

1992 Combined Ballot

Use this ballot to vote for candidates for the Rio Grande Chapter Executive Committee and for candidates for your local group's Executive Committee. Each member of a joint membership may vote with this ballot. You may vote for write-in candidates. When completed, mail ballot (including your address label) by December 4, 1992 to:

Sierra Club Elections
5223 Santa Elena
El Paso, TX 79932

Be sure to include your mailing label. It will be used to validate your vote, but will be discarded before tabulating results.

Chapter Executive Committee

Please vote for 3 candidates only. See page 9 for candidates' statements

Member 1 Member 2

Rich Adam	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Karen Fuller	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Susan Gorman	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carol Morrison	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ted Mertig	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Santa Fe Group

Vote for no more than four Group ExCom candidates. See page 21 for candidates' statements.

Member 1 Member 2

Ken Hughes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Web Kitchell	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Susan L. McIntosh	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mark Mortier	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Helen K. Moser	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Van L. Perkins	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Norma Scott	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

24387135 1704 0993 0 094008
BARBARA H JOHNSON
1 ENCANTADO LOOP
SANTA FE NM 87505 8279

Southern New Mexico Group

Vote for no more than eight Group ExCom candidates. See page 22 for candidates' statements.

Member 1 Member 2

Tony Chiaviello	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Robin Filipczak	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Juliet Gladden	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Andrew Hands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Elizabeth Hernandez	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
David McClurg	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marianne Thaeler	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jim Winder	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ben Zerbey	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Albuquerque Group

Vote for no more than three Group ExCom candidates. See page 13 for candidates' statements.

Member 1 Member 2

John Day	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ed Gentner	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tom Leck	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nick Nicolaus	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stefan Verchinski	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

El Paso Group

Vote for no more than four Group ExCom candidates. See page 17 for candidates' statements.

Member 1 Member 2

Larry Castor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mike Episcopo	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ted Mertig	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Richard Rheder	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joe A. Rodriguez	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kathy Sunday	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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RIO GRANDE SIERRAN

NEWS OF THE RIO GRANDE CHAPTER
SIERRA CLUB • NOV./DEC. 1992

Los Alamos' War on the Environment

DOE Contemplating New Plutonium Role for Lab

by Greg Mello

Mesita del Buey is a smallish mesa of the Pajarito Plateau, bounded by the intermittent stream of Pajarito Canyon on the south and by Canada del Buey on the north. Near its southeastern edge lies a large Pueblo ruin called Tshirege. The Pajarito stream supplied water for the people who lived here, and water can still be found in the cattail marsh just upstream from the ruin.

Tshirege lies behind a Department of Energy (DOE) fence. Just to the west is an active radioactive waste landfill, one of the largest in the nation, made up of pits typically 600 feet long that are shoehorned into every available spot on the mesa. In the soulless argot of Los Alamos National Laboratory, this place is called "Area G." Into these pits, and the shafts that lie between them, an estimated 7 million cubic feet of radioactive waste have been dumped. Perhaps another 5 million cubic feet of radwaste lie in other LANL disposal sites.

Transuranic wastes were irretrievably dumped at Area G until 1971; since then most (but not all) of the plutonium-bearing waste has been stored in drums buried retrievably in the tuff, or in tentlike temporary buildings. In a recent random inspection of 100 out of about 16,000 plutonium-containing drums, several were found to have been perforated by corrosion.

Mixed fission products from Los Alamos reactors (aka high-level waste), mixed activation products, tritium-bearing wastes, even entire buildings—all are buried at Area G. And radioactive waste is still being buried, at a rate of roughly 180,000 cubic feet per year.

While a 20-year, \$2 billion investigation probes 2200 other potentially-contaminated sites in Los Alamos, the trucks still roll to Mesita del Buey. In all likelihood, any radioactive soil cleaned up from these other sites will simply be re-interred at Area G.

(Continued on page 5)

Sierra Club Endorses Richardson, Sosa for Congress

The Rio Grande Chapter has endorsed incumbent Bill Richardson and challenger Dan Sosa, both Democrats, in their respective Congressional races.

Richardson and Sosa join Bill Clinton, Al Gore, and a long list of New Mexico state legislative candidates in receiving the nod from the Sierra Club. (See complete list of endorsements on page 3.)

Richardson was endorsed by the Chapter earlier this year. He has generally been a strong supporter of environmental legislation in the House of Representatives, and received the highest rating among the state's Congressional Delegation from the League of Conservation Voters.

Sosa, a retired state supreme court judge,

met with members of the Southern New Mexico Group in August and responded positively to many of the issues raised by the activists present.

Sierra Club members note that the League of Conservation voters gave Sosa's opponent, Republican incumbent Joe Skeen one of the lowest ratings in the Congress.

Skeen voted against NASA's "Mission to Planet Earth" to study global climate changes. He did not support the California Desert Protection Act or the establishment of the Tallgrass Prairie National Monument. He has not worked to promote legislation preserving ancient forests or wilderness. He has not supported protection for wetlands or the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Sierra Club Election Time

The Rio Grande Chapter and all four local groups are holding elections for their Executive Committees. Unlike most other major environmental organizations, the Sierra Club is democratic: directors are elected by the rank and file membership. Take a minute to read the candidate statements inside, and use the ballot on the back cover to vote.

Programs & Parties

Albuquerque Group—Pat Wolff, feisty wildlife activist, will talk about the Animal Damage Control program. Monday, November 16, 7:30 p.m., UNM Law School. The Group will host its annual Holiday Party on Sunday, December 13, 5-8 p.m., at the home of Carla and Doug Clark. See page 10.

El Paso Group—Tom O'Laughlin, curator of the Wilderness Park Museum, will give a talk on the archaeology of our region, covering a variety of sites and periods. Wednesday, December 2, St. Paul's Methodist Church, 7:30 p.m. See p. 14.

Santa Fe Group—Author and illustrator Jennifer Dewey will present an exciting slide show of her trips to Antarctica and elsewhere. Tuesday, November 17, 7:30 p.m., Unitarian Church on Barcelona. The Group will host its annual Christmas Potluck Dinner, Party, and silent auction on Saturday, December 19, 6:30 p.m., at the Unitarian Church. See page 18.

Southern New Mexico Group—Cows in the Wilderness (a joint program with the NMSU Student Sierra Club.) Gila Watch activist Susan Schock-Grinold will talk about her efforts to keep the Forest Service from adding more cows to the Diamond Bar allotment in the Gila Wilderness. Thursday, November 19, 7:30 p.m., Southwest Environmental Center. The Group will host its annual Christmas Party on Friday, December 11, 7:30 p.m. at Myra Price's place. See page 22.

RIO GRANDE CHAPTER DIRECTORY

Executive Committee

Rich Adam, Vice-Chair	(505) 266-4657
Marc Bedner, Council Delegate	(505) 299-2004
Tom Brasfield	(915) 584-8739
Sue McIntosh	(505) 986-8825
Norma McCallan	(505) 471-0005
Ted Merig	(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
Membership - Carol Morrison	(915) 585-9077
Outings - Norma McCallan	(505) 471-0005
Polit. Committee - Ken Hughes	(505) 988-9297
Publications Representative - Rich Adam	(505) 266-4657
Publicity - Carol Morrison	(915) 585-9077
Volunteer Coordinator - Vacant	

SW Regional Conservation Committee (SWRCC)

Gwen Wardwell, Pat Wolff, Sue McIntosh

Conservation Chairs

Tom Brasfield	(915) 584-8739
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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
National Parks - Ike Eastvold (No. NM)	(505) 255-7679
Ben Zerbey (So. NM & TX)	(505) 526-6207
State Parks - Ike Eastvold	(505) 255-7679
Wildlife - Pat Wolff	(505) 988-9126

Rio Grande Sierran

Editor - Kevin Bixby	(505) 525-1532
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El Paso Group 800 S. Piedras P.O. Box 9191 El Paso, TX 79983 (915) 532-9645	Southwest Regional Office 516 E. Portland St. Phoenix, AZ 85004 (602) 254-9330 FAX: 258-6533
Santa Fe Group 440 Cerrillos Rd. Santa Fe, NM 87501 (505) 983-2703	Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund 1631 Glenarm Place Denver, CO 80202 (303) 623-9466
So. New Mexico Group 1494A S. Solano Las Cruces, NM 88001 (505) 522-5552	Sierra Club National 730 Polk St. San Francisco, CA 94109 (415) 776-2211

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BLM Proposes to Allow Oil and Gas Drilling Near Lechuguilla Cave

Public Comment Period for Dark Canyon EIS Ends Nov. 20

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management is proposing to allow drilling for oil and gas near Carlsbad Caverns National Park in southeastern New Mexico. Environmentalists fear the decision could lead to destruction of world-famous Lechuguilla Cave and other caves.

The proposed action is the preferred alternative in a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) issued by the New Mexico state BLM office. The study was prepared in response to an application by Yates Energy Corporation to drill on the oil and gas lease it holds for Dark Canyon, about one-half mile northwest of the Carlsbad Caverns National Park boundary. If successful, up to seven more wells are expected to be drilled in the area.

Yates bought the leases in question from the BLM between 1982 to 1984—two to four years before Lechuguilla was discovered. The company has abided by all the terms and restrictions in the leases.

Environmentalists argue that the EIS overestimates potential natural gas reserves while downplaying the threat to known and probable cave resources.

Consider these facts:

■ There are six known caves within the EIS study area. These include Mudgett's Cave, which has over 3,000 feet of passage and is a mere 1.25 miles from the proposed drill pad.

■ Three proposed drill sites are less than two miles from the main Carlsbad Cavern which received close to 680,000 visitors in 1991.

■ Lechuguilla Cave lies a mere 900 feet from the EIS study area. Large volumes of helium gas released in Lechuguilla Cave have continued to move in a northwest direction, exactly toward the area of the proposed drill site.

■ Drilling could irreparably harm cave formations, and lead to contamination with toxic drilling compounds and fluids. An accident could cause poisonous gases to fill Lechuguilla and other caves, killing unique cave organisms and rendering the caverns inaccessible to humans.

World-class Caves at Risk

Lechuguilla is the eighth longest cave in the world, the deepest in the U.S., and arguably one of the world's finest and best decorated caves. Its value as a scientific site and natural wonder is beyond parallel in the U.S. According to petroleum exploration consultant and spelunker Richard Bridges, "there are no other known caves that contain all the resource values of Lechuguilla, period."

Bridges says that the BLM has made no attempt to critically evaluate the potential for natural gas in the area. In addition, he says, the agency has ignored the substantial body of geological and geophysical data supporting the existence of large cave systems.

"This is best demonstrated by the complete absence of any reference to a natural potential study conducted over Big Manhole Cave by the BLM itself!" says Bridges.

"This study showed a number of cave anomalies on trend with the major joints represented at Big Manhole. Considering Big Manhole is within the EIS study area and close to the proposed well #5, this omission should be considered serious."

Even if the EIS' estimates of natural gas reserves for the proposed drilling area are correct, there is a huge glut of natural gas on the market currently and the price is depressed to the point of driving some New Mexico producers out of business. Furthermore, the natural gas potential of 25 billion cubic feet is insignificant compared to the nation's existing reserves.

EIS Biased Towards Drilling

Critics say the draft EIS is biased towards drilling. The concept of not drilling is dismissed with the statement that it would result in the loss of 25 billion cubic feet of gas production worth 32 million dollars. "There is absolutely no proof that any natural gas reserves

exist at the proposed drilling locations, much less exact figures as to the quantity and value of such reserves," says Bridges.

He says that a Yates dry hole drilled in the area two years ago (Sidewinder #1) is in the same geological structural position as two of the proposed wells.

"Nationally, one in ten wildcat wells is successful, which means that nine of ten are dry holes," says Bridges. "The Draft EIS never clearly makes the point that the gas reserves may not exist."

What You Can Do

It is critical that parties interested in the preservation and protection of Lechuguilla Cave and the other caves in the area, respond in writing to this EIS. Without a very strong public reaction, the drilling will proceed as planned.

The deadline for public comments is November 20, 1992. Your comments should be directed to:

Joe Incardine, BLM-NM State Office
P.O. Box 27115
Santa Fe, NM 87502-0115
505/438-7458.

It is not necessary to have ever been to Lechuguilla or even to be a caver to comment effectively. Your position may be as simple as an interest in wild and scenic places and a desire to see pictures of them in *National Geographic*. It may be as advanced as having a particular knowledge of the scientific values contained in Lechuguilla and exactly how the drilling may ruin them.

