

continued from previous page

to establish an ombudsman to assist small businesses and family farms with environmental compliance, and by Sen. Bond (R-Mo) further amended by Sen. Baucus (D-Mont) that recommends the Soil Conservation Service be responsible for determining the existence of protectable wetlands on agricultural lands. Finally the amendment by Sen. Johnston (D-La) requiring federal agencies to undertake cost-benefit and risk-benefit analyses of regulations was adopted by an almost unanimous vote 95-3. (Senators Bingaman and Domenici voted with the majority). Environmentalists say this amendment is designed to make the regulatory process unwieldy and financially burdensome, effectively undermining environmental, health and safety protections. The backers of this amendment claim that the monetary cost of regulation is too high.

Thus amended, the Glenn bill passed the Senate in early May by a 79-15 margin (Senators Bingaman and Domenici voted with the majority), and was sent to the House. Environmentalists are now looking to the House to pass a cleaner bill with the aim of stripping out some amendments in conference.

One controversial feature of the original Glenn bill was its provision to abolish the Council on Environmental Quality, a White House agency created to administer the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and replace it with a smaller non-statutory White House Office on Environmental Policy. Environmentalists object to the proposed transfer of NEPA's regulatory functions out of the White House to the new Dept. of Environment, because of the Act's role as a watchdog mechanism for all federal agencies.



Printed on 100%
recycled paper



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

Non-Profit Option
U.S. Po
PAI
El Pas
Permit NO

24387135 1704 0993
BARBARA H JOHNSON
1 ENCANTADO LOOP
SANTA FE
NM 87505 8279

JULY-AUG
1993

RIO GRANDE SIERRA

Environmental News of New Mexico and West Texas

Regional Water Planning and the Sierra Club

by Vickie Gabin, Chapter Co-Chair, Water Issues

THE SIERRA CLUB has a unique and timely opportunity to directly affect New Mexico's water resources future. This is a project that can work on two levels: grassroots, regional participation in the regional water plans; and input to the Interstate Stream Commission (ISC) with respect to establishing plan guidelines and the eventual state-wide water resources plan.

Generally speaking, this is non-technical work that can be done by any otherwise intelligent member who can manage a little background reading and commit to on-going involvement in his/her region (meetings, planning sessions, etc.) Many regional plans have been largely farmed out to consultants for the specialized work; the point here is to ensure true public participation by other community voices. I can provide assistance with contacts, copies of plans, and ideas for participation.

Regional Planning Program

The Regional Planning Program has been in existence since 1987, when the legislature first funded the concept and provided that the ISC be the agency to review regional proposals. Fourteen basic water planning areas were identified and developed. As of January, 1993, 22 initial water studies have been completed or are still in development. Initial efforts were laudable; however, the pace has been slow, and funding, erratic. Planning committees went off in a variety of directions because there was virtually no guidance from the ISC as to what they needed to be looking at.

Regional water planning is the vehicle through which the State Engineer Office (SEO) and ISC envision public participation in the eventual State Water Plan. This plan will coordinate regional concerns and on-going programs into a guide for water management in the state. The state plan is to serve as the focus for policy implementation in critical water issues such as conservation, water quality, and water allocation, and will provide the institutional framework for on-going water planning.

"Public Welfare"

The regional committees should be looking at issues like public welfare, instream flow and conservation. Additionally, they are expected to play a role in on-going planning and providing advice to other agencies which deal with water resources.

"Major" water user interests (read: developers, ranchers, municipalities and the like) have already been actively participating in the functioning water planning committees; the environmental community, however, has been notably absent from the process in many regions. This situation calls for direct and fairly immediate involvement from Sierra Club members within each region, and coordination with other environmental groups to ensure that environmental concerns be represented strongly.

Eluid Martinez, the current State Engineer, will rely on these regional

Sierra Club Group News:

Albuquerque: pages 9-12

El Paso: pages 13-16

Santa Fe: pages 17-20

Southern NM: pages 21-24

Our Nuclear Test

by Greg Mello & Mary Riseley
Los Alamos Study Group

FORTY-EIGHT YEARS AGO this month, the first nuclear weapon was detonated in the place called Jornada del Muerto: Journey of Death. That test, and the place, came to be called "Trinity." Twenty-one days later, a simpler bomb—which required no test—was dropped on Hiroshima. Three days after that, a copy of the Trinity bomb was used on Nagasaki. More than 200,000 people died. With these events the nuclear age exploded into the New Mexico environment and consciousness, permanently altering both.

In the decades since then, many New Mexicans have come to accept and even welcome the dirty business of transmuting nuclear energy into what some believed might become an enduring currency of global power. And many have come to see the resulting environmental sacrifice zones as part of the trade we must make in return for federal indenture.

As this article is being written, the Clinton Administration—and we in

continued on page 7

continued on page 8

RIO GRANDE SIERRAN

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. Members should send change of address notice to: Sierra Club, 730 Polk St., San Francisco, CA 94109. Nonmember subscriptions at \$10 per year are available from the Albuquerque office.

The opinions expressed in signed articles in the *Rio Grande Sierran* are the opinions of the writers and do not necessarily reflect those of the editor or the Sierra Club. Articles may be freely reprinted for nonprofit purposes, provided that credit is given to the author and the *Rio Grande Sierran*. Please let us know. Products and services advertised in the *Rio Grande Sierran* are not endorsed by the Sierra Club.

Contributions are welcomed from members and nonmembers. Articles on Macintosh disc (any format), IBM disc (3 1/2" ASCII or WordPerfect) or ccMail should be submitted by the 15th 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 computer deadline. Editorial correspondence and nonmember subscription changes should be sent to:

Rio Grande Sierran
207 San Pedro Ave. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87108
(505) 265-5506

Editor—Marc Bedner (505) 299-2004

Group Offices:

Albuquerque: see above

Santa Fe (87501):
440 Cerrillos Rd.
(505) 983-2703

El Paso (79983):
800 S. Piedras
P.O. Box 9191
(915) 532-9645

Southern New Mexico:
P.O. Box 3705 UPB
Las Cruces, NM 88003
(505) 522-3421

Southwest Field Office:
516 E. Portland St.
Phoenix, AZ 85004
(602) 254-9330

Rio Grande Chapter Executive Committee:

Gwen Wardwell, Chair	(505) 438-3060
Susan Gorman, Vice Chair	(505) 265-3231
Marc Bedner, Council Delegate	(505) 299-2004
Tom Brasfield, Conservation Chair	(915) 584-8739
Blair Brown, Albuquerque Rep.	(505) 265-3231
Norma McCallan, Secretary & Outings	(505) 471-0005
Sue McIntosh, Santa Fe Rep.	(505) 982-4146
Ted Mertig	(915) 852-3011
Carol Morrison, Membership	(915) 585-9077
Jana Oyler, Treasurer	(505) 984-2020
Marianne Thaeler, So. NM Rep.	(505) 522-3421
Wyona Turner, El Paso Rep.	(915) 585-0251
Ben Zerbey	(505) 526-6207

Conservation Issue Chairs

Diamond Bar—Ted Mertig	(915) 852-3011
Energy & Transportation—Ken Hughes	(505) 988-9297
Mining—Sue McIntosh	(505) 982-4146
National Parks—Ben Zerbey	(505) 526-6207
Petroglyph Monument—Ike Eastvold	(505) 255-7679
Population—Libby Hernandez	(505) 527-1440
Public Lands—Roger Peterson	(505) 983-7559
Water—Eric Ames	(505) 266-6842
Vickie Gabin	(505) 986-7315
Wilderness—George Grossman	(505) 982-1024
Wildlife—Pat Wolff	(505) 983-2703

Jobs vs. Democracy

by Mary Lou Jones, President, Zuni Mountain Coalition

ARE YOU a letter-writer? Do you believe that letting your elected officials know how you feel is an important part of the democratic process? Do you believe that it is important for environmentalists to support certain types of legislation and be pro-active? Did you believe the June *Sierran's* assertion that NM's Solid Waste Act has been protected in the '93 legislative session? Have I got news for you.

Take, for example, McKinley Paper Company (MPC). Across the state, politicians, business people and environmentalists are pleased as punch to have a recycling end market located right here in New Mexico. Heck, they are so excited, they have exempted MPC from ALL permits. After all, MPC is run by self-proclaimed "tree-huggers." At a recent hearing every politician was an environmentalist, including Cibola County's Senator Joe Fidel.

So what's the problem? During the 1993 legislative session there were a dozen attempts to weaken the Solid Waste Act. Representative Gary King, with MPC's lawyer by his side, introduced one of them. According to the Solid Waste Act, industries that use material that would otherwise end up in a landfill are recycling facilities and should be permitted as solid waste facilities. The Attorney General's Office issued an informal decision last fall that MPC should be permitted under the Solid Waste Act. Rep. King's bill would have exempted MPC and other recycling manufacturers from this permitting process, but it did not pass the Senate. Yet, Secretary of the Environment Judith Espinosa has taken it upon herself to re-interpret the law. MPC, as well as any other recycling manufacturer, has been exempted.

Isn't this a travesty of the democratic process? Should we allow appointed politicians to change the

laws? How can the governor and attorney general turn their head at this? Why would they?

It has been of utmost importance to MPC to operate without permits. They have tried to change the law. They have threatened lawsuits and have waged a disinformation campaign. When the local citizens here questioned why they are allowed to operate without permits, the Chamber of Commerce was quick to tell all the merchant class that our intention was to close down MPC and that local business would suffer.

At a June hearing in Grants, MPC stated that they are working with Sandia Labs to compost the left-over cardboard with fly ash. Fly ash comes from the stack of incinerators and contains amounts of heavy metals that even the EPA finds dangerous.

Millions are to be made in transporting of hazardous waste and household garbage away from metropolitan areas. Recycling is an important part of solid waste management but the opportunity for abuse is too real. The regulations have been relaxed. The flood has begun.

Write Attorney General Tom Udall, PO Drawer 1508, Santa Fe, NM 87504 and tell him to enforce the Solid Waste Act.

CALENDAR

Fri—Sun, Aug 13—15: Chapter Service Outing, Gila Wilderness. For information, call Susan Schock 388-2854.

