

## Worst Fears Confirmed By UN Population Report

from the Sierra Club National News Report

Environmentalists are hoping the release in April of an alarming United Nations report on population, which predicted dire consequences for the world's environment if population growth is not curbed, will convince Congress to fund international family planning programs.

The report, produced by the U.N. Population Fund, said that the current rapid rate of population growth presents "the most serious threat to local and global environments since the human species evolved" and called for "immediate and determined action to balance population, consumption, and development."

The report revealed newly revised projections for population growth that are much greater than any previous projections. It says that, without family planning measures, world population could quadruple — to over 20 billion — before leveling out sometime in the next couple of centuries.

"These 'worst case' scenarios are far worse than any other previous projections," said Nancy Wallace, director of the Sierra Club's Population Program.

The U.N. report attributed nearly 80 percent of the world's deforestation to population growth, and said that if growth rates continue unchecked, over 80 percent of the world's wilderness will have to be developed for human uses by 2050.

The Sierra Club is working to convince Congress that increased funding for international family planning programs is not only good for the environment, but would also benefit the world's economy.

Wallace cited the report's findings that countries with slower population growth during the 1980s saw their average citizens' incomes grow 2.5 percent faster than those with rapid population growth.

The Sierra Club is supporting a "Dear Colleague" letter by Reps. Anthony Beilenson (D-CA) and Peter Kostmayer (D-PA) that encourages Congress to dedicate \$650 million of the 1993 federal foreign aid budget to international family planning. Nearly 120 representatives have signed on to the letter.

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## CALENDAR

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| June 2      | New Mexico Primary. Vote for the environment.   |
| June 13-14  | Chapter Conservation/ExCom Meeting. Questa, NM.   |
| June 15     | Deadline for combined July/August <i>Sierran</i> .  |
| June 19     | Dave Foreman speaks on "Defense of the Wild." Friday, 7 p.m., at Unitarian Church, Santa Fe. For more information, call 982-6854.                         |
| June 20-21  | Summer Solstice Rio Grande raft trip to benefit Forest Guardians. Special Guest Paddler: Dave Foreman. Call 988-9126 to make reservations by June 10.     |
| June 21     | "Dixieland at Birdland" Fundraiser Picnic for Randall Davey Audubon Center, Santa Fe. Featuring music by the Red Hot Chiles. Call 983-4609 for more info. |
| 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 • JUNE 1992 • \$1.00

## Primary Offers Choice

by Kevin Bixby

Even though the presidential nominations are pretty well locked up, there are still some important decisions to be made at the ballot booth in New Mexico's primary election on June 2. With the expected low voter turnout, every vote for the environment is especially important.

In southern New Mexico, three Democratic candidates are vying for the right to challenge incumbent Joe Skeen in the Second Congressional District. Their views on the environment vary considerably.

At a recent AARP-sponsored forum in Las Cruces, the Democratic candidates were asked their opinion of the Endangered Species Act and the Mexican wolf recovery effort.

Las Cruces Engineer Bruce Wilson said he supports the Endangered Species Act and hopes his grandchildren can enjoy a world as biologically diverse as it is now. He was quite knowledgeable about the Mexican wolf program, which he also supports.

In contrast, Dan Sosa, the retired State Supreme Court Justice, stated that he felt the Endangered Species Act should be re-evaluated. He said he had a problem with saving subspecies at the "expense" of the human species. He did not comment on the Mexican wolf program.

The third candidate, Socorro attorney Patsy Reinard, said she felt the most endangered species

- ☒ The Environment
- ☐ Business as Usual
- ☐ Shortsightedness
- ☐ Infinite Growth

was the "America middle class." She believed the Mexican wolf was "just a Minnesota timber wolf that came south for the winter" and that it confined to Minnesota and Michigan "where large wilderness areas remain." She opposes Mexican wolf reintroduction in New Mexico because "we worked hard to eradicate wolves" and "people are hurting too much already."

On the subject of Bureau of Land Management wilderness, Wilson replied that he favored protecting 3 million acres—the proposal of the Sierra Club and New Mexico Wilderness Coalition—as a way to protect the state's wildlife.

Sosa said he supported wilderness, but didn't know enough about the competing proposals to comment on specific acreages. Reinard said her inclination was to "minimize" wilderness acreage because so much of New Mexico is already in federal hands. She said she supported the maximum "wise" multiple use of public lands.

Wilson has been endorsed by the New Mexico Conservation Voters Alliance (CVA).

## U.S. No Longer World Leader on Environment, Say Environmentalists

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WASHINGTON, D.C.—The world leader, Shabacoff United States will not play the leading role it did twenty years ago in Stockholm when the world's nations meet in Rio for the upcoming United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, environmentalists said in mid-May.

The environment will be a central element in the international security system in the post-cold war era, but there are no signs that the U.S. will be a leader in this field, said Phil Shabacoff, member of a network of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) preparing for the summit.

U.S. President George Bush announced that he would attend the summit, to be held in Rio de Janeiro on June 3-14, after making sure that there would be no specific agreements linked to a proposed treaty on climatic change for him to sign.

At a press conference with White House correspondents, Shabacoff stressed that a central theme in Rio will be technology transfers to the third world, an area in which Japan has been making substantial advances, in particular in the development of environment-friendly industrial equipment. If the U.S. has nothing to offer in the area of technology, it will lose much of its position as

warned.

The U.S. played a leading role at the historic conference on the environment held in Stockholm, Sweden, in 1972, recalled Russell Train, president of the World Wildlife Fund.

Train, who led the U.S. delegation at the Stockholm meeting, said some of the main achievements of the meeting, such as conventions on the dumping of waste in the ocean and the international trade in endangered species, were initiated by the United States.

The Rio conference, Shabacoff said, will be the first time the international community comes together to ensure its future survival in the post-cold war era, in which poverty, hunger, migrations and competition for scarce resources will be the big themes of planetary security.

### Jemez in Danger

Domenici's opposition could derail proposed National Recreation Area. See page 6.

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## LETTERS

### Send Postcards to Rio

Dear Editor:

The World United Nations Conference on Saving Earth Mother starts in Rio de Janeiro this June 15 (so I am informed.) Would it be great if those attendees heard from us via the postcard process? I've enclosed a sample.

Furthermore, Ted Turner News will hand deliver these millions (fingers crossed!) cards to the Brazil Conference, if our fellow Sierrans will invest 19¢ and some time.

I am hopeful you'll deem this appropriate for printing. Thanks. As the children say, "We can't grow home again."

—Jerry Asher  
 El Paso

*[Editor's Note: The enclosed sample consisted of a generic Postal Service postcard addressed to "Tree of Life", P.O. Box 140155, Atlanta, GA 30374. On the reverse side were the words "Reverse Environmental Pollution" contained within a drawing of a leaf. The U.N.'s Conference on Environment and Development begins on June 2.]*

### Alamogordo Snake Roundup Despicable

Dear Editor:

The annual Alamogordo "Wild West Rattlesnake Extravaganza" took place this year on April 24-26. A brief summary of this event will explain our objection to it.

An estimated 400-600 snakes are collected during the roundups for the annual extravaganza. Capture methods may involve den gassing, spraying gas into holes in the ground to force snakes to the surface. This method results in the death of snakes

that never emerge above the ground besides killing and injuring large numbers of other animals, and ruining dens for future use.

During the extravaganza event snakes are dragged around arenas, used in snake-sacking contests, teased into striking, and decapitated for spectators among other things.

We object strongly to the roundups and the extravaganza events for the reasons mentioned and because such activity promotes negative attitudes toward snakes and demonstrates a general disregard for wildlife and the environment. Events of this nature also ignore the importance of wildlife diversity within the natural environment.

Members of our organization have dealt with the rattlesnake roundup and extravaganza issue for some time and have sought advice on action needed to curtail or stop it. Representatives of the Chihuahuan Desert Herpetological Society suggest that a massive letter writing campaign to the Department of Game and Fish be undertaken.

In our letters it is suggested that we urge Game and Fish to work with the state legislature to reclassify the rattlesnake as a game animal. This reclassification would require that bag limits be set for collection and this in turn would limit, if not stop, future extravaganza events because of the volume needed.

We urge your readers to write such letters to Bill Montoya, Director, New Mexico Department of Game & Fish, Villagra Building, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87503. Action is needed before we lose yet another member of New Mexico's native fauna.

—Jean Gilbert  
 Doña Ana Co. Humane Society  
 Las Cruces

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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; Ilarocque 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.

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## EDITORIAL

# Owls vs. Jobs: The Big Lie

The "environmental president" and his henchmen have outdone themselves in recent weeks. Here are the lowlights.

First, Interior Secretary Lujan decreed that citizens no longer have the right to appeal BLM administrative decisions related to animal damage control. Then the Forest Service put its timber sale decisions off limits to citizen appeals as well.

Not content to show his contempt for the environment at home, Bush pulled the teeth out of a draft international treaty to control global warming. The White House-approved sanitized version, which will be signed with much pious self-congratulation at the U.N.'s Earth Summit in Rio this month, no longer requires signatory nations to do anything to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. (See article on page 4 of this issue.)

And the Administration is trying to do the same thing to a global accord on biodiversity before Bush takes his walk on the sands of Ipanema.

But the crowning blow came when the Administration's God Squad rendered its verdict of "extinction" in the case of the northern spotted owl versus loggers on some BLM property in Oregon. Although the decision directly affects only a small area, it sets a disturbing precedent for the entire region.

(Congratulations to EPA chief Bill Reilly. He and the governor-appointed representative from Oregon cast the only votes against granting an exemption to the Endangered Species Act.)

Adding insult to injury, Lujan immediately unveiled the Administration's "preferred" recovery plan for the spotted owl, which calls for only half the amount of protected habitat biologists say is needed to save the owl. Everyone including Lujan acknowledged this was a violation of the Endangered Species Act, but it does save votes, I mean jobs, and that's what counts.

Which brings me to the big lie. Yes, saving some big trees in the Pacific Northwest to protect the northern spotted owl will cause some layoffs. But, *not* saving the trees will only postpone the day of reckoning because the inescapable reality is that big, old, valuable trees have been and continue to be cut down faster than they can be replaced.

The choice is between a painful transition *now* to a sustainable level of timber harvesting and saving the owl, (a transition that could have been handled much more humanely and

responsibly had the federal government not encouraged overcutting on national forests for the past few decades), or making the transition later and losing the owl and other old-growth dependent species.

You have to wonder at the motivation of Bush, Lujan, and other politicians when they choose to ignore this reality and, through their inflammatory jobs vs. owls rhetoric, encourage polarization and lead people to believe that those timber jobs will always be there if we just circumvent inconvenient environmental protections. Are they truly so dumb that they themselves can't understand the big picture? I doubt it.

The fact is that the Northwest timber industry has been losing jobs for decades for a variety of factors having nothing to do with spotted owls. Consider these facts (compiled by A. Watanabe, Western Ancient Forest Campaign, Washington, D.C.):

#### Overcutting

■ Timber on Oregon's public lands is being harvested at a rate that exceeds growth by about 37 percent.

