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**CALENDAR**

- April 25. Public Forum on the Diamond Bar Grazing Allotment in the Gila National Forest (see article in this issue.) Sponsored by the Western New Mexico State University Biology Club. WNMSU Light Hall, 7:30 p.m. Also, grazing workshops for activists from noon-4 p.m. For more info, call Gila Watch at 388-2854.
- May 15 Deadline for June *Sierran*.
- June 2 New Mexico Primary. Vote for the environment.
- June 8-12 New Mexico Forestry Camp, Cuba. Open to New Mexican residents, ages 12-19. Call 289-3950 for more info.
- June 13-14 Chapter Conservation/ExCom Meeting, Questa, NM.
- June 15 Deadline for combined July/August *Sierran*.
- July 5-12 Sierra Club Family Camp and Environmental Education Workshop. Clair Tappan Lodge, California. Call (510) 283-6683 for more information.
- Sept. 11-13 Chapter Retreat/ExCom Meeting.
- Sept. 13-15 Conference on the Environment. Sponsored by the NM Environment Department. Albuquerque Convention Center.
- Nov. 13-15 Chapter Conservation/ExCom Meeting, Kingston.



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*the rio grande* **SIERRAN**

NEWS OF THE RIO GRANDE CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB • MAY 1992 • \$1.00

**High Finance in the Wilderness**

*Forest Service Proposes More Cows for Overgrazed Diamond Bar Allotment*

by Susan Schock-Grinold

In a move that would set a disastrous precedent for western wilderness management, the Forest Service is proposing to use bulldozers and mule-drawn plows to install 33 new stock tanks and 28 miles of new fencing on a wilderness grazing allotment in order to accommodate nearly 300 more cows.

The development is proposed for the Diamond Bar Allotment, 85 percent of which is located in the Aldo Leopold and Gila Wilderness Areas. The Diamond Bar is New Mexico's largest Forest Service grazing allotment, covering more than 145,000 acres of National Forest, including 121,000 wilderness acres.

The Forest Service argues that the structures are needed for "resource protection." The agency claims that the construction of stock tanks in the upper watershed will move cattle out of severely degraded riparian bottoms, allowing these areas to recover. However, this argument fails to make the connection between the health of the watershed and the condition of the entire riparian system.



Bulls at play in a wilderness stream on the Diamond Bar Allotment. Note the denuded condition of the streambanks.

Watersheds in the Diamond Bar region have been dramatically altered as a result of years of overgrazing. Many miles of historically perennial streams in the Diamond Bar are now intermittent. Water tables have dropped as the capacity of soils to absorb and retain moisture declined. Rainwater that once percolated through spongy forest loam to recharge underground aquifers now runs off compacted soils in sheets, carrying topsoil into streams.

(continued on page 6)

**Diamond Bar Forum, Workshops to be Held in Silver City**

(See details in Calendar on back page.)



**Group News**

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**Counties Contribute Thousands to Animal Damage Control Program in New Mexico**

by Kevin Bixby

Few New Mexicans realize that their county governments, many of which are facing serious financial difficulties, spend thousands of dollars each year to kill coyotes and other wildlife.

In fact, counties collectively comprise the largest source besides the federal government of funding for animal damage control (ADC) efforts in New Mexico, contributing hundreds of thousands of dollars to the program.

In New Mexico as in most western states, ADC is jointly funded and implemented by the federal government, the state (through general funds and various agencies), counties, and agricultural organizations. In New Mexico, most ADC money and effort is devoted to killing coyotes and other predators.

In 1990—the last year for which figures are available to the public—\$1.8 million was spent in (continued on page 8)

Inside: Mining Update • Wolf News • Chapter Appeal Contributors • Petroglyphs

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The *Rio Grande Sierran* is published monthly by the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club. Subscriptions for non-members are \$10 per year. Send payment to *Rio Grande Sierran*, Star Route Box 26 Mesilla Park, NM 88047.

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Contributions are welcomed from members and non-members. Send to the *Rio Grande Sierran* at above address. Articles should be typed, E-mailed (SIE426 on Sierra Club network; Haroque on Econet), or submitted on computer disk (3.5", Macintosh or DOS, Microsoft Word or ASCII text only format.) Only very short handwritten or faxed submissions can be accepted. Deadline is the 15th of each month.

## How to Stop Unwanted Solicitations from the Sierra Club

by Jana Oyler

If you are drowning in mail solicitations or are tired of having your suppers interrupted by telephone fundraisers, you may be frustrated enough to want to cancel your membership in the Sierra Club. This article will let you know how Club fundraising works and what steps you can take to cut down on the volume without silencing your voice in the environmental movement.

First, remember that the Sierra Club is a national organization with almost 600,000 members, and is run by an elected Board of Directors and headquartered in San Francisco, California. The national Board sets an agenda for fundraising to support environmental campaigns that are of national importance. Several times each year, you will receive a letter from San Francisco or, perhaps, from the Washington, DC, or another national office, seeking your financial support for one of these national campaigns. You may also be contacted by telephone for these efforts. The Rio Grande Chapter and your local groups have no control over this fundraising and are not connected with it.

The national Sierra Club is divided into 58 chapters. The chapters are not completely autonomous; they are ruled by national Club policy on fundraising and other matters. National rules allow chapters to solicit your donations in a chapter-wide mailing only once each year, in March. Although the chapter can also mail specific, targeted fundraising requests at other times, as a general practice the Rio Grande Chapter does not ask its 5,500 members for money more than once each year. Nor does the Rio Grande Chapter do general telephone solicitations at this time.

Each chapter of the Sierra Club is further divided into local groups. The Rio Grande Chapter has four groups: Albuquerque, El Paso, Santa Fe, and Southern New Mexico (headquartered in Las Cruces). Each group may mail its local membership a targeted fundraising letter at various times during the year. Also, each group may do follow-up telephone solicitations after the March Chapter fundraising letter is mailed, since the Chapter shares a portion of the monies raised through the March letter with the groups that do such follow-up work.

Remember that the money you contribute to the national Sierra Club does not come back directly to New Mexico and West Texas.

Instead it goes to nationally focused environmental campaigns. The Chapter also receives only a small portion of your annual dues. The Rio Grande Chapter must rely largely on your response to its March fundraising letter to support its locally-based environmental campaigns.

It is understandable that some of you may not want to receive solicitations. If so, please contact the Membership Chair of your local group or of the Chapter. The Membership Chair will then send your name on to San Francisco as a member who does not wish to be solicited for money. In theory, your name will then be coded in the Club's computer and deleted from the list sent to the Chapter for its March fundraising appeal and from the national appeals. In practice, the system is imperfect. If you continue to receive fund appeals after you have asked that you not, then you should contact the national Club directly at 730 Polk Street, San Francisco, California 94109, and inform the Club of your wishes. Be sure to include your membership number in all your requests (the number is just above your name on the labels from the Club).

## Chapter Receives Grants to Broaden Scope, Membership

The Rio Grande Chapter has received two national Sierra Club grants to foster ethnic and cultural diversity within its ranks and expand its focus.

The student Sierra Club group at New Mexico State University has received \$1000 to undertake an outreach and recruitment program at colleges throughout New Mexico and west Texas. The program will include talks, slide shows, dues subsidies, assistance in organizing new student groups, and other measures designed to bring more students, especially minorities, into the Sierra Club.

Also, the Chapter received an \$800 grant to establish an investigative journalism internship with the *Rio Grande Sierran*. The money will be matched with other funds to hire an intern to report on environmental issues of concern to Hispanic and Native American communities. Interested applicants should contact the *Rio Grande Sierran* editor.

## Bingaman Opposes Weak Montana Wilderness Bill

by Rob Smith

A weak Montana forest wilderness bill passed the Senate 75-22 on March 26, but Senator Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) joined conservationists in opposing it. New Mexico's other Senator, Pete Domenici (R), supported the legislation.

Despite bipartisan support from Montana's Senators, nearly one quarter of the Senate rose in unprecedented opposition to S. 1696, the Montana National Forest Management Act. Normally the combined support of both Senators from a state would be enough to guarantee smooth sailing, but this bill had too many problems to avoid major controversy.

The bill would designate a paltry 1.2 million acres, while opening to development an area twice the size of Yellowstone National Park. Water rights for wilderness were not guaranteed, and therefore subject to loss because the Bush Administration refuses to uphold them. Especially offensive were provisions which prevented citizens from challenging the legality of future Forest Service land use decisions on the wildlands left out of wilderness designation.

"Montanans oppose the Senate bill in its present form, and unless the legislation is substantially modified we will work to defeat it in the House," said John Colburn, the Sierra Club's Montana Chapter conservation chair.

Senator Bingaman's vote against the Montana wilderness bill was important to set the stage for possible improvements if the House moves forward with their version. Bingaman deserves special thanks for standing up, despite the odds, against legislation which would undermine the integrity of our national wilderness system. Senator Domenici, on the other hand, needs to hear that wilderness legislation at any cost just isn't good enough for Montana — or New Mexico!

[The author is the Sierra Club's Southwest Representative in Phoenix.]



## Progress of Mining Reform in Congress

by Sue Harrod

As usual, the 1872 Reform situation is complex and interesting. The good news comes from the House side. Congressman Rahall, working closely with Sierra Club and others, has drafted extensive strengthening amendments to his H.R. 918, probably to be introduced in the form of a substitute bill. The new language finally provides the most critical points in mining reform legislation.

■ Strong reclamation requirements that will bring back a measure of health and productivity to the land after mining.

■ Identification of lands unsuitable for surface mining operations.

■ Financial and land tenure reform which will assure future public ownership of public lands and a fair return for public resources.

### Richardson and Bingaman: Their Views

On April 7, I visited with Congressman Bill Richardson and his environmental assistant, Karl McElhaney. The Congressman reaffirmed his support for strong and comprehensive reform of the 1872 Mining Law. I believe we can count on Richardson to vote right when H.R. 918 is before him.

Also on April 7, I met with Senator Jeff Bingaman's staffer, Tamara Osterman. As discussed above, the situation for mining reform in the Senate is both unique and critical. Tamara was unable to provide the strong assurances received from Richardson regarding what Senator Bingaman would do on 1872 reform.

Senator Bingaman, as chair of the Senate subcommittee in which the Bumpers bill now sits, is a critical player, and it is absolutely imperative that we continue to express to the Senator the strong New Mexico sentiment in favor of strong, comprehensive 1872 reform.

Bingaman deserves kudos for his vote against Senator Baucus' (D-MT) Montana Wilderness Bill. This bill is flawed in major respects and could never adequately protect the spectacular Montana wilderness that should be protected. Only 22 Senators had the courage to deny Max Baucus' personal requests to vote for this bill, and Senator Bingaman was one of those.

Bingaman's action on the Montana Wilderness Bill, and his co-sponsorship of the California Desert Protection Act, provide encouragement that he will have the courage to protect all western public lands, including those in New Mexico, from the environmental ravages currently occurring under the 1872

Mining Law.

Unfortunately, the timetable for Congressional action on mining law reform has been stalled by two factors. First, that persistent and pesky but very important "Spotted Owl" has captured the committee's attention, and until it has finished with them, there is room for little else.

Secondly, some delicate congressional races are occurring this year which a mining vote may impact, or at least some have that perception. In any event, we may not see a committee vote until the fall. This delay will provide the grassroots the opportunity to generate even broader support for 1872 reform, and further educate the public about its abuses.

In another House development, Rep. Les AuCoin (D-OR) has introduced legislation which would impose a fifty cent per pound tax on the use of cyanide in mining operations. According to the Dupont Corporation, the minerals industry use 105 million pounds of cyanide in 1991. AuCoin's tax would generate \$52.5 million per year. The funds would be earmarked for the cleanup of abandoned and future hardrock mine sites. What a deal!

The House mining subcommittee held a hearing on AuCoin's bill on April 7, in Washington. BLM director Cy (short for "Cyanide"?) Jamison meekly testified in opposition to the bill, and was summarily drawn and quartered by Reps. Jim Jontz and Les AuCoin.

This legislation is gaining support on the Hill. It is a good bill with a logical and necessary objective. Do not forget to mention the Cyanide Tax Bill to your Congresspeople when you get the chance.

Now, the bad news from the Senate: As we have always known, western Democratic senators are skittish about reform of the 1872 Mining Law. Support now seems to be growing for stripping some of the environmental protection measures from the Bumpers bill and moving a watered-down version of it.

This development is absolutely dangerous. Democratic senators from across the West must be made to understand that the people OF the West recognize mining on public lands as, first and foremost, an environmental problem.

