

## Chapter Seeking Nominations for Award Winners

The Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club intends to recognize those individuals and groups whose contributions to conservation during the last year or more warrant public praise. If you know of people that deserve special recognition, we want to hear from you.

Please submit nominations in the following categories:

■ **A Member of the Sierra Club** who has made an extraordinary commitment of time and effort for the good of the environment, and has been unusually effective in achieving the goals of the Club.

■ **An Individual Who is Not a Member of the Sierra Club** who has assisted directly or indirectly in helping the Sierra Club fulfill its mission of service to the community through service and stewardship.

■ **An Elected or Appointed Governmental Official** who has demonstrated unusual courage or thoughtfulness in the conduct of governmental service, especially insofar as the actions have resulted in an improvement of the quality of life for New Mexicans, consistent with the ethic of thoughtful environmentalism.

Nominations may be made of formal or informal groups, or collections of individuals, or of other organizations. A committee of chapter ExCom members will review the nominations and prepare any awards for presentation at the chapter meeting in September.

Please send any nominations to Rich Adam, 1510 Princeton Drive NE, Albuquerque 87106.

Rio Grande Chapter  
Sierra Club  
P.O. Box 9191  
El Paso, TX 79983

Send Address Corrections to: Sierra Club, 730 Polk, San Francisco, CA 94109

## CALENDAR

- July 5-12 Sierra Club Family Camp and Environmental Education Workshop. Clair Tappan Lodge, California. Call (510) 283-6683 for more information.
- August 15 Deadline for September *Rio Grande Sierran*.
- Sept. 11-13 Chapter Retreat and Awards Ceremony. The ExCom will meet briefly during the weekend. Black Range Lodge, Kingston.
- Sept. 13-15 Conference on the Environment. Sponsored by the NM Environment Department. Albuquerque Convention Center.
- Sept. 15 Deadline for October *Rio Grande Sierran*.
- Sept. 20 Sierra Club Southwest Regional Conservation Committee (SWRCC) meeting. Santa Fe.
- Sept. 26-7 Audubon Conference on Public Land Grazing. Las Cruces. For more information, call (505) 382-5767 or 522-8068.
- February, 1993. Conference on Riparian Areas. Sponsored by the University of Arizona Water Resources Research Center. Albuquerque.



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# the rio grande SIERRAN

NEWS OF THE RIO GRANDE CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB • JULY/AUGUST 1992 • \$1.00

## Reform of 1872 Mining Law Again on the Move

by Sue McIntosh

At last, we are coming to a critical point in the life of 1872 Mining Law reform!

Congressman Rahall, a champion of mining reform in Congress, has introduced a new version of his mining law reform bill, HR 918. The substitute bill is a good one and deserves our support. It would:

- Set environmental standards for operating and cleaning up mines on public lands
- Require companies to develop plans for complying with those standards
- Give federal land managers explicit authority to approve, modify, or deny proposed mining operations
- Eliminate patenting, replacing it with a rental system
- Create a fund to clean up abandoned mines.

The bill's major failing is that it does not require companies to pay royalties. They should pay royalties, and the monies should be used to clean up old, abandoned mine sites which are now polluting the West.

This is an important issue for New Mexico, because this state has many such abandoned mine sites and it is estimated that it will take over \$300 million to clean them up. The industry that made and profited from this mess should be required to help clean it up!!

### What's at Stake

Opposition to mining law reform is at the heart of the current backlash against the environmental gains of the past 20 years.

As you may be aware, the ultra-conservative, anti-environment organization, People For The West! (PFW!), one of many so-called "wise use" groups that

have sprung up recently, is 95 percent funded by large corporate mining interests whose chief aim is to prevent reform of the 1872 Mining Law.

PFW! has broadened its agenda to include every other public land issue, and continues to spread lies and divide New Mexican communities. If we achieve mining law reform, the corporate mining money currently funding PFW! will dry up, exposing it for the industry front group that it is.

### What You Can Do

A vote on Rahall's bill in the House Interior Committee was scheduled for June 24. There is a chance that the vote has not yet happened by the time you read this. Call the number below, or your Representative to find out.

If the bill has been voted out of Committee, write a brief letter urging your Representative to support it with the addition of a royalties provision. (See Congressional addresses on page 3.)

If the bill has not been voted out of Committee, readers should call Rep. Bill Richardson (D-NM), urging his continued support for mining law reform. Richardson is a key member of the House Interior Committee, and has taken a lot of heat lately for his pro-environmental stands. (See brief on p. 10.)

For more information, contact Sue McIntosh at (505) 986-8825.



## ADC Quietly Raises Death Toll in N.M.

By Pat Wolff

The U.S. Animal Damage Control agency (ADC) slaughtered more wild animals in 1991 than in the previous year, according to government documents recently obtained by the Sierra Club.

The death toll increased from 9,796 animals reported killed in FY 1990 to 11,115 in FY 1991. Coyotes were once again ADC's favorite target.

Of the 7,456 coyotes slaughtered 1,546 were caught in leg hold traps, 1,113 were shot from airplanes, 655 were shot on the ground, 784 were taken by neck snares, 3,315 were poisoned by M-44 cyanide baits, and 43 were

(continued on page 5)

## Inside...

Group Newsletters .....	12-22
Sierra Club Foundation Flap .....	3
Scott Able Settlement .....	5
Bush: Rhetoric vs. Policies .....	8
EPA Border Group Named .....	9
News Briefs .....	10
Chapter Fund Appeal Donors .....	11
Calendar .....	24

## Election Alert...

We had some great success in the New Mexico primary. (See article on page 4.) Now your help is needed to elect environmentally-friendly candidates in November!

Please use the enclosed envelope to send in your contribution to the Sierra Club Political Committee. The environment needs you!



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Gwen Wardwell, Pat Wolff, Sue McIntosh

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## LETTERS

**Wayne Owens Deserves Support**

Dear Editor,

I had to write and tell you and the State membership of the meeting I and many other New Mexicans had June 14 with Senatorial candidate Wayne Owens. Currently one of Utah's Representatives, Wayne Owens is running for the Senate seat of retiring Jake Garn, in a campaign that former Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall calls the "most important race in the Senate this year" for progressive issues and for environmental protection issues.

Now for some quick background: the West is in great need of a stronger voice in the Senate on environmental issues. Wayne's League of Conservation Voters rating has been consistently in the 80s, as opposed to a high of 8 for Garn. Owens calls his vote a "twofer"; whereas Garn or any other successor was/would be a guaranteed vote against environmental protection, Wayne's vote would be a guarantee for environmental protection. Please take a look at the enclosed letter and the list of people vouching for his credibility. Wayne has been that strong voice "in the Wilderness," and has developed a strong backing in the State of Utah, no small achievement considering Utah's conservative philosophy.

As I said, and most readers know, environmentalists need a strong voice in the Senate. We unfortunately lose Tim Wirth of Colorado this year. That makes it all the more important that Wayne wins his race. As strong as his grassroots support is, Wayne is running in the most expensive, per capita, race this year; his opponent is spending millions. It's also important to note that the individual is owner of the worst polluting industrial facility (an old steel mill) in Utah's second largest county.

I've recognized that this is not just a race for Utahans, it's a vital race for Western environmental issues. Remember Domenici's smug retort on his vote against the Jemez National Recreation area, "if you want to stop mining here, just reform the 1872 Mining Law." I'm urging you and our entire State membership to send in a contribution to Wayne's campaign to Owens for Senate Committee, 101 D. Street, SE, Washington, DC 20003. I'm convinced he's committed; I gave my first-ever political contribution.

—Ralph Wrons  
 Albuquerque

P.S. Thanks to the El Paso Group for printing "Edward Abbey's advice to frazzled environmentalists." It was just the light-hearted encouragement I needed.

**THE 1992 NEW MEXICO AUDUBON CONFERENCE**

26 & 27 SEPTEMBER 1992  
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## OPINION

**Sierra Club Foundation Flap Creates Confusion, Ill-Will**

The recent entrance of Attorney General Tom Udall in a lawsuit between the Sierra Club Legal Foundation and one of its contributors has created confusion in the environmental community.

The lawsuit stems from conflict over the disposition of a gift made by Albuquerque developer Ray A. Graham III to the Sierra Club Foundation in 1970. Graham alleges that his money was never used for the purpose he intended. The Foundation argues that the lawsuit is in retaliation for an unrelated dispute between Graham and the Foundation.

Although the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club is a separate organization from the Sierra Club Foundation, and had nothing to do with the disputed gift or subsequent litigation, it has been caught in the middle.

"Most people do not know that the Foundation and the Club are different entities," said Gwen Wardwell, chair of the Rio Grande Chapter. "More important, the suit is over a disagreement about the purpose of a gift that someone made."

"The impression that people are left with is that the Sierra Club is not dedicated to rural development, and that is simply untrue."

"The fact is that the Rio Grande Chapter is committed to assisting communities like Silver City and Questa develop environmentally sound alternatives to their failed mining economies. Our agenda will continue to stress environmentally responsible economic development everywhere in New Mexico and the Southwest."

Chapter Mining Issues chair Susan McIntosh pointed out that "the adverse publicity of this lawsuit draws our attention from the pressing environmental and economic issues that we must address. All of us should renew our efforts to work for a healthier and better life for all New Mexicans."

The Chapter Executive Committee has sent a letter to the Sierra Club Foundation and to the national Sierra Club leadership, expressing its concern over how the issue has been handled thus far.

**Reach Out and Touch Them**

To write your senators:  
 The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
 U.S. Senate  
 Washington, D.C. 20510

U.S. Senators (NM):  
 Pete Domenici (R)  
 Jeff Bingaman (D)

U.S. Senators (TX):  
 Lloyd Bentsen (D)  
 Phil Gramm (R)

To write your representative:  
 The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
 U.S. House of Representatives  
 Washington, D.C. 20515

U.S. Representatives (NM):  
 Dist. 1—Steve Schiff (R)  
 Dist. 2—Joe Skeen (R)  
 Dist. 3—Bill Richardson (D)

U.S. Rep. (west TX):  
 Dist. 16—Ron Coleman (D)

To telephone your senators or representatives, call the U.S. Capitol switchboard: (202) 224-3121

**My People**

by Winter Torres

For decades our area has grown and prospered along with our local mines. Grant County's basic culture is centered around the precious ore the earth offers us. On the other hand, we have also suffered when the giant mining corporations, such as Phelps Dodge, shut down mines or when the price of copper drops. When this happens the community's spirit falls causing loss of jobs, population, money and businesses.

Our population is mostly Chicano, and believe me the people are quite proud of that fact. At first our people were not well-educated, and the mines tried to take advantage of their misfortune. Slowly though, we have gained momentum. The area's views are no longer just opinions talked about among themselves, but they are now known to the companies. We have people that will fight for the rights of those that are being abused.

