POWER PLACES, SACRED SITES AND THE HEALING OF THE EARTH

An Evening Slide Show with Martin Gray

Power places are specific geographic locations—found in all the lands of the earth—where mysterious energies emanate directly from the ground. Originally discovered in ancient times, these power places became the sacred sites and pilgrimage shrines of the world’s earliest cultures. The legends and myths of these places tell of different sites having differing types of miraculous energies. Certain power places will heal the body, develop psychic abilities, increase creativity and cause extraordinary experiences of mystical insight and spiritual awakening.

During the past eight years, explorer/ecologist/meadieck anthropologist Martin Gray has researched, visited and photographed over 350 power places in 40 countries around the world. To share this fascinating, critical and controversial information with the widest audience, Martin lectures at museums, universities and conferences throughout the U.S. Utilizing dual-slide projectors to show hundreds of brilliant color photographs, Martin discusses the ancient use and contemporary importance of power places, and teaches a simple technique for doing planetary acupuncture. The presentation is a magical blend of mythology, archaeology, visionary prophecy, rich spiritual inspiration and ecological activism.

Santa Fe: Wednesday, June 16
Santuario de Guadalupe, 100 Guadalupe St. Program begins at 7:30 PM. Admission is $10.

Rio Grande Chapter
Sierra Club
P.O. Box 9191
El Paso, TX 79983

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JUNE 1993
RIO GRANDE SIERRAN
Environmental News of New Mexico and West Texas

Fear and Loathing at the Pyramid

By Patricia Wolff, Chapter Wildlife Chair

The ranching industry turned out in full force for a public hearing on public land grazing issues May 6 at the Pyramid Holiday Inn in Albuquerque. Hundreds were there to protect their subsidies and their way of life. Along with the public land ranchers themselves were the Animal Damage Control agents, the wise-are-able—allies—People for the West and the Coalition of Counties—and the political frontrunners, from Governor King on down.

Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt conducted the hearing with hopes that he would intimidate the ranchers who could help build consensus and support for reforming federal grazing policies. What he found instead was total intransigence by an industry that would rather die than change.

Babbitt left held hearings on this issue in Bexar County, Grand Junction and Reno, but never before had he seen such divisions, such polarization, such fear and loathing.

The belief that the ranching industry in the Southwest is dominated by ideologues and extremists was confirmed for all to see at the May 6 hearing. Over and over again, representatives of the industry demanded that ownership of federal land in the West be transferred to ranchers, and each time those radical demands were met with hysterical applause.

According to many who testified at the hearing, there are two groups in the world. First and foremost, there are ranchers who believe in God, freedom, and man’s domination over nature. And then there are the “savages”—the pagan nature-worshipers who seek to destroy America.

There were claims that rangeland is in better condition than ever before, and that wildlife is thriving, thanks to ranchers, even though countless scientific and government reports have documented just the opposite. A 1990 report by the Environmental Protection Agency concluded that many western riparian areas are in their worst shape in history. There were also claims that higher grazing fees would destroy rural communities and “put the little guy out of business,” even though General Accounting Office studies have shown that most public land grazing permits are

Interfaith Hearings on Toxic Poisoning in Communities of Color

by Glenda P. House, Southwest Technology and Research Assoc.

Earth is a living planet facing death. As humans, we are all participants in a system that is engaged in the business of poisoning the land, the water, the air, destroying whole ecosystems and habitats, causing the mass extinction of species. Some humans benefit from this system, while others fall prey to it and die. The Interfaith Hearings on Toxic Poisoning in Communities of Color held by the Southwest Organizing Project (SWOP) on April 3, 1993, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, focused on this fact: in the land of the free, people of color pay disproportionately—in the currency of
LETTERS

To the Editor:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, under the direction of Mr. Fermín Chavez, is scheduled to destroy a historical ditch and by installing it with cement, a 4-inch diameter plastic culvert for a length of just under 1.6 miles in northern New Mexico.

The ditch (Aquiata de la Sierra) was constructed in the early 1700s by pick and shovel high in the San Pedro de Cieneguero (10,000 feet in elevation) to bring water to the town of Truchas, New Mexico. The achievement in bringing water through a half-dozen miles of precipitous mountain country to homes and fields was a prodigious feat.

The total cost of the Corps’ project is over $300,000. To get to the ditch, a road needs to be built through the forest by cutting down trees of many species and cutting many of the trees along the ditch. The blasted reason for the project is to save water because of the depletion of water and to eliminate maintenance.

Ditch has been the serving people of Truchas for over 200 years with very little maintenance. Once a year in the spring, the people clean and repair it with pick and shovel, which provides work for a dozen young people. Thanks to the people’s contribution to the ditch, it will last 25, 50, or 200 years. If we don’t take care of it, there won’t be water in the area.

The ditch is a symbol of all those things that give sweetness to this century—life, the purity of its art, the hearty generosity of its people, the poetry in their collective soul. I am writing to you to stop this unnecessary project.

Luis H. Samudra
Chimayó, New Mexico

NEWS SUMMARY

Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt conducted a grueling hiking at Albugueque’s Pyramid Holiday Inn, hoping to find reasonable candidates who could help build consensus and support for reforming federal grazing policies. What he found instead was an atmosphere so tense that the meeting nearly got out of hand.

The conference gave me a perspective on the decision we made two years ago to consolidate the monthly group newsletters and quarterly chapter newsletter into one monthly chapter newsletter. This makes the Rio Grande Sierra Pinnacles Newsletter much easier to publish than many of our other newsletters, and overall the chapter saves money by not publishing five newsletters.

Our chapter is apparently the only one that publishes complete group sections within a monthly newsletter. In the larger California chapters, whose groups are community organizations mainly concerned with outings, the group sections in the chapter newsletters are mainly announcements of outings and meetings. Other groups either publish their own newsletters or accept whatever group news appears in quarterly or bimonthly chapter newsletters.

A reminder to contributors: Although I referred to the newsletter publication schedule, the Stevies is actually published six times a year. The next issue will be the July-August issue, and anyone missing the June 20 deadline will not see their article in print until September. The group sections will each have an extra page to cover two months of outings.

Marcus Bedner
Editor

CALENDAR

June 5-6: Chapter Conservation Committee & Executive Committee, Kingston, Ben Zerley will lead a moderate/strenuous hike to Hillside Bonito Peak, starting from Emory Pass at 1 P.M. Fri, June 4. (For hike details, call Ben at 520-6207.)

June 20: deadline for July-August Sierra

WANTED

OLD ORIENTAL RUGS
AMERICAN INDIAN RUGS
PERUVIAN TEXTILES

Call Michael Andrews (415) 641-1937

Celebrate the Bis! (and help the chapter as well)

BISI PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE BADLANDS, an exhibit of 45 photographs by 15 artists, will be on display in Santa Fe from June 8-29, 1993, at the Gallery at the Rep, 100 Old Pueblito Trail.

In October of 1992, a diverse group of people—doctors, dentists, scientists, lawyers, designers and other artists—met in Farmington, New Mexico. They wanted to experience and record the magic that is bisi through the photographs, their common link. All were participants in a workshop sponsored by the Santa Fe Photographic Workshops. The result of their meeting is a collection of photographs that share the magic and spread the word about the unique New Mexican treasure.

Once threatened by mining interests, it is the hope that the exploitation of the Bis’ tangible resources will end and that generations to come will be inspired by and learn from this incredible site. To that end, the photographers of the Bis have all agreed to donate a portion of the sales of their work to the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club.

Please join us at the exhibition’s opening reception on Friday, June 11, from 5-7 PM at the Rep.

