Environmental Principles

by Wesley Leonard

From time to time, it's useful to reflect on the basic principles that form the foundation of the modern environmental movement. The two most important seem to be John Muir's notion of a "web of life," and Aldo Leopold's "land ethic."

Muir believed that human beings are part of an interdependent "web of life on earth." He argued that humans are biologically speaking, bound to know the natural history of the planet in order to sustain the planet's life-support systems. As Muir frequently said, "When we try to pick anything out of the mass of interrelated forms of life, we find that all are interdependent upon every other."

Leopold was thinking of the "web of life" when he wrote of a "land ethic" dealing with our treatment of the land, water, plants, animals, or collectively, the land. Leopold's land ethic changes the role of man from conqueror of the land community, to its member and citizen of it. It implies respect for its fellow members, and also respect for the community as a whole. To live by his ethic, man must use nature with a spirit of stewardship that will leave untouched and untainted, enough resources for future life forms and human generations. He believed that we must temper our aspirations and limit our ambitions to what the land can support without being damaged. Protecting the environment is a responsibility that all must share. The land ethic calls upon us to use resources in a way that both acknowledges our responsibility and renews our environment.

We should not allow the cost of a tainted environment to be imposed on innocent life forms or future generations. We must see the intrinsic value in our continued survival as a species, and not as a temporary or accidental occurrence. The future of our species is tied to the future of our environment. And the future of our environment is tied to the future of our species. The future of our world is tied to the future of our environment. And the future of our environment is tied to the future of our world.

The Back Page

MEMBERSHIP FORM

☐ Yes, I want to and I want to help maintain our nation's precious natural heritage. My check is enclosed.

Name

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City/State/Zip

☐ Gift Membership: Please complete the information below and I will forward the gift along with this form.

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MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

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The 101st Congress and the Environment

A wrap-up of legislative efforts from the Sierra Club's National News Report

The 101st Congress ended in late October after a session that provided both good news and bad news for the environment. Congress passed two long awaited improvements - an historic new Clean Air Act and a substantial improvement of oil spill liability law.

On the other hand, Congress rejected a proposal to give states more authority over the cleanup of contaminated facilities operated by the departments of Defense and Energy.

Environmentalists made some progress in their continuing efforts to preserve America's endangered wild lands. Congress granted new protection for various wilderness areas around the country, including Alaska's Tongass National Forest. However, Congress failed to provide permanent protection for the California desert and other proposed areas.

Congress turned back efforts to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska to oil and gas development. Congress also refused to accelerate the logging of ancient forests in the Pacific Northwest and California.

Environmentalists efforts to reduce global warming, acid precipitation, and the nation's dependence on foreign oil took a blow when Congress failed to require automakers to improve automobile fuel efficiency.

Election Day Success in New Mexico

All candidates endorsed by Chapter are victorious

by Pat Penfield and Kevin Bixby

In contrast to defeats suffered by environmental candidates and initiatives in other states, an astounding 100 percent of the candidates endorsed by the Chapter and its groups won their elections.

Particularly encouraging was the victory of the three candidates endorsed by the Chapter for state offices: Bruce King (Governer), Jim Baca (State Land Commissioner), and Tom Udall (State Attorney General). The election of this majority green slate should bode well for New Mexico's environment.

The grassroots effort to return Democrat Jim Baca to the post of state land commissioner met with stunning success, particularly in the southern part of the state. Before the election, Baca had said that he would be satisfied to avoid losing Las Cruces and Doña Ana County by more than 5,000 votes. Instead, a vigorous volunteer effort neutralized the spending advantage of Baca's opponent, and resulted in Baca winning 59 percent of the vote and carrying the county by more than 5,000 votes.

Baca even beat a number of Republic strongholds, demonstrating that he was a good candidate and "green" issue to overcome partisan loyalties.

Unfortunately, a constitutional amendment to give the state land commissioner a lieutenancy to make land trades was defeated. It is not certain how this will effect Baca's ability to make such trades.

Clean Air

The new clean air law is a major victory for the environment and public health. President Bush provided some of the momentum for the bill, but also worked with industry to attempt to weaken key environmental features of the bill.