*The mining corporations basically control Grant County, its people, money, and politics.*

The Empire Zinc strike of the early fifties was an important part of the struggle for equal rights begun by my generation's ancestors. Two years of their lives, including the men's and their wives', were devoted to proving the white race was not superior to Hispanics. But, I would wager that you didn't know that Snell Middle School is named after the racist manager of the mine during that critical time. Today, discrimination does not draw its lines by color, but by an area's wealth status. Yet the strife for equality continues, even at this day and time.

The mining corporations basically control Grant County, its people, money, and politics. For years, the only source of employment has been to gather, refine, and ship gold, silver, and copper. Through these activities, small cities came to be which created more jobs. Because of this grip on the economy and continually working the labor on alternating shifts, the people are controlled. Through the people, money is controlled. The mines can choose to donate some of their profits to the cities where the money is needed or not to. The more the local governments help the mines, the more money they receive. Of course, then, politics is controlled.

As anyone that has ever had anything to do with Grant County knows, the Tyrone mine is on its way to closure. Mining's future is unsure, therefore, the community's future and our culture's future is unsure. Time, undoubtedly, will show us what will happen to our area.

[Winter Torres is a junior at Cobre High School in Bayard, New Mexico. She was one of six winners in an essay/poster contest on the theme of Mining, Culture, and Reclamation, sponsored by the Mexican/Chicano Chamber of Commerce and the Grant County Environmental Coalition.]

# Changes Due In State Senate

Your Contributions Needed in This Critical Election Year

by Ken Hughes

The New Mexico State Senate will be a different place in 1993, due to redistricting, retirement and races decided in the June 2 primary. The good news for environmentalists is that many of those most opposed to advancing environmental issues will not be returning.

The biggest defeat was of John Morrow, long-time Senator of District 7 in the Northeast plains. As chair of the Senate Conservation Committee, Morrow thwarted, stalled or outright killed so many pieces of legislation that his committee became known as the "Anti-Conservation" Committee. One of his final blows was during the recent legislative session, when a relatively innocuous memorial extolling public education about endangered species was squashed in his committee.

The Sierra Club's Political Committee made Morrow's defeat its top priority. Fortunately there was a single, solid opponent: Paul Davidson, a retired educator from Tucumcari.

As with other salient races, the candidates were sent a questionnaire to discern their stances on mining reform, wetlands, energy policy, incinerator siting, wildlife and solid waste. Davidson, who favorably answered the questionnaire, was also interviewed to get a better sense of his view on environmental issues. Finally, we employed the "Delphi technique" and talked to a variety of knowledgeable political observers to get a feel for the candi-

dates. Based on this analysis, the Santa Fe Group of the Sierra Club endorsed Davidson and also gave him a \$100 campaign contribution.

The November general election is the next stop for deciding contested races between Republican and Democratic candidates. The Political Committee will look at key races throughout the state where the Sierra Club can make a difference. The same method of questionnaires, interviews, knowledge sharing and endorsements will be employed.

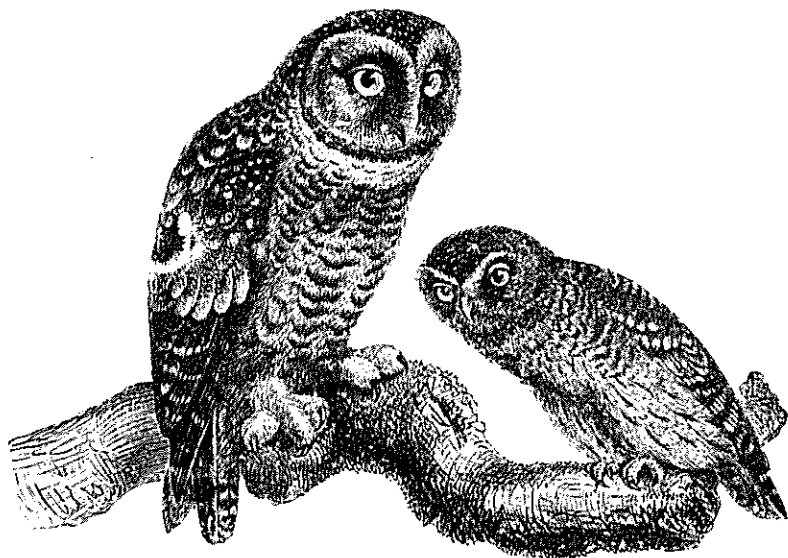
## What You Can Do

The Sierra Club needs to insure that environmental considerations are fully raised in the campaign, and that we get the finest State Legislature possible. *Your financial support is needed!*

Please send a check made out to Sierra Club Political Committee, using the envelope provided in this issue. For those of you living in west Texas, your contribution will be used to help pro-environmental candidates running for the Texas State Legislature.

(If there is no envelope, mail your check to the Sierra Club Political Committee, c/o Jana Oyler, Chapter Treasurer, Route 19 Box 120-KO, Santa Fe, NM, 87505.)

[Ken Hughes is chair of the Rio Grande's Political Committee, and lobbyist for the Chapter.]



# Calling All Alaska Activists

by Heidi Fleischmann

Now is the time to start our campaign to protect the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in the 103rd Congress. We must make protection of this biologically rich and pristine area a 1992 congressional campaign issue.

Our goals are to let candidates of both parties know that the fate of the Coastal Plain of the Arctic Refuge in Alaska is a concern of the constituents in his district.

We must make sure that the candidates hear our side of the story so that they can make an intelligent decision when a vote comes up. They hear all the time from oil industry representatives, they need to hear all the time from us, as well.

There are different ways to get to the candidates. If anyone has an appointment with one, or one has been invited to speak at your group, use the opportunity to educate them on the issue and ask them directly if they will support legislation designating the Coastal Plain as Wilderness.

You can also get a schedule of campaign appearances from the campaign headquarters of any candidate. Then you can arrange to have someone in the audience at each event to ask the critical question. "Will you support legislation that would designate the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as a wilderness area?"

The Alaska Coalition in Washington, D.C. is keeping track of candidates' support for wilderness designation. Please relay any information you may obtain to their office. You can contact Melinda Pierce, c/o Alaska Coalition, 408 C Street, NE, Washington, D.C. 20002, (202) 675-7912.

Feel free to call me at (505) 260-1217 for further information or if you have any questions.

[The author is a physician and member of the Albuquerque Group.]

# Environmentalists, Loggers Settle Timber Dispute

from a Forest Guardians release

A federal judge has signed a settlement agreement between environmental groups and loggers protecting rare primary forest, but allowing logging to proceed in less sensitive areas.

The agreement was signed by U.S. District Judge Juan Burciaga on June 4 limiting tree cutting on the Scott Able and Poison logging operations in the Lincoln National Forest east of Alamogordo.

In addition to the environmental groups, these two logging operations were appealed by the N.M. Dept. of Game and Fish in the summer of 1990, the first Forest Service actions ever appealed by a state agency in New Mexico.

State wildlife officials were later forced to withdraw their appeal by the State Game Commission appointed by former Governor Garry Caruthers. Court documents from state wildlife officials stated that "biologically it was a mistake to withdraw the appeals and certainly not in the best interests of wildlife in the state."

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the N.M. Environment Dept. also opposed the Scott Able logging because of adverse effects to wildlife and water quality. Even a Forest Service employee appealed the Scott Able logging operations for destroying his favorite hiking trail.

The agreement hammered out between Forest Guardians, the Mesilla Valley and El Paso/Trans-Pecos chapters of the Audubon Society, and White Sands Forest Products protects habitat critical to the Mexican spotted owl and the Mescalero mountain thistle. In addition, it protects the municipal water supply of the town of Timberson in the southern Sacramento mountains.

In exchange, White Forest Products, an Alamogordo-based logging company, is allowed to cut 1.2 million board feet of lumber from the Scott Able area and somewhat less than 1 million board feet from the Poison. About 2.5 million board feet cannot be considered for cutting for 10 years in sensitive wildlife habitat and areas where water quality is threatened. One million board feet is equal to approximately 200 logging trucks.

"We saved biologically critical areas from destructive logging by striking a deal that

loggers can live with. This is what we went to court to accomplish," said Sam Hitt, director of the Santa Fe-based Forest Guardians.

The environmental plaintiffs were particularly concerned about logging and road building in Apple Tree canyon and other areas of uncut primary forest northwest of Scott Able canyon. The settlement bans all logging from this area for ten years. In addition, six cutting units southeast of Scott Able canyon were dropped to protect the habitat of the Mescalero Mountain Thistle and prevent the degradation of the Sacramento River's water quality.

The cutting that had occurred prior to the injunction issued by Judge Burciaga which halted logging on April 3, 1991 damaged the habitat of the Northern goshawk, possibly even cutting down the nest tree near Scott Able canyon. The goshawks were found in surveys last summer. There are only nine known goshawks on the Lincoln National Forest.

Surveys last summer also found a new Mexican spotted owl roost site within a cluster of cutting units on the western side of the Scott Able logging operation. The injunction issued by Judge Burciaga saved this important site as well as stopping further degradation of the critical goshawk habitat.

The FWS recently wrote the Lincoln National Forest asking that many of the same cutting units dropped in the settlement be either modified or eliminated to protect the Mexican spotted owl. The recommendations in this letter are not binding on the Forest Service until the owl becomes listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. The FWS is scheduled to make a listing determination on the owl in November.

The Scott Able is approximately 20 miles south of Cloudcroft bordering the Sacramento River and the Poison is 10 miles northeast of Cloudcroft near the Sixteen Springs area.

The Lincoln National Forest has less uncut primary forest remaining than any other forest in the Southwest.

[Forest Guardians is a Santa Fe based nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting national forests in the Southwest.]

# ADC

(continued from front page)

taken through denning, a method in which coyote pups are gassed or burnt alive in their dens or removed from their dens with a treble hook and then clubbed, crushed or shot to death.

The ADC documents also reveal that 782 non-target animals were accidentally killed in 1991, including badgers, beavers, bobcats, foxes, domestic dogs, mule deer, porcupines, cougars, and pronghorn antelope.

ADC's wildlife killing is funded with county, state and federal tax dollars. While many publicly-funded programs experienced budget cuts last year, ADC's New Mexico budget increased to \$1,974,373, up from \$1,867,001 in 1990.

In the past years, the ADC New Mexico office published annual reports which detailed numbers of animals killed, killing methods used, revenues and expenses, names of personnel, etc. However, there will be no 1991 annual report published, says director Curt Mullis, because he believes the public just "misuses" this information.

"We're not going to publish a packet of information to be misused," Mullis said Nov. 10, 1991 in an *Albuquerque Journal* news article.

Members of the public interested in ADC activities should call ADC headquarters in Albuquerque. Any failure by ADC to respond fully and openly to public inquiries should be reported to the Sierra Club at 982-6854 and also to your Congressional representatives and the media.

[Pat Wolff is the Wildlife Issues Chair for the Rio Grande Chapter and a member of the Santa Fe Group.]





