# CALENDR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>July 5-12</td>
<td>Sierra Club Family Camp and Environmental Education Workshop. Clar, Teppan Lodge, California. Call (510) 283-6683 for more information.</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 15</td>
<td>Deadline for September Rio Grande Sierran.</td>
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<td>Sept. 11-13</td>
<td>Chapter Retreat and Awards Ceremony. The ElCom will meet briefly during the weekend. Black Range Lodge, Kingston.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 15</td>
<td>Deadline for October Rio Grande Sierran.</td>
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<td>Sept. 20</td>
<td>Sierra Club Southwest Regional Conservation Committee (SWRFC) meeting. Santa Fe.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 26-7</td>
<td>Aucticon Conference on Public Land Grazing. Los Cinos. For more information, call (505) 362-5767 or 502-3086.</td>
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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 would like 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 outstanding courage or thoughtfulness in the conduct of governmental service, especially where 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 ElCom 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.

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**RIO GRANDE SIERRAN**

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

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**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 mining and cleanup of 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 serial 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 could pay royalties, and the revenues 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 the state has many abandoned mine sites that contribute to the cleanup costs. The industry that made profit from these mines 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-environmental organization, People For The West (PFW), one of many supposedly "wise use" groups that have sprung up recently, is 95 percent funded by large corporate mining interests whose goal is to prevent reform of the 1872 Mining Law.

PFWI 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 PFWI 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 not been voted out of Committee, write a 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 stance. (See brief on p. 10.)

For more information, contact Sue McIntosh at (505) 895-8825.

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

By Pat Woff

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 snare traps, 3,315 were poisoned by M-44 cyanide bails, and 43 were on the ground.

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**Inside...**

- Group Newsletters
- Sierra Club Foundation Report
- Sierra Club Settlement
- Bush: Rhetoric vs. Policies
- EPA Border Group Report
- News Briefs
- Chapter Fund Appeal Donors
- Calendar

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**Election Alert...**

We had some great success in the New Mexico primary. (See article on page 1.) 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!
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 the Foundation of 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 Legal Foundation in 1970. Graham alleged that his money was never used for the purpose he intended. The Foundation argues that the lawsuit is for restitution 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 has no bearing on the dispute, it has been caught in the middle.

"The people don’t know that the Sierra Club is the only entity that can sue, said Edward J. Mean, chair of the Sierra Club Foundation’s board. "The public is aware of the Sierra Club’s legal foundation, and that is what we are fighting for."

The Sierra Club has been involved in numerous legal battles over the past few years, and has faced criticism for its handling of the Udall case. Many environmentalists view the lawsuit as a setback for the environmental movement.

Reach Out and Touch Them

To write to your senators: U.S. House of Representations, Washington, D.C. 20515

To write your representative: U.S. House of Representations, Washington, D.C. 20515

Letters

Wayne Owens Deserves Support

Dear Editor,

I have read and write to you and the State membership of the meeting and many other New Mexicans have made a commitment to Senator Wayne Owens. Currently one of the Representatives, Wayne Owens is running for the Senate seat of retiring Jack Garn, in a campaign that former Secretary of the State Stuart Udall calls the "most important race in the Senate this year" for progressive issues and environmental protection issues.

Now for some quick background: the weight of the world is again on the need for a strong 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 "twofold", whereas Garn or any other successor 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 candidacy. Wayne has shown that "strong voice" in the General Assembly, and has developed a strong backing in the State of Utah, an achievement considering Utah’s conservative philosophy.

As I said, and many readers know, environmentalism is a strong voice in the Senate. We unfortunately lost Jim Wirth of Colorado this year. That's why I believe so strongly that Wayne wins his race. As strong as his grassroots support is, Wayne is running in the most important of races, for capitol, race; his opponent is spending millions. It's also important to know that you want to see a proponent and owner of the worst polluting industrial facility (an old steel mill) in Utah's second largest city.

I've recognized that this is not just a race for Utah, it's a vital race for Western environmental issues. Remember Dometi's sting return on his vote against the James National Recreation Area, "if you want to mine 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 Ottawa for Senate Committee (101 2nd Street, SE, Washington, DC 20003). I've been convinced. I gave my first-ever political contribution.

- Ralph C. Albuquerque

P.S. Thank you to the Ed Pasco Group for printing "Edward Abbey's advice to those of us who love the Earth. I wish it was just the light-hearted encouragement I needed.