#### Increased Productivity

■ In the 1970s, market changes unrelated to environmental laws caused the Western timber industry to lose its historical competitive advantage in the timber market. The Northwest timber industry responded by increasing productivity while at the same time reducing labor costs, i.e. dumping workers.

■ In the 1980's, employment in the Northwest timber industry dropped by 20 percent while the timber cut rose 18 percent.

#### Raw Log Exports

■ An estimated 16,000 mill jobs are lost each year due to raw log exports.

■ The three Pacific Northwest states alone export about 3.3 billion board feet

(bbf) annually—25 percent of the region's total annual cut! These logs are unprocessed and untouched by our domestic mills.

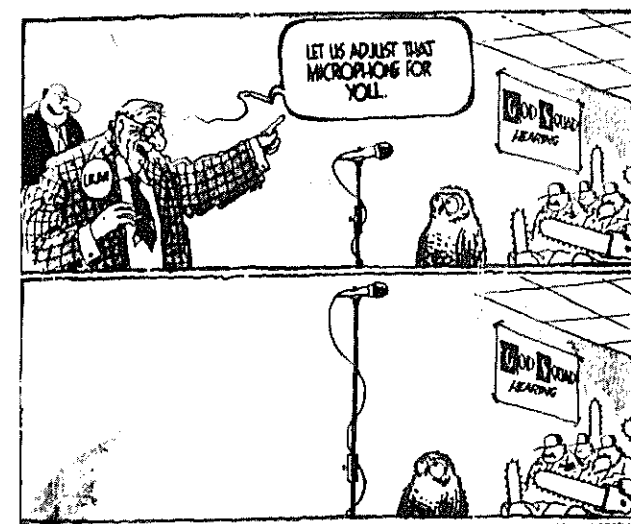
■ Congress enacted legislation in 1990 that banned log exports from all federal and most state lands but 80 percent of exports come from private lands.

■ Banning log exports from private land would result in an additional 3 billion board feet of timber available for domestic mills and a net gain of jobs that would more than offset the jobs lost due to a reduction in federal timber supply.

■ The U.S. does not allow the export of certain technologies or domestic oil due to national interests. Aren't protecting U.S. jobs and valuable timber resources national interests?

Jobs versus owls? How about jobs versus short-term profits. The timber industry in the Northwest is a house of cards, beginning to fall, but it wasn't owls that huffed and puffed and blew it down.

Long live the scapegoats!



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## Bush Succeeds in Weakening Global Warming Accord

from the Sierra Club's *Global Warming and Energy Activist!*

The Bush Administration showed its scorn for the environment when the White House cut a deal with European nations on a do-nothing Earth Summit treaty. It will now be up to Congress to pull the environment from the wreckage and use the Global Climate Protection Act in the House and Senate to take action on global warming.

World leaders met at the United Nations in mid-May for the last round of negotiations before June's Earth Summit. Environmentalists hoped the treaty would result in a 20 percent reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2000. But while all Western industrialized nations except the US and Turkey had previously committed to at least stabilize their emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> at 1990 levels by the year 2000, intense pressure from Bush forced world leaders to agree to a much weaker treaty.

The treaty language now adopts President Bush's "comprehensive approach" to global warming gas reductions, does not legally bind countries to make reductions, and would allow the United States to buy emissions credits from countries that have made emissions reductions. U.S. emissions of carbon dioxide could actually *increase* under the current agreement.

Under the President's "comprehensive" or "basket" approach, the U.S. government can double-count greenhouse gas cuts that were already called for in previous environmental agreements. The market mechanism or emissions trading scheme in the treaty would be extremely difficult to administer and enforce, and probably would not reduce emissions as much as a strict target would. Finally, the treaty would only set a goal of greenhouse gas stabilization, but would not legally require nations to meet that target.

Ironically, the U.S. stepped up its efforts to weaken the treaty only days after the White House released its *Views on Global Warming* which revealed slight progress in the

Administration's position. Previously, the Administration denied the consensus of scientific opinion on the threat of global warming. The new document confirmed that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) report on global warming represented consensus science.

Convened by the U.N. to assess the science of global warming, the IPCC concluded that the earth would warm 3-9 degrees Fahrenheit under a business as usual scenario and that action must be taken now to control greenhouse gas emissions.

*Views on Global Warming* also showed that the U.S. could nearly stabilize CO<sub>2</sub> emissions at 1990 levels by 2000 through voluntary federal programs that are in place already or will be underway soon.

#### Congress Steps In

The Global Climate Protection Act, introduced by Rep. Henry Waxman (D-CA) in the House (H.R. 4750) and Senators Gore (D-TN) and Mitchell (D-ME) in the Senate (S. 2668) must be adopted to save the environment from President Bush's Earth Summit treaty. Rep. Waxman intends to offer his bill as an amendment to the House Energy bill. (See article on page 11.) The Global Climate Protection Act would mandate stabilization of carbon dioxide emissions at 1990 levels by the year 2000.



## Report Finds Worldwide Biological Collapse Underway

An unprecedented biological collapse has begun worldwide, and only an unprecedented effort will curtail the massive wave of extinctions. Furthermore, climate change from carbon dioxide emissions is likely to accelerate the demise of many forms of life. So concludes *Life Support: Conserving Biological Diversity*, a new report by the Worldwatch Institute, a Washington D.C.-based policy research organization.

"Although species are disappearing most rapidly from the world's tropical forests," says research associate John C. Ryan, author of the report, "biological diversity is diminishing all over the globe."

The top priority for halting the loss of biodiversity—the ecosystems, species, and genes that together constitute life on earth—will be the protection of wildlands, those areas so far minimally degraded by human activities, Ryan concludes. But the pervasive nature of the problem and the imminent threat of global warming mean that parks and reserves alone cannot do the job.

"Only if biodiversity becomes a central concern in our mainstream economic activities as well as our protected areas," Ryan says, "will we avoid squandering our biological inheritance."

Among the report's findings:

- Three-fourths of the world's bird species are declining or threatened with extinction.
- Amphibians are declining worldwide.
- In Indonesia, 1,500 local varieties of rice have disappeared in the past 15 years. Nearly three-fourths of the rice grown today descends from a single plant.
- In the United States, about 3,000 plants, nearly one in every eight native species, are considered in danger of extinction. More than 700 are likely to disappear in the next 10 years.
- Industrial nations have decimated their wetlands: Italy, New Zealand and California have all destroyed more than 90 percent of their wetlands.

"Without immediate reductions of greenhouse gas emissions, however, the impacts of global warming will probably make the world's current biological collapse pale in comparison," the report says.

Rapidly rising temperatures will overwhelm many species' and ecosystems' ability to adapt. Widespread die-offs of forests, tundra, and coral reefs, disruption of animal migrations, and the loss of mangroves and other wetlands to rising seas are likely in coming decades if actions are not taken soon to slow global warming.

Biological diversity is no luxury. "Like every species, ours is intimately dependent on others for its well-being," writes Ryan. American oysters, once so numerous in the Chesapeake Bay that they could filter all its water every three days, have declined in population by 99 percent since 1870. Now it takes a year for oysters to

filter the same amount of water, one reason the bay is increasingly muddied and oxygen-poor.

Governments and communities around the world have taken steps to stem the erosion of life. Today, national parks and other protected areas cover nearly five percent of the earth's land surface, and wilderness areas (many maintained by indigenous people) cover as much as a third of the planet's land. Impressive as these figures sound, they can be misleading, *Life Support* notes.

"Most of the world's remaining wildlands, and most of its protected areas, are deserts and tundra," says Ryan. "and many of the world's parks exist largely on paper." Destructive activities, such as mining or large-scale tourism, are often encouraged within protected areas, while outside forces, from air pollution to landless farmers, often pose even greater threats.

The efforts of indigenous people, both to protect sacred lands and to sustain diversity in production systems, have likely been more effective than their modern counterparts in conserving life's variety. But many traditional management systems are unraveling as cultures erode and national governments confiscate or privatize resources held by communities.

A top priority for biological conservation, whether in parks, village woodlots, or farms, is to recognize the vital role of local people. Government negotiators working on a global biodiversity convention have so far failed to address this issue.

"Restoring some degree of local control over resources is probably the only way that vast areas in the tropics can be 'managed' at all," Ryan writes. Governments' claim ownership of 80 percent of the world's remaining mature tropical forests, but only by sharing management responsibility with the millions of people living in or near the forests do governments have any hope of controlling the forests' exploitation.

"Limiting the amount of the planet we dominate, and tolerating diversity more in the places we do dominate, will entail tackling two of the most intractable forces in the modern world: galloping per-capita consumption and rapid population growth," *Life Support* concludes.

"No conservation strategy, however ingenious, can get around the fact that the more resources one species consumes, the fewer are available for all the rest."



A 62 page hardcopy of the report, including footnotes, is available from Worldwatch Institute for \$5.00 plus \$3.00 postage & handling.



# Jemez National Recreation Area in Jeopardy

*Domenici Puts Up Roadblock*

by Henry Oat

Senate hearings on a bill to establish the Jemez National Recreation Area (NRA), were held on May 12, 1992, in Washington, D.C. I testified at the hearings as did Donna Smith, a local Jemez resident with a Ph.D. in mining economics.

Despite overwhelming support for S. 2178, Senator Domenici (R-NM) has voiced strong opposition to the legislation. Domenici's views dominated the hearing. His conclusion that all that is needed to address the concerns of the Jemez is to provide more money to the Forest Service for recreation is totally inadequate. His approach does not even begin to address the real problems of inadequate Forest Service management of the area and land patenting. We can only interpret his opposition as support for giving away 1,500 acres of our public land, valued at \$20-30 million, to Richard Cook, president of Copar Pumice Co.

This is the final hurdle in providing protection for the Jemez. Last fall, this legislation passed in the House of Representatives as a result of Congressman Richardson's relentless and valiant support. Domenici's singular opposition must be overcome if this bill is to pass. Only a strong stance and leadership role on the part of Senator Bingaman (D-NM) will

provide the protection necessary for the Jemez.

We are grateful to Bingaman for introducing this legislation and making it a top priority. We are counting on him to take the strongest possible position in support of the Jemez National Recreation Area, even if it means pressing for a vote in committee!

The next two to three weeks are crucial as the bill will come before the subcommittee for consideration. If Domenici continues to oppose S. 2178, it will die, and the efforts of hundreds of people and thousands of hours will be for naught.

## What You Can Do

We urgently need your help in writing letters and making phone calls to Senators Bingaman and Domenici, urging them to support S. 2178.

Some key points to make:

✓ There are over 6,000,000 people a year that use the Jemez for recreation, yet the Forest Service continues to manage the Jemez for extractive, commodity based interests such as mining and logging. This legislation is neces-

sary to provide specific management directives to the Forest Service, to manage the area for its predominate use.

✓ Support keeping the Jemez NRA at its current proposed size of 100,000 acres.

✓ Support the provisions that withdraw the area from future mining claims, land patenting and provide for strong reclamation standards.

