### CALENDAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 13</td>
<td>Chapter Retreat and Awards Ceremony. The ExCom will meet briefly during the weekend. Black Range Lodge, Kingston.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 15</td>
<td>Comments due on state predator control policies. Send to: Andy Sendell, NM Dept. of Game and Fish, P.O. Box 25172, Santa Fe, 87504.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 15</td>
<td>Deadline for October Rio Grande Sierran.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 17</td>
<td>Southwest Environmental Center/Southern New Mexico Group Sierra Club Office Grand Opening. 1444 S. Slaughter, Las Cruces, 9-6 p.m. hors d'oeuvres, drinks, music. Call 505-550-5328 for more info.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 17</td>
<td>Sierra Club Southwest Regional Conservation Committee (SRRCC) meeting, Santa Fe, 5-7 p.m.</td>
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<td>Sept. 20</td>
<td>Fundraiser to stop expansion of Santa Fe Ski Area. $25/person. Hotel Plaza Real, Santa Fe, 5-7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 26-27</td>
<td>Audubon Conference on Public Land Grazing, Las Cruces. For more information, call (505) 522-3872 or 522-8008.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 26</td>
<td>Enchanted Springs Fair, Santa Fe Children's Museum, ENCHANT, musicians, activities, 11am-5pm. To reserve booth space, call 505-6854 or 988-9132.</td>
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### Winter 1992 Edition

**Judson County Targeted**

**West Texas Residents Fight Nuke Dump, Sludge**

Linda Lynch and Sandra Carreno Griffin

The West Texas border region is a stark and frightening environment. Between the few cities lie stretches of wilderness, ranches and farms. Despite the lovely vistas, the area appears a wasteland. New developments in Hudspeth County may literally change that assessment. Located in the Trans-Pecos region, Hudspeth County is made up of poor rural communities where families have farmed and ranched and marveled for 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 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 the pervasive public outcry. Both are rife with compromise and political intrigue, clearly at the cost of our border environment and public health. It is patently obvious that we are faced with 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 Alien Citizens for Environmental Safety (ACES) and the 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 "waste land."

**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 remains 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 4-square-mile box in southern Hudspeth County. Re- (continued on page 4)

### Senate Makes Bad Mining Law Worse

By Sue McInerny

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 disregarded 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 land. Under the 1872 Mining Law, any company that finds a valuable mineral deposit on open public lands may “patent” those lands for as little as $2.50 an acre.

In early August, Sen. Dale Bumpers (D-Ark.) attempted to end this abuse. However, his Reid amendment was stricken. Reid’s proposal would have placed a 120-year-old law that still governs mining on federal land.

Bingaman and Domenici, acting on behalf of mining interests, and in spite of the public’s wishes and against the public interest, have tried to make a bad law even worse. Resolving to criticize who deny the sale of the public land, New Mexico’s Senators voted in favor of this amendment which allows mining companies to continue to obtain minerals without paying a royalty to the federal treasury, and allows them to remove lands to the federal government once they have poisoned them.
The Rio Grande Sangre is printed on 100 percent post-consumer waste newspaper by PrintWest in El Paso, Texas.
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 box is "nonsensical".

The 1991 amendments also mandated:
1) that any dispute of site selection must be filed with Travis County District Court; and 2) that any judge or judge in a dispute about the site will not rule in an injunction, unless decided by the Texas Supreme Court.

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 site—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.

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

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

An economist with the Public Service Commission (PSC) testified the Economics Task Force on its Integrated Resources Planning (IRP) looks at both the supply side and demand side of energy issues (producing energy without reducing productivity in meeting heating, lighting, cooling, and water needs, with the added requirement of clean energy 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 division that environmentalists and regulators in California and 35 other states have addressed, and often enforced. It is the kind of decision that gives 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 metrics from the integrated source to the electric generating sector. It is vital to internalize the environmental externalities into cost comparisons and ways to evaluate the typical grid.

In the world's coal industry and the "soft" line of renewable propensities, the state's electric utilities, prides, CAISO, and PNM, which controls the Economics Task Force, on which Alpheus Group member Ralph Wynn, is served with sorting through economic considerations in "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 managing costs, cutting. I believe it may be in favor of energy efficiency measures and renewable energy, though they are played down as being less expensive. The current state of natural gas and oil has less in the middle, since natural gas is seen as an ideal transition fuel (40 years), while it burns with cleaner, production's effect on the environment is well known. No easy decisions; it will be an interesting fight.

The Economics Task Force has been doing considerable amounts of information on both sides. To the Department of Commerce and Agriculture, Oil and Revenues (DOT) and Finance and Administration (DOF), DPRA offices were asked to take it to the Commission and omitted, but not DIA. Pretty hefty polling by the task force, but they were not any meeting with their reactions. Ironically, DPA has not made a change in the past. DPA is an example: that is not to suggest it was an issue since tax law which benefited national gas industry but resulted in the loss of $70 million in annual state revenues since mid-1990."