Participating artists:

Chad Anderson, Milwaukee, Oregon
Balcon Barnett, Oregon City, Oregon
Susan Crocke, Santa Fe, New Mexico
Michael Deletis, Albuquerque, New Mexico
Karl Koenig, Albuquerque, New Mexico
Stu Levy, Portland, Oregon
Susan Phillips, Santa Fe, New Mexico
Janet Rusk, Santa Fe, New Mexico
John Scatllo, Austin, Texas
David Schreiher, Santa Fe, New Mexico
Martha Swanson, Santa Fe, New Mexico
Niel Welschmidt, Vancouver, Washington
Mark Walker, Scotts Valley, California
S. H. (Bad) Watkins, Vancouver, Washington
Stephen Wolf, Hoboken, New Jersey

Sponsored by the Santa Fe Council for the Arts, with the support of the Santa Fe Photographic Workshops. (For further information, contact Martha Swanson, 505/853-1400 or 985-2045.)
New Facility for White Sands Missile Range: Large Blast Thermal Simulator

by Marianne Theeler, Southern NM Group Chair

The U.S. government has been constructing a large blast thermal simulator at the White Sands Missile Range (WSMR) to test the effects of nuclear explosions. The simulator is expected to reach full capability by 1989 and is intended to help the military understand the effects of large nuclear explosions.

The facility aims to simulate the effects of a 20 megaton nuclear explosion, providing researchers with a tool to study the physics and chemistry of nuclear explosions. The simulator is designed to test various materials and equipment under conditions similar to those experienced during nuclear detonations.

The facility is part of the overall effort to improve the understanding of nuclear effects and the development of future defense technologies. The research conducted here will contribute to the development of more effective and safer nuclear weapons and will aid in the verification of nuclear test bans and the reduction of nuclear arsenals.

The large blast thermal simulator is a significant step forward in the research and development of nuclear weapons and the simulation of nuclear explosions. It will provide valuable data for the military and researchers, enabling them to make informed decisions and improve existing technologies.

The simulator is expected to be completed in time for full operation by the end of 1989, marking a significant milestone in the ongoing efforts to enhance nuclear defense capabilities and ensure the safety and security of the nation.

The way it's supposed to work:
The Sierra Club is a California-based non-profit corporation with 61 chapters and more than 400 local groups. The club focuses on protecting the environment and the quality of life for all Americans. The Sierra Club has a national staff and chapters across the country, and it advocates for policies that protect the environment.

The national staff of the Sierra Club is governed by a Board of Directors (BOD) who are elected by the members of the organization. The board sets the overall direction of the club and approves budgets and policies.

The BOD sets policies and procedures that govern the entire organization, and it resolves differences between other club units. The board also approves the Executive Director and a staff that conducts the business of the club.

The Sierra Club bylaws provide for a Sierra Club Council which is made up of elected representatives from the chapters. The council acts as an advisor to the BOD in administrative matters, and as a general membership meeting to satisfy California law.

The BOD has set up Regional Conservation Committees (RCCs) which coordinate conservation activities in specific regions. The RCCs, along with the Grand Canyon, Rocky Mountain and Utah Chapters, are in the Southwest Regional Conservation Committee (SWRCC). Each chapter is governed by an executive committee (ExCom) consisting of at-large members and delegates from each of the local groups.

In the Sierra Club and the member groups, the chapters are organized into three regions: the Western Region, the Pacific Region, and the Mountain Region. Each region is represented by an ex-officio member who chairs the respective chapter ExCom.

The Sierra Club's chapters play a crucial role in the organization's success. They are responsible for raising funds, organizing events, and promoting the club's mission within their communities. The chapters are also a vital link between the national office and the grassroots level, allowing for a direct line of communication between members and leadership.

The Sierra Club's success is built on the strong foundation of its chapters, which work tirelessly to protect the environment and ensure a healthy future for all Americans.
Federal Mining Law Reform: Senate Committee Coughs Up a Furball  

by Sue McIntosh

Despite its lofty titles, the Senate Mining Reform Act of 1993" backed by the mining industry would not significantly reform the 120-year-old federal mining law. S. 775 was approved on May 6 by the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, would reauthorize the industry's existing privileges superimposed on the use of western public lands. The bill, sponsored by Senator Larry Craig (R-ID), is only an industry shell which fails to address most of the elements needed for true reform.

The good news is that Committee passage of S. 775 was only part of an overall strategy to achieve mining reform in this Congress. The strategy was designed by Energy Committee Chairman Senator Bennett Johnston (D-La) who said in a statement at a mining reform hearing that was passing S. 775 out of the Committee solely so that the issue could ultimately be settled in conference committee.

The House is expected to pass a strong, comprehensive mining reform measure when it acts, later in this Congress. It is important that the measure passed by the House be as strong as possible so that true reform is seriously represented at the House/Senate conference.

The important thing to remember about S. 775 is that it is counterreform and everyone recognizes it as such. The bill does not represent the sense of the Energy Committee, let alone the sense of the Senate or the House. It is nothing more than an empty measure that allows the Senate to shirk its responsibility and punt the ball to folks like Chairman George Miller (D-CA) and New Mexico Congressman Bill Richardson of the key House Natural Resources Committee. Once again, it will be those guys who will have to do the heavy lifting on this issue. One bright event did emerge from the Senate action in May. Senator Jeff Bingaman, alone, fought even the mining reform "champions," Senator Dale Bumpers spoke up in defense of true reform advocated much stronger reform than that represented by S. 775. Senator Bingaman referenced the recently enacted New Mexico Mining Act as providing a guidepost for reclamation and environmental measures that are minimally acceptable to the people of New Mexico. Senator Bingaman reminded the Committee that his state would settle for no law that is less protective on federal public lands than what New Mexico now demands on its private lands.

Mining reform has now passed out of Senator Bingaman's committee and will soon pass out of the full Senate. Yet Senator Bingaman's continued vocal support and advocacy for strong, comprehensive mining reform will be a critical factor in ensuring that an acceptable reform measure finally emerges from the Congressional process later on. As a western Senator, Bingaman has illustrated in an editorial his actual, as a group of one) that Senators who have the courage to speak out for the protection of the people resources and our own state, in the face of tremendous pressure from national and local industry groups. Unfortunately the battle is far from over and if it is likely to become more heated the closer we get to reform.

The Sierra Club appreciates Senator Bingaman's statements and is hopeful that but will work with congressmen Bill Richardson, will follow the lead of the people of New Mexico and work hard to enact true reform of federal mining laws.

Incinerators are a Threat to Rural New Mexicans by Candace Dylla, Bluewater Valley Neighborhood Association

Over a year ago we citizens of Chilca County organized to oppose a medical waste incinerator which EcoLogics company was trying to locate in our area. Part of our efforts included a petition drive which over 1,400 people signed in support of our opposition. They were found to be impressive in a city like Albuquerque, but we live in a small community. Our group consists of miners, business people, farmers and many others you might not expect to find involved in environmental issues. What we all have in common is that we care very much about New Mexico's future. We do not want to see New Mexico become like so many other states which have been unattending or unable to control their waste.

Operators of incinerators claim that they are recycling plants, describing them with euphemisms such as "resource conservation facilities" and "waste to energy". They can do this because steam, which can be used as an energy source, is a byproduct of the process along with contaminated water and ash.

Incinerators should not be allowed to be called themselves recycling centers. Communities tell us that the primary purpose of an incinerator is to burn garbage. In fact, incineration discourages recycling because it must compete for the waste in order to make money on a per-pound basis.

Also, when legislation considers exempting "manufacturing facilities that used recycled materials in the production of a new product," this could directly apply to incinerators as well as the McKinley Paper Co. We discussed the paper company at a recent meeting and how it has not had to go through the normal permitting process. Putting this in would guarantee it would not have to be permitted. We feel very strongly that it should go through the permitting process like every other waste processor so the public will have an opportunity to understand what is happening in their community and comment if it have an adverse effect on their lives.

At least one incinerator intending to locate in New Mexico has said they intend to use ash from their medical waste incinerator to make building and paving stones. This may already be allowed under the current solid waste regulations, even though this may prove to be a health risk in the future. It will come as no surprise that the waste industry has spent a lot of time and money learning how to make themselves as palatable as possible to the general public. There are some reputable companies in the industry, but we have found that generally they have no problem complying with existing regulations. The incineration industry has hired a Los Angeles consulting firm, Curell Associates, to develop a detailed report on how to pick sites for incinerators. Their criteria for the ideal incinerator host community, i.e. a community not likely to resist an incinerator project, include:  

- rural  
- conservative politically  
- above middle age  
- high school of less educated  
- farming, ranching, mining  
- low income  
- Catholics  
- not involved in social issues  
- long time residents

These criteria fit a lot of communities in New Mexico. Communities that often cannot afford to defend themselves from this onslaught by well-financed and, in some cases, unscrupulous companies.