[The author is Mining Issues Chair for the Rio Grande Chapter, a Chapter Executive Committee member, and a member of the Santa Fe Group.]

## Mexican EIS To Begin This Summer

Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for reintroducing Mexican wolves into the wild will begin in mid-summer, according to Mexican wolf Recovery Coordinator David Parsons. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is currently drafting the "notice of intent" for April publication in the Federal Register, and a 60-day public comment period will follow.

Parsons estimates that if Congress appropriates the necessary funds in the FY93 Interior Appropriations budget, the draft EIS (DEIS) could be completed by March of 1993. Assuming that public hearings follow shortly afterwards, it's not inconceivable that reintroduction could take place in 1994.

The Mexican wolf EIS will review biological and socioeconomic impacts associated with reintroduction in New Mexico and Arizona. In addition to biological data, the EIS will incorporate: the 492 comments received during last year's preliminary scoping process which revealed overwhelming support for Mexican wolf restoration; comments from the Arizona draft site evaluations (see story below); and comments from a third scoping meeting to be held in Albuquerque in May (the first two meetings were held in Las Cruces and Tucson in February of 1991).

Wolf Activists will need to send in their comments for this renewed comment period beginning in April.



Parsons is asking that those who made comments during the last scoping session refrain from doing so unless they have something to add (we recommend that you add those points listed under the "What You Can Do" section below).

**What You Can Do**  
Write for your copy of the Mexi-

can wolf EIS "notice of intent," to be published in the Federal Register sometime in mid-April, and send in your comments. In your letter, please be sure to include the following points:

✓ The FWS has a mandate, under the Endangered Species Act, to restore the Mexican wolf to the wild. The Endangered Species Act (ESA) requires that the Secretary of the Interior restore endangered species to portions of their former habitat with the goal of establishing viable populations.

✓ Any reintroduction alternative must conform with existing law. Under no circumstances should amendments to the ESA be required to recover the Mexican wolf; existing law provides ample provisions for management of "problem wolves."

✓ The presence of livestock should in no way preclude wolf recovery. Based on the Northern Rockies program, Defenders of Wildlife, in cooperation with regional wolf advocacy groups, has established a compensation fund to reimburse ranchers for verified livestock losses once Mexican wolves are restored. This privately funded, federally administered program will remove any economic hardships incurred by the ranching community because of wolf restoration.

To receive a copy of the notice of intent, and to have your name placed on the list to receive further materials, please write: Regional Director, Attn: Mexican wolf EIS, U.S. FWS, P.O. Box 1306, Albuquerque, NM 87103.

## Arizona Draft Site Evaluations Completed

On March 14, the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGF) released the draft site evaluations for four sites in Arizona currently being considered as potential Mexican wolf recovery areas. The four sites being evaluated are: the Blue Primitive area; Chiricahua Mountains; Galiuro/Pinaleno Mountains; and the Patagonia/Atascosa Mountains.

The report makes no explicit recommendation as to which site is most appropriate for reintroduction, but does weight them ac-

ording to factors of prey availability, road density, climatological suitability and human density. The Blue Primitive Area and Patagonia/Atascosa received the highest marks respectively; the other two tied for third.

In the 60 days following the report's release (ending May 15, 1992), the Department will be soliciting public comments on the contents of the document and the overall concept of Mexican wolf reintroduction to Arizona. Written public comments are essential in influencing the outcome of the final site evaluation.



### What You Can Do

Send a strong message to the Arizona Department of Game and Fish that Mexican wolf recovery is a national issue. Write for the draft site evaluation, and send in your comments. You may wish to include the following:

✓ Mexican wolf restoration to White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico—widely expected to be the first site for reintroduction—will not ensure the species' survival. It's critical that the Arizona Department of Game and Fish choose an additional site for recovery.

✓ Remind the AZGF that the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) has listed Mexican wolf recovery the "highest priority for wolf recovery" world-wide.

✓ As above, point out that the presence of livestock should not preclude Mexican wolf restoration in Arizona.

Your comments must be postmarked by May 15. To obtain the draft site evaluation report and to be placed on the AZGF Mexican wolf newsletter, write to: Arizona Game and Fish Department, Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Program, 2221 West Greenway Road, Phoenix, AZ 85023-4312

## Mexican Wolf Funding In Jeopardy

In the Federal Budget negotiating process, the Mexican wolf continues to be overlooked. Last year's (FY92) request for \$450,000 was rewarded with an insubstantial \$150,000—barely enough to keep the Recovery Coordinator's office open.

For FY93, the Administration has requested a meager increase for a total of \$164,200, when the regional office has requested a total of \$600,000. If the recovery team is to complete the EIS in 1993, increase captive breeding, and initiate comprehensive informational and educational (I&E) programs, then a \$435,800 add-on will be imperative. Without it, we may not see Mexican wolves back in the wild until 1996 or later.

The key players in the debate will be the regional members of the House and Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittees: Senator David DeConcini (D-AZ), Senator Pete Domenici (R-NM), and Representative Joe Skeen (R-NM). Within reason, the ranking members of the respective committees will likely defer to these members in making a decision on the issue unless they have good reason to do otherwise.

Accordingly, a torrent of letters must be directed to these members and the Chairmen of each Subcommittee by their constituents and fellow members of Congress.

### What You Can Do

Write or call your Representative and Senators in support of a \$435,800 "add-on" for the Mexican wolf in the FY93 House and Senate Interior Appropriations bills. Ask them to urge Senate and House Interior Appropriations Chairmen Byrd (D-WV) and Yates (D-IL), respectively, to support the appropriations add-on. Please also send letters directly to the two Chairmen. In your letters, include the following points:

✓ The Mexican wolf has been declared the "highest priority" for wolf recovery world-wide by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), an international scientists' organization. Mexican wolf recovery should also be a high priority for the Federal Government.

✓ Only 44 Mexican wolves are known to exist, and all are in captivity. Funds are critical to raise the number of wolves in captivity to a level where reintroduction can be considered—70 to 100 wolves according to the Recovery Team.

✓ Currently, all U.S. Mexican wolf captive breeding facilities are privately funded. Con-

tinued private funding is largely dependent on a commitment from the federal government to restore the Mexican wolf in the foreseeable future.

3 Information and education (I&E) activities must be expanded in the region. Misconceptions about the wolf continue to dominate arguments opposing reintroduction.

## Yellowstone Wolf EIS Process Starts in April

After more than seven years of controversy, a formal process has finally been started that should result in a decision concerning whether wolves will be restored to the Yellowstone National Park area.

Last October, Congress directed the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Park Service to do an environmental impact statement (EIS) on Yellowstone wolf restoration. Last month, the agencies began holding the first of 27 scheduled public scoping meetings nationwide, including an April 22 meeting in Albuquerque.

The level of public involvement in this Yellowstone wolf EIS is expected to be unprecedented. Groups associated with the "wise-use" movement, such as People for the West and Montana, Idaho and Wyoming livestock organizations, have made it clear they plan to oppose Yellowstone wolf restoration with all their resources. Conservationists need to match this level of involvement.

The outcome of the Yellowstone wolf battle will be an important barometer of current American attitudes toward predators. Restoring wolves to Yellowstone would send an important message to the rest of the world about the value Americans now place on predators.

To comment on the Yellowstone EIS, write: U.S. FWS, Attn: Yellowstone Wolf EIS, Federal Building, 301 S. Park, Helena, MT 59626.



## NM Game Commission Needs To Hear From You

by Pat Wolff

The State Game Commission makes many important decisions affecting wildlife in New Mexico. This seven-member board, appointed by the Governor, sets hunting and fishing regulations, determines predator control policies, and decides which species are to be state-listed as endangered or sensitive. The commission oversees the New Mexico Game & Fish Department and operates several citizen advisory councils, chief among these being the Habitat and Environment Advisory Council.

Unfortunately, most members of the public attending commission and council meetings are representatives of special interest groups who have nothing but contempt for wildlife. The welfare cowboys, trophy hunters, trappers, and commercial hunting guides I'm referring to tend to be anti-woman, anti-nature, and anti-everything wild. They kill wildlife not to feed their families or to connect to nature, but because it helps them to deal with their low self-esteem and powerlessness. These are the characters who historically have been listened to and catered to by the State Game Commission!

They put incredible political pressure not only on the commissioners but on employees of the Game and Fish department as well. Commission members and department staff who are genuinely concerned about wildlife often feel afraid to speak out in this atmosphere of hostility and intimidation. They need us—responsible hunters, fishers, conservationists and environmentalists—to give them moral support, to attend meetings, and to counter the influence of the anti-wildlife crowd.

Most of us have to work for a living and/or have children to take care of, but those of us who can attend Game Commission meetings should definitely do so. Members of the audience are usually given an opportunity to express their opinions, and even if you don't speak, just being there will in some cases be enough to tip the balance in favor of responsible decision-making on key wildlife issues.

Get on the mailing list and ask them to send you meeting notices and agendas. If you can't attend meetings, express your concerns by writing to State Game Commission members in care of Chairman Jamie Koch, or to the Game and Fish Department in care of Director Bill Montoya. The address is Department of Game and Fish, Villagra Building, P.O. Box 25112, Santa Fe, NM 87504.



An overgrazed riparian area on the Diamond Bar allotment. Note the lack of streamside vegetation, the crumbling and exposed banks, and the murky water.

## Diamond Bar

*(continued from front page)*

Increased runoff has caused miles of denuded stream banks on the Diamond Bar to collapse. In many areas, literally all of the streamside vegetation has been eaten or trampled by cattle, and the stream cover necessary for healthy fish populations no longer exists.

### *Financial Imperatives vs. Resource Management*

Recognizing the deteriorated condition of the Diamond Bar, the Forest Service actually began steps towards a *reduction* in cattle numbers on the allotment in the early 1980s. An intensive range study was conducted in 1978-79, followed by an Allotment Analysis three years later. The 1983 study found that three-fourths of the allotment was in poor condition, despite the initiation more than a decade previously of a pasture rotation system that kept cattle off half the allotment each year. The Analysis concluded that a 30 percent reduction in capacity was needed to restore the allotment to health.

The Forest Service completed an Environmental Analysis (EA) in which a variety of management alternatives were reviewed. The selected alternative ("D") called for a livestock capacity reduction to 833 head and no new stock tanks.

During this same period, however, the permittee went bankrupt and the allotment, along with its three-quarter million dollar mort-

gage, was taken into receivership by the First Intermediate Credit Bank of Texas. Just as the bank began to market the property, the Forest Service announced the cut in cattle numbers. The bank was "shocked," and claimed that such a move would cost them half a million dollars and might block the sale of the property.

The New Mexico State University Range Improvement Task Force (RITF) was brought in by the bank to "examine" the Forest Service's data. The RITF suggested that the forage from the rested pastures be counted as available each year, thereby instantly doubling the forage capacity—and cattle—numbers. Other "corrections" were made which magically increased the allotment's capacity. A new ceiling of 1,000 head was agreed upon.

The Forest Service handed down a new Decision Notice which again cited "D" as the selected alternative. However, an agreement with the bank was attached which cited a new allotment capacity of 1,188 cattle and included a list of 15 new stock tanks to be constructed.

The base property was sold in late 1985 to the Diamond Bar Cattle Company, a family partnership. A year after acquiring the allotment, the permittee requested permission to put in 45 additional stock tanks.

To date, four stock tanks have been constructed on the Diamond Bar, two of those in the wilderness with bulldozers. The Forest Service has initiated its Integrated Resource Management (IRM) process in an attempt to accommodate the permittee while mitigating further damage to the wilderness.

A new EA is now being prepared by the

Forest Service that relies on out-of-date, erroneous, and inappropriate information: range condition data from 1978-1979, water quality data from the 1960s and from outside the allotment, and incorrect water temperature standards. Although the Forest Service's own analysis clearly shows that turbidity and other water quality standards are not being met, it concludes that livestock grazing has had no adverse cumulative effects on the Diamond Bar. The reality is that many of the allotment's riparian systems are completely dysfunctional.

Degraded riparian systems compound the potential for environmental disaster, as evidenced by a recent occurrence on the Diamond Bar. In 1989 a severe forest fire burned thousands of acres of the upper reaches of Main Diamond Bar Creek, which contained the world's largest population of the endangered Gila trout. Less than a hundred fish were rescued from the stream during the fire.