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 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 renewable energy 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 backs of some $7 million either spent or committed (in cost-sharing ventures) on similar conversions of city and county fleets across the state.

The Executive Order addresses improved energy efficiency with all State agencies, setting a goal of 10 percent reduction of pro jection 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 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 formed, one is the Economics Task Force, on which Alpheus Group member Ralph Wynn, is served with sorting through economic considerations to level the playing field and find the true costs of energy.

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The Economics Task Force next meets on September 15th at 9 a.m. At the Commerce and Agriculture Task Force’s September meeting is on the 29th, also at 9 a.m. Each meeting is likely in to be Albuquerque at PNM head office, the public is invited to attend. Call the State Energy Department at 827-5992 for location.

[The author is the Rio Grande Chapter’s Energy Issues Chair]
Glorieta Mesa Elk Dispute Settled
By Marylees Thuron

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

The inevitability is that percep- tual blindfolds multi- ply the government, including local government people, between 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 Game and Fish Department and Fish and Game officials 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 41," including Glorieta Mesa, as a "deer only" section. Unfortunately for the management plan, elk had been appearing on the mesa in increasing numbers, seemingly without any intention of taking up residency there.

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

In the May 20 issue of The Reporter in Santa Fe, the story was stated as "State To Eradicate Glorieta Elk" from a Sierra Club tip. Residents read their State Hunting Regulations 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 pine-juniper woods with some stands of ponderosa pine and many open grazing areas. The land is held by the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and a patch of land owned by the United States.

A remarkable and positive interaction took place between the Department of Game and Fish and local residents over a herd of elk.

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

It was through these talks that a possible compromise position was developed. The herd could be reduced to a "mature bull elk only" hunt, but only if the State Game Commission would agree to amend the already published hunting regulations, Through Direct Bill Monroy's office and with the permission of Commission Chairman Judge 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 Sudkift, 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 did not want to be forced to change the regulations and to allow a managed elk herd on Glorieta Mesa. In Adjournment, the State Game Commission and the Game and Fish Department for their willingness to listen to civic groups even more so than their forthrightness in actually changing the disputed regulation.

(Thruston) co-existing happily with elk.

Resolution of Elk Issue Bodes Well for Future
by John Creighan

The GLORIETA MESA ELK HUNT issue could have deteriorated into sharp, public confrontation marked by intrusiveness and high-volume beers on both sides. Instead, it evolved into communication, negotiation and resolution.

Funds from 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 herd and clearly stated that they wanted elk to continue to be present in their neighbor- hood, but recognized hunting as a legitimate use of a public resource.

The State Game Commission, recognizing the importance of their role, agreed to do so, agreed to department and residents' suggestion to modify the bug limit from either sex (any elk) to mature bulls only. The 93 hunters licensed for the area have the option of accepting the hunt as modified, filing a complaint with the Department, or receiving a license fee refund.

That will alleviate the immediate problem and the long range purview that the longer-term management plans will evolve with input from all involved.

With this resolution accomplished, my hope is that we will see continued and broader involvement in local and state wildlife issues from MCM, and other environmental groups and individuals. Major issues that are at stake, in one form or another, such as hunting to hunt or not to hunt—should all those who share an interest in hunting and protecting wildlife that is so much a part of such a system.

It's not that there hasn't been involvement and linkages in the past—there has been, and it has been incredibly effective. Two years ago, such seemingly diverse organizations as Glorieta Mesa, Audubon Society, the Native Plant Society, the New Mexico Audubon Federation and United Bowl Hunters of New Mexico united with many other organizations to defeat environmentally disastrous habitat by-laws that would have killed many habitats. It was a significant effort, and the results have been tremendous.

In announcing DGIF's decision to drop the plan, Director Bill Monroy said that the state "began the unfortunate focal point of what seems to be a severe local distrust of governmental agencies."

Opposition to the plan was spearheaded by hard-core miners. PCM president Joe Cummings is a miner and many individuals who spoke against the plans at the TRC 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 Mountain the miners thought would be grazed blankly.

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," he往下, the real problem in the 1872 Mining Law which allows miners to dominate land use decisions."

Although opponents argued that the plan would have resulted in widespread road closures, DGIF biologist Ardis Fisher said that no firm decision about the extent and location of road closures had been made. The BLM scoping report called only for closing the area to public use for 30 days to minimize human disturbance. The report said that the BLM would work with miners and others to ensure continued access to existing legitimate needs.

Opponents also argued that the Caballos were a poor recreation site since they were far from other DGIF's preferred areas. Fisher said, however, that the Caballos were the best available site since the other areas, including the San Andres Mountains, contained scarce miles which attack big sheep.

When asked what would happen next, BLM biologist Mike Howard said his agency would continue with the plan amendment process. But he said he would work with opponents to the plan "one on one." Fishers, however, suggested the proposal is dead for the time being. Under the reorganized PCM's bylaws to recruit members throughout the state to fight "land takings" everywhere. He said other groups are interested in helping out, including the National Rifle Association.