Aug 15: deadline for Sept. *Sierran*.

Sat—Sun, Sept 11—12: Chapter Retreat, Kingston.

Sat, Sept 18: Grazing Activists Conference, UNM Continuing Education Center, Albuquerque. Sponsored by PLAN and Rest the West. (Details will appear in next issue: for more information, call Jim Fish 867-3062.)

From the desk of the Population Chair: Legislative Update

Libby Hernandez, Chapter Population Issues Chair

POINTS TO KEEP IN MIND as you read this legislative update:

- Overpopulation is causing water shortages; soil erosion; desertification; ocean overharvesting; deforestation; the loss of biodiversity; air, water, and soil pollution; ozone depletion; and global warming.

- 57% of Americans support an increase in international family planning assistance, and did so even during the recession last year.

- The Senate should request the full \$725 million committed under the Amsterdam Declaration (even though the House has appropriated a smaller amount) because that is the amount estimated to be needed to reach the goal of universal access to family planning services by the year 2000.

- \$725 million is only 5% of the Foreign Affairs budget. This is a small price to pay to address one of the leading causes of environmental degradation.

Working to stabilize world population is one of the Sierra Club's 1993-1994 Conservation Campaigns. To achieve this the Sierra Club seeks worldwide access to birth control by the year 2000. In 1989, the United Nations adopted this goal in the "Amsterdam Declaration," which was signed by President Bush. Nevertheless, in 1993 it is estimated that 100 to 150 million couples who would like to control their fertility still lack access to family planning services. To remedy this, the Sierra Club continues a vigorous campaign to increase Congressional funding of international population assistance. Sierra Club population activists seek full Congressional funding for the Amsterdam Declaration commitments the United States made in 1989.

This year we have gotten a big boost from Sen. Bingaman. **SENATOR JEFF BINGAMAN INTRODUCED THE INTERNATIONAL POPULATION STABILIZATION AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH ACT** (along with Sen. Alan Simpson (R-Wy) in the Senate, and Rep. Tony Beilenson (D-Calif) and Rep. Connie Morella (R-Md) in the House). **THIS IS GREAT NEWS!** The act is designed to help provide worldwide access to culturally competent family planning services and reproductive health care. It is a foreign aid authorizing bill which would provide full funding for the Amsterdam Declaration commitments, i.e., \$725 million in FY94 and \$800 million in FY95. **LETTERS OF THANKS ARE IN ORDER.**

While Sen. Bingaman's authorizing bill will be a great help if enacted, we will still have to work to get the authorized funds appropriated. To increase support for international population appropriations, "Dear Colleague" letters are circulated. Last year these letters were very successful. Over 100 Representatives (37%) and 20 Senators signed "Dear Colleague" letters urging support for international population assistance. Foreign aid funding is always difficult to obtain in an election year, and last year also found us in a recession. In spite of this, the FY93 funding was \$430 million for international population assistance—a 32% increase over the previous year!

Bill Richardson signed the "Dear Colleague" letter both last year and this year. He is the only Representative from New Mexico to do so. Rep. Ron Coleman also signed the letter last year and is one of 9 Texas representatives to do so this year. **LETTERS OF THANKS ARE IN ORDER.** Our letter campaign in the House is now over. 157 members co-signed the Beilenson "Dear Colleague" letter to Rep. Obey

(D-Wisc) this year. Rep. Obey has included \$506.6 million for population assistance in the foreign operations budget. While this is only 70% of our goal (\$725 million), it is a watershed. It is the first time any country has exceeded \$500 million.*

So now it is on to the Senate, where our letter campaign is just beginning. Senator Kerry is circulating a "Dear Colleague" letter urging support for international population appropriations. Neither of the Texas senators signed last year, but this year there is a new senator. Senator Hutchison has to run for re-election. She is a "new kid on the block." She may not be familiar with this issue. Educate her. Let her know that West Texas constituents want her to sign the Kerry Letter.

Last year Senator Bingaman was one of the 20 Senate co-signers of the Kerry Letter. Please write or call him. Thank him for his signature on the Kerry Letter last year. Thank him very much for the bill he just introduced. And then ask him to continue providing leadership on this important issue by signing the Kerry Letter this year. **THANK YOU SENATOR BINGAMAN!** We look forward to seeing your signature on the Kerry Letter.

And don't give up on Senators Domenici or Gramm. Letters and phone calls can make a big difference. Ask them to sign the Kerry Letter to Leahy requesting that he appropriate \$725 million in FY94 for international population assistance. If you have any questions call me (505) 527-1440. For "talking points" you might like to include in your letter, see the beginning of this update.

*The budget allocates \$492 million to the core account (Office of Population), \$78.4 million to the Development Fund for Africa (Population Projects) and \$36.2 million to the United Nations Population Fund.



Environmental Candidate in Albuquerque Mayoral Race

An Interview with Cisco McSorley

by Sue McIntosh and Blair Brown

IN NOVEMBER Albuquerque will elect a new mayor. At press time, we didn't have the complete list of candidates, but one of our long standing and most supportive friends has declared his candidacy. Cisco McSorley, currently the State Legislator from District 18 in the University area of Albuquerque is running for mayor.

Sierran: The volcanos and escarpment of the Petroglyph National Monument make Albuquerque special, yet this resource faces some real threats today. What is your position on the extension of Paseo del Norte through the Petroglyph National Monument?

McSorley: I am against the extension of Paseo del Norte. I do favor the Calabacillas alternative which is also favored by the National Park Service. This alternative skirts the neighborhoods and the National Monument. In doing the important job of protecting our natural and cultural resources, it is important to be sensitive to the needs of surrounding neighborhoods. The people of the immediate areas do not want a new road built right through their neighborhood, and they shouldn't be forced to have one.

I also realize that current transportation routes in the area will have to be upgraded under this alternative, and I support that and will work toward funding those upgrades. What is important to understand is that these two critical Albuquerque resources, the Petroglyphs and the existing neighborhoods can thrive together.

Sierran: You have indicated a strong interest in maintaining the integrity of Albuquerque neighborhoods. Do you feel the city has handled the issue well in the past?

McSorley: I do not. Traditionally, the city of Albuquerque has not valued its neighborhoods. The city has favored scattered development over planned

communities. I will change that focus as mayor. I will make certain that the needs of the people of Albuquerque drive the protection and revitalization of the established neighborhoods as well as the creation of new ones. New developments should not happen when and where they are not needed, and older neighborhoods should not be sacrificed or forgotten. Before we look to the outskirts of our city, we should look inside. We will find we have ignored areas that have the potential to serve our growth needs.

Sierran: What pressures from new growth and development do you see as the most important to focus on?

McSorley: Albuquerque is about to cross an important new dividing line in its development. This city has historically been a city of the Rio Grande Valley. The river has shaped our identity and our impacts have not expanded much beyond the river valley. We are now poised to surge out of the Rio Grande Valley onto the West Mesa and the Rio Puerco Valley. This is a transition for Albuquerque and one which we should approach very carefully and with much thought and foresight. We cannot be haphazard in our approach to further development of the west side.

Albuquerque will continue to grow. The character of that growth will be defined by the decisions we make today, while we stand on the edge of one great river valley that has been our home and look into the neighboring valley where we soon will be.

Sierran: What specific needs do you feel must be met to enable Albuquerque to grow in a careful and beneficial manner?

McSorley: We must begin to take a new look at mass transit in Albuquerque. In doing so, we need to promote new alternatives and innovations, and create mass transit opportunities that people want to use and

therefore will use. Albuquerque is ripe for an intracity light rail system. Also, I would consider a joint city/county partnership for light rail on the Albuquerque/Santa Fe corridor.

Sierran: You used the word partnership. Do you see a role for any other partnerships in Albuquerque's future?

McSorley: Yes, and let me tell you about one idea in particular. The private business sector in Albuquerque is teeming with the kind of innovation this city really needs. Our problem is that the city just is not creating the opportunities for public-private partnerships. The city is not doing its part.

One area where the city of Albuquerque could do its part is by setting up a recycling program for wood products. Currently, we have successful recycling programs for newspaper, plastic, metal, tin and cardboard. We need to expand those programs to include wood products. The private side of the partnership is ready to go. There are several firms in the Albuquerque area that are willing and able to reuse those post-consumer wood products, turning them into new products and more jobs.

Sierran: Of course job creation is important. But don't new industries and new jobs also often create new environmental problems?

McSorley: That is a failure of our past that I, as mayor, will not allow to continue in our future. A clean environment and a healthy economy can coexist, and in fact, they are essential to each other. You cannot have a successful city with only one and not the other.

Sierran: Water quality is one of the most pressing issues in New Mexico and it becomes more urgent every day. Isleta Pueblo is attempting to deal with the water quality issue in a way that has caused some controversy. What are

continued on next page

McSorley *from prev. page*

your thoughts about the way Albuquerque should respond to the Isleta water quality initiative?

McSorley: I cannot argue with the Pueblo's concern about the quality of the water that passes downstream from the North. I wish every community in New Mexico was as aware as the Native American community is on these issues. As mayor, I will respect the tradition and rights of the Isleta Pueblo, and all of the people downstream from Albuquerque.

Only a small portion of Isleta's water comes from Albuquerque so this city is a relatively minor part of the problem. My message is that Albuquerque should be a major part of the solution. We will not run over our downstream neighbors.

Sierran: What do you feel will be the role and involvement of the Sierra Club and other environmental groups in your administration? Will you consult members of environmental groups prior to making appointments to the Environmental Planning Commission, Open Space Advisory Board, Development Review Board, and other relevant boards?

McSorley: I will maintain a strong role for all those who care about the health of our environment in my administration. I will consider the possibility of creating an environmental liaison in my office to improve access and a constant transfer of good ideas. Further, I will do more than 'consult' environmental citizen groups prior to making appointments. I will appoint environmentalists to those boards.

Sierran: Do you want to be the environmental candidate in the Albuquerque mayoral race?

McSorley: I am the environmental candidate and I am happy to be the environmental candidate!

Editor's Note: Neither the Albuquerque group nor the Rio Grande chapter has made any endorsement at this stage of the campaign.

