

Mining "Reform"

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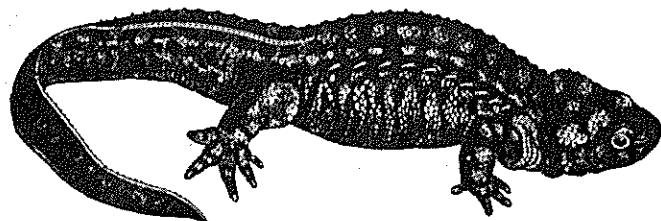
Bingaman and Domenici's gift to the people who elected them is an open pit, filled with toxic, acidic-water, tailings ponds—all the remnants of mining operations. This is not the sort of gift New Mexico needs or wants.

There are currently 50 abandoned mines that are listed as Superfund sites. New Mexico has at least \$322 million worth of abandoned mine-cleanup right now. And now a mining company can give New Mexico another wreck any time they'd like, under the aegis of the Reid amendment.

This is the time for New Mexicans to say no, thank you, to Bingaman and Domenici's gift to the public. Our only hope is that the House of Representatives prevails in conference committee.

Federal agencies have proven over and over again that they are not willing or capable of protecting people and the environment from mining related abuse of public lands under current law. This amendment and our Senators' votes simply sanction and encourage the abuse.

The *Rio Grande Sierran* is published 10 times yearly by the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club. Members receive subscriptions as part of their dues. Subscriptions for non-members are \$10 per year. Send payment to *Rio Grande Sierran*, Star Route Box 26 Mesilla Park, NM 88047. ¶ The opinions expressed in the *Rio Grande Sierran* do not necessarily reflect those of the editor or the Sierra Club. Articles may be reprinted for nonprofit purposes. Please give credit to the author and the *Rio Grande Sierran*. ¶ Contributions of articles and photos are always welcomed. Send to the *Rio Grande Sierran* at above address. Articles should be submitted on disk (3.5", Macintosh or DOS, Microsoft Word or ASCII text only format.) or E-mailed (address: llarocque on Econet.) Due to our lack of word processing staff, only very short typed or faxed submissions can be accepted. Deadline is the 15th of each month.



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El Paso, TX 79983

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CALENDAR

- 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. To register, call 505/277-5006. See blurb on page 23 for more info.
- Sept. 15 Comments due on state predator control policies. Send to: Andy Sandoval, NM Dept. of Game and Fish, P.O. Box 25112, Santa Fe, 87504.
- Sept. 15 Deadline for October *Rio Grande Sierran*.
- Sept. 17 Southwest Environmental Center/Southern New Mexico Group Sierra Club Office Grand Opening, 1494 S. Solano, Las Cruces, 5-8 p.m. Hors d'oeuvres, drinks, music. Call 522-5552 for more info.
- Sept. 20 Sierra Club Southwest Regional Conservation Committee (SWRCC) meeting. Santa Fe.
- Sept. 25 Fundraiser to stop expansion of Santa Fe Ski Area. \$25/person. Hotel Plaza Real, Santa Fe, 5-7 p.m.
- Sept. 26-27 Audubon Conference on Public Land Grazing. Las Cruces. For more information, call (505) 382-5767 or 522-8068.
- Sept. 26 Endangered Species Fair, Santa Fe Children's Museum. Exhibits, musicians, speakers. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. To reserve booth space, call 982-6854 or 988-9126.
- Feb. 4-6, 1993. "Managing Riparian Areas: Common Threads and Shared Benefits." A Western regional conference, Ramada Hotel Classic, Albuquerque. Speakers, panels, work sessions, displays. Sponsored by University of Arizona Water Resources Research Center. For more info, call (602) 792-9591.

SEND ADDRESS CORRECTIONS TO: SIERRA CLUB, 730 POLK, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94109

RIO GRANDE SIERRAN

NEWS OF THE RIO GRANDE CHAPTER
SIERRA CLUB • SEPTEMBER 1992

Hudspeth County Targeted

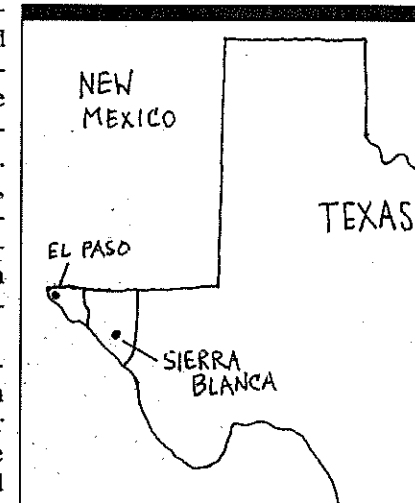
Nest Texas Residents Fight Nuke Dump, Sludge

Linda Lynch and Sandra Carreon Griffin

The West Texas border region is a stark and bleak environment. Between the few cities lie stretches of wilderness, ranches and farms. To the casual observer, the area appears a wasteland. Recent developments in Hudspeth County may literally confirm that assessment.

Likemuch of the Trans-Pecos region, Hudspeth County is made up of poor rural communities where families have ranched and farmed for several generations. County residents struggle between maintaining their traditional agrarian existence and abandoning it to the industrialization of the border.

In 1983, Hudspeth County was confronted with plans by state of Texas to locate a radioactive waste dump within its boundaries. In July 1992, the first of hundreds of thousands of tons of New York sewage sludge was shipped



to the county to be dumped. The two dumps are located adjacent to each other, next to the town of Sierra Blanca. Both projects have progressed despite enormous public outcry. Both are

rife with compromise and political intrigue, clearly at the cost of our border environment and public health. It is painfully obvious that we are marked as a dumping ground for all-comers because we are a poor, rural area with a large ethnic population and little political clout. It is this last characteristic which Alert Citizens for Environmental Safety (ACES), a West Texas environmental group based in Hudspeth County, works hardest to change. ACES was formed in 1983. Its members include farmers, ranchers, town merchants and families aware of the increasing need for natural resource and health protection in West Texas. ACES and other residents are fighting to keep Hudspeth County from becoming a true "wasteland."

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Residents Fight Nuclear Waste Dump

Despite promises of financial incentives, Hudspeth residents have successfully delayed the siting of the radioactive waste dump for nine years because the plan is severely flawed. In response, the State has methodically weakened the site selection process.

In 1991, new state legislation forced the radioactive dump to be placed in a 400 square-mile box in southern Hudspeth County. Re-

(continued on page 4)

Senate Makes Bad Mining Law Worse

by Sue McIntosh

NEW MEXICO'S SENATORS JEFF Bingaman, Pete Domenici and their Senate pals voted in early August to give the American public a booby prize.

Bingaman and Domenici, both members of the Senate's Mining subcommittee (Bingaman is Chair), voted for an amendment offered by Harry Reid (D-Nev.) that was disguised as a reform of the 1872 Mining Law, but which would give wealthy, foreign-owned mining companies an even sweeter deal, all at the taxpayers' expense.

Mining law in the United States has never been a point of pride: public land is sold for tag sale prices, companies extract gold and other precious metals for free, and when companies complete operations, they often abandon the scarred and poisoned lands. Under the 1872 Mining Law, any company that finds a valuable mineral deposit on open public lands may "patent" these lands for as little as \$2.50 an acre.

In early August, Sen. Dale Bumpers (D-Ark.) attempted to end this abuse. However, Sen. Reid's amendment won out over that reform. Reid's proposal actually worsens the 120-year-old law that still governs mining on federal lands.

Bingaman and Domenici, acting on behalf of mining interests, and in spite of the public wishes and against the public interest, have tried to make a bad law even worse. Responding to critics who decry the sale of the public land, New Mexico's Senators voted in favor of this amendment that allows mining companies to continue to obtain minerals without paying a royalty to the federal treasury, and allows them to return lands to the federal government once they have poisoned them.

(continued on back page)

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LETTERS

Gold Mining Could Ruin Box Canyon Near Socorro

Dear Editor,

We would like to draw attention to a recently developed threat to one of our most beautiful and accessible local natural resources, Box Canyon [near Socorro]. Recent mining by an out-of-state interest has widely disturbed the narrow section of the canyon, just south of the Highway 60 bridge.

Box Canyon is notable for its scenic value, its easy access (it is only six miles from the plaza), and its nationally recognized rock climbing opportunities. It is in the interest of the community that places like The Box be protected, as they enhance Socorro's reputation as a recreational destination for tourists and contribute to the quality of life for current and prospective residents.

If you would like to see the area protected from future degradation, please write to one or more of the following officials and request that they support, at the minimum, the BLM's Socorro Resource Area management plan for The Box, which would require that the canyon be managed to enhance recreational values. Our letters can make a difference!

The Honorable Pete Domenici, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C., 20510.

Larry Woodard, State Director, BLM, P.O. Box 27115, Santa Fe, NM, 87502-0115.

Linda Rundell, District Manager, Las Cruces District, BLM, 1800 Marquess, Las Cruces, 88005.

Harlen Smith, Area Manager, Socorro Resource Area, 200 Neel Ave. NW, Socorro, 87801.

—Steven Ralser, Richard Aster,
 Dylan Etsorn, Mic Heyhekamp,
 Jan Tarr, Laurel Goodwin.

Fair to Celebrate Biodiversity

THE 1992 ENDANGERED SPECIES Fair, planned for Saturday, September 26, promises to be both fun and educational.

This year's fair will be held on the grounds of the Santa Fe Children's Museum, 1050 Old Pecos Trail, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The event will feature eco-music by Solfeather, speakers, and exhibits by a wide range of environmental, educational, and government organizations.

Co-sponsors are the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club, the New Mexico Game and Fish Department's Share With Wildlife program, and Forest Guardians.

The featured speaker will be ecologist/activist/author George Wuerthner, who has written extensively on public lands, grazing, and wolves. The time and location of his evening lecture has yet to be determined.

The reservation deadline for organizations interested in setting up information

tables or exhibits at the fair is September 15. To request a reservation application, call fair organizer Pat Wolff at 982-6854.

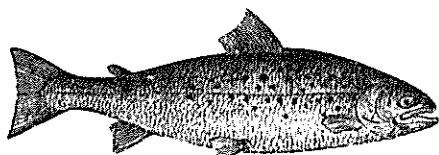
"With so many plant and animal species facing unprecedented threats to their survival, and with the impending battle over reauthorization of the Endangered Species Act in Congress, this year's fair has special significance," Wolff said.

"We need to use this fair to educate the public about the importance of biological diversity. We also need to build and activate a grassroots network that will lobby Congress on endangered species issues. This fair provides us the perfect opportunity to launch such a campaign."

Chapter Mining Committee Needs Computer

The Rio Grande Chapter's Mining Committee has opened an office in Santa Fe and is gearing up for action on state and federal mining issues.

To keep up with the bad guys, the Committee is looking for a computer. A Macintosh is preferred, but they'll be grateful for anything. Please call the Committee at 983-1700.



Advisory Council Takes Hard Look at State Predator Policies

Resolutions aimed at reforming state-authorized predator control policies will be voted on at the next meeting of the State Game Commission's Habitat and Environment Advisory Council, tentatively set for 9 a.m. Friday, Oct. 9 at the Rio Rancho Inn in Rio Rancho.

The resolutions were submitted by council member Pat Wolff at the Council's August 7 meeting. Wolff, who is also the Rio Grande Chapter's Wildlife Chair, is urging council and Game Commission support for the following reforms:

■ Require Animal Damage Control (ADC) and other government trappers to comply with the State's 24-hour trap-checking regulations governing private trappers. (ADC is now exempted from that rule.)

■ Prohibit the practice of "denning," in which coyote pups are gassed or burnt alive in their dens or otherwise forcibly removed from their dens and then clubbed or shot to death. (44 coyotes were killed this way by ADC in FY 1991.)

■ Because of the high number of non-target protected furbearers killed by this device, prohibit the use of M-44 cyanide poison bombs, except in specific cases authorized by the State Game Commission.

■ Reclassify coyotes (now considered "varmints") as regulated furbearers.

■ Require the use of non-lethal predator control methods before depredation permits are issued to persons claiming predator/livestock problems, with specific guidelines to be established by an independent team of wildlife biologists.

■ Conduct public hearings at times and locations convenient to the public, in Santa Fe, Albuquerque, and Las Cruces, for the purpose of soliciting public opinion on the subject of ADC and predator control policies

and activities conducted in New Mexico, and to solicit written comments so that citizens who cannot attend these meetings are able to provide input.

■ Expand opportunities for public involvement in decision-making on this issue and others considered by the commission and its advisory councils.

One segment of Wolff's proposal was approved by the Council. It calls on the commission to require the Game and Fish Department to provide a detailed annual report fully documenting and disclosing all predator control activities funded by or permitted by the state and to make this information readily available to the public and media.

