

We need YOU for a Citizens Lobbying Campaign It's easy, and it's important!

The Mining Committee of the Sierra Club is calling on all members to become part of a citizen lobbying effort.

The following must be done between now and the end of the year:

In order to secure passage of a state mining reform bill, we need your help in contacting your state representative and senator.

If each Sierra Club member and one friend called or wrote to his/her legislator, we will have generated approximately 12,000 calls and letters. NUMBERS LIKE THAT COUNT WITH THE LEGISLATORS!

✓ Each state representative and senator should be visited by his/her constituents and informed about the Mining Reform Bill. (We will provide you with the information you need.)

✓ We would like each senator and representative to hear from 50 constituents in his/her district. This means joining our letter-writing and phone campaigns, and getting your friends, family, and other interested parties to join you in the campaign.

This is your call to action—

Join Today!



Sign up now or call Gerri Faires at 983-1700.

If you cannot call, send this form to:
Gerri Faires, Mining Committee
Coordinator, Sierra Club, 612 Old Santa Fe Trail, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501.

Yes, sign me up for the effort. I will call and write to my local representatives and senators, and get friends and family members to do the same.

Name _____

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RIO GRANDE SIERRAN

NEWS OF THE RIO GRANDE CHAPTER
SIERRA CLUB • OCTOBER 1992

NM Counties in Forefront of 'Wise Use' Movement

At least eight New Mexican counties have passed anti-environmental ordinances which they believe will give them more say over federal public land management. They are part of a growing movement in the West. One county, Catron, is circulating its ordinances for others to copy. See page 6.

October Programs

Albuquerque Group—October is National Energy Awareness Month. Sierra Club energy activists Ralph Wrons and Ken Hughes will present a program on the progress of Albuquerque's Energy Strategy and the State Energy Policy, as well as very encouraging news on the role of Renewable Energy Technologies. Monday, October 19, 7:30 p.m., UNM Law School. See page 12.

El Paso Group—Jim Carrico of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. will present a slideshow on the Big Bend Ranch State Natural Area. Wednesday, October 28, 7:30 p.m., St. Paul's Methodist Church. See p. 16.

Santa Fe Group—Candidates for the State Legislature will discuss their positions on environmental issues with Sierra Club members. Bring your questions. Tuesday, Oct. 20, 7:30 p.m., Unitarian Church. See page 19.

Southern New Mexico Group—"Rafting the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge" (a joint program with Mesilla Valley Audubon.) Tim and Diana Lawton will show slides of the wildlife and scenery. Wednesday, October 21, 7:30 p.m., 201 Foster Hall, NMSU.

Perfect Holiday Gifts

Handcrafted gifts and native foods from villages and tribes in New Mexico are featured in a handsome, color catalogue available free from Pastores Feed and General Store. See page 23.

Sierra Club Makes Endorsements in New Mexico Legislative Races

Determined to see environmental legislation move forward in New Mexico, the Rio Grande Chapter has announced endorsements in a majority of state legislative races to be decided this November.

"This is a critical election year. The 1993 General Assembly will face many environmental issues crucial to the future of New Mexico's people and its land, air and water," noted Chapter Chair Gwen Wardwell.

Wardwell said she expected the Legislature to decide on legislation addressing mining reform, energy policy, water quality, solid waste, animal damage control, and recycling.

The passage of a state hardrock mining regulation bill is a priority for environmentalists for the upcoming legislative session. The Rio Grande Chapter has spearheaded a Mining Action Coalition, comprised of dozens of citizens, community and environmental groups.

"The Mining Coalition will push a major piece of legislation to ensure that hard rock mining is done in an environmentally and culturally sensitive manner," said Wardwell.

"Indeed, a new poll done for the New Mexico Environmental Law Center shows that over 80 percent of New Mexicans feel that reform is needed, that mining companies ought to clean up after themselves and that taxpayers shouldn't be stuck with the bill."

"We also expect attempts to be made to enact 'takings' legislation to advance the interests of those seeking short term gain at the long term expense of New Mexico's environment. Again, it is clear that the overwhelming majority of New Mexicans are for strong environmental measures and against that kind of shortsightedness."

Wardwell urged Sierra Club members to vote for environmental candidates on November 3.

Sierra Club Endorsements

HOUSE:

District	Name	Party/City
1	Harmuzd Rassam	D-Farmington
2	Linda Eaton	D-Bloomfield
4	Gloria Howes	D-Gallup
6	Carlos Cisneros	D-Taos
7	Paul Davidson	D-Tucumcari
8	Dana Mossman-Lucero	R-Las Vegas
10	Janice Paster	D-Albuquerque
16	Tom Rutherford	D-Albuquerque
17	Shannon Robinson	D-Albuquerque
18	Ann Riley	D-Albuquerque
22	Leonard Tsosie	D-Crownpoint
25	Roman Maes	D-Santa Fe
31	Cynthia Nava	D-Mesquite
33	Judy Stubb	D-Roswell
36	Mary Jane Garcia	D-Las Cruces
39	Elizabeth Stefanics	D-Santa Fe
40	Thomas Overstreet	D-Alamogordo

SENATE:

District	Name	Party/City
4	Thomas Atcity	D-Shiprock
5	Robert David Pederson	D-Gallup
11	Rick Miera	D-Albuquerque
16	Albert Gurule	D-Albuquerque
18	Cisco McSorley	D-Albuquerque
19	Robert Hawk	D-Albuquerque
25	Danice Picraux	D-Albuquerque
26	Ramon Huerta	D-Albuquerque
33	Paul Taylor	D-Mesilla
35	Shirley Baca	D-Las Cruces
36	William Porter	D-Las Cruces
37	Ima Lee Wells	D-Las Cruces
40	Nick Salazar	D-San Juan Pueblo
41	Debbie Rodella	D-San Juan Pueblo
44	Robert A. Perlis	D-Corralles
47	Max Coll	D-Santa Fe
48	Luciano 'Lucky' Varela	D-Santa Fe
50	Gary King	D-Morariaty
58	Barbara Perea Casey	D-Roswell
65	James Roger Madalena	D-Jemez Pueblo
66	Dewey Langston	D-Portales
68	Jose Abeyta	D-Wagon Mound
69	Lynda Morgan	D-Crownpoint

Executive Committee
 Rich Adam, Vice-Chair (505) 266-4657
 Marc Bedner, Council Delegate (505) 299-2004
 Tom Brasfield (915) 533-2662
 Sue McIntosh (505) 986-8825
 Norma McCallan (505) 471-0005
 Ted Mortig (915) 852-3011
 Carol Morrison (915) 585-9077
 Jana Oyler, Sec./Treas. (505) 984-2020
 Gwen Wardwell, Chair (505) 438-3060
 Stefan Verchinski (505) 888-1370
 Ben Zerbey (505) 526-6207

Administrative Chairs
 Retreat/Awards - Rich Adam (505) 266-4657
 Computer Committee - Marc Bedner (505) 299-2004
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 Outings - Norma McCallan (505) 471-0005
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 Volunteer Coordinator - Vacant

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 Gwen Wardwell, Pat Wolff, Sue McIntosh

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Issue Chairs
 BLM Issues - Roger Peterson (505) 983-7559
 Energy - Ken Hughes (505) 988-9297
 Grazing - Van Perkins (505) 983-8801
 Solid/Hazardous Waste - Erin Bouquin (505) 265-7853
 Transportation - Stefan Verchinski (505) 888-1370
 Mining - Sue McIntosh (505) 986-8825
 Nat. Forest Wilderness - John Wright (505) 877-5259
 Nat. Forest Plans - George Grossman (505) 982-1024
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Chapter Sets Conservation Priorities for 1993

Biodiversity, water quality, and energy/transportation issues will join mining law reform as conservation priorities for 1993. The priorities were selected by activists at the Rio Grande Chapter's retreat, held at the Black Range Lodge in Kingston on September 12-13.

At least half of the Chapter's available conservation funds will be spent on work related to these issues next year. The remainder will be divided among the Chapter's four constituent groups to be spent as they see fit. The exact funding split will be determined by the Chapter Executive Committee at its next meeting in December.

Committees are being formed to develop action plans and budgets for each priority, to be presented to the ExCom at its December meeting. Members interested in serving on these committees are encouraged to contact Sue McIntosh (mining), Gwen Wardwell (water quality), Pat Wolff (biodiversity), and Ken Hughes (energy/transportation.) Their phone numbers are listed in the directory on this page. Don't delay, since work plans should be mostly finished by early December.

The Kingston retreat was attended by approximately 20 Chapter activists..

In addition to setting conservation priorities, the group discussed the Chapter's grim financial situation. Due to a shortfall in expected revenues raised through the March fund appeal, the Chapter will have to undertake emergency short-term fundraising efforts to meet current funding obligations.

Chapter awards were presented on Saturday night after a delicious dinner catered by local residents. The usual revelry and pool-playing followed.

Three Chapter Activists Honored

Three Rio Grande Chapter activists were honored in early September for their conservation work and contributions to the Chapter. Pat Wolff and Jana Oyler of Santa Fe, and Kevin Bixby of Las Cruces received awards at the Chapter retreat in Kingston.

Wolff is the Chapter's Wildlife Issues Chair, and a leading advocate for reform of New Mexico's animal damage control program. Oyler is the Chapter's Secretary/Treasurer, and former Wildlife Issues Chair and representative to the Sierra Club Council. Bixby is editor of the *Rio Grande Sierran* and founder of the Southwest Environmental Center in Las Cruces.

In presenting the awards, Chapter Awards Chair Rich Adam said the following:

To Pat Wolff: "In exposing Animal Damage Control activities in New Mexico, you have braved bureaucratic stonewalling, public hostility, and even threats against your person. The success of your efforts is tangible: ADC no longer makes its annual reports public, and the State Land Office has finally begun to oversee ADC activities on trust lands. Your dogged pursuit of a too-often arcane program is a model of environmental activism."

To Jana Oyler: "You have brought competence, dedication and efficiency to the position of chapter treasurer-secretary. The thoughtful, positive and direct tone of your contributions to group work raises the level of both civility and productivity. Your ability to stay cool under fire and your wholesome sense of humor result in minutes which give the Executive Committee an unwarranted but welcome aura of direction and efficiency."

To Kevin Bixby: "The Southwest Environmental Center stands as a tribute to your commitment to productive activism, and its activities will multiply your contribution to the Southern New Mexico Group manifold. Likewise, your thoughtful stewardship of the Rio Grande Sierran has provided the chapter with a serious medium for the dissemination of news and opinion. Your survival during the period of consolidation testifies to your tact, good humor and tenacity."

Sierra Club Endorses Clinton/Gore Ticket, Blasts Bush's Abysmal Record

On September 4, the Sierra Club enthusiastically endorsed Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton and Senator Al Gore for President and Vice President of the United States.

Volunteer activists for the 100-year-old environmental organization made the announcement in Albuquerque along with a dozen other cities throughout the United States.

"It's time for New Mexicans to join other Americans in putting someone in the White House who will take environmental issues seriously," said Gwen Wardwell, Chair of the Rio Grande Chapter.

