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OR

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PRIL 1993
RIO GRANDE SIERRA

Environmental News of New Mexico and West Texas

The Collapse of the Copper Curtain:NM Legislature Enacts a Hardrock Mine Law

by Sue McIntosh, Mining Issue Chair

On March 17, the New Mexico legislature
gave final approval to the New Mexico Mining Act. As soon as the measure is
placed on the floor by the governor, New Mexico will,
for the first time, have a hardrock mine
management law.

The passage of this law is doubly welcome.
It, and most importantly, the law means that
New Mexico will finally be able to
develop its natural resources from the
viewpoint of reclaimed mines. Enactment of the New Mexico Mining Act also
derives from the fact that the Sierra Club decides
decide on a priority issue, it can accom-
6ish exactly what it sets out to do.

A major goal of the mining
reclamation act for New Mexico required the
work of many individuals and organiza-
tions, over a number of years. Sierra
Club thanks all those who worked to-
gether with us to pass this law, particu-
larly the legislators who stuck with us and
this issue through a challenging summer
of a very difficult legislative session.

The act will be under the jurisdiction of the
New Mexico Energy, Minerals and
Natural Resources Department, Mine-
ning and Minerals Division. Emphasis is*

continued on page 4

1993 Legislative Summary

by Ken Haggard, Lobbyist, Sierra Club

New Mexican environmental supporters
have a few major victories and many
minor ones to cheer about as a result
of actions taken (or not taken) during the
1993 legislative session. Beyond the min-
ning bills, there were a plethora of environ-
mentally related activities on the legisla-
tive plate this year. Bills to strengthen
water quality and hazardous waste laws
passed, as did a new method of paying for
electricity efficiency measures. Tires and oil
recycling bills also made it through. Fund-
ing to protect the environment, conserve
water and push clean energy, unfortu-

continued on page 6

In this issue:
Water: a Critical Issue

What You Can Do for the Environment

Pagans in the Gila

Sierra Club

Group News
Albuquerque pages 12–14
El Paso pages 15–17
Santa Fe pages 18–20
Southern NM pages 21–23

continued on page 4

Water

in 1992, the"Sierra Club support and*"opposition. (Note: Governor

1993 increases penal-
in 1992, the "Sierra Club support and*"opposition. (Note: Governor

1993 increases penal-

continued on page 5

continued on page 6
Letters

Rescind Tangkas Order

Dear Editor,

I recently learned of the Executive Order 126/30, so was very happy to see Marianne Thaxter’s report on the “campaign” to urge President Clinton to rescind the order in writing to support that campaign and chip in a couple of additional considerations.

Coup ple the Tangkas Impact Analysis requirement of the E.O. with the arch-conservative make-up of the U.S. Supreme Court and you get a double whammy, with regard to a “chilling” effect on agencies charged with writing the environmental impact statements needed to protect the environment and so on. Recent “law of the land” decisions, i.e., no chance for appeal, have overarmed state agencies’ regulations designed to protect the environment for the public good, under the notion that they were too restrictive on private property rights. Reagan and Bush can be gone, but they live on with their S.C. appointees.

However, the Executive Order can be rescinded and President Clinton must hear that call loud. He can further clarify its infeasibility in its effect if you remind him of how much federal dollars dollars are spent on the 700 mile Pol. Sp. fl. TES, 29694.03.042.

Southwest Regional Office Sierra Club (Phoenix)

Ralph Wrons Albuquerque

Oppose Ski Area Expansion

Dear Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to express my feelings about the proposed Santa Fe Ski Area expansion. The expansion has been on the table for over a year now. It has been a hot issue in the community and outside the community. I honestly believe that people from Santa Fe, have educated themselves on this issue. I also believe that decisions that affect the community of Santa Fe should be made by the community of Santa Fe, and not by special interests.

I get involved in opposing the proposed expansion because I have lived in Santa Fe all my life, and when I studied the expansion proposal I was personally appalled.

I continued on page 9

Water is a Critical Issue in NM

by Vicki Gabin

New Mexico’s burgeoning population and development needs translate directly into increasing demands for the state’s water resources. At the same time, there is a growing awareness that environmental interests groups are intended to finally settle water rights claims to stream systems, escape not only costly monitoring but also support for voice that campaigns for chip in a couple of additional considerations.

Environmentalists’ interests in water, vary as widely as their beliefs among environmental groups, share a common goal: keeping water in the rivers. To achieve this goal, environmental groups are forming a waterwatch organization to assert what Denise Farnos (famous law professor and director of UNM’s Water Resources Administration) calls “the environmental presence in water.”

The Rio Grande Chapter’s decision to explore water issues and develop strategies to further projects comes at a time when New Mexico’s water allocation policy has been under scrutiny and is undergoing new levels of public and governmental scrutiny. The SEO is moving forward with water planning activities and conservation studies, and other state agencies, particularly Game & Fish, are looking at streamflow requirements. The SEO’s participation, coupled with the lack of coordinated effort by the environmental community to address such activities as well as day-to-day administrative decisions made by agencies with water agendas.

In water quality matters, current areas of concern include the following two examples. First, under existing land use law, “the public welfare” and conservation are two relatively new criteria required to be taken into account by the State Legislature in any action to transfer water resources to another state or to implement new water development projects. These criteria can be used by state environmental agencies and water developers to limit the rights of water users, and do not hold water rights to participate in the decision process, and to express concerns not usually addressed by the agency, the applicant or the protesters (if any).

Second, water rights adjudications, those protracted lawsuits that are intended to finally settle water rights claims to stream systems, escape not only costly monitoring but also support for voice that campaigns for chip in a couple of additional considerations.

An efficient water watchdog group can perform a variety of services, for example:

- serve as a state-wide clearinghouse for information useful to all environmental organizations—allocation and quality issues, pending state and federal agency actions, etc.
- protest water allocation decisions
- intervene in water rights adjudications
- bring water rights applications on behalf of Individuals or organizations
- coordinate monitoring or testing activities

These ideas are just rough sketches, plans are in the very preliminary exploration stage, and many more discussions with interested people are needed. (Of course, it all requires some money, too.) Right now, the Sierra Club, with its broad-based membership, could be an effective participant in some of the tasks described above and in the planning for the water watch. Interested members should call one of the chapter water issues chairs: Eric Arnes 266-0542, or Vicki Gabin 906-7315 (mobile) or 455-7645 (home), Babbitt in Albuquerque May 14

Secretary of the Interior Babbitt is scheduled to appear at an all-day meeting in Albuquerque, Friday May 14. Policies of the Interior Department and its subordinate agencies, including the Bureau of Land Management and the Fish and Wildlife Service, will be discussed in the context of the new administration’s economic programs. Details are not available at press time. For more information, contact Marc Bednor at 299-2004.

Action Alert on Lechuguila Cave

by David McClure

Lechuguila Cave, a designated “world class” cave located in Carlsbad Caverns National Park, is not in danger of closure. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has written an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that considers drilling natural gas wells adjacent to the existing Carlsbad Caverns National Park boundaries in the area of Lechuguila Cave. After receiving 500 letters of protest, the BLM is reconsidering its options.

A study committee established by the National Park Service has suggested that Carlsbad Caverns National Park be expanded by 5,000 acres east and north to include the BLM Moldt’s Wilderness Study area. The new park boundaries would be based on the geology of the Capitan Reef where caves exist. The US House of Representatives Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands, chaired by Bruce Vento (D-MN) is considering House Bill 698, the Lechuguila Cave Protection Act of 1993. The bill would withdraw oil, gas and mineral rights from the 5,000 acres of BLM land adjacent to Carlsbad Caverns National Park. There is no companion bill in the Senate at this time. To support this bill, contact your local representative and ask your representative to: Honorable Bruce Vento Natural Resources Committee Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Land.

812 N’Cielo House Office Building.

Washington, DC 20515.
Hardrock Mine Law
continued from first page

1. Interstate assessment: To begin the program, prior to permitting, all mines in New Mexico will submit a site assessment which will describe current and past impacts of the mine on area ground and surface water resources, local communities and wildlife, and describe the mining operation itself and its permitting history.

2. Permitting system for all mines and exploration: A mining commission is created and will promulgate regulations to require permitting of all new and existing mines and exploration, including provisions for reclamation and financial assurance requirements.