The 1992 New Mexico Audubon Conference

26-27 September 1992

NSM Campus - Las Cruces

Public Land Grazing

Saturday: Lectures - on Site Inspection Sunday: Bird Watching Trip TBA

Write or call: Mesilla Valley Audubon Society, P.O. Box 1317, Las Cruces, NM 88003 (505) 532 5706 or 522 6066

The Empire Zinc strike of the early fifties was an important part of the struggle for equal rights that I began my generation’s ancestors. Two 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 Small Middle School is named after the racist manager of the mine during that critical time. Today, discrimination doesn’t draw its lines by color of skin, but by a person’s worth 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.

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 money drains, it creates a financial crisis that affects countless numbers of jobs, population, money and businesses.

Our population is mostly Chicano, and believe me the people are 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, our 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.

Opinion
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 John Morrow, longtime 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 enabling public education about endangered species was quashed 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, an attorney endorsed from Tucumcari. As with all other races, the candidates were sent a questionnaire to discern their stances on mining reform, wetlands, energy policy, backcountry skiing, wildlife and solid waste. Davidson, who favorably answered the questionnaire, was also interviewed to get a better sense of his views on environmental issues. Neilsen, the "Delphi nutrients" and talked to a variety of knowledgeable political observers to get a feel for the candidate.

Calling All Alaska Activists
by Heidi Fleischman

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 1993 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 has been invited to speak at your group, use the opportunity to present the issue and ask them directly if they will support legislation designating the Coastal Plain as a wilderness area.

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 Melissa Perez, Executive Director, 408 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20002, (202) 675-7912.

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

Environmentalists, Loggers Settle Timber Dispute
from a Forest Guardians release

A federal judge has signed a settlement agreement between environmental groups and logging companies in Montana, allowing logging to proceed in less sensitive areas.

The agreement was signed by U.S. District Judge Jean Burkeciga 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 proposed 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 Gary Carruthers. Court documents from state wildlife officials stated that it was a mistake to withdraw the appeal because they were certanly not in the best interests of wildlife in the area.

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 for destroying his favorite hiking trail.

The agreement hammered out between Forest Guardians, the Mississippi Valley and El Paso/Francisco-Picos chapters of the Audubon Society, and White Sands Forest Products protects habitat critical to the Mexican spotted owl and the Mexican beech martens. In addition, it protects the municipal water supply of the town of Tijeras in the southern Sacramento mountains.

In exchange, White Forest Products, an Almaciga-based logging company, is allowed to cut 1.3 million board feet of timber 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 want to excerpt 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 west 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 proposed to protect the habitat of the Mescalero otter and the Mountain Tamarin and prevent the contamination of the Sacramento River's water quality.

The cutting that had occurred prior to the injunction issued by Judge Burckenga 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 Burckenga 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 Sixties Springs area.

The Lincoln National Forest has lost its last 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 droning, 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, boletes, foxes, domestic dogs, mule deer, peregrines, cougars, and pronghorn antelopes.

ADC's wildlife killing is funded with royalty, 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, 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 Millis, because he believes the public just "misses" this information.

"We're not going to publish a packet of information to be misused," Millis 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 brought to the Sierra Club at 382-6854 and also to your Congressional representatives and the media.

[Pat Wolf is the Wildlife Issues Chair for the Rio Grande Chapter and a member of the Santa Fe Group]
Chapter ExCom Goes Wild and Scenic for June Meeting
by Juna Oyler

The Chapter Executive Committee met in a spectacular setting in June at a cardboard box at the BLM’s Rio Grande Wild River Recreation Area, West of Quevosa. Part of the meeting was held in Quevosa at the Forest Service’s Quevosa Ranger District office. The ExCom was pleased to be joined during the meeting by Tony Trujillo, a Luna resident active in water quality and mining issues. Margaret Chapman, a Quevosa biologist who has been taking on the EPA almost single-handedly over the regulation and testing of pesticides; and Polly Long, a rancher within the Wheeler Peak-Latap 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 many to the face 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 Hossen, the new Regional Forester, and a report on the possibilities of linking our activities 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 Pato Regional Group Representative Paul 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.

Juna Oyler is Secretary/Treasurer of the Rio Grande Chapter, and a member of the Santa Fe Group.

Hardrock Answers
Answers to Some Questions About Hardrock Mining in the West
by Sue McIntosh (Second in a series)

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.

In 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 1972 Mining Law be amended and why should New Mexico enact a state law?

Yes, there are some federal regulations in place. Unfortunately, even if existing federal regulations are strengthened, or new regulations promulgated, or a federal law is passed, it is likely that our state is not unlikely to have mining operations. Furthermore, federal law is often inadequate 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 Quevosa. BLM State Director Larry Woodward argued his hands were tied, saying, “Although we realize the environmental consequences, we are bound by the Federal 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 Office have issued at least 97 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 or minimize or mitigate adverse impacts of the mining operations, including the reclamation of disturbed land to the extent possible to preserve plant and animal species.” This “wishy-washy” language essentially allows any activity that the mining industry considers to be normal mining practice (and is appropriately nicknamed the “demised mine rule.”)