Shortly afterwards, a major hailstorm hit the area. Overgrazed riparian areas lacked sufficient vegetation to catch the ash washed down from the burned hillsides. The creek silted in, killing the entire remaining fish population. The rescued fish died at the Mescalero fish hatchery and today, three years later, the stream too remains "dead." It is expected to be several more years before fish can live in it again. Meanwhile, the burned areas within the Diamond Bar continue to be grazed.

Until very recently, the Gila National Forest has insisted that livestock numbers in wilderness cannot be reduced. This is an interpretation of the 1980 Congressional Grazing Guidelines not shared by other National Forests. Forest officials are also violating their own Gila National Forest Management Plan, which calls for the restoration of riparian areas to 80 percent of their potential by the year 2000.

Citizen outcry opposing the development has been largely ignored by the Forest Service. It appears that legal action may be required. Local environmentalists in the Silver City area have joined with the Rio Grande Chapter and other environmental groups to fight commercial development in the Gila Wilderness.

For more information call Susan Schock-Grinold of Gila Watch at (505) 388-2854 or Ted Mertig, Chair of the El Paso Sierra Club Group, at (915) 852-3011.

*[The author is a resident of Silver City and the descendant of an Arizona rancher. She has seen firsthand the damage done by overgrazing, and hopes there will be more to wilderness than cowpies when her daughter grows up.]*

## The Price of "Priceless" Federal Grazing Permits

by Susan Schock-Grinold

The Forest Service grazing permit system dates back to the 1934 Taylor Grazing Act, which divided public lands into grazing allotments reserved for the exclusive use of the permit holder.

Under the Act, permits were issued only to ranchers who owned a substantial "base property"—a private ranch—to which the permit was then attached. Affluent ranchers divided the range among themselves, gaining private control over millions of acres of public land.

Federal land managers argue that grazing permits have no monetary value. Permits are granted as a privilege, not a right, and cannot be sold or subleased, although they are usually transferred to the new owner upon the sale or inheritance of a base property to which they are attached.

Despite government claims to the contrary, there is a market value to grazing leases, reflected in the inflated sale price of base properties with attached grazing permits. This value is based on the acreage of the permit, the "capacity number" (the maximum number of cattle allowed to graze on the allotment), and the grazing fees charged to the permittee.

A forty-acre ranch in a rural area might normally be valued at under a hundred thousand dollars. Yet with an attached grazing permit, this same property might easily sell for over half a million dollars, depending on the public land acreage included in the permit and the number of cattle permitted.

There is no set ratio between the size of the base property and the acreage of an allotment. Base properties of forty acres can command exclusive grazing privileges to 150,000 acres of Forest Service land.

The inflated value of the property and permit together becomes equity for the rancher, which can be borrowed against. It would appear that a loan on this type of "invisible" equity would be unsecured and hence a risky deal. And indeed, the Forest Service includes a disclaimer in its term grazing permits stating that all such loans are in fact unsecured.

At the same time, however, the Forest Service routinely issues an "escrow waiver of the term grazing permit." This essentially secures the loan by setting up the permit itself as collateral. If the rancher defaults on the loan, the bank takes the permit into receivership and becomes the permittee. In this way, a federal grazing permit "with no monetary value" becomes security for loans of hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Not surprisingly, this arrangement puts a lot of pressure on the Forest Service to meet financial rather than resource demands. If cattle numbers are reduced, the permittee has less cattle to sell. His reduced income may not be sufficient to cover his sizable loan payments.

If the bank forecloses it must resell the property for the unpaid balance of the loan, yet with lower cattle numbers the property is no longer worth the asking price. The bank puts pressure on the Forest Service to keep cattle numbers high. The Forest Service then constructs more range "improvements"—at the public's expense—to accommodate a herd that should be reduced rather than enlarged. Land that needs resting gets grazed harder, and the spiral of degradation continues.

On the Diamond Bar Allotment, a "Memorandum of Understanding" (MOU) was executed between the Forest Service and a bank holding a mortgage of more than a half million dollars on the forty-acre base property. The MOU is a contractual understanding between the bank and the Forest Service which virtually guarantees that the livestock capacity number of the permit will not be lowered.

By Forest Service estimates, the permitted number of cattle on the Diamond Bar is currently almost four times what the land can support. But if the Forest Service reduces the size of the herd, it may be sued for breach of contract. Hence, we have the current proposal to aggressively develop upland portions of the wilderness in order to sustain the high numbers of cattle desired by the bank.

## Forest Service to Do Away with Appeals

In response to President Bush's call for a review of federal regulations to ensure that they don't impose "unnecessary" costs or impede economic growth, Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan has proposed to do away with the Forest Service appeals process.

The proposal was published in the Federal Register on March 26. The public was allowed 30 days to comment on the proposed rulemaking.

Without the appeals process, there will be no public recourse short of hiring a lawyer to address the violation of the National Forest Management Act and the National Environmental Policy Act.

Contrary to the Administration's claims, citizen appeals are not the root cause of timber sale delays. The U.S. General Accounting Office recently determined that "delays were not due to the appeals process itself... [but] were due to underlying problems with Forest Service environmental analyses that did not meet all requirements." Of the 132 appeals studied, 98 percent were due to Forest Service environmental analysis problems.

## Western Legislators Tout New Rangeland Report

Thirty-seven Western senators and representatives last month released a report that they say refutes recent General Accounting Office (GAO) findings of public rangeland mismanagement. The report was prepared by Resource Concepts, a Carson City consulting firm.

In three reports over the past few years, the GAO has documented extensive public land management problems, including extensive overgrazing and a lack of progress toward improving critical riparian areas degraded by livestock use.

Conservationists characterized the Resource Concepts report as inaccurate and biased. Rose Strickland, chair of the Sierra Club's Grazing Subcommittee, called the report "full of unsupported opinions and complaints, as well as ignorance of the requirements of federal grazing regulations and standard accounting procedures."

Strickland also pointed out that both the Forest Service and the BLM have already acknowledged many of the problems identified by the GAO and are working on solutions.

# Thank You!

Thanks to everyone who responded to our 1992 Chapter Fund Appeal.

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## Club Membership Lists: Decisions and Revisions

by Jana Oyler

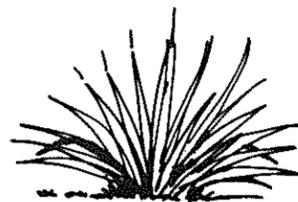
When you send your dues in each year to San Francisco, your name goes on the national Sierra Club membership list. The list is maintained in San Francisco, not locally. Each time the Rio Grande Chapter or one of its groups wishes to mail its members anything at all, the Chapter or group must request (and pay for) the membership list from the California office.

If you move or change your name, the change will not be processed unless it is sent to San Francisco. Each group forwards any requests for changes that it receives from its members on to California, but Club activists here in New Mexico and West Texas must rely on the San Francisco office to make the changes. Changes may take several months, since not every department in the Sierra Club is tied by computer to the Membership Department and some departments work from old membership lists.

The national Sierra Club exchanges its membership list with selected other environmental organizations. In addition, each year several local environmental organizations ask the executive committee of the Rio Grande Chapter for the use of the membership list for their own fundraising and other purposes. The Chapter has been very cautious about permitting other groups to use the list and is moving toward restricting access to the list even further.

If you have a change of address or name, or if you do not want your name to be given to other environmental groups, please send a written notice to the Membership Department at the Sierra Club, 730 Polk Street, San Francisco, California 94109. And please be patient, especially with your local activists. Our volunteers do their best to keep up with the thousands of changes.

[The author is Secretary/Treasurer of the Rio Grande Chapter and a member of the Santa Fe Group.]



## Share With Wildlife Needs Your Support

Share with Wildlife is an innovative program dedicated to the preservation of all New Mexico wildlife. Although it is administered by the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, it is supported by donations only. The program funds four general categories: research, habitat preservation, wildlife rehabilitation and public education.

The majority of contributions are received through the check-off line on the state income tax form. Other sources of income are from federal reimbursements and interest from the Share with Wildlife trust fund.

A total of \$75,173 will be spent on the following Share with Wildlife Projects for July 1992-June 1993.

■ Watchable Wildlife — \$10,000. This program will establish a network of wildlife viewing areas, with a guide providing information about the area to the casual viewer.

■ *The Amphibians and Reptiles of New Mexico* — \$2,500. To produce a manuscript on the amphibians and reptiles of New Mexico, with data from collections in the United States and other areas.

■ Sagebrush lizard — \$8,400. To continue research on the effect of herbicide spraying on shinnery oak and its longterm effects on these lizards.\*

■ Gray-checked whiptail — \$3,800. For each of two more years to determine growth rates, home ranges, reproductive characteristics, and activity cycles of these lizards.\*

■ Hawk Watch International — \$5,396. For long-term monitoring, banding, and assessing of contaminant levels of migrating raptors, and to provide an education program through public involvement.\*

■ Talking Talons — \$4,000. A program which works with the Albuquerque Public Schools to train students to handle raptors and conduct education programs to build self-esteem and educate the public about wildlife.\*

■ Wildlife Rescue, Inc. — \$4812. For food, medical supplies, and rehabilitation of injured wildlife.\*

■ Gila monster - \$5004 - To determine the diet, habitat, home range, and thermal biology of this species.

■ Chihuahua chub — \$2313. The first of a three-year project to monitor this fish, to acquire information on habitat and its life history, and to conduct laboratory data analysis.

■ Endangered Species Fair — \$2,800. A Sierra Club-sponsored fair: to print posters, brochures and flyers; to contract artists for graphics: for postage, a speaker, musicians, and to make changes in the exhibit.\*

■ State-endangered amphibians and reptiles — \$3,000. To monitor state-endangered amphibians and reptiles through pitfall and drift-fence arrays.

■ Spotted chorus frog — \$2,420. To assess this frog's current status in New Mexico for possible future studies and the species' possible responses to environmental changes.

■ Boreal owl — \$5,000. To gather data on the distribution, population, and habitat use of this owl.\*

■ Waterfowl at Stinking Lake — \$1,700. An intensive survey, count and banding of breeding populations of water birds.\*

■ Audubon Endangered Species Education — \$6,000. To produce a comprehensive curriculum about local endangered species and habitat for elementary school students in New Mexico.

■ The Wildlife Center — \$5,000. To treat injured, sick, and orphaned wildlife for release into their natural habitats.\*

■ Mottled rock rattlesnake — \$3,028. To continue a study of the distribution, habitat, elevation, prey species, and activity cycles of this rattlesnake.\*

For more information, or to make a donation, write to: Share with Wildlife, New Mexico Department of Game & Fish, 141 E. DeVargas, Santa Fe, NM 87503.

\* Ongoing project from 1991-1992



# Counties

(continued from front page)

## 1990 New Mexico ADC Funding Sources

Federal Funds .....	\$1,020,600
County FRIF .....	393,460
State Funds .....	221,858
NM Dept. of Ag. ....	115,000
NM Game & Fish .....	28,004
Association Funds .....	57,229
Other Sources .....	30,850
Total .....	1,867,001

Source: NM ADC Program Annual Report, FY 1990.

New Mexico to slaughter nearly 10,000 animals, including more than 7000 coyotes. Of this total, counties contributed \$393,000—or nearly 46 percent—of the nonfederal portion of the ADC budget.

County contributions to ADC are in the form of Farm and Range Improvement Funds (FRIF). These funds are derived from fees paid by ranchers to graze on federal public lands. In accordance with the federal Taylor Grazing Act, a portion of these fees are returned to the states in which they originated, to be spent "...as the State legislature of such State may prescribe for the benefit of the county or counties..." in which the grazing lands are located.

The State Treasurer distributes this money, usually in March, to counties that contain federal grazing lands. Every county in New Mexico except Curry receives a share of these funds. In 1991, thirteen counties received more than \$20,000. The total amount of FRIF funds disbursed to New Mexico counties was \$558,000.

Under the state Farm and Range Improvement Fund Act (6-11-5 NMSA 1978), counties may spend FRIF money for one or more of five purposes:

1. Conservation of soil and water
2. Construction and maintenance of secondary roads
3. Spraying machines and other structures to control livestock parasites
4. Dipping vats
5. Control of rodents and predatory animals, and extermination of poisonous and noxious weeds.

Despite these choices, most of the money—anywhere from 80-95 percent—gets spent for only one purpose: animal damage control. (Whether the remaining money gets spent on anything else, or simply goes unspent, is unclear.)

Why do financially strapped counties squander this potential revenue source on biologically and economically indefensible programs to kill coyotes?

One reason is that state law ensures that ADC interests are well-represented when it comes time to spend these funds. The Farm and Range Improvement Act stipulates that county commissioners "shall seek the advice of and may cooperate with state and federal agencies and officials having knowledge of or engaged in activities similar to those for which said special fund may be expended."

