The real deficit
by Stephen Verchinski

Economic deficits are today’s headline. Will ecological deficits be the future? In 1987, a national coalition of environmental groups including the Sierra Club proposed to the administration and Congress “The Environmental Solution to the Budget Deficit.” The concern was that economic deficits, if not addressed promptly, would devastate environmental protection efforts. They would do so by raising the prices to be paid for putting off pollution problems such as toxic waste, acid rain and water pollution. They also would leave lower levels of protection for endangered species and irreplaceable wild areas.

Our solution proposed in 1987 would have raised up to $80 billion in revenues—more than twice the money needed to meet the deficit targets at that time. Many of the sources for these monies still exist and should be considered by Congress prior to new taxation.

For example, it has been estimated that $55 billion a year is spent directly and indirectly subsidizing the nation’s energy industry. This misdirects the public into believing energy costs are cheaper than in reality.

Please your heating, electric, or transportation bills again at tax time is counterproductive to stimulating public demand for utility efficiency, transit solutions and ultra-efficient appliances and motors.

It takes away individual incentives for demanding passive solar or superinsulated homes and day-lighted commercial structures. It also makes this country’s economy vulnerable to the whims of dictators and threatens our long-term security.

Worse yet, it destroys the incentives for inventors among us to pursue reasoned goals, because they can depend upon legislation interfering with marketplace costs.

I encourage the public to become more informed, to examine and think if the subsidies not only for our fuel but for our food, clothing and shelter are worth the economic deficit. Then act, please. The ecological deficits threaten...
Chapter goes with King for Governor

Decision based on record, questionnaire, interview

The Executive Committee of the Rio Grande Chapter has voted to endorse Bruce King, Democrat, for governor of New Mexico. The press release announcing and explaining the endorsement is printed here in its entirety.

The Executive Committee urges you to vote for Bruce King.

Baca endorsed

Grading interest and the extractive industries. He raised grazing permit fees and oil and gas lease rams to fair market value, and insisted on better conservation practices.

Undertook state land exchanges to facilitate wilderness designation.

Closed more than 20 illegal and unpaveded roadways on State land; and

Sponsored a program of public education to help protect pinyon pinus trees.

Baca's agenda

Baca's agenda for the 1990s includes a commitment to:

Promote conversion of the state's vehicle fleet to clean natural gas;

Support the ongoing efforts of teachers and schools by sponsoring a program of additional educational programs.

Oppose the 1987 Mining Law and its detrimental effects on New Mexico; and

Reform harmful grazing practices and institute incentives for good land stewardship.

Principal Environment Director Bruce Baca spoke to the Sierra Club chapter in New Mexico.

Baca's agenda for the 1990s includes a commitment to:

How to help

We need your help to work quickly, put up signs, make phone calls, raise money or contribute through neighborhood gatherings, and put energy into the myriad of other activities that go into a successful campaign. Any amount of help, small or large, will be appreciated. To make yourself an integral part of this effort, please call or write.

Albuquerque (505) 242-0001
P.O. Box 7837
Albuquerque, NM 87121
Santa Fe (505) 822-1004
Las Cruces (505) 525-1532
Perry Plummer (505) 521-3348
Pat Pennfield (505) 525-8286

Support needed

Although some of us find participating in the political arena distasteful, I strongly encourage you to get involved in this election.

I want to see the Earth Day to be forgotten. Here in New Mexico, we have the richness of many cultures. My family has been here for more than 400 years. I learned to hunt and fish and to respect the great outdoors. Native Americans who have been here for longer have a cultural and religious tradition of respect for Mother Earth. Many of those who have come to New Mexico have done so out of their love for the land, the blue skies and open spaces.

Together, we share a deep love and concern for the land we live in and a commitment to leave for our children and what our forefathers left us. Together, what we have in common is greater than what divides us. We must remember that, lest we lose sight of our true adversaries—those who would despoil the land and our future for short term gain.

—from a speech delivered on Earth Day, 1990

—Kevin Bixby

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club today announced its endorsement of Bruce King for Governor. Chapter Executive Director Jay Sorensen and Stephen Verchinski stressed that the decision was based on a carefully followed process—a review of the record, a questionnaire and interviews, and an examination of public commitments and actions.

There was unanimous agreement on the choice of Bruce King. (A federal and a state employee were exempt from the endorsement process.)

