interests include the geologic history of north-central New Mexico, the characteristics of Dinosaur gastroliths, geologic education, and the interrelationships of humans with the resources of their planet.



CENTRAL NEW MEXICO GROUP NEWS

New Threat to Petroglyph National Monument

With help from Mayor Jim Baca, Petroglyph National Monument has been protected from desecration, so far... Once newly-elected Mayor Martin Chavez takes office on December 1st, new threats are almost certain as he has already announced he will take action to push the road through as soon as he can.

WE MUST STOP THIS ROAD, BECAUSE....

1. It bisects a National Monument, which would set a precedent that could have dire consequences for the integrity of all our wonderful National Parks and Monuments.
2. It will cost the rest of us taxpayers a lot of money to build, money that even Mayor-Elect Chavez says the City doesn't have.
3. It will do little or nothing to lessen the traffic problems on the West Side, as all current residents live this side of the Monument.
4. If built, it will increase sprawl with the resulting deterioration of air quality and increased traffic caused by longer trips.
5. It desecrates a place of special religious significance to our Native American friends.

By the time you read this, the Club will be hard at work on our campaign to prevent this road.

We would really appreciate your help as we undertake this campaign. Here are some things you can do.

Call your City Councilors and tell them you are opposed to a road through the Monument.

- Call incumbent councilors Vince Griego (Dist 2), Brad Winter (Dist 4), Hess Yntema (Dist 6) or Greg Payne (Dist 8) at 768-3100.
- Call newly elected councilors Miguel Gomez (Dist 1), Eric Griego (Dist 3), Michael Cadigan (Dist 5), Sally Mayer (Dist 7) or Tina Cummins (Dist 9) after they take office on December 1st at the same number.

Contact Jennifer de Garmo, our Conservation Organizer, at 505-243-7767 or jennifer.de.garmo@sierraclub.org to join us.

Albuquerque Elects Pro-Environment City Council Candidates

by Richard Barish

The recent Albuquerque municipal elections yielded mixed results for the Club. Long-time Club member and environmentalist Jim Baca lost his bid for reelection as mayor of Albuquerque. Jim is truly one of us and will be greatly missed by those of us working on environmental issues involving the City. We wish Jim a lot of luck in whatever comes next. We know our paths will cross again further down the road.

Albuquerque municipal elections did yield a much more environment-friendly City Council. Club-endorsed candidates Eric Griego in District 3 and Miguel Gomez in District 1 both won their races. Another pro-environment candidate with whom the Club has much in common, Michael Cadigan, won in District 5. These new councilors could combine with incumbents councilors Hess Yntema and Vince Griego to create a pro-environment majority on many issues.

One of the pleasures of being involved in political issues on behalf of the Club is the opportunity to meet and work with Club members who care passionately about protecting the environment and who cheerfully sacrifice their precious free time to help elect pro-environment candidates. This election was no exception. Yemane Asmerom was the driving force behind the Club's work on the Baca campaign. Yemane was tireless in his efforts to organize activists and contact our membership to ensure that Jim got solid support from environmental voters. Yemane has been a long-time activist with Amnesty International, and it was a wonderful to have him employ his considerable talents and energy on behalf of the Club.

The Club also would not have been nearly as effective without the organization efforts of Club stalwart Susan Gorman. And thanks are due to all Club members who contributed their time to help in the Club's electoral efforts, which include Anna Ahlander, Jean Brocklebank, Blair Brown, Kathryn Chaney, Jennifer and Andrew de Garmo, Martin Heinrich, Julie Hicks, Cherrie Hoffman, Bob Langsencamp, Jim Lewis, Susan Martin, Michelle Meadors, Rosemary Molnar, Ann Paff, Dimitrios Pappas, Rose Rowan, Dave Simon, Eric Smith, Mary Lou Sorenson, Gwen Wardwell, Jon Weiss, and Susan Yacenda. I'm sure I've unintentionally omitted more than one member who worked for our endorsed candidates, but your efforts were greatly appreciated, one and all!

General Meeting Programs

Monday, November 19th at 7:30PM

MEXICAN WOLF INTRODUCTION

Join David Parsons, formerly of US Fish and Wildlife Service, and Director of the Mexican Wolf Introduction program. He will present a talk and slide show to bring us up to date on progress of the introduction efforts so far, and share his thoughts on the future of the program.

Where: The Unitarian Church at 3701 Carlisle NE, at the corner of Comanche, in the Social Hall.

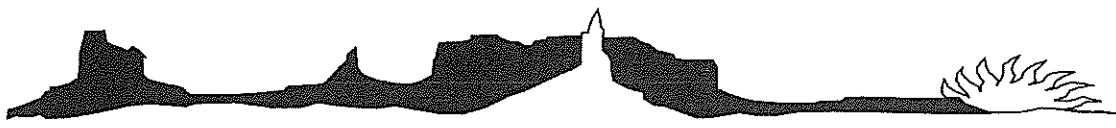
There will no General Meeting in December.

Drink the Rio Grande..? Slow Progress...

In past issues, we have reported on the progress of the City of Albuquerque's plan to divert water from the Rio Grande, treat the water in a new treatment plant and provide it to all of us through the City's water system.

At this time we can report continued but slow progress. We now understand that the release date for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the City of Albuquerque's Drinking Water project has slipped further to late November or early December. We don't know why but suspect it has to with the change of administration.

So, let's watch for the release notice in the newspapers or on the City's website (www.cabq.gov) and plan to be involved. It's important that we do this project right!



Executive Committee Elections

Ballots for both the Rio Grande Chapter and the Central New Mexico Group are included in this newsletter. They are located on the back of the outside page.

All Central Group members should vote for candidates for the Executive Committees of both the Rio Grande Chapter and the Central New Mexico Group. (You are a member of the Central New Mexico Group if the number 1701 appears at the top of your mailing label.)

Once the ballot has been marked, it should be mailed back to the Election Committee address listed on the ballot.

Candidate statements for the Central New Mexico Group candidate are below. Statements for the Chapter Executive Committee are presented elsewhere in this newspaper.