✓ Support the provisions for *small-scale* timber harvesting that is geared to the local economy.

✓ National Recreation Area Status would be a sustainable boost to the local economy and that of the region.

*[Henry Oat is the director of the East Fork Preservation Coalition and a member of the Santa Fe Group of the Sierra Club's conservation committee. He has worked to protect the Jemez from the ravages of pumice mining for the last four years and has worked to support this legislation from its inception. For more information contact him at 983-1576.]*



# Environmentalists Sue to Stop Animal Damage Control In Endangered Species Habitat

*Violations of Endangered Species Act Cited*

*from the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund*

WASHINGTON, D.C.—A coalition of wildlife conservation groups announced on May 7 that they had filed suit in federal district court in the District of Columbia against the federal government's Animal Damage Control program for violating the Endangered Species Act.

The controversial taxpayer supported program killed over three million wild animals and birds in 1989 and 1990, included mountain lions, coyotes, and bobcats.

According to Fern Shepard, an attorney with the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund, "this expensive, biologically unsound, and anachronistic program has been unjustifiable for decades. But now there's yet another good reason to end this program—it violates the Endangered Species Act."

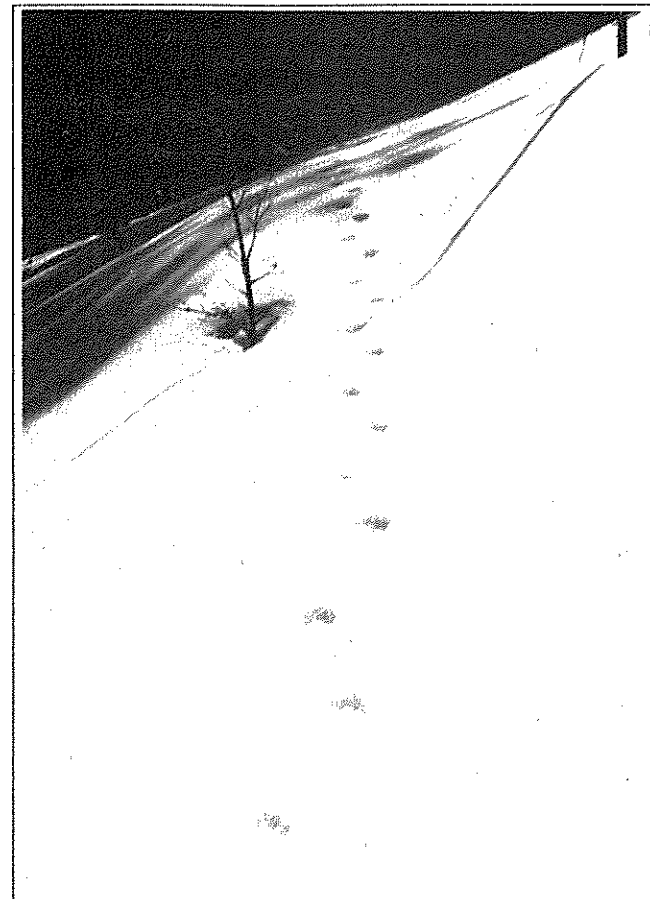
The lawsuit filed by the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund on behalf of several conservation organizations, including the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance and The Fund for Animals, stems from the killing of an endangered bald eagle—the nation's symbol of its heritage—in a steel-jawed trap set by ADC last December in Utah.

Ken Rait, issues coordinator of the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, investigated the eagle killing and discovered that the federal government was responsible.

"The federal government set the baited trap in the habitat of the endangered bald eagle. Only later did we discover that its negligence in this case was just the tip of the iceberg. Taxpayers pay to protect endangered species out of one hand while ADC takes money out of the other to kill them," said Rait. Rait said that many non-lethal control measures are

available to reduce predation without killing wildlife.

Agency records contain other evidence that the program has killed threatened and endangered species. According to Rait, "the federal agency recently shot an endangered gray wolf from a plane after mistaking it for a coyote. Endangered California condors and San Joaquin kit foxes have been killed by lethal



Mountain Lion Tracks in the Chiricahua Mountains of southern Arizona. Mountain lions, once found throughout the United States but now confined to the Western states and Florida, are sometimes the target of predator control efforts. Photo by Kevin Bixby.

devices intended for coyotes." "But," he added, "we'll probably never know the true extent of the carnage. Sometimes the only reason that the accidental death of endangered wildlife is discovered is because the animal was wearing a radio collar."

The conservation groups say that the accidental killing of endangered species is only one of many problems with the federal ADC program. The Endangered Species Act requires federal agencies to consult with the Fish And Wildlife Service (FWS) before they take actions that may affect threatened and endangered species. The last FWS biological opinion on the ADC program was completed in 1979. Dozens of species have been recognized as endangered since 1979.

"The federal government is using steel-jawed traps, cyanide ballistic devices, and hunting from planes that biologists tell us wreak havoc in sensitive species' ecosystems. Yet the Agriculture Department does not know how its program affects endangered species—the most basic requirement of the Endangered Species Act. This cavalier attitude toward species so close to extinction is alarming, and it is illegal," said Shepard.

In their lawsuit, the conservation groups have asked the court to halt the ADC program in the known habitat of endangered species in the western U.S. until the program complies with the Endangered Species Act.



## THE 1992 NEW MEXICO AUDUBON CONFERENCE

26 & 27 SEPTEMBER 1992

NMSU CAMPUS - LAS CRUCES

## PUBLIC LAND GRAZING

SATURDAY: LECTURES - ON SIGHT INSPECTION

SUNDAY: BIRD WATCHING TRIP - TBA

WRITE OR CALL: MESILLA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY, PO BOX 3127, LAS CRUCES, NM 88003 (505) 382-5767 OR 522-8068

# Hardrock Answers

*Answers to Some Commonly Asked and Not So Commonly Asked Questions About Hardrock Mining in the West*

by Sue McIntosh

The General Mining Law of 1872 is a remnant of manifest destiny and the Indian wars. Its existence today in a form that preserves the ancient favors granted in another century is testimony to the power and influence of the mining industry in America.

The State of New Mexico has never enacted a law to control the devastating environmental and cultural impacts of hardrock mining, or to reclaim the land and water after the ore is taken out. Mining activists with the Rio Grande Chapter and other groups will try again in next year's legislative session to get such a law enacted.

The mineral industry in America (we are careful not to say the "American mineral industry" because, in large part, it is not — 50 percent of the industry in America is foreign) must come to understand that the time has come to change. They must realize that the glory days of the Comstock lode and high grade ores are gone. The remaining ore is hard to find, destructive to extract, and profitable to mine in part because the expense has been born by the land and the water, and traditional, sustainable life-styles.

Reform of state and federal mining policy cannot and should not wait. This is the first part of a series that examines why such reform is long overdue.

**?** The 1872 Mining Law ain't broke. Why fix it?

A: On the contrary, the General Mining Law of 1872 is broke. Dreadfully so. In 1872, the Reconstruction Era Congress enacted the General Mining Law as another in its series of land giveaway acts, designed to settle the frontier and exploit its seemingly endless natu-

ral resources to fuel the frantic industrial growth of eastern U.S. cities.

According to the Council on Environmental Quality, the 1872 Mining Law "promotes private exploitation of mineral wealth; this was its original and sole intent. Though the Mining Law has evolved over the years through legislative, administrative and legal action, it remains an anachronism. Today, however, efficient and equitable management of public resources is more complex; it requires that mineral exploitation be considered an objective but not *the* objective."

All other of these land giveaway acts have been repealed. But this last vestige remains. And it is the most dangerous and destructive of all of the laws of its kind.

■ The 1872 Mining Law has resulted in the degradation of over 12,000 miles of western streams.

■ The 1872 Mining Law makes a mockery of the idea of multiple use of public lands. It grants (at least according to the Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service) mining companies the absolute right to mine on the public lands, anywhere, and ultimately, in any manner.

■ The simple existence of the gigantic Bingham pit in Utah, the Butte, Montana open pit and copper smelter, the modern Golden Sunlight mine near Whitehall, Montana or any one of the more than 40 mining Superfund sites in the West attest to fact that hardrock mining in many areas is a complete sacrifice of the land.

The Mining Law must be "fixed" so that management of our public lands can meet minimum multiple use standards: adequate environmental protection; a fair market return to the public for its resources; retention of public ownership of remaining public land; efficient allocation of resources; energy conservation; and adequate information for public decisionmaking.

**?** Isn't mining one of the multiple uses of public lands that should be allowed and regulated like logging, grazing or off road vehicle use?

A: Yes! The term "multiple use" means "the harmonious and coordinated management of the various resources without permanent im-

pairment of the productivity of the land and the quality of the environment," according to the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976.

Unfortunately, development and operation of an open pit mine often means complete sacrifice of at least the pit area, and often the waste rock and other surface impoundments. Reclamation of these areas is frequently impossible due to sheer size and poor design.

Examples of such sacrifice areas include the Golden Sunlight mine; Tyrone and Santa Rita Copper Mines, operated by Phelps Dodge in Southern New Mexico; and the Molybdenum Mine in Questa, New Mexico.

Two factors work together with this destructive reality to render the concept of multiple use meaningless where public lands mining is concerned. First, public land managers in the BLM and USFS have interpreted the 1872 Mining Law to grant an absolute "right to mine" on public lands anywhere an economic ore body is located.

Although agencies have enacted some regulatory framework, the basic right to mine theory remains unscathed. For example, BLM has authorized itself to take any action necessary to prevent "unnecessary or undue degradation of the lands." But the BLM has defined "unnecessary and undue degradation" to mean damage resulting from activities or operations different than those common in the industry. Thus, these particular regulations are affectionately referred to as the "demented miner" standard, and are practically meaningless.

As it stands, the 1872 Mining Law prevents multiple use of lands in two ways: through sheer environmental destruction and the disabling impact on public lands managers of the "right to mine" concept. Right now, the hardrock mining industry enjoys an advantage over the ranching community, the timber industry, and every single recreational user of the public lands.

The mining law must be changed to permit land management agencies to actually manage the land — that is, to balance resource values and restrict or prohibit mining when other resource values exceed those of the minerals.

*The Rio Grande Chapter appreciates the original thought and contributions to this article from Lawson Legate and Stan Haye, members of the Sierra Club's Mining Subcommittee. Thanks.*

## This is the Year for Action

by An Painter

Have you visited a mine lately? Seen any reclamation underway here in New Mexico? Did you know there's a gold rush going on? Do you have some idea of how much earth is moved for 10,000 tons of coal a day?

Hardrock mining is big, power-filled, profitable, and dangerous. It can kill people, plants, birds, even cultures and entire ecosystems. And for the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club, for us, in other words, hardrock mining is IN. The next year will bring about the passage of state hardrock mining and reclamation legislation; we will work very hard to see that this is the year that federal legislation replacing the 1872 mining law is enacted as well.

I look forward to this year of action and I hope each of you can join me at some point along the path. I will be working for the Chapter and I expect to visit each group at least twice, coordinating with Sierra Club members who are interested in the issues raised by hardrock mining.