To obtain a copy of the EIS, contact the BLM at the above address. A copy of the EIS is available for viewing at the Southwest Environmental Center in Las Cruces, and may also be available at other Sierra Club group offices.

[This article was based mostly on an article in the October 1992 issue of the *Pecos Valley Grotto News*. The author, Richard A. Bridges, is President of the *Lechuguilla Cave Project, Inc.*, and a petroleum exploration consultant. Additional information was provided by Ben Zerbey and David McClurg.]

New Editor Needed

I am stepping down as *Rio Grande Sierran* editor to take a full-time job in Santa Fe. It's been a lot of fun, and I want to thank everyone who contributed or gave encouragement. Now it's time for someone else to take over. If you're interested, call me at (505) 525-1532 or Gwen at 438-3060. Contributors: send submissions to Marc Bedner, interim editor, at Albuquerque Group Office. —KB

Bond Issue Would Help Finance Wastewater Treatment Projects

from an New Mexico Environment Department release

SANTA FE—A General Obligation Bond Issue on the November ballot will assist New Mexico communities in protecting ground and surface water and safeguarding public health.

The Bond Issue would provide \$2 million as a state match for \$10 million in federal funds for the New Mexico Wastewater Facility Construction Loan Program. Projects funded by the program include sewage treatment plants, sewer lines and septage facilities. Improperly treated sewage can cause the spread of communicable diseases, toxics such as nitrate and heavy metals, contamination, odor and taste problems and other pollution.

Funds in the program will be loaned to communities, counties and Indian tribes at 5 percent annual interest to construct needed wastewater facilities. This rate is lower than communities can borrow money at on their own and helps keep sewer user rates low. When communities repay the loans, the monies go back into the fund to be loaned to other communities in a revolving, self-sustaining program. If voters do not approve the bond issue, the State will be unable to match the federal funds, and the funds may be lost to wastewater treatment programs in other states.

Some community projects which are expected to be funded in part from this bond issue and the federal matching funds are:

- Albuquerque: dechlorination facilities, plant expansion. North and South Valley sewer interceptors
- Bloomfield: sewage treatment plant
- Las Cruces: Ofiate High School sewer system
- Los Alamos: sewer interceptor line
- Los Lunas: sewage treatment plant
- San Juan County/Farmington: septage facility
- Socorro: sewage treatment plant

To date, seventeen communities have been assisted in financing their wastewater facilities by the wastewater revolving loan program. Seventy-eight communities were assisted by a predecessor grant program which was phased out by Congress three years ago. User rates in New Mexico communities re-

sulting from past state and federal grants and low-interest loans are approximately one-third of what they would be without this assistance.

For more information, contact the N.M. Environment Department at (505) 827-2812.

Sierra Club Endorsements



WHITE HOUSE:

Bill Clinton/Al Gore

U.S. CONGRESS:

District 1: No endorsement	
District 2: Dan Sosa	Democrat
District 3: Bill Richardson	Democrat

NM 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

NM 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. Perls	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

Good Old Boys Bag Game Commission

Commission Springs Changes in Trap-Checking Rules Without Warning

by Pat Wolff

In a move that made legalized cruelty even more cruel, the New Mexico Game Commission voted at a September 15 meeting in Silver City to require trappers to check their traps less frequently.

By changing the trap-checking regulation from every 24 hours to every 48 hours, the Commission doubled the amount of time a trapped animal must suffer before it is shot or stomped to death.

Trappers in New Mexico are allowed to set out as many traps as they want and kill as many animals as they want. Moreover, the Commission still exempts U.S. Animal Damage Control trappers from state regulations so government trappers don't have to regularly check their traps at all! As a result, hundreds of "non-target" wild and domestic animals die in ADC traps every year.

The Silver City meeting was stacked with commercial trappers, ADC agents, ranchers and People for the West! members who favored the regulatory change. Conservationists were given no advance warning that the regulatory change was being considered. The agenda for the meeting only noted that "furbearers" would be discussed. Two commissioners, Bruce Wilson and David Salman, voted against the regressive action, while two commissioners, Tom Arvas and Bob Jones, voted for it. Chairman of the Commission, Jamie Koch, broke the tie in favor of the trappers.

New Tactics Needed

This unconscionable vote was the last straw for those of us who have been monitoring the State Game Commission and trying to work within the system. It made it clear that we will never see a pro-wildlife agenda implemented in this state as long as we have men like the current Governor and Commission calling the shots. It is time for conservationists and environmentally responsible hunters and fishers to fight back for wildlife, with new strategies and new political alliances.

Those who set the state's wildlife policies need to remember that their traditional constituency is shrinking. Sales of hunting and fishing licenses are declining. Even more importantly, the role of men in society has drastically changed. Fifty years ago a man

who shot a bear for fun or trapped a fox for its fur may have been admired. Today, such a man would be seen by most of society as contemptible, pathetic or even sadistic.

Other cultural changes that can't be ignored include less meat consumption nationwide, urbanization, and the rise of outdoor activities that don't involve killing, such as backpacking and wildlife photography.

The future for the Game and Fish folks doesn't lie with ranchers and trappers, but with conservationists and environmentally responsible hunters and fishers who want healthy, diverse wildlife populations. So...what can be done to make our decision-makers see this new reality?

Turn Up the Political Heat

The Governor appoints the Game Commission and he needs to be held directly accountable for its actions. Call the Governor's office at 827-3000 and tell him what you think of his Commission's trapping regulations. Remind him that 32 states require traps to be checked every 24 hours and that steel-jaw traps have been banned in New Jersey, Rhode Island and Florida, as well as in 70 countries. Tell him you won't tolerate the Commission's exemption of ADC trappers from state regulations either. Finally, remind the Governor that while there were only about 500 trapping licenses sold during the last trapping season, there are nearly 5,000 Sierra Club members in the state! And if you're wealthy enough to get hit up by Commission Chairman Koch for a contribution to Gov. King's re-election campaign, tell him you won't give a dime until the Game Commission's anti-wildlife policies are abolished.

Turn on the Public Spotlight

Encourage your local media representatives to start covering and exposing what goes on at Game Commission meetings and at the Game and Fish Department. Write letters to the editor and to your state representatives, too. A combination of public pressure and media attention can be very powerful. Such a

This vote was the last straw for those of us who have been monitoring the Game Commission and trying to work within the system.

strategy recently helped the Sierra Club stop the Department's Glorieta Mesa elk herd eradication plan.

Turn out for Game Commission meetings.

Your presence at Commission meetings reminds the Commissioners that they are being watched and that their bad decisions will be reported. Members of the public are allowed to make comments at the end of Commission meetings, but don't expect your comments to be given much credence if you're not a member of the good old boys "Hook and Bullet Club" or the "Gold Boot Club." If you're a woman, the Chairman may remark how nice looking you are or patronize you in some other way. The cowboys and rednecks in the audience will snarl and growl when you say you're with the Sierra Club, Forest Guardians or Audubon, which they consider pinko-subversive animal rights groups. At first, you may feel like the cowardly lion trying to muster the courage to speak to the Great Wizard of Oz. But when the curtain is pulled away, what you see is a small group of men desperately trying to conjure up an image of power that's so transparent it's hardly there.

The real power—economically and politically—is with folks like you and me who'd rather watch wildlife than kill it. Let's start to use that power!

[The author is the Rio Grande Chapter's Wildlife Issues Chairperson, and a member of the Game Commission's Habitat and Environment Advisory Council. The Game Commission will revisit its trap-checking requirements at its November 17-18 meeting, tentatively planned for Maybry Hall, State Education Building, Santa Fe, beginning at 9 a.m. on both days. Call the Game and Fish Department, 827-7911, to confirm.]

Los Alamos

(continued from front page)

As of this writing, the New Mexico Environment Department is preparing a significant enforcement action against LANL for violations of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. LANL has been in chronic violation of the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act as well. Some 149 sources lack monitoring for radioactive air emissions, and LANL's known liquid waste outfalls, also some 150 or so in number, are now operating without a permit.

The Lab typically operates within a regulatory labyrinth; the complexity and sheer magnitude of environmental issues at LANL severely taxes the resources of state and federal regulators. And the state has always been reluctant to apply environmental laws at face value to facilities as large as LANL.

Most of the plutonium waste entering Area G originates a couple of miles to the west at Technical Area 55, at what used to be called—in a less PR-conscious time—the Plutonium Processing Facility. TA-55 is now the best place to process plutonium anywhere in the nuclear weapons complex, and has produced enough plutonium for 300 or more nuclear weapons in a year. Linked to this plant by an underground tunnel is a plutonium storage facility with a capacity of 60 tons, by far the largest such storage site in the nation.

These and other facilities, a compliant citizenry, a uniformly supportive congressional delegation, and 43 square miles of mesas and canyons (a portion of which was originally seized from San Ildefonso Pueblo), all make Los Alamos an ideal location for the processing of plutonium and the manufacturing of small numbers of warheads, as some have proposed.

To the press, the Lab is negative about these proposals, but a "can-do" attitude is apparent in planning documents. And, while the public affairs office tells the newspapers that the Lab does not want to process plutonium or make weapons, some LANL managers are lobbying in Washington to do just that.

But wait—isn't the cold War over? Isn't the Lab now devoting itself to environmental cleanup, new civilian technologies, and the safe dismantlement of warheads? Not quite yet. LANL has been lobbying hard for the continued development and testing of new nuclear warheads, and as a result the warhead development budget went up 16 percent this past fiscal year. Most of the increase—about \$110 million—was taken

from the DOE's proposed environmental cleanup funds by Senator Domenici. And the nuclear weapons research and development budget will rise again 3 percent for FY1993.

One current emphasis at LANL is "mininukes," designed to be "effective but not abhorrent" weapons for attacking Third World targets and projecting U.S. power more effectively around the world. Another, larger thrust is for "safer" nuclear weapons, which even some top-level DOE and DOD officials have said is unnecessary. The main idea, apparently, is simply to keep busy—no matter what the cost in dollars, in the international cooperation we need to fight nuclear proliferation, or in the waste streams that are still polluting the Pajarito Plateau.

The Lab's chilling quest for perfectly reliable and "safe" nuclear weapons does not comport with the bulldozers above Tshirege. The waste that is feared for WIPP is already there, in unlined trenches and thousands of plain steel drums—many of which are buried and cannot be inspected—at a waste site that is not more than one hundred yards from surface water.

One of the Old Ones drew a great plumed serpent on the side of the mesa at Tshirege, in praise and invitation to the ever-creative and regenerative power of nature and humankind. Now, nearby, bronze markers warn future generations away, fluttering survey tape keeps workers away from localized "hot spots," and



Handling of sludge drums during disposal at Los Alamos Lab, circa 1973. Photo courtesy of LASG.

Sierra Club Joins in Calling for Hearing on Lab Future

The Eight Northern Pueblos Council joined in September with 18 environmental and community organizations—including the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club—in an appeal to the Regents of the University of California to come to New Mexico and hear our concerns. These groups called for a public hearing and a new sitewide EIS for all proposed LANL activities. The groups also expressed alarm that the University, which runs the Lab, seeks complete release from all environmental and safety liability in its new contract with DOE.

all trees must be removed because their roots can convey radionuclides to the biosphere.

What You Can Do

■ Call or write Judy Espinosa, Secretary of the Environment Department, and urge her to approve decisive enforcement action, with significant fines.

■ Call or write your Senators and Congressman; tell them that we do not want to host a new plutonium processing or production mission at LANL. LANL's most appropriate and beneficial role is to reverse the arms race and clean up its mess, not to design new weapons or prepare plutonium for re-use.

■ Drop us a postcard or call if you are interested in more information, want to be on our mailing list, or can help in any way.

[Greg Mello is an environmental engineer who works for the Los Alamos Study Group, a nonprofit organization devoted to converting Los Alamos National Laboratory to peacetime missions. He led the first state RCRA inspection team to LANL in 1984. Greg and his colleagues at LASG can be reached at 240 Griffin St., Santa Fe, NM 87501, telephone 505-982-8315.]

Public Land Grazing: A Rancher's View

by Jim Winder

As a rancher who leases public lands I have views and ideas on range ecology which often go unheard due to the volume of rhetoric and sound bites emitting from the preservationist and wise use camps. I am glad to have an opportunity to speak directly to you the individual, to illuminate some fertile middle ground on which we may find solutions and end the rhetoric.