## Efforts Underway to Boost Demand for Recycled Products in N.M.

by Ken Hughes

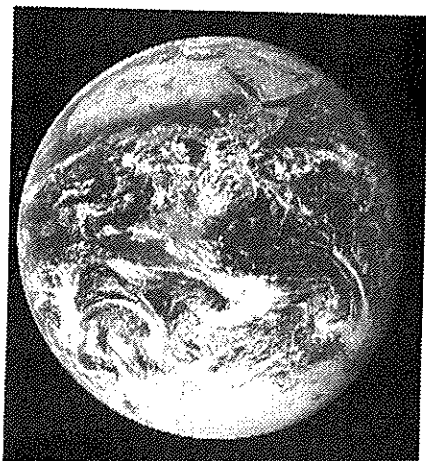
As a result of State Representative Danice Picraux's House Memorial 47, which calls for a strategy for developing a market for recyclables in New Mexico, and as follow up to the successful Source/Pollution recycling campaign, a New Mexico agency is actively looking at ways to shore up the demand side of recycling.

According to Judy Kowalski at the New Mexico Department of Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources, a promising approach is to pursue a coordinated approach with a variety of states, so that efforts—and orders—can be leveraged more effectively.

Two interstate bodies are active in this approach. The Southwest Public Recycling Organization is comprised of municipal officials seeking regional recycling efforts, such as cooperative marketing, model legislation on product procurement, and coordinated solicitations to industry of combined quantities of recycled materials from cities in five states.

The second body, Western States Legislative Conference, has a recycling group of lawmakers from its 15 state legislatures. It is focusing on model minimum content legislation, cooperative market development strategies, and cooperative contract paper procurement. The last of these will include specifications and model contracts, so that any of the Western states can buy from a supplier at a big discount.

For more information, contact Judy Kowalski at (505) 827-5950.



NASA

## Chapter ExCom Goes Wild and Scenic for June Meeting

by Jana Oyler

The Chapter Executive Committee met amid spectacular scenery in June at a campground at the BLM's Rio Grande Wild Rivers Recreation Area, west of Questa. Part of the meeting was also held in Questa at the Forest Service's Questa Ranger District office.

The ExCom was pleased to be joined during the meeting by Tony Trujillo, a Lama resident active in water quality and mining issues; Margaret Chapman, a Questa biologist who has been taking on the EPA almost singlehandedly over the regulation and testing of pesticides; and Polly Long, a ranger with the Wheeler Peak and Latir Peak Wilderness who is directing a project called "Limits of Acceptable Change" to discern the best future management of the Wheeler Peak Wilderness.

Appropriately for the location, mining issues were very much to the fore in the ExCom's discussions. The ExCom

also heard reports on members' recent meetings with Rep. Steve Schiff concerning the Endangered Species Act and with Larry Hensen, the new Regional Forester, and a report on the possibilities of linking our activists via computers.

The Chapter has recently received two grants from the Ethnic Diversity Task Force, one to hire an intern for the newsletter and one to increase student activism in the Sierra Club.

The ExCom will miss El Paso Regional Group Representative Patti Pagels, who is moving to Dallas. We wish her the best.

The next ExCom meeting will be held in conjunction with the Chapter Retreat in September.

[Jana Oyler is Secretary/Treasurer for the Rio Grande Chapter, and a member of the Santa Fe Group.]



Tailings pile at Molycorp's molybdenum mine near Questa. The mine is currently shut down. Photo by Kevin Bixby.

# Hardrock Answers

Answers to Some Questions About Hardrock Mining in the West

by Sue McIntosh (Second in a series)

**Q** The mining industry claims that environmental protection and reclamation requirements for mining operations are already adequately covered under existing Federal law. Why, then, should the 1872 Mining Law be amended and why should New Mexico enact a tough state law?

**A** Yes, there are some federal regulations in place. Unfortunately, even if existing regulations were fully enforced, which they are not, the regulations themselves are inadequate. Furthermore, full implementation is often impossible because of conflicts with the Mining Law.

Consider the following:

■ The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is responsible for regulation of mining on all federal public lands. Experience has shown that the agency will seldom disapprove a proposed mining operation.

For example, the agency approved a potentially very damaging tailings disposal facility near Questa, New Mexico. BLM State Director Larry Woodward argued his hands were tied, saying: "Although we realize the controversial nature of the facility, the BLM is bound by the General Mining Law of 1872."

■ BLM has trouble carrying out its existing programs in the field. For example, the Office of Inspector General found that oil and gas lease operators were often not complying with BLM regulations concerning environmental protection, drilling, production, and well abandonment. If BLM cannot implement its existing programs, it is unlikely to find the ability to implement a strong hardrock mining program.

■ The Council for Excellence in Government ranked the BLM as one of the least effective Federal agencies in terms of its quality of management, work force, service, and return on tax dollars. Together, the Office of Inspector General and the General Accounting Of-

fice have issued at least 92 audit reports during the past 5 years which have noted serious deficiencies within the Bureau's programs.

■ The BLM requires mining operators to "take such reasonable measures as will prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of the Federal lands, including reshaping land disturbed by operations to an appropriate contour and, where necessary [emphasis added] revegetating disturbed land so as to provide a diverse vegetative cover." This wishy-washy language essentially allows any activity that the mining industry considers to be normal mining practice (and is appropriately nicknamed the "demented miner rule.")

■ Because the BLM feels that it cannot disapprove a mining operation or restrict it so that it becomes uneconomical, operators are rarely required to backfill or recontour pits or take other measures to reclaim disturbed and contaminated land and water resources.

■ Although BLM has recently published a new "policy" for managing the destructive cyanide heap leach operations on federal land, it lacks an enforcement mechanism.

■ The BLM recently modified its bonding procedures. Unfortunately, these include a \$2,000/acre cap. Bonds above that amount cannot be required.

This is completely inadequate for reclamation purposes. In Montana, for example, the State has spent \$300,000 attempting to reclaim a five-acre heap leach operation, far in excess of the \$35,000 bond the operator had put up. Clean up costs for larger mines extend well into the millions. BLM's \$2,000 per acre limit simply does not consider the realities of modern mining.

*Because of the "right to mine" dilemma, the Forest Service has no power to require any more than what a mine operator voluntarily chooses to do.*

■ The official policy of another federal land management agency, the Forest Service, is that it has no authority to disapprove a proposed mining plan. Prospective mining operators must secure a permit by submitting a plan of operations.

■ Although the proposed plan of operations must detail ways in which the operator plans to deal with mine wastes such as tailings, heaps and waste rock, the Forest Service has no standards for storage or disposal, and federal law exempts such waste from hazardous waste regulations.

■ Further, because of the "right to mine" dilemma, the Forest Service has no power to require any more of the operator than what he voluntarily chooses to do. Remember, the Forest Service cannot prevent a miner from mining on public land.

■ Although the Forest Service does "require" that an operator submit a reclamation plan, the Agency again has no power to require anything of the operator outside of what he voluntarily accepts or chooses to do.

■ Even the unenforceable Forest Service guidelines do not provide for the restoration of the mine site to premining conditions.

■ The Forest Service itself has admitted that, like other agencies, it does not have the people or the money to monitor hardrock mining on federal land. For example, on the Pecos Ranger District of the Santa Fe National Forest, where a large open-pit cyanide heap leach mine has been proposed, the "minerals specialist" has no background in geology, but is rather the recreation specialist for the district.

Election '92

# The White House Effect

Promises vs. Policies of the Bush Administration

## The rhetoric

I am a Teddy Roosevelt environmentalist."

## The record

Bush has called himself "a Teddy Roosevelt environmentalist"—presumably to express his support for protecting the nation's wild places, as Roosevelt did.

Though Bush began his presidency by signing wilderness bills for Nevada, Arizona, and Illinois, he has since turned his back on America's wilds. Whereas Roosevelt sought to protect America's priceless natural resources, Bush, by contrast, has sought to open these lands to industrial exploitation.

The president has at various times tried to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas drilling, opposed efforts to curb excessive logging of the ancient forests of the Pacific Northwest and California, and fought measures to protect the fragile California desert from high impact activities like mining and off-road racing.

During his presidency, several species have been listed or proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act—including the desert tortoise, the sockeye salmon, and the northern spotted owl—but Bush has refused to lend his support to bills aimed at protecting the habitats of these threatened species.

In fact, a cabinet-level committee chaired by Interior Secretary Manuel Lujan recently voted to override the Endangered Species Act and permit logging on 1,700 acres of federal land in Oregon that is home to the owl.

Lujan was also the man behind the administration's recently announced "preservation plan" for the owl—a plan that would preserve only about half the acreage the government's own biologists say is necessary to ensure the owl's survival. The plan so contradicts the precepts of the Endangered Species Act that Bush has asked Congress to alter the law so that his plan can be legally implemented.

As part of his temporary moratorium on "burdensome" federal regulations, Bush eliminated the right of citizens to appeal timber sales, grazing permits, oil and gas leases, and other environmentally destructive activities in national forests. The elimination of the

appeals process forces citizen activists into the courts to defend these publicly owned lands.

## The rhetoric

I will appoint people who are sensitive and who feel as strongly as I do about the environment, which is very strong."

## The record

Environmentalists have applauded some of Bush's appointments, including William Reilly, the EPA chief, and Michael DeLand, chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality. But the overriding tone of the Bush administration has been defined by the destructive influences of Quayle, former chief of staff John Sununu, and other anti-environment advisers.

Sununu—with Bush's approval—led the fight to block effective international agreements on limiting greenhouse gases. Sununu also pressured key members of Congress to oppose strengthening the Clean Air Act. And he used his influence to convince senators to vote against Sen. Richard Bryan's (D-NV) bill to raise auto fuel efficiency.

Since Sununu's departure, Quayle has moved aggressively to keep the cards stacked in favor of powerful business interests. Quayle has made his secretive Council on Competitiveness an open door to polluters looking to avoid compliance with EPA regulations.

Other top Bush lieutenants, like Lujan and Agriculture Secretary Edward Madigan—who between them oversee 700 million acres of public lands—

have aligned their departments almost completely with timber, mining, and oil interests. They have even gone so far as to remove from their posts key civil servants who tried to uphold the law and protect public lands.

For the past four years, the president's men have consistently politicized the nation's public land management policies, while ignoring the wishes of the American people and the recommendations of scientists, agency professionals, and environmentalists.

[First in a series that will focus on the presidential candidates' positions on environmental issues, as best as we can discern them. This piece was adapted from the Sierra Club's National News Report.]

"CAREFUL OF THE SIGN"



## Clinton Proposes 'New Covenant' for Environment

from Sierra Club's National News Report

The Sierra Club praised Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton's Earth Day speech last month, and seconded his attack on the broken environmental promises of the Bush administration.

"The Sierra Club applauds Governor Clinton for launching what we hope will be a major substantive debate on the environment between now and election day," said David Gardiner, legislative director of the Sierra Club.