PLEASE VOTE. MAIL BALLOTS BY NOVEMBER 25th

Central New Mexico Group Candidate Statement

Richard Johnson

Richard Johnson (Rick) is a Professor of Rhetoric and Writing at the University of New Mexico. There, he teaches courses in writing, including nature and science writing. He also writes grants for the Storehouse, an Albuquerque food and clothing shelter.

Rick is particularly interested in changing the parameters of our usual dialogue about the environment. A convert of Aldo Leopold, he wants to figure out how to overturn the "resource management" ideology that drives much of business and government, replacing it with a more sustainable land ethic. He wants public figures to learn how to "think like a mountain."

The experience Rick would bring to the position are persuasion, public relations, fund-raising, and an ability to work with the media. He has lived in Albuquerque for seven years, and he sees water usage and sprawl as the primary issues facing Albuquerque and New Mexico. His ideal world would be one in which biotic concerns are a central feature of planning, not an afterthought or a "personal virtue."

Wilderness: Feeding the Soul, Calming the Spirit

By Sean Saville

In the 1920's, Will Dilg, founder of the Izaak Walton League, one of the oldest conservation groups in America wrote, "I am weary of civilization's madness and I yearn for the harmonious gladness of the woods and of the streams. I am tired of your piles of buildings and I ache from your iron streets. I feel jailed in your greatest cities and I long for the unharnessed freedom of the big outside." When times are tough and human spirits are heavy with the shocking images of hatred and aggression, many of us turn to nature to give us a fresh perspective. Sometimes fresh air, rustling aspen leaves, a breathtaking vista or a babbling brook is all the solace needed to ease a heavy heart. Getting out in a wild location we seem to remember the bigger picture where we are all connected to one another and to this great expansive natural world.

A Wilderness experience can be humbling and rightly so. After all, we do not control nature, we are merely guests in its vast splendor. Here in New Mexico we are lucky that we have so many great wild places to find solitude and a moment of clarity. Right in our own backyards in Albuquerque and Santa Fe we have easy access to the beautiful Sandia and Pecos Wilderness areas. It is in places like these that people find the sources of their inner peace. Wilderness areas and other remote wild lands offer humanity a chance to connect their spirits with those of the natural world. The existence of these places is especially important in times of tragedy or upheaval. There is something about being in a beautiful setting away from the noise and distraction of the city that calms the soul and forces one to look inside. Tranquility and solitude aid in introspection, which aids in coming to terms with the obstacles we face.

Wilderness areas play a key role in allowing humans the opportunity to learn about their wild heritage. Being in a wild location reminds us of our roots in this earth and why it is so important that we take an active role in advocating for the protection and continued responsible management of our wonderful Wilderness areas. In the spirit of patriotism it is our duty as Americans to speak up for the protection of the few remaining fragments of original America that instill pride in us all. Let's keep it wild and free.

Central New Mexico Group

PO Box 25342
Albuquerque, New Mexico, 87125-5342

Executive Committee (area code 505)

Blair Brown	259-7190	bbfairb2@aol.com
Steve Capra	843-8696	scapra@nmwild.org
Kellie Goudreau	232-3721	kellie@unm.edu
Martin Heinrich	232-7151	mtheinrich@aol.com
Edward Sullivan	259-5966	sully@nmwild.org

The Executive Committee normally meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7PM. We meet at various locations, so please contact one of us for the meeting location, or if you have issues you would like to discuss. The meetings are free and open to all members.

Project Leaders (area code 505)

Conservation Chair		
Steve Capra	843-8696	scapra@nmwild.org
Membership	Open	
River Issues		
Richard Barish	232-3013	rdbarish@aol.com
Outings		
David Ther	260-1553	grelbik@worldnet.att.net
Programs	Open	
Water	Open	

The Central New Mexico Group of the Sierra Club depends on the efforts of volunteers.

To join us, give any of us a call.

Volunteer Opportunities

Programs Organizer - Someone who could help us organize our monthly General Membership meetings. The more interesting tasks are finding interesting programs and coordinating with presenters, but you can also help writing the radio announcements and providing them to the radio stations, and preparing and mailing the postcard we send our members. No experience is necessary and we'll help you get going.

Office Helper - Folks who can spare a couple of hours a week to pickup our mail and direct it to the proper people. We will show you what to do. It's not hard and you can work on your own schedule. Great way to learn about the Club and the issues we're all working on. Contact Steve Capra, 232-3721, scapra@nmwild.org or Blair Brown, 259-7190, bbfairb2@aol.com

Outings

Saturdays, November 3rd and 10th: Desert Exploratory Hikes
Come and visit some of New Mexico's most incredible and beautiful landscapes hidden in its desert places. Strangely eroded and colorful rocks, badlands, precipitous cliffs, outstanding vistas, mysterious narrow and winding canyons, archeological sites, petrified forests and other fossils, historic inscriptions, stone tools, pottery, pictographs and petroglyphs are some of the discoveries we have made on the Desert Exploratory Hikes in the past.

These hikes are not physically difficult, but will require a sense of adventure on the part of participants. There will rarely be a trail and the route will be very rocky and uneven at times. Sometimes we scramble over rock surfaces (non-technical climbing) and walk narrow ledges, but this is quite often optional. Typical distance traveled is between 4 and 8 miles and we usually gain less than 1000 ft. of elevation.

These are joint outings with Outdoor Adventures for Singles. Meeting time will vary from 8:30AM to 10AM at Smiths, on Carlisle and Menaul, nearest to Carlisle.

Contact leader as early as previous Wednesday for info on specific hike location and meeting time.

Contact Tom Petencin at 271-9928 or tompeten@juno.com

Sunday, November 11: Embudo Canyon to Three Gun Spring Trail, Sandia Mountain Wilderness. Moderate hike to fine viewpoints.

Depending on conditions, may go as far as Oso Pass. Approx. 7 miles round-trip, with 2000 ft. elevation gain.

Contact David Ther at 260-1553.

Sunday, December 2: Pino Trail to Sandia Crest,

Sandia Mountain Wilderness. Good exercise hike to great viewpoints.

Approx. 6 miles round trip, 2500 ft. elevation gain. If there is snow on the Pino Trail, we will hike into nearby Domingo Baca Canyon.

Contact David Ther at 260-1553.