"Cattle-gate"

Incident Reveals Dirty Tricks

by Pat Wolff

IN LAST month's article ("Fear and Loathing at the Pyramid") I reported on Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt's public hearing on federal grazing issues held May 6 at the Pyramid Holiday Inn in Albuquerque.

Now, thanks to revelations in a shocking government memo we recently obtained, another chapter in that bizarre story can be told.

The memo, written by an Interior Department staffer who participated in planning the hearing, clearly indicates that the participation of environmentalists was not welcomed by either the Pyramid or certain government agents, and that there may have been a conspiracy to violate our civil rights.

It all started April 26, when David Henderson of the National Audubon Society, Jim Norton of the Wilderness Society, and I went to the Pyramid to reserve a reception room for our coalition, the Western Taxpayers Alliance. We wanted the room, which was adjacent to the auditorium, to serve as a press conference area, a meeting place for activists, and as a location for our display of petitions, books, bumperstickers, and other materials.

But when we arrived at the hotel the morning of May 6, the hotel manager told us we couldn't have the room because payment hadn't been received. I had personally mailed in the check and knew we hadn't dropped the ball. We pleaded with the manager and offered payment again, but the manager would not accept it, even though the room had not been rented to anyone else. The manager then announced that an "employee training" session had to be held in the room we wanted.

When we looked into the room later that morning to observe this important "employee training" session we saw three people watching a video on "hotel hospitality." Especially aggravating was the fact that ranching industry

groups had been given their reception rooms without question.

Until we got our hands on the smoking gun memo, we didn't know why the Pyramid would go out of its way to deprive us of a meeting room. According to the memo, Nancy Bangstorm of the Pyramid Hotel reported our room reservation to the Albuquerque Police Department (APD), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Chief of Investigations, and Interior Department officials.

The memo goes on to say: "at a meeting with BLM staff, APD staff, and our advance team, BLM security staff informed us that it had asked the FBI for information on the group. Using information from that inquiry, BLM security staff told us that the Western Taxpayers' Alliance was a front name for a group he called 'Guardians of the Forest,' which was identified as a radical Earth First! spinoff group. The BLM staff also informed us that the organizer of this group had a long arrest record and was known to disrupt public events, and that we could expect a disruption in our grazing meeting from this group."

All of these charges are blatantly false. None of the organizers has ever been arrested or disrupted public events. It appears that government agents purposefully engaged in a dirty tricks-style smear campaign to defame us and undermine our participation in this important public lands debate.

The New Mexico Attorney General's Office has joined us in requesting an official investigation into this matter by the Department of the Interior's Inspector General. In addition to planned legal action, the coalition is urging a boycott of the Pyramid, and we have asked Babbitt for assurance that future public meetings sponsored by the Interior Department be held only where all interested parties are treated equally and fairly.

ADC Action Alert!

by Pat Wolff, wildlife issue chair

ATTENTION WILDLIFE ACTIVISTS!

In the spring of 1992, it was discovered that the Animal Damage Control (ADC, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture) was operating illegally on state trust land, without an approved plan.

On March 6, 1992, Jim Baca, then New Mexico State Land Commissioner, announced that ADC would not be allowed to continue its wildlife-killing activities on state trust land unless and until it complied with the law by signing an approved plan for its operations.

After eight months of negotiations, ADC was still refusing to sign an agreement with the Land Office, primarily because Baca had insisted that they check their steel-jawed traps at least every 48 hours. I and other wildlife advocates had been pushing for a regulation requiring traps to be checked at least every 24 hours, but ADC wouldn't even agree to a more lenient 48-hour trap check. On November 19, Baca evicted the federal wildlife killers from state trust lands.

"We have tried without success to work with ADC," Commissioner Baca said in a press release at the time. "It has become apparent that ADC has outlived its usefulness as a federal agency. This agency, which uses public funds to destroy wildlife for private industry has shown it is nothing more than an anachronism in this day and age."

Baca did the right thing by acting to protect the state's wildlife resources and the authority of his office, rather than bow to a renegade federal agency that so willfully violates the law and refuses to be accountable to the public. ADC's abuses and violations of the public trust have been well documented. The public trust will be further violated if this notorious federal agency is allowed to step foot on state trust land again.

On June 5, the chapter executive committee voted in support of the following resolution:

"Be it resolved that the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club continue to support the ban of Animal Damage Control activities on state trust land. We also urge the State Land Office to promote nonlethal livestock protection methods and to recognize and reward environmentally responsible grazing lessees who use these methods."

A letter regarding the resolution, signed by chapter chair Gwen Wardwell and myself, was sent to Ray Powell, Jr., New Mexico's new State Land Commissioner.

[Jim Baca is now the director of the U.S. Interior Department's Bureau of Land Management. See the current issue of *Sierra* magazine for a description of his new duties.]

Despite the fact that all of the leading environmental groups in the state are united in their stand against ADC, the ban could still be lifted by Powell if there is not sufficient political support to retain it. Please write or call him today and urge him to uphold the ADC ban. Write to:

Ray Powell, Jr.
State Land Office
310 Old Santa Fe Trail
Santa Fe, NM 87501
827-5760.

Silvery Minnow Proposed for Listing

by Blair Brown

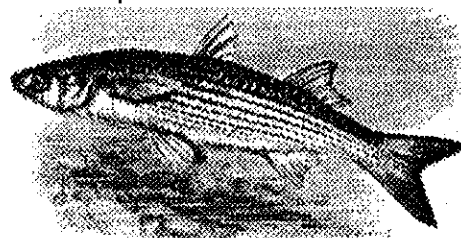
At two recent meetings, in Albuquerque and Socorro, New Mexicans heard about the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) proposal to list the Rio Grande Silvery Minnow as Endangered under the Endangered Species Act.

The silvery minnow once ranged in the Pecos River and in the Rio Grande between Abiquiu and the Gulf of Mexico. It is now only found in the Rio Grande between Cochiti Dam and the headwaters of Elephant Butte Dam, an area only 5% of its original range.

Many at the meeting spoke of their concern that the listing will result in the diversion of Rio Grande water for habitat for the minnow, depriving them of badly needed water for their crops.

The final decision on whether or not to list the minnow will be issued by March 1, 1994. Updates on the proceedings will be published in the *Sierran* as they happen.

Written comments may be sent to Field Supervisor, USFWS, Ecological Services Field Office, 3530 Pan American Highway, Albuquerque, NM 87107, and must be received by August 25, 1993.



WANTED

OLD ORIENTAL RUGS
AMERICAN INDIAN RUGS
PERUVIAN TEXTILES

Call Michael Andrews (415) 641-1937

Sierra Club Tackles Water Quality Problems In New Mexico

by Eric Ames, Chapter Co-Chair, Water Issues

THE SIERRA CLUB executive committee has targeted water quality reform as one of its top priorities for this year. The initiative has two parts: defending and upgrading water quality standards in the upcoming triennial review and beyond, and developing nonpoint source pollution regulations.

Water Quality Standards

The federal Clean Water Act requires each state to develop water quality standards for all waters within its borders. These standards work as follows: (1) New Mexico, acting through the Environment Department (NMED), divides the state's waterways into segments, or sections of streams and their tributaries (e.g., the Rio Chama from Abiquiu Reservoir upstream to El Vado Reservoir and the Rio Gallina and Rio Puerco north of SR 96); (2) NMED designates uses for each segment that are either existing or attainable, such as agriculture, livestock and wildlife watering, warm or cold water fishery, or drinking water; (3) NMED develops standards for specific pollutants to protect those uses.

Technology-based standards for point sources (such as municipal wastewater treatment plants and industrial facilities) must be reviewed every three years to ensure their scientific defensibility, and to give the state an opportunity to update the standards to reflect new information on water quality. This process, called the triennial review, begins with the release of proposed revisions on June 21, 1993. In 30 days (July 21) NMED will hold a public hearing on the proposed revisions to the standards.

The existing standards have many problems. Segments are ill-defined, designated uses do not reflect existing and attainable uses, and pollutant limits are inadequate to protect these uses. We urge you to look at the standards for the streams, rivers, and lakes in your community and region, and point

out these problems to us.

At this stage in the triennial review, we are limited to supporting beneficial changes proposed by NMED, such as adding limits for chlorine and ammonia, and opposing detrimental changes proposed by the cities and industries to downgrade designated uses statewide.

Cities and industries are pushing for a provision authorizing them to perform use attainability studies on the waters to which they discharge. Such studies can at present only be performed by NMED, which has never had the funding to do so. Essentially, the dischargers seek to write their own ticket without NMED oversight, in an effort to either lock in the pollution *status quo*, repel state efforts to improve water quality, or allow for further degradation of receiving waters.

Nonpoint Source Pollution

Nonpoint source pollution (NPSP) accounts for roughly 90% of all impairment of New Mexico's waters. In other words, if a river is not meeting water quality standards, it is probably

because of nonpoint sources, and not municipal wastewater treatment plants or industrial facilities. Unfortunately, the federal Clean Water Act does not require the EPA or states to regulate NPSP. The EPA and a majority of states, including New Mexico, have done nothing.

However, the situation may be changing. Requiring states to regulate NPSP is a major issue in the ongoing reauthorization of the Clean Water Act. Many states have already successfully implemented NPSP controls. It is time for New Mexico to take action voluntarily to address NPSP. We are looking for people to help in the effort: pressuring our representatives in Washington to support NPSP requirements in a reauthorized Clean Water Act; watchdogging the compliance of federal land management agencies with state water quality standards; and drafting regulations for presentation to the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission.

If you are interested in working on any of these issues, please call me at (505) 266-6842.

Regional Water Planning *continued from first page*

committees for SEO direction. For example, Martinez expects to derive regionally-based definitions of "public welfare" to use in his decisions regarding water appropriations, transfers and changes of use. Preservation of riparian habitat, maintenance of minimum streamflows and streamflow quality, planning for controlled development, recognition of the ecological and recreational values of water—these and any other environmental and natural resource issues that come to mind can and should be brought to the table and considered by these regional planning committees.

Sierra Club Tasks

- Member involvement in regional plans. This is particularly critical in re-

gions outside of mainstream, populated New Mexico.

