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### US Representative:

(If you don't know who your representative is, contact your county clerk.)

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
U.S. House of Representatives  
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To telephone your senators or representative, call the U.S. Capitol switchboard in DC:  
(202) 224-3121

If you want to express support directly to President Clinton you can call the White House at 202-456-1111

OR

Call the Economic Package Support Hotline at 800-641-1818, Hotline 9351.

Department of Interior  
Bruce Babbitt  
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APRIL 1993

# RIO GRANDE SIERRAN

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 signed by the governor, New Mexico will, for the first time, have a hardrock mine reclamation law.

Passage of this law is doubly welcome. First, and most importantly, the law means that New Mexico will finally be able to protect its natural resources from the ravages of unreclaimed mines. Enactment of the New Mexico Mining Act also demonstrates that when the Sierra Club decides to focus on a priority issue, it can accomplish exactly what it sets out to.

Accomplishing the goal of a mine reclamation act for New Mexico required the hard work of many individuals and organizations, over a number of years. Sierra Club thanks all those who worked together with us to pass this law, particularly the legislators who stuck with us and this issue through a challenging summer and a very difficult legislative session. Our thanks and continuing support to Senator Shannon Robinson and Representatives Gary King and Cisco McSorley.

A great deal of thanks also to Governor Bruce King for his unprecedented support of the effort to pass a good mine reclamation law. The Governor helped in the trenches on this one and his involvement was invaluable. Additionally, the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department was always instrumental in the passage of this law, and, as we have stated in the past, their support and expertise was very helpful.

The New Mexico Mining Act is a good law. It is the result of the Sierra Club/Mining Action Coalition bill introduced by Sen. Robinson in the Senate and Rep.

McSorley in the House of Representatives, combined with the thought and extensive work on this issue by Rep. Gary King over the past three years. Together with a good regulatory program to be developed during the upcoming year (we are working on it) New Mexico will begin workable balance between mining and the fragile natural resources of this state.

### Highlights of the New Mexico Mining Act

(The act will be under the jurisdiction of the New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department, Mining and Minerals Division. References to "the

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## 1993 Legislative Summary

by Ken Hughes, 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 mining bill, there were a plethora of environmentally related activities on the legislative plate this year. Bills to strengthen water quality and hazardous waste laws passed, as did a new method of paying for energy efficiency measures. Tire and oil recycling bills also made it through. Funding to protect the environment, conserve water and push clean energy, unfortunately, did not fare as well.

Sierra Club priorities of water, energy and wildlife are highlighted in this report, as are summaries of legislation on recy-

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cling, appropriations and other issues of concern. Names of sponsors and their hometown are listed next to the bill subject, with a "+" indicating Sierra Club support and "-" opposition. (Note: Governor King has until April 12 to sign all bills.)

### Water

+Water memorial (Rep. Lujan, Nambe) Memorial to urge the State Engineer to develop a statewide water inventory management system and a water balance for each water basin in the state. Passed

+Water Quality Act amendments (Rep. Madalena, Jemez) H 788 increases penal-

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## RIO GRANDE CHAPTER DIRECTORY

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## CALENDAR

April 20: deadline for May *Sierran*

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

May 8–10: Chapter Service Outing, Gila

May 14: Secretary of Interior Babbitt in Albuquerque

June 5: Chapter Conservation Meeting, Kingston

June 6: Chapter Executive Committee, Kingston



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## LETTERS

### Rescind Takings Order

Dear Editor,

I recently learned of the Executive Order 12630, so was very happy to see Marianne Thaeler's report on the "campaign" to urge President Clinton rescind the E.O. I'm writing to voice support for that campaign and chip in a couple of additional considerations.

Couple the Takings 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 regulations to enforce laws protecting the environment and so on. Recent "law of the land" decisions, i.e., no chance for appeal, have overturned 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 may be gone, but they live on with their S.C. appointments.

However, the Executive Order can be rescinded and President Clinton must hear that call loudly. He can find further justification in its repeal if you remind him of how much federal dollars will be saved (\$millions) when extensive (expensive) impact analyses won't have to be conducted in writing regulations to enforce such laws as the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act and so on.

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

Contributions are welcomed from members and non-members. Send to *Rio Grande Sierran*, 207 San Pedro NE, Albuquerque, NM 87108. Articles on Macintosh disc (any format) or IBM disc (3 1/2" ASCII or WordPerfect) should be submitted by the 20th of the month prior to publication. Letters and articles are subject to abridgement at the editor's discretion. Typed articles must be received a week earlier than the disc deadline. Call editor for modern information.

The E.O. is also a "model" for State legislation, witness the Arizona takings legislation and bills introduced in the 1993 NM legislature. As of this writing, the NM bills haven't been tabled or defeated, so hopefully when this is read they will only be history.

Thank you Marianne for bringing this issue to our attention and presenting it in such an easily understood manner. Readers, please write!

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 the people of 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 got 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

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## Water is a Critical Issue in NM

by Vickie 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 interest groups must be included as necessary players in water allocation decisions. For too long these decisions have been made without any consideration of long-term environmental consequences, and the results are everywhere.

Environmentalists' interests in water, varied as they may be between environmental groups, share a common goal: keeping water in the rivers. To this end, New Mexico needs a water watchdog organization to assert what Denise Fort (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 water involvement projects comes at a time when New Mexico's water allocation code and existing State Engineer's Office (SEO) policies are 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. But there is a conspicuous lack of coordinated effort by the environmental community to oversee such activities as well as day-to-day administrative decisions made by agencies with water agendas.

In water quantity matters, current areas of concern include the following two examples. First, under existing law, "the public welfare" and conservation are two relatively new criteria required to be taken into account by the State Engineer in agency hearings on new appropriation or water transfer applications. These criteria could be used to allow interested parties who don't hold water rights to participate in the decision process, and to express concerns not usually addressed by the

agency, the applicant or the protestants (if any).

Second, water rights adjudications, those protracted lawsuits which are intended to finally settle water rights claims to stream systems, escape not only careful monitoring but also participation by area residents who don't own water rights, but who may be directly affected in other ways by the adjudication.

An efficient water watchdog group could 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 Ames 266-6842, or Vickie Gabin 986-7315 (message) or 455-7645 (home).

## Babbitt in Albuquerque May 14

Secretary of the Interior Bruce 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 economic program. A major agenda item will be grazing on public lands.

Details were not available at press time. For more information, call Marc Bedner at 299-2004.

## Action Alert on Lechuguilla Cave

by David McClurg

Lechuguilla Cave, a designated "world class" cave located in Carlsbad Caverns National Park, is not fully explored. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has written an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that considers drilling natural gas wells adjacent to the existing Carlsbad National Park boundaries in the area of Lechuguilla 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 5,100 acres east and north to include the BLM Mudgett'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 Lechuguilla Cave Protection Act of 1993. The bill would withdraw oil, gas and mineral rights from the 5,100 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 in addition to: Honorable Bruce Vento  
 Natural Resources Committee  
 Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Land  
 812 O'Neill House Office Building  
 Washington, DC 20515.