The Chapter's Executive Committee, representing over 5,000 Sierra Club members in New Mexico and El Paso, believes a strong commitment to environmental protection is necessary if the quality of New Mexico's environment in the 1990's is to be the same or better, but not worse, than today's. It notes a disturbing business think-tank study and a Conservation Foundation study (an environmental organization), both conducted independently of each other, that finds New Mexico is below the national average in the protection of its environment. "The Rio Grande Chapter is again urging a strong commitment to environmental protection—something that is necessary if the state's clean air act is to be effective. An example of strong commitment is the endorsement of Bruce King for governor" said Sorensen.

The endorsement of Bruce King is based on an understanding that the state's environmental protection system is strong and must be maintained.

The Sierra Club has made a strong commitment to environmental protection in the state's government. The Sierra Club advocates the release of new legislation that protects the environment and natural resources. The Sierra Club is committed to working with the governor and legislature to ensure that New Mexico's environmental protection system is strong and must be maintained.

If you have any questions or need more information, contact the Sierra Club office in Santa Fe at (505) 826-3418 or in Albuquerque at (505) 822-1200.

Kevin Bixby
Ski area proposed in Gila Wilderness

by Dan Jones

Outrage! That was my initial reaction upon learning about a proposal for a ski area in the Gila Wilderness, on the north slope of Whiterock Baldy and adjoining Whiterock State, New Mexico. The proposal, which has been proposed by Whiterock Baldy, Inc., is not the only one of its kind. In fact, it is one of the most important ones of its kind in the nation.

Whiterock Baldy, Inc., is the name given to the project by the proposal's sponsors. The project is being proposed by a group of investors who believe that the Gila Wilderness, an area of outstanding natural beauty, should be developed for commercial use. They believe that this can be done in a way that is compatible with the natural environment.

The proposal would involve the construction of a ski area on Whiterock Baldy, which is one of the tallest peaks in the Gila Wilderness. The ski area would be developed with the objective of making the Gila Wilderness more accessible to visitors, while preserving its natural beauty and ecological integrity.

The proposal has been met with strong opposition from environmental groups and local residents who believe that the development of a ski area in the Gila Wilderness is incompatible with its natural beauty and ecological integrity. They argue that the development of a ski area would result in the destruction of the natural environment and the loss of wildlife habitat.

In conclusion, the proposal for a ski area in the Gila Wilderness is a controversial issue that has been debated for many years. It is up to the decision-makers to decide whether or not to approve the proposal. The decision will have a significant impact on the future of the Gila Wilderness and the ecological integrity of the area.

King endorsement continued from page 3

Improvement Division (EID) by separating it from the Health Division and a new health care organization.

King is also concerned about the lack of attention given to the proposed ski area.

"It's hard to get people to understand that the ski area is not just a development project," he said.

"It's a project that has the potential to bring millions of dollars into the area and create jobs. It's a project that has the potential to bring millions of dollars into the area and create jobs."

King says that the ski area would be a significant source of revenue for the county, and he believes that it would be a positive development for the area.

"It's a project that has the potential to bring millions of dollars into the area and create jobs," he said. "If we can get the ski area off the ground, it will bring in a lot of money for the county and create a lot of jobs."
The Northern Goshawk
As least as threatened as spotted owl
by Janya Oleyer, Wildlife Issues Chair

When the spotted owl makes the cover of national magazines and is in the headlines of all the newspapers, it is sometimes difficult to keep a focus on other birds and other problems. Small, rare, or less familiar species are more likely to be overlooked.

The Northern Goshawk, an intimidating bird of prey, is one such species. It is bluish grey with a white breast and rump; its wings are black and broad, and the outer primary feathers are noticeably long. Its wings are broad and Its eyes are large and yellow. The Northern Goshawk is rare in the West and even rarer in the East.

The Northern Goshawk is a bird of the forest and is particularly vulnerable to the Forest Service's timber sales and management practices. This includes, for instance, the clearcutting of forests, which is a threat to the species. The Northern Goshawk is also threatened by the destruction of its nesting sites, which are often on cliffs or in deep canyons.

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In the Sierra Club's latest report, the Northern Goshawk is ranked as a species at risk. The report states that the species is strongly threatened by timber sales, which can destroy its nesting sites and disrupt its natural habitat.

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Looking for oil in all the wrong places

The Middle-East crisis has predictably revved efforts to open up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) and other protected areas for oil drilling. One example is the Murkowski amendment, a last-minute addition by Senator Frank Murkowski (R-Alaska) to a Defense Authorization Bill recently passed by the Senate.