- Involvement with the ISC in formulating guidelines for the regional water plans themselves, so that environmental interests are an integral part of the process. Additionally, ISC should have environmentalists' input for the state plan and overall water resource assessment studies.

Regional plans are underway now. If you or anyone else you know (member or non-member) can participate in the planning process, or if you have questions or suggestions, call me at 986-7315 (this is a voice mail number; I'm moving soon, so my message will include my current home/office number), or write P.O. Box 9933, Santa Fe, 87504-9933.

Los Alamos and Nuclear Testing *continued from first page*

New Mexico—face a momentous decision about the role of nuclear weapons in the post-Cold War world: whether or not to break the current world-wide testing moratorium with a series of U.S. nuclear weapons tests.

This decision will vitally affect the New Mexico environment. We are likely, if the cycle of weapons development begins again, to become host to an "imploded" nuclear weapons complex, with attendant weapons manufacturing facilities and large-scale nuclear dumps. If instead we turn away from new nuclear weapons, we could provide a home to genuine post-Cold War laboratories, creating technologies, otherwise neglected by the market, that can help carry us to a sustainable society.

The labs have been doing their best in Washington to assure that nuclear weapons development and testing continue forever. In this they are greatly aided by New Mexico's congressional delegation, who represent the labs' short-term interests very effectively, with little regard for either long-term national security or the New Mexico environment.

"New Mexico, a poor state with pliant politicians, would host much of the nation's nuclear weapons complex."

Our silence is interpreted as assent. Our delegation assumes that, like them, we are still blinded by the flash that stole the dawn 43 years ago, and by our hope that the green of laboratory paychecks will compensate for the land that is still being permanently ruined. They assume we are a "silent majority," passively supporting an evolving nuclear arsenal. To the extent that this

is true, our efforts to protect our environment and build a just society will remain fragmentary.

Counting on support from its congressional delegation and from us, and anticipating continuing funds, Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) now seeks expanded capabilities to:

- manufacture plutonium, uranium, beryllium, lithium, and stainless steel weapons components;
- fire-test new plutonium pit designs at full scale;
- store very large quantities of plutonium;
- load tritium for the U.S. nuclear stockpile;
- develop and industrially demonstrate several plutonium and uranium processing technologies;
- develop new techniques to manufacture tritium;
- manufacture detonators; and to
- manufacture complete prototype warheads.

In fact, of the 29 major proposed construction projects listed in the 1993 LANL Strategic Plan, 24 will serve LANL's weapons mission. This construction is expected to include two new plutonium storage sites and a large plutonium processing facility to augment LANL's existing plutonium capabilities, already second to none.

Not included in these 29 construction projects are two proposed new radioactive waste sites. The first of these would be a new "low-level" radioactive waste landfill—"low-level" here being a category that includes spent LANL reactor fuel. The new 70-acre dump was planned to be adjacent to the existing radwaste landfill, but because this Mesita del Buey site contained a number of Anasazi ruins, LANL is now hunting for another location. The pueblos, especially San Ildefonso, are deeply concerned about this dump, and the Eight Northern Indian Pueblo Council unanimously called for a full environmental impact statement (EIS) prior to any construction. No EIS is planned for this project—or for any of

the other projects proposed.

The second new waste site is to be a huge mixed-waste storage and disposal site, expected eventually to receive about 475,000 cubic meters of radioactive and chemically hazardous waste. Although this dump was showcased to the public earlier this year as a repository for LANL cleanup residues, more recent reports make it clear that a primary purpose for this landfill is to provide inexpensive on-site dumping for mixed waste from current and anticipated Lab operations.

Should nuclear testing resume, LANL's wish-list has every reason to become a depressing reality, and it is likely that New Mexico, a poor state with pliant politicians, would host much of the nation's nuclear weapons complex. More and more nuclearized, we could even one day be targeted again for the nation's commercial high-level nuclear waste, given the imbroglio at Yucca Mountain.

Our voice is crucial. Last year, Senator Bingaman was able to weaken substantially the Nuclear Testing Moratorium Act, despite the sponsorship of over half the Senate for the original bill. Recently, his senior defense aide indicated his extreme distaste for any test ban, any time, and if he does not hear from us, Senator Bingaman can be expected to spoil efforts now being led by 24 of his Senate colleagues to extend the current moratorium.

Please call Senator Bingaman right away and urge him to support an extension of the nuclear testing moratorium. Once the five declared nuclear powers begin testing again, global weapons development may be impossible to stop, and New Mexico's enchantment with the Bomb and the money it brings will continue to desecrate our beautiful state.



ALBUQUERQUE

ALBUQUERQUE GROUP

July General Meeting: Population Growth and Reduction of Consumption

by Susan Gorman

Each year 95 million more people are added to the world population. That is roughly equal to adding another Mexico each year. At current rates of expansion, the world's population will double by 2030. Some developing countries, such as China, Bangladesh, Nigeria, and Mexico, are committing themselves to stabilizing their populations. They need support from us, the industrialized countries, in the form of financial aid, information on family planning, and a commitment to share world resources by reducing our own consumption and stabilizing our population.

Libby Hernandez, the Population Chair of the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club, will talk about population growth in the world and in the U.S., provide perspective on the effects of more people sharing limited resources, and elucidate the population policy of the Sierra Club.

Preceding the main program, we will tell about opportunities to get involved in Albuquerque Group activities, talk about upcoming events and outings, and give recaps of recent outings. The July meeting will be on July 19th, at 7:30 PM, 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 club. Please come!

August General Meeting: Rio Grande Valley State Park - A New Park is Born

Have you ever wondered how new parks happen? The new Rio Grande Valley State Park plan has been completed and should be approved by Albuquerque City Council before the August general meeting. The park will include land along the river from Sandia to Isleta, Albuquerque's remaining bosque. The park plan addresses preservation, access, regeneration, and possible recreation uses of this vital habitat. One part of the plan utilizes special mapping techniques to analyze the massive amounts of data on vegetation, water, terrain, and soil in order to develop ecozone maps.

Nano Takuma, Associate Planner for Albuquerque's Parks and General Services Dept. and a member of the planning team will talk about ecozone mapping and the planning process. The August meeting will be August 16, same time, same place. Please come!

High Speed Rail Gets Off the Track, More Transportation News

by Stefan Verchinski

The Governor Bruce King finished off the session with an unexpected veto of the \$2 million dollar appropriation supported by a broad coalition for purchasing the 6 miles of private lands right of way for a tilt train system between Albuquerque and Santa Fe. **Federal transportation officials see such actions as a lack of commitment for such projects and generally will move federal money to other states.** Both Bernalillo County and Santa Fe have funded a Transportation Development District for the purpose of developing this train system. Perhaps Albuquerque's lack of a Transportation Development District explains the veto. Concerned citizens interested in air quality and economic stability should call 768-3100 for the Mayor or City Council. Ask them if Albuquerque should get on the right track with a TDD (Transportation Development District). The Governor should also be asked if HE will put forward his own bill to get this done and will HE instruct his Transportation Dept. to pursue this worthwhile goal.

In May we mentioned the **Light Rail Transit Study** which was discussed at the High Capacity Corridor Conference. The good news is that the planners say that we don't have to settle for more roads and LA gridlock or Denver smog. The city should start setting aside rights of way and long term financing for an urban people-moving system. The bad news is...you guessed it...the politicians downtown don't know how to take charge to change the existing road buildout system. Conflicting items in the Comprehensive Plan must be resolved in favor of environmental quality. We need to zone for future environmentally friendly mass transit. We need new zoning ordinances that promote European-style "urban villages", which combine housing with commercial facilities in a car free environments. We need to tighten commercial zones to safeguard against both over-development and low density sprawl. We must restrict auto access to urban centers by capping parking and providing variably-priced parking while improving mass transit.

Talk to the councillors and the new mayoral candidates. Let Jay Sorenson (884-4314) or Ron Grotbeck (296-0944) know what you find out. Thanks.

ALBUQUERQUE

Albuquerque's Environmental Story An informed public depends on you!

Hy and Joan Rosner of our Group produced a document a number of years ago called "Albuquerque's Environmental Story". This document was reproduced in booklet form for public distribution and strongly influenced Albuquerque's Comprehensive Plan and Open Space Network. We would like someone to help update the booklet, and we would like to find out if a National Sierra Club Education Grant is available to help defray the costs of production. In addition, we would like to ask the state Chapter to help fund a part-time position to distribute the booklet to new home buyers so that they become aware of our Group and its activities. Contact Jay Sorenson or Ron Grotbeck (296-0944) if you would like to get involved in some way. Thanks.

Paseo del Volcan

Paseo del Volcan is a planned 6-lane highway starting from I-40 near the Double Eagle airport, traversing the West Mesa, and joining I-25 near Bernalillo. It is designed to siphon off northbound traffic from I-40 and open the area to development. A large industrial park is planned near Double Eagle, and a new community of 8000 is to be constructed at Black Ranch. Westside residents are concerned about air pollution, water use, traffic, and noise, especially in Rio Rancho and Bernalillo. The Northwest Rio Rancho Association and the Cedar Hills Neighborhood Association have circulated petitions, organized protests, and contacted politicians. The Bernalillo City Council passed a resolution condemning Paseo del Volcan. If you would like to help with this effort, call Gene Kimzey (891-1415) or Jerry Jaksha (892-6427). Thanks.

Bosque and Water Committees Call Special Meeting

A number of recent events have underscored the link between water quality and quantity and bosque health. Increased awareness of water quality and quantity problems in the Rio Grande has been triggered by the river's designation as the most polluted in America, Albuquerque's maneuvering on its stormwater management program, the proposed listing of the Rio Grande silvery minnow, the announcement of consortiums to address river issues, and governmental initiatives (such as Senator Domenici's Bosque Committee and Senator Bingaman's Rio Grande Environmental Initiative). The Albuquerque group has an unique opportunity to speak for the urban bosque. A meeting of the Bosque and Water Committees will be held on July 14, 7 pm, at the Sierra Club office. All interested persons are welcome. If you have questions, please call Richard Barish at 247-8079 or Eric Ames at 266-6842.