## Hardrock Mine Law *continued from first page*

director" below refer to the Director of the Mining and Minerals Division.)

1. Interim site 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 drainages 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, out-

standing, unabated 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 regulation 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 any inspection prior to release of financial assurance, and public representation on the

## Hardrock Mine Law *continued from previous page*

Mining Commission and the director's advisory committee.

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.

Revegetation funds will be retained for 12 years following final seeding 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 violation 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, closeout 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, 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 allow for an award of attorney's fees in the court's discretion.

## Where the Money Goes — and Why We Need More

*by Jana Oyler, Chapter Treasurer*

Last month the Rio Grande Chapter mailed its annual appeal letter asking members for donations to meet its conservation budget for 1993. The Chapter is often asked to schedule its fundraising 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 activists 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 was for 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 hearings, monitor public lands 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 material, 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 Oyler Treasurer,  
Rio Grande Chapter  
Route 19, 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.



Mining Action Coalition in front of New Mexico State Capitol

*continued on next page*



## Legislative Summary *continued from first page*

ties on illegal dumping of pollutants into streams, expands the ability of the Water Quality Control Commission to respond to emergencies, and it expands the Environment Department's authority to regulate sludge and septic tanks, major problems with underground water 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 1956, for the actual use of San Juan County residents. Passed

-Septic System Regulations (Rep. Wright, Chaparral) 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 lessened acreage would not have a negative environmental impact.

### Energy

Coal Surtax (Rep. Whitney Welles, Aztec) HB 148 exempted coal surtax from inflation for 3 years. House Tax & Revenue substitute limited exemption to one year and tied it to a 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 enti-

ties to enter into contracts with private energy service companies for installing energy efficiency products and repaying off the savings. Sierra Club supported and worked with the Speaker to amend bill to include solar devices as eligible products. Passed

+Rapid Rail (Rep. Silva, Albuquerque) HB 536 asks for \$2 million for purchase of right of way for the Rio Grand rapid rail project, for land from railroad line to the Albuquerque airport, up La Bajada hill, and from I-25 into Santa Fe. Funded

*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) SM 45 asks the Energy and Minerals Department to set up a task force on how New Mexico can become a national leader in commercial application of solar power tower technology. Sierra Club memorial. Passed

### Wildlife

+Department of Wildlife Rep. McSorley (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. Perls, Corrales) Sierra Club was 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 Farm and

Ranch Improvement Funds. Killed in House Agriculture.

-Endangered species (Sen. Jennings, Roswell) SB 57 redefines the state act to mandate economic impact before classifying a species as threatened or endangered, and requires local meetings in area potentially affected by such a classification. Passed Senate 20-11 and House Agriculture (with only Rep. Porter dissenting) but tabled 9-4 in House Energy.

SM 53 (Sen. Rawson, Las Cruces) would ask the US Fish and Wildlife to act more scientific 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 Dept. to study the impact of introducing exotic species into New Mexico on native species. Passed

### Recycling

+Container (Rep. Shirley Baca, Las Cruces and 32 others; Sen. Stefanics, Santa Fe) HB 597 and SB 519, latest incarnations of the bottle bill, exempt local grocers from having to redeem containers and strengthen nascent local recycling efforts. Supported by a broad coalition of the Governor's office, consumer, labor and environmental groups, and the City of Albuquerque. Ferociously fought by special interests such as Coca-Cola, Budweiser, Furr's and Keep New Mexico Beautiful (who is getting 50 cents per license plate from a Coke and Bud-backed bill). Tabled in House Business Committee (thanks go to Reps. Perls and Rodella for bucking the tide) and Senate Conservation in favor of a memorial which asks an interim legislative committee to study the issue and come back next year with recommendations.

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

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## Legislative Summary *continued from previous page*

+Motor Oil and Oil Filter (Sen. Lopez, Santa Fe) SB 323 puts a 10 cent fee on a quart of motor oil and 60 cents on an oil filter to set up a collection system for recycling used motor oil and filters. Passed.

+Government purchase of recycled content (Rep. Picraux, Albuquerque) HB 455 gives a price preference to procurement of recycled products by government agencies.

+Environmental Marketing Claims (Rep. Picraux, Albuquerque) HB 456 would set up a procedure for independently evaluating manufacturing claims on the "greenness" of products. Tabled in House Judiciary on motion by Rep. Perez.

### Appropriations

The Sierra Club lobbied House Appropriations and Senate Finance members on funding to enhance environmental priorities throughout state government. Two agencies stressed were:

+1) Environment Department: Serious problems that need attention and clean up go unmet with insufficient state funds to go along with federal funds and requirements. The agency may lose \$.5 million in federal funds for water quality and hazardous waste if the state doesn't match federal funds. The Department has had a \$622,000 decrease since Gov. Carruthers' last budget. Requested but not funded: \$2 million for waste water treatment, \$5 million revolving loans 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 its 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 toward the next century in our use and production of energy. Not funded.

### Other

-Takings (Rep. McSherry, Deming; Sen. Kidd, Carlsbad) The top priority

to oppose in this session among environment and labor groups. Also opposed by the Attorney General, Land Office, Office of Cultural Affairs, Environment Department, Tax & Revenue and, until exempted out, Game & Fish. Would require agencies to assess if their regulations impinge on an owner of real or personal property, and if so, how much they might owe them. Supported by Cattleman's Association, Farm & Livestock Bureau, Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the Association of Realtors.

SB536 killed in Senate Conservation Committee (thanks to Sens. Rutherford, Stefanics and Tsosie). HB684 advanced through House Agriculture (with Rep. Porter the only dissenter) and House Judiciary (Reps. McSorley, Pederson and Speaker Sanchez dissenting). At House Appropriations, Chairman Coll bravely resisted efforts to schedule the bill for a hearing, hence it was killed.

+Natural Resources Education Center (Rep. King, Moriarty) HB 559 puts \$150,000 into the Sandia Mountain center as a statewide educational facility for teaching school kids in natural resources and species protection. Passed

+Citizens Suit (Rep. King, Moriarty) HB 744 allows citizens to sue polluters they can show are violating a certain environmental law and where the state has yet to act. Tabled in House Judiciary on motion by Rep. Angie Perez.

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 help secure financing. A compromise give publicly operated landfills 20-year permits, with permit reviews every ten years by the Environment Department. Privately owned landfills get ten year permits and five year reviews.

+Tribal Environmental Specialists (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 initiatives.