"The Sierra Club believes that Bill Clinton is the one to do it. He has put together an impressive environmental platform to clean up pollution and protect wild places for future generations."

Wardwell pointed to George Bush's abysmal environmental record as an additional reason for the endorsement.

"For the past four years we have read George Bush's lips about his concern for the environment while we have watched the hands of his administration systematically tear down and ignore the laws and policies protecting people and the environment," said Wardwell.

"George Bush promised the American people that he would protect wetlands, fight the greenhouse effect, pass a national recycling law, protect our lungs from air pollution, and be a 'Teddy Roosevelt environmentalist.' He has broken every single promise."

The 600,000 member Sierra Club, with over 5,200 in New Mexico, praised Clinton's commitment to progress in environmental issues and reconfirmed the excellent choice

made with choosing Al Gore.

"Senator Gore has an outstanding record of environmental protection that is light years away from the record of Dan Quayle, who has been the President's hatchet man on environmental policy. His Competitiveness Council's actions on wetlands, for instance, will lead to the destruction of 97 percent of New Mexico's wetlands."

Clinton is committed to addressing global environmental issues such as those presented at the Rio Earth Summit. He advocates pro-



Dear Sierra Club Leader:

Thank you for being the first environmental group in the nation to endorse our campaign to change America.

For over one hundred years the Sierra Club has led the nation in preserving, protecting, and enjoying the environment. Senator Al Gore and I look forward to joining in that effort from the White House.

Our administration will put people first—particularly those who care about our great natural resources. We will make real progress in working with citizens, states, federal agencies, and Congress to ensure clean air, safe drinking water, and protection of our national parks and wilderness. And we will give leadership and vision to America's environmental agenda.

Again, thank you for your support. We look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

Bill Clinton
 Bill Clinton

tection for our remaining wetlands and ancient forests and seeks to designate, not drill, Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as wilderness. Among his priorities is a commitment to increase energy efficiency and renewable sources of energy to meet future energy needs as well as create jobs.

"Clinton believes that we must invest in environmental protection to stimulate the economy and create jobs," said Wardwell. "We need more industries like the geothermal greenhouse in Doña Ana County employing 250 people, not an OLE powerline destroying cultural and natural treasures."

"Bush blames the environment for his failed economic policies. But after 12 dark years of environmental ignorance and malfeasance in the White House, America is ready for a new era of environmental enlightenment," said Wardwell. "Electing the Clinton/Gore ticket is the first step in that direction."

Sierra Club volunteers will be working at

the grassroots level during the fall campaign to expose the Bush administration's destructive environmental record and to identify and turn out supporters across New Mexico.

The Clinton/Gore campaign headquarters in New Mexico can be reached at (505) 243-0250. For the Texas HQ, dial (512) 478-8683.

CAMPAIGN '92
Take Back the Earth!

Los Lunas Threatened By Medical Waste Incinerator

by Heidi Fleischmann

An application for the construction of a medical waste incinerator just outside the community of Los Lunas has been filed with the state Environment Department.

Eco-Logics, Inc. plans to build a 30,000 square foot plant about eight miles west of Los Lunas and two miles south of NM 6. The application is in the review process in the Air Quality Bureau and the Solid Waste Bureau. It is hoped that public hearings will be a part of the permitting process.

The operator of the facility, Mr. George Hensley of Eco-Logics, has pursued this goal in other New Mexico and Arizona communities, including Moriarty and Grants, but has been chased out of these areas by intense public resistance. The company then moves on to the next vulnerable community.

The proposed incinerator is capable of burning 24 tons of waste per day and the company has plans to double that capacity. New Mexico produces 4-5 tons of infectious waste per day, necessitating importation of some if not all of the tonnage from eleven other states to meet the facility's capacity.

There are many environmental reasons to oppose this incinerator. Despite the fact that the plant (on paper at least) seems to meet state air quality regulations, we are concerned about the TOTAL volume of emissions. Since our state has no VOLUME cap on emissions, only a PERCENTAGE cap, the total volume of emissions from such a large facility will be considerable and capable of causing significant air quality deterioration.

There are also concerns about the TYPES of emissions, such as heavy metals, and their resultant health consequences. The ash created after incineration would likely be considered hazardous waste, and would probably need to be disposed of in a specialized landfill.

Also, large volumes of water would be needed to cool the ash—an estimated 30,000 gallons per day minimum.

The health concerns are particularly great, as the company has requested a variance from the state regulation requiring a 3-mile buffer zone between the plant and nearby residences. The state requires a buffer zone because of medical concerns about the effects on humans of breathing these toxic emissions. Nearby residents should not have their health jeopardized by this facility.

Where the Application Stands Now

The permit application to the Air Quality Bureau has been deemed complete. There is a 45-day public comment period running NOW! (and will end mid-to-late October.) If you wish to make comments do it immediately.

The proposed incinerator is capable of burning 24 tons of waste per day and the company has plans to double that capacity. Since New Mexico only produces 4-5 tons of infectious waste per day, waste will have to be imported from other states.

The Air Quality Bureau does not have to schedule a public hearing, but may plan one if there is a much public interest. Feel free to send nontechnical or technical comments to Mr. Jim Shively (address below).

The application to the Solid Waste Bureau is not complete and has been sent back to the applicant for additional information or clarification. It will then be reviewed and a public comment period and public hearing will be scheduled.

The Solid Waste Bureau, by law, must hold a public hearing. It is not too early to submit technical or nontechnical testimony to this agency. If you express an interest, you will be put on a mailing list to receive updates and notices of hearings.

A large public outpouring of concern has stopped this company from their pursuit to pollute in other communities. Don't let Los Lunas become a victim. Its residents should not suffer from the toxic pollution this facility would create, literally in its own backyard.

In writing the recent regulations, the state of New Mexico has already determined that it is unsafe to have such an incinerator within three miles of a residence. Eco-Logics should NOT be granted this variance.

New Mexico should not become a dumping ground for other states' medical waste; we already take care of our own. Please express your outrage and send your comments immediately to the following persons.

Mr. Jim Shively
NM Environment Dept, Air Quality Bureau
1190 St. Francis Dr., Runnels Bldg.
PO Box 26110, Santa Fe, NM 87502 827-0068

Mr. David Duran
NM Environment Dept, Solid Waste Bureau
1190 St. Francis Dr., Runnels Bldg.
PO Box 26110, Santa Fe, NM 87502
827-0197

Jemez Recreation Area Legislation Reaches Critical Mass

by Henry Oat

Legislation for the Jemez National Recreation Area is in its final stages. After working all summer with the staffs from Senator Jeff Bingaman's, Rep. Bill Richardson's and Senator Pete Domenici's offices, we are close to working out a compromise.

As of this writing, it looks like the mining language of the Bingaman/Richardson bill will remain intact. The bill will prohibit land patenting, prevent future mining claims and require that mined lands be returned to their pre-mining condition.

The main point of contention lies with the size of the area. The Bingaman/Richardson bill designates 100,000 acres while Sen. Domenici proposes designating only 57,000 acres of what he calls "the best of the best".

Sen. Domenici's proposal would only include lands that are currently managed by the U.S. Forest Service for recreation. These lands are mainly in the river corridors and receive the most traffic.

Sen. Domenici's proposal eliminates the spectacular back country that is heavily used for backpacking, hiking and cross-country skiing, including lands adjacent to Bandelier National Monument and the Dome Wilderness. His definition of a recreation area seems to only include those areas that you can drive to in a recreational vehicle.

Unfortunately this has come down to a numbers game instead of evaluating lands for inclusion on its merits. We are now working on a compromise on the acreage.

Hopefully, legislation for the Jemez National Recreation Area will have passed through Congress by the time you read this. The Jemez will be the first national recreation area in the Southwest, a victory over People For the West and a cause for real celebration.

Senator Domenici's definition of a recreation area seems to only include those areas that you can drive to in an recreational vehicle.

Assault on Jemez Continues

Copar Pumice Co. has recently submitted an Operating Plan to the Forest Service for mining on an additional 135 acres in the Jemez Mountains.

The new site would be two miles west of the current site and would be situated directly across the street from a residential area. It would be four times larger than their current operation, and it would border the Wild and Scenic River Corridor of the East Fork of the Jemez River.

Now more than ever, the need to protect the Jemez should be clear to our Congressional delegation.

The High Price of Success

This legislation has not come easily, nor has it come cheap. It has been a long three-year effort to get this bill through Congress, and it will be another couple of years of work before the management plan is in place. The Rio Grande Chapter and the Santa Fe Group of the Sierra Club have been the main stays of support for this issue, especially financially.

At a time when we are reaching the height of our success, we are also at our financial depths. We are now over \$30,000 in debt and need your help in meeting our obligations.

As director of the East Fork Preservation Coalition, it was agreed that due to the tremendous amount of time involved in working on this legislation that I would be paid a salary. Unfortunately, the money has not been available to do that. For some crazy reason, I have felt compelled and committed to see this legislation through to the end and have borrowed a substantial amount of money to do so. It is now time for me to begin repaying those loans.

Your support and generosity is desperately needed now. Please consider a generous donation today! Donations can be made payable and sent to:

East Fork Preservation Coalition
P.O. Box 9307
Santa Fe, NM 87504 • (505)983-1576

[Henry Oat is Director of the East Fork Preservation Coalition and a member of the Santa Fe Group Conservation Committee.]

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	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35	<input type="checkbox"/> \$43
SUPPORTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> \$58
CONTRIBUTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> \$108
LIFE	<input type="checkbox"/> \$750	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000
SENIOR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> \$23
STUDENT	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> \$23
LIMITED INCOME	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> \$23

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San Francisco, CA
94120-7959

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[The author, a physician, is the Air Quality Issues Chair for the Albuquerque Group.]

New Mexico's Counties Swept Up in Anti-Environmental Movement

by Kevin Bixby

New Mexico's counties are in the forefront of a growing movement to enlist local governments in the fight over Western public lands.

Eight counties in New Mexico have enacted ordinances they believe will help them take control of public lands within their boundaries. One county, Catron, is distributing its ordinances throughout the West for others to copy. Sierra, Hidalgo, Torrance, Eddy, Lincoln, Luna, and Socorro Counties have passed similar ordinances, along with about 32 counties in other western states.

The ordinances are distinctly anti-environmental. (See sidebar.) They address wilderness, endangered species, wild and scenic rivers, logging, mining, grazing, land exchanges, and other topics. In effect, they require federal and state agencies to seek county approval before undertaking significant management actions, and authorize criminal and civil actions against agency personnel who violate them.

Same "Wise Use" agenda, different methods

Like People for the West and other so-called "wise use" groups, proponents of the County Movement target environmentalists and environmental regulations as scapegoats for the economic woes of rural communities. Like their counterparts in other groups, they advocate opening up federal lands for maximum commodity production.

But the County Movement employs a unique strategy for achieving its objectives: using county governments as surrogates to assert control over public lands and resources.