Have you joined the mining committee yet? That would be a good start. Also there will be outings to mines and reclamation sites. And this summer I'll mailing *The Canary*, a flyer on hardrock mining, with updates on our efforts and with some more in-depth articles on mining and reclamation.

We continue our cooperation with the Mining Action Coalition (meeting in Silver City this month) across the state and Sue McIntosh and I will be putting monthly articles in the *Sierran* on hardrock mining, legislation, and reclamation (see facing page).

Do you take photographs? Please snap your local mine or tailings or quarry—I'll be putting together a slide show to take along on public talks we will be giving around the state. The better informed we are, the more our legislators can learn about the economics and ecology of mining.

In coming months many of you will have an opportunity to tell your legislative candidate a little something about mining in New Mexico. It may be the first time he or she thought about 10,000 tons of coal. A day. Every day. And that's just one mine.

Hardrock mining is definitely IN. Join us. Write me, An Painter, P. O. Box 923, Cedar Crest NM 87008.



## Diamond Bar Debate Draws Crowd

by Susan Schock-Grinold

Over 250 people attended a forum in Silver City on the Diamond Bar Grazing Allotment sponsored by the Western New Mexico University Biology Club on April 25. Environmentalists and ranchers debated issues concerning a Forest Service proposal to increase cattle numbers and construct 33 new stock tanks within the wilderness in the Gila national Forest.

Environmental panelists included myself, Doug Meiklejohn, Executive Director of the New Mexico Environmental Law Center; Jim Fish, founder of PLAN; Gregg Jorgensen of Trout Unlimited; and Dr. Sandy Dick-Peddle, retired botany professor at NMSU.

Environmentalists had originally been invited by the Biology Club sponsor Dennis Miller to debate the Forest Service on Diamond Bar issues, but the agency did not want to be perceived by the public as being "the other side" and declined to participate. However, the Forest Service did set up the other side, which included Diamond Bar permittees Kit and Sherry Laney, Karl Hess of the New Mexico Department of Agriculture and co-owner of the Land Center, and Allen Schneberger, Executive Director of the New Mexico Cattle Growers Association. Thus, rather than discuss management of the resource, the Forest Service elected to pit environmentalists against the cattle industry.

I began the debate by stating that the responsibility for the management decision on the Diamond Bar rested squarely on the shoulders of the Forest Service, and then presented slides of resource damage on the allotment. Environmental panelists requested that new studies be conducted to accurately assess the damage to riparian, aquatic, and upland ecosystems, threatened and endangered species and habitat, and to determine proper stocking numbers on the allotment, arguing that the 13-year old data used by the Forest Service is both questionable and outdated. They requested an EIS before the construction of stock tanks was considered.

Allen Schneberger set the tone for the ranchers by stating that the reduction in grass in this area of New Mexico is the result of a shift in climate. Dr. Dick-Peddle,

who had given a workshop on vegetative change earlier in the day, responded that there is sound scientific evidence to show that no significant climate change has occurred in this region for 2000 years, and that areas of ungrazed land are as heavily vegetated as in pre-settlement times.

It became apparent that the ranchers present lacked an understanding of the ecosystems they claim to manage. Cattlegrowers, both on the panel and in the audience, held to outdated scientific views from the early 1900s. Kit Laney stated that he has a "tree problem" on his allotment and that trees are sucking up all the groundwater. This notion was popular in the 1920s and 1930s and led to extensive phreatophyte control in which miles of trees along streambanks in New Mexico and Arizona were bulldozed to prevent lowering of the water tables. The critical function of vegetation in riparian systems was not understood by scientists in that day, and today is still not understood by many ranchers.

The prevalent belief among ranchers that, left in an unmanaged state, the land will deteriorate, was evidenced by Catron County Commissioner Hugh McKeen's statement that the ungrazed portion of the wilderness is "all overgrown."

The other tact taken by the ranching community was that of economic ruin if cattle numbers are reduced. Jim Fish reminded the audience that the purchase of the Diamond Bar and its accompanying grazing privilege was a business decision made by the permittees, and that the American public could not bail out every person who made a bad business decision.

Laney challenged environmentalists to buy him out, to which Fish responded, "I don't want to buy the allotment because I already own it."

Suggesting that in order to protect our wilderness land we must buy out the permittee who holds a temporary privilege to graze it, and suggesting as Kit did that backpackers photographing his bulls were "harassing" them, illustrates how distorted the concept of multiple use has become.

*[The author is a resident of Silver City and active in the Gila Watch.]*

# Waste Bills Need Work

by Erin Bouquin

Bills in both the House and Senate to reauthorize the nation's omnibus waste law, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), have hit resistance from both the waste management side and environmentalists, making it uncertain whether the Act will be reauthorized this session.

The House Transportation and Hazardous Materials Subcommittee voted on Rep. Al Swift's recycling bill, H.R. 3865, on March 24-26. This bill would do little to reduce the production of solid and hazardous waste. Several strengthening amendments were offered and rejected by the Subcommittee. These included:

- "Community Right to Know More" amendments that would have required companies to report on the toxic chemicals they use, develop voluntary plans to reduce their use of toxics, and expand reporting requirements to currently exempt facilities. Offered by Sikorski (D-MN) and Rinaldo (R-NJ).

- An amendment to establish a time-out on the construction of new incinerators so that a recycling infrastructure can develop. Offered by Kostmayer (D-PA).

- An amendment to prohibit the incineration of recyclable and noncombustible materials, increase the recycling of printing and writing paper, and other recycling proposals. Offered by Sikorski (D-MN).

- An amendment to reduce the amount of lead and other toxics in used oil before it is burned. Offered by Collins (D-IL).

- An amendment to establish a nationwide deposit program for beverage containers. Offered by Markey (D-MA).

- An amendment to speed the elimination of stratospheric ozone depleting substances, and phase out the use of chlorine for paper production. Offered by Bill Richardson (D-NM).

Swift's bill passed through the Transportation and Hazardous Materials Subcommittee on March 26th and is scheduled for mark up by the full committee soon. Representative Bill Richardson is on the subcommittee and voted for all the above amendments (except number 3; he was absent for that vote.) He has shown impressive leadership on this very important issue, and deserves our thanks.

## The Senate

The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee is expected to vote on RCRA legislation beginning in May. The Committee will consider a bill introduced by Max Baucus (D-MT) and John Chafee (R-RI). Although this bill is an improvement over Swift's proposal, it must be enhanced in many critical areas, and does not currently enjoy Sierra Club support.

The Baucus/Chafee bill would shift the responsibility for garbage disposal from taxpayers to manufacturers. Companies (or "responsible entities") that produce

products made of plastic, glass, metals, paper or news paper would be required to recover a certain percentage of these materials for reuse in new products. Companies could meet this requirement themselves, or pay a third party to fulfill the obligation. This approach gives companies flexibility to determine the most cost-effective way to recover and recycle their products.

This "responsible entities" proposal would not increase recycling; rather, it would target minimum recycled content standards. Nonetheless, it is a positive first step towards building markets for recyclable materials.

The Baucus/Chafee bill includes several provisions to limit incinerators' interference with recycling programs. Unfortunately, the draft bill contains several potential loopholes to this requirement.

At a minimum, the bill should be strengthened by prohibiting the incineration of recyclable or noncombustible materials. People should also have the right to say "no" to building an incinerator in their town. The bill would do nothing to restrict the construction of new hazardous waste incinerators.

The bill includes a community right to know more proposal which is a good start but also needs some work. The bill would begin to provide the public with information essential to promoting and evaluating pollution prevention efforts.

The messages we will be sending our Senators this summer are:

- Support the Baucus-Chafee "responsible entities" recycling proposal, as it applies to individual companies;
- Support amendments expected to be offered by Senator Howard Metzenbaum (D-OH) to further restrict construction of garbage and hazardous waste incinerators while recycling and reduction programs commence;
- Support efforts to strengthen the toxics use reporting requirements by companies production units;
- Oppose weakening amendments that shift responsibility from individual companies to an industry-wide recovery rate.

In summary, in order to accomplish the goal of strengthening the nation's solid and hazardous waste law, which is one of the Sierra Club's chosen priorities this year, we are supporting legislation which will:

- ✓ Reduce the serious health threats posed by incinerators and landfills
- ✓ Jump-start the reduction/recycling economy
- ✓ Close the legal loopholes that allow hazardous wastes - including known carcinogens - to be dumped in unlined pits, ponds, and lagoons, or burned in unregulated cement kilns
- ✓ Cut down on the production, use, and disposal of toxic materials industry

# Improved House Energy Bill Nears Floor Vote

from the Sierra Club's National News Report

After extensive reworking, the House version of a comprehensive energy bill is substantially different — and substantially better, say environmentalists — than the one passed by the Senate earlier this year.

"The energy bill moving through the House is a far cry from the president's original National Energy Strategy or the disastrous Johnston-Wallop energy bill," said Melanie Griffin, Washington director of the Sierra Club's Energy Program.

As the House prepares to bring its bill, H.R. 776, to the floor later this month, environmentalists are working with various House committees to craft a bill that will override some of the environmentally harmful provisions included in the Senate version. So far, said Griffin, their efforts have been fairly successful.

For example, the Energy and Commerce Committee has approved provisions that will make wind and solar energy more

available to electricity consumers. And the Science and Technology Committee has increased federal funding for research and development of energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies.

The Interior Committee voted to restore public safety hearings on nuclear plant operations — a provision removed from the Senate bill. "Our bill is designed to protect the rights of individuals, communities, and states to participate in the process of setting energy policy," said Rep. George Miller (D-Calif.), chairman of the committee.

Both the Interior and the Merchant Marine and Fisheries committees also approved provisions to restrict offshore oil and gas drilling, and to allow the Interior Department to buy back undeveloped drilling leases in environmentally sensitive areas.

Griffin said it is not clear which provisions will be included in the final bill, and she expects the Sierra Club will have to fight off

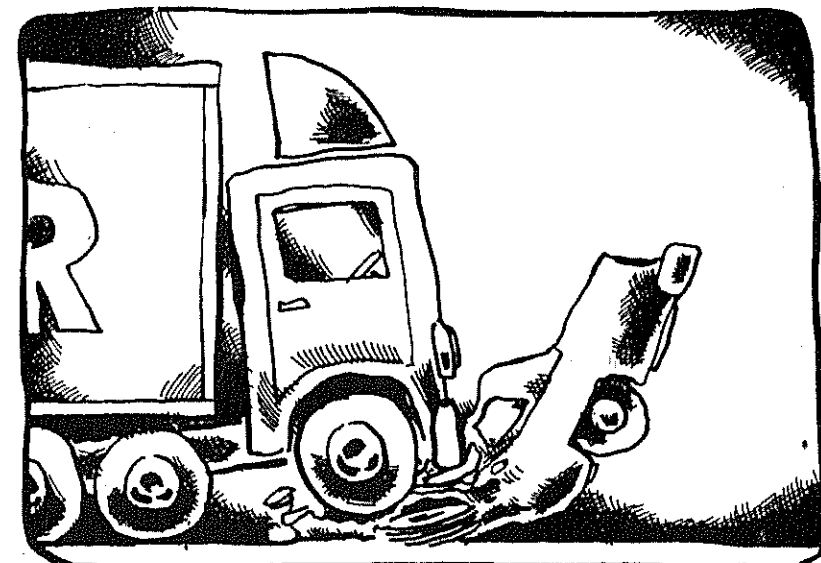
weakening amendments on the House floor, as well as in the final House-Senate conference negotiations.