+Hazardous Waste (Sen. Paster, Albuquerque)

SB549 allows New Mexico to impose regulations more stringent than federal standards on the disposal and incineration of hazardous waste. Passed

Freshmen of the Year Rep. Robert 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 Stefanics, Leonard Tsosie and Tom Wray gave environmentalists consistent support in Senate Conservation

Members who deserve special thanks Rep. Max Coll, for successfully thwarting the takings bill, for advancing funding for environmental programs, and working to defund Animal Damage Control Reps. Cisco McSorley and Gary King, for tirelessly working to make mining reform a reality and supporting or sponsoring a broad range of environmental legislation Sen. Tom Rutherford and Rep. Roger Madalena, for skillfully advancing conservation legislation before their committees

Finally, a personal observation. During my three years of lobbyist here in New Mexico, preceded by ten years working on or lobbying on Capitol Hill in 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 mix of America's good, bad and warts. A Colorado comrade, hearing my theory, replied, "Nonsense. The way I view legislators is that they get caught in the special interest game and any good they might have had in them is wrung out and left to dry."

According to the Environmental Law Center poll, 69% of New Mexicans believe that their 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 \_\_\_\_\_:

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 handouts
- 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 through environmental investments. The energy tax is a first step towards reducing energy pollution.

Doing nothing is simply irresponsible. The country needs the reforms and changes the President is proposing.

Please let us know your position on the Economic Program.

Sincerely,

If you want to add some specific elements of the package, here is a list for you to select from:

#### Cuts in anti-environmental handouts:

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

#### Creates jobs through environmental investments:

- Funding to clean up our nation's polluted waters
- Increased funding for restoration of our damaged "natural infrastructure"
- A more level playing field for safe, renewable energy sources
- Increased federal energy efficiency programs
- Increased funding for low-income weatherization
- Funding for public transit systems

#### Creates energy tax to begin reduction of energy pollution:

- Taxes oil at a higher rate to include the hidden costs of our addiction

For congressional addresses, see directory on last page.

- The tax contains offsets for lower income Americans
- The first building block in a comprehensive plan to reduce carbon dioxide
- Solar and wind power are exempt from the energy tax

### Other Important Things You Can Do for the Environment:

Write letters to members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee: Bennett Johnston (Chair); Bob Krueger (TX); Pete Domenici and Jeff Bingaman (NM); and to Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt to support the appointment of Jim Baca to head the Bureau of Land Management. His leadership, vision and creativity are badly needed to support President Clinton's public lands policies including:

- Requiring collection of royalties from mining activities on public lands
- Reformulating and raising the fee for grazing on public lands
- Phasing out below-cost timber sales on public lands

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 programs and policies which Jim Baca initiated. (Some possible good candidates are Ray Powell, Jr., Denise Fort, Bob Langsencamp, Jim Nance.)

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

Thanks to everyone who helped with the legislative phone tree!

## Letters Oppose Santa Fe Ski Basin Expansion

continued from page 2

have also compiled numerous newsletters, articles and literature from both sides of the issue. In my findings, I have found that half the letters to the newspapers have come from Albuquerque or from out of state. The other half were from ski employees, and a small percentage—and I must stress, a small percentage—from the community.

The campaign by the proponents of the Ski Area expansion says the opposition is deliberately misleading the public. This is false. Our city and county government officials were well informed of the issues before passing any resolutions opposing the Ski Area expansion. Let's not forget our Native Americans, who have passed similar resolutions opposing the expansion. The campaign of misinformation is a last ditch effort by the proponents of the expansion to gain one ounce of community support.

I would like to thank the Sierra Club and its members for allowing me an opportunity to express my thoughts and my feelings about a mountain that means so much to me and great numbers of other citizens who have experienced it for what it is. I also thank the Sierra Club members who have supported the Ski Area Containment Coalition.

Victor M. Martinez, Jr.  
Ski Area Containment Coalition  
Coordinator  
Santa Fe

To the editor:

The Sierra Club's long-standing opposition to the expansion of the Santa Fe Ski Area is well justified. Here are just a few reasons why environmental groups have joined with Native American and Hispanic groups to fight the expansion:

- The proposed expansion would negatively impact an area of the Santa Fe National Forest now used by cross-country skiers, hikers, and other non-commercial users, many of whom can-

not afford downhill skiing. Why should they be forced out to accommodate commercial development?

- The Native American community is opposed to the expansion because its sacred sites will be disturbed.

- Thousands of additional skiers means more cars, more parking lots, more congestion, and more air pollution along the two-land road that leads to the Ski Area and along Santa Fe streets already choked with traffic.

- Downstream acequia associations and irrigators are opposed to the expansion because of the impact on water quality and quantity. The Ski Area made headlines last year for illegally diverting millions of gallons of water. Expansion will require more water it doesn't have rights to.

Ski Area managers can do many things to improve the quality of the downhill ski experience without expanding beyond their current boundaries. A shuttle bus system to reduce accidents, congestion, and the need for more parking lots would help greatly. High-speed lifts to reduce long lift-lines would also help, as would capacity limits. Other ski areas limit the number of skiers on their slopes to assure safer and more enjoyable skiing. Preserving and improving the Santa Fe Ski Areas as a family-oriented facility serves community needs. Aspenizing the Ski Area will not.

Pat Wolff  
Santa Fe

To the Editor:

I would like to comment on the letter printed in the February *Rio Grande Sierran* concerning the expansion of the Santa Fe ski basin. Steve Miller takes exception to a number of statements in a previous article about the ski basin.

As a long time resident of Santa Fe and an ex-skier I would like to bring out a few points that are relevant to the discussion.

The impact of skiers in a fragile area—YES there is an impact of a large number of humans; note the use of water and the sewage left there. The Big Tesuque has pristine water quality as of now. YES—there is activity in the summer. Tourists ride the lifts, and mountain bikes are in the expansion plans for the future—more human impact. And YES there is a degradation to wildlife habitat. Many years ago there was a beautiful campground, but now it is covered over by the monster parking lot. We used to be able to see all kinds of birds and wildlife at that location, but not now. YES—there is potential damage to sacred Indian sites that are not always hidden under the snow.

We agree that people on skis on snow (either cross-country or downhill) probably wouldn't hurt most of the Big Tesuque. It is all of the adjunct building of trails, lift towers, and buildings, and parking lots, that will damage the area. Ken Hughes has an article that concerns the parking lot problem in the US in the February issue of the *Sierran* that Steve Miller might benefit from reading. The ski basin should be planning busses to the area to avoid all of the congestion and degradation made by cars. Why hasn't the ski basin gone ahead with using more busses to solve the parking problem? Using busses is a practice that is carried out in many ski areas in Europe.

What it boils down to is that after the snow is gone we would still like to be able to see our beautiful Sangre de Cristo mountains—without any more human intrusion ego-monuments there. "Leave only footprints (ski trails), take only pictures" might be the slogan here.

Many of us consider this area an ecological extension of the Pecos Wilderness, even if it has not been officially designated as such. For this reason we do not wish to see any more of its destruction.