Clinton announced a series of proposals that he called "a new covenant for environmental progress." The Democratic presidential candidate told an audience at Drexel University in Philadelphia that he would raise automobile fuel efficiency standards to 45 miles per gallon, convert the federal fleet to natural gas, and redirect spending away from nuclear power and toward renewable energy sources like solar and wind power.

Clinton also said he would develop "revenue-neutral" incentives to encourage energy conservation, and propose a national deposit law for bottles, cans, and other containers.

Clinton accused Bush of being "reactive, rudderless, and expedient" in addressing environmental concerns

Gardiner said he was especially pleased to hear Clinton's support for three of the Sierra Club's top campaigns: wilderness designation for Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, strict protection for the nation's old-growth forests, and strong measures to preserve wetlands areas.

Clinton said President Bush has been "reactive, rudderless, and expedient" in addressing environmental concerns—an evaluation echoed by the Sierra Club.

Clinton said the president's views were "shaped in another era ... when economic growth and environmental protection were mutually exclusive."

## EPA Names Border Plan Advisory Committee Members, Announces Plans for Border Toxic Chemical Study

In late May, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced that it had chosen 24 individuals from various backgrounds to serve on the EPA Border Environmental Plan Advisory Committee.

Six members were chosen from New Mexico and west Texas, including: Lisa LaRocque, director of Project del Rio in Las Cruces; Al Utton, director of the U.S.-Mexico Transboundary Resource Institute at UNM's School of Law; Don Silva, Engineering professor at UNM; Ed Archuleta, General Manager of El Paso Water Utilities Department; and Hector Fuentes, Engineering Professor at UTEP. Nestor Valencia, vice president of the El Paso Community Foundation, was named by Reilly to chair the committee.

Mary Lou Campbell, of South Padre Island (Texas) was appointed to represent the Sierra Club.

"The committee will assure citizen involvement in the implementation of the Environmental Plan for the Mexican-U.S. Border Area," said EPA Administrator William K. Reilly.

In late February, when the EPA and Mexico's Secretariat of Urban Development and Ecology (SEDUE) unveiled the final version of the border plan, the agencies indicated they would form border advisory committees.

"The 9.5 million people who live along the Mexican/U.S. border face some serious environmental problems, especially health-related risks from unsafe drinking

water and inadequate wastewater treatment," said Reilly. "During the first two years of the border plan, the U.S. will commit \$379 million. We want the benefit of our citizens' advice as we make these investments. Those chosen to serve on this advisory committee are energetic people dedicated to resolving border environmental problems."

The advisory committee, which held its first meeting in late June in Santa Fe, includes individuals from industry and business, community and nongovernmental organizations, and academia. A similar group exists in Mexico to advise SEDUE.

In a related event, Reilly announced that the EPA will undertake a \$352,000 two-year study to monitor and analyze the presence of toxic chemicals along the border. "We need [the study] and we need it now to find out whether environmental pollution is causing the high incidence of birth defects in the lower Rio Grande Valley, and whether the health of residents along the border is at risk," said Reilly.

The study will use water and sediment samples from the Rio Grande as it enters and exits all major urban areas and industrial sites outside of urban areas. The EPA will also sample each tributary as it enters the Rio Grande, and sample wastewater treatment discharges and untreated sewage at their points of discharge. The study will also include laboratory analyses of fish samples taken from various points along the river.

CAMPAIGN '92  
Take Back the Earth!

# Briefs

## National Wildlife Refuge Reform Bills Introduced

Three bills have been introduced in Congress—two in the House, one in the Senate—to reform management of federal wildlife preserves.

The National Wildlife Refuge System, encompassing 91.7 million acres, is the only system of Federal lands set aside primarily to preserve, restore, and manage fish and wildlife and their habitats.

A 1989 report by the General Accounting Office (GAO) found that activities harmful to wildlife were occurring on 60 percent of the refuges in the system, including mining, off-road vehicle use, military exercises, boating, water-skiing, grazing, commercial fishing, camping, hunting, haying, picnicking and farming.

The bills (H.R. 2881, H.R. 3688, and S. 1862) have been introduced by Rep. Gerry Studds (D-MA), Rep. Sam Gibbons (D-FL) and Sen. Bob Graham (D-FL), respectively. All three bills are intended to eliminate incompatible uses of refuges. They require that the FWS apply a standardized and scientifically-based method for determining compatibility.

Animal rights activists and hunting enthusiasts are both upset with the bills. Hunters claim that all three bills, with their directive to disallow any activity that is incompatible with the refuge's mission, could result in a moratorium on hunting in certain refuges. Animal rights activists, on the other hand, complain that the bills do not go far enough and feel that the measures should legislate an outright hunting ban in refuges.

Environmentalists have thrown their support behind all three bills, but are pushing for some significant strengthening.

## Court Upholds Federal Immunity from Pollution Fines

In a damaging blow to efforts to make federal agencies comply with environmental laws, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled by a 6 to 3 decision last month that states may not fine agencies for violations of federal laws regulating water pollution and hazardous waste.

Environmentalists fear the decision could hamper states' ability to get the federal gov-

ernment to clean up the extensive pollution at military bases and other installations. The cost of cleaning up Energy Department sites alone was recently estimated at \$95 billion to \$130 billion by the General Accounting Office.

Environmentalists said the ruling increases pressure on Congress to pass the Federal Facilities Compliance Act — authored by Rep. Dennis Eckart (D-Ohio) and Sen. George Mitchell (D-Maine) — which would enable states to penalize government agencies for environmental law violations. Both the House and the Senate have passed their own versions of the bill.

"If we can't use the judicial system to make these gigantic polluters pay for their messes, then we must have strict legislation," said Doris Cellarius, a Sierra Club activist on toxic waste issues.

The court's decision came in a lawsuit filed in 1988 by the state of Ohio against the Department of Energy for its admitted discharge of hazardous and radioactive waste into the land around the Fernald nuclear weapons plant near Cincinnati. The decision overturns rulings by two lower courts. Both courts had ruled that Congress, in crafting the laws, had intended to make the federal government subject to the same penalties as other violators.

## Richardson Attacked for Pro-Environmental Stands

Representative Bill Richardson's (D-NM) strong stands on behalf of the environment have earned him the attention of anti-environmental groups. In May, Richardson was the target of radio ads criticizing him for his opposition to a Forest Service proposal to eliminate citizen appeals of timber sales on national forests.

The ads, which ran in northern New Mexico, were placed by a timber industry group, whose members apparently include several labor unions. The spots featured a Duke City Lumber Co. employee appealing to Richardson to "help me keep my job." The employee says, "Don't put me on welfare just to appease some white collar preservationists who know nothing about our way of life."

Richardson said that the ads were misleading. "I don't think the appeals process has anything to do with workers losing their jobs," he said.

On another front, the anti-environmental group People for the West! called upon its members to keep the pressure on Richardson in its June newsletter. The article described Richardson as "a lost cause," saying that he

has "squealed louder than anyone else in Congress about the Bush Administration's sensible proposal to limit timber sale appeals that cost the Forest Service millions of dollars each year" [Ed. note: unlike below-cost timber sales?] and that he "wants to lock away more and more land from the public."

High praise, indeed.

## House Bill Would Relax Pesticide Safeguards

The House Agriculture Committee is currently considering H.R. 3742, known as the Pesticide Safety Improvement Act, introduced by Rep. Charlie Rose (D-NC). Contrary to its title, this bill would leave consumers, farmworkers, and the environment less protected against hazardous pesticides.

The bill would prohibit states from enforcing stricter pesticide regulations than the lenient Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards. In a reversal of existing policy, it would also allow carcinogenic chemicals to be applied to food as long as the risk of obtaining cancer from a lifetime exposure is lower than one in a million. Finally, the bill would allow the "Circle of Poison" to continue, where banned or never registered pesticides are exported abroad and the residues from these hazardous chemicals return to American consumers on imported food.

The House Agriculture Committee was expected to take action on the bill after mid-June.

## Skeen Espouses "Wise Use" Agenda

At the 4th annual "Wise Use" Leadership Conference held last month in Reno, candidates for elected office were advised not to be too outspoken against the environment, but instead to run on a platform of opposing government regulations and supporting private property rights.

Coincidentally, the lead article in Congressman Joe Skeen's (R-NM) most recent constituent newsletter touts his support for the Bush Administration's moratorium on "burdensome" government regulations, and says that Skeen is co-sponsor of a bill to extend the moratorium for one year. The article, entitled "Cutting Regulations Boost Economy," singles out health, environmental, and soil conservation regulations, and quotes Skeen as saying that government regulations "are often not necessary" and "merely retard business growth."

# 1992 Chapter Fund Appeal Still Rolling

Our annual request for donations to fund conservation and environmental education projects in New Mexico and West Texas continues. If you would like to contribute, please send your donation to Jana Oyler, Chapter Treasurer, Route 19, Box 120-KO, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501.

If you wish to aid the chapter's general operating fund (not tax-

deductible), make your checks payable to "Rio Grande Chapter of Sierra Club." If you would like to make a tax-deductible contribution for education, make your check payable to "Sierra Club Foundation."

Our thanks to the members who have helped so far! The following list is of donors in April, May, and June.

## Contributions to General Chapter Fund

### \$100.00 and up

Krehbiel, Kay and Paul — Socorro  
Long, Jack and Sharon — Amarillo, Texas  
Robbins, Ford — Santa Fe  
Weiler, R. J. — Albuquerque

### \$50.00-99.00

Bleakley, Carolyn — Santa Fe  
Boehm, Raymond and Barbara — Albuquerque  
Davies, William — Santa Fe  
Dorries, Alison and Berg, John — Santa Fe  
Fleischmann, Heidi, and Scott, Jim — Albuquerque  
Jones, Mark and Lynn — Los Alamos  
Langsenkamp, Bob — Santa Fe  
McCauley, Beverly Booth — Albuquerque  
McClellan, William — Albuquerque  
McKay, Michael and Patricia — Los Alamos  
Mitchem, Dan — Santa Fe  
O'Hara, C. Neil and Sue Mershon — El Paso  
Pierpont, Edith and John — Santa Fe  
Seiling, Lloyd and Virginia — Santa Fe  
Walter, Sydney and O'Rourke, Kathleen — Santa Fe  
Wells, James — Socorro  
Zinn, John and Renate — Los Alamos

### \$25.00-49.00

Baumgartel, John and Marshall, Margaret — Santa Fe  
Becker, Steve — Albuquerque  
Berman, Susan — Taos  
Blankinship, Ross — Corrales  
Cella, Nancy — Albuquerque  
Eberly, Paul — Albuquerque  
Ertman, William — El Paso  
Evans, John and Elizabeth — Santa Fe  
Gummersall, Bradley — Santa Fe