Our experience is a case in fact. The company which wanted to build a medical waste incinerator in Chilca County first tried to slip in quietly. The people never would have known they were attempting to locate in our area if the solid waste regulations had not required us to provide public hearings to determine whether or not EcoLogics would be able to continue on next page
Incinerators
continued from previous page

Poisoning in Communities of Color
continued from first page

located to site their waste incinerator in Valencia County. Ecologi-

cies’ president is past president of Eco-

Pro, the company which is to net $8 million in 1993. Without scientific ev-

cidence from experts testifying on their behalf, the Valencia County residents’
group will have no impact on the En-

vironment Department’s decision re-

carding Ecologic’s permit. To hire

experts will cost them up to $50,000, a
great deal of money for a poor com-

munity. Now you know why Carroll

Asstiant says it’s best to locate an incinerator to low-income areas. Poor

“Incinerators should not be

allowed to be called recycling

centers.”

Poisoning in Communities of Color

continued from previous page

unsuccessful land claim for the west

east face of the Sandia mountains, due to their struggle with the US Forest Service.

John Redhouse of the Navajo Nation

summarizes the panel’s view: it is im-

possible to list the hundreds of years of
genocide in a few minutes; the real

claim of the Native American nations on

to land and values is spiritual, not just

legal. The panel points out that the
disproportionate impact on the Navajo

people is made worse by the USGS topographic maps, which reduce the

area to a line on a map. Cultural values,

such as the sacred sites of the Navajos,

are lost.

The panel points out the need for

an integrated effort to protect Navajo

narrative traditions that have grown and

development of the region. The

pattern of industrialization and

government and tribal efforts to

This "Earth is a living

planet facing death."

wastes stem from the creation of the first

nuclear bomb, and its increasingly
deadly successors: there is a bitter ir-

roney and a twisted logic in the fact that

their creation had to be kept secret, to

a sacred area. Lt. Governor Sanchez

speaks with little rancor, in a tone of

voice that contains pride and de-

termination: in the old days, the war-

ners went out for battle in paint and

weapons today, he says, he does battle

in a suit and with a briefcase. Governor

Walter Duenko of the Pueblo of Santa

Clara also has concerns about the Los

Alamos National Laboratory. His Pue-

blos, along with the Pueblos of San Il-

defonso, Jemez and Cochiti, have

signed a recent accord with the De-

partment of Energy to begin in-

dependent monitoring of their air, wa-

er and soil. Instead of continuing to

pursue lawsuits and calls for

an independent body, the three Pueblos

have decided to work together to

make Los Alamos more accountable to the

community. They have formed an

organization called the “Los Alamos

Community Right to Know.”

The panel points out the need for

a more equitable distribution of

resources and the necessity of

working together to protect the

environment.

1993 Chapter Fund Appeal: Second Round Of Results and Thanks
from Jana Oyler, Chapter Treasurer

The following generous folks have con-

tributed to this year’s fund drive since

mid-April and have permitted us to

publish their names:

Gifts to general chapter account:

William C. Baker and C. Robinson,

Albuquerque

William D. Davies, Santa Fe

Floyd Dyer, Albuquerque

Richard and Sharon Dye, Los Alamos

M. D. Frey, Los Alamos

Mary W. Parker, Los Alamos

Thomas and Jean Paige, Albuquerque

S. F. Pott, Albuquerque

William B. Pratt, Gallup

Stephen D. Schery, Socorro

T. T. and Jennifer H. Harsanyi, Los

Alamos

Terry N. Taddeo, Santa Fe

Sally S. Venardos, Santa Fe

Irving L. Webber, Santa Fe

Gifts to Sierra Club Foundation:

Joseph and Frances Caldwell, El Paso

Whitney Laughlin, Placitas

N to the audience members.

The testimony leaves the audience

dazed. Several workers describe

their suffering from adverse health ef-

fects caused by chemical exposure.

In the end, we are reminded of the

need to fight for a cleaner, safer,

healthier environment for all.

The hearings have been important,

but the battle is far from over. We

need your continued support to keep

the battle going.

Editor’s note: this article was made

possible by a Sierra Club El Paso and

Cultural Diversity Committee grant to

the Rio Grande Chapter.

RIO GRANDE SIERRAN JUNE 1993

We are still far short of our fund-

raising goals. Please help, we urge you
to do so. Please send a check payable
to “Rio Grande Chapter of Sierra

Club” (not tax-deductible; fund the

Chapter’s conservation projects) or
to “Sierra Club Foundation” (tax-
deductible to extent allowed by law; used

for educational endowment) to:

Jana Oyler, Treasurer

Route 19, Box 125-KO

Santa Fe, NM 87505

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RIO GRANDE SIERRAN JUNE 1993

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11
Southwestern Views of Renewables
by Jane Hitchkins, energy consultant, and Ken Hughes, Chapter Energy Chair

Increasing the use of renewable power throughout the Southwest was the focus of recent conferences held in Boulder and in Santa Fe. Environmental activists, attorneys and policy advisors met in Boulder in February to outline the commonalities in Southwest states, focusing on the economic benefits of renewable fuels such as solar, wind and geothermal energy. If this loose coalition has its way, the Southwest may take center stage with a bold vision that embraces renewable energy despite its immediate need for new power plants and the region’s historic dependence on coal, oil and gas plants.

The underlying theme of the Boulder meeting was the devastating impact that poor energy choices have on the environment of the Southwest. Discussion focused on three ways to avert change:
- Identify the opposition to renewable advancement and point out policies backing renewables as a result of faulty planning.
- Identify avenues for public and political education, such as a published guide, regional conferences and state regulatory and legislative proceedings.
- Identify steps necessary to organize this effort.

Bruce Driver of the Low and Water Pool of the Rockies and former Colorado Public Utilities Commission Ron Lehr outlined basic avenues available to advancing renewables in the Southwest through regulatory arenas. The Integrated Resource Plan (see Energy Newsletter) is seen as particularly useful.

Chris Shaver described overlapping environmental air quality issues that states in the Southwest share. She also spoke about the synergy between advanced renewables and the Grand Canyon Commission’s work on visibility issues (the Southwest has in places lost 50 percent of its visibility).

Charles Bengtson outlined a solar-cool retrofit plan with environmental economic advancement opportunities for Native Americans in New Mexico and Arizona. Ken Hughes gave an update on the fight to stop the OLE powerline and utilities’ struggle to grasp with the consequences for retail wheeling.

What do environmental activists see as the key to renewable progress in the Southwest? The practical answer may be projects which have the backing of an organized public as well as technical and regulatory support. The real key, however, lies in organizing this discussion into a coordinated effort.

Why Renewables?
Why Now?

On May 15 and 16, momentum continued with a conference entitled “Why Renewables? Why Now? Hosted by Center for Resource Management, chaired by Stewart Udall, the conference was the first in a series of steps in developing a shared vision by various interests—regulators, utilities, environmentalists, renewable energy companies, and government policy makers and researchers—on renewable energy.

BML Commissioner Jim Baca promised a sallier role in the Clinton Administration in pursuing renewable energy in a variety of settings, including on public lands. Navajo President Peterson Zah said that the “best concentration on what nature has to offer” and admitted the downside to overreliance on coal: “we’re doing it to keep our wildlife.”

Charles Immrich, head of the California Energy Commission, also suggested a Western Energy Development Assistance for Renewable Energy, or WE DARE, a process leading to a regional renewable energy plan for the Western states.

Points raised at the conference include:
- We need to understand the need for, and environment of Boulder’s, of renewables. Successful acceptance of renewable projects will depend on the participation of all affected constituencies.
- Renewables must compete with fossil fuels, not with conservation.
- Green pricing received some support as one way to allow the public the option to implement renewables’ use. Senator Jeff Bingaman expressed support for government purchases of renewable generated power, or “green purchasing.”
- Renewables cannot be considered monolithically. Some are cost effective now, some are not. However, as environmental externalities are added to the cost of fossil fuels, along with fuel price risk and need to diversify fuel portfolio, the amount and range of renewables show to be cost effective rapidly.
- A portfolio approach to energy sources, with shared risks/rewards, is far better than exhausting single energy “monocultures.”