The Movement's basic strategy is to persuade county officials to adopt land use plans which define a county's "custom and culture" and economic base in terms of consumptive public land uses, e.g. grazing, logging, and mining. Ordinances are then passed making it illegal to threaten local custom, culture, and economic stability.

To help determine a county's economic base, studies done by sympathetic "experts" are secured which conclude that traditional consumptive uses of public lands are of vital importance to local economies.

Counties are led to believe that once these measures are in place, they will have an equal say in the management of public lands and resources.

The Movement's legal argument hinges on a number of dubious assumptions, including: 1) federal agencies have overstepped their legal authority; 2) county governments have latent rights with respect to public land and resource management which they have yet to assert; and, 3) federal law and regulations require federal

In effect, the ordinances require federal and state agencies to seek county approval before undertaking significant management actions, and authorize criminal and civil actions against agency personnel who violate them.

agencies to respect and protect local "custom, culture, and economic stability."

Ordinances are Having an Effect

Laughable on their face, the ordinances challenge the long-accepted and judicially-upheld authority of federal and state agencies to manage public resources. Sooner or later, they will be challenged in court, and probably struck down. In the meantime, they are having an impact on the way federal and state agencies operate.

Federal land managers have gotten the message and are spending more time trying to placate county officials, but not always with success. Several recent initiatives on behalf of the environment in southern New Mexico have been thwarted, partly as a result of the Movement.

In Sierra County, a joint proposal by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and the New Mexico Game and Fish Department to reintroduce bighorn sheep onto BLM land was withdrawn after encountering vehement local opposition. One card played by sheep opponents was the proposal's incompatibility with the County's recently adopted "custom and culture" land use plan. It wasn't the sole argument used by sheep opponents, but it added to the perception that federal and state agencies were trying to force the proposal on unwilling local residents.

Similarly, BLM's proposed Mimbres Area Resource Management Plan, covering a large part of southwestern New Mexico, was reworked to reduce the size and number of protected areas, in large part due to complaints from officials in Luna and Hidalgo Counties.

There is also the intimidation factor. The ordinances make it illegal, for example, for a Forest Service official to reduce the number of cows on a grazing allotment. The prospect of being arrested and jailed undoubtedly has a chilling effect on federal and state employees residing in small rural communities.

Origins and Actors

The County Movement first surfaced in 1989 when the National Federal Lands Conference was incorporated (in Elko, Nevada, home to the Wilderness Impact Research Foundation—one of the original wise use groups.)

The NFLC, whose motto is "informing Americans of their private rights in federal lands," promptly began holding "how-to" seminars in rural western communities, urging attendees to fight the federal "takeover" of their lands.

The NFLC continues to function as the Movement's coordinator from its offices in

Bountiful, Utah. The group's officers include Catron County rancher Dick Manning and Nevada rancher Wayne Hage. Hage recently stepped down as president to devote himself to his high-profile legal battle with the Forest Service.

Several "wise-use" luminaries serve on NFLC's advisory board, including Ron Arnold of the Center for the Defense of Free Enterprise, Wyoming attorney Karen Budd, and Roswell rancher Bud Eppers.

All four of NFLC's founders were ranchers. Although the Movement has since broadened its scope to attract other public land

The Coalition now includes 13 member-counties which pay annual dues of \$2000 (in public funds) apiece.

users, it still draws most of its support from ranchers.

NFLC typically finds local co-sponsors for its seminars. In the beginning, these were mostly local livestock organizations and businesses. Recent meetings, however, have been co-sponsored by banks, county commissions, forest product industries, county extension offices, and even a National Forest Supervisor and BLM District Manager.

Another group active in the Movement is the Coalition of Arizona/New Mexico Counties. The Coalition began in 1990 with six charter members, and now includes 13 member-counties which pay annual dues of \$2000 (in public funds) apiece.

The Coalition has been most active on issues related to endangered species management in southern New Mexico. In February, 1992, the Coalition filed a notice of intent to sue the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service over recovery efforts for the spikedace and loach minnows in the Gila National Forest. It has also called upon Interior Secretary Manuel Lujan to investigate alleged wrongdoings by FWS staff in Arizona.

The Coalition has hired another group involved with the Movement, the Federal Lands Legal Foundation, to sue both the FWS and the Forest Service on its behalf, the latter over management of the Mexican spotted owl. Roswell rancher Bud Eppers is the president of the FLLF, an organization whose stated mission is "to serve the livestock production industry of the country."

Another prominent player in the County Movement is La Joya attorney James Catron, a deputy district attorney who also acts as county attorney for Catron, Sierra, and Torrance Counties. Mr. Catron is a frequent speaker at NFLC conferences.

The NMDA Connection

An interesting link exists between the County Movement and New Mexico's Department of Agriculture. NMDA is the only state agency which is not under the Governor's control but instead answers to the regents of New Mexico State University. It is an un-

(continued on next page)

Highlights from Catron County's Interim Land Use Plan

The introduction states that the interim plan is intended to guide the use of public lands and resources in Catron County and to protect the rights of private landowners. Land use planning is needed:

...to protect the custom and culture of County citizens through protection of private property rights, the facilitation of a free market economy, and the establishment of a process to ensure self-determination by local communities and individuals.

The interim plan is described as a set of policies to provide a planning framework until a comprehensive land use plan can be developed. Excerpts:

■ Federal and state agencies shall notify, in writing, and coordinate with the County Commission on all pending actions affecting the local community. An economic impact assessment must be submitted by the agencies for each proposed action;

■ Federal and state agencies shall comply with the county land use plan, and shall coordinate with the County Commission for the purpose of planning and managing federal and state lands in the county;

■ All natural resource decisions shall be guided by the principles of protecting private property rights, protecting local custom and culture, maintaining traditional economic structures through self-determination, and opening new economic opportunities through reliance on free-markets.

■ The amount of patented and non-federal land within the county shall be increased, and the amount of federal land shall not be increased;

■ County concurrence is required prior to any federal or state land adjustments;

■ The New Mexico State Land Office shall

assist the county in coordinating land exchanges to maximize land in private ownership;

■ Federal and state land agencies shall not change land uses without conducting adverse impact studies and adopting mitigation measures with the concurrence of the county;

■ Proposed Wild and Scenic River designations and federal riparian area management policies shall comply with county water use plans. The County shall develop its own WSR designations, and shall require full federal compliance in the acceptance and enforcement of such designations;

■ The County shall establish a threatened and endangered species committee for overseeing protection and recovery of all state and federal listed species;

■ Opportunities for grazing on federal and state lands should be continued at levels consistent with custom and culture and the protection of equitable property rights;

■ Federal and state governments should not obstruct agricultural opportunities on their lands;

■ It is the policy of the County to protect timber resources and promote the continuation of a sustainable wood product's industry;

■ The County shall establish a Wildlife Committee, and federal and state agencies shall coordinate with that committee on all matters regarding wildlife;

■ No additional wilderness areas shall be designated within the County;

■ It is the policy of the County to support retention of and compliance with the 1872 Mining Law.

Counties

(continued from page 7)

abashed defender of ranching and farming interests in the state, and frequently comes down on the opposite side of public land management issues from environmentalists.

Two prominent NMDA officials are, or have been, outspoken proponents of the County Movement. Ron White, a division director with responsibility for overseeing the state's animal damage control program, is a frequent speaker at NFLC's seminars throughout the West. He is also a partner in The Land Center, a policy consulting firm in Las Cruces

The genius of the Movement is that it has found a way to disseminate its views quickly and cloak itself in the legitimacy that can only come from association with the democratic processes of local governments.

which received \$25,000 to develop Catron County's original land use plan.

One of White's colleagues at The Land Center, libertarian and former Barry Goldwater advisor Karl Hess, is a policy consultant for NMDA. He is currently evaluating the competency of personnel at the U.S. General Accounting Office to assess federal rangeland management on behalf of NMDA. GAO has prepared a number of reports critical of federal range management in recent years, and it is no secret that ranchers would love to discredit the agency.

In recent months, Hess has backed off from the County Movement, expressing disapproval of its "untenable" views on private property rights in federal grazing permits, and of its deliberate exclusion of environmentalists.

Looney lawyers or brilliant organizers?

It is tempting to dismiss the County Movement as a bunch of greedy public land users promoting absurd legal doctrines, but this would be unwise.

The real agenda of the Movement does not hinge on its legal beliefs being upheld in court. There are smart people behind the Movement. They know they don't have a prayer of

Club Fights to Repeal New Arizona Takings Law

ENVIRONMENTALISTS are scrambling to turn back a new Arizona law that they say would strip the state of its ability to protect public health and the environment.

The "regulatory takings" law, scheduled to go into effect Oct. 1, purports to protect the rights of citizens as to how they may use private property. But what the new law would actually do, environmentalists say, is restrict the state's ability to issue public health and safety regulations.

Arizona's Republican-led legislature approved the law this spring, following months of intense lobbying by local members of the so-called "wise use" movement — a coalition of industry-backed development groups. Republican Gov. Fife Symington, a developer himself, signed the bill into law in June. Rob Smith, the Sierra Club's Southwest representative, called the wise use movement "the old Sagebrush Rebellion with better P.R.," and said that environmentalists were alarmed by the bill's passage.

"We were forced to play catch-up," Smith said. "This bill is just bad, expensive government, and we didn't think such a bill would be signed by a governor who had claimed to be an environmentalist."

The Sierra Club in Arizona has mounted a petition drive to gather 53,000 signatures — the number needed to put the law on the ballot in November. Smith said he is confident that once the public finds out

what this law would do, that it will be repealed.

The new law is based on the constitutional right of individuals to be compensated for private property "taken" by the government for public use. It affects nearly everything the state currently regulates, from child care facilities to toxic waste incinerators, restaurant cleanliness to pesticide use. For example, if a regulation prohibited a dangerous pesticide from being sprayed near a school, the sprayers could receive tax dollar compensation from the state under the new law.

"This law could force taxpayers to pay polluters not to pollute," Smith said.

Joni Bosh, chair of the citizen's petition coalition and a member of the Sierra Club's board of directors, called the law a "polluter's protection act."

"It's a scam on the public," she said. "It quietly guts the environmental and community protection laws that industry wouldn't be able to overturn in full public view."

Environmentalists fear Arizona's law could open the floodgates to similar environmentally destructive legislation all across the country. Comparable legislation was introduced in 27 other states this year. Washington and Delaware approved related laws, but environmentalists say Arizona's law is the most comprehensive, and thus the most dangerous.

For more information, contact Rob Smith in the Sierra Club's Southwest office at (602) 254-9330.

winning in court. The ordinances are a means to something else.

To what? My guess is the ordinances are an organizing tool which offers the false promise of economic and political empowerment as a way to get people to buy the Movement's ideology. The ordinances will fail, but when the time comes to enact state and federal "takings" legislation and other items on the Wise Use platter, the grassroots support will remain.

The genius of the Movement is that it has found a way to disseminate its views quickly and cloak itself in the legitimacy that can only come from association with the ostensibly

democratic processes of local governments.

Of course, the Movement's machinations have not been democratic at all. In every county, dissenting voices have been ignored or excluded. But to the outside world, it appears that these measures reflect the will of local electorates.

