

The Back Page

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 kin to all living things, bound to them in a mutual dependence based upon a finite pool of resources. He felt that to survive, we must develop a recognition of the inherent value of all of nature and understand that such a recognition is of practical value to humans. He knew that the diversity of life is a product of evolutionary adaptations to natural changes on earth. These adaptations have coalesced over the years to form the earth's ecosystems which aid in stabilizing the planet's life-support systems. Or as Muir frequently said, "when we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe."

Aldo Leopold was thinking of the "web of life" when he wrote of a "land ethic" dealing with our treatment of soils, waters, plants, and animals—or collectively, the land. Leopold's ethic changes the role of man from conqueror of the land community, to plain member and citizen of it. It implies respect for its fellow-members, and also respect for the community as such. To live by his ethic, man must use nature with a spirit of stewardship that will leave, untouched and untainted, enough resources to sustain other life forms and human generations. He believed that we must temper our aspirations and limit our numbers to what the earth can support without being damaged. Protecting the environment is a responsibility all must share. The land ethic calls upon each of us to assume accountability for our role in reducing environmental problems.

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 all of nature and try to live in harmony with it. In today's world, we should in all our actions, "think globally, but act locally." Happy trails.

[Wes Leonard is Chair of the El Paso Group of the Sierra Club.]

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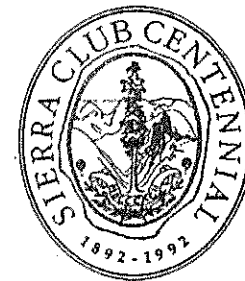
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The 101st Congress and the Environment

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 protect 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, air pollution, and the nation's dependence on foreign oil took a blow when Congress failed to require automakers to improve automobile fuel efficiency.

In rewriting the Farm Bill, Congress strengthened provisions to protect wetlands. Unfortunately, Congress defeated efforts to ban the import of foods grown in foreign countries and treated with pesticides banned in the United States.

Congress took several steps to halt the destruction of tropical rain forests and also pushed for environmental reforms of the lending practices of international banks. For the first time in six years, Congress raised U.S. funding for international family planning.

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
(continued on next page)

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 (Governor), Jim Baca (State Land Commissioner), and Tom Udall (State Attorney General.) The election of this mostly green triumvirate bodes 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 took a number of Republican strongholds, demonstrating the power of a good candidate and "green" issues to overcome partisan loyalties.

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

Inside: NRC Policy Change • Nat. Wildlife Refuge Reform • Tribute to Jack Kenney

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for February/March *Sierran*
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Please send submissions and letters to the editor to:
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Articles should be typed, or, better yet, on computer disk. Only very short handwritten submissions will be accepted. If submitting printed copy, try to avoid writing on it. That way, I can use a scanner rather than having to type it all over again.

PHOTOS NEEDED! B&W preferred, but good color photos will work.

Thanks to all the contributors to this issue.
-Kevin Bixby

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Legislation

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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-1990s;
- 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 ailments;
- eliminate the production and use of chemicals which deplete the upper ozone layer.

The success of the new 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.

Toxic Waste

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-OH), 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* disaster, Congress created a new oil spill liability law which establishes:

- high liability limits for carriers responsible for oil spills;
- that federal law does not take precedence over state laws that have higher liability limits and/or stricter standards of care;
- a billion-dollar fund to cover cleanup costs and compensatory damages exceeding the spiller's liability;
- a requirement that new oil tankers have double hulls and that older tankers be retrofitted with double hulls within 25 years; and,
- an audit of the Alaska pipeline system.

Tongass National Forest

Passage of this new law ends a decade-old fight over environmentally unsafe and economically unsound logging practices in the nation's largest national forest. Sens. Timothy Wirth (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 one million acres of the forest, of which 296,080 acres would be designated as wilderness;
- protects major fishing and spawning streams by creating 100-foot "buffer zones," where cutting is prohibited;
- ends taxpayer subsidies to logging operations by repealing the annual \$40 million Tongass appropriation for roadbuilding and other forest-intensive uses;
- repeals the required Tongass harvest level of 4.5 million board feet per decade; and,
- requires the Forest Service to bring two 50-year logging contracts in line with the short-term contracts used in the rest of the national forest system.

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

Congress defeated efforts by President Bush and the oil industry to open the 1.5 million-acre Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for oil and gas development. However,

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101st Congress

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Congress also blocked passage of legislation to permanently protect the Arctic Refuge.

Sens. William Roth (R-DE) and Bill Bradley (D-NJ), and Rep. Morris Udall (D-AZ), introduced legislation to permanently protect the Arctic Refuge. Sen. Johnston, along with Reps. Don Young (R-AK) and Walter Jones (D-NC), introduced bills that would open the Arctic for drilling.

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 defeated repeated attempts by Sen. Murkowski to attach pro-development legislation to other bills.

California Desert

Legislation to protect the fragile California desert was introduced by Rep. Mel Levine (D-CA) and Sen. Alan Cranston (D-CA) early in the 101st Congress. The California Desert Protection Act was stymied due to opposition by Sen. Pete Wilson (R-CA, and newly elected governor of California.) The legislation would have designated 81 wilderness areas, encompassing 4.5 million acres.

The legislation also would have expanded Joshua Tree and Death Valley national monuments, created a new 1.5 million-acre Mojave National Park, and designated approximately two-thirds of these proposed additions as wilderness.

