Election results
The outcome of the recent Group election saw each of the candidates gaining office. We welcome new members Tony Chiarello, Juliet Gladden, Elizabeth Hernandez, David McClurg and Jim Winder to the ExCom and expect that a number of spirited meetings will ensue.

Outings
Saturday, February 6: Cross-country skiing in Sacramento Mountains. This will be an all-day outing, weather permitting. Persons who do not own equipment may rent but should call to reserve it. Please call 526-6207 for further information. If you need equipment, call three days in advance.

Programs and Meetings
Thursday, January 21, 7 PM: ExCom meeting at Southwest Environmental Center, 1494A S. Solano, Las Cruces. All Sierra Club members are invited. We will be choosing officers and issue chairs for 1993, so we need a good turnout.

Thursday, January 28, 7:30 PM: General meeting at Science Hall room 102 on the NMSU Campus. Slide show of Lechuguilla Cave, narrated by cave explorer Barry Leoucks. Lechuguilla is a recent world-class cave discovery of spectacular beauty, and is still under active exploration. Barry’s slides from professional photographic expeditions will showcase the cave’s most beautiful features.

SANTA FE GROUP WELCOMES NEW EXCOM MEMBERS
Joining the Santa Fe Group Executive Committee in January will be newly-elected members Ken Hughes, Sue McIntosh, Helen Muer, Van Perkins — welcome! Our thanks to all the candidates, whose qualifications and commitment made this a very good race.

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

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Mining Will Take the Legislative Hot Seat in January
by Susan L. McIntosh, Mining Chair, Rio Grande Sierra Club

If New Mexicans are serious about protecting the water and lands of this state, they will have a great opportunity during the 1993 legislative session coming up in January. Once again this year, the legislature will consider hardrock mining legislation. This year is different.

Unlike past years, Governor King has been proactive in favor of passing a hardrock mining law this year. The Governor has shown indications in the press that he favors regulating hardrock in a similar fashion to the coal industry, allowing for the differences of hardrock. Additionally, at least one press release, the Governor has stated that the gold testing in New Mexico hills is not going anywhere, and until a method is devised whereby it may be mined both economically and environmentally, the gold should remain in the ground.

Sierra Club has been working closely with the Governor’s office on this issue, and we look forward to continuing that work into the legislative session. The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department has been very helpful this year, aiding our research with facts and figures about hardrock and coal mining and reclamation in this state and others. The Department has made its Mining and Minerals Division technical staff available to the Sierra Club for consultation and we also look forward to continuing this work during the session.

For the first time ever, the Sierra Club, jointly with other citizen organizations, will present their own version of a hardrock reclamation law to the legislature for their consideration. We have been working on this proposed legislation for about a year now, and have been studying the problem for several years. Senator Shannon Robinson has been working with us on this legislation and will be the likely sponsor in the Senate.

On November 30th, Sue McIntosh and Dr. Art Montana, a geologist and mining expert summarized our proposed legislation for the Interim Environment and Natural Resources Committee and fielded questions from members of the committee. This hearing follows another earlier appearance before the committee by McIntosh at which she summarized the problems presented by underregulated hardrock mining in New Mexico.

The New Mexico Mining Association has also drafted legislation. It cannot, however, be called “reclamation” legislation since it contains no reclamation requirements, and would likely make matters easier for mining companies and much worse for the State. This year’s efforts by industry actually represent a pull back in the position which industry voiced last year. This

continued on page 6
Club-Endorsed Candidates Fare Well in Nov Elections

By Ken Hughes

From the Sierra Club endorsed Clinton-Gore victory on down, environmentalists had much to celebrate from the November elections results. In New Mexico, 35 of 41 state legislature seats endorsed by the Rio Grande Chapter are headed for the Roundhouse.

Notable victories of Club-endorsed candidates include:

• Ann Riley in Albuquerque’s Smaller District 18, who bested environmental nemesis William Davis;

• Liz Stefankis in Northern New Mexico’s Senate District 39, who beat former Massey Lujan aide Luke Gallegos;

• Jose Aneya in Northeast New Mexico’s House District 68, who upset House Energy Committee Chair John Mora in the primary and then refused winning PAC money during the general election campaign because of his reform stance;

• Ina Lee Velklin Las Cruces’ House District 37, who won a very tight race in a conservative district.

Kevin Bixby has done a great job with the newsletter. His handling of controversial issues in the Sierra is always well researched and published in a timely manner. The newsletter is a good feature of the month concerning grazing and the so-called county movement. I hope we can maintain the standards set by Kevin, with comprehensive coverage of the many issues facing the Sierra Club. Comments, as well as articles and letters for publication, are always welcome. Contributions should be sent to the Rio Grande Chapter, 207 San Pedro Avenue, Ste. 310,NM 87108.

Producing a newsletter on time is a compromise between giving writers enough time to produce up-to-date articles while getting the information out while it is still current. As indicated in the box, contributions should be on a computer disk. Typed text only can be accepted until one week before the deadline, i.e. until January 8 for the February issue. Deadline for articles on disc for the February issue is January 15.

Getting pro-environment people elected is one thing; getting an environmental agenda through the legislature is another. Sierra Club members need to act now to schedule meetings with their Representative and Senator to talk to them about:

• working for a passage of a strong mining reform bill;

• gaining funding for Animal Damage Control programs;

• approving funding for solar energy projects;

• stopping ‘taking’ legislation;

• mitigating transportation spending toward rail, bus and pedestrian alternatives;

• increasing penalties on water polluters.

Members are invited to contact Geri Frye of the Mining Party of the Senate District 17-1700 or at 985-2979 to learn how you can plug in to specific legislative activities.

FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

I have several corrections and clarifications to make regarding the Rio Grande Observer’s October 1992 article on “New Mexico’s Counties Swept Up in Anti-Environmental Movement.”

First, I was never a former Bury Barry Goldwater advisor.” My father was, and he remained so until he became an active participant in the anti-Vietnam war movement. Second, I am not a colleague of Ron White. Our philosophies are a world apart—the reason, I might add for disassociation of the Land Center. Third, I am not ‘evaluating the competency of personnel at the US General Accounting Office.” Many people have reached conclusions regarding what I am doing without ever speaking to me. Since I am not an authority on what I am writing, I believe I can safely say that what I am doing is altogether different. Readers, of course, can judge for themselves when the report becomes public.

Finally, the Rio Grande Sierra is right on target when it says that I have “backed off from the County Movement.” Indeed, I repudiate that movement to the extent that it has become exclusionary, anti-democratic, and anti-environmental. Moreover, I am |unhappy with the unfortunate capture |of that movement by the unwise and |undemocratic forces behind the |“white movement” and People for the West.”

Despite their rortatory rhetoric of “power to the people” members of the movement, including New Mexico’s and |West Texas, sent endless challenges to The Sierra Club. I |refuse to give in to this agenda. In the final analytics, it is neither to protect freedom nor to protect the environment. It is simply to capture political power for personal ends. And they have |suggested that agenda by shamelessly ex |ploiting the concerns and fears of decent and |caring rural New Mexicans. Honest and thinking people across the political spectrum should find that movement and those ideas as repulsive as I do.

Karl Hess
Free West Las Cruces

Dear People:

Thank you very much for running the public survey on land grazing in our newsletter. I certainly would have been guilty of dismissing him as a “wellfare rancher” before reading the piece. I’m glad to have the opportunity to see a different point of view. I have lately come to the realization that the Sierra Club is the only group that revives my interest in the desert. I can safely say that what I am doing is altogether different. Readers, of course, can judge for themselves when the report becomes public.

Glen T. Effertz
Albuquerque

Dear Editor:

I would like to clarify for all who may have received the recent Albuquerque Group activism publication as well as others the status of planning for Petroglyph National Monument. The activism publication implies that a land use plan favoring recreation over protecting sensitive spiritual and archeologically rich sites has been adopted. No decisions have been made regarding recreational use of the monument and the National Park Service will ensure the protection of sensitive spiritual and archeological sites.

The National Park Service, in cooperation with the City of Albuquerque and the State of New Mexico, is preparing a general management plan and environmental impact statement. The intergovernmental planning phase of the general management plan is currently a newsletter that includes three conceptual approaches to visitor use of the monument. One of these alternatives allows for bicycle and horseback riding in portions of the monument. Another alternative mini |mizes development and facilities. All alternatives will allow for protection of petroglyph and archaeological sites.

We expect this newsletter to be distributed in early February. The National Park Service will hold a series of workshops in late February to solicit public input on these alternatives that will be used by the planning team to modify and refine the alternatives and to select the plan that is preferred alternative. The draft general management plan and EIS for the Monument is scheduled to be available for public review and meetings in December.

The general management plan and EIS will set visitor use and resource protection goals, determine the general locations and functions for facilities (such as a visitor center, parking lots, and trails), identify appropriate public uses, and help define the roles and responsibilities of the National Park Service, the City of Albuquerque, and the State of New Mexico. The planning team is open and available to discuss the status of planning as well as specific issues. To be on the mailing list or to discuss issues, please call [tel] at 766-5757.

Larry Beal
Chief of Planning
Petroglyph National Monument

The Eastwood responds:

We encourage you to get on the mailing list for the next general management plan newsletter due out in February 1993. The three plans alternative for Petroglyph National Monument will set the stage for the future, together with a response letter.

At this writing, two of those alternatives are being developed: petroglyph and archaeological sites and facilities development (new roads) components, while the third so-called “protection” alternative remains a weak sister.

Because of this imbalance, concerned environmental and American Indian groups are pushing for the removal of the ribbon panel of resource and planning experts to help formulate a protection plan for the area. The lack of representation on the board and based on resource protection principles.

The February Sierra will carry an article on the recommendations of this panel after its first meeting January 5 at Sandia Pueblo.
Cross-Country Ski Report
By John A. Turnbull

For this month I had contemplated a column on places to ski, but with the large amount of snow so early in the season, it might be more appropriate to ask where not to ski.

Places to Go. For the beginner the mountainous area of the Sierra del Norte is the local parks or golf course. For the more adventurous most of the trails in the national forests and national parks are open to skiing, and often the Forest Service or Park Service will have trail maps available. The Carson National Forest has a particularly nice publication entitled "Where to Go in the Snow," available at all their ranger district offices. Information on snow conditions and trails may be obtained by phoning any Forest Service ranger district.

We are fortunate to have several good ski trail guidebooks for the Rio Grande Chapter area. These are readily available at most outdoor shops and book stores, and usually cost around eight dollars. Before buying, compare, since the treatment as well as the geographic coverage varies. Some will cover all the local ski stations, others not. Some will overlay the trails on topographic maps. Others will utilize line-drawings.

Albuquerque and Santa Fe area residents looking for organized ski tours in addition to those offered by the Sierra Club should consider the New Mexico Ski Touring Club, centered in Albuquerque. Phone membership persons Michael Johnson 545-0789 or Patricia Kear-Sanders 256-0361. The NMSTC sponsors both day trips and multi-day excursions. They rent a bus for longer trips, which is convenient.

Yurts. Some years ago Southwest Nordic Center of Taos built a yurt, a small conical building of Mongolian design, on Neff Mountain, about 35 miles north of Chama, on Cumbres Pass, in the Rio Grande National Forest. Sleeping six people, it was an instant hit with skiers wishing to do an overnight ski trip (comfortably) in this scenic area. Later, they added a second. SNC offers either guided tours, or will simply rent out the structures, if available, at very reasonable rates. It is a lot of fun for a group, and can be combined with a stay at the Bed & Breakfast in Chama (Jones House, 756-2608). Phone SNC for reservations 758-4761. This is one of the choice cross-country ski areas in the Southwest, snow usually lasts through April.

What to Wear. In our Sierra Club classes I normally spend about an hour discussing clothing, and that is not counting the selection of appropriate clothing for hiking is much more critical than for skiing. Ski-touring is an active sport pursued in cold weather, and chilling from dampness caused by perspiration is a central concern. A person touring around the golf course, or within a mile of their car where one can wear almost anything. On tours of more than a few miles, though, proper clothing literally can be a matter of life and death.

The basic system consists of layering clothing. As you exercise more, or the weather gets warmer, you shed layers to avoid excessive perspiration. When you stop, or the weather turns colder, you add a layer or two to keep warm. The three layers are the under-layer, next to the skin, the insulating layer(s), and the outer layer, which allows the shedding of the extra layers.

Albuquerque Public Works: "Put 10 Lanes Through the Petroglyphs!"
by Ike Ezustow, Petroglyph Monument Issue Chair

On November 18, 1992, the City of Albuquerque Public Works Department made official a four-lane U.S. 160 Boulevard and a six-lane Paseo del Norte, both major arterial highways, were chosen as their preferred alternative to pierce Petroglyph National Monument. The two road crossings taken together are called the "Upper Middle Transportation Project," and represent one of a dozen pieces of these two highways which the city has avidly segmented to avoid a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement on the whole of the action. What the city calls a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) would not meet the standards of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). For example, even though every Pueblo in the area has stated firm opposition to the six-lane Paseo del Norte based on grounds of religious freedom, there is no station of the city's FEIS explaining impacts to Pueblo cultural and religious values.

What to do. Albuquerque's City Watershed Committee supports the FEIS which is being presented to the EIS which would meet the standards of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The final product is being prepared for a hearing on January 20, 1993. The committee recommends the adoption of the FEIS for the Upper Middle Transportation Project.

What you can do. Your letters are urgently needed. Please use some of the points above, plus others of your own consideration, to urge against the city's brutal Upper Middle Project, and recommend instead intersection expansions, the NPS alternative routes up the Ruxballas Arroyo, or the marvelous potential of all kinds of transit: park and ride for carpooling and express buses, alternating and high occupancy vehicle lanes for these carpools and buses, staggered work hours, light rail and much more. Write to:

Victor Chavez, Chairman Environmental Planning Commission
City of Albuquerque Planning Dept.
PO Box 1293
Albuquerque, NM 87103

Also, we need a big turnout at the February 4th public hearing to protest upon the Planning Commission the public support for preservation of Petroglyph National Monument. Come to the City Council Chambers, bottom floor of City Hall, 4th and Marquette, at 7 PM. For more information and carpooling, call me at 255-7679.
Mining in Legislature continued from first page

extreme conservation remains unexplained and has certainly not been helpful in the process.

This year we have the best chance we have ever had to enact strong, comprehensive hardrock mining legislation in this state. The Governor wants it, the legislature wants it, and the mining industry may finally see that things will never get better for them in New Mexico, and if they continue to stall, things will certainly get worse.

Scope of the Legislation

— NEW MINES: Provides a comprehensive, reclamation framework, covering new mine sites and expansions of existing operations from "cradle to grave.”

— EXISTING MINES: Existing mines are treated with a closure program which will require compliance with existing New Mexico environmental performance standards and restoring disturbed land to a productive post-mining use.

The Sierra Club proposal is based largely upon the New Mexico Coal Surface Mining Act, borrowing almost entirely from it provisions for enforcement, inspection, bonding, administrative and judicial review, penalties and citizen suits.

While taking advantage of the experience and success of the Coal Surface Mining Act, the Sierra Club proposal takes into account the technical and geologic differences between coal and non-coal mining, along with the range of different types of mining and minerals through the use of specially designed reclamation, suitability and other design standards.

The Sierra Club proposal regulates base metals, precious metals and uranium mines.

Following is a more detailed summary of the highlights of the Sierra Club’s legislation. Please contact your state representative and senator to encourage them that they support this proposal.

Inspection and Enforcement

— Agency authority for inspection and enforcement of the Sierra Club proposal is based on the Coal Surface Mining Act and the successful enforcement record achieved in the coal mining sector.

— Full regulatory inspections are mandated to occur annually and partial inspections will occur at least quarterly. As in the coal fields, all inspections will occur without prior notification to the operator.

— As in the coal mining industry, agency inspectors will issue "notices of violation" for violations of the act or regulations at the time the violation is discovered, requiring abatement of the violation within a specified period. If the operator fails to abate, the director will issue a cessation order until the violation is abated.

— If the violation is causing a significant imminent threat to the land, water, air or wildlife, the inspector will issue an abatement order immediately during the inspection, until the violation is abated. The act also provides for civil fines and criminal penalties.

Reclamation

— NEW MINES: The Sierra Club legislation requires the full complection of reclamation activities to be undertaken and successfully completed by new mines.

— EXISTING MINES: For existing mining facilities, the legislation requires reclamation necessary to achieve compliance with air and water quality standards and to restore some measure of productive use to the disturbed land taking into technical feasibility of such restoration and the existing disturbance at the mine.

The Sierra Club reclamation framework is intended to restore the land’s capability to produce to the fullest extent practicable. The approach, therefore, ensures sustainable post-mining ecosystems. It requires restoration of features that were critical to the pre-mining ecosystem, but allows flexibility in the means of achieving such restoration.

— Reclamation objectives in this legislation focus on restoring a healthy, functioning and useful natural system and land productivity.

— This reclamation approach further recognizes that in order to obtain appropriate reclamation objectives, a mine must plan, design, operate and close with specific reclamation objectives in mind.

While making improved reclamation technically feasible, such forward thinking regulations will also serve to lower reclamation costs dramatically and make them economically viable.

Specific details of reclamation for NEW MINES included within the legislation are as follows:

— All mining and reclamation operations will be undertaken in a manner that minimizes environmental damage through the use of best available technology and best management practices.

— Wildlife will be protected and mines will have an objective [not a requirement] of zero wildlife mortality. Protection of habitat value protection as well as individual and population protection and maintenance of biologic diversity and balance.

— Reclamation will not be considered successful until there is state certification that a self sustaining ecosystem, comparable to undamaged ecosystems in the area has been established. Backfilling or partial backfilling will be required whenever necessary to achieve reclamation objectives.

— During mining and reclamation operations, topsoil will be segregated and preserved for later reclamation use. Waste and toxic producing substances will be segregated and all acid and other toxic generation will be prohibited and eliminated.

— All waste, waste management units, pits, heaps, pads, lean ore and spent ore piles will be designed and constructed, to the maximum extent possible, to facilitate contemporaneous reclamation.

Base Data

— Pre-mining planning is a major premise underlying this proposed regulatory program. The chief component of that planning lies in gathering an adequate base of knowledge about the area’s existing natural, socio-economic and cultural resources prior to disturbance by mining.

— Base data is used to:

  • evaluate the potential adverse impacts of mining;

  • minimize those impacts through design;

  • create a baseline by which to measure success of protective measures throughout mining and reclamation operations and post-closure.

— Natural resource data will be gathered by the operator for two years prior to submitting an application for a mining and reclamation permit. This will allow gathering data, particularly hydrologic data, for at least two full cycles of seasons prior to evaluation. This time is necessary, particularly in New Mexico, where seasonal and annual fluctuations in precipitation and other natural events is common.

— The socio-economic aspect of the baseline data gathering will provide a snapshot of any potentially affected local community and will be used to assess the long range effects of the presence of the proposed mining operations on existing employment patterns and the effects of mining and reclamation operations on economic diversity and overall long and short term economic health during mining and reclamation operations and post-closure.

Land Use Allocation and Suitability

— Land use allocation in the Sierra Club proposal provides for effective land use planning and determination of areas in which a particular mine as proposed may or may not be a suitable land and resource use, on a balance with other possible uses.

— This section protects extremely fragile and critical areas such as riparian habitat zones, spring sources, areas of necessary habitat for New Mexico wildlife, wetlands, current and historic sacred areas used by Native Americans, and sole source aquifers by requiring mining operations to show that they will not permanently or irreversibly adversely effect these resources.

— This section does not prohibit any mining operation from operating in the vicinity of these areas. These provisions disallow those parts of any mining operation which would directly disturb or impact these critical and fragile resources.

— This section also provides for a public petition process whereby any individual may petition the New Mexico Mining Commission to include any broader area as unsuitable for mining use because of the existence of other more important competing resource values in the area.

Activists Needed: New Mexico Legislature Convenes mid-January!
Joint Means Joint

Please allow me a few moments of your readers’ time to respond to some irresponsible allegations being made by Green writers and Green activists.

For example, [in the October 1992 issue of Audubon magazine, Kathy Haysley of the Montana National Wildlife Federation accused the Cateon County Commission of passing an “illegal” ordinance that would in fact overturn federal law.” In the same month’s Rio Grande Sierras, Kevin Byrns by declared “laughable on every count.” The ordnance challenges the long-accepted and judiciously-allowed authority of federal and state agencies to manage public resources.” In truth, Federal law (40 CFR 1506.2) requires Federal agencies to cooperate with local governments in “planning processes, joint environmental research and studies, joint public hearings, joint environmental assessments, and joint environmental impact statements.” (Emphasis mine.)

Furthermore, these joint environmental assessments and impact statements must include analyses of “historic, cultural, economic, social or health” effects of Federal actions. (40 CFR 1506.8.)

Rather than challenging or overturning Federal law, our County’s Land Plan seeks to implement those Federal laws and to educate the public and Federal agencies of their duties under those laws.

Anyone wanting the truth about Cateon County’s Land Plan can order a copy of it from Ruth Kaiser, Federal Lands Conference, (801) 236-2833.

James W. Cateon
Cateon County Attorney
La Jolla, NM

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United States
Department of Agriculture
Office of the
General Counsel
Washington, DC
20250-1400

The Honorable Buddy Alfred
Chairman, Cateon County Commission
P.O. Box 507
Reservation, New Mexico 87830

Dear Mr. Alfred:

This office is legal counsel for the Forest Service which administers National Forest System lands in your County. The recent actions of the Cateon County Commission have been brought to our attention with respect to an ordinance adopted at federal land management activities. The ordinance purports to impose criminal sanctions for various federal activities, including those which the County deems inconsistent with Federal civil rights statutes and the Public Lands Management Improvement Act.

Please be advised that, for the reasons stated herein, we consider the referenced ordinance as null and void in violation of the administration of any federal lands by any officer or official of the Forest Service.

The ordinance enacted by the County Commission is clearly a violation of the Supervisory and Property Claims of the U.S. Constitution, as well as being unconstitutional and unlawful. The County cannot set up any protective or dictate land management functions undertaken by the Forest Service pursuant to federal laws, regulations or policies.

The Property Clause of the Constitution gives the Congress power to determine what are “necessary and proper” to carry out the Constitution. The public lands of the United States. Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2. When Congress enacts legislation for lands under the Property Clause, this legislation necessarily overrides conflicting laws under the Supremacy Clause, U.S. Constitution, Article VI, Clause 2. E.g., Kopp v. New Mexico, 432 U.S. 529 (1970). As the Court in Kopp stated, “a different rule would place the public domain of the United States completely at the mercy of state legislation.” 1st at 543. The National Forests are managed under Federal law and any actions by the County to interfere with the specific statutory authority of the Forest Service would be an unconstitutional "obstacle to the accomplishment and execution of the full purposes and objectives of Congress." Verona Valley v. Gulf Oil Corporation, 601 U.S. 52 (1941), affirmed without opinion, 445 U.S. 947 (1980).

The ordinance is also unconstitutionally vague as to what actions are proscribed. Criminal laws that fail to give persons of ordinary intelligence fair notice that their contemplated actions are forbidden are void for vagueness. Colautti v. Franklin, 439 U.S. 379 (1979).

We have instructed the Forest Service that the ordinances in question are without legal effect. It would be an unlawful interference with a Federal officer for any county official to attempt to enforce this county ordinance against any officer of the Department of Agriculture. In this regard, we call your attention to the felony provisions of Title 18, Section 111 of the United States Code.

Numerous federal laws including the National Forest Management Act and the National Environmental Policy Act provide mechanisms for public involvement in land management decisions. We respectfully advise that if the County government has concerns over federal land management policies, there are mechanisms already provided by law for making its views known.

We are forwarding a copy of this letter to your County Attorney for his information.

Sincerely,

James P. Perry
Assistant General Counsel
Natural Resources Division

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States Consider Takings Legislation

By Ken Hughes

Takings legislation has been introduced in over half of the states in the past two years, often with the same exact wording crafted by land abuse movement leaders and used through its local chapters.

Three types of takings efforts are moving along, even where their legality is dubious at best. The first, takings assessments, purports to require agencies to consider private property values on actions they may take. The most salient and especially virulent piece is an Arizona law, which has been thwarted by a ballot initiative that created by a Sierras Club-led petition drive. Another approach, requiring compensation for any legislative or regulatory action, has never been upheld by the courts. Finally, the extremist county 'cultural and customs' law, which gives precedent to counties over the federal government, violates the Supremacy clause of the U.S. Constitution and gives county officials in a half dozen New Mexico counties in serious legal jeopardy.

To counteract land abusers, a series of strategies were offered:

- Tell the conservation story, i.e., how environmental protection has improved lives.
- Point out that it's 'public' land, owned by taxpayers and deserving of protection.
- Show that no one has the right to harm neighbors and get paid not to do harm.
- Show that land abusers are special interest-driven.
- Discourage extreme positions and expose extremist links e.g., John Birch Society, Moonies
- Look for foreign influence e.g., People for West chapter set up in Australia.
- Point out hate mongering, incited violence especially play on fears of job or property loss
- Side with mainstream America on working for lasting jobs and a lasting environment.
- Follow the money, with the vast majority coming from major mining (BP, international), oil (Chevron) and Japanese ORV companies (Honda).

Finally, it was pointed out that with "green gaming" becoming more popular, as witnessed by the Farm Bureau making an anti-environmental agenda its top priority, it is better to err on the side of teasing the land abuse movement too seriously than to scoff at the faltering rationale it purports to advance.

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"Rolling Thunder," an original art poster of a New Mexico bisons, is available from the New Mexico Game and Fish Department with the purchase of a $10.50 Wildlife Conservation sticker. This offers an alternative method of financing wildlife programs administered by the Game and Fish Department, which up to now have been funded primarily by the sale of hunting and fishing licenses.

The limited edition bisons print, which marks the release of bisons at El Malpais, is available from local Game and Fish Department offices around New Mexico.
Baca Kicks ADC Off State Land

The recent decision by New Mexico State Land Commissioner Jim Baca to prohibit the Federal Animal Damage Control (ADC) agency from operating on state land is precedent-setting and will have national significance, says Pat Wolff, Rio Grande chapter wildlife chair.

"The Land Commissioner's eviction of ADC serves as an example to other public land managers having problems with ADC," Wolff said. "It's a sign that ADC's days of running roughshod across the West are numbered."

ADC, a branch of the US Department of Agriculture, kills wildlife on public and private land, primarily to benefit ranchers. Until February 1992, ADC had been operating illegally on state land without a signed agreement. When the Land Commissioner discovered ADC had not made an agreement, he placed a moratorium on ADC activities pending an agreement.

"After more than eight months of discussion, ADC has informed me they will not comply with Land Office requirements that leghold traps be checked every 48 hours," Commissioner Baca said. "Since we have no agreement, there will be no more ADC activity on state land, and that is final."

ADC representatives said they would not sign the agreement unless they were given 72 hours to check their traps. Private trappers are monitored by the NM Game and Fish Department to check traps every 24 hours.

"We have tried without success to work with ADC," Baca said. "It has become apparent that ADC has outlived its usefulness as a Federal agency. This agency, which uses public funds to destroy wildlife for private industry has shown it is nothing more than an anachronism in this day and age."

The ADC ban is in effect now, and any violation will prompt state legal action in Federal court, the Commissioner said.

Public Land Grazing: A Naturalist's View

by Tom Wooten

Any naturalist should have read Jim Winder's划末 is the previous issue of the Sierraan with a lot of interest. I can say personally, that I have met with Mr. Winder, sound his ranch, and tried to answer some of his questions about native plant propagation and establishment. When a decision is made to graze a piece of public land, I will always hope for a ranch manager with Jim's interest, managerial skills, and philosophy about taking a long term approach to management.

This said, I do agree with Jim's article! Certainly not in totally!

Jim starts with the premise that the land is a range for livestock and that "Like it or not, the people best suited to bring about this change (biodiversity) are the ranchers on the land now." This is the same kind of generalization Jim suggests the environmental community uses.

In looking at a specific piece of public land, the question must first be, "What is the highest value of this land?" 1) Not all land is biologically suited for grazing, and the requirements to make some areas into ecologically viable livestock operations is too costly. 2) There may be other values that conflict with livestock operations such as specific biological values (wildlife habitat or endangered species), scenic and recreational values, or mining.

Livestock may be a tool to correct some man-made ill in the short run, but the presence of livestock is not a freebie. Domestic livestock are not at all natural to our ecosystem in southwestern New Mexico or any where else in the United States. Any forage they consume is forage taken from some form of wildlife, reined as a possible future source for a natural fire, or left to act as a mulch or decompose even though the last is a very long term function in our arid environment. Water consumed by livestock also is denied to other forms of wildlife or plant growth. Domestic livestock also can introduce exotic diseases into wildlife herds. Considering domestic livestock as a replacement or substitute for naturally ranging ungulates is inappropriate. Recent research not only questions this theory, but as well there is no historical evidence of large herds of ungulates in most of southwestern New Mexico.

All of the above still avoids the practical question of where are we going? Jim's ranch seems to have a good balance between grass species, but the black grama can be rested during the growing season while livestock continue to graze the rest of the year.

Naturalist's View

continued from previous page

Do Cows Belong in the Southwest?

by George Waertiner

Jim Winder's piece, "Public Land Grazing: A Naturalist's View," presents one perspective on public lands grazing. I'd like to raise some points that present another point of view.

No, ranchers are not evil people. And I've never seen a rancher who didn't profess to love his land. However, according to the Soil Conservation Service, we have 410 million acres of public and private lands in the West which are in unsatisfactory condition, which is a nice way of saying they are ecologically trash. This is nearly equal to the area of all the states east of the Mississippi! So if ranchers love the land, they yet are ruining it, what's the problem?

Part of the problem is timing and intensity of grazing, as Mr. Winder suggests. However, the reason the timing is wrong is in part because we are using the wrong animal in the wrong place. Cattle evolved in the humid woodlands of Eurasia. That is why they gravitate to riparian areas in the West, and why they do so much damage. We can grow cattle in the arid West by transferring most of the costs associated with this process onto the landscape (the reason for the 410 million acres of trampled rangelands) and the taxpayer. Let me make this clear by an analogy.

There are farmers in California's Central Valley who grow rice. Rice is a crop of sub-tropical humid climates, yet farmers can grow it in the Central Valley, which gets less than 14 inches of precipitation a year, because they transform the Central Valley into a sub-tropical area through irrigation. This is only possible because taxpayers subsidize the storage and transport via federal water projects. If rice farmers had to pay the real cost of this water, they would not be growing rice in California.

But the cost of the dams is only part of the subsidy. Those dams fragment rivers. They destroy waterfowl. They flood valuable riparian habitat. And for these reasons, salmon are extinct or going extinct in many California rivers.

The yellow-bellied cuckoo, which depends upon riparian areas, is on the verge of extinction. And many fire-breeding rivers are nothing more than muddy reservoirs. All these costs are not included in the cost of growing rice in California.

Similarly, most of the costs associated with livestock production in the arid West are not absorbed by ranchers. Dozens of species have been driven to extinction across most or all of their range due to livestock production, including the wolf, black-footed ferret and masked bobwhite. Disease from livestock is responsible for the demise of others, such as the bighorn sheep, which often dies of disease transmitted from domestic livestock.

There is no free lunch. When biologists talk about biodiversity, they are speaking of native species. You cannot increase the number of native species when you are steadily moving forage to exotic, alien animals. When Mr. Winder's cows strip away the vegetation in the riparian zone— even in the winter, when plants are dormant—they eliminate food and cover for native species. Production of this land has gone into a cow's belly that is much less that support everything from grasshoppers to ground squirrels to elk. Fewer ground squirrels mean less food for trout and so less food for bears. Fewer ground squirrels means fewer hawks and other predators. The point is that grass doesn't follow the cow any more than rain followed the plow. By eliminating even some of the above-ground biomass with cattle, we are leaving that much less for native species.

Furthermore, because the West is arid, many ranchers supplement their immediate needs with water projects. The point is that grass doesn't grow with irrigation water, just like the rice farmers in California. This often results in dams on our rivers fragmenting habitat, just as logging fragments forest. It means dewatered streams reducing habitat for fish—
Do Cows Belong in the Southwest?

which is why fish are the exact endangered animal group in the West.
In Arizona, for example, out of 32 native fish species, 5 are extinct, and 22 out of the 27 remaining are listed or candidate species under the Endangered Species Act. Not all are rare simply because of livestock production, but destruction of riparian areas, and sedimentation of streams, and degradation of the riparian areas due to livestock production, which is a contributing factor in nearly every instance.

Furthermore, riparian areas are essential to the survival of the majority of western animals, and livestock grazing is the single reason for the loss of this valuable habitat. Again, using Arizona, only 3% of its original riparian habitat remains. And certainly on public lands, about the only factor for this loss is livestock grazing.

And even if most ranchers were willing to change their grazing strategies to eliminate grazing of riparian areas during the growing season, for most this will require more fences and development of alternative water sources. Not only does this transfer impacts to first-order streams, seeps and springs, but these developments are costly. They can't be justified in most cases, given the marginal returns grassers get from livestock production in the West. And there are costs that riparian farmers who raise livestock do not incur. If they are to be competitive, the taxpayer will have to pick up the tab. But if beef production is the goal, any investment in the East would produce far more meat with fewer ecological impacts, so why spend money in the West?

Even if ranchers could afford to fence off all the riparian zones in the West—do we want these on our public lands? Why would we protect riparian areas to tolerate such intrusions merely to accommodate a few private commercial businesses operating on our public lands?

Finally, Mr. Winder repeats the oft-heard remark about our rangelands "needing to be grazed. Mr. Winder suggests the problem is that "overstocked" rangelands become "decadent" and "overgrazed." Sounds like a lot like the talk I hear from foresters about what all fish we've lost: if we don't thin the timber, they become 'decadent." Decadence and overmaturity are used as biological terms, but they are not economic values. Young trees in a clearcut do grow faster than old trees. If your goal is wood production, it makes sense to cut all the forests in the West, to get rid of all the "overmature" timber. But, as we've learned with forests, older forests have other ecological values. The same can be said of grasses.

Grasses and other range plants have developed strategies to deal with cropping. They may tolerate grazing, but in nearly all cases they have developed many mechanisms to help them avoid damage. One can just as easily conclude that they prefer little or no grazing.

Just because grasses tolerate cropping doesn't mean they need to be cropped. Coyotes which are trapper and shot producer bigger licker minds, pugs, except to conclude that we must therefore shoot, poison and trap coyotes to prevent their populations remaining "decadent" or "overgrazed.

I know of no examples of ungrazed rangelands which spiral downward in ecological condition. As a matter of fact, livestock grazing, except where degradation due to livestock is so severe as to make reversing downward trends difficult. For every exception, I know of many examples where the absence of livestock grazing has led to gradual improvement in range condition. The problem is that most people have never seen ungrazed rangelands. And even fewer still exist where all ecological processes including wildflower occur.

And even if livestock cropping were necessary, we can do this just fine on our public lands, for species, we don't even require large animals. Grasshoppers can crop as much as 40% of the above-ground biomass. Jackrabbits and ground squirrels can consume as much as well. But there's a benefit to having native species like jackrabbits or grasshoppers cropping the grasses. They are also feeding other native species which may prey on them, from golden eagles to coyotes. See what happens if eagles and coyotes start helping themselves to someone's calves or lambs.

I don't deny that there are many ranchers who would be willing to improve the management of their own lands. And I'm certain that Mr. Winder's operations provide a fine example of what's possible if livestock producers want to minimize their impacts. It is not to suggest that we need livestock on our public lands, but that the public benefits from such use. For far less investment of money we could easily produce more meat in the East—if we really thought it was desirable to have more red meat in our diets and thus more heart attacks and colon cancer. But do we need to grow this food on our public lands?

In the end, our public lands are the only places where we can preserve functioning ecosystems and native biodiversity, and this, not raising someone's private cows, is the best use of our public lands.

Join the Sierra Club.

□ Yes, I want to join! I want to help clean up the environment.

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FRP No. W-1700

January 1993
Cross-Country Ski Report, cont. from page 4

The 92 election brought new hope to those who care about the environment with Bill Clinton and Al Gore going to Washington... But what about right here in New Mexico??

The 1993 New Mexico Legislative Session begins January 19th and promises to be filled with battles for the environment. Representative Cisco McSorley and Senator Ann Riley have accepted our invitation to give us a summary of the legislation to watch and guidelines about how to be involved in the process. Make this the year you decide to become more involved in New Mexico legislative issues. Come and discover how easy and gratifying it is to be a grassroots lobbyist.

The January meeting will be on Monday, January 18th, at 7:30pm, 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. Expect that the meeting will be well attended. We are beginning the new year with new livelier additions to the meeting. Preceding the main program, we talk about upcoming events and outings, recaps of recent outings, and alerts on issues. Please come!

TEMA Confronts DOE and Sandia National Labs over Misuse of National Forest Land by Jeremy M. Brown, V.P., TEMA Board of Directors

TEMA, The East Manzano Alliance, was formed by residents of the Manzano Mountains in response to a major forest fire started by an Air Force training exercise in May 1989, and the threat of fencing off an area of long-used hiking and riding trails. This area, east of Kieldorf AFB, is a twenty thousand acre section of the Cerro National Forest that was withdrawn from public access for use by the DOE and DOE. Like many other local groups who have formed around and focused on immediate local issues, we soon discovered how broad the the problems of federal agency abuse of public lands and the public trust really were.

With the help of student research from the UNM Law School Clinic we were given a crash course in the legal history and foundation of federal land withdrawals, existing environmental laws, and the limited options available to citizens' groups. Our ongoing interaction with the DOE, Air Force, Forest Service, and other federal officials and their subcontractors revealed the indifference, intransigence, and presumption of autonomy of the federal bureaucracy. Over the last three years our research has provided us with a comprehensive understanding of the DOE far beyond the initial concerns of the mountain community, including deliberate evasion of federal environmental law and possible contamination of the Albuquerque water. DOE's repeated assertions that the removal of a variety of toxic and radioactive wastes on this national forest land may, in threatening the water supply of the state's largest city, present a much greater hazard than the far more publicized WIPP site in southeastern New Mexico. The evaluation and remediation of dump sites on the withdrawal remains a relatively low priority for the DOE and its subcontractors.

With the help of an experienced environmental attorney, Grove T. Burnett, TEMA has been preparing to file suit in federal court against the DOE and a variety of co-defendants. Grove's initial assessment is very encouraging; we have clear standing in court for our action. We remain willing to negotiate with the federal agencies involved but such serious negotiation does not appear likely for agencies with policies, histories, and institutional cultures like those of the DOE. TEMA's goals in this action remain:

1. The return of the eastern 16 sections of the withdrawn area to the national forest for public use. This portion of the withdrawn land has no DOE or DOE facilities on it, has been effectively open for public use since the withdrawal, and should not be required for legitimate (non-hazardous) uses of the remaining areas of the withdrawn land.

2. Cessation of all open-air burning and explosive testing which involve obvious hazards to forest and human populations. This kind of testing may once have been feasible when the area was more isolated, but it is no longer justifiable.

3. Tame cleanup and removal of all toxic and radioactive contamination from withdrawal land and protection and preservation of archeological sites and endangered species in conformity with environmental law. The misuse of this national forest land and the violation of the public trust must not continue. Past "mistakes" must be corrected without delay.

4. Establishment of a firebreak as a visible and well-defined boundary between the remaining withdrawn land and national forest.

Outings Leaders Workshop

Originally scheduled for December 5, and cancelled by snow, the Santa Fe Group is planning an outings leaders' workshop for Saturday, March 13, 9 AM-4 PM, at the Unitarian Church. Outing leaders, and anyone with a yen to lead outings, from anywhere in the Rio Grande Valley are encouraged to attend. All interested can get out together afterwards at a local restaurant, to allow more time for networking and sharing, and a bike will be planned for the next day. Overnight housing can be arranged. Call Norma McCullan, Chapter Outing Chair, at 471-0025 in Santa Fe, for an agenda or more details.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Events at the Rio Grande Nature Center
A variety of workshops will be held at the Rio Grande Nature Center during January and February. Here are some of the highlights:

"Making a Bird Feeder" will be held Saturday, January 16, 10AM - 12Noon. Participants must bring a hammer and a large soft-drink bottle. (Cost: $10.00)

"Beginning Birds of Bosque del Apache" will be held Tuesday, January 19, 7PM - 8:30PM, at the State Museum (Cost: $3.00). Advance registration is required for the above programs. Call the Rio Grande Nature Center at (505) 744-3720.

OUTINGS

Anteater outing: about 10 people and a quarter mile of fencing, Inner City Outing: we took a group of 9 elementary school kids wading in the Goshow, Text Rocks: 8 hours meandered through the ston canyon, San Ysidro area 14 people in 2 groups.

TEMA - continued from previous page

est land open to public access. This new boundary should be consider-
ably to the west of the current eastern boundary after the return of the 16
sections along the eastern end of the withdrawn area. This would effec-
tively separate DOO and DOE activities on the western lower elevations from public activities on eastern higher elevations.

TEMA needs all of the help it can get in pursuing this action. The issues involved affect not only the mountain community but all 31,000 people of the Rio Grande Valley. The DOE is clearly more vulnerable in this case, since damage has already been done, than in the more visible cases of WIPP or Yaqui Mountain. This case could help significantly in setting new precedents for the status of federally withdrawn public land and the use of that land by federal agencies. We need your help. For more information write:

The East Mountain Alliance (TEMA)
P.O. Box 850, Tijeras, NM 87059
(Association Membership, $10.00)

CALENDAR

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

Jan 7: Mexican Wolf Coalition, 7:30PM
Jan 9: 12 noon. Deadline for articles for February group newsletter.

Sierra

Macintosh disk preferred. Call Larry if supplying hardcopy only.

Jan 11: Executive Committee Meeting, 7PM.

Jan 18: Sierra Club General Meeting, UNM Law School, Rm 2401.

Jan 25: Conservation Committee meeting, 7:30 PM.

1993 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Office Telephone: 265-5506

Group Chair
Group Chair

Stefan Vechelis
Richard Barlow
Bob Cornish
Phil Brown
David Bogdon
Tom Lusk
Nick Nichols

The Albuquerque Group of the Sierra Club de-
pends entirely on the efforts of volunteers. To help our efforts, call the following issue coordinators:

Av Quality
Helis Pienimaki
Ruth Ashen

Calendars
Richard Barlow
Cindy Fennig
David Bogdon

City Trails
Dan Feiler

Conservation
David Bogdon
Lee Wynn

Las Fuentes
Marion Davidson

Mailings
Debra Rohn

Mexican Wolf
Susan LeBar

Mining Issues
Dorothy Bolander

Outings
Larry Compton

Papergirls
Sun Kashchak

Westside
Be Ervick

Population
Bruce Possemato

Programs
Susan Cortez

Solid Waste
David Kaup

Wildlife
Mike Bedell

Membership Committee Formed!

Have you noticed some subtle changes in the Albuquerque group? The Mem-
bership Committee (12 active members at press) has taken on the administra-
tive side of our activities. Just a sprinkling includes membership drives, phone drives, meeting programs, new member mailings and orientation; of-
course helps with your monthly newsletter. At three meetings, we have succeeded in a mailing and the fantastic Christmas party. We hope to be breaking out into a dozen subcommittees. So give us a call. N.B. next meeting is 8:00 PM at Old Tyner Lounge, Louisiana and Central. Terri Meyers 865-8274

CALCUTTA

Mile 6: 6 Car 130

Tree Spring Trail X/C Ski
Snow conditions permitting we will ski a service road in the Snowy. Admit the skier, snow, cross-country, we'll attempt to identify the various animal tracks. Draws in layers, skiing Leader: Terri 865-8274

Sun Jan 17 Moderate
Mile 6: 6 Car 130

Rio Grande Civic X/C
We will ski up a service road in the Pecos Wilderness. This area known as the Tresquin Basin, thanks for being proposed for the Sierra Pecos Area expanded wilderness. This provi-

Oiling may be cancelled or changed due to weather or other reasons. Please call leader prior to the outing.

Sun Jan 3 Moderate Miles: 6 Car 130

Las Cruces Civic X/C
We will ski the loop trail near the East Fork of the Organ River, with a service road out. It may be that the X/C ski area expanded wilderness. As there is crowding in it is also suggested, San Jose Pecosfs are now organizing to oppose this proposed expansion. Dogs welcomed! Meet at Wexford Don mic House, San Murro St. Acad. & Academy at 9:00 am. Leader: Susan 1. Release, david for details 344-8693

Sun Jan 18 Moderate
Miles: 4-5 Car: 200

Rockyhounding in the Mogollon Mountains
We will wander through some of the old mining tunnels and mine for a va-

Sun Jan 19 Moderate
Miles: 4-5 Car: 200

Bear Nighly Artful Hacks
This area is composed of prehistoric peoples and ancient Anasazi water control systems for irrigation. Bring snow shoes, binoculars, and cameras. RSVP Leader: like Eastwood 255-769

Sun Jan 24 Moderate
Miles: 4-6 Car 45

Tree Spring Trail X/C Ski
Snow conditions permitting we will ski a service road in the Snowy. Admit the skier, snow, cross-country, we'll attempt to identify the various animal tracks. Draws in layers, skiing Leader: Terri 865-8274

Sun Jan 30 Moderate-Exploration Miles: 4-6 Car: 170

Sierra de las Cruces and Precilla WSA
This trip has been cancelled twice due to snow or snow, we are going for the third time. This will be for the desert canyon and prairies of Precilla and also explore the foothills of the adjacent Sierra de las Cruces. Now in New Mexico at Fine. Meet at 9AM, GC Office. Leader: Bob Cornish 255-6537.

Sun Jan 31 Moderate
Miles: 4-3 Car: 140

Shinilia Wilderness Study Area
South near Socorro lies the rugged, un-
stalled Shinni WSA. Shinni, with its dense stands of pinyon and juniper, is a virtual island in the surrounding desert landscape. Steep escarpments of the east and north sides climb to 1,700 feet, while conifers to the south drop to 5,500 feet and above. Expect to see rap-
ters and deer, and if you're lucky, the herd of wild free-roaming horses. A local ranger will discuss the history of the road that led to an attempt to keep the area from wilderness designation. BLM has not recommended any acreage for wilderness. Meet at GC Office at 9:00 am. Leader: Nick Panzeri 218-7845

Sun Feb 6 Moderate
Miles 10 Car 130
San Antonio Hot Springs X/C Ski
Enjoy a scenic moonlit ski to the warm water of the San Antonio Hot Springs.
Full moon and weather permitting may shift to days. Contact: Stan for details 292-9138

Sun Feb 7 Leisure
Miles 0.1 Car 180
Bosque del Apache WMR
Our trip in Dec. was cancelled due to snow, so we will try again. Look for whooping cranes among thousands of sandhill cranes and bald eagles. Anticipate the orchestra of birds only as we head south. Meet at GC Office at 10:30 AM, Leader: Larry Jenkins 243-7527.

Sun Feb 7 Leisure Miles 2.3 Car 240
Geological Windows, PNM
Look for contours of the mountain four-summer elder guardians of the north direction, kachina masks, representing spirits of the dead that see into both worlds. Bring binoculars, cameras, and still cameras. RSVP. Leader: Bob Eastwood 255-7697

140 RIO GRANDE SIERRA
JANUARY GENERAL MEETING

Ray Waite will give a wonderful slide presentation featuring birds in the El Paso Sierra Club. Ray is a very active photographer who is also a member of the Audubon Society. He has lived in El Paso since his retirement from the military in 1965. Over the years, he has become very familiar with the birds in the area, and has made his hobby, photography, his passion.

The program will start at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 27th, at St. Paul’s Methodist Church, 7000 Edgemere (two blocks east of Airway). For more information, call Ted Merritt, 852-3011.

CALENDAR

January 6: EXCOM (800 So. Pecos)
January 9: Deadline for EL PASO newsletter information (send to 331 Vista Del Rey, 79912)
January 22: General Meeting (7000 Edgemere)
January 23: El Paso Group Retreat (see article)
February 3: EXCOM (800 So. Pecos)

EL PASO SIERRA CLUB NEWS!!

ELECTION RESULTS

Ted Merritt and Kathy Sunday were reelected Chair and Treasurer, respectively. John Sproles will serve as Vice Chair with Joe Rodgers as Secretary.

1993 OFFICERS ELECTED

Ted Merritt and Kathy Sunday were reelected Chair and Treasurer, respectively. John Sproles will serve as Vice Chair with Joe Rodgers as Secretary.

NEW MANAGER HIRED

Phyllis Caves has been hired as a part-time office manager for the Environmental Center. Her primary responsibilities will be to manage the office, coordinate and build the volunteer program, seek grants and other sources of funding for the Center and increase the use and visibility of the Center.

We are pleased that she is with us, and encourage you to give her a call at 532-965 or 532-4846 or stop by the Center, 800 S. Pecos, to get acquainted.

PLANNING RETREAT!

Keep Saturday, January 23, open for the EL PASO’s 1993 Planning Retreat!

Join me, the fun people, who share your concern for the environment, and help guide the Club’s directions and activities for the coming year. There are many issues that need attention, and priorities will be determined. Make your voice heard.

The retreat will be a potluck, so bring some food. Details will be provided.

Call Ted for more information, 852-3011.

NEW OUTINGS CHAIR ANNOUNCED

Mike Episcopo will be the Outings Chair for 1993. He will have two able assistants, Carol Morrison, the 1992 Outings Chair, and the wise one, Bill Phillips. If you are interested in becoming an outing leader, or if you have a favorite outing you’d like to share with members, please call Mike at 833-3770.

WAL-MART ENVIROMENTAL SUPPORT

The Wal-Mart Foundation has given the EL PASO Group Sierra Club a $350 grant to be used in activities supporting the environment.

GROUP DIRECTORY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Chairman/Public Laws Ted Merritt 832-5501
Vice Chair/Secretary John Sproles 545-5127
Secretary Joe Rodgers 832-9665
Treasurer Kathy Sunday 545-0301

MEMBERSHIP
Chairman Michael Broma 545-0301
Ex Officio Member John Sproles 545-5127
Political Action Bill Phillips 551-4064
Publicity Ted Daugherty 545-2790

ADVISORY COMMITTEES
Ex Officio Member Mike Episcopo 415-8012

EXCOM (800 S. Pecos)

JANUARY/FEBRUARY OUTINGS

MT. RILEY, EAST POTRILLOS CARCAMP
January 9-10, 1993
CLASS: Very easy
LIMIT: none, reservations required
LEADER: Walter and Betty Jurek, 851-0744

Spend Saturday afternoon hiking, biking, climbing, searching for Indian artifacts (to be left in place, of course), mountain biking or just plain being busy with the Club. On Sunday, the desert nightlights camped on a playa which was once an Indian campground, as well.

From the westside of El Paso at 10 AM Saturday for the 45-minute drive to Kilbourne Hole (where the kids will find it boring to our campsite. In the past, this has been a casualty especially suitable for very young children.

RON COLEMAN TRAIL
FRANKLIN MOUNTAINS DAYHIKE
January 17, 1993
CLASS: Moderate
LIMIT: 20, reservations required
LEADER: Carol Morrison, 545-2180

This beautiful hike in the Franklin Mountains begins at McKelligon Canyon. We climb to the crest, which we follow to South Franklin Peak before descending to Transmountain Road. There is a mixer scramble at one point (assistance will be available), and we will close The Window, a natural arch. The views are spectacular along this four-mile hike. Elevator gain is about 2000. Join us.

COMPOUND AND ORIENTEERING
TOM MAYS STATE PARK
January 28, 1993
CLASS: Physicaly easy, mentally challenging
LIMIT: 12, reservations required
LEADER: Chuck Turner, 855-0251

Compass and orienteering instructions followed by actual orienteering exercises at Tom Mays State Park from noon to 4 PM. Call Chuck for more details.

GUADALUPE DAY HIKE
January 30, 1993
CLASS: Moderate
LIMIT: 16, leader approval and reservations required
LEADER: Carol Morrison, 545-1701

Call me for more information, 832-3011.

El Paso Planning Retreat
Potter 532-9650
Saturday, January 23, 9:00 AM
2 to 6 PM
Environmental Center, 800 S. Pecos
Mark your calendars!

ECO LEADERSHIP TRAINING OUTING
WINTER CAMPING — CLODHOUSE, NM
January 29-31, 1993
CLASS: Moderate
LIMIT: 15, leader approval and reservations required
LEADER: Jeanne French, 993-1600

Learn the basics of winter camping, along with cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. The Winter Festival Hall has been rented by the ECO for the weekend. Participants will have a chance to learn about winter camping essentials, including appropriate gear and clothing and packing a pack. On Saturday, the group will ski or snowshoe a short distance to a nearby campground and spend the night there. Returning to the lodge and a cozy fire, the lessons of the day will be reviewed. After a Sunday morning breakfast, the day will be open. A charge of $30 and a food item per person is required. This is not a foodshare, but does include the cost of skis or snowshoes rental.

Instructors will be Debbie Tomczak and Chuck and Weyna Turner. Call Jeanne for more information.

COOKIE PEAK CARCAMP
February 6-7, 1993
CLASS: Moderate
LIMIT: 12, leader approval and reservations required
LEADER: Joe Rodriguez, 833-5665

We will once again depart El Paso on Saturday morning for our trek to Cooke’s Peak. Last year we explored Indian petroglyphs, Cooke’s Spring, and the old P. C. Cummings mine before arriving at our campsite.

We’ll probably follow tradition on Sunday this year, with some hikers exploring the old townsite and surrounding areas, while others hiking the peak.

CHIRICAHUA NATIONAL MONUMENT
CARCAMP (AZ)
February 13-14, 1993
CLASS: Easy, but drive is lengthy
LIMIT: 25, reservations required
LEADER: Rollin Wickenden, 598-8042

We will leave El Paso early Saturday morning and all west along US 40 between El Paso and Tucson, where we will turn south on US 60, then take the Mogollon Rim by the 1990’s, we will turn south to the Mogollon Rim by the time of the National Monument. We have reserved the group campsite for both Saturday afternoon and Sunday at Echo Canyon, Riverine Canyon, and Heart of Rocks. The hike is optional. Be prepared for cold, wet weather. Bring your own fire wood. This is an outing for young and older alike. Call Rollin for details and reservations.

Stay tuned for March!!!

HOSPITAL CANYON DAY HIKE AND PHOTOGRAPH HUNT
WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE, NM
March 13, 1993
CLASS: Moderate
LIMIT: 15, by reservation, with leader approval and photo of citizenship required
LEADER: Rollin Wickenden, 598-4042

This hike is an opportunity to hike in the always crowded and colorful White Sands Missile Range. A special thanks to outstanding guide and photographer, Rollin Wickenden. This hike is limited to those who are citizens and have a picture of their citizenship. Please call Rollin for further details and information.
OUTINGS REPORTS

Spring Cabin Fall Backpack, 9/26-23/92

On a beautiful fall weekend, six energetic and enthusiastic backpackers hiked up Arroyo Crescent and tested our new tents. The participants were Barbara Cuneo, Susan Barnett, Mike and Mara Epicoco. Joyce Post and lead guide Mark Post.

Second Restoration of Trail ZD Service Trip, 10/9-12/92

For its expertise in field work, our group was awarded the Arroyo Crescent designation for the month of November. The trail is named for the Arroyo Crescent and is one of the longest trails in the Sierra Club. The trail is a popular destination for hikers and nature lovers. The trail is maintained by the Arroyo Crescent Trail Stewards, a group of dedicated hikers who volunteer their time to ensure the trail is in good condition. The trail is a popular destination for hikers and nature lovers. The trail is maintained by the Arroyo Crescent Trail Stewards, a group of dedicated hikers who volunteer their time to ensure the trail is in good condition.

SANTA FE GROUP NEWS

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 1993

To start off the New Year we have a new concept for the January general membership meeting. We will have a "Legislative Reception" starting at 7 PM. Come and meet your state legislators, and take this opportunity to empower yourself and talk with them about how we can help them understand and support our cause. This will be a great opportunity for everyone to get involved and be part of the legislative process.

The 1993 New Mexico Legislative Session Will be a pivotal one for the Sierra Club. Chief among the environmental bills to be considered will be a Sierra Club-backed draft regulation of the state's largest coal mine. At our January 19 Legislative Reception, you can become a citizen lobbyist to help get this and other important environmental protection bills passed. Lobbyists Ken Hughes and Sue McIntosh will present a preview of the session, and legislators will be invited to discuss their legislative priorities with our members. The general membership meeting and legislative reception (which means refreshments will be served) is free and open to the public and will be held at The Unitarian Church on Barcelona (between Don Gaspar and Galisteo), on Tuesday, January 19, at 7 PM. (Please note the time of 7 PM!)

JANUARY MEETINGS

The Executive Committee and the Conservation Committee will meet together on Tuesday, January 5, at 6:30 PM at the SF Santa Fe office, 540 Cerrillos Road. All conservation issue chairs and other conservation activists are urged to attend the meeting, where the role of the Conservation Committee will be among the items considered.

SANTA FE GROUP OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

>>

PHONE TREE

An important part of Sierra's activities during the legislative session is its Phone Tree. For anyone who'd like to help, it's a good way to play your part and while you're at it help people to meet people. Please call Martha Ann Freeman 438-0697.

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FRANKLIN'S COALITION ANNUAL MEETING

The Franklin Mountains Coalition will hold its Annual Meeting and Dinner on January 31, at 6 PM at the State Line Restaurant, 1223 Sunland Park, in the Upper Valley, beginning at 6 PM. All Sierra members are cordially invited to attend. The dinner price is $15.50 per person. This special event, the Coalition will be reflecting on the accomplishments of the Franklin Mountains Coalition in 1993, looking at the key issues for 1993, electrical others for the year ahead, and honoring one of the Mountains Coalition's distinguished and steadfast defenders, Martin Yohe, Fred Flanagan, and the Franklin Mountains Coalition.

Please make reservations by January 31. Send your check payable to "Franklin Mountains Wilderness Coalition," or to Jane Fawcett, Treasurer, P.O. Box 3412, Lordsburg, NM 88047. The dinner will be held at the State Line Restaurant, 1223 Sunland Park, in the Upper Valley, beginning at 6 PM. All Sierra members are cordially invited to attend. The dinner price is $15.50 per person.

TALKS, CAROLYN!

This past December marked the end of Carolyn Keskulua's many years as a member of the Santa Fe Group Executive Committee. Her conscientious work in the Group office has made sure that information was routed to the right people, and her promotion of recycling and of environmental education has been highlights of the Santa Fe Group's work. The Executive Committee will miss her, but we are pleased that she will continue her many good works for the Club.

FOREST MANAGEMENT COURSE SF Community College

In conjunction with Forest Watch, the Santa Fe Community College will offer a three-credit course in forest management starting the last week in March 1993. It will involve 32 hours of classroom time and 24 hours of field work and may be audited. The course will cost $96 per credit. If you are interested and would like more information, call Martha Ann Freeman 438-0697.

JANUARY 1993
BIKE HIKE IN THE JEMEZ

by Ellen R. Kemper, Exp.

On November 14 Ken Hughes led a bicycle outing hike in the Jemez Mountains. The weather had been very wet, so the attendance was low. It didn't matter. The enthusiasm was high. It didn't matter that our fearless leader didn't know the exact back roads to our destination, because we found it quickly in the end. We were led back to the parking lot. The hike was beautiful, with a lot of trees and the occasional view of the Jemez Mountains.

The three of us, plus our trusty dog (Tamarack — the Sierra Club find from a June 1991 outing) had a blast. We rode (well, you really truly walked in some places) along a steep incline and then bike-skied along a long ridge. The scenery was briefly disturbed by hikers; after that we made a lot of noise and kept the poohs close by. Once we decided to turn around, we got back to our 4-wheeler vehicle after committee, had a hearty lunch, and (of course) spent some time discussing some of the insidious activities proposed for the Jemez (power line, underground mining). Then we didn't feel too good, so we went back to the parking lot, and turned the hike back towards the Cochiti Lake turnoff. We can get that once we ride our cross-country skis for the season, we'll be ready for another bike hike. Next time, join us!