The new bill will help clean up our skies and protect Americans' health.
Legislation (continued from page 1)
by reducing air pollution. The 1990 Clean Air Act will:
- reduce acid rain by cutting emissions from coal-burning power plants in half;
- reduce urban smog by cutting pollution from new cars, buses, and trucks in the mid-
- require oil companies to sell cleaner gasoline in America's most polluted cities;
- limit industrial pollutants that can cause cancer, birth defects, and other serious health
- eliminate the production and use of chemicals which deplete the upper ozone layer.
As a result of these successes, the next bill will largely be determined by the effectiveness of state and local governments in implementing specific pollution and transportation strategies. The House-Senate conference committee dropped a provision that would have protected visibility in Western national parks by requiring the cleanup of regional haze.

Tens of Thousand Dead
Deadline for March Sierra
January 15, 1991

As you drive through the National Wildlife Refuge system.

National Wildlife Refuge... No Sanctuary
by Jayne Cylon

Several miles from the town where I grew up was a national wildlife refuge. To me, it was up one from my hometown ever since I visited the refuge, with one exception. Every autumn the big men who shoot little birds would go to town and head for the refuge to bag away at the sandhill cranes that used to roost on a rock on their journey south. The local paper always featured a photograph of some tough guys holding a sandhill crane up for the camera, its wings spread out, its head lolling to one side.

The word "refuge" means safety, a resting place away from danger. When the sandhill cranes have "refuges" implies that these are protected areas where migratory birds, endangered species, and many common species can stop on their journeys to rest and feed, or where the animals can live without being threatened. No such place exists.

Under the National Wildlife Refuge Administration Act, any use deemed "compatible" with wildlife is allowed on a refuge. What this means is that the refuge isn't totally protected in the hopes of strengthening it. It is likely that a similar bill will be introduced next session, and we need to urge our congressmen to make sure any wildlife refuge reform bill contains:
- a citizen suit provision;
- a petition process for reviewing compatibility decisions;
- alternative refuge planning and a time period for reviewing sanctuary use.

Visit the refuges near you. Ask questions. Look around. Let the refuge managers, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and your congressional delegation know if you see activity on a refuge that is harming the habitat and the wildlife.

Jayne Cylon is a freelance writer for the Sierra Club.

Deadwood's
The General Accounting Office found in 1989 that the Fish and Wildlife Service
was unable to "resist external pressures in its management of"...

101st Congress
Congress also added protection of legislation to permanently protect the Arctic Refu-

Sens. William Roth (R-DE) and Bill Bradley (D-NJ), and Rep. Morris Udall (D-
AD), introduced legislation to permanently protect the Arctic buffer zone. Sen. Johnson, along with Reps. Don Young (R-AK) and Walter Jones (D-NC), introduced bills that would establish a new Arctic national wildlife refuge.

Legislation to open the Arctic refuge to oil and gas development did pass the Senate Energy Committee. But, in the waning days of the session, Congress debated defeated attempts by Sen. Murkowski to attach pre-

California Desert
The Senate blocked action on legislation that would have accelerated the cleanup of contaminated nuclear weapons facilities. Environmentalists wanted states to have the authority to use the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act to force federal facilities to clean up their toxic waste.

The House did pass an enforcement bill, originally introduced by Rep. Dennis Eckart (D-CA), 380-39. Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell (D-ME) introduced the Senate version and pushed it through the Environment Committee. Unfortunately, Mitchell ran out of time to overcome the opposition of the Bush administration before the session ended.

Sen. J. Bennett Johnston (D-LA) is expected to introduce a non-enforcement bill in the next Congress to compete with the Eckart-Mitchell bill.

Oil spills
In the aftermath of the Exxon Valdez oil spill, Congress created a new oil spill liability law that establishes:

- high liability limits for carriers responsible for oil spills;
- a federal law that does not take precedence over state laws that have higher liability limits;
- a requirement that all oil tankers be double-hulled and that older tankers be recon-

Tongass National Forest
Passage of this new law ends a decades-old fight over environmentally unsafe and economically unsound logging practices in the nation's largest national forest. Sens. TimothyWirth (D-CO) and Johnston, and Rep. George Miller (D-CA), pushed this legislation forward through the opposition of pro-timber senators Frank Murkowski (R-AK) and Ted Stevens (R-AK). The new Tongass bill:

- prohibits timber cutting on over 3 million acres of the forest, of which 296,000 acres
- would be designated as wilderness;
- protects major fishing and spawning streams by creating 100-foot "buffers zones;
- protects migratory and hunting habitats;
- protects migratory and hunting habitats;
- requires the Forest Service to spend over 50% of the Tongass revenue for forest health and management purposes; and
- requires that the Forest Service enforce the new law by requiring logging contracts in line with the short-term

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
Congress defeated efforts by President Bush and the oil industry to open the 1.5-

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
The refuge was a major victory for environmentalists and those who understand the importance of preserving wilderness areas and the wildlife that live there.