The state agency that consults with the counties on FRIF expenditures is the New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA). This is also the agency that has primary responsibility for implementing the state's ADC program in cooperation with federal officials. In fact, it is same *division* within NMDA—Agricultural Programs and Resources—that conducts animal damage control and sits down with counties to plan FRIF expenditures.

Counties are not required to follow the advice they receive from NMDA and other agencies, but it is easy to see how these "experts" could come to exert considerable influence over how FRIF funds get spent.

Another quirk in state law requires that FRIF expenditures by the counties be approved by the president of New Mexico State University. (This authority has since been delegated to the director of NMDA.) According to a 1940 state Attorney General's opinion, however, this approval cannot be withheld as long as the money is being spent for one of the five purposes listed above. In other words, final discretion as to how to spend the money rests with the county commissioners.

(I wrote to the current Attorney General, requesting a more contemporary interpretation of the law. The response from his office was unequivocal: county commissioners can spend the money anyway they like, as long as it is for one of the five purposes enumerated in state law.)

Nonetheless, these features of the Farm and Range Improvement Act have led at least some counties to believe they have no control over their FRIF accounts.

In Doña Ana County, which teeters on the edge of bankruptcy these days, county officials dutifully acquiesce to annual funding requests from federal ADC officials. When I asked about this, county officials told me that "this is the way it has always been done," and "we're just a pass-through agency; we have no control over this money."

I suspect that the NMDA and ADC folks have little incentive to clear up this misreading of the law.

It should be noted that nothing in the Taylor Grazing Act requires that FRIF funds be spent to the exclusive benefit of public land ranchers. Congress clearly intended these funds to be of broad benefit to the *counties* which contain federal grazing lands, not the ranchers who use them. Even in the most rural New Mexico counties, it is difficult to see how killing coyotes could be of greater public benefit than maintaining roads, conserving water, or controlling soil erosion.

## 1991 FRIF Payments to Selected Counties

Chaves .....	\$65,180
Eddy .....	55,457
Lincoln .....	49,874
Otero .....	39,775
Hidalgo .....	33,306
Socorro .....	32,405
Sierra .....	28,405
Grant .....	25,714
Doña Ana .....	29,501
San Juan .....	20,883
Santa Fe .....	2723
Bernalillo .....	231

Source: NM State Treasurer's Office

## What You Can Do

County FRIF expenditures offer a rare opportunity to help counties financially while eliminating a major source of funding for ADC in New Mexico.

✓ Contact your county administrator and find out how FRIF funds are spent in your county. Ask about opportunities for public involvement in deciding how the money will be spent. Keep asking questions until you get some answers. (Don't be surprised, though, if you find that you know more about FRIF funds than county officials.)

✓ Contact your county commissioner to express your opposition to spending public money on animal damage control. Attend county commission meetings at which FRIF expenditures will be discussed.

✓ Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper about this issue. Most people probably would not support spending county funds on ADC if they knew it was happening. As someone once said, "Sunshine is the best disinfectant."

## Land Commission Unveils Range Stewardship Program

In an effort to promote the long-term health of New Mexico's rangeland, State Land Commissioner Jim Baca unveiled the draft Range Stewardship Incentive Program in early April.

The new program, the first of its kind in the nation, will offer an incentive to grazing lessees of State Trust Land who excel in the practice of rangeland management. Baca also announced that a series of five town meetings will be held around the state for the purpose of presenting the plan to the public.

"To my knowledge, this is the first effort by a land management agency anywhere in the nation that links the ecological condition of the land to the fees paid by the user," said Baca.

"Rangelands are a renewable resource of tremendous value to the Trust, and all of us, rancher and non-rancher alike, have a common stake in improving the health of our rangelands. Rewarding exemplary range managers makes good sense — both economic sense and environmental sense."

The State Land Office is conducting town meetings around the state to present the program to the public and solicit comment.

There are approximately 3100 agricultural (grazing) leases totalling over 8.7 million acres on State Trust Lands. Approximately 150,000 livestock are supported on these parcels. Annual income from grazing fees is over \$6 million, representing about 5 percent of all revenue earned by the State Land Office. The beneficiaries of the Trust — public schools, universities, hospitals and other public institutions—are supported by income earned by the State Land Office.

"This program is rooted in the understanding that we can't have a good economic policy without a good environmental policy," said Baca.

According to an article that appeared in the *Albuquerque Journal*, some ranchers are skeptical about the program. At the first meeting to explain the program, held in Las Cruces, ranchers expressed concern that the State Land Office lacked sufficient field staff to implement the program, and that grazing allotments containing both state and federal lands would cause difficulties for the program.

## Study Finds Forest Service Overstated Financial Benefits of Timber Sales

Last December, the Forest Service issued a press release stating that national forests in New Mexico had returned \$1.4 million to the state in fiscal year 1991. But according to Santa Fe-based environmental consultant Lane Krahl, this claim was misleading.

In a January 1992 report, Krahl wrote that the counties and school districts which receive these funds benefited by less than \$200,000 due to offsetting reductions in other sources of funding. In addition, the state public school budget benefited by about \$650,000. In total, Krahl found that state and local governments received less than two-thirds of the amount claimed by the Forest Service.

The Secretary of the U.S. Treasury is required to pay each state in which national forests are located 25 percent of all receipts from national forests in the state. For New Mexico in 1991, this amounted to the \$1.4 million claimed by the Forest Service.

The states are required to use these funds for public schools and roads in the counties in which national forests are located. However, the amount apportioned to counties for roads

is reduced by other federal payments, notably Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT). PILT is compensation to local governments for lost property taxes due to areas of untaxable federal lands within their jurisdictions.

In 1991, PILT payments completely offset Forest Service payments for all but one New Mexico county—Catron—which profited by approximately \$162,000. The other counties would have gotten the same amount of money from the federal government if they had received no funds from the Forest Service.

Similarly, the amount of national forest receipts apportioned to school districts is almost entirely offset by reductions in state education funds. Although the state education budget benefited by about \$650,000 in 1991 Forest Service payments, few school districts saw an increase in their funding as a result. Only 3 of 56 school districts received more than \$2000 in usable Forest Service payments, and in each of these the net benefit amounted to less than two-tenths of one percent of their budgets.

## Interior Board Dismisses Chapter's Appeal of BLM Vegetation Treatment Program

The Interior Board of Land Appeals has dismissed an appeal filed on behalf of the Rio Grande Chapter by the New Mexico Environmental Law Center. The appeal was taken from the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) decision to implement a program of vegetation treatment that involves extensive use of herbicides on public lands in New Mexico.

The Board has also dismissed similar appeals filed by the Wilderness Society for the program in Colorado and by the Wilderness Society and the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance for the Utah program.

The Board did not deal with the merits of the Bureau's proposed program or the ap-

peals. Rather, the Board determined that it did not have authority to hear the appeals because the decisions to implement the program were signed by an Assistant Secretary of the Interior Department. The Board reasoned that it could not review that determination.

Environmental Law Center attorney Douglas Meiklejohn is reviewing the decisions and consulting with counsel for the Wilderness Society and the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance to determine whether to pursue the matter further.

[Reprinted from the *New Mexico Environmental Law Center's Green Fire Report*, March/April 1992.]



# Albuquerque Planners Propose Ten Lanes of Traffic Through Petroglyphs

by Ike Eastvold

The City of Albuquerque has recently released a so-called draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) recommending no alternatives to construction of two major highways—ten full lanes of traffic—through Petroglyph National Monument. Comments on the DEIS are encouraged by May 7th, but will be considered if received later.

Petroglyph National Monument was created by Congress to protect over 15,000 examples of prehistoric and historic Hispanic rock carvings. The majority of the Indian petroglyphs are Anasazi religious symbolism forming the roots of contemporary Pueblo Indian ceremonial art. The Monument is still used as an "outdoor church" by certain Pueblo groups who have warned that the City's plans violate their religious freedom. The City's DEIS fails to even mention these Native American religious values, instead stating that the project is "not expected to have an effect on minority or ethnic groups."

The Unser Middle DEIS offers no alternatives to four lanes on Unser and six lanes on Paseo del Norte through the Monument. Using an existing road, Paradise Boulevard, to take traffic around the northern end of the Monument was rejected after the City created a horrific "straw man" 6-lane, limited access design requiring the demolition of dozens of homes, thereby deliberately inflaming residents of Paradise Hills against Monument supporters.

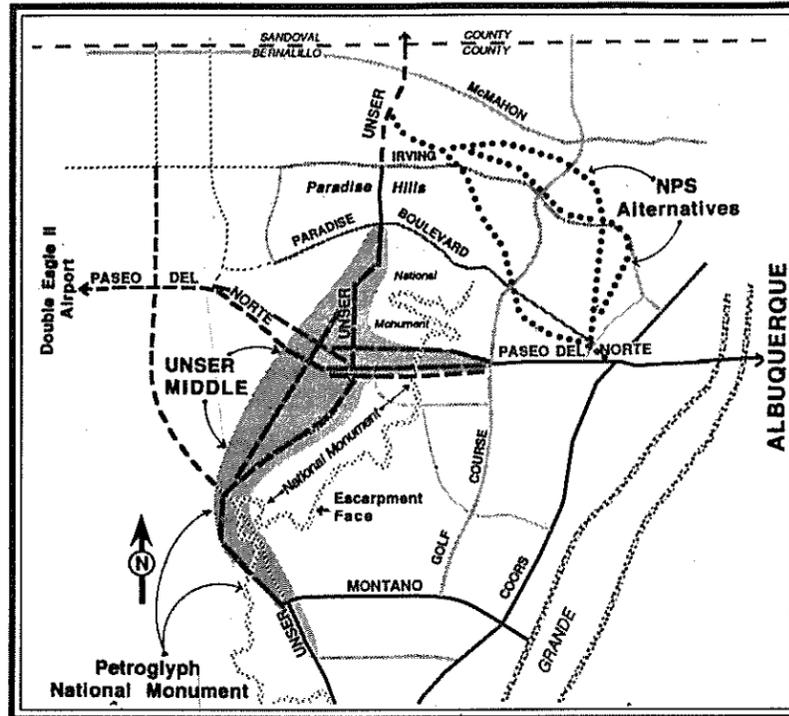
Considering a user-friendly four-lane parkway design for Paradise Boulevard was never mentioned, although dozens of earlier comment letters recommended it. Reducing demand through mass transit, HOV and AVL lanes, park and ride stations, express busses, car and vanpooling, staggered work schedules, and other transportation management strategies was summarily rejected without so much as even calculating how, taken together, they might substantially reduce the need for additional lanes.

The City's two highways, Unser and Paseo del Norte, will border and cut through the few remaining fragments with good integrity in Petroglyph National Monument. The Boca Negra and Piedras Marcadas Units of the Monument would be degraded.

## DEIS Fails to Address Cumulative Impacts

The City's DEIS nowhere addresses cumulative impacts, instead spending its effort calculating the number of petroglyphs directly destroyed by the highways, and does not discuss the larger impacts involved with loss of historic character and environmental setting. This approach is tantamount to myopically focussing on the number of pieces of furniture destroyed by a lane of traffic through someone's house, instead of admitting that the use of the house itself would be destroyed.

Since significant portions of the petroglyph-rich volcanic escarpment have already suffered from suburban encroachment, roads,



City's Unser Middle Project compared to Nat. Park Service alternatives.

powerlines, pipelines, shooting ranges, and vandalism, these additional, cumulative impacts from Unser Middle threaten the very purposes for which Congress established the Monument.

## What Needs to Be Done

We need a flood of letters supporting full consideration of the three alternative routes proposed recently by the National Park Service. These NPS alternatives to Unser Middle would take the great bulk of traffic coming from Rio Rancho along a shorter, more logical path following the hypotenuse of the triangle, instead of its right angle, to the six-lane Paseo del Norte bridge across the Rio Grande.

We need to add our recommendation that the McMahon corridor become the major east-west truck route, and that Paradise and Irving Boulevards not be extended to the Double Eagle II airport.

And, finally, the City must fully address in the final EIS, cumulative, growth-inducing, and Native American impacts, as well as reducing demand through the full spectrum of mass transit and transportation system management (TSM) strategies. Mail your comments to: John Castillo, Unser Middle DEIS, City of Albuquerque, Public Works Dept., PO Box 1293, Albuquerque, NM 87103.

[The author is National and State Parks Chair for the Rio Grande Chapter and a member of the Albuquerque Group.]