I hope you will come to see me as something more than a faceless "welfare" rancher, as someone who cares deeply for the land I work on. But do not think that I am unique; although most ranchers may not be as liberal as I am with respect to ecology they certainly share my sincere affection for nature.

I am convinced of the damage done by poor management to our rangelands, but I am equally convinced that the land will be healed only when we find equitable solutions involving those who earn their living from the land. All of Earth has felt the damaging touch of man's hand but none of the worlds governments or environmental groups have the money to make it whole again, only people who derive their very sustenance from the land are capable of curing Gaia's ills.

Public Lands: 15% of U.S. Calves

I breed cows to produce calves for sale. Like most public lands ranchers, I am a cow/calf producer because the large amounts of low quality forage common to the west are best suited to the digestive capabilities of mature cows.

I sell my calves to a stocker operator who will graze them on high quality forage until they are sent to a feedlot and finally to a packer for slaughter. Most stocker operations are located on private land in the plains or southern states where rainfall is relatively abundant and most feedlots and packers are located near stocker operators.

Since very few packers are located in the west only about 2 percent of the U.S. beef supply is produced in the western states. This is the much repeated figure from the U.S. Government Accounting Office report often used to belittle the contribution of public lands ranchers to the industry. However, about 15 percent of the calves born in the U.S. come from public land ranches.

Overgrazing: Numbers Not the Problem

When large wild herds graze they are constantly on the move because the grass is eaten, trampled and fouled by the animals in addition to the pressure of predators. Normally the herd does not return until plants have recovered and the fouling is removed by rain and time. A plant that is allowed to fully recover may be grazed year after year without damaging it or the ecosystem.

Most rangelands are simultaneously overgrazed and over-rested, both of which will kill plants. But how can we be on both ends of the spectrum at the same time?

Typically ranches are continuously grazed, that is a few cows are put in a pasture and left year-round. This eliminates any tendencies for the cattle to migrate and the plants are continuously exposed to grazing. The stocking rate is based on a take half, leave half philosophy promoted by the Soil Conservation Service and land grant universities like New Mexico State. The idea is to clip half of each plant, but what occurs in reality is that half of the plants are clipped severely and the other half are not grazed. If the grazed plants are not allowed to recover from the clipping they become over-grazed.

Those plants not grazed receive long term rest and suffer from the shading effect from old, moribund plant tissue. Thus, the land is over-grazed and over-rested at the same time. To prevent this situation the cattle need to be bunched together to evenly graze all the plants and then be removed to ensure complete recovery.

When an allotment is considered overgrazed the first thing the BLM or Forest Service does is decrease the number of cattle grazing the area. But since the land is continuously exposed to cattle, although now fewer, the over-grazing continues. The problem has nothing to do with the number of animals but arises from poor management.

A grazing system must be developed which considers the needs of the whole ecosystem including the people. With this type of approach grazing will become sustainable and be a benefit to the ecosystem and society.

Riparian Areas

The one area of environmental concern which offers the best hope for peaceful solu-

tion is that of riparian areas. Riparian or arroyo areas allow us to have our cake and eat it to.

I have found on my riparian areas that the exclusion of livestock during the growing season not only released an explosion of biodiversity but produced more forage for my cattle to use in the winter months when the dormant plant cannot be damaged by grazing. The cattle improve nutrient cycling and knock down steep stream banks. Everyone is a winner, obviously the plants and animals win from increased flow of clean water, the cows win from more food, and I win every time I go and sit under a cottonwood tree and watch cactus wrens play in the water. Presently, I am working on a dry riparian, or arroyo area, where I have found that even without flowing water plants and animals flourish when these areas are properly managed.

Managing to Live with Predators

Over the last four years I have attempted to manage around predators to avoid death loss in my calves. I am able to avoid areas of predator density during times of calf vulnerability and peak predator food requirements. I do not randomly kill snakes, coyotes or any other predator for control.

Recently, I witnessed two separate events of coyotes killing calves. I contacted Animal Damage Control and the two coyotes involved were carefully removed without killing any other coyotes or non-target animals in the area. ADC like any other tool is just as good as those who use it. Like a surgeons scalpel, ADC can do tremendous damage when used indiscriminately but can do tremendous good when used to excise the few problem animals.

I have been able to work around predators because of information I received from government research on coyotes. Wouldn't it make sense if we put a little time and a portion of ADC's budget into more research on non-lethal control?

Grazing Fees: Both Sides Wrong

The current battle over public lands concerns the fees paid by ranchers who graze these lands. Some say they are too low and the ranchers say an increase would bring economic devastation. I have found that in an

(continued on next page)

argument both sides cannot be right but both may be wrong.

Preservationist want ranchers to pay the same rent for public land as is paid for private land. This is not a fair comparison since private land leases give the lessee many more rights and privileges including water and fence maintenance, hunting rights, care for the animals and the right to restrict public access.

We often hear calls for an open market bid system where permits would be auctioned off to the highest bidder. The uncertain tenure created by this type of system would prevent ranchers from making long term investments in range and habitat improvements and would encourage excessive use.

I am a member of the Sierra Club and an ex-member of People for the West. I have found that both organizations only contribute to the problems we face on public lands. Both are run by people whose jobs depend on the presence of controversy; i.e., no controversy no job. All of my life I have disliked what loggers, miners and oilmen do to the land. It seems odd to me that now I am expected to join them to protect our interests on public lands. No thanks, I think I will take my own path.

The solutions to our problems lie with individuals at the local level. It is only through interaction between people who are interested in specific tracts of land that progress will be made. This approach, often referred to as working groups, is frequently criticized by extreme ranchers and environmentalists for the compromises the working groups seek. But this is a nation founded on compromises, our political system would collapse if compromises were not found on a daily basis.

If we are to have the biodiversity we seek we must have managers who have inherent economic interests in biodiversity. We need to turn our attention to producing healthy, profitable ecosystems. Like it or not, the people best suited to bring about this change are the ranchers on the land now.

Ranchers are not evil people bent on destroying the land. They spend their lives trying to improve the land. When problems arise, they are usually due to a lack of information and understanding, not greed. If we can use the money spent for research on killing noxious weeds into research to produce needed biodiversity we will find the solutions we seek.

[Jim Winder is a public lands rancher who lives near Nutt, New Mexico. He is also a member of the Sierra Club, and is a candidate for the Executive Committee of the Southern New Mexico Group. He can be reached at Star Route 2, Box 38, Deming, NM 88030; 505/267-4227.]

Board Approves Revised Sierra Club Policy on Public Land Grazing

by Ben Zerbey

The Sierra Club Board of Directors approved the updated and revised public lands grazing policy at its September meeting. Although this policy is not what many Rio Grande Chapter activists were hoping for, it does contain much for the land managing agencies to chew on. The policy is the result of 18 months of work and compromise by Grazing Committee Chair Rose Strickland of Reno, Nevada.

Excerpts from the new policy:

■ The goal of the management of grazing on the public lands is to restore and maintain fully functioning natural ecosystems, with their full complements of native species.

■ Emphasis shall be on the restoration of native biodiversity and rehabilitation of all public lands, especially riparian areas, damaged by grazing.

■ Grazing shall be permitted only on public lands in satisfactory condition, except under agency approved rehabilitation plans.

■ Grazing must be permitted at no less than fair market value established on a regional basis.

■ Livestock grazing is not an appropriate use for every acre of public lands.

■ All public land advisory boards shall consist of representatives of all public land user groups. Grazing advisory boards that consist only of livestock permittees shall be decommissioned.

■ Public land agency managers who are successful in solving resource management problems should be recognized and rewarded.

■ The U.S. Animal Damage Control Program shall be terminated on public lands. Public land agencies shall contract for any necessary control of individual predators with state or provincial wildlife agencies.

■ Agencies shall decommission the three Experimental Stewardship Programs.

■ Public land agencies shall allocate sufficient forage to maintain healthy plant communities and the wildlife that depend on them before considering allocating forage to wild horses or livestock.

■ Agencies shall permit no increase in numbers of livestock nor intensification of grazing management practices in wilderness areas.

■ Agencies must monitor the effects of livestock grazing and shall use generally approved methods in a consistent manner.

■ The practice of manipulating native vegetation to improve forage for livestock through such methods as chaining and the use of herbicides shall cease. Likewise, the practice of seeding or reseeding public lands with exotic species shall cease.

■ Individuals or organizations not engaged in the livestock business shall be authorized to hold grazing permits for conservation purposes, including restoration and protection of natural ecosystems.

■ Public land agencies shall negotiate with permittees for public access across their private lands to public lands as a condition of the grazing permit.

■ Agencies shall recognize all U.S. citizens as affected interests in grazing decisions.

■ Public land agencies shall expend no public funds on range improvements unless they are demonstrated to be cost effective and environmentally sound. In the U.S., the Range Betterment Fund shall be abolished and Congress shall decide annually through the appropriations process the amount and purposes of range improvement expenditures.

■ Public land agencies shall exclude livestock grazing from riparian areas unless they determine that grazing does not impair riparian areas in satisfactory condition or that grazing is a necessary part of a rehabilitation plan.

■ Public land agencies shall give wildlife and wildlife habitat a high priority in all public land decisions. Reintroductions of native species shall also have high priority.

■ Public land agencies shall manage wild horses to be compatible with natural ecosystems. Public land agencies shall not use wild horses as scapegoats for livestock grazing problems.

■ This policy shall be reevaluated five years from the date of Board approval. If substantial progress has not been made toward the minimization and mitigation of negative environmental impacts of grazing on public lands, the Sierra Club shall consider adoption of a more stringent policy in order to prevent unacceptable damages to public lands and resources.

Cross-country Skiing in NM: Getting Started

by John A. Turnbull (Part Two)



As I mentioned last month, the Santa Fe Group will be conducting its popular classes again this season. These consist of an indoor class, on Thursday, followed by a half-day on-snow class the following Saturday morning (see Santa Fe Group outings for dates).

These classes are free, and, being brief, serve essentially as an introduction, so people can get started, correctly, and inexpensively. For those wishing to develop their skills further, there are many sources of in-depth instruction, some of which I have listed below, by geographical area.

Las Vegas and East. Joanne Sprenger, a Sierra Club member and staffer at Highlands University, offers a beginning class through the university. Usually begins after the Holidays. Phone Joanne 454-3490 (days), or 454-0551 (evenings.)

Cloudcroft, and southeast New Mexico and west Texas. For people in Roswell, Carlsbad, Las Cruces, El Paso, etc. snow is pretty scarce, but a couple hours' drive to the Sacramento Mountains provides some wonderful cross-country opportunities (and Alpine skiing as well.) In Cloudcroft, lessons (and rental equipment) are available, for a fee, from Busick Ski Haus, 682-2144, or The Lodge (at the golf course) 682-2566, or (800) 395-6343. Cross-country equipment may be rented also at the Ski Palace, 682-2045.

Silver City and Southwest. I was not able to locate a source of instruction, but rental equipment and advice is available at Gila Hike and Bike in Silver City, 388-3222. Ask for Jack Brennan.

Albuquerque, and Central New Mexico. Predictably, there are lots of opportunities in Albuquerque. New Mexico Ski Touring Club offers introductory instruction without charge (but membership is \$7.00.) The instructor this year is Guy Miller, 294-7940, who can give you details. Call Membership Persons Michon Johnson, 843-6789, or Patricia Kerr-Sanders, 256-0361, for an application. (The NMSTC offers a great variety of long and short ski tours as well, which I will discuss next issue.)

The University of New Mexico's Community College offers, with a fee, a beginning class of four sessions. Their catalog comes out in mid-December. Phone 277-3751. Also, for college credit, the UNM Fizz-Ed Department offers beginning and intermediate cross-country classes. Call George Brooks at 277-5423 for details about classes. For a schedule, phone 277-5151. Also, UNM Leisure Services offers beginning instruction, intended mainly for students, but non-students can participate as well. Call Laura Montoya, 277-4347.

On the top of Sandia Crest, the Gift Shop/Restaurant advertises cross-country ski instruction and rentals. Phone 243-0605.

Most sports shops in Albuquerque offer cross-country ski rentals. It is worth shopping around, not only for price, but other details.

Santa Fe. Besides the Sierra Club beginning classes (see Santa Fe Group outings schedule), beginning cross-country instruction is available, for college credit, from Santa Fe Community College. Phone 471-8200 for schedule.

