

## Election results

The outcome of the recent Group election saw each of the candidates gaining office. We welcome new members Tony Chiavello, 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.

### 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 Moser, Van Perkins — welcome! Our thanks to all the candidates, whose qualifications and commitment made this a very good race.

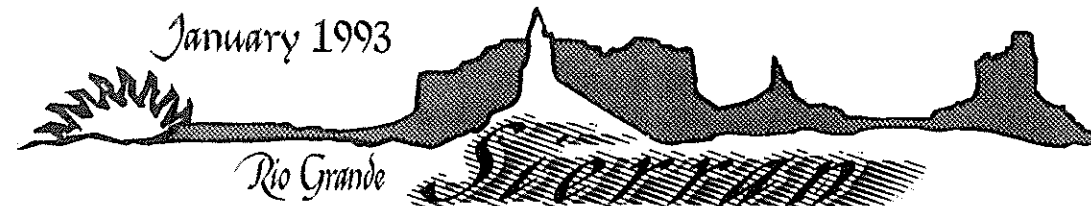
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## Programs and Meetings

**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 Loucks. Lechuguilla is a recent world-class cave discover, of spectacular beauty, and is still under active exploration. Barry's slides from professional photographic expeditions will showcase the cave's most beautiful features.



**Environmental News of New Mexico and West Texas**

# 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 reclamation 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, in at least one press release, the Governor has stated that the gold resting 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 is-

sue, 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 geochemist 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

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# 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 returns. In New Mexico, 35 of 41 state legislature races endorsed by the Rio Grande Chapter are headed for the Roundhouse.

Notable victories of Club-endorsed candidates include:

- Ann Riley in Albuquerque's Senate District 18, who bested environmental nemesis William Davis;

- Liz Stefanics in Northern New Mexico's Senate District 39, who beat former Manual Lujan aide Lou Gallegos;

- Jose Abeyta in Northeast New Mexico's House District 68, who upset House Energy Committee Chairman Kelly Mora in the primary and then refused mining PAC money during the general election campaign because of his mining reform stance; and

- ImaLee Wells in Las Cruces' House District 37, who won a very tight race in a conservative district.

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 passage of a strong mining reform bill;

- cutting funding for Animal Damage Control;

- approving funding for solar energy projects;

- stopping 'takings' legislation;

- tilting transportation spending toward rail, bus, bike and pedestrian alternatives;

- increasing penalties on water polluters

Members are invited to contact Geri Faries of the Mining Committee at 983-1700 or me at 988-9297 to learn how you can plug in to specific legislative activities.

## FROM THE EDITOR

Kevin Bixby has done a great job with the newsletter. His handling of controversial issues in the *Sierran* is reflected by the letters published this month concerning grazing and the so-called county movement. I hope to 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 Sierran*, 207 San Pedro NE, Albuquerque, 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 disc. Typewritten text can only 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**. I can read a Macintosh disc of any format, as well as IBM 3 1/2-inch discs formatted for DOS ASCII or WordPerfect. Feel free to call me about any technical questions at 299-2004 (I'm also co-chair of the chapter computer committee). I don't have a FAX, but I can set up my modem to answer the phone to accept text of any format.

The next issue will concentrate on issues before the New Mexico Legislature. I will try to keep a balance of total coverage, particularly since many of our readers are in Texas, but the legislative articles will need to take priority.

Marc Bedner

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Contributions are welcomed from members and non-members. Send to *Rio Grande Sierran*, 207 San Pedro Ave. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87108. Articles should be typed or submitted on Macintosh disc (any format) or IBM disc (high-density 3 1/2" ASCII or WordPerfect). Call ahead for modem submission.

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## LETTERS

Dear Editor:

I have several corrections and clarifications to make regarding the *Rio Grande Sierran's* October 1992 article on "New Mexico's Counties Swept Up in Anti-Environmental Movement." First, I was never a "former Barry Goldwater advisor." My father was, and he remained so until became an active voice 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 the dissolution 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 the final 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 Sierran* 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 saddened by the unfortunate capture of that movement by the unwise and undemocratic forces of the "wise-use movement" and People for the West." Despite their rosy rhetoric of "power to the people," respect for individual rights and personal liberties, and high regard for private property rights, they are dangerously totalitarian. Their agenda, in the final analysis, is neither to protect freedom nor to protect the environment. It is simply to capture political power and to use that power for personal ends. And they have pursued that agenda by shamelessly exploiting and fanning the concerns and fears of decent and caring rural New Mexicans. Honest and thinking people across the political landscape 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 article on public land grazing by Jim Winder in the December issue of the newsletter. I certainly would have been guilty of dismissing him as a "welfare rancher" before reading the piece, and 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 only seems to reflect the views of urban white people (like myself). If we are to have any chance of preserving wild areas, we need to be able to reach out to people of color and to people who make their living on the land. I hope that this article is the start of a trend, and I urge the editors of the *Rio Grande Sierran* to allow it to serve as a forum for dialogue.

Glen T. Effertz  
Albuquerque

Dear Editor:

I would like to clarify for all who may have received the recent Albuquerque Group activists publication as well as others the status of planning for Petroglyph National Monument. The activists publication implies that a land use park 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 team for the general management plan is currently preparing 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 minimizes new development and facilities. All alternatives will ensure the protection of petroglyph and archeological sites.

We expect this newsletter to be distributed in early February. The Na-

tional Park Service will hold a series of workshops in late February to solicit public input on the three alternatives that will be used by the planning team to modify and refine the alternatives and to select the draft preferred alternative. The draft general management plan and EIS for the Monument is scheduled to be available for public review and meetings in December, 1993.

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 [me] at 766-8375.

Larry Beal  
Chief of Planning  
Petroglyph National Monument

Ike Eastvold responds:

We encourage you to get on the mailing list for the next general management plan newsletter due out in February 1993. The three plan alternatives for Petroglyph National Monument will be spelled out in detail, together with a response mailer.

At this writing, two of those alternatives do contain aggressive recreational 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 have convened a blue-ribbon panel of resource and planning experts to help us formulate a protection plan true to the intent of Congress, and based on sound resource protection principles.

The February *Sierran* will carry an article about 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 most convenient place to ski might be 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 include advice on ski technique, 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 Michon Johnson 843-6789 or Patricia Kerr-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 25 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, 756-2908). 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 enough. The selection of proper clothing for ski-touring is much more critical than for hiking. 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 or shelter, 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 (1) the under-layer, next to the skin, (2) the insulating layer(s), and (3) the outer weatherproof shell. A day-pack will allow the stowing of the extra layers.