CALENDAR

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

- July 1: Mexican Wolf Coalition, 7:30 PM.
- July 6: Activities & Special Planning meeting 7pm. Call Terri - 265-8274 or Dave - 344-8693 for location.
- July 12: Executive Committee Meeting, 7PM.
- July 19: **Sierra Club General Meeting**, UNM Law School, Rm 2402, 7:30 PM.
- July 26: Conservation Committee meeting, 7:30 PM.
- Aug 3: Activities & Special Planning meeting 7pm. Call Terri - 265-8274 or Dave - 344-8693 for location.

1993 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Office Telephone: 265-5506

Group Chair	Jay Sorenson	884-4314
Vice Chair	Blair Brown	265-3231
Treasurer	Richard Barish	247-8079
Secretary	David Bouquin	265-7853
Conservation	Ron Grotbeck	296-0944
	Bob Cornish	255-6037
	Tom Leck	857-0765
	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
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/	Ike Eastvold	255-7679
Westside	Bruce Ferguson	765-5757
Population	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

Mayoral Election: Volunteers Needed

All of the candidates for the Albuquerque mayoral race must declare their intent to run by June 23. Join the Political Committee and help us support the best candidate. **We need a mayor who will protect our air and water.** Call Dave Bouquin (265-7853) or Blair Brown (265-3231).

- Aug 5: Mexican Wolf Coalition, 7:30 PM.
- Aug 9: Executive Committee Meeting, 7PM.
- Aug 14: 12 noon. **Deadline** for articles for September group newsletter. Macintosh preferred. Call Larry if supplying hardcopy only.
- Aug 16: **Sierra Club General Meeting**, UNM Law School, Rm 2402, 7:30 PM.
- Aug 23: Conservation Committee meeting, 7:30 PM.
- Sept 2: Mexican Wolf Coalition, 7:30 PM.
- Sept 7: Activities & Special Planning meeting 7pm. Call Terri - 265-8274 or Dave - 344-8693 for location.

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

Sat Jul 3 Leisure Miles: 3 Car: 3 Rinconada Canyon Hike Petroglyph NM

Significance of some of the area's petroglyphs will be discussed, out of the several thousand petroglyphs that are found in this canyon. From 9- 12:30. RSVP
Leader: Ike Eastvold 255-7679

Sat- Sun Jul 10-11 Moderate to Strenuous Miles: 4-6 Car: 230 Backpack Service Project, Pecos Wilderness

We will backpack in 2 to 3 miles from Irongate and then do trail work on Hamilton Mesa. We will do waterbars, check dams, and remove duplicate trails. Tools will be carried in by the US Forest Service. Water provided or available. Joint project with the NMVFO.
Leader: Glen Kepler 296-0402

Sat Jul 10 Leisure- Moderate Miles: 4-6 Car: 200 Pecos Wilderness Hike

Start at Jacks Creek Campground (Jacks Creek is where the NM Game and Fish Dept has recently reintroduced the Rio Grande cutthroat trout) and hike up to the mesa meadows of wildflowers and the views of the surrounding Pecos Wilderness. Bring lunch. Meet at 9:00AM at SC office, 207 San Pedro NE
Leader: Bob Cornish 255-6037

Sat Jul 17 Moderate Miles: 2 Car: 2 Oxbow Service Project

We will be putting stucco wiring around the base of the cottonwoods to protect them from beaver and work on maintaining the channel we dug last year. The Sierra Club owns part of this wetland, the only wetland still remaining in the Albuquerque bosque. Meet at 7:30 AM at St. Josephs and Coors. We will try to beat the heat by working in the morning. We will be wading through water up to 2 feet deep, so bring shorts and some old sneakers or waders.
Leader: Nick Nickolaus 884-5433

Sun Jul 18 Leisure Miles: 3 Car: 20 Tres Picoles Canyon Hike, Sandia Wilderness

Three hours long. Meet at 9:00 AM at the Sierra Club office, 207 San Pedro NE. Plenty of birds and wildflowers.
Leader: David 344-8693

Mon Jul 19 Premeeing Dinner

Mama Mia's Italian, 1430 Carlisle NE, at 6:00 PM. Call to reserve a chair.
David 344-8693

Sat- Sun July 24-25 Moderate Miles: ? Car: 200+?

Single Day or Overnight Canoe Trip Location to be Determined

We will canoe a lake or river depending on water levels and will give participants the option of making it a one or two day trip. Call for details.
Leader: John Turnbull 982-9329, Stan 292-9138

Sun Jul 25 Leisure Miles: 3 Car: 3 Geological Windows Hike, Petroglyph NM

Petroglyphs, unique geological features and ancient Indian agriculture structures. Bring binoculars, camera, sturdy shoes. RSVP. Meet at 9:00 AM
Leader: Ike Eastvold 255-7679

Wed Jul 28 Leisure Miles: 3 Car: 0 Sunset at the Oxbow

Birds become active at sunset with song and the temperatures start to cool. Meet at 6:00 PM at SE corner of Coors and St Josephs. Insect repellent might be helpful.
Leader: David 344-8693

Fri- Sun Jul 30- Aug 1 Moderate- Strenuous Miles: 12 Car: 500+ High Points of Colorado with a Mountain Goat- Mt. Massive

This trip is moderately strenuous, 8 miles and 4,800 feet and promises great views! We will rendezvous for dinner by Twin Lakes on Friday. Climb the Peak on Saturday, then Sat. night beer in Frisco, dry camp near Alma and for those not quite tuckered out, we'll try for Mt. Sherman with about 4 miles and 2,000 feet. Energy will be revitalized with the Alma Hotel Cinnamon rolls. Call for further details

Leader: Stefan 888-1370

Sat Jul 31 Moderate Miles: 4-6 Car: 160 Jones Canyon ACEC and Elk Spring ACEC Exploratory Hike

We will head for the western slopes of the Jemez mesas south of Cuba on BLM and USFS land. Jones Canyon is an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) with some archaeology sites. Elk Spring ACEC is emphasized as wildlife habitat. Cathy Walters from the BLM states Elk Spring is spectacularly beautiful. A riparian area at Elk Spring was purchased by the National Elk Federation for wintering elk habitat. We will hike into anything else that looks interesting. Meet 8:00 AM behind Winchell's, San Mateo and Academy. For information call David 344-8693.
Leader: David Kelton

Sun Aug 1 Moderate Miles: 1 Car: 40 Sandia Man Cave, SW

Once in your life as a New Mexican you should crawl on your knees and belly into this cave. Expect to be covered in yellow dust on your retreat to sunshine. Bring clothes that you want to get dirty. Kids love this one. Four hours long. We will eat lunch before returning home. Meet at 9:00 AM behind Winchell's at San Mateo and Academy.
Leader: David 344-8693

Sat Aug 7 Leisure Miles: 2 Car: 140 An Artist's View of the Jemez

Bring lunch, blanket or chair, art supplies [pencil and paper, paint, pastels, etc.] and enjoy a creative day in the Jemez. We will hike in from the Las Conchas trailhead

EMBUDITO Trail Service Project

Saturday, August 21 8:30 AM to 4:00

This is the Annual Project on the Albuquerque Group's adopted trail. This time around we take on the overhaul of the wildlife drinker, some rock work on a middle trail section, and clearing brush from the upper trail section. Bring shovels, pruners, other tools, lunch, day pack, and water. Some tools provided by the Forest Service. We should have something for everyone.

Join the 50 plus people for the fun and creating one of Albuquerque's Best Hiking Trails

Take Montgomery east past Tramway to the first stop sign at Glenwood Hills Dr. Take Glenwood Hills north for about a quarter mile, turn east onto the road leading out of the housing to the Embudito trail parking lot. For more information call Barbara 277-0407 or David 344-8693

Cold Drinks Provided Come out when you want and stay as long as you can. Hiking will range from 2 to 16 miles.

ALBUQUERQUE

along the East fork of the scenic Jemez river, with meadows of wildflowers downstream.

Leader: Marsha Cohen 897-1591

Sat Aug 7 Moderate
Miles: 12 Car: 100

Mountain Biking in the Jemez

Starting from Cochiti Canyon, we will climb up Bland Canyon, cross over a ridge, and return via Media Dia Canyon, following a single track in a lush canyon along a stream. Half a dozen stream crossings, expect to get splashed upon and wet. Meet at 8:00 AM behind Winchell's at San Mateo and Academy. Bring lunch.
Leader: Nick Persampieri 842-8155

Sun Aug 8 Strenuous
Miles: 14 Car: 300

Wheeler Peak, Wheeler Peak Wilderness

Climb the highest peak in New Mexico. We will start at Taos ski area. Meet 7:00 AM behind Winchell's at San Mateo and Academy. Bring rain gear and lunch.
Leader: David 344-8693

Fri-Sat Aug 14-15 Leisure- Moderate
Miles: 4-6 Car: 160

Friday Night Car Camp and San Pedro Parks Wilderness Hike

We will leave sometime after work Friday and camp below San Gregorio lake. Saturday we will hike up the Rio Las Vacas (river of the cow) to some meadows among aspen and fir. We will then and one of several options that includes a leisure cross country route. You can stay Saturday evening or return home. Call for meeting time and location.
Leader: Tom Leck 857-0765

Sat Aug 14 Leisure Miles: 3 Car: 3
Piedras Marcadas Arroyo Hike, Petroglyph NM

Thousands of petroglyphs. Bring camera, binoculars, and sturdy shoes. RSVP.
Leader: Ike Eastvold 255-7679

Sat Aug 14 Leisure Miles: 0 Car: 0
No More Electric Bills, I'm going Solar!!! Tour

After first becoming an energy conserver, Stefan Verchinski will be taking his Albuquerque Home off the Utility Grid! Join him for a home tour and the big snip!!! Call for tour reservations and location
Leader: Stefan 888-1370.

Mon Aug 16
Premeeeting Dinner

Cafe Zurich, 3513 Central NE, at 6:00 PM. Call if you want a chair saved. If you are new to the group or a visitor, this is a nice way to meet Sierra Clubbers. David 344-8693.

Sat Aug 21 Leisure to Strenuous
Miles: From 2 to 16 Car: 0

Embudo Trail Service Project, Sandia Wilderness

See information on previous page.

