

Spring not too late for Cross-Country Skiing

By: John A. Turnbull, Santa Fe Group

By early March, when this edition reaches its readers, Spring weather will, at the lower altitudes, be upon us. Sunny, warm days, with thoughts of gardening, hiking, and cleaning out the garage.

Many people forget about skiing at this time, and unfortunately miss the best of all. At the higher altitudes, the 4 to 6 feet of snowpack is still thick, and the surface usually will have firmed up beautifully, allowing one to ski along on the surface almost effortlessly, and successfully execute graceful stem christies, telemark turns, and other downhill maneuvers previously unattainable. Everyone skis well in the Springtime. Also, for those with dogs, the firm snow of Spring provides a solid surface for little feet, without damage to others' ski tracks.

By March snowmobiles usually will have disappeared, and the woods are quiet. The Spring skier may have the opportunity to observe the first elk migrating back up to Summer pasture, and bears coming out of hibernation to start a new year. Sometimes there will be new cubs tagging along. The squirrels are, by this time, out in force, and their chattering can be heard everywhere.

Spring skiers also may experience that peculiar phenomenon: the bright-sun white-out. Usually of less than 20 minutes duration, the sunlight hitting a localized snowfall, creates a dizzy, bewildering, sparkling whiteness, in which everything disappears, including one's companions.

In the Springtime, after repeated freezes and thaws, the avalanche hazard on steeper slopes diminishes considerably, and previously risky slopes may become playgrounds.

The skier who puts away his skis at the end of February with the sentiment "Well, that's enough for this year," misses the best of all. But perhaps the greatest loss is to miss the transition of season, when the rulers of the Winter world quietly withdraw, and the earth comes alive again, in that

endless cycle of birth, death, and rebirth that human beings have celebrated since the dawn of time. The skier who stacks his skis in February and turns to other things is a skier. The skier who stays to witness the earth's rebirth, and stacks his skis in April, is a philosopher. Had Epicurus been born in a snowy land, rather than in Greece, he probably would have been a Springtime skier.

Yes, I want to join the Sierra Club! I want to help safeguard our nation's natural heritage. My check is enclosed.

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MARCH 1993

RIO GRANDE

SIERRAN

Environmental News of New Mexico and West Texas

The Lobo Needs Your Help

by Susan Larsen and Bud Lensing

The lobo, a symbol of our heritage in the southwest, is in danger of extinction. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources has designated Mexican Wolf Recovery the "highest priority" or wolf recovery because it is the most endangered wolf in the world. Yet for 3 years, Congress has allocated the Mexican Wolf Program only \$150,000 per year, barely enough to keep the program going. US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) needs \$600,000 to fully pursue lobo reintroduction. The successful red wolf program has consistently received 3 times the amount of the Mexican wolf program.

The Mexican wolf has been in captivity since the late 1970s. Congress will soon decide on funding allocations for the next year. The Mexican wolf program must get the necessary funding this year to keep reintroduction on schedule.

This is where we need your help. Federal agencies and congressional leaders have repeatedly said that the Mexican wolf issue is too politically sensitive to endorse unless there is visible public support. Representatives from wolf coalitions in New Mexico, Texas and Arizona are going to Washington in mid-March. Defenders of Wildlife is paying their way in order to lobby for the budget allocation for the Mexican Wolf program. We need lots of letters written to our Senators and Representatives as soon as possible to back up the lobbying effort. Yes, yours will make a difference!

The Mexican Wolf Coalition is in need of money to continue our efforts to BRING BACK THE LOBO! Please

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President's Proposals Will Help Environment

Statement of Reid Wilson, Sierra Club Political Director

President Bill Clinton's economic package represents a bold reversal from the last twelve years of slash and burn economics. The Clinton plan will create jobs, reduce the deficit, spur investment, and protect the environment. The package offers fundamental change. It puts an end to the environmentally destructive status quo.

A cadre of well financed special interests has already formed to fight this package tooth and nail. The oil, mining, timber, chemical, and ranching industries will spend huge sums of money to kill the Clinton-Gore proposal because it will force them to come clean. These special interests — which set environmental policy for the last twelve years — would like nothing better than deafening silence from the vast majority of Americans that would benefit from this package, while they use campaign contributions and back room arm twisting to undo this package. We must fight back.

We strongly encourage all Americans to support the Clinton economic package. It is good for the environment, and good for the economy. It shrinks the deficit, creates jobs, and greens the nation. It looks beyond the short term to the long term good of the country.

The Clinton program invests in environmental progress and public health by funding public transit, new environmental technologies, park improvements, sewage treatment plant construction, and energy efficiency, thus cleaning up the environment and creating jobs simultaneously.

The package also cuts the government welfare programs for the mining, grazing, and timber industries, which will reduce the deficit and protect

America's magnificent public lands from exploitation.

The Clinton plan takes an important step in the right direction by taxing wasteful and polluting energy use. Clean renewable energy sources such as wind and solar are exempt from the energy tax. This tax package will encourage energy conservation.

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Sierra Club Group News

Albuquerque Group (see pages 4-6):

Young environmentalists with their bats, raptors, and other critters will give a presentation at the March meeting, Monday, March 15, 7:30 PM, at UNM Law School, Room 2401, on the NW corner of Mountain and Stanford NE.

El Paso Group (see pages 7-9):

March meeting will feature a Show-and-Tell for campers/hikers, Wednesday, March 31, 7:30 PM, at St. Paul's Methodist Church, 7000 Edgemere (2 blocks east of Airway).

Santa Fe Group (see pages 10-12):

John Vavruska, professional photographer, hiker, climber, consulting engineer and a member of the Santa Fe Group, will present a slide program titled "Seasons in the Mountains: Appalachians, Rockies and the Himalayas" at the general membership meeting Tuesday, March 16, 7:30 PM, at the Unitarian Church on Barcelona (between Don Gaspar & Galisteo).

Southern NM Group (see pages 13-15):

March 25: Sierra Club program "Favorite Sierra Club Hikes" will be given at 7:30 pm in the S.E.C. Come learn about special places from members who will show pictures, slides, maps and books of their favorite hikes. The NMSU Student Sierra Club meets on the first and third Wednesdays of every month.

RIO GRANDE CHAPTER DIRECTORY

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516 E. Portland St. 730 Polk St.
 Phoenix, AZ 85004 San Francisco, CA 94109
 (602) 254-9330 (415) 776-2211
 FAX: 258-6533

CALENDAR

March 6: Chapter Conservation Committee, Kingston

March 7: Chapter Executive Committee, Kingston

March 13: Outing Leaders Workshop, Santa Fe

March 19: NM State Legislative Session ends

March 20: Meat-Out Day.

April 29-May 2: "Circus" meeting of Board of Directors, RVP Forum, Sierra Club Council, San Francisco



The Rio Grande Sierran is printed on 100% post-consumer waste recycled paper by Print World in El Paso.

LETTERS

To the Editor:

It is a gorgeous day on the Aspen Vista Road: the sun is shining, the snow is perfect and the only other people out are our fellow cross-country skiers. It is quiet; no sounds of man and his machinery. Wind, water, and bird sounds accompany us on our uphill trek. How beautiful and peaceful!