Counties are as much a victim in this as the environment. Unable to stand alone, the Movement propagates itself virus-like, infecting its hosts and moving on. The Movement is rewarded with rapid growth. Counties are left with a bill of goods, the prospect of costly court battles, and an even greater distance to travel to economic health.

Briefs

NAFTA Spells Trouble for Bush, Border Towns

Leading members of Congress last week echoed environmentalists' criticism of the weak environmental protections included in President Bush's newly completed North American Free Trade Agreement.

House majority leader Richard Gephardt (D-Mo.), speaking at a conference sponsored by environmental and labor groups, said, "Under this agreement, substandard environmental conditions that exist on both sides of the U.S.-Mexican border will remain static or grow worse."

Gephardt cited a number of environmental health risks that exist along the border, and blamed those hazards on American corporations "who have rushed to the Mexican side of the border to take advantage of cheap labor and a more liberal regulatory climate."

During the first of four scheduled hearings on the treaty in the Senate, Sen. Max Baucus (D-MT) — who, as chairman of the subcommittee on International Trade, led the fight to grant Bush fast-track authority — scolded the administration for not following the tenets laid down by Congress when granting that authority.

"Despite strong advice from many of us in Congress, this agreement simply does not pay adequate attention to job displacement or environmental concerns," Baucus said. *Source: National News Report*

Santa Fe's Buses to Run on Natural Gas

The City of Santa Fe's bus system is due to begin service in January. The City Different will do it right, as befitting its role as the most popular tourist destination in the world. Not only will the City's 13 buses run on low-polluting natural gas, they each will have two bike racks on the back, leaving motorized residents with no excuse for persisting in their gasoline habits. *Source: Ken Hughes*

"God Squad" May Have Bowed To Higher Authority

Environmentalists are claiming the Bush administration resorted to illegal arm-twisting

to convince members of the Endangered Species Committee to vote to open ancient forests in Oregon to logging.

Lawyers for the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund in Seattle, representing the Sierra Club and a host of other environmental groups, are seeking White House records of meetings that allegedly occurred between Bush's domestic policy adviser, Clayton Yeutter, and members of the committee — commonly referred to as the "God Squad."

Two unnamed administration sources told the Associated Press that in the two weeks before the final vote was taken, at least three members of the committee were summoned to the White House to discuss their votes.

Legal Defense Fund lawyers have asked for subpoenas to gain access to specific White House records. The papers could show that administration officials illegally pressured committee members to vote to exempt the forests from Endangered Species Act restrictions.

Steve Goldstein, a spokesman for Interior Secretary Manuel Lujan — who chairs the committee — told the AP there were "no specific discussions with committee members regarding the Endangered Species Committee vote."

Meanwhile, Justice Department officials have also said that, even if discussions did occur, it was within the president's authority to influence the vote because the committee is made up of presidential appointees — in other words, they are Bush's employees.

Despite the committee's decision, the Oregon forests are unlikely to be logged any time in the near future due to numerous legal battles with environmentalists. *Source: National News Report*

Udall's 1872 Mining Law Reform Resolution Passed by Western Attorneys General

The Conference of Western Attorneys General (CWAG) passed a resolution sponsored by New Mexico Attorney General Tom Udall advocating reform of the 1872 Mining Law. The action was taken at CWAG's annual summer meeting in Idaho.

"The significance of this vote is that it puts CWAG on record as supporting reform of the law," Udall said. CWAG had assigned Udall to organize a panel which would educate his colleagues on the reform issues.

The Udall resolution supports federal legislation which provides for stronger environmental protection measures and establishes

an abandoned hard rock mining sites fund to put miners back to work cleaning up sites which are unsafe or threaten water resources.

"We are advocating federal legislation which transcends the usual jobs versus environment choice by creating a fund which puts laid-off miners back to work cleaning up the environmental mess caused by this law," Udall said.

New Mexico Land Commissioner Jim Baca attended the conference and urged passage of Udall's resolution.

NMDA Upset by Meddlers in National Forest Management

Officials at the New Mexico Department of Agriculture are apparently unhappy that the Forest Service allows "unqualified" members of the public to have a voice in national forest management.

In the September issue of NMDA's in-house newsletter, it was reported that NMDA officials attended a meeting regarding the Diamond Bar allotment in the Gila Wilderness. The article said that while the exchange of ideas is necessary and generally productive, "it is interesting to note how the Forest Service continues to allow individuals and groups who, although concerned with the conditions of public lands, have no education, background, or experience to qualify for involvement in the management of public lands."

Nobody we know, is it?

Incentive Program Boycotted

Former New Mexico state land commissioner Bill Humphries has called for a boycott of the Range Stewardship Incentive Program created by his successor Jim Baca. Probably wishing he had thought of it himself, Humphries is quoted in a livestock journal as saying that "good management...of the natural resources is what every rancher that is given a chance strives for." He urged ranchers to boycott the program. *Source: New Voices (The Wilderness Society)*



Albuquerque's Oxbow Threatened Again

by David Morrison

You may not realize that the Sierra Club owns land within the Rio Grande Chapter's boundaries: 9.8 acres of land within a 50-acre marsh in Albuquerque known as the Oxbow. Now that land is being jeopardized by single-minded agencies intent on moving water around at all costs.

The Oxbow's Beginnings

The Oxbow is one of the few wetlands remaining along the Rio Grande. Thousands of acres of once-common Rio Grande wetland have been lost due to impoundment of the river banks and farming.

The Oxbow was formed when a bend in the Rio Grande was straightened by the Army Corp of Engineers between 1954 and 1959. By 1964, the outfall of the newly constructed Corrales drain to the river was dammed by beavers, backing water up and creating water flow through the previous bend in the river. More beaver dams were built, creating a hospitable environment for wetland plants and many species of wildlife, including migrating waterfowl, hawks, owls, songbirds, coyotes, reptiles, amphibians, and even an occasional bobcat.

In late 1975, recognizing that the Oxbow was threatened by several government agencies, Susie Poole donated land in the Oxbow to the Sierra Club Foundation. A brief history of the Oxbow since that time follows:

- On June 30, 1976 the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (MRGCD) stopped the flow of water into the Oxbow for the purpose of cleaning the Corrales Drain.

- On July 4, 1976, after a Sierra Club outing to Wheeler Peak, a member finds the Oxbow drying.

- Sierra Club and other environmental groups bring in pumps to move more than 20,000 gallons of water per hour into the Oxbow from the Rio Grande river.

- N.M. Game and Fish Department estimates that more than 85 percent of the fish in the Oxbow have died.

- On July 12, 1976, the "EcoWarrior" attacks Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (MRGCD) office, leaving this note:

Slopped upon your reception floor is a broth containing catfish, bass, carp, crayfish, muskrats, and ducks. This action serves to inform you and your bureaucracy exactly how the entire Oxbow area now smells as a result of your arrogant decision to interrupt the life waters of the last sweet-water marsh remaining in the Albuquerque area.

- The city of Albuquerque donates water rights to the Oxbow.

"Slopped upon your reception floor is a broth containing catfish, bass, carp, crayfish, muskrats, and ducks. This action serves to inform you and your bureaucracy exactly how the entire Oxbow area now smells as a result of your arrogant decision..."

—The Ecowarrior, 1976

- The NM State Engineer threatens lawsuit over nonconsumptive use of water (New Mexico is the only state in the nation without instream flow legislation which would reserve some water rights for wildlife).

- All environmental groups except the Sierra Club stop pumping water into the Oxbow. Sierra Club obtains more pumps and continues pumping water into the Oxbow.

- The Rio Grande Chapter Executive Committee (Brant Calkins as Chair) enlists the aid of lawyers to counter the State Engineer's threats.

- The N.M. State Engineer backs down from the threatened lawsuit.

- After MRGCD installs a pipe, some of the water flow returns to the Oxbow.

- In mid-August, after a month and a half of carrying thousands of pounds of gasoline mornings and nights to supply pumps, a flow of water returns to the Oxbow.

- Trouble returns, January, 1977. MRGCD plows a road into the Oxbow and plans to reroute Corrales drain past the Oxbow for irrigation purposes.

- Chapter Executive Committee enlists the help of U.S. Representative Manuel Lujan(!) Lujan's staff contacts Bureau of Reclamation.

- Bureau of Reclamation pulls funding for MRGCD's channelization project.

- Chapter Executive Committee requests that the Army Corp of Engineers prevent MRGCD from continuing to violate Section 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act by placing fill in a wetland without a permit.

- Army Corp of Engineers issues cease and desist order to MRGCD.

- Around September, 1977 a Oxbow Task Force formed of all involved parties, agreement is made and Oxbow is protected...until now!

Recent Developments

The San Antonio arroyo ends at the mouth of the Oxbow. Over the years, the arroyo has deposited small silt loads in the Oxbow. Trouble started when Albuquerque Metropolitan Flood Control (AMFCA) began draining two other watersheds into San Antonio basin, and when development increased on the west mesa of the city. Public comment at the time suggested that the basins be drained further north of the Oxbow.

At present, after heavy rains, the San Antonio arroyo deposits tons of silt, blocking the flow of water from the Corrales drain into the Oxbow. AMFCA has completed a study and drawn up plans to line the arroyo with concrete, build a settlement pond above the mouth of the Oxbow, and build a water channel and barrow pits (pits dug into the water table to create a year round pond) through the mouth of the Oxbow to the Rio Grande river.

The problem is that AMFCA's plan will reduce the size and quality of the northern end of the Oxbow. The majority of the water channel and barrow pits will be built on Sierra Club land. Heavy construction equipment will destroy animal burrows and a heavily-used bird nesting area. Construction and operating noise will keep wildlife from the area for years. Bird nesting and migration will be disrupted. Potential or existing habitat for state and federal endangered and candidate species will be affected.

AMFCA's study was inadequate in several respects. It failed to look at the source of the problem, i.e. watersheds above Coors Boulevard. Alternatives such as implementing permaculture practices to use the runoff water, or moving the basin's drain point further north, were not addressed.

Reduction of point source pollution (anti-freeze and oil from driveways, lawn fertilizer, etc.) was not considered. Lead levels of 40 parts per million in the Oxbow are higher than the surrounding areas. Inconclusive data hints at a possible link to the San Antonio watershed. Hydrocarbon pollution studies were neglected.

The AMFCA study and plan were approved by the Oxbow Committee. This committee was formed by the Albuquerque Open Space Division to represent involved agencies and landowners (Albuquerque Public Schools and Sierra Club.)

Unfortunately, Open Space failed to notify most of the landowners of most of the meetings. The San Antonio study and plan were approved by the Oxbow Committee after several meetings without the Sierra Club ever being contacted. Although the Open Space Division has stated that incorporating the

The plan was approved by the Oxbow Committee after several meetings without the Sierra Club ever being contacted.

Oxbow into the Rio Grande State Park is a priority for the citizens of Albuquerque, public input regarding future impacts to the wetland has been denied.