Miners Rally Sierra County Residents in Opposition
by Kevin Birdy

N the valley for anti-slaughtering cattle kill advocates, a proposal to reintroduce rare desert bighorn sheep to the Caballo Mountains, near Truth or Consequences, was dropped in early July after an out- pouring of local opposition.

The proposal by the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (DGIF) 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 "protest, fear and insanity."

Opponents panned 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 threat being prom- ised throughout the United States under the "Kelo Use" groups, such as People for the West.

"This plan would violate 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. One resident, a BLM employee and Caballo resident Charles Westburn, said: "I want to know when they were decided to be the BLM or the Game and Fish Department. God gave them to us."

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**Green Party on Ballot**

BY MARC BADER

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 election. Four other states (California, Arizona, Alaska and Hawaii) currently recognize Green parties.

There are now chapters of the Greens in Albuquerque, Santa Fe and Tucума. 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.

Unlike European counterparts, New Mexico Greens are especially concerned with the nuclear issue. Many are active in the Campaign 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, were running for office this year. Andes Varugs, an attorney for the City of Taos, is running for district attorney. Abraham Solimini 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; Phone: 983-1026 (Santa Fe) 758-7599 (Tucson).

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**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, failure to include substantive incentives or requirements for renewables or energy-efficiency measures. While Bush endorsed 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 renewable energy and light rail, and mandate recycling of materials.

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

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

- **Fast 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 warming.

  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 membership of U.S. nuclear power plants, and Congress has approved his proposal to limit public input during the licensing process.

  Clinton supports a policy of “avoided 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.

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**Goshawk Management in the Southwest**

**Loging In The Face Of Extinction**

BY SAM HII

W hile 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 forest areas, the Forest Service has decided to log the forests, 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 weigh 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 forestermost goshawk authority.

The Roundy timber sale on the Nizhoni 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.

**Environmental Protest**

The environmental community won the 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 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 prede termined decision to maintain logging at current levels.

Goshawk Guidelines

The Forest Service also put together a handpicked Goshawk Scientific Committee, which published its management recommendations in January. Larry Henson, the new regional forester, adopted these recommendations in June but failed to apprise the forest managers of the logging operations. He stated that an ESA 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 MPRA 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 generalists that need and forage in older forests that have dense overstory canopies. In addition, it appears that the wide array of prey species are increasingly unlikely to provide enough food for foraging males during the reproductive season and reduce competition from open forest raptors. Red-tailed hawks and great-horned owls have a competitive advantage over goshawks in logged-over areas.

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.

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**New Study Confirms Goshawk Threatened**

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

The study discovered a near total loss of forest canopy closure of goshawks since 1960, with a 30 percent increase in canopy closure expected by 1987. As a result, a serious decline in the breeding population of goshawks is expected, unless logging practices significantly change.

An earlier study had revealed a 50 percent decline in goshawk numbers in this area between 1975 and 1987.

The new study criticizes the current Forest Service approach to goshawk protection, and concludes by saying the “restoration and management actions are insufficient in the long term for the future of the Northern Klamath Ranger District population, as well as the status of goshawks elsewhere in the Southwest.”
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 32-2 margin, and was signed into law by Gov. John Engler. While not a regulatory statute itself, the Biodiversity Act is considered to be 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 biological diversity.

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 recommend reports from several state agencies. 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 Goddess 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 cleared in Oregon vs. only thin areas of Brazil, as measured by USFWS. The U.S. clearcuts are so extensive that NASA scientists at the Laboratory for Terrestrial Physics believe the forest may be unable to sustain a diversity of species. Compared with the Amazon, “the Northwest is much worse,” says Dr. Crompton 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 & Learning, Inc., the state’s largest survey group.

“The results show that New Mexicans support reform in how mining companies can develop public resources,” Executive Director Douglat McKeel Jones said. “We decided to commission this survey because our Congressional delegation has been discussing land use reform and improving the protection of mines, not the public or the environment,” said NMELC Board President David Henderson.

Former multinational mine worker and community activist Wilfredo Raif of Questa, said “big multi-national and foreign corporations own 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.”

Letty Baca of the United Mine Workers of America said “when coal mining laws were reformed, management said it would costs, 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 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 Fuego 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, saline, and other animals, as well as odd ailments in nature. The area is located between a growing hole in the earth’s ozone layer, and is subject to stronger 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 permit open discussion of environmental problems.

Pueblo Indian and environmental groups, including the Sierra Club, are opposing plans by the City of Albuquerque to expand its Hayden-based 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 artificially 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.

Called ironically “the road to nowhere,” the 4.5 miles of highway would be constructed using City general obligation bond monies borrowed under local authority. The NEPA process would have mentioned 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 the 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 character of Petroglyph National Monument.

The proposed airport expansion/airport use are, however, decidedly unfriendly to these unique Monuments values. The airport expansion promises a traffic jam of commercial and general aviation users requiring 46,500 feet of runways in accommodate almost twice as much traffic as the busy international.