The Santa Fe conference ended with moral salutation from Hopi Chairman Vernon Masayesva, who argued that “responsible people must act responsibly and that the U.S. can only be moral leaders if it practices energy stewardship.” He related that when the Hopi’s clown kachina ceremony features a signal that it’s time to get our house in order. “We have no choice but to pursue renewables. There is only so much clean air, clear water, fossil fuels. We must act not only for present customers but for our children, their children, and their children’s children. Today begins a journey toward sustainable energy use.”

Fear and Loathing continued from first page

large operators. Perhaps that explained the number of cadillacs and $40,000 four-wheel-drive trucks sporting anti-environmentalist bumperstickers in the parking lot. During my tour of the facility, I asked why taxpayers should be subsidizing multi-millionaire beef barons like Bruce King, but there was no answer.

The 100 or so environmentalists who attended were outnumbered 8-to-1 by the ranching interests, primarily because the hearing was held on a Thursday, which prevented many average working people from attending. As a result, Babbitt never got to hear from many people concerned about tax expenditures that promote the destruction of public lands or from those whose businesses are impacted by the effects of overgrazing or from ordinary public land users who prefer wilderness and wildlife over cow pies, polluted streams and trampled meadows.

Many of us who did get a chance to testify were boded and heckled during our two minutes at the mike. More heckles and obscene gestures came from passers-by in muscle trucks when we staged our rally for reform” outside the Pyramid at noon. To keep the peace, dozens of uniformed and plainclothes law enforcement agents were on hand, along with the Albuquerque mounted police and K-9 units. Who were they protecting wasn’t clear.

Another hearing on public land grazing issues will be held in the fall. Babbitt said, after specific reform proposals are fleshed out. In the meantime, letters to Babbitt are urgently needed. Write to: Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C St. NW, mailstop 6218 (MB), Washing
don DC 20240.

Range reform activists have suggested that the following points be stressed in your letters:
1. The goal of federal land management should not be to maximize livestock production but to maintain healthy ecosystems that support a thriving system of native plants and animals.
2. Grant the public land management agencies (the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service) the authority to declare especially fragile or environmentally significant rangeland "unsuitable for grazing.”
3. Ensure that the federal government manages public land for the benefit of all who use it, including wildlife, recreationists, hunters and anglers.
4. Give the public the right to participate fully in public land management decisions, including the right to ask that certain areas be declared unsuitable for grazing.
5. Reform the grazing fee structure: raise grazing fees to fair-market rates, redirect grazing fees to revenue reserving, and abolish grazing advisory boards.

Editor’s note: for more on the Grazing Conference in Albuquerque, see article on next page (first page of Albuquerque group section).

Demonstrators in front of Pyramid Holiday Inn during grazing hearings demand an end to subsidies for ranchers.

Photo © 1993 by Marc Benfield.
ALBUQUERQUE

ALBUQUERQUE GROUP

June General Meeting: Keeping the Water in the River: Instream Flow Protection in New Mexico by Susan Gorman

Water rights in the West are governed by laws which were developed in the 19th Century. During the 20th Century, additions have been made to these water laws to provide ways to keep water in the rivers and protect riparian values. The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, for example, can affect any of this. As we approach the 21st Century, we should re-examine these laws and evaluate their relevance in the New West.

To help us understand the laws which determine how water, a public resource, is distributed, the program for the June General Meeting will be presented by Tim De Young, a lawyer who specializes in water law and the author of several papers and manuals about instream flow protection in New Mexico. This topic may seem a bit technical and, well, DRY. However, Tim promises to present information which will clarify the importance of keeping water in the river and help us understand how we can help.

Preceding the main program, we will write letters to Congress on the most urgent environmental legislative crisis (to be determined). The June meeting will be on June 21st, at 7:30PM, UNM Law School, Room 2402. Please bring a cup if you care to have refreshments provided by the Albuquerque Group. Please come!

Bruce Babbitt’s Grazing Summit—A Forum for Divergent Visions of the West by Susan Gorman

The Holiday Inn Pyramid in Albuquerque will host ranchers wearing cowboy hats and boots. Environmentalists will see a less visible but sizable component of the crowd attending the Federal Grazing Policy Meeting on May 6th. The meeting was the last, and best attended, of four which Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt had called to gather testimony about federal rangeland grazing.

During the 5 hours, Secretary Babbitt heard from 2 panels of experts as well as individual speakers who were selected by random drawing. The experts included representatives from environmental organizations, cattle ranching associations and universities who presented a variety of cases for and against the present system of public land grazing.

Babbitt clearly wants to find common ground between the groups. He asked for comments, ideas and thoughts about how to develop a new policy which will enable ranchers to stay in business and improve rangeland conditions.

Much of the talk was on grazing fee increases, which ranchers believe will drive them out of business. Yet the real issue is range management: removing cattle and sheep from riparian areas, decreasing the AUMs (Animal Unit Months) on all overgrazed lands to avoid erosion, invasion of exotic plants, and degradation of wildlife habitat.

After listening to all the words, views, opinions, fearful stories, pleas, whining and discussion, some thoughts have emerged:

1. Change is inevitable, perhaps now more than ever.
2. Change often brings about pain (ask any Russian), but with patience and forethought, we can make this change work.
3. There are more and more people sharing resources in the West, including public lands. The suitability of all public lands for grazing or other uses shall be re-examined using scientific methods. The principle should be accepted that local management of wildlife and land should not be allowed in some riparian and especially fragile areas.

* Rangeland management is, after all, a subject which can be approached using modern scientific methods and principles. The survival of the ranching business, as well as all businesses, will be those who do their homework and learn how to implement these methods effectively. The BLM and Forest Service should help ranchers implement enlightened methods.

4. Adjustments to the grazing fee formula are appropriate and necessary. The new formula could consider factors such as the size of the ranch, the dependence on public land allotments, and the carrying capacity of the land in determining fees.

What You Can Do

Even if you were not at the meeting, Secretary Babbitt wants you to hear from you. Send comments and ideas to him at:
Department of the Interior
1809 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

ALBUQUERQUE

1993 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Office Telephone 346-5200

Group Chair Jerry Becenti
1444-1876

Vice Chair Mark DeYoung
1444-4929

Treasurer Richard Atwood
1444-7573

Secretary David Brosius
1444-7573

Conservation Chair Lawrence Bishop
1444-7573

Bob Conley
1444-7573

Tim Leek
1444-7573

Neda Loyd
1444-7573

Stefan Vezich
1444-7573

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

Air Quality:
Mark DeYoung
1444-4929

Biological:
Richard Atwood
1444-7573

Climate:
Mark DeYoung
1444-4929

Energy:
Richard Atwood
1444-7573

Land Use:
Mark DeYoung
1444-4929

National Monument:
Mark DeYoung
1444-4929

Public lands:
Mark DeYoung
1444-4929

Water Quality:
Mark DeYoung
1444-4929

The Albuquerque Group of the Sierra Club thanks all its members and volunteers for their help and support.

CALENDAR

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

JUNE 1993

Wed June 16
Office Brainstorming and Cleaning Party
We will discuss how we want the office organized and then we will proceed to clean house. If you have organizational ideas, then bring them. If you know of the importance of any of the documents in the office, then bring your knowledge and let us know about them beforehand, Meet at 6:00PM. We will split the cost of pizza. Bring some old work clothes, Call David 344-8693, Sanan 326-3231, Terry 265-8274.

JUNE 1993

JUNE 1993

CALIFORNIA

12 RIO GRANDE SIERRAN JUNE 1993

13 RIO GRANDE SIERRAN JUNE 1993

Get Don't Get's—It's Only Some Mercury in the Fish by Stefan Vezich

Studies have found that 20% of the mercury exposure in the U.S. (about 25,000 tons) is from fossil fuel combustion. Knowledge of mercury coming up the food chain in fish is almost all our lakes and streams has been known since 1982 in New Mexico and is on the rise.

If asked the State of New Mexico Air Quality Monitoring Bureau has been taking any air sampling to try to detect the cause of airborne emissions, they responded no. This is a problem in need of an activist. Call Ron Crocker, the Conservation Chair at 255-0940 to get started. The rest of us should write the Governor and ask just what is his plan for the future—eat no fish?

Babbitt is sent Executive Committee

The New Secretary of the Interior, Bruce Babbitt was sent a letter from the Albuquerque Group on a number of local issues. We asked that the APS National Environmental Landmark be reviewed for possible funding assistance after the deletion of funds from the school budget. We asked that the Land and Water Conservation Fund be fully funded to protect the Tres Piedras area and Petroglyph National Monument. We asked that a people transport system be considered for Petroglyph National Monument as an energy saving as well as a resource recreation and interpretation measure. We asked that the present makeup of the Petroglyph National Monument Advisory Council be re-evaluated to reflect the park's needs. We also complimented Al Albrecht, the BLM Manager of the Rio Puerco Resource Area for some of his resource protection concerns.

The City of Albuquerque has moved to allow ORV's in a portion of the Open Space by the Madrid Park in Tijeras Arroyo. We would encourage you to take a look at the area and call the Mayor and your City Councilor about the desirability of opening up such areas for abuse. Call 768-3100 for the Mayor or City Council.

Stefan

12 RIO GRANDE SIERRAN JUNE 1993

Just the FAX you... If you have a FAX machine that you would like to get rid of your office could use. Call Jerry Becenti at 844-4314.

Louie, Louie... Anyone interested in being on a committee concerning a Sierra Club endorsement in the mayoral race, contact David Brosius at 255-7853.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

JUNE 1993

CALENDAR

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

June 1: Activities & Special Planning meeting at Old Tymes, Centennial & Louisiana, 7pm, Terri - 265-8274 or Dave - 344-8693
June 3: Mexican Wolf Coalition meeting, 7:30 PM
June 10: Executive Committee Meeting, 7PM
June 12: The noon, Deadline for election of FAX group newsletter. Macintosh preferred. Call Dorothy if supplying hardcopy only.
June 30: Sierra Club General Meeting, UNM Law School, Room 2402, 7:30 PM
June 28: Conservation Committee meeting, 7:30 PM.

12 RIO GRANDE SIERRAN JUNE 1993

13 RIO GRANDE SIERRAN JUNE 1993

12 RIO GRANDE SIERRAN JUNE 1993

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Sierra Club needs a representative for an ongoing environmental advisory committee on Abiquiu Lake. If interested, contact Jay Sorensen at 844-4314.

Louie, Louie... Anyone interested in being on a committee concerning a Sierra Club endorsement in the mayoral race, contact David Brosius at 255-7853.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

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CALENDAR

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

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June 30: Sierra Club General Meeting, UNM Law School, Room 2402, 7:30 PM
June 28: Conservation Committee meeting, 7:30 PM.
JUNE MEETING

Our June meeting will feature Luis Salazar from the River Watch Protection and Monitoring. He will speak to us of population growth and industrial impact on environmental damage to plants and animals, particularly on the Rio Grande.

The program will start at 7:30 PM on Wednesday, June 30, at St. Paul’s Methodist Church, 7000 Edgemere (two blocks east of Airway). For more information, call Ted Merig, 852-3011.

ECOMEX (600 S. Padre)
Rio Grande Chapter ECOMEX, Hillburn, NM
Deadline for 6/30 newsletter information (sent to 331 Vista del Rey, 79912)
General Meeting (7000 Edgemere)
ECOMEX (600 S. Padre)

EXCOM NEWS

Members of the excom are currently negotiating with city for a 10-year lease instead of an annual lease.

The excom voted to establish a Planning Committee for 1994 Earth Day. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please call Ted Merig, 852-3011.

Agenda items for the next excom meeting, June 7, will include a discussion of the lighting of the star. If you would like to participate in this discussion, you are welcome to attend.

ALBUQUERQUE
OUTINGS

Abbreviations: WSA - Wilderness Study Area
NM - National Monument
SC - Sierra Club
SW - Sandia Wilderness
Outings may be cancelled or changed due to weather or other reasons; please call leader before outing

Fri-Sun June 4-6 Moderate
Miles: 7 Car: 400
Cabezon de la Plata, Tingley Fossil Forest Camp
We will stay in the small Hot Springs house on the way back. Lots of exploration off trail hiking. Cabezon provides some interesting media and a great climb. On the way back is the Fossil Forest. Hike, bike, and lots of bushwhack. Dry camps, bring water. Bring your own food. Call for details.
Leader: Steve Verchinski 888-1370

Sat June 5 Leisure to Stressrock
Miles: 2 Car: 400 or Boat
NATIONAL TRAILS DAY
Pino Service Project
This is the second event with the Alb. Open Space. NM Volunteers for the Outdoors, Boy Scout troops, the USFS, and others. Some tools provided, but bring shovels, picks and rakes. We will be doing trail maintenance, a trail reroute, and re-establishment of a dirt road. From 9AM until early afternoon. Meet at Elisa Gallegos Picnic Ground. Information provided. For more information contact 544-8605, David 344-8693, Stan 292-9138.

Sat Jun 5 National Trails Day Fair at Sun Park
Garden Sponsored by the Albuquerque National Trails Day Coalition (includes the Sierra Club). Sun-Garden Park is reached by turning west off of Rio Grande onto Montgomery Rd and following Montgomery until it enters the park. From 12:30PM until 5:00PM Come Out and Join the Fun. Speakers, food. For more information call Alb. National Trails Coalition 344-7240 or Dave 365-8677

Sun June 6 Leisure - Moderate
Miles: 3 Car: 140
Indian Ruins of the Jemez Hike
These ruins lie east of the small town of Ponderosa. We will hike into these sites, some containing petroglyphs. Bring lunch. Meet 8:00AM at Winchell’s at the Sun Ma and appointment. Leader: Daniel Keeton 275-0171

Sat- Sun June 12-13 Moderate
Miles: 3 Car: 400
Rio Grande Biosphere Series IV Astronomy Car Camp, Magdalena Mt. During the daytime hikes in the Magdalena mountains, light to moderate hiking (3-4 miles). During the nights, hike in the Magdalena mountains, light to moderate hiking (3-4 miles). From 10,000 feet. Jepis, Mars, galaxies, star clusters. Accommodates about 15 people. RSVP. Call for details.
Leader: Tom Loef 587-0765

Sat Jun 12 Leisure Miles: 3 Car: 2
Flickr Marimacas Hike, Petroglyph NM
Thousands of petroglyphs. Bring binoculars, cameras, water. RSVP. Leader: Lee Eastwood 255-7679

Wed Jun 16 Office Cleaning Committee
Meet at 6:00PM, see Group page.
Thurs Jun 17 Leisure Miles: 1 Car: 1
Boar B livelock and Control on the Rio Grande, Field Demonstrations
Every year within Albuquerque, about 100 boar are killed by NM Game and Fish Dept. and others. What are the techniques used? What are the problems with hunters? Are there any alternatives? We will look at boar biology and trapping methods, including illegal. Demonstration by Animal Damage Control and maybe NMFGD. Meet at 6:00PM, bring wading shoes. David 344-8693.