For information, David 344-8693 or Barbara 277-0407

Sun Aug 22 Moderate
Miles: 4-6 Car: 140

East Fork of the Jemez- Hot Spring and Waterfall

We will leave some cars at Battleship Rock and then start hiking at the campground near the waterfall. Bring shorts and sneakers for stream crossings and wading. We will then take a soak in the hot spring before returning to the cars. Meet at 9:00 AM behind Winchell's at San Mateo and Academy. Bring lunch.
Leader: David 344-8693

Sun Aug 22 Leisure Miles: 3 Car: 3
Boca Negra Canyon Hike, Petroglyph NM

Look for petroglyphs of the mountain lion-shaman elder guardian of the north direction, kachina masks- representing spirits of the dead that see into both worlds, and the footprints of the Masau- owners and caretakers of the world. Bring camera, binoculars and sturdy shoes. RSVP.
Leader: Ike Eastvold 255-7679

Sat Aug 28 Leisure- Moderate
Miles: 3-4 Car: 200

Gourmet Car Camp Under the Stars, Magdalena Mts.

Bring your most creative covered dish, your favorite chair, and your best musical instrument. Plan on a light to moderate hike before dinner, then feast on the best our outing participants have to offer. Afterwards everyone will be encouraged to join in on some self made entertainment. Leave around noon Saturday. Call for more information.
Leader: Terri 265-8274.

Sun Aug 29 Leisure Miles: 3 Car: 80
Rio Grande Bioregion Series V Native Plants of the Higher Elevations

In May, we looked at plants from the bosque to the foothills, including a couple of the rare ones. This time we continue, with a look at the plants of the higher life zones to the top of the Sandias. Can you name all the wildflowers on the top of the crest? Ted Hodoba, president of the NM Native Plant Society, will help with the identification process. [May's trip considered one of the best in 93]. Meet at Sierra Club office at 9:30 AM. Bring lunch.
David 344-8693

Tues Aug 31 Leisure- Moderate
Miles: 3-4 Car: 110

Tent Rocks on the Once Every Blue Moon

View the slot canyon and the spires under the full moon. We will leave from the Sierra Club office early PM for a return visit to a favorite area.
Leader: Stefan 888-1370

Fri- Mon Sept 3-6 Moderate-Strenuous

Miles: 12-25 Car: 200

Pecos Wilderness Backpack

Plan on joining the Dallas Sierra Club over Labor Day weekend on their annual Pecos Wilderness backpack. [Several options on locations. Call for details.
Leader: Stan 292-9138.

Sat Sept 11 Leisure Miles: 3 Car: 3

Rinconada Canyon Hike, Petroglyph NM

Thousands of petroglyphs. RSVP.
Leader: Ike Eastvold 255-7679

Advance Notices

Sat- Sun Sept 25-26 Moderate- Strenuous
Miles: 12? Car: 240

Apache Kid Wilderness Backpack

Leader: Tom Leck 857-0765

Sometime Sept

Caving near Carlsbad

We won't be doing Carlsbad caverns.
Leader: David Kelton 275-0171

Sometime Sept or Oct Moderate

Miles: ? Car: 500+

La Garita Wilderness, CO

I am taking down a list of persons who might be interested in a trip late this summer or early fall of three to four days into the La Garita Wilderness by Llama. Listen to the elk and see the aspen turn! Leader: Stefan Verchinski 888-1370.

Sat- Mon Oct 9-11 Strenuous

Miles: 20+ Car: 500+

Utah WSA's, HR 5700 Car Camp and Hikes, UT

Fish, Owl, Dark and/or other canyons.
Leader: Stan Kauchak 292-9138

Outings Photography Contest

***Rules:** All photos submitted become part of (property of) the Outings Photo Album. No limit on the number of photos submitted. Maximum size of photographs is 8x10. Deadline is April 1, 1994. Photos submitted before deadline will be displayed in Outings Photo Album. Entries must be of an Albuquerque Group, Sierra Club Outing. Photos will be judged by two professional photographers. Submitted photos must have name, phone number, location/ trip name, date, and trip leader's name written on the back. This is for fun, we will not be (held) responsible for anything.

***Prizes:** First Place receives \$50 gift certificate from Camera and Darkroom, 2931 Monte Vista NE

Second place receives dinner for two at Adam's Table- Vegetarian Restaurant, 3617 Copper NE
Best Wilderness Study Area and Service Project photos, each receives a bottle of wine from Las Nutrias Vineyard and Winery, 4627 Corrales Rd.

EL PASO

the LORAX

Sierra Club
El Paso Regional Group

JULY and AUGUST MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

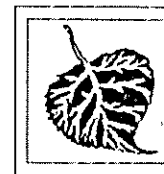
The speaker for our July meeting on Wednesday, July 28, will be Sierra Club member Roy McCloud. Roy will talk about his travels in Peru and show his slides of life on the headwaters of the Amazon of Peru. We were fortunate at this year's Wine and Cheese Party to have a preview of Roy's experiences. Because of family connections, Roy has access to villages and culture that most people do not ever see or hear about. Join us at for this very interesting presentation.

Our August meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 25, and will feature representatives from the Guadalupe National Park and the Lincoln National Forest speak to us about the recent fire and other issues facing the region. This is one of the Club's favorite hiking areas, so join us and learn more about this very beautiful part of Texas.

Both programs will start at 7:30 PM at St. Paul's Methodist Church, 7000 Edgemere (two blocks east of Airway). For more information, call Ted Mertig, 852-3011.

CALENDAR

July 7	EXCOM (800 So. Piedras)
July 28	General Meeting (7000 Edgemere)
August 4	EXCOM (800 So. Piedras)
August 13	Deadline for El Paso newsletter information (send to 331 Vista del Rey, 79912)
August 25	General Meeting (7000 Edgemere)
September 1	EXCOM (800 So. Piedras)



The Environmental Center

Thanks to our volunteers... The Environmental Center depends on volunteers to function, folks like Julie Cross, Jo Nagel and Charlie Robinson, who have recently helped with Center operations; and John Green, who got our air conditioning in shape before summer weather hit. THANKS TO ALL!

Thanks also to the City of El Paso for renewing our building lease for a ten-year term. We greatly appreciate the confidence the City has shown in the Center.

El Paso Sierrans... Want to make a vital contribution to the effectiveness of our organization and a better El Paso environment? We need your help at the Environmental Center. Our biggest need continues to be for an office manager, but any and all help is welcome. Please contact the Center (532-9645), John Sproul (545-5157) or Ted Mertig (852-3011) if you can volunteer.

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	open	
Group/LORAX Mail	Bill Phillips	772-6503
Hospitality	Barbara Mertig	852-3011
Membership	Carolina Greenfield	594-7342
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

El Paso Sierrans Volunteer in Mayoral Campaign

A cadre of volunteers manned the phone banks at the Carlos Ramirez Campaign Headquarters for the three Tuesday nights prior to the June 5 election. Volunteer coordinator Carol Morrison sends special thanks to Ted Mertig, El Paso Sierra Club Chair, and Michael Bromka for perfect attendance at the phone bank; to phone volunteers Joe Rodriguez, John Sproul, David Archer, John DiCaro, Pat Wood, and Don Middleton; and to Tom Brasfield and Bill Phillips for preparation and mailing of the information flyer recruiting volunteers.

REMINDER

Be sure to keep this issue through the rest of the summer. You will find two months worth of exciting outings celebrating the great outdoors. The next Sierran should arrive in early September.

Join us on a hike!

OUTINGS

ISSUE OUTING

EAST FORK OF THE GILA RIVER BACKPACK

DATE: July 10 - 11, 1993
 CLASS: Moderate
 LIMIT: 14, leader approval and reservations required
 LEADER: Ted Mertig, 852-3011 (h) 597-5732 (w)

We will meet at Albertsons on Mesa at 6 PM on Friday evening, then carpool to a grassy meadow on the McKnight Road. The following morning we will proceed to the Grapevine Campground on the Gila, where we will head up the East Fork. We will set up camp in the vicinity of Lower Black Canyon, where there are opportunities to explore, fish or daydream. This is an excellent opportunity to compare one of the ungrazed areas with one of the badly overgrazed areas of the Diamond Bar. Roundtrip mileage will be about eight miles. Call Ted for more details.

COLORADO BACKPACK
Weminuche Wilderness

DATE: July 10 - 18, 1993
 CLASS: Moderate to strenuous
 LIMIT: 12, leader approval and reservations required
 LEADER: Laurence Gibson, 915-594-7342

Returning to the Weminuche after a year's absence, we will hike the Continental Divide Trail from Stony Pass south 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 peak-bagging, followed by the hike down to Needleton where we will catch the train back to Durango. Because of the 12,000'+ 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.

FIRE HAZARDS

Due to the extremely dry spring in the Southwest, we all need to be ever vigilant of the dangers of fire. There have been over a dozen lightening-caused fires in the Gila and two manmade fires nearby in the Guadalupe Mountains and here in the Franklins.

Please be careful with ground fires. Make sure they're dead out at night and when breaking camp. Also all leaders should call the Forest Service well in advance of their outings to find out about fire status, as well as water status along their routes.

Have a safe, fun summer!

Mike Episcopo

SIERRA BLANCA PEAK DAYHIKE
White Mountain Wilderness

DATE: Sunday, July 18, 1993
 CLASS: Moderate +
 LIMIT: 12, leader approval and reservations required
 LEADER: Mike Episcopo, 833-3770

We will leave early Sunday morning enroute to our trailhead just outside the Ski Apache parking lot. The tremendous views and alpine tundra will await those who take this nine-mile roundtrip which has a 2,100' elevation gain. Call Mike for reservations and details.

THREE RIVERS CARCAMP/DAYHIKE
White Mountain Wilderness

DATE: July 24-25, 1993
 CLASS: Easy
 LIMIT: 10, reservations required
 LEADER: Roy McCloud, 505-437-0179

We will meet at the north side of the Burger King in Alamogordo at 10 AM on Saturday. From there we drive to the Three Rivers Campground for our carcamp. That afternoon we can visit the huge petroglyph site near the campground. Sunday morning an easy dayhike is planned on Trail 44 for a roundtrip of six miles. There are several stream crossings along the trail. The weather should be mild, but be prepared for rain. Escape the El Paso heat and give Roy a call for details and reservations.