Plan Assumes Beaverless "Ideal"

The Oxbow Committee or Open Space contracted with Ed Swenson to do a management plan study of the Oxbow. The plan points towards an ideal condition, scenario III, in which all beaver are removed by trapping, beaver dams are replaced (using heavy construction equipment) with water control devices and earthen berms, and vegetation is intensively managed using herbicides, burning, and tilling.

This scenario is unrealistic economically for the City of Albuquerque and not appropriate for the surrounding community. Scenarios I and II are progressions towards scenario III. Recommendations in scenarios I and II include using explosives to move silt plugs, and trapping of beavers or beaver birth control (Norplant is being used on beavers in Denver).

Conditions stated as ideal for the Oxbow are not argued but assumed and no data or references are presented to support assumptions made in the management plan.

One of the largest benefits the Oxbow might provide is as undisturbed marsh habitat for threatened species. The silvery minnow, a state-listed endangered species and candidate for federal endangered status, may already be using the Oxbow, along with the meadow jumping mouse, and a willow flycatcher subspecies that is also a federal candidate species. Surveys have yet to be conducted for any of these species in the Oxbow.

The state-endangered black hawk may utilize the area for nesting as the cottonwoods grow older. Migrating bald eagles could be using the area sporadically. The Oxbow management plan does not consider impacts to endangered species.

The impact of trapping beavers to the community is not addressed in the plan, although a safe assumption is that lethal trapping methods will be used. Although the management plan recommends that a study of beavers and

their role in the Oxbow be initiated, it inexplicably also calls for beaver eradication.

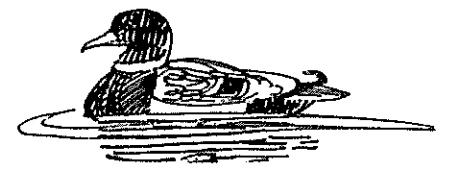
Various agencies have made plans for a unique natural area without considering the environmental impacts. According to Brant Calkins, former Sierra Club president and acting representative of the Oxbow land for the Sierra Club Foundation, "The agencies involved with the Oxbow do not care about wildlife; they are only concerned about moving water. The Oxbow is an asset when least managed, and not an asset when tightly managed."

Look in next month's *Rio Grande Sierran* to see what you can do to save the Oxbow!

[The author is the outings chair for the Albuquerque Group. He wishes readers to know that he is neither historian nor biologist, and apologizes for any misinformation.]

"The Oxbow is an asset when least managed, and not an asset when tightly managed."

—Brant Calkins



Reach Out & 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

Cross-Country Ski Report

By John Turnbull



There is probably nothing more venerable in the Sierra Club than the outings program, anchored in John Muir's belief that the value of wildlands is self-evident, if people will but ago and look. For half the year, in winter, the terrain is blanketed in snow. It's a time of great peace and serenity, and awesome beauty. Ski touring is the passport to this marvelous winter world. It has been for 6000 years.

Although October seems a little early, there already is over a foot of snow in the San Juan Mountains of southwestern Colorado. Also, the ski swaps typically occur in late October, and they require some forewarning.

This year, with the consolidated Chapter newsletter, we decided to expand this former Santa Fe Group column chapterwide. As before, it will be a participatory column. Members may, and are encouraged to, submit material. It may be anything from notification of events to favorite ski trips to equipment and technique pointers. We have a modest objective: to make every Sierra Clubber a ski tourer.

One need only watch a 90 year-old Norwegian shuffling along on skis to realize that Nordic skiing (in the U.S. we commonly refer to it as "cross-country") is a sport for all ages and genders. Indeed, if my classes are representative, women today are taking up the sport at twice the rate of men. The oldest Sierra Club tour participant was 82. The youngest was 7.

Each year, however, many enthusiastic newcomers find their initial ski experience frustrating and discouraging, and lose interest. Most of the negative experience can be traced to improper equipment; no orientation; inadequate prior exercise; or some combination of these. We will deal with these in coming months.

Last season some 120 individuals took advantage of the ski classes conducted by the Santa Fe Group. The program continues to expand each year. There are other organizations besides the Sierra Club with similar programs, some gratis, some charging a fee, and next month we will list some of these.

During the winter months, in the Group outings sections, readers will find ski tours listed, along with hikes, etc. There are other organizations offering ski tours as well. We will mention them in later months, too.



In one informal survey in Santa Fe, half of the salespeople selling Nordic equipment had only minimal experience with it, and many had none at all.

Ski swaps:

* Los Alamos. Saturday, 24 Oct., 1-4 p.m. at Los Alamos Middle School.

* Albuquerque. Saturday, 31 Oct., and Sunday, 1 Nov., all day, at the Fairgrounds.

* Santa Fe. 6, 7, 8 Nov. Evening of Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday.

A word of caution on ski swaps. They are first and foremost fund-raisers for their sponsors. Years ago swaps were places one could find tried and true, albeit worn, gear once belonging to some knowledgeable person, for bargain prices. Today, by contrast, as much as two-thirds of the offerings may be new items, put there by retail shops, and at about the same prices as charged at their own pre-season sales.

Also, ski swaps have become dumping grounds for retailers' purchasing mistakes, and sometimes the retailers themselves, appearing to be swap volunteers, will be on the floor actively peddling their mistakes to unsuspecting buyers.

In addition, skiers immigrating to New Mexico often find that the gear that served so well in the East or Midwest is simply unusable in the deep, loose powder of the West, and will dispose of it at a ski swap. Absent some trustworthy, expert guidance, a ski swap today is no place for the innocent.

In our Sierra Club classes in Santa Fe, we attempt to provide an explanation of equipment to guide beginners in their purchasing. Unfortunately and inevitably, the ski swaps, as well as the pre-season sales, always precede the classes.

If the ski swaps are risky, should a person simply rely on the retail shops' guidance? Yes, to the extent they have qualified sales personnel. Shops specializing in backcountry stuff usually do. The larger retailers, though, will usually hire sales staff primarily for their knowledge of Alpine (i.e. "downhill") equipment, not Nordic gear.

In one informal survey in Santa Fe, fully half the salespeople selling Nordic equipment had only minimal experience with it, and many had none at all. The result of all this is fairly predictable, and one of the greatest problems Nordic instructors have to cope with.

[The author is a member and former chair of the Santa Fe Group, has conducted beginning and intermediate ski classes and tours for many years for the Sierra Club, a private school, and several other organizations, and is a member of the Professional Ski Instructors of America.]

ALBUQUERQUE GROUP

Campaign for a Sustainable Energy Future

by Susan Gorman, Project Chair

October is National Energy Awareness Month—a good time to focus on where we stand as individuals and as citizens of New Mexico, the United States, and the world on energy production, use, and conservation. As you may recall from the April newsletter, the Albuquerque Group joined the Sun Day 1992 campaign for a sustainable energy future. The campaign is still going strong.

To help bring about a better awareness of what is going on and where we can and need to go from here, Ralph Wrons and Ken Hughes, Energy Activists in the Sierra Club, will present a multi-faceted program at the October general meeting. Their presentation will include up-to-date information on the progress of Albuquerque's Energy Strategy and the State Energy Policy, as well as very encouraging news on the role of Renewable Energy Technologies. Federal energy legislation was still in the Senate-House conference committee as of press time, and since it's presidential campaign time, it may still be there as you read this.

We will meet on Monday, October 19th, 7:30 PM, in room 2401 of the UNM Law School. For those of you who haven't been to a meeting before, the Law School (Bratton Hall) is at the NW corner of Mountain and Stanford NE. Please be aware that during the school year there is a \$1.00 fee for parking in the lot. A permit can be obtained inside at the library desk, or you can park on the street. Please bring a coffee cup if you care to have refreshments provided by the club. Preceding the main program, we announce upcoming events and outings, report on recent outings, and make announcements on current environmental issues with opportunities to write letters and get involved. Hope to see you there!

Grizzlies in the Lower 48

by Ralph Wrons

"When the grizzly is gone, we shall have lost the most sublime specimen of wildlife that exalts the western wilderness." —John A. McGuire

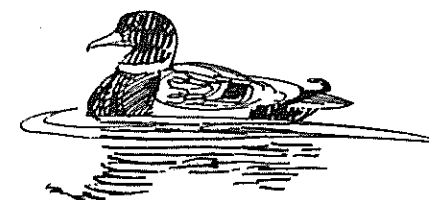
In case you missed reading your Sept/Oct *Sierra*, there is an article on grizzly bears ("A Grizzly's Place," p. 57) as well as the following information on page 110:

The federal grizzly-bear recovery plan maps out goals and mitigation steps for grizzlies in the Lower 48. For a copy, write to Dr. Chris Servheen, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, University of Montana, Missoula, MT 59812. In your letter, mention that you support strict protection for all grizzly-bear habitat.

In the Yellowstone ecosystem, Shoshone and Custer national forest officials are proposing oil and gas leasing in key grizzly-bear habitat. To voice opposition, write Shoshone National Forest, PO Box 2140, Cody, WY 82414, and Custer National Forest, PO Box 2556, Billings, MT 59103.

A report on oil and gas leasing in Yellowstone-ecosystem forests is available from the Sierra Club, 23 N. Scott, Sheridan, WY 82801. Copies are \$3.00 each.

For more information on grizzly issues, contact the American Grizzly Bear Project, PO Box 1874, Bozeman, MT 59715. The project was set up by the Sierra Club, The Wilderness Society, and the Greater Yellowstone Coalition to help defend the griz.



What Good are Prairie Dogs?

by Dorothy Brethauer

According to an article in the Sept/Oct issue of *Audubon* ("No Dogs Allowed," page 26), the Forest Service, in an assessment of prairie dog management in the Nebraska National Forest in northwestern Nebraska concluded that

"Prairie dogs act as ecosystem regulators by altering plant species composition and reducing the standing vegetation, thus maintaining a short-grass plant community. Prairie dogs manipulate the soil, **increase plant diversity, and increase animal diversity.** Prairie dogs in the mixed-grass prairie create habitat patches characterized by altered species composition [and] lower standing crops of plants, but higher forage quality. Wildlife species and domestic livestock preferentially feed on these prairie dog colonies."

The prairie dog's bad reputation with ranchers is due to its ability to thrive on overgrazed land—land that has been overgrazed by cattle. Once vegetation is allowed to grow, prairie dog populations tend to decrease. Even so, Forest Service studies have found that the existence of prairie dog colonies did not significantly reduce steer weight gains, and "plant production values" were higher where cattle and prairie dogs grazed together than when cattle grazed alone.

Prairie dogs provide food for carnivores such as the coyote, the black-footed ferret and the swift fox. One local species that is dependent on prairie dogs is the burrowing owl, *Athene cunicularia*. Burrowing owls nest in prairie dog burrows and can be seen standing next to burrow entrances. Burrowing owls have been observed on the UNM north golf course, along Kirtland Road on Kirtland AFB, along Southern Avenue between Eubank and Juan Tabo, and in other places where prairie dogs are abundant.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thanks to Parking Lot Volunteers

Those diligent volunteers did it again! They protected the parking lot from unauthorized parkers and made a bundle of money for the Albuquerque Group to keep us in the black for the next year. We're looking forward to a great party on October 4, to thank those people who helped us out this year. *Heidi Fleischmann*

Northwest Regional Science Fair Results

On Friday, March 20, three Sierra Club members had the pleasure of judging science projects and giving awards to 6 outstanding projects dealing with the environment. The categories for the awards were: The Natural Environment, Man and the Environment, and Energy. Awards for each category were given in both junior and senior divisions.