This is a sacred place that we return to for renewal and refreshment all year round. We hike it during the three seasons when snow is not on the ground; no longer staying just to the road but going straight up the Tesuque Bowl's steep slopes to the very top above Santa Fe Lake. We have followed fresh Elk scat, never catching up to its owner, and shared hillsides with nervous deer. And all in peace and quiet.

The thought of the Ski Area wanting to extend its circus noise to this special place makes me physically ill. I find the idea obscene. Is there no end to their greed? They already foul the air and waters at the top of the Basin, impact upon the Winsor Trail, and encourage entry into the Pecos Wilderness and the Nambe watershed, all with the tacit approval of the Forest Service.

And now a new insult awaits: secretly, without consulting the very public that pays its salaries, the Forest Service in its infinite wisdom is willing to grant the Ski Basin a permit to promote mountain biking during the non-ski months....

But what I fear more than degradation of soils and consequent run-

Rio Grande Sierran, published 10 times per year by the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club, is a membership benefit for Sierra Club members living in New Mexico and West Texas. Send address changes to The Sierra Club, 730 Polk St, San Francisco, CA 94109. Nonmember subscriptions at \$10 per year are available from the Albuquerque office.

Contributions are welcomed from members and non-members. Send to *Rio Grande Sierran*, 207 San Pedro NE, Albuquerque, NM 87108. Articles on Macintosh disc (any format) or IBM disc (high-density 3 1/2" ASCII or WordPerfect) should be submitted by the 15th of the month prior to publication. Letters and articles are subject to abridgement at the editor's discretion. Typed articles must be received a week earlier than the disc deadline. Call editor for modem information.

off and silting of streams, is further entry into the Nambe watershed and Tesuque Bowl, both areas off-limits to the Ski Area, but coveted by them. Chair-lifting cyclists to the top of the mountain would open the entire area to destruction. (For a description of the mess at Sandia, refer to *Pasa Outdoors* of August 13, 1992.)

If you find any of the above as upsetting as I do, please call and write:

Robert Remillard
 USDAF
 475 20th Street, Suite B
 Los Alamos, NM 87544
 667-2217

Lori Osterstock
 Española Ranger Station
 P.O. Drawer R
 Española, NM 87532
 988-6993

Al Defler
 Santa Fe National Forest
 1220 St. Francis Drive
 Santa Fe, NM 87501
 988-6940

And if Forest Service personnel respond by saying that this is all in the "Master Plan", ask how this plan was prepared and if it has been examined for environmental impacts. Has the impact of increased mountain biking been examined?

Millie McFarland
 Santa Fe

Ed. Note: Letters in opposition to the Ski Basin expansion continued arriving past the deadline for this issue. Look for more next month.

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A Final Thank You

from Jana Oyler, Chapter Treasurer

The Rio Grande Chapter thanks the following members and friends who contributed to our 1992 fundraising campaigns during the last half of 1992 and in early 1993. If your name has been omitted, our apologies.

Contributions to the general chapter operating account:

Tom Brasfield, El Paso; L. Castor, El Paso; F. Thomas Clark, Albuquerque; Carol Clericuzio, Albuquerque; Georgia Fritz, Los Alamos; Russell Hamilton, Albuquerque; Eric Henley, Placitas; Jurgens & King, P.C., Santa Fe; Pam Limberger, Aztec; Kester Oman, Cedar Crest; Richard S. Robins, Albuquerque; Chuck and Norma Scott, Santa Fe; Larry and Joan Shandler, Santa Fe; Joanne Sprenger, Las Vegas; Gwen Wardwell, Santa Fe; Joan Zucker, Albuquerque.

Contributions to the Sierra Club Foundation:

Mrs. Andrew Frost, Albuquerque; Pam Limberger, Aztec; Alan Frank, Albuquerque; Marita Marshall, Albuquerque; Doris and Julius Miller, Truth or Consequences; Edythe Polster, Deming; Richard S. Robins, Albuquerque.

Contributions for Mining Reform:

Abner J. and Ilse Delman, New York, New York; William and Sharon Gross, Albuquerque; Jo Kenney, Santa Fe; Bob Langsenkamp, Santa Fe; John and Edie Pierpont, Santa Fe; Gwen Wardwell, Santa Fe.

In March 1993, the Chapter is allowed to make its annual general appeal to members for funds. The Chapter has suffered, as have so many other nonprofit groups, from hard economic times, and has had to reduce the amount of money it can pledge for conservation in 1993. When you receive a letter from the Chapter asking for a contribution, please remember that all money given to the Rio Grande Chapter are spent specifically to preserve the environment of New Mexico and West Texas. Many of you give generously to the national Sierra Club, but those funds are targeted for national campaigns only.

Lobo from first page

make your checks payable to: Mexican Wolf Coalition, 207 San Pedro NE, Albuquerque, NM 87108. (Contributions are not tax deductible.)

Status Report

The population of certified Mexican wolves currently stands at 49. There are 40 at 11 facilities in the US and 9 at 3 facilities in Mexico. Four additional facilities are constructing pens to house Mexican wolves. Ten breeding pairs have been established for the 1993 breeding season.

The Blue Range Primitive Area in east-central Arizona has been chosen as the initial release site in Arizona. White Sands Missile Range is still the primary release site in New Mexico.

An Environmental Impact Statement is being drafted by Peter Jenkins, recently selected as the Mexican Wolf EIS Coordinator.

The lawsuit filed back in 1990 by the Wolf Action Group, Mexican Wolf Coalition and others against USFWS for failure to comply with the Endangered Species Act, is close to being settled.

Meat-Out Day

The beef consumed yearly by an average family of 4 requires over 260 gallons of fossil fuel. When that fuel is burned, it releases 2.5 tons of additional carbon dioxide into the atmosphere—as much CO₂ as the average car emits in 6 months.

Nearly half the water consumed in the United States now goes to grow feed for cattle and other livestock.

If you've been thinking about eating less beef (or giving up meat-eating entirely), now is the time. **March 20**, the Spring Equinox, is National Meat-Out Day. The time is particularly appropriate in New Mexico, as it marks the end of another rancher-dominated legislative session.

For more reasons to stop eating beef, read *Beyond Beef* by Jeremy Rifkin, which was reviewed in the June 1992 *Rio Grande Sierran*.

— Marc Bedner

Let Your Congressmen Hear From You

The Honorable _____
 U.S. Senate
 Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable _____
 U.S. House of Representatives
 Washington, D.C. 20515

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President from first page

The special interests will claim that the Clinton package deprives them of their livelihood, when in fact they have been picking the pockets of American taxpayers for years at the expense of our shared natural heritage. They will claim that the package will ruin their way of life, when in fact all it does is end their free lunch paid for by the taxpayers. The Clinton package changes the rules of a system that has been rigged to favor the interests of a few at the expense of the many.

The upcoming war over this green economic package is the first—and perhaps most important—environmental battle of the Clinton and Gore Administration. Our children cannot afford for us to lose this fight.

The Sierra Club supports this package. We have launched a campaign to educate the public about the program's many environmental benefits. We will work to ensure that the chorus of voices of average Americans who support President Clinton's program drowns out the selfish complaints of the special interests.