A north-south runway’s landing pattern would circle traffic over the western part of the Monument and a new crosswind runway would bring traffic right over the ancient burial ground of the Puebloan people. The City’s proposals would use local funds and not require the Met Council’s approval.

For more information call the Sierrra Club in Albuquerque, 229-0400.
From the Albuquerque Chair

It's amazing how many changes a half year can bring. Unexpectedly, I've been serving a second time as a group chair and I should re-introduce myself. I have a lot of background - governance is governmental and environmental - in terms of commissioning as a guide and to a solar business owner.

This Sierra Club is a place for it is still the best general environmental group.

The executive committee has been spending two and sometimes three months per 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 role in the group write your name down and we meet on the last Thursday of the month in November.

So what has happened in 5-6 months? First, I think about the old WILDLIFE. Consolations of newsletters has fattened our treasury, but 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 ordinace. (Dave Bouquin on conservation chairs need your help on this.) As an end result we are still inactive on three issues. Current examples such as the High Desert Development above Tramway, Scyene Plaza Shopping center, Peral Hispan NM Development and that of the surrounding area, and Mesa Development Sol (this request for annexation of 1,000 acres of state land south of the international airport). A point, L&Comm. Commissioner Tom Baca, whose environmental community supporter was instrumenal in his election, failed to even present the proposal to the our committee. The result a lot of work for the state to put together the proposal.

Lots of time has been spent by Jay Somerfield and Richard Kauffman in promoting a proposal to the state legislature on the annexation of high desert development (East of Tramway north of Tramway). The open spaces are still under review. 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. In short, the city's shopping center is not being reviewed (as that cumulative impacts, such as traffic and urban Academy) is being requested by a strong environmental process, as it should.

Transportation is still a sore point. The city and the FTA on the west Mesa are permanently threatening the Petroleum New Mexico by pursuing road construction despite a regional local planning commission study underway. But Essential at the West Mesa Chair is concerned that the Petroleum Park general management plan will be skewed to single occupancy use. On another side, Paul Galbraith, head of the city council, wants the Petroleum Springs to Fea rapid revolopment to move forward. Call your own city councilor and voice your support for money to be set aside by the city.

People for the West and New Mexico Cattlegroovers are preparing their version of the BLM wild hourse bill for New Mexico. Dave Morrisson our intrepid Oxtails Leader is doing much to get us familiar with our local issues plan contact him for further details and write Jeff Bingham as to why he did not introduce our bill.

So far my notes up to date, the I-40 Espanola is moving for ward. 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 88-1370

ALBUQUERQUE GROUP — page 1

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, Rick Eastvold, National Parks Issues Chair, Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club, will give an overview of the Petroglyph religion and cultural 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.

His presentation will help us appreciate the significance of this site in Albuquerque's backyard.

The continuing efforts to protect the Petroglyph National Monument from development impacts need support. Visit with 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. Precendng the main program, we might hear about upcoming events and outings, recent news and 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 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, & Mineral Development Commissioner, about the successes in the state of New Mexico; regulation and regulation of reclamation of hard coal mining in New Mexico; Hardrock mining like copper, gold, silver, zinc, and lead are all covered within this proposed project. 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 an hour, there are tasks of all sizes for you to help. 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 Weiss

In case you didn't know, we recently scored some great victories in the State primary (July 25th) primary. I am. Topping the list, the voters ousted the chairman of the House and Senate Committees through which most conservation-related legislation passes. Jane Morrow, staunch anti-conservationist, had held his Senate seat for 35 years, and Kelly Moses in the House for 11 terms (consecutive) in Bernalillo County alone, we now have less local leaders. Charlie Cornelius, or Michael Altadon in the Senate, though still incrementual in the House remain on the ballot.

There are several reasons that Albuquerque Group members should take an interest in, if we are going to make a difference. This is not in any way an attempt to discourage any political candidte; rather it is meant to encourage you to find out about the candidates in your particular district and take an informed decision. Please send the letter from Olivia Truett 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 didn't fill out the "short form", as well as the responses when they are received. Your can use the entire questionnaire or modify it. Too many times we've been disappointed and frustratated in the New Mexico State Legislature. Call me (Ralph Weiss) at 265-3231 or Susan Gorman at 265-3231. We will have time to make our viewpoint known, but don't delay past September 20.

SEPTEMBER 1992

THE RIO GRANDE SENIOR
New Activities Conservation Committee Meeting. On September 28th the Albuquerque Group's conservation committee meeting will be devoted to new arrivals and how they can get involved in conservation in our community. We will meet at the local Sierra Club. Location: 613. 705 4th St SE. The meeting will begin at 7:30 PM. Everyone is welcome to attend.

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/Newsletter.**

**Sept 14. 7:00 PM. Town Hall Meeting. Topic: Organic gardening.**

**Sept 21. 7:00 PM. Sierra Club General Meeting. Unm Law School, Rm 3-12.**

**Oct 10. 7:00 PM. Deadline for articles for Nov/Dec group newsletter/Newsletter.**

**Co-Editor Needed**

My capable and talented co-editor, Jessica Bailey, will be moving to Missouri with her husband in the near future. If you would like to take over the responsibility of organizing, editing, and formatting the newsletter, please contact me. This is an excellent opportunity to work on a non-profit project and gain valuable experience in publishing.