Sundays, December 2nd, 9th and 23rd: Desert Exploratory Hikes (see above for details)

Central New Mexico Group News

Editorial by Laurence Gibson

"Earth to Reyes, Earth to Reyes"

We see that you're out there! We hear you well!

Can you hear us?



The Executive Committee of the El Paso Regional Group of the Sierra Club has been trying to meet with Representative Sylvestre Reyes for months now. His staff is very cooperative in all ways: answering our calls, returning our calls, even offering to meet with us themselves. We've actually had a couple dates set which were then cancelled for emergencies. And, it appears we're not alone in our frustration at not being able to meet face-to-face with the Congressman. Our friends at the Central Labor Union have on several occasions found themselves meeting with aides when they expected Reyes himself.

Why do we feel it's important to speak personally with our Representative? Well, even if we had nothing to say, we *are* the local representatives of the most powerful environmental organization in the nation. But, we *do* have *several* things to say to our Congressman.

- Volunteers representing the people deserve a place at the discussion table with the pros.
- His votes on drilling the Alaskan National Wildlife Refuge are unacceptable.
- Our nation's energy plan needs reorientation toward renewable resources and higher corporate average fuel economy (CAFE) standards.
- We do not like what the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) has done to El Paso. We will not accept an expansion of this sacrificial act to our whole nation.
- Short-circuiting the power of Congress with Fast Track Authority for the President in the name of unity in these troubled times would enable NAFTA to morph quickly into the Free Trade Area of the Americas, an insidious assault on America's sovereignty.

We're happy that Mr. Reyes is achieving national and international recognition. However, we expect he will still have time to meet with the little people he represents.

Colonia Water Issues Hit Home

by Jose M. Escobedo

El Paso Water Utilities faces many challenges in securing a future water supply for the city: some technical, some social, all financial. The EPWU's plans for desalination, importation, and reclamation all carry a hefty price tag. Implementing these plans translates into a 100% increase in your water bill within the next ten years. It will be the poor in our midst, however, who will pay the biggest price for water.

Some of the poorest people in our community live in unincorporated parts of the county called *colonias*. There are an estimated 188 colonias in the county, with approximately 70,000 residents. Some families have water hookups, but thousands of people live without. Due to differences in water districts and methods of distribution, the colonia residents that do have water are paying an average of twice as much as a city ratepayer. What will they pay ten years from now?



The colonia water issue outing was a three-hour driving tour of Sparks and College Park, with two stops in the homes of residents for discussion. The stories we heard were about the struggles that thousands of waterless people have had to go through. More than that, their stories were of perseverance and pride in their communities.

At the end, our group discussed the relevance of the tour in light of the Sierra Club's mission. It became apparent that the Club should continue to speak and act against unscrupulous developers that contribute to this senseless type of urban sprawl. Another, very practical, suggestion was that the Club should focus on encouraging more aggressive conservation measures within city planning, as well as within the home. It was understood that extending the life of the rapidly-depleting aquifer would mean an extension of today's relatively low water rates.

LORAX Editor Wanted

After five years of publishing monthly issues of the *LORAX* and the bi-monthly El Paso sections of the *Sierran*, Sally Savage is ready to move on to other types of volunteer work. "I moved to El Paso in 1995 without knowing anybody or anything in the area," she said. "I decided that the best way to find out what's going on was to help out. It's been a great experience. I know that our next editor will also find the experience rewarding."

If you want to make your voice heard in helping the environment, contact Laurence Gibson at (915) 594-7342 and get involved.

Outings (Area Code 915)

Oct 28: North Franklin Peak Day Hike

Place: Franklin Mountains State Park
 Class: Moderate +
 Length: 8 miles
 Elevation gain: 2,500 feet
 Leader: Terry Sunday: 584-9301 (H)
 From the trailhead in the Tom Mays Unit of Franklin Mountains State Park, we will ascend the 7,192-foot summit of North Franklin Peak via Mundy's Gap and an endless series of steep switchbacks up the eastern slope to unparalleled views.

Nov 4: McKittrick Canyon Colors Day Hike

Place: Guadalupe Mountains National Park
 Class: Easy
 Length: 7 miles
 Elevation gain: None
 Leader: Carolina Greenfield: 594-7342 (H)

Don't miss the fall foliage at our nearest national park! Early Sunday we'll make the two-hour drive to McKittrick Canyon for a leisurely walk to the Grotto, where we will have a picnic.

Nov 3-4: Powerhouse Access Road, Whitewater Creek Backpack

Place: Gila Wilderness and National Forest east of Glenwood, New Mexico
 Class: Moderate
 Length: 7-8 miles
 Elevation loss: 2,000 feet
 Leader: Rollin Wickenden: rwickgila@aol.com

It has been a long while since we approached the wonderful old powerhouse site from this angle. We will hike in on the Powerplant Road just below historic Mogollon, climbing 300 feet up over the Gold Dust ridge, then descending 1,300 feet to Whitewater Creek at the Powerhouse. We'll camp near the Powerhouse and hike out Sunday on the famous "Gold Dust" trail.

Nov 11: Achenbach Canyon Day Hike

Place: Organ Mountains East of Las Cruces
 Class: Moderate
 Length: 5 miles
 Elevation gain: 1,400 feet
 Leader: Dave Robertson: 598-7554 (H)

The Organ Mountains hold many secret places and Achenbach Canyon is one of those. Within just a few steps one can disappear from the city up a grassy canyon, over a ridge, and into a quiet, hidden, streambed featuring dry waterfalls and beautiful rocks. Bring Fido(a).

Nov 17: Cookes Range Exploration

Place: BLM Wilderness NE of Deming, NM
 Class: Easy to strenuous
 Length: 3-8 miles
 Elevation gain: 0-2,000 feet
 Leader: Jim Scanlon: (505) 524-6723 (H)

Sierrans are invited to join our friends at the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance for this exploration of the Cookes Range. You can walk back in history to the site of a stagecoach ambush on the famous Butterfield Trail, explore the ruins of Fort Cummings, or get a workout bushwhacking up to the summit of spectacular Cookes Peak. Jim will present our October General Meeting program.