3. New Mine Reclamation: New mines are required to gather and submit at least 12 months of baseline data prior to permit application, including a cumulative hydrologic impact analysis, and an environmental and socioeconomic evaluation of the impacts of the mine. New mines will be designed and operated using the most appropriate technology and best management practices and, as contemporaneously as possible, will reclaim to a self-sustaining ecosystem appropriate for the life zones of the surrounding areas, or an otherwise approved post-mining land use.

4. Acid Mine Drainage: Nonpoint source releases of acid drainage or other toxic substances must be contained within the permit area during the life of the mine. Mines must be designed to minimize the formation of acid and other toxic drainage and must prevent releases which exceed state or federal standards. Prior to permitting, new mines must test for and evaluate the acid-forming potential of materials on the proposed permit area.

5. Disclosure and “Bad Actor” Permit Bar Provisions: New mining operations will be required to disclose ownership and controlling interests. Permitting of new mines will be conditioned on the operator’s compliance with environmental laws and regulations in this state and others. This is often referred to as a permit bar or “bad actor” provision. If an applicant or any company he controls or which he is controlled by has a substantial, outstanding, unaltered violation anywhere in the United States or if they have shown a pattern of willful violations at any mine in the United States, the director is prohibited from issuing a permit to mine in New Mexico.

6. Substantive Permit Denial: Permits will not be issued where reclamation as required in the New Mexico Mining Act and its regulations is not technologically and economically feasible. No permit will be issued to a mine that is unable to demonstrate that upon closure it will be able to meet environmental and reclamation standards and regulations without perpetual care or maintenance.

7. Public Notice, Hearings and Involvement: The public will be notified and involved at many times, and on many levels in hardrock mine regulations in New Mexico. The public will receive advance notice and opportunity for hearing on all significant permitting and enforcement decisions, opportunity to be present at inspection prior to release of financial assurance, and public representation on the mining. Rejection of funds will be retained for 12 years following final sequestration to ensure that vegetation is successful.

8. Funding the Regulatory Program: The New Mexico Mining Act will be self-funding through a program or annual permitting, administration and enforcement fees which will equal the state’s expenses in administering each individual permit for that year.

9. Financial Assurance: Financial assurance will be provided for all new and existing mines and exploration, in an amount sufficient to complete permit requirements, including reclamation, if a third party contractor is forced to complete reclamation work. Self insurance, self guarantee or self bonding will not be accepted as forms of financial assurance.

10. Release of Financial Assurance: Financial assurance will be released in phases, only after inspection. At all times, sufficient funds will be retained to ensure completion of all remaining reclamation work. Rejection of funds will be retained for 12 years following final sequestration to ensure that vegetation is successful.

11. Inspection and enforcement: Onsite inspection of all mines will occur on an unannounced, irregular basis at least once every quarter throughout the life of the mine, and not less than once every month during periods of active reclamation work. Inspectors will issue notices of violations and abatement orders in the field, and cessation orders will be issued whenever a violation creates a significant imminent harm or danger, or where a lesser violation remains unabated. A mine permit will be revoked for a pattern of violations. Criminal and civil penalties are included as well.

12. Existing Mine Reclamation: Existing mines will develop, and submit for approval, closure plans and financial assurance. Existing mines will be expected to achieve a self-sustaining ecosystem or an otherwise approved post-mining land use following closure, a waiver of this requirement may be granted, upon a showing for each unit of an existing mine, that achieving the standard is not technologically or economically feasible. In all cases, however, reclamation measures will be taken to ensure that all applicable federal and state laws and regulations and standards are met following closure, and the mine will not pose a current or future hazard to public health or safety.

13. Exploration: Permits for exploration will require approval of reclamation plans and provision of financial assurance, and will be granted for renewable one-year terms.

14. Citizen suits: Citizen suits are provided for injunctive relief and al- low for an award of attorney’s fees in the court’s discretion.

Where the Money Goes — and Why We Need More

by Jana Oyster, Chapter Treasurer

Last month the Rio Grande Chapter mailed its annual appeal letter asking members to support the Chapter’s conservation budget for 1993. The Chapter is often asked to schedule its fundraisers for the end of the year, when many people plan their charitable donations. Unfortunately, the national Sierra Club does not allow chapters and groups to solicit from their general membership during any month other than March. The requests for donations that members receive from the Sierra Club throughout the other 11 months are for national campaigns only; local activities have no control over national solicitations.

What does the Chapter actually do with its money? In 1992 the Rio Grande Chapter spent over $50,000.00. Very little of that amount goes toward administrative expenses, largely because chapter activists are almost exclusively volunteers who give up their evenings and weekends and take time off from their regular jobs in order to attend meetings, monitor public land management, lead outings, and attend the everlasting meetings that are necessary to running the Club.

The vast bulk of the Chapter’s budget goes to conservation-related expenses. Among the items that are increasingly expensive, yet necessary, are copies, postage, telephone calls, travel, legal and scientific experts, office rent and utilities, newsletters and other informational materials, lobbying, litigation, mapping, insurance, publicity, etc., etc., etc. Due to rising costs and lower revenues, the Chapter ended 1992 with a deficit of several thousand dollars and had to scale back its 1993 conservation budget accordingly.

The Chapter receives some money from the national Club (about $4.00 per member each year), but most of its budget must be raised from members and outside sources such as grants. In 1993 the Chapter is hoping for at least $22,000.00 in donations and is pursuing foundation grants as well.

If you have not yet given to the 1993 Chapter appeal, please return your response card with your donation today. If you have misplaced the card, you may simply send your donation to Jana Oyster Treasurer, Rio Grande Chapter, Route 10, Box 120-KO, Santa Fe, NM 87505.

To give to the general chapter account (not tax-deductible), make checks payable to Rio Grande Chapter of Sierra Club. To make an education-directed gift (tax-deductible to the extent the law allows), make checks payable to Sierra Club Foundation.
ties on illegal dumping of pollutants into streams, expands the ability of the Water Quality Control Commission to respond to emergencies, and strengthens the Environment Department's authority to regulate sludge and septic tanks, major problems under groundwater quality. Passed

- Water Planning (Rep. McSherry, Deming) HB 585 Water allocation and conservation are in serious need of attention, as documented in a new report by the Environmental Law Center. Bill asked for $500,000 to do regional water plans, state water planning and water conservation. Funded at half the request, with conservation losing out.

- Animas-La Plata Project (Rep. Whitney-Welles, Aztec) HM 65 asks that steps be taken, as the project finally is killed under the Clinton Administration, to revert back water rights, held up since 1935, for the actual use of San Juan County residents. Passed

- Septic System Regulations (Rep. Wright, Chuparal) HM 1002 reduces septic tank regulatory requirements from 3/4 acre to 1/2 acre. Amended to allow landowners to petition the state for variances upon proof that the test mandated aseptic septic would not have a negative environmental impact.

Energy

- Coal Burials (Rep. Whitney-Welles, Aztec) HB 365 does not fund or authorize any punishment for from inflation for 3 years. House Tax & Revenue substitutes limited exemptions for renewable and/or coal based producer price index for energy. Passed

- Retail Wheeling (Sen. Wray, Albuquerque) SB 501 required the wheeling of electricity to serve large users wishing to buy electricity at cheaper rates than currently offered by utilities. Sierra Club supported an amendment to incorporate wheeling into the Integrated Resource Planning now before the State Public Service Commission. Bill tabled in favor of memorial to do a study of wheeling.

- Energy Efficiency (Speaker Sanchez, Albuquerque) HB 353 authorizes schools and other public entities to enter into contracts with private energy service companies for installing energy efficiency projects and repaying-off the costs either directly from state funds or by an oil filter to set up a collection system for used motor oil and filters. Passed

- Rangeland Improvement Funds: Killed in House Agriculture.

- Endangered Species (Sen. Jennings, Roswell) SB 57 redesignates the state act to mandate economic impact before classifying a species as threatened or endangered, and requires local municipalities to address its potentiality by such a classification. HB 20-11 and House Agriculture (with only Rep. Porter dissenting) but tabled 9-4 in House Rules.

- SM 3 (San. Roswell, Las Cruces) would ask the US Fish and Wildlife to act more scientifically in its listing process. Sierra Club was instrumental in killing the memorial in Senate Rules.