Ancient Forests

Congress blocked several attempts to encourage the logging of ancient forests in the Pacific Northwest and California. The Senate rejected Sen. Bob Packwood's (R-OR) proposal that the Endangered Species Committee—the so-called "God Squad" address the question of whether the spotted owl should be exempt from the Endangered Species Act, thereby allowing ancient forest logging to continue for as long as ten years.

Both the Senate and House refused to consider proposals by Sen. Mark Hatfield (R-OR) and Rep. Les AuCoin (D-OR) to weaken forest protection laws. These changes would have increased the timber industry's power and drastically reduced citizens' rights to litigate over improper forest management and judges' power to stop illegal forestry practices.

Reps. James Jontz (D-IN) and Bruce Vento (D-MN) each introduced bills which

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National Wildlife Refuges... No Sanctuary

by Jana Oyler

Several miles from the town where I grew up was a national wildlife refuge. Almost no one from my hometown ever visited the refuge, with one exception. Every autumn the big men who shoot little birds would oil their weapons and head for the refuge to bang away at the sandhill cranes that used the refuge as a resting place on their long journey south. The local paper always featured a photograph of some tough guys holding a dead 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. The idea that wildlife 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 places exist.*

Under the National Wildlife Refuge Administration Act, any use deemed "compatible" with wildlife is allowed on a refuge. What this means is that most of the 400 refuges in 49 states are used for military bombing ranges, oil and gas drilling, mining, trapping, hunting, logging, grazing, boating, waterskiing, and/or off-road vehicle use. Needless to say, most if not all of these activities disturb habitat, disrupt animal behavior, and poison the land and water. The General Accounting Office found in 1989 that the Fish and Wildlife Service has been unable "to resist external pressures in its management of secondary uses" and that many of these secondary uses are harmful.

Kesterson NWR in California has such a build-up of toxics that wildlife there are dying. Stillwater NWR in Nevada is drying up due to inadequate water supplies, which are not protected by law. Orchard NWR in Illinois, Great Swamp NWR in New Jersey, and Wheeler NWR in Alabama contain Superfund toxic sites. If you have visited any of the refuges in New Mexico, you have

very likely seen overgrazed land and polluted water from livestock, and in the eastern part of the state you have seen dried-up wetlands and pollution from oil drilling.

Is there any hope?

The Fish and Wildlife Service, which administers the refuge system, is planning a series of public workshops around the country with the hopes of developing a programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the entire system. I will publicize the dates and places of any workshops anywhere near the Rio Grande Chapter. People who care about wildlife need to attend these workshops and speak up. You can be sure that the hunting and grazing lobby and spokespeople

for the extractive industries will be there.

In the last session of Congress, Rep. Gerry Studds (D-Mass) introduced H.R. 4948, which

The General Accounting Office found in 1989 that the Fish and Wildlife Service has been unable "to resist external pressures in its management of secondary uses [of refuges]" ...

would have changed the compatibility process to allow economic and recreational activities on refuges only if they are biologically sound. This was a weak bill that the Sierra Club nevertheless supported in the hopes of strengthening it. It is likely that a similar bill will be introduced next session, and we need to urge our congressional delegation to make sure any wildlife refuge reform bill contains:

- a citizen suit provision;
- a petition process for reviewing compatibility decisions;
- individual refuge planning and a timetable for periodic reevaluation of secondary uses; and,
- 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.

[Jana Oyler is Wildlife Issues Chair for the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club.]

Banana peels, coffee grounds, and plutonium

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

by Maurice Weisberg, 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 powerplants, 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 the manufacture 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 Science, the International Committee on Radiation, and most independent scientific groups contend that the health effects of radiation have been underestimated by 3 to 10 times.

NRC out of step with medical profession

While the NRC and the Department of Energy (DOE) continue to mislead the public with malarkey 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 at Los Alamos has stated that *any* amount of radiation carries a risk proportional to the amount of exposure. The preeminent 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.

Nor is the natural background radiation to which we are all exposed a harmless 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

Under the new policy, low-level radioactive wastes could enter landfills, be incinerated, flushed down the toilet, or be recycled and used in the manufacture of consumer products.

relation ploys of the NRC as it attempts to defend the new BRC policy. Consider these fallacies:

• *It is only low level waste that will be deregulated.* Wrong. Low-level radioactive waste is not low-risk. It can contain the same dangerous long-lived radioactive elements as high-level waste—plutonium, strontium 90, cesium 137, iodine 129—that are harmful for hundreds, thousands, even millions of years.

• *It's only a little risk, no more than an occasional cigarette or an extra ounce of blubber.* Wrong. It is not so much the individual risk as the public health aspects of spreading these poisons to ever larger population groups. The real issue is the imposition of risks without informed consent or significant benefits. Ten thousand chemical and radioactive pollutants of varying toxicity levels could increase mortality significantly, even if each imposed 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 contamination 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 absolute containment of radioactive waste has been largely ignored, and the future toll in human misery and genetic defects has yet to be calculated.

• *Low-level waste is simply booties and gloves and rags.* Wrong again. As much as 80 percent of low-level waste comes from commercial nuclear plants and consists of contaminated pipes, tools, filters, sludges, oils, soil, concrete. Economics 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) 986-1973 and sign their petitions.

• Write to your congressional representatives and urge them to co-sponsor H.R. 5505 and S 2979, legislative efforts to reverse the BRC policy. Rep. Bill Richardson is an active and articulate supporter of these efforts.

• Our own Environmental Improvement Division should be encouraged to oppose the BRC policy and to prohibit all radioactive materials from being dumped into landfills.