(1) The under-layer. Long underwear, but not the usual cotton material. Select a "wicking" synthetic ma-

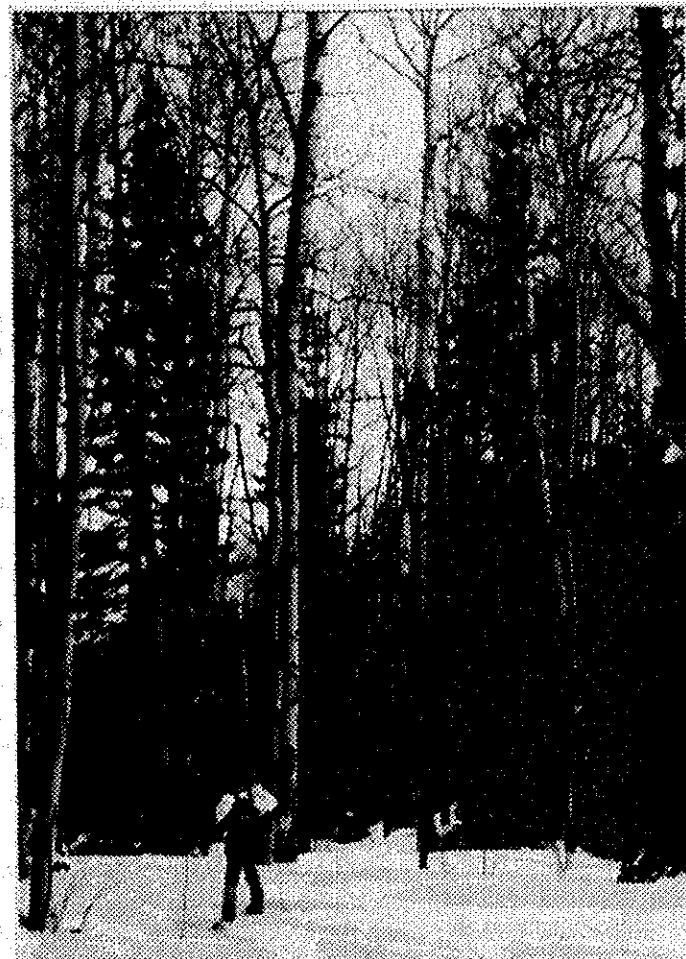


Photo by John Turnbull

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## Albuquerque Public Works: "Put 10 Lanes Through the Petroglyphs!"

by Ike Eastvold, Petroglyph Monument Issue Chair

On November 18, 1992, the City of Albuquerque Public Works Department made it official: a four-lane Unser 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 "Unser Middle Transportation Project," and represent one of a half dozen pieces of these two highways which the city has artfully 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 section in the city's FEIS explaining impacts to Pueblo cultural and religious values.

In what is at best ethnocentrism, the city's FEIS calculates impacts by counting the number of petroglyphs in

the right-of-way. Since these images are religious art, and the landscape where they are found is what we would call an outdoor church for the Pueblos, the city's impact analysis is tantamount to counting the number of icons destroyed by six lanes through a Greek Orthodox church, and leaving it at that!

The purpose of the EIS process under the NM Prehistoric and Historic Sites Preservation Act should have been to find prudent and feasible alternatives to crossing Petroglyph National Monument with these highways. Instead, the city failed to initiate any new alternative, and then instructed its consultant to argue against any alternatives suggested by the Park Service, the Sierra Club, and others.

For example, working pro bono at the request of Monument supporters, national transportation planning expert Robert L. Morris found that the transportation purposes of the Unser Middle Project could be served through intersection expansions—simple addition of turning and through lanes—instead of spending nearly \$50 million as the city proposed to drag Rio Rancho traffic south through Paradise Hills, then eastward through the National Monument to the Paseo del Norte bridge.

The Middle Rio Grande Council of Governments projected nearly 36,000 new residents to Paradise Hills, Rio Rancho, and the intervening area by the year 2010. However, the Council of Governments projections for growth westward all the way to the Rio Puerco were a grand total of 904 new residents! Clearly, the city's proposal to extend Paseo del Norte westward through the National Monument is not justified by the demographics, and, if anything, would encourage a

"leapfrog" development pattern which has always proven inordinately expensive to provide with necessary services.

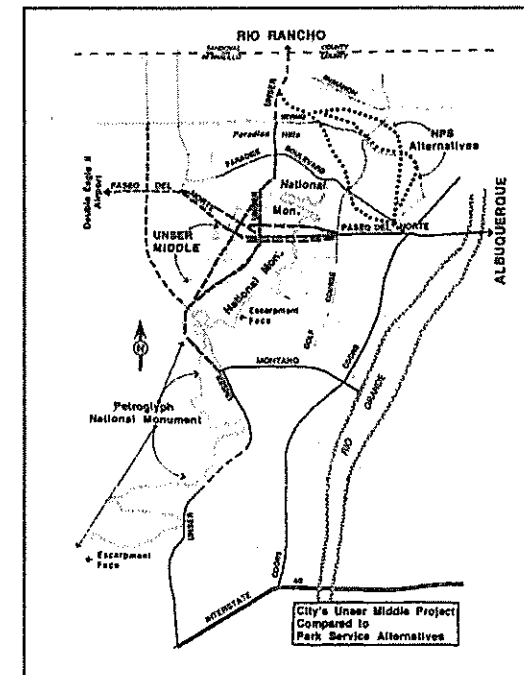
What is driving this unsound project, then? Is it the usual desire of landowners to make big bucks on a tiny investment? That's probably part of the reason. But another big part of the reason is a desire to create a huge northern access road to the Double Eagle II airport, currently a very small facility, and turn it into something twice as big as Albuquerque International. Part of the city's draft master plan to accomplish this expansion shows a new crosswind runway bringing the big planes 200-300 feet over the volcanoes in Petroglyph National Monument.

## 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 Unser Middle Project, and recommend instead intersection expansions, the NPS alternative routes up the Callabacillas Arroyo, or the marvelous potential of all kinds of transit: park and ride for carpooling and express busses, alternating and high occupancy vehicle lanes for these carpools and busses, 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 impress 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 conservatism 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 land use.

The Sierra Club proposal is based largely upon the New Mexico Coal Surface Mining Act, borrowing almost entirely from its provisions for enforce-

ment, 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 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 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 enforce-

ment 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 harm to the land, water, air or wildlife, the inspector will issue a cessation 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 complement 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 flexibil-

## Hardrock Mining *continued from previous page*

ity 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 attain 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 regulation will also serve to lower reclamation costs dramatically and make them economically feasible.

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 will emphasize 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 wherever 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.

### Baseline 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, socioeconomic and cultural resources prior to disturbance by mining.

— Baseline 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 socioeconomic 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 operation on pre-mining 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.

## OPEN PIT MINES ARE FOREVER!

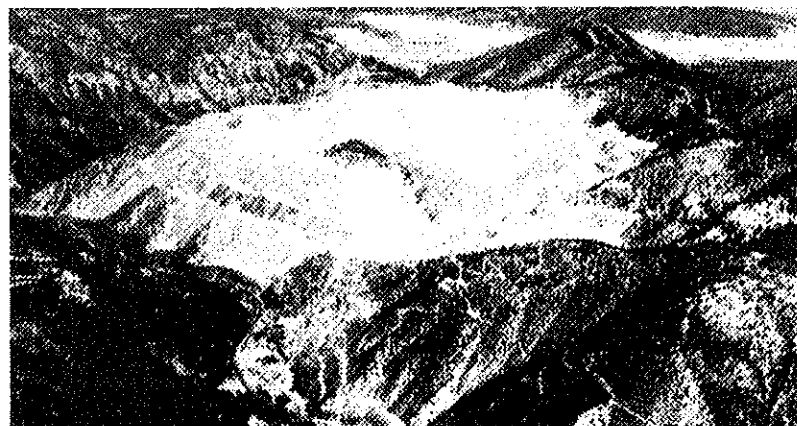


Photo provided to Sierra Club Mining Committee by Lighthawk

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**Activists  
Needed:  
New Mexico  
Legislature  
Convenes  
mid-January!**

The letter on the left was received by the Rio Grande Sierran in response to the discussion in our October issue about recent legislation passed by Catron County, NM.