- Exotic Wildlife Control (Rep. Garcia, South Valley) HM 46 asks the Game & Fish Department to study the impact of introducing exotic species into New Mexico on native species. Passed

Recycling

- Container (Rep. Shirley Baca, Las Cruces) SB 32 creates a fund for mandatory recycling. HB 597 and SB 519, latest incarnations of the bottle bill, exempt local grocers from having to redeem containers and strengthen local recycling efforts. Supported by a broad coalition of the Governor's office and community based environmental groups, and the City of Albuquerque. Fiercely fought by special interests such as Coca-Cola, Budweiser, Fairs and Keep New Mexico Beautiful who is getting 50 cents per license plate from a Coke and Bud-buckled bill), tabled in House Business Committee (thanks go to Reps. Perls and Rodella for bucking the tide) and Senate Commerce in favor of a memorial which asks an inter legislative committee to study the issue and come back with a concept. Passed

- Two (Sen. Maes, Santa Fe) SB 201 a $1 fee on each vehicle registration with funds going to minimize landfills of tires and maximizing their recycling into such things as asphalt. After three years and many new committee and floor votes, the bill passed.

69% of New Mexicans believe that their legislature is too beholden to special interests at the expense of the public.

- Solar Repowering (Sen. Riley, Albuquerque) HB 366 to mandate economic impact before classifying a species as threatened or endangered, and requires local municipalities to address its potentiality by such a classification. Senate 20-11 and House Agriculture (with only Rep. Porter dissenting) but tabled 9-4 in House Rules.

Benchmarks and Alternatives

- SM 3 (San. Roswell, Las Cruces) would ask the US Fish and Wildlife to act more scientifically in its listing process. Sierra Club was instrumental in killing the memorial in Senate Rules.

Wildlife

- Department of Wildlife (Rep. McSherry, Albuquerque) Changes the name of the Department of Game & Fish, as of 1994. Sierra Club bill. Killed in Senate Finance when this truly simple bill was felt to have an environmentalists' "hidden agenda."

- Animal Damage Control (Rep. Coll, Santa Fe, Rep. Exline, Carlsbad) Sierra Club was a part of a coalition of groups which sought to strike state share of funding for ADC: a taxpayers funded wildlife killing program, and put it into education. Unprecedented two hour hearing held before House Appropriations Committee, thanks to Chairman Coll. Funding remains. HB 1018 by Rep. Perls would disallow ADC spending from Pena and Ranch Improvement Funds. Killed in House Agriculture.

- Endangered Species (Sen. Jennings, Roswell) SB 57 redesignates the state act to mandate economic impact before classifying a species as threatened or endangered, and requires local municipalities to address its potentiality by such a classification. HB 20-11 and House Agriculture (with only Rep. Porter dissenting) but tabled 9-4 in House Rules.

69% of New Mexicans believe that their legislature is too beholden to special interests at the expense of the public.

- Motor Oil and Oil Filter (Sen. Lopez, Santa Fe) SB 233 puts a 10 cent fee per gallon on motor oil and expands the law on an oil filter to set up a collection system for used motor oil and filters. Passed

- Government purchase of recycled content (Rep. Picuris, Albuquerque) HB 455 gives a price preference to procurement of recycled products by governments. Passed


- Appropriations

- The Sierra Club lobbied House Appropriations and Senate Finance members on funding to enhance environmental priorities throughout state government. Passed

1) Environment Department: Serious problems that need attention and clean up go unnoticed with insufficient state funding. HB 550 funds a $150,000/year state board to study the environmental impact of the state doesn't match federal funds. The Department has had a $622,000 decrease from Gov. Carruthers' last budget. Requested to fund $3 million for waste water treatment, $5 million revolving loan for infrastructure, and $2 million to help localities comply with laws.

2) Energy: Minerals and Natural Resources: The Governor's Energy Policy, with proper funding, would initiate three priorities of energy efficiency, natural gas and renewable technologies, the same as the Clinton administration. A major impetus is a program of grants to invest state funds to address the three priorities. This program would lead New Mexico to

- Save the next century in our use and production of energy. Not funded.

Other

- Tapping (Rep. McSherry, Deming; Sen. Kidd, Carlsbad) The top priority to oppose in this session among envi-

- Hazardous Waste (Sen. Peterson, Albuquerque) SB 549 allows New Mexico to impose regulations more stringent than federal standards on the disposal and recycling of hazardous waste. Passed

Freshmen of the Year: Rep. Rob Perls, sponsored trails, bicycling and animal damage control bills. Rep. Jose Abeyta was very helpful for mining reform other issues in House Energy. Sens. Elizabeth Stefanski, Tom Udall and Tom Wray gave environment- nalist consistent support in Senate Conservation

Members who deserve special thanks Rep. Max Colf. For successfully battling the takings bill, for advancing funding for environmental programs, and working to defund Animal Damage Control Reps. Cisco McSherry and Gary King, for tirelessly working to make mining reform a reality and fight for their interests. HB 684 advanced through House Agriculture (with Rep. Porter the only dissenters) and House Judiciary (Rep. McSherry, Peterson and Speaker Sanchez dissenting). At House Appropriations, Chairman Collly bore resented efforts to schedule the bill for a hearing, hence it was killed.

- Natural Resources Education Center: (Rep. King, Moriarty) HB 659 funds $150,000 into the Sandia Mountain Environmental Education Center as a statewide educational facility for teaching school kids in natural resources and species protection.

- Citizen Suit (Rep. King, Moriarty) HB 744 allows citizens to sue polluters they can show are violating a certain environmental law and the state has yet to act. Tabled in House Educa-

- Solid Waste Permits (Rep. Olguin, Socorro; Rep. Wallin, San Jon) HB 732 would have weakened the Solid Waste Act by allowing permits for facilities to run for the life of the project. Landfill operators wanted the bill to allow them to buy out the permit and cover the costs of clean up.ம

- Triage Environmental Specialist (Rep. Salazar, Rio Arriba Co.) HB 163 asks for funding of staff to allow tribes to better work with the state in carrying out solid waste and water quality init-

- Tribal Environmental Specialist (Rep. Salazar, Rio Arriba Co.) HB 163 asks for funding of staff to allow tribes to better work with the state in carrying out solid waste and water quality init-

- Natural Resources Education Center (Rep. King, Moriarty) HB 659 funds $150,000 into the Sandia Mountain Environmental Education Center as a statewide educational facility for teaching school kids in natural resources and species protection.

Finally, a personal observation. During my three years of lobbyist here in New Mexico, preceded by ten years of service in the state Legislature and Hill Washington, I have always gone on the assumption that a legislator is a microcosm of society, only somewhat more male, richer and conservative, but certainly a nation of America's, good, bad and ugly. A Colorado companion, he microscopy, replied, "Non sense. The way I view legislators is that they get caught in the special interest game and are not able to look at the bigger picture, the things that are wrong and left to die."

According to the Environmental Law Center poll, 69% of New Mexicans believe that the legislature is too beholden to special interests at the expense of the public. From this report, you be the judge.
The Most Important Thing You Can Do TODAY for the Environment:

Call or write to your Senators and Representatives to support President Clinton's Economic Package because it is good for the environment. Be sure to mention that you're a Sierra Club member and are concerned about the environment.

The Most Important Thing You Can Do TOMORROW for the Environment:

Recruit ten friends and/or family members to call or write ASAP. For the next two weeks, it is extremely important that our Senators and Representatives in Washington get absolutely bombarded with positive calls on behalf of the President's Economic Package.

The bad guy special interests are lining up to spend huge sums of money to defeat the package because Clinton is asking them to finally pay their fair share for destroying the environment.

We must fight back now in huge numbers. We cannot afford to lose.

Here's the Message:

Dear [Representative/Senator's Name],

I urge you to support the Clinton Economic Package because it recognizes that a healthy environment is the cornerstone of a strong economy.

The President's package:

- Cuts anti-environmental holdouts
- Creates jobs through environmental investments
- Begins to tax polluting energy

The elements of the plan must be kept together as a package in order to be successful. Subsidy cuts and energy taxes support environmental investments that create jobs.

This plan provides the Green Solution to Red Ink. It helps reduce the deficit by cutting government handouts that damage our environment, it rejects the false choice between jobs and the environment by creating jobs with environmental investments. The energy tax is a first step towards reducing energy pollution.

For congressional addresses, see directory on last page.

The tax cuts benefit fewer for lower income Americans.

- The first building block in a comprehensive, long-term plan to reduce carbon dioxide.
- Solar and wind power are exempt as the energy tax.