Nov 23-25: Thanksgiving Gila Wilderness Backpack

Place: Mogollon Creek north of Cliff, New Mexico
 Class: Moderate
 Length: 14 miles
 Elevation gain: 1,400 feet
 Leader: Laurence Gibson: 594-7342

This backpack will begin early Friday morning from the 916 Ranch trailhead north of Cliff, NM. Saturday will be about the same



distance, but more of a challenge as we climb out of the gorge, traverse over to the West Fork of the Mogollon, climb 900 feet out traversing east again, and drop down the slippery trail into Rain Creek to camp. Sunday morning we'll walk 2 miles to the vehicles.

Nov 25: B-36D Bomber

Crash Site Day Hike
Place: Franklin Mountains State Park, El Paso
Class: Moderate (rock scrambling)
Length: 2 miles
Elevation gain: 1,000 feet
Leader: Terry Sunday: 584-9301 (H)

On December 11, 1953, a huge ten-engine United States Air Force B-36D bomber crashed in the Franklin Mountains while trying to land at Biggs Air Force Base in a snowstorm. None of the nine crew members survived the crash. In some places, the soil still shows signs of the fuel-fed fire that raged here. It's a steep, rugged off-trail scramble up a rocky gully. Wear good boots and be prepared for scratches and abrasions.

The Tax Hike

Date: September 25, 2001
Place: El Paso, Texas
Class: Moderate
Elevation gain: 11.8%
Leader: Mayor Ray Caballero



This trip is only the first of several needed to transform El Paso into a world-class city. All that this particular hike will accomplish is restoration of services that have been trimmed away over the past years. It will cost a middle class citizen hiker about \$6 a month. It is hoped that later trips down this road will fund a city-wide bike path system, a park at the Jobe Quarry on the mountain, open space at the entrances to the city, and a population center downtown with Austin and San Antonio-type quality-of-life perks! How much per month would that be worth? Contact the leader soon if interested.

Inner City Outings

by Mary Lou Parker

50-Mile Bicycle Ride Tops ICO Summer Activities

Getting teenagers up for a bike ride that begins at 6:30 on a Sunday morning is quite a trick, but two youngsters set out for their longest bicycle trip yet on September 30 for the Chile Pepper Challenge. The Inner City Outings (ICO) boys were part of 300 riders in the event sponsored by the El Paso Bicycle Club. While that pair started out with the elite adult cyclists, two more youths showed up for a 21-mile ride with leaders Richard Rheder, Ed Macbeth, and Lisa Tomaka. Fortunately their start time was 9 AM.

This event was the culmination of a busy bicycling summer for ICO, an outreach organization of the Sierra Club. Nine biking trips with the Children's and Adolescents' Mental Health Program Services unit (ChAMHPS) of the Life Management Organization this summer prepared these boys (and eight others who were unable to attend) for El Paso's biggest bicycling event.

Special thanks goes to Lisa, Ed and Ann Macbeth, James Herrera, Mary Lou Parker, and Richard Rheder for their ability to withstand "cactus encounters", beginning bicyclists' daring-do, and the summer's sun and unrelenting heat. An even bigger thanks goes to Crazy Cat Cyclery, which kept the bicycles tuned up and ready to go. The El Paso Bicycle Club was also generous enough to allow ICO members to join their "beginner rides" with Ted Wehmeyer, Patty Chamales, and June Walton as especially patient leaders.

Annual Holiday Party December 2

Especially in turbulent times, it's important to gather with old friends and give thanks for the bounty we share in the United States. Let's make the 2001 annual Holiday Party really special. We'll gather at 4 PM on December 2 for a potluck at UTEP's Alumni Lodge. Details will follow in the next LORAX.

The Lorax - El Paso Group

Sierra Club - El Paso Regional Group Directory (Area Code 915)

<http://texas.sierraclub.org/elpaso>

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Web Master

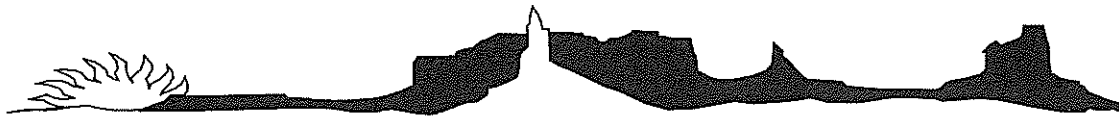
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John Sproul: 545-5157
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Wilderness/Parks/Refuges

Ted Mertig: 852-3011
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SANTA FE GROUP MEETINGS

Tuesday, November 20, 7 PM

THE BLACK BEAR IN NEW MEXICO

This fall black bears have been major news in Northern New Mexico, and many of us even saw one near our homes or fields. Over 200 of those bears were killed by landowners, field officers or automobiles. One woman was reported to have been killed and a Boy Scout injured in separate attacks. The Game & Fish Department was asked urgently for answers and solutions. The Game & Fish Commission was convinced the answer lay in drastically reducing the bear population. Environmentalists believed the answer lay in not attracting bears to unprotected garbage and other food sources in the first place. Is there a "right" answer? Is the population out of control? What can we expect in the future?

Bill Dunn, Supervising Biologist for the Predator and Gamebird Section of NM Game & Fish, will try to answer some of those questions. He will also share the results from the just-released study of black bear ecology in New Mexico. Commissioned in 1991 and issued this last September, this definitive analysis of black bears in New Mexico was conducted by the Game & Fish Department and the Hornocker Wildlife Institute. From it should emerge a true management plan for the black bear in our state.

All those interested in how we share space with animals high up on the food chain should be sure to attend this presentation. As Bill said recently, "Sometimes I envy the shark biologists in Florida."



All meetings, outings, and activities are FREE and open to the public.

Membership meetings are held at the Unitarian Church
107 W. Barcelona St (between Galisteo and Don Gaspar).

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

Doug Fraser

We had a successful yard sale on October 6. Particular thanks to Norma McCallan for her organizing skills, as well as to all her volunteers, and grateful thanks to Carol Owens for hosting the event at her home. Please take note of the Holiday party on Saturday, December 15, at the Commons on West Alameda. We have always had a very successful event and I fully expect another this year.

Vote for both your group and your chapter officials by November 30 - the ballots are included at the end of the newsletter.