To leave a cleaner and safer world for our children and grandchildren, the Clinton economic package must be enacted. We urge Americans to call and write their Senators and Representatives, phone radio call-in shows, and write letters to the editor in support of President Clinton's economic and environmental program.

ALBUQUERQUE GROUP

March General Meeting: The Next Generation of Environmental Leaders

by Susan Gorman

The program for March features the young environmentalists from Talking Talons with their bats, raptors and other critters. This is a great opportunity to see these critters up close and personal and to learn from the kids about where they live and what they like to eat and the threats which people (that's us!) are creating.

Talking Talons is a New Mexico non-profit organization which has gained national recognition and sponsorships. They received the 1992 Renew America Environmental Awards Council, a coalition of 28 national environmental organizations including the Sierra Club.

Preceding the main program, we will have the continuing news from the '93 Legislature, talk about upcoming events and outings, recaps of recent outings, and alerts on issues. The March meeting will be on March 15th, 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. Please come!

Petroglyph National Monument Planning Workshops

The National Parks Service, the city of Albuquerque, and the state of New Mexico will conduct public workshops to discuss visitor use and resource management of Petroglyph National Monument. These workshops will be opportunities for the public to consider the positive and negative effects of each alternative and to suggest ways to use and manage the monument. Input from the workshops will be used to prepare the draft general management plan and environmental impact statement for the monument.

Tuesday evening, March 9, 1993 7:00 - 9:00 PM
UNM Continuing Education Conference Center
1634 University Blvd. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87131

Wednesday morning, March 10, 1993 7:00 - 9:00 PM
UNM Continuing Education Conference Center
1634 University Blvd. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87131

Thursday evening, March 11, 1993 7:00 - 9:00 PM
Los Volcanes Senior Center
6500 Los Volcanes NW, Albuquerque, NM 87121

For more information, please contact Lary Beal, Chief of Planning, Petroglyph National Monument, 123 4th St., SW, Albuquerque, NM 87102, (505) 766-8375.

Petroglyph National Monument Cleanup - see next page

Our outings photo notebook disappeared back in July to August of 92. Have you seen it?—Alb. Group Outings

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sixth Annual Petroglyph National Monument Cleanup Saturday, April 3rd 9:00AM - 2:30PM

We will start on our second 100 tons of garbage to be removed from the monument. Join the 50 to 100 people from the Friends of the Albuquerque Petroglyphs, the Sierra Club, the Indian Pueblos, and other groups as we tackle the southern peninsula of Rinconada Canyon. **Meet at Unser and Ouray.** Take Unser exit off I-40 west, head north until you reach Oruay. Bring lunch, water, gloves, sturdy shoes, shovels, rakes, and wheelbarrows. Come out when you can and stay as long as you like. Cold drinks and garbage bags will be provided. For more information, call Ike at 255-7679, David 344-8693, or Stan 292-9138.

Why Waste a Good Planet?, an exhibit about conservation in the home, is on display at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History, 1801 Mountain Road NW, through May 9. The exhibit covers topics such as recycling, water and energy conservation, and alternatives to toxic household products. The Museum is open from 9AM to 5PM every day.

Hawaii: Born in Paradise, a new Dynamax Theater movie at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History, takes you 4000 feet beneath the ocean to experience the birth of Loihi, Hawaii's next island. Rare Hawaiian plants including the silversword are examined, and the crucial role of pollinating insects is explained. A visit to Hawaii's reefs reveals a complex community of corals, algae, sponges, and fish. Hawaii is shown daily in the Dynamax Theater from 10AM to 5PM. Admission to the theater alone is \$4.00 for adults, \$2.00 for students and seniors. Admission to both the museum and the theater is \$7.00 for adults, \$5.00 for students and seniors.

Other News....

The **New Mexico Earth Day Coalition** is coordinating the cleanup, maintenance, and reopening of the Albuquerque Public Schools Environmental Education Center in Cedar Crest. This facility, which previously served Albuquerque 5th-graders, has been operating on a shoe-string since funding was slashed over a year ago. New funding is being requested from the State during this legislative session. For more information on this and other Earth Day activities, contact Beth Dillingham at 256-4227.

Looking ahead, the Earth Day Fair at the Rio Grande Zoo will be held on Thursday, April 22. Watch for more information.

CALENDAR

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

Mar 4 : Mexican Wolf Coalition, 7:30 PM.

Mar 8 : Executive Committee Meeting, 7PM.

Mar 13: 12 noon. **Deadline** for articles for April group newsletter. Macintosh disk preferred. Call Larry if supplying hardcopy only.

Mar 15: **Sierra Club General Meeting**, UNM Law School, Rm 2401, 7:30 PM.

Mar 22: Conservation Committee meeting, 7:30 PM.

Apr 3: **Petroglyph National Monument Cleanup**, 9AM-2:30PM. See article above.

1993 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Office Telephone: 265-5506

Group Chair	Jay Sorensen	884-4314
Vice Chair	Blair Brown	265-3231
Treasurer	Richard Barish	247-8079
Secretary	David Bouquin	265-7853
	Bob Cornish	255-6037
	Tom Leck	857-0765
	Nick Nicolaus	884-5433
	Stefan Verchinski	888-1370

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	(vacant)	
City Trails	Dan Feller	266-1922
Conservation	Ron Grotbeck	296-0944
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 Strope	836-6304
Wildlife	Marc Bedner	299-2004

Inter-faith Hearings on the Impacts of Toxic Poisoning in Communities of Color

- A recent study showed that one out of three women working with glycol ethers, commonly used in the electronics industry, suffer miscarriages. Hundreds of women, usually minority, are being poisoned by industrial solvents every day here in New Mexico.
- Recently a worker in Deming had to be rushed to the hospital after contact with pesticide fumes.
- Kirtland Air Force Base is suspected of contaminating the ground water supply of the Mountainview community in the Albuquerque south valley. Mountainview's water is contaminated with high levels of nitrates and nitroglycerin.

These are just a few of the examples of the adverse impact of toxic chemicals on communities of color and in the minority workplace. Testimony on these impacts will be given at the Inter-faith Hearings, organized by the Southwest Organizing Project (SWOP) and sponsored by varied groups including the Sierra Club. You are invited to attend these hearings, along with many other New Mexico dignitaries, on Saturday, April 3 from 11AM to 4PM in Albuquerque at the Menaul High School Auditorium, 301 Menaul NE. For more information call SWOP 247-8832.