This year's winners and their schools were: Miranda Cully, St. Pius HS; Amy Walton, Sandia HS; Rusty Hall, Hope Christian School; Erin Sisk, John Adams MS; Jonathan Dufay, Cleveland MS; and Laura Sanchez, St. Mary's School (Belen).

Thanks to Ron Grotbeck and Ray Bahm for helping with this year's fair. If you would be willing to help with next year's science fair, please call Ellen Loehmann at 265-3179. The science fair committee is always looking for scientists interested in serving as mentors for students. They match a student's needs with the expertise and interests of the mentor. If you are interested in serving as a mentor, call Randi Buck at 277-4916. *Ellen Loehmann*

Birds of a Feather Weekend

Friends of the Rio Grande Nature Center will be having its Annual Birds of a Feather Weekend October 24-25. Educational activities will be offered both days. Bird seed, including some specialty seeds, will be sold to benefit the educational programs sponsored by the Friends.

Wildlife Rescue will be with us from 10AM-4PM both days, and Hawkwatch International will give a slide presentation. Storytelling and a slide lecture on the Birds of Albuquerque will be of interest to children. Bird identification will be provided by members of the Audubon Society. More activities are in the planning stage. For more information, call Anne Bancroft at 822-8536. Messages can be left at the RGNC at 344-7240. *Anne Bancroft*

Petroglyph National Monument receives publicity

Ike Eastvold and the Petroglyph National Monument made it to the pages of Sunset Magazine (May 1992, page 16). The article, accompanied by a photo, describes hiking opportunities and the threats to the monument. Phone numbers and directions are also given. Good job, Ike!

CALENDAR

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

- Oct 10: 12 noon, **Deadline** for articles for Nov/Dec group newsletter/Sierran. Macintosh disk preferred. Call if supplying hardcopy only. **Note that this is two-month issue.**
- Oct 12: Executive Committee Meeting, 7:30 PM.
- Oct 19: **Sierra Club General Meeting**, UNM Law School, Rm 2401, 7:30 PM.
- Oct 24-25: Birds of a Feather Weekend, 10AM-4PM Rio Grande Nature Center
- Oct 26: Conservation Committee Meeting, 7:30 PM.

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/	Rich Adam	266-4657
Calendars		
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 Strobe	836-6304
Wildlife	Marc Bedner	299-2004

Co-Editor Needed

No, it's not too late! Imagine your name under "Newsletter" in the list above! Imagine the sense of personal satisfaction you'll get from contributing your expertise to the Sierra Club! Seriously, it's not that hard, and it only requires 5-8 hours, every other month. The work can be done in the Sierra Club office, or on your own computer, if you happen to have one. Training will be provided. Please call Dorothy Brethauer at 275-6113.

OUTINGS

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

Sat Oct 3

Recycling

We averaged about 60 recyclers and thirty dollars for the months of August and September. This month's proceeds go to the Talking Talons. Talking Talons is a group of kids that are having trouble with school who have taken on the task of teaching environmental awareness through the use of nonreleasable birds of prey. Talking Talons received a community education award by the National Environmental Council, which includes the Sierra Club. Bring aluminum; plastics numbered 1, 2, and 6; corrugated cardboard; newspaper; and paper to REI, 19th and Mountain, from 9 to 11 AM sharp. If you would like to help with sorting, call David 344-8693.

Sat Oct 3 Leisure Miles: 2-3 Car: 50

Fall Colors along the North Crest Trail, Sandia Mountains

Hike north of the crest to a point overlooking the yellows, reds, golds, and oranges of aspens and oaks. This hike is designed for the kids. RSVP. Bring lunch. 8-12. Leader: Roger Nagel. Call Melody Nagel 296-8366

Sun Oct 4 Leisure Miles: 2-3 Car: 3

Rinconada Canyon, PNM

The alignment of the Double Eagle airport road is probably headed for court. Find out why. View thousands of petroglyphs with accompanying expert commentary. RSVP. Leader: Ike Eastvold 255-7679.

Sat Oct 10 Moderate Miles: 4-6 Car: 190

Bluewater Canyon

Beautiful riparian canyon on BLM land out between Grants and Gallup. Kathy Walters of the BLM has been repeatedly recommending this area as one of her favorites. Bring lunch. RSVP. Meet at Furr's Cafeteria, southwest of 140 on Coors. Leader: Ralph Genter 344-1553, 828-1495

Sun Oct 11 Moderate Miles: 4-6 Car: 180

Rio Nutria, Zuni Mountains and El Morro National Monument

Rio Nutria is a Nature Conservancy preserve with streams and endangered species. Exploratory hiking. We will also visit El Morro, hiking the trail to the inscriptions and mesa top. Southwest of Grants. 7:30 AM at Sierra Club office, 207 San Pedro NE. Bring lunch. Leader: Stefan 888-1370

Wed Oct 14 7:30-9:30 PM Sierra Club Office

Wine and Cheese Party, Slide Show

Featured are slides covering more than 700 square miles of the Gila Wilderness in southwestern NM taken of several Sierra Club national outing trips. Bring a snack to share such as cheese, and if you want, some wine or beer. Come check out our office at 207 San Pedro NE. 7:30. David 344-8693

Sat-Sun Oct 17-18 Moderate Miles: 3-5 Car: 200

Car Camp: Magdalena Area

From Water Canyon we will drive to below South Baldy, and then hike to the summit. We will dry camp at an area with spectacular views and a night sky with thousands of stars to be viewed with a telescope. Timber peak hike, probable Sunday morning hike, and then a visit to the Very Large Radio Telescope Array (VLA). Dress warm, bring plenty of water, hikes are short and on trail, but with lots of elevation gain. Depart for Alb. around 2-3 PM. Meet 9:30 AM behind Winchell's at Academy and San Mateo. Leader: Tom Leck 857-0765. Coleader: David Morrison

Sat-Sun Oct 17-18 Moderate Miles: 6-8 Car: 300

Car Camp: Canyon de Chelly National Monument, AZ

At press time, Stefan states he knows people who can pull strings so that we will be able to visit some less visited scenic areas. Expect rock pinnacles, cliff dwellings and a variety of other Indian ruins. Possible stop at Bisti Badlands Wilderness or a Chaco outlier on the return trip. Call for details. Leader: Stefan 888-1370

Sat Oct 24

Tour of Passive Solar-designed residence

As part of National Energy Awareness Month, we will be treated to a tour of a solar heated home by the designer and builder, Earl Rush. In addition to his passion for solar energy, Earl loves to answer questions. Let's hope for a cold, sunny day. Meet at the Winchell's in front of the Furr's Cafeteria on Wyoming, just north of Indian School, at 10AM. Ralph Wrons 275-0856.

Sat Oct 24 Leisure Miles: 2-3 Car: 3

Piedras Marcadas Arroyo, PNM

Learn about the natural history of the area including wildlife and the Indian petroglyphs. Learn some of the meanings behind the many hundreds of different petroglyph figures. Bring sturdy shoes, camera, and binoculars. RSVP. Leader: Ike Eastvold 255-7679

Sun Oct 25 Moderate Miles: 4-6 Car: 130

San Luis Wilderness Study Area, Rio Puerco Basin

This area NW of San Ysidro has rock formations eroded into some fascinating shapes and escarpments of hoodoos on the grand scale. Good area for spotting raptors. Exploratory, off trail hike. Bring lunch. Meet at 8:00 AM, behind Winchell's, Academy and San Mateo. Leader: David 344-8693

Sat Oct 31 Leisure Miles: 2-4 Car: 160

El Malpais National Monument

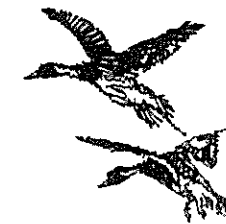
Explore lava tubes near Cerro de Rendija. Hike along a trail that leads to collapsed lava tubes and lava natural bridges. Beginner, easy. Bring lunch. Depart early morning. [John makes every outing an environmental issue outing. His outings also include the natural history, local politics, and history of the area presented to you in his distinctive relaxed manner. El Malpais is in the throes of Domenici's mismanagement schemes- find out why.] Leader: John Wright 877-5259

Sun Nov 1 Leisure Miles: 2 Car: 0

Oxbow, Rio Grande Bosque

One of Senator Pete Domenici's Bosque Committee wildlife members states that public comment will be taken in regards to recreation but not wildlife when the bosque plan is constructed, yet some of the committee members lack knowledge about state and federal endangered species' ranges along the bosque, by as much as 200 miles, although they are responsible for these species at a professional level on a daily basis

Under these conditions, this might be one of your last chances to see some of the bosque's native wildlife. Winter waterfowl migration may have begun. 2 to 3 hours, 9 AM, meet at corner of Coors and St. Josephs. Leader: David 344-8693



the LORAX

Sierra Club
El Paso Regional Group

OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING

Jim Carrico of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department will show slides of the Big Bend Ranch State Natural area. This large tract of land west of Big Bend National Park was recently acquired by the parks department and contains many unique physical and cultural features. Mr. Carrico will also discuss public response to the draft planning document for the Big Bend Ranch, and give us an update on the status of the planning process.

The program will start at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 28th, at St. Paul's Methodist Church, 7000 Edgemere (two blocks east of Airway). For more information, call Ted Mertig, 852-3011.

CALENDAR

October 7	EXCOM (800 So. Piedras)
October 10	Deadline for El Paso newsletter information (send to 331 Vista Del Rey, 79912)
October 28	General Meeting (7000 Edgemere)
November 4	EXCOM (800 S. Piedras)
December 2	General Meeting
December 9	EXCOM

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

At the excom retreat of the Rio Grande Chapter Sierra Club in mid-September, a League of Conservation Voters flyer was handed out to everyone. Since this will probably be the last issue of the Sierran you receive before the November elections, I'd like to share their message with you. The following material is quoted from their brochure and has been edited for space purposes only.

MAKE ELECTION DAY EARTH DAY

Let's take our fight to save the Earth to the ballot box and the voting booth. Seek out and support pro-Earth politicians. We need to send the politicians a message they can't ignore on Election Day. Register to vote. An informed, pro-Earth vote on Election Day will provide us with an educated, environmental Congress.

Today, most people believe they are doing something for the planet. Forty million people in the U.S. now separate their trash and recycle newspapers and bottles in curbside recycling programs. Eighty percent of all American consumers shop for a green label in the grocery store. In the last 10 years, some 8,000 community activist groups have sprung up to take action on environmental problems in their towns on issues ranging from trash incinerators to land acquisition.

In spite of all this action, most of us could conserve more in our own lives. We could do at least 50 simple things to save the Earth.