The Murkowski amendment calls on the president to develop an "Energy Action Plan" when oil imports exceed 50 percent of domestic demand. The plan would open protected areas for drilling in order of their oil and gas potential. ANWR would top the list, but other areas could include the Bob Marshall Wilderness, Forest Service lands near Yellowstone, marine sanctuaries, and outer continental shelf areas currently off-limits to oil and gas leasing.

The Murkowski plan ignores the fact that oil from these areas would make little difference in solving our energy problems. The Interior Department estimates that there is only a one-in-ten chance of finding economically recoverable oil in ANWR. If oil is found, it would take at least ten years to bring it to market, and it would only supply about 180 days worth of current domestic demand.

The House has passed its version of the Defense Authorization Bill without equivalent language. The fate of the Murkowski amendment will be decided soon in conference committee.

Bryant bill runs out of gas

The Senate voted 57-42 against a bill, effectively killing the Motor Vehicle Fuel Efficiency Act. (Closure was needed to prevent filibustering in opposition to the bill.) The bill, introduced by Senator Richard Bryan (D-NV), would have raised the fuel efficiency of new cars to about 40 miles per gallon by 2000. This would have been a tremendous step towards addressing global warming and cutting oil consumption.

Opponents of the bill, including the Bush administration and the automobile industry, argued that it would result in less safe vehicles. Senate Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) voted in favor of the measure (for closure); Senator Pete Domenici (R-NM) voted against it (against closure).

Forests bills sprout in Congress

Several initiatives to protect old-growth forests on federal lands are under consideration in the House. The best of the lot, Representative Jim Jontz' Ancient Forest Protection Act (H.R. 4499), now has more than 125 sponsors but more are needed for passage.

On the negative side, consideration is being given in the House Agriculture Committee to a move by Representative Harold Volkmer of Missouri to scrap citizens' ability to sue the Forest Service and other agencies to comply with environmental laws. Volkmer is chair of the Subcommittee on Forest, Family Farms and Energy.

New Mexico Wilderness Study Committee to hold final meeting

The 10-week meeting of the New Mexico Wilderness Study Committee will be held on October 20 at the University of New Mexico Law School, Room 2405. The meeting is open to the public. The agenda is as follows:

Tuesday, October 20, 1992
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM: Overview of the New Mexico Wilderness Study Committee
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM: Discussion of the New Mexico Wilderness Study Committee
3:00 PM - 4:30 PM: Discussion of the New Mexico Wilderness Study Committee
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM: Conclusion of the New Mexico Wilderness Study Committee

El Paso

- Under the direction of Ted Meritt, the Public Lands Committee has been re-structured. Priorities include Gila National Forest timber sales and BLM wilderness study areas. In an effort to generate greater interest by other volunteers, at least one outing per month has been scheduled and some tax to be affected by public policy. Upcoming outings will include Cookes Range WSA. Chapter members are invited to join (call Ted Meritt at (915) 852-3011 for additional information).

- The group is working with the El Paso City Council to develop a municipal recycling program to work as a complement to the Community's group based program.

San Antonio

- Our outings program continues stronger than ever - with recent visits to the high points in the continental U.S. (Mt. Whitney), New Mexico (Wheelack Peak), and Texas (Guadalupe Peak).

- Group membership continues to increase and is currently at an all time high of 650 members.

- In July, the El Paso Regional Group became the second group in the Sierra Club to have an employee.

Albuquerque

The group is actively involved in a number of issues, including:

- Vehicle fuel efficiency. Held. Fleischmann orchestrated group support for the Bryant bill that would have required new cars to get an average of 40 miles per gallon.

- Interstate 40. Stefan Verchinski pressed federal highway administrators to develop an EIS for widening Interstate 40.

- Recycling. Several members are pushing the city to adopt strong waste reduction and recycling policies.

- West Mesa National Petroglyphs Monument. Ike Eastvold is continuing to pursue parkway standards for the construction of Unser Blvd.

- WIP wants. Jay Sorenson wrote comments in support of a city council action to prohibit the WIP-bound waste from being sent to New York.

Santa Fe

No report submitted.

Southern New Mexico

A dedicated group of volunteers has been meeting to help develop new Club policy on public lands grazing.

- The group helped support a very successful Humane Society program that brought gray wolves from Colorado to the Gila Wilderness. A public meeting was held at NMSU, at which a lively debate on reintroducing Mexican wolves erupted.