Griffin said she anticipates a major floor fight over amendments expected to be offered by Reps. Henry Waxman (D-Calif.) and Peter Kostmayer (D-Pa.). Waxman wants to require the United States to stabilize its carbon dioxide emissions in order to curb global warming. Kostmayer's amendment would guarantee the public's right to participate in safety hearings on new nuclear power plants.

## What You Can Do

Urge your representative to support Rep. Waxman's global warming bill, H.R. 4750, and Rep. Kostmayer's nuclear safety hearings bill, H.R. 3629, as amendments to H.R. 776.

## The fuel-efficiency/safety issue



Videotape footage of a collision between a semi and a full-sized car, demonstrating that full-sized cars are unsafe, and that everyone should drive a tractor trailer, despite the somewhat lower fuel efficiency.

TOLES  
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UNLESS, OF COURSE, YOU CAN AFFORD A LOCOMOTIVE. —

[The author is Hazardous Waste Issues Chair for the Rio Grande Chapter. She is an Albuquerque resident and a medical student.]



# Sierra Club Names 1992 Award Winners

SAN FRANCISCO — The Sierra Club announced the winners of its 1992 environmental awards on May 2. Honorees included long-time Club activists, an environmental journalist, a photographer, and two members of the U. S. Congress.

☆James C. Catlin, the John Muir Award, the Club's highest honor, "For 16 years of unstinting field work, research, advocacy, and coalition-building in the cause of Utah and other desert wilderness. He has carried forward the ideals and principals of John Muir in exemplary fashion." Mr. Catlin, of Berkeley, CA, is a member of the San Francisco Bay Chapter.

☆John Hopkins, the William Colby Award, "For outstanding contributions to the Sierra Club public lands program, building the committee into a model of environmental advocacy and effectiveness." Mr. Hopkins, of Davis, CA, is a member of the Mother Lode Chapter.

☆J.D. Marston, the Ansel Adams Award, "For superlative use of still photography to further the protection and preservation of many natural areas, wilderness areas, and archaeological sites."

☆Representative Bruce F. Vento, the Edgar Wayburn Award, "For his continuing contributions and leadership in the establishment and guardianship of our national parks and other protected areas."

☆Joseph Brecher, the William O. Douglas Award, "Tireless litigator for clean air, sensible planning and non-destructive logging under California's Forest Protection Act."

☆Representative Peter H. Kostmayer, Distinguished Service Award, "Open, forceful campaigner for environmental action."

☆Harold Gilliam, *San Francisco Chronicle*, David R. Brower Environmental Journalism Award, "For his outstanding contribution to environmental journalism, and his efforts to create a better public understanding of environmental issues through consistent, accurate and innovative writing."

☆Gordon Benner, Kehrlein Award (Outings Program), "For his years of Outing leadership, including nearly two decades guiding the Alaska Trips program; and who, as Medi-

cal Officer of the Outings Committee, has given generous counsel in selection of the content of the medical kits on outings; and whose sought-after mountain medicine lectures have played a primary role in the field education of a generation of outing leaders." Mr. Benner, of Berkeley, CA, is a member of the San Francisco Bay Chapter.

☆Kansas Chapter, Sierra Club, the Denny and Ida Wilcher Award, "For phenomenal and sustained growth in membership in 1990 and 1991."

☆Alice Krueper, the Susan E. Miller Award, "For extraordinary personal and long-standing commitment to the needs, concerns, and enthusiasms of the San Geronio Chapter." Ms. Krueper resides in San Bernadino, CA.

☆Harry Krueper, the Susan E. Miller Award, "For extraordinary personal and long-standing commitment to the needs, concerns, and enthusiasms of the San Geronio Chapter." Mr. Krueper resides in San Bernadino, CA.

☆Joan Bennett, the Susan E. Miller Award, "For enthusiastic and exceptional communication efforts on behalf of the John Muir Chapter." Ms. Bennett resides in Racine, WI.

☆Karin Derichsweiler, the Susan E. Miller Award, "Team player who exemplifies volunteer action and leadership for her chapter and group." Ms. Derichsweiler, of Norman, OK, is a member of the Oklahoma Chapter.

☆Robert J. Palzer, Special Achievement Award, "For his energetic and effective defense of air quality in Oregon and beyond." Mr. Palzer, of Ashland, is a member of the Oregon Chapter.

☆Bonnie Hardwick, Special Achievement Award, "For managing the completion of the Centennial Project to process the Sierra Club's permanent records; For securing the federal grant to fund this project." Ms. Hardwick, of El Cerrito, CA, is a member of the San Francisco Bay Chapter.

☆Rosemary Fox, Special Achievement Award, "For many years she has been the Sierra Clubs voice for wildlife and wilderness in western Canada." Ms. Fox is a member of the Western Canada Chapter.

☆Amy Meyer, Special Service Award, "For two decades of superb organizing and mobilizing people for Golden Gate National Recreation Area and for her dedication as an advocate and steward for this and other urban park areas." Ms. Meyer, of Oakland, CA, is a member of the San Francisco Bay Chapter.

☆Susan Merrow, Centennial Award, "For the 1991 Annual Dinner." Ms. Merrow, of Colchester, CT, is a member of the Connecticut Chapter.

☆Tom Turner, Centennial Award, "For writing the Centennial book, *100 Years of Protecting Nature*."

☆Richard Cellarius, Centennial Award, "For editing the Centennial book, *100 Years of Protecting Nature*." Mr. Cellarius, of Olympia, WA is a member of the Washington Chapter.

☆Maxine McCloskey, Centennial Award, "For the children's musical." Ms. McCloskey, of Bethesda, MD, is a member of the Maryland Chapter.

☆Jean Lutterman, Centennial Award, "For the children's musical."

☆Marjorie Richman, Centennial Award, "For the 1,000 mile bicycle ride." Ms. Richman, of Bethesda, MD, is a member of the Maryland Chapter.

☆Harvard Ayers, Centennial Award, "For the Appalachian Trail hike." Mr. Ayers, of Boone, NC, is a member of the North Carolina Chapter.

☆Gibb Smith, Centennial Award, "For the Utah Symphony." Mr. Smith, of Layton, UT, is a member of the Utah Chapter.

☆Jay Hoffman, Centennial Award, "For the Utah Symphony."



## ALBUQUERQUE GROUP

### June Meeting: New Mexico's Wilderness Areas

by Ralph Wrons

Summer is here and it's a fine time to explore Northern New Mexico's wilderness areas. John Wright, Chapter Issues Chair for National Forest Wilderness, has done a lot of exploring himself, both on his own and as a leader of Sierra Club outings.

At our next public meeting, John will present a slide show of some of his favorite places in the following N. New Mexico Wildernesses: the Pecos, the San Pedro Parks and the Wheeler Peak Wilderness Areas. These trips were all made in the last year. John will also give us an update on the New Mexico BLM Wilderness Bill as it relates to National Forest Wilderness. Even though the Bill has stalled due to lack of support from our two Senators, we should always be ready to move it forward given a glimmer of hope and make sure there are no attempts to lessen its acreage or its language.

As usual, our public meetings are held on the third Monday evening of the month at the UNM Law School, room 2401, corner of Constitution and Stanford NE. For June, that falls on the 15th and the meeting begins at 7:30 P.M. Please bring your own coffee cup if you care to have some of the coffee provided by Albuquerque Group. Please also note that we have announcements preceding the highlight show; these usually include "Hot Topics" for the local conservation-minded community, recaps of recent outings by Outings Chair David Morrison and notice of other public meetings of interest. Hope to 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 the above announcement for more information.

*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 867-2768

all proceeds to benefit  
Las Huertas Litigation Fund

## Albuquerque Academy Plans to Proceed With Development

by Leslie Amrhein

The High Desert Investment Corporation, the for-profit arm of the Albuquerque Academy, is proceeding with plans to develop its 987 acre parcel in the Sandia Foothills. The sector plan detailing development of the parcel east of Tramway Blvd., north of Montgomery and south of Academy Rd., is due to be released in May or June.

The Albuquerque Group has recently been involved in the siting approval process for the reservoir designed to serve the development. We attempted to convince the city of the need for a cost-benefit analysis, an examination of alternate sites, and of the need to integrate siting of the reservoir with the sector plan, the master plan (including, significantly, designation of 165 acres of the parcel as planned open space acquisition), and other planning documents, etc. The Environmental Planning Commission, however, voted on May 7th to approve. The reservoir site is located in the foothills just south of Simms Park.

We continue to work to salvage the 165 acres (designated as open space) from development. We have submitted an application for the acreage to the Open Space Advisory Board; the Board is expected to address the issue at its May or June meeting. Examination of the sector development plan is also upcoming. The Academy has expressed interest in working with the Sierra Club to develop trails, drainage systems and other aspects of the plan.

If you would like additional information and/or would be interested in working on this project, please contact Jay Sorenson, 884-4314.

## 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 former Water Chair will help anyone interested to take over the position. Please call Leslie Amrhein (298-2081) or David Bouquin (265-7853).

## CALENDAR

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

- June 4: Mexican Wolf Coalition, 7:30 PM
- June 5: 9pm Deadline for all articles for *Sierran* on disk. Dorothy Brethauer (275-6113) is editor.
- June 8: Executive Committee Meeting, 7:30 PM.
- June 15: Sierra Club General Meeting, UNM Law School, rm. 2401, 7:30 PM
- June 22: Conservation committee meeting, 7:30 PM.
- July 2: Mexican Wolf Coalition, 7:30 PM.

## 1992 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Office Telephone: 265-5506

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 Cornish	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	
Conservation	David Bouquin	265-7853
Energy	Ralph Wrons	275-0856
Las Huertas	Marion Davidson	867-5178
Mailings	Doreen Kahl	345-7919
Mexican Wolf	Susan Larsen	897-2527
Newsletter	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 Meaders	266-8823
Public Lands	Hubert Davis	299-6904
Solid Waste	David Bouquin	265-7853
Water Quality	Vacant	
Wildlife	Marc Bedner	299-2004

## OUTINGS

Abbreviations: NM = National Monument; SC = Sierra Club; SW = Sandia Wilderness; PNM = Petroglyph National Monument

### Sat Jun 6

*Jornado 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 remains 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 SC office, 9am. 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 SC office, 8am. 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, 7am. 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 foot elevation gain. Stefan Verchinski 888-1370.