Lois C. Herrmann  
Santa Fe

# "Pagan Nature Worship" in the Gila?

by Susan Schock

"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 conspire to destroy them!"

"The radical animal rights wing of the environmental movement has a lot in common with Hitler's Nazis. 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 antienvironmental advertisements, produced and broadcast by a local rancher-friendly radio station, jolted Silver Citizens at 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 cattle developments in nearby wilderness areas.

The 30- and 60-second spots are sponsored by Minuteman Media, an Albuquerque nonprofit incorporated by New Mexico Cattlegrowers 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 depicting environmentalists as heathens 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 supersede the Endangered Species Act. Catron County, 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 allotments as private property.

Several of the ads target the Diamond Bar allotment on which environmentalists just won a Forest Service order 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 land—the ranchers."

Gila Watch and Sierra Club activists had anticipated backlash following a meeting last month discussing overgrazing as a cause of recent flooding

continued on next page

## 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 overgrazed 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 Schock, at 388-2854.

For carpooling information, call Norma McCallen in Santa Fe at 471-0005, Ted Mertig in El Paso at 852-3011, or Marc Bedner in Albuquerque at 299-2004.

## Gila from previous page

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 Nazis 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 Minuteman Media was answered on Coalition of Counties letterhead by Howard Hutchinson, the Coalition's paid spokesman and the ads' creator. Minuteman'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 Roybal of the New Mexico Mining Association.

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

## 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.

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 an science teachers, volunteer 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 ecosystems and methods for their ecological restoration.

This workshop will include classroom training sessions at the Sol Y Sombra Foundation in Santa Fe and field components to be conducted at Pueblo Blanco, 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 gabion structures for erosion control and watershed/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 in Santa Fe for \$25.00. This permit, which is good for 12 months, allows access to approximately 8.5 million surface acres of trust land throughout New Mexico for non-commercial day use activities such as hiking, picnicking, bird watching or photography. Permits, valid for an individual and/or family of not more than ten members, can be purchased in person in Santa Fe or through the mail. Maps of the trust lands are on sale 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.

## Gila Hike & Bike

103 E. College Ave. • Silver City, NM 88061 • 388-3222

Drop In & Check Us Out

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Info on Current Gila National Forest Conditions

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## 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 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 have refreshments provided by the Albuquerque Group.

Please come!

### 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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Renowned oceanographer **Jean-Michel Cousteau** will give a lecture at the University of New Mexico on April 17th. Call 841-8838 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 reopening of the Albuquerque Public Schools Environmental Education Center in Cedar Crest. This facility, which previously served Albuquerque 5th-graders, has been operating on a 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 256-4227.

The Rio Grande Nature Center will celebrate Earth Day on Sunday, April 25th from 10:00AM to 4:00PM. Dusty Roadrunner of Keep New Mexico Beautiful will be in attendance; demonstrations, music, and hands-on activities continue during 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, 7:30 PM.
- Apr 3: **Petroglyph National Monument Cleanup**, 9AM-2:30PM. Call Ike at 255-7679, David at 344-8693, or Stan at 292-9138.
- Apr 6: Activities and Special Planning Meeting at Olde Tymers, Central & Louisiana, 7PM. Contact Terri at 265-8274 or Dave at 344-8693.
- Apr 12: Executive Committee Meeting, 7PM.
- Apr 10: 12 noon. **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, Rm 2401, 7:30 PM.
- Apr 26: Conservation Issues meeting, 7:30 PM. See article above.

### 1993 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Office Telephone: 265-5506

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

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

Activities/	Terri Moyers	265-8274
Special Planning		
Air Quality	Heidi Fleischmann	260-1217
Books/	Rich Adam	266-4657
Calendars		
Bosque	Richard Barish	247-8079
City Planning	(vacant )	
City Trails	Dan Feller	266-1922
Conservation	Ron Grotbeck	296-0944
Energy	Ralph Wrons	275-0856
Las Huertas	Marion Davidson	867-5178
Mailings	Doreen Kahl	345-7919
Mexican Wolf	Susan Larsen	897-2527
Mining Issues	Blair Brown	265-3231
Newsletter	Dorothy Brethauer	275-6113
	Larry Compton	899-0679
Outings	David Morrison	344-8693
	Stan Kauchak	292-9138
Petroglyphs/		
Westside	Ike Eastvold	255-7679
Population	Bruce Ferguson	765-5757
	Michelle Meaders	266-8823
Programs	Susan Gorman	265-3231
Public Lands	Hubert Davis	299-6904
Solid Waste	David Bouquin	265-7853
Water Quality	Chris Strobe	836-6304
Wildlife	Marc Bedner	299-2004

### Annual Picnic Alert

The Annual Picnic has been moved to Sunday, May 16th.

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 16th.

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 ideas. If you can help, contact Terri at 265-8274.

Please make a note on your calendars and look for details in the May *Sierran*.



## ALBUQUERQUE OUTINGS

Abbreviations: NM = National Monument; SC = Sierra Club; SW = Sandia Wilderness; PNM = Petroglyph National Monument

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

**Sat Apr 3** Leisure to strenuous  
**Petroglyph NM Cleanup**  
We will start on our second 100 tons of garbage to be removed from the National Monument. Join the 50 to 100 people from the Sierra Club, Friends of the Albuquerque Petroglyphs, the Indian pueblos, and other groups as we tackle the southern peninsula of Rinconada Canyon. Meet at Unser and Ouray: take Unser exit off I-40 west, head north until you reach Ouray. Bring lunch, water, gloves, rakes, and shovels. Come out when you can and stay as long as you like. Cold drinks and garbage bags provided. For more information call Ike 255-7679, David 344-8693, Stan 292-9138.

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

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

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

**Sat Apr 10** Leisure- Moderate  
Miles: 4-5 Car: 140  
**La Lena WSA Hike**  
La Lena WSA offers opportunities to explore for a variety of fossils, raptors (WSA is part of the San Luis Raptor Protection Area, and contains nest sites of golden eagle and great horned owl), and Indian ruins. Interesting walking up narrow canyons to the mesa top. Meet at 9:00AM at the Sierra Club office 207 San Pedro NE. bring lunch.  
Leader: Bob Cornish 255-6037

**Sat Apr 17** Leisure to Strenuous  
Miles: 1 Car: 140  
**Antelope Fencing Project**  
We will go for our third quarter mile of antelope fencing. By removing the bottom

barbed wire strand and replacing it with a smooth wire higher up, we are allowing the antelope to escape from poachers and predators. A small herd of antelope frequents this open area dominated by a view of Cabezon peak. Bring lunch. Transportation provided by BLM. Meet at BLM office, 435 Montano Rd NE.  
Leader: Barbara Stone