Habitat and Environment Advisory Council Members

Bruce Wilson, 526-5058, Box 1088, Mesilla Park, 88047
 Andrea Maes, 632-2194, P.O. Box 6428, Navajo Dam, 87419
 David Salzman, 471-0572, P.O. Box 1307, Las Vegas, 87701
 Dr. Ray Powell, Jr. 827-3000, Governor's Office, Santa Fe 87501
 Christine DiGregorio, 863-9577, 1103 Susan, Gallup, 87301;
 Tanya Leherissey, 244-3273, 2909 Vail SE, Apt. A, Albuquerque 87106;
 Carol Martindale, 277-3411, 7239 Isleta Blvd., SW, Albuquerque, 87105;
 M.H. "Dutch" Salmon, 388-3763, Box 878, Silver City, 88062;
 Joyce Mendel, 265-3840, 5119 Sunningdale, Ave. NE, Alb., 87105;
 Penny Elliston, 873-2338, 1619 Saunders, SW, Albuquerque, 87105;
 Bill Waldman, 988-3867, The Nature Conservancy, 107 Cienega St., Santa Fe 87501;
 Pat Wolff, 982-6854, 612 Old Santa Fe Trail, Santa Fe 87501.

gets active and writes to the advisory council and commission in support of these proposals. Concerned citizens also need to attend council and commission meetings."

Jamie Koch, the chairman of the State Game Commission, is also the chief fundraiser for Governor Bruce King's re-election campaign. Before supporting the King campaign, Sierra Club members should get a commitment from Koch that he will push for predator control policy reforms legislatively and through the Game Commission.

Sierra Club Activist Threatened

SANTA FE—The Federal Bureau of Investigation says a threatening letter sent by a rancher to Sierra Club activist Pat Wolff "justifies a federal investigation." The letter is being examined by the FBI and U.S. Postal Inspectors, according to a report in the August 22 *New Mexican*.

Wolff received the unsigned letter August 17 at her Santa Fe home. It carried the postmark of Tinnie, a small town west of Roswell. The letter writer identified himself or herself as a rancher.

The letter contained two threats: "I am definitely spreading the word that Patricia Wolff should be quieted," and "shooting offenders (is) justified, including the two-legged offender you."

The three-page, handwritten letter referred to Wolff's writings about the U.S. Animal Damage Control agency, which kills wildlife on behalf of ranchers.

"My life is being threatened merely because I've dared to speak out against a renegade government agency that needlessly slaughters wildlife and violates the law," said Wolff. "The ranchers who benefit financially from this government program want to silence me because they don't want taxpayers to know how their tax dollars are being wasted."

Wolff said several environmentalists working on the ADC issue across the West have been harassed and threatened. She urges others receiving threats to contact the authorities and go public with what is happening.

"Ranchers have used violence to get their way in the West for decades," Wolff said. "But increasingly, people are seeing through the cowboy mystique to the underlying violence, brutality and intolerance that are at the core of cowboy culture."

"The West is changing," Wolff said. "Men who shoot coyotes from helicopters, poison eagles, or send women anonymous death threats are no longer held in high esteem."

What You Can Do

Send general comments about this issue by Sept. 15 to Andrew Sandoval, NM DGF, P.O. Box 25112, Santa Fe, NM 87504. Individual council members should also be contacted. If a council member cannot attend the meeting, ask him/her to submit proxy vote in support of predator control reform resolutions.



Chihuahuan desert grassland in Hudspeth County, west Texas. County residents are fighting to keep the region from becoming a national waste-dumping ground. Photo courtesy of ACES.

Hudspeth County

(continued from front page)

peated requests for the scientific data used to draw the box have been denied. The general manager of the Texas Low Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Authority, the state agency responsible for siting the dump, has stated twice that the data was "thrown away."

The 1991 amendments also mandate: 1) that any dispute of site selection must be filed in Travis County (Austin); 2) that any judgment in a dispute about the site will not result in an injunction, unless decided by the Texas Supreme Court; 3) that the power of eminent domain be instated; and 4) that the right to enter property without permission be upheld.

Texas law also states that a thorough evaluation of environmental factors and conditions take place before a site is designated and a license application is filed. This did not prevent the state, from filing for a license application, purchasing a 16,000-acre ranch, and designating a sit—all before any studies had taken place.

Residents and ACES have challenged the constitutionality of the recent amendments and the failure of the State to comply with its own mandates. Officials in Governor Richard's Environmental Policy Division have told us to go argue these questions in court.

Sludge Deal Stinks

In early April, about two weeks before a public hearing was held regarding the radioactive waste dump, we heard rumors of yet another major environmental threat coming to Hudspeth County: a sewage sludge project. The rumors were confirmed when newspaper articles reported on the approval of a "range fertilization" project proposed by Merco Joint Venture, an Oklahoma-based company.

Merco's plan consisted of spreading thousands of tons of New York City sewage sludge (semi-treated human waste) on land opposite the radioactive waste dump site. The greatest initial concern from the Governor's office was the potential public relations fallout from having two undesirable projects located next to each other.

Normally, sewage sludge projects take several months, or sometimes a year, to be approved by the Texas Water Commission. The Merco project received special handling, and within 23 days of its registration application the project was approved. We also learned that the project required no prior environmental assessment studies.

When asked why approval of the project took only 23 days, the Executive Director of the Texas Water Commission responded: "Because I received a telephone call from the attorney for Merco Joint Venture and because they offered Texas Tech University \$1.5 million in study grants."

We also discovered that the project had been rejected by several Oklahoma communities and challenged by the Oklahoma Health Department.

Disturbing information about sewage sludge emerged from a variety of sources. We learned that the toxicity of the material is too high to meet New York environmental standards, but it does meet Texas' lower standards. Many pathogens in the sludge have been shown to survive for long periods of time. The effect of sewage sludge on dairy cattle has been ruinous, with a rising incidence of birth defects and still born calves.

In Hudspeth County, the land application process is resulting in mowing thousands of acres of native vegetation and the destruction of animal habitats. No account was taken of the arid rangeland qualities of the site.

State Attorney General Sues EPA

The Texas Water Commission failed to act as the first line of defense against this interstate sludge dump project. Now the EPA is trying to duck its responsibility as the final and ultimate regulatory agency.

The Texas Attorney General has filed suit against EPA for failing to study environmental risks before allowing the spreading of sewage sludge to begin. EPA also failed to consult with the Texas Historical Commission before approving the project. The suit seeks a determination of the effect dumping will have on a recorded 117 archaeological sites in the area.

Outrage over the turn of events has residents who have never considered themselves "political" getting involved.

The Hudspeth County sewage sludge project is the largest in the nation. It is a 90,000 acre arid rangeland experiment in the pristine Chihuahuan desert.

Anger and outrage over the turn of events has residents who have never considered themselves "political" getting involved. ACES is supporting the Texas Attorney General's suit against EPA and Merco Joint Venture. But we do not take it for granted that the suit will be won. Both the Texas Water Commission and EPA promote the land application of sewage sludge as environmentally sound regardless of site characteristics, project scale, or toxic content.

Meanwhile, The Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Authority continues its site characterization studies. There appears to be no back-up plan should serious flaws be discovered. It is explained that any flaw can be compensated for by engineering solutions. Obviously the state has no intention of voluntarily leaving the site.

What You Can Do

Please support our work against these projects. Write to Governor Ann Richards and U.S. Senators Lloyd Bentsen and Phil Gramm. The border must not be the dumping ground for all comers. The border region can no longer bear radioactive waste, toxic waste and sewage sludge project assaults.

Your financial contributions are also needed. Help us continue our legal efforts to halt these projects and set up protective measures for the future. Please send your requests for more information or checks to:

ACES
519 1/2 Prospect St.
El Paso, Texas 79902
(915) 534-7350 or (915) 592-3644

[Linda Lynch is president of ACES. She is a lifelong resident of Hudspeth County, Texas. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Lynch of Dell City, founded ACES in 1983. They do now and have for many years ranched in Hudspeth County. Ms. Lynch currently resides in both Hudspeth and El Paso counties.]

Sandra Carreon Griffin was born and raised in El Paso, Texas. Her involvement with ACES began in 1986, after being appointed to a citizen's advisory board to review the siting of a radioactive waste dump in Hudspeth County. She is currently secretary for ACES.]

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 rep.:
The Honorable _____
U.S. House of Reps.
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

Bumping Down the Soft Energy Path

By Ken Hughes

New Mexico is slowly moving forward with its energy policy. Since the policy was unveiled last November, a bill to promote natural gas use has been signed into law, and the Governor has issued an Executive Order to reduce state government energy use by 10 percent.

The State's Energy Policy outlines three priorities: 1) promote conservation and efficiency in the use and production of energy; 2) expand New Mexico's use of natural gas; and, 3) establish New Mexico as a leader in renewable energy research and development.

The second priority—natural gas—has gotten a head start with passage of the Alternative Fuels Conversion Act. It seeks to convert up to 30 percent of new state vehicles to run on natural gas over a three-year period. It rides on the heels of some \$2 million either spent or committed (in cost-sharing ventures) on similar conversions of city and county fleets around the state.

The Executive Order addresses improved energy efficiency with all State agencies, setting a goal of 10 percent reduction of projected energy use by 1995. Ideally, the State will be setting an example for the rest of us to follow, but without concrete funding (other than the concept of an Energy Service Budget), it is too early to tell on this one.

To refine the policy options and suggest how they might be implemented, two task forces have been assembled. The Economics Task Force, on which Albuquerque Group member Ralph Wrons serves, is charged with sorting through economic considerations to "level the playing field" and find the "true costs of energy."

The other task force, which I'm on, looks at ways to realize the full potential of energy efficiency measures and renewable energy in meeting heating, cooling, lighting and transportation needs. A more detailed report of our work will follow in a subsequent *Sierra* issue.

The Economics Task Force has been digesting considerable amounts of information presented to it by officials of the Departments of Taxation and Revenue (DTR) and Finance and Administration (DFA). DTR officials were objective and informative, but DFA officials rather bluntly told the task force that they did not want anyone messing with their revenues. Ironically, DFA supported a change in severance tax law which benefited the natural gas industry but resulted in the loss of \$70 million in annual state revenues since mid-1990.

An economist with the Public Service Commission (PSC) briefed the Economics Task Force on Integrated Resources Planning (IRP). IRP looks at both the supply side and demand side (reducing use without reducing productivity) in meeting heating, lighting, cooling and water needs, with the added requirement of least cost to the environment. The latter addresses the topic of environmental externalities.

The panel was also told by coal lobby representatives that New Mexico had been unfairly treated in the recent California Public Utilities Commission's decision to assign emission values to all imported electricity, 13 percent of which comes from New Mexico. However, it is that sort of decision that environmentalists and regulators in California and 35 other states have addressed, and often endorsed. And it is the kind of mission given to the task forces: determine the true costs of energy and make appropriate recommendations.

A presentation to the task force on renewable energy addressed the full gamut of economic merits of their integration into the electric generating sector. It is vital to internalize environmental externalities into cost equations as a way to level the playing field.

In between the hard-line of the coal industry and the "soft" line of renewable proponents are the state's electric utilities, principally PNM, which continually tout the economic and environmental viability of electrification. The Ole Power Line issue is always avoided, however, and even PNM says they are in favor of energy efficiency measures and renewable energy, though they are played down as fairly inconsequential.

The natural gas industry also falls in the middle, since natural gas in seen as an ideal transition fuel. Yet, while it burns much cleaner, production's effect on the environment is well known. No easy decisions; it will be an interesting fight.

The Economics Task Force next meets on Monday, September 21 at 9 am. The Conservation and Renewables Task Force's September meeting is on the 29th, also at 9 a.m. Each is likely to be in Albuquerque at PNM headquarters. The public is invited to attend. Call the State Energy Department at 827-5950 for locations.

[The author is the Rio Grande Chapter's Energy Issues Chair.]

Glorieta Mesa Elk Dispute Settled

By Mary Miles Thurston

Environmental issues have become increasingly polarized and confrontational as the urgencies of individual land and wildlife issues conflict with other interests, particularly with the growing federal policy to erode and eliminate all legal recourse to government decisions.

The inevitable result is that perceptual blindfolds multiply. The government, including local

government people, becomes the enemy and concerned citizens become agitators and troublemakers. Inflexibility takes root on both sides.

In this stormy climate, a truly remarkable and positive interaction took place between the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (DGF) and local communities over a small herd of elk on Glorieta/Rowe Mesa, south of Santa Fe.

In conjunction with the U.S. Forest Service, a management plan had been adopted by the state that established "Unit 43," including Glorieta Mesa, as a "deer only" section. Unfortunately for the management plan, elk had been appearing on the mesa in increasing numbers, seemingly with every intention of taking up residency there.

An open, unlimited hunt on elk, to include killing of bulls, cows and calves, was scheduled for the fall by the DGF. The elk would no longer be a management problem, but had been shifted to an environmental concern to local people.

In the May 20 issue of *The Reporter* in Santa Fe, the story was published as "State Out to 'Eradicate' Glorieta Elk" from a Sierra Club tip. Residents read their State Hunting Proclamations more carefully and found that the story was substantially correct. A citizens group, The Glorieta Mesa Environmental Support League, was formed to oppose the hunt.