Being a conservationist in the 1990s, the Decade of the Environment, takes effort for those raised in the throw-away 60s, 70s and 80s. We have a lot of bad habits to overcome in our personal lifestyles.

But there is one action those of us over 18 can take. It is one simple action that does more for the environment than any other single thing a person can do. People don't usually think about it when they describe their pro-Earth commitment. It would only take a majority of us a few minutes every couple of years to save the planet. And 178 million of us in the U.S. have this right...to vote.

VOTE FOR THE EARTH

Ted Mertig, Chairman

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	open	

ADMINISTRATION

Environmental Center	open	
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

Volunteers Needed

The Environmental Center has operated now for almost two years through the efforts of many volunteers. Their efforts have taken many forms--from the initial conception of the Center (planning and fundraising) to its day-to-day operation (landscaping, building maintenance and recycling).

The potential of the Center to be a focal point for environmental activity in El Paso is tremendous. It is time to tap that potential and increase its use. We need you to volunteer in whatever way best suits you. Listed below are a few ideas for you to consider.

Volunteer a few hours to work in the Environmental Center to answer phones, accept recyclables and help with the general maintenance of the facility.

Volunteer to work on environmental and conservation issues. There is always something to be done. You'll notice in the directory that there are currently two vacancies: Environmental Center management and chair for the population conservation committee. Call any of the officers listed above for information.

Use the Environmental Center as the focus for educational projects or programs, especially for kids. Their understanding and sensitivity to the environment is critical.

Support local and regional Sierra Club fundraising efforts. Help increase the effectiveness of volunteers' efforts.

Come to Sierra Club meetings to meet people who share your concerns for our environment. The programs are always interesting.

GET INVOLVED--YOUR EARTH NEEDS YOU

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER OUTINGS

GILA NATIONAL FOREST BACKPACK

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

The destination is Hummingbird Saddle. We will leave Friday evening from El Paso and camp at Sheridan Corral. The next morning we will drive to Sandy Point and begin the five-mile hike from there. The return hike will also be five miles. This is a beautiful time of year with the aspens are changing colors. Don't miss this hike.

VOLCANO TOUR (Dayhike/Cartour)

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 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: Weldon and Betty Fisbeck, 581-0174

This will be a trip just a little more difficult than the trip done in the spring but will be suitable and planned for beginners and those with little experience. We will leave early Saturday morning and drive to our trail head at T.J. Corral in the Gila Wilderness. We will hike four and a quarter miles on the Little Bear Trail to our campsite on the Middle Fork of the Gila. If the group is so inclined, there should be time for some day hiking up the Middle Fork. Call and we will help you plan equipment, food, etc., if you need help.

NORTH FRANKLIN PEAK DAYHIKE (Issue Outing)

DATE: Sunday, October 18, 1992
CLASS: Moderate
LIMIT: 24, leader approval and reservations required
LEADER: Mark Post, 581-2696

Enjoy a cool Sunday morning and a view from the 7,192' summit of North Franklin Peak. We will begin our hike early from Tom Mays Park and hike past Cottonwood Spring. Mileage is about 8 miles roundtrip, with significant elevation gain. You'll need a snack (early lunch), water and fall clothing.

This hike will be a reminder from our Spring Issue Outings that we need to remain vigilant in our commitment to guard against unnecessary development of the Franklins. Join us.

CLOUDCROFT RIM TRAIL DAYHIKE

DATE: Saturday, October 31, 1992
CLASS: Moderately strenuous (due to length)
LIMIT: 15, leader approval and reservations required
LEADER: Jim Bell, 581-8864
Enjoy this especially lovely trail in cool weather for an approximately 14-mile hike in the Lincoln National Forest.

McKITTRICK CANYON/DOG CANYON KEY EXCHANGE BACKPACK

DATE: November 6-8, 1992
CLASS: Moderately strenuous
LIMIT: 10 in each group, leader approval and reservations required

LEADER: Chuck Turner, 585-0251

This is our annual key exchange backpack with one group leaving on Friday evening and hiking in from Dog Canyon on Saturday morning. The McKittrick Canyon group will leave El Paso early Saturday morning. Trail mileage will be 7.5 miles each day with an elevation gain of 2,000' and 3,000'. Water must be carried. This is a beautiful hike with spectacular views from McKittrick Ridge. On this weekend the fall colors should be at their peak. Call for details.

SAN MATEO LOOP BACKPACK

DATE: November 13-15, 1992
CLASS: Moderate
LIMIT: 12, leader approval and reservations required
LEADER: Joe Rodriguez, 833-9655

We will depart on Friday at 6 p.m. from the Albertson's parking lot and drive to our campsite. Saturday we will hike up Apache Kid Trail #46 for six miles. On Sunday, we will return down Coffee Pot Trail #69 along the ridge. Be prepared for cold weather!

OUTINGS REPORTS

Forks Campground Carcamp 7/17-19/92

Eight Sierrans headed out on a Friday night and found the gates to the City of Rocks State Park closed. A new policy locks them at dark. Undaunted we drove to the Gila and set up in a clearing under the stars. In the morning, we hiked to the Cliff Dwellings. After lunch several of us hiked the river bottom under a cloudy sky. Early evening brought rain and a wet woodpile. Following Sunday breakfast, we motored back, stopping at the Santa Rita open pit copper mine. The adventuresome group included Steve Englander, Jane Williams, Harold Naylor, Susan Barnett, Shirley, Melissa, Tristina and leader Dan Oppliger.

Colorado Big Blue Wilderness Backpack 7/24-8/1/92

We left a rainy El Paso on Friday, drove through the storm and emerged into the sunshine at Ouray, enjoying a week-long respite from the summer's monsoon. Our route led up the East Fork of Cimarron Creek in the Uncompaghe National Forest, over the divide and down Matterhorn Creek to the North Fork of Henson Creek. From this beautiful valley (a BLM WSA) we traversed American Flats west to the Horsethief Trail which heads northwest up and over to Difficulty Creek, Cascade Creek and the Bridge of Heaven, and then down to the vehicles.

Highlights were Joe and Kathy's ascent of Uncompaghe Peak; Laurence, Carolina, Diana and Nik's ascents to Matterhorn and Wetterhorn (We carried the rope, but didn't need it!); the fantastic vistas; the elk herd; few people and abundant wildflowers and great company. We were: Jeanne French, Rafaela Schuller, Richard Rheder, Debbie Tomaselli, Kathy Sunday, Joe Rodriguez, Roy McCloud, Diana Gibson, Nik, Carolina Greenfield and leader Laurence Gibson.

Pecos Wilderness Carcamp 8/14-16/92

A small (elite) group of El Paso Sierrans spent the weekend in the Pecos Wilderness northeast of Santa Fe. Pat Wood, Jane Williams, Mike Seidensticker and leader Betsy Julian took the scenic route from El Paso to Santa Fe. The journey included a stop at New Mexico Tech to buy relief maps of New Mexico, a shopping spree at REI in Albuquerque, and a three-hour dinner at Maria's in Santa Fe. Maria's margaritas improved our attitudes as we set up camp in the rain and dark. On Saturday we hiked up to Puerto Nambé, a lovely alpine meadow at around 11,000 ft., where we ate lunch and enjoyed the view of Santa Fe Baldy, Lake Peak, and the distant Jemez Mountains. Sunday's easy hike through the forest left us with enough energy for the long drive home.

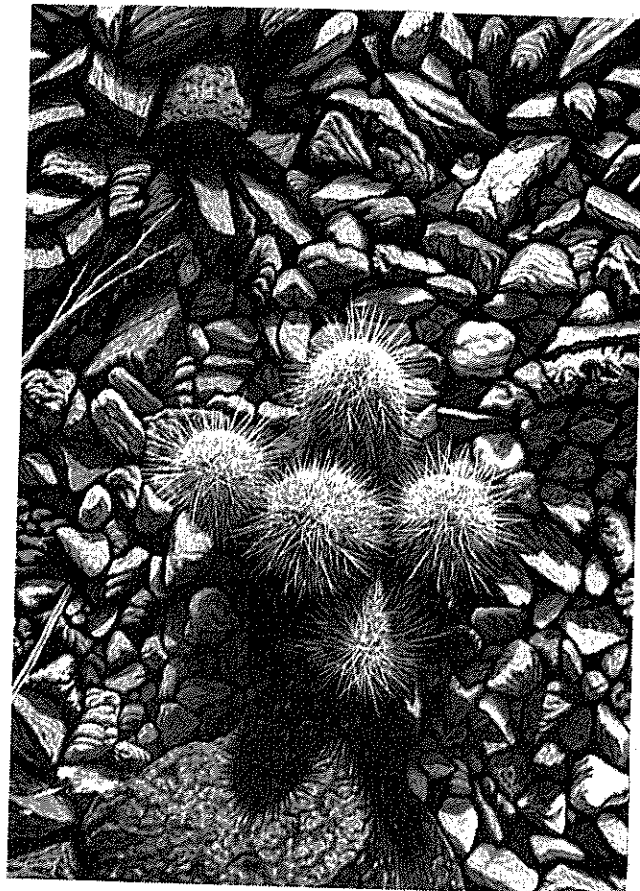
White Mountain Wilderness Labor Day Key Exchange 9/4-7/92

Hiking at times on soft needle-covered trails amid pine and fir trees, through fields of flowers and graceful, white aspens, and making our way through shoulder high grasses with occasional stinging nettle to keep us wary, we all sensed how lucky we were to spend three days on this spectacular trail. We were all grateful for the panoramic beauty laid out for miles and miles before our eyes! The Shakespeare Seven (John Dick, Michael Bromka, John Bardouche, Gary Ennis, Laurence Gibson, Carolina Greenfield, and leader Rollin Wickenden) started near Nogal Peak, hiking nine miles to Bonita Seep on Saturday. On Sunday, there was an arduous four-mile climb to Ice Spring at 11,000 ft., with the eight-mile descent to Monjeau Lookout on the last day. My less literary, but very philosophical, group (Bill Phillips, Mike and Maria Episcopo, Richard Rheder, Rafael Schuler, Weldon and myself, Betty Fisbeck) enjoyed all this in reverse, starting at Monjeau Lookout. The twenty-two miles of the Crest Trail of the White Mountain Wilderness is an experience no serious backpacker should miss.

The Gray Ranch Service Carcamp/Backpack scheduled for Labor Day weekend was postponed.

ARTIST BENEFITS FRANKLINS COALITION

Thanks to the generosity of artist Lindsay Holt II, Sierrans have an opportunity to support the Franklin Mountains Wilderness Coalition in a big way and obtain some distinctive artwork in the bargain. Now living in Santa Fe, Lindsay retains his strong commitment to the protection of the Franklins. Limited-edition, fine-art posters of two of his Franklin Mountains scenes are now in production, and Lindsay is donating all proceeds from sales of up to 50 of each to the Coalition.



The two images, striking close-ups of native vegetation on rocky slopes, eloquently capture the mix of ruggedness and delicate beauty found in the Franklins. Both have been on display at Jaxon's restaurant on North Mesa in El Paso since 1984.