Hamilton, Sarah — Albuquerque  
Jones, Jean S. — Los Alamos  
Koehler, Kathleen — Albuquerque  
Koelle, Alfred — Santa Fe  
Lamb, Lydia — Santa Fe  
Levin, Charlotte — Espanola  
Liebler, Frederick C., and Sullivan, Jo Ann — Glorieta  
Lynch, Mr. and Mrs. Walter F. — Las Cruces  
Maish, Marilyn — Corrales  
Mendoza, Sonja — Las Cruces  
Mertig, Ted — El Paso  
Moyers, Portia — Santa Fe  
Nowak, Andrew — Santa Fe  
Pauli, Ann G. — El Paso  
Quenk, Naomi — Albuquerque  
Roberts, Frances W. — Rio Rancho  
Schlierf, Michael and Linda — Placitas  
Sproul, John — El Paso  
Stephan, Cookie — Las Cruces  
Stokes, Richard — Los Alamos  
Throne, Tracy and Bruce — Santa Fe  
West, Joan H. — Santa Fe

### Up to \$25.00

Agogino, Dr. Mercedes — Portales  
Brown, Blair and Gorman, Susan — Albuquerque  
Cate, Mary-Ray — Santa Fe  
Gabaldon, Kevin — Albuquerque  
Griffin, Carter — Albuquerque  
Jenkins, Myra Ellen — Santa Fe  
Judson, Chris — Los Alamos  
Kellstedt, Sally — Santa Fe  
Kessell, Marianne — Albuquerque  
Merritt, Doyle — El Paso  
Morrison, Susan — Albuquerque  
Muth, Mary Ellen — Albuquerque  
Schauer, Susan — Los Alamos  
Simon, Janet — Albuquerque  
Starrett, Jane — Santa Fe  
Szeman, Frances — Albuquerque  
Watts, Joan — Galisteo  
Wieseman, Linda — Santa Fe

## Foundation contributions

### \$100.00 and up

Mars, Linda A. — Las Cruces  
Robbins, Ford — Santa Fe

### \$50.00 - \$99.00

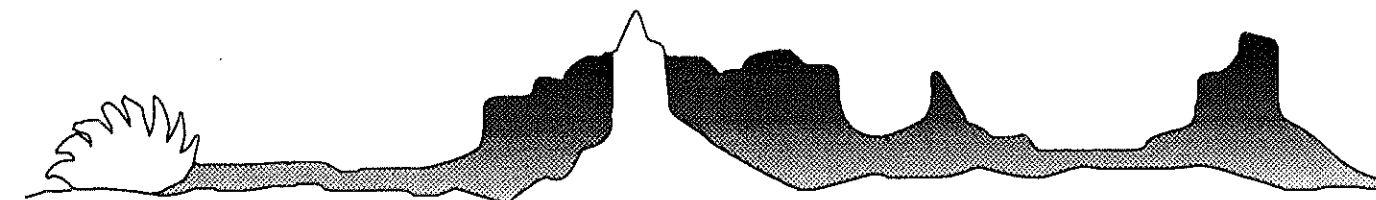
Fleischmann, Heidi and Scott, Jim — Albuquerque  
Voegt, James R. — Albuquerque

### \$25.00 - \$49.00

Clark, Mary Jo — Farmington  
Lynch, Mr. and Mrs. Walter F. — Las Cruces  
Medvick, Pat — Espanola  
Oyler, Jana — Santa Fe  
Schlierf, Michael and Linda — Placitas

### Up to \$25.00

Englander, Stephen — El Paso  
Gross, William and Sharon — Albuquerque  
Lakehomer, Leona — Las Cruces  
Merritt, Doyle — El Paso  
Morrison, Susan — Albuquerque  
Walter, Marvel E. — Albuquerque  
Wilkes, Perry R., Jr. — Albuquerque





## ANNOUNCEMENTS

by Heidi Fleischmann

### EARTH CITIZEN, INC has moved.

Earth Citizen Inc. now has a cart located in the Coronado Mall. They sell environmentally related products and gifts AND they donate part of their profits to the Albuquerque Group of the Sierra Club. Please visit them at their new location.

### PARKING LOT REMINDER

I know it seems early, but it's time to begin preparations for the annual parking lot fundraiser to be held during the State Fair, this year from Sept. 11-27. Besides asking for volunteers to staff our parking lot for 2-3 hour shifts, we'd like some help in repainting our signs and constructing (or repairing) our old barricades. Please call me if you can help with any of these activities. Heidi Fleischmann 260-1217.

### Pecos Trail Maintenance - continued from previous page

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 Buschser, who have led numerous trail maintenance trips for the national SC 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 for more details and to reserve a place before July 26. Write P.O. Box 430, Sandia Park, NM 87047 or call (505) 281-2015.

## CALENDAR

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

July 2: Mexican Wolf Coalition, 7:30 PM.

July 13: Executive Committee Meeting, 7:30 PM.

July 20: **Sierra Club General Meeting**, UNM Law School, Rm 2401, 7:30 PM.

July 27: Conservation Committee Meeting, 7:30 PM.

Aug 6: Mexican Wolf Coalition, 7:30 PM.

Aug 8: 12 noon **Deadline** for all articles for group newsletter/Sierran. Jessica Bailey (857-0286) is the editor. Macintosh disk preferred. Call if supplying hardcopy only.

Aug 10: Executive Committee Meeting, 7:30 PM.

Aug 16: **Annual Picnic**, 2PM. See article on first page of group news.

Aug 24: Conservation Committee Meeting, 7:30 PM.

### 1992 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Office Telephone: 265-5506

Group Chair	Stefan Verchinski	888-1370
Vice Chair	vacant position	275-0856
Programs	Susan Gorman	265-3231
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 the following issue coordinators:

Air Quality	Heidi Fleischmann	260-1217
Books/Calendars	Rich Adam	266-4657
Bosque	Richard Barish	247-8079
City Planning	David Bouquin	265-7853
City Trails	vacant position	
Conservation	David Bouquin	265-7853
Energy	Ralph Wrons	275-0856
Las Huertas	Marion Davidson	867-5178
Mailings	Doreen Kahl	345-7919
Mexican Wolf	Susan Larsen	897-2527
Newsletter	Dorothy Brethauer	275-6113
	Jessica Bailey	857-0286
	David Morrison	344-8693
Outings		
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	Chris Strobe	836-6304
Wildlife	Marc Bedner	299-2004

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

### Wed July 8 and 15

#### Inner City Outing - Recovery High School

From 8AM - 2PM we will hike the Oxbow and initiate the "Save the Oxbow" service project (see July 19). Come on out if you want to lend a hand. David Morrison 344-8693, Stefan 888-1370.

### Sat July 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. Leader Dean Kuehl.

### Sun July 12

#### Geological Windows Hike, Petroglyph NM

Unusual geological features and petroglyphs. Bring sturdy shoes, camera, binoculars. Leisure. RSVP Ike Eastvold 255-7679.

### Sat July 18

#### Pecos Wilderness Hike

Hike to or along the Pecos River near Jack's Creek campground, or another area. Mine tailing pollution occurred just south of this area. Moderate 6 miles. Meet at SC office, 207 San Pedro NE at 8AM. Bob Cornish 255-6037.

### Sun July 19

#### Save the OXBOW digging party

In 1976 the Sierra Club was donated 10 acres of land in the Albuquerque Oxbow, the wetland home of a multitude of wildlife. Due to development west of Coors and Albuquerque Flood Control projects, the San Antonio drainage has dumped tons of silt into the mouth of the Oxbow, impeding water flow and partially drying the wetland. Open Space has threatened to bring in heavy construction equipment, damaging known habitat of the willow flycatcher, a USFWS Category I species that has been petitioned for listing as endangered. Open space will provide shovels if we will do the digging. Pizza delivery lunch or bring a sack lunch. Beer and soft drinks provided. 8AM - 1PM. meet at the corner of St. Josephs and Coors. Bring gloves, hat, extra shovels. David Morrison 344-8693.

JULY/AUGUST 1992

### Mon July 20

#### Pre-meeting dinner

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

### Sat July 25

#### Rinconada Canyon Hike, PNM

Thousands of petroglyphs and a variety of wildlife. Bring sturdy shoes, camera, binoculars. RSVP Ike Eastvold 255-7679.

### Sat-Sun July 25-26

#### Jemez Waterfall/Hot Spring Car Camp

Arrive Saturday evening for a campfire and marshmallows. Bring your swimsuits for a Sunday hike to the McCauley hot springs. You can driver up Sunday to meet the group for a hike at 9:30 AM. Assistance with camping available. Susan Gorman, Blair Brown 265-3231.

### Fri-Mon July 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. \$40.00 for group food. Moderate brushing and some logging. Linda and John Buchser 281-2015.

### Sat Aug 1

#### Recycling

Have you been waiting for the city recycling program to begin? Is your garage full of newspaper and your backyard full of cans? Relief! Bring your newspaper, cardboard, paper sorted by color, aluminum, #1, 2, and 6 plastic for the Sierra Club recycling day at REI, Mountain and 19th St. from 9AM - 11 AM. If you can help sort and load, call David Morrison at 344-8693. Sorry, no glass will be accepted. Proceeds will go to the Albuquerque Public Schools Outdoor Environmental Center.

### Aug 1, 2, and maybe 3

#### Colorado Fourteeners

Join the continuing saga of the "Mountain Goat" as he attempts the easily ascended Sunshine and Red Cloud peaks, or a lama trek to the 51st highest 14er, San Luis peak. Near Lake Fork, CO. Call Stefan Verchinski 888-1370.

### Sat Aug 8

#### Piedras Marcadas Arroyo Hike

Bring sturdy shoes, camera, binoculars. RSVP Ike Eastvold 255-7679.

### Sat Aug 22

#### Manzano Wilderness, 4th of July Springs

A population of maples colors this area at the southern end of the Manzanos a lush green. 4 to 6 miles of leisurely exploration. SC office 9AM. Bring camera, lunch, and water. Bob Cornish 255-6037.

### Aug 29-30

#### Trampas Lakes Backpack

At the western base of Truchas peaks in the Pecos Wilderness lies Trampas lakes. Camp Friday night near the trailhead, 6 mile moderate hike to the lakes, dinner near Espanola on Sunday. Suitable for some kids and beginners. Co-leaders: Stan Kauchak 292-9138 and David Morrison.

### Fri Sep 4

#### Wine and Cheese Party

Try out the Sierra Club tradition of the wine and cheese party. Slides of the Gila or Glacier National Park. Bring a friend. SC office, 207 San Pedro NE, 7:30 PM. If our cup runneth over, we will move outside. Bring some wine, cheese, or crackers, chair and cup.

## July Meeting: A Mining Success Story

by Susan Gorman

In the wooded rolling country west of Raton, the men and machines of the York Canyon Coal Mine move earth and rock to extract the coal beneath the surface. The coal leaves in railcars; the broken rock and soil remain... to be returned to the land and reclaimed. The result is surprising.

At the July general meeting Robert Russell, of the New Mexico Mining and Minerals Department, will tell this mining success story and others with "before", "during", and "after" slides to demonstrate what has been done. He will explain how the techniques which have been developed over the last 15 years can provide the hardrock mining industry with a headstart.