Since July 10, 1992, residents of Bernalillo County have had the opportunity to choose between 12 municipal water-borne utilities to supply water to their homes. The city of Edith NE. The center is open on Fridays from 8:30AM - 4:30PM and Saturdays from 8:30AM - 10:00AM. The center is operated by the Ruidoso Chemical 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.

Conservation Committee Report by David Bouquain

The Group has been active on various conservation issues. Stefano Verchick is the new chairman for conservation issues. One of his efforts includes initiating a petition to the city of Albuquerque to something the gas tax, which contains all the revenue from the city-owned utilities

The Group will be using efforts to change the city hall building habit to transportation alternatives. Leslie Andrews, a super active, has led in our water quality issue chair, but Chris Stapp has taken over. Welcome Chris. I will be involved with local water re-use and recycling efforts. I know I still talk, but the efforts recycling programs should start sometime in the next six months. Some of the efforts that the city of Albuquerque are planning a resolution requiring government to form a recycling program with a plan for the city. The city has a video for a local radio station that will be used for our efforts recycling programs. We are planning to pass the Nuevo del Norte Blvd from existing on the Paseo del Norte SW. The location is at the momentdefinition. The new location, the former presidential location, is at the Paseo del Norte SW. The location is at the momentdefinition. There are already plans, however, for the city to pass through the environment.

For the time being, keep an eye on the environment, listening to the wind, and finally, sleep. On Sunday, more folks join us. Please come and join us. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

OUTINGS REPORTS

Calaveras Canyon/Jemez Falls Campground

Calaveras Canyon is one of those unique places in New Mexico. Spotted owls and goshawks live here, 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 up to LR 120, past Pecos Lake, and 5 miles north to the campground entrance. Calaveras Canyon is a National Monument, which means that the folks, who live on either side, can't keep their eyes open even a few Ponderosa pines. It was hypnotic. We walked on and on, even the rain didn't dampen our spirits. Finally the call of dinner caused us to turn back.

At the Jemez Falls campground, everyone was in a relaxed mood. We had dinner, a campfire with a nice view of the canyon, listening to the wind, and finally, sleep. On Sunday, more folks joined us. Please come and join us. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

Calendar

**ALBUQUERQUE GROUP — page 2**

**1992 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**Organizational office: Tel: 265-3059**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chair</th>
<th>Stefano Verchick</th>
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<tr>
<td>Vice Chair</td>
<td>Scott Verchick</td>
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<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Heide Fleischmann</td>
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<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Richard Bartol</td>
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<td>Public Information</td>
<td>Stefano Verchick</td>
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<td>Art</td>
<td>Bob Cormier</td>
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<td>Teresa Johnson</td>
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<td>Art</td>
<td>David Bouquain</td>
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The Albuquerque Group of the Sierra Club depends entirely on the efforts of volunteers. To help our efforts, call the following office volunteers:

**Air Quality**

Herb Fleischmann 260-6126

**Bookstore**

Rick Adam 260-4657

**Calendar**

Boerne 260-6126

**Camping**

Richard Bartol 260-6126

**Climbing**

Claude Brown 260-6126

**Cycling**

Dan Fisher 260-6126

**Events**

Sharon Wilcox 260-6126

**Fishing**

Pete Wynn 260-6126

**Geology**

Willard 260-6126

**Hiking**

Jim Marshall 260-6126

**Mountain Biking**

John Marshall 260-6126

**Nepal**

Bob Cormier 260-6126

**Nature**

Bob Cormier 260-6126

**Painting**

Sharon Willcox 260-6126

**Photography**

Bill Marshall 260-6126

**Population**

Jim Marshall 260-6126

**Programs**

Peter Goodman 260-6126

**Public Land**

Dave Bouquain 260-6126

**Skiing**

Dave Bouquain 260-6126

**Wildlife**

Bill Marshall 260-6126

**OUTINGS**

**Albuquerque Group**

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**Mesoamerican PDF**

**OUTINGS REPORT**

Outings: NW - National Monument, SC = Sierra Club, WW = Sandia Wilderness, PN = Pecos National Monument
Sierra Club El Paso Regional Group

GROUP DIRECTORY

Chairman & Lands: Ted Merrig 582-3011
Vice Chairman: Joe Rodriguez 831-9665
Secretary: Fernando Debyte 546-9795
Treasurer: Kathy Sunday 547-6301
Member: Gary Williams 544-8484
Member/Membership: Carol Greenfield 587-2628
Member/Program: Betty Julian 544-5741
Environmental Quality: Tony Beaufield 584-8799
Frankie Mize: John Sprad 545-3137
Political Action: Jim Bell 581-8684
Population: Patty Fugles 592-7485
ADMINISTRATION