Finally and most importantly, please write Senator Bingaman and ask for his support on America's Red Rock Wilderness Act, SB 786, which is comprehensive, involves the whole state and will protect over 9 million acres of Utah's premier landscape. Also ask Senator Bingaman to oppose the Pilot Peaks bill, HB 2488, since this bill is the weaker of the two and the area is already included in the more comprehensive Senate bill. Please send a thank you note to Representative Tom Udall who is on board on both these issues.

WATER IN SANTA FE

In the continuing discussions within the City and the County, there needs to be more respect given to the community at large rather than listening to the noise and fixing the "squeaky wheel."

Yes, there is water in the Rio Grande we can use. We would be wise to use some of that water when there is enough snowpack. We cannot continue to consume our aquifers without pronounced effects on both us and our neighbors. But we cannot use all the water in the river without pronounced effects on the river.

Yes - change is hard, and if you are a decision maker, there is much pressure from many directions. Water planners are looking hard at drawing the San Juan-Chama water that has been diverted into the Rio Grande and others at acquiring rights from farms both up and down the Rio Grande. Any diversion deserves an integrated examination and must be examined in the context of a single environmental impact statement.

Several resources are available to learn more. The League of Women Voters here in Santa Fe has recently completed a summary and assessment of various water plans that have appeared over the last few years. Give them a holler at 982-9766. Judy Stevens of The Santa Fe Land Use Resource Center has also developed an excellent study of water options for Santa Fe. Their web site is www.sflurc.com or you can call them at 982-4732.

... John Buchser, Water Issue Committee Chair, Santa Fe Group

ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

Saturday, December 15, 6 - 9 PM

The Commons, 2300 West Alameda
(at the SW corner of Camino Carlos Real)

This year the holidays will have more importance in our lives than ever. Use our annual potluck holiday party as an opportunity to give thanks for our old friends and meet new people and to help you renew your commitment to the environment and our great country. Please invite family and friends. For each person coming to the party, bring eight servings worth of one of the following: appetizer, main dish, casserole, vegetable, meat dish, salad, bread, dessert. If you are not into cooking, bring wine, beer or fruit juice. This is a beautiful, fully equipped kitchen, and there is an oven for warming, a refrigerator, serving dishes, plates, silverware, etc.

Call host Ken Hughes (474-0550) or Norma McCallan (471-0005) if you have questions. After supper, we will have a big treat ...

NATIVE AMERICAN SACRED PLACES: Stories on the Wind

For thousands of years, American Indians lived in harmony with a landscape that connected them to their Creator. From the teaming abundance of the Olympic rainforest to the steaming Everglades, from high desert mesas across the mountains where the sun rises over gray-blue ocean, they carved their memory into secret places.

This program by Sierrans and Santa Feans Charlotte and Lorrain Meares creates awareness that sacred places everywhere are endangered and may become little more than stories on the wind.

Charlotte, a former editor and published author, has a financial planning practice in Santa Fe. Lorrain is an internationally recognized photographer who has created images for numerous publications, including a Special Edition Calendar for the Sierra Club.

CONSERVATION CHAIR

Cliff Larsen

MORE ON BLACK BEARS

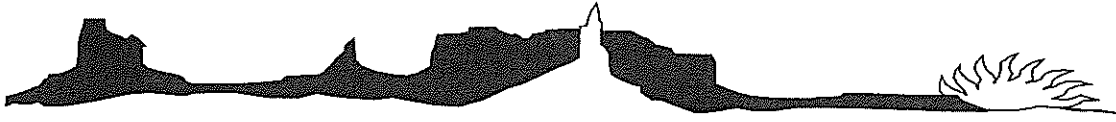
On September 21, the New Mexico Game & Fish Commission met in Albuquerque to decide the fate of the belcaugered black bear in our state; however, the bear did not fare well at their hands. With credit to the Game & Fish Department, sound recommendations were made and supported by a broad base of evidence and expert opinion. The issues of spring hunting and a pursuit season were excluded from those recommendations.

What we got from the visibly bored and inattentive commissioners was perhaps worse. The hunting season for black bear in 2002 will start August 1 instead of October 1. Thus, instead of a pursuit season in which bears are treed but not killed, we will have a full-blown rifle season. August and September are those critical periods when bears need to fatten to survive the winter and have enough energy to support successful pregnancies. Additionally for the hikers and campers among us, we will have rifle hunters and dog packs sharing the forest in a dangerous way.

If you are interested in bear or other predator issues, plan to come to our Tuesday, November 20, general meeting. Bill Dunn, Supervising Biologist in the Predator and Gamebird Management Section of the NM Game & Fish Department, will share the results of the long-awaited bear report. As they say in the movies, "It was ten years in the making." We may also have an opportunity to get a glimpse into the future of non-human predators in our state.

YARD SALE A SUCCESS

Beaucoup thanks to all of you who brought in items to sell, and to the volunteers who helped with this recent event, including Bernard Preskin, Lionel Sorrao, and Priscilla Fields who priced items the afternoon before; Doug & Kathy Fraser, Eleanor Eisenmenger, Jan Kindel, Carol Szpakowski, Paul Golding, and Priscilla, Bernard, and Bob McKee who set up and/or tended the sale; and to Virginia Westray and Toni Duggan who each offered a vehicle for pickups. And especially we are grateful to Carol Owens, who provided her driveway and garage as well as her warm hospitality and long hours of pricing and selling. Re-using and recycling help our community, lessen the impact on landfills, and save resources, as well as being a source of funding for our Group. Again, thanks to all ... Norma McCallan, Chair, Yard Sale