Reform of state and federal hardrock mining policy is imperative and urgent. Come listen to a success story and learn what you can do to help. The General meeting will be Monday, July 20th, at 7:30 PM, UNM Law School, Rm 2401, at the corner of Constitution and Stanford NE. Please bring a cup if you care to have refreshments provided by the Albuquerque Group. Preceding the main program, we focus on the upcoming events and outings, recaps of recent outings, and alerts on issues with opportunities to write letters and get involved. Please come!

### \* \* \* Albuquerque Group Annual Picnic \* \* \*

**When:** Sunday August 16, 1992 2PM

**Where:** Doc Long Picnic Ground

Drive 2 miles up the road to Sandia Crest from the intersection of North 14, east side of the Sandias. There is a pavilion with tables and charcoal grills, and bathrooms are nearby. Cooking will get underway around 4PM, and we will eat around 4:30. You should bring a main dish, salad or desert for 6 people (mark meat or non-meat). **Bring** any meats you wish to cook, and any bread or rolls. Bring your own cups, plates, and utensils (no glass, please). We're trying to keep the use of disposable items to a minimum.

**The Club will provide** soft drinks, chips, condiments (ketchup, mustard, pickles, salsa, etc), ice, napkins and paper towels, charcoal for cooking, and cooking utensils. Activities include a hike into Cibola NF, leaving about 2:30; frisbee, volleyball, horseshoes, etc. We are working on getting a "blue-grass" band to play for us. If you know of anyone who would be available, let us know!

**Needed are** coolers, Coleman stoves (for keeping food warm), and sports equipment (volleyball net & ball, horseshoes, frisbees, whiffle ball and bat, etc.). We also need a few volunteers to help organize, set up, clean up, and provide ideas. If you can help or bring any of the above items, please call Susan Gorman or Blair Brown at 265-3231.

## Pecos Trail Maintenance, July 31 - August 3

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 the trail is very near the Santa Barbara and Trampas Lakes trailheads, it will take some of the pressure off these heavily used areas. It will also be available for mountain bikers.

continued on next page

## the LORAX Sierra Club El Paso Regional Group

### CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

The El Paso Regional Group of the Sierra Club is initiating an effort to develop a new level of environmental awareness in the El Paso-Juarez area.

To achieve this goal we are planning, among other things, to celebrate an International El Paso-Juarez "EARTH DAY ON THE BORDER".

Some of the events under consideration are:

✓ An EARTH DAY FAIR as the kick off event on April 17 at Chamizal National Park with environmental booths, speakers, and bands.

✓ Proclamation by the Mayors and City Councils of El Paso and Juarez that the week of April, 18-24, 1993, be El Paso-Juarez EARTH WEEK.

✓ Various school projects, i.e. photo contests, poster contests, etc.

We are soliciting help in this effort.

- ☐ We are looking for a director.
- ☐ We need help in finding financing.
- ☐ We need fresh ideas.

Please call Ted Mertig, 852-3011, or Carolina Greenfield, 593-2838.

Ted Mertig, Chairman

### SUMMER GENERAL MEETINGS

The meetings of the El Paso Regional Group of the Sierra Club feature a social hour, short business meeting and interesting speakers on topics of interest to our members. The dates and locations for our July and August meetings are listed below. Please watch the local LORAX for specific topics for each meeting.

#### JULY GENERAL MEETING

The July meeting will start at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 29, at St. Paul's Methodist Church, 7000 Edgemere (two blocks east of Airway). Please join us. For more information, contact Ted Mertig, 852-3011.

#### AUGUST GENERAL MEETING

The August meeting will start at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 26, at St. Paul's Methodist Church. Please come to meet other members and learn about environmental topics. For more information, call Ted.

### JULY/AUGUST OUTINGS

#### THREE RIVERS DAYHIKE

**DATE:** Sunday, July 5, 1992  
**CLASS:** Moderate  
**LIMIT:** 12, leader approval and reservations required  
**LEADER:** Carolina Greenfield, 593-6187

This is a shady forest hike along a creekside trail, six miles max. This is worth the three-hour drive to beat the heat and enjoy a luxurious Sunday in the White Mountains. Call early for this popular hike.

### 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
SIERRA Editor	Wyna 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, 532-4876

Please send any changes or corrections in membership to  
 Carolina Greenfield, Membership Roll  
 1510 Dale Douglas, 79936

### REDCANYON, MANZANO MOUNTAINS CARCAMP

**DATE:** July 10-12, 1992

**CLASS:** Easy+

**LIMIT:** 12, leader approval & reservations required

**LEADER:** Don Middleton, 584-0267

This will be a car camp with a 7 1/2 mile hike on Saturday. The hike will take approximately 4-6 1/2 hours with time for leisure before we return on Sunday. We should see juniper, aspen, fir and several terrific peak views.

Be prepared to get your feet wet and have a great time.

### GRAPEVINE CAMPGROUND

#### GILA RIVER CARCAMP

**DATE:** July 17-19, 1992

**CLASS:** Easy

**LIMIT:** 15, reservations required

**LEADER:** Dan Opplinger, 595-8943

We will leave Friday night for the Gila National Forest and camp at the City of the Rocks State Park. In the morning we will go to the Grapevine Campground near the Cliff Dwellings. We will visit the Cliff Dwellings and camp on the northside of the river which is usually quiet and should provide a relaxing atmosphere.



## LEADERSHIP TRAINING REPORT

Two recent events at the Environmental Center have focused on training for current and prospective outings leaders.

On April 11, Pro Todd Daugherty transformed the Center into an emergency first-aid site and gave hands-on demonstrations of lifesaving techniques in the unlikely event of a serious accident on the trail. Thanks to Mike Episcopo and Tony for serving as willing victims. Others attending were Steve Kalavity and Susan Worley of Las Cruces, Betsy Julian, Carolina Greenfield, Jeanne French, Ted Mertig, Chuck Turner, Dave Kofoed, Joe Rodriguez, Dan Opplinger, Julie Schmidt, Betty Fisbeck, Weldon Fisbeck and Kathy Sunday. To wrap up the morning, Carol Morrison and the crew covered national and local Sierra Club policies for a safe and effective outings program.

Fourteen Sierrans were discovered wandering the Bowie High School campus taking compass sightings on May 2, 1992. Skilled instructor Chuck Turner provided a full morning of map reading and compass skills development for 13 willing and able(?) participants. Types of maps, marginal information, scales and distances, elevation and relief, directions and field experience were presented. Betty Fisbeck, Wyona Turner, Kathy Sunday, Mark Post, Joe Rodriguez, Mike Bromka and Svetlana, Don Middleton, Bill Phillips, Shirley Phillips, Laurence Gibson, Dave Kofoed, Mike Episcopo and Carol Morrison attended. Thanks to Betsy Julian for the maps and other supplies and to Laurence, Dave and Mike for their help.

## OUTINGS REPORTS

## Gila Backpack to the Meadows 4/16-19/92

Despite double decapitation (two leaders had to cancel) and mass signee bailout, a trio of stalwart campers followed through on the projected Easter backpack to The Meadows in the Gila Wilderness. Tertiary group leader Richard Rheder, Leonine Mary Lou Parker, and tag-along Michael Bromka, carcamped Thursday night at a Gila River turnoff. On Good Friday, the trio backpacked nine miles across rolling hills and one mile of switchbacking descent to The Meadows at the Middle Fork of the Gila River. They spent a layover day of aquasock crisscrossing up and down the river. Enduring a long night's rain, they arose on Easter Sunday to hike seven miles back to the Cliff Dwellings' parking lot from which they returned to El Paso.

*P.S. Outings Chair Carol thanks the undaunted trio for refusing to give up.*

## North Franklin Peak Dayhikes II and III 5/3 &amp; 10/92

On May 3, stormy skies convinced many of our aspiring North Franklin climbers to stay home, but those who ventured forth were rewarded with a day to remember: cool, comfortable hiking conditions; occasional light rain; clouds drifting among the peaks; upper slopes carpeted with wildflowers. Since the May 3 outing filled early, we scheduled a third North Franklin hike for May 10. Again, it was unseasonably cool. A west wind blew hard, gusting to 50 mph. White-throated Swifts buzzed us on the summit.

On both hikes, we talked about the management plan for Franklin Mountains State Park. We talked about communications towers. We talked about mining proposals in the Park. But mostly we enjoyed the beauty of the Franklins and reaffirmed our conviction that El Paso has something truly special in these mountains.

Making the May 3 ascent were Dennis Stemsrud, Cecilia Cardenas, Carol Coates and son Kyle, Karen Weaver and grandson David, Henry Saucedo and son Everett, Tom Casey, Tina Baron, Dave Robertson and Niles Bean. The May 10 group included Marty Morrow, Susan and Bill White, Hector Hernandez and fiancée Josilla, Betsy Julian and Herman Grothe. John Sproul led both outings.

## Middle Fork of the Gila Backpack 4/24-26/92

The fearless group departed El Paso Friday afternoon, April 24, and drove to our campsite at the Grapevine Campground along the East Fork of the Gila River. The hike began at T.J. Corral and followed Trail 729 to Little Bear Canyon and the Middle Fork. Runoff from the heavy winter snowpack left the Middle Fork in flood stage which made each crossing a challenge. After setting up camp, some relaxed in camp with beautiful views of the cliffs of the Middle Fork while others explored the canyon. After a pleasant night, we retraced our steps to the cars.

Joining in the Spring adventure were Shirley and Bill Phillips, Sandy Anderson, Rafaela Schuler, Carolina Greenfield, Christa McKinney, Margaret Omada, Rob Belk, Dale Troyer, Richard Rheder, Mike Bromka, and leader Rollin Wickenden.

We are fortunate to have such a beautiful canyon so close to El Paso.

## A Memorable Memorial Day Hike

We arrived at Sheridan Corral to a clear and starry sky, which at some time during the night turned to a gentle rain, giving hint to the weekend ahead.

Our trail head, Big Dry, proved not so dry and the sky...well, promised its blessings, too. After a day of hiking in the lush green of Gila Spring, we set up camp on the banks of the full-to-brimming Big Dry Creek. We were barely able to eat dinner before the rain came and held us hostage in our tents till morning. We all got a chance to test our waterproof tents and high tech equipment.

Day two dawned with only enough time to eat breakfast and quickly pack our very wet gear before it started raining again!! However, our spirits were not dampened but refreshed, as we hiked to Tennessee Meadow. We lucked out by getting into camp with no rain and just enough time to dry our bags, tents and clothes before dark.

Day three found us still dry from the night before. Encouraged by only a slightly overcast sky, we headed for the Cat Walk. Just as we crossed Whitewater Creek for the last time, it began to rage, making our trip through the Cat Walk most exciting. We were: Mike and Maria Episcopo, Bill and Shirley Phillips, Weldon and Betty Fisbeck, Eva Peppel, Carolina Greenfield and trusty leader Laurence Gibson.