Congressional budget/march Sierra
January 15, 1991

The Sierra Club is printed on 100 percent post-con-

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- a citizen suit provision;
- a petition process for reviewing compatibility decisions;
- alternative refuge planning and a time period for periodic revaluation of sanctuary use;
- a damages provision.

Visit the refuges near you. Ask questions. Look around. Let the refuge managers, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and your congressional delegation know if you see activity on a refuge that is harming the habitat and the wildlife.

Jayne Cylon is a freelance writer for the Sierra Club.

The General Accounting Office found in 1989 that the Fish and Wildlife Service...
Banana peels, coffee grounds, and plutonium

New NRC policy turns low-level radioactive waste into ordinary garbage

By Maurice Weigstein, M.D.

By the stroke of a pen, low-level radioactive waste may be transformed into ordinary dirt under a new policy of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). Last July, the NRC announced that it would deregulate the disposal of certain low-level radioactive wastes "on a case-by-case basis" from nuclear power plants, laboratories, hospitals, and other facilities if radioactive emissions are deemed "below regulatory concern" (BRC).

Under the new policy, low-level radioactive wastes could enter landfills, be incinerated, flushed down the toilet, or be recycled and used in a manufac-
ture of consumer products. Currently, such wastes generated in New Mexico are sent to a disposal site in Nevada.

Federal law would preempt any state effort to outlaw this pernicious policy. It is ironic that this policy shift comes at a time when the National Academy of Sciences, the International Com-
mision on Radiation, and most independent scientific groups contend that the health effects of radiation have been understated by 3 to 10 times.

NRC out of step with medical profession

While the NRC and the Department of Energy (DOE) insist that the public need not worry about "acceptable", "safe" or "threshold doses", a growing number of independent scientists now believe that even small doses of radiation may be harmful. Doctor Hansen of the Environmental Surveillance group of Los Alamos has stated that any amount of radiation carries a risk proportional to the amount of exposure. The prominent epidemiologist, Dr. Alice Stewart, has concluded that a single x-ray exposure to the embryo during pregnancy increases the incidence of cancer and leukemia by 25 percent. NRC is the natural background radia-
tion to which we are all exposed a harm-
less matter. Stewart has demonstrated an increased cancer risk in children from terrestrial and cosmic radiation.

New policy based on old fallacies

Readers should be aware of the public's ignorance of radioactive waste. Costs and these fallacies:

- It is only low-level waste that will be deregulated. Wrong. Low-level radioactive waste is not low-risk. It contains the same dangerous long-lived radioactive ele-
ments as high-level waste—plutonium, strontium 90, cesium 137, iodine 129—that are harmful to hundreds, thousands, even millions of years.
- It's only a little risk, no more than an occasional cigarette or an extra ounce of albaud. Wrong. It is not so much the in-
dividual risk to the public health as spreading these poisons to even larger population groups. The real issue is the im-
position of risks without informed consent or significant benefits. Ten thou-
sand chemical and radioactive pollutants of varying toxicity levels could increase mortality significantly, even if each im-
pairs only a small risk of one death per 100,000 infants or children per year.

- Dilution is the solution to pollution. Wrong. There has been massive con-
tamination of land, water supplies, and air through this pernicious doctrine around all of the defense and nuclear plants and national labs. The cardinal rule of abso-
ute containment of radioactive waste has been lost. BRC guidelines, and the future toll in human misery and genetic defects has yet to be calculated.

- Low-level waste is simply bottom and garbage. Wrong. Again, as much as 80 percent of low-level waste comes from commercial nuclear plants and consists of contamin-
ed pipes, tools, filters, sludges, oils, soils, concrete. Eco-

mics is the driving force of this new, dangerous policy, and the trade-off is human lives and environmental harm.

What You Can Do

There are actions that can be taken now:
- Contact the Santa Fe-based Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety at (505) 896-1973 and sign their petitions.
- Write to your congressional repre-
sentatives and urge them to co-sponsor H.R. 5505 and S.2790, legislative efforts to reverse the BRC policy. Rep. Bill Richardson is an active and articulate supporter of these efforts.
- Our own Environmental Improve-
ment Division should be encouraged to oppose the BRC policy and to urge radioactive materials from being dumped into landfills.
- Call the Nuclear Information and Re-
source Service (1-900-226-4760) toob-
tain an information packet and have an actiongram in your name sent to the appropriate state and local government projects are covered.