Bill Neuirth, who conducts those classes, also offers instruction privately, for groups or individuals, for a fee. Phone 982-2586 for details.

Cross-country rental equipment is available at most sports shops. Particularly note that Wilderness Exchange, 986-1152, owned by Sierra Clubber Randy Freeman, is putting in a new line of serious back-country class rentals. That's rare. Also, Base Camp, 982-9707, has something even rarer: rental Telemark skis.

Los Alamos. The Parks and Recreation Department offers beginning classes for a fee.

Call 662-8170. Jim Burns, who conducts those classes, also offers instruction privately (and I sometimes help out) for groups and individuals, for a fee. Phone 662-6604 evenings. Cross-country rental equipment is available at Sports Bag (662-2454) or Trailbound Sports (662-3000).

Taos, and north central. Southwest Nordic Center, 758-4761, offers classes for groups and individuals, ranging from a single day to four and eight weeks' length, for a fee. They also (sometimes) conduct classes in Santa Fe and Los Alamos. They have their own rental skis and equipment.

Telemark Instruction

Each year I receive numerous enquiries from Sierra Club members and others concerning how and where to learn Telemark skiing, which is a very old Nordic downhill technique once almost forgotten, but now growing in popularity, particularly in North America. It is a technique particularly appropriate to ski touring in the mountainous western states, and is a lot of fun to do at groomed, lift-served, Alpine (i.e. "downhill") ski resorts.

Telemarking can be done on any Nordic skis, but is infinitely easier to learn on skis designed for easy turning, and fitted with steel edges. Heavier, back-country class boots and bindings are almost essential, except under the best of conditions. Finding Telemark equipment to rent is always a problem. Base Camp in Santa Fe, 982-9707, has it. In Albuquerque, check the Yellow Pages. To my knowledge, none of the Alpine ski areas stock Telemark rentals.

Bill Neuirth of Santa Fe, and Southwest Nordic Center, Taos (see above) offer Telemark instruction. In addition, many Alpine resorts, if qualified instructors are available, offer a version of Telemark intended mainly for Alpine areas, called "Nordic Downhill", or, rather derisively, "Nor-pine". Santa Fe Ski Area, 982-4429, and Sandia Peak Ski Area, Albuquerque, 242-9052, normally do.

Next Issue: What to Wear, Where to Go.

[The author is a member and former Chair of the Santa Fe Group. He has conducted beginning and intermediate ski classes and tours for many years for the Sierra Club and several other organizations, and is a member of the Professional Ski Instructors of America - Rocky Mt. Div.]

Chapter Executive Committee Candidates

Five candidates are vying for three vacancies (3-year terms) on the Rio Grande Chapter Executive Committee. Please study their statements carefully, and make your selections using the ballot on the back cover.

Rich Adam (incumbent)

With a larger number of Chapter priorities for 1993, and smaller than expected revenues, we must work both to raise funds and to use them as effectively as possible. I will continue to work for the most efficient organization and budget, so that the Sierra Club can continue to lead in central areas like mining reform, water quality, biodiversity, and energy and transportation issues. My experience on the Chapter Ex-Com and in my professional life equip me to contribute to sound planning and prudent implementation of our scarce resources.

Karen Fuller

No statement received.

Susan Gorman

I believe the Sierra Club has a vitally important role to play in the determination of policies and practices which affect the fragile planet we depend on. This role requires action at several levels: the neighborhood, the community, the region, the nation and the world. Success will happen only if people at each level work effectively and in cooperation. This takes a delicate balance between providing each person enough guidance, structure and support while allowing individual freedom of action and creativity.

Since moving to Albuquerque 16 months ago, I have allocated as many hours to Sierra Club work as I can spare from starting a new consulting business. I am Program Chairman and have been coordinating political activities for the Albuquerque group. I am an active participant on the Chapter Mining Committee and in the Mining Action coalition, working to develop the grassroots network needed to achieve passage of a strong state hardrock mining law and to press the Congress to reform the General Mining Law of 1872.

The Rio Grande Chapter can become more effective if we work together to: 1) develop a strong an growing grassroots network of activists; 2) improve communication at all levels of the organization; 3) achieve a broader consensus among environmental organiza-

tions and other constituencies in the area

The experience which I can bring to the Chapter ExCom will support the achievement of these goals and strengthen the performance and optimize the energy and creativity of the Sierra club activists who are, after all, our most valuable resource.

Ted Mertig (incumbent)

Manager of the Die Cast Operations in El Paso and Juarez for Mercury Marine. Sierra Club member for past 11 years; member of the Executive Committee of the El Paso Regional Group of the Sierra Club for the past six years; member of the Executive Committee of the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club for the past two years.

The Sierra Club is the major environmental organization working to preserve the environment and protect ecologically sensitive areas. It must relentlessly continue to pursue these goals, because, as Dave Foreman says, "There Is No Compromise In Defense of Mother Earth." I would be happy to continue to contribute my time and energies to public lands issues, such as the Diamond Bar overgrazing allotment, and to more local areas of concern, such as free trade, water quality, air quality and their impacts on both sides of the border.

Carol Morrison (incumbent)

Currently member of the Rio Grande Chapter Executive Committee, El Paso Regional Group Outings Chair, and 1992 Lorax newsletter editor. Past service on the Rio Grande Chapter ExCom and El Paso Regional Group ExCom (member, Secretary, Vice-Chair.) Member of the Sierra Club since 1989, Nature Conservancy, and (most recently) Franklin Mountains Wilderness Coalition.

The Executive Committee of the Rio Grande Chapter has two main functions: 1) identifying environmental priorities/goals of the Chapter for action and resources (funds, people, publicity, etc.); and, 2) organizational development to assure a viable, powerful Chapter that has financial and political clout to effect change. As a current member of the Chapter ExCom under the leadership of Gwen Wardwell, I have seen positive changes in both functions—grassroots participation in establishing Chapter environmental priorities, and order from chaos in flowing funds to projects and organizations that are already in there swinging. These changes make continued service on the ExCom worthwhile.



Yes! I've got the chapter on my list this year.

Here's my gift of:

☐ \$10 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (____) _____

By sending my gift with this form to the local club office, I'm making sure that my entire gift is used for local conservation efforts.

Gift Membership

☐ Yes, enter gift membership for the following:

New Member Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ ZIP _____

Gift Acknowledgement: Please complete the information below. We will forward a gift announcement card for your use.

Donor 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
YOUTH	<input type="checkbox"/> \$7.50	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10.00
SENIOR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> \$23
STUDENT	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> \$23

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

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Join the Sierra Club

ALBUQUERQUE GROUP

November General Meeting: Uncle Sam's War Against Wildlife by Blair Brown

Few New Mexicans realize that the federal government, along with our county governments, spend millions of tax-payer dollars per year to kill wildlife. In 1990 alone, over 10,000 coyotes, mountain lions, and other animals were slaughtered, just in New Mexico. This may sound incredible, but it's true.

Pat Wolff, Rio Grande Chapter Wildlife Issues Chair, has graciously accepted our invitation to come and tell us more about how this is allowed to happen. Her presentation will talk about the "Predator Control" activities of the U. S. Animal Damage Control Agency and the New Mexico Game & Fish Department.

The November meeting will be on Monday, November 16th, at 7:30 PM, UNM Law School, Room 2401, on the NW corner of Mountain and Stanford NE. Please bring a cup if you care to have refreshments provided by the Albuquerque Group. Preceding the main program, we talk about upcoming events and outings, recaps of recent outings, and alerts on issues. Please come!

December Holiday Party

As in previous years, we will not have a December general meeting, but instead will have a Holiday Party. These have been well attended in the past and are a lot of fun. We'll have time to chat and renew friendships and hopefully talk about successes of the past year and challenges of the new year. We will also have a short awards ceremony to honor some of our tireless volunteers.

This year, Carla and Doug Clark have graciously agreed to hold the party at their home. It will be on **Sunday, December 13, from 5-8PM**. They live at 4605 San Andres, NE. The nearest cross streets are Comanche and Washington. From there, go north on Washington to the third cross street and turn right into San Andres. Their home is on the east side after about a half a block, near the curve in the road. Please bring your favorite potluck dish, enough to serve 6-8. Also bring your own non-disposable plates, cups, and utensils. If anyone would be willing to come a bit early to put up luminarias and make holiday punch for us, please contact Susan Gorman at 256-0373 or Heidi Fleischmann at 260-1217. We hope to see you there. We look forward to seeing the old timers as well as those new members out there. This should be lots of fun!

* * * * * URGENT! * * * * *

JOIN THE CITIZEN LOBBYING CORPS

Did you know that you can have a significant influence on the legislative process in New Mexico? State legislators want to hear from you. They have plenty of input from professional lobbyists but they really want to know how their own voting constituents feel.

The Mining Committee is leading the effort to mobilize a grassroots corps of individuals who care about New Mexico's environment and special places. We need you to become a committed member of this grassroots corps to participate in the State's legislative process, particularly to ensure passage of the mining reform bill in the 1993 session.

The Albuquerque Group must build on the excellent nucleus we have in our Phone Tree by adding more people, including our farther regions to the East and West, like Clovis, Grants, and Gallup.

Workshop November 12th

A workshop will be given on November 12, 1992, 7:00 PM at the Sierra Club Office, 207 San Pedro NE in Albuquerque to give attendees an overview of the basic components of the mining reform legislation, teach citizen lobbying techniques, and develop a plan to enhance public awareness.

To get involved, talk to Susan Gorman or Blair Brown at 265-3231 or send the following information to Susan Gorman at the Sierra Club office, 207 San Pedro NE, Albuquerque, NM 87108: Name, address, phone, Senate and House district (if known), whether you plan to attend the Workshop, how you would like to help (writing letters, doing mailings, making phone calls, fund raising, other). Thanks!

Want some money? We need your action plan!

by Susan Gorman and Blair Brown

At the Chapter Retreat on Sept. 12-13 it was agreed that the Chapter would dedicate conservation funds to four Priority Campaigns in 1993. These campaigns are listed below with partial listing of the type of projects anticipated.

- 1. Mining**
— Reform of the 1872 Mining Act. — Enact state hardrock legislation.
— Ensure enforcement of existing laws and regulations. — Reauthorize and strengthen coal mining legislation
- 2. Water Quality and Quantity**
— Work to improve water quality and quantity. — Ensure enforcement of existing laws and regulations. — Design and implement education programs for water conservation. — Prevent degradation of water quality on the Diamond Bar and other riparian areas.
- 3. Biodiversity**
— Reauthorize and strengthen the Endangered Species Act. — Work to eliminate "predator control" practices in all but exceptional situa-

continued on page 2

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Earth Citizen, Inc., an environmentally dedicated business which contributes significantly to the Albuquerque Sierra Club, has moved again. Their cart is now located in Winrock center. Send your purchase receipts to the Sierra Club, and they will make a contribution to us.

Heidi Fleischmann

Town Hall Meeting

You are invited to attend a Town Hall Meeting on December 4, 1992 at the Albuquerque Convention Center. This forum is sponsored by the Shared Vision Steering Committee, a broad-based, city-wide group that has met for the past year to identify Albuquerque's goals in the areas of economic development and the environment, social issues and the arts, and urban design and growth. The result of their work is summarized in a Draft Report to the Community. To obtain a copy of the Draft Report, or to find out more about the Shared Vision Steering Committee, call Jenny Scott at 768-3276.

Want some money? - continued from page 1

tions. — Design and implement public education programs. — Work to prevent diminution of biodiversity on the Diamond Bar.

4. Energy & Transportation

— Ensure that ISTEA funding is used for most fuel-efficient modes of transportation. — Implement the Governor's Energy Policy for New Mexico. — Oppose construction of the OLE and the Zuni Mountain Power Lines. — Support the Bottle Bill and Recycling legislation. — Encourage use of renewable sources.

Chapter funds are available to help you with your work on these campaigns. To get funding, you need to ask for it. This means you need to prepare an "Action Plan," which should include a description of the activities you plan to pursue, an estimate of the funds you will need, and your plans for raising some of the funds as part of the effort. Your plan doesn't need to be long or fancy, but must be clear enough to let us know what you have in mind. Depending on the total funding available, the Chapter will dedicate funds to you for your project.