OUTINGS

Abbreviations: NM = National Monument; SC = Sierra Club; SW = Sandia Wilderness WSA = Wilderness Study Area
Outings may be cancelled or changed due to weather or other reasons; please call leader before outing

Sat Mar 6 Leisure Miles: 2-3 Car: 3
Piedras Marcadas Arroyo, Petroglyph NM
Watch for a variety of raptors soaring as thermals form above the petroglyphs on the black lava basalt rock. RSVP.
Leader: Ike Eastvold 255-7679

Sun Mar 7 Intermediate
Miles: Est. 8 Car: ?
X/C Ski-Location to be determined
The Albuquerque Group is fortunate to have John and Linda agree to lead a X/C ski trip this month. John and Linda are seasoned leaders, having led many outings for the Sierra Club, both local and national. Expect the location to have optimum snow conditions, a variety of terrain, and fun for all. Dress in layers, bring food and water.
Leader: John and Linda Buchser 281-2815

Mon Mar 8 Leisure-Moderate
Miles: 3 Car: 50
Full Moon X-C Ski, Sandia Crest
Enjoy a magical moonlight ski along Sandia Crest to High Finance Restaurant for refreshments and return. Full moon and weather permitting.
Leader: Stefan Verchinski 888-1370

Sat Mar 13
Outings Leader Workshop
Anyone with a yen to lead outings is encouraged to attend. Carpool to Santa Fe, from 9 AM to 4 PM. Contact Stan at 292-9138

Sun Mar 14 Leisure Miles: ? Car: 90
Bernardo Waterfowl Area Tour
South of Belen lies this area managed by the NM Game & Fish Dept. We can expect some lingering waterfowl, hunting raptors, and a variety of other wildlife. This seldom visited area should hold some surprises. Bring lunch. Meet at SC office, 207 San Pedro NE.
Leader: Terri Moyers 265-8274

Mon Mar 15
Pre-Meeting Dinner
Meet at the Olive Garden at 6:00 PM at San Mateo and I-25. Call Stan for reservations 292-9138.

Sat Mar 20 Leisure to Strenuous
Miles: 2 Car: 180
Aspen Transplanting
Join in on the fun and reap the satisfaction. Hundreds of trees must be transplanted before the weather breaks. Meet at the BLM office at 436 Montano Rd. NE at 8:30

AM. Contact Stan for additional information 292-9138.

Sat Mar 20 Leisure Miles: 1 Car: 20
Environmental/Economic Justice Tour of the South Valley
This tour will provide concrete examples of environmental racism within the south valley of Albuquerque caused by zoning, employment, banking, and development. Along the tour we will discuss pollution problems at the San Jose Superfund site; Mountainview community; and sewage, chemical, oil, and packing plants. Tour is being led by the Southwest Organizing Project. Meet at 211 10th St. SW at 10:30 AM. Bring sack lunch. Tour lasts till 1:00 PM. For information call David 344-8693.

Sun Mar 21 Leisure Miles: 2 Car: 130
La Joya State Game Refuge
We will explore several of the ponds and the bosque in the hopes of seeing lingering waterfowl and newly arriving spring migrant birds. Bring sack lunch. Call for meeting place and time.
Leader: Ralph Genter 867-0714

Sun Mar 21 Moderate Miles: 10 Car: 130
Jemez X/C Ski
We will ski up a service road and return on the same. Bring snacks and plenty to drink. Plan to stop at the Los Ojos Bar for dinner. Call Stan for details 292-9138.
Leader: May Nyman

Sat Mar 27 Leisure Miles: 3 Car: 30
Rio Grande Bioregion Series II Archaeology
We will tour a variety of sites from pit house, pueblo, to plaza and hacienda within our local bioregion. Kit Sargeant, an expert on the archaeology of the area will lead the tour. Meet 10:00 AM at the Village Los Ranchos Center, 6718 Rio Grande NW. For information call David 344-8693.

Sat Mar 27 Leisure-Moderate
Miles: 3-4 Car: 130
JFK Area Hike, Manzano Mountains
On the west side of the Manzanos, we will hike up for a while, eat lunch, and return. Meet at Sierra Club office at 9:00 AM. Bring lunch.
Leader: Bob Cornish 255-6037

Sun Mar 28 Leisure-Exploratory
Miles: 3 Car: 180
Chaco National Park Outlier-Kin Ya'a

Although most visitors are attracted to the canyon there are several outliers of the park. The National Park Service believes that one of these outliers, Pueblo Pintado could be threatened by proposed paving of a road by the NM Highway Dept. Kin Ya'a (towering house), near Grants, is a great house with a tower kiva. Bring lunch, may stop for a Indian taco afterwards. Leave early, call for details.
Leader: Tom Leck 857-0765

Sat Apr 3 Leisure to Strenuous
Petroglyph Cleanup-see group news
Ike Eastvold 255-7679

Sun Apr 4 Moderate-Exploratory
Miles: 4 Car: 150
Penteca Pinta WSA hike
This proposed wilderness area has a variety of terrain. We will aim for the sections of multicolored badland formations. Bring lunch, water. Call for meeting place and time.
Leader: Ralph Genter 867-0714

Sun Apr 4 Moderate-Strenuous
Miles: 10 Car: ?
X/C Ski location to be determined
One of our newest members wants to show us how they X/C ski in Canada. No first time skiers please. Call Stan for details 292-9138
Leader: Claire Wingham

Sat Apr 10 Leisure Miles: 3 Car: 0
Albuquerque Oxbow Hike
Meet at St. Joseph's and Coors, 9:00 AM. 3 hours. Things should be moving.
Leader: David 344-8693

Look Ahead
Embudito Trail Project
Albuquerque's annual trail project, usually held in the Spring, has been scheduled for the Fall this year due to our plans to include concrete repairs on the spring.

Sat Apr 17 *Antelope Fencing Project*
292-9138

Apr 24-25 *Bisti/De-Nan-Zin Carcamp*
344-8693

May 1-2 *White Canyon, UT backpack*
344-8693

May 28-30 *Moab, Utah*
Stay at Pack Creek Ranch for mountain biking, spring skiing, hiking, and horse-back riding. Fee for lodging and meals. Reservations by March 22. Stefan 888-1370.

the LORAX

Sierra Club
El Paso Regional Group

MARCH GENERAL MEETING

Our March meeting will feature a Show-and-Tell for campers/hikers who want to know the latest in equipment. There will be sessions covering footwear, clothing, backpacks, sleeping bags, tents, food, stoves, water filters and first aid kits. Also, anyone who has hiking or camping equipment in good shape that they wish to sell/trade is encouraged to bring it for the Sales Table.

The program will start at 7:30 PM on Wednesday, March 31st, at St. Paul's Methodist Church, 7000 Edgemere (two blocks east of Airway). For more information, call Ted Mertig, 852-3011.

CALENDAR

March 3	EXCOM (800 So. Piedras)
March 12	Wine & Cheese Party(800 So. Piedras)
March 12	Deadline for El Paso newsletter information (send to 331 Vista del Rey, 79912)
March 31	General Meeting (7000 Edgemere)
April 7	EXCOM (800 So. Piedras)
April 17-18	Earth Day on the Border (Chamizal National Memorial Park)

EXCOM NEWS!

Jeanne French, after serving nearly 10 years as chair of Inner City Outings (ICO), is turning over the helm of ICO to Richard Rheder. Jeanne will continue to be active in both ICO and the Sierra Club. Thanks to Jeanne, for her commitment to ICO and the influence her work has had on future environmentalists.

EARTH DAY ON THE BORDER

The El Paso Group of the Sierra Club is sponsoring an Earth Day on the Border Environmental Festival at the Chamizal National Memorial Park on April 17 and 18. We plan to promote environmental awareness to the community of El Paso in a comfortable outdoor setting. We will have educational and information booths on the environment, awards presentation for school projects, a family bicycle ride, food and beverage booths and musical entertainment. Volunteers are needed to work on this event. The following committees have been set up and they need your help.

Food and Beverages	Booths	Entertainment
Family Bike Ride	Finance	Volunteers
Program Public Relations	Sales Calendar and Science Fair	

Call Mike Episcopo, Chair of the Volunteers Committee, at 833-3770.