The NM Prehistoric and Historic Sites Preservation Act is very good law, and much needed in a state like ours where our unique cultural heritage is one of our greatest educational and economic assets. It is\nrecently very worked well in efforts to es-
blish Peneghy National Monuments while simultaneously allowing Unser Boulevard planning to go forward. A determination was made by the State Historic Preservation Officer that the Un
eroadway project is consistent with the test of Section 11-8-7. We need to retain this excellent law to minimize impacts from the design of Unser Boule-
vard and Paseo del Norte where those long-craved north-south highways would cut through Pueblo 
biejona's Great National Monument. The low sapplica-
tion, however, is statewide, and will continue to serve New Mexico's heritage beneficially if kept on the books.

What you can do

Please make a commitment to write and/or call your State representative, sena-
tor, and Governor/Guarner Cartumara. The mailing address for all three is State Capitol, Santa Fe, NM 87505. The legislature's switchboard is 984-9300, and the Governor's Office is 827-5000.

You are aware of your legislators' names, call the County Voter Registrar's Office (Bernalillo is 766-4805; Sandoval is 867-2209; Santa Fe is 984-3089). In your words, convey your support for the NM Prehistoric and Historic Sites Preservation Act. You might mention that:

This Act helps preserve our prehistoric heritage which is so valuable as an educa-
tional resource for our secondary school and university students.

This Act helps protect the very cultural sites which attract tourists here and is of great importance to our economy. Tourism in our state accounts for nearly 50,000 jobs and $2 billion in revenues.

The Act has served New Mexico well in reinforcing the 4-lane roadway design for Unser Boulevard and the project alter-
native of least harm to Peneghy Na-

tional Monument. Its application has not stopped the construction of this West Side Road. Transportation and reserva-
tion needs have been balanced and simul-
taneously served, proving that the Act is very good law and should be retained.

Legislators threaten to repeal Cultural Sites Act

by Ike Eastwood

The New Mexico State Legislature convenes in Santa Fe this January to hold its longest session in 50 years. Several bills might have a gratifying effect on the National Monument. The low sapplica-
tion, however, is statewide, and will continue to serve New Mexico's heritage beneficially if kept on the books.

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Conservation Committee Report

The Chapter Conservation Committee (CCC) met most recently in Socorro on September 29. Eight members were in attendance. Highlights from the meeting in-
clude:

National Sierra Club priorities

The Club recently sought the input of its chapters and groups as to how it should allocate resources at the national level. The CCC recommended that the Club continue all of its existing campaigns. For new cam-
paigns with primarily a federal focus, the CCC recommended that the Club emphasize the rehab of the 1872 Mining Act, cleanup of contaminated sites, historic preservation, biodiversity, and wildlife refuge reform, in that or-
der. Among new issues with primarily a state focus, the CCC gave equal priority to municipal solid waste management pro-
grams, and reauthorization and implementa-
tion of the Resources Conservation and Recovery Act to manage toxic wastes.

New Mexico Environmental Policy Act

Dave Bouque of Albuquerque is spear-
heading Sierra Club involvement in efforts to support the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) draft and passed. California's "little NEPA" is being examined as a model.

Hurley copper mines

It is estimated that a new proces-
s is being used to extract copper from tailings. Effluents from the process is appar-
ently polluting the Gila River.

State Transportation Authority (STA) bonds

The STA now has revenue bonding au-
thority and is considering a number of road-
road projects, at least one of which appears to be a scheme to subsidize coal-mining in San Juan County. A bill to provide state guarantees for STA bonds will be intro-
duced in the next legislative session and should be given a hard look by environment-
alis.

The next meeting of the Conservation Committee is scheduled for January, 1991.
New Mexico Forest Re-Leaf Act Passed
Trees available soon for conservation plantings

by George Grossman

Last February, the New Mexico Legislature passed the New Mexico Forest Re-Leaf Act. "The purpose of this Act is to improve the quality of life by encouraging and arranging for the planting of trees throughout the State," the legislation was sponsored by the Sierra Club. We wrote to Governor Cassiar urging him to sign the bill. He did sign it, but probably because it was good legislation, not because we asked.

The legislation assigned implementation responsibility to the Forestry Division of the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department. In addition, it created the Conservation Planting Revolving Fund for the purpose of "purchasing, selling, and distributing trees to New Mexico residents, schools, civic or community groups or other landowners, in an effort to conserve or enhance the environment's natural beauty." The fund is to consist of money appropriated by the Legislature and all receipts from the sale of trees for conservation planting. No more than 20 percent of this fund can be granted free to groups or individuals.