SANTA FE GROUP OUTINGS

Sat Sun November

- 3 **Very Strenuous Hike** to Santa Fe Baldy, 14 miles, 3600' gain. Phil Somervell (473-4797)
- 4 **Easy/Moderate Hike** on Frey Trail in Bandelier, 6 miles, 600' gain. Leave 9 AM from office or call leader to meet at McDonalds in White Rock at 10 AM. Victor Atyas (438-9434)
- 10 **Easy Bird Walk** - bring binoculars. Ron Duffy (982-2890)
- 11 **Moderate Hike** Atalaya Mountain in town, 7 miles, 1800' gain. Leave 9:30 AM. Heather Liston (982-9715)
- 17 **Easy Hike** Cerrillos Hills County Park. 4 to 5 miles, not much elevation gain. Dogs allowed. Leave 9 AM. Robert McKee (672-3426 or 471-0005 after Friday afternoon)
- 18 **Strenuous Hike** to Rancho Viejo, 11.5 miles, 2300' gain. Leave 9 AM. For reservation, David Bryant (505-757-3477)
- 24 **Easy Hike** on the new DALE BALL NORTH SECTION trail loop in Santa Fe's foothills. Dogs on leash OK. Leave 9:30 AM. Norma McCallan (471-0005)
- 25 **Strenuous Hike** to San Miguel ruins in Dome Wilderness, Bandelier, rough terrain. Norbert Sperlich (983-1962)



Outings Notes - Unless otherwise noted, all outings leave from the Sierra office, 621 Old Santa Fe Trail, "Plaza Desira," just south of Kaune's Grocery at the corner of Old SF Trail and Paseo de Perilla. Carpooling will be arranged. Each hiker should come prepared to pay \$5 a mile to the driver of the car in which s/he rides. Bring a lunch, water, sturdy hiking boots or shoes, and clothing suitable for the weather - leader reserves the right to turn away anyone whose equipment or experience appears unsuitable. Leader has right to alter destination of hike or cancel trip due to weather, unfavorable conditions, or insufficient numbers of participants. Unaccompanied minors must have written permission from parents or guardians to participate; permission forms are available at the Sierra Club office. Dogs not permitted on hikes unless noted otherwise. Telephone leader for details of the individual hike. To participate, you will need to sign a liability waiver. If you would like to read a copy of the waiver, see <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms>

Sat Sun December

- 1 **Moderate/Strenuous Hike** to Queen Mary Mesa/Otowi Mesa. Rough terrain, some scrambling. Leave 9 AM. For reservations, call Steve Markowitz (1-505-797-5833).
- 2 **Easy/Moderate Hike** in Cerrillos Hills. Meet at 9 AM in front of Walgreens, Villa Linda Mall. Victory Atyas (438-9434)
- 2 **Easy Mountain Bike Trip** to the Caja del Rio. 18 miles RT, 400' elevation gain. Leave 9 AM. For reservation, call Michael DiRosa (663-0648)
- 8 **Beginners Snowshoe Hike** near Ski Basin, if there is snow. For details call Marsha Skillman at work (983-7323).
- 8 **Moderate Hike** Leave 9 AM. Heather Liston (982-9715)
- 9 **Petroglyph Hike** with Rock Art Expert and Author Dennis Slifer to Petroglyph Hill in Galisteo Basin. Easy hike to site, but tough terrain at the petroglyphs. Some scrambling required. Wear hiking boots. Leave 9 AM. Reservations Norbert Sperlich (983-1962)
- 15 **Moderate X-Country Ski Trip** if there is snow, otherwise **Moderate Hike**. Dogs okay if hike. Leave 9 AM. Lionel Soracco (983-6715)
- 15 **Moderate Mountain Bike Trip** into Cochiti Canyon. 16 miles RT, 1300' climb. Leave 9 AM. Michael DiRosa (663-0648)
- 16 **Moderate Hike**, dogs okay. Tobin Oruch (820-2844)
- 22 **Easy Loop Hike** at Nun's Corner, snow conditions permitting. One steep hill. Dogs okay. Leave 9:30 AM. Norma McCallan (471-0005)
- 23 No hike leader available.
- 29 **Easy Bird Walk** - bring binoculars. Ron Duffy (982-2890)
- 30 **Moderate Hike** in Caja del Rio. Norbert Sperlich (983-1962)

**PLEASE ALWAYS CALL THE OUTINGS LEADER
PRIOR TO A HIKE
FOR CONFIRMATION AND DETAILS.**

Santa Fe Group News

*For additional outings in northern New Mexico,
please check the Pajarito Group page(s) in this newsletter.*

Santa Fe Group of the Sierra Club
621 Old Santa Fe Trail, Suite 10, Plaza Desira, Santa Fe, NM 87505
505 · 983-2703

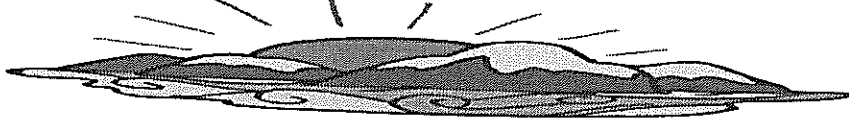
GROUP COMMITTEE MEETING DATES

Group Executive Committee:	Group Conservation Committee:
Tuesday, December 4, 6:30 PM	Tuesday, November 27, 7 PM
Tuesday, January 8, 6:30 PM	Tuesday, December 18, 7 PM
Water Pot-Luck (John Buchser's house [820-0201]):	
Monday, November 12, 6:30 PM	
Monday, December 10, 6:30 PM	

RIO GRANDE SIERRAN NOW ON THE 'NET' !!
<http://www.riogrande.sierraclub.org/santafe/home.html>

Sat Sun January 2002

- 5 **Moderate X-Country Trip** if snow is good, otherwise **Moderate Hike**. Dogs okay if hike. Lve 9 AM. Lionel Soracco (983-6715)
- 6 **Moderate Hike**, dogs okay. Tobin Oruch (820-2844)
- 12 **X-Country Ski Workshop** for skiers with limited experience who want to improve their techniques, including downhill, speed control and confidence in backcountry touring. If time allows, lessons will be followed by a short ski tour. Call by Thursday, January 10. Gordon Spencer (672-3707)
- 13 **Moderate Snowshoe Trip** near Ski Basin. Marsha Skillman at work (983-7323)
- 19 **Moderate/Strenuous Hike** in Ojito Wilderness Study Area, road conditions permitting. Off-trail hiking, some rough terrain. Steve Markowitz (1-505-797-5833) or Norbert Sperlich (983-1962)
- 20 **Easy/Moderate Hike** on Rail Trail from Highway #285 to 9 Mile Road (with car shuttle). 7 miles total. Dogs okay. Leave 9:30 AM. Norma McCallan (471-0005)
- 26 **Easy Bird Walk** - bring binoculars. Ron Duffy (982-2890)
- 26 **Easy Mountain Bike Trip** on West Rim Trail, overlooking the Taos Box. Flat terrain, great views. 19 miles RT. Leave 9 AM. Michael DiRosa (663-0648)
- 27 **Petroglyph Hike** with Rock Art Expert and Author Dennis Slifer. Call Norbert Sperlich (983-1962)