Glorieta Mesa is over 140 miles long and roughly 20 miles wide, covered mostly with pinon-juniper forests with some stands of ponderosa pine and many open grazing areas. The land is held by the Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and a patch-

work of land grant ranchers, landowners, and several large ranching operations.

The few elk on the Mesa, numbering somewhere between 40 and 50, seemed very healthy, and as grazers rather than browsers, were unlikely to interfere with established

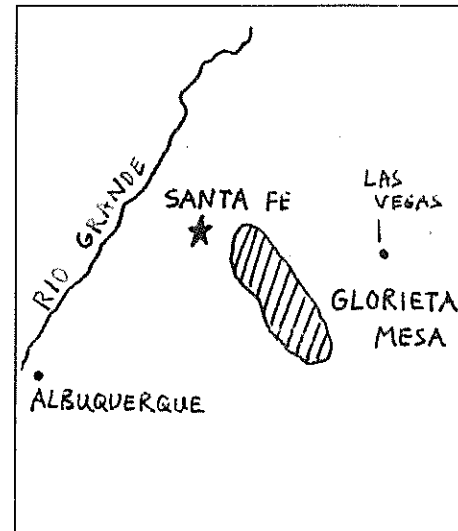
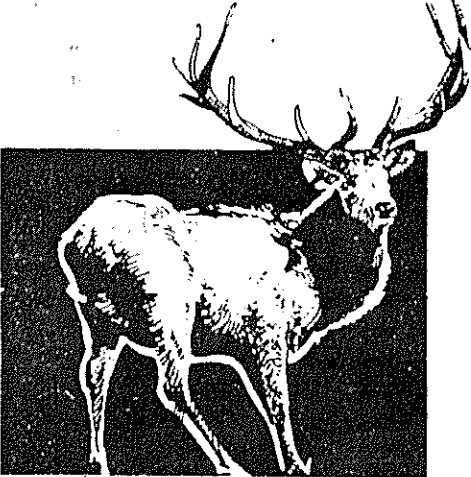
deer populations. Nor were there sufficient elk to interfere with cattle operations. With plenty of room for

the elk, there seemed virtually no reason for such a drastic hunt strategy.

Most of the people of the mesa hunt, and hunting was not the issue. The ranchers and landowners who signed a letter to Bill Montoya, DGF Director, were opposed to a management plan that eliminated elk from the mesa. Ranchers, hunters, landholders and environmentalists were, amazingly, in consensus that they wanted an elk herd in residence.

Mesa residents enlisted the support of surrounding communities, the Sierra Club and Forest Guardians. Van Perkins, a member of the Santa Fe Group and the Rio Grande Chapter's new Grazing Issues Chair, took the lead in representing the Sierra Club on the issue.

In the meantime, DGF officials were largely unaware of the building controversy until letters in the press and calls to the department alerted them to community discontent over this issue.



It was at this point that adversarial positions could have crystallized. However, when the letter to Bill Montoya was hand delivered to Montoya's office, the first of a series of face-to-face, informal meetings took place between the DGF and concerned individuals.

It was through these talks that a possible compromise position was developed. The hunt could be changed to a "mature bull elk only" hunt, but only if the State Game Commission would agree to amend the already published hunting regulations. Through Director Bill Montoya's office and with the permission of Commission Chairman Jamie H. Koch, the subject was raised at the next Commission meeting in Farmington.

At the Farmington meeting the concern was brought up as to whether the public should dictate to the Commission on wildlife issues. Dan Sutcliff, Director of Wildlife Management, responded that one of the purposes of the management plans was to be more responsive to public needs and concerns. It was not a matter of dictation. The Commission voted to approve the change in the regulations and to allow a managed elk herd on Glorieta Mesa.

Integrity can exist on both sides of an issue. We applaud the State Game Commission and the Game and Fish Department for their willingness to listen to reasonable arguments and even more so their forthrightness in actually changing the disputed regulation.

[Mary Thurston co-exists happily with elk on Glorieta Mesa.]

Resolution of Elk Issue Bodes Well for Future

by John Crenshaw

THE GLORIETA MESA ELK HUNT issue could have deteriorated into sharp, public confrontation marked by intransigence and bitterness on both sides. Instead, it evolved into communication, negotiation and resolution.

Fortunately the Game and Fish Department did not dig in its heels, and Glorieta-area residents who challenged the hunt did so from solid ground. They questioned the extent of the hunt and clearly stated that they wanted elk to continue to be present in their neighborhood, but recognized hunting as a legitimate use of a public resource.

The State Game Commission, regulatory body with the authority to do so, agreed to department and residents' suggestion to modify the bag limit from either sex (any elk) to mature bulls. The 93 hunters licensed for the area have the options of accepting the hunt as modified, moving to other areas, or receiving a license fee refund.

That will alleviate the immediate problem, and I would foresee that the longer-term management plans will evolve with input from all involved.

With these lines of communication opened, my hope is that we will see continued and broader involvement in local and state wildlife issues from Sierra Club and other environmental groups and individuals. Major issues that transcend personal preferences—such as choosing to hunt or not to hunt—should link all those who share an interest in healthy ecosystems and the wildlife that is so much a part of such a system.

It's not that there hasn't been involvement and linkage in the past—there has been, and it has been incredibly effective. Two years ago, such seemingly diverse organizations as Sierra Club, Audubon Society, the Native Plant Society, the New Mexico Wildlife Federation and United Bow Hunters of New Mexico united with many other organizations to defeat environmentally disastrous legislation. That commonality of purpose still exists; renewing and sustaining it remains the challenge.

[The author is Chief, Public Affairs Division, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish.]

Officials Cancel Bighorn Reintroduction Plan

Miners Rally Sierra County Residents in Opposition

by Kevin Bixby

In a victory for anti-wildlife "wise use" advocates, a proposal to reintroduce rare desert bighorn sheep into the Caballo Mountains, near Truth or Consequences, was dropped in early July after an outpouring of local opposition.

The proposal by the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (DGF) to release 35 sheep on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land was withdrawn little more than one month after it was announced in a BLM scoping report in May. The scoping report was the first step in the process of amending the BLM's White Sands Resource Management Plan to address bighorn reintroduction.

In the words of one observer, opposition to the plan was driven by "greed, fear, and insanity." Opponents packed a public hearing in T or C in June and collected several thousand signatures on petitions.

Objections to the plan focused on its potential to restrict access to the Caballos for other uses, such as mining and off-road vehicle use, and cause local economic harm. The plan also became embroiled in the issue of private property "takings" by government and environmentalists, a theme being promoted throughout the West by so-called "Wise Use" groups, such as People for the West.

"This plan would have violated our civil rights," said T or C resident Harry Mydock, a board member of a new organization called "Preservation of the Caballo Mountains" (PCM). "The sheep were just a tool to close our mountains," Mydock said.

Other opponents expressed similar sentiments. "These are our mountains," said Caballo resident Charles Washburn. "I want to know when they were deeded to the BLM or the Game and Fish Department. God gave them to us."

In announcing DGF's decision to drop the plan, Director Bill Montoya said that the sheep "became the unfortunate focal point of what seems to be a severe local distrust of government."

Opposition to the plan was spearheaded by hardrock miners. PCM president Joe Cummings is a miner, as were many individuals who spoke against the plan at the T or C

"These are our mountains," said one opponent. "God gave them to us."

hearing. Miners paid for full-page newspaper ads urging residents to oppose the "lock-up" of their lands, and attend the public hearing. One ad depicted a prospector looking forlornly up at the fenced-off Caballo Mountains, where bighorn sheep were shown grazing placidly.

According to one observer, who requested anonymity, the Caballo Mountains were a poor choice in hindsight due to the abundance of hardrock mining claims. "There are claims on top of claims. In my opinion, the real problem is the 1872 Mining Law which allows miners to dominate land use decisions," the source said.

Although opponents argued that the plan would have resulted in widespread road closures, DGF biologist Amy Fisher said that no firm decisions about the extent and location of road closures had been made. The BLM scoping report called only for closing the area to off-road vehicles to minimize human disturbance. The report said that the BLM would work with miners and others to ensure continued access to meet legitimate needs.

Opponents also argued that the Caballos were a poor reintroduction site since they were fifth on the DGF's list of preferred areas. Fisher said, however, that the Caballos were the best available site since the other areas, including the San Andres Mountains, contained scabies mites which attack bighorn sheep.

When asked what would happen next, BLM biologist Mike Howard said his agency would continue with the plan amendment process, and attempt to work with opponents to the plan "one on one." Fisher, however, suggested the proposal is dead for the time being.

As for opponents, PCM's Mydock plans to recruit members throughout the state to fight "land takeovers" elsewhere. He said other groups are interested in helping out, including the National Rifle Association.

Green Party on Ballot

by Marc Bedner

ON JUNE 23 THE NEW MEXICO Secretary of State granted recognition to the Green Party.

The Greens are eligible to run candidates for federal and state offices in New Mexico, beginning with the November 1992 general elections. Four other states (California, Arizona, Alaska and Hawaii) currently recognize Green parties.

There are now chapters of the Greens in Albuquerque, Santa Fe and Taos. The first convention of the New Mexico Greens took place in Santa Fe on June 27.

Green parties have existed in Europe since the early 1980s. Often identified as environmental parties, they have been equally concerned with economic and peace issues. With the end of the Cold War, the Greens' aim to transform military-based economies has taken on particular importance.

Like their European counterparts, New Mexico Greens are especially concerned with the nuclear issue. Many are activists in the Committee Against Radioactive Dumping (CARD) in Albuquerque and Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety (CCNS) in Santa Fe. A provisional platform circulated at the state convention included many other environmental issues, including energy and water conservation, recycling, and opposition to the 1872 Mining Law.

Because the filing deadline was only three weeks after the Green Party was granted official recognition, only two candidates, both in the Taos area, will be running for office this year. Andres Vargas, an attorney for the City of Taos, is running for district attorney. Abraham Guttman is running for the State Senate seat currently held by Fred Peralta.

The Greens expect to run a fuller slate of candidates in 1994, when there will be elections for governor and U.S. Senator in addition to state legislative races.

The New Mexico Green Party can be contacted at P.O. Box 22955, Santa Fe, NM 87501. Phones: 988-1026 (Santa Fe), 758-7589 (Taos).

Election '92

Comparing the Candidates

(Excerpted from *Sierra Magazine*)

✓ Renewable Energy and Conservation

George Bush's energy plan adopts the oil industry's agenda for accelerated oil production, failing to include substantive incentives or requirements for renewables or energy-efficiency measures. While Bush enacted a ten-year moratorium on oil drilling off the Florida Keys, Massachusetts, and parts of California, the administration still calls for drilling in sensitive areas elsewhere.

Bill Clinton wants to ban new offshore drilling, expand the use of natural gas, create tax incentives for renewable energy sources, redirect federal weapons funding to renewables and light rail, and mandate percentages of recycled materials required for specific products.

✓ Global Warming

At the Earth Summit in Rio this year, Bush blocked an international climate treaty until it was purged of specific targets and timetables, a move that rendered the agreement meaningless. The U.S. was the only developed nation to oppose precise goals.

Clinton says he supports the Rio treaty's original goal. In addition, he would "give serious consideration" to a 20- to 30-percent reduction in CO₂ emissions by 2005 and "would consider supporting" a carbon tax to discourage emissions, as long as its revenues were used to offset existing taxes.

✓ Fuel Economy

The Bush administration opposes raising the corporate average fuel-economy rating of new automobiles from 27.5 miles per gallon to 45, the single-biggest step the United States could take to reduce emissions of gases that cause global climate change.

Clinton supports the higher standard, and would institute "revenue-neutral" measures such as rebates for purchasers of fuel-efficient cars, to be paid for by a tax on gas-guzzlers.

✓ Nuclear Energy

George Bush's National Energy Strategy calls for dramatically increasing the number of U.S. nuclear power plants, and Congress

has approved his proposal to limit public input during the licensing process.

Bill Clinton promises to "avoid increased reliance" on nuclear energy.

✓ Population Policy

Anti-abortion candidate George Bush continues the Reagan policy of denying that uncontrolled population growth is an environmental problem. He halted support for the United Nations Population Fund and maintained the so-called Mexico City policy, under which any private organization receiving U.S. funds for family planning cannot use the money to provide abortion services or related information.

Pro-choice candidate Bill Clinton supports funding the U.N.'s population program and reversing the Mexico City policy.

✓ International Trade

George Bush backs both the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and the North American Free Trade Agreement, which would remove trade barriers between nations but might also induce companies to open factories in countries that have less-stringent environmental laws.

Bill Clinton has said that he would support free-trade agreements only if they guarantee adequate environmental and health safeguards.

✓ International Forest Protection

Just before the Rio conference, George Bush announced plans to increase funding for

world forests by \$150 million. However, the United States refused to support a strong forest agreement at the Summit, and has been widely criticized for failing to protect its domestic forests.

Bill Clinton has called on banks and multilateral institutions such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank to negotiate debt-for-nature swaps, which allow developing nations to reduce debt burdens without plundering rainforests and other resources.

[Editor's Note: In August, the National Sierra Club endorsed the Clinton/Gore ticket.]