## ALBUQUERQUE GROUP

### May Meeting: TIBET and the Himalayas

by Ralph Wrons

The country of Tibet doesn't have vast resources of oil, so it's not surprising that few people realize that its culture and environment are in danger. Lynda Taylor, who serves as Ecology chair for the New Mexico Friends of Tibet, traveled to India and Nepal last year with 12 other New Mexicans to meet with His Holiness the Dalai Lama in Dharamsala, India. As part of her five-week trip she also went on a two-week trek from Pokara, Nepal, to the Annapurna Sanctuary at the foothills of one of the highest peaks in the Himalayas.

A Sierra Club member, Lynda is active in the environmental community through her work at Southwest Research and Information Center (SRIC) and her volunteer activities for the New Mexico Conservation Voter Alliance. Her India/Nepal trip was very different from her usual work. She will give a slide show of her adventure at our May 18 general meeting.

Our meeting place is Room 2401 of the UNM Law School, SW corner of Stanford and Constitution, at 7:30 PM. The Albuquerque Group provides refreshments (coffee and cookies). Please bring your own coffee cup if you care to partake. See you there.

### Las Huertas Canyon Update

by Marion Davidson

For twenty years, folks have opposed the development of Las Huertas Canyon which follows the creek of the same name down the northeast slope of the Sandias. With the Forest Service's determination that the area should be developed for automobile recreation, a coalition of organizations, including the Sierra Club, filed suit in federal district court last summer. Represented by the environmental attorney, Grove Burnett, the groups complained that the decision had not adequately considered the impacts on the Canyon of the proposed development and that the decision was not based on the full range of alternatives as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Currently, Burnett is gathering affidavits from experts to demonstrate the lack of attention to a wide range of impacts that will result from Forest Service proposals for the Canyon. During the discovery phase of the lawsuit, documents from the Forest Service revealed that the "scenic byway" designation for the Crest Highway included a stop in Las Huertas Canyon in its auto tour brochure which is expected to escort over one million visitors a year to a new visitors' center at the Crest.

According to Burnett, a final brief and argument in the Las Huertas litigation is expected for this summer. To support this effort, the Helios String Quartet will appear in a "Concert for the Earth with Dessert" scheduled for June 7 at 3:00 pm at the Coronado Monument. See announcement in the issue of the *Sierran* for more information.

### Fourth in a Series:

### Buying Organic

by Ralph Wrons

If you've been reading this series, you've probably concluded that a major ingredient in thinking globally, acting locally is resource conservation. This part deals with land and soil conservation, and buying and growing organically grown products makes a significant contribution to that end. "An act as simple as choosing organic food supports not only your health, but the health of farmworkers, the land, the wildlife, the earth", wrote Joan Quinn in the latest *La Montanita Co-Op Connection*.

The U.S. is the leading producer of chemicals in the world. It's our #1 export. In fact, chemicals banned in this country are exported and in some cases come back to us on the food (25% of our fruits & vegetables on average, 50% during the winter) or food ingredients sold at conventional grocers. This problem has been addressed in the Circle of Poison Prevention Act (S. 898). This bill, unfortunately, is still delayed in committee.

One component of organic horticulture is the use of organic fertilizers (manure, compost, etc). Chemical fertilizers are quick-acting, short-term boosters, but they slowly kill the microorganisms in the soil. As reported in *Sierra Magazine* a few years ago, farmers are beginning to realize that they need to restore organic matter to the soil to insure their own livelihood. Chemical fertilizers have also been linked to groundwater pollution.

A few tips, and good practices to adopt:

- 1) Organic fertilizers, such as compost, provide all 17 essential nutrients that plants need. Composting your kitchen and yard waste is an easy thing to do, does not smell, and fits in well with the City, State, and Sierra Club goal of solid waste reduction.
- 2) Avoid using chemical fertilizers, pesticides for the reasons cited above plus one more: non-point source runoff. (eg. Your neighbor "floods" his lawn after giving the chemical fertilizer fix and sends a steady stream of unidentified contaminants down the gutter.) This is an increasing pollution

(continued on page 2)

Buying Organic - continued from page 1

problem.

3) When you can, seek out and buy clothing made with organic cotton. Seventh Generation is one source. Contrary to popular belief, conventionally grown cotton is hazardous to the planet's health. In addition to being very water-intensive, and, increasingly, stone-washed and acid-washed, it is also one of the most pesticide-intensive crops in the world. In the U.S. alone, farmers subject their cotton-growing land to an estimated 8.5 million tons of pesticides per year.

4) Shop at your local organic food market. There are a few markets in Albuquerque which offer some organically-grown produce. On a much larger scale, the La Montanita Co-Op has a complete selection of organic and environmentally benign products. Complementing it are the two Keller's Farm Stores. I also learned recently that Wild Oats will be opening soon in North Central Albuquerque.

5) When and where you can, try growing your own organic produce. It's very satisfying and very delicious. Join the Organic Growers Association. they publish a monthly newsletter, which has the whole gamut of helpful hints. As mentioned last month, the Southwest Organic News is available at the Living Batch Bookstore.

Buying organic doesn't have to be more expensive, but it does make more sense.

Prairie Dogs Rescued from NE Heights Development

by Marc Bedner

When land was cleared at I-40 and Eubank last year to make room for PACE and Wal-Mart, Prairie Dog Pals saved 150 prairie dogs, along with 16 spotted ground squirrels, 5 lizards, and 1 snake. The successful relocation was noticed by Scott Garret of Pierpont Homes, who made a generous donation to Prairie Dog Pals to insure that they could relocate the prairie dogs from his Northeast Heights homesite before construction begins there. The 21 prairie dogs from Tramway and Comanche are joining their fellow exiles at Montessa Park.

While prairie dogs are not an endangered species, Albuquerque City Council Resolution 346 encourages the removal and relocation of prairie dogs prior to the development of vacant lots. Prairie Dog Pals hopes that more developers will come forward to save the city's wildlife. (Developers are required to suspend construction which poses a danger to federally protected species such as burrowing owls, which are often found in the same area as prairie dogs. The finding of burrowing owls at I-40 and Eubank helped buy time for the removal of wildlife from that site.)

The city open space land at Montessa Park, south of the airport, is perhaps best known to city residents as the site of a solid waste transfer station. The city has granted Prairie Dog Pals temporary use of the open space for wildlife relocation. The Albuquerque City Council will soon be considering a proposal to establish a permanent wildlife refuge there.

Prairie Dog Pals is maintaining native habitat at Montessa Park and the Northeast Heights by planting native grasses and cactus. Besides urban development, they are concerned about other threats to prairie dogs, including the activities of federal agencies such as Animal Damage Control. Anyone interested in helping Prairie Dog Pals should call Liz Roberts at 293-2863.

Congressional Candidates

Four candidates are running in the Democratic primary for the 1st Congressional District. Now, before the June primary, is the best time to ask each of them about their positions on the issues. A similar request to Steve Schiff (the incumbent) will provide you with the information you need to make an informed choice in November. The candidates are:

- James A. Nance, 7613 Guadalupe Trail NW, Albq., 87107.
- Robert J. Aragon, 5116 Spinning Wheel NW, Albq., 87121.
- Allen Merson, Box 206, Estancia, NM, 87016.
- Stephen Petty, 3809 Mackland NE, Albq., 87110-6125.

Look for candidate profiles in an upcoming issue of the Sierran. If you are interested in grassroots campaign work, call Susan Gorman at 265-3231.

1992 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Group Chair	Stefan Verchinski	888-1370
Vice-Chair	Ralph Wrons	275-0856
Secretary	Heidi Fleischmann	260-1217
Treasurer	Richard Barish	247-8079
Chapter	Stefan Verchinski	888-1370
At-Large	Bob Comish	255-6037
At-Large	Blair Brown	265-3231
At-Large	Teresa Johnson	265-5506
At-Large	David Bouquin	265-7853

The Albuquerque Group of the Sierra Club depends entirely on the efforts of volunteers. To help our efforts, call one of the following issue coordinators:

Air Quality	Heidi Fleischmann	260-1217
Books/Calendars	Rich Adam	266-4657
Bosque	Richard Barish	247-8079
City Planning	David Bouquin	265-7853
City Trails	vacant position	
Conservation	David Bouquin	265-7853
Energy	Ralph Wrons	275-0856
Las Huertas	Marion Davidson	867-5178
Mailings	Doreen Kahl	345-7919
Mexican Wolf Newsletter	Susan Larsen	897-2527
	Dorothy Brethauer	275-6113
	Jessica Bailey	857-0286
Outings	David Morrison	344-8693
Petroglyphs/Westside	Ike Eastvold	255-7679
Population	Bruce Ferguson	765-5757
	Michelle Meadors	266-8823
Public Lands	Hubert Davis	299-6904
Solid Waste	David Bouquin	265-7853
Water Quality	Leslie Amrhein	298-2081
Wildlife	Marc Bedner	299-2004

Water Activist Needed

We are facing very important and exciting water issues in the coming months. We are, however, in need of a new water chairperson for the Albuquerque Group. Expertise in the area is not a necessity, but an interest in water is essential. Our current water chair will help anyone interested to take over the position. Please call Leslie Amrhein (298-2081) or David Bouquin (265-7853).

Bosque Talk

The Friends of the Rio Grande Botanic Garden will meet at the Rio Grande Nature Center, 2901 Candelaria NW on Saturday, June 6 at 10 AM to hear Dr. James S. Findley discuss "The Rio Grande Bosque - An Endangered Habitat." The lecture is free and open to the public and will be followed by an optional guided tour of the Nature Center. Call 242-1778 for more info.

Water Fair

An "Educational Water Fair", sponsored by the Bernalillo County Cooperative Extension Service, will be held on Saturday, May 9, at the 4-H Center at 1500 Menaul NW from 9AM - 3:30PM. There will be a series of talks on water conservation topics as well as commercial and educational booths.

OUTINGS

Sat May 9 El Malpais West Tour/Hike Lava tubes, and Chain of Craters Wilderness Study Area. Bring lunch, sturdy shoes, water. Leisure, 2-4 miles. Meet at Silos, 2551 Coors NW, 9:00 AM. John Wright 877-5259.

Sun May 10 Geological Windows Hike, Petroglyph National Monument Thousands of petroglyphs. Bring sturdy shoes, camera, binoculars. RSVP. Ike Eastvold 255-7679

Sat May 16 Embudito Trail Service Project, Sandias

Come out and work on our group's adopted trail, the Embudito. We will be doing a major reroute of the lower trail section and can use a large amount of help. Refreshments provided. Tools provided by the US Forest Service. Bring gloves, hat, sunscreen, lunch, water. 9:00 to 3:30, come and go as you like. Give us a call if you can make it. DIRECTIONS: East on Montgomery, cross Tramway, Left on Glenwood Hills at stop sign, right on gravel road, park on right side, below water tank.. Glen Kepler 296-0402 David Morrison 344-8693

Sun May 17 Penteca Pinta Wilderness Study Area Hike To the southwest of Albuquerque lies the alien looking badland landscape of multicolored rocks forming eerie shapes. One of the top trips of last year. Moderate, 4 miles. Meet at Sierra Club office, 9:00 AM. Bring lunch, water, sunscreen. Ralph Genter 881-3147

Sat May 30 Bandelier National Monument Hike Starting near the monument's visitor center, we take an excursion into the backcountry among cool pine trees and rich with Anasazi ruins. Bandelier is one of New Mexico's favorite hiking areas. Leisure-Moderate, 4-6 miles. Meet at Sierra Club office, 9:00 AM. Bring lunch, water. Bob Comish 255-6037

Sun May 31 Upper Peralta Canyon, Jemez Mountains Hike among the fern and aspen lined creek filled with darting brown trout. Plentiful birdlife. Moderate, 4-6 miles. Bring lunch, water, hat, sunscreen, sturdy shoes. Meet at SE corner of K-Mart parking lot, I-40 and Carlisle, 8:00 AM. High clearance vehicles desirable. Don Meadors 266-8823

Sat Jun 6 Jornada del Muerte Wilderness Study Area Take a walk on the wild side, take a walk on the Spanish settler's road, the "Journey of Death." From a lizard whose coloration has adapted to the color of the lava flow, a crater, and a bat filled lava tube to the remnants of a Spanish road,

pot shards and flint pieces, and many Archaic Indian sites this area will delight the desert wilderness fans. Bring lunch, water, sunscreen, sturdy shoes. Meet at the Sierra Club office, 9:00 AM. Phyllis Martinez 344-4386.