- The September general meeting focused on Representative Skeen's proposed Organ Mountain National Conservation Area, highlighting the dubious protection offered under this plan. Jim Graham and other local activists have been working with Senator Bingaman to draft a bill that, rather than compromise, Skeen has dropped the idea of an NCA for the time being.

- In an effort to promote greater interaction between the group Executive Committee and rank-and-file members, a toddler was held instead of the normal August general meeting. Members met the Executive Committee members, and vice-versa, played volleyball and watched videos on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and public land grazing.

- Summer outings included hikes to the Black Range, Lake Roberts, Emory Pass, Bandelier Nat. Mon., the Catwalk, and a full moon trip to White Sands National Monument.

- Marianne Thoeller initiated a monthly "Ideas Discussion and Development" session in order to provide a forum for group members to meet and discuss conservation issues.

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New Issue

Expires Nov. 2, 1990

200,000 Shares

The Bulletin Board

Group Reports

Ad hoc group of members has been meeting to help develop new Club policy on public lands grazing.

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Expire Nov. 2, 1990

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CHAPTER OUTINGS

Listed below is a compilation of the four groups' outings for December and November in the hopes that it will provide the opportunity for all our members to find more outings of interest.

It is strongly recommended (and in many cases required) that the individual be called to confirm details of meeting place and time of departure. Dogs are allowed only when noted.

For everyone's well-being, leaders have the right to turn away those whose clothing or equipment or experience appears unsuitable for the particular trip. Carpools are usually arranged at the meeting place. Happy hiking!

-Norman McCallan

Chapter Chair Outing Charters

Mercedes Mountains
Friday, Oct 12 - Sunday, Oct 14
Mercedes Mountains hike along Pascasqui Ridge. Leave PEA 8:30 am. Dan Michter, 802-926-0629 (Santa Fe)

Cibola National Forest
Friday, Oct 12 - Sunday, Oct 14
Key exchange: Cibola Canyon to Canwell along Whitewater Creek. Leave Friday evening. Kathy Sunday, (575) 778-3030 and Joe Rodriguez, (575) 779-6726.

San Mateo Mountains
Friday, Oct 12 - Sunday, Oct 14
Can-camp and easy-to-medium day hike Saturday and Sunday. Dogs allowed. Leave Friday evening. Dave Wilson, 575-486-10 (or 9)

Pscom Wilderness
Saturday, Oct 12
Moderate/moderate-plus hike to Spirit Lake. Leave 8 am. PERA perfect. An art, nature, other fun. Gary Williams, (505) 562-2640, 544-8246 (El Paso)

Guadalupe Mountains National Park
Saturday, Oct 13
Day hike to the Big Bend, 3.5 miles round-trip. Gary Williams, (505) 562-2640, 544-8246 (El Paso)

Santa Fe Area
Sunday, Oct 14
Easy hike on the Rincon Trail. Leave PEA at 8 am. Steve Spence, 908-1922 (Santa Fe)

GUIA Area
Friday, Oct 12
Guided hike to the Cimarron Mountains. Leave PEA 8 am. Dan Michter, 802-926-0629 (Santa Fe)

Pscom Wilderness
Saturday, Oct 13
Moderate to strenuous hike along the Sierra Blanca Trail. Leave PEA 8 am. Steve Spence, 908-1922 (Santa Fe)

Santa Fe Area
Sunday, Oct 14
Easy hike on the Rincon Trail. Leave PEA at 8 am. Steve Spence, 908-1922 (Santa Fe)

Gila National Forest
Frank's Area
Friday, Oct 19
Strenuous hike, 4 miles round-trip. Leave PEA 8 am. Dan Michter, 802-926-0629 (Santa Fe)

ALL AREAS
Saturday, Oct 20
Moderate hike, stopping for deer on way home. Leave PEA at 6 am. Brian Johnson, 439-2807 (Santa Fe)

The Candidates Speak

[Editors note: The Chapter is holding an election for the Chapter Executive Committee. There are five candidates for three available seats in the Santa Fe Chapter. All members in good standing are eligible to vote. Please use the ballot form on the back cover.]

Gwen Wardwell

If elected to a second term on the Executive Committee, I want to continue the work I began in the past year as Membership Chair. My goal as Chair was to keep more of our new members, a high percentage of whom drop out after one year, and to encourage current members in becoming more active. Most of our members live in northern New Mexico where I was able to form three telephone networks to involve Santa Fe and to meet with members in the Las Vegas area.

I am also interested in helping to raise the money needed to hire a full-time Chapter staff person whose major responsibility would be recruiting and training volunteer activists.