- Because the BLM feels that it cannot disapprove a mining operation or restrict it so that it becomes uncommercial, operators are rarely required to backfill or re Contain pits or to reduce elevations to encompass disturbed 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 $100,000 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 leach pits extend well into the millions. BLM’s $2,000 per acre limit simply does not consider the realities of modern mining.

- The official policy of another federal land management agency, the Forest Service, is that there is no authority to disapprove a proposed mining plan. Prefiling mining plans 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 land laws exempt 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 any- thing 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 pre-mining conditions.

- The Forest Service itself has admitted that, like other agencies, it has no power to require anything of the operator outside of what he voluntarily accepts or chooses to do.

- The Sierran magazine has proposed, for example, that larger operators be required to set aside monies in a “mining trust” to ensure that mining waste is addressed.

- The “mining trust” proposal has no background in geology, but is rather the recreation specialist for the district.
Clinton Proposes 'New Covenant' for Environment from Sierra Club's National News Report

The Sierra Club praised Arkansan Gov. Bill Clinton's Earth Day speech last month, and extended 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 Gardner, 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, cut 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.

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 LalaBaque, director of Project del Rio in Las Cruces; Al Upton, director of the U.S.-Mexico Transboundary Resource Institute at UNM's School of Law; Don Silva, engineering professor at UNM; Ed Archuletta, General Manager of El Paso Water Utilities Department; and Hector Fuentes, Engineering Professor at UTEP. Nester Valencia, vice president of the El Paso Community Foundation, was named by Reily 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. Reily.

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 Reily. "During the first two years of the border plan, the U.S. will cost $379 million. We want the benefits 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, non-governmental organizations, and academia. A similar group exists in Mexico to advise SEDUE.

In related events, Reily announced that the EPA will undertake $325,000 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 policies 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 Reily.

The study will use water and sediment samples from the Rio Grande in its tests and exists 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 points of discharge. The study will also include laboratory analyses of fish samples taken from various points along the river.
National Wildlife Refuge Reform Bills Introduced

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

The National Wildlife Refuge System, encompassing 91.7 million acres, is the only federal system dedicated primarily to preserve, restore, and manage fish and wildlife and their habitats. A 1985 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 off-road vehicle use, military exercises, boating, water-skiting, grazing, commercial fishing, camping, hunting, haying, picknicking and farming.

The bills (H.R. 2881, H.R. 3688, and S. 1862) have been introduced by Reps. Gerry Studds (D-MA), Rep. Bob Gibbs (D-FL) and Sen. Bob Graham (D-FL), respectively. All three bills are intended to eliminate incompatibilities of uses. 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 charge 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 go far beyond outright banning 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 government to clean up the extreme 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—authorized 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 offenses, then we must have strict legislation," said Docia Cellarman, 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 liable for 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 sparked criticism of anti-environmental groups in New Mexico. Richardson has been described by some as anti-environmental. In May, Richardson was the target of a radio ad criticizing him for his opposition to a Forest Service proposal to eliminate citizen appeals of timber sales on national forests.

The ad, which ran in several New Mexico newspapers, was placed by a taxpayer watchdog group, whose members apparently include several labor unions. The spot featured a Duke City Labor Co. employee appealing to Richardson to "help me keep my job." The employee says, "Don't put me on welfare just to repave some wooden floor preservationists who know nothing about our way of life."

Richardson said that the ads were misleading. "I don't think the appeals to stop timber sales are 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 "spent more time than anyone else in Congress about the Bush Administration's sensible proposal to limit timber sales appeal that cost the Forest Service millions of dollars each year [note: later: 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. 3424, known as the Pesticide Safety Improvement Act, introduced by Rep. Charlie Rose (D-CA), a co-sponsor of the bill. If the bill becomes law, it would allow chemical companies to market their products as "insecticides" to be applied to food at 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 labeling of "topical pesticide" to aquatic life, 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 concerned about the "environmentalists" who are instead 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 newsletter was an article supporting the Bush Administration's moratorium on "broad-spectrum" government regulations, and says that Skeen is a co-sponsor of a bill to extend the moratorium for one year. The article, entitled "Cutting Regulations Boost Economy," singles out health, environmental, and safety regulations, and quotes Skeen as saying that government regulations "are often unnecessary and merely remedy business growth."

Skeen has put pressure on other members of Congress to pass a bill that would prohibit states from enforcing pesticide regulations that conflict with federal regulations. He has also introduced a bill that would allow the registration of pesticides that are not currently registered with the Environmental Protection Agency. These bills would have far-reaching implications for the environment and public health. Skeen's efforts are being closely monitored by environmentalists, who fear that they could undermine existing regulations and open the door to the registration of harmful chemicals.