Sun Jun 7 Tres Pistoles Canyon, Sandia Wilderness Congress is considering protecting this 437 acres of private land at the mouth of "Three Guns Canyon". Protection will stabilize the large recreational usage, protect artifacts dating back to 1150 AD and several state-threatened plants and cacti, and provide access to the raptor survey site. 3 hours, leisure. Meet at Sierra Club office, 8:00 AM. David Morrison 344-8693

Sat Jun 13 Tapia Canyon Pictographs and Guadalupe Ruins, Rio Puerco Basin Kathy Walters of the BLM will guide us along a stream in a canyon to the impressive Tapia pictographs. Next, we head to the impressive and extensive Guadalupe ruins. Bring hat, sunscreen, lunch, water, sturdy shoes, and

camera. Moderate with some scramble, 6-8 miles. Meet at BLM office, 435 Montano Rd NE, 7:00 AM. High clearance vehicles desirable. Ralph Genter 881-3147

Sat-Sun Jun 13-14 Humphreys Peak, Arizona Car Camp/Hike Peakbag Arizona's highest peak, at 12,633 feet, in the Kachina Wilderness. To the Hopi, the Kachina gods bring rain to the crops. Bristlecone pine forest, volcanic peak. Leave Friday evening, car camp at Petrified Forest, day hike the peak on either Sat. or Sun., second car camp at Sunset Crater. 6-8 miles, moderate, 3,000 footelevation gain. Stefan Verchinski 888-1370.

Petroglyph Cleanup Report

The recent petroglyph cleanup had about 50 participants and removed around 40 tons of trash! The Sierra Club received an award of appreciation for organizing and carrying out this annual event. - DM

*Concert for the Earth*  
with Dessert



The Helios String Quartet

under the Portal at  
Coronado Monument  
State Road 44, just west of Bernalillo  
3:00 pm Sunday, June 7

\$10 for advance tickets from Natural Sound in Nob Hill Shopping Center  
or \$12 at the door  
for more information, call 867-2708  
all proceeds to benefit Las Huertas Litigation Fund

CALENDAR

Unless otherwise noted, meetings take place at the Club office at 207 San Pedro NE.

- May 7: Mexican Wolf Coalition, 7:30 PM
- May 8: **Deadline** for all articles for combination Wildline / Sierran on disk. Jessica Bailey (857-0286) is the June editor.
- May 9: Water Fair, 4-H Center, 1500 Menaul NW 9AM-3PM
- May 11: Executive Committee Meeting, 7:30 PM.
- May 16: **Embudito Trail Cleanup** 9AM-3:30PM (see above for info).
- May 18: Sierra Club General Meeting, UNM Law School, rm. 2401, 7:30 PM
- May 25: Conservation committee meeting, 7:30 PM.
- June 4: Meican Wolf Coalition, 7:30 PM.

# the LORAX

Sierra Club  
El Paso Regional Group

## MAY GENERAL MEETING

Instead of a general meeting during May, the annual Sierra Club picnic will be held on Wednesday, May 27, 5:30 p.m., at Chamizal Park. Bring your favorite salad, dessert, or veggies. Hamburgers, hot dogs and condiments will be provided. Soft drinks (\$.50) and beer (\$1) will be available. At only \$2 per person, you won't find a better bargain in town.

**DON'T MISS THIS FUN SUMMER SOCIAL!**

## CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

I would like to take this occasion to invite everyone to come to the John Muir Birthday celebration on May 2 at the Indian Cliffs Ranch, and partake of some good Sierran comradery.

It is a good opportunity to evaluate the various assaults on the things that are close to our hearts, such as pristine streams, wilderness, old growth forests, not to mention the failure of our governments, both local and national, to address the problems of recycling, clean air, clean water and numerous others.

The forces of the "three P's" - pilage, pollution and plunder - are hard at work. They want to cut every tree, graze every inch of ground, privatize our parks and develop every inch of this country.

They have formed various organizations with titles such as "People For The West" and an assortment of names using the "wise use" buzzterm. They are nothing more than well-funded fronts for the cattle, lumbering and mining industries. They have no eye to the future.

Greed is their only goal. They do not care if future generations have any resources left for them. The only thing that counts to these people is today's bottom line. They have the money and the political power that money buys.

In the light of the numerous assaults on the environment, it behooves all of us in the environmental community, and everyone who is concerned about the world around them, to evaluate their level of activism.

"All that is needed for tyranny to prevail is for good men to do nothing."

Ted Mertig

## SWAP SHOP

**KELTY TIOGA III BACKPACK**, external frame, moderately used, small hole in bottom—hungry squirrel in Zion NP. RETAIL \$140, SELL \$80.

**NORTH FACE IBEX SLEEPING BAG**, 550 Goose down, rated at -15o, 4 lbs. 8 oz. with stuff sack, used twice. RETAIL \$330, SELL \$250.

**PEAK 1 CAMP STOVE**, white gas, 4-season, moderately used, had a gas leak repaired by Coleman, extra gas bottle included as a \$7 value. RETAIL \$42, SELL \$25. Call Chad Puerling at (915) 772-0774, or write at 6770 Edgemere #143, El Paso, TX 79925.

**KELTY BACKPACK**, medium, like new. \$100. Call Carol Morrison at (915) 585-9077 or write at 210 Montebello, El Paso, TX 79912.

## EDITOR'S TWO-CENT'S WORTH

Gradually, everyone is making the necessary adjustments needed to put the information together for this newsletter, namely me! In this issue, we are attempting to "catch up" on our outings reports, so you'll find reports on trips from February through March.

As usual, there are a number of issues that need the attention of the Club and its members. They will be covered in depth in future newsletters. These local and regional issues, such as grazing on the Diamond Bar Ranch in the Gila Wilderness Area, the Franklin Mountains, and city-wide recycling, need diligent monitoring and continued activism in order to protect our resources. In addition to the communications tower that John Sproul wrote about last issue, as an example, more proposed intrusions have been proposed for the Franklin Mountains State Park. Look for an update on those developments in the June *Rio Grande Sierran*.

Count on articles in the *Sierran* to keep you informed.

Wyona Turner

## GROUP DIRECTORY

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Chairman:	Ted Mertig	852-3011
Vice Chairman:	Joe Rodriguez	833-9655
Secretary:	Fernando Dubove	544-5973
Treasurer:	Kathy Sunday	584-9301
Members:	Gary Williams	544-8484
	Carolina Greenfield	593-2838
	Betsy Julian	544-5741

### CONSERVATION:

Environmental Quality:	Tom Brasfield	584-8739
Franklin Mtns:	John Sproul	545-5157
Political Action:	Jim Bell	581-8864
Population:	Patty Pagels	592-7485
Public Lands:	Ted Mertig	852-3011

### ADMINISTRATION:

Environmental Center	Linda Mahlow	532-9645
		532-4876

Group:	Bill Phillips	772-6503
Hospitality:	Barbara Mertig	852-3011
ICO:	Jeanne French	592-1660
SIERRAN Editor:	Wyona Turner	585-0251
LORAX Mail:	Bill Phillips	772-6503
Membership:	Carolina Greenfield	593-2838
Office Rep.:	Neil O'Hara	565-4735
Outings:	Carol Morrison	585-9077
Programs:	Betsy Julian	544-5741
Publicity:	Todd Daugherty	584-2730

Sierra Club Environmental Center  
800 S. Piedras  
532-9645, 532-4876

Please send any changes or corrections  
in membership to

Carolina Greenfield, Membership Roll  
1510 Dale Douglas, 79936

## MAY/JUNE OUTINGS

### NORTH FRANKLIN PEAK DAYHIKE (ISSUE OUTING)

DATE: Sunday, May 3, 1992  
PLACE: Franklin Mountains State Park  
CLASS: Moderate  
LIMIT: 24, reservations required  
LEADER: John Sproul, 545-5157

Beginning early Sunday morning at Tom Mays Park, we will hike up to the 7,192' summit of North Franklin Peak. Roundtrip is about 8 miles, with approximately 2,500' elevation gain. We will have a rest break on top, so bring a snack (early lunch), water, and warm clothing to keep you comfortable as you soak in the view!

The view from the top will become more meaningful as you have the opportunity to learn of proposed development of yet another of our beautiful mountain peaks. This hike will include a commentary on proposed city plans to put another communication tower of dubious need on our skyscape. This is a special repeat of our April 12 hike.

### WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE DAYHIKE

DATE: May 9, 1992  
PLACE: White Sands Missile Range  
CLASS: Moderate  
LIMIT: 12  
LEADER: Gary Williams, 544-8484

This is an authorized hike onto military lands. Call Gary Williams for details about this limited-access hike.

### COFFEE POT TRAIL BACKPACK

DATE: May 15-17, 1992  
PLACE: San Mateo Mountains  
CLASS: Moderate +  
LIMIT: 12, reservations required  
LEADER: Joe Rodriguez, 833-9655

We will depart from the Jewel Osco parking lot on Friday night and drive to an area near Winston, NM where we will carcamp for the night. On Saturday morning we will drive to our trailhead and start our 7.2 mile hike to Blue Mountain. There is approximately 3,000' of elevation gain. It has been a few years since the Sierra Club has lead a trip into this area. For more details, call Joe.

### BEGINNER'S BACKPACK

DATE: May 16-17, 1992  
PLACE: Railroad Canyon, Aldo Leopold Wilderness  
CLASS: Easy  
LIMIT: 12, reservations required  
LEADER: Betty and Weldon Fisbeck, 581-0174

This is a trip designed especially for those who would like to try backpacking for the first time. It is a short trip (approximately 2 miles) over a fairly easy, but beautiful, streamside trail. You will get a feel of what it's like to shoulder a pack and be self-sufficient, safe, and ecologically responsible in the wilderness. Hopefully, aspiring backpackers will attend the beginners backpack series being offered by the Club. Please call early for reservations.

### JERKY MOUNTAINS KEY EXCHANGE BACKPACK

DATE: May 22-25, 1992, Memorial Day Weekend  
PLACE: Gila Wilderness  
CLASS: Moderate +  
LIMIT: 24 (12 in each direction), reservations required  
LEADERS: Rollin Wickenden, 598-8042 hm  
Wesley Leonard, 747-5494 wk

Due to heavier than normal snow pack in the Mogollon Range of the Gila and the likelihood that much of the snow will still be on the ground over this weekend, we now offer a new route at lower elevation. The new trip is a key exchange backpack between Willow Creek campground and the Loco Mountain Trailhead, both at 8,000'.

Each group will spend two nights in the back country with water nearby. Total trail mileage is about 21 miles and elevation gain is 1,000'. This route allows the opportunity to see some of the more remote Gila backcountry. Be prepared for changeable weather conditions. Call Rollin or Wesley details.

### HILLSBORO PEAK DAYHIKE

DATE: May 31, 1992  
PLACE: Aldo Leopold Wilderness  
CLASS: Moderate  
LIMIT: 20, reservations required  
LEADERS: Carolina Greenfield, 593-2838, and Eva Peppel

This is one of the best dayhikes in our area. The trail ascends the mountain through pines, spruce, Douglas fir and aspen. Breathtaking views occur along this 10-mile roundtrip hike with an elevation gain of 1,800'. Call early for reservations.

### SPRING CABIN BACKPACK

DATE: June 6-7, 1992  
PLACE: White Mountain Wilderness  
CLASS: Moderate  
LIMIT: 12, reservations required  
LEADERS: Eva Peppel, 591-9713, and Carolina Greenfield

We will hike up the 2 1/2 miles to the crest via Argentina Trail, continuing on the Crest Trail 1 1/2 miles to Spring Cabin, where we will set up camp. Sunday, we will hike (5 miles) to Bonito Springs and from there take Bonito Trail (2 1/2 miles) back to our cars. The elevation gain is 1,200'. A highlight will be the beautiful irises that cover the meadows at this time of year. Call early for reservations.