♦ ♦ SANTA FE GROUP OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS ♦ ♦

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Vice-Chair — Barbara Johnson *	466-4935 ljnah3@aol.com	Mining — Cliff Larsen *	466-2128
Secretary/Treas — Lionel Soracco	983-6715	Water-John Buchser *	820-0201 jbuchser@earthlink.net
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Phone Tree — Dee Sands	455-3005	Activist Outings-Norma McCallan *	471-0005 nmccallan@mindspring.com
Chapter Rep — Doug Fraser *	474-7615	Growth—Eleanor Eisenmenger *	820-6401
Outings — Norbert Sperlich	983-1962	Paul Paryski *	992-1984 pparyski@aol.com
— Tobin Oruch	820-2844 oruch@lanl.gov		

* Member of the SF Group Executive Committee



CANDIDATE STATEMENTS
Santa Fe Group Executive Committee
Ballots are at the end of this newsletter.

Please note that they need to be postmarked by November 30.

JOHN BUCHSER

One clear lesson from the last decade is that many of our goals are achievable if we have the ear of responsive political officials. Our conservation goals require political action at the local, state, and national level. It is up to us to help this process.

I have been deeply involved in several major recent accomplishments that further the Group goals, most notably: the public purchase of the Valles Caldera, the election of Tom Udall to US Representative, and the establishment of ongoing dialogue about water among local Club, political, and community activists.

My major interest is in understanding where our increasing demands on our water supply are taking us – both locally, and along the entire Rio Grande.

I would appreciate the opportunity to continue to serve with the dedicated folks on the Santa Fe Group Executive Committee.

ELEANOR EISENMENGER

I am currently a member of the Group Executive Committee and feel that I can make further contributions to the activities and projects of the Sierra Club, since I am very much in touch with the community as a whole through my work as Executive Director and Chairman of the concert series, 20th Century Limited. I moved to Santa Fe in 1994 and have been involved with the environmental community – and especially the Sierra Club – since my arrival.

NORMA MCCALLAN

In the many years I have served on our Group Executive Committee, I have held a number of positions, including Chair, Vice Chair, Outing Chair, Political and Conservation Committees, Membership Chair, etc. Currently I am on the Chapter Executive Committee, am Chapter Outings Chair, and am on the National Group & Chapter Outing Committee. I lead trips every month and have for many seasons. I find it valuable to be a part of the Club in these various contexts, and rewarding to connect with so many members and dedicated volunteers. I am a retired librarian, having worked at the State Library for years. In this time of tragedy, insecurity, and grave threats to the world, the Club can play an important role in connecting us back to the land and mobilizing support for keeping wild lands wild, and reducing pollution/consumption. An important task for our Executive Committee is to get more of our members active and involved.

COURTNEY WHITE

I have served on the Executive Committee of the Santa Fe Group since 1995 and would be happy to serve another term, if reelected. I have been active within the environmental movement since that dark night in 1994 when Newt Gingrich stormed Capitol Hill and threatened an entire generation's worth of environmental legislation. Watching Newt's "revolution" unfold with dismay, I immediately volunteered for the Sierra Club and participated as a lobbyist in the 1995 state legislation session. My principal issues of concern were 'takings' legislation, protection of our public lands, and enforcement of the Hard Rock Mining Act.

I am proud of the Santa Fe Group's accomplishments over the past six years. We've won outright, or were partners in, four national awards from the Sierra Club - for the newsletter, the hiking book, the citizen's guide to mining, and a report on urban sprawl. In addition, we co-published, with the Quivira Coalition, a report entitled "Environmental Justice and Public Lands Ranching in Northern New Mexico," authored by Ernie Atencio, that positively impacted Club policy at the national level.

I'm proud that the Group has had the courage to stand up for what it thinks is best for New Mexico's environment and its people. If reelected, I intend to encourage the Group to continue its award-winning ways.

JAN KINDEL

I have been a member of the Sierra Club since 1983, first in Houston, Texas, and since 1990 in Santa Fe. I currently serve on the growth committee for the Santa Fe Group and am the Chapter designate to the Executive Committee of the NM Coalition for a Livable Future. The Coalition is concentrating its efforts on affordable housing, transportation and land and water use. I serve on the land and water use committee. As evidenced by my choice of committees, I care a great deal about our New Mexico communities. Sprawl and lack of planning is destroying our beautiful land. Transportation is another serious issue that I'm concerned about – once new roads are built, development is not far behind. The growth committee is working to keep the new 599 bypass a development free zone.

I participate occasionally in Group outings and, because it is only occasionally, I would like to see more easy hikes offered for our members. I would also like to find ways to motivate more members to become actively involved in the organization. Serving on the various committees has greatly increased my knowledge of environmental issues and allows me to feel more a part of the solutions.

LIONEL SORACCO

Ed Note: Lionel asked me to write his statement for him: Whether elected to the Executive Committee or not, Lionel will continue with his duties as Secretary/Treasurer to take minutes and pay the bills – which he has been doing quite capably for many years. He also is a dedicated hike and cross-country ski outing leader.



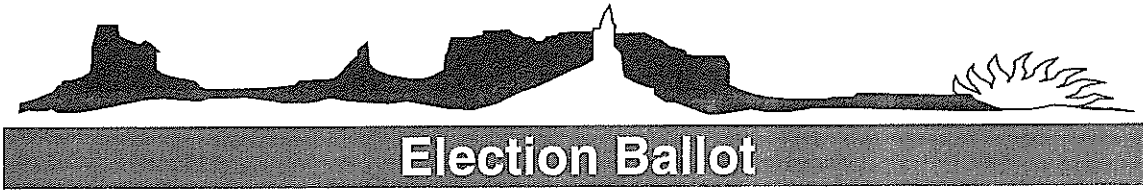
PAUL PARYSKI

I recently moved from Haiti, where I directed the United Nations environmental programs, to Santa Fe, where I have become very active in the Sierra Club. Appointed member of the Santa Fe Group Executive Committee, I joined Doug Fraser as a Sierra Club Lobbyist during the 2001 State Legislature Session. We had a very successful session highlighted by the passage of an anti-SLAPP bill, of a law protecting reptiles and amphibians, of a number of laws regulating water use and the defeat of some very noxious anti-environment legislation.