In conclusion, the House bill would relax pesticide safeguards, allowing chemical companies to market their products as "insecticides" and labeling them as "topical pesticides." This would pose a significant threat to the environment and public health. Skeen's "Wise Use" agenda prioritizes private property rights above all else, leading to a disregard for regulations that protect the environment and public health. The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are key players in this environmental debate, with the TVA advocating for a moratorium on regulations and Skeen supporting the Bush Administration's approach. The outcome of this debate will have far-reaching implications for the environment and public health.
ANNOUNCEMENTS
by Heidi Fleischmann

EARTH CITIZEN, INC. has moved.
Earth Citizen Inc. now has a cast 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 designing our signs and constructing our float for the Coronado parade.

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 afternoon. Treat fishing is available in both streams, and wildfires should be abundant. Leaders will be John and Linda Bunchser, who have led numerous trail maintenance trips for the national SC outings program. Trip participants will bring their 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 from cook crews. John and Linda are known for their tasty menus. Since this trip can be supplied by four wheel drive access, can expect erratic 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) 281-2051.

CALENDAR

July 2: Mexican Wolf Coalition, 7:30 PM.
July 3: 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/Sierra.
July 18: Executive Committee Meeting, 7:30 PM.
July 24: Conservation Committee Meeting, 7:30 PM.

1992 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Office Telephone: 265-5508
Chair: Stefani Verchovsky 888-1370
Vice Chair: vacated position
Programs: Susan Goves 265-8323
Secretary: Heidi Fleischmann 260-1217
Treasurer: Richard Barilo 247-8709
Chapters: Stefani Verchovsky 888-1370
At Large: Beth Caruth 255-6027
At Large: Blaine Brown 265-3231
At Large: Terese Johnson 265-5508
At Large: David Bovsun 265-7852

The Albuquerque Group of the Sierra Club depends entirely on the efforts of volunteers. To help our efforts, call the following info coordinators:
Air Quality: Heidi Fleischmann 260-1217
Books: Rich Adams 266-4657
Calendars: Rich Adams 266-4657
Becque: Richard Barilo 247-8709
City Planning: David Bovsun 265-7853
City Trails: vacated position
Conservation: David Bovsun 265-7853
Energy: Ralph Winter 275-0856
Las Huertas: Matthew Davidson 867-5178
Mailing: Doreen Kahl 245-7599
Mexican Wolf: Susan Larrea 897-2527
New Mexico: Richard Barilo 275-0113
Outings: Jessica Balye 857-0286
Pecos/Gila: David Bovsun 344-8091
Pecos: Leslie Feinberg 256-7859
Population: Bruce Ferguson 765-5797
Public Lands: Michelle Meadors 266-8023
Public Issues: Robert Dorin 299-9090
Solid Waste: David Bovsun 265-7853
Water Quality: Chris Strapp 336-0308
Wildlife: Marc Bocar 299-2004

ALBUQUERQUE OUTINGS

July 5
Inner City Outing - Recovery High School
From 8AM, 2PM we will hike the Obregon and influence the "Save the Obregon" service project (see July 19). Come on out if you want to lend a hand! David Moomtiz 344-8663, Stefani 888-1370.

July 7
Flotilla on the Rio Grande
Bring your raft, kayak, or canoe for a brief ride through the city. Expert wherewithal - Dennis Morrison, will be on hand to offer some instructions. Must be able to swim. Some raft sale and life jackets are available. We will step to hike into some areas inaccessible from the road. We will meet at Main St. 8:30 AM. RSVP David Morrison 344-8663, Leader Dean Korth.

July 12
Geological Wineries, Peppersyn NM
Unusual geological features and petroglyphs. Bring sturdy shoes, camera, binoculars, leisure. RSVP the Eastwood 255-7869.

July 25
Ricochudo Canyon Hike, PNM
Thousands of petroglyphs and a variety of wildlife. Bring sturdy shoes, camera, binoculars. RSVP the Eastwood 255-7869.

July 25-26
Jemez: Waterfall/Wild Spring Car Camp
Activie Saturday evening for a complete and numérique. Bring your swimsuits for a Sunday outing to the Rainbow Hot Springs. You can drive up Sunday to meet the group for a hike at 9:30 AM. Assembly with camping available. Susan Goves, Blair Brown 263-3231.

Aug 1
Frisco-July 31 Aug 31
Trail building, Tramps Lakes to Santa Barbara Divide
High in the pines, join a varied group of SC members from around the Southwest. $40 for group food. Moderate hiking and some logging. Linda and John Bushee 381-2051.