### Sun Jun 14

*Bosque Tree Planting Site*  
Check on our trees and hang our medal. Easy walk to the river near Rio Grande Blvd. and Paseo del Norte. Families welcome. Bicycle access. Longer hike possible. Bring binoculars, we will look for birds. From Rio Grande Blvd., turn west on last driveway south of Paseo del Norte. Go to dirt parking lot. MEET at 4PM. Caution: this intersection is an over-

pass-no access. Laura Jenkins 293-7527

### Mon Jun 15

*PreMeeting Dinner*  
Olympia restaurant, 2210 Central SE. Greek food. RSVP. Ingrid Baker 839-4678.

### Sat Jun 20

*Barrow Pit Wetland, Rio Grande Bosque*  
Near Los Lunas the Civil Corp of Engineers excavated a pit 10 years ago that has become a wetland pond. Mark Sisuentas from the Corp will be leading the tour. Barrow pits are being proposed for the SC land in the oxbow. Leisure. Meet at 8:30 at SC office, 207 San Pedro NE. David Morrison 344-8693.

### Sun Jun 21

*Piedras Marcadas Arroyo Hike, PNM*  
Ike will discuss how the City Transportation Planning department has ignored National Park Service ideas for road alignment with the result of neighborhoods being turned against the monument. View thousands of petroglyphs. RSVP. Ike Eastvold 255-7679.

### Sat Jun 27

*Tres Pistoles to Embudo Hike/Car Swap, Sandias*  
One group will start at Tres Pistoles and the other group at Embudo. Key swap and lunch at the ridge. Stop for ice cream afterwards. Moderate, 6 miles. Meet at 8:30 at the SC office, 207 San Pedro NE. Bob Cornish 255-6037. Susan Gorman, Blair Brown 265-3231.

### Sun Jun 28

*Boca Negra Arroyo Hike, Petroglyph NM*  
Thousands of petroglyphs, plentiful wildlife, and a variety of wildflowers. Bring sturdy shoes. RSVP. Ike Eastvold 255-7679.

### Sun Jun 28

*Raptor Rehabilitation Tour*  
Shirley Kendall of Wildlife Rescue Inc. of NM has been rehabilitating hundreds of hawks, owls, falcons, and others for years. Birds come to her with broken bones, gun shots, poisoning, and being orphaned. We will see a variety of birds at different stages of rehabilitation towards release in the wilds. Meet at 8:45 at Burrito Company, NE corner of Alameda and Coors. David Morrison 344-8693.

### Sat Jul 11

*Floating the Rio Grande*  
Bring out your raft, kayak, or canoe for a leisurely float through the city. Expert whitewaterer, Dennis Morrison, will be on

hand to offer some instruction. Must be able to swim. Some raft space and life jackets are available. We will stop to hike into some areas inaccessible from the road. We will start near Alameda. 8:30 am, RSVP David Morrison 344-8693.

### Sun Jul 12

*Geological Windows Hike, Petroglyph NM*  
Unusual geological features and petroglyphs. Bring sturdy shoes, camera, binoculars. Leisure. RSVP. Ike Eastvold 255-7679.

### Sat Jul 18

*Pecos Wilderness Hike*  
Hike to or along the Pecos river near Jack's Creek campground, or another area. Just south of this area was the mine tailing pollution. Moderate 6 miles. Meet at SC office, 207 San Pedro NE at 8am. Bob Cornish 255-6037.

### Mon Jul 20

*PreMeeting Dinner*  
Bring a sack lunch and an appetizer to share with a handful of people. After eating we will look for the burrowing owls along the UNM golf course. Meet at the south end of the UNM law school. Theresa Johnson 281-2740.

### Sat Jul 25

*Rinconada Canyon Hike, Petroglyph NM*  
Thousands of petroglyphs and a variety of wildlife. Bring sturdy shoes, camera binoculars. RSVP. Ike Eastvold 255-7679.

### Sat-Sun Jul 25-26

*Jemez Waterfall/Hot Spring Car Camp*  
Arrive Saturday evening for a campfire of marshmallows. Bring your swimsuits for a Sunday hike to the McCauley hot springs. You can drive up Sunday to meet the group for hike at 9:30am. Assistance with camping available. Susan Gorman, Blair Brown 265-3231.

### Fri-Mon Jul 31-Aug 3

*Trail Building Trampas Lakes to Santa Barbara Divide*  
High in the pines join a varied group of SC members from around the southwest. \$40 cost for group food. Moderate brushing and some logging. Linda and John Buchser 281-2015.

### Sat Aug 8

*Piedras Marcadas Arroyo Hike, PNM*  
See description for June 21. RSVP. Ike Eastvold 255-7679.



## the LORAX

Sierra Club  
El Paso Regional Group

## Franklin Mountains State Park Eyed for Mining

Over much of Franklin Mountains State Park, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) owns the surface but not the subsurface (the mineral estate). In many cases, the Texas General Land Office (GLO) owns the minerals, and the GLO has a different land-management mandate than the TPWD. The GLO uses its holdings to generate income for the state's Permanent School Fund. One way it does this is through mining leases.

## Hitt Canyon Targeted

Hitt Canyon is a beautiful canyon on the east side of the Franklins near the New Mexico-Texas state line. In 1987, Mr. Ples Schnitz of El Paso obtained the first in a series of permits from the GLO to prospect for minerals on land in Hitt Canyon a mile inside the Park boundary. To date, Mr. Schnitz has found no significant concentrations of metallic minerals. Mostly he has found silica, or quartz.

No big deal, right? Well, it is a big deal if you consider ASARCO uses silica in its smelting operations and is looking for cheaper sources of this material. Working with Southwest Exploration of Silver City, NM, Mr. Schnitz is currently seeking authorization from the GLO to remove 500 tons of rock (about 20 truck loads) from Hitt Canyon for a final assay to determine if the material in the canyon is suitable for ASARCO's use.

If it is, we can expect an application for full-scale mining to follow. The GLO projects that up to 240,000 tons of rock per year could be removed from an openpit mine, with the scarring ultimately affecting up to 40 acres. All within Franklin Mountains State Park.

At press time, the GLO is awaiting comments from TPWD before allowing the final assay to proceed. In its comments, the TPWD is expected to oppose full-scale mining and initiate a process under which it can protect this vulnerable area by acquiring the mineral rights from the GLO.

## Rest of Park Vulnerable

The potential mine in Hitt Canyon is a serious problem, and it brings into focus an even larger problem. Other areas of the Park are equally vulnerable. Please write TPWD Executive Director Andy Sansom (4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744) and urge TPWD to 1) oppose mining in Hitt Canyon; 2) acquire the mineral rights in the area being considered for silica mining; and 3) include in the management plan now being prepared for the Park a commitment to obtain all mineral interests in the Park to prevent any future mining-related damage.

John Sproul

## JUNE GENERAL MEETING

The June general meeting will feature a panel discussion about the Franklin Mountains State Park. John Green will present some of his beautiful slides of the Franklins, and Betsy Julian and John Sproul will present a panel discussion concerning potential intrusions into the park. The Lorax has recently featured articles about the Franklins; one regarding the communications tower and, in this issue, a mining venture in Hitt Canyon, but, unbelievably, there are other potential intrusions.

The meeting will start at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 24, at St. Paul's Methodist Church, 7000 Edgemere (two blocks east of Airway). Please join us. For more information, contact Ted Mertig, 852-3011.

## GROUP DIRECTORY

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairman/Public Lands	Ted Mertig	852-3011
Vice Chairman	Joe Rodriguez	833-9655
Secretary	Fernando Dubove	544-5973
Treasurer	Kathy Sunday	584-9301
Member	Gary Williams	544-8484
Member	Carolina Greenfield	593-2838
Member/Programs	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

## ADMINISTRATION

Environmental Center	Linda Mahlow	532-9645
		532-4876
Group/LORAX Mail	Bill Phillips	772-6503
Hospitality	Barbara Mertig	852-3011
ICO	Jeanne French	592-1660
SIERRAN Editor	Wyona Turner	585-0251
Membership	Carolina Greenfield	593-2838
Office Rep.	Neil O'Hara	565-4735
Outings	Carol Morrison	585-9077
Publicity	Todd Daugherty	584-2730

## Sierra Club Environmental Center

800 S. Piedras  
532-9645, 532-4876Please send any changes or corrections in membership to  
Carolina Greenfield, Membership Roll  
1510 Dale Douglas, 79936

## JUNE OUTINGS

## GRAY RANCH SERVICE TRIP

DATE: June 5-7, 1992  
PLACE: Gray Ranch  
CLASS: Moderate  
LIMIT: 12, reservations required  
LEADER: Gary Williams, 544-8484

Departure at noon on Friday. That evening and Saturday will be spent clearing trails.

DECISION SOON ON THE DIAMOND BAR  
GRAZING ALLOTMENT

Environmentalists in the Silver City area are battling a Forest Service proposal to construct 33 new stock tanks in the Gila and Aldo Leopold Wilderness areas on the Diamond Bar grazing allotment in the Gila National Forest. The plan, which calls for new stock tanks to be bulldozed into upper drainages of trout streams that provide critical habitat for the endangered Gila trout, was identified as the Forest Service's "preferred alternative" in their development of a new management strategy for the Diamond Bar.

If constructed, these tanks would permanently alter the wilderness ecosystem by diverting stream flow, creating 'sacrifice areas' denuded of vegetation and contributing to increased rain runoff and downstream siltation. The Forest Service is justifying this development in the wilderness under the guise of 'resource protection.'

The Gila National Forest Plan mandates riparian conditions and wildlife habitat on the Diamond Bar. To bring the permitted number of cattle in line with the actual capacity of the resource would, according to the USFS's own documents, require a reduction to around 300 head. The Diamond Bar is currently allowed to graze 1,188 cattle. Over the past 25 years, the actual use numbers have been around 800 head, with devastating effects on the wilderness.

In an attempt to mitigate riparian damage, the USFS is proposing this travesty, which will, essentially, move the damage from the stream bottoms to the fragile upland environment. This precedent could open wilderness throughout the west to further exploitation for the benefit of the commercial users of National Forest lands.

## EARTH DAY 1993 HELP WANTED

A committee is now being formed to plan a truly memorable and international Earth Day for 1993. If you have some outstanding ideas or would like to volunteer to help with the planning, please give Ted Mertig a call at 582-3011.

A Decision Notice from Gila National Forest Supervisor Maynard Rost is expected early this summer. For information call Susan Schock at Gila Watch, (505) 388-2854.

## SIERRA BLANCA UNDER SIEGE

Hudspeth County, Texas, near the town of Sierra Blanca is the proposed location for several waste disposal projects. The residents are seeking our support in opposing the following waste sites.

## Low Level Nuclear Waste Dump

The proposed location of a low level nuclear waste dump has been moved from Fort Hancock to Sierra Blanca. This decision appears to be based on political factors not scientific ones.

1) This area has geology very similar to Fort Hancock (ground fissures, seismically active, complex and poorly understood hydrogeology; 2) surface water flows into the Rio Grande; 3) very near the international border with Mexico, with subsequent political consequences; 4) facility design (burial) doesn't allow for future inspection or retrieval of waste should problems arise or new disposal techniques be discovered.