CAMPAIGN '92
Take Back the Earth!

Goshawk Management in the Southwest

Logging In The Face Of Extinction

by Sam Hitt

Wildlife officials warn that the northern goshawk may face extinction in the Southwest early in the next century due to the continuing loss of closed-canopied mature forests. Yet the Forest Service has decided that more logging, not less, is what the bird really needs.

Last summer, a federal judge refused to halt logging in a lawsuit brought by environmentalists in the Southwest. At the same time, the Fish and Wildlife Service decided not to list the goshawk population west of the 100th meridian as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). With neither the courts nor the ESA to reign them in, the timber-dominated Forest Service hardliners are in firm control on the goshawk issue.

Logging of goshawk habitat is being done against the advice of nearly every expert outside the Forest Service who has studied the bird and even the Forest Service's own foremost goshawk authority.

The Roundy timber sale on the Dixie National Forest in Utah illustrates how the Forest Service is using the goshawk as an excuse to increase cutting. The goshawk "habitat enhancement" logging alternative calls for cutting seven times as much board feet and disturbing one-third more acres than other wildlife management options.

Background

The Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) builds its nest and forages within densely canopied mature and old-growth forests. It has evolved short, rounded wings and a long rudder-like tail, allowing it to perform the rapid, short-distanced, acrobatic flight necessary to prey upon birds and squirrels in a dense forest canopy.

It is the smaller male's function to provide food for the female and nestlings during the critical reproductive period. One hypothesis for the decline of goshawks in the Southwest and their low reproductive success is that young birds are not being successfully fledged because the males, foraging in degraded habitat, cannot find and capture enough prey near the nest to feed the family unit. The female is being drawn off the nest by starvation to forage, exposing the eggs, nestlings and fledglings to predation and weather.

Large, nearly continuous blocks of mature forest may be necessary to provide enough food for foraging males during the reproductive season and reduce competition and predation from open forest

raptors. Red-tailed hawks and great-horned owls have a competitive advantage over goshawks in logged-over areas.

Environmentalists Protest

The environmental community wrote then-Regional Forester David Jolly in February 1990, asking that all logging be suspended until the long-term survival of the goshawk and its closed-canopied mature forest habitat were adequately protected.

Finally, in late 1990, Jolly responded by convening an informal advisory taskforce. The environmental representatives on this body promptly resigned when it became clear that its primary purpose was to justify a predetermined decision to maintain logging at current levels.

Goshawk Guidelines

The Forest Service also put together a hand-picked Goshawk Scientific Committee, which published its management recommendations in January. Larry Henson, the new regional forester, adopted these recommendations in June but failed to apply them to on-going logging operations. He stated that an EIS will be done on the effects of the guidelines but this will take several years to complete. In the meantime there will apparently be no NEPA compliance.

The recommendations themselves are based on two questionable assumptions that are not supported by the data. One is that goshawks are habitat generalists adapted to open and young forest conditions. The second is that the goshawk population is limited by prey abundance. Not surprisingly, both of these assumptions allow continued heavy logging in goshawk habitat.

The scientific literature emphasizes that goshawks are habitat specialists which nest and forage in older forests that have dense

The Scientific Committee's recommendations are based on two questionable assumptions not supported by the data. Not surprisingly, both allow continued heavy logging in goshawk habitat.

overstory canopies. In addition, it appears that the wide array of prey species are increasingly unavailable to the foraging goshawk not only because of declining abundance but also because older forests to which goshawks are adapted are disappearing.

The recommendations of the Goshawk Scientific Committee will be published soon by the Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station. Forest Service researchers promise that a broad peer review of these recommendations will be made before publication. This, however, is only of academic interest since the recommendations are being already applied.

[The author is director of Forest Guardians located at 612 Old Santa Fe Trail, Santa Fe, NM 87501; 505/988-9126.]

New Study Confirms Goshawk Threatened

Reaffirming earlier studies, a new analysis by Arizona wildlife officials has found a positive relationship between forest canopy closure and goshawk territories.

The study discovered a near total loss of forests with a canopy closure greater than 60 percent on the North Kaibab Ranger District in northern Arizona since 1972. As a result, a serious decline in the breeding population of northern goshawks is expected unless logging practices significantly change. An earlier study had revealed a 50 percent decline in goshawk numbers in this area between 1972 and 1987.

The new study criticizes the current Forest Service approach to goshawk protection, and concludes by saying "the results of this analysis have disturbing implications for the future of the North Kaibab Ranger District population, as well as the status of goshawks elsewhere in the Southwest."

Briefs

Ole Powerline "Half-Pregnant"

The State Public Service Commission (PSC) in all its wisdom decided to allow the Public Service Company of New Mexico (PNM) to continue its surveying work on the proposed Ole Powerline. The powerline would bring in power from the Four Corners power plant through the Jemez Mountains to Santa Fe and Albuquerque.

The 2-1 ruling means that PNM can cut trees and disturb ancient burial grounds to prepare for a powerline that may or may not be built, in the name of bringing in excess electricity which can easily be provided by lighting efficiency measures alone.

Sierra Club members are urged to contact the PSC as well as Governor King, who appoints the PSC commissioners, and send an unambiguous message: "No Way, Ole." *Source: Ken Hughes*

Logging on the Navajo Nation

Negotiations continue between Navajos over the fate of the largest tract of primary ponderosa pine forest left in the Chuska mountains. Forest Guardians helped arrange the talks between a coalition of Navajo activists and traditional elders and Tribal Chairman Peterson Zah.

The talks are an outgrowth of a lawsuit filed in early May by Forest Guardian attorney Letty Belin on behalf of Navajos seeking an immediate halt of the Whiskey Creek/Ugly Valley timber sale. Consequently, the Bureau of Indian Affairs stopped the logging pending a review of our administrative appeal.

However, at the urging of Zah, Interior Secretary Manuel Lujan took jurisdiction over the appeal and immediately lifted the stay. Logging has continued at a furious pace since then, cutting over 200,000 board feet per day for the Navajo Forest Products Industry (NFPI), a mismanaged quasi-tribal entity on the edge of bankruptcy.

NFPI owes over \$20 million to the Tribe, federal development agencies and private banks. Its employees charge that NFPI has gone into debt to create excessive production capacity when the supply of logs in the Chuska mountains is diminishing due to overcutting. *Source: Forest Guardians*

Michigan Enacts Nation's First Biodiversity Law

On June 14, Michigan became the only state to enact a law furthering the protection of biological diversity. The Michigan Biological Diversity Conservation Act passed the Michigan Senate by a 32 to 2 margin, and was signed into law by Gov. John Engler. While not a regulatory statute itself, the Biodiversity Act takes the first steps in the development of a state policy and prompts state agencies to examine policies which may be counter to the protection of biodiversity.

Critical parts of the Act include the writing into law of a definition of biological diversity and the development of a proposed strategy for protection of biological diversity.

The new law directs a legislative committee to develop a strategy for protection of biological diversity within a two-year time frame. The committee is given authority to request reports from several state departments. Also spelled out in the Act is a clear mandate for the committee to seek public involvement. *Source: The Mackinac*

Northwest More Deforested than Amazon

The NASA Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland has found that the U.S. Northwest is more deforested than the Amazon rain forest in Brazil. Comparing satellite photos of Oregon's Mount Hood National Forest with the Brazilian state of Amazonas, 1000 square miles are clearcut in Oregon vs. only thin strips in Brazil, surrounded by vast forests. The U.S. clearcuts are so extensive that NASA scientists at the Laboratory for Terrestrial Physics believe the forests may be unable to sustain a diversity of species. Compared with the Amazon, "the Northwest is much worse," says Dr. Compton Tucker, the lab's head. *Source: Albuquerque Journal*

Poll Finds Most New Mexicans Favor Mining Law Reform

In July, the New Mexico Environmental Law Center released the results of a statewide poll of registered voters showing overwhelming public support for reform of the 1872 Mining Law. The poll was conducted by Research & Polling Inc., the state's largest survey firm.

"By margins greater than 10-1, New Mexicans want big changes in how mining compa-

nies can develop public resources," Executive Director Douglas Meiklejohn said.

"We decided to commission this survey because our Congressional delegation has been protecting the interests of the mining companies, not the public or the environment," said NMELC Board President David Henderson.

Former MolyCorp mine worker and community activist Wilfred Rael of Questa, said "big multi-national and foreign corporations are helping themselves to public property, and not paying a dime for the minerals. When they skip town, we're left holding the bag when it comes to dealing with the mess they leave behind."

Leroy Baca of the United Mine Workers of America said "when coal mining laws were reformed, management said it would cost jobs, but it hasn't. Today we're seeing the same kind of scare tactics being used on 1872 reform."

Bush Courts "Wise Use" Members

Apparently writing off the possibility of help from environmentalists, President Bush is actively courting the support of the so-called "Wise Use" Movement in his re-election campaign. "Wise Use" members oppose curbs on commodity production and off-road vehicle use on federal lands.

In an August *Albuquerque Journal* article, Interior Secretary Manuel Lujan was quoted as saying that the Wise Users were an important political constituency, while environmentalists would never be happy with the Bush Administration.

Tierra del Fuegos Report More Blind Rabbits

In a July broadcast, National Public Radio's Morning Edition reported that residents of Punta Arenas, in southern Chile, have observed an increasing number of blind rabbits, salmon, and other animals, as well as other anomalies in nature. The area is located beneath a growing hole in the earth's ozone layer, and subject to higher than normal exposure to ultraviolet rays.

The NPR story also said that residents reported an increased incidence of red tides, and much higher than normal penguin mortality.

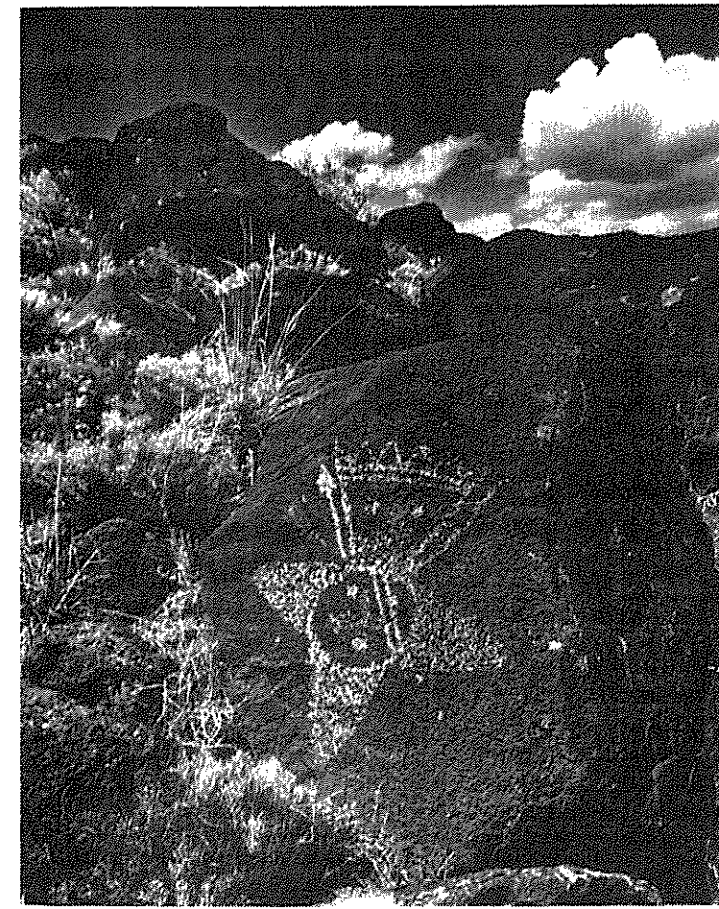
The story noted that the political atmosphere in Chile does not encourage open discussion of environmental problems.

Petroglyph National Monument Threatened by Airport Expansion Road

by Ike Eastvold

Pueblo Indian and environmental groups, including the Sierra Club, are opposing plans by the City of Albuquerque to expand a lightly-used general aviation airport on the western border of Petroglyph National Monument.

The City's plans are contained in a draft Master Plan Update for Double Eagle Airport. The plan has not been released for public review, hearings, and eventual approval by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Nonetheless, the City is proceeding with construction of a new northern access road integral to the airport's eventual expansion. The road has been artfully segmented by the City so as to build most of it with local funds, thereby avoiding the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other federal laws which could serve to protect the Monument.



Certain Pueblo Indian clans and medicine societies still use Petroglyph National Monument "in the way of our ancestors," as they say. Photo by Ike Eastvold. Copyright 1988.

Called scornfully "the road to nowhere," 4.5 miles have been constructed using City general obligation bond monies innocently approved by local voters in 1987 with no mention of this project on the ballot. The remaining two miles necessary to tie this 4.5 mile section into the Double Eagle airport, however, require approval by the FAA through the NEPA process.

Ideally, the FAA should require a full environmental impact statement (EIS) considering the airport expansion and transportation complex together. Such an approach would give both sides of this conflict—the economic and the environmental—a golden opportunity to look at alternatives addressing the big picture, and perhaps find creative ways of accommodating certain kinds of airport development and urban growth friendly to the unique values of Petroglyph National Monument.