The fine-art color posters will sell for \$50 each and must be ordered before December 31, 1992.

If you wish to place an order, please contact Coalition President John Sproul (915-545-5157) or Doug Lutz of the Dallas Ford Gallery (915-833-8877).

SANTA FE GROUP NEWS***** GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20 *****

Candidates from the Santa Fe area who are running for the New Mexico State Legislature have been invited to attend our next meeting and have an exchange with Sierra Club members about environmental issues that will be addressed in the upcoming Legislative Session, such as mining reform. Members are invited to come and meet the candidates. Think of questions you've always wanted to ask and issues you would like to see presented to the legislature in 1993.

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, October 20, at 7:30 PM.

The nationally acclaimed bestseller
DAY HIKES 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 <<

October Chair — Web Kitchell*	471-7539	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, Oct 20, 7:30	Tuesday, Oct 27, 7 PM	Tuesday, Nov 3, 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 Nov Newsletter is Friday, 5 PM, Oct 9.



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

Fri Sat Sun October

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

*** HELP !! ***

RECYCLING - A HABIT TO GET INTO !

We are again left bereft with no one to make coffee for the General Membership Meetings. Our wonderful angel has moved to Los Alamos. The job is simple and can be fun for someone who likes to meet people — just take charge of the coffee pot and other supplies and be at the meetings to make the coffee for our grateful members and guests. Won't you please help?

Call Carolyn Keskulla (982-9570)

CONSERVATION SLIDE SHOW
ON THE ROAD AGAIN

The Education Committee will again be showing the Sierra Club Conservation Slide Show to the 5th and 6th graders in the Santa Fe Schools. If you'd like to help or know of some classes that would be interested, please call

Carolyn Keskulla (982-9570)

FOREST WATCH OCTOBER FIELD TRIPS

Forest Watch is planning field trips to the Jemez Mountains to visit a proposed 25,000 acre controlled burn site and to see a rangeland where the Forest Service is using innovative methods to counteract the effects of grazing and in the Pecos to the Johnson Diversity Unit.

Interested? Call

Martha Anne Freeman, 438-0697

Sat Sun November

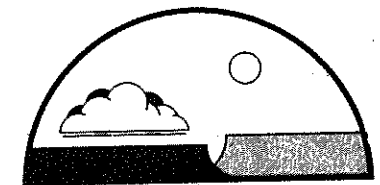
- 1 Caroline Keskulla (982-9570) Easy Hike on Penstemon Ridge. Leave 9 AM.
- 7 Jeff Jones (984-2389) Easy Hike up the Chamisa Trail. Leave 9:30 AM.
- 7 Brian Johnson (438-2087) Moderate Hike up Cerro Pedernal. Leave 8 AM.
- 8 John McClure (473-1916) Moderate Hike through the Canyon of the Santa Fe River. Leave 8 AM.
- Wed Nov 11 through Sun Nov 15
Norma McCallan (471-0005) 5 Day Exploratory Car Camp & Hikes in the San Rafael Swell. Leave after work on Tuesday. Dogs allowed. Hiking will be Moderate. This is a little used redrock BLM area NW of Green River, Utah. Call Norma for info and reservations.
- ★ ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE / ISSUE BIKE TRIP FOR NOVEMBER ★
- 14 Ken Hughes (988-9297) Mountain Bike the single track trail on the site of the proposed National Recreation Area in the Jemez. Beginners on up; helmets required. Leave 8 AM.
- 14 Joe Whelan (984-0746) Moderate Hike in Bandelier. Leave 8 AM.
- 15 Victor Atyas (471-7545) Easy Hike in Tent Rocks. Leave 9 AM.
- 21 Norrine Sanders (984-0386) Moderate Hike, perhaps to Ojo Caliente. Leave 9 AM. Call leader for details.
- 22 Elizabeth Altman (471-8490) Easy Hike to Tent Rocks. Leave 9 AM.
- 22 Steven Janus (988-4137) Moderate/Strenuous Hike a loop trip to Sandia Crest via Chimney Rock and return via UNM Spine Route. Leave 8 AM.
- 28 No hike is scheduled - if you'd like to lead one, call Norma McCallan (471-0005).
- 29 Norbert Sperlich (983-1962) Strenuous Hike in the Caja del Rio. Call for reservations.

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.

OUTINGS LEADERS'
ANNUAL WORKSHOP

On Saturday, December 5, the Annual Outings Leaders' Workshop will be held for all hike leaders and those interested in becoming leaders. Mark your calendar now. The details will appear in the next bulletin.

Norma McCallan (471-0005)



Phone tree volunteers are critically needed

• JOIN THE TEAM •

Call Martha Anne Freeman, Phone Tree Chair (438-0697).

THE LOG

Southern New Mexico Group

Highlights from the September ExCom Meeting

by Kris Paulsen

It was a small turn out, but a productive evening. We discussed upcoming fundraisers, such as a raffle, to be held on November 19, 1992, and our Second Annual "John Muir Centennial Hike-A-Thon" which will happen next spring.

Several outings and gatherings were proposed, including a hike led by Storm Sermay to Three Rivers Petroglyphs, and a Christmas Party to be held in December.

Activities of the Student Sierra Club were discussed, and it looks like a fun semester. Issues for the Chapter to get involved in next year include reform of the 1872 Mining Law, the Endangered Species Act, Animal Damage Control, and Diamond Bar Grazing in Wilderness.

It's time to vote for new ExCom members. Ballots will appear in the next issue of the *Rio Grande Sierran*, and should be returned by Dec. 11th so that new members can be active by January.

The Sierra Club will be getting office space in the new Southwest Environmental Center (SEC). Volunteers are needed to work the desk, and maintain the building, in order to pay for the space. Please come by and see us. Normal hours (depending on availability of volunteers) are: M-F 2-6 p.m., and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday. Phone number is 522-5552.

If you would like to get involved with the Executive Committee, or just watch the proceedings, join us at our next meeting in the SEC, October 8, 1992.

On behalf of the committee, **WELCOME BACK STUDENTS!** We also wish the best of luck to Kevin Bixby, who resigned from

the committee on September 14th. We bid you a fond farewell, and hope that you will keep in touch.

For more information on any of the above, contact Myra Price-Committee Chair at 524-0261, or Kris Paulsen-Secretary at 526-2282.

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 Zerbey, Ex-Com	526-6207
Libby Hernandez, Ex-Com	527-1440
Susan Worley, Ex-Com	646-5522
Ann Macbeth, Ex-Com	526-8060

CALENDAR

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| Oct. 13-14 | "Bridging Roads and Trails" Workshop, featuring transportation planners, recreation planners, and trails activists from government and private organizations discussing best way to implement Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA) at state and local levels. Albuquerque. For more info and to register, call (505) 988-6762. |
| Oct. 20 | New Mexico Game Commission's Habitat and Environment Advisory Council meeting. Santa Fe, afternoon, location to be announced. For more info, call the NM Game and Fish Department. |
| Oct. 28 | Lecture, reception, and book-signing with John Harrington, pioneer in the field of socially responsible investing and co-author of the Valdez principles. Call 988-4880 for more info. |
| Nov. 3 | Election Day. You know what to do. |
| Dec. 12-13 | Chapter ExCom meeting. |
| 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. |

Dave Foreman's

Books of the Big Outside

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

For a free catalog, write:

Ned Ludd Books
Dept. NM
P.O. Box 5141
Tucson, AZ 85703

New Mexican Crafts and Food Featured in Free Catalogue

Handcrafted gifts and native foods of more than 30 artisans from villages and tribes in western and northern New Mexico are featured in a handsome, 4-color catalogue (printed on recycled paper with soy based inks) available free from Pastores Feed and General Store.

Gifts of jewelry, accessories, home decor items, toys, books, and foods range from \$3 to \$300.

The introduction to the catalogue describes its purpose:

For most villagers and tribal members, the fields and streams, flocks and herds, forests and wildlife are the warp and our cultural skills are the weft from which we weave our way of life.

In 1990, to support this way of life, Ganados del Valle opened Pastores Feed and General Store in the mountain village of Los Ojos with 15 artisans. Today, more than 200 villagers and tribal members are marketing through the store and its annual gift catalogue.

Offerings include weavings from locally grown wool, fresh lamb and lamb sausage from local flocks, jams and jellies from wild herbs and berries, organic vegetables and grains, beaded jewelry, pots from local clay, silversmithing, tinwork, toys, carvings, and furniture from local wood, and many other arts, crafts and foods.

The Pastores catalogue has one of the best selections of children's toys, books and tapes. A Navajo cradleboard and doll, pendleton blanket bear, tapes and

books which teach Spanish and Navajo are just a few of the selections.

Some artisans featured in the catalogue are struggling to overcome the economic ravages which logging and mining have wreaked on their communities. Artisan Jose Samora from Vallecitos, for example, hopes that by adding on value to selectively harvested trees that families in the village can reduce their dependency on logging.

Purchasing gifts from this catalogue ensures a gift of quality which opens windows on the diverse cultures of New Mexico. But more importantly, it supports people trying to create sustainable livelihoods for family and community. As noted in the catalogue:

Folk arts on the verge of extinction are being renewed by young people who want to stay in their villages and on tribal lands, and by older people taking great satisfaction in continuing cultural traditions. This catalogue offers you the opportunity to give a gift which reflects the rich diversity of New Mexico, as well as a way to support artisans, who, with their hands, work to strengthen family and culture.

To receive your free catalogue write to: Pastores General Store, P.O. Box 118, Los Ojos, N.M. 87551; or call (505) 588-7821, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily.

Chapter Mining Committee Still Looking for a Computer

The Rio Grande Chapter's Mining Committee has opened an office in Santa Fe and is charging ahead on mining reform.

The Committee still needs a computer. A Macintosh is preferred, but they'll be grateful for anything.

Please call the Committee at 983-1700.

LOOKING FOR SANTE FERENTAL

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

Pioneer in Socially Responsible Investing to Speak in Santa Fe

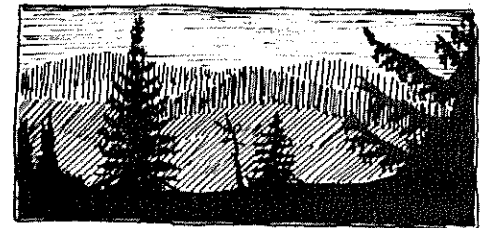
Sierra Club members and friends are invited to a lecture, reception, and book-signing with John Harrington, author of the recently published *Investing With Your Conscience* (John Wiley and Sons), to be held at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 28, in Santa Fe (location to be announced.)

Mr. Harrington has pioneered in the field of environmentally and socially responsible investing during the last decade, and has been the founder of several socially responsible investment firms: Working Assets Money Fund, Progressive Asset Management (America's first full-service socially responsible investment firm), and Harrington Investments, Inc.

He was actively involved in the creation of the Valdez principles—which define environmental criteria for the performance of America's largest corporations—and in the creation of America's first environmental mutual funds.

John also manages investment portfolios for environmentally conscious investors across the country.

For more information and the location of the event, please call Tom Leatherwood at 988-4880.



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