## Sludge

New York City proposes to ship its partially treated sewage to

Hudspeth County, where it will be spread in a thin layer on the surface. Potential problems with this proposal are: 1) pathogens in the partially treated sewage may cause diseases in area residents; 2) elevated levels of heavy metals pose health risks; and 3) sewage on the ground will smell bad and may contaminate surface water.

For more information, contact Bill Addington, (915) 369-2541 (before 6 pm) or (915) 369-2551 (after 6 pm)

EDWARD ABBEY'S ADVICE  
TO FRAZZLED ENVIRONMENTALS

*Do not burn yourself out. Be as I am--a reluctant enthusiast...a part-time crusader, a half-hearted fanatic. Save the other half of yourselves and your lives for pleasure and adventure. It is not enough to fight for the West; it is even more important to enjoy it. While you can. While it is still here.*

*So get out there and hunt and fish, mess around with your friends, ramble out yonder and explore the forests, encounter the grizz, climb the mountains, bag the peaks, run the rivers, breathe deep of that yet sweet and lucid air, sit quietly for awhile and contemplate the precious stillness, that lovely, mysterious and awesome space.*

*Enjoy yourselves, keep your brain in your body, the body active and alive. I promise you this much: I promise you this one sweet victory over our enemies, over those deskbound men with their hearts in a safe deposit box and their eyes hypnotized by desk calculators, I promise you this: You will outlive the bastards.*

from the Gila Hike &amp; Bike, Silver City, NM

## JUNE OUTINGS

## SHORT DAYHIKE IN THE FRANKLINS

DATE: Saturday, June 6, 1992  
 PLACE: Franklin Mountains State Park  
 CLASS: Easy  
 LIMIT: 24, reservations required  
 LEADER: Claus Christiansen, 532-4066

This hike goes to the Cross in the Franklins (and if you don't know where that is, join us on June 6th.) The length of the whole hike is less than 2 miles and there is very little elevation gain.

## 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'.

## RIM TRAIL DAYHIKE

DATE: Saturday, June 13, 1992  
 PLACE: Rim Trail, Lincoln National Forest  
 CLASS: Moderate  
 LIMIT: 15, reservations and leader approval required  
 LEADER: Jim Bell, 581-8864

Enjoy this trail in (hopefully) cool weather for an approximately 12 mile hike in the Lincoln National Forest outside of Cloudcroft.

## ISSUE OUTING BACKPACK

DATE: June 13-14, 1992  
 PLACE: Black Range, Aldo Leopold Wilderness  
 CLASS: Easy  
 LIMIT: 15, reservations required  
 LEADER: Mike Episcopo, 833-3770

On this backpack we will witness first-hand some of the damaging effects of the 1872 Mining Law in one of the riparian ecosystems within the Black Range. Our route will follow Trail 757 along N. Percha Creek where several mines will be observed. The harm to the area will become self-evident as numerous large mines, minetailings and the resultant water pollution are examined. We then will enter the backcountry of the Aldo Leopold Wilderness, which was a favorite retreat of Mimbres Apache Chief Victorio, and camp along the creek in the shadow of a high rock canyon where Indian pictographs can be seen. Total roundtrip mileage is 6 miles, with an approximate 500 ft. elevation gain. There will be numerous stream crossings along the trail. We will leave early Saturday morning.

## SACRAMENTO MOUNTAINS CARCAMP

DATE: June 19-21, 1992  
 PLACE: Sacramento Mountains  
 CLASS: Easy  
 LIMIT: 12, reservations required  
 LEADER: Dale Harris, 544-7149

We will depart from the Wilderness Park Museum at 6:30 p.m. Friday evening. Friday night camp will be in the Sleepy Grass campgrounds (fee) outside Cloudcroft. Saturday we will drive to a primitive camp on the east side of the Sacramentos for our hiking. Sunday we will have additional hikes and return to the El Paso in the afternoon. Higher clearance vehicles are necessary. You will need to bring enough water for the entire trip.

## SOUTH FRANKLIN PEAK DAYHIKE

DATE: Saturday, June 20, 1992  
 PLACE: Franklin Mountains State Park  
 CLASS: Moderate  
 LIMIT: 15, reservations and leader approval required  
 LEADER: Carol Morrison, 585-9077

Enjoy a Spring-Summer morning hike on South Franklin Peak that will offer terrific views and a rest break on top. You'll need sun protection, a snack and water for this hike that will begin at 8 a.m. at the parking area just east of the top of Transmountain Road. Despite a rather steep and rocky trail, we should be down by noon.

## EIGHT-DAY GILA BACKPACK

DATE: June 22-29, 1992 (Monday-Monday)  
 PLACE: Gila Wilderness, NM  
 LIMIT: 12, leader approval required  
 CLASS: Difficult  
 LEADER: Laurence Gibson, 594-7342

This hike is for the experienced, well-conditioned, and well-equipped backpacker. It offers a fine opportunity to revel in the beauty of the Gila while reaching a state of toughness not possible on shorter outings. The hiking itself will only be moderately difficult, but packs are heavy for the first several days and require careful preparations and adequate experience.

## HUBBELL CANYON KIDDIE BACKPACK

DATE: June 27-28, 1992  
 PLACE: Lincoln National Forest  
 CLASS: Easy  
 LIMIT: 5 families or 20 people, reservations required  
 LEADER: Mike Episcopo, 833-3770

Departing early Saturday morning, we will drive to Cloudcroft, NM and then turn south toward Sacramento Peak en route to our trailhead. The hike follows an easy trail through open meadows for a total of 2 miles. We will camp near the stream in a very picturesque area, where several waterfalls are located. Splashing about in the stream will be available. You and your children should have some backpacking experience, although beginners will be accepted with proper equipment. Those Sierrans with no children are welcome, space permitting.

## SANTA FE GROUP NEWS

## SUMMER SOLSTICE POTLUCK PICNIC - SATURDAY, JUNE 20

Lani Moore (989-7711) has again graciously offered her beautiful home in Tesuque to host this annual event. Please bring a pot luck contribution equal to eight servings for each person coming from one of the following: casserole, meat or vegetable dish, salad, bread, dessert, appetizer, beer, wine or fruit juices. Please also bring your own plates and dinnerware so we do not have to use and throw away paper and plastic. If you play a guitar or other musical instrument, we could have an after-dinner sing. For reservations and information, call Norman McCallan (471-0005) or Carol Owens (471-4769). See map for directions to Lani's house. This is a great occasion to meet new friends, do some environmental networking, or renew old acquaintances!

The potluck picnic is free and open to the public and will be held at Lani Moore's house (see map →) on Saturday, June 20, at 6 PM.

**FLEA MARKET FUNDRAISER** — 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/or 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

## &gt;&gt; SANTA FE GROUP OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS &lt;&lt;

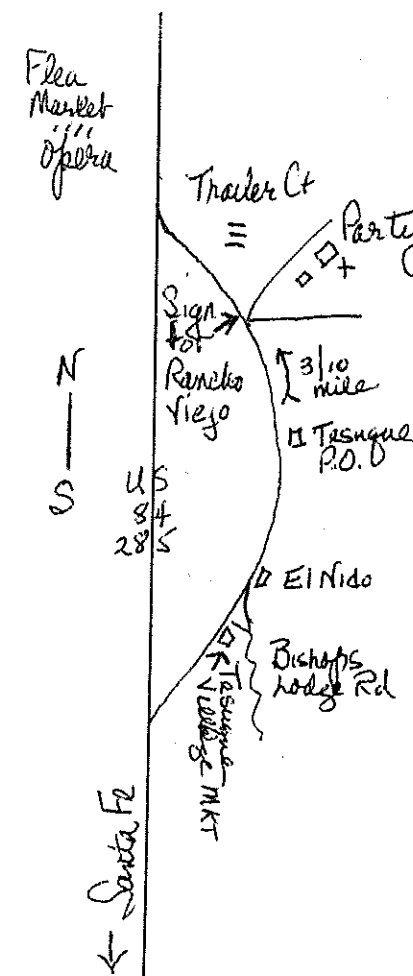
June Chair — Jana Oyler*	983-1858	Publicity — Jana Oyler*	988-1858
Vice-Chair — Norma McCallan*	471-0005	Outings — Norma McCallan*	471-0005
Secretary — Jana Oyler*	988-1858	Arnold Keskulla	982-9570
Treasurer — Lionel Soracco*	983-6715	Publications — Betsy Fuller	983-8870
Conservation — Sue Harrod	986-8825	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		
Fund Raising — Web Kitchell*	471-7539	John McClure*	473-1916
		Coby Muckelroy*	983-5453
		Lani Moore*	989-7711

\* Member of the Santa Fe Group Executive Committee

Terms expire 12/92: Freeman/Keskulla/Kitchell/McClure

12/93: McCallan/Moore/Muckelroy/Oyler/Soracco

"Dixieland at Birdland"—A fundraiser picnic at and for the Randall Davey Audubon Center featuring the music of the Red Hot Chiles, Sunday, June 21, 4-8 p.m. Admission is \$20 (Bring Your Own Picnic) or \$30 (Picnic Included.) For reservations and info, call 983-4609. Don't miss it!



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

Sat Sun June

- 6 Art Judd (982-3212) Easy/Moderate Hike Atalaya Mtn or equivalent. Leave 9 AM.  
 6 SF National Forest Watch (Martha Anne Freeman 438-0697) Training Workshop  
 9:30 AM to 3 PM at Hotel Plaza Real, 125 Washington Street. Effective forest  
 monitoring skills/silviculture/communication skills.  
 7 Victor Atyas (471-7545) Easy Hike in Bandelier to Rio. Leave 9:15 AM.  
 7 Stephen Janus (988-4137) Moderate/Strenuous Hike Santa Fe Baldy. 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 New Wave Rafting Co (455-2633) Sierra Fund Raising Raft Trip full day thru  
 White Rock Canyon, hike up thru Frijoles Canyon to Bandelier. CALL FOR INFO!  
 14 Norbert Sperlich (983-1962) Strenuous Hike Jemez Mtns. Call leader.  
 14 Gary Enos (473-4463) Strenuous Hike in Pecos Wilderness. Leave 7:30 AM.  
 20 SF National Forest Watch (Martha Anne Freeman 438-0697) Training Workshop  
 9:30 AM to 3 PM at Hotel Plaza Real, 125 Washington Street. Continuing  
 silviculture/communication skills and info on Threatened & Endangered Species.  
 20 Flea Market Fundraiser To help and/or just contribute goodies, Gwen Wardwell  
 (438-3060) or Web Kitchell (982-9674/church, 471-7539).  
 20 Group General Membership Summer Solstice Picnic at Lani Moore's house in  
 Tesuque (see map) For information, call Norma McCallan (471-0005).  
 20 Charles Crooks (471-0005) Easy Hike Bear Wallow Loop. Dogs OK. 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 Dome Wilderness. Call leader for reservations.

★ ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE / ISSUE HIKE FOR JUNE ★

- 27 28 With Amigos Bravos, Tour the Molybdenum mine's tailings, debris and  
 general environmental degradation and pollution of this beautiful area. Meet at El  
 Seville Restaurant, Questa, 10 AM Saturday, or PERA at 7:45 AM to carpool. After  
 touring the mine area, proceed to Guadalupe Peak (Easy 2 Mile Hike to the top),  
 site of the proposed new tailings pond for Molybdenum, and picnic at the top. Great  
 vistas! Those who wish, can Car Camp overnight (Saturday) at the Rio Grande Wild  
 & Scenic River campground and enjoy the various Easy to Moderate Hikes in the  
 area on Sunday. For more information on the mining issues, call Amigos Bravos in  
 Taos (1-758-3874) or Hank Saxe (1-758-9513). For more information and  
 reservations on the trip, call Norma McCallan (471-0005). Dogs allowed.



**Outings Notes** -- 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.

Fri Sat Sun July

- 3 4 5 Norma McCallan (471-0005) 3 day backpack along the Crest Trail of the White  
 Mountains - approx. 25 miles in length. Fri night at Spring Cabin, Sat night at  
 highest point on trail (11,400') near Sierra Blanca ski run. Call for reservations.  
 4 Charlie Crooks (471-0005) Easy/Moderate Hike Rio en Medio. Dogs allowed.  
 Leave 9 AM.  
 5 Victor Atyas (471-7545) Easy Hike Bandelier HQ to Rio Grande. Leave 9:15 AM.  
 11 Arnold Keskulla (982-9570) Easy/Moderate Hike near Ski Basin. Leave 8:30 AM.  
 11 SF National Forest Watch (Martha Anne Freeman 438-0697) All-Day Field Trip  
 to Jemez Mtns w/District Forest Ranger and a silviculturist.  
 12 Norbert Sperlich (983-1962) Moderate/Strenuous Hike to Lookout Rock above  
 LaVega (near Ski Basin). Reservations required.  
 10 11 12 Brian Johnson (438-2087) Backpack in San Pedro Parks. Leave Friday 5:30 PM.  
 Call leader for reservations.  
 18 Caroline Glick (984-3184) Strenuous Hike. Reservations required.  
 19 Elizabeth Altman (471-8490) Easy Hike in Cañada de los Alamos. Leave 9 AM.  
 18 19 Paul Miller (473-3107) Easy/Moderate Backpack to Bear Lake (4 steep miles  
 R.T.) 11,500' in Southern Colorado with optional Moderate Hike (3-1/2 mile) on  
 to Conejos Peak, 13,172', on Sunday. Pace will be leisurely -- a good backpack for  
 beginners. Call for reservations and for help with backpacking information.  
 25 John McClure (473-1916) Moderate Strenuous Hike Sangre de Cristos. Lv 8 AM.  
 26 Steven Janus (988-4137) Strenuous Hike to Capulin (Redondo) Peak via ridge  
 from Santa Fe Baldy. Leave 7:30 AM.  
 25 26 Gary Enos (473-4463) Strenuous Backpack to Pecos Baldy Lake. Climb peak and  
 return on Sunday. Call leader for reservations.  
 31/8-1/8-2 Linda & John Buchser (1-281-2015) Trail Maintenance Trip on the Centennial  
 Trail in the Pecos Wilderness. Charge of \$40 includes all meals. Forest Service  
 provides tools. Group will camp at Trailhead, so no backpacking required.

>>>>> MEETINGS - MEETINGS - MEETINGS <<<<<<

All members are invited to all meetings

Membership Meeting **	Conservation Committee *	Executive Committee *
Tuesday, June 16, 7:30	Tuesday, June 30, 7 PM	Tuesday, July 7, 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 July Newsletter is Friday, 5 PM, June 5.



GROUP ISSUE CHAIRS

To continue with our emphasis on conservation matters, the Santa Fe Group now has watch  
 dogs for specific issues in the area:

Mining - Sue Harrod	Carson Forest - George Grossman
BLM - Roger Peterson	Urban Affairs - Ken Hughes
SF Forest - Randy Freeman/ Martha Ann Freeman	Grazing - Vacant

Is grazing on our public lands an issue with you? Call Sue Harrod (986-8825) to see how you can  
 get involved.



# THE LOG

Southern New Mexico Group

## New Officers

Storm Sermay is the new Membership Chair. Steve Kalavity is the new Outings Chair.

## Hike-a-thon

The first annual John Muir Earth Day Hike-a-thon went pretty well. About a half dozen members hiked, raising an a modest sum of much-needed money for the Group. Thanks to Kris Paulsen for all her hard work in organizing the event.

## Frenger Tree Planting

The Southwest Environmental Center's riparian park project at Frenger Park in Las Cruces was launched with the planting by volunteers of 60 native tree and shrub species on Saturday, May 16. Students from Sarah Orton's University Hills School first grade class were

on hand to help plant and present the \$60+ in coins they collected for the project.

## Animal Damage Control

The Group has written a letter to Doña Ana County Commissioners requesting that county funds not be used for predator control anymore. At press time the Commission had not decided on the matter.

## Meetings

Contrary to previous announcements, there will not be a candidate's forum on May 28, due to a shortage of people to organize the event. There will not be any type of general meeting for May.

There will not be a general meeting in June. The Executive Committee will meet on June 11. Call Myra for more information.

## Outings

At press time, no outings were scheduled.

### Directory

Mym Price, Chair	524-0261
David Pengelley, Vice-Chair	525-8286
Kevin Bixby, Conservation Co-Chair	525-1532
Storm Sermay, 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

Warning: The Southern New Mexico Group is in danger of folding due to a lack of active members. We need you!

## Pecos Trail Trip Planned

The USFS-Camino Real District is developing a connection between the Trampas and Santa Barbara drainages, just north of the Pecos Wilderness boundary, to be called the Centennial Trail. This will add about 12 miles to the existing trail system by rebuilding an abandoned trail and by converting an old jeep road to trail use (a nice reversal of the usual USFS trend). The former road would be available for motorized travel only by snowmobiles. Because this trail is very near the Santa Barbara and Trampas Lakes trailheads, it will take some of the pressure off these heavily used areas. It also will be available for mountain bikers.

The trip will take place from July 31 to August 3. Elevation at base camp will be 9000+ feet, in a mixed spruce forest. Days will be warm and nights cool, with typical mountain thunderstorms possible in the afternoons. Trout fishing is available in both streams, and wildflowers should be abundant.

Leaders will be John and Linda Buchser, who have led numerous trail maintenance trips for the national Sierra Club outings program. Trip participants will bring their own personal backpacking gear. Tools will be provided by the USFS. Meals will be provided at a cost of \$40 for the four days, and trip members will form cook crews. John and Linda are known for their tasty menus; since this trip can be supplied by four wheel drive access, we can expect terrific food. Contact John or Linda to reserve a place before July 26 at P.O. Box 430, Sandia Park, NM 87047 or (505) 281-2015.

## Beyond Beef: The Rise and Fall of the Cattle Culture

by Jeremy Rifkin (Dutton, 1992)

reviewed by Marc Bedner

What's on your short list of simple things to do to save the Earth? Recycle? Carpool? Write to Congress?

Chances are, you've neglected one of the simplest yet most effective ideas: stop eating beef. As Jeremy Rifkin points out in his latest book, *Beyond Beef: The Rise and Fall of the Cattle Culture*: "For a public used to thinking of environmental threats exclusively in terms of automobile exhaust, factory effluents, and toxic and radioactive materials, the magnitude of the environmental destruction caused by modern cattle production will likely come as a shock. Still, the ecological devastation created by the burgeoning world cattle population exceeds many of the other more visible sources of environmental harm."

Public lands activists are well aware of the effects of cattle grazing. Wildlife activists know that ranching interests are the main obstacle to wolf reintroduction. But most environmental activists, even in the Southwest, underestimate the extent of the cattle culture, as evidenced by the surprised reaction when they discover that New Mexico's "rancher-governor" (to borrow the term recently used by the *Albuquerque Journal*) is not an environmentalist.

And the livestock industry is far more than the ranchers who plague the Southwest. In addition to destroying the western range, the livestock industry bears major responsibility for a wide range of other environmental problems. Following are just a few examples taken from *Beyond Beef*:

■ Air pollution and global warming: "To sustain the yearly beef requirements of an average family of four people requires the consumption of over 260 gallons of fossil fuel. When that fuel is burned it releases 2.5 tons of additional carbon dioxide into the atmosphere—as much CO<sub>2</sub> as the average car emits in six months of normal operation."

■ Aquifer depletion: "Nearly half the water consumed in the United States now goes to grow feed for cattle and other livestock. To produce just a pound of grain-fed steak requires hundreds of gallons of water to irrigate feed crops consumed by the steer."

■ Wetland destruction: "According to the Arizona state park department, over 90 percent of the original riparian zones of Arizona

and New Mexico are gone. A 1988 report of the General Accounting Office...concluded that poorly managed livestock grazing is the major cause of degraded riparian habitat on federal rangelands."

Many of the facts in *Beyond Beef* have been published elsewhere. (For example, Rifkin took the last quotation from "The Price is Wrong," an article in the September/October 1990 issue of *Sierra* magazine.) But Rifkin is the first author to assemble from these facts a comprehensive study of the cattle culture. The result is a readable and informative history of the influence of cattle on western civilization, from its origins in Mesopotamia to modern international agribusiness.

Most important is the issue of the fall of the cattle culture. Rifkin provides such complete documentation of the dominance of the livestock industry that the reader might feel helpless to oppose it. But the livestock industry has a fatal weakness: its total dependence on consumers.

"In the United States, beef is big business" writes Rifkin. "Although the ranching population is less than 0.2 percent of the civilian labor force, beef cattle are a \$36 billion industry that accounts for nearly 24 percent of the cash receipts of the United States farm sector and 7 percent of supermarket sales...In a given week, 91 percent of all United States households purchase beef...The average American consumes the meat of seven 1,000-pound steers in his or her lifetime."

To paraphrase a recent First Lady, the simplest way to counteract the power of the ranchers is to just say no to beef. With the

publication of the book, a national Beyond Beef Campaign is being launched.

Recognizing the difficulty of converting a meat-eating culture to vegetarianism, the campaign is instead emphasizing the effect of simply cutting beef consumption in half. (For information on Beyond Beef Campaign activities in New Mexico, call me at 299-2004, or write to Rainforest Action, P.O. Box 1171, Santa Fe, NM 87504.)

The main lesson to be learned from *Beyond Beef* is that sometimes there's a simple solution to a complex problem. By relying on the power of consumers, the Beyond Beef Campaign avoids the complications of working through legislators, government agencies or the courts.

[Marc Bedner is a member of the Rio Grande Chapter Executive Committee, the Chapter's delegate to the Sierra Club Council, and an Albuquerque resident.]



Chip Burrows  
Owner/Grower

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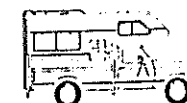
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