The proposed airport expansion/access road projects are, however, decidedly unfriendly to those unique Monument values. The airport expansion proposes jet maintenance, commercial flight training, air cargo, and general aviation uses requiring 46,500 feet of runways to accommodate almost twice as much traffic as Albuquerque International.

A north-south runway's landing pattern would circle traffic over the western part of the Monument, and a new crosswind runway would have planes virtually dragging their landing gear 200-300

feet over the northern volcanoes, one of the most sacred areas for Pueblo Indians.

Noise impacts interfering with human speech would severely degrade the visitor's average stay of 45 minutes if even one plane roared overhead. Pueblo Indian leaders have warned that religious uses predating the arrival of the Spanish could be extinguished. Since Congress established the Monument in large part to preserve the heritage of the Rio Grande Pueblo tribes, the City's brutal scenario for airport expansion is in direct conflict with Congressional intent.

The airport's northern access road would also result in a six-lane freeway piercing the petroglyphs in one of the finest areas remaining in the Monument, the Piedras Marcadas Alcove. The Park Service and environmental groups, including the Sierra Club, have suggested alternatives to this Paseo del Norte highway project which would protect both the National Monument and adjacent neighborhoods. City Public Works Department staff, however, seem determined to make "straw men" of these alternatives and prove they are not prudent and feasible.

If the FAA doesn't require a full EIS to sort out all these conflicts, litigation is a distinct possibility. Earlier this year, the Rio Grande Chapter Executive Committee approved joining with other conservation and Pueblo Indian plaintiffs in that eventuality; and the Denver Office of the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund has indicated a willingness to represent the plaintiffs if legal action becomes necessary.

Final FAA action should occur by Halloween, or Thanksgiving at the latest. Meanwhile, Sierra Club activists are making a last ditch attempt to meet with City officials and convince them of the long-term conflict resolution offered by a full EIS.

What You Can Do

Please write both Senators Domenici and Bingaman, and your Congressman, urging them to use their influence with the FAA to require preparation of a full EIS for the Double Eagle II On-Airport road project.

[The author is the Rio Grande Chapter's National Parks Issue Chair (for northern New Mexico) and a resident of Albuquerque.]

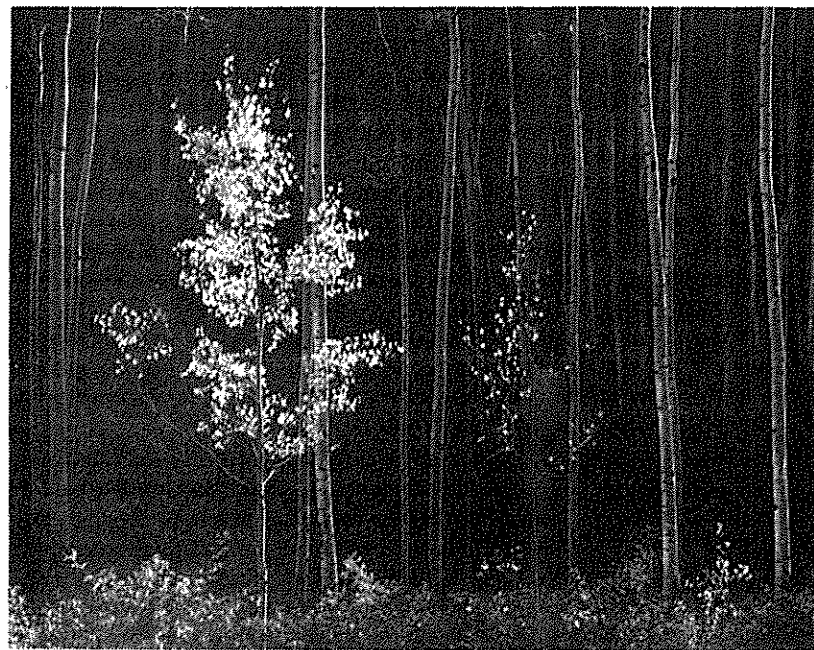
Tales from the Logging...

by Joanie Berdie

THE WEATHERMAN SAID IT WAS THE WETTEST SPRING in 51 years. But inside this timber sale—one that I had visited and photographed 7 or 8 times in the past couple years—it was different. Among the logging slash and branches nothing was growing. My hopes sank as I walked nearly the entire 80 acre unit of this portion of the timber sale; last summer was the wettest in many years, and with this recent rainy and cloudy May, this area should be coming back. It seemed doubtful that this part of the forest had much chance.

This was a clear-cut that wasn't supposed to be a clear-cut. It was an over-story removal up at nearly 9,000 feet in the mixed-conifer and spruce-fir. But something went wrong here—very wrong. As I stepped over the dead limbs not taken already for firewood after the logger had finished the logging, I searched for signs of re-growth. Sure, there were one or two aspen shoots on a few of the acres—but there should have been hundreds. And there were even a few struggling spruce, but they were getting pretty scorched by the intense sunlight glaring down on this opened-up piece of land. Many of the spruce and fir that had escaped the logging had blown down from a couple years of Spring-time winds, common in northern New Mexico. So there wasn't much left to shade these young trees trying to make it in what was once a dense and cool and shady forest.

Suddenly, I was reminded of a visit from my past. Of going to see my grandmother in a nursing home just after she had suffered a stroke. Somehow this vision came back to me standing in this timber sale. It was like going to see a loved one that was very ill, and sending out prayers that they would recover. I had hoped that my grandmother, who was in her 80s, would somehow speak again, or recognize me. But she never did, and passed away several years later. But I hold some hope for this forest; nature is pretty resilient, and lives much longer than we humans. Maybe this forest would recover and heal; looking around at the torn-up land reminded me that forests live much longer than humans—if we let them.



Aspens, Northern New Mexico, 1958. From the Sierra Club exhibition "This is the American Earth." Photograph by Ansel Adams. Copyright 1992 by The Ansel Adams Publishing Rights Trust. All Rights Reserved. Exhibition venues: Sept. 11 - Nov. 8, 1992: Ansel Adams Center, San Francisco; Dec. 1 - Jan. 24, 1993: American Museum of Natural History, NY; Feb. 14 - May 8, 1993: 4 venues in Japan; May 29 - Sept. 15, 1993: Yosemite National Park Museum.

From the Albuquerque Chair

It's amazing how many changes a half year can bring. Unexpectedly, I've been serving a second time as your group chair and I should reintroduce myself. I have a lot of background and interests - in government and environment - in mountaineering as a guide and as a solar business owner. This Sierra Club position is a honor for it is still the best general environment group.

The executive committee has been spending two and sometimes three hours a month on environmental work review and keeping the activities rolling. When you meet a member, thank them. Those of you who would like to take an active part call me and nominate yourself, elections are in November.

So what has happened in 5 - 6 months. First I think we all miss the old WILDLINE. Consolidation of newsletters has fattened our treasury but cut down on contributions of written material. If you have a topic of interest, or a thought to share, write it in to us.

City development is still a problem due to the city's failure to move forward the environmental review ordinance. (Dave Bouquin our conservation chair needs your help on this.) As an end result we are still reactive on these issues. Current examples such as the High Desert Development above Tramway, Sycamore Plaza shopping center, Petroglyph Glyph NM Development and that of the surrounding area, and Mesa Development Sol (this request for annexation of 1,000's of acres of state land south of the international airport is a sore point, Land Commissioner Jim Baca, whose environmental community support was instrumental in his being elected, fail to even present the proposal to us or involve us in the meetings with the city.)

Lots of time has been spent by Jay Sorenson and Richard Barish on presenting a precedent setting stand on the annexation of high desert development (East of Tramway North of Glenwood Hills) and open space provisions. Specifically whether or not the city open space advisory board may request that important acreage be deeded to the city as part of the annexation process. Politics has put this process on hold as Sycamore Plaza's shopping center impacts are reviewed (so that cumulative impacts, such as traffic and trucks on Academy something required by a strong environmental process, are left out).

Transportation is still a sore point. The city and the FAA on the west Mesa are permanently threatening the Petroglyph New Mexico by pursuing road construction despite a regional road location planning study currently underway. Ike Eastvold, our West Mesa Chair is concerned that the Petroglyph Park general management plan will be skewed to single occupancy use. On another note, Pauline Gubbels, Head of the City Council, wants the Albuquerque to Santa Fe rapid rail proposal to move forward. Call your own city council person and voice your support for money to be set aside by the city.

People for the West and New Mexico Cattlegrowers are preparing their version of the BLM wilderness bill for New Mexico. Dave Morrison our intrepid Outings Leader is doing much to get us familiar with our local ones please contact him for further details and write Jeff Bingham as to why he did not introduce our bill.

Last my pet project, the I-40 Bikepath, is moving forward. It needs your support as a viable commuter route. Please watch the notices in the newspaper or call me for where to send your comments.

Thanks Stefan 888-1370

ALBUQUERQUE GROUP

September Meeting: Pueblo Indian Religion vs. City Roads A Race Against time in Petroglyph National Monument

by Susan Gorman

The West Mesa escarpment, the 17 mile long volcanic edge of basalt boulders, provided the medium for images of the Pueblo Indian religion. We now know these images as The Petroglyphs and have established the entire area as a National Monument to protect the cultural, religious, and historic values of this special place.

At the September General Meeting, Ike Eastvold, National Parks Issue Chair, Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club, will give us an explanation of the Pueblo religious values embodied in the Petroglyphs and the volcanic landscape where they are found. These ancient traditions may be driven to extinction by the City of Albuquerque's plans for roads and airport expansion. He will help us appreciate the significance of this site in Albuquerque's backyard.

The continuing efforts to protect the Petroglyph National Monument from developmental impacts need support. Visitors from all over the United States and the world come to marvel at the work of the rock artists and to feel the spirit of the place. Come and listen to the story, learn what you can do to help.

The General Meeting will be on Monday, September 21st, at 7:30 PM, UNM Law School, Room 2401, at the corner of Mountain 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!

The Mining Committee of the Albuquerque Group of the Sierra Club needs your help.

Change is essential. Hardrock mining must be regulated, and with your help we can make it happen. Those of you who attended the July General Meeting heard Robert Russell, New Mexico Mining & Minerals Department, talk about the successes in the regulation and reclamation of surface coal mining in New Mexico. Hardrock minerals like copper, gold, silver, zinc, and lead are extracted much like coal. The difference is that hardrock mining is not regulated like coal mining in New Mexico, so no reclamation is required.

Now we are inviting you to help make change happen. If you can find a few minutes or an hour, there are tasks of all sizes for you to do. Here are some of the ways you can help:

- * Call, fax, or write your US Senators and Representatives as well as your New Mexico legislators urging them to support mining reform. We can provide the facts you need.
- * Distribute informative literature, by mail or in person.
- * Raise money. Help organize a fund-raising project.
- * Spread the word. Talk to friends and co-workers about mining reform. We have videos, literature, and photos to help.
- * Ask the candidates in your US Congressional, State Senate, and State House of Representatives districts whether they support mining reform and other positive environmental positions. Vote accordingly.
- * Attend legislative committee meetings as an advocate. Doing this allows you to become part of the legislative process.

For more information, call Susan Gorman or Blair Brown at 265-3231.

Take Back the Earth: New Mexico State Politics

by Ralph Wrons

In case you didn't know, we recently scored some great victories in the State primaries (July/August *Sierra*, p.4). Topping the list, voters ousted the chairmen of the House and Senate Committees through which most conservation-related legislation passes. John Morrow, staunch anti-conservationist, had held his Senate seat for five terms, and Kelly Mora was in the House for 11 terms (non-consecutive). In Bernalillo County alone, we no longer have Les Houston, James Caudell, or Michael Alarid in the Senate, though all incumbents in the House remain on the ballot.

There are several races that Albuquerque Group members should take an interest in, if we are going to make a difference. This is not an attempt to endorse any particular candidate; rather it is meant to encourage you to find out more about the candidate in your particular district and make an informed decision. Please read the letter from Olivia Tsosie in the April 1992 *Sierra* if you need to be convinced that this is important.

The State Chapter has compiled a questionnaire that has been sent to candidates in several key races around the state. We have access to the questionnaire such that it could be sent to the candidates in your district if they weren't on the "short list", as well as the responses when they are received. Your can use the entire questionnaire or modify it. Too many times we've been thwarted and frustrated in the New Mexico State Legislature. Call me (Ralph Wrons) at 275-0856 or Susan Gorman at 265-3231. We still have time to make our viewpoints known, but don't delay past September 20.

Household Hazardous Waste Center

Since July 10, 1992 residents of Bernalillo County have had the opportunity to bring their household hazardous wastes to a collection center located at 6133 Edith NE. The center is open Fridays from 8:30AM - 4:30PM and Saturdays from 8:00AM - 3:00PM. The center is operated by Rinchem Company, a local chemical and environmental services firm, under contract to the city. During the winter months (November-February) the center will be open one weekend per month.