## CALENDAR OF OTHER EVENTS

May 2	John Muir Birthday Dinner
May 6	EXCOM
May 27	Sierra Club Picnic (No General Meeting)
June 22-29	Gila 8-Day Backpack
June 28-29	Kiddie Backpack
July 18-26	Colorado 7-Day Backpack (Sangre de Cristo Mountains)

OUTINGS REPORTS

**Williams Ranch/El Capitan Backpack**

On Saturday we made our way around the base of El Capitan, over and around the Salt Basin Overlook and down into Shumard Canyon. The views that we encountered along the way were just spectacular. Ten miles later we arrived at the Williams' ranch house. We set up camp at the primitive campsite right below the entrance to the canyon. We were tired that night, but the next day was a more physically demanding hike than the first. Exhausted and in pain, some more than others, we all managed to successfully complete the trip. I would like to thank everyone for their participation. Participants were: Mike Episcopo, Bill and Shirley Phillips, Michael Bromka, Cindy LeBleu, Kathy Sunday and leader Joe Rodriguez

**Allie Canyon Backpack**

An experienced group of six eagerly began the hike in from the Mimbres Ranger Station on a beautiful day. It seemed more like a spring backpack rather than a winter one, but we enjoyed it just the same. We arrived at our camping area in plenty of time for a happy hour of relaxation, pitched tents and then prepared for supper. In the evening, we enjoyed a good campfire and conversation. Sunday morning was a bit nippy, but again we had a fire and a hearty breakfast before we broke camp and hiked out. The late morning turned cloudy and we were fortunate enough to arrive at our vehicles and drive to a nearby restaurant before the rains came. Participants were Sandy Anderson, Rafaela Schuller, Richard Rheder, Betty and Weldon Fisbeck and leader Mark Post

**Feather Lake Wildlife Sanctuary Tours**

Feather Lake can be buffeted by winds in late February, with wildlife hard to find, but February 29 was not one of those days. Mild weather prevailed, and though duck numbers were down from their winter peak at this local wildlife sanctuary, there was still plenty of avian activity to entertain us. Joining leader John Sproul on his tours of the lake were Jim Baptist, Betty Bowen, Lou Burmeister, Clark Champie, Mia Eichel, Maria Gonzalez, Mary Beth Harper, Tom Higdon, Marty and Joseph Morrow, Jim and Ann O'Shea, Barbara Richardson, Annick and Jim Schafer, Andrea and Rita Schmidt, Nancy Stages, Helen Stoughton and Betty Wright.

**New Cave Dayhike**

On March 1, 23 Spelunking Sierrans enjoyed the wonders of New Cave in Carlsbad National Park. Two informative Park Service Rangers guided us by flashlight into the primitive cave to marvel at the formations and their stories. After viewing the "Christmas Tree," the third largest cave column in the world, 17,000 years of bat guano deposits and other wonders, most enjoyed a picnic at Rattlesnake Springs while others ventured out to visit other sites in the area. The satisfied spelunkers were: Able Assistant Carolina Greenfield, Carol Jenik, Chuck and Wyona Turner, Dennis Stemrud, Cecilia Cardenas, Joe Pachorek, Bibiane Alcire, Kay and Mark Riley, Terry and Cacey Lavin, Kurt Reed, Pat Wood, Ramiro Pena, Scott Whited, Tom Osteen, Joe Baca, Anne McCombs, Marty Morrow, Earl Morrow, and William and leader Todd Daugherty.

**Big Bend Outer Mountain Loop**

The "Magnificent Seven" and their "Superb Support Staff" arrived in Big Bend to beautiful spring weather for the annual Outer Mountain Loop around the Chisos Mountains. Day One found the group clambering over the rim to Boot Spring and down the Juniper Trail to the support crew awaiting with the refreshments and a night of stories of the old days. Day Two found the Seven doing the normally Dreaded Deadly Dodsen Death Drill. But this year, cloud cover kept the day cool and the wet year resulted in a dozen flowing streams; enough water to enjoy a mid-day bath. In fact, the Park Service has discovered almost 300 unknown springs this year due to high precipitation.

Following another night of revelry, tent-whipping winds and a spectacular view, the hikers rambled up Blue Creek to view the damage caused by the 1989 fire that caused that year's trip to be cut short. Grasses and shrubs have bounced back, but many of the junipers, oaks, and pines are blackened standing testaments to the damage done by this human-caused devastation. Topping the South Rim, the group viewed deer just feet away, a fox, several scolding squirrels and were greeted back at the parking lot by a herd of javelina. The Driving Duo were: Harold "The Master" Naylor and "Big Bend" Bill Brown. The Magnificent Seven were: Bill "Old El Paso Juvenile Delinquent" Phillips, Jim "GQ Patagonia" Bell, Mike "The Trail-blazer" Episcopo, Krista "Eat My Dust" McKinney, Claudia "Rear Guard" Austin, Todd "Gastro-orgasmic" Daugherty, and Gary "Herdmaster" Williams.

**Guadalupe Peak Dayhike**

Despite the always predictable spring winds in the Guadalupe, 14 enthusiastic hikers accepted the challenge of "the peak"—the highest mountain in Texas, with an elevation gain of 3,000'. Enjoying the phenomenal view at the top were Mariano Santiago, Dennis Stemrud, Rita and Andria Schmidt, Charles Reynolds, Shannon Vasquez, Cecilia Cardenas, Mike Episcopo, Joe Pachorik, Jorge Jariqui, Julie Schmitt, and (pulling up the rear) leader Cindy LeBleu.

**Achenback Canyon Dayhike**

Cloudy skies and an intermittent light rain did not deter our group of 14 Sierrans from enjoying the beauty of Achenback Canyon in the Organ Mountains. We followed the trail up North Achenback and then crossed a pass into South Achenback. We successfully negotiated the two waterfalls, the second of which was running some water. After a pleasant lunch in the trees below the second water fall, we found a new trail which crossed a pass and led back to the trailhead cutting a couple of miles off the hike as we had done it previously. Participating in this adventure were Vera and Burt Schwartz, Mariano Santiago, Kay Riley, Barbara Nehring, Mia Eichel, Sue, Jeff and Daniel Brannon, Rafaela Schuller, Lolina Alvarez, Sandy Anderson, Kathy and leader Rollin Wickenden.

*Not to escape from but to escape to: not to forget but to remember. We've been taking care of ourselves in places where it really matters. The next step is to take care of the places that really matter.*  
Terry and Renny Russell  
1967 ON THE LOOSE

SANTA FE GROUP NEWS

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - TUESDAY, MAY 19

An exciting literary evening is in store for our May General Meeting. Local author Frederick Turner will read from his new book of travels along the Gulf of Mexico, *A Border of Blue*, which is to be published late this year by Henry Holt. Frederick is the author of six books including a biography of John Muir, *Rediscovering America*. His essays have appeared in the *New York Times*, *International Herald Tribune*, *Smithsonian*, *American Heritage* and *Wilderness*.

The general meeting is free and open to the public and will be held at the Unitarian Church on Barcelona between Don Gaspar and Galisteo, Tuesday, May 19, at 7:30 PM.

IN BRIEF:

**RECYCLING:** When you're doing that Spring cleaning, remember to benefit the Sierra SF Group, gather up your recyclables and take them to either Capital Recycling or Environmental Control (both are just off Siler Road) and have them credited to Sierra. ♥

Also, now's the time to start a compost pile with all those leaves and grasses you're raking up. Your kitchen vegetable garbage will add valuable nutrients to that compost pile. A handful of worms and occasional watering will give you black gold for your garden and plantings (and save the landfills).

**Sierra Conservation Slide Show:**

The Education Comm has been presenting the slide show to fifth and sixth grades throughout the area. If you know any classes this slide show slide show can be presented to, call, Carolyn Keskulla, 982-9570

**NEEDED** — Literate hikers to participate in revising the best-selling *Day Hikes In The Santa Fe Area* — interesting work. No pay. Call Betsy Fuller (983-8870).

**FLEA MARKET FUNDRAISER** — As you know, we are constantly in search of funds to help with our expenses. The Flea Market proved to be so successful last Spring that we have decided to try it again.

Clean out your closets and garage now, and then set aside Saturday, June 20, as the day you will help sell everyone's goodies to keep our Group afloat! To donate merchandise and also to volunteer to help, please call:

Gwen Wardwell (438-3060) or Web Kitchell (982-9674/church, 471-7539)

SIERRA CLUB -- Santa Fe Group  
440 Cerrillos Road  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501  
Telephone 505/983-2703

>> SANTA FE GROUP OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS <<

May Chair — Jana Oyler*	983-1858	Publicity — Jana Oyler*	988-1858
Vice-Chair — Norma McCallan*	471-0005	Outings — Norma McCallan*	471-0005
Secretary — Jana Oyler*	988-1858	Arnold Keskulla	982-9570
Treasurer — Lionel Soracco*	983-6715	Publications — Betsy Fuller	983-8870
Conservation — Sue Harrod	986-8825	Education/Recycling/Office — Carolyn Keskulla*	982-9570
Chapter Representative — Sue Harrod	986-8825	Newsletter Editor — Kay Carlson	982-3926
Legislation — Ken Hughes	988-9297	Phone Tree—Martha Anne Freeman	438-0697
Membership — Pat Stevens	982-5051	John McClure*	473-1916
Fund Raising — Web Kitchell*	471-7539	Coby Muckelroy*	983-5453
		Lani Moore*	989-7711

Terms expire 12/92: Freeman/Keskulla/Kitchell/McClure  
12/93: McCallan/Moore/Muckelroy/Oyler/Soracco

Sat Sun June

- 6 Art Judd (982-3212) Easy/Moderate Hike to Atalaya Mtn or equivalent. Leave 9 AM.
- 7 Victor Atyas (471-7545) Easy Hike in Bandelier to Rio. Leave 9:15 AM.
- 7 Stephen Janus (988-4137) Moderate/Strenuous Hike to Santa Fe Baldy by a nonstandard route. Leave 8 AM.
- 13 Joe Whelan (984-0746) Moderate Hike in Bandelier. Leave 8:30 AM.
- 13 14 Paul Miller (473-3107) Car Camp at Trujillo Meadows (near Cumbres Pass). Leave Sat 8 AM. Hike both days (optional). Return Sun PM. Call leader for further info and reservations. Open to day hikers as well as car campers.
- 14 Norbert Sperlich (983-1962) Strenuous Hike in Jemez Mtns. Call leader for reservation and details.
- 14 Gary Enos (473-4463) Strenuous Hike in Pecos Wilderness. Leave 7:30 AM.
- 20 Group General Membership Summer Solstice Picnic Whereabouts unknown — Have a perfect picnic spot? Please call Norma McCallan (471-0005).
- 20 Charles Crooks (471-0005) Easy Hike on Bear Wallow Loop. Dogs allowed. Lv 9:30 AM.
- 21 Elizabeth Altman (471-8490) Easy Hike on the Chamisa Trail. Leave 9 AM.
- 21 David Brown (662-2185) Strenuous Hike to Lobo Peak (near Taos Ski Basin). Leave 7:30 AM. Call leader for meeting place and details.
- 27 Caroline Glick (984-3184) Strenuous Hike to Painted Cave. Leave 8 AM.
- 27 Arnold Keskulla (982-9570) Easy Hike. Leave 8:30 AM.
- 28 Louise Leopold (988-4592) Easy Hike for dogs and friends. Leave 9:30 AM.
- 27 28 Brian Johnson (438-2087) Backpack Call leader for reservations & details.
- 27 28 RIO GRANDE CHAPTER MEETING in Questa this weekend. Optional Car Camp — those who choose can stay or car camp at the Recreation Area and do some of the Easy/Moderate Hikes in the area with Norma McCallan (471-0005). Dogs allowed. Call Norma for further information and reservations.

>>>>> MEETINGS - MEETINGS - MEETINGS <<<<<<  
All members are invited to all meetings

Membership Meeting **	Conservation Committee *	Executive Committee *
Tuesday, May 19, 7:30	Tuesday, May 26, 7 PM	Tuesday, June 2, 7 PM

\* Held at the Sierra Club office at 440 Cerrillos Road  
\*\* Held at the Unitarian Church (on Barcelona between Don Gaspar and Galisteo)

The Deadline for Submission to the June Newsletter is Friday, 5 PM, June 8.



ALL SPECIES DAY / EARTH DAY CELEBRATION  
TURTLE ISLAND

Because Earth Day fell on a Wednesday and because our latest Santa Fe tradition has been to celebrate Earth Day in conjunction with All Species Day and because our April weather is more wild and unpredictable than May, Santa Fe will celebrate All Species and Earth Day the weekend of May 9 and 10 at Fort Marcy Park. If you know of a group that would like to participate with a booth, please call the SF Environmental Task Force at 982-3926 — soon!

The Santa Fe Sierra Group will participate for the weekend with a booth and would sure love to have help from YOU! To be a part of this fun weekend, please call Web Kitchell (982-9674, church) (471-7539, home).  
Web says he could use volunteers at any time during the weekend, especially on Saturday AM and Sunday AM (we understand Sunday is the day he goes to work).