The Forestry Division is now developing the rules, procedures, forms, etc. that will guide grants for or donations of trees. The Division is also developing the criteria that will be used to approve or deny requests for grants or donations of trees. The fund is also available to schools, universities, and soil and water conservation programs, and civic groups will be encouraged to apply for grants and purchase trees.

The Act also provides for the Establishment Advisory Committee to be appointed by the State Forester, and the State Forester hereby recommends to the Division that the Adelanto Forest should be included as part of the Act and the Revolving Fund. It is to be composed of one member from the State Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, one member from the Soil and Water Conservation Commission, and two members from the New Mexico Association of Nursery Industries, two members from nonprofit environmental organizations, and other persons that the State Forester selects by virtue of their expertise.

The Act also provides for the establishment of a revolving fund to provide funds for the acquisition and distribution of trees. The fund will be used to purchase trees and distribute them to the public. The fund will also be used to promote the planting of trees in the State. The fund will be managed by the Forestry Division and will be used to purchase and distribute trees to eligible recipients.

There are several provisions in the Act that are designed to ensure the long-term survival and health of the trees. First, the Act requires that the trees be planted in areas that are suitable for their growth. Second, the Act requires that the trees be planted in areas that are free from soil erosion. Third, the Act requires that the trees be planted in areas that are free from pollution. Fourth, the Act requires that the trees be planted in areas that are free from fire.

The Act also requires that the trees be distributed to the public at a reasonable cost. The cost of the trees will be determined by the Forestry Division and will be based on the cost of the trees, the cost of the distribution, and the cost of the administration.

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101st Congress

would have provided substantial protection for forests. Congress made progress on such legislation, but failed to enact a comprehensive bill that would have provided meaningful protection for endangered forests.

Wilderness

Congress passed new bills to protect millions of acres of wilderness in Arizona, Illinois, Maine, and Nevada. The new bills, however, did not pass, bills to protect endangered wilderness in Idaho, Montana, Utah, Colorado, California, and North Carolina.

Sen. James McClure (R-ID) and Rep. James Hansen (R-UT) introduced the Wilderness Restoration Act (WRA) to try to get the Forest Service out of the wilderness business, and to ensure that the Forest Service no longer had to make wilderness determinations.

Water Rights

Two major victories were scored for protecting water resources within wilderness areas when state and federal wilderness bills for both Nevada and Arizona were passed. The state Water Act required that water rights be reserved to water right holders, and required that water rights be reserved to water use holders. The national Forest Service also agreed to respect water rights, and to keep federal reserve water rights.

ED McMahon, where are you?

As part of the Sierra Club's 1992 Centennial Program, a group of public lands activists gathered in San Francisco during the November "Circus" to develop a timetable for moving the endorsement process forward. Former Club President Pete Finnestad is leading the campaign to raise around $35 million to provide about $250,000 in yearly earnings to the American Forest Trust. Separate endorsement funds will be established for various program areas such as Forest Management, Mining, Wildlife Management, Public Lands Litigation, Colorado Planning, etc.

Big magnet attracts interest

The Defiant Nuclear Agency is looking at several options, and it is planning to build a high-tech energy storage facility. The "Superconducting Magnetic Energy Storage Test Model" will be used to evaluate the feasibility of storing electrical energy in magnetic fields surrounding large superconducting coils, sized for the size of a football field.

The facility will occupy roughly 160 acres and will produce 10 megawatts of electricity at its core. DNA officials claim that there is no convincing evidence for significant risks to human health or the environment associated with the low-level magnetic field at the fringe of such a facility.

Owls need letters

The Fish and Wildlife Service is considering listing the Mexican spotted owl as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act. The agency received a petition to list the owl last December (1989). A final determination concerning the petition is expected in 1991. The input is being sought from interested parties. Comments can be sent to: FWS, Mexican Spotted Owl Team, P.O. Box 65, 200 Pan-American Highway, NE Suite D, Albuquerque, NM 87107.

Eco-investors back to work for year-round farm bill

The 1990 Farm Bill will require farmers to maintain records on the use of pesticide. However, Environmentalists were defeated in their efforts to adopt the "circle of defense" provisions, which would have limited the export of pesticides that are banned or unregistered in the United States.

The Farm Bill also required the Agriculture Department to review the effectiveness of the program in the third year of the proposal after the first year. Rich Lugar (R-IN) led opposition efforts to block the bill's provisions. Rain Forests

Pressure from environmental groups and Congress caused the World Bank to start setting aside high-quality wetlands from crop production.