This legislation was discussed at the Sierra Club 1992 annual meeting in San Francisco, where copies of the letter on the right were distributed.

## 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, Kathey Hadley of the Montana National Wildlife Federation accused the Catron County Commission of passing "a resolution that would in fact overturn federal law." In the same month's Rio Grande Sierran, Kevin Bixby declared "laughable on their face (sic), the ordinances challenge the long-accepted and judicially-upheld 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 government in "joint 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 1508.8.)

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 agents of their duties under those laws.

Anyone wanting the truth about Catron County's Land Plan can order a copy of it from Ruth Kaiser, Federal Lands Conference, (801) 298-0858.

James W. Catron  
Catron County Attorney  
La Joya, NM

United States  
Department of Agriculture

Office of the  
General Counsel

Washington, DC  
20250-1400

September 7, 1990

The Honorable Buddy Allred  
Chairman, Catron County Commission  
P.O. Box 507  
Reserve, New Mexico 87830

Dear Mr. Allred:

This office is legal counsel for the Forest Service which administers National Forest System lands in your County. The recent actions of the Catron County Commission have been brought to our attention with respect to an ordinance directed 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 Rangelands Improvement Act.

Please be advised that, for the reasons stated herein, we consider the referenced ordinance as null and void as applied to 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 Supremacy and Property Clauses of the U.S. Constitution, as well as being unconstitutionally vague. The County cannot in any way proscribe or dictate land management functions undertaken by the Forest Service pursuant to federal laws, regulations or policies.

The Property Clause of the U.S. Constitution gives Congress the power to determine what are "needful rules and regulations respecting" 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. *Kleppe v. New Mexico*, 426 U.S. 529 (1976). As the Court in *Kleppe* stated, "a different rule would place the public domain of the United States completely at the mercy of state legislation." *Id.* at 543. The National Forests are managed under federal law and any attempt by Catron 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." *Ventura County 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 statutes 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 about 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

# 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 spread through its local allies.

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 forced by a Sierra Club-led petition drive. Another approached, requiring compensation for any legislative or regulatory action, has never been upheld by the courts. Finally, the extremist county 'culture and customs' law, which give precedent to counties over the federal government, violates the supremacy clause of the U.S. Constitution and puts county officials in a half dozen New Mexico counties in serious legal jeopardy.

To counteract the 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/or get paid not to do harm.

- Show that land abusers are special interest-driven.

- Reveal extreme positions and expose extremist links e.g. John Birch Society, Moonies

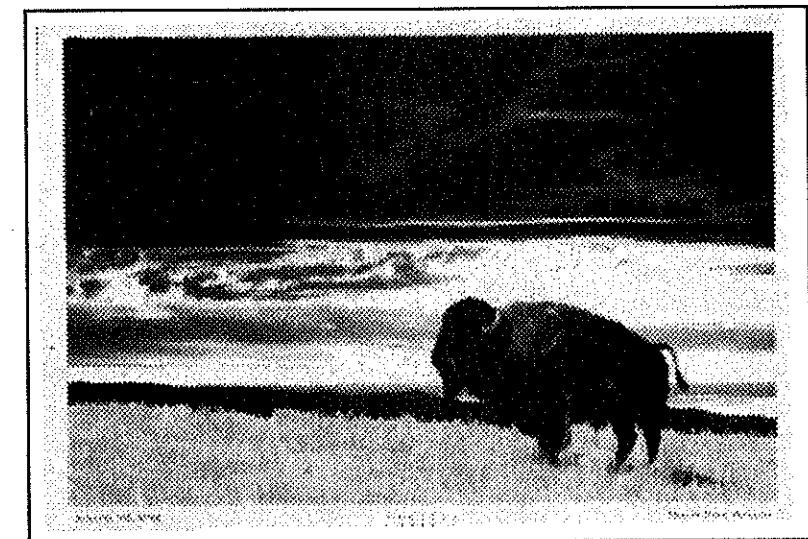
- Look for foreign influence e.g. People for West chapter set up in Australia.

- 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 bating' becoming in vogue, as witnessed by the Farm Bureau making an anti environmental agenda its top priority, it is better to err on the side of treating the land abuse movement too seriously than to scoff at the fallacious rationale it purports to advance.



"Rolling Thunder," an original art poster of a New Mexico bison, 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 bison print, which marks the release of bison 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 private and public land, primarily to benefit ranchers. Until February 1992, ADC has been operating illegally on state land without a signed agreement. When the Land Commissioner discovered ADC did not have 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 no longer be 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 required 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 Wootten

Any naturalist should have read Jim Winder's article in the previous issue of the *Sierran* with a lot of interest. I can say personally, that I have met with Jim Winder, toured 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, do I agree with Jim's article? Certainly not in totality!

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.

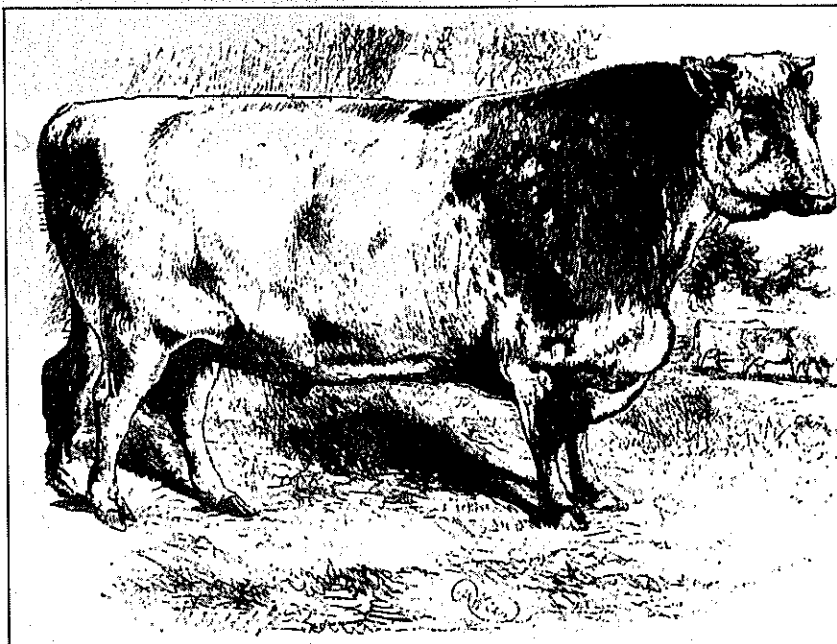
In looking at a specific piece of public land, the question must first be, "What is the highest value of this land?" 1) Not all land is biologically suited for grazing, and the requirements to make some areas into economically viable livestock operation is just too costly. 2) There may be other values 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 southern New Mexico or any where else in the United States.. Any forage they consume is forage taken from some form of wildlife, removed as a possible fuel 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 southern New Mexico.

All of the above still avoids the practical question of where are we today. Jim's ranch seems to have a good balance between grass species, so that the black grama can be rested during the growing season while livestock con-

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## Naturalist's View

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centrate on the tabosa. I am aware of an allotment that consists almost entirely of tabosa and alkali sacaton, both of which offer good grazing during the growing season, but appear unpalatable otherwise forcing overuse of any other species during other seasons. BLM transects show up to 50 to 65% utilization of black grama grass as an example, when over 30 to 40% is generally considered excessive. Livestock are left on the three pastures of this allotment year round.