## JULY/AUGUST OUTINGS

## CONTINENTAL DIVIDE TRAIL SERVICE TRIP, CHAPTER II, BLACK RANGE, NM

DATE: July 24-26, 1992  
CLASS: Moderate+  
LIMIT: None at press time, reservations required  
LEADER: Todd Daugherty, 584-2730

We will leave El Paso Friday evening for a carcamp near our trailhead. On Saturday we will hike up the Continental Divide Trail to our base camp. The Forest Service will, once again, assist with water and tools for us. We will hike out Sunday afternoon for the return to El Paso.

## COLORADO 9-DAY BIG BLUE WILDERNESS BACKPACK

DATE: July 25-August 2, 1992  
CLASS: Strenuous  
LIMIT: 12, leader approval and reservations required  
LEADER: Laurence Gibson, 594-7342

Come with us for another Colorado Wilderness experience. Our last two expeditions were truly memorable. Spectacular beauty, new sights and good company await you. Call soon so that we can begin preparations. *Please note date change.*

## SIERRA BLANCA PEAK DAYHIKE

DATE: Saturday, August 8, 1992  
CLASS: Strenuous  
LIMIT: 12, leader approval and reservations required  
LEADER: Mike Episcopo, 833-3770

At 12,003', Sierra Blanca Peak towers above Southern New Mexico and West Texas. The tremendous views and alpine tundra will await those who take this 9 1/4 mile roundtrip which has a 2100' elevation gain. We will leave Friday evening and carcamp near the trailhead. The hike begins Saturday morning from Ski Apache parking lot. Call Mike for additional details.

## DIAMOND BAR ISSUE BACKPACK, GILA WILDERNESS

DATE: August 7-9, 1992  
CLASS: Moderate+  
LIMIT: 14, leader approval and reservations required  
LEADER: Ted Mertig, 852-3011

We will drive up on Friday evening to a carcamp at the edge of the Gila Wilderness. Saturday, we will go onto the Diamond Bar grazing allotment from the back side. We will have the opportunity to spend time in the wilderness and become updated on use/abuse of our public lands. Call Ted for more information.

## PECOS WILDERNESS CARCAMP

DATE: August 14-16, 1992  
LIMIT: 12, leader approval and reservations required  
CLASS: Moderate  
LEADER: Betsy Julian, 544-5741

Have a "cool" weekend in the Pecos Wilderness. We will meet for a carcamp at the southern boundary of the wilderness area and

have day hikes into this beautiful area just east of Sante Fe. Call Betsy for travel information and camping/hiking details.

## GILA WILDERNESS BACKPACK

DATE: August 21-23, 1992  
CLASS: Strenuous  
LIMIT: 12, leader approval and reservations required  
LEADER: Wesley Leonard, 747-5494

We will depart El Paso Friday and drive to our carcamp spot at the Sheridan Corral. Saturday morning we will hike approximately six miles to a spot near the summit of Holt Mountain where we will camp. We should get into camp in time for day hikes in the high country with super views overlooking Big Dry. Sunday we will return to our cars by the same route.

The trail is generally good but steep and involves almost 3000' of elevation gain over a relatively short distance. Water will have to be carried approximately 3/4 of a mile from Holt Spring to the campsite.

## RAILROAD CANYON DAYHIKE, GILA NF

DATE: Saturday, August 29, 1992  
CLASS: Moderate  
LIMIT: 12 leader approval and reservations required  
LEADER: Carol Morrison, 585-9077

Come spend Sunday in the wilderness and practice up on creek-hopping. We will leave Saturday morning and drive to our trailhead just west of Emory Pass. We will follow a beautiful, creek-side trail for about two miles. Then we will trek up to Holden's Prong to peek at lands that rarely see human intrusion.

Plan to bring a lunch and enjoy a full day away from the city. You'll be glad you did!

## WHITE MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS CREST LABOR DAY BACKPACK

DATE: September 4-7, 1992 (Friday-Monday)  
CLASS: Moderately strenuous  
LIMIT: 12 (each way if key exchange), leader approval and reservations required  
LEADER: Rollin Wickenden, 598-8042

The traditional Labor Day backpack will return to the White Mountain Crest Trail near Riudoso, New Mexico. We anticipate a key exchange, with one group leaving from Nogal Peak and the other from near Monjeau Lookout. We will hike the length of the Crest Trail #25 through some of the best alpine wilderness in Southern New Mexico.

We will leave El Paso Friday evening and drive to our trailhead. The highest elevation of the trip will be just north of Lookout Mountain at 11,200'. Total trail mileage is 22 miles. Camping spots will probably be at Spring Cabin and near Ice Spring. We should anticipate that springs will be running well and expect a great trip this year. Call early for reservations and details.

## SANTA FE GROUP NEWS

## \*\*\* GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - TUESDAY, JULY 21 \*\*\*



\*\*\* A new experience! \*\*\* A July General Membership Meeting! Steele Wotkins, Conservation Director for LightHawk, will show slides of LightHawk's considerable work on rainforest issues in Central America, including Panama, Belize, Mexico and Nicaragua. There will also be an update on pressing environmental issues.

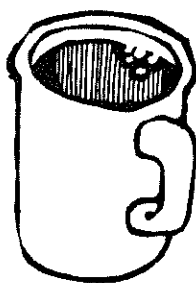
**LightHawk**

The Wings of Conservation

The General membership meeting is free and open to the public and will be held at The Unitarian Church on Barcelona (between Don Gaspar and Galisteo), on Tuesday, July 21, at 7 PM.

## COFFEE AND COOKIES, ANYONE?

For quite some time, volunteer Betty Richardson has made our membership meetings even more fun by bringing the coffee and cookies. The Group owes her a *Thank You!* Now we need someone to take over Betty's task. Could you commit to taking care of the meeting refreshments for 8-10 meetings each year? Please call the Sierra Club message machine at 983-2703.



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

July/August Chair — Norma McCallan*	984-2020	Publicity — Jana Oyler*	984-2020
Vice-Chair — Norma McCallan*	471-0005	Outings — Norma McCallan*	471-0005
Secretary — Jana Oyler*	984-2020	Arnold Keskulla	982-9570
Treasurer — Lionel Soracco*	983-6715	Publications — Betsy Fuller	983-8870
Conservation — Sue McIntosh	986-8825	Education/Recycling/Office — Carolyn Keskulla*	982-9570
Chapter Representative — Sue McIntosh	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	Randy Freeman*	982-5220
		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

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



## &gt;&gt;&gt;&gt;&gt; MEETINGS - MEETINGS - MEETINGS &lt;&lt;&lt;&lt;&lt;&lt;

All members are invited to all meetings

Membership Meeting **	Conservation Committee *	Executive Committee *
Tuesday, July 21, 7:30	Tuesday, July 28, 7 PM	Tuesday, Aug 4, 7 PM
No August Meeting	Tuesday, Aug 25, 7 PM	Tuesday, Sept 1, 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 Sept Newsletter is Friday, 5 PM, Aug 7.

## Group Travels to Farmington

by Helen K. Moser

The Farmington-Santa Fe Group's Resource Outreach weekend on May 29 and 30 was a success. This was held to make the Four Corners residents aware of the BLM's many activities and what the San Juan Coal is doing with the environment after they mine the coal.

## Friday evening at San Juan College.

A forum with approximately 50 people attending was held with Robert Russell, Division of Energy, Mines, and Minerals, speaking on the implementation of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA). Mike Pool, BLM Resource Area Manager for Farmington Resource Area, spoke on BLM-Four Corners issues. Bill Falvey, BLM wildlife biologist, Peggy Gandy, and Jim Copeland, BLM archaeologists, gave slide shows on the endangered plants and animals of the Four Corners and the Chaco Outliers.

## Saturday Morning

Dan Shenck of San Juan Coal Mine took about 20 people on a three hour tour of the mine, showing us how the equipment and mine functions, but more importantly how they are reclaiming the land after the mining process is completed. Their compliance with SMCRA rules is very impressive.

After lunch a group of 25 or more met with Chris Barnes, BLM Recreation Leader, for a three-hour hike in the "Wilderness Link" area between the Bisti and De-Na-Zin. The weather cooperated and everyone was very enthusiastic about Sierra Club sponsoring this weekend.

## Hiking Mountains and Mesas

by Brian Johnson

In collaboration with Plaza Resolana en Santa Fe, the Sierra Club will coordinate a week of hiking activities for 10 visitors to New Mexico, during September 1-5, 1992. They will be led on favorite hikes of the Santa Fe Group, in areas such as Bandelier National Monument, the Pecos Wilderness, Caja del Rio, and the Dome Wilderness. This is a fund-raising project which requires the Santa Fe Group to do what it does best: leading hikes in the Santa Fe area.

There will be five dayhikes and two evening programs to educate the visitors with natural and cultural aspects of the Santa Fe area. Sierra Club will play a key role in the program by coordinating the activities. Plaza Resolana will provide meals, lodging, and transportation during the week. For our efforts, Plaza Resolana will compensate Sierra Club, Santa Fe Group, with a \$300 honorarium.

Plaza Resolana en Santa Fe is a program center of Ghost Ranch, near Abiquiu, and owned by the Presbyterian Church (USA). This week of hiking is one of several outdoor activities that they offer during the year and advertise nationally. Sierra Clubbers are welcome to join the Plaza Resolana group on the hikes. If you would like to join in, keep these days in mind and contact me (438-2087) the week before (August 24-31) for an activities schedule.

Last Minute Additions to Outings (on following pages)

## ★ ISSUE HIKE ★

Saturday, August 15

Sue McIntosh (986-8825) Easy/Moderate hike through the area destined for the Calaveras Timber Sale. The Sierra Club currently is appealing the decision to cut this special area which has perhaps the best stand of old growth forest in the Jemez. Leave 9 AM.

## ★ ISSUE HIKE ★

(September) Date to be determined.

Sue McIntosh (986-8825) Easy-paced tour around the proposed Jones Mine in the Pecos Wilderness. The environmental pollution for the old Terreno Mine is still coming to light. What degradation will a new mine entail?

## &gt;&gt;&gt;&gt;&gt;&gt;&gt;&gt;&gt; SANTA FE GROUP OUTINGS &lt;&lt;&lt;&lt;&lt;&lt;&lt;&lt;&lt;&lt;

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 OK. Lve 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 the Pecos led by Bill Schuckert, Pecos District Forest Ranger.
- 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.



## ★ ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE / ISSUE HIKE FOR JULY ★

- 25 George Grossman (982-1024) Easy/Moderate Hike to proposed addition to the Pecos Wilderness at Angostura Diversity Unit. This beautiful area in the shadow of Jicarita Peak may end up as a timber sale if not designated as wilderness. Optional overnight car camp at Agua Piedra campground. Leave 8 AM.
- 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.
- 26 SF NATIONAL FOREST WATCH (Millie McFarland 986-0921) All-Day Field Trip to the Jemez led by John Peterson, Jemez District Ranger.
- 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.
- Thursday 7-30, Friday 7-31, Saturday 8-1, Sunday 8-2  
Norma McCallan (471-0005) 4 day Moderate/Strenuous Backpack along the Continental Divide Trail south from Wolf Creek Pass to Summit Peak and out on a side trail the 4th day. Over 8 miles per day. Spectacular views. Call for reservations.