>>>>>>>>> SANTA FE GROUP OUTINGS <<<<<<<<<<

Sat Sun May

- 2 Joe Whelan (984-0746) Moderate Hike in Bandelier. Leave 8:30 AM.
- 3 Victor Atyas (471-7545) Easy Hike on Frey Trail in Bandelier (campground to Ceremonial Cave). Leave 9 AM.
- 2 3 Paul Miller (473-3107) Car Camp to Great Sand Dunes Nat'l Monument. Easy/Medium Hike up Medrano Creek Trail Sat. Moderate Hike to Mosca Pass Sun. Call for details/reservations. If you don't want to hike, play in the sand dunes!
- 9 Arnold Keskulla (982-9570) Moderate Hike to Bayo Canyon near Los Alamos. Leave 8:30 AM.
- 10 Caroline Glick (984-3184) Strenuous Hike to Glorieta Baldy. Leave 8 AM.
- 10 Charles Crooks (471-0005) Easy Hike Ghost Hotel. Leave 9:30 AM. Dogs allowed.
- 16 Norrine Sanders (984-0386) Moderate Hike Leave 8 AM. Call for more info.
- 17 Steven Janus (988-4137) Moderate/Strenuous Hike to Penitente Ridge and Doctor Lake Overlook via Windsor Trail. Leave 8 AM.
- ★ ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE / ISSUE HIKE FOR MAY ★
- 16 17 Sue Harrod (986-8825) Car Camp in Raton area. Tour the York Canyon Coal Mine and explore a new and different area of the state. [see write-up elsewhere]
- 23 Gordon Winkler (986-0858) Easy/Moderate Hike to Kitchen Mesa near Ghost Ranch. One rock scramble. Leave 8:30 AM.
- 24 Norbert Sperlich (983-1962) Strenuous Hike to Shaggy Peak & Deer Peak. *Must call leader for reservations!*
- Thur to Mon
- 21- 24 Norma McCallan (471-0005) Memorial Day Weekend Car Camp/Day Hikes Capitol Reef Nat'l Monument, Utah. Call for reservations/information after April 5.
- Fri 29 FARMINGTON AREA RESOURCE MEETING 7-9 PM. Speakers from BLM and other sources on various local interest issues . . . then on Saturday . . .
- 30 Helena Moser (438-3365) or Sue Harrod (986-8825) Saturday tour of San Juan Coal Mine plus another hike/tour to be announced. Call leader for reservations.
- 30 John McClure (473-1916) Moderate/Strenuous Hike. Leave 8 AM.
- 31 Louise Leopold (988-4592) Easy Hike, dogs allowed. Leave 9:30 AM.



**Outings Note** — All outings, unless otherwise specified, leave from the PERA parking lot at the corner of Paseo de Peralta and Old SF Trail (across street from State Capitol and Patis Corbae). Carpooling will be arranged at the parking lot, and each hiker should come prepared to pay 5 cents a mile to the driver of the car in which hiker rides. Hikers should 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 the right to alter destination of hike or cancel the 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 are not permitted on hikes unless noted otherwise. Telephone leader for details of the individual hike.

# THE LOG

Southern New Mexico Group

## Candidates' Forum Planned

As part of our group's increasing involvement in electoral politics, our general meeting in May will be a candidates' forum focusing on the environment, tentatively scheduled for Thursday, May 28. We are inviting candidates in contested primary races for federal, state, and local offices (i.e., in Doña Ana County) that hold significance for the environment. The location has yet to be determined. Call 525-1532 for more information.

## Treasurer Wanted

Do you like to keep track of money? Want to do something for the environment? There is a position waiting for you as group treasurer. Our current treasurer, Ann McBeth, is stepping down after doing an excellent job in order to attend graduate school. If you are interested, please call Myra at 524-0261. We may also have openings for Outings Chair and Membership Chair.

## Environmental Center Fundraiser a Success

The April 14 fundraiser for the Southwest Environmental Center and the New Mexico Environmental Law Center succeeded in raising nearly \$2000 for the two organizations. Thanks to all Sierra Club members who attended, including those hardy folks who came down from La Luz, Cloudcroft, El Paso, and other distant points.

## First Annual John Muir Hike-a-Thon Planned for Earth Day

By the time you read this, we probably will already have held the first annual Southern New Mexico John Muir Hike-a-Thon to raise money for our group. Intrepid members are seeking pledges to walk up, over, and back over Baylor Pass in the Organ Mountains on Sunday, April 26. The suggested pledge is \$1.00 per mile. The hike is 12 miles in length. If you get this in time, why not join us? Of course, pledges can be made retroactively. To participate or pledge, call 524-0261.

## T-Shirts at Earth Day Fair

In a historic development, the Southern New Mexico Group will unveil its first ever T-Shirt design at our booth at the Earth Day Fair, Saturday, April 25, on the NMSU horseshoe. Supplies are limited—don't miss out!

## Frenger Park Planting Planned

Sierra Clubbers are encouraged to help plant native trees and shrubs as part of a Southwest Environmental Center project to restore habitat at Frenger Park in Las Cruces (located on Farney St., between El Paseo and Espina). The planting date is tentatively set for Saturday, May 16, 8-12 a.m. Bring your enthusiasm and tools, if you have any. For more info, call 525-1532.

## Outings

Saturday, May 2. Florida Mountains Hike (moderate)  
Leader: Storm Semay. Call 382-3348 for more info.

May 11-12. Fort Stanton Car Camp & Caving Trip  
(Student Sierra Club Group.) Call Susan at 646-5522 for more info.

May 23-25 Memorial Day Weekend Guadalupe Mountains Car Camp (easy.) Leader: Ben Zerby. Join us for a weekend car camp in the beautiful Guadalupe Mountains. Besides enjoying the scenery, we'll have a chance to talk with the National Park Superintendent about some management issues. Members from the southeast part of New Mexico (Carlsbad, Roswell, etc.) are especially invited. Call 526-6207 for more info.

Directory	
Mym Price, Chair	524-0261
David Pengelley, Vice-Chair	525-8286
Kevin Bixby, Conservation Co-Chair	525-1532
Storm Semay, Conservation Co-Chair	382-3348
Kris Paulsen, Secretary	523-7413
Paul Bronson, Outings Coordinator	521-4070
Karen Fuller, Log Editor	824-4602
Cheryl Blevins, Publicity	524-4861

## Conservation Notes

### Using County \$\$ to Kill Coyotes

Few people realize that most counties in New Mexico, including Doña Ana, make a substantial financial contribution to the Animal Damage Control program in the state. This is the \$1.8 million boondoggle that kills literally thousands of coyotes and other animals each year, ostensibly to protect livestock. The program is indefensible from just about any angle—economically, biologically, or from a humane standpoint.

Our group is leading the effort to cut-off Doña Ana County funds for this purpose. Under state law, these funds, which are derived from federal grazing fees, can be used for soil and water conservation, as well as county road building and maintenance. We have met with the County Manager to discuss our concerns. The County Commission will decide soon how to allocate the funds as part of the annual budget process. If you want to get involved, call Kevin at 525-1532.

### BLM Planning Process Circumvented by Ranchers

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) spent two years or so developing the Mimbres Resource Area Draft Management Plan, which covers BLM land in most of southwestern New Mexico. Although the alternative selected by the agency was not the best, it did at least have a few things to recommend it, like Areas of Critical Ecological Concern (ACEC). Now the ranchers want to throw the whole thing out, apparently because the BLM took into consideration the Nature Conservancy's advice in determining which areas deserved ACEC status. The new Las Cruces District Manager, Linda Rundell, seems inclined to support them, especially since they've brought our Congressional representatives into the fray. We need to fight this. Concerned members should write to Ms. Rundell as well as Senators Bingaman, Domenici, and Rep. Skeen.

## NM Environment Dept. to Hold Conference on Environment

The New Mexico Environment Department is sponsoring the first annual "New Mexico Conference on the Environment" to provide a forum for the exchange of technical information as well as public discussion of environmental policies. The conference is scheduled for September 13-15, 1992 at the Albuquerque Convention Center. Participants will include environmental groups, scientists and academics, representatives of businesses subject to environmental regulation, state, local and tribal officials, and members of the general public from throughout the Southwest.

The Conference will include a Call for Papers. The presentation of papers will be an integral part of the Conference through scheduled poster sessions and oral presentations. Papers may be technical or scientific, or may address economic or social policy issues associated with a wide range of topic categories. Papers presented at the Conference will be published. Copies of the Call for Papers may be obtained from John Geddie at the New Mexico Environment Department, P.O. Box 26110, Santa Fe, NM 87502, or by calling (505) 827-2850.

## National Sierra Club Election Results

### Winners

Nelson: 49,895  
Fontaine: 44,726  
Bosh: 43,766  
Cellarius: 43,739  
Morrow: 38,694

### Losers

Dougherty: 38,177  
Morris: 34,366  
Allen: 27,115

### Proposed Bylaw Changes

According to Wheaton Smith, the total voting on the Bylaws amendment was 61,224. Of this, some 37,557 (61.34%) voted yes and 23,667 voted no. The yes vote is thus short of two-thirds, which would be 40,181.

### Housemate Wanted

Share rural Santa Fe house with Sierra Club member, 39, and her daughter, 8, and dog. Private bedroom and bath, swimming pool. Non-smoking vegetarian preferred. \$400/mo. includes utilities. 982-6854.

## Environmental Heroes on the Radio

The Sierra Club, in collaboration with Western Public Radio, plans to produce a year-long radio series honoring local environmental heroes. The series will highlight the efforts of otherwise unknown, extraordinary people working to heal and save the Earth. Programs will feature stories of people who have the tenacity to turn dreams into reality, sometimes despite stubborn opposition, ridicule and abuse.

If you know, have heard, or read about someone who is taking the lead in a local environmental fight, or developing new strategies for healing the Earth, or helping to educate others about the environment in a unique way, please drop us a line. Your local hero could be featured on national radio! Write: John Moyers, Public Affairs Office, Sierra Club, 730 Polk St., San Francisco, CA 94109.

## WWF to Expand Grant Program

The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) announced in March that it is tripling the size of its Innovation Grants program to help more non-profit groups around the country find innovative ways to conserve nature. Sierra Club activities at the chapter and group level are prime candidates for the grants.

"Small grants have proved to be a remarkably effective way to spark creative conservation strategies, leverage grassroots resources, and harness the tremendous energy and commitment of citizens who care about protecting natural resources in their communities," said WWF President Kathryn Fuller.

Individual grants will average between \$5000 to \$7,500, with a maximum of \$10,000, and several new categories of activities are eligible for funding.

Eligible categories include: wetlands conservation and restoration; endangered species conservation; neotropical migratory bird; establishment of conservation and outdoor recreation areas such as parks, wildlife refuges, and greenways; and the protection of these areas from incompatible adjacent development.

The deadline for grant application is July 1, 1992. Announcements of awards will be made in early October. For guidelines and an application form, write: Innovation Grants, c/o The Sonoran Institute, Suite D, 6842 E. Tanque Verde Road, Tucson, AZ 85715.

## Animated Tale with An Environmental Message

"FernGully...The Last Rainforest," an animated film that arrived at theatres in April, is the enchanting and timely story about the mischievous fairies who live deep within the rainforest, and how, with the help of a teenage boy, they struggle to save their home from the destructive forces of mankind.

Created by some of the world's finest animators, "FernGully" will captivate the hearts of all who loved "Beauty and the Beast" and "The Little Mermaid." Character voices are by Tim Curry, Samatha Mathis, Christian Slater, Jonathan Ward, Robin Williams and Grace Zabriskie. The movie contains songs by Elton John, Thomas Dolby, Jimmy Webb, Sheena Easton, Johnny Clegg, Jimmy Buffett, Tone-Loc and Raffi.

"FernGully" will inspire kids and parents to respect and love nature, and to take action to protect and nurture the earth. The producers of the film are donating a percentage of the movie's profits through a special fund that has been set up through the Smithsonian Institution to environmental organizations that are working to preserve Earth's fragile resources.

## Membership

Yes, I want to help safeguard our nation's precious natural heritage. My check is enclosed.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

	INDIVIDUAL	JOINT
REGULAR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35	<input type="checkbox"/> \$43
SUPPORTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> \$58
CONTRIBUTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> \$108
LIFE	<input type="checkbox"/> \$750	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000
SENIOR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> \$23
STUDENT	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> \$23
LIMITED INCOME	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> \$23

Annual dues include subscription to *Sierra* (\$7.50) and chapter publication (\$1). Dues are not tax-deductible.

Enclose check and mail to:

Dept. H-114, P.O. Box 7959  
San Francisco, CA 94120-7959



W 1700

FRIP No.