Aug 9
Mon July 20
Meeting
Pre-meeting dinner
Bring a sack lunch and an opportunity to share with a hundred of people. After eating we will look for hummingbirds along the UNM golf course. Meet at 9:30 sharp at the UNM Law School. Therese Johnson 281-2746.

Aug 2
Sat Aug 8
Piedras Maravilla Aria Hike
Bring sturdy shoes, camera, binoculars. RSVP the Eastwood 255-7869.

Aug 22
Montana Wilderness, 4th of July Springs
A popular meanders this area the southern and end of the Montana is a hilly green 4 to 6 miles of moderately explication. SC office 9AM. Bring camera, bucket, and water. Bob Caruth 255-6027.

Aug 29-30
Tramps Lakes Backpack
At the western base of Tramps peaks in the Pecos Wilderness lies Tramps lakes. Camp Friday night near the trailhead, 6 mile moderate hike to the lakes, dinner near the lakes on Sunday. Suitable for some kids and beginners.

Aug 31
Fri Sep 4
Wine and Cheese Party
Try out the Sierra Club tradition of the wine and cheese party. Sites of the Gila or Chihuahua National Forest. Bring a Friend. SC office 707 NE NE, 7:30 PM. If our cups runneth over, bring some wine, cheese or crackers, chair and cup.

Abbreviations: NM = National Monument; SC = Sierra Club; SW = Santa Fe Wilderness; PNM = Peppersyn National Monument

Unless otherwise noted, meetings take place at the Club office at 207 San Pedro NE.
**Albuquerque Group Annual Picnic**

**Where:** 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 Sandia. 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 dish, salad or dessert for 6 people (mark meat or non-meats). 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, salad, etc), ice, napkins and paper towels, charcoal for cooking, and cooking utensils. Activities include a hike into Chihuah Na, 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 cookies, Coleman stove (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 German or Blair Brown at 265-3233.

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**Pecos Trail Maintenance, July 31 - August 3**

The USFS-Camino Real District is developing a connection between the Tranqig and Santa Barbara drainages just north of the Pecos Wilderness boundary, to be called the Continental Trail. This will add about 12 miles to the existing trail sys-
tems by rebuilding an abandoned trail and by converting an old jeep road to trail use (a nice reversal of the usual USFS

**CHRISTIAN'S CORNER**

**SUMMER GENERAL MEETINGS**

The meetings of the El Paso Regional Group of the Sierra Club are held at 7:30 PM on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. The location is different each month. For more information, contact Ted Merritt, 852-3011 or Carolin Greenfield, 593-

**RED CANYON, MANZANO MOUNTAINS CARCAMP**

**JULY/AUGUST OUTINGS**

**GROUP DIRECTORY**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

 áreas: habitats, fossil beds, caves, etc., but not on the beach. The trail is very near the Santa Barbara and Tranqig Lakes trailheads, it will take some of the pressure off these heavily used areas. It will also be available for mountain bikers.

continues on next page

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**3 RIVERS DAYHIKE**

**DATE:** Sunday, July 5, 1992

**CLASS:** Moderate

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

**LEADER:** Carolin Greenfield, 593-6187

This is a short hike along a creekside trail, six miles long. It is worth the three-hour drive to get the beach and enjoy a leisurely Sunday in the White Mountains. Call early for this popular hike.
LEADERSHIP TRAINING REPORT

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

On April 11, Pro Tod Daughtery transformed the Center into an emergency first-aid area 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. Other instructors were Steve Kostal,地下水学 and San Diego, Marcie Farm, Tom Casey, and Tina Bordeaux.

On May 10, fifteen leaders attended the 2019 season's first leadership training at the hike on the East Fork of the Gila River. The hike began at the entrance to the Gila Wilderness. Thanks to Mike Episcopo and Matt Forsman for organizing the hike.

On both hikes, we talked about the plan for Franklin Mountains State Park. We talked about communications towers. We talked about finding a place to hike near El Paso.

On both hikes, we enjoyed the beauty of the Franklin Mountains and reaffirmed our conviction that El Paso has something truly special in these mountains.

Making the May 3 ascent were Dennis Stamrict, Cecilia Cudron, Carol Casida, and Cara Kyle. Karen Weaver and grandson Ted Merigui, and Fred O'Sullivan were also present. Dave Robertson and Niles Bear. The May 10 group included Marty Morrow, Susan and Bill White, Henry Hernandez, and Jessica Loschi. Betsy Julian and Herman Grohe. John Sproll led both outings.

Middle Fork of the Gila BackPack 4/24-26/92

The first group departed El Paso Friday afternoon, April 24, and drove to its campsite at the Grapevine Campground along the East Fork of the Gila River. The hike began at T.J. Cornell and followed Trail 729 to Little Bear Canyon and the Middle Fork. Runoff from the 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 reorganized our route to the camp.