Other Important Things You Can Do for the Environment:

Write letters to members of the Senate and House of Representatives about the need for a comprehensive, long-term plan to reduce carbon dioxide.

Cuts in anti-environmental handouts:

- Eliminates over $2 billion in subsidies to the nuclear industry
- Requires a 12.5% royalty from mining activities on public lands
- Reforms subsidies and raises the fee for grazing on public lands
- Paves out below-cost timber sales in forests that lose money for 3 years
- Establishes a fee on low-cost government-subsidized irrigation water

Write to Governor Bruce King urging him to appoint a State Lands Commissioner with the leadership, vision and creativity of Jim Baca. The new commissioner must be someone who will continue the policies and programs which Jim Baca initiated. (Some possible good candidates are Ray Powell, Jr., Denise Forti, Bob Langseteng, Jim Nance.)

Governor's Office
Governor Bruce King
State Capitol
Santa Fe, NM 87503

Thanks to everyone who helped with the legislative phone tree!
“Pagan Nature Worship” in the Gila?
by Susan Schek

"Did you know that modern environmentalism is rooted in pagan nature worship?"

"...Have you ever heard of the web of life, intrinsic value or animal rights? These are all terms used to describe New Age religious beliefs, and they have crept into our schools. These doctrines are also found in other forms of nature worship such as witchcraft. It is not appropriate for these doctrines to be taught to your children in public schools."

"If you are a hunter, or just like to see thriving wildlife populations, you should oppose wolf introduction."

"Natural systems don't care about endangered species. In fact, natural systems compete to destroy them."

"The radical animal rights wing of the environmental movement has a lot in common with Hitler's Nazism. If they can succeed in assigning humans the same worth as all other life, they will be that much closer to their real goal, the dismantling of the technology and civilization which supports the human race."

These and other antihuman environmental advertisements, produced and broadcast by a local rancher-friendly radio station, were sent to Silver City residents on their morning coffee in early March.

The twenty or so ads, now run almost hourly on two Silver City stations, signify backlash from the ranching industry in the wake of the Clinton Administration's strengthened environmental policies and environmental groups' recent successes in temporarily thwarting new cash developments in nearby wilderness areas.

The 30- and 60-second spots are sponsored by Minstrene Media, an Albuquerque nonprofit incorporated by New Mexico Cattlemen's Association Executive Director Al Schneberger to "educate the public in the efficient and responsible use of natural resources and related environmental issues." The ads are aimed at preventing wolf reintroduction, discouraging public participation in Federal Lands management issues and restricting discussion of environmental concerns in public schools, while deprecating environmentalists as fanatics bent on destroying society.

The ads also promote the Coalition of Arizona and New Mexico Counties, an organization of county governments and special interest groups best known for promoting illegal county ordinances attempting to privatize Federal Lands and supplant the Endangered Species Act. Cien City, just north of Silver City, recently became the first of the Coalition counties to enact an unconstitutional County Ordinance, crafted by People for the West, which claims national Forest grazing allowances.

Several of the ads target the Diamond Bar allotment on which environmentalists just won a Forest Service appeal for a full Environmental Impact Statement. One states: "Third party interference is occurring at every level of the planning and implementation process used by agencies responsible for managing our public lands... The Diamond Bar is a case in point... Let's not tolerate the interference between trained Forest Service professionals and those who know the lands—the ranchers."

Gila Watch and Sierra Club activists had anticipated backlash following a meeting last month discussing overgrazing as a cause of recent flooding on the Gila River. What the environmental community did not expect was the blatant fear and hate campaign now being launched. The ads' allusions to Nazism and pagan nature worship, along with the cry to "not tolerate interference"—when the Forest Service is in fact mandated to "diligently solicit" public participation in public lands management—is deeply disturbing. The rhetoric used is reminiscent of KKK tactics employed in the Deep South in the pre-Civil Rights era, and reveals the darker side of the good old boys who wield power over public lands.

The involvement of Schneberger and the Coalition of Counties is also disturbing. This is no longer a local issue.

An inquiry to Minstrene Media was answered on Coalition of Counties letterhead by Howard Haskell, the Coalition's paid spokesman and the ads' creator. Minstrene's Board of Directors reads like a who's who of New Mexico's extractive industries, including People for the West's Manny Pacheco and Charles Royal of the New Mexico Mining Association.

The ads are polarizing the local community. Many "moderates" are outraged at the ads and will take another look at the groups which endorsed them. There is a very real concern that, in an area where ranchers have always called the shots, they are now feeling threatened by the recent round of political events and are looking for a scapegoat.

Chapter Service Outing May 8–10 to Document Gila Range Conditions

If you've been reading about the grazing on the Diamond Bar and have wanted to do something about it, this is your opportunity. The Rio Grande Chapter is sponsoring a three-day backpack through overgrown wilderness area to help Gila Watch document range conditions. As part of this effort, participants will be expected to carry a portion of the monitoring gear, including video equipment.

We will be arriving at Silver City Friday evening, May 7, for a moderate backpack (6000-8000 feet elevation) in the Gila area Saturday through Monday, May 8-10. Details are available from the leader, Susan Schek, at 388-254.


Gila Hike & Bike
102 E College Ave. Silver City, NM 88061 • 388-3222
Drop In & Check Us Out
For All Your Backpacking/Outdoor Needs
Plus
Info on Current Gila Natl Forest Conditions
Love Apache • Sierra Designs • Tawa • North Face • Hi-Tec • Camp Trails

NM State Land Office Environmental Protection and Recreation Programs
by Janis Hartley, New Mexico State Land Office
As part of his commitment to protecting and preserving the trust lands, Jim Baca, Commissioner of Public Lands, has announced that the New Mexico State Land Office is sponsoring the following programs:

1. Site Steward Program: The State Land Office is recruiting individuals and/or organizations to participate in the newly formed Site Steward Program. The main objective of this program is to monitor sensitive culture sites, including archaeological and paleontological, on state trust land throughout New Mexico. Some of these sites also include rare or endangered plant and animal species.

2. The primary responsibility of a volunteer in the Site Steward Program will be to regularly monitor designated sites and report any trespass, vandalism or other damage to the Land Use Specialist in that area. Volunteer crews will also help in fencing, stabilization, clean-up and habitat rehabilitation of specific extremely sensitive areas. All volunteers or volunteer leaders will be asked to participate in a training seminar before being assigned a site to monitor. The training session will include site, feature and species identification, map reading, survey techniques and local law enforcement procedures.

3. Watershed rehabilitation training: Environmental education as science teachers, environmental administrators, environmental activists and community/citizen volunteers are being recruited by the State Land Office to participate in a Watershed Rehabilitation Training Workshop. The purpose of this workshop is to teach participants about watershed management and rehabilitation methods for their ecological restoration.

This workshop will include classroom training sessions at the Soo Yehawa Foundation in Santa Fe and fieldwork, which can be conducted at Pueblo Bluffo, a severely eroded prehistoric pueblo on a parcel of trust land just south of the town of Galisteo. Participants will be taught how to build check dams, swales and gully structures, water control and water shed/habitat restoration. They will also learn to identify indigenous plant species and proper plant maintenance. Participants will also learn how to apply these techniques on other degraded, semi-arid lands throughout New Mexico.

3. Recreational Access Permit—The 1993 Recreational Access Permit is on sale at the New Mexico State Land Office, 505 E. Acequia Azul. This permit, which is good for 18 months, allows access to approximately 8.5 million surface acres of trust land throughout New Mexico, allowing visitor and sportsmen access to trails and wilderness areas in the state. The permit is available at the State Land Office, many US Forest Service and BLM maps also designate the location of the state trust lands.

The Commissioner of Public Lands is required to receive fair market value for the use of trust lands; he cannot give away or allow free use of the lands. All funds collected from the sale of Recreational Access Permits will be apportioned to the beneficiary institutions.

For more information on any of these programs, please call Janis Hartley at the New Mexico State Land Office in Santa Fe, 827-5763.
ALBUQUERQUE GROUP

April General Meeting
The Endangered Species Act: A Commitment Worth Keeping
by Susan Gorman

The program for April focuses on the Endangered Species Act (ESA) which has provided the legal framework for saving species from extinction. The success stories of the California condor, black-footed ferret, whooping crane and bald eagle provide striking evidence of the effectiveness of the ESA.