Environmental Center: Linda Madkig 532-9465
532-4651
Group/LORAX Mail: Bill Phillips 732-6083
Hospitality: Barbara Merrig 452-5011
Snoker Friends: 560-6660
SIERRAS Editor: Marcie Busch: 565-4705
Outings: Carol Morrison: 545-1701
Publicity: Todd Dollarp 584-2730
Sierra Club Environmental Center
200 S. Piedras
532-9635, 532-4076
Please send any changes or corrections to membership in: Carol Greenfield, Membership Roll
El Paso Doughla, 79936
Send LORAX information to:
Wyoma Turner, Editor, 531 Vista del Rey, 79912

HUECO TANKS ACTION

On behalf of the Sierra Club, Chairman Ted Merrig has written a letter to Tom Palmier, Regional Director Department of Parks and Wildlife Department, regarding Hueco Tanks State Historical Park. The Master Plan for the Park states:

To preserve and interpret for the residence 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. Improve picnic sites in sensitive areas and relocate them to less sensitive areas.

SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING

Steve Mills, representing the national Sierra Club, will be one of the speakers at the September 20 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, UTPE 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 41B Paul’s Methodist Church, 7000 Edgemere (two blocks east of Airway). For more information, call Ted Merrig, 832-3011.

CALENDAR

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

HUECO TANKS, Cont’d.

3. Consider banning open fires in the camping and day-use areas.
4. Develop a 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 major programs, public education.
6. Create fully funded and staffed interpretive programs.
7. The letter called for the Department to "revise its definition to the primary purpose of Hueco Tanks State Historical Park—preservation and interpretation of the Park’s unique cultural, geologic and natural features."
8. Article wishing to participate in discussions with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department regarding the park at Hueco Tanks should contact either Ted Merrig, 832-3011, or John Spreaf, 545-3177.

SEPTEMBER 1992

THE ROCK GRAND SLAMR

San Mateo Mountains Backpack 5/16-17/92

The adventure trip departed El Paso Friday evening, May 15, and drove to West Red Canyon in the San Mateo Mountains. We could not have been more pleased with our trip. The weather was perfect and it had rained earlier on Thursday and Friday.

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 Cuff Caves. Later, we hiked to the summit of Blue Mountain (10,300’) where we had an excellent vist. Participants were: Chuck and Wyoma Turner, Roy McCloud, Kathy Sondek, Don Midwinter, Eva Bolling, Rodol 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 just still stick to the facts. Leader Wes Lonnard led the line of 22 canoers across the Glissia in three fan-filled days. We always voted on the day’s departure time.

Lunch was followed by a freesoil hour. Our leader treated us to freesoil balls our last evening out.

Those story you heard abut 12 hours of rain, hail, sleet and moody ups and downs. Aggy freeway finally touched Mountain Mist Down. Or about 30 creek crossings in a steady downpour, crossing across a swift and stick stream bed, the Outings Chair does the backpuck with a backpuck down both Big Day and Little Day! No! The north-to-south, now boosted for life, included Wes Leonard, Ana O’Neill, Suzanne Boone, Dave Kofard, Kathy Sondek, Joseph Rodriguez, John (of Las Cruces), Mike Bromley, Svetlana, and yours truly, Carol Morrison.

Gray Ranch Service Trip 6/5-7/92

It started with a bang. But despite two blow-outs and lots of strain and sweat, a tough group of Sierrians gave it their all in a long weekend of trail maintenance and assistance to the Gray Ranch. Service trip leader Gary Williams has 12 plus packs of hard workers who served and hiked all day to reopen the trail leading to Anzian Peak. The trail, to be used by a team of researchers seeking an historic perspective on fires in the Anzian Peak area, was once more to the day’s end. On Saturday, some of the team continued to help Conservation staff fill and create storage containers, while others, led by Betty, worked the ranch small greenhouse of flowers.

We all capped off at Howie Camp on the property and were able to early morning, the birds, and a special check-up view of a very, very special land.

Thanks to The Nature Conservancy and Geoff and Yvonne Britell who helped feed us. Team members included leader Gary Williams, Charlie Austin, Ted Merrig, Kathy Sunday, Joe Rodriguez, Susan Lamar, Dave Palma, Malwina Santiago, John Sprad, Raffael Schuder, Chuck and Wyoma Turner, Betty Julian and your truly, Carol Morrison.

South Franklin Peak Dayhike 6/20/92

El Paso mornings always start off. It was no exception on June 20 as leader Carol Morrison began a favorite hike to South Franklin Peak with fixer upper came along. First Cliffs, Cindy Bean, Sue Oostland and Francois Turner. We were greeted by a pleasant morning breeze and minimum pollution, with time on top before the sun warmed and we took us back down the trail.