Norma McCallan

I am a long-term Santa Fe Club member (1968) who has been involved with the Santa Fe group in various capacities. Currently I am acting Group Chair, and Chair, Outing Chairs.

The Santa Fe Chapter is the Southwest Librarian at the New Mexico State Library, and deal with numerous environmental reference questions. My favorite aspect of this job comes out into our beautiful southwest terrain, and I have led many outings over the years.

I have completed one term on the Chapter Executive Committee and found it a valuable experience to work with all the very concerned and diligent members of the committee.

I would like to see us make more effort to forge coalitions with local groups on local environmental issues when our goals are compatible, and to promote more dialogue about our concerns with urban issues. We need to remain as active as possible and not let the "elitism" label throw us at the opposition.

We also need to be more active in using the enthusiasm and skills of our 50-600 members in the chapter. In this era of burgeoning environmental crises at the state, national, and international levels we need many more activists to work on and resolve the many critical issues in our area such as timber sales in the National Forests, spread of overabundant, introduction of BLM wildlife, deforestation of the Mexican wolf, climate change, air and water pollution, radioactive wastes, etc.

Leilie C. King, III:

As long-time and the proposer of the Seven Rivers River near the University of South Florida campus in Tampa led me to the Sierra Club in 1977. I also served as Shirley Taylor, a former member of the National Board of Directors of the Club. I became involved in conservation issues in Florida and soon found myself serving as Tampa Group Chair, a delegate to the Regional Conservation Committee and a Florida Chapter Executive Committee member, and finally as Florida Chapter Chair.

I kept on with my Club work while I attended the University of Pennsylvania Law School in the early 1980s. Then I was first elected to the state-level Conservation Committee and then the Chair of the NRCC and a Regional Vice-President of the Club. Later I was appointed to the Club’s national Grassroots Fundraising Committee and helped write the manual fundraising the Club still uses.

In 1985 I was appointed to the National Development Committee and served on it for several years.

Since moving to New Mexico in 1984, I have served on the Rio Grande Chapter’s Executive Committee and as the Chapter’s Legal Chair, and I lead occasional outings for the Santa Fe Group when I can persuade a group of members to serve as guinea pigs for my infuriatingly exploratory habits.

I would like to work with the Rio Grande Chapter Executive Committee again, especially in the area of fundraising. There is a lot we could do with a bigger budget and a dedicated fundraiser. It has a big influence on public opinion and policy.

When I am not hiking or sailing, I am a partner in Jurgen’s & Kutt’s, P.C. of a New Mexico law firm that practices primarily in the areas of bankruptcy, business reorganization, and tax collection defense.

Tom Brasfield

I have been a Sierra Club member since 1976. I am currently the Sierra Club Regional Vice-President for the Southwest Region. I have been a member of the Rio Grande Chapter Executive Committee since 1994 and served as Chair 1997-98.

Currently I am co-conservation chair for the chapter.

Public lands issues have been a high-priority of the Chapter since its formation in 1964. We must continue to commit our resources to the preservation of the finite wilderness remaining, the establishment of parks and open space, and the protection of wildlife. In addition, issues such as clean air, hazardous waste, clean water, and energy conservation are of crucial importance, not only to us but to future generations.

In order to save our public lands and clean our environment we must have an impact on elected officials at both the federal and state level. Therefore, I believe that we must increase our influence in the political process at all levels of government.

If elected to the Executive Committee I will devote my efforts to the accomplishment of the following goals:

• Explore the feasibility of hiring a full or part-time Chapter staff person to assist volunteers in their conservation work.

• Strengthen our volunteer lobbying program in Santa Fe.

• Explore new ways to encourage and increase volunteer participation in Chapter and Group activities.

• Develop our resources by developing new and long-term revenue sources.

• Increase our involvement with State governmental agencies where many of the environmental laws that are important to us are implemented.

• Increase our effectiveness in communicat- ing Sierra Club positions to our members, our legislators, and the general public.

I would appreciate your vote so that I may work towards these goals during the next three years.

Kevin Bixby

I have been a Sierra Club member for 4 months and a resident of New Mexico for 2 years. I have a master’s degree in Natural Resources Policy, and a bachelor’s in public policy.

Currentl I am involuntarily unemploy- ed, which affords me time to focus on the recruitment of myself to various worthwhile causes.

I look forward to serving as editor of the Sierra, and if elected, on the Chapter Executive Committee.

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