In recent months, the highly visible battles between timber cutters and environmentalists over the spotted owl have created the perception that the ESA is a potent force which threatens to upset the way of life in the West. The success stories have been overshadowed by the concerns that saving species costs jobs and creates economic upheaval.

Passed in 1973, the ESA must be reauthorized by the U.S. Congress and the battle which began last year is now continuing in the 103rd Congress. Ruth Musgrave from the UNM Center for Wildlife Law will explain how the current ESA works and explain the contentious points and the areas where the Act needs to be strengthened. She will review the bills which have been introduced in the U.S. legislature, both good and bad, and tell us what we can do to help.

Preceding the main program, Janis Hartley, State Land Office, will tell us about volunteer opportunities. We will write letters to support the ESA and briefly recap the highlights of the '93 New Mexico Legislature. The April meeting will be on April 19th at 7:30PM, UNM Law School, Room 2401, on the NW corner of Mountain and Stanford NE. Please bring a cup if you care to refreshments provided by the Albuquerque Group.

Open Letter to Allyra Jameson

Dear Allyra,

Two years ago, when I called the Sierra Club office to ask about local meetings and activities, you were there to welcome me and send out a copy of the Wildline. Yours was the first Albuquerque Sierra Club voice I heard.

Soon after your welcome, Blair and I went to our first general meeting and met more great people. Since then we have both become involved in many Club activities, made many friends and it all started with you, Allyra.

I imagine many other people were introduced to the Albuquerque Sierra Club by calling the office and talking with you. You've been our ambassador for quite a long time, but now you've decided to let someone else take responsibility for the office for a while.

Please be sure—you are appreciated and you will be missed. Thanks from me, Blair and all of the Albuquerque Group!

Kind regards,
Susan Gorman

RIO GRANDE SIERRAN
APRIL 1993

ALBUQUERQUE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Renowned oceanographer Jean-Michel Cousteau will give a lecture at the University of New Mexico on April 17th. Call 841-8831 for details.

Wildlife Rescue of New Mexico volunteers will give tips on emergency care for injured or abandoned wildlife. What to do and what not to do before Wildlife Rescue can respond. Saturday, April 17th at the Rio Grande Nature Center, 10:00AM. Cost: Nature Center Admission.

Earth Day

The New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science is planning a series of weekend activities related to Earth Day, April 22nd. Call 841-8837 for details.

The New Mexico Earth Day Coalition is coordinating the clean-up, maintenance, and rejuvenation of the Albuquerque Public Schools Environmental Education Center in Cedar Crest. This facility, which previously served Albuquerque 5th-graders, has been operating on a shoestring since funding was slashed over a year ago. New funding is being requested from the State during this legislative session. For more information on this and other Earth Day activities, contact Beth Dillingham at 256-8277.

The Rio Grande Nature Center will celebrate Earth Day on Sunday, April 25th from 10:00AM to 4:00PM. Destiny Roundup of Keep New Mexico Beautiful will be in attendance; demonstrations, music, and hands-on activities continue through the day. Cost: Nature Center Admission.

CALENDAR

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

Apr 1: Mexican Wolf Coalition, 7:30PM.
Apr 3: Potrerochilus National Monument Cleanup. 9AM-2:30PM. Call Bob at 256-7679, David at 344-6863, or Stan at 256-9138.
Apr 6: Activities and Special Planning Meeting at Oldie Tymes, Central & California. 7PM. Contact Terri at 256-8274 or Dave at 344-8893.
Apr 12: Executive Committee Meeting. 7PM.
Apr 14: 11:00, Deadline for articles for May group newsletter. Macintosh disk preferred. Call Dorothy if supplying hardcopy only.
Apr 19: Sierra Club General Meeting, UNM Law School, Room 2401, 7:30PM.
Apr 26: Conservation Issues meeting. 7:30PM.

See article above.

RIO GRANDE SIERRAN
APRIL 1993

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1993 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Office Telephone: 265-5506

Group Chair: Jay Sorenson 884-1314
Vice Chair: Blair Brown 265-3231
Treasurer: Richard Burris 247-8079
Secretary: David Bouquin 265-7553
Bob Cornish 265-6537
Nick Neelen 884-5433
Stefan Wyczanski 265-1370

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

Activities/ Terri Meyers 265-8274
Special Planner: Special Planner: 265-8274
Air Quality: Heidi Wernschen 265-1217
Book(s): Rich Adams 265-4657
Calendar: Calendar: 247-8079
Brooke: Richard Burris 247-8079
City Planning: (vacant) 266-1922
City Trash: Dan Filler 266-1922
Conservation: Ron Gable 290-0954
Energy: Dave White 275-0856
Laws: Marian Davidson 867-5178
Mailing: Deenn Kahle 345-7019
Metropolitan Wolf: Susan Eason 893-2527
Mining: Blonde Brown 265-3231
Snowmass: Dorothy Schaeffer 275-6113
Tours: Larry Compton 890-0679
Outings: David Morison 344-6893
Stu Kuchen 292-9138
Potrerochilus: Be Beesley 255-7679
Population: Bruce Fagg 265-7575
Titanic: Michelle Monks 266-8828
Programs: Susan Gorman 265-3231
Public Lands: Helen Davis 299-4908
Salud Waste: David Bouquin 265-7853
Water Quality: Chris Stowe 816-8304
Wildlife: Marc Roiter 299-2004

Annual Picnic Alert

The Annual Picnic has been moved to Sunday, May 10th.

Because many of those who attended last year did not enjoy getting rained on, we have decided to move the picnic to a time when the weather should be better. Sunday, May 10th.

As of this moment, the location for the picnic has not been finalized. We will need a few volunteers to set up, clean up and provide sites. If you can help, contact Terri at 256-8274.

Please make a note on your calendars and look for details in the May Sierran.
EL PASO
Sierra Club
El Paso Regional Group

APRIL GENERAL MEETING
Our April meeting will be a unique presentation concerning Austrailian Frank Smith, who is from Adelaide, South Australia, who will show slides of not only Australia, but also remote photography of plant life in the distant areas. It will be an interesting presentation.

The program will start at 7:30 PM on Wednesday, April 28, at St. Paul's Methodist Church, 7000 Edgemere (two blocks east of University). For more information, call Ted Marty, 852-3011.

CALENDAR
April
17 EXCOM (800 S. Piedras)
17-18 Earth Day on the Border (California National Memorial Park)
April 18 EXCOM (800 S. Piedras)
April 28 General Meeting (7000 Edgemere)
May 8 EXCOM (800 S. Piedras)

SIERRA CLUB HONOR MEMBERS
Receiving special awards at the Wine and Cheese party on March 12 were Jeanne French for her long dedication to IJCC activities; Linda Tsohov, recognizing her service as manager of the Environmental Center; Gary Williams for his leadership in preserving the environment; and Rolfe Weisback in acknowledgment of his past activities. Congratulations to these honored members!

DIAMOND BAR REPORT
Faced with a conservation of the hundreds of acres of the Gila and Aldo Leopold Wilderness, local environmentalists last year took the fight to the ground, photo-documenting overgrazing abuses, reporting on water quality, and bringing scientific attention to the ailments in order to confirm the degradation and networking with national environmental groups to bring the issue to the public’s attention.

Last month, following a meeting of Gila Who? With the New Mexico State Water Quality Agency, the New Mexico State Land Commissioner, the New Mexico Department of Water Resources, the New Mexico State Water Quality Control Board, and the New Mexico State Water Quality Board, it was decided that the Gila River is a state waterway. This decision is significant because it provides additional protection and compliance with existing laws.

After winning six years and hundreds of thousands of dollars in taxpayer dollars on a scheme to accommodate increased cattle numbers in the Gila, the Forest Service finally conceded to an EIS to shore up the full magnitude of the impact of the proposed actions.

My thanks to Gila Watch for this update on the Diamond Bar grazing issue. Ted Marty

ABQ OUTINGS
Outings may be cancelled or changed due to weather or other reasons, please call leader before outing.

APRIL 993
RIO GRANDE SIERRAN

Sat Apr 3 Leisure to supermarkets
Petroglyph NM Meet at the National Monument. Join the 50 to 100 people from the Sierra Club friend of the Albuquerque Petroglyphs, the Indigo pushers, and other groups as we tackle the southern perimeter of Raton Mesa. Meet at Unser and Osorio. Take Unser off I-40 west, head north until you reach Osorio. Bring lunch, water, gloves, t-shirts, and sneakers. Come prepared to walk as long as you like. Cold drinks and garbage bags provided. For more information contact call by 245-2769, David 341-8893, Stan 292-9138.