Time is getting short, however! We need to have your Action Plans in our hands for the Conservation Committee meeting on November 23. If you can't be at the meeting, mail or drop them off at the Albuquerque Group office at 207 San Pedro NE, Albuquerque, NM 87108. If you have any questions, contact David Bouquin at 265-7853, or Susan Gorman/Blair Brown at 265-3231.

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
	Stan Kauchak	292-9138
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

The 5 Minute Activist by Stefan Verchinski

Current issues remain concerning land use and development in Albuquerque. Call your city Councillor to:

- 1) Consider mass transit alternatives to Unser Blvd, which still threatens the Petroglyph National Monument.
- 2) Ask that High Desert Development release the 167 easternmost acres of the Sandia Foothills for open space in exchange for annexation of the remaining area by the city.
- 3) Ask that the 2 cent per gallon bike-way/transit tax issue be placed on next year's ballot.

P.S. Still no word from Jim Baca's office on the Mesa del Sol Annexation.

CALENDAR

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

- Nov 5: Mexican Wolf Coalition, 7:30 PM.
- Nov 9: Executive Committee Meeting, 7PM.
- Nov 12: Lobbying Workshop, 7 PM.
- Nov 16: Sierra Club General Meeting, UNM Law School, Rm 2401, 7:30 PM.
- Nov 23: Conservation Committee meeting, 7:30 PM.
- Dec 4: Town Hall Meeting, Albuquerque Convention Center.
- Dec 10: Deadline for Ballots.
- Dec 12: 12 noon. Deadline for articles for January group newsletter/Sierran. Macintosh disk preferred. Call if supplying hardcopy only.
- Dec 13: Holiday Party, 5-8PM, see article on page 1.

OUTINGS

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

Sun Nov 1 Leisure Miles: 2 Car: 0
Oxbow, Rio Grande Bosque
 Winter waterfowl migration may have begun. 2 to 3 hours. 9 AM, meet at corner of Coors and St. Joseph's.
 Leader: David 344-8693

Sat Nov 7 Moderate Miles: 1
Antelope Fencing Project
 Since antelope rarely jump fences, poachers in the Rio Puerco Basin shoot antelope easily. By removing the lower barbed wire and installing a smooth wire at a higher height, antelope are given a chance of escaping. The last time we installed a quarter mile of fencing in about 4 hours and had a lot of fun. Bring lunch, gloves, and fencing pliers if you have them. RSVP. Meet at the BLM office, 435 Montano Rd. NE, 8:30 AM. Leader: Glen Keplar 296-0402.

Sun Nov 8 Moderate-Strenuous Miles: 8 Car: 180
San Mateo Peak, Apache Kid Wilderness
 Southwest of Socorro lies the predominant San Mateo Peak. We will climb 3000 ft from desert to subalpine life zones to the summit with tremendous views into the distance. Bring lunch. Meet at 7:30 SC office. Leader: Stan Kauchak 292-9138.

Sat Nov 14 Leisure Miles: 1-2
Rio Grande Nature Center
 This is an opportunity to visit the second pond at the Nature Center, which is not open to the public. Sandra Williamson will show us the birds of the area. Two hours. Meet 8:30AM at the Nature Center at the end of Candelaria. Leader: David 344-8693.

Sat Nov 21 Leisure Miles: 2-3 Car: 3-4
Geological Windows, PNM
 People from all over the US are attending these hikes. If you are new to NM, this is an excellent introduction to the Rio Grande bioregion. Sturdy shoes, camera, binoculars. RSVP. Leader: Ike Eastvold 255-7679.

Sun Nov 15 Moderate-Exploratory Miles: 3-4 Car: 80
 Northwest of San Ysidro is an area of fantastic rock formations and beautiful colors managed by the BLM. This area is another suggested by Kathy Walters of the BLM. Kathy's other suggestions, Tapia and Bluewater canyons, have been fantastic. Meet at Winchell's, San Mateo and Academy, 9AM. Leader: Tom Leck 857-0765.

Mon Nov 16
Pre-meeting Dinner
 We will meet at Adam's Table, 3617 Copper NE. Vegetarian cuisine.
 David: 344-8693

Sat Nov 21 Moderate-Exploratory Miles: 8 Car: 85
Guadalupe Mesa, Jemez Mountains
 We will cross the Guadalupe River and follow an old logging road to the top. Views are beautiful from the rim as we search for a large Indian ruin. Meet behind Winchell's, San Mateo and Academy. Bring lunch and warm clothing. RSVP. Leader: Ralph Genter 828-1495, 344-1553.

Sun Nov 22 Moderate Miles: 4 Car: 200
Tsirege and Tsankawi Ruins, Bandelier National Monument
 Tsankawi ruins were closed to the public until about a year ago. Features include stairs that have been worn into the rock by Indians and tourists, cliff dwellings, and an unexcavated pueblo. Bring lunch, dress warm. Meet 8AM behind Winchell's, San Mateo and Academy. Dinner at a restaurant afterwards. Leader: Terri Moyers 265-8274.

Sat Nov 28 Moderate Miles: 4 Car: 85
Tent Rocks
 Above Cochiti is an area of volcanic tuff eroded into 100 ft tall domes. Apache tears, a form of obsidian, is a feature of the geology. Tent Rock is an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). Lunch and warm clothes. Meet 9AM at SC office. Leader: Bob Cornish 255-6037.

Sun Nov 29 Leisure Miles: 2-3
Oxbow, Rio Grande Bosque
 Sandhill cranes, belted kingfishers, night herons, mallards, pintails, wood ducks, beaver, and muskrat are some of the wildlife that can be seen. Meet 9:30AM at St. Joseph's and Coors. Three hours. David 344-8693.

Sat Dec 5 Leisure Miles: 2-3
Rinconada Canyon, PNM
 Redtail hawks soaring, a sparrow hawk sitting perched, and a turkey vulture flying along the escarpment's rim is a common backdrop as the religious significance of various petroglyphs, such as shields, plumed serpents, and cloud terraces are discussed. RSVP. Leader: Ike Eastvold 255-7679.

Sat Dec 5 Leisure Miles: 0-1
Bosque del Apache NWR
 Look for whooping cranes among thousands of snow geese and sandhill cranes. Await the orchestra of bird calls and colors as the sun begins to set. We will eat lunch at the Owl Cafe or in Socorro before we begin our tour. Meet at the parking lot north of the Physics and Astronomy bldg at Yale and Lomas at 10AM. Leader: Laura Jenkins 293-7527.

Sun Dec 6 Moderate-Exploratory Miles: 4-6 Car: 170
Sierra de las Canas and Prescilla WSA.
 We will look for the slot canyon and pictographs of Prescilla and also explore the badlands of the adjacent Sierra de las Canas. New Mexico at its finest. Meet at 9AM, SC office. Leader: Nick Persampieri 281-7845. CoLeader: David Morrison

Sat Dec 12 Leisure Miles: 0 Car: 180
Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe Feast Day Indian Dances
 We will visit Santa Clara, Tesuque, and Pojoaque Indian pueblos to watch the Bow and Arrow, Buffalo, and Commanche dances. Meet 9AM SC Office. Leader: Bob Cornish 255-6037.

Sat Dec 12 Moderate Miles: 8 Car: 110
San Miguel Ruins, Bandelier NM
 If there is snow, we will go x-country skiing. Otherwise we will hike along Sanchez canyon to Turkey Springs and then to San Miguel ruins at the south end of Bandelier behind Cochiti. Sanchez canyon is a pleasant surprise among the rolling terrain of pines and juniper. Bring lunch and warm clothes. Meet 8AM. RSVP. Leader: Don Meaders 266-8823.

Sun Dec 27 Leisure Miles: 2-3
Corrales Bosque Hike
 Last year we spotted a bald eagle and tons of robins in this area. 2-3 hrs. Meet 9AM, Burrito Company at Alameda and Coors. Leader: David 344-8693

Sun Jan 3 Moderate Miles: 6 Car: 130
Jemez X-country skiing
 We will ski the loop trail near the East Fork of the Jemez River, with views of Redondo Peak. Last year we had to do an alternate section of this trail due to a timber sale. The timber sale has destroyed the trail signs and left downed timber. Dress warm, bring lunch. Stop at Los Ojos Bar afterwards. Dogs welcome. Meet 9AM Winchell's, San Mateo and Academy. Leader: David Morrison 344-8693.

continued on page 4

1993 Executive Committee Elections

It's time once again to elect members to the Executive Committee of the Albuquerque Group of the Sierra Club. The current members and the expiration dates of their terms are listed below:

Expires 1992 Jeanne Halverson
 Stefan Verchinski
 Teresa Johnson (appointed)
 Expires 1993 Richard Barish
 Blair Brown (appointed)
 Vacant
 Expires 1994 Bob Cornish
 Heidi Fleischmann
 David Bouquin

Listed below are the candidates and a short personal statement. They are all eager, motivated, and enthusiastic and bring a variety of perspectives on Sierra Club activities and issues. Please take a few minutes to read the biographies and then vote for no more than 3 candidates on the ballot on the back cover of this newsletter. If you prefer, you can choose up to three write-in candidates.

The deadline for receiving ballots is December 10. The results will be published in the next issue of the *Sierran*.

JOHN DAY

John Day is a first year law student at the University of New Mexico. He has recently moved to Albuquerque from North Carolina where he worked as a journalist.

ED GENTNER

Ed Gentner is a resident of Albuquerque and a student at the University of New Mexico, where he helped found the Student Chapter and has been active in planning outings and activities.

TOM LECK

I have just recently moved to New Mexico from Houston, Texas, and couldn't be happier about living in such a beautiful place. Since moving here I have participated in several Sierra Club hiking trips, worked on the REI recycling efforts, and participated in the annual "fleecing of the masses" at the Sierra Club Office parking lot during the recent State Fair. In addition, I have been a frequent and tireless volunteer at Bill Clinton's Campaign headquarters here in Albuquerque. In real life, I am a geologist and am currently working as a Laboratory Scientist at the State of New Mexico's Scientific Laboratory. Most of my daily work involves analyses of New Mexico's water and soil samples.

I have been a Sierra Club member since about 1975, and have been a Life Member since 1981. However, other than a strong and energetic interest in local, state, and national politics, and maybe an occasional camping/hiking trip, I really was not all that active in the Houston Sierra Club. I did work as a volunteer docent at the Houston Zoo for several years, both learning and teaching about the sad state of the world's animal populations. I also helped organize and served two years as chairperson of my Houston employer's Recycling Committee.

I have been a backpacker for almost twenty years, have had a lifelong fascination with astronomy, and enjoy New Mexico's mountains, wildlife, sunsets, and night skies.

My Excom interests would include outings, endangered species and wilderness protection issues, state and national politics, and water and night-time light pollution concerns.

New Mexico is beautiful! Let's work to keep it that way!

NICK NICOLAUS

I joined the Sierra Club through the Albuquerque Group in 1971. By midway through the following year I was a rabid environmentalist. I started as Outings Co-chair, then moved on to become Outings Chair, Membership Chair, Books & Calendar person, Group Vice-Chair, Group Chair, and Chapter representative for the Albuquerque Group. Issues which I worked on include: Sandia Crest Road Realignment, NM Mountain Lion season extension, Rio Grande Oxbow battle (late 70's), NM wilderness area bills, Alaska Wilderness Act (went to Denver to testify), Factory Butte Power Plant Proposal Hearings (Utah), Wind Generator Site Proposal for Sandia Crest, and I also headed up the initial Adopt-A-Trail Program (Forest Service) to maintain the Embudito Trail (3 yrs). My interests lie mainly in forest and Wild Area issues (logging, trails, etc), wildlife issues, and Outings. I have been known to get involved in many other issues that the chapter feels worth taking up.

My reason for running is my desire to jump back into the environmental foray. I recently retired

from the US Air Force and also completed my last college degree requirements. Currently I am an active member of the Bosque Committee and attend Excom and Conservation Committee meetings. In the past my efforts on behalf of the Sierra Club proved noteworthy, and your vote will allow me to continue. Thank you.

STEFAN VERCHINSKI

The last three years on the Excom (twice as its chair) have been personally rewarding. Many of the Albuquerque Group's goals concerning air quality and toxics, bikeway planning, and the Petroglyph National Monument have been successfully implemented. Persuading the city to honor its Comprehensive Plan will be my own personal goal if re-elected to the Excom. I hope to bring my experience in networking on issues relating to the city and find time to meet you on hikes or backpacks. This is a great Group, and with your support I'll work to have it respond to the next critical local issues. Thank you.

OUTINGS, continued

Sat Jan 9 Signs for the SC office
 Instead of taking that gauche fluorescent paint to the hazardous waste dump, why not use it to create 3 new signs at the office? Give a call if you can donate paint, plywood or other materials. Bring your paint brushes and rollers, sandpaper, stencils or artistic talent to the office at 10AM. We will call out for pizza. Should be fun. David 344-8693.

Sat Jan 16 Bald Eagles at Cochiti
 Welcome to the new outing's co-chair, Stan Kauchak.

We are providing Red Cross first aid training for leaders in November. If you would like to become a leader then give us a call. Stan 292-9138.

the LORAX

Sierra Club
El Paso Regional Group

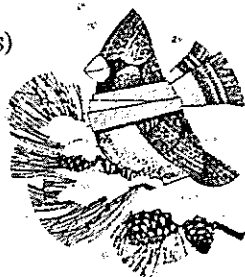
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER GENERAL MEETING

Don't forget that our next meeting will be the last time we meet in 1992. We will meet on Wednesday, December 2nd. Our speaker will be Tom O'Laughlin, curator of the Wilderness Park Museum. He will give a general program on the archeology of the region. The talk will cover a variety of time periods and the archeological sites associated with them. Please join us for this holiday gathering.

The program will start at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 2nd, at St. Paul's Methodist Church, 7000 Edgemere (two blocks east of Airway). For more information, call Ted Mertig, 852-3011.

CALENDAR

November 4 EXCOM (800 S. Piedras)
November 26 Happy Thanksgiving
December 2 General Meeting
December 9 EXCOM
December Enjoy the Holidays
January 1 Happy New Year!
January 6 EXCOM
January 27 General Meeting



TAKE A FRIEND ON A SIERRA CLUB OUTING!

We are most fortunate to live in an area so well suited to outings. We have several wilderness areas within a few hour's drive of El Paso, including the largest wilderness in the Southwest, the Gila Wilderness. We have an abundance of caves in the Guadalupe Mountains, the canyons of the Rio Grande at Big Bend National Park, delicate plant communities in riparian areas, such as McKittrick Canyon, and the world's largest exposure of gypsum at White Sands National Monument.

Because our weather is mild enough so that we can go on outings year-round, our Outings Program offers members and guests various trips into these wild areas each weekend of the year.

Successful outings depend ultimately on the participants. We encourage all Sierra Club members to take advantage of the Outings Program. In order for outings to go well, it certainly helps to have positive thinking participants who are cooperative and helpful to one another. We all love and respect the natural environment and aim to have a minimal impact on the wild areas we visit.

If you haven't gone on an outing recently, find one that interests you and have a great time. If you have participated in several outings, consider becoming an outings leader. It's a shame to miss the beautiful places we visit. Don't miss your chance!

*based on a 1989 article in the Lorax by Rollin Wickenden
Many thanks for a message worth repeating! Wyona*

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



Your gift of a Sierra Club Membership will not only please your friend, relative or associate, but Mother Nature as well. Give a gift as big as the great outdoors. Give a Sierra Club Membership.

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER OUTINGS

McKITTRICK CANYON/DOG CANYON KEY EXCHANGE BACKPACK

DATE: November 6-8, 1992
CLASS: Moderately strenuous
LIMIT: 20 (10 per 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.

HUECO TANKS STATE PARK ISSUE DAYHIKE

DATE: Saturday, November 14, 1992
CLASS: Easy +
LIMIT: 15, reservations required
LEADER: Carol Morrison, 545-1701

The El Paso Regional Group has recently addressed several pressing issues in protection of the Park's natural and man-made treasures. Those issues, as you may recall, were

- 1) identify lands for future acquisition to buffer the Park from urban encroachment and develop a strategy for acquisition;
- 2) identify picnic sites in sensitive areas and relocate them to less sensitive areas;
- 3) consider banning open fires;
- 4) develop a plan to remove the large dam on west side of the Park;
- 5) add a visitor center; and
- 6) staff and fund interpretive programs.

We will leave at 8 AM from the "Space Ship" at the entrance to the park road on Highway 62/180, about 20 miles east of the El Paso Airport. Join Fil Nakovic (who has been a one-man crusade to keep the Park clean!) on a morning tour of this historic and starkly beautiful site to our east. Assistant Superintendent Dave Parker will join us for a brief discussion of issues affecting the future of this small, but significant site.

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 PM from the Albertson's parking lot on the westside 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!

MT. CHRISTO REY DAYHIKE

DATE: Sunday, November 22, 1992
CLASS: Easy +
LIMIT: 20, reservations required
LEADER: Betsy Julian, 544-5741

This will be a two-mile hike up the gentle, worn trail to where the 40' statue of Christ is located. We will meet on the west side of town about mid-day and drive together to the Mt. Cristo Rey parking lot. Call for details.

SAPILLO CREEK KEY EXCHANGE BACKPACK

DATE: December 4-6, 1992
CLASS: Moderate +
LIMIT: 24 (12 in each direction) reservations required
LEADERS: Rollin Wickenden, 598-8042 (hm)
Wesley Leonard

The idea is to do the Sapillo Creek-Sheep Corral Canyon hike as a key exchange to avoid the misery of a car shuttle. Rollin's group will leave Friday evening and drive to our campsite near the trailhead along NM 15. On Saturday, we will hike the Cow Creek Trail #233 and Sheep Corral Canyon Trail #231 to a beautiful campsite along Sapillo Creek near its confluence with the Gila River. Wesley plans to leave early Saturday morning and hike the Spring Canyon Trail #247 to a campsite on the opposite bank of Sapillo Creek. On Sunday morning, we will meet midstream in thigh-deep Sapillo Creek to exchange car keys. We will then retrace each other's route: Rollin's group hiking out the Spring Canyon Trail, Wesley's group hiking out Sheep Corral Canyon and the Cow Creek Trail.

What a great time of year! We can enjoy sunny, but cool, days in the nearby southern Gila Wilderness, the Guadalupe, Organs, Potrillo, Floridas, Robledos, etc....and, of course, the Franklins. We are offered a myriad of inviting trails for dayhikes; special sites and sights for carcamps; and cool days for even the toughest backpacks.

If we aren't outdoors getting better acquainted with the Earth, enjoying the Capitan Reef, the Chihuahuan desert or the nation's designated Wilderness areas, it's our loss.

Savor what's left of 1992. Be good to yourself. Take a hike!

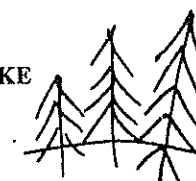


Carol

ALAMO MOUNTAIN DAYHIKE

DATE: Saturday, December 12, 1992
CLASS: Moderate
LIMIT: 12, reservations required
LEADER: Gary Williams, 562-3540

We will leave from the eastside for our drive out to Alamo Mountain, where we will spend the morning hiking, enjoy a lunch break, and return to El Paso by mid-afternoon.



DEC./JAN. OUTINGS

FRANKLIN MOUNTAINS DAYHIKE

DATE: Sunday, December 13, 1992

CLASS: Moderate

LIMIT: 12, reservations required

LEADER: Mike Episcopo, 833-3770

Join us for a pleasant fall hike in the Franklins. We'll enjoy lunch on top and return back in time for other Saturday evening activities.

SOUTH FRANKLIN PEAK HANGOVER DAYHIKE

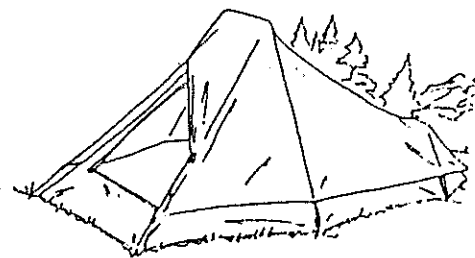
DATE: Friday, January 1, 1993

CLASS: Moderate (if you were moderate!)

LIMIT: 20, reservations required

LEADER: Mike Episcopo, 833-3770

You will start the New Year the right way!! Be healthy, happy, and in tune with our special place...the Franklins. This hike will begin at a reasonable hour, pause to enjoy sights from the crest trail, and save time for an hour on top to savor sunny El Paso. We hope for a clear day and renewed energy! You'll need to bring a warm jacket, snack and water, and the excitement of beginning a new year outdoors. Despite a somewhat steep and rocky trail, we should be down by early afternoon.



MT. RILEY, EAST POTRILLOS CARCAMP

DATE: January 9-10, 1993

CLASS: Very easy

LIMIT: none, reservations required

LEADER: Weldon and Betty Fisbeck, 581-0174

Spend Saturday afternoon hiking, climbing, searching for Indian artifacts (to be left in place, of course), mountain biking or just plain being lazy! Enjoy a campfire and the desert nightlife camped on a playa which was once an Indian campground as well.

We will leave from the westside of El Paso at 10 AM Saturday for the 45-mile drive past Kilbourne Hole (where we will make a brief stop) to our campsite. In the past, this has been a carcamp especially suitable for even very young children.

RON COLEMAN TRAIL
FRANKLIN MOUNTAINS DAYHIKE

DATE: Sunday, January 17, 1993

CLASS: Moderate

LIMIT: 20, reservations required

LEADER: Carolina Greenfield, 593-2838

This beautiful hike in the Franklin Mountains begins at McKilligan Canyon. We then climb to the crest, which we follow to South Franklin Peak before descending to Transmountain Road. There is a minor scramble at one point (assistance will be available), and we pass The Window, a natural arch. The views are spectacular along this four-mile hike. Elevation gain is about 2400'. Join us.



OUTINGS REPORTS

Bear-Tejas Loop Dayhike, 9/20/92

Ten hearty hikers gathered in El Paso at daybreak, then carpoled on a quick zip to the Guadalupe Mountains. We parked at Pine Springs Trailhead, and started up Frijole Trail in the cool morning air. John Bardouche and Dave Kofed charged up the switchbacks of Bear Canyon. Undaunted by palpable humidity, Wendy Mertig, Lolina Alvarez, Susanne Boon, Clay Smith, Cindy Bean, and Barbara Richardson followed. First among last came Jim Bell strolling, then leader Michael Bromka sweeping. Atop the escarpment, we were cooled by a breeze as we headed toward Pinetop. Speedier hikers topped Hunter Peak, but rejoined their prudent cohorts seeking shelter from looming thunderclouds. A densely needled low tree offered sanctuary during forty minutes of chilling rain till blue sky peaked around the clouds. We enjoyed hide-and-seek sunlight over rolling terrain, brushed and wooded. Turning down Tejas Trail, we found our footing enhanced on the rainwashed path. Our descent was over nearly four miles of rocky vistas. By early afternoon we reached the cars and declared this route a classic.

Hummingbird Saddle Backpack, 10/3-4/92

The aspen were beautiful and the weather was perfect as we made our way up to Hummingbird Saddle on a wonderful fall weekend in the Gila. Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning were free for dayhikes; some of us made our way up Whitewater Baldy and enjoyed incredible views of the origins of Whitewater Creek. Sharing in this fantastic weekend were Mark Post, Rob Belk, Eva Poppel, Mike and Dionne (on her 4th backpack) Episcopo, Joe Rodriguez and leader Kathy Sunday.

FRANKLIN MOUNTAINS POSTERS STILL AVAILABLE

There is still some time before the holidays to purchase Lindsay Holt II posters of Franklin Mountain images. Remember that Lindsay is donating all proceeds from sales of up to 50 of each to the Franklin Mountain Wilderness Coalition. Although he now lives in Santa Fe, Lindsay retains his strong commitment to the protection of the Franklins.

These two limited-edition posters are striking close-ups of native vegetation on rocky slopes, eloquently capture the mix of ruggedness and delicate beauty found in the Franklins. The color posters, which were featured in the October issue of the Rio Grande Sierran, 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).

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CANDIDATES

Six members of the El Paso Group of the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club are running for positions on the Executive Committee. You will be voting for four candidates.

LARRY CASTOR

Metallurgical Engineer, Operations Manager. Member of the Sierra Club for five years.

Although I am impressed by and support the work that the local chapter has done in the wilderness areas in Southern New Mexico, I am primarily interested in the environmental issues within the El Paso-Juarez area. The air, water, sewage and other environmental problems within this area are enormous and growing. The Sierra Club needs to take a stronger lead in educating the public about these problems and in motivating the community into better addressing them.

MIKE EPISCOPO

Aircraft Maintenance Technician for NASA. Active Sierra Club member since 1988; active in the outings program for the last two years; also member of the Wilderness Society and the Franklin Mountain Wilderness Coalition; an El Paso resident for 30 years.

To me the Sierra Club and like organizations provide the avenue for the protection of the environment. As an outdoor enthusiast, I want to continue the campaign for more wilderness and less encroachment in existing areas by overzealous mining, cattle and lumber companies whose greed and limited vision would destroy our public lands. I will devote my free time and work toward this cause, as well as the other goals of the club.

TED MERTIG

Manager of the Die Cast Operations in El Paso and Juarez for Mercury Marine. Sierra Club member for past 11 years; member of the Executive Committee of the El Paso Regional Group of the Sierra Club for the past six years; member of the Executive Committee of the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club for the past two years.

The Sierra Club is the major environmental organization working to preserve the environment and protect ecologically sensitive areas. It must relentlessly continue to pursue these goals, because, as Dave Foreman says, "There Is No Compromise In Defense of Mother Earth." As your current chairperson of the Executive Committee, and as the chairman of the Public Lands Committee, I would be happy to continue to contribute my time and energies to public lands issues, such as the Diamond Bar overgrazing allotment, and to more local areas of concern, such as free trade, water quality, air quality and their impacts on both sides of the border.

RICHARD RHEDER

Counselor, El Paso Child Guidance Center, Inc. Sierra Club member since 1978 in Dallas and El Paso; served as president of the El Paso Bicycle Club; member of the Bikeway Advisory Board.

As an ExCom member, my goal is to involve diverse segments of the community in pro-environmental activities through innovative projects. As one example, I recently wrote a grant proposal linking our Inner City Outing Program with my work. We now have a joint ICO/Guidance Center project to introduce children at risk of substance abuse to environmentally aware lifestyles...and have completed two of eleven proposed outings.

JOE A. RODRIGUEZ

Accountant. Member of the Sierra Club since 1989; member of the ExCom for the past two years; active in the outings program; also a member of the Wilderness Society, National Parks and Conservation Association and World Wildlife Fund.

My goals are to become more active in the areas of promoting the Club and increasing membership enrollment. I also want to exercise more effort in the area of protecting our public lands from abusive practices and overgrazing, mining, and logging. I plan to devote my time and effort toward achieving these goals.

KATHY SUNDAY

Certified Public Accountant. Member of the Sierra Club for 10 years; member of the ExCom for the past two years; also member of the World Wildlife Fund and the National Parks and Conservation Association.

I am active in the Club because I am concerned about the degradation in the quality of the environment, both locally and globally. I believe the Sierra Club, properly managed and directed, can be an effective force for positive environmental change. It's clear that dedicated personal involvement is the only way to achieve the Club's goals. I am running for re-election to the ExCom because I would like the opportunity to continue to bring my ideas and energies to bear in directing the Club's activities. I am willing to devote whatever time and resources are necessary to make a meaningful contribution.

SANTA FE GROUP NEWS

*** GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17 ***

Jennifer Dewey will present an exciting slide show of her trips to the Antarctica, the Southern New Mexico desert areas and the Goshutes Range in Nevada. Emphasis of the presentation is on extreme environments and climates. Ms. Dewey is the author and illustrator of children's books and often shows her presentation to schools.

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, November 17, at 7:30 PM.

*** ANNUAL CHRISTMAS POTLUCK - SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19 ***

The Santa Fe Group will host its annual Christmas Potluck Dinner and party on Saturday night, December 19, at 6:30 PM, at the Unitarian Church. Please bring 8 servings worth of one (or more) of the following for each member of your party — wine, beer, soft drinks, fruit juice, appetizers, casseroles, veggies, salads, meat dishes, hot breads and desserts. We will try this as a real pot "luck" — You do not need to call unless you want suggestions. Web Kitchell will run our Silent Auction. Please bring a saleable item or service (such as massage, guest house use, language lessons, cake baking/decorating, etc.) which can be auctioned off to help fund our conservation work. We will, as usual, be collecting canned goods, clothing and blankets for St. Elizabeth's Shelter. *Come one and all for this festive event and meet some new friends. Families encouraged, non-members welcome (but please bring a potluck contribution).*

For information, call: Norma McCallan, 471-0005

The Executive and Conservation Committees will be combined and held at the Sierra Club office at 440 Cerrillos Road on Tuesday, Nov 3, at 7 PM and Tuesday, December 1, at 6 PM, everyone is invited.

>> SANTA FE GROUP OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS <<

November Chair — Lionel Soracco*	983-6715	Publicity — Jana Oyler*	984-2020
December Chair - Lani Moore*	989-7711	Outings — Norma McCallan*	471-0005
Vice-Chair — Norma McCallan*	471-0005	Arnold Keskulla	982-9570
Secretary — Jana Oyler*	984-2020	Publications — Betsy Fuller	983-8870
Treasurer — Lionel Soracco*	983-6715	Education/Recycling/Office — Carolyn Keskulla*	982-9570
Conservation — Sue McIntosh	986-8825	Newsletter Editor — Kay Carlson	982-3926
Chapter Representative — Sue McIntosh	986-8825	Phone Tree—Martha Anne Freeman	438-0697
Legislation — Ken Hughes	988-9297	Randy Freeman*	982-5220
Membership — Pat Stevens	982-5051	John McClure*	473-1916
Fund Raising — Web Kitchell*	471-7539	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

PETS ON HIKES

Several years ago the normally peaceful relations among members were disrupted by what became a rancorous issue of whether dogs should be allowed on any local hikes. The ExCom sent the question to the National Outings Committee. After lengthy deliberation, they adopted a policy which is now part of the new outings manual:

Pets — Pets shall be permitted only on outings that are pre-advertised as pets-permitted outings (exception: seeing-eye dogs). Pet-permitted outings must be only to places where pets are legal and must be only to places which are acceptable to the chapter's outings and conservation committees.

Since the number of possible hikes in this area is almost infinite, it was generally agreed by the Conservation and Outings Committees that leaders wishing to lead "Dog Hikes" should use their discretion as to the place, provided pets are indeed allowed. However it was agreed that a list could be maintained of places unacceptable for dog hikes. If anyone feels strongly about this, send suggestions in writing to the Conservation or Outings Chairs.

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

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 Pederal. 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.
- 22 Elizabeth Altman (471-8490) Easy Hike to Tent Rocks. Leave 9 AM.
- 22 Steven Janus (988-4137) Moderate/Strenuous Hike Loop trip to Sandia Crest via Chimney Rock and return via UNM Spine Route. Leave 8 AM.
- 28 Gary Enos (473-4463) Easy/Moderate Hike to Kitchen Mesa near Ghost Ranch. Leave 9 AM.
- 29 Norbert Sperlich (983-1962) Strenuous Hike in the Caja del Rio. Call for reservations.

Sat Sun December

- 5 Outings Workshop, no hike (see notice elsewhere)
- 6 Louise Leopold (988-4592) Easy Hike from the Galisteo Dam. Dogs welcome. Leave 9:30 AM.
- 12 John McClure (473-1916) Moderate Hike in Bandelier. Leave 8 AM.
- 13 Victor Atyas (471-7545) Easy Hike in the Cerrillos Hills. Leave 9 AM.
- 19 Joe Whelan (984-0746) Moderate X Country Ski Trip or Hike Bandelier. Leave 8:30 AM.
- 19 Norma McCallan (471-0005) Easy/Moderate Hike from Nun's Corner. Dogs OK. Leave 9:30 AM.
- 26 Norrine Sanders (984-0386) Strenuous Hike in Bandelier from Ponderosa Campground to Stone Lions. Leave 8 AM.
- 27 Norbert Sperlich (983-1962) Moderate Hike Buckman Mesa. Call leader for info and reservations.

Sat Sun January

- 2 No hike scheduled.
- 9 John McClure (473-1916) Strenuous Hike in Bandelier Nat'l Monument. Leave 8 AM.
- 10 Norma McCallan (471-0005) Easy/Moderate Hike to Waldo from Galisteo Dam. Dogs allowed. Leave 9 AM.
- 16 Arnold Keskulla (982-9570) Easy Hike in Chamizos Arroyo. Leave 9 AM.
- 17 Victor Atyas (471-7545) Easy Hike in the Cerrillos Hills. Leave 9 AM.
- 24 Norbert Sperlich (983-1962) Moderate/Strenuous Hike in La Bajada area. Call leader.
- 23 24 Margo Wilson (1-744-5860) Enjoy a Weekend in warm & sunny Elephant Butte. Sleep at Margo's house & day hike in the Caballos & the Mud Springs Mtns. Moderate Hiking For carpooling, call Norma (471-0005)
- 30 Norrine Sanders (984-0386) Moderate Hike Leave 8 AM. Call for destination.
- 31 Jeff Jones (984-2389) Easy Family Hike Diablo Canyon. Leave 9 AM.

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



CROSS COUNTRY SKIING

Sat Sun Dec

- 19 John Turnbull (982-9329) Beginning Outdoor X Country Ski Instruction Basic instructions. Bring snacks and water. Snow permitting. Leave 9 AM.
 19 Joe Whelan (984-0746) Moderate X Country Ski Trip or Hike Bandelier. Lve 8:30 AM.
 20 John Turnbull (982-9329) Intermediate-Level X Country Ski Tour Hopewell Lake area (& exploration of possible Forest Service Ski Trails & Telemark slopes). Lve 8:15 AM.
 20 David Brown (662-2185) Moderate/Strenuous X Country Ski Trip. Call leader.

Sat Sun January

- 3 Steven Janus (988-4137) Moderate/Strenuous X Country Ski & Snowshoe Trip to Lake Peak, via Ravens Ridge. Participants must be experienced. Leave 8 AM.
 Wed 1-6 John Turnbull (982-9329) Intro to X Country Ski instruction Basic techniques taught. The Unitarian Church. 7:15 PM to approximately 9:15 PM. Call first.
 9 John Turnbull (982-9329) Beginning Outdoor X Country Ski Instruction Basic instructions. Bring snacks and water. Snow permitting. Leave 9 AM.
 10 John Turnbull (982-9329) Beginning Outdoor X Country Ski Tour Basic instructions. Bring snacks and water. Snow permitting. Leave 8:30 AM.
 Wed 1-20 John Turnbull (982-9329) Intro to X Country Ski instruction Basic techniques taught. The Unitarian Church. 7:15 PM to approximately 9:15 PM. Call first.
 23 Joe Whelan (984-0746) Moderate X Country Ski Trip Leave 8:30 AM.
 23 John Turnbull (982-9329) Beginning Outdoor X Country Ski Instruction Basic instructions. Bring snacks and water. Snow permitting. Leave 9 AM.
 24 John Turnbull (982-9329) Beginning Outdoor X Country Ski Tour Basic instructions. Bring snacks and water. Snow permitting. Leave 8:30 AM.
 30 Brian Johnson (438-2087) Moderate X Ctry Ski Trip U.S. Hill near Penasco. Lve 8 AM.

SKI TOUR NOTES: If you don't have your own cross country ski equipment, you can rent skis from a shop for about \$9.00.
 Call leader for details and reservations before all tours - most important!
 For all-day tours, bring big lunch, and always bring snacks and water.
 Proper clothing is essential — the weather can turn suddenly.

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.

OUTING LEADERS WORKSHOP

December 5, 9 AM - 4 PM

Unitarian Church

All outing leaders should attend and anyone potentially interested in becoming a leader. Sessions include trip administration, map & compass reading, video on mountain medicine, safety considerations, psychology of stress; principles of leadership. Also, an opportunity to discuss outings issues, ideas & suggestions. Bring a brown bag lunch; beverages will be available. Call: Norma McCallan 471-0005, Joe Whelan 984-0746 or Norbert Sperlich 983-1962.

RED CROSS CLASSES

Three dates are booked with the Red Cross for their standard First Aid & CPR class (2 sessions, 4 hours each). The First Aid Cert. is good for 3 years, CPR for 1. Outings leaders must have a current First Aid Cert. This year the Group will pay the \$35 fee for all outings leaders who agree to head 6 hikes in the next year. Non-outings leaders are also encouraged to sign up, but preference will be given to leaders in case of too many applicants. Sessions:
 Mon & Wed 6 PM - 10 PM Nov 16 & 18
 Mon & Wed 6 PM - 10 PM Nov 30 & Dec 2
 Tue & Thur 6 PM - 10 PM Dec 8 & 9
 Call Norma McCallan 471-0005 ASAP to reserve

The Deadline for Submission to the Jan Newsletter is Friday, 5 PM, Dec 11.