Make a difference and get involved with the Sierra Club!

Sierra Club GALA WINE & CHEESE PARTY / NEW MEMBER SOCIAL

Friday, March 12, 1993
7 PM
\$3 donation at the door

Bring a friend, your favorite wine, some cheese, and if you wish, 10 or so of your favorite slides to show to the group.

GROUP DIRECTORY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE		
Chairman/Public Lands	Ted Mertig	852-3011
Vice Chairman/Franklin Mtns	John Sproul	545-5157
Secretary	Joe Rodriguez	833-9655
Treasurer	Kathy Sunday	584-9301
Member/Outings	Mike Episcopo	833-3770
Member/ICO	Richard Rheder	544-5659
Member/Programs	Betsy Julian	544-5741
CONSERVATION		
Environmental Quality	Tom Brasfield	584-8739
Political Action	Jim Bell	581-8864
Population	open	
ADMINISTRATION		
Environmental Center	Phyllis Caves	532-9645
Group/LORAX Mail	Bill Phillips	772-6503
Hospitality	Barbara Mertig	852-3011
Membership	Carolina Greenfield	593-2838
Office Rep.	Neil O'Hara	565-4735
Publicity	Todd Daugherty	584-2730
SIERRAN Editor	Wyona Turner	585-0251

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



The
Environmental
Center

Environmental Center A Winner - Congrats to all the volunteers who have made the Environmental Center the winner of the Keep El Paso Beautiful - Best Community Organization Award! KEPB honors individuals, and organizations each year for their contributions to quality of life improvements for El Paso.
Volunteer Speakers Needed! - Requests from area schools come into the Center on a regular basis. Phyllis goes whenever she can, but we need to give her some relief. Anyone out there who is willing to talk with young people about some facet of our environment need to call Phyllis at 532-9645.
Environmental Research Library - Give Phyllis a call if you have anything to donate, like files, maps, books, or magazines.

OUTINGS

**BIG BEND RANCH STATE PARK BACKPACK
BOFECILLOS MOUNTAINS**

DATE: March 6-7, 1993
 CLASS: Moderate +, with a long drive
 LIMIT: 10, leader approval and reservations required
 LEADER: Mike Episcopo, 833-3770

Having dayhiked the recently opened 19-mile Rancherías Loop, I consider this seven mile stretch through Acebuches and Panther Canyon to be the most visually appealing. The rugged trail follows arroyos and mountain washes as it winds through numerous steep canyons whose escarpments are equal to those found in the Guadalupe Mountains. Our campsite is at a desert oasis at the bottom of Panther Canyon where a spring and the historic Reza homestead is located. Total roundtrip hike is 14 miles with a 1500' elevation gain. If you enjoy the stark beauty of the Chihuahuan Desert, this challenging backpack is for you.

**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

We have been asked by Jim Eckles, Public Affairs Officer at WSMR, to help search for an Indian pictograph of a horse somewhere in Hospital Canyon on the West side of the San Andreas Mountains. This is more of a bushwhack.

As this is an outing on WSMR, it is open to U.S. citizens only, and names and social security numbers must be provided two weeks in advance.

High clearance vehicles may be required. Details regarding the length and difficulty of the trip will be available later. As always at WSMR, the outing is subject to cancellation. Call Rollin for reservations and details.

**DOG CANYON WINTER BACKPACK
OLIVER LEE STATE PARK**

DATE: March 13-14, 1993
 CLASS: Moderate
 LIMIT: 12, leader approval and reservations required
 LEADER: Mark Post, 581-2696

We will leave El Paso early Saturday morning and drive to Oliver Lee State Park south of Alamogordo. Our route follows the Dog Canyon Trail to our campsite in a meadow before the trail drops to the line cabin. Roundtrip mileage is about eight miles. Weather permitting, there will be the opportunity for dayhikes to the eyebrow trail and/or the waterfall on Saturday afternoon. A juicy steak and a fine wine or hot beverage add to one's enjoyment of the beauty and solitude of Dog Canyon in winter. Phone Mark early for more information and reservations.

**BIG BEND HIGHLIGHT TRIP
BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK****Outer Mountain Loop Hike or Basin Carcamp**

DATE: Outer Mtn Loop March 19-21, 1993
 Basin Carcamp March 20-23, 1993
 CLASS: Outer Mtn Loop Strenuous
 Basin Carcamp Easy
 LIMIT: Outer Mtn Loop 12
 Basin Carcamp 20
 leader approval and reservations required
 LEADERS: Outer Mtn Loop Bill Phillips, 772-6503
 Basin Carcamp Dan Oppliger, 595-1003

This trip offers you the best of Big Bend National Park; either the strenuous 32-mile Outer Mountain Loop Hike, or the easy carcamp at the Basin Campground. On the Outer Mountain Loop we will be able to hike the entire 32 miles without having to carry backpacks or look for water thanks to our support vehicles. Distances will be long, and the terrain rugged with an elevation gain of 2,000' to 2,500' each day. On the carcamp we plan to camp at the Basin Campground. From our basecamp optional short dayhikes are possible, such as the Window View Trail or the Chisos Basin Loop Trail. Other possibilities include going to the Visitor Center at Panther Junction, a trip to Rio Grande Village Visitor Center and the Boquillas Canyon Overlook, or a short drive to the Warnock Environmental Education Center in Lajitas. The carcamp will have a community kitchen and is a great outing for families with small children. The Outer Mountain Loop trip departs Thursday evening. The carcamp leaves Saturday morning. There is a small park entrance fee. Call Bill or Dan early for reservations and details.

ORGAN MOUNTAINS WORKING WEEKEND**SERVICE TRIP**

DATE: March 20 and 21, 1993 (either day)
 CLASS: Depends on the type of work
 LIMIT: None, reservations required
 LEADER: Barbara Coon, 505-522-0381
 El Paso contact: Mike Episcopo, 833-3770

There is a lot for volunteers to do in this spectacular area. An early deadline prevents specifying whether it will be trailwork, rehabilitation of a parking lot, or whatever else might need doing. Camping will be available for overnights. Tools will be supplied, but bring work gloves. For more details, call either Barbara or Mike the second or third week in March.

COCHISE HEAD BACKPACK

DATE: March 27-28, 1993
 CLASS: Moderate to strenuous
 LIMIT: 8, leader approval and reservations required
 LEADER: Claus Christiansen, 594-2505

Saturday we will backpack in to Wood Canyon Park at the foot of Cochise Head. Sunday we will leave the heavy packs behind while we hike to Cochise Head before returning to the cars. Total mileage is 10 miles, and the total elevation gain is about 3,000'. Pending a reconnaissance in March, details may change. Call Claus for reservations.

OUTINGS, *continued***COMMANCHE PEAK MOONLIGHT HIKE**

DATE: Friday, April 2, 1993
 CLASS: Moderate
 LIMIT: None
 LEADER: Dale Harris, 544-7149

We will meet at the intersection of Robinson and Kingery off Scenic Drive at 7 PM. We will take our time ascending the steep road on this three-mile jaunt with a 1,000' elevation gain. Bring along a flashlight and water, and be prepared to see El Paso turn into a glittering jewel.