Acceptable wastes include: **paint, paint thinner, used motor oil, caustic cleaners, pool chemicals, pesticides.** The center will not accept non-hazardous wastes, radioactive wastes, biomedical wastes, compressed gases, explosives, or ammunition. Individuals are asked to bring wastes in the original disposable container (if possible) and not to drop off wastes when the center is not open. Residents will be required to give their name, address, and phone number and certify that they are residents of Albuquerque/Bernalillo County. The center cannot accept waste from businesses. For more information, call Milo Myers, Albuquerque Environmental Health, at 768-2600.

Conservation Committee Report

by David Bouquin

The Group has been active on various conservation issues. Stefan Verchinski is now officially our transportation issue chair. One of his efforts includes initiating a petition to the city of Albuquerque to raise the gas tax 2 cents with all the revenue earned devoted to alternatives to the single occupancy vehicle. He is working with others to change city road building habits to transportation alternatives. Leslie Amrhein, a super activist, has retired as our water quality issue chair, but Chris Stroup has taken over. Welcome Chris. I am still involved with local waste reduction and recycling efforts. I know its slow folks, but the curbside recycling program should start sometime in the next six months. Some efforts of by the city of Albuquerque include passing a resolution requiring city government to form a recycling committee and organizing teachers to make a video for local schools. Ike Eastvold and others are working to keep Paseo del Norte Blvd from extending through the Petroglyph National Monument, fighting the Monument boundary change from a proposed hotel and making sure sensitive petroglyphs areas are protected in the Monument's upcoming management plan. Jay Sorenson along with others have been working to preserve prime wildlife habitat in the proposed Albuquerque Academy development in the Sandia Mountain foothills. These are just a few of the ongoing conservation issues. Come to a conservation committee or call me and if you want to know more.

New Activists Conservation Committee Meeting On September 28th the Albuquerque Group's conservation committee meeting will be devoted to new activists and how they can get involved in conservation in our community. We will meet at the local Sierra Club office at 7:30, 207 San Pedro Ave. NE. Our volunteer issue chairs will give a brief history on their issue - what is happening now and what we might do in the future. There is plenty to preserve and protect; issues ranging from groundwater protection to public lands issues. We would love to see some new and old friends.

CALENDAR

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

- Sept 12: 12 noon. **Deadline** for articles for October group newsletter/Sierran. Macintosh disk preferred. Call if supplying hardcopy only.
 Sept 14: Executive Committee Meeting, 7:30 PM.
 Sept 21: **Sierra Club General Meeting**, UNM Law School, Rm 2401, 7:30 PM.
 Sept 28: Conservation Committee Meeting, 7:30 PM.
 Oct 10: 12 noon. **Deadline** for articles for Nov/Dec group newsletter/Sierran. Macintosh disk preferred. Call if supplying hardcopy only.

1992 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Office Telephone: 265-5506

Group Chair	Stefan Verchinski	888-1370
Vice Chair	vacant position	
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	Dan Feller	266-1922
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
Mining Issues	Blair Brown	265-3231
Newsletter	Dorothy Brethauer	275-6113
Outings	David Morrison	344-8693
Petroglyphs/Westside	Ike Eastvold	255-7679
Population	Bruce Ferguson	765-5757
	Michelle Meaders	266-8823
Programs	Susan Gorman	265-3231
Public Lands	Hubert Davis	299-6904
Solid Waste	David Bouquin	265-7853
Water Quality	Chris Stroepe	836-6304
Wildlife	Marc Bedner	299-2004

Co-Editor Needed

My capable and talented co-editor, Jessica Bailey, will be moving to Minnesota with her husband in the near future. If you have been yearning to exercise your typing and editing skills and want to learn about desktop publishing, here's your chance! Some familiarity with computers is helpful, but you don't need to own a computer. Please call Dorothy Brethauer at 275-6113. Thanks, Jessica, for your great work!

OUTINGS

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

Fri Sept 4

Wine and Cheese Party
Cancelled, rescheduled for October.

Sat Sept 5

Rio Grande Bosque Hike
Explore the area on the west side of the river and south of Paseo del Norte. Two and a half hours. Meet 9AM at the movie theater on the NW corner of Coors and Paseo del Norte. David Morrison 344-8693

Sat Sept 12

Puye Cliff Dwellings and Santa Clara Canyon
North of Los Alamos, on Santa Clara Pueblo land is a beautiful stream with beaver ponds. Short hike, leisure, 2-3 miles. We then head to the nearby Puye Cliff Dwellings. Bring lunch. Meet at 7:30AM behind Winchell's Donuts at the corner of San Mateo and Academy. David 344-8693

Sun Sept. 13

Boca Negra Arroyo Hike, Petroglyph National Monument
Is the resort plan once again dead, or just relaxing? Thousands of petroglyphs. Leisure, 2-3 miles. Bring sturdy shoes, camera, binoculars. RSVP Ike Eastvold 255-7679.

Sat Sept 19

Presilla Wilderness Study Area
Exploratory search for pictographs down below a slot canyon. We do have written instructions for finding the site. Wish us luck. Colorful badlands near Socorro. SC office, temporary parking only, at 8AM. Bob Cornish 255-6037.

Sun Sept. 20

Save the Oxbow II - Environmental Issue Outing
The Open Space Division's new draft of the Oxbow Management Plan is promising beaver removal, herbicide spraying, and the use of heavy equipment in the marsh. Open Space does not want citizen comment on this plan, even though the city has actively sought to acquire this land. Although professional biologists believe that the area has good potential as habitat for rare wildlife species such as the black hawk and willow flycatcher, the Plan does not mention rare species. Look in the October Sierran for a chapter history of the Oxbow. The Albuquerque Group has assumed emergency management of this wetland. We will finish digging a channel to restore water to the main channel. Some shovels provided, but bring your own. 8AM, corner of Coors and Saint Joseph's. About 4 hours of digging is going to send the water rushing. Drinks provided. Media

coverage. Possible lunch spot afterwards. Nick Nickolaus 884-5433.

Mon Sept 21

Pre-meeting Dinner
Let's try Mama Mia's Italian. Call to let us know about seating. 6PM. David 344-8693.

Sat Sept 26

Geological Windows, Petroglyph National Monument
Unique geological features and thousands of petroglyphs make for an interesting hike. Leisure, 2-3 miles. RSVP Ike Eastvold 255-7679.

Sat Sept 26

Fourth of July Canyon, Manzano Wilderness
A nice remote area not far south of Albuquerque. Fall colors. Leisure-Moderate. Meet at Smith's at Central and Tramway. RSVP Ralph Genter 344-1553 or 828-1495.

Sun Sept 27

Zuni Mountain Bike Classic, Zuni Mountains
Take an environmental bike ride in an effort to stop another PNM line proposed for the Zuni's, keep a railroad at bay, and decrease pollution from a nearby refinery. SC office, temporary parking only. Bring bike, bike rack, lunch. 14 and 25-mile options. Registration fee and T-shirt. Stefan Verchinski 888-1370.

Sat Oct 3

North Crest Trail, Fall colors
From the Sandia Crest parking area, we will walk north to a point overlooking an area of spectacular oak and aspen. 8AM-12noon. Bring lunch. This hike is for the kids, so bring them along. Leader: Roger Nagel. RSVP Melody Nagel 296-8366.

Sun Oct 4

Rinconada Canyon, Petroglyph National Monument
The alignment of the Double Eagle Airport is probably headed for court. Find out why. View thousands of petroglyphs with accompanying expert commentary. RSVP Ike Eastvold 255-7679.

Sat Oct 17-18

Canyon de Chelly Car Camp, AZ
Call Stefan Verchinski 888-1370.

OUTINGS REPORTS

Calaveras Canyon/Jemez Falls Car Camp

Calaveras Canyon is one of those unique places in New Mexico. Spotted owls and goshawks live there, and large stands of uncut timber, recently threatened by logging, still exist. The trip began on Saturday morning. A few of us went on ahead to claim campsites at Jemez Falls Campground, then joined the others at La Cueva. After a quick lunch, we headed west on Rt. 126, past Fenton Lake, and 6 miles north to the canyon entrance. Calaveras Canyon is a beautiful string of grassy meadows, with hills rising on either side, covered with spruce, fir, oaks, and even a few Ponderosa pines. It was hypnotizing. We walked on and on; even the rain didn't dampen our spirits. Finally the call of dinner caused us to turn back.

Back at the Jemez Falls campground, the evening passed all too quickly. We had dinner, a campfire with marshmallows, some star-gazing, listening to the wind, and finally, sleep. On Sunday, more folks joined us. First we hiked down to Jemez Falls, then down the trail to McCauley Hot Springs. The 90-degree water felt great after the 2-mile hike. We stayed there until lightning drove us out to dry clothes and lunch. None of us were in any hurry to end our adventure and return to "civilization". *Susan Gorman and Blair Brown*

Rio Grande Valley State Park

The June field trip to Rio Grande Valley State Park to check on the trees in our Centennial Planting found them not only alive and well, but with large crowns of green leaves. Open Space plans understory work as soon as the trees are established. If you would like to visit the site and see a close-to-home example of the Sierra Club making a difference, call Laura Jenkins, project coordinator, at 293-7527.

David Morrison

the LORAX

Sierra Club
El Paso Regional Group

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

El Paso Sierrans Jim Owen, Bill and Shirley Phillips, Betsy Julian and Barbara and I spent Friday evening, August 7, at the Sheridan Corral in the Gila enjoying a star-filled night. Of special interest in the discussion that night was the Ranchers' Environmental Education Tour to be held the next day.

The tour included several range sites comparing grazed and nongrazed areas and improvements to watershed versus no improvements. Considerable time was spent viewing grazing land that had been cleared of juniper and pinon. While the ranchers explained why pinon and juniper needed to be removed from large areas of the National Forest, many folks expressed concerns about the advisability of such actions on public lands. Their concerns ranged from impact on wildlife to lack of erosion control with no trees on the land. We continued to stress that current grazing management practices used by both ranchers and the Forest Service need changing.

The ranching community is to be congratulated on this opening of communications with the environmental movement in an attempt to resolve disagreements.

Saturday evening we joined Gila Watch, an environmental group, as they presented noted author and conservationist Dave Foreman on the subject of "No Compromise in Defense of Mother Earth". Foreman said, "Wilderness is the real world. Its preservation is the fundamental issue. When you are faced with the destruction of 3.5 billion years of life on this planet, you must do something."

On Sunday Gila Watch and local Sierrans hiked into the Aldo Leopold Wilderness to view the destructive grazing practices on the Diamond Bar Allotment. We hiked into Upper Black Canyon. The total destruction of this riparian area left everyone appalled. What was once a beautiful trout stream is now a characterless water run, with no stream banks, no overstory, no willows, no young cottonwoods, no plant life, no regrowth at all...only lots and lots of "cow shit". What was once the home of the Gila Trout has been turned into a sewer with the blessing of the U.S. Forest Service.

There are many attacks occurring on public lands, on clean water, on clean air, and on the quality of life on this planet. The time has come to stand up and be counted, to become active in defense of the things we hold dear. For if we remain silent, it will be too late. As Dave Foreman said, "You must do something!"... and now is the time.

Ted Mertig, Chairman

SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING

Steve Mills, representing the national Sierra Club, will be one of the speakers at the September 30 meeting of the El Paso Regional Group of the Sierra Club. He will talk about the environmental impacts of the Free Trade Agreement which is currently being reviewed by Congress. The other speaker will be Dr. Carl Lieb, UTEP Biology professor, who will talk about snakes of the Southwest.

Don't miss this meeting! The program will start at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 30, at St. Paul's Methodist Church, 7000 Edgemere (two blocks east of Airway). For more information, call Ted Mertig, 852-3011.

GROUP DIRECTORY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairman/Public Lands	Ted Mertig	852-3011
Vice Chairman	Joe Rodriguez	833-9655
Secretary	Fernando Dubove	544-5973
Treasurer	Kathy Sunday	584-9301
Member	Gary Williams	544-8484
Member/Membership	Carolina Greenfield	593-2838
Member/Programs	Betsy Julian	544-5741

CONSERVATION

Environmental Quality	Tom Brasfield	584-8739
Franklin Mtns	John Sproul	545-5157
Political Action	Jim Bell	581-8864
Population	Patty Pagels	592-7485

ADMINISTRATION

Environmental Center	Linda Mahlow	532-9645
		532-4876

Group/LORAX Mail	Bill Phillips	772-6503
Hospitality	Barbara Mertig	852-3011
ICO	Jeanne French	592-1660
SIERRAN Editor	Wyona Turner	585-0251
Office Rep.	Neil O'Hara	565-4735
Outings	Carol Morrison	545-1701
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

Send LORAX information to
Wyona Turner, Editor, 331 Vista del Rey, 79912

HUECO TANKS ACTION

On behalf of the Sierra Club, Chairman Ted Mertig has sent a letter to Tom Palmer, Regional Director of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, regarding Hueco Tanks State Historical Park. The Master Plan for the Park states: *The primary purpose of Hueco Tanks State Historical Park is to preserve and interpret for the residents of Texas the historic, prehistoric, geological and natural features of the area. A secondary purpose is to provide day-use picnicking areas and overnight camping for park visitors.*

Emphasizing the popularity of the Park and the mission to protect outstanding Texas resources for future generations, six areas of concern were identified. Recommendations in each area were made to protect and enhance the attractions of the Park, namely the "tanks", the historic and prehistoric features and the biological diversity.