SANTA FE GROUP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
CANDIDATES STATEMENTS

KEN HUGHES — My interests center around growth-related issues — transportation, population and energy — and their impacts on the environment, both locally and globally.

Since moving to Santa Fe in 1989, I have witnessed the workings of a variety of environmental groups. None come close to the Sierra Club in efficacy at an impressively wide range of issues. Having served on non-profit boards and having worked for Sierra Club as a lobbyist both here and Washington, I feel that the ExCom would be a good forum through which I can express my knowledge, skills and commitment for the benefit of New Mexicans and our environment.

WEB KITCHELL — has been a member of the Santa Fe Group for 11 years and served on the ExCom for two. He has considerable experience with volunteer organizations, being Minister of the Unitarian Church of Santa Fe. Web grew up in the marshlands of Massachusetts and finds the same spiritual values in the mountains of New Mexico. He is the author of *God's Dog; Conversations with Coyote*.

SUSAN L. McINTOSH — When I look at the mountains, grasslands and deserts of NM, I like what I see. Yet when I look at the way these magnificent resources are managed and assess their chances for a healthy and vigorous future, much of the promise is clouded.

My background includes environmental law and regulation; focusing on Superfund and RCRA work; staff attorney working to reform the 1872 Mining Law and to address site specific mining abuses; a national EPA appointed advisory committee on hardrock mining regulation; Co-chair of Sierra Club Public Lands Committee Mining Subcommittee.

Local experience includes Chair of Rio Grande Chapter Mining Committee and Santa Fe Group Conservation Chair

The Sierra Club today has an opportunity to become a much fresher and even stronger force working for the conservation of the natural and cultural resources in northern New Mexico. I intend to continue to be part of that force. Within the Sierra Club, the greatest vehicle for conservation should be the SF Group ExCom. I would like to be a part of that force as well.

HELEN K. MOSER — I would be an effective addition to the ExCom due to my involvement in varied organizations as a teaching docent, activities coordinator, fundraiser and prior positions held on various boards. My formal training is in horticulture/soils. I have worked in various related botanical and gardening capacities. Growing up in an outdoors oriented family on Lake Michigan instilled in me a great respect for the environment. The rapid overuse and consumption of our natural resources for monetary profit by a few concerns me.

Each one of us can do something to open the eyes of another person or group about the thoughtful and educated use of our land, water and air. As Americans and Sierra Club members, we must continue with more vigor to be caretakers of the United States and as members of a global community we must work toward the preservation and continued restoration of this planet.

If I can play a small part in this endeavor through the Sierra Club, I will be active and content to serve where there is a need.

VAN L. PERKINS — Most of my research has been in the areas of agricultural and public lands policy. In that sense, my professional interest and my interest in environmental matters have had a common core. Since I grew up in East/Southeast Utah, and still have strong ties to the area, my main environmental involvement, prior to moving to Santa Fe, was with the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, though I have been a member of the Sierra Club off and on for almost 30 years. (My first environmental activity was in the Sierra Club's fight to save Glen Canyon from the infamous dam and Lake Powell.) I am primarily interested in the Public Lands aspects of conservation/preservation: wilderness, logging, mining, grazing, etc. I am convinced we must save what little is left of our nation's patrimony for our children and grandchildren. Nothing less than the future of the world is at stake.

NORMA SCOTT — I am 52 years old and have lived in Santa Fe for 2-1/2 years. I love wild places and creatures and feel that we lose our humanity when we cease to value other living things equal to, or above, our own needs and desires. My experience is limited — I can type, file and dial a telephone, but I feel very strongly about giving what voice I have to that which has no voice.

THE LOG

Southern New Mexico Group

It's Election Time Down South

It's Group and Chapter election time again. Please use the ballot on the back cover to vote for eight of the following nine candidates for our Group Executive Committee.

Tony Chiaviello is an NMSU doctoral student in Rhetoric & Professional Communication, who would like to see the SNMSC politicize the issues of taxpayer-subsidized wilderness grazing and the nutritional philosophy of the beef and dairy-products industry. His political roots go to the antiwar movement of the late 1960s, in which he was an organizer. After his return from the Vietnam War in 1968 he published a GI antiwar newspaper (*Hard Times*) at Fort Huachuca, AZ, and edited the Tucson *Free Press* in 1969-70. A graduate of Oberlin College, Tony is a widower with one grown son, and likes bicycling, backpacking, and auto-camping.

Robin Filipczak — Statement not received.

Juliet Gladden is a junior level Bio-chemistry major at NMSU. Juliet is a bonafide animal lover and plans to be a veterinarian. She is currently the Outings Chairperson for the Student Sierra Club, and enjoys almost anything that takes her outdoors. She is interested in marine resource and pollution issues, and looks forward to getting more involved in the Sierra Club and local environmental issues.

Andrew Hands is the founding and current president of the Student Sierra Club at NMSU. He is an avid outdoors person, and enjoys birdwatching and plant identification. Andrew is a junior studying Wildlife Sciences with an emphasis in Range management, and is presently an assistant for Project del Rio, an international water quality monitoring program. He was born and raised in Grants, New Mexico, and has spent his last two summers working as a park ranger for El Malpais National Monument. He is interested in issues involving range management, water quality, and endangered species.

Elizabeth Hernandez — Statement not received.

David McClurg has been an active environmentalist and Sierra Club member for over 20 years. He is on the executive committee of the Carlsbad Concerned Citizens and is the cave conservation officer with the Pecos Valley Grotto of the National Speleological Society. His primary environmental interests are cave conservation, oil and gas field waste disposal, and management of public lands. Revision of the antiquated federal mining legislation is also a priority. Professionally, David is a free-lance photographer and writer. His photos are sold through picture agencies in the U.S., Europe, Australia, and Japan. He has authored three books on cave exploration, the current title being *Adventure of Caving*. David also wrote, photographed, and designed the guidebook for the Living Desert State Park (Carlsbad, N.M.). He designs and produces the books published by the National Speleological Society.

Marianne H. Thaeler has been a Sierra Club member since 1986. She is a past member of the Southern New Mexico Group Executive Committee, and past Group Membership Chair. She is also a past member of the Group and Chapter Conservation Committees, as well as a hike leader. Her interests of special concern are: forests, grazing, wilderness, and waste disposal.

Jim Winder has experienced some successes at restoring riparian areas on his own land, and this led him to involvement in efforts to improve riparian habitat in New Mexico, in particular the Rio Grande. His background is in applied range ecology. He is the author of an article about grazing on page 6 of this issue.

If you are a believer in term limits, then don't vote for **Ben Zerbey**. This consummate office holder has held positions of Chair and Newsletter Editor at the Group level, has served 3 terms on the Chapter ExCom, including 3 years as Sierra Club Council Rep. He is a member of the Club's National Public Lands Committee and the Wilderness/Parks Campaign Steering Committee. He has wide knowledge of Club affairs and will attempt to serve

Group Directory

Myra Price, Chair	524-0261
David Pengelley, Vice-Chair	525-8286
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	824-4602
Cheryl Blevins, Publicity	524-4861
Libby Hernandez, Ex-Com	527-1440
Susan Worley, Ex-Com	646-5522
Ben Zerbey, Ex-Com	526-6207
Southwest Environmental Center	522-5552

the membership to the best of his abilities. A retired National Park Service employee, he will devote time to pursue Sierra Club objectives.

Newsletter Editor Needed

Do you like to edit? write? play around on the computer? wield power over groveling ExCom members who have missed their deadline, again? We have just the job for you. Our group needs someone to put together our section of the *Rio Grande Sierran*. You'll notice that the other groups usually have three pages in each issue, while we have one or less. It's not because we don't have anything to say; it's just that we don't have anyone to collect articles and information about upcoming outings, programs, etc., and put them all together to give to the editor of the *Sierran* each month. This is a great way to learn about issues, hikes, the Sierra Club, etc. If you're interested, call Myra at 524-0261 or David at 525-8286.

Programs and Meetings

Nov. 7 Frenger Park Tree Planting. Join the Southwest Environmental Center in the second stage of planting native trees to create a riparian habitat at Frenger Park. Corner of Farney Lane and East Park Drive (near Las Cruces High School), 9 a.m. Call 522-5552 for more info.

Nov. 11 ExCom meeting, Southwest Environmental Center, 1494A S. Solano, Las Cruces, 7 p.m. All Sierra Club members invited.

Nov. 19 Cows in the Wilderness, a joint program with NMSU Student Sierra Club Group. Susan Schock-Grinold, of Gila Watch in Silver City, will talk about her efforts to fight Forest Service plans to increase the number of cows on the Diamond Bar Allotment in our nation's first wilderness area—the Gila Wilderness. 7:30 p.m., Southwest Environmental Center.

Dec. 6 Book Signing Party with Las Cruces' own Susan Tweit, author of *The Great Southwestern Natural History Fact Book*. A portion of book sales will go to our Group since we underwrite *Wild Lives*, Susan's weekly radio delving into the wonders of nature in the Southwest. 2-4 p.m., in front of the Las Cruces Natural History Museum, Mesilla Valley Mall.

Dec. 11 Holiday Party! Come join the ExCom for holiday merry-making at Myra's house, 7:30 p.m. Call 524-0261 for directions.

Jan. 28 Update on Lechuguilla Cave, with Barry Louck. Southwest Environmental Center, 7:30 p.m. (tentatively—call to confirm.)

Outings

Sat., Nov. 7 Organ Needle Ascent.

Ben Zerbey will lead a strenuous, all-day hike to the summit. Limited to 12 persons. Call 526-6207 or 382-8419 to reserve a spot.

Sat. Nov. 14 Baylor Pass Romp.

Steve Kalavity will lead the charge up and over the pass. Moderate. Call 382-8419.

Sat. Nov. 21 Doña Ana Mountains Meander.

Steve Dowling will be our leader for this moderate hike. Call 522-7448 or 382-8419.

Sat. Dec. 5 Cooke's Peak Perusal.

Ben Zerbey, having fully recovered from his Organ Needle Adventure, will take us on this moderately strenuous walk up Cooke's Peak. Plan on a full day. Call 526-6207 or 382-8419.

Note: Sometimes we impulsively decide to take hikes at the last minute. Check the Southwest Environmental Center for late-breaking announcements.

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1494A South Solano
Las Cruces 88001
522-5552

Monday - Thursday 2-6 p.m.
Saturday 10-4 p.m.

Try our Eco-Shop for Holiday Gifts!

CALENDAR

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| Nov. 3 | Election Day. See Sierra Club endorsements on page 3. |
| Nov. 17-18 | NM Game Commission meeting, Maybry Hall, State Education Bldg., 300 Don Gaspar, Santa Fe, 9 a.m. Call 827-7911 for more info. |
| Nov. 20 | Deadline for comments on Dark Canyon EIS. See story on page 2. |
| Dec. 3 | Albuquerque Environmental Planning Commission Hearing on Unser Middle Project, (which calls for 4 and 6-lane highways through Petroglyphs National Monument.) City Council Chambers, City Hall, 4th & Marquette, 7 p.m. Call Ike Eastvold, 255-7679, for more info. |
| Dec. 12-13 | Chapter ExCom meeting. |
| Dec. 15 | Deadline for January <i>Rio Grande Sierran</i> . |
| 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. |

Mexico and/or the Grand Canyon

John Shunny is the Albuquerque contact for Ceiba Adventures, offering an interesting menu of Mexican trips, January to April '93. The trips include two river excursions, ten days each, on the Rio Usumacinta and Rio Jatate. In March, there's the 13-day Chiapas Birding Survey or the Chiapas Overland Tour, a 10-dayer. Mayan Ruins Adventure (7 days) and Caving Expeditions (8 days) are also scheduled. The trip tariff includes meals and accommodations. Call John, 265-1620, for information and detailed literature.

John is also organizing his 6th annual Grand Canyon boat trip, Lee's Ferry to Lake Mead, May 28 to June 5, 1993. With groups, the river outfitter discounts the price (\$1175 for this 9-dayer vs. the usual \$1400-1600.) Great camping and hikes, all meals included. These Canyon trips fill rapidly. Interested? Call John, 265-1620.