There is some validity to considering a rancher's profit motive as a justification for his presence on the land and the protection this may afford. This is not the same, however, as suggesting that the rancher's profit motive will promote biodiversity. The profit motive recognized by most ranchers that I have visited with calls for more forage production, not biodiversity.

There do seem to be areas in southern New Mexico that can tolerate grazing under proper management regimes. Note the word "tolerate," not "need." This supposes that there has been a conscious decision that this is the most desired use of those pieces of public land. Included in this decision must be consideration of other potential areas, primarily those with higher moisture regimes, that may be better suited for this function. As well we must face the fact that the more intensely we try to optimize livestock production, the more must be sacrificed in the way of naturalness.

Finally, we recognize Jim Winder's attempts to dispel what he perceives as misconceptions about livestock operators. Good communications serve us all well. As well, Jim should be encouraged to try and improve attitudes of those in the industry who do not share his long term concern for the land.

*Tom Wootten lives in Las Cruces, and comes from a family that ranched in northeastern New Mexico. As well as managing investments for a major Midwestern bank, he has owned and managed a plant nursery specializing in native plants.*

## Do Cows Belong in the Southwest?

by George Wuerthner

Jim Winder's piece, "Public Land Grazing: A Rancher'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 met 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 trashed. This is nearly equal to the area of all the states east of the Mississippi! So if ranchers love the land, yet they 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 production to the landscape (the reason for the 410 million acres of trashed 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 subtropical 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 subtropical 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 dewater streams. They flood valuable riparian habitat. And for these reasons, salmon are extinct or going extinct in many California riv-

ers. The yellow-bellied cuckoo, which depends upon riparian areas, is on the verge of extinction. And many freeflowing 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 sheep.

There is no free lunch. When biologists talk about biodiversity, they are speaking of *native* species. You cannot increase the number of native species by allotting the vast majority of 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. Every blade of grass that goes into a cow's belly is that much less left to support everything from grasshoppers to ground squirrels to elk. Fewer grasshoppers 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, most ranchers supplement their native forage with hay. Most of that hay is grown 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—

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Do Cows Belong in the Southwest?

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which is why fish are the most 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 candidates for listing under the Endangered Species Act. Not all are rare simply because of livestock production, but destruction of riparian areas, dewatering of streams, and degradation of watersheds 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 not 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 ranchers get from livestock production in the West. And these are costs that eastern 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 were the goal, any investment in the East would produce far more meat with far 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 the rest of us have to tolerate such intrusions merely to accommodate a few private commercial businesses operating on our public lands?

Finally, Mr. Winder repeats the often heard remark about our rangelands "needing" to be grazed. Mr. Winder

suggests the problem is that "overrested" rangelands become "decadent" and "overmature." Sounds a lot like the talk I hear from foresters about what ails our forests: if we don't log the timber, they become "decadent." Decadence and overmaturity are used as biological terms, but they are 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 that "overmature" timber. But, as we have learned with forests, these older forests have other ecological values. The same can be said of grasses.

You cannot increase the number of native species by allotting the vast majority of forage to exotic, alien animals.

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 trapped and shot produce bigger litters of pups, too, but I would be wrong to conclude that we must therefore shoot, poison and trap coyotes to prevent their populations from becoming "decadent" or "overmature."

I know of no examples of ungrazed rangelands which spiraled downward in ecological condition in the absence of 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 more examples where the absence of livestock grazing has led to gradual improvement in range condi-

tion. The problem is that most people have never seen ungrazed rangelands. And even fewer still exist where all ecological processes including wild-fire still occur.

And even if livestock cropping were necessary, we can do this just fine on our public lands with native species, and this doesn'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 doing the cropping. 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. But it is wrong to suggest that we need livestock on our public lands, or that the public benefits from such use. For far less investment of money we could easily produce more beef 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.

Rio Grande Chapter sets Priorities for 1993

by Jana Oyler

At its meeting on December 12 and 13 at the Black Range Lodge in Kingston, New Mexico, the Chapter Executive Committee took on the difficult task of budgeting for 1993. Faced with the bad news that the Chapter may end 1992 with a deficit, the ExCom agreed to work on both short- and long-term fundraising with the help of member Ford Robbins and to commit to a membership drive and volunteer recruitment.

Budgeting proposals that carried out the Chapter's 1993 Conservation Goals were considered at the December ExCom meeting, as were administrative requirements and emergency considerations.

The 1993 budget as adopted is:

OPERATING ITEMS

ExCom administration incl retreat/awards	\$3,500.00
Political Committee administration	500.00
Newsletter	5,000.00
Group dues subsidy	5,000.00 (est)
Contingency fund	1,500.00

CONSERVATION ITEMS

Lobbyists salaries and overhead	\$6,250.00
Lobbyists incidental expenses	250.00
Conservation Administration	500.00
Conservation Reserve Fund	2,000.00
Issue Chairs Administration:	
Public Lands incl. BLM (Roger Peterson)	500.00
Diamond Bar (Ted Mertig)	500.00
Energy/Transportation (Ken Hughes)	500.00
National Parks (Ben Zerby)	500.00
Petroglyphs (Ike Eastvold)	500.00
Wilderness (George Grossman)	500.00
1993 Conservation Campaigns:	
Mining	5,000.00
(State bill and reform of 1872 Mining Law)	
Biodiversity	
Defund ADC in NM	600.00
Education	400.00
Group Conservation Subsidies	
(\$1,000/group)	4,000.00

The Chapter ExCom recognized the importance of water issues and plans to discuss them in detail at its March 1993 meeting. The issue desperately needs an activist who will spearhead it for the Chapter.

Elected to the ExCom for three-year terms beginning January 1993 were Susan Gorman, Ted Mertig, and Carol Morrison. 1993 Chapter Officers and Committee Chairs include: Chair — Gwen Wardwell; Vice-Chair — Susan Gorman; Secretary — Norma McCallan; Treasurer — Jana Oyler; Council Delegate — Marc Bedner; SWRCC Delegates — Gwen Wardwell, Tom Brasfield, Sue McIntosh; Conservation Chair — Tom Brasfield; Membership Chair — Carol Morrison; Outings Chair — Norma McCallan; Political Committee Chair — Ken Hughes; Publicity Co-Chairs — Marc Bedner and Susan Gorman; Education — Kevin Bixby; Fundraising — Ford Robbins; Computer Committee Co-Chairs — Marc Bedner and Blair Brown.

When the hard work was over, the ExCom relaxed with a viewing of the movie "Paper Hearts," which was filmed in Kingston and Hillsboro, New Mexico, and produced by Black Range Lodge co-owner Catherine Wamek. The movie stars Sally Kirkland, James Brolin, and an unfortunately beardless Kris Kristofferson (whose character in the movie attends a BLM meeting), and features the music of Taos resident Michael Martin Murphey. The movie was accepted by Robert Redford's prestigious Sundance Institute Film Festival this January — good luck, Catherine and Mike!

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

Enclose check and mail to:  
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San Francisco, CA 94159-7959

W-1700

FRIP No.

## Cross-Country Ski Report, cont. from page 4

terial like polypropylene or Thermax™ which, unlike cotton, will not absorb and hold moisture, but will pass it away from the skin to be evaporated. Keeping the skin dry is key. If a person has any money for clothing, this garment, and particularly the upper half, is the priority.