**Sun Apr 18** Leisure Car: 3 Miles: 3  
**Boca Negra Arroyo, PNM Hike**  
Leader: Ike Eastvold 255-7679

**Sun Apr 18** Leisure- Moderate  
Miles: 3-4 Car: 120  
**Cerro Indio Hike**  
We'll hike to a butte whose face contains petroglyphs, climb to the top to some Indian ruins, and then hike along the bosque. South of Belen. Bring lunch. Meet at SC office, 207 San Pedro NE at 9:00AM  
Leader: David 344-8693

**Sat- Sun Apr 24- 25** Moderate  
Miles: 15 Car: 220  
**Bisti and De-Na-Zin Wilderness Car Camp**  
With petrified wood, hoodoos, dinosaur fossils and dinosaur tracks these two areas are exquisite badlands. Food provided at reimbursement cost. Bring lots of water. Campfire overlook of De-Na-Zin. RSVP by Wed. Apr. 21.  
Leader: David 344-8693

**Sat Apr 24** Leisure Miles: 3-4 Car: 170  
**Lava Tubes and Ice Caves I, El Malpais NM West Hike**  
We will head for the far southwestern corner of the NM. Lava tubes are formed by molten lava cooling on the outside while the inside keeps moving. When the tubes are cool enough and moisture is present, ice will form in the tubes. High clearance vehicles desirable. Bring lunch. Call leaders for meeting time and location.  
Leader: John Wright, Phyllis Martinez 247-4353

**Sun Apr 25** Moderate  
Miles: 3-4 Car: 110  
**Sanchez Canyon Waterfall Hike**  
This area lies above Dixon's apple orchard and above Cochiti dam. Nice hike through the ponderosa pines, along a stream to the waterfall. If everyone is ambitious we will hike further to San Miguel ruins. Bring lunch, hiking shoes.  
Call for meeting time and location.  
Leader: Don Meadors 266-8823

**Sat- Mon May 1-3** Strenuous- Exploratory Miles: 10 Car: 475  
**White Canyon, Utah Backpack**  
This is perhaps the most exciting narrows hike on the Colorado Plateau. If we are brave we will attempt swimming the frigid waters of the black hole. We will explore the narrows of Fry and Cheesebox Canyons. This area is contained in the proposed 5.4 million acre Utah Wilderness bill. Jim Baca, future BLM director (former NM state land Commissioner) will have his hands full protecting these Wilderness Study Areas from proposed tree chaining, road building, mining and drilling, and dam building by the dinosaur, the Utah BLM. A large part of these WSAs were at different times proposed for National Park status. Leave Friday night, bring your own food, possible dry camps.  
Leader: David 344-8693

**Sat May 1** Leisure- Moderate  
**Lava Tubes and Ice Caves II, El Malpais NM West Hike**  
We will head for the northwestern part of the monument near Bandera crater and south of Grants.  
Leader: Tom Leck 857-0765

**Sat- Sun May 8-9** Moderate  
Miles: 12-15 Car: 110  
**Bandelier NM Backpack**  
Leader: Nick Nickolaus 884-5433

## EL PASO

## the LORAX

Sierra Club  
El Paso Regional Group

### APRIL GENERAL MEETING

Our April meeting will be a unique presentation concerning Australia. Frank Smith, who is from Adelaide, South Australia, will show slides of not only Australia, but also micro-photography of plant life in the desert there. 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 Airway). For more information, call Ted Mertig, 852-3011.

### CALENDAR

April 7	EXCOM (800 So. Piedras)
April 17-18	Earth Day on the Border (Chamizal National Memorial Park)
April 13	Deadline for El Paso newsletter information (send to 331 Vista del Rey, 79912)
April 28	General Meeting (7000 Edgemere)
May 5	EXCOM (800 So. Piedras)

### SIERRA CLUB HONORS MEMBERS

Receiving special awards at the Wine and Cheese party on March 12 were **Jeanne French** for her longtime dedication to ICO activities; **Linda Maslow** recognizing her service as manager of the Environmental Center; **Gary Williams** for his leadership in preserving the environment; and **Rollin Wickenden** in acknowledgement of his outings activities. Congratulations to these honorees!



## The Environmental Center

**Environmental Art** - 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 host a reception for the artist from 5 PM - 8 PM. Be sure to join us and bring your checkbook...the art's for sale!

**Organizations Needed** - Do you know of any organizations that need a monthly meeting space? The Center rents the use of the meeting area to other non-profit organizations for a mere \$5.00 per month. Have them contact the Center at 532-9645 for details.

**Volunteer Speakers Needed!** - Requests from area schools come into the Center on a regular basis. Anyone out there who is willing to talk with young people about some facet of our environment, should call me at 532-9645.

Phyllis Caves

### GROUP DIRECTORY

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairman/Public Lands	Ted Mertig	852-3011
Vice Chairman/Franklin Mtns	John Sproul	545-5157
Secretary	Joe Rodriguez	833-9655
Treasurer	Kathy Sunday	584-9301
Member/Outings	Mike Episcopo	833-3770
Member/ICO	Richard Rheder	544-5659
Member/Programs	Betsy Julian	544-5741

#### CONSERVATION

Environmental Quality	Tom Brasfield	584-8739
Political Action	Jim Bell	581-8864
Population	open	

#### ADMINISTRATION

Environmental Center	Phyllis Caves	532-9645
Group/LORAX Mail	Bill Phillips	772-6503
Hospitality	Barbara Mertig	852-3011
Membership	Carolina Greenfield	593-2838
Office Rep.	Neil O'Hara	565-4735
Publicity	Todd Daugherty	584-2730
LORAX Editor/SIERRAN	Wyona Turner	585-0251

#### Sierra Club Environmental Center

800 S. Piedras

532-9645, 532-4876

Please send any changes or corrections in membership to  
Carolina Greenfield, Membership Roll

1510 Dale Douglas, 79936

Send LORAX information to

Wyona Turner, Editor, 331 Vista del Rey, 79912

### DIAMOND BAR REPORT

Faced with the desecration of thousands of acres of the Gila and Aldo Leopold Wilderness, local environmentalists last year took the fight to the ground, photo-documenting overgrazing abuses, reporting trespass cattle, bringing scientists to the allotment 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 Watch, National Wildlife Federation, the Rio Grande Sierra Club, Forest Guardians, The Wilderness Society, NMEIC and PLAN, the National Wildlife Federation sent a letter to the Forest Service reiterating

the environmentalists' bottom line: an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), no new tank construction in the wilderness, adequate monitoring, resource protection and compliance with existing laws.

After wasting six years and hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars on a scheme to accommodate increased cattle numbers in the wilderness, the Forest Service has finally consented to an EIS to disclose the full magnitude of the impact of its proposed action.