Sat Jun 19 Leisure Miles: 3 Car: 120
Fly Fishing the Jemez Stretch Begins registration. We can help with setup, casting. We will also cover entomology, catches and release, the environmental benefits of steelhead weights over lead, necessary pollution, insect flow, native plant populations, and recreational fishing laws. We will try the Guadalupe or Jemez river for the morning float, we may stay for the evening float. Meet 8:00AM, behind Winchell’s at Sun Ma and Academy. Leader: Philip Martineau 247-4353. David 344-8693

Sun Jun 20 Leisure Miles: 3 Car: 3
Boca Negra Hike, Petroglyph NM
Short hike of approximately three hours. Exploration of the petroglyphs in the Pueblo Indian, thorn of petroglyphs at the site. RSVP. Leader: Lee Eastwood 255-7679

Sat Jun 20 Leisure Miles: 0 Car: 180 Whitehorse Waterfall Fun
Rio Grande Bosse
Hot springs, Class IV rapids, lunch provided. Bring extra clothes and expect to get wet. Outfitted by Far Flung Adventures. Cost $75, deposit $52. First 12 people with money get to go. Meet 6:00AM at Winchell’s, Sun Ma and Academy. You can meet up at Taos if you like. Call Ingrid Baker 849-6460 for more information and reservations. Leader: David

Mon Jun 21 Pre-Meeting Dinner
Bacchus Mexican Restaurant, 6:00PM. Call to reserve seat. David 344-8603

Sat-Sun June 26-27 Steen Horse
Miles: 28 Car: 300
Hiking and Elk Mountain Hikes, Pecos Wilderness
These hikes put you on the east side of the Pecos. We will climb 3000 feet to Hayden on one day and 3000 feet to Elk on the other day. Views are extensive and impressive. Wildflowers should be in good bloom. Optional of car camping at Puvey Neuberg campground or staying in Las Vegas. Leader: David Mellor 276-1952

Sun Jun 28 Leisure - Moderate
Miles: 4 Car: 230
Vega Redondo - One Creek Hike, Overgrazing in the San Pedro Parks
This area is at the north end of the Wilderness. Interposed with beaver ponds, pine forest and rock-aspen groves are the area now owned by the wilderness area. Grazing exclusions slow elk are not the problem. Moisture content has decreased destroying what once was to be a quintessential wild meadow of willows and mountain loving plants. Grass specialist will be present to provide interpretation. Bring lunch. Call for details.
Leaders: John Wright, Philip Martineau 247-4353

Sun Jun 27 Moderate
Miles: 12 Car: 200
Pecos (Baldy or Tramp Lake) Wildflower Hike
Brink lakes into an area where the snow motor of the trail has cleared. Bring lunch. Meet at 7:30AM, Sun Ma and Academy. Leader: Nick Peninsulapet 281-7945

Sat-Jul 11-13 Moderate to Steep
Miles: 3 Car: 230
Rio Grande Service Project
Pecos Wilderness
We will backpack in 2 to 3 miles from backcountry. Plan to do trail work on Hrimson Mesa. We will do watchers, check dams, and remove duplicate trails. Access to water. Joint project with the NMMVo. Leader: Nick Kepler 206-6602

Sat Jul 18 Leisure - Moderate
Miles: 4 Car: 200
Pecos Wilderness Hike
Start at Jakes Creek Campground and hike up to the mensa meadows of wildflowers. Bring lunch. Meet at 9:00AM at SC office, 207 San Pedro NM. Leader: Bob Cornish 255-5037

EL PASO
Sierra Club El Paso Regional Group

GROUP DIRECTOR:
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Chairman Public Affairs: Ted Merig 832-3091
Vice Chairman/Arkansas Miss John Spaulding 545-5157
Secretary: Gene Rodriguez 532-3570
Treasurer: Kathy Stasik 584-5100
Meuse/Outings: Mike/Heeks 633-7770
Member at Large: Robert Blakre 546-5669
Programs: Jurelica 546-5741

ADMISSION:
Environmental Center open
Group: ECOMEX II, ECOMEX I
Bill Phillips 772-6985
Recode: Jack Mark 532-5670
Membership: Camilla Greenfield 574-9572
Office Rep: Don Olfos 563-4375
Publication: Todd Fuglewy 563-2122
ECOMEX Editor/SHERIAN
Wyone Turner 505-0251

Sierra Club Environmental Center
100 S. Piedras
P.O. Box 6060, 532-4766
Please send any changes or corrections in membership to Carolina Greenfield. Membership Roll 14-10 Dale Douglas, 79910
Send ECOMEX information to
Wyone Turner, Editor, 331 Vista del Rey, 79912

The Environmental Center

Only a Few Hours a Month... The Environmental Center continues to have a critical need for volunteers. Can you contribute a few hours one day or more a month helping with office tasks and the recycling program? Better yet, would you be interested in managing the Center? Please contact the Center (532-9045). John Spaulding (545-5157) or Ted Merig (852-3011) if you can help.

Please go to volunteer Amanda Beattie for her recent work at the Center. Also thanks are due the City of El Paso for relocating the fence on the east side of the building. With the east-side yard expanded, all the recycling facilities are now in one place, a more convenient arrangement for Center works and customers alike.

JUNE MEETING

JUNE 1990
ROG GRANGE SIERRAN

14

ROG GRANGE SIERRAN JUNE 1990
15
EL PASO

OUTINGS

TRAN-SILA WILDERNESS BACKPACK
DATE: June 4-13, 1993
CLASS: Moderate
LIMIT: 12, leader approval and reservations required
LEADER: Jim Owen, 505-932-3232
While this outing is directed towards the more experienced, well-equipped hiker, each individual day will be of a moderate nature focused on enjoying the wilderness experience. After driving up on Friday evening, we will spend a week backpacking the Gila Wilderness from east to west.

RAEB PARK-COTTON CANYON DAYHIKE
DATE: June 5, 1993
CLASS: Moderate
LIMIT: 12, reservations required
LEADER: Carl Harkowski, 755-3968 (Gem), 755-9394 (wk)
This trip will depart the city early Saturday morning for the three-hour drive to the trailhead of the Cottonwood Road. Our hike will take us over the foothills on the backside of the Black Range and down into Raeb Park, a wide and unusual collection of smooth, red rocks and hidden rock formations intermixed with conifers. Along the way we may take the time to kick into the steep and narrow Raeb Canyon where the only walkway is the treaded stream.

SPRING CANYON BACKPACK
White Mountain Wilderness
DATE: June 12-13, 1993
CLASS: Moderate
LIMIT: 10, leader approval and reservations required
LEADER: Evi Peppel, 591-9713
It's time again to break a trip from the city and enjoy the beauty of the wilderness with our campers in full bloom at this time of year. We will hike the four miles to Spring cabin (elevation gain 1,200') and set up camp with plenty of time to enjoy a lazy afternoon. Sunday we will hike along the crest trail to Bonita Sop and from there take the Bonita Trail back to our cars. We will take a total of nine miles.

CLOUDCROFT CARCAMBIKE RIDE
DATE: June 19-20, 1993
CLASS: Moderate
LIMIT: None
LEADER: Variable
Breathe the brat in Lincoln National Forest. Sierra Club members are invited to join us at the El Paso Bicycles Club for its annual Cloudcroft weekend ride. Route choices: paved roads, forest trails, challenging hill climbs and thrilling downhill.

HILLSBORO PEAK DAYHIKE/BACKPACK
DATE: June 26-27, 1993
CLASS: Moderate
LIMIT: 6, for the backpack and 10 for the dayhike
LEADER: Joe Rodgers, 833-9875 (backpack)
Mike Epstein, 833-9770 (dayhike)
Backpacking group will leave the Albertson's parking lot early on Friday and ride to the trailhead. Dayhikers will meet at the ranger station at 6:30 am. There will be a picnic lunch at a campsite on the trail for the dayhike group. The dayhike group will use Suna Saturday morning and meet the backpack group at the Enchanted Pass Lookout. We will then start up to Williams Peak. Estimated trail mileage is about 12 miles for both groups. For more details contact Joe for the backpack and Mike for the dayhike.

RIO GRANDE FLOAT TRIP
DATE: July 2, 1993
CLASS: Easy
LIMIT: 12, leader approval and reservations required
LEADER: Laurence Gibson, 594-7342
Leaving El Paso at 8:30 AM, we will drive to Pecos Dam State Park, spotting vehicles at our take-out point. We will float the river in inner-tubes for about four hours including a lunch stop. After returning to our vehicles, there will be an optional no-boat dance at the entrance of the river and fishing. You need to supply your own inner-tube and life jacket. This trip is for good students who are willing to follow the leader's instructions! Call Laurence for reservations.

HILLSDORO PEAK DAYHIKE/BACKPACK
DATE: June 26-27, 1993
CLASS: Moderate
LIMIT: 6, for the backpack and 10 for the dayhike
LEADER: Joe Rodgers, 833-9875 (backpack)
Mike Epstein, 833-9770 (dayhike)
Backpacking group will leave the Albertson's parking lot early on Friday and ride to the trailhead. Dayhikers will meet at the ranger station at 6:30 am. There will be a picnic lunch at a campsite on the trail for the dayhike group. The dayhike group will use Suna Saturday morning and meet the backpack group at the Enchanted Pass Lookout. We will then start up to Williams Peak. Estimated trail mileage is about 12 miles for both groups. For more details contact Joe for the backpack and Mike for the dayhike.

HILLLSBOUND PEAK DAYHIKE/BACKPACK
DATE: June 26-27, 1993
CLASS: Moderate
LIMIT: 6, for the backpack and 10 for the dayhike
LEADER: Joe Rodgers, 833-9875 (backpack)
Mike Epstein, 833-9770 (dayhike)
Backpacking group will leave the Albertson's parking lot early on Friday and ride to the trailhead. Dayhikers will meet at the ranger station at 6:30 am. There will be a picnic lunch at a campsite on the trail for the dayhike group. The dayhike group will use Suna Saturday morning and meet the backpack group at the Enchanted Pass Lookout. We will then start up to Williams Peak. Estimated trail mileage is about 12 miles for both groups. For more details contact Joe for the backpack and Mike for the dayhike.

RIO GRANDE FLOAT TRIP
DATE: July 2, 1993
CLASS: Easy
LIMIT: 12, leader approval and reservations required
LEADER: Laurence Gibson, 594-7342
Leaving El Paso at 8:30 AM, we will drive to Pecos Dam State Park, spotting vehicles at our take-out point. We will float the river in inner-tubes for about four hours including a lunch stop. After returning to our vehicles, there will be an optional no-boat dance at the entrance of the river and fishing. You need to supply your own inner-tube and life jacket. This trip is for good students who are willing to follow the leader's instructions! Call Laurence for reservations.

4TH OF JULY MIMBRES LOOP BACKPACK
DATE: July 3-5, 1993
CLASS: Moderate
LIMIT: 12, leader approval and reservations required
LEADER: Kathy Smith, 778-8300 (days) or 778-2601 (evenings)
We will leave Friday evening and drive to Coosy Campground in the Mimbres Wilderness, where we will camp. Saturday morning we will hike up the same Mimbres River Trail #77. We will follow a loop up towards Mimbres Lake to the Crest Trail #79, and then north to Reeds Peak. On Sunday, we will return to Coosy Campground. We will hike #77, for a total distance of about 25 miles. If you would like to spend the 4th of July in the beautiful Black Range, call Kathy early for details and reservations.

COLORADO BACKPACK
Weminuche Wilderness
DATE: July 10 - 15, 1993
CLASS: Moderate to strenuous
LIMIT: 12, leader approval and reservations required
LEADER: Lawrence Gibson, 515-954-7342
Returning to the Weminuche after a year's absence, we will hike the Continental Divide Trail from Stony Pass north to Rock Lake, taking time to fish or relax at several of the lakes along the way. We will then head west over to Chicago Basin with a layover day for pre-hiking, followed by the lake down to Nerdolene where we will catch the train back to Durango. Because of the 12,000 ft. elevations, participants must be in excellent physical condition with proper equipment. Packs will be weighed at the trailhead. It will be necessary to share shelter and cooking equipment. Call Laurence for reservations.

WYOMING 10-DAY BACKPACK
Wind River Range
DATE: July 7 - 15, 1993
CLASS: Strenuous
LIMIT: 12, leader approval and reservations required
LEADER: Laurence Gibson, 515-954-7342
We will gather in Pinedale, Wyoming, on Saturday. Those wishing to fly in will have to buy supplies. Our 40 mile trip through the Bridger and Popo Agie wildernesses will visit the magnificent Cirque of the Towers with layover days for fishing, etc. Call Laurence for more details and reservations.

RUNNING THE GILILAN

At the last annual Wine and Cheese Party, Rob Belk showed some slides of an earlier Gila River trip and announced that he was planning another trip this spring. He invited anyone who was interested to join him. Not having put a paddle in the water for the three years I have lived in El Paso, I jumped at the opportunity.

We spent the morning of April 19, 2001, at the University of Texas at San Antonio, preparing for the trip. On the morning of April 20, we loaded the raft and headed for the Gila River. The trip started off well, with clear skies and warm temperatures. However, once we reached the river, the temperatures dropped significantly, and we encountered strong currents. Despite the challenges, we had a great time exploring the river and enjoying the natural beauty of the area.

Chuck Turner
SANTA FE GROUP NEWS
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP
ANNUAL SUMMER SOLSTICE PICNIC
SATURDAY, JUNE 19, 1993

Join us on Saturday, June 19, at 6:00 PM for our annual Summer Solstice Potluck Picnic. Please bring a dish (entree, side dish, dessert, drinks, whatever) sufficient for at least 8 people. Also bring your own cups, plates, and utensils to save on trash. Lawn chairs and rugs are welcome also.

The picnic will be held at Gwen Wardwell’s house, 945 Camino de Chelly, in Santa Fe (see map).

The picnic replaces a June general meeting. Our next general meeting will be on September 21, 1993.

Conservation Committee and Executive Committee meetings will be held on their regular schedules throughout the summer.

MEETING SCHEDULE

The Executive Committee of the Santa Fe Group is currently meeting at noon on the first Tuesday of each month at the offices of Jurgens, Tallmadge & Wath, 322 Montezuma.

The next three meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, June 1; Tuesday, July 6; and Tuesday, August 3, 1993. All members are welcome to attend and bring your lunch.

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 meeting for discussion and recommendation first. The next meeting is Tuesday, June 22, at 7:00 PM.

Martin Gray invites all Sierra Club members to a slide show Wednesday, June 16, beginning 7:30 PM at the Santuario de Guadalupe, 100 Guadalupe St. Admission $10. For details, see ad on back page of this issue.

Thanks to:
Ken Hughes and Jana Oyster for setting up and staffing the Sierra Club booth at Earth Day festivities in April.

Helen Moser for arranging such terrific general meeting programs and for handling the publicity for Group events.

Sue McIntosh for coping with the bewildering variety of phone calls that the Group office receives. ("How long does it take to drive from Aspen to Albuquerque?" "How do you catch prairie dogs?" "Can you find me a good cheap place to rent for the summer?" etc., etc).

Carol Owens for her faithful tee-shirt and book sales at our general meetings.

Ken Hughes (988-9297) Bike Ride up Aspen Vista Road to look at areas affected in proposed Ski Basin expansion. Exertive, but beginners can do. Need mountain bikes and helmets. Possible carpooling so those who wish can ride back down Ski Basin Road. Leave 8 AM.

Art Judd (988-3212) Moderate Hike in the high country. Leave 8 AM.

Joe Whelan (988-0746) Moderate Hike to Stewart Lakes. Leave 8 AM.

Jeff Jones (984-2388) Strenuous Hike to Santa Fe Baby, Leave 8 AM.

Doug Alschuler (471-1183) Easy Hike on Bar Wallow Trail. Leave 8 AM. Back by lunchtime.

David Brown (663-2185) Strenuous Loop Hike to Loco Peak, 10 miles roundtrip, 3500' elevation gain. Call for details.

OUTING 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 Polo Corral). 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.

A DAY AT THE FLEA MARKET - JULY 10

Turn your spring cleaning into money for the Santa Fe Group's coffers by collecting your sale-worthy items for our day at the flea market, Saturday, July 10, 1993. We welcome all items except clothing; anything left unsold will be donated to a local charity. We'll have two storage places to take your items: call Ken Hughes at 988-0297 or Norma McCallan at 471-0005 to arrange to drop them off. We'd like to have your items well in advance of the day of the sale so we can sort and price. Also, if you can help staff the sale anytime on the day, please call Jana Oyster at 984-2020 (weekdays).