On even the hottest of the days, you can enjoy South Franklin Peak views if you adjust your ties of departures. Join us the next time.
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: Betty Fishbeak, 581-0174
Rollin Wickersen, 598-8942

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 Nugget Peak, and the other, led by Betty, will leave from near Mule Shoe Lookout. Both groups will hike the length of the Crest Trail #52 made famous by John Lafe'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 trails. The Nugget peak trailhead is at 8000'. The trail head near Mule Shoe is about 9000'. 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 lake Spring. While both routes are challenging due to the steep and down nature of the trail, the group starting at Mule Shoe has a net elevation loss less than the Nugget Peak group has a net gain.

Because of 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 SERRANS spending Labor Day Weekend doing hard labor! We will continue work on Gray Ranch Animals Range trails. Plans include a ceramia at Howe Camp, possibility with a camp counselor. In the same way as the Gray Ranch work this past year, a possible field trip to Animas Peak summit. You will have on this trip to view areas of this magnificent ranch that remain closed to public eye and under the protection of the The Nature Conservancy.

Bear-Tejas Loop Dayhike, Guadalupe-Enchantment Park Labor Day Backpack
DATE: September 11, September 20, September 9, 1992
CLASS: Strenuous
LIMIT: 12, leader approval and reservations required
LEADER: Michael Bremka, 532-2652

We will leave El Paso early Sunday to zip to the pine Springs Campground of Guadalupe Mountains National Park. Setting out along the greatly countryside Tree Trail, we'll turn up Bear Canyon for a 2000' elevation gain in less than two miles. Along 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, and then down, the Tree Trail. This ten-mile loop asks a lot of our team, but then pays it back.

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

Bruce Barton

Spring Cabin Fall Backpack
DATE: September 26-27, 1992
CLASS: Moderate
LIMIT: 12, leader approval and reservations required
LEADER: Mark Post, 581-2699

This should be an enjoyable trip for the scenery and also viewing wildflowers. We will depart the Alpine's parking lot at 7 am. A loop trip is planned—giving up Aguasito Canyon, then over to Spring Cabin. The next day we will hike by way of the Little Buckhorn 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 Sandoval, 778-8030
Elevation Dobbert or Hanningham saddle. Call Kathy for details.

Volcano Tour
DATE: October 3-4, 1992
CLASS: Easy
LIMIT: Open, reservations required
LEADER: Betty Julian, 544-5741
Learn about the geology of such sites as Kilbourne's hole and the crater into the west of El Paso. Call Betty for details.

The Second Resurrection of Trail 220: Service Backpack Trip, Gila Wilderness
DATE: November 12-13, 1992, Columbus Day Weekend
CLASS: Moderate
LIMIT: 12, reservations required
LEADER: Rollin Wickersen, 534-6594, b) 598-8942

We started working on Trail 220 last August and made major improvements along the western section. We're now half way up the mountain and almost at the finish line. We will leave El Paso late Friday night and drive to our campsite near the trailhead in Little Dry Creek. On Saturday, a bus will leave El Paso at 8 am and hike down Trail 220 to our campsite on Big Dry Creek. Saturday afternoon and all day Sunday we will work cleaning brush. On Monday, we will hike out and back. The Forest Service has agreed to pack in the tools.

Trail 220 was deleted several years ago from the trail system and has since been maintained in 15 years. Come participate in an historic event and bring back 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 Fishbeak, 581-0174
Call Betty for details.

Santa Fe Group News

General Membership Meeting - Tuesday, September 15

A tri-annual, multi-special, multi-media, multi-speaker event is scheduled for the September General Meeting (if that won't get you there, what will?). Ann Cally, 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 Manion, 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 Endangered Species Act by her 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 Barbara (between Don Gaspar and Galisteo), on Tuesday, September 15, at 7 PM.

The nationally acclaimed bestseller
Day Hikes in the Santa Fe Area is still available in bookstores and wilderness supply shops throughout the Southwest.

Call Betty fuller (983-8870)
$8.95, plus $1.00 postage.

Santa Fe Group Officers and Committee Chairs

September Chair — John McLear* 473-1916
Vice Chair — Norman McCullin* 471-0005
Secretary — Jan Oyer* 984-2320
Treasurer — Lionel Seaver* 983-6513
Conservation — Sue Mckinley 984-9853
Chair Representative — Sue Mckinley 984-9853
Legislation — Ken Hughes 988-9297
Membership — Pat Service 982-5061
Fund Raising — Walt Kiebisch 471-5339
* Member of the Santa Fe Group Executive Committee

Terms expire 12/93: Freeman/Kathleen Kiebisch/McLear 12/93: McCullin/Moore/McKeller/Oyer/Santoro

Sierra Club — Santa Fe Group
440 Cerrillos Road
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501
Telephone 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, 7:30
Tuesday, Oct 7, 6:30

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

The Deadline for Submission to the October Newsletter is Friday, Sept 5.
SANTA FE

SANTA FE GROUP OUTINGS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Arnold Kesekulla (982-9570) Moderate/Strenuous Hike Nambe Lake. Leave 8:30 AM.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>John McClure (473-1916) Moderate/Strenuous Hike Lake Stewart. Leave 8 AM.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 6 7</td>
<td>Norma McCallan (471-0005) Labor Day Weekend Car Camp to Capitol Reef Nat’l Monument. Overnight Backpack. Lower Muley Twist Trail (18 miles) and Day Hike to Upper Muley Twist Trail (off the Burr Trail). Call for reservations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Joe Whelan (984-0746) Moderate/Strenuous Hike to Tramp Lake. Leave 8:30 AM.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Jeff Jones (984-2389) Baby Hike, Sleep &amp; Easy Pace Suitable for small children or babies in arms. Leave 9 AM.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Ken Adam (983-1949) Easy/Moderate Hike for dogs, their owners &amp; friends. Leave 8:30 AM.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Norma McCallan (471-0005) Backpack in the 15 mile V-Rock Tr in Chalk Mtns. Spend Sat night at Opekk Lake. Car shuttle. Leave Fri after work. Call for reservations. (postponed from August)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Caroline Glick (984-3184) Strenuous Hike to Elk Mountain. Leave 7 AM.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Elizabeth Altman (471-8480) Easy Hike Leave 9 AM.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Paul Miller (473-3107) Easy/Moderate Backpack to Cave Basin (11,500) north of Vallecitos Reservoir in the San Juan. Optional Day Hike to Mt. Oso (13,684) and/or Moon Waterfalls. Call for details and reservations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Noreen Sanders (984-0360) Moderate/Strenuous Hike to Lummis Canyon in Bandelier. Leave 8 AM.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Stephen Janus (988-4137) Strenuous Hike to Santa Fe Baldy from Mary’s Lake. Pace adapted to group. Leave 8 AM.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

THANK YOU TO 1991-1992 PHONE TREE VOLUNTEERS

To show our appreciation for the exceptional cooperation and interest in 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 they feel about an issue, they become members of a winning team.

A special thank you goes to our “Generals” Bobbie Dyer and Dorothy Grossman. Bobbie 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).
Local Environmentalists Meet with Candidate Dan Sosa

Las Cruces-area environmentalists met with Democratic Congressional candidate and Rep. Steve Pearce’s campaign to discuss the environment. The meeting was held at the home of Ed and Ann MacBeth. Sosa is running against incumbent Republican Joe Sestak for the 2nd District seat.

Most of the dozen or so activists in attendance, including members of the Sierra Club, Native Plant Society, Southwest Environmental Center, and Audubon Society, agreed to support Sosa if he wins. They then presented Sosa with a one-page issue brief to take home.

Sosa confessed ignorance on many of the issues, but appeared interested in learning about them, occasionally interjecting observations or questions. Topics discussed included endangered species, the use of herbicides in new development, the impact of oil and gas pipelines, and other environmental issues.

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. 27, at NMSU’s Science Hall, Room 107. Ness will speak on “Shared Co-management: Natural Resources Management: U.S./Mexico.”

Outings

A hike to Three Rivers in the Lincoln National Forest is tentatively scheduled for October 17. Stormy Serrano will lead. Stay tuned for details.

Conference to Focus on NM Environment

The NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT is hosting the first annual “Conference to Focus on NM Environment,” September 13-15, at the Albuquerque Convention Center, 401 2nd Street, NW, Albuquerque.

The Conference is intended to focus attention on a broad spectrum of environmental concerns as a means of creating a dialogue which 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 programs 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 nature, and participants are invited from all parts of the state. The Conference office will be located in the Albuquerque Convention Center. It will operate as a clearing house for all things environmental in New Mexico and the Southwestern U.S., and 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.

Nestor Brown, Regional Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), will be the Conference Keynote Speaker Monday morning. 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 causes. 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 fees (before Sept. 4) is $75. Afterwards, it is $90. Advance registration is $55 (including Monday banquet). On-site registrations will be accepted on a space available basis. Scholarships are available.

For more information, contact Conference Coordinator, Instituto of Public Law, 1117 Stanford NE, Albuquerque, NM 87131; 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 video tape produced by the Sierra Club Southwest Office and Arizona video producer Pov West. Former Arizona Gov. Bruce Babbitt narrates.

The Grand Canyon is a world wonder, spiritually, scientifically and aesthetically, an ancient site that, if destroyed, will be lost forever.

All of this is being threatened by the fluctuating water releases caused by "peaking power" generation at Glen Canyon dam. The public knows it has 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 Recreation 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 control water releases, 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: 1494 C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20440.

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, seeking house worth $420.00/month or house缎 820 or less. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. 1 workday deposit. Highly appealing. Can live up to 30 miles from work. Cell 525-1392 evenings (collect), or 6-4228 during the day.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

☐ No, I do not want to join at this time.

Address

City

State

ZIP

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Quantity $35 $40

REGULAR $35 $40

$49 $51

SUSTAINING $55 $60

LOW INCOME $55 $60

LIMITED HOMICIDE $55 $60

Orders must be postmarked by 11/15 and orders are not fillable. For more information, contact Sierra Club Southwest Office, 516 E Northwest Street, Phoenix, AZ 85004; 602-254-9330.

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