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

Ted Mertig





## OUTINGS

## COMMANCHE PEAK MOONLIGHT HIKE

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

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

## FORT HANCOCK CARCAMP

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

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

## RANGER PEAK DAYHIKE

DATE: April 10, 1993  
 CLASS: Moderate  
 LIMIT: 20, leader approval and reservations required  
 LEADER: Mike Episcopo, 833-3770

We will meet at the top of Scenic Drive early Saturday morning and hike along the crest to Ranger Peak. Total roundtrip is five miles with a 1,500' elevation gain. Bring water and your favorite snacks, and view El Paso and Juarez from a great vantage point. Call Mike for details and reservations.

## THREE RIVERS DAYHIKE

DATE: Sunday April 11, 1993  
 CLASS: Moderate  
 LIMIT: 12, leader approval and reservations required  
 LEADER: Roy McCloud, 505-437-0179

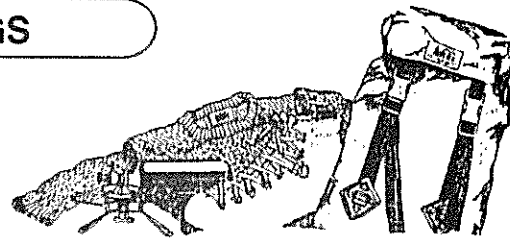
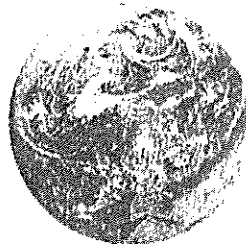
Come spend Easter in the cool pines of the Lincoln National Forest. This is a shady forest hike along a creekside trail in the beautiful White Mountain Wilderness. A six-mile round trip is planned, though upper sections of the trail may have snow well into late spring, so length will vary accordingly.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

## EARTH DAY ON THE BORDER

Chamizal National Park

Saturday, April 17  
 10 AM-10 PM  
 Sunday, April 18  
 10 AM-8 PM

Join us to celebrate the environment!



## BEGINNER BACKPACKING WORKSHOP

DATE: April 25, 1993 (9 AM - Noon)  
 PLACE: Environmental Center 800 S. Piedras  
 LIMIT: 24, reservations required  
 LEADER: Betty Fisbeck, 581-0174

This workshop is for beginning backpackers who would like to learn how to stay warm, dry, well-fed, and happy on wilderness treks. Topics to be covered by several presenters will be tents, clothing, stoves and cooking, packing a backpack, water purification, miscellaneous equipment, environmental responsibility and much more! When we finish you'll be ready for some field experience on the beginner backpack on May 8 and 9.

## SAN ANDRES CANYON BACKPACK

DATE: April 24-25, 1993  
 CLASS: Moderate  
 LIMIT: 10, leader approval and reservations required  
 LEADER: Roy McCloud, 505-437-0179

This is an off-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 to our trailhead south of High Rolls off Westside Road. Our campsite is located in a meadow which has spring water nearby. From our campsite an optional dayhike to a lookout point above San Andres Canyon is possible. Total roundtrip 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 DAYHIKE

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

We leave Friday evening and carcamp at the Three Rivers Campground. Saturday morning we take the short drive into the White Sands Missile Range where we will meet with Jim Echols, Public Affairs Officer for WSMR, and Bob Burton, Missile Range Archaeologist, who will guide us and interpret some of the historic sites along our route. This off-trail hike is eight miles roundtrip with a 2,000' elevation gain. All participants should be US citizens and provide social security numbers in advance of the outing. Due to range activity, this outing is subject to cancellation. Call Mike early for details.

## CLOUDCROFT RIM TRAIL DAYHIKE

DATE: Sunday, May 2, 1993  
 CLASS: Moderately strenuous (due to length)  
 LIMIT: 15, leader approval and reservations required  
 LEADER: Jim Bell, 581-8864

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

## OUTINGS, continued

## MONTICELLO BOX, VERY LARGE ARRAY CARCAMP

DATE: May 8-9, 1993  
 CLASS: Easy, fun and educational  
 LIMIT: 20, reservations required  
 LEADER: Harold Naylor, 592-1266

We leave Saturday morning and carcamp just outside the Monticello Box Canyon near the abandoned Warm Spring Apache Reservation north of Winston, NM. Located here are the ruins of Fort Harmony which was the center of the Ojo Caliente 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 visit 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 8-9, 1993  
 CLASS: Easy  
 LIMIT: 12, reservations required  
 LEADERS: Betty and Weldon Fisbeck, 581-0174

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 streamside 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.

## OUTINGS REPORTS

## The "9-Day" Guadalupe Peak Dayhike, 1/30/93

Yes, Ripley, believe it or not... Our point man was Dave Saylor of Albuquerque. Along with Lolina Alvarez and a friend from Las Cruces, Dave chose to tackle Guadalupe Peak on the original hike date of January 30. While Dave did not exactly compare this hike to his prior ascent on Aconcagua, he did mention near-freezing temps, 100% humidity, light snow and ice on the trail, dense fog to about 8,000', and a beautiful sunny view from on top above the fog.

The rest of the outing participants chose Sunday, February 7, to amble up in bright sunshine and shirtsleeve weather; a perfect winter day in the Guads. Almost all of the original cast of hikers completed the trek, including Pat and George Simon of Alamogordo fame, Bill Williams, assistant leader, Eva Peppel, Fil Nakovic, Bibiane Alkire, Jim Montes, Annie and Ray Zimmerman and Mary, Gary Enos of Hobbs, David Archer, unofficial guests Dave Oppliger with Melissa Oppliger and Cyndi Gray, and the last hiker to stroll out 198 hours later, leader Carol Morrison.

## Chiricahua National Monument Carcamp, 2/13-14/93

Though the drive was lengthy, the rewards were many at Chiricahua National Monument. After finding the campground and setting up camp at the attractive, wooded group campsite, we made the ascent of Sugarloaf Mountain (7,310') followed by a 3.5 mile hike of the scenic Echo Canyon Loop Trail. Sunday morning, after a dramatic introduction to "Old Man Volcano" at the Visitor Center, the group was shuttled to Massai Point, hiked to "Heart of the Rocks," and back along Rhyolite Canyon Trail to the Visitor Center. The scenery was spectacular and the hiking trails in excellent condition. Participating in this adventure were Maria, Dionne, Brian, and Mike Episcopo, Barbara and Ted Mertig, Toni Beattie, Rafaela Schuller, Carol Fashing, Megan Graham, Kathy, Susie, and leader Rollin Wickenden.