(2) The insulating layer(s). This may be a wool sweater or shirt (again *not* cotton, which, when damp or wet, will lose most of its insulating value). In cold weather you may want a couple such layers, including possibly an insulated vest (synthetic, not down-filled). You have a lot of selection here. The newer polyester fleece garments, PolarTec™, Polar Lite™, have found to be particularly good, even in extreme conditions. Like wool, they have the marvelous capacity to continue insulating *even if wet*. For your legs, which do not radiate nearly as much heat as your upper body, wool or synthetic trousers are best. Levis, being cotton, will dampen. A lot of people ski in Levis anyway, and wicking underwear goes a long way to offset their shortcomings. The expert can usually get away with it. The beginner who is falling a lot and getting wet definitely should not. On long tours, nobody should wear cotton.

(3) The outer, weatherproof shell. This, ideally, should have a *hood*, and be either waterproof or very water-resistant. It must be "*breathable*," that is, capable of transmitting moisture, to prevent dampness building up inside. Coated, non-breathable synthetic materials are positively deadly. In most cases the moisture from perspiration is a much greater problem to worry about than moisture from snow or rain. Gore-Tex lined shells are very effective, but expensive. With a good polyester fleece underneath, a non-waterproof, uninsulated, and inexpensive nylon jacket with hood usually will serve fairly well.

(4) Feet. Wet feet means misery, and it could result in frostbite as well. The same layering principles apply here. I prefer a thin wicking polypropylene sock liner next to my skin, and a wool or wool/polypropylene insulating sock over that. Be sure to buy boots big enough to accommodate the socks you will wear. To keep snow out of the tops of the boots, and to prevent the laces icing up, gaiters are very effective. For most ski-touring, of any distance, in deep snow, they are essential. Fairly inexpensive, too.

(5) Head. An inexpensive wool or synthetic knit cap is what you want. Try to find one that is of tight enough weave that it will stop the wind. Some of the more expensive caps now come with a wicking polypropylene band, and that is particularly nice. A large fuzz-ball on top is fun, so long as it does not interfere with your jacket hood. I usually carry a light-brimmed fishing hat in my pack, for warm, sunny conditions. For your eyes, of course wear sunglasses. The snow will reflect enough light to almost double what your eyes normally receive. Be *sure* to get either glass or ultraviolet-filtering polycarbonate lenses. Cheap plastic lenses let

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the UV through, even as they cause your pupils to dilate. Cheap plastic lenses may be worse than none at all.

(6) Hands. Loosely-woven knit gloves are definitely out. I prefer a shell-type glove, with a water-repellent outer surface. Also, a cuff, to keep snow out, is very desirable. This type glove comes in all price ranges. Carrying an extra pair is a good idea. A ring or snap to allow you to hang the gloves on your belt is handy, for, besides convenience, drying them as you shuffle along.

*A book to read.* The Sierra Club, in 1981, published a little book by Lito Tejada-Flores entitled *Backcountry Skiing—The Sierra Club Guide to Skiing off the Beaten Track*. It is regarded nationally as one of the best. It covers practically everything a person would want to know, from equipment, to technique, to camping, to first aid. It is available widely, and I would recommend it highly, even for the more experienced skier.

*The author is a member and former chairman of the Santa Fe Group, has conducted beginning and intermediate ski classes and tours for many years for the Sierra Club, a private school, and several other organizations, and is a member of the Professional Ski Instructors of America—Rocky Mountain Division.*

## Outings Leaders Workshop

Originally scheduled for December 5, and cancelled by snow, the Santa Fe Group is planning an outing leaders' workshop for Saturday, March 13, 9 AM-4 PM at the Unitarian Church. Outing chairs, outing leaders, and anyone with a yen to lead outings, from anywhere in the Rio Grande Chapter, is encouraged to attend. All interested can go out to supper together afterwards at a local restaurant, to allow more time for networking and sharing, and a hike will be planned for the next day. Overnight housing can be arranged. Call Norma McCallan, Chapter Outings Chair, at 471-0005 in Santa Fe, for an agenda or more details.

## ALBUQUERQUE

# ALBUQUERQUE GROUP

## January Meeting: New Mexico '93 Legislative Update

By Susan Gorman

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 the unexpected! 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 Kirtland AFB, is a twenty thousand acre section of the Cibola National Forest that was withdrawn from public access for use by the DOD and DOE. Like many other local groups which 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 revealed many serious issues reaching far beyond the initial concerns of the mountain community, including deliberate evasion of federal environmental law and possible contamination of the Albuquerque aquifer from the Manzano watershed. Past dumping 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 DOD 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. Timely cleanup and removal of all toxic and radioactive contamination from withdrawal land and protection and preservation of archaeological 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 for-

(continued on next page)



# ALBUQUERQUE

## 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 them:

"**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). A special series, "**Wintering Birds of Bosque del Apache**" will be presented by Steve Cox of Rio Grande Bird Research on four Thursday evenings during January, with one all-day field trip on January 30. (Cost: \$75.00. Transportation is included.)

"**After the Flood**", the 5th Annual Bosque Symposium, will be presented Saturday February 27th, from 9AM-12:30PM. (Cost: \$5.00).

Advance registration is required for the above programs. Call the Rio Grande Nature Center at (505) 344-7240.

### Outings Reports

**Antelope fencing**- about 10 people and a quarter mile of fencing, **Inner City Outing**- we took a group of 9 elementary school kids wading in the Oxbow, **Tent Rocks**- 8 hikers meandered through the slot 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 considerably 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 effectively separate DOD and DOE activities on the western lower elevations from public activity 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 of Albuquerque. The DOE is clearly more vulnerable in this case, since damage has already been done, than in the more visible cases of WIPP or Yucca 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 Manzano Alliance (TEMA)  
P.O. Box 850, Tijeras, NM 87059  
(Annual Membership, \$10.00)

## CALENDAR

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

Jan 7 : Mexican Wolf Coalition, 7:30 PM.

Jan 9: 12 noon. **Deadline** for articles for February group newsletter/ Sierran.

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, 7:30 PM.

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

### 1993 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Office Telephone: 265-5506

Group Chair	Stefan Verchinski	888-1370
	Richard Barish	247-8079
	Bob Cornish	255-6037
	Blair Brown	265-3231
	David Bouquin	265-7853
	Tom Leck	857-0765
	Nick Nicolaus	

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

Air Quality	Heidi Fleischmann	260-1217
Books/Calendars	Rich Adam	266-4657
Bosque	Richard Barish	247-8079
City Planning	David Bouquin	265-7853
City Trails	Dan Feller	266-1922
Conservation	David Bouquin	265-7853
Energy	Ralph Wrons	275-0856
Las Huertas	Marion Davidson	867-5178
Mailings	Doreen Kahl	345-7919
Mexican Wolf	Susan Larsen	897-2527
Mining Issues	Blair Brown	265-3231
Newsletter	Dorothy Brethauer	275-6113
	Larry Compton	899-0679
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

### Membership Committee Formed!

Have you noticed some subtle changes in the Albuquerque group? The Membership Committee (12 active members at present) has taken on the administrative side of our activities. Just a sprinkling includes membership booths, the phone tree, meeting programs, new member mailings and orientations, office help, socials, and more. To date, after three meetings, we have succeeded in a mailing and the fantastic Christmas party. We hope to be breaking out into about a dozen subcommittees. So give us a call. Next meeting is 7:00 PM at Old Tymers Lounge, Louisiana and Central. Terri Moyers 265-8274