MOONLIGHT DESERT WALK
Organ Mountains

DATE: Saturday Night, July 31, 1993
 CLASS: Easy
 LIMIT: 30, leader approval and reservations required
 LEADER: Sandy Anderson, 505-523-5179

We will leave El Paso early Saturday evening. Our walk will take us along the Powerline Road through Creosote Flats near Bishop's Cap in the southern Organ Mountains. This will be two days before a full moon, so finding our way will be easy. This is a good family outing and children are welcome. The night creatures will be out. Call Sandy for more information.

ISSUE OUTING
KEY EXCHANGE BACKPACK
Black Range in the Gila

DATE: August 7 - 8, 1993
 CLASS: Easy
 LIMIT: 24 (12 each side), leader approval and reservations required
 LEADER: Ted Mertig, 852-3011(h) 593-5732 (w)

We will leave for our trailheads from Albertsons on Mesa at 6 PM Friday evening. The following morning one group

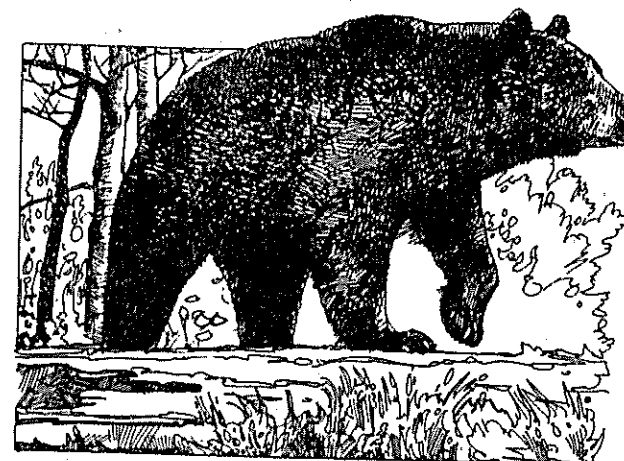
will leave from the James Brothers Spring Trailhead, and the other group will leave from a trailhead on the North Star road. We will meet, exchange keys and set up a joint campsite for the evening somewhere in the vicinity of the caves. This is a good opportunity to see a little-hiked area of the Gila, while also observing the destructive grazing practices being used in the Aldo Leopold and Gila Wilderness Areas by the Forest Service. Roundtrip mileage will be 12 miles. For more information call Ted.

OUTINGS, continued

GALLINAS CANYON DAYHIKE
Gila National Forest

DATE: Saturday, August 14, 1993
 CLASS: Moderately strenuous
 LIMIT: 15, leader approval and reservations required
 LEADER: Claus Christiansen, 594-2505 (w), 532-4066 (h)

We will leave early Saturday morning and drive to the trailhead in the Gila. The hike goes up Gallinas Canyon in cool surroundings, reaching Sid's Prong where we will enjoy the view and the wildflowers. We will cover 10-12 miles with a 2,000' elevation gain. There are some stream crossings. Call Claus for reservations.

WYOMING 10-DAY BACKPACK
Wind River Range

DATE: August 7 - 15, 1993
 CLASS: Strenuous
 LIMIT: 12, leader approval and reservations required
 LEADER: Laurence Gibson, 915-594-7342

We will gather in Pinedale, Wyoming, on Saturday. Those wishing to fly in will have a chance 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.

FRANKLIN MOUNTAINS DAYHIKE

DATE: Saturday, August 21, 1993
 CLASS: Moderate
 LIMIT: 20, leader approval and reservations required
 LEADER: John Sproul, 545-5157

The June 3-4 fire that burned an estimated 5,000 acres on the eastern flank of the Franklins bears further study. On this hike, we'll see how two and a half months time and some summer rains have affected the burn area. We'll also discuss the draft management plan for the Franklin Mountains State Park. Plan to start at 7:30 AM, cover about five miles and be done before noon. Call John for reservations and details.

SUNSPOT CARCAMP
Sacramento Mountains

DATE: August 28-29, 1993
 CLASS: Easy
 LIMIT: none, reservations required
 LEADER: Harold Naylor, 592-1266

We will leave Saturday morning at 9 AM from the K-Mart on Dyer. Our destination is 10 miles north of Timberon, NM, in a beautiful meadow at 8,000' where we will carcamp in a heavily forested area. That afternoon a two and a half mile easy hike is planned to a high ridge overlooking the vast Tularosa Basin. Sunday morning we will continue to drive north to the pavement and tour the Sunspot Solar Observatory with its many interesting displays and self-guided tour. Call Harold for further details and reservations.

LABOR DAY WEEKEND MOGOLLON RANGE
KEY EXCHANGE BACKPACK

DATE: September 3 - 6, 1993
 CLASS: Moderate +
 LIMIT: 24 (12 in each group), leader approval and reservations required
 LEADER: Rollin Wickenden, 598-8042 (h)
 Wesley Leonard, 747-6649 (w)

Come celebrate the passing of summer with a hike into the western Gila Wilderness. One group will start at Little Dry Creek, the other group at Sandy Point. The planned route includes Windy Gap, Trail 220, The Golden Link Trail, Apache Saddle and Hummingbird Saddle. Call Wesley or Rollin early for details and reservations.

UPCOMING FALL OUTINGS
 Organ Peak Dayhike - no date yet
 Anthony's Nose Dayhike - no date yet
 Service Trip to the Gila over Columbus - October 9-11
 Beginner Backpack - October 16-17
 Fort Stanton Cave Revisited - October 23
 Rabbit Ears Plateau - November, no specific date yet

OUTINGS REPORTS

Beginner's Backpack Workshop, 4/24/93

After spending Saturday morning at the Backpack Workshop learning the basics of tents, sleeping bags, backpacks, food, and clothing, eight people (Terri Bond, Sheryl Davis, Susan Pratt, Margaret McGraw, Teresa McGoldrick, Matt Turner, Sheryl Mountze, and Hark Yip) put all this learning to practical use on the May 8 and 9 backpack to Railroad Canyon. Everyone was well prepared and enjoyed an afternoon hike up East Railroad Canyon, an evening of campfire conversation, and a Sunday morning hike to the saddle. All exhibited the mutual helpfulness and good spirits characteristic of Sierra Club hikers. We (Weldon and Betty Fisbeck) will be having a follow-up trip involving a bit more distance and altitude gain but suitable for beginner backpackers. We hope to see you in October for this trip.

OUTINGS REPORTS, *continued*

Gila Wilderness Family Backpack, 5/14-16/93

On Saturday morning nine family members and friends departed El Paso to our trailhead near Cooney Campground in the Gila. After two easy miles and five crossings of the Mimbres River, we set up camp in a meadow under huge cottonwood trees. Though claps of thunder brought on fears of a downpour, we were able to set all tents up and get half-way through cooking dinner before the rain began.

We passed a pleasant night, and after breakfast by the fire, we retraced our steps to the cars. Participants were Mary Lou Parker, Jimmie Parker, Richard Rheder, Edgar Martinez, James Rohling, and Esther, Kathy, Susie, and leader Rollin Wickenden.

Fort Stanton Cave Dayhike, 5/22/93

We arrived at Fort Stanton Cave Saturday morning and met our two guides at the cave entrance. After getting our gear on, we were given a short indoctrination, then began our journey into the dark depths below.

Several underground springs within the cave form an underground stream, which at times can be rafted through portions of the cave. We maneuvered carefully over and around the stream and muddy trail, making our way further and further back into the cave. Up and over Devil's Backbone, through Crystal Crawl, and into Decoration Passage, we trekked on, ever vigilant of our eerie surroundings. Finally! Upper Breakdown Passage and the Lake Room, where we ate and reveled in the unique quiet and darkness only a wild cave can offer. Five hours into the hike we emerged onto the surface leaving the mysterious underground world behind. The spelunking five included Roy (Guano King) McCloud, Cecelia (Stalactite) Cardenas, Gene (Flowstone) Collins, Sandy (Selenite) Miller and Mike (Bat Man) Episcopo. Many thanks to our guides, Cal Currier and Jim Cox, both BLM volunteers.

New Cave Dayhike, 5/23/93

The Guads were warm and the cave was cool...a perfect combination for a Sierra Club dayhike on Sunday. Trip mates gathered from four different locations to begin the hike to the mouth of the cave, but we arrived in time to soak up some coolness in the shade of the entrance. This is a hike that is a treat for everyone young and not-so-young-but-frisky. Folks who joined leader Carol Morrison included Gary Enos of Hobbs, Campers Toni and Amanda Beatty, David Archer, Annie Zimmerman, Mary Gowan, Steve Englander, and newcomer and good sport Joanne Blackburn.

Memorial Day Gila Wilderness Key Exchange Backpack, 5/28-31/93

On Friday evening, fifteen Sierrans departed El Paso for our campsite at the Golddust Trailhead near Glenwood, NM. We met up with three more participants at Willow Creek campground. Wesley's group left from there, hiking over to Turkeyfeather Pass and up to their first night's camp in the Jerky Mountains. My group drove from Willow Creek over to our trailhead at Loco Mountain. After some initial problems finding the trail, we hiked across Airplane Mesa to the Middle Fork of the Gila for lunch under some shedding cottonwood trees. We continued south following Trail 30 up Swinging Cross Canyon, past Papineau's grave, to Clear Creek. After a break, we followed Trail 165 past Maris Spring over a steep pass to Quentin Spring where we camped Saturday night. Sunday morning we were up early for our substantial climb into the fabled Jerky Mountains on Trail 164. After meeting Wes' group and exchanging keys, we found a great lunch spot with a magnificent view over the northern Gila. Quite visible was smoke from one of the forest fires on Iron Creek Mesa. After hiking through the remainder of the Jerkys, we descended to beautiful Turkeyfeather Pass and continued on to a meadow in Cooper Canyon where we set up camp. With clear skies, no wind or bugs, many of our group slept out under the stars. Our third day involved a climb to Iron Creek Lake for lunch and a leisurely downhill return to Willow Creek. Our weather was glorious, and we saw not a patch of snow on our trails.