• Call the Nuclear Information and Resource Service ((1-900-226-4760)) to obtain an information packet and have an Actiongram in your name sent to your representative. There is a nominal cost of \$3.00 for the call.

Legislators threaten to repeal Cultural Sites Act

by Ike Eastvold

The New Mexico State Legislature convenes in Santa Fe this January to hold its longer 60-day session. Several of Albuquerque's West Side legislators have promised a tough campaign to abolish or otherwise weaken one of New Mexico's best pieces of environmental legislation. Without your early letters and phone calls, they may well succeed.

Called the New Mexico Prehistoric and Historic Sites Preservation Act, this bill is the closest thing New Mexico has to an Environmental Quality Act, although it targets only one part of our environment: cultural resources. The West Side legislators particularly take offense to Section 18-8-7 which they feel is being used to stop the construction of the Montano Bridge across the Rio Grande. This section prohibits the use of any public funds for a project which will involve a significant historic or prehistoric site unless there is no feasible and prudent alternative to such use, and unless all possible planning has been exhausted to minimize harm to the site. As a parallel to the Federal 4(f) process, our Prehistoric and Historic Sites Preservation Act picks up where Federal laws—which only apply to Federal lands and Federally-permitted projects—leave off: all State, City, County and other 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 tri-cultural history is one of our greatest educational and economic assets. It recently worked very well in efforts to establish Petroglyph National Monument while simultaneously allowing Unser Boulevard planning to go forward. A determination was made by the State Historic Preservation Officer that the 4-lane parkway design for Unser satisfied the test of Section 11-8-7. We need to retain this excellent law to minimize

impacts from the design of Unser Boulevard and Paseo del Norte where those highways would cut through Petroglyph National Monument. The law's application, 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, senator, and Governor Garrey Carruthers. The mailing address for all three is "State Capitol, Santa Fe, NM 87503." The legislature's switchboard is 984-9300, and the Governor's Office is 827-3000. If you are unsure of your legislators' names, call the County Voter Registrar's Office (Bernallilo is 768-4085; Sandoval is 867-2209; Santa Fe is 984-5089). In your own words, convey your support for the NM Prehistoric and Historic Sites Preservation Act. You might mention that:

• This Act helps preserve our tri-cultural heritage which is so valuable as an educational 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 parkway design for Unser Boulevard as the project alternative of least harm to Petroglyph National Monument. Its application has not stopped the construction of this West Side road. Transportation and preservation needs have been balanced and simultaneously served, proving that the Act is very good law and should be retained.

Conservation Committee Report

by Kevin Bixby

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

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 campaigns with primarily a federal focus, the CCC recommended that the Club emphasize reform of the 1872 Mining Act, cleanup of DOE/DOD facilities, protection of biodiversity, and wildlife refuge reform, in that order. Among new issues with primarily a state focus, the CCC gave equal priority to municipal solid waste management programs, and reauthorization and implementation of the Resources Conservation and Recovery Act to manage toxic wastes.

New Mexico Environmental Policy Act

Dave Bouquin of Albuquerque is spearheading Sierra Club involvement in efforts to get a state equivalent of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) drafted and passed. California's "little NEPA" is being examined as a model.

Hurley copper mines

The CCC was informed that a new process is being used to extract copper from tailings. Effluent from the process is apparently polluting the Gila River.

State Transportation Authority (STA) plans

The STA now has revenue bonding authority and is considering a number of railroad 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 introduced in the next legislative session and should be given a hard look by environmentalists.

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 the Act is to "help protect the environment and 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 Carruthers urging him to sign the bill. He did sign it, but probably because it was good legislation, not because we asked.

The Legislature 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's landowners, schools, civic or community groups or other organizations for conservation plantings or generally to protect or enhance the state's environment."

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. to be used when applying for grants or purchases of trees. The Division is also developing the criteria that they will use to approve or deny an application to receive and plant trees. Schools, universities, environmental education programs, and civic groups will be encouraged to apply for grants and purchases.

The Act also provided for a Tree Planting Advisory Committee to be appointed by the State Forester. This committee may recommend to the Division and to the State Forester how best to achieve the purposes 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, two members from the New Mexico Association of Nursery Industries, two members from nonprofit environmental organizations, and other persons that the State Forester wants to assist the Committee.

Rose Farrington and I are the Committee members representing the environmental community. Rose is with the Tree New Mexico organization and she has been elected chairperson of the Committee. The State Forestry Division will provide staff for the Committee.

All or nearly all of the trees used in the program will be furnished by independent garden centers (retail stores). The size of the trees to be planted will depend on the nature of the project. Although some trees may be seedlings, we envision that most will be fairly large. To help ensure the success of the projects, maintenance plans covering the first several years after planting will be required before a project can be approved.

Funding for the program must now be found since the Legislature did not appropriate any money for implementation. This past Congress approved two new federal programs that could help provide funding, but they will require State matching funds. One is called American the Beautiful; the other is an amendment to the Small Business Act.

Another proposed method of funding is to require that a percentage of all capital projects, including highways, be allocated to tree planting and maintenance. This would be similar to the existing method of funding art in public buildings.

Let your state senator and representative know that you want to see the Act and the Revolving Fund adequately funded. Not only will this allow us to make maximum use of available federal funds, but it will also let us begin to replace some of the trees civilization has found necessary to destroy.

[George Grossman is Co-chair of the Chapter's Conservation Committee.]

101st Congress

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would have provided substantial protection for forests. Congress made progress on such legislation, but failed to approve permanent protection for endangered ancient forests.

Wilderness

Congress passed new bills to protect millions of acres of wilderness in Arizona, Illinois, Maine, and Nevada. Congress considered, but 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) mounted an assault on the Wilderness Act itself by proposing that the Forest Service, not Congress, should make final wilderness determinations.

Water Rights

Two major victories were scored for protecting water resources within wilderness areas when statewide wilderness bills for both Nevada and Arizona expressly reaffirmed Congress' intent to reserve a water right. Attempts to designate wilderness without protecting federal reserve water rights

were all defeated.

Cason Nomination

The Senate turned back the nomination of James E. Cason for Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources and Environment. The office is one of the most environmentally sensitive because it oversees the National Forest System and the Conservation Service.

Cason served with the Interior Department under James Watt and had a record consistently favoring private development in the management of public lands. Cason asked that his name be withdrawn from consideration when Senate Energy Com-

mittee Chairman Johnston joined Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy (D-VT) in opposing the nomination.

Other Public Land Issues

Bills to reform the 1872 Mining Law were introduced, but did not pass. A one-year moratorium on mine patents, introduced by Sen. Dale Bumpers (D-AR), narrowly failed to be added to the Interior Appropriations bill.

President Bush proposed a 10-year moratorium on issuing offshore oil and gas leases in certain controversial areas. Congress then approved a one-year moratorium for those and other additional areas.

Fuel Efficiency

Despite overwhelming public pressure, Congress took no action to require automakers to improve their fleet's fuel efficiency 40 percent by the year 2001. Sen. Richard Bryan (D-NV) introduced the Motor Vehicle Fuel Efficiency Act, which passed the Commerce Committee, 14-4. Sen. Donald Riegle (D-MI) then led two separate filibuster efforts in an attempt to kill the bill on the Senate floor.

Environmentalists won the first vote on the "motion to proceed" with eight more votes than were needed to invoke cloture. However, pressure from the Bush administration and the auto industry caused 11 senators to switch their votes and the second cloture vote was narrowly defeated, 57-42. Bryan has said that he will reintroduce his bill in the next Congress.

In the House, Rep. Claudine Schneider (R-RI) introduced a comprehensive global warming bill, which included a proposal to improve average fuel efficiency to 45 mpg. Rep. Barbara Boxer (D-CA) introduced a bill specifically aimed at improving auto fuel efficiency. The House Energy and Commerce Committee held hearings on energy efficiency, but took no action on either proposal.

Environmentalists opposed Sen. Wirth's National Energy Policy Act, which recommended increased nuclear power development and only required studies on auto carbon dioxide emissions. Wirth's bill passed the Senate, while Rep. Phil Sharp's (D-IN) companion bill received hearings in the House.

1990 Farm Bill

In rewriting the Farm Bill, Congress increased wetlands protection by closing loopholes in the Swampbuster provisions, and can now deny subsidies to farmers who destroy wetlands. Congress also initiated a

NEWS BRIEFS

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 endowment program forward. Former Club president Joe Fontaine is leading the campaign to raise around \$5 million to provide about \$250,000 in yearly activity income after inflation. Separate endowment funds will be established for various program areas such as Forest Management, Mining, Wildlife Management, Public Lands Litigation, Colorado Plateau, etc.

Big magnet attracts interest

The Defense Nuclear Agency is looking at two sites, both on White Sands Missile Range, to build a high-tech energy storage facility. The "Superconducting Magnetic Storage Engineering Test Model" will be used to evaluate the feasibility of storing electrical energy in magnetic fields surrounding large superconducting coils the size of football fields.

The facility will occupy roughly 160 acres and produce intense magnetic fields 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 fields at the fringe of such a facility.

long-term wetland easement program, whereby the government will pay farmers for setting aside high-quality wetlands from crop production.

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

Agriculture Committee Chairman Leahy finally withdrew the pesticide proposal after Sen. Richard Lugar (R-IN) led opposition efforts to this basic food safety protection.

Rain Forests

Environmentalists won several victories in their ongoing campaign to end government subsidies to tropical rain forest de-

The project grew out of the need to provide the SDI ("Star Wars") program with bursts of high-powered energy. DNA officials are now emphasizing potential commercial applications of the technology. Three sites in other states are 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 depletion 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.

Owls need letters

The U.S. 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 will be made by December 21, 1990. Input is being sought from interested parties. Comments can be sent to: FWS, Ecological Services Field Office, 3530 Pan American Highway, NE, Suite D, Albuquerque, NM 87107.

struction. Pressure from environmental groups and Congress caused the World Bank to temporarily halt all lending for forestry projects.

Congress withheld U.S. funding for the international coordination of the Tropical Forestry Action Plan until participating agencies reform the plan to protect the forests and indigenous peoples.

Congress reduced from \$15 million to \$5 million, the Interior Department's funding of geothermal exploration in and around Hawaii's Wao Kele o Puna tropical rain forest.

Late in the session, Rep. Doug Walgren (D-PA) proposed legislation to require the labeling of all imported hardwoods and hardwood products as to their country of origin. Sen. Al Gore (D-TN) introduced a resolution

(continued on page 14)

Santa Fe National Forest

Santa Fe Ski Area

The proposed expansion of the Santa Fe Ski Area is being analyzed by an "interdisciplinary team" made up of Forest Service staff and a few other interested parties. The ski area operates on public land under a special use permit. The ID team is at the point now where it must decide whether to recommend an Environmental Impact Study of the proposed alternatives. Ultimately, the Santa Fe Forest Supervisor will rule on the need for an EIS.

Expansion alternatives under consideration include several new developments within the existing permit boundary, new parking areas, and a highly controversial proposal to develop skiing facilities in the Big Tesuque/Aspen Vista basin. The Santa Fe Group of the Sierra Club opposes any new development in the Big Tesuque basin and feels that the potential impact of such development requires a full Environmental Impact Statement.

Elk Mountain/Creek Timber Sale

The Santa Fe Forest has released an Environmental Impact Statement with six alternatives for harvesting timber from the slopes of Elk Mountain. Elk Mountain is south of and adjacent to the Pecos Wilderness. One alternative is "no action". Four of the alternatives would do irreversible harm to the high elevation spruce forests. The final choice, inaccurately labelled the "environmentalist" proposal may, with modifications, provide the basis for a compromise with sale proponents. The Santa Fe Group of the Sierra Club is developing comments on the EIS which are due by December 6.

Bonito Diversity Unit

This unique region in the Jemez Mountains south of the great caldera has been a battle ground over mining and logging proposals for years. The area is studded with mineral claims, is under the shadow of a patent application to remove a 700-acre block of land from the public domain, and is the site of a proposed timber sale. The Sierra Club has opposed this and all other steep-slope, cable-logging timber sales. In the Bonito, not only the slopes are threatened. The area is home to and potential habitat for several threatened and endangered species which form part of an unusually diverse ecosystem.

The Club appealed the original timber sale, prompting the Regional Forester to

order the Santa Fe Forest to redo its environmental analysis. A revised sale plan was upheld by the regional Forester. The sale would have proceeded this summer had it not been for the discovery of the endangered Jemez Mountain salamander which forced a new habitat survey and the removal of several cutting units from the proposed sale. It appeared that the modified sale would go forward until the Santa Fe Forest recently admitted the need for a new spotted owl survey. The status of this sale is very murky at the moment. Clearly the Forest needs to start planning anew for the Bonito, and to put the timber sale on hold until its ecology is more fully understood.

[Thanks to Randy Freeman for information about the Santa Fe Forest.]

Gila National Forest

Hummingbird Ski Area

Concern continues to mount over a proposal to excise a portion of the Gila Wilderness, including its highest point—10,895-foot Whitewater Baldy, to create the Hummingbird Ski Area. Such an outrageous proposal could be summarily dismissed were there not some money and political support behind it.

Only an act of Congress can modify Wilderness designation, and without the support of the New Mexico Congressional delegation the proposal is unlikely to succeed. Your letters at this time are needed, particularly to Representative Joe Skeen (U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515) and Senators Pete Dominici and Jeff Bingaman (U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510.)

Burnt Cabin Timber Sale

Members of the El Paso Group are participating as members of the Interdisciplinary (I.D.) Team for this sale in the Reserve Ranger District. An Environmental Assessment is being prepared and comments from the public are still being accepted.

Diamond Bar Grazing Allotment

The El Paso Group is working in conjunction with the Wilderness Society and other groups to make sure that excessive range developments are not constructed in this allotment, which includes parts of the Gila and Leopold Wilderness Areas.

Eagle Peak/Buzzard and Ward Timber Sales

The El Paso Group has taken the unusual step of intervening on the side of the Forest Service in an appeal of a recent agency decision. As first proposed, the Eagle Peak and Ward timber sales would have been the largest timber sales in roadless areas in the entire Southwest region. The Eagle Peak plan called for construction of 43 miles of new roads. In 1988, environmentalists successfully appealed to force the Forest Service to complete an EIS for the Eagle Peak sale. The Forest Service decided to prepare an EIS for the Ward Sale as well.

Public comments made during EIS preparation convinced the Forest Service recently to drop plans for the Ward sale entirely, and to reduce the scope of the Eagle Peak sale dramatically. The new plan calls for only 3 miles of road construction, most of it outside the Eagle Peak roadless area. The Eagle Peak decision has been appealed by four Catron County groups. The El Paso Group has entered the appeal as intervenors in support of the Forest Service.

Dutchman and Sheep Timber Sales

An appeal of these timber sales filed by the New Mexico Environmental Law Center on behalf of the Sierra Club and other groups has been denied by the Regional Forester. These sales will result in the logging of 11 million board feet and the construction of 17 miles of new roads in the Reserve Ranger District. The appellants are weighing further action.

Redstone/Meadow Creek Timber Sales

Opposition is growing to these proposed timber sales about 15 miles north of Silver City in the Silver City Ranger District, scheduled for 1991 and 1993. According to Jene Moseley of the Tall Pines Endurance Ride Association, logging would ruin the area for other uses, including the many forms of non-motorized recreation which are currently very popular in the undeveloped and beautiful Meadow Creek area, and on 9,000-foot Signal Peak. For more information, contact Moseley at 538-3469.

Lincoln National Forest

Scott Able and Poison Timber Sales

The Mesilla Valley and Trans-Pecos Chapters of the Audubon Society, and Forest Guardians have filed suit to halt the im-

plementation of these sales and to force the Forest Service to prepare an EIS. The lawsuit contends that the Forest Service has failed to consider the cumulative environmental impacts of these sales as required by law, particularly the effects on wildlife species such as the Mexican spotted owl. The sales combined would result in the logging of 7.2 million board feet of timber. Logging and road construction has already begun in the sale areas. The purchaser has an informal agreement with the plaintiffs to stay out of certain sensitive areas until the U.S. District Court judge hearing the case decides, probably before Christmas, whether to grant a preliminary injunction to stop logging.

Perki/Pepper Timber Sale

The Forest Service is preparing an environmental assessment for this sale that involves 3.3 million board feet of timber and 6 miles of road construction and reconstruction in the Cloudcroft Ranger District.

Coronado National Forest

Gold mine proposed near Portal

A gold mine using a cyanide leaching process has been proposed in the Chiricahua Mountains just outside Cave Creek Canyon. The Portal Mining Action Association (P.O. Box 440, Portal, AZ 85632) has formed to prevail upon the Forest Service to require an EIS and to withdraw the area from mining activities. For more information, call (602) 558-2412.

Mount Graham

Construction of a controversial astronomical observatory has begun on Mount Graham after a Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals panel in October unexpectedly lifted a temporary injunction it had granted earlier. The reversal by the three-member panel of judges came after a request by the University of Arizona that the entire court of 39 judges review the issue. Contractors for the university then cleared the old-growth spruce and fir from two of three planned telescope sites, and began laying foundations. Opponents of the project, including the Sierra Club, will try again at a December hearing to persuade the judges that the project should be halted until the Fish and Wildlife Service has a chance to study the impacts on the Mt. Graham squirrel. The squirrel is protected under the federal Endangered Species Act.

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 Jim Norton, regional Audubon Society representative David Henderson, and Forest Guardian director Sam Hitt. Topics included: history of the Forest Service and forest planning, an overview of laws governing forest management, the politics of National Forest management, active grassroots models, and how to appeal 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 denied 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 to appeal after publication of its decision in a local newspaper.
- The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) provides a powerful tool for appealing Forest Service decisions and buying time.
- The only old-growth remaining in southwestern forests is basically on steep slopes, at high elevations, or at the heads of box canyons.
- Many Forest Service officials would like to reduce timber harvest goals but need public support. The next few years will present an opportunity to participate in mid-course evaluations of Forest Plans—a critical step towards lowering allowable timber sale quantities for the next round of plans.
- It is important to get on Forest Service mailing lists to be notified of decisions, and it is also important to send copies of correspondence with Forest Service officials to Congressional representatives so that they are aware of public sentiment.

Three members of the Friends of the Gila presented their ideas and experiences related to influencing National Forest management. They stressed the need to get involved at an early stage and to stay engaged in the planning process. They warned against viewing the Forest Service as "the enemy", and spoke of the advantages of developing working relationships with individuals in the Forest Service.

The workshop was funded in part by a grant from REI, Inc.

Activists Needed

There are seven national forests and one national grassland located within the boundaries of the Rio Grande Chapter. These areas are listed below, with acreage in New Mexico and addresses. Readers are urged to get on the mailing lists for these areas and keep abreast of important developments. Please forward information to the *Sierran* for publication in this column.

- Apache National Forest (614,000 acres in NM)
(NM portion administered by Gila NF)
- Carson National Forest (1,391,000 acres)
P.O. Box 558, Taos, NM 87571
- Cibola National Forest (1,635,000 acres)
10308 Candelaria, NE, Albuquerque, NM 87112
- Coronado National Forest (69,000 acres)
300 W. Congress, Tucson, AZ 85701
- Gila National Forest (2,705,000 acres)
2610 N. Silver Street, Silver City, NM 88061
- Lincoln National Forest (1,103,000 acres)
Federal Building, Alamogordo, NM 88310
- Santa Fe National Forest (1,569,000 acres)
P.O. Box 1689, Santa Fe, NM 87504
- Kiowa National Grassland (136,000 acres)
(Administered by Cibola National Forest.)

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 .

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

Copar Pumice Mine Update. Mining continues on the 33-acre site off Highway 4 just past the caldera. 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 has encouraged Richardson's efforts and wants to see as much as 100,000 acres designated as a National Recreation Area. For more information contact Henry Oat at 983-2703.

Santa Fe-Los Alamos Road EIS. The Santa Fe group submitted comments on the supplemental EIS on November 16. If built, the project will cross White Rock Canyon of 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 Kenney. Everyone was shocked and saddened to hear of the death of Jack Kenney on Saturday, Nov. 3rd. Jack was one of our strongest environmental workers. [Editor's note: Jack's obituary appears on page 13.]

Outing Leaders Workshop. On Nov. 3, at the Santa Fe Airport, we held the first of what we hope to be a yearly workshop for outing leaders. Norbert Sperlich, Myles Brown, Joe Whelan, Arnold Keskulla, Merrill Goodwyn, Linda Buchser, Les King, Art Judd and Norma McCallan gave presentations on the various topics the National Outings Committee deems necessary for leader certification. Some 27 individuals attended, and

much useful information was shared.

Group Elections. The Nominating Committee came up with six candidates to fill the four slots on the Group Executive Committee being vacated: John McClure, Caroline Keskulla, Randy Freeman, Lynn Lawther, Caylon Duke and Webster Kitchell. Elections are in progress.

The annual Christmas Potluck Party is scheduled for Dec. 15th at the Unitarian Church at 6 p.m. We welcome Sierra Club members from other parts of the state; just bring a dish to serve eight.

October/November Meetings. Our October meeting featured Sam Hitt showing slides and discussing the latest threats to the pristine beauty and old growth forest on Elk Mountain. Our November meeting will feature Senator Roman Maes, Representative Max Coll, and environmental lobbyist Mary Feldblum discussing environmental legislation likely to be introduced during the upcoming session.

El Paso

Gila National Forest. The El Paso Group is actively involved in several issues on the Gila National Forest. For more information, see the National Forest Report on page 8.

New Office Opened. The Group office is now open. The office is located at 800 South Piedras Street, El Paso, Texas, 79005. Telephone number is (915) 532-9645. Office hours: Tuesday-Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Other office tenants include the Audubon Society, Habitat for Humanity, and the League of Women Voters. The office will serve as a focal point for urban environmental affairs including a meeting place and environmental library.

Air Quality. The Group scored a major victory when the El Paso Transit Authority decided to implement a trap oxidizer program on all city buses.

Group Elections. Seeking terms on the Group executive committee are Ted Mertig, Jo Ann Duncan, Kathy Sunday, Bill Rodriguez, and Gary Williams. Ted, 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 150 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 Eagle Peak/Buzzard and Ward Timber Sale areas in the Gila National Forest in October. For more information about these sales, see the National Forest Report on page 8.

Solid Waste/Recycling. In an effort to influence the course of solid waste management in the region, the Group nominated Kevin Bixby to serve on an committee that will advise city and county officials on solid waste/recycling matters.

Baca Campaign. Newly-elected state land commissioner Jim Baca enjoyed tremendous electoral success in Dona Aña County, thanks in large part to efforts of the Group, and particularly to the tireless leadership of Group Chair Pat Penfield. Group members and other volunteers choreographed precinct walking, phone banks, signing, fundraising, and even some 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 Group members are actively involved in efforts to get the Center off the ground.

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

Group Elections are now in progress. Ben Zerby, Paul Nachman, Storm Sermay, Ann MacBeth, Perry Plummer, Eva Artschwager, Kevin Bixby, and Bob Bell are running for seven slots on the Executive Committee.

The **October Meeting** featured Ken White, a planner with the South-Central Council of Governments, and Kevin Bixby discussing the management history of the Rio Grande in southern New Mexico, and the possibilities for restoring natural conditions in and along the river. There was no November meeting.

A **Christmas Pot-luck** will be held on December 7 at Marianne Thaeler's house. The Executive Committee will meet briefly prior to the party.

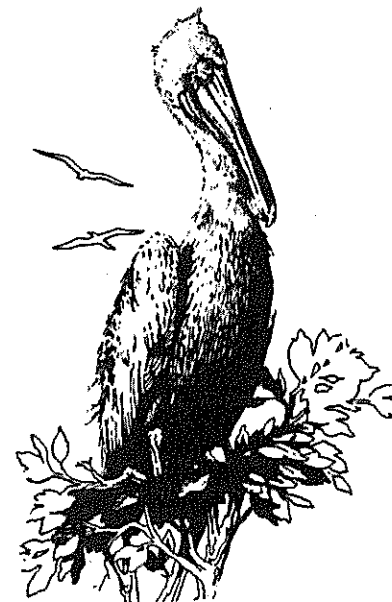
Albuquerque

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 central goal of diverting at least 25 percent of the waste stream from land fills by 1992, and 50 percent by 1995. Councilor Hess Yntema 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 West side and handicap groups to form a transit support organization with special emphasis on alternatives for commuters traveling from the West side to the East side.

Energy. Ralph Wrons, our Energy Issue chair, attended Senator Jeff Bingaman's public forum on energy policy.

Water issues. Water quality chair, Leslie Amrhein, attended a state conference on water quality and resources of our state. Also, a new volunteer Russ MacRae along with Stefan Verchinski went to the Water Information Network (WIN) workshop.



Unser Parkway under attack

by Ike Eastvold

Ever since conservation and neighborhood groups persuaded the Albuquerque City Council last year to make Unser Boulevard the state's first real parkway, developers and their Public Works Department allies have been trying to undermine the four-lane maximum, 5-ton truck restriction, and other parkway standards agreed to as a compromise during the City's lengthy legislative process.

Last December we asked you to help defeat a State Highway Commission move to override Unser's four-lane limit, and build it with capacity to expand 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 later expansion to six lanes years from now when the public outcry has died down. These folks never give up!

What You Can Do

We need an avalanche of letters and phone calls to Albuquerque City Councilors, the Mayor, and the Environmental Planning Commission urging them to reject the rigid 30-foot median design of Unser, and build the road as a true parkway. Please write Councilor Pauline Gubbels, Chairman of the Land Use, Planning, and Zoning Committee (LUPZ), with copies to Mayor Louis Saavedra and Barbara Seward, Chairman of the Environmental Planning Commission (EPC). Your letter to LUPZ Chairman Gubbels and copies to the EPC and Mayor can all be addressed to: City of Albuquerque, P.O. Box 1293, Albuquerque, NM 87103. In your own words, oppose Public Works' design for Unser South using

these and other thoughts:

- Public Works' design is inconsistent with the parkway standards required for Unser in Council Bill R-455 which specified "a median limited to the width necessary for turning lanes." The City Council wanted to limit the median to assure enough room on Unser's edges for landscaping, noise mitigation with earthen berms, and a trail for recreational uses.

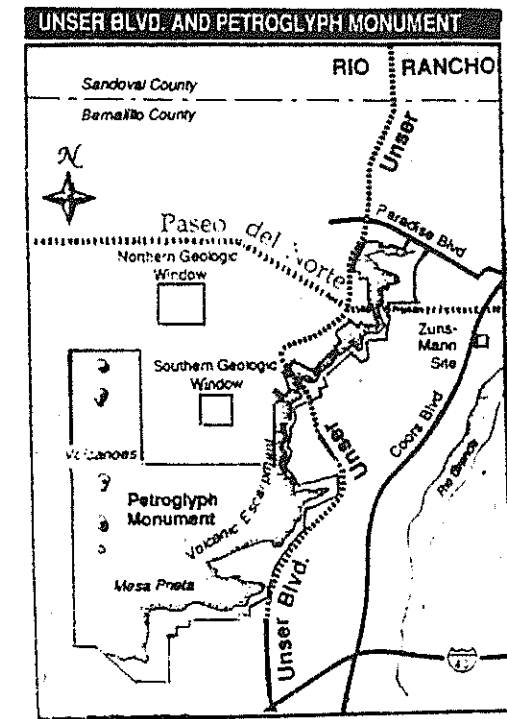
- At the southern peninsula of Rinconada Canyon, for example, Public Works' rigid insistence on a 30-foot median eliminates any landscaping on the east side of Unser precisely where immediately adjacent powerlines require the visual masking landscaping could provide! Simply shrinking the median down to about 16 feet would

go a long ways toward allowing adequate landscaping for this important visual gateway to Petroglyph National Monument.

- A fixed median width is totally incompatible with the concept of a parkway as mandated by Council Bill R-455. A true parkway must be flexible in design so as to fit gently into the topography. Even the two travel lanes normally are designed separately for a real parkway, with horizontal and vertical alignments treated independently, so as to minimize the road's impact on adjacent land. Public Works' rigid

cross-section is like putting true parkway design in a straight jacket!

A public hearing on these critical design issues will be held by the City's Environmental Planning Commission on December 13, 1990, 7 PM, in the basement Council Chambers of City Hall, 4th Street and Marquette. We need your presence at this hearing to show support for making Unser a beautiful parkway showcasing Petroglyph National Monument.



The Bulletin Board

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 simulated wolf dens, howling booths, 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 Burbank (author of *Vanishing Lobo: 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 841-8837.

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 in-

structed 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 \$270 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.



SACRED MOUNTAINS OF THE WORLD

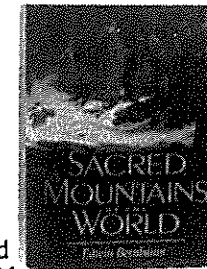
by Edwin Bernbaum

"Full of adventure, cultural significance and religious symbolism." —Sir Edmund Hillary

More than 120 magnificent color photographs and a richly informative text explore the mystery and splendor of sacred peaks worldwide, as links to the divine. 304 pages. 9"x12" 121 color photos; 8 b & w photos; 1 color map.

ITEM #720

PRICE: \$45.00 members; \$50.00 non-members



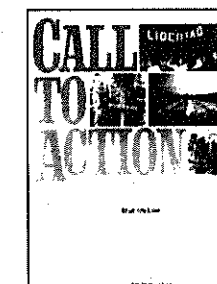
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| ITEM #422 | All Six Public Lands Booklets | \$10.00 non-mbr |

CALL TO ACTION: Handbook for Ecology, Peace, and Justice

Edited by Brad Erickson
Preface by Rev. Jesse Jackson

This comprehensive guide to activism shows you how to take informed steps to sustain the rich diversity of life on Earth. Contributors include David Brower, Carl Sagan, Helen Caldicott, and Jacques Cousteau.



ITEM #110

PRICE: \$11.65 member; \$12.95 non-member



STARS AND PLANETS: The Sierra Club Guide to Sky Watching and Direction Finding by W.S. Kals

This unique handbook, with over 80 illustrations, explains step-by-step how to locate major stars, planets, and constellations anywhere on both sides of the equator with the naked eye. Kals, who assumes no knowledge of astronomy, teaches readers to locate 15 bright stars that stand out even on moonlit nights or in heavy city glow. 224 pages, 7"x9"

ITEM #2721

PRICE: \$13.45 member; \$14.95 non-member



Conservation Posters

Printed on high quality recycled paper, these 6 striking posters bring critical environmental issues alive. Suitable for framing or as educational tools.

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 - ITEM #502 Global Warming
 - ITEM #402 Wilderness Appreciation
 - ITEM #304 Clean Air
 - ITEM #431 Arctic Nat'l Wildlife Refuge
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ITEM #841 — All Six Conservation Posters — \$25.00 (Members save \$2.00 over individual poster prices!)

The Writings of John Muir

My First Summer in the Sierra—Muir recognizes his life's calling to preserve wilderness.

ITEM #810 — \$9.95

Story of My Boyhood and Youth—The memoir of Muir's early years.

ITEM #811 — \$9.95

Travels In Alaska—The classic account of Muir's discoveries in Alaska.

ITEM #812 — \$9.95

The Yosemite—Muir's account of wilderness exploration in Yosemite Valley. ITEM #813 — \$9.95

Mountains Of California—Muir's celebration of the Sierra Nevada. ITEM #814 — \$9.95

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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 San Diego on Thursday, July 4, 1991. Our group of happy campers will travel 1040 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 state line. Across the peninsula to Bahia Concepcion. Two days in La Paz for provisioning. Four days on a fabulous secluded white sand beach. The big EVENT. The last eclipse in North America for 25 years! The weekend in Cabo San Lucas. 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 Buladora.

TRAVEL, RELAX, EXPLORE as we are destined for adventure. Bring your small motorhome or truck and join us for two weeks of good food, beaches, 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 21.

SEND BAJA ECLIPSE TOUR INFO TO:

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
Telephone _____

CALL OR WRITE:
Dan and Shirley Oppliger
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