# ALBUQUERQUE

## OUTINGS

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

**Outings 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**

**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.

**Sat Jan 9 Signs for the Sierra Club Office Service Project**

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 10 Leisure**

**Las Huertas Canyon X/C Ski**  
Ski up Las Huertas Canyon with a chance of seeing a ruffled woodpecker and other wildlife. The lawsuit regarding the paving of Las Huertas Canyon is still in litigation. Attorney's Grove Burnett and Richard Brown are representing the Sierra Club and other groups. Bring lunch and a dollar to help with lawyer fees. If you can't make it, you can still make a donation by mailing to Save the Canyon, PO Box 1220, Bernalillo, NM 87004. Meet at Winchell's, San Mateo and Academy, 8:45 AM. Leader: Marion Davidson 867-5178

**Sat Jan 16 Leisure**

Miles 0 Car: 120  
**Bald Eagles at Cochiti Tour**  
At the break of dawn we will watch the fishing activities of several eagles. Dress as warm as possible, bring binoculars. Breakfast afterwards at Village Inn. Meet at 6:00 am., at Winchells, San Mateo and Academy. Leader: David 344-8693

**Sat Jan 16 Leisure**

Miles: 1-2 Car: 130  
**Beginning XC Country Ski Instruction**  
Basic instruction by John Turnbull, Professional Ski Instructor of America. Learn about equipment and techniques (see this month's XC ski article by John). Dress warm in layers. Bring snacks, light lunch, and water. Meet at SC office, call Stan for details 292-9138.

**Sun Jan 17 Moderate**

Miles: 6+ Car: 150  
**Aspen Vista X/C Ski**  
We will ski up a service road in the Pecos Wilderness. This is the area known as the Teseque Basin, that is being proposed for the Santa Fe ski area expansion. This expansion would have an adverse affect on wildlife, water quality, and the Pecos Wilderness boundary. An increase in crowding is also expected. Local Santa Feans are now organizing to oppose this proposed expansion. Dogs welcome! Meet at Winchell Donut House, San Mateo Blvd. & Academy at 9:00 am. Leader: Susan Larson, call David for details 344-8693

**Mon Jan 18**

**Pre-Meeting Dinner**  
Terri Moyers has graciously volunteered her home for this month's dinner. Come join in on homestyle hospitality and pizza. Call Terri for directions 265-8274

**Sat Jan 23 Moderate**

Miles: 4-5 Car: 200  
**Rockhounding in the Magdalena Mountains**  
We will wander through some of the old mine tailings piles and rummage for a variety of minerals, we will continue to a ridge for some expansive views. Bring lunch. Call for location and time. Leader: Tom Leck 857-0765

**Sat Jan 23 Leisure**

Miles: 2-3 Car: 2  
**Boca Nigra Arroyo Hike**  
This area contains impressive petroglyphs and ancient Anasazi water control systems for irrigation. Bring sturdy shoes, binoculars, and camera, RSVP. Leader: Ike Eastvold 255-7679

**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 Sandias. Admire the aspen, spruce, and fir, we'll attempt to identify the various animal tracks. Dress in layers, bring lunch. Leader: Terri 265-8274

**Sat Jan 30 Moderate-Exploratory**

Miles: 4-6 Car: 170  
**Sierra de las Canas and Prescilla WSA.**  
This trip has been cancelled twice due to rain or snow, we are trying for the third time. 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: Bob Cornish 255-6037.

**Sun Jan 31 Moderate**

Miles: 4-5 Car: 140  
**Stallion Wilderness Study Area**  
South near Socorro lies the rugged, unspoiled Stallion WSA. Stallion, 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 7,100 feet, while canyons to the south drop to 5,500 feet into an alluvial plain. Expect to see raptors and deer, and if your lucky, the local herd of wild free-roaming horses. A local rancher has recently and illegally bladed a road on the land in an attempt to keep the area from wilderness designation. BLM has not recommended any acreage for wilderness. Meet at SC office at 8:30 am. Leader: Nick Persampieri 281-7845

**Sun Feb 6 Moderate**

Miles: 10 Car: 130  
**San Antonio Hot Spring X/C Ski**  
Enjoy a magical moon lit ski to the warmth of the San Antonio Hot Spring. 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 NWR**  
Our trip in Dec. was cancelled due to snow, so we will try again. 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 during a full moon. We will eat lunch in Socorro before we begin our tour. Meet at parking lot north of Physics and Astronomy bldg at Yale & Lomas 10 AM. Leader: Laura Jenkins 293-7527.

**Sun Feb 7 Liesure Miles 2-3 Car 2**

**Geological Windows, PNM**  
Look for petroglyphs of the mountain lion- shaman elder guardian of the north direction, kachina masks- representing spirits of the dead that see into both worlds. Bring binoculars, cameras, and sturdy shoes. RSVP. Leader: Ike Eastvold 255-7679

## the LORAX

Sierra Club  
El Paso Regional Group

## JANUARY GENERAL MEETING

Ray Waite will give a wonderful slide presentation featuring birds in the El Paso region. Ray is a very talented amateur photographer who is also a member of the Audubon Society. He has lived in El Paso since his retirement from the military in 1968. 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 Mertig, 852-3011.

## CALENDAR

January 6	EXCOM (800 So. Piedras)
January 9	Deadline for El Paso newsletter information (send to 331 Vista Del Rey, 79912)
January 27	General Meeting (7000 Edgemere)
January 23	El Paso Group Retreat (see article)
February 3	EXCOM (800 S. Piedras)

## EL PASO SIERRA CLUB NEWS!!

## ELECTION RESULTS

Tom Brasfield reported the results of the election to the EXCOM at their meeting on Wednesday, December 9. Mike Episcopo will be joining the EXCOM along with reelected members, Ted Mertig, Kathy Sunday and Joe Rodriguez.

## 1993 OFFICERS ELECTED

Ted Mertig and Kathy Sunday were reelected Chair and Treasurer, respectively. John Sproul will serve as Vice Chair with Joe Rodriguez as Secretary.

## NEW MANAGER HIRED

Phyllis Caves has been hired as a parttime 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 532-4876 or stop by the Center, 800 S. Piedras, to get acquainted.

## 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 ENVIRONMENTAL 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 Lands	Ted Mertig	852-3011
Vice Chairman	John Sproul	545-5157
Secretary	Joe Rodriguez	833-9655
Treasurer	Kathy Sunday	584-9301
Member/Outings	Mike Episcopo	833-3770
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
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

## PLANNING RETREAT!

Keep Saturday afternoon, January 23, open  
for the El Paso Group's 1993 Planning Retreat!

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

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

Call Ted for more information, 852-3011.

## El Paso Planning Retreat

Potluck

Saturday, January 23, 1993

2 to 6 PM

Environmental Center, 800 S. Piedras

Mark your calendars!

## JANUARY/FEBRUARY OUTINGS

## 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.

COMPASS AND ORIENTEERING  
TOM MAYS STATE PARK

DATE: Saturday, January 23, 1993,  
CLASS: Physically easy,  
mentally challenging  
LIMIT: 12, reservations required  
LEADER: Chuck Turner, 585-0251

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

## GUADALUPE PEAK DAYHIKE

DATE: Saturday, January 30, 1993  
CLASS: Moderate  
LIMIT: 16, leader approval and  
reservations required

LEADER: Carol Morrison, 545-1701  
evenings

Ready for an energetic day of hiking? Our Guadalupe Peak route is eight miles roundtrip, with approximately 3000' elevation gain. Plan to leave the city about 7 AM, and pack water and a lunch. We'll be dining at the top of Texas!

## HAPPY TRAILS TO YOU!

This year has zoomed by on "Fast Forward." As Mike Episcopo takes over as Outings Chair, I want him to know how much I have appreciated the special folks who have crafted another successful year of outings. He has a great team.

Thanks to all of you outings leaders who just couldn't say "no!"

Jim Bell	Michael Bromka
Claus Christiansen	Todd Daugherty
Mike Episcopo	Betty Fisbeck
Weldon Fisbeck	Laurence Gibson
Carolina Greenfield	Dale Harris
Betsy Julian	Cindy Le Bleu
Wes Leonard	Ted Mertig
Don Middleton	Dan Opplinger
Eva Peppell	Bill Phillips
Mark Post	Joe Rodriguez
John Sproul	Kathy Sunday
Chuck Turner	Wyona Turner
Rollin Wickenden	Gary Williams

I send a special note of appreciation to Todd Daugherty for the first aid training; to Laurence Gibson for leading the 9-day Gila and the Colorado hikes; to Wild Bill Phillips for his help while I also produced the LORAX; to Chuck Turner for sharing his map and compass skills with us; and especially to Wyona Turner, who has helped me tremendously with the LORAX and Sierran copy. I'm looking forward to seeing all of you on the trail in 1993!

Take a hike!

Carol

ICO LEADERSHIP TRAINING OUTING  
WINTER CAMPING -- CLOUDCROFT, NM

DATE: January 29-31, 1993  
CLASS: Moderate  
LIMIT: 15, leader approval and  
reservations required

LEADER: Jeanne French, 592-1600

Learn the basics of winter camping, along with cross-country skiing and snowshoeing instruction. The Waterfall Lodge has been rented by ICO for the weekend. Friday evening will feature a workshop on winter camping essentials, including appropriate gear and clothing and packing a pack. Saturday, the group will ski or snowshoe a short distance to a nearby campground and set up camp. 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 cost includes several meals, but does not include the cost of ski or snowshoe rental. Instructors will be Debbie Tomacelli and Chuck and Wyona Turner. Call Jeanne for more information.

## COOKE'S PEAK CARCAMP

DATE: February 6-7, 1993  
CLASS: Moderate  
LIMIT: 12, leader approval and  
reservations required

LEADER: Joe Rodriguez, 833-9655

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 Ft. Cummings ruins 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)

DATE: February 13-14, 1993  
CLASS: Easy, but drive is lengthy  
LIMIT: 20, reservations required  
LEADER: Rollin Wickenden, 598-8042

We will leave El Paso early Saturday morning and drive west to Bowie, AZ, where we will turn south off of I-10 for the National Monument. We have reserved the group campsite for Saturday night. There is a limit of twenty campers and a cost for the group of \$10 to be split among participants. In addition, there is a \$3.00 per vehicle charge for admittance to the Monument. There are moderate day hikes planned for both Saturday afternoon and Sunday to Echo Canyon, Rhyolite Canyon, and Heart of Rocks. The hikes are optional. Be prepared for cold, wet weather. Bring your own fire wood. This is an outing for young and old alike. Call Rollin for details and reservations.

Plan early for March!!!

HOSPITAL CANYON DAY HIKE AND PICTOGRAPH HUNT  
WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE, NM

DATE: Saturday, March 13, 1993  
CLASS: Moderate +  
LIMIT: 15, by reservation, with leader approval and proof of citizenship required  
LEADER: Rollin Wickenden, 598-8042

## OUTINGS REPORTS

## Spring Cabin Fall Backpack, 9/26-27/92

On a beautiful Fall weekend, six energetic and enthusiastic backpackers hiked up Argentina Canyon and over to Spring Cabin to set up camp. After pitching our tents, a dayhike was undertaken to the overlook area to view the San Andres Mountains and White Sands. Many jokes and stories were told around the campfire. Participants were Barbara Coons, Susan Barnett, Mike and Maria Episcopo, Joyce Post and leader Mark Post.

## Second Resurrection of Trail 220 Service Trip, 10/9-12/92

Four Sierrans piled into Mike Episcopo's pickup Friday night and drove to a trailhead campsite in Little Dry Creek. Saturday morning we hiked in Trail 180 to Windy Gap and down Trail 220 to Big Dry Creek. Joachamo Soucy, trail boss with the Glenwood Ranger District, had come in a day early by horseback and had rerouted the lower section of Trail 220 to bypass all the problem spots. While Joachamo and Mike cut through the blowdowns with the two-man saw, Barbara and I cut brush and did some tread work with our one pulaski. Bill provided moral support. After a visit to Big Dry Cabin and a second night at the Pilgrim grounds, we made the steep, but spectacular, hike up Trail 220 over Windy Gap and back to the trailhead and Mike's pickup. Many, many thanks to Joachamo Soucy and Bill Britton of the Glenwood Ranger District for their help. The trail crew extraordinaire included Barbara Coons, Mike Episcopo, Bill Phillips and leader Rollin Wickenden.

## North Franklin Dayhike Issue Outing, 10/18/92

Four participants ventured up to the top of North Franklin Peak. The hikers were Susan Edwards, Helen Stoughton, Rick Kartt and leader Mark Post. Of interest was the sighting of a deer and the shocking experience of nearly stepping on a three-foot diamondback rattlesnake. Another shocker was seeing a jeep with several people in it driving to the top of the mountain. A follow-up complaint to the Park Ranger was made, but I was informed that the Radio Ham Operators have legal access to the top of the mountain at any time because they have a small tower located there.

## McKittrick Canyon Dayhike, 10/25/92

Vibrant reds dominated the colorful array of Fall foliage in McKittrick Canyon on October 25th. All the colors were vivid as we ambled along the well-traveled trail. The green forest background provided a patchwork quilt effect with random patterns of orange, yellow, red and gold. We were treated to cloudless skies and stopped often to admire the canyon walls. The Grotto was a cool refuge as we enjoyed our lunch. The usual crowds of hikers did not seem to deter the mule deer and butterflies from their routines. Making the annual pilgrimage this year were Françoise Turner, Steve Englander, Rae Hamilton and leader Dale Harris.

## McKittrick Key Exchange, 11/6-8/92

The key exchange across Guadalupe National Park on November 7 and 8 was a trip filled with beauty, snow and the remaining fall colors. Mark and Martha Ask from Carlsbad joined forces with Bill and Shirley Phillips, Ana O'Neill, Richard Rheder, Wyona Turner and leader Chuck Turner at Dog Canyon on Saturday morning. Meanwhile, on the McKittrick Canyon side of the park, Dave Kofed, Susanne Boone and Carol Morrison headed up the canyon. They joined forces at 3:30 on Saturday afternoon on top of McKittrick Ridge where camp was set. The wind started that night, and didn't let up on Sunday. Still the hike out was sunny and very enjoyable.

## HUECO TANKS -- VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

With increased incidents of vandalism at Hueco Tanks State Park, new directions have been taken by the Park's management. Many of you are already aware of the new \$25 Conservation Passport fee which has been implemented, but that is only one of the actions the state has taken to preserve the beauty of the park.

Because of the severe budget constraints on state funding, the Park is, by necessity, relying on volunteers to help protect the Park's resources, and that's where you come in. The park management is adopting a new emphasis on resource protection, and there are an abundance of opportunities for you to help. Help is needed for

- park cleanup
- trail maintenance
- rock art site monitoring
- tour docents

In addition, the Park hopes to open a Visitor's Center in 1993, and volunteers will be needed at the Visitor's Center.