On the second day, we returned to the campsite and continued our hike. Joining in the Spring adventure were Bill and Phillip Williams, Sandy Anderson, Rafeisha Schuler, Carolyn Greenfield, Chris McKenney, and Meghan Onda. Rob Snik, Dale Trefry, Richard Rieder, Mike Bronka, and leader Rolf Wickenden.

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

Gila Backpack to the Meadows

Despite double decapitation (two leaders had to cancel) and mass signage battalion, a trio of stalwart cuffs came through on the projected El Paso Backpack to The Meadows in the Gila Wilderness. Tertiary group leader Richard Rieder, Irv D, and group member Mary Lou Parker, and, tragically, Michael Bronka, crowded Thursday night at a Gila River turning. On Good Friday, the third backpacked three high in the Gila Wilderness, and one mile of switching back to The Meadows at the Middle Fork of the Gila River. They spent a dayover a day of quietness and a day on the river. Enduring a long rain, they arose on Easter Sunday to hike seven miles back to the Cliff Dwelling parking lot from which they returned to El Paso.

OUTINGS REPORTS

Gila Backpack to the Meadows

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P.S. Outings Chair Carol thanks the admissible trio for refusing to give up, and the rest of the crew for their perseverance.

North Franklin Peak, Daysheikas Hike II and III 5/3/92 and 10/92

On May 3, a cloudy sky convinced many of our counting North Franklin climbers to stay home, but those who ventured forth were rewarded with a perfect day to remember: cool, comfortable conditions; occasional light rain; cloudy skis melting 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, weather was unreasonably cool. A west wind blew hard, gusting to 50 mph. White-throated Swifts buzzed us on the summit.

CONTINENTAL DIVIDE TRAIL SERVICE TRIP

CHAPTER II, BLACK RANGE, NM

DATE: July 24-26, 1992

CLASS: Moderate*

LIMIT: None at present time, reservations required

LEADER: Daniel Herrick, 505-323-5724

We will leave El Paso Friday evening for a camp 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 leave out Sunday afternoon for the return to El Paso.

COLORADO 9-DAY BIG BLUE WILDERNESS BACKPACK

DATE: July 22-25, 1992

CLASS: Strenuous

LIMIT: 12, leader approval and reservations required

LEADER: Come out with us for another Colorado Wilderness experience. Our 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

At 12,000', Sierra Blanca Peak towers above Southern New Mexico and West Texas. This tremendous views and alpine tundra will await those who take the 1.9 mile round trip which has a 2,100' elevation gain. We will leave Friday evening and camp near the lake. This hike begins Saturday morning from Ski Apache parking lot. Call Mike for additional details.

RAILROAD CANYON DAYHIKE, GILA NF

DATE: Saturday, August 2, 1992

CLASS: Moderate

LIMIT: 12, leader approval and reservations required

LEADER: 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 Emery Pano. We will follow a beautiful, creekside trail for about two miles. Then we will trek up to Holton's Peak to peck 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: The traditional Labor Day backpack will return to the White Mountain Crest Trail near Ruidoso, New Mexico. We anticipate a key exchange, with one group leaving from Mogollon Peak and the other from the Mogollon Lookout. We will hike the length of the Crest Trail #25 through some of the best alpine wilderness in Southern New Mexico.

PECOS WILDERNESS CARCAMP

DATE: August 14-16, 1992

LIMIT: 12, leader approval and reservations required

LEADER: Betsy Julian, 505-664-7514

Have a "cool" weekend in the Pecos Wilderness. We will meet for a camp at the southern boundary of the wilderness area and have dry tents in this beautiful area just east of Santa Fe. Call Betsy for travel information and camping/hiking details.

GILA WILDERNESS BACKPACK

DATE: September 21-23, 1992

LIMIT: 12, leader approval and reservations required

LEADER: Wesley Leonhard, 747-5904

We will depart El Paso Friday and drive to our camp spot at the Sheridian Coral. Saturday morning we will hike approximately six miles to a spot near the summit of Hilt 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 mile from Rool Spring to the campsite.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 1992

THE RO GOO CHIRIBOS

JULY/AUGUST OUTINGS

THE RO GOO CHIRIBOS

JULY/AUGUST 1992
SANTA FE GROUP NEWS

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

*** A new experience! *** A July General Membership Meeting! Steeple
Worleys, Conservation Director for LightHawk, will throw some of LightHawk's
considerable work on rainforest issues in Central America, including Panama, Belize, Mexico and
Nicaragua. There will also be an update on pressuring environmental issues.