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The project grew out of the need to provide the SDI ("Star Wars") program with the high-speed, high-energy DNA officials are now emphasizing potential commercial applications of the technology. DNA is also being considered.

Sierra Club plans boycott

The Sierra Club Board of Directors approved a plan at its September meeting to boycott tropical hardwoods from countries that do not practice sustainable forestry. The boycott would target wood from countries that have allowed deforestation of at least two-thirds of their original forests, or that have protected less than three percent of their national territory. The campaign will include an effort to enact legislation requiring that tropical hardwoods imported to the U.S. be labeled as to country of origin and species.
Forest issues workshop held
by Kevin Bixby

A workshop on National Forest issues was held on December 1 in Las Cruces. The all-day event attracted more than 40 activists, including members from the El Paso, Southern New Mexico, and Santa Fe groups of the Sierra Club.

The workshop was presented by regional Wilderness Society representative Jen Norcon and regional Audubon Society representative David Henderson, and Forest Guardian director Sam Hilt. Topics included: history of the Forest Service and forest planning, an overview of laws governing forest management, the policies of National Forest management, active grassroots models, and how to approach a Forest Service decision.

Among the highlights of the workshop were the following:

- The Forest Service has consistently misinterpreted the diversity and reforestation provisions of the National Forest Management Act (NFMA).
- Every National Forest in New Mexico loses money on its timber sales programs.
- More than one million acres of National Forest roadless areas were denigrated Wilderness protection by the 1980 New Mexico Wilderness Act, but could be protected in the future.
- In appealing Forest Service decisions, it is critical to act within agency-set deadlines. In the case of timber sales, the Forest Service allows 45 days after appeal to publish its decision in a local newspaper.
- The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) provides a powerful tool for appealing Forest Service decisions. Activists can use NEPA to clearly demonstrate that an environmental impact statement is inadequate.

- The only current mechanism available to activists to appeal to the Forest Service's decision is to file a complaint with the Forest Service. Activists are urged to get on the mailing lists for these areas and keep abreast of important developments. Please forward information to the Sierra for publication in this column.

- Apache National Forest (1,604,000 acres in NM)
- Black Canyon National Park (1,090,000 acres in NM)
- El Paso National Forest (2,700,000 acres in NM)
- Flagstaff National Forest (2,000,000 acres in NM)
- Guadalupe National Forest (6,000,000 acres in NM)
- Jemez National Forest (1,500,000 acres in NM)
- Kewa National Forest (1,000,000 acres in NM)
- Lincoln National Forest (5,000,000 acres in NM)
- Santa Fe National Forest (1,500,000 acres in NM)
- Tiffany National Forest (500,000 acres in NM)
- Tohono O'odham National Park (500,000 acres in NM)
- U. S. Forest Service
- U.S. Department of Agriculture

Activities Needed

There are seven national forests and one national grassland located within the boundaries of the Río Grande-Chihuahua Transboundary Watershed. Readers are urged to get on the mailing lists for these areas and keep abreast of important developments. Please forward information to the Sierra for publication in this column.
Santa Fe
Santa Fe National Forest. The Santa Fe Group is actively involved in several issues on the Santa Fe National Forest. For more information, see the National Forest Report on page 4.

Ole Powerline. The Sierra Club lost a court case to require that an Environmental Impact Statement be prepared for the proposed PNM high-voltage powerline. If built, the line will run from Las Alamos to Colorado across the Jemez Mountains. Our attorney is now looking at grounds for an appeal. There is also potential to open up a new front against the line when PNM applies for a certificate of need from the Public Service Commission.

Copper Pinyon Mine Update. Mining continues on the 33-acre site off Highway 4 just past the children. The company's application to seize 700 acres of the Santa Fe National Forest is being processed by BLM but it appears that controversy about the claim has caused BLM to proceed slowly and meticulously. Representative Bill Richardson has promised to introduce legislation in Congress to protect the area from seizure. The Santa Fe Group opposes Richardson's efforts and wants to see as much as 100,000 acres designated as a National Recreation Area. For more information contact Helen Hunt at 943-2703.

Santa Fe-Los Alamos Atomic Site. The Santa Fe Group submitted comments on the supplemental EIS on November 16. If built, the project would be the first to be approved by the Rio Grande at one of four places yet to be determined. We feel that need for the project has not been adequately documented.

Jack Kennedy. Everyone was shocked and saddened to hear of the death of Jack Kennedy on Saturday, Nov. 3rd. Jack was one of our strongest environmental workers. (Editor's note: Jack's obituary appears on page 13.)

Osaing Leaders Workshop. On Nov. 3, the Santa Fe Airport led a workshop at the Santa Fe airport, our hope to be a yearly workshop for our leaders. Notor Sperchick, My Karen Black, Joe Winkler, and our leaders, the National Outdoors Council, Linda Bucher, Lexi, and Pam and Norma McCullin gave presentations on the various topics selected. The workshop concludes on September 15th. The next workshop is for the NCC of group on the issues.

Air Quality. The Group scored a major victory on the El Paso Transit Authority is determined to implement a new tower program.

Group Elections. Seeking terms on the Group executive committee are Ted Metzger, Jo Ann Dunaz, Judy Smith, Bill Rohr- dinger, and Gary Williams. Tod, Jo Ann, and Gary are each seeking reelection.

Meetings and Members. Our monthly general meetings continue to be a great success with an average of 60 to 100 people in attendance. Group membership is at a record 690 members.

Southern New Mexico
Timber Sale Tour. Thirteen Sierra Club members from the Southern New Mexico and El Paso Groups visited the proposed timber sale areas in the Gila National Forest in October. For more information about these sales, see the National Forest Report on page 6.

Solid Waste Recycling. In an effort to influence the course of solid waste management in the region, the Group nominated Kevin Bisco as a candidate on an issue that will add cost and energy and may offset the solid waste and recycling matters.

Baca Programme. Newly-elected state land commissioner Jim Baca supported the new electoral success in the state. Agreement in large part to the efforts of the Group, and particularly to the tireless leadership of Group Chair Pat Penfield. Group members and supporters have been prominent in the cleanup work, planning, signing, funding, and drawing and some on election day "street theater" with the result that Baca carried the county by more than 5,000 votes.

Southwest Environmental Center. The Group voted to request permission to affiliate with the Southwest Environmental Center. Several members have participated in effort to get the Center off the ground.

Student Council. A Sierra Club student group has formed on the New Mexico State University campus. In addition to participating in SMM Group events, the new group has enthusiastically planned its own outings and programs.

Group Elections are now in progress. Ben Zansky, Norman Sturman, Susan Somm, Ann McMillan, Berry Purnell, and Jame McCullin are each seeking reelection.

Meetings and Members. Our monthly general meetings continue to be a great success with an average of 60 to 100 people in attendance. Group membership is at a record 690 members.

Albuquerque
Recycling. Group members participated on and with the Mayor's Recycling Advisory Committee in drafting up policies for source reduction and recycling for the city of Albuquerque. The Committee's recommendations support the general goal of diverting at least 25 percent of the waste from landfills by 1992 and 50 percent by 1995. Councillor Hess Penfield has written two bills to support source reduction and create a curbside recycling program. These are important moves and momentum is building for strong city ordinances.

Transit. Our group is working with the city and city council to promote public transportation with special emphasis on alternative uses for commuters traveling from the West side to the East side.

Energy. Ralph Wrona, our Energy Chair, attended Senator Jeff Bingaman's public forum on emergency energy issues.

Water Issues. Water quality chair, Lesley Amsden, attended a conference on water quality issues. An impressive list of water quality issues and the Environment Planning Council, the Mayor, and the Environmental Planning Committee urging them to reject the political 30-foot median design of Unser, and build the road in a true parkway. Please write to Councillor Pauline Gobert, Chairman of the Land Use, Planning and Zoning Committee (LUrz), with copies to Mayor Louis Safar and Barbara Swindel, Chairman of the Environmental Planning Commission (EPC). Your letter to LURz Chairman Gobert and letters to the EPC and Mayor can be directed to: City of Albuquerque, P.O. Box 7293, Albuquerque, NM 87105. In your own words, oppose Public Work Design for Unser South using these and other thoughts:

- Public Works' design is inconsistent with the parkway standards required for Unser Boulevard, and the city's first real parkway, and the city's and Public Works Department policies and recommendations require the road to be at least 20 feet wide, with a centerline "a median limited to the width necessary for turning lanes."
- The City Council wanted it to be. "a street in a zone of development, a 30-foot median and the city's standard for maintenance of travel lanes for landscaping, noise mitigation with center lines, and a trail for recreational use.

At the southern terminus of Rinconada Canyon, for example, Public Works' rigid insistence on a 30-foot median eliminates any landscaping on the east side of Unser precisely where it would most efficiently address the visual impact on the town.

But this year, the City's Public Works Department is designing the southern segment of Unser with an inflexible 30-foot median width, thereby leaving plenty of room for further expansion to skyline from the lane first named.

The citizens have "gone under attack.

Unser Parkway under attack
by Ike Eastwood

Ever since conservation and neighborhood groups proposed the Albuquerque City Council last year to make Unser Boulevard, the city's first real parkway, developers and their Public Works Department allies have been trying to undermine the four-lane uner, a 30-foot travel lane on which both sides of the street are designed for roadways, and one-way roads on both sides of the street. These efforts have been to completely expand it to six lanes. Thanks to forceful public opposition, that move was defeated.

But this year, the City's Public Works Department is designing the southern segment of Unser with an inflexible 30-foot median width, thereby leaving plenty of room for further expansion to skyline from the lane first named. The citizens have "gone under attack on the east side of Unser precisely where it would most efficiently address the visual impact on the town. Public Works' rigid insistence on a 30-foot median eliminates any landscaping on the east side of Unser precisely where it would most efficiently address the visual impact on the town.

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The Bulletin Board

Legislation
(continued from page 7)

tion stating that U.S. policy shall encourage the governments of Malaysia and Japan to preserve and protect the indigenous peoples and tropical forests of Sarawak, Malaysia.

International Lending
Congress approved a new program whereby Latin America can exchange their $7 billion debt to the United States for environmental protections in their countries. Latin American governments can pay a sum equal to their current interest payments into environmental funds. The funds will then be managed by local environmentalists for use on conservation projects.

Congress passed new legislation directing the Treasury Department to be more aggressive in seeking environmental changes at international banks. Congress also directed the Treasury Department to submit reports evaluating each multilateral development bank program for energy, forestry, and debt-for-nature swaps. Congress instructed the Treasury Department to pursue strong environmental programs as part of the creation of the new Eastern European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Population
Congress increased funding for international population assistance from $250 million to $330 million. Although environmentalists had pushed for $500 million to meet the population stabilization goal of the U.N. Population Fund, they were encouraged by the leadership of Sen. Leahy and Rep. David Obey (D-WI).

The $60 million addition represented the first increase in real dollars in six years, and was the largest increase of any non-military foreign aid account. With the present explosive rate of population growth, environmentalists say that an annual increase of $70 million through the year 2000 is needed to provide the necessary family planning.

Wolf Exhibit comes to Albuquerque
A major exhibit entitled "Wolves and Humans: Coexistence, Competition, and Conflict" has opened at the New Mexico Natural History Museum in Albuquerque. The exhibit has circulated among the nation's most prestigious museums since 1985. It will be in Albuquerque until April 14.

Visitors will be treated to stuffed wolves, howling books, video and computer presentations of wolf behavior and ecology, and wolf-related human artifacts. A special section of the exhibit will be dedicated to the Mexican wolf and its reintroduction.

Additional events include Mexican wolf reintroduction opinion polls, a lecture by Jim Barham (author of "Vivir con Lobos: Wolf in the Southwest") on January 22, a one-day symposium entitled "New Mexico and the Lobo" on February 9, and a variety of children's events. For more information, call 841-9837.

TOTAL ECLIPSE OF THE SUN JULY 11, 1991
Tropical Adventures announces THE ULTIMATE CAR CAMP
CARAVAN with TROPICAL ADVENTURES to view the seven minute total eclipse of the sun. We will rendezvous in the Sonoran Thursday, July 4, 1991. Our group of happy campers will travel 100 miles down the Baja Peninsula to a gorgeous beach south of La Paz, BCS, Mexico to view the event.

BASIC OUTLINE: Off to Ensenada for last minute shopping. San Quintin for our first night on the beach. A late lunch at the Eagle on the ocean side. Across the peninsula to Bahia Conception. Two days in La Paz for provisioning. Four days on a fabulous secluded white sand beach. The last night on the north coast. Kick back in San Carlos. Fishing, snorkeling!

NORTHBOUND—A stop at a desert zoo, hot springs, and mountain pools. A side trip into a simulated national park for two days of relaxation. The long haul north with a farewell party at the Baladera.

TRAVEL, RELAX, EXPLORE as we are destined for adventure. Bring your small motorhome or truck and join us for two weeks of good food, beachs, swimming, stargazing, fishing, shopping, off the beaten track adventure. Not designed to pamper, although we will stay in a few campgrounds along the way. We will return to the USA the morning of July 25th.

SEND BAJA ECLIPSE TOUR INFO TO:
Name __________________________
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