## Baylor Pass, Pine Tree Trail Dayhike, 2/20/93

On Saturday, two groups of Sierrans and friends hiked the Pine Tree Loop and Baylor Pass trails in the beautiful Organ Mountains. The Baylor Pass group took to the trail with threatening skies overhead and a gusty wind at our backs. Once over the Pass and on the wind-protected east side, we were treated to some excellent

views of the snow-capped needles and huge rabbit ears, as well as the vast Tularosa Basin. As planned, both groups met at the Aguirre Springs Campground within 15 minutes of each other. After a lunch break, the Pine Tree group provided us with rides to our cars on the west side of the range. This proved to be rather exciting for those of us in the open bed of a pick-up truck with the threatening clouds. We arrived at the trailhead unscathed, said our prompt goodbyes, and relished in our recent accomplishment. Those on the Baylor Pass Hike included: Ray and Annie Zimmerman, Mary Gowan, Rafaela Schuller, Paul and Susie Lukowski, Margrey Cason, Jeannie Munoz, Doug Gegax, Lorraine Ellis, Christa McKinney, Donna Stumpf, Jim Basler, Bill Kirk, Esther Nichols, Jane Runyen, Chris Barrett, Alice Chomesky, and leader Mike Episcopo.

## Bush Mountain Backpack, 2/27-28/93

Luck was with us as we made our way up Bush Mountain in the Guadalupe. The rain and fog stayed away until we were getting into our cars to drive back home on Sunday. We saw the tame deer that hang around Pine Top Campground. The hike was hard, but the solitude and the views from the escarpment made it worthwhile. Sadly to say, not everyone who visits a national park is concerned about the environment. On our way down the trail we stopped to pick up trash, and we each carried out a shopping bag full of junk. This was all from an area marked "Under Restoration - Stay on Trail." On a more positive note, those getting to sign their names at the register on the top of Bush Mountain were Joe Rodriguez, Sandy Anderson, Gary Enos from Hobbs, and leader Kathy Sunday.

## Big Bend Ranch State Park Backpack, 3/6-7/93

Our Big Bend Ranch desert backpack began Friday night with a drive to Fort Leaton State Historical Site on the Rio Grande. Saturday morning, we began our trek into the Bofecillos Mountains in picture-perfect weather. We arrived at the Reza Homestead in Panther Canyon in the late afternoon, and, after setting up camp, enjoyed the beautiful spring within our desert oasis. Participants who made the Club's first Big Bend Ranch outing a success were Bill and Shirley Phillips, Ana O'Neil, Sarah Gowan, Bob White, Marty Morrow, Rafaela Schuller, Christa McKinney, Maria and leader Mike Episcopo.

# SANTA FE GROUP NEWS

## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

TUESDAY, APRIL 20, 1993



### MEETING SCHEDULE

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

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, Gila and Santa Fe National Forests. This is a project similar to the one he initiated in Oregon before moving here last July. The end 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 Barcelona (between Don Gaspar and Galisteo)**, on Tuesday, April 20, at 7:30 PM.

SEE YOU THERE !

The Conservation Committee of the Santa Fe Group is again meeting at 7:00 PM on the **fourth Tuesday** of each month at the group office, 440 Cerrillos Road. All conservation matters to be brought before the Executive Committee should be presented at the Conservation Committee meetings for discussion and recommendation first. **The Next meeting is Tuesday, April 27 at 7:00 PM.**

### >> SANTA FE GROUP OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS <<

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

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

\* Member of the SF Group Executive Committee

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



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

### Sat Sun April

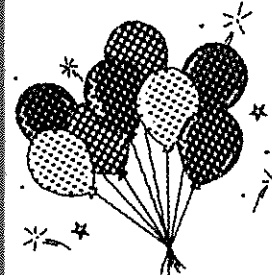
- 3 **Joe Whelan** (984-0746) Moderate Cross-Country Ski Tour or Hike, depending on snow conditions. Leave 8:30 AM.
- 4 **Doug Altshuler** (471-1183) Moderate/Strenuous Hike in Bandelier, up the Mesa to Upper Canyon and down Frijoles Canyon, 13 miles roundtrip.
- Fri-Sat-Sun-Mon  
2 - 3 - 4 - 5  
**Norma McCallan** (471-0005) Celebrate spring with a 3-4 day Car Camp and Moderate Day Hiking in the canyons near Moab, the San Rafael Swell, or Canyonlands National Park. Dogs allowed if not in Park. Call for details.
- 10 **Brian Johnson** (983-5672) Moderate Hike in Martinez Canyon, north of Abiquiu, 10 miles roundtrip. Leave 8 AM.
- 11 **Norbert Sperlich** (983-1962) Moderate/Strenuous Hike in the Caja del Rio. Call leader for reservations.
- 17 **John McClure** (473-1916) Moderate/Strenuous Hike Destination to be determined by snow conditions. Leave 8 AM.
- 18 **Jeff Jones** (984-2389) Easy Hike up Tesuque Creek. Children welcome. Leader will have his 3-year-old along. Leave 9 AM.
- 18 **Caroline Glick** (984-3184) Strenuous Hike to Otowi Ruins and Bayo Canyon. Call leader for information and reservations.
- 24 **Norrine Sanders** (984-0386) Moderate Hike along county road to Christ in the Desert Benedictine Monastery near Ghost Ranch. Leave 8 AM.
- 25 **Victor Atyas** (471-7545) Easy/Moderate Hike to Tent Rocks. Leave 9 AM.

### CROSS COUNTRY SKIING

#### Sat Sun April

Any weekend Interested in Ski Touring? 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 hibernating 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 \$9.00.



Call leader for details and reservations before all tours - most important!  
For all-day tours, bring **big lunch**, and always bring snacks and water.  
**Proper clothing is essential** — the weather can turn suddenly.

### VOLUNTEER SITE STEWARD PROGRAM ORGANIZED BY

**JIM BACA, 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 or 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.

Sat Sun May

- 1 **Norrine Sanders** (984-0386) **Strenuous Hike** to Stone Lions from upper campground, Bandelier National Monument. 13 miles roundtrip. Leave 8 AM.
- 1 **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.
- 2 **Arnold Keskulla** (982-9570) **Easy/Moderate Climb** up Atalaya Peak. Leave 9 AM.
- 8 **Doug Altshuler** (471-1183) **Moderate/Strenuous Hike** to St. Peters Dome. 12 miles roundtrip. Leave 8 AM. Make reservations with leader.
- 9 **Steven Janus** (988-4137) **Strenuous Hike** to Lake Katherine. Leave 8 AM.
- 9 **Victor Atyas** (471-7545) **Easy Hike** Frey Trail from campground to Ceremonial Cave, Bandelier. Leave 9 AM.