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 2-3 meetings each year?
Please call the Sierra Club message machine at 983-2703.

>> SANTA FE GROUP OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS <<

July/August Chair — Norma McCullis 984-2020
Vice Chair — Norman McCullis 471-6005
Secretary — Juan Ortez 984-2020
Treasurer — Loretta Soracco 983-6715
Conservation — Sue McDonald 986-9825
Chapter Representatives — Sue McDonald 986-9825
Legislation — Kent Hughes 982-5297
Membership — Pat Stevens 982-5051
Fundraising — Web Kitchell 471-7501

* Member of the Santa Fe Group Executive Committee

Terms expire 12/01: Freeman/Kevla/Kitchell/McClure
11/00: McCullis/Moore/Moore/Ortez/Soracco

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

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

All members are invited to all meetings

Membership Meeting**
Tuesday, July 21, 7:30
No August Meeting

** 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
Pope, BLM Resource Area Manager for Farmington Re-
source Area, spoke on BLM-Four Corners issues. Bill
Palvev, BLM wildlife biologist, Peggy Gandy, and Jim
Copehunt, BLM archaeologists, gave slide shows on the
endangered plants and animals of the Four Corners and the
Chaco Outlets.

Saturday Morning
Dan Shrock of San Juan Coal Mine talked to about 20 people
on a three-hour tour of the mine, showing 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 "Wild-
erness 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 on 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
teach 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 on 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 Clubbbers 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 designated
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 *

(Sepember) 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?
SANTA FE

SANTA FE GROUP OUTINGS

Fri Sat Sun
3 4 5
Norma McCallan (471-0005) 3 day backpack along the Crest Trail of the White Mountains - approx. 25 miles in length. Fri at Spring Cabin, Sat at night at highest point on trail (11,400') near Sierra Blanca ski run. Call for reservations.
4 5 6
Charlie Crooks (471-0005) Easy/Moderate Hike Rinio en Medio. Dogs OK. Live 9 AM.
5 6 7
Victor Atayas (471-7545) Easy/Moderate Hike Bandelier HJQ to Rinio Grande. Leave 9:15 AM.
6 7 8
Norma Keswalla (982-9750) Easy/Moderate Hike near Ski Basin. Leave 8:30 AM.
7 8 9
SF NATIONAL FOREST WATCH (Martha Anne Freeman 438-0697) All-Day Field Trip to the Pecos led by Bill Schueckert, Pecos District Forest Ranger.
8 9 10
Norbert Sperrich (983-962) Moderate/Strenuous Hike to Lookout Rock above LaVega (near Ski Basin). Reservations required.
9 10 11
Brian Johnson (438-2087) Backpack in San Pedro Parks. Leave Friday 5:30 PM. Call leader for reservations.
10 11 12
Caroline Glick (984-3184) Strenuous Hike. Reservations required.
11 12 13
Elizabeth Altman (471-8490) Easy Hike in Cañada de los Alamos. Leave 9 AM.
12 13 14
Paul Miller (473-3107) Easy/Moderate BackPack to Burro Lake (4 steep miles R.T.) 11,500' in Southern Colorado with optional Moderate Hike (1-1/2 mile) on to Cuesta Peak, 13,172', on Sunday. Pace will be leisurely -- a good backpack for beginners. Call for reservations and for help with backpacking information.
13 14 15
ENVIRONMENTAL 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 camp at Agua Piedra campground. Leave 8 AM.
26
John McClure (473-1916) Moderate Strenuous Hike Sangre de Cristos. Leave 8 AM.
27
SF NATIONAL FOREST WATCH (Mille McFarland 986-0921) All-Day Field Trip to the Jemez led by John Peterson, Jemez District Ranger.
28
31/8/1-8/2
Thursday 7-30, Friday 7-31, Saturday 8-1, Sunday 8-2
Norma McCallan (471-0005) 4 day Moderate/Strenuous Hike along the Continental Divide Trail south from Wolf Creek Pass to Summit and out on a side trail the 4th day. Over 8 miles per day. Spectacular views. Call for reservations.

Sat Sun
1
John McClure (473-1916) Moderate/Strenuous Hike on Hamilton Mesa, returning via More Flats. Leave 8 AM.
2
Gordon Winkler (986-0838) Easy/Moderate Hike to Kichinen Mesa. Leave 9 AM.
3
Joe Whelan (984-0746) Strenuous Hike to Pecos Baldy Lake. Leave 8:30 AM.
4
Jeff Jones (984-2389) Easy Walk along Tesuque Creek. Babies and young children welcome. Leave 9:30 AM.
5
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 14,000ers. Call leader for reservations/details.
8
Lynn Krause (1-326-2230-Farmington) Moderate/Strenuous Hike to Pastora Peak. Leave 8 AM.
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 Lorenzo Lakes. Leave 7:30 AM.
16
Louise Leopold (988-4952) Easy/Moderate Hike to Atahaya Mtn. Dogs Welcome. Leave 9:30 AM.
16
Norbert Sperrich (983-962) 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 Rinio en Medio. Dogs OK. Leave 9:30 AM.
23
Elizabeth Altman (471-8490) Strenuous Hike to La Vega. Leave 9 AM.
23
David Brown (662-2185) Hike 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.
29
30
Caroline Glick (984-3184) Strenuous Hike to Sheephead Mtn. Call leader for reservations and information.

THE RIO GRANDE SEMIAN JULY/AUGUST 1992

Sat Sun Mon
5
Arnold Keswalla (982-9570) Moderate Hike from Ski Basin to Aspen Ranch and return with Winsoor Trail. Leave 8 AM.
6
September
5
Arnold Keswalla (982-9570) Moderate/Strenuous Hike Nambe Lake. Leave 8:30 AM.
6
John McClure (473-1916) Moderate/Strenuous Hike Lake Stewart. Leave 8 AM.
7
8
Norma McCallan (471-0005) Labor Day Weekend Car Camp to Capitol Reef Nat'l Monument. Overnight Backpack to Lower Muzyt Twist Trail (16 miles) and Day Hike to Upper Muzyt Twist Trail (off the Burr Trail). Call for reservations.
9
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
Kee Adams (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.
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
26
Norris 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 PEFIA parking lot at the corner of Paseo de Peralta and Old SF Trail (across street from State Capitol and Pat's Conifer). Carpooling will be arranged at the parking lot, and each hiker should come prepared to pay 6 cents a mile to the driver of the car in which 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 unuitable. 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 RIO GRANDE SEMIAN JULY/AUGUST 1992

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Congressional Race

Our preferred candidate, Bruce Wilson of Las Cruces, lost in the Democratic primary to Dan Saiz, who will face Republican Joe Sken in the general election in November. We are making plans, in conjunction with other groups, to meet with Saiz 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 524-2621.

Animal Damage Control

We were partially successful in our efforts to get the Doña Ana County Commission to stamp its traditional rubber stamp approval of ADC's annual request for County Farm and Range Improvement Funds (FRIF) in 1982. 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 Pangelin 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 tuned.

Meetings

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

The August ExCo meeting will be at Storm's house on August 13. There will be a general meeting on August 17, perhaps a reading of some sort.

Outings

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

Directory

Myra Petrie, Chair 524-2621
David Pangelin, Vice Chair 524-8366
Kevin Bixby, Conservation Co-Chair 524-1515
Susan Brown, Conservation Co-Chair 524-1014
Kara Padda, Secretary 524-7615
Paul Bruegger, Treasurer 524-4734
Karen Paled, Librarian 524-4654
Cheryl Blakeney, Publicity 524-4642

Pecos Trail Trip On Tap

The USFS-Camino Real District is developing a connection between the Tularosa 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 on short cuts and converting an old jeep road to trail use (a nice reversal of the usual USFS trends). The former road would be available for motorized travel only by snowmobiles. Because this trail is very close to the Santa Barbara and Trampus 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. Elevate at base camp in the 9000's, in a mixed spruce forest. Days will be warm and nights cool, with typical mountain thunderstorms possible in the afternoon. Trout fishing is available in both streams, and wilderness should be abundant.

Leaders will be John and Linda Bucho, 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 meals, 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 monthly 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 rain forests to fiction and philosophy, concentrating on conservation biology and deep ecology. And, of course, it includes Foreman's own Eco-defence, and Confessions of an Eco-Warrior, along with Howie Wolke's new Whiteness on the Rocks.

For a free catalog, write:

Red Ludd Books
Dep't. NM
P.O. Box 5141
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 fishes, hikes, mountain-climbs, bird-watches, picnicks, 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 are 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 access permit for individuals and "families" of ten or fewer people.

Contrary to popular belief, trust lands are not reserved for the wealthy. The State Constitution requires that anyone owning the trust lands—whether for mineral extraction, grazing or 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 designated 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, this bi-monthly newsletter is available for members only.

Energy Report

Energy Report covers recent energy developments, highlights other relevant publications, provides contact information and action, and suggests reading material on energy issues. Published by the Sierra Club Energy Committee, this tri-monthly newsletter is free only to Sierra Club activists. Write to: Gene Conn, Sierra Club Conservation Department, 730 Polk Drive, 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 directions on how to take advantage of opportunities for public participation in public land decision making. To order, contact Rose S. Strickland, P.O. Box 8409, Roca, NE 68970, 702-329-6118.

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