Elected vice chair of the Group's conservation committee, I also worked on the sprawl committee and represented the Sierra Club on the County technical waste management committee and on the Open Space and Trails Management Advisory Committee.

I have spent most of my professional life defending and protecting the environment, whether with the UN or USAID or the University of Florida. I facilitated the establishment of a national park system and the creation of the Ministry of the Environment in Haiti, one of the world's most environmentally degraded countries.

The environmental issues facing New Mexico are critical to its future: sprawl, the misuse of diminishing water resources, the mismanagement of forest and other natural resources, and political conflict over the use and abuse of the environment. I am committed to addressing and resolving these issues and to preserving and protecting New Mexico's unique and precious natural heritage and threatened environment.



Election Ballot

Please Return This Page
(we need the label on the other side to validate your membership!) to:

George Grossman
Chair, Election Committee
1391 Santa Rosa Dr.
Santa Fe, NM 87505

It must be postmarked by November 30, 2001.

Chapter Executive Committee (all of New Mexico & El Paso County)
(vote for three)

- _____ Blair Brown
- _____ Ken Hughes
- _____ Ted Mertig
- _____ Jennifer Johnson
- _____ Jim Hannan
- Write-In _____

Santa Fe Group Executive Committee (group #1704 on your label)
(vote for five)

- _____ Eleanor Eisenmenger
- _____ John Buchser
- _____ Paul Paryski
- _____ Courtney White
- _____ Norma McCallan
- _____ Lionel Soracco
- _____ Jan Kindal
- Write-In _____

Pajarito Group Executive Committee (group #1708 on your label)
(vote for four)

- _____ Kim Manley
- _____ Jody Benson
- _____ Carole Jacobson
- _____ Ilse Bleck
- Write-In _____

Central Group Executive Committee (group #1701 on your label)
(vote for three)

- _____ Richard Johnson
- Write-In _____
- Write-In _____
- Write-In _____

Please vote for specified number, or less, for each entity.
Vote for chapter officers AND your own group.
Votes for greater than the number of open seats will invalidate your ballot for that category.

Ballots will be counted by the election committee on Wednesday, December 5, at the Sierra Club office in Santa Fe. Please contact the committee chair, George Grossman, at 982-1024 if you are interested in being present during counting of the ballots. The other members of the election committee are Carolyn Sigstedt and Ranier Bleck. Susan Martin is an alternate if any of the other members are unable to count ballots.



Blair Brown

I have been a Sierra Club member since the mid 80's. After moving to Albuquerque in 1991, I became active in Club efforts here, and have been a member of the Central NM Group ExCom since 1992. I am currently Secretary of the Central New Mexico Group, and serve as the Group's representative to the Chapter, and as Chapter Treasurer.

I believe that the New Mexico/West Texas area is still a unique and special place. I believe that the many members of the Rio Grande Chapter care very much for what we have and would like to continue enjoying this place we call home. Yet there are many who are threatening our special place - those that would cut down our forests, dig mines in our mountains and pollute our rivers and streams. I believe that the Club needs to intensify our efforts to not only defend our special places against these attacks, but to also move forward to ensure permanent protection for these places so they will be here for our children and grandchildren to experience.

I offer my continued dedication to the efforts of the Club, and would be honored to serve as a member of the Executive Committee.

Jennifer Johnson

I have been on the Executive Committee of the Rio Grande Chapter for the past four years and the Chair of the Chapter's Conservation Committee for nearly 2 years. I live in La Jara, NM (near Cuba) and am interested in a broad range of conservation issues.

Jim Hannan

I'm seeking another term on the Chapter's ExCom. I've served on the ExCom for two years, and was elected Chair of the ExCom in March of this year. I was political chair of the Chapter for four years, helping with candidate endorsements and working closely with our state lobbyist.

The Bush administration is proposing to dismantle the federal EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) and have states take over its functions. If this happens, the chapter will need to become more active in monitoring environmental plans and compliance, particularly in the areas of air and water quality. I would work to increase our Chapter's involvement. I think that the Chapter's current strengths are in the areas of mining, wilderness, forest issues and wildlife. I think that we can improve in the areas of growth management and toxics.

I work for the Santa Fe Community Housing Trust, a non profit affordable housing provider. My interests include hiking and backpacking. I have two children, a 24 year old daughter and an 11 year old son. I consider my involvement in the Sierra Club to be one of the best things that I can do for them.

Ted Mertig

Member since 1981

I have served on the Executive Committees of both the Rio Grande Chapter and the El Paso regional group for several terms.

I have enjoyed several years as the chair person of the El Paso regional group of the sierra club.

I am the current chair person of the El Paso inner city outings group.

I have served for a number of years on the southwest regional conservation committee as a representative of the Rio Grande Chapter. I am its current treasurer.

There are many threats to our public lands by the extractive industries. I would like to serve on the executive committee of the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club to help in the reducing and or the removal of these threats.

Ken Hughes

I have been privileged to have Sierra Club not only as an adventure but a job, having been a lobbyist on population issues in the Washington DC office in the mid-80's, then lobbyist in the Roundhouse in the early 90's. I served as Energy issues chair from 1990 until this past year, and I still serve as Transportation issues chair for the Chapter.

In 1999 I wrote the Sprawl Costs/Sprawl Solutions for New Mexico and El Paso report and organized six Tours de Sprawl throughout the chapter, which received a Special Achievements Award from the national office.

As you can tell, my focus has been on urban issues, advocating not just a kinder, gentler city but ones so attractive folks will choose to live urban and leave the rural for wildlife and agriculture. My aim is to see the chapter more active in using all tools at its disposal to bring about systemic changes in how we use our land so that development is truly sustainable.



"Every good thing, great and small, needs defense."—John Muir

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