Briefly, Ted's recommendations were:

1. Conduct a study to identify lands for future acquisition to buffer the Park from urban encroachment and develop a strategy for acquisition.
2. Identify picnic sites in sensitive areas and relocate them to less sensitive areas.

continued

OUTINGS REPORTS

San Mateo Mountains Backpack 5/16-17/92

The adventurous group departed El Paso Friday evening, May 15, and drove to West Red Canyon in the San Mateo Mountains. We could not have asked for a more perfect weekend, considering it had rained earlier in the week. On Saturday, we started our hike up Coffee Pot Canyon and climbed to the crest on our way to our campsite a half-mile below Cub Spring. Later, everyone climbed to the summit of Blue Mountain (10,309') where we had an excellent vista. Participants were: Chuck and Wyona Turner, Roy McCloud, Kathy Sunday, Don Middleton, Eva Poppel, Rollin and Kathy Wickenden, Carol Morrison and leader Joe Rodriguez.

Memorial Day 1992 Key Exchange Backpack:
The Rest of the Story...

There will be no "who had it tougher?" comparison. We will just stick to the facts. Leader Wes Leonard led the line of ten cavorters across the Gila in three fun-filled days. We always voted on the day's departure time. Lunch was followed by a leisure hour. Our leader treated us to fireside ballads our last evening out.

Those stories you heard about 12 hours of rain, hail, steep and muddy uphill, soggy firewood finally torched by Mountain Man Dave? Or about 30 creek crossings in a steady downpour, roping across a swift and slick stream bed, the Outings Chair doing the backstroke with a backpack down both Big Dry and Little Dry? Nah!

The north-to-south team, now bonded for life, included leader Wes Leonard, Ana O'Neill, Suzanne Boone, Dave Kofoed, Kathy Sunday, Joe Rodriguez, John (of Las Cruces), Mike Bromka, Svetlana, and yours "true"ly, Carol Morrison.

Gray Ranch Service Trip 6/5-7/92

It started with a bang. But despite two blow-outs and lots of sun and sweat, a tough group of Sierrans gave it their all in a long weekend of trail maintenance and assistance to the Gray Ranch. Service trip leader Gary Williams had a 12-pack plus 2 of hard workers who sawed and hacked all day to reopen the trail leading to Animas Peak. The trail, to be used by a team of researchers seeking an historic perspective on fires in the Animas Range, was totally passable by the end of the day. On Sunday some of the team continued to help Conservancy staff fill and crate water storage containers, while others, led by Rafaella, weeded the ranch headquarters flower gardens.

We all carcamped at Howe Camp on the property and were able to enjoy early mornings, the birds, and a special close-up view of a very, very special land.

Thanks to The Nature Conservancy and Geoff and Yvonne Babb who helped feed and teach us. Team members who shared this experience included leader Gary Williams, Claudia Austin, Ted Mertig, Kathy Sunday, Joe Rodriguez, Susan Larsen, Dave Palmer, Mariano Santiago, John Sproul, Rafaella Schuller, Chuck and Wyona Turner, Betsy Julian and yours truly, Carol Morrison.

South Franklin Peak Dayhike 6/20/92

El Paso mornings always start off cool. It was no exception on June 20 as leader Carol Morrison began a favorite hike to South Franklin Peak with fit, first-timers Susan Barnett, Clay Smith, Cindy Bean, Tom Osteen and Franscoise Turner. We were greeted by a pleasant morning breeze and minimum pollution, with time on top before the sun warmed and warned us back down the trail.

On even the hottest days of the summer, you can enjoy South Franklin Peak views if you adjust your time of departure. Join us the next time.

Red Canyon/Manzano Mountains 7/10-12/92

Irma Botillo, Julie Schmidt, Helen Staughton and Pat Wood joined me, leader Don Middleton, on an outing that began with gourmet green chili cheeseburgers at the famous Owl Cafe in San Antonio, NM, late Friday night. Camp that night was bright with thousands of stars and a luminous moon that touched the mountain crest.

Saturday morning, after a quick breakfast, we began an enjoyable 6 1/2 mile hike with an elevation gain of 2000'. A stream with waterfalls followed Red Canyon Trail to the crest and a variety of wild flowers encouraged by the mild, cool weather were abundant. From the crest, we had a panoramic view of the Salinas Valley. For six hours we lingered through open and forested wilderness areas that will provide us with lasting memories.

On the route to Three Rivers Petroglyphs, we found the OutPost Cafe in Carrizozo, NM. Their green chili cheeseburgers were as delicious as the Owl Cafe's, if not better. Visit Three Rivers now before vandalism destroys their hundreds of petroglyphs. Be sure to wear a hat and sunscreen.

Thanks to Krista McKinney for her Manzano scouting companionship.



HUECO TANKS, Cont'd.

3. Consider banning open fires in the camping and day-use areas.
4. Develop a firm plan to remove a large dam on the west side of the Park.
5. Include a visitor center in the next budget to support one of the Park's primary purposes, public education.
6. Create fully staffed and funded interpretive programs.

The letter called for the Department to "renew its dedication to the primary purposes of Hueco Tanks State Historical Park--preservation and interpretation of the Park's unique cultural, geologic and natural features."

Anyone wishing to participate in discussions with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department regarding the park at Hueco Tanks should contact either Ted Mertig, 852-3011, or John Sproul, 545-5157.

CALENDAR

August 26	General Meeting
September 2	EXCOM
September 12-13	Chapter Retreat
September 30	General Meeting
October 7	EXCOM

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER OUTINGS

WHITE MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS CREST TRAIL
LABOR DAY BACKPACK

DATE: September 4-7, 1992 (Friday-Monday)
 CLASS: Moderately strenuous
 LIMIT: 24, (12 in each direction),
 leader approval and reservations required
 LEADER: Betty Fisbeck, 581-0174
 Rollin Wickenden, 598-8042

After a three-year wait, the traditional Labor Day backpack will again be a key exchange along the White Mountain Crest Trail, probably the most scenic trail in SW New Mexico. One group, led by Rollin, will leave from near Nogal Peak, and the other, led by Betty, will leave from near Mon Jeau Lookout. Both groups will hike the length of the Crest Trail #25 made famous by John Laird's column.

We will leave El Paso Friday night and drive to our campsite at Skyline Campground. In the early morning, we will split up to our respective trailheads. The Nogal Peak trailhead is at 8800'. The trail head near Mon Jeau is about 9600'. The highest elevation of the trip will be just over 11,000', north of Lookout Mountain. Total trail mileage is 22 miles over 3 days. Camping spots will probably be near Spring Cabin and near Ice Spring. While both routes are challenging due to the up and down nature of the trail, the group starting at Mon Jeau has a net elevation loss while the Nogal Peak group has a net gain.

Because of the possible dry springs and fire closures, the route of the hike is subject to change. This should be one of the best trips of the year, so call Betty or Rollin early for reservations and details.

GRAY RANCH SERVICE CARCAMP/BACKPACK

DATE: September 4-7, 1992, Labor Day Weekend
 CLASS: Moderately strenuous
 LIMIT: 12, leader approval and reservations required
 LEADER: Gary Williams, 562-3540

A second service trip to the Gray Ranch will find SIERRANS spending Labor Day Weekend doing hard labor! We will continue to work on Gray Ranch Animas Range trails. Plans include a carcamp at Howe Camp, possibly with a camp commissary. There is also the possibility of a backpack to Animas Peak Saddle.

You will have time on this trip to view areas of this magnificent ranch that remain closed to public eye and under the protection of The Nature Conservancy.

BEAR-TEJAS LOOP DAYHIKE, GUADALUPE NAT'L PARK

DATE: Sunday, September 20, 1992
 CLASS: Strenuous
 LIMIT: 12, leader approval and reservations required
 LEADER: Michael Bromka, 532-2652

We will leave El Paso early Sunday to zip out to the Pine Springs Campground of Guadalupe Mountains National Park. Setting out along the gently climbing Frijole Trail, we'll turn up Bear Canyon for a 2000' elevation gain in less than two miles. Atop the escarpment, we'll walk a pleasant loop through the Bowl and eat lunch on sunny Hunter Peak. We'll make a gradual five-mile descent to, and then down, the Tejas Trail. This ten-mile loop asks a lot early on, then amply pays it back.

SPRING CABIN FALL BACKPACK

DATE: September 26-27, 1992
 CLASS: Moderate
 LIMIT: 12, leader approval and reservations required
 LEADER: Mark Post, 581-2696

This should be an enjoyable trip for the scenery and also viewing wild flowers. We will depart the Albertson's parking lot at 7 a.m. A loop trip is planned--going up Argentina Canyon, then over to Spring Cabin. The next day we will leave by way of the Little Bonito Creek Trail. Total loop distance is about 7 miles and an elevation gain of 1200'. Trail conditions should be fair.

GILA NATIONAL FOREST BACKPACK

DATE: October 3-4, 1992
 CLASS: Moderate
 LIMIT: 12, leader approval and reservations required
 LEADER: Kathy Sunday, 778-8030

Either Deloche or Hummingbird Saddle. Call Kathy for details.

VOLCANO TOUR

DATE: October 3 or 4, 1992
 CLASS: Easy
 LIMIT: Open, reservations required
 LEADER: Betsy Julian, 544-5741

Learn about the geology of such sites as Kilbourne's Hole and the cinder cones to the west of El Paso. Call Betsy for details.

THE SECOND RESURRECTION OF TRAIL 220
SERVICE BACKPACK TRIP, GILA WILDERNESS

DATE: October 9-12, 1992, Columbus Day Weekend
 CLASS: Moderate +
 LIMIT: 12, reservations required
 LEADER: Rollin Wickenden, w) 534-6594, h) 598-8042

We started working on Trail 220 last August and made major improvements to the upper section of the trail in spite of severe thunderstorms with hail. But the lower section of Trail 220 has not yet been cleared. The objective of this trip is to clear the lower half of Trail 220.

We will leave Friday night and drive to our campsite near the trailhead in Little Dry Creek. On Saturday, we will follow Trail 180 to Windy Gap and hike down Trail 220 to our campsite on Big Dry Creek. Saturday afternoon and all day Sunday we will work clearing brush. On Monday, we will hike out and head home. The Forest Service has agreed to pack in the tools.

Trail 220 was deleted several years ago from the trail system and has not been maintained in 15 years. Come participate in an historic event and bring Trail 220 back to life. Roundtrip trail mileage is about 15 miles. Elevation gain and loss are about 1000'. Call Rollin for reservations and details.

BEGINNERS BACKPACK

DATE: October 17-18, 1992
 CLASS: Easy
 LIMIT: 12, leader approval and reservations required
 LEADER: Betty Fisbeck, 581-0174

Call Betty for details.

Sometimes when I consider what tremendous consequences come from little things...I am tempted to think...there are no little things.

Bruce Barton

SANTA FE GROUP NEWS

*** GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 ***

A tri-agency, multi-specie, multi-media, multi-speaker event is scheduled for the September General Meeting (if that won't get you there, what will?). Ann Cully, the Endangered Species Botanist for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in Albuquerque, will speak and show slides about both birds and animals in New Mexico from the perspective of this U.S. agency. Barb Masinton, from the Santa Fe BLM office, will speak on "Special Status Species" and present BLM's slide show about its involvement within the New Mexico area. Sandy Williams, of the New Mexico Game & Fish Department, will speak on the implementation of the Federal Endangered Species Act by his department and the State Endangered Species Law (the New Mexico Wildlife Conservation Act) and implementation and new listing possibilities under that law.

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, September 15, at 7 PM.

The nationally acclaimed bestseller
DAY HIKE IN THE SANTA FE AREA
 is still available in bookstores and wilderness supply shops
 OR
 Call Betsy Fuller (983-8870)
 \$8.95, plus \$1.05 postage

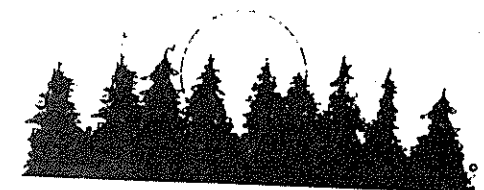
>> SANTA FE GROUP OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS <<

September Chair — John McClure*	473-1916	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



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

All members are invited to all meetings

Membership Meeting **	Conservation Committee *	Executive Committee *
Tuesday, Sept 15, 7:30	Tuesday, Sept 22, 7 PM	Tuesday, Oct 6, 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 October Newsletter is Friday, 5 PM, Sept 4.