JUNE 1993

RIO GRANDE SIERRAN
**SANTA FE**

Sat Sun July
3 Arnold Keskulla (982-9570) Moderate Hike w/stEEP CLiMiNT to Lake Peak to see the tundra flowers. Leave 7:30 AM.
4 Norbert Spierich (983-1629) Moderate/Serene Hike to Lookout Rock above La Vega in Santa Fe Ski Basin. Call for details.
10 Lionel Soracco (983-6715) Moderate Hike to Atalaya Peak (steep climb) and environs. Boots required. Meet at St. John’s College Visitors’ Parking Lot off Camino de la Cruz Blanca. Leave 9:00 AM.
11 Rob McKee (672-3452) Moderate One-Night Backpack into the Pecos Wilderness, possibly up El Porvenir Canyon, no more than 8 miles each way. Call for reservations.
17 Art Judd (982-3212) Moderate Hike in the high country. Leave 8 AM.
17 Gary Eno (473-4440) Moderate/Serene Hike in the Pecos, probably with considerable uphill hiking. Leave 8 AM.
18 Elizabeth Altman (471-4890) Easy Hike on Bear Wallow Loop, 4.1/2 miles roundtrip. Leave 9 AM.

**ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE / ISSUE HIKE FOR JULY!**

18 Ken Hughes (988-9297) Moderate Bike Trip to an area threatened by logging. Need mountain bike and helmet. Call for details.

24 John Jasper (982-8572) Serene Loop Hike (15 miles roundtrip) to Gold Hill near Taos Ski Basin. Leave 7:30 AM.
24 Joe Whelan (984-0746) Car Camp/Moderate Day Hike probably at Elk Creek Campground/hikes in the Conejos River area on the Colorado/New Mexico border. Sunday’s hike will be to Red Lake. Leave Saturday morning. Call for reservations.
25 Steven Janus (988-4375) Moderate Hike with Steep Ascents up Northwest Ridge to Lake Peak and return via Ravens Ridge. Leave 8 AM.
31 Brian Johnson (983-5672) Easy Hike up Chamisa Trail to the Tresuque River, 4 1/2 miles roundtrip, steep incline. Leave 8 AM.

23 thru 8/1 Norma McCallan (471-0005) Exploratory 10-Day Backpack on Continental Divide Trail, Cuchetopa Hills Segment, Monarch Pass-Spring Creek Pass, Colorado. 100 miles. Leave Thursday afternoon, 7/22. Resupply point at mile 45. Would consider doing only the 55-mile lower segment if better for participants. Experienced backcountry packs only. Call for reservations.

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**SANTA FE GROUP OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Chair — Jana Oyler* 984-2020 Newsletter Editor — Kay Carlson 982-3926
Vice-Chair — Colby Muckelroy* 983-5453 Phone Tree — Martha Anne Freeman 438-0997
Secretary/Treasurer — Lionel Soracco* 983-6715 Membership — Pat Stevens 982-5051
Conservation — Van Perkins* 983-8801 Kids’ Sierran Club — Justine Freeman 988-9126
Chapter Representative - Sue McIntosh* 982-4146 Education/Recycling/Occupation — Carolyn Keskulla 982-9570
Publicity & Programs — Helen Moster* 438-3365 Outings — Norma McCallan* 471-0005
Outings — Norma McCallan* 471-0005 Fundraising —
Political Committee — Ken Hughes* 988-9297 Mark Mortier* 983-5870

* Member of the SF Group Executive Committee
Terms expire 12/93: McCallan/Mortier/Muckelroy/Oyler/Soracco
12/94: Hughes/McIntosh/Moster/Perkins

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**SOUTHERN NM**

Southern New Mexico Group

Summer outings will be held on short notice. If you would like to find out what is happening and when, please call Steve Kalavity at 382-8419. Have a great summer!

Southern New Mexico Conservation Tree:

Hazardous Waste — Karen Fuller and a committee of residents of Chaparral are concerned that Rinchem, a hazardous waste "transit station" located in Chaparral, which is only supposed to keep waste for a short time before being hauled to Albuquerque, may be in violation of it's Doña Ana County Permit. Rinchem has applied for a permit to collect, segregate, and transport hazardous waste to be stored at the same facility. Karen is meeting with Doña Ana County Commissioners and has spoken to the Mayor of Rio Rancho where another such facility exists or is planned.

Border Health — Senator Bingaman has announced the assignment of an epidemiologist to assess the preparedness and problems facing Southern New Mexico if cholera enters the U.S. from Mexico. This winter, numerous confirmed cases of cholera have been reported in Juarez during the off season. Cholera outbreaks usually occur during the hot humid months of summer.

BLM Mimbre Plan Appeal — The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is in the works. A recent BLM briefing paper states, "all alternatives permit the three gas producing wells to continue to produce, but require special mitigation for plugging and abandonment of each well. The final EIS will present an 'opinion of value' for the cost of implementing each alternative, so that the decision-maker may be aware of the economic impacts of the drilling rights 'taken'."

BLM Caballo Resource Area — We wrote a letter to Caballo in support of the Native Plant Society's position that endangered and threatened species in a canyon in the Sacramento Escarpment need more protection. Our letter asked that a dumping area be moved, the gates be locked, a road be closed, and that development of a trail over the escarpment into the canyon by the Forest Service (FS) be stopped. Mariamne received an oral response from BLM, stating they will do what they can administratively but some suggestions call for Plan changes.

Grazing — Two car loads of an attended the Babbit Grazing Hearings. Mariamne was chosen to give a public statement on behalf of the Southern New Mexico Group and was later interviewed for TV. Her statement captured the National Sierra Club policy with special emphasis from a Southern New Mexico perspective, where grazing is measured by numbers of acres per cow rather than the number of cows per acre.

GAP Analysis Project — Secretary Babbit is considering a Biodiversity Mapping Project which will involve the GAP Analysis Project at NSMU. "GAP analysis provides a quick overview of the distribution and conservation status of biodiversity. It seeks to identify gaps (i.e. vegetation types and species that are not represented in the network of biodiversity management areas) that may be filled through establishment of new reserves or changes in land management practices." This program uses satellite imagery to create maps and some ground verification.

Send contributions for July/August Log to:
Karen Fuller
651 Turbleweed
Chaparral, NM 88021

Qualifiable Quote: "President Clinton, scientifically sound, ecologically credible, and legally responsible."

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**GROUP DIRECTORY**

Jenifer Thayer, Editor 923-4210
Steve Kalavity, Chair 262-8419
Ann Zentner, Treasurer 262-4307
Tony Chabolla, Conservation Chair 525-1802
Karen Fuller, Convention Chair 234-4022
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Ken Pacheco, Geo Editor 267-2257
Susan Womb, Ethnic Diversity Chair 615-7512
David McCaig, Co-Chair 867-3784

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JUNE 1993 RIO GRANDE SIERRA
Pristine Grassland to be Invaded!

By Marianne Thuerer, SNN Chair

Otero Mesa is located on Ft. Bliss Texas/New Mexico McGregors Range south of Alamosa. It is a southwestern extension of the Surement Mountains owned by BLM which was withdrawn in 1986 for military training and bombing. Otero Mesa has a complex prairie, upland, and wetland habitat and is an important wintering area for many species of birds. The wetland contains a variety of plant communities and supports a unique assemblage of species. The area is threatened by the US military's plans to use the land for military training and bombing.

Otero Mesa has been designated as a National Natural Landmark and is a significant habitat for many bird species, including the Montezuma Quail, a species listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. The Otero Mesa National Wildlife Refuge is a critical habitat for many species of birds, including the Snowy Plover and the California Gnatcatcher.

During the past 10 years, the population of the birds has increased by about 2.7 million, increasing faster than any other in the United States. The Otero Mesa National Wildlife Refuge is a critical habitat for many bird species, including the Snowy Plover and the California Gnatcatcher.

Advocating reduced immigration does not divide wealthy environmentalists seeking to protect their wilderness "playgrounds" from America's poor, urban, or working-class minorities. David North, a prominent in the anti-immigration movement, explains that "immigration is a crisis of our times." He argues that immigration is harmful to the environment and to American workers. North believes that reducing immigration is necessary to protect the environment and the economy.

North's arguments are based on the idea that immigration is a threat to the environment and to American workers. He believes that immigration is harmful to the environment and to American workers. North believes that reducing immigration is necessary to protect the environment and the economy.

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