FORT HANCOCK CARCAMP

DATE: April 3-4, 1993
 CLASS: Easy and educational
 LIMIT: 20, reservations required
 LEADERS: Don Middleton, 584-0267
 Bill Sparks, 593-6934

Experience the mysteries of an ancient civilization. Early residents of the El Paso Southwest left little behind to tell us of their lives or thoughts. The many petroglyphs and pictographs found among the rocks and shelters offer some clues to answering these questions. Come along as we walk back in time to explore these mysteries. Bill Sparks and Harold Naylor will offer their knowledge and expertise on local southwest history and archaeology. Plan on meeting at St. Paul's Methodist Church at 10 AM on Saturday. Call Don or Bill early for reservations and details.

**THREE RIVERS DAYHIKE
WHITE MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS**

DATE: Sunday April 11, 1993
 CLASS: Moderate
 LIMIT: 12, leader approval and reservations required
 LEADER: Carolina Greenfield, 593-2838

Come spend Easter in the cool pines of the Lincoln National Forest. This is a shady forest hike along a creekside trail in the beautiful White Mountain Wilderness. A six-mile round trip is planned, though upper sections of the trail may have snow well into late spring, so length will vary accordingly. We leave early Sunday morning. Call Carolina for details.

FIRST AID TRAINING A SUCCESS!

On Wednesday, February 10, at the Environmental Center, Bill Brown and Tony Ayub of the El Paso Emergency Medical Services, had a three-hour presentation on wilderness first-aid for current and prospective outings leaders. The course was very informative and covered a wide variety of subjects some of which included; CPR, choking, fractures, burns, heat exhaustion, and hypothermia. Many thanks to the participants who left with a broader knowledge of what to do in the unlikely event of an accident on the trail: Ted and Barbara Mertig, Rollin Wickenden, Eva Peppel, Roy McCloud, Harold Naylor, Kathy Sunday, Betty Fisbeck, Don Middleton, Betsy Julian, Mike Seidensticker, and Maria and Mike Episcopo. THANK YOU, Bill Brown and Tony Ayub for taking the time out from your busy schedules to put on an excellent presentation.

OUTINGS REPORTS

Compass & Orienteering Outing, 1/23/93

Those without certain direction found the life force of the earth and learned to redirect their polar energies in known directions. Christa McKinney, Lorraine Ellis, Betty Fisbeck, Dennis and Patrick Hammett, Jim Montez, Clay Smith, Tony Beatie, Robert Belk and leader Chuck Turner engaged the earth's magnetic field at Tom Mays State Park on a beautiful, sunny Sunday, January 23rd and came away with the FORCE.

Cox Peak ICO Carcamp, 1/23-24/93

Five El Paso lads trekked to Cox Peak with six adults sponsored by Inner City Outings (ICO). From the rendezvous at the El Paso Child Guidance Center, four carloads took freeway, paved, then dirt roads to the campsite 40 miles west of town. With Gracie Aguirre and Connie Martinez, young James Rohling helped set up camp and established the base end of a Morse Code signal team.

Edgar Martinez, Joey Cline, Manny Aguirre, and Matthew Shelton then rode to the trailhead with Michelle Burke, Monica Zabolotney, Richard Rheder, and Michael Bromka. Strenuous and scrambling diagonally, the hikers bushwhacked up the mountain's steep face. Weighing in at 55 lbs., Manny reached the crest first. When the others arrived with a mirror, they flashed back to camp this plea: "We are hungary. Send pizza." That night they toasted marshmallows and heard Indian folk tales about Coyote.

ICO Leadership Training Outing, 1/29-31/93

Thanks to the expertise of Chuck and Wyona Turner and Debbie Tomacelli, eleven Sierra Club leaders are ready and willing(?) to lead winter adventure trips. On January 29-31 ICO hosted a workshop in snow camping skills at the Waterfall Lodge in Cloudcroft, NM. Friday evening we discussed safety factors involved in winter camping (staying dry and warm) and studied various catalogues looking for appropriate gear. Saturday morning the instructors divided us into groups and walked us through the use of equipment, choice of clothing and packing for a backcountry winter trip.

Saturday afternoon we rented skis and snowshoes, packed our packs and took off for some firsthand field experience. Our instructors were disappointed in the beautiful weather as it was too warm and dry to offer us a true winter experience. However, the participants learned that cross-country skiing with a loaded pack offers the novice skier some interesting challenges. (Help! Help! I've fallen and I can't get up!) After skiing into an area with deep snow, we practiced setting up camp.

Participants included Betty Fisbeck, Ginger Simms, Lisa Jenerette, Chris Ware, Mike and Maria Episcopo, Richard Rheder, Ted and Barbara Mertig, Monica Zabolotney and organizer Jeanne French.

Cooke's Peak Carcamp, 2/6-7/93, Joe Rodriguez

We departed from El Paso on Friday night and drove to our campsite. Saturday morning we started on our early ascent to Cook's Peak. When we reached the top, Kathy Sunday, Tom Casey and Roy McCloud and I shared a spectacular view. We returned back to our campsite with plenty of daylight to spare. The rest of the group, Ted and Barbara Mertig, Barbara and Ted Coon and Harold Naylor, decided to relax and enjoy the scenery. That night we enjoyed a campfire and good conversation under a full moon. On Sunday we visited some historic sites around Cooke's Range. A special thank you to Harold Naylor for guiding us to the historical sites.

SANTA FE GROUP NEWS

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 1993

JOHN VAVRUSKA, professional photographer, hiker, climber, consulting engineer, and a member of our very own Santa Fe Group, will present a program of slides titled, *Seasons in the Mountains: Appalachians, Rockies, and the Himalayas*. John will take us on a walk through the four seasons in all three of these ranges, which he knows intimately. He hiked the Himalayas when he was in Nepal in the Peace Corps. Members may remember John from two previous programs, with spectacular slides of Nepal and of the mountains in Peru. John's photographs have been published in two of Audubon's calendars. This program promises to be another special treat.

Also, our Sierra Club lobbyist, Ken Hughes, will present an overview of Legislative progress regarding environmental bills.

The general membership meeting is **FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC** and will be held at **The Unitarian Church on Barcelona (between Don Gaspar and Galisteo)**, on Tuesday, March 16, at 7:30 PM.



MEETING SCHEDULE

The Executive Committee of the Santa Fe Group is now meeting at noon on the first Tuesday of each month at Jurgens, Tallmadge & With, 322 Montezuma. The next two meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, March 2, and Tuesday, April 6, 1993. All members are welcome to attend; please bring your lunch.

The Conservation Committee of the Santa Fe Group is again meeting at 7:00 PM on the fourth Tuesday of each month at the group office, 440 Cerrillos Road. All conservation matters to be brought before the Executive Committee should be presented at the Conservation Committee meetings for discussion and recommendation first. The Next meeting is Tuesday, March 23 at 7:00 PM.

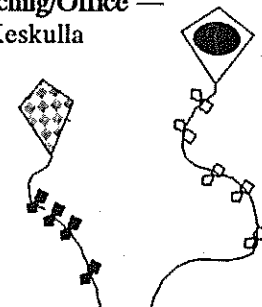
>> SANTA FE GROUP OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS <<

Chair — Jana Oyler* 984-2020
 Vice-Chair — Coby Muckelroy* 983-5453
 Secretary/Treasurer — Lionel Soracco* 983-6715
 Conservation — Van Perkins* 983-8801
 Chapter Representative—Sue McIntosh* 982-4146
 Publicity & Programs — Helen Moser* 438-3365
 Outings — Norma McCallan* 471-0005
 Political Committee — Ken Hughes* 988-9297

Newsletter Editor — Kay Carlson 982-3926
 Phone Tree — Martha Anne Freeman 438-0697
 Membership — Pat Stevens 982-5051
 Kids' Sierra Club — Justine Freeman 988-9126
 Education/Recycling/Office — Carolyn Keskulla 982-9570
 Fundraising —
 Mark Mortier* 983-5870

* Member of the SF Group Executive Committee

Terms expire 12/93: McCallan/Mortier/Muckelroy/Oyler/Soracco
 12/94: Hughes/McIntosh/Moser/Perkins



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

Sat Sun March

- 6 Doug Altschuler (471-1183) **Strenuous Hike** to St. Peter's Dome. 12 miles roundtrip. Leave 8 AM. Please contact leader beforehand.
- 7 Brian Johnson (983-5672) **Moderate Hike** to Cerro Pedernal. Leave 8 AM.
 Charlie Crooks (1-632-1209 in Bloomfield) **Easy Hike** in the Farmington area. Dogs allowed. Call for detail of where and when.
- 13 **OUTING LEADERS WORKSHOP!** 9 AM to 4 PM, Unitarian Church.
 ** While Arnold participates in the workshop, Carolyn will lead a hike:
 Carolyn Keskulla (982-9570) **Easy/Moderate Hike** up Atalaya Peak. Leave 9 AM. Be prepared for snow!
- 14 Norbert Sperlich (983-1962) **Moderate/Strenuous Hike** in the Caja. Call for details time/place.
- 20 Paul Miller (473-3107) **Moderate Hike** to Mesa del Yeso near Abiquiu. 7 miles roundtrip, 6300'-8100', off-trail, but easy walking. Be prepared for mud.
- 21 Victor Atyas (471-7545) **Easy Hike** to Tent Rocks. Leave 9 AM.
- 21 See Ski Tour Section for Issue Hike for February
- 27 John McClure (473-1916) **Strenuous Hike** to Bandelier. Leave 8 AM.
- 28 Jeff Jones (984-2389) **Easy Family Hike** to Tent Rocks. Leave 9 AM.



Sat Sun April

- 3 Joe Whelan (984-0746) **Moderate Cross-Country Ski Tour or Hike**, depending on snow conditions. Leave 8:30 AM.
- 4 Doug Altschuler (471-1183) **Moderate/Strenuous Hike** in Bandelier, up the Mesa to Upper Canyon and down Frijoles Canyon, 13 miles roundtrip.

Fri-Sat-Sun-Mon(?)

- 2 - 3 - 4 - 5(?) Norma McCallan (471-0005) Celebrate spring with a **3-4 day Car Camp** and **Moderate Day Hiking** in the canyons near Moab, the San Rafael Swell, or Canyonlands National Park. Dogs allowed if not in Park. Call for details.
- 10 Brian Johnson (983-5672) **Moderate Hike** in Martinez Canyon, north of Abiquiu, 10 miles roundtrip. Leave 8 AM.
- 11 Norbert Sperlich (983-1962) **Moderate/Strenuous Hike** in the Caja del Rio. Call leader for reservations.
- 17 John McClure (473-1916) **Moderate/Strenuous Hike** Destination to be determined by snow conditions. Leave 8 AM.
- 18 Jeff Jones (984-2389) **Easy Hike** up Tesuque Creek. Children welcome. Leader will have his 3-year-old along. Leave 9 AM.
- 18 Caroline Glick (984-3184) **Strenuous Hike** to Otowi Ruins and Bayo Canyon. Call leader for information and reservations.
- 24 Norrine Sanders (984-0386) **Moderate Hike** to Ancho Rapids. Leave 8 AM.
- 25 Victor Atyas (471-7545) **Easy/Moderate Hike** to Tent Rocks. Leave 9 AM.
- 30 Arnold Keskulla (982-9570) **Moderate Climb** up Atalaya Mountain. Leave 9 AM.

Outings Notes — All outings, unless otherwise specified, leave from the PERA parking lot at the corner of Paseo de Peralta and Old Santa Fe Trail (across the street from the 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.

CROSS COUNTRY SKIING

Sat Sun March

Any weekend Interested in Ski Touring? Call John Turnbull (982-9329) He will arrange trips if there is enough interest. This is the best skiing of the year with longer hours of sun, good weather (we hope), and the hibernating animals are starting to sniff around.

- 6 Joe Whelan (984-0746) Moderate Cross Country Ski Tour Leave 8:30 AM. Call for info.
- 7 Linda & John Buchser (1-281-2015) Cross Country Ski Tour Call for details of where & when.
- 14 Stephen Janus (988-4137) Strenuous Telemark/Cross Country Ski Tour - Adventurous - to Penitente Peak. Leave 8 AM.

Sunday, March 21 through Saturday, March 27

Bill Donahue & Dana Densmore (983-3675) Backcountry Skiing & Winter Leadership Skills Retreat San Juan Mountains, Colorado. Call leader for flyer & reservations.

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.



EARTH DAY 1993

Saturday, April 17

The Santa Fe Citizens Environmental Task Force is at work planning Earth Day 1993 to be celebrated on Saturday, April 17. Chris Wells will not be in the country to bring us the bacchanalia of All Species Day, but we still plan to have colorful and exciting activities for children of all ages. Booths with environmental activities and/or products will, as usual, be there. We could use some help and ideas for activities and/or storytelling.

If you or your organization is planning an Earth Day activity, let us know so we can coordinate and include whatever you are doing on the calendar and posters.

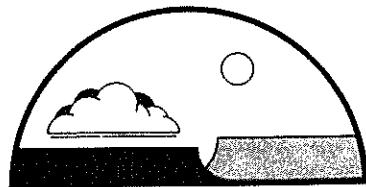
If you can supply us with any of the above, please call:

Kay Carlson, 982-3926 OR
Ellen Kemper, 988-9276

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

This important workshop is open to attendance by outing leaders from all over the state. Current and potential leaders are strongly encouraged to come. Bring a sack lunch. Out of town individuals can bring their sleeping bags and stay at member's houses in Santa Fe. Plan to go out to supper together after the workshop to continue the networking and information sharing. Call for more information and agenda:

Norma McCallan, 471-0005



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

The Deadline for Submission to the March Newsletter is Friday, March 12

THE LOG
Calendar

Southern New Mexico Group

Outings

Meetings

March 13: We will take a moderate strenuous hike lead by Steve Dowling to **Doña Ana Peak**. Meet at 9 am in the north Pan American center parking lot at NMSU.

March 20: We will head off to the wondrous **Aden Crater** for a moderate hike. Meet at the North Pan Am. parking lot at 9 am.

March 26-28: We'll depart on an overnight trip to **North Percha Creek**. Space may be limited, so come to a student meeting to sign up, or call Juliet Gladden, outings chair for more information.

April 3: A moderate jaunt to **Auchenbach Canyon** in the inspiring Organ Mountains. We will meet as usual in the parking lot at Pan Am Center 9 am.

March 11: The Executive Committee will meet at the S.E.C. at 7:00 pm.

March 25: Sierra Club program "Favorite Sierra Club Hikes" will be given at 7:30 pm in the S.E.C. Come learn about special places from members who will show pictures, slides, maps and books of their favorite hikes.

March 27: All activists and conservationists are invited to attend a meeting with the Sierra Club Conservation Committee. We will meet from 10-4 pm at the Fabian Garcia Center to have "round table" discussion of private projects by local activists and find out what's happening in our area. Attendants can apply for mileage reimbursement from the group.

Other Events

February 23: BLM Report Card meeting at the Hilton Hotel on Telshore Rd. The meeting will start at 7 pm. and the agenda includes grazing and public participation, Animal Damage control, Dark Canyon, Threatened and Endangered Species, Playa Lakes, Riparian Issues and more.

March 24: The 1993 Southwest Environmental Center is having their third annual fundraiser. There will be music, refreshments, door prizes, a silent auction and a raffle. Come show your support for the SEC. Tickets will be \$10.00 and \$7.00 for students.

"Southern New Mexico Sierra Club T-Shirts!

That's right we have our own T-Shirt designed by a local artist. They are on sale now at the SEC for \$10.00 each and make great gifts. Come in and get yours today at 1494A South Solano, across from the Golden Bull Restaurant.

"Wild Lives" Will Continue

The Sierra Club will continue to sponsor radio show Wild Lives by Susan Tweight. The show airs daily at 3:55 on KRWG. We hope you will continue to tune in to Susan's wonderful managerie of wildlife wonders and southwest facts.

“Takings” Executive Order

By Marianne Thaeler, Group Chair

The National Audubon Society has issued an *Action Alert* urging members to write President Bill Clinton and ask him to rescind Executive Order 12630.

In 1988, President Reagan signed Executive Order 12630, which requires federal agencies to conduct elaborate reviews of proposed regulations, ostensibly to avoid actions that may result in a “taking” of private property under the Fifth Amendment.

Since that time, former United States Solicitor General Charles Fried has revealed that the real and quite radical purpose of the order was to “use the takings clause as a severe brake for federal and state regulations of business and property.”

Critics, including the Congressional Research Service, have found that the executive order relies upon an improper interpretation of the fifth amendment that exaggerates the possibility that a regulation may result in an unconstitutional “taking.”

By giving undue weight to Fifth Amendment takings, the Executive Order is designed to chill federal regulation protecting the environment, worker safety, and public health.

When you write to the president, point out that the executive order was a Reagan effort to block regulatory programs with opposing policy grounds, not to “protect” property rights. Explain that because the Executive order fails to recognize the important public purposes served by federal regulation, it does not provide genuine, balanced protection for the rights of individual citizens and the community as a whole. Urge the President to revoke the executive order and develop a balanced approach to property rights, emphasizing the rights as well as the responsibilities of property ownership.

Letters can be sent to:
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW,
Washington DC 20500.

Competing Visions of the New West

By Marianne Thaeler

At the February 5th-7th Symposium on Environment, Land Use and Alternative Strategies, sponsored by University of Colorado Environmental Center, Cultural Events Board, Student Environmental Action Coalition, Student Union, and Wilderness Study Group, Dr. Tom Powers of the University of Montana, author of The Economic Value of the Quality of Life, told the attendees that the primary environmental threat facing the west is not logging, mining or toxic waste, but too many people.

Most Western communities no longer depend solely on the traditional industries of mining, logging, and ranching. Economies in every western state have continued to expand as the old industries died. Powers went on to say that *People for the West*, an arm of the “Wise Use” movement, argues that traditional industries must be saved in order to salvage the West’s economy, but they are wrong. The economies of the west are more vibrant than ever, with more growth than the west can handle.

Tom Lustig, attorney for the National Wildlife Federation spoke of the case of Nevada Rancher Wayne Hage who has sued the federal government for \$28 million because his cows are no longer able to graze on 240,000 acres of U.S. Forest Service Land. This “takings” case is one of many arguing that environmental rules effecting grazing and wilderness designations are denying property rights to ranchers without compensation.

A highlight of the symposium for the Sierra Club members who attended, was the keynote speech by David Brower, the Sierra Club’s first Executive Director, Founder and Chairman of Earth Island Institute.

Expert Calls for Riparian Rest and Revegetation

By Tony Chiaviello, Co-Conservation Chair

Arizona riparian expert Dr. Bob Ohmart presented a lecture February 10th on flooding from the Gila River headwaters and the need to repair upstream river drainages to prevent downstream flood damage. More than 120 people attended the lecture at Western New Mexico University; it was sponsored by Gila Watch, a grassroots organization dedicated to “protecting and restoring the biological integrity of the Gila ecosystem.”

Ohmart began by emphasizing his opposition to ranching practices that degrade the rancher’s most important resource, the riparian system, without which grass soon disappears and devastating floods follow.

After a brief historical sketch of grazing on western lands, Ohmart outlined Arizona’s misguided engineering efforts to channelize bottom-land riverways, resulting in even more damaging floods farther downstream. He assured ranchers that some level of grazing during growing season is tolerable to riparian systems, but that riverside grass needs to be rested frequently, implying that ranchers need to be willing to reduce the number of cattle in riparian pastures, if necessary to assure recovery of damaged grasses and trees.

The lecture was accompanied by slides showing damaged and recovered river canyons in Arizona and Utah, illustrating how

such areas can heal themselves, even with limited grazing during growing seasons.

In an extended discussion, Grant County Commissioner Harrison emphasized the need for more state funds for Soil Conservation Service efforts, and suggested that tax money be allocated for the purpose, rather than putting the entire burden on the rancher. Local rancher Louis Oliver countered Ohmart on several points, even claiming that Upper Black Canyon on the Diamond Bar allotment is in “good shape.”

While there was disagreement on a few points, there was some consensus on the major issue, that upstream habitats must be rested, repaired, and allowed to heal themselves, if only to prevent future flood disasters and total erosion of the soil resource, an eventuality that would put ranchers who graze forest lands out of business permanently.

Overall, the evening seemed to bridge the gap between environmentalists and ranchers, demonstrating that their interests converge on the preservation of riparian systems. Perhaps this will lead to a united front to pressure the Forest Service to implement stronger river-system conservation policies.

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Andrew Hands, Co-Outings Chair	526-2282
David Pengelley, Programs Chair	525-8286
Cheryl Blevins, Publicity Chair	524-4861
Libby Hernandez, Populations Chair	527-1440
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Greg Paglia, Programs chair	645-5508
Erin Oliver, Student involvement	526-3001
David Pengelley, Student Advisor	525-8286

SSC

NMSU Student Sierra Club

The NMSU Student Sierra Club will resume its meetings on the first and third Wednesdays of every month. We hope to see you there!

The SSC will be subsidizing ethnic student membership fees (half the price) using money from our ethnic diversity grant. The membership includes the monthly Sierra Club magazine in full color, and the monthly Sierran Newsletter. If you would like to join, come to one of the student meetings and see Andrew Hands, president, or David Pengelley, student advisor.