Sat Sun August

- 1 John McClure (473-1910) Moderate/Strenuous Hike on Hamilton Mesa, returning via Mora Flats. Leave 8 AM.
- 2 Gordon Winkler (986-0858) Easy/Moderate Hike to Kitchen Mesa. Leave 9 AM.
- 8 Joe Whelan (984-0746) Strenuous Hike to Pecos Baldy Lake. Leave 8:30 AM.
- 8 Jeff Jones (984-2389) Easy Walk along Tesuque Creek. Babies and young children welcome. Leave 9:30 AM.
- 8 9 Paul Miller (473-3107) Strenuous Backpack (5-6 mi) Cottonwood Lake (12,000') in the CO Sangre de Cristos. Optional Day Hikes to Broken Hand (13,500') and/or Crestone Peak, one of the more difficult of the 14,000'ers. Call leader for reservations/details.

- 8 9 Lynn Krause (1-326-2230-Farmington) Moderate/Strenuous Hike to Pastora Peak. Car Camp in Carrizo Mtns, 30 miles west of Farmington. Call for trip description.
- 9 Art Judd (982-3212) Moderate Hike to Trampas Lakes. Leave 8 AM.
- 15 Steven Janus (988-4137) Strenuous Hike to North Truchas Peak via San Leonardo Lakes. Leave 7:30 AM.
- 16 Louise Leopold (988-4592) Easy/Moderate Hike to Atalaya Mtn. Dogs Welcome. Leave 9:30 AM.
- 16 Norbert Sperlich (983-1962) Moderate/Strenuous Hike to Penitente Lake. Call leader for reservations and information.
- 22 Brian Johnson (438-2087) Moderate Hike to Capulin Canyon. Leave 8:30 AM.
- 22 Charlie Crooks (471-0005) Easy/Moderate Hike Rio en Medio. Dogs OK. Leave 9:30 AM.
- 23 Elizabeth Altman (471-8490) Moderate Hike to La Vega. Leave 9 AM.
- 23 David Brown (662-2185) Bike Hike in Jemez Mtns, Dome Road to Jemez Springs. Blue corn meal pancakes with blueberries for lunch at Jemez Springs. Call leader for details and reservations.
- 22 23 Norma McCallan (471-0005) Backpack in the 15 mile V-Rock Tr in Chalk Mtns. Spend Sat night at Opal Lake. Car shuttle. Lve Fri after work. Call for reservations.
- 29 Caroline Glick (984-3184) Strenuous Hike to Sheepshead Mtn. Call leader for reservations and information.
- 30 Arnold Keskulla (982-9570) Moderate Hike from Ski Basin to Aspen Ranch and return by Winsor Trail. Leave 8 AM.



Sat Sun Mon September

- 5 Arnold Keskulla (982-9570) Moderate/Strenuous Hike Nambe Lake. Leave 8:30 AM.
- 5 John McClure (473-1916) Moderate/Strenuous Hike Lake Stewart. Leave 8 AM.
- 6 Norbert Sperlich (983-1962) Strenuous Hike Jemez Mtns. Call for reservations.
- 4 5 6 7 Norma McCallan (471-0005) Labor Day Weekend Car Camp to Capitol Reef Nat'l Monument. Overnight Backpack to Lower Muley Twist Trail (18 miles) and Day Hike to Upper Muley Twist Trail (off the Burr Trail). Call for reservations.
- 12 Joe Whelan (984-0746) Moderate/Strenuous Hike to Trampas Lake. Leave 8:30 AM.
- 12 Jeff Jones (984-2389) Baby Hike, Slow & Easy Pace Suitable for small children or babies in arms. Leave 9 AM.
- 13 Ken Adam (983-1949) Easy/Moderate Hike for dogs, their owners & friends. Leave 8:30 AM.
- 19 Caroline Glick (984-3184) Strenuous Hike to Elk Mountain. Leave 7 AM.
- 20 Elizabeth Altman (471-8490) Easy Hike Leave 9 AM.
- 19 20 Paul Miller (473-3107) Easy/Moderate Backpack to Cave Basin (11,500') north of Vallecitos Reservoir in the San Juans. Optional Day Hikes to Mt. Oso (13,684') and/or Moon Waterfalls. Call for details and reservations.
- 26 Victor Atyas (471-7545) Easy Hike to Cerrillos Hills. Leave 9:15 AM.
- 26 Norrine Sanders (984-0386) Moderate/Strenuous Hike to Lummis Canyon in Bandelier. Leave 8 AM.
- 27 Steven Janus (988-4137) Strenuous Hike to Santa Fe Baldy from Mary's Lake. Pace adapted to group. Leave 8 AM.

**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.



# THE LOG

Southern New Mexico Group

## Congressional Race

Our preferred candidate, Bruce Wilson of Las Cruces, lost in the Democratic primary to Dan Sosa. Sosa will face incumbent Joe Skeen in the general election in November. We are making plans, in conjunction with other groups, to meet with Sosa to let him know about the issues we are most concerned with. Depending on how things go, we may consider endorsing him at some point. For more information, contact Myra at 524-0261.

## Animal Damage Control

We were partially successful in our efforts to get the Doña Ana County Commission to stop its traditional rubber stamp approval of ADC's annual request for County Farm and Range Improvement Funds (FRIF). Although the Commission voted unanimously to give ADC the \$18,000 it wanted this year, it is considering other ways of spending the accumulated

\$40,000 surplus in the FRIF account. Hopefully, it will be a different ball game next year, if we remind the Commissioners that we are watching them.

## Elephant Butte Irrigation Dist.

David Pengelley is renewing the effort to find out what is happening with the proposed legislative transfer of ownership of EBID's canals, ditches, etc. from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to EBID. He has written to Senator Jeff Bingaman for more information. Stay posted.

## Meetings

The Executive Committee will meet at Kevin Bixby's house on July 9 at 6:30. We are trying a variation on the potluck theme. Instead of everyone bringing a dish for dinner, a few of us will bring dessert, and you'll just have to eat dinner beforehand.

The August ExCom meeting will be at Storm Sermay's house on August 13.

There will be a general meeting on August 27, perhaps a reading of some sort.

## Outings

At press time, no outings were firmly scheduled. There is talk of a trip to New Cave, near Carlsbad, in July.

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

## Pecos Trail Trip On Tap

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.

Dave Foreman's

## Books of the Big Outside

Wilderness lovers and defenders have a new source for the best news of the wild - BOOKS OF THE BIG OUTSIDE. Selected and described by Dave Foreman, one of America's best known and most experienced conservationists, BOOKS OF THE BIG OUTSIDE is a mail-order catalog covering the field of natural history and wilderness defense. It includes hard-to-find classics and the best new releases. It spans the range from rivers and rainforests to fiction and philosophy, concentrating on conservation biology and deep ecology. And, of course, it includes Foreman's own *Ecodefense*, and *Confessions of an Eco-Warrior*, along with Howie Wolke's new *Wilderness on the Rocks*.

For a free catalog, write:

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Tucson, AZ 85703

## Exploring State Trust Lands

By obtaining a Recreational Access Permit from the State Land Office, individuals may enjoy outdoor activities on the Trust Lands. Whether one fancies hiking, mountain-climbing, sight-seeing, picnicking, wildlife observation or photography, the Trust Lands contain a treasure trove of stimulating recreational opportunities.

There are approximately 9 million acres of Trust Lands in New Mexico. These lands were granted by the federal government to New Mexico upon becoming a U.S. territory. Additional lands were granted upon achieving statehood.

In August, 1991, Commissioner Jim Baca relaxed the rules for recreational use of State Trust Lands to encourage the public to enjoy this legacy. The old \$3-a-day access permit was replaced with a \$25 annual permit for individuals and for "families" of ten or fewer people.

Contrary to popular belief, *trust* lands are not the same as *public* lands. The State Constitution requires that anyone using the trust lands—whether for mineral extraction, grazing or even recreation—must pay for that use. These lands originally were set aside for the sole purpose of providing financial support for the education of New Mexico's school children.

The State Trust Lands are open only to those individuals or firms that have written permission from the Commissioner. Holders of oil and gas, grazing leases have the right to enter the lands they lease. And, as a lease requirement, they must prohibit unauthorized trespassing on the Trust Lands.

The Game and Fish Commission and the State Land Office have an agreement that allows licensed hunters and anglers to use the Trust Lands during established seasons.

To obtain more information or to request an application form, contact the Land Office by mail or phone:

N.M. State Land Office  
P.O. Box 1148  
Santa Fe, NM 87504-1148  
(505) 827-5760

## Resources for Activists

The Sierra Club publishes a number of newsletters, periodicals, and books for members/activists that deal with current environmental issues. Here is information on several of these.

### Public Lands

Geared to activists concerned with federal lands and resources, *Public Lands* addresses a wide range of issues as they apply to lands under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Bureau of Land Management. Published by the Sierra Club Public Lands Committee. *Four times/year (index available); Sixteen pages; \$5 donation (tax-deductible).* Mail check, payable to The Sierra Club Foundation, to: Sierra Club Public Lands Committee, c/o John Hopkins, 409 Jardin Place, Davis, CA 95616.

### Energy Report

*Energy Report* covers recent energy development, highlights other relevant publications, provides contacts for more information and action, and suggests reading on energy issues. Published by the Sierra Club Energy Committee. *Three times/year; nineteen pages; free only to Sierra Club activists.* Write to: Gene Coan, Sierra Club Conservation Department, 730 Polk Street, San Francisco, CA 94109.

*Public Rangelands: An Owner's Manual. A Citizen's Guide to Grazing on Public Lands.*

This is a guide for conservationists concerned about public land grazing problems. It contains a blueprint to laws and regulations governing public land grazing, as well as details on how to take advantage of opportunities for public participation in public land decision making. To order, contact Rose Strickland, P.O. Box 8409, Reno, NV 89507; 702-329-6118.



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## Be An Environmental Hero



In the 1992 elections, candidates face environmental issues that are crucial to our future—and the future of our children for generations to come. We must work to make sure that environmental concerns are the top priority of any elected officials.

With a grassroots membership of over 650,000, Sierra Club makes a difference—from town halls to the halls of Congress. For 100 years members have been at the forefront of environmental action. Each of them an environmental hero. They wear the white hats. They're the good guys in the campaign to elect pro-environmental candidates over those who put corporate profits before a healthy environment.

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

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

## MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

	INDIVIDUAL	JOINT
REGULAR	\$35	\$43
SUPPORTING	\$50	\$58
CONTRIBUTING	\$100	\$108
LIFE	\$750	\$1000
SENIOR	\$15	\$23
STUDENT	\$15	\$23
LIMITED INCOME	\$15	\$23

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

Enclose check and mail to:

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94120-7959

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