Three day weekend

- Bob McKee** (1-672-3426) **Moderate/Strenuous Backpack** in Bandelier National Monument. Middle day will be a layover day; campsite probably in Capulin Canyon. Call for reservations. Trip will be either Fri-Sat-Sun (May 7-8-9) or Sat-Sun-Mon (8-9-10).
- 15 **Gordon Winkler** (986-0858) **Easy Hike** to Kitchen Mesa, near Ghost Ranch. Leave 9:30 AM.
- 16 **Elizabeth Altman** (471-8490) **Easy Hike** to Cañada de Los Alamos. Leave 9 AM.
- 22 **Arnold Keskulla** (982-9570) **Easy/Moderate Hike** to Penstemon Ridge. Leave 9 AM.
- 23 **John Jasper** (982-8572) **Moderate Hike** to Rancho Viejo. Leave 8 AM. 8 miles roundtrip, may be patches of snow. Creek crossings.
- 22 23 **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)

**Norma McCallan** (471-0005) **Moderate Day Hikes & Car Camp** in South Central Utah. Dogs allowed. Exploratory trip in Canyon Country on Memorial Day weekend.

★ 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 Patis Corbae). Carpooling will be arranged at the parking lot, and each hiker should come prepared to pay 5 cents a mile to the driver of the car in which hiker rides. Hikers should bring a lunch, water, sturdy hiking boots or shoes, and clothing suitable for the weather - leader reserves the right to turn away anyone whose equipment or experience appears unsuitable. Leader has the right to alter destination of hike or cancel the trip due to weather, unfavorable conditions, or insufficient numbers of participants. Unaccompanied minors must have written permission from parents or guardians to participate; permission forms are available at the Sierra Club office. Dogs are not permitted on hikes unless noted otherwise. Telephone leader for details of the individual hike.

**REMEMBER THE EARTH**

**EARTH DAY APRIL 22, 1993**



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

# THE LOG

*Southern New Mexico Group*

## 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 Kalavity at 382-8419.

**April 10:** Ben Zerbey 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 526-6207 for more information.

**April 23-25:** 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 526-2282.

**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 range conditions, proving that it can be done. Call Jim for more information at 267-4227.

## Meetings

**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 Tweit, "**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.

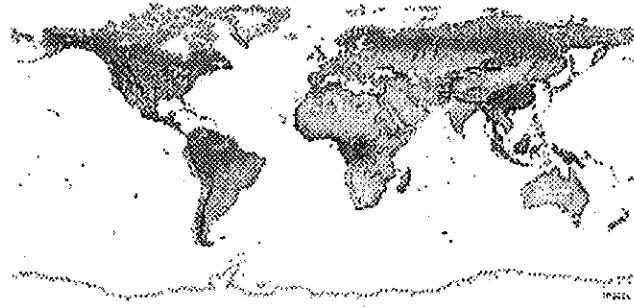
## Other Events

**April 16-18:** Alamogordo will be hosting it's 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 it's 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 Pengelley at 525-8286.

**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.





## From the Desk of the Population Chair:

During the 1980's, nearly half the country's new residents settled in California, Arizona, Nevada, Utah, New Mexico and Colorado. The Southwest's population expanded almost 30%, three times the national rate. This growth challenges Southwest activists working to protect our regional environment. Yes, we seem to be aware that population growth is threatening distant and exotic habitats like the Amazon rain forests. But do we realize that important habitat regions in the Southwest are also threatened by an expanding human population.

When William Reilly was appointed head of the EPA a few years ago, he assembled a panel of experts to identify major environmental threats. "Loss of natural habitat" was one of the four "highest risk threats" identified. As we work to preserve natural habitats, we must remember that no matter how many battles we win, we will ultimately lose, unless we come to grips with our regional population growth. As Robert M. May points out in a recent review, human population growth "... is the engine that drives everything. Patterns of accelerating resource use, and their variation among regions, are important but secondary; problems of wasteful consumption can be solved if population growth is halted, but such solutions are essentially irrelevant if populations continue to proliferate. Every day the planet sees a net increase (births, less deaths) of about one quarter of a million people. Such numbers defy intuitive appreciation.... Until this changes, I see little hope."

Working to stabilize global population is one of the Sierra Club's four major priorities for 1993. Sierra Club leadership in Washington provides us with the information we need for effective lobbying. In this column, I will share the most important information with you. I will include news on the environmental impact of our region's population explosion.

Libby Hernandez, Population Chair

## Dams and Bridges in Silver City

by Susan Schock

To some, Gila Watch's public meeting on overgrazing and flooding in the Gila might have looked benign. Over 120 ranchers, "enviros," 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 he let them know in no uncertain terms that their current abusive grazing practices must change. They took *Cattleguards*—Gila Watch's newsletter—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 flatly that Black Canyon, Ohmart's example of severe overgrazing abuse, was one of the best riparian areas in the Southwest. Grant County Commissioner Harrison espoused 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 "improvement." The ranchers charge out their labor as payment for their "share," 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, ranchers 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 accusing environmentalists of pagan animal worship are now being run on local stations. Denial. Anger. Fear. Necessary steps before the gap can be bridged.

## Wilderness Woes

By Marianne Thaeler

Wilderness means, "place of wild beasts." This word wilderness first appeared in the Anglo-Saxon 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 exploded, wilderness has disappeared globally, and with it the experience. Ah yes, there are pockets of land left that

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have been labeled wilderness, that are managed as wilderness, but these lands are not just places of wild beasts. Where there are not trails through the wilderness, there are cows grazing in the wilderness, and hunters. There are roads nearby where one can view wilderness areas - **wilderness can be watched.**

As a hiker I have stood in wilderness, or sat on a rock, and heard jets flying overhead, seen jet streams, and reached over to pick up a can or cigarette butt left by **another type of beast, human**, who didn't take seriously the "pack it in, pack it out" rule.

Environmentalists struggle to save a little more land from road building, motorized recreation, and development, but environmentalists are individualistic. Each has their own priority and sense of how to accomplish preservation and protection. Many are branded eco-terrorists by the moneyed lobbies. Environmentalists band together into groups, at last count in our area there are 24 environmental groups, and face the big lobbies - cattle growers, sheep ranchers, miners, loggers, oil and gas drillers, utility companies, chambers of commerce, and many politicians united in the desire to use every acre of land to it's fullest now.

To the urban reader who thinks there are still areas out there some place, where man has not left an impression, you are wrong. There are very few places left where wild beasts rule supreme in the lower 48. To muse - if a tree falls in the forest, does it make a noise? Some person or his cow has been there to find out.

There are individuals pledged to preservation and protection, as opposed to greatest use. These individuals are heard by politicians, but not taken seriously. The managers demand compromise, compromise, compromise - and soon there is nothing left, not even pockets of unmanaged, unaltered, unused lands to be called **places for wild beasts only**, wilderness.

## NOTES FROM THE PRES. OF THE STUDENT SIERRA CLUB at NMSU...

By Andrew Hands

Whoa! Where has the semester gone? I'm sure it's been well spent hitting the books and cramming for tests. Well here at the SSC we've been fortunate to get outside a bit. Some of the past adventures included: a trip to Achenbach 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 at White Sands National Monument, enjoying the unique shadows and calm of the area, as well as surviving the 19 degree weather. Burr!

We helped out 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 rattlesnake, 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!

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