Initially, there will be a once-a-month clean-up activity planned for the Park, with the first Clean-Up Day scheduled for Saturday, January 16. Call the Park office for more information: 857-1135.

When you come to the Park for these volunteer activities, the entrance fee will be waived. To volunteer, call Ms. Gay Kozusko at 857-3787, or the Hueco Tanks State Park office, 857-1135.

## CALENDARS FOR SALE

There are still a few Sierra Club calendars left. Although the wilderness calendars have sold out, there are a limited number of the wildlife, trail, sacred sites, and engagement calendars left. Call the Environmental Center, 532-965 or 532-4876, or Ted, 852-3011, for your 1993 Sierra Club calendar.

## EARTHDAY COMPETITION IN SCHOOLS

Final judging of elementary students' art depicting the environment is happening at press time. Students from all over the city have drawn or painted pictures representing their ideas about the environment. Twelve winners will have their works of art published in an environmental calendar to celebrate EARTHDAY 1993. The calendars can be purchased through the Sierra Club.

## FRANKLINS COALITION ANNUAL MEETING

The Franklin Mountains Wilderness Coalition will hold its Annual Meeting and Dinner Sunday, January 17, at the State Line Restaurant, 1222 Sunland Park, in the Upper Valley, beginning at 6 PM. All Sierrans are cordially invited to attend. The dinner price is \$13.50 per person. At this special event, the Coalition will be reflecting on how the Franklins fared in 1992, looking at key issues for 1993, electing officers for the year ahead, and honoring one of the Mountains' most distinguished and steadfast defenders, Gerry Fitzgerald.

Please make reservations by January 11. Send your check, payable to "Franklin Mountains Wilderness Coalition", to Jane Fowler, Treasurer, FMWC, 3212 Kilkeny, El Paso, TX 79925 (598-2448).

## MOUNTAIN LION TOPIC OF LOCAL MEETING

Chihuahuan Desert Wildlife Rescue, Inc. and the UTEP Biology Department are inviting the public to a lecture on the mountain lions of New Mexico's San Andres Mountains. Husband-wife research team, Ken Logan and Linda Sweanor, of the Hornocker Wildlife Research Institute, will give a presentation on their seven-year mountain lion research project. The lecture will be at 7 PM on Sunday, January 17, 1993, in the Tomas Rivera Conference Center (UTEP East Union Building). There is no admission charge.

## 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 help the environment.

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-drafted regulation of hard rock mining. At our January general meeting/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, 1993, at 6 PM at the Santa Fe Group office, 440 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.

## 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 to meet people. Please call Martha Ann Freeman 438-0697.

## &gt;&gt; SANTA FE GROUP OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS &lt;&lt;

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

\* Member of the Santa Fe Group Executive Committee  
 Terms expire 12/92: Freeman/Keskulla/Kitchell/McClure  
 12/93: McCallan/Moore/Muckelroy/Oyler/Soracco

## THANKS, CAROLYN!

This past December marked the end of Carolyn Keskulla'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 have 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 a total of \$51. If you are interested and would like more information, call Martha Ann Freeman 438-0697.



## SANTA FE

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

#### 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.

#### Sat Sun February

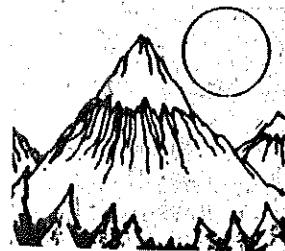
- 7 Louise Leopold (988-4592) **Easy Hike** on La Bajada Hill. Leave at 9:30 AM. Dogs welcome.
- 13 John McClure (473-1916) **Strenuous Hike** to Tetilla Peak from La Bajada. Leave 8 AM.
- 14 Elizabeth Altman (471-8490) **Easy Walk** in Cerro Gordo area. Leave 9 AM.
- 14 Douglas Altshuler (471-1183) **Strenuous Hike** in Bandelier up the Mesa to Upper Crossing and down Frijoles Canyon - 13 miles. Leave 8 AM.
- 20 Norma McCallan (471-0005) **Easy/Moderate Hike** along the railroad toward Lamy. Dogs welcome. Leave 9 AM.
- 21 Norbert Sperlich (983-1962) **Moderate/Strenuous Hike** from Diablo Canyon. Call leader for reservations.
- 21 Victor Atyas (471-7545) **Easy Hike** in the Cerrillos Hills. Leave 9 AM.
- 27 Norrine Sanders (984-0386) **Moderate Hike** on Ancho Rapids Trail. Leave 8 AM.
- 28 Jeff Jones (984-2389) **Strenuous Hike** in Bandelier. Leave 8 AM.
- 28 Arnold Keskulla (982-9570) **Easy Hike** in Galisteo Dam area. Leave 9 AM.

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

#### BIKE HIKE IN THE JEMEZ by Ellen R. Kemper, Esq.

On November 14 Ken Hughes led a bicycle issues hike in the Jemez Mountains. It didn't matter that the attendance was low, because 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 an even better spot to ride!

The three of us, plus our trusty dog (Tazmerelda — the Sierra Club find from a June 1992 outing) had a blast. We trudged (well, yours truly even walked in some places) up a steep incline and then bike-skied along a long ridge. The serenity was briefly disturbed by hunters; after that we made a lot of noise and kept the pooch close by. Once we decided to turn around, we got back to our 4-wheel vehicle lickety-split, had a hearty lunch, and (of course) spent some time discussing some of the insidious activities proposed for the Jemez (power line, underground bombing, etc.). Then, because we couldn't get enough, we took turns driving the car and biking back towards the Cochiti Lake turnoff. You can bet that once we retire our cross country skis for the season, we'll be ready for another bike hike. Next time, join us!



## SANTA FE

### CROSS COUNTRY SKIING

#### 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) **Indoor 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) **Indoor 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 (983-5672) **Moderate X Ctry Ski Trip** U.S. Hill near Penasco. Lve 8 AM.

#### Sat Sun February

- 2 Joe Whelan (984-0746) **Moderate Cross Country Ski Trip**. Leave at 8:30 AM.
- 20 Stephen Janus (988-4137) an exciting **Snowshoe/Telemark Ski Trip**. Call leader for details.

**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.

#### SPECIAL FOREST WATCH MEETING Thursday, January 7, at 7 PM

#### OUTING LEADERS WORKSHOP Saturday, March 13, 9 AM - 4 PM Unitarian Church

Because of the early snowfall and near-blizzard conditions, the Outing Leaders Workshop originally scheduled for Saturday, December 5, and then rescheduled for March 6, has now been **definitely** rescheduled for Saturday, March 13, at 9 AM, at the Unitarian Church. More information will be in the February newsletter.

Call: Norma McCallan 471-0005, Joe Whelan 984-0746 or Norbert Sperlich 983-1962

As you probably are aware, the Forest Service will be conducting a "burn" on Peggy Mesa in the Jemez Mountains in either April or May 1993. The Forest Service will construct a grandstand with parking available and will conduct guided tours in forest service vehicles while the "burn" is occurring.

At this special Forest Watch meeting, a nationally known fire expert will talk about the history of fire in the Santa Fe National Forest. The crew that will be doing the "burn" will be at the meeting to show a video on exactly where it will take place and answer any questions. For location, call Martha Ann Freeman (438-0697)

The Deadline for Submission to the Feb Newsletter is Wed, 5 PM, Jan 13.

Late News!  
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