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

Sat	Sun	Mon	September
5			Arnold Keskulla (982-9570) <u>Moderate/Strenuous Hike</u> Nambe Lake. Leave 8:30 AM.
5			John McClure (473-1916) <u>Moderate/Strenuous Hike</u> Lake Stewart. Leave 8 AM.
	6		Norbert Sperlich (983-1962) <u>Strenuous Hike</u> Jemez Mtns. Call for reservations.
4	5	6	7
			Norma McCallan (471-0005) <u>Labor Day Weekend Car Camp</u> to Capitol Reef Nat'l Monument. <u>Overnight Backpack</u> to Lower Muley Twist Trail (18 miles) and <u>Day Hike</u> to Upper Muley Twist Trail (off the Burr Trail). Call for reservations.
12			Joe Whelan (984-0746) <u>Moderate/Strenuous Hike</u> to Trampas Lake. Leave 8:30 AM.
12			Jeff Jones (984-2389) <u>Baby Hike, Slow & Easy Pace</u> Suitable for small children or babies in arms. Leave 9 AM.
12			SF NATIONAL FOREST WATCH. Roy Keene, nationally recognized forester from Oregon, will lead a trip to show people how to monitor Forest Service activities. Call Martha Anne Freeman (438-0697) for time and place.
	13		Ken Adam (983-1949) <u>Easy/Moderate Hike</u> for dogs, their owners & friends. Leave 8:30 AM.
19	20		Norma McCallan (471-0005) <u>Backpack</u> 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. (postponed from August)
19			Caroline Glick (984-3184) <u>Strenuous Hike</u> to Elk Mountain. Leave 7 AM.
19			SF NATIONAL FOREST WATCH. Marco Lowenstein, graduate forester living in Pecos, will lead a field trip to Glorieta Ghost Town to teach tree identification, culminating in a picnic. Bring tree book and binoculars if you have them. Call Martha Anne Freeman (438-0697) for time and place.
	20		Elizabeth Altman (471-8490) <u>Easy Hike</u> Leave 9 AM.
19	20		Paul Miller (473-3107) <u>Easy/Moderate Backpack</u> to Cave Basin (11,500') north of Vallecitos Reservoir in the San Juans. <u>Optional Day Hikes</u> to Mt. Oso (13,684') and/or Moon Waterfalls. Call for details and reservations.
26			Victor Atyas (471-7545) <u>Easy Hike</u> to Cerrillos Hills. Leave 9:15 AM.
26			Norrine Sanders (984-0386) <u>Moderate/Strenuous Hike</u> to Lummis Canyon in Bandelier. Leave 8 AM.
	27		Stephen Janus (988-4137) <u>Strenuous Hike</u> to Santa Fe Baldy from Mary's Lake. Pace adapted to group. Leave 8 AM.

THANK YOU TO
1991-1992 PHONE TREE VOLUNTEERS

To show our appreciate for the exceptional cooperation and interest our wonderful phone tree volunteers have shown, we are planning a party for early this fall, so watch for time and place! At the party we will brief you on the pertinent environmental issues that are likely to be proposed to the 1993 New Mexico Legislature. Our volunteers play a vital role in making these all-important phone calls. It is sometimes difficult to measure success, but each time citizens let their Representative or Senator know how they feel about an issue, they become members of a winning team.

A special thank you goes to our "Generals" Bobbe Dyer and Dorothy Grossman. Bobbe has decided to retire after many years of service to the phone tree, and she will be missed. Susan Myers thought this might be her only opportunity to be a general in this lifetime, and so she has stepped in to help. (Ed note - Susan, you've always been a General in my book!)

Phone tree volunteers are critically needed
* JOIN THE TEAM *
Call Martha Anne Freeman, Phone Tree Chair (438-0697).

Fri	Sat	Sun	October
	3		John McClure (473-1916) <u>Strenuous Hike</u> in the Sangre de Cristos. Leave 8 AM.
	4		Art Judd (982-3212) <u>Moderate/Strenuous Hike</u> in the high country. Leave 8 AM.
	10		Paul Miller (473-3107) <u>Easy/Moderate Hike</u> to Chimney Rock (Ghost Ranch country) with optional climb to Mesa Montosa. Leave 8 AM.
	11		Norbert Sperlich (983-1962) <u>Strenuous Hike</u> in Dome Wilderness. Call leader for information and reservations.
16	17	18	Norma McCallan (471-0005) <u>3 Day Exploratory Backpack</u> along the Red Rock Fins of Comb Ridge between Hwy 95 and Hwy 163 in SE Utah. Leave Thursday afternoon. Call leader for details.
	17		Stephen Janus (988-4137) <u>Moderate/Strenuous Hike</u> to Cerro Picacho via Sanchez Canyon. Leave 8 AM.
	18		Elizabeth Altman (471-8490) <u>Easy Hike</u> . Leave 9 AM.
	24		Caroline Glick (984-3184) <u>Strenuous Hike</u> Cowles to Johnson Lake. Leave 7 AM.
	25		Joe Whelan (984-0746) <u>Moderate/Strenuous Hike</u> in the Pecos. Leave 8:30 AM.
			Victor Atyas (471-7545) <u>Easy Hike</u> on the Frey Trail and to Ceremonial Cave. Leave 9:15 AM.
	31		Louise Leopold (988-4592) <u>Easy/Moderate Hike</u> . Dogs welcome. Leave 9 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.

ATALAYA TRAIL DEDICATED

In March of 1986 it was apparent that all public access to Atalaya Mountain and the National Forest east of Santa Fe was being cut off by development. Even the city had generously given away its public right-of-way to the forest boundary. That part of the good life for the people of Santa Fe was about to end. But Tom Simons, an attorney, rose to the challenge and formed the Friends of Atalaya Mountain. Our Sierra Club group voted to join it, and several of us, including Roger Peterson and me, served on the steering committee.

The simple, direct solution would have been a lawsuit to defend the public's prescriptive right to the ancient trails. But Tom chose to pursue that end by accommodating landowners and compromising to relocate the trail where it would have minimum impact on properties, while yet accomplishing the ultimate goal. In 1989 the Sierra Club participated legally as plaintiff to quiet titles to trails. Ken Cassutt, then Santa Fe Group Chair and also an attorney, spearheaded the legal action.

This year the goal of a fully developed trail in the public domain from St. John's College to the top of Atalaya was realized.

Others have helped along the way, including some property owners, such as Steward Udall, who recognized a public responsibility as well as the benefit to themselves of having access to "the magic mountain" and the renewal of spirit that it brings.

To their credit, the National Forest Service was a major participant, not only in building the forest trail, but in helping to establish the 1.5 miles of access trail across private property. Corey Wong, NFS Trails and Recreation Supervisor, did a heroic job in negotiating with landowners, providing NFS funding and manpower in trail construction, trailhead parking and signage along the trail. He emceed the ribbon-cutting ceremonies on May 1 at the St. John's parking lot trailhead.

But from the beginning, it was the dedicated and relentless effort of Tom Simons who made it happen. Appropriately, the Governor presented him with a "Take Pride in America" award on June 8. We all owe him a debt of gratitude.

Dan Mitchem

THE LOG

Southern New Mexico Group

Local Environmentalists Meet with Candidate Dan Sosa

Las Cruces-area environmentalists met with Democratic Congressional candidate and retired State Supreme Court Justice Dan Sosa on August 19 at the home of Ed and Ann MacBeth. Sosa is running against incumbent Republican Joe Skeen for the 2nd District seat.

Most of the the dozen or so activists in attendance, including members of the Sierra Club, Native Plant Society, Southwest Environmental Center, and Audubon Society, spoke on an issue of concern, and then presented Sosa with a one-page issue brief to take home.

Sosa confessed ignorance on most of the issues, but appeared interested in learning about them, occasionally interjecting observations or questions. Topics discussed included Endangered Species Act reauthorization, wolf reintroduction, Elephant Butte Irrigation District, BLM wilderness, riparian areas, border issues, 1872 Mining

Law, grazing, logging, population, and immigration.

The pro-life Sosa said he didn't have a problem with the views expressed except on the latter two issues. He did say, however, that he could support increased funding for international family planning as long as it did not involve abortions.

The meeting laid a good foundation for future discussions with candidate and Representative Sosa. Thanks to everyone who helped organize it, especially Myra Price, Libby Hernandez, Storm Sermay, and Ann MacBeth.

Meetings

The Executive Committee will meet on September 10 at the Southwest Environmental Center, at 7:00. All members are invited to attend.

Howard Ness, Program Manager for Mexican Affairs, with the National Park Service, will be the featured speaker at the September general meeting.

The meeting will be held on Thursday, Sept. 24, 7:30, at NMSU's Science Hall, Room 107. Ness will speak on "Shared Cooperative Natural Resources Management: U.S./Mexico."

Outings

A hike to Three Rivers in the Lincoln National Forest is tentatively scheduled for October 10 or 17. Storm Sermay will lead. Stay tuned for details.

Directory

Myra 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
Robin Filipczak, Treasurer	523-6987
Steve Kalavity, Outings Coordinator	382-8419
Karen Fuller, Log Editor	824-4602
Cheryl Blevins, Publicity	524-4861
Ben Zerby, Ex-Com	526-6207
Libby Hernandez, Ex-Com	527-1440
Susan Worley, Ex-Com	646-5522
Ann Macbeth, Ex-Com	526-8060

Conference to Focus on NM Environment

THE NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT Department is hosting the first annual "Conference on New Mexico's Environment," September 13-15, at the Albuquerque Convention Center, 401 2nd Street, NW, Albuquerque.

The Conference is intended to focus attention upon a broad spectrum of environmental concerns as a means of creating thoughtful action that will sustain our Southwestern environment.

Conference speakers of national and local prominence will stimulate discussion, and effective use will be made of seminars, paper presentations, and policy forums addressing current environmental topics of importance to New Mexico and the Southwest. Several Sierra Club members may be presenting papers.

The Conference will also feature a Trade Show and Exhibition where environmental services, equipment, and products will be displayed. The Exhibition will include public interest exhibits and a "Career Center" providing information on training and employment opportunities in environmental fields.

The Conference is regional in focus, and participants are invited from throughout the Southwest. It will offer an unparalleled opportunity for those in attendance to learn, to talk with others, and to contribute directly to the development of sustainable environmental policies.

Noel Brown, Regional Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), will be the Conference Keynote Speaker Monday evening. Dr. Brown, through his post with UNEP, was a sponsor of the recent Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He is a popular speaker with a world perspective on environmental matters. His speech will set the stage for the New Mexico Conference by providing a global context for our local environmental concerns.

Participants will be able to express concerns and share ideas about environmental policies. Policy-makers will be present and participate in Conference proceedings.

Advance registration fee (before Sept. 4) is \$75. Afterwards, it is \$90. Student registration is \$55 (including Monday night banquet.) On-site registrations will be accepted on a space available basis. Scholarships are available.

For more information, contact Conference Coordinator, Institute of Public Law, 1117 Stanford NE, Albuquerque, NM 87131-1446; 505/277-5006.

Video Shows Threats to Grand Canyon

Destructive water flows through the Grand Canyon caused by Glen Canyon dam, and what you can do about it, is the subject of *Grand Canyon: The Price of Power*, a new videotape produced by the Sierra Club Southwest Office and Arizona video producer POV West. Former Arizona Governor Bruce Babbitt narrates.

The Grand Canyon is a world treasure, and its lifeblood is the Colorado River. The river and its shoreline provide beaches for river runners, sanctuary for endangered wildlife and the setting for ancient cultural and sacred sites.

All of this is being threatened by the fluctuating water releases caused by "peaking power" generation at upstream Glen Canyon dam. River levels have varied as much as 13 feet per day, creating constant erosion and leading to permanent loss of the natural and cultural resources along the river.

The Bureau of Reclamation owns and operates Glen Canyon dam, and has managed it as a cash register for power interests at the expense of the Grand Canyon ecosystem. They can change that, but they must hear from concerned citizens.

The Bureau is preparing a draft environmental impact statement on Glen Canyon dam management, and expects to release it in early 1993.

What You Can Do

To save the Grand Canyon, write to the Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation, and to the Secretary of the Interior to urge an end to Glen Canyon dam peaking power operations and to make protection of the Grand Canyon ecosystem a top priority.

Address for both: 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20240.

For more information or for copies of the Grand Canyon video, contact Sierra Club Southwest Office, 516 E. Portland Street, Phoenix, AZ 85004; 602/254-9330.

SANTA FE RENTAL WANTED

Responsible, nonsmoking Sierra Club couple moving to Santa Fe from Las Cruces, w/two friendly dogs, looking for 2BR house to rent (≤\$600/mo.) or housesit beginning October. Can live up to 30 minutes from plaza. Call 525-1532 evenings (collect), or 646-4238 days.

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:

Sierra Club

Dept. H-113
P.O. Box 7959
San Francisco, CA
94120-7959

W 413

FRIP No.

Grand Opening Celebration

SOUTHWEST ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

and Sierra Club Office

*Come and celebrate the realization of a three-year effort!
At last, we have an environmental center in Las Cruces.*

Thursday, September 17
Food, drinks, music
at 1494A South Solano
5 to 8 p.m.

For more information and reservations, call 522-5552 or 525-1532