Sun Apr 4 Moderate-Badlands Miles: 4 Car: 150
Pecos Plata WSA
This proposed wilderness area has a variety of desert, we will see the meadows filled with brilliant wildflowers, bring lunch, water, gloves and garbage bags. For more information contact call by 245-2769.

Sat Apr 10 Leisure Miles: 3 Car: 0
Albuquerque Osborn HIke
Meet at St. Josephs and Cosmos, 9:00 AM. Llamas, Wildlife should be moving. Leader: David 341-8893

Sat Apr 10 Leisure Miles: 4 Car: 8
La Lasa WSA, Hike
La Lasa WSA offers opportunities to explore a variety of foals, yaprams (WSA is part of the San Luis Rape Protection Area), and contains most sites of golden eagle and great horned owl. A Does lunch at Lasa WSA. Meet at: 9:30 AM on the Sand at 207 San Pedro NE. Bring lunch. Leader: Bob Comb 255-0637

Sat Apr 17 Leisure to Stensens Miles: 1 Car: 140
Antelope Fencing Project
We will get our first quarter mile of antelope fencing. By removing the bottom bared wire stand and replacing it with a smooth wire higher up, we are allowing the antelope to escape to predators and pets. A small herd of antelope fence this open area dominated a vanguard of Canyon peak. Bring lunch, water, gloves, t-shirts, and sneakers. Come prepared to walk as long as you like. Cold drinks and garbage bags provided. For more information contact call by 245-2769, David 341-8893, Stan 292-9138.

Sat Apr 18 Leisure Car: 2 Miles
Bosva Negro Arroyo, PNM Hike

Sat Apr 18 Leisure: Moderate Miles: 3 Car: 120
Cerro Radio HIke
We will hike to a beautiful place near Packaby, climb to the top to see some Indian ruins, then hike along the brook to the south of the Ruins. Bring lunch. Meet at SC office, 207 San Pedro NE at 9:00 AM. Leader: David 341-8893

Sat-Sun Apr 24-25 Moderate Miles: 15 Car: 220
Bisti and De-Nu-Zini Wilderness Car Camp
With a potoful wood, houndog, dogs con and different tracks there are two wires are exotic baubles. Food provided at turn out. Bring water for drinking. Campsite overlook of De-Nu-Zini. RSVP by Wed. 21. Leader: David 341-8893

Sat Apr 24 leisure Miles:3-Car:170
La Bajada and Ice Caves 1
El Malpais NM West HIke
We will head for the southwestern corner of the NM. Ladders are formed by massive lava cooling on the surface while the inside melts. When the tees are cool and mixture is present, ice will form to the trusses. High elevation gives views of the Gila. Make sure there are cool, high clouds and no precipitation is present. Ice will form to the ice. Leader: John Wright, Patricia Martinez 247-4135

Sun Apr 25 Moderate Miles: 3- Car: 110
Sanchez Canyon Waterfall HIke
This area lies below Delicious reservoir and above Cockpit dam. Nice hike through the ponderosa pines, alan to the waterfall. If anyone is ambitious we will hike further to San Miguel river. Bring lunch, hiking shoes. Call for meeting time and location. Leader: Don Mixler 260-8822

Sat, Mon May 1-3 Steens-Steens Peak HIke Miles: 10 Car:475
White Canyon, Elkh Backpack
This is perhaps the most exciting hikes on the California Plateau. We will attempt scrambling the glassy waters of the Black lake. We will explore the meadows of Fry and Cigarette Canyons. This area is contained in the proposed 3.1 million acre Umatilla Wilderness bill. Jan Baca, former BMJ director (former NM Environment Commissioner) has spoken about the bill. Wild horses and antelope are abundant. All three of these runs are at different times proposed for National Park status. Leave Friday night, bring your own food, possible dry camping. Leader: David 341-8893

Sat-May 1 Leisure: Moderate La Bajada and Ice Caves II, El Malpais NM West HIke
We will hike for the southeastern part of the NM. Ladders are formed by massive lava cooling and the inside melts. When the tees are cool and mixture is present, ice will form over the trees. High elevation gives views of the Gila. Make sure there are cool, high clouds and no precipitation is present. Ice will form to the ice. Leader: John Wright, Patricia Martinez 247-4135

Sat-May 8-9 Moderate Miles: 12 Car: 110
Bandelier NM BackPack Leader: Nick Nickick 584-5463

Awards:
NM = National Monument
SC = Sierra Club
SW = Santa Fe Wilderness
PNM = Petroglyph National Monument

ENVIRONMENT CENTER

Earth Day: During the month of April, the Environmental Center will be transformed into an Art Gallery for environmentally themed art from local area artists. Come by during our gallery hours, 9 AM - 2 PM, Tuesday through Saturday. Also, on Earth Day we will have a reception for the artist from 5 PM - 8 PM. Be sure to stop by and bring your checkbook...the art’s for sale!

Grants Needed: Do you know of any organizations that need a monthly meeting space? The Center is looking to give away some of its meeting space to local community groups. All non-profit groups are welcome and we will work out meeting time and location.

Sierra Club is a tax exempt 501c3 organization. Please send all donations to:
Jim Dougherty
Sierra Club of NM
331 Del Vado, Suite 1, Santa Fe, NM 87501

GROUP DIRECTORY
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Chairman/Public Loan
Ted Marty 852-3011
Vice Chairman/Finance
t Bob Mershand 548-5137
Secretary
Joe McLoud 833-9655
Treasurer
Kathy Sullins 548-5137
Member/Outings
Mike Eipko 852-3700
Member/CO
Richard Buck 544-5609
Member/Programs
Benny Juria 544-5741

CONSERVATION
Environmental Quality
Tom Brandfald 584-8739
Political Action
Joe McLoud 581-8804
Population
open

ADMINISTRATION
Executive Director
Phyllis Cervantes 532-9645
Group LOXOMail Bill Phillips 772-6503
Membership Barbelle Mertie 852-3911
Carolina Greenfield 590-2435
Office Rep. Neil O’Hare 565-4735
Publicity Todd Dougherty 584-2720
LORAX/Editor/WEBMAM Wyman Tener, Editor, 331 Del Vado, Santa Fe, NM 87501

Send LORAX information to Wyman Tener, Editor, 331 Del Vado, Santa Fe, NM 87501

RIO GRANDE SIERRAN

APRIL 1993

15
COMANCHE PEAK MOONLIGHT HIKE

DATE: April 2, 1993
CLASS: Easy and educational
LIMIT: 20 reservations required
LEADERS: Don Millieren, 581-0267

Bill Sparks, 503-6804

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

FORT HANCOCK CAMPARC

DATE: April 3-4, 1993
CLASS: Easy and educational
LIMIT: 20, reservations required
LEADERS: Don Millieren, 581-0267

Bill Sparks, 503-6804

We will meet at the intersection of Robinson and Kinyon off Socorro Drive at 7 PM. We will take our time ascending the steep road on this short, easy hike with a 1,000' elevation gain. Lizarding along a flashlight and water and be prepared to see Elf Pamos turn into a glittering jewel.

BEGINNER BACKPACKING WORKSHOP

DATE: April 25, 1993, 9 AM - Noon
PLACE: Environmental Center, Sod Pecas
LIMIT: 30 reservations required
LEADER: Betty Fishbeek, 581-0174

This workshop is for beginning backpackers who would like to learn how to stay warm, dry, safe, and happy on wilderness trails. Topics to be covered by several presenters will be tents, clothing, stoves and cooking, packing a backpack, water purification, navigation equipment, environmental responsibility and much more! When we finish you will be ready for some basic backpacking on the beginner backpack course on May 6 and 7.

SAN ANDRES CANYON BACKPACK

DATE: April 24-25, 1993
CLASS: Moderate
LIMIT: 10, leader approval and reservations required
LEADER: Roy McDonough, 503-437-6179

This is an all trail backpack through a picturesque area of the Lincoln National Forest. We will meet in Alamogordo, NM, in the north parking lot of Burger King at 9:30 AM on Saturday. From there we drive on to trailhead south of High Falls on Westside Road. Our campsite is located in a meadow with spring water nearby. From the campsite an optional day hike to a lookout point above San Andres is possible. Total trekking is five miles. Due to the off-trail nature of this hike all participants must stay together. Call Roy in Alamogordo for reservations and details.

SHEEP MOUNTAIN BACKPACK

DATE: May 1, 1993
CLASS: Moderate
LIMIT: 10, leader approval and reservations required
LEADER: Mike Epstein, 833-3770

We leave Friday evening and camp at the Three Rivers Campground. Saturday morning we take the short drive into the White Sands Missile Range where we will meet with Jim Fedele, Public Affairs Officer for WSMR, and Bob Burton, Missile Range Archeologist, who will guide us and interpret some of the historic sites along our route. This off trail hike is eight miles round trip with a 2,000' elevation gain. This hike is for experienced hikers and provide special security numbers in advance of the outing. Due to range activity, this outing is subject to cancellation. Call Mike early for details.

EARTH DAY ON THE BORDER

Chihuahuan National Park

Saturday, April 17
10 AM to 5 PM

Join us to celebrate the environment!

CLOUDCLOFT RIM TRAIL DAY HIKE

DATE: Sunday, May 2, 1993
CLASS: Moderately strenuous (likely to length)
LIMIT: 15 reservations required
LEADER: Jim Bell, 581-1964

Enjoy this especially lovely trail and the freshness of spring for a long (14 miles) hike in the Jicarilla National Forest. Call Jim for information and reservations.

OUTING REPORTS

MONTICELLO BOX, VERY LARGE ARRAY CAMPARC

DATE: May 9-10, 1993
CLASS: Easy, fun and educational
LEADER: Heidie Naylor, 581-1266

We leave Saturday morning from a camparc just outside the Maxinallas Lick Canyon near the abandoned Waro Spivey Reserve. Preservation, south of Winslow. NM. Located here are the ruins of Fort Hamilton which was the center of the Opi Calorina Reservation in the 1870’s. Several short exploratory dayhikes are planned in the area on Saturday. Sunday morning we take a short drive north to the Very Large Array (National Radio Astronomy Observatory) Visitor Center. Here we can take the self guided tour of the facilities with its many interesting displays and view one of the huge radio telescopes before heading home. Call Harold early for additional details and reservations.

BEGINNER’S BACKPACK

Aldo Leopold Wilderness

DATE: May 9-10, 1993
LIMIT: 12 reservations required
LEADER: Easy
LEADERS: Betty and Wilton Fishbeek, 781-0174

This is a trip designed especially for those who would like to try backpacking for the first time. It is a short hike (about 2.5 miles) over a fairly easy, but beautiful downstream trail. You will get a feel of what it is like to shoulder a pack and be self-sufficient and safe in the wilderness. We will do some planning for this trip at the Backpacking Workshop on April 24.

RIO GRANDE SIERRA

APRIL 1993
SANTA FE GROUP NEWS

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 20, 1993

As the April showers signal the return of Spring to the Santa Fe area, venture out to the general meeting to hear Jon Talberth, director of The Forest Conservation Council, a nonprofit organization. He will tell us about the mapping program he is conducting on the ecosystems and old growth forests of the Carson, Ollas and Santa Fe National Forests. This is a project similar to the one he initiated in Oregon before moving here last July. The real result will be an ecosystem based management program for New Mexico’s forests. Perhaps you can even volunteer to help!

The general membership meeting is FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC and will be held at The Unitarian Church on Barcelonas (between Don Gaspar and Galisteo), on Tuesday, April 20, at 7:30 PM.

SEE YOU THERE!

MEETING SCHEDULE

The Executive Committee of the Santa Fe Group is now meeting at noon on the first Tuesday of each month at Jurgens, Tailreadge & With, 322 Montezuma. The next two meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, April 6, and Tuesday, May 4, 1993. All members are welcome to attend, please bring your lunch.

>> SANTA FE GROUP OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS <<

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

* Member of the SF Group Executive Committee

Terms expire 12/93: McCallan/Mortier/Mackelroy/Oyler/Soracco
12/94: Hughes/McIntosh/Moore/Perkins

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SANTA FE GROUP OUTINGS

Sat Sun April
3 Joe Whelan (984-0746) Moderate Cross-Country Ski Tour or Hike, depending on snow conditions. Leave 8:30 AM.
4 Doug Atchauler (471-1183) Moderate/Strenuous Hike in Bandelier, up the Mesa to Upper Canyon and down Frijoles Canyon, 13 miles roundtrip.
Fri-Sat-Mon
2 - 3 - 4 - 5 Norma McCallan (471-0005) Celebrate spring with a 3-4 day Car Camp and Moderate Day Hiking in the canyons near Moab, the Sun Rafael Swell, or Canyonlands National Park. Dogs allowed if not in Park. Call for details.
10 Brian Johnson (983-5672) Moderate Hike in Martinez Canyon, north of Abiquiu, 10 miles roundtrip. Leave 8 AM.
17 John McCure (473-1916) Moderate/Strenuous Hike Destination to be determined by snow conditions. Leave 8 AM.
18 Jeff Jones (984-2389) Easy Hike up Tequaue Creek. Children welcome. Leader will have his 3-year-old along. Leave 9 AM.
18 Caroline Glick (984-3188) Strenuous Hike to Otowi Ruins and Bosy Canyon. Call leader for information and reservations.
24 Norrice Sanders (984-3186) Moderate Hike along county road to Christ in the Desert Benedictine Monastery near Ghost Ranch. Leave 8 AM.
25 Victor Ayala (471-7545) Easy/Moderate Hike to Tent Rocks. Leave 9 AM.

CROSS COUNTRY SKIING

Sat Sun April
Any weekend Interested in Ski Tourism? Call John Turnbull (982-9329) He will arrange trips if there is enough interest. Snow conditions for Northern New Mexico are particularly good this year for Cross Country Skiing, and this is the best time to ski, with longer hours of sun, good weather (we hope), and the migrating animals are starting to sniff around.

SKI TOUR NOTES: If you don’t have your own cross country ski equipment, you can rent skis from a shop for about $10.00.

Call leader for details and reservations before all tours - most important!

For all-day tours, bring big lunch, and always bring snacks and water.

Proper clothing is essential — the weather can turn suddenly.

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VOLUNTEER SITE STEWARD PROGRAM

ORGANIZED BY
JIM RAGA, COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS

The main objective of this program is to have volunteer workers monitor sensitive sites, including historic, archeological and paleontological, on state trust lands. Some of these sites also contain rare and endangered species of animals or plants. These sites have suffered greatly in past years from erosion, vandalism, garbage dumping and trespass, and they need to be protected and preserved for future generations of New Mexicans.

Participants will regularly monitor designated sites and report any trespass, vandalism or other damage to State Land Office personnel.

Volunteer crews will also be recruited to help with fencing and stabilization of specific sensitive areas.

Interested in signing up?? Call Janis Hartley at 827-5763

Executive Assistant to the Commissioner.

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APRIL 1993

RIO GRANDE SIERRAN

19
Sat Sun May
1 Noreen Sanders (984-0386) Strenuous Hike to Stone Lions from upper campground, Bandelier National Monument. 13 miles roundtrip. Leave 8 AM.
2 Jeff Jones (984-2389) Easy Family Walk [leader is bringing his 3-year-old] along the railroad tracks east of town. Meet 9:30 AM at the Main (2nd) entrance to Eldorado.
3 Arnold Kealauilua (982-9570) Easy/Moderate Climber up Atalaya Peak. Leave 9 AM.
4 Doug Attkle (471-1188) Moderate/Strenuous Hike to St. Peters Dome. 12 miles roundtrip. Leave 8 AM. Make reservations with leader.
5 Steven Janus (988-4137) Strenuous Hike to Lake Katherine. Leave 8 AM.
6 Victor Ayala (741-7545) Easy Hike Free Trail from campground to Ceremonial Cave, Bandelier. Leave 9 AM.

Three day weekend
Bob McKay (1-672-3426) Moderate/Strenuous Backpack in Bandelier National Monument. Middle day will be a lower day; camping probably in Capulin Canyon. Call for reservations.
Trip will be either Fri-Sat-Sun (May 7-8-9) or Sat-Sat-Mon (8-9-10).
15 Gordon Winkler (986-0858) Easy Hike to Kitchen Mesa, near Ghost Ranch. Leave 9:30 AM.
16 Elizabeth Alman (471-4840) Easy Hike to Cañada de Los Alamos. Leave 9 AM.
17 Arnold Kealauilua (982-9770) Easy/Moderate Hike to Penitente Ridge. Leave 9 AM.
18 John Jasper (982-8572) Moderate Hike to Rancho Viejo. Leave 8 AM. 8 miles roundtrip, may be patches of snow. Creek crossings.
22 Brian Johnson (983-5672) Moderate Backpack in Dome Wilderness area, via Cochiti. Meet Saturday at 8 AM. Call for reservations.
29 Joe Whelan (984-0746) Moderate Hike to Hermit's Peak, near Las Vegas. Leave 8 AM.
30 John McClure (473-1916) Moderate Hike to Rancho Viejo. Leave 8 AM. 8 miles roundtrip, may be patches of snow. Creek crossings.

Four day weekend Fri-Sat-Sun-Mon (May 28-29-30-31)

★ ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE / ISSUE HIKE FOR MAY ★

Memorial Day, Monday, May 31
Bill Donahue (983-3675) Moderate Hike to the area of the Jones Mine in the Pecos, a controversial re-opening of an old mine in a sensitive area. Leave 8 AM.

Outings Notes – All outings, unless otherwise specified, leave from the PERA parking lot at the corner of Paseo de Peralta and Old Santa Fe Trail (across the street from the State Capitol and First National Bank). Carpooling will be arranged at the parking lot, and each hiker should come prepared to pay $2.00 to cover the cost of the car in which hiker rides. Hikers should bring a lunch, water, sturdy hiking boots or shoes, and clothing suitable for the weather — leader reserves the right to turn away anyone whose equipment or appearance appears unsuitable. Leader has the right to alter destination of hike or cancel the trip due to weather, unfavorable conditions, or insufficient numbers of participants. Unaccompanied minors must have written permission from parents or guardians to participate; permission forms are available at the Sierra Club office. Dogs are not permitted on hikes unless noted otherwise. Telephone leader for details of the individual hike.

REMEMBER THE EARTH
EARTH DAY APRIL 22, 1993

OUTINGS

SIERRA CLUB – Santa Fe Group
440 Cerrillos Road
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501
Telephone 505/993-2913

OTHER EVENTS

APRIL 14-18: Alamogordo will be hosting its annual Rattlesnake Round-up, and I hope that environmentalists will attend to protest the event, or write letters to state and federal legislators, and Alamogordo Chamber of Commerce to urge that these events be stopped.

APRIL 19: KRWG will be having its annual fundraising event, and the Sierra Club is looking for a few people to help answer telephones. If you would like to help, call David Poncelet at 525-8216.

APRIL 24: The Student Sierra Club will have a booth at the Earth Day celebration on the NMSU campus. We will have refreshments, environmental information, and Sierra Club T-shirts for sale. Several students are looking for something out of the ordinary to catch peoples attention, so come see what we dig up. Many other organizations will be attending, and we hope to see you there.

APRIL 1993

RIO GRANDE SIERRAN

THE LOG

Outings

April 2-4: A weekend car camp with moderate day hikes in North Percha Creek. We will leave at 5:00pm from the northern Pan Am. Parking lot at NMSU. For more information call Steve Kobayashi at 382-8419.

April 10: Ben Zorbeer will lead a day hike through the rugged terrain of Cooke's Peak. We'll be leaving early in the morning and returning in late evening. Call Ben at 526-4207 for more information.

April 23: Come join us on a backpack trip in the Gila Wilderness. Bring camp gear and food and be ready for a good time. We'll leave at 5:00 pm from the north Pan Am. Call Andrew Hands for reservations, at 526-2320.

May 1: Jim Winder will host a day hike and tour of his economically stable, environmental ranch, with ample opportunity to view wildlife and excellent nature conditions, proving that it can be done. Call Jon for more information at 267-4227.

Meetings

Southern New Mexico Group

April 7: The Student Sierra Club (SSC) will have a program by Paul Hyder on the ecology and natural history of rattlesnakes. Come update your knowledge on the demise of rattlesnakes in the southwest, as they face yet another rattlesnake round-up. The meeting will take place at 7:00 pm in Science Hall room 107.

April 8: The Executive Committee will meet at 7:00 pm at the Southwest Environmental Center (SEC) across from the Golden Bull on Solano. Come join the fun.

April 21: The SSC will host another meeting with Marianne Thaeler, Chair of the Executive Committee. We'll be having round table discussion of environmental issues. Come give your input, and voice your opinion at 7:00 pm in Science Hall room 107.

April 22: Sierra Club offers a presentation by Susan Twet, "Barren, Wild and Worthless", which will shed new light on the wonders of the great southwest. Come join us at the SEC across from the Golden Bull at 7:30 pm.

Other Events

APRIL 1993

RIO GRANDE SIERRAN
Dams and Bridges in Silver City
by Susan Schock

To some, Gila Wat ch's public meeting on overgrazing and flooding in the Gila might have looked benign. Over 120 ranchers, "enemies," farmers, agency personnel, and other community members gathered in one room. And as one Forest Service employee stated, "They're not even throwing chairs!"

Yet there were indications... The Cattlegrowers Association did not sit down. Instead they stood in a bloc facing the speaker, ASU's Dr. Bob Ohmart, as let them know in no uncertain terms that their current abusive grazing practices must change. They took Cattlegrowers...Gila Wat ch's newscaster—by the handful. Some listened and asked Ohmart what they should do. Others accused him of misrepresenting his slides that showed riparian recovery in the absence of grazing. For some the old myths held fast. One person stated that Black Canyon, Ohmart's example of severe overgrazing, was one of the best riparian areas in the Southwest. Grant County Commissioner Harrison exposed his opinion that tax money wouldn't have to bear the "entire burden," when in reality the Forest Service "traditionally" buys and supplies all materials for ranchers range "improve ment... The ranchers charge out their labor as payment for their "shares," in addition to being subsidized by taxpayers for as much as 80% of their grazing fees.

But the meeting served its purpose to lay the facts on the table and begin an open discussion about the effects of overgrazing. One or two ranchers may heed Ohmart's warning, and that is a beginning. Change comes hard in the face of denial, and denial is hard to break.

At subsequent flood relief meetings in Silver City, ranch ers accused "enviros" of causing the flooding by not allowing trees to be removed from the riverbed. A dam project has been revived, although what Ohmart said was: "Dams kill rivers." Radio ads attacking environmentalists of pugilistic tenor are now being run on local stations. Denial, Anger, Fear, Necessary steps for the gap can be bridged.

Wilderness Woes
by Marianne Thaler

Wilderness means, "place of wild beasts." This word witnesses first appeared in the Anglo-Saxian epic poem, Beowulf, circa 700 A.D. Before the written word, each one of us had an ancestor who ventured out into the wilderness to make a new home, to explore, to hunt, or to find a spiritual experience.

Now the tables are turned. The human population has exploited, wilderness has disappeared globally, and with it the experience. Ah yes, there are pockets of land left that continued on next page

NOTES FROM THE PRES. OF THE STUDENT SIERRA CLUB at NMSU...
by Andrew Hanb

What? Where has the semester gone? I'm sure it's been well spent hiking the books and cramming for tests. Well here at the SCC we've been fortunate to get outside a bit. Some of the past adventures included: a trip to Ashenbuck Canyon, complete with good food and excellent weather; a trip to Filmore Canyon where hikers were inspired by the enchanting scenery; some of us were fortunate to hike up Dog Canyon in Oliver Lee State Park near Alamogordo, this hike is surely one of Southern New Mexico's best! Some of us were also able to spend a night under the full moon on White Sands National Monument, enjoying the unique shadows and calm of the area, as well as surviving the 19 degree weather. But!

We helped cut the University and the Red Cross by running a booth to solicit blood donors. Hats off to Phil Rotherham for coordinating those activities.

We have an interesting program planned for April. Paul Hyder from the Chihuahuan Desert Herpetological Society will give a presentation on the natural history of the rattlesnakes, hopefully eliminating some of the myths that perpetuate such activities as rattlesnake roundups. It should be an informative evening, and all are welcome.

We have many adventures planned for the remainder of the semester so come to one of our meetings and check it out!

Group Directory

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Libby Hernandez, Population Chair

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