Hiking in Wesley's group were Suzanne Boon, Dave Kofed, John Dick, Mike Bronika, Tim Chinell, Terry Bond, Chuck Turner and Ana O'Neill. The highpoint of their hike was seeing elk and pronghorn running together on Airplane Mesa. Participating in my group were Kathy Sunday, Joe Rodriguez,

Jim Bell, Mark Post, Roy McCloud,

Rafaela Schuller, Carolina

Greenfield, Assistant Leader Lawrence Gibson and Leader Rollin Wickenden.

Rabb Park-Cureton Canyon Dayhike, 6/5/93

Our group left El Paso early Saturday for the long drive to the trailhead. Arriving some three hours later we ascended into the low mountains of the Black Range. Our trail was dry and dusty but scenic. Upon our descent into the rocky confines of Rabb Park, we found a

series of small pools fed by a trickling stream. After lunch we explored the immediate area, climbing some boulders and finding the ruins of some pit houses. On the return we stopped for group photos and were shown moonstones collected by other hikers we met along the way. On the way home some of us stopped at an orchard in Hillsboro to try barbeque cooked with applewood. Those making the trip included Joanna Blackburn, Sheryl Davis, Paul Dorronsoro, Edith Holmes, Joseph Pachorek, Armida Paredes, Debbie Tomacelli, Jane Williams and leader Carl Horkowitz.



SANTA FE GROUP NEWS

Does the July hot weather make you sweat?? Cool off on the Rio Grande River and support the Santa Fe Group of the Sierra Club.

RIO GRANDE RIVER FLOAT AND PADDLE

On Sunday, July 18, from 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM, Santa Fe Rafting Co. and Outfitters (corner of Cerrillos and St. Francis Drive) and our group — that means you!! — are going to float and paddle "The Race Course," a seven-mile stretch of the Rio Grande River.

The company is donating a percentage of every ticket sold to our group. So, get out your swimsuit, sunglasses, old tennis shoes, and lotion!!

Make reservations directly with Santa Fe Rafting at 988-4914. Tell them you're with the Sierra Club. Cost is \$43.65, including taxes. This gets you transportation to and from Santa Fe, a seat on a BIG rubber raft, watermelon, chips and salsa, cookies and assorted beverages. RSVP by Saturday, July 17; office hours are 9 AM-5 PM.

BRING YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS, AND WE'LL SEE YOU ON THE RIVER !!



MEETING SCHEDULE

Our next general meeting will be on Tuesday, September 21, 1993 — Enjoy your summer!

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 & With, 322 Montezuma. The next three meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, July 6; Tuesday, August 3, and Tuesday, September 7, 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 meetings for discussion and recommendation first. The Next two meetings are Tuesday, July 27 and Tuesday, August 24, at 7:00 PM.

>> SANTA FE GROUP OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS <<

Chair — Jana Oyler*	984-2020	Newsletter Editor — Kay Carlson	982-3926
Vice-Chair — Coby Muckelroy*	983-5453	Phone Tree — Martha Anne Freeman	438-0697
Secretary/Treasurer — Lionel Soracco*	983-6715	Membership — Pat Stevens	982-5051
Conservation — Van Perkins*	983-8801	Kids' Sierra Club — Justine Freeman	988-9126
Chapter Representative - Sue McIntosh*	982-4146	Education/Recycling/Office — Carolyn Keskulla	982-9570
Publicity & Programs — Helen Moser*	438-3365	Fundraising — Mark Mortier*	983-5870
Outings — Norma McCallan*	471-0005		
Political Committee — Ken Hughes*	988-9297		

* Member of the SF Group Executive Committee

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

SANTA FE

FOURTH EDITION OF HIKING BOOK PLANNED --

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

More than twelve years ago, a group of dedicated Sierra Club members found a way to combine their love of hiking with the need to raise money to fund the Club's conservation work. They put together a marvelous outings guide, *Day Hikes in the Santa Fe Area*. That first edition became a second and a third, and the success of the book has been phenomenal. On average, sales of the hiking book bring in \$10,000 to the Santa Fe Group's treasury every year, money that is essential for the group's lobbying, education, office, and other conservation programs. Quite simply, the Santa Fe Group could not do the work it does without the money generated by the hiking book.

The 3rd edition of *Day Hikes in the Santa Fe Area* was published three years ago, and the hiking book committee is now starting the long process of producing a 4th edition (scheduled for release in the spring of 1995). Every member who hikes can help with this task, and it will be an effort of love. Here's what you can do:

1) **Take a hike!** There are 37 hikes in the 3rd edition of the book, and we need to review the accuracy of each one. Pick one of the listed hikes, take the book along, and double check the details of driving, route, difficulty, landmarks, etc. If you discover that corrections or clarifications need to be made, write down your discoveries and send them to the Hiking Book Committee at the Santa Fe Group office. (Current outings leaders will be given a free copy of the 3rd edition if they will help review the hikes.)

2) **Let us know if you have a favorite hike that isn't included in the 3rd edition of the book.** You may even become a published author if you write up the hike and it is published. We hope to add about 10 new hikes to the 4th edition.

Betsy Fuller (983-8870) and Norma McCallan (471-0005) will be coordinating the hiking book committee's work — please call them if you have questions or can help.

You can buy the current hiking book at bookstores and outdoor sports stores around Santa Fe, or you can send \$10.00 to Lionel Soracco at the Santa Fe Group office to get one by mail.

A DAY AT THE FLEA MARKET — JULY 10

Our fundraising gets underway with a day at the flea market, Saturday, July 10. We welcome all items except clothing; anything left unsold will be donated to a local charity. Call Ken Hughes (988-9297) or Norma McCallan (471-0005) to arrange to drop your sale-worthy items 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 Oyler at (984-2020 weekdays).

SANTA FE

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

Sat Sun July

- 3 Arnold Keskulla (982-9570) Moderate Hike w/ steep climb to Lake Peak to see the tundra flowers. Leave 8:30 AM.
- 4 Norbert Sperlich (983-1962) Moderate/Strenuous Hike to Lookout Rock above La Vega in Santa Fe Ski Basin. Call for details.
- 10 Lionel Soracco (983-6715) Moderate Hike 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.
- 10 11 Bob McKee (672-3426) Moderate One-Night Backpack into the Pecos Wilderness, possibly up El Porvenir Canyon, no more than 8 miles each way. Call for reservations.
- 11 Art Judd (982-3212) Moderate Hike in the high country. Leave 8 AM.
- 17 Gary Enos (473-4463) Moderate/Strenuous Hike in the Pecos, probably with considerable uphill hiking. Leave 8 AM.
- 18 Elizabeth Altman (471-8490) Easy Hike on Bear Wallow Loop, 4 1/2 miles roundtrip. Leave 9 AM.

★ ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE / ISSUE HIKE FOR JULY ★

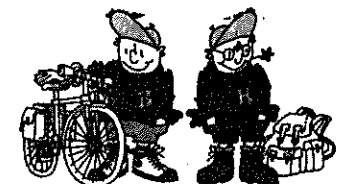
- 18 Ken Hughes (988-9297) Moderate Bike Trip Big Buchanan Burn in the Jemez Mtns. Check out profusion of wild flowers & oak trees. Guided tour assisted by forest service personnel. **Need mountain bike and helmet.** Meet at 8 AM. Call for details.
- 24 John Jasper (982-8572) Strenuous Loop Hike (15 miles roundtrip) to Gold Hill near Taos Ski Basin. Leave 7:30 AM.
- 24 25 Joe Whelan (984-0746) Car Camp/Moderate Day Hikes 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 (988-4137) 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 Tesuque River, 4 1/2 miles roundtrip, steep incline. Leave 8 AM.

July 22 through August 1

Norma McCallan (471-0005) Exploratory Backpack Continental Divide Trail, Cochetopa Hills Segment, Monarch Pass-Spring Creek Pass, CO, 100 miles, 1700' overall elev gain, resupply point mile 45. May do this in 10 days, more realistically 11 days, and perhaps allow Mon (8-2) as an "in case" day. Experienced backpackers only. Leave Wed PM (7-21). Call for reservations.

RULES FOR OFF-ROAD BIKING

1. Yield the right of way to other recreationists.
2. Use caution when overtaking another and make your presence known well in advance.
3. Maintain control of your speed at all times.
4. Stay on designated trails only.
5. Do not disturb wildlife or livestock.
6. Leave no trace; respect public and private property.
7. Always wear an approved helmet when riding.
8. Support environmental organizations.



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

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.

High Risk Facility Siting

The State of New Mexico regulates hazardous materials and wastes. Each County in the State is responsible for determining where facilities that store and handle hazardous waste can be located.

A case from Doña Ana County: In 1988 a company requested a Special Use Permit (SUP) to locate a facility in Chaparral, New Mexico, near the Texas border. No mention was made on the application of its intent to collect and transport hazardous waste. An SUP was issued with no provision for review or renewal. In 1989 local citizens reported to County staff that the company was in the business of collecting hazardous materials and wastes from Mexico, Texas and New Mexico, the company was transporting hazardous materials and wastes to and from the Chaparral site, and they were concerned. A letter was sent by the County to the company notifying them that the handling of hazardous wastes was NOT permitted under its SUP. The company contended it was "merely" a temporary storage facility. No enforcement or monitoring of the conditions of the SUP were undertaken by the County. Now the company is requesting an additional permit to expand its operations to include rags and contaminated soil. A group of Chaparral residents believes their health, safety and general welfare is in jeopardy, and they feel powerless to do anything about it. The high-risk facility is located uphill and upwind from their homes. Residents believe the presence and transport of highly toxic, volatile and highly flammable chemicals and materials, new or used, in their area places them in potential peril. The

facility is located above an important groundwater source.

These residents of Chaparral believe the present system for permitting, siting, and monitoring hazardous waste storage facilities is totally inadequate. When an application is made for a SUP permit, there appears to be no way to evaluate potential dangers, and when Counties do become aware of potential dangers, they are unable to act in an expeditious manner to protect the citizens.

This case demonstrates the need for counties, Doña Ana County in particular, to have special plans, rules and procedures to govern the siting of hazardous waste storage facilities, a system for rigid enforcement of such rules, procedures and plans, and an ability to revoke permits and to close facilities that do not comply. