

Rio Grande Sierran



News of the Rio Grande Chapter Sierra Club
November/December 1996

CALLS CLINTON/GORE THE BRIDGE TO A BETTER ENVIRONMENTAL FUTURE SIERRA CLUB ENDORSES CLINTON FOR PRESIDENT

The Sierra Club announced its endorsement of President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore on September 20, just two days after Clinton—with Club activists looking on—announced creation of the 1.7 million acre Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in southern Utah (see *Washington Update* on page 20). Although not unanimous, the 11-2 vote reflected a widespread sentiment among Club leaders that, while Clinton's record has not been perfect, he has performed impressively during the past four years.

The announcement was made by Sierra Club President Adam Werbach, who said, "On November 5, Americans will decide whether we continue 25 years of progress toward cleaning up our environment, or whether we return to the polluted past. The Sierra Club believes that President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore are our bridge to a better environmental future."

Since the "logging without laws" debate in the summer of 1995, the Club feels that Clinton has returned to the type of bold, pro-environment policies he stood for during the early days of his term, when he signed the Colorado Wilderness and California Desert Protection Acts into law. And he won new respect as 1995 came to a close by standing up to the Republican-controlled 104th Congress, whose budget and appropriations bills were loaded with deadly provisions from

its War on the Environment. Clinton's vetoes—which forced a pair of government shutdowns in late 1995 and early 1996—killed efforts to allow oil drilling in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and clearing-cutting in Tongass National Forest; weaken protection for California's Mojave Desert National Preserve; slash the Environmental Protection Agency's enforcement budget; cut funding for international family planning; and block enforcement of wetlands protection standards. As Werbach said, "The President used his veto pen to reject Congress' attack on basic clean air, water and lands protections."

According to Werbach, the Sierra Club, the nation's oldest and largest grassroots conservation organization, also commends President Clinton for his bold and visionary designation of the Canyons of the Escalante in Utah as a National Monument, and for expanding Americans' Right-to-

Know about the toxins that are being dumped into their community's air and waters. Under President Clinton and Vice President Gore, more toxic waste dumps have been cleaned up than in the past three administrations combined.

Werbach, 23, made a special appeal to his generation on behalf of Clinton/Gore. "Young voters have a special stake in this election. The health of the America we will inherit is being decided. Bill Clinton and Al Gore are committed to protecting and preserving America's air and water, wildlife and wild lands, for us, for our families and for our future."

Werbach noted that "Sen. Dole spent 27 years in the Senate pandering to America's polluters and plunderers. Dole and Kemp are the most anti-environment ticket nominated for president since the first Earth Day. If elected, Sen. Dole would make real the nightmare of Newt Gingrich's efforts to gut environmental safeguards."

The Rio Grande Chapter Endorses These Candidates:

New Mexico State Senate	
District/Name	
2 Darla Whitney-Wells	
6 Sen. Carlos Cisneros	
10 Sen. Janice Paster	
13 Dede Feldman	
15 Karen A. Durkovich	
16 Rep. Cisco McSorley	
17 Sen. Shannon Robinson	
18 Sen. Ann Riley	
20 Todd M. Aakhus	
21 Anita Miller	
22 Sen. Leonard Tsosie	
24 Sen. Nancy Rodriguez	
25 Sen. Roman Maes	
29 Sen. Michael Sanchez	

New Mexico State House of Representatives	
District /Name	
5 Rep. R. David Pederson	
10 Rep. Henry "Kiki" Saavedra	
15 Rep. Raymond G. Sanchez	
18 Gail C. Beam	
21 Rep. Mimi Stewart	
25 Rep. Danice Picraux	
26 Rita G. Getty	
40 Rep. Nick Salazar	
44 Rep. Robert A. Perls	
47 Rep. Max Coll	
50 Rep. Gary King	
65 Rep. J. Roger Madalena	
68 Rep. Jose Abeyta	

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Vote on November 5

U.S. Congress	
District /Name	
2 E. Shirley Baca	
3 Bill Richardson	

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The Chapter ExCom will meet on December 7 & 8 at The Black Range Lodge in Kingston
All Members Welcome
Call Chair Van Perkins for details,
505-983-8801

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A WORD FROM THE CHAIR

by Van L. Perkins

ELECTIONS. ELECTIONS. ELECTIONS. Now it's your turn!

The calls and letters come in. Stop oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Block the minimal Utah Wilderness bill sponsored by anti-wilderness forces. Require the Continental Mine to comply with the New Mexico Mining Act, so it doesn't pollute air and water, or destroy valuable natural and human habitat. The calls and messages go out. We manage to stop now one, then another. The list seems endless.

There has to be a better way than forever putting out fires. There is. Let's elect an environmental President, an environmental Congress, and an environmental State Legislature. Then we can shift our focus from preventing bad things to accomplishing good ones. But it won't happen unless you vote on November 5, and encourage all those you know who share your values and concerns to do likewise.

President

Start with the President. Creation of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument indicates that Bill Clinton will, if we give him the proper encouragement, do positive things for the environment. Let's keep him in office. (And if we fail to elect an environmental Congress, we will need his veto pen.)

Congress

Then let's give him an environmental Congress. Start with Bill Richardson and Shirley Baca. You won't

We Get Letters...

Movin' On

Dear Editor:

There are few who worked as long or persistently, and none so successfully, on reforming New Mexico's neglected mining laws and regulations as did Sue McIntosh. Nor was there anyone who was as concerned with riparian issues along over-used streams. Only Sue, as environmentalist and representative of the Chapter, was invited to the State Senate floor to receive applause and handshakes for her dedicated work on revising the state's Endangered Species Act. Iconoclast. Cowboy boot-environmentalist. Naysayers be damned. But, with the support of the Chapter's Executive Committee, she got things done, whether before a state regulatory agency, the Legislature, or a local community meeting.

Now Sue is back in her beloved Colorado Rockies. Since coming here in 1991, she was a member of the Rio Grande Chapter Executive Committee, Chair of the Conservation, Mining, and Wildlife Committees, and volunteer Club lobbyist. She traveled the state and knows it well. And just maybe, come spring in Ouray, Sue McIntosh will remember us when our warm southern, desert winds blow her way. This

find two better candidates for the environment, and Shirley's election would also retire a Congressman who is as anti-environment as they come. Call your friends in other states, and ask them to call their friends. Urge them to vote for friends of the earth. Let's create a huge pro-environmental snowball, and retake the Congress from those who dominated the 104th Congress.

State Legislature

Let's not forget the State Legislative races. We still have the opportunity in the State to pass good environmental legislation, but our margins are thinner than they ought to be. Check our list of endorsements, and vote for those friends of the environment. Not only is it a matter of passing good legislation. We will need all the help we can get to stop bad legislation. A weakened Mining Act, a gutted Subdivision Act, takings legislation, audit-privilege bills, transfer of public lands to the states, and so probably to private interests, the list goes on. Obviously, we can expect no help from this Governor in killing bad legislation. We have to do it in the Legislature.

Chapter Elections

Finally, there is the Chapter election. There you will find no bad folks, just good ones. But it is your best chance to have a say in the Chapter's business. Take a minute now to fill out your ballot (on page 24) and mail it in.

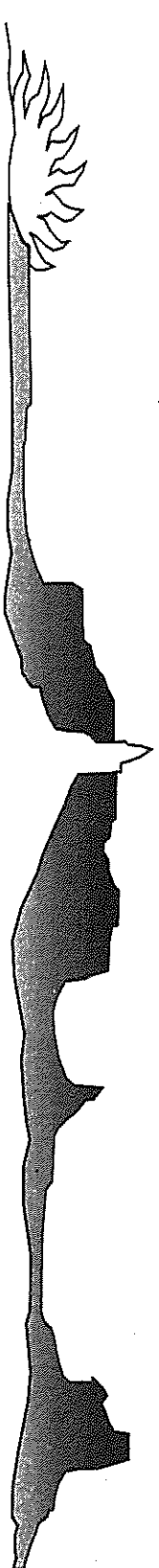
VOTE. It's the best way to "Protect America's Environment. For Our Families, For Our Future."

state's environment says, "Thanks for a job well done." Sincerely,

Doug Fraser
Former Chapter Lobbyist
Los Alamos

**Ski Area Containment
Coalition Fundraiser**
 Friday, November 8,
 7-11 p.m.
 La Fonda
 couple
 Big Tesuque
 Ramblers
 Lumbre del Sol
 All Proceeds Go to
 Fight Expansion of
 the Santa Fe Ski
 Basin





Recently, I attended two events that, although unrelated, proved to have a provocative, and disturbing, connection. One was an informal gathering of forest activists, dominated by Hispanic loggers and members of the Green Party, whose purpose, it seemed, was to vent various grievances under the guise of consensus-building. The other was a formal workshop on wilderness and culture in New Mexico, hosted by the Sierra Club, whose purpose also involved the airing of opinion, albeit a bit more passionately.

At the root of both meetings was the uneasy relationship between culture and wild lands. Nearly every speaker at both meetings agreed that we should make room for wilderness in our lives, but no one, I realized, really knows how to do that anymore.

Bashing the Dominant Culture

The primary grievance voiced at the forest meeting was directed at the Dominant Culture, meaning Euro-Anglo society, which was castigated for its inherent greed, its rapacious actions against the earth, its consumerism, and, above all, its stubbornly colonial attitude toward indigenous people. Which is probably all true. Our society is intolerably short-sighted. We eschew the Big Picture, and have for a very long time, which is why we find ourselves in such a precarious position, not just environmentally, but socially as well. Imperialism-bashing, however, rarely creates a solid foundation for consensus or common ground, especially when expressed so hotly, as it was that day.

It was, however, what followed that disturbed me. The environmental movement was thrown into the evil capitalist kitchen sink, along with all the other sins. We were considered to be part of the Dominant Culture, part of the problem, and dismissed almost out-of-hand. There were a few enlightened environmentalists out there, they implied, the Green Party, for example, but the rest of us were just another set of players in the great colonial game, bent on steamrolling everything and everyone who disagreed with us into the earth.

This incensed me, at first, because I considered it pure ignorance at work. Since its inception in the late nineteenth century, the conservation movement has been one of the chief attack dogs biting at the heels of the Dominant Culture. "Stop Polluting the Air!" we yelled. "Stop Despoiling Our Water! Leave Some Wilderness Alone! Stop your greedy, wasteful, destructive ways!" As I quoted in an earlier essay, the sentiment of Will Dilg, founder of the Isaac Walton League, was typical of the age: "I am weary of civilization's madness. . . I am tired of your piles of buildings and I ache from your iron streets." What is this sentiment, if not a direct challenge to the Dominant Paradigm?

This challenge is as true to-

day as it was a century ago, if not more so. Why, then, were we being lumped together so casually with the elements of society that we are working so strenuously to change? Because a roomful of local folk felt dispossessed and colonized? Because they were angry at the score so late in the boxing match? Republican leaders in Congress, after all, tried mightily last year to subvert what they considered culturally dominant environmental legislation. They were the outsiders, attacking the status quo, they said with a straight face, not environmentalists. How then, could we be perceived as being imperialistic by both indigenous peoples and their true colonizers? What was going on?

Wilderness Workshop

The second meeting involved a day-long conference on the meaning of federally designated wilderness to the cultures of New Mexico. The themes were multiculturalism and management--were they compatible? The overall goal will be to create a BLM Wilderness bill that most New Mexicans of all stripes can support and pass through Congress. To that end Rep. Bill Richardson showed up to promise his assistance--if we could cobble together a true coalition proposal. Could we? We met for a frank discussion to find out.

Another, more personal goal, was at work that day. As one of the workshop's organizers I wanted to see if we could make a case for wilderness on cultural, instead of biological, grounds. The ecological argument for wild land has, in my opinion, come to dominate most, if not all, debates about setting aside wilderness. It is a good argument, and an important one, but it is overshadowing all other theses. This is ironic considering that the Wilderness Act is primarily a cultural document. The word "biodiversity" is not mentioned once. It may not even have existed as a word in 1964.

Much of the discussion at the workshop focused on wilderness as sacred land. This was certainly the Native American perspective, but it was almost everyone else's as well. To most Anglos, such as myself, a wilderness area is a sacred place, a spiritual place for rest, contemplation, prayer, and healing. It is also a place for biodiversity--but I view ecological integrity as simply another type of sacredness. It is a sacred place even if we never visit it. Simply knowing that holy places exist, for others, is enough. The act of preserving wild land, especially against the background of an unremitting assault by the Dominant Culture on open space, endangered species, and other hallowed ideas, is exactly the sort of challenge to the paradigm that must continue. The alternative is too frightening to consider.

Nature and Culture

However, as I listened to the speakers make a very strong multicultural case for wilderness, I began to understand why the forest activists wedded our movement so easily to a Dominant Culture they despised.

They view the ecological argument for wild land as imperialistic as any big corporation's business strategy. I had to agree; divorced from a cultural thesis, the biological imperative looks an awful lot like another capitalist tool--as incredibly ironic as that sounds--which is why ecology is often referred to, metaphorically, as a sledgehammer. Or, as one forest agitator likes to complain constantly: "They shut logging down, even though they can't even find any Mexican owls in the forest!!"

There must be a balance between cultural and biological arguments for environmental policy. John Muir, after all, implored us to come into the mountains to get their "glad tidings," not to stay away and leave the amphibians alone. Even Aldo Leopold, the founder of ecological environmentalism, once pleaded "for the preservation of some tag-ends of wilderness, as museum pieces, for the edification of those who may one day wish to see, feel, or study the origins of their cultural inheritance." Culture and biology--two halves that should be equal in the conservationist message, but are not. It's time to change that. It's time to restore "the human" to the environmental movement and put it back on an equal footing with "the biological." How we can do this without diminishing efforts to protect biodiversity, which are critical to the health of these sacred places, will require careful navigation.

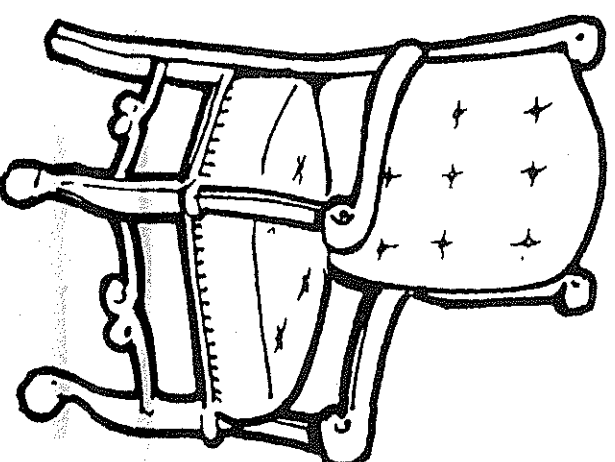


WANTED: LOBBYIST

To represent the Rio Grande Chapter in the New Mexico State Legislature, mid-January to mid-March. Must have a strong commitment to protecting the environment. Experience helpful, but not required. Salary \$4,000 for the Session. Send resume and names of three references to Van Perkins, Rt. 19 Box 128H, Santa Fe, NM 87505.

The Uneasy Chair

by
Courtney White



In Santa Fe **Internet Training on Environmental Issues**

On Tuesday, November 12 and Tuesday, December 17 at 7p.m. at the Santa Fe Sierra Club office, 621 Old Santa Fe Trail, #10, Santa Fe Chair John Buchser will have two computers set up with access to the World Wide Web.

He will demonstrate where environmental information can be found, and how to look for it. The training will include how to determine the status of bills in Washington, including access to the full texts of current and past bills.

Bring yourself and your curiosity!



WILDERNESS SECURED THROUGH LAND EXCHANGES

by Ray Powell, M.S., D.V.M.
Commissioner of Public Lands

The New Mexico State Land Office and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management recently consummated a land exchange that will help ensure the permanent preservation of an additional 50,000 acres of New Mexico wilderness, while providing new opportunities for the financial support of our state's public school children.

The first phase of our statewide exchange, completed last August, is a prime example of the kind of progress we can make in the management of public lands. When we approach these issues in a cooperative way, we can minimize conflict and maximize the benefit for everyone concerned.

Cooperation

Obviously, it takes the cooperation of the right people in the right positions who are able to make things happen. I am grateful that BLM New Mexico Director Bill Calkins has been such a willing partner and has made land exchanges for the protection of wilderness a priority. It is important that we keep people like Bill in office. The Sierra Club's endorsement of President Clinton for a second term will help make that a reality. I also appreciate the considerable support I have received from the Sierra Club and many of its members personally.

As we all know, wilderness has enormous intrinsic value. The vitality and health of our wilderness is a measure of the health and vitality of the human

species. The way we treat our wild lands reflects the way we treat each other and relate to each other.

As a field botanist and veterinarian with a special interest in wildlife rehabilitation, I have had the opportunity to study the flora and fauna throughout much of New Mexico. These lands are special to me. I believe one of the most important accomplishments in my administration can make is the protection of these lands for future generations. This will ensure that we do not have commercial development in our wilderness areas.

First Phase Exchange

In this particular exchange, the BLM and the State Land Office exchanged nearly 100,000 acres of land around the Plains of San Agustín, in Socorro and Catron Counties.

The BLM received about 47,281 acres of state trust land located within or adjacent to the boundaries of four wilderness study areas (WSAs) and areas of critical environmental concern (ACECs): Continental Divide, Horse Mountain, Devil's Backbone and Sierra Ladrones. The exchange helps the BLM preserve significant wildlife habitat for a number of critical species. It also improved public access to more recreation areas around the Plains of San Agustín.

It is now much more likely that the WSAs and ACECs previously identified will actually be designated by Congress as national wilderness areas, forever protected from development. There is a growing movement in New Mexico toward developing a legislative wilderness package, and these exchanges greatly increase the probability of success.

In return, the State Land Office received title to 52,314 acres of federal land. We were able to consolidate our ownership patterns, which aids in the effective administration of the land. Moreover, as part of our constitutional and fiduciary duty to provide financial support to our public schools, universities, hospitals and other beneficiaries, we acquired other properties that are more appropriate for utilization of natural resources. Last year, the state trust lands and permanent funds contributed more than \$244 million to public schools and higher education, or more than \$400 per taxpayer.

Now that we have made this first, crucial exchange with the BLM, we are beginning to evaluate lands for the next phase of exchanges. As you recall, last March we completed a land exchange and transfer agreement that resulted in the Santa Ana Pueblo finally securing control of its ancestral homelands. The State Land Office received considerable valuable property in that exchange and, as a result, we are now in a position to turn over substantial acreage to the BLM for the protection of wilderness and other unique lands.

Next Phase

Our next phase will secure the preservation of the Chaco Culture National Historic Park, the Bisti and De-Na-Zin Wilderness Areas, and several other existing BLM WSAs in north-central and southwest New Mexico. We also are working with the Department of the Interior to trade trust land out from within the boundaries of the Petroglyph National Monument. We plan to consummate these exchanges within the next 18 months.

All of this activity is important on other levels that should be mentioned. One of the most significant was President Clinton's decision to designate the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in southern Utah. Along with Rio Grande Chapter Chair Van Perkins and other

leaders of the Sierra Club, I advised the president to take that bold action. We're all winners for that. We are also working to establish a new federal preserve at the Tres Pintas site near Albuquerque, and I have used my position as vice-chairman of the Petroglyph National Monument advisory board to ensure that Native American sacred sites are protected, and that the monument continues to be a sanctuary for wildlife and people.

The protection of wild and unique lands is but one of many goals we must pursue in order to assure that our children and grandchildren can enjoy the best of New Mexico. I have been very happy to have Sierra Club members and leaders working with me in these and other projects. Those include the study and development of an environmental education curriculum for New Mexico's public school students, the evaluation of our master plans for the 13,000-acre Mesa del Sol project in Albuquerque and preliminary plans for developments in Santa Fe and Las Cruces.

Health of the Land

In my administration, the health of the state trust lands is my top land management priority. I have hired a technical and scientific staff that understands the relationship between a healthy ecosystem and the quality of our human lives. My views on that subject complement my constitutional duty to optimize revenues from the land for the beneficiaries of the trust—primarily our public school children—while protecting the trust for future generations.

The same effort that has resulted in successful land exchanges has helped us win other battles as well. With the Sierra Club's support, I have been able to speak out against the proposed divestiture and privatization of the federal public lands, against Senator Domenici's poorly designed livestock grazing bill and against the radical regulatory takings legislation that emerged from the so-called Contract With America.

I appreciate the Sierra Club's interest in our activities and willingness to let me discuss these very important issues with its members. If anyone would like to be included on our mailing list or if you simply want some more information, please contact Ed Moreno or David Vackar in my office, at 505-827-5760.

The Electronic Sierra Club Update

by Susan Gorman and Blair Brown (bblairb@aol.com)

The Electronic Sierra Club is growing and expanding!

Subscribers to the Sierra List are receiving and sending alerts, meeting notices and information of all sorts to each other via E-mail. We have added a number of new subscribers but there is always room for more, so if you have an E-mail address and want to participate, just send a request to us at bblairb@aol.com. We'll sign you up and send instructions about sending messages. Receiving messages happens as soon as you have subscribed!

If you haven't checked out the Rio Grande Chapter's Homepage on the Web recently, we invite you to do so—the URL address is <http://www.rm.org/~sierra>. For a while there, the site was in a slump but we've refreshed old information and started to add some new components. Be sure to click on Bulletins on the main menu for a description of the Albuquerque Group's Conservation Campaigns with phone and E-mail contact information.

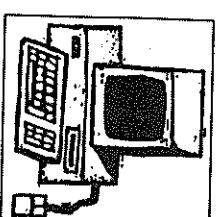
Our next project is to reconstruct the Sustainability component, so check out what's there now and send us your suggestions. The objective is to create a place where you can learn what's happening within the Club and, through links, go to other sites that have good information. We know there are a number of sites which address sustainability and invite you to send us Web addresses for the sites you feel are good.

We have a vision for lots more new and expanded components for the Homepage. Here are a few we've thought of:

**Chapter and
Group Ballots
are on Page 24**

Vote!

All it takes for this to happen is a little help. We invite anyone who would like to take on any of these components or design and set up one of your own to volunteer. Just send us an E-mail and let us know what you can do. Sierrans and others all over the country will appreciate it.

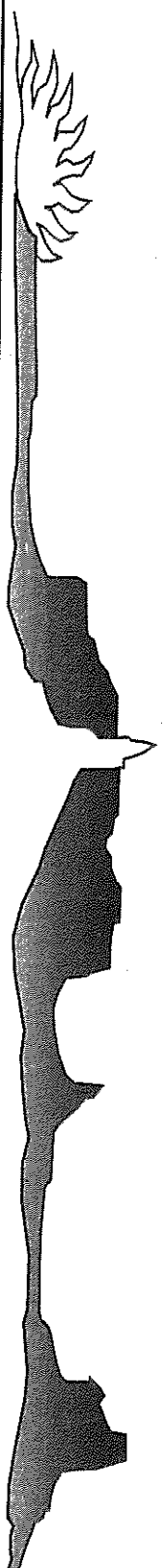


Visit our homepage on the World Wide Web:

<http://www.rm.org/~sierra/>

You can contact other activists via E-mail by using our List Serve:

sierra@technet.rm.org



Sierra Club Joins 26 Others

Conservationists and Ranchers File Notice of Intent to Sue For Restoration of Mexican Wolves in Southwest

An unusual coalition of conservationists, sportsmen and ranchers has announced that they will sue the government to expedite reintroduction of endangered Mexican wolves into their former habitat in the American Southwest.

Twenty-seven diverse local and national groups sent the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) a 60-day notice of intent to sue. The groups emphasize that they represent hundreds of thousands of citizens who support the return of the Mexican wolf, which is among the world's rarest and most critically endangered land mammals.

Hostage to Politics

Rodger Schlickeisen, President of Defenders of Wildlife, underscores that, "Implementation of a Mexican wolf recovery plan approved more than a decade ago is being held hostage to politics. The public wants wolves, science supports their return, and the ecosystem needs them. There is no legitimate reason for further delay."

If FWS does not act within the 60-day period, prospective plaintiffs in the lawsuit will include, among others, the Arizona League of Conservation Voters; National Audubon Society; Defenders of Wildlife; Hunters and Fishers for Environmental Ethics; Preserve Arizona's Wolves; Sierra Club; and rancher Jim Winder (member of the Chapter ExCon), who is from the proposed area in New Mexico where wolves would be reintroduced.

"Although we have been patient and vigorously supportive of the Fish and Wildlife Service, we are gravely concerned that they are not fulfilling their responsibilities as directed by Congress and the court," explains the coalition's attorney, Grove Burnett of the Western Environmental Law Center in Taos, New Mexico.

Violations of ESA and 1993 Settlement Agreement

The lawsuit points to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's violation of the Endangered Species Act and a violation of the Service's own settlement agreement from a civil action against them in 1990. The New Mexico District Court in 1993 (Wolf Action Group, et al. vs. United States) directed the Fish and Wildlife Service to produce a timeline calling for a final environmental impact statement by March 1995, and the release of wolves by July 1996. Burnett points out "the agency remains delinquent in fulfilling the two most important requirements of the Agreement, releasing the final EIS and accomplishing the reintroduction of Mexican wolves to the wild."

A year and a half later, the final EIS has not been issued and no firm plans have been made for release of the wolves. In fact, the Interior Department is making no public statements on Mexican wolf release despite internal meetings on the situation.

"This most recent setback is inexcusable," says Bobbie Holaday, Executive Director of Preserve Arizona's Wolves. "We've been patient for years. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has stalled and delayed the program at every turn and is now refusing to even discuss it with the interested public. We are deeply concerned about the wolf and now have no choice but to reopen the lawsuit; it's the right thing to do."

Federal Extirmination Program

Before the advent of livestock ranching, Mexican wolves were prominent throughout the wildlands of the Southwest. In the early 1900s, a livestock-industry-driven campaign evolved into a federal extirmination program and resulted in the wolf's near extinction. In 1976 Mexican wolves were listed as endangered and the last few were captured and entered into a breeding program to prevent them from disappearing entirely.

The Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan, approved in 1982, calls for a captive population of at least 100 wolves followed by reintroduction to the wild. Currently there are 140 Mexican wolves in captivity. The wolves and a large coalition of wolf supporters are awaiting a final decision from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which, some claim, is being delayed for political reasons.

Dave Henderson, National Audubon Society representative in Santa Fe, said "This is the second civil action that has become necessary to prevent the Fish and Wildlife from backpadding on recovery." Henderson notes, "There are real costs when government fails to make decisions in a timely manner. In this case, the biggest cost comes at the expense of Mexican wolves, and they simply can't afford it."

Public Opinion Favors Reintroduction

Advocates point out that the public has repeatedly demonstrated through dozens of meetings and opinion surveys that the vast majority of urban and rural residents are not opposed to the return of wolves.

Rancher Jim Winder, who lives and ranches next to the proposed release site explains, "The reintroduction of a large predator such as a wolf will force ranchers to manage their livestock more intensively. This will improve range conditions and profitability for most operations... if the public wants wolves, then I will find a way to co-exist with wolves." Recognizing the ecological and economic value of wolves, rancher Winder has signed on as party to the wolf-coalition's lawsuit. Other ranchers in the area have written letters supporting the intent of the citizen action and have expressed strong support for the return of wolves.

Defenders of Wildlife Southwest Representative Craig Miller notes that, "Despite some localized opposition, most responsible ranchers are not opposed to wolf recovery as long as they're allowed to protect their livestock. We also recognize that some livestock losses will occur and we're prepared to assume financial responsibility."



Defenders operates a compensation fund which reimburses ranchers for verified losses to wolves, and an incentive program that rewards land-owners when pups are born on private property. Defenders is now finalizing plans for a market-based program designed to help Arizona and New Mexico ranchers live with and benefit from wolves, once they're released.

The "wolf country" certification program requires ranchers to raise their livestock in a manner compatible with wolves and other predators while cooperating with the Fish and Wildlife Service in wolf monitoring activities. In exchange, Defenders will assist ranchers in marketing their ecologically sensitive "wolf country" certified beef for a premium at local restaurants and markets.

Ranchers and Conservationists Cooperate for Wolf

"Ranchers and conservationists have proven their willingness to cooperate for the benefit of wolves and the ecosystem; what we're asking for now is cooperation from the Fish and Wildlife Service," states Miller.

That cooperation can't come too soon. Biologists claim that prolonged captivity may reduce the wolves' chances of success in the wild. Jeff Williamson, Executive Director of the Phoenix Zoo, explains, "It is important that the Fish and Wildlife Service act with diligence to facilitate the reintegration of Mexican wolves into their historic range. Those of us who care for these animals in captivity cannot assure that we can maintain them in perpetuity, and we need the help of the government to bring to fruition the law of the land and to assure biological diversity and environmental health over the long term."

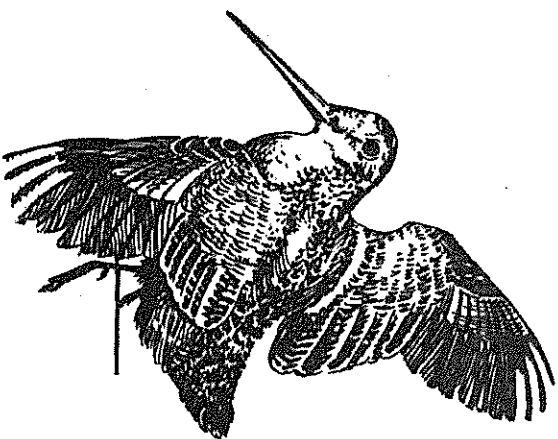
Write a Letter Proposed Grazing Regulations Threaten New Mexico's Public Lands

by Gary Simpson

The New Mexico Resource Advisory Council (RAC) is about to finish the final Standards and Guidelines (S&Gs) for New Mexico. Unfortunately, the S&Gs contain a standard for the "human dimension" that would allow the privatization and takings crowd to control grazing regulations for allotments throughout New Mexico. This standard has no business in this process which should be about ecological health.

We must write Secretary Bruce Babbitt at the Department of Interior, 1849 C Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20240 as soon as possible to inform him that we will not allow the radical right to takeover this process and control our public lands. Urge Secretary Babbitt to reject the RAC's S&Gs (Babbitt must approve them) and adopt the BLM's fall back guidelines. Also mention that these S&Gs are too weak in the areas of water quality, biodiversity and threatened and endangered species, as well as not addressing suitability.





will help determine Forest Service management of these two allotments. Meet at the Forest Service Office in T or C 8 a.m. Saturday. Call Margot Wilson for reservations 744-5860.

Saturday/Sunday Nov 16/17 - APACHE KID WILDERNESS backpack - Jeff Regenold 661-6707 (Los Alamos). There is hope for expansion of existing wilderness in this lush and little known area in the San Mateo Mountains. Call Jeff for details.

Saturday Nov 23 - RIO PUERCO RIPARIAN ISSUES TRIP - Gary Simpson 298-3315 (Abq). Check out an ungrazed enclosure on the Rio Senorito, and the parcel of State Land recently leased to Forest Guardians - easy pace, 6 miles max. Call Gary for time/meeting place (probably Bernalillo).

Saturday Jan 18 - SIERRA LADRONES WILDERNESS STUDY AREA field trip - Jeff Regenold 661-6707. Easy/moderate hike into this rugged, little used WSA.

Call Jeff for time/meeting place.

Chapter Outings Notes from Norma

by
Norma
McCallan

With the election just around the corner and a good chance for a friendlier Congress, there is a real possibility for a BLM Wilderness bill for New Mexico next year. Congressman Bill Richardson, at our recent Wilderness and Culture workshop in Santa Fe made a commitment to sponsor such a bill. Our job is to broaden public interest in and awareness of the special values of the 50 or so WSAs which the New Mexico Wilderness Coalition would like to see designated as Wilderness. It was evident from the comments of attendees at this workshop that many people do not even know what Wilderness status implies, much less being acquainted with any of these WSAs. In the months to come, I hope to feature a lot of outings to these little-known areas, all with their own unique beauty and attributes. If you would like to lead a trip to one, please call me, 471-0005, or John Wright, Chapter Wilderness Co-chair, 247-4353.

Mesa del Sol:

Vision for a Better Albuquerque

by Susan Gorman

The red-tailed hawk circled lazily high above the valley of Tijeras Arroyo. From our vantage point on Mesa del Sol, her circling flight was only slightly above eye level. Turning 360 degrees, we scanned the panorama: Sandia and Manzano Mountains to the East, the bosque of the Rio Grande bordered by green farm fields to the West, the volcanos and escarpment to the North, and Mount Taylor way off in the distance.

Just imagine living here!

It will be possible in the near future as the New Mexico State Land Office proceeds with its development plans for Mesa del Sol, the 13,000 acre tract bordered by Isla Pueblo to the south, Kirtland on the east, Interstate 25 on the west and Tijeras Arroyo on the north, which is the largest tract owned by one entity in any city in the U.S.

Top Priority in State Land Office

To learn more about these plans, we visited with Commissioner of Public Lands Ray Powell and Planner Tom Leatherwood. Powell has made the quality development of Mesa del Sol a top priority of his administration. An Albuquerque native, Powell wants to create a community that represents the best of what New Mexico has to offer, and not just endless sprawl and resource wasting developments.

According to Powell, "My vision is a community that, by its design, encourages people to live and work in harmony with each other and the surrounding environment. Albuquerque is a special place and we can help keep it that way with a well planned community."

Leatherwood explains, "The City of Albuquerque, a few years ago, adopted a new set of guidelines for master planned development of the "reserve area," outside the existing urban boundary. These guidelines are outlined in the Planned Communities Criteria Policy Element (PCC). Mesa del Sol, with its 13,000 acres, annexed to the City in 1993, comes under this development criteria."

Master Plan Goes to City This Year

Leatherwood described the development to us, "In response to the PCC, the State Land Office plans to submit its Master Plan (Level A Community Master Plan) to the City during 1996. The Master Plan for Mesa del Sol calls for development of compact mixed-use communities as alternatives to strip and sprawl development, with residential communities organized around activity centers, typically plazas, in neighborhoods and villages. Schools, daily shopping and services, recreation and work opportunities would be available within walking distance of home.

"Three or four urban villages with an average density of 12 households per acre would be located along an urban transit corridor, and four or five rural villages, with significantly lower densities, would be located in the more outlying areas of the Mesa.

"A Community Center would be the focal point for the entire Mesa del Sol Community, unifying the villages and neighborhoods with a single identity and providing the venue for cultural, educational and civic activities of a larger community, which could someday total as many as 90,000 people.

"An Urban Center, reflecting the character of an earlier downtown Albuquerque, would become a vital regional office and retail center anchoring

the south metropolitan area. A number of employment centers and districts surrounding the various activity centers would provide jobs for Mesa del Sol residents and for residents of greater Albuquerque."

Idyllic Vision

Based on Leatherwood's description, life in Mesa del Sol would be pleasant and easy. He sees a place where residents can easily leave the car at home and walk or bike to near-by shops and restaurants. Kids walk or bike to school safely without crossing major roadways. Significant open space areas with trails and reserve areas for wildlife are a short hike away and community gardens yield fresh veggies and fruit to those who like to toil in the soil!

The Regional Park, a 634 acre complex of sports fields, parks, and an amphitheater, provides space for major events. Mesa del Sol residents walk or bike there and other folks park at the Pit or Dukes Ball field parking lots and take a pleasant shuttle ride to the events.

Specially retail shopping, spaces for cultural and community events, entertainment and offices are easily accessible to residents. For the 40 to 50% of the resident workforce who would work within Mesa del Sol, commuting is a healthy walk or bike ride, possibly a van ride away. For others who work in downtown Albuquerque or Uptown or Kirtland, commuting by transit service is quick and economical. Even folks who commute to Santa Fe may find that the Regional Transit Authority offers the option of a commuter train in the not too distant future!

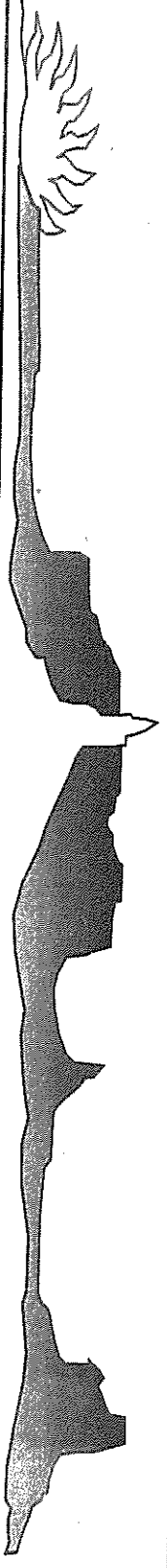
Is this idyllic vision pure fantasy? According to Leatherwood: "We see Mesa del Sol in the context of a revitalized downtown Albuquerque serving as a hub for the new Regional Transit System. Public transit along the urban corridor and connecting villages and activity centers will move people quickly to their destinations within Mesa del Sol and to connections with the Alvarado Transit Center in downtown Albuquerque and throughout the region. From the beginning, urban rail easements will be provided, so that when a regional transit system with rail is built, the space will be there."

Water and Energy Conservation

But what about water and energy conservation? Leatherwood says, "Resource conservation will be integral to the development of Mesa del Sol. Homes and businesses will find a community designed to make it easy to recycle and to conserve. Xeriscaping and drought tolerant plants will be emphasized and outdoor watering will be limited. The design of the project will employ techniques of water harvesting for tree-lined streets, urban parks, community gardens and open space areas and for recharge of the aquifer."

What Happens Next?

The State Land Office is committed to make Mesa del Sol a reality. Plans for the first component, the 634 acre Regional Park, are already moving forward. This is a joint project with Bernalillo County and final approval is expected by the end of 1996 with the first sports fields open in 1997.



Mesa del Sol

(cont. from page 7)

Powell says the park quickly became the cornerstone of the community because there is a great shortage of playing fields for football, soccer and baseball for the southern part of Bernalillo County. "The regional sports fields and natural areas will be key components of our future quality of life. Kids who play together in healthy competition learn teamwork and sportsmanship. They develop lifelong friendships and as adults they are better able to work together to solve problems."

Once the Master Plan for Mesa del Sol is approved, the State Land Office will hire a master developer who will be responsible for implementing the plan. The development standards will be set based on those in the City Planned Communities Criteria Policy Element, plus additional criteria designated by the State Land Office for the purpose of protecting the fragile desert ecosystem.

What is the Sierra Club's Role?

The Sierra Club's role in this project could be to assist the State Land Office to focus on creating a truly sustainable community at Mesa del Sol which offers positive alternatives to sprawl. The urban villages would incorporate reduced water and energy consumption and conserve natural resources and ecosystems. The transportation plan with its emphasis on transit, walkways and bike trails, would enable residents to own fewer cars and drive fewer miles. The employment and activity centers within Mesa del Sol mean fewer commuter trips.

The vision for Mesa del Sol is one of hope for the future. The State Land Office is willing and in a solid position to assume the risk of building this sustainable community which can be a model for other projects in New Mexico and elsewhere. The Sierra Club, with other community organizations and groups, can participate by providing the forums for public discussion of the new design concepts. We can work to educate ourselves and others about sustainable community concepts. We can help the State Land Office to discover the best available technologies, designs, philosophies and resources needed to enable Mesa del Sol, the vision, to become Mesa del Sol, the place.

To learn more about the plans for Mesa del Sol, come to the General Meeting, on Monday, November 18, 7:30 PM, UNM Law School. Tom Leatherwood will lead us in a discussion about Mesa del Sol and sustainable

Albuquerque Voters Will Get Opportunity to Preserve Open Space

by Richard Barish

Albuquerque City Councilor Vince Griego and four co-sponsors have introduced a bill that would allow the voters to decide whether to impose a one-quarter of one percent gross receipts tax to fund the acquisition of open space and parks by the City of Albuquerque. An initial list specifying the parcels that would be acquired has also been circulated. This list contains many wonderful parcels that will almost certainly be on the final list that will be placed before the voters, including the following:

The Oxbow marsh. The Oxbow is a marsh located on the west side of the river below St. Pius High School, directly across the river from the Nature Center. It is one of the very few remaining marshes left in the middle Rio Grande Valley and is extremely valuable waterfowl habitat.

Graham and Taylor bosque lands. These parcels are tracts of bosque, within the levees, on the west side of the river. The parcels are worthy of acquisition for their beauty alone, but must be acquired for the more critical reason that development of the parcels would prevent the controlled flooding of the bosque that is necessary for the regeneration of cottonwoods and for natural processes to occur in the bosque.

Tres Pistoles (Three Gun Springs) Canyon. This canyon is a broad foothills canyon in the South Sandias with a seasonally changing palette of pale high desert colors. The area is one of the best bidding locations in the foothills of the Sandias. The federal government, the state, and Bernalillo County have already made contributions toward the acquisition of this parcel.

The Hubbell Oxbow. The Hubbell Oxbow is a remnant oxbow of the river located near Rio Bravo and Coors. This unique and beautiful area is part cottonwood grove, part open meadow.

Tijeras Arroyo east of Four Hills. This parcel contains a perennial stream with lush streamside vegetation, abundant bird life, and steep canyon walls in several places, as well as important historical and cultural sites in the vicinity of the arroyo.

There are other wonderful areas proposed to be acquired, including a portion of the Northern Geologic Windows on the West Mesa, the north and south sand dunes, the southwest mesa escarpment (ceja), and others. Approximately 98% of the acreage proposed to be acquired is land that is designated on the City/County Comprehensive Plan for acquisition as major public open space, and passage of this measure would result in the acquisition of the great majority of land so designated.

The gross receipts tax to acquire the properties would be limited to a period of about two years. The vote will be at a special election, not the general election, and the City will be experimenting with a new method of voting, a mail-in ballot. The closing date for return of the ballots is expected to be sometime in late December or January. The City Council will have taken up this measure at their October 21 meeting, and it is expected that it will pass. The Albuquerque Group supports the acquisition of the open space parcels by the gross receipts tax.

community designs.

To learn more about sprawl... how we got it and how to convert it to something we'll like better, read James Howard Kunstler's story, "Home From Nowhere," *The Atlantic Monthly*, September 1996.

To get involved, join the Albuquerque Group's Sustainable Albuquerque Team, contact Susan Gorman, TEL: 505-265-3231, FAX: 505-256-0373. EMail: bhlaib@aol.com.

Help Needed to Fight Golf Course, Estancia Basin Water Transfers

by Nick Persampieri

The Sierra Club continues to work with other groups in an effort to stop a proposed golf course and accompanying commercial and one-acre residential development at Paako in Sandia Park. We have so far won deferrals from the Bernalillo County Planning Commission and the Bernalillo County Commission. Help is needed if we are to succeed in crushing this boondoggle development scheme.

As you read this article, the Bernalillo County Commission will have heard a proposed Master Plan amendment required for the golf course. A second hearing on a needed special use permit is scheduled to be heard by the Bernalillo County Planning Commission at 9:00 a.m., November 6, 1996, at 1 Civic Plaza, Albuquerque, NM.

We oppose the proposed development and the use of Estancia Basin water because:

1. The proposed interbasin water transfer from the Estancia Basin to the Sandia Basin would deplete water levels in the troubled Estancia Basin and cause more development in the Sandia Basin than the resources of the Sandia Basin area can support.

2. The developer seeks to justify a reduction in required minimum lot size by designating the golf course as open space! In 1988 the original developer obtained approval of a Master Plan including one-acre lots based on its promise to designate Private Open Space. Private Open Space was defined as space set aside to protect fragile land areas from development. The proposed replacement of Private Open Space with a golf course is outrageous.

3. A golf course is inconsistent with numerous provisions of the East Mountain Area Plan designed to protect the unique rural character of the area, including native vegetation. We cannot tolerate replacement of our beautiful native grasses, flowers and trees with exotic Kentucky Blue and other grasses.

4. A golf course and other planned facilities—pool, lounge, clubhouse, restaurant, lodging, tennis courts—are a commercial venture not on a neighborhood scale. There is no commercial node designated at Paako in the East Mountain Area Plan and the area is zoned residential. These facilities are designed to attract out-of-state land purchasers and tourists, not the neighborhood and East Mountain community. During the original Master Plan hearings, a proposal for 150 acres of commercial development was scaled down to 20 acres.

5. Required water rights have not validly been approved. The applicable permits do not allow water to be used for a golf course, but rather for residential, light commercial, housing subdivision and related purposes. Use of water for a golf course also would violate conditions of the permits that the water not be used in a manner that is contrary to the conservation of water or detrimental to the public welfare.

6. A golf course is not a wise use of water in this arid region. People must learn to live within the limitations imposed by the area's resources. Although the developer promises to eventually use water from a constructed wetlands, the course most likely would be built ten or more years before completion of the subdivision and initially would rely almost exclusively on fresh water. Even at full build-out, the developer estimates 29% of the water used would be fresh water. (We seriously question the developer's figures.)

7. Area residents do not want a golf course. A golf course ranked dead last in a County survey of the desirability of meeting 19 specified recreational needs! Local residents are much more interested in development of other recreational facilities such as trails.

Unfortunately, the golf course is just the tip of the iceberg. In the course of our battle we have learned of other shenanigans involving Estancia Basin water. It appears that the State Engineer may have unlawfully approved interbasin transfers of water out of the basin without adequate public notice and hearings.

The Entranosa Water Cooperative has applied to appropriate 2,400 acre feet of water from the Estancia Basin. It appears that much of the water would leave the basin and that some of the water may be slated to satisfy the demands of a proposed development on the Campbell Ranch property, adjacent to Paako. The proposed development at Campbell Ranch would dwarf Paako's planned 1400 homes. It reportedly would include 4,000 homes, a 36 hole golf course (across the street from Paako's proposed 36 holes), and a 600 room resort hotel!

We are continuing to investigate what can be done to thwart these and other ill-conceived schemes which would decimate the area's semi-rural character. We must stop this plunder of the East Mountains by terminating irresponsible use of Estancia Basin water. We hope to establish precedents that can be used by others around the State. We desperately need an outpouring of citizen participation and technical assistance in the areas of hydrology and water law if we are to succeed. Anyone interested in helping out is encouraged to contact Nick Persampieri at 281-7845.

November 18, 1996 General Meeting 7:30 PM, UNM Law School, Room 2401

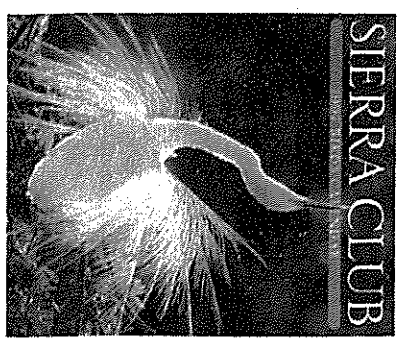
Mesa del Sol: A Vision for a Better Albuquerque

The New Mexico State Land Office is proceeding with its development plans for Mesa del Sol, the 13,000 acre tract bordered by Isleta Pueblo on the south, Kirtland on the east, Interstate 25 on the west and Tijeras Arroyo on the north, which is the largest tract owned by one entity in any city in the U.S. (See story on page 7.)

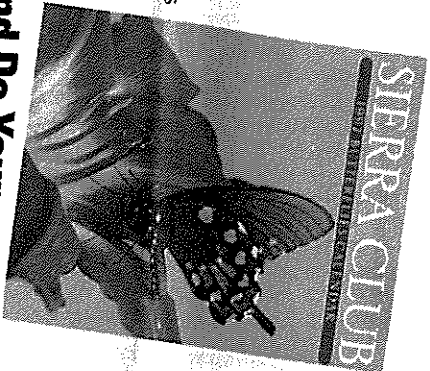
Come to learn more about these plans from Tom Leatherwood, Land Office Planner. Tom will give us an overview and then lead us in a discussion about Mesa del Sol and sustainable community designs.

This program is sponsored by the Sustainable Albuquerque Team who will be planning programs during 1997 with Sustainability as the theme! Plan to attend the whole series!

General Meetings are held on the third Monday of every month at 7:30 PM at the UNM Law School, Room 2401, on the corner of Mountain Road and Stanford NE. UNM is currently enforcing parking restrictions. Please park at the metered slots (bring quarters!) or on the street or buy a one-time only permit (\$3) at the Law Library. Bring your own cups for refreshments during the break.



BIRDS CALENDAR: SPECIAL EDITION
Birds debuts as a Special Edition calendar and it's sure to be a winner with wonderful images of birds in their natural habitats around the world, and an introduction by nature writer Adrienne Ross.
11 1/16" x 13 1/2"



BUTTERFLIES CALENDAR: SPECIAL EDITION
Now for the first time as the subject of a special edition calendar, *Butterflies* celebrates the splendid diversity of these enchanting creatures photographed in gloriously colorful surroundings. With an introduction by renowned poet Adele Ne Jame. 11 1/16" x 13 1/2"

Help the Environment--And Do Your Christmas Shopping!

The 1997 Sierra Club Calendars are here. We have two new special edition calendars this year: Birds and Butterflies. Both are large and attractive, stayed the same: the Adventure Travel, Wilderness, and Wildlife calendars, \$9.95 each, and the Pocket Calendar is still only \$8.50. The popular Engagement Calendar is \$11.95.

Sierra Club members get a 10% discount; proceeds benefit the local Albuquerque Group. We raised over \$500 last year.

Call Larry Compton with your calendar orders at 899-0679. Or, if you prefer, you can purchase them at Earth Wares in El Dorado Square, 11200 Montgomery Blvd NE, 323-7207. At Earth Wares you can also buy Sierra Club books as well as Sierra Club Christmas cards. Help raise money for local environmental issues, and do your holiday shopping, all in one trip!

CALENDAR

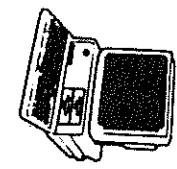
Unless otherwise noted, meetings take place at the Club office, 207 San Pedro NE

- Nov 5 Election Day--Be Sure to Vote!
- Nov 6 Mexican Wolf Coalition, 7:30 PM
- Nov 6 Deadline for agenda items for Group ExCom. Call Susan Gorman at 265-3231
- Nov 11 Group ExCom, 7:00 PM
- Nov 12 Sustainable Albuquerque Meeting, 7:00 PM. Call Susan Gorman, 265-3231
- Nov 18 General Meeting, UNM Law School, Rm 2401, 7:30 PM. Tom Leatherwood, Planner with the State Land Office, will discuss Mesa del Sol. See notice on this page.
- Nov 20 Call Richard Barish, 247-8079
- Nov 25 Conservation Committee Meeting, 7:00 PM
- Dec 4 Mexican Wolf Coalition, 7:30 PM
- Dec 4 Deadline for agenda items for Group ExCom. Call Susan Gorman at 265-3231
- Dec 7-8 Chapter ExCom Meeting, Black Range Lodge, Kingston.
- Dec 9 Group ExCom, 7:00 PM
- Dec 10 Sustainable Albuquerque Meeting, 7:00 PM. Call Susan Gorman, 265-3231
- Dec 15 Deadline for articles for Jan/Feb Rio Grande Sierran
- Dec 15 Holiday Party. See notice on this page.

Holiday Party! December 15, 1996 5:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Mark your calendars! The Albuquerque Group Holiday Party will be December 15 from 5:00 to 9:00 PM. Jamie and Becky Grebosky have invited us to come back to their home and will be our hosts! Here are the directions:
Take Tramway north to Live Oak, just north of Paseo del Norte, turn right and proceed to Juniper Hill (STOP). Turn left, proceed to a Y, take the right fork on White Tail, right again on Big Horn Ridge Dr. to Big Horn Ridge Ct. Turn right and look for 131.
Please bring a favorite dish to share--enough for 6 to 8 hungry folks and remember to bring your plates and flatware. We'll provide ice, sodas, beer and wine.
We need folks to help with the party arrangements, so if you love a good party and want to help, call Becky at 821-6455.
Call the Group HOTLINE, 265-5506, to RSVP.

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Fax: 898-9570

Group Directory

1996 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
207 San Pedro NE
Albuquerque, NM 87108
Office Telephone: 265-5506
Fax: 256-0373

Group Chair	Susan Gorman	265-3231
Vice Chair	Nick Persampieri	281-7845
Secretary	Blair Brown	265-3231
Treasurer	Kathy Love	243-5319
	Richard Barish	247-8079
	Ron Grobeck	296-0944
	Julie Hicks	345-7832
	Jack Humphrey	243-5319
	Barbara Leonard	862-7915

The Albuquerque Group of the Sierra Club depends entirely on the efforts of volunteers. To help, call any of us!

ADMINISTRATION

Office Organizer	OPEN	
Books/Calendars	Larry Compton	899-0679
Information Technology	Blair Brown	265-3231
Media Coordinator	Julie Hicks	345-7832
Membership Newsletter	Barbara Stone	265-5304
Outings	OPEN	
Phone Tree	Sean Kauchak	839-4301
	Jean Valentine	869-2090
Political Chair	Co-Chair--OPEN	
Programs	Ron Grobeck	296-0944
	Sustainable Albuquerque Team	

CONSERVATION

Conservation Chair	Richard Barish	247-8079
Campaign Team Leaders		
Bosque Protection	Richard Barish	247-8079
East Mountain	Nick Persampieri	281-7845
Petroglyph National Monument	Ike Eastvold	255-7679
	Nick Persampieri	281-7845
Sustainable Albuquerque	Susan Gorman	265-3231
War on the Environment	Richard Barish	247-8079
Western New Mexico	Barbara Leonard	862-7915
Wilderness	Jack Humphrey/	
	Kathy Love	243-5319
	John Wright	247-4353
Wildlife	Martin Heinrich	345-7832

Richard Barish

I have served on the ExCom since 1987 and have been Conservation Chair for the last two years. I have been active on bosque and riparian issues, federal and state legislative matters, and open space issues. As always, what the Albuquerque Group needs now is more activists to cover issues that no one is currently covering and to help us more effectively cover issues that we are already following. In addition, we need to be more proactive, rather than reactive. If re-elected, I will work to improve the effectiveness of the Group by seeking to discover new ways to involve new activists and by defining a positive vision for measures that the Group can actively pursue.

Blair Brown

I have been a Sierra Club member since the mid 80s. After moving to Albuquerque in 1991, I became active in Club efforts here, was appointed to the ExCom in 1992, and elected to my current term three years ago. I am currently Secretary of the Albuquerque Group and am serving as the Group's representative to the Chapter. I also serve as Chapter Treasurer and as Chair of the Information Technology Committee, which involves development of the Chapter's Internet Home Page and our electronic communications capabilities.

I believe that Albuquerque is still a unique and special place. I believe that the members of the Albuquerque Group are making significant progress in influencing decisions and policies to keep it that way and that these efforts are important because they can make a real difference in whether Albuquerque remains special or turns into another Phoenix or L.A. I plan to continue doing what I can to contribute to these efforts by working for the protection and preservation of the River and our water resources, for preservation of rural values in the East Mountain area, and working on the Sustainable Albuquerque Team.

I offer my continued dedication to the efforts of the Club, both to the Albuquerque Group and the Chapter, and would be honored to continue as a member of the Executive Committee.

Jamie Grebosky

OK, you've read about six of these statements by now and you will probably want to get on to the "good stuff" in the Group News. If I only have a few seconds, let's make them fun — Let's play a game! Ready? Now, think of the reasons why you live, love, play, and stay in New Mexico. Get a mental image of what endears you to this land. Got it? OK.

I'm betting that your image was a place, the Sandias, the Petroglyphs, Chaco Canyon, the Chama... It doesn't matter where or what, it only matters why. The big question, "Why do I live in New Mexico?" I live here, as do you, because of its beauty, a beauty that is only skin deep, a beauty that needs to be protected and preserved.

My role in the ExCom as I see it would be to keep up the fight to protect our beauty, our special places, to fight to get us back on the right track for range and mining reform, to fight to help our forests regain their "health" with the clearcut rider, and to help keep our wild places with a wilderness bill that we will be happy with.

"Sounds good," you say, "but what have you done for me in the last several months?" As a grassroots activist, I made a presentation at Wild Oats on the Southern Utah Wilderness legislation. I've also garnered phone calls, letters, and support on numerous critical issues, I have grabbed forest service people and shown them violations on grazing in the Manzanos and the Gila. I have volunteered my time with our Forest Service, and I've documented ORV abuse in Wilderness Study Areas in Utah.

True, that doesn't put me on par with John Muir or Aldo Leopold (or Hayduke, for that matter) but I hope that I can be an effective member of your ExCom. Thank you for your support.

Martin Heinrich

I would like to take this opportunity to tell the members of the Albuquerque Group of the Sierra Club about myself and why I believe I would be a positive addition to the ExCom. I am first and foremost an activist for wilderness and creatures wild. I have a vision of a North America where we have learned to share our home with all our neighbors, from the tiny Chupadera pig (an invertebrate) to the mighty grizzly bear. To do this I have focused on wildlife and wilderness. I have been especially involved in the Mexican wolf reintroduction issue. In addition I am the Chapter Wildlife Issues Co-chair.

My long term goal is to work towards a North American Reserve System based on the science of conservation biology. I would like to see that wilderness areas and areas of biological importance linked by corridors so end I will continue to see that the Albuquerque Group is a leader in the protection of New Mexico's wild lands and creatures.

Finally I want to support those members with ideas on everything from sustainable living to political action. As an ExCom member I would certainly have a focus, but I would be open to assisting and committing resources to any activists who have a vision of a society living in harmony with nature.

Nick Persampieri

I have served on the Group ExCom for the last three years served as Group Vice Chair for the last two years.

I have my own law practice in Albuquerque, which is representation of neighborhood and environmental organizations in and environmental disputes and representation of employees in employment disputes.

Many of our State, City and County leaders are committed to rapid growth, regardless of effects on the natural environment, neighborhoods and communities, and cultural and spiritual resources, diverse peoples who give this area its unique character. I devote my professional and volunteer life to saving our remaining special places failure of leadership. I am actively involved in efforts to save the National Monument from the City's plans for intrusion of two highways. I spearheaded creation of the Petroglyph Monument Preservation Coalition, a rare collaboration among environmental, Native American, social justice, youth and animal rights groups. I am also leading battle plans for two golf courses, inappropriate commercial and small-lot re-development in the East Mountains. In the last three years, I also represent groups, including the Sierra Club, in an unsuccessful court effort to Montano Bridge, and succeeded in requiring the Bureau of Land Management to prepare a new management plan and Environmental Impact Statement for Malpais National Conservation Area.

I would be honored to have the opportunity to continue to serve ExCom.

Remember to Vote! The Albuquerque Group Ballot on Page 24

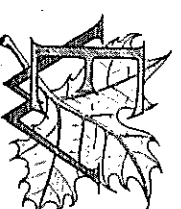
Good ideas for Albuquerque (which save you some spare change, too)

by Brenda Cole

1. Stop buying a newspaper for just yourself. Get together! a cup of coffee or brunch with some friends. Each time someone el buys just one paper. That way we save newsprint and get some quality time with friends, too.
2. Forget about plastic baggies. I can never get these to do properly and trying to wash them for future use is inefficient at best, use sealable, reusable plastic containers. My son helps label everything so he gets involved and there have been no more leaky disaster appearing in his lunch box.
3. Try experimenting with native plants for your yard. Pick small area and put in a sage or a planting of native wildflowers. You will be amazed at the time and money you can save using plants that actually LIKE New Mexico summers! I've gone to native plantings in my yard and only hand water a couple of trees and herbs. My water bill has dropped over 75%!

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10% Discount

Tuesday, November 26, 1996, 5-7 p.m.

Albuquerque Group News--ExCom Candidate Statements



Outings may be cancelled or changed due to weather or other reasons, please call leader before outing. You must bring appropriate shoes, clothes, pack, rain gear, and water.

Sun 17 Nov Leisure Miles: 3 Car: 3

Boca Negra Arroyo Hike

Petroglyph National Monument

Agricultural terraces were built along the escarpment to catch water and hold soil. Exciting flute and parrot figures together with some of the oldest petroglyphs in the Monument. Meet at 9:00 am. Bring camera, binoculars and sturdy shoes. RSVP. Leader: Ike Eastvold 255-7679.

Sun 17 Nov Leisure Miles: 3 Car: 3
Oxbow Hike

Rio Grande Bosque
Various waterfowl, some hawks, and other wildlife can be seen in this wetland within Albuquerque. Three hours long, the hike will begin at 9:00 am. Contact leader for details. Leader: David Morrison 344-8693.

Sat 23 Nov Moderate Miles: 6 Car: 130

BLM Lands at La Ventana Hike

This is an exploratory hike in an area just east of the road side rest between Albuquerque and Cuba. There is some nice desert landscapes of sandstone cuestas and canyons that have a pristine character. We will hike to a high spot for a nice view of the area and return by a different route. Bring hiking boots and plenty of water. The hike is all off-trail. Meet at 8:30 am behind Winchell's Donuts, San Mateo and Academy. Leader: Tom Petenich 255-1497.

Sat 7 Dec Leisure Miles: 3 Car: 3
Piedras Marcadas Hike
Petroglyph National Monument
Tremendous variety and unique petroglyphs not found elsewhere in the Monument. Meet at 9:00 am. Bring camera, binoculars and sturdy shoes. RSVP. Leader: Ike Eastvold 255-7679.

Sat 7 Dec Moderate Miles: 1-2 Car: TBD
Beginning X/C Ski

Outdoor Lessons

Introduction to the fundamentals of Nordic skiing, classical style, emphasizing backcountry needs. All are welcome to learn or brush up on your kick and glides and turns and stops. Bring a good-sized lunch and plenty to drink. Equipment can be rented from most sports shops. Phone John Turnbull in Santa Fe at 466-9329, or Stan in Albuquerque for information on clothing, equipment, and meeting place. An impromptu X/C ski tour could be planned for Sunday if participants are interested. Leader: Stan 839-4301.

Albuquerque Bicycle Facilities Study Commenced in October

by Gail Ryba, Greater Albuquerque Bicycle Advisory Committee (GABAC)

The City of Albuquerque has begun a 10-month comprehensive evaluation of the bicycle facilities in Albuquerque that was kicked off on September 28 and 29 with a 60 mile tour of Albuquerque bike lanes and routes on the west and southeast sides of Albuquerque led by David Duganne, GABAC Chair, and me. This \$109,000 project is being managed by Susan Kelly in the City of Albuquerque's Planning Department and has been contracted to JHK & Associates who state that "The overall purpose of this project is to prepare a bicycle plan which includes improvements to enhance and expand the existing on-street bicycle network of bicycle lanes and bicycle routes in the Metropolitan Albuquerque Area within Bernalillo County." JHK has worked on similar plans for the Tucson, Phoenix and San Diego metropolitan areas, among others. Matt Zoll, one of the planners assigned to this project, is a committed cyclist who also chairs the Tucson/Pima County Bicycle Advisory Committee. Tucson was ranked number two in the nation for bicycle facilities last year by *Bicycling Magazine*, and GABAC hopes that Albuquerque can be ranked in the top 10 by the next survey. The results of this work will also support the MRGCOG (Middle Rio Grande Council of Governments) target of 6% bicycle-mode travel in commuter transportation in Albuquerque.

JHK intends to solicit public input in a number of public meetings. They will also utilize a Steering Committee comprised of members of the community, including the Sierra Club, GABAC, the Greater Albuquerque Recreational Trails Committee (GARTC), members of local bicycling groups and others, which will meet monthly to discuss progress and direction.

In the first and second months JHK intends to survey the public and major employers about bicycling. Simultaneously they will carry out a comprehensive inventory and assessment of bicycle routes and bicycle lanes to enable a complete evaluation of the current bicycle system. With the data from these two surveys in hand, they will outline a Comprehensive Bicycle Plan for continued systematic development of Albuquerque's on-street bicycle facilities. A related task is the identification of travel corridors and a prioritized listing of facilities needed for improved on-street cycling conditions. One of their missions is to "institutionalize" bicycling as a viable form of transportation by incorporating on-street bicycle facilities into the City of Albuquerque Standard Specifications for Public Works Construction and the Development Process Manual. To this end, they will work with the Steering Committee to develop a plan for Albuquerque that addresses the needs of different types of bicyclists ("hard-core" commuters, occasional commuters, competitive racers, recreational, those comfortable in traffic, those that are not, etc.) The study will also consider the needs for bike lockers, showers, racks, etc. It is recognized that if Albuquerque residents are to be encouraged to utilize bicycling for a greater percentage of their transportation needs, a concerted effort must be made to address the concerns of those not willing to brave Albuquerque roads as they currently exist.

Finally, the plan document will be released and routed through city, county and MRGCOG committees for approval. So that this study will not

end up collecting dust in another city planning or highway department office, it is hoped that cyclists and non-cyclists alike will become actively involved in its development.

To get involved in any aspect of this plan, please contact Jim Heiman at 764-9091, JHK & Associates, 121 Tijeras NE, Suite 3000, Albuquerque, NM 87102, or Matt Zoll, JHK & Associates, Suite 2470, 110 S. Church Ave., Tucson, AZ 85701, email: miz@jhk.com. Specifically, volunteers are needed to conduct counts of cyclists at 10-20 sites in the city at morning and evening commute times, and they may also be needed to inventory location and conditions of commuter routes within the city. JHK will enlist and train volunteers to perform these surveys using their criteria. Any written comments on bicycle facilities are also welcome. Albuquerque has a number of city staff committed to improving on-street bicycle facilities and making maximal use of resources available for these improvements. In order to build on the momentum of this study, we urge you to get involved.

FOUL WEATHER FAILS TO DAMPEN FAIR FUNDRAISER by Richard Barish

The Albuquerque Group raises most of its yearly income by selling parking spaces during the State Fair in the parking lot of the building where our office is located on San Pedro, opposite the fairgrounds. In spite of a fair amount of bad weather (no pun intended), the parking lot fundraiser was a success again this year.

Top billing in the "thanks" department this year has to go to Barbara Stone. When no ExCom member wanted to take on organization of the parking lot, Barbara stepped forward, took on this very time-consuming task, and did an absolutely terrific job. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you, Barbara! Of course, the parking lot could not happen without help from many volunteers. There are about 125 three-hour shifts to fill, in addition to other jobs that must be done. This year, about 95 of our members pitched in, which is, I think, about 5% of our Albuquerque membership. It's wonderful that so many of our members volunteer their time every year to help keep the Albuquerque Group going. This year the parking lot shifts were filled by: Yemane Asmeron, Ann Beyke, Hank Botts and Nancy Henry, Sabra Brasler, Dorothy Brethausen, Beth Buchanan, Daniel Byrne, Kathryn Chaney, Brian Cobble, Marsha Cohen, Brenda Cole, Larry Compton, Laura Connolly, Lee Courtinage, Marge Dearden, Sandy Decker, Ralph and Jeanette DeVries, Pete Drescher, Gordon Ertman, Heidi Fleischmann and Jim Scott, Ian Ford, Vincent Frazetta, Phil Freed, Jamie and Becky Grebosky, Betsy Green, Ron Grobeck and Leslie Lazaga, Bob Hammel, Bryan Hammond, Julie Hicks and Martin Heinrich, Jack Humphrey and Kathy Love, Steve Johnson, Rich Kamoruch, Irv Karp, Ty Kattenhorn, Cam Kattell, Stan Kauchak, Lois and Gordon Kennedy, Carol and Glen Kepler, Raven King, Dean Kuehl, Andy Kirk, Julie Kutz, Marge Larson, Susan Larson, Tom Leek, Ellen Loehman, Don and Michelle Meadows, Ken Medlin, Beth McDonald, Tim Michael, Merryam Miller, David Morrison, Ann Paff, Laura Panton, Jean Payne, Nick Persampieri, Jack and Bev Pinney, Cliff Reisig, Michael Robbins, Janet Simon, Gary Simpson, Robert Smith, Jill Sternweld, Phil and Ajia Thacher, David Thuma, Bob Torres, David and Myra Vandy, Stefan Verchinski, Warren Vliet, Lisa Weatherman, Jon Weiss, Val Wells, Valerie Weingarten, Marjorie Williams, John Wright, and Ralph Wrons. Thank you!

A few people also deserve special recognition for their assistance with other tasks. Susan Gorman, Julie Hicks, Nick Persampieri, Kathy Love, Jack Humphrey, and Leslie Lazaga all helped with scheduling volunteers. Blair Brown closed most nights. Don Meadows performed maintenance on our signs and barricades. Irv Karp and Jean Valentine made reminder calls. David Morrison and Marge Williams each took three shifts. The law firm of Fitzpatrick & Bolnick allowed us to park cars in their lot in the evenings and on weekends.

Jim Lewis, Michelle Meadows, and Elizabeth Lever also deserve thanks for staffing a Sierra Club booth at the Fair.

Finally, the parking lot fundraiser could not occur without the generous permission of our landlord, Joe Abbin. Joe's business, Motor Head Mart, no longer has regular business hours, but books and other vehicle-oriented gifts can be still be obtained on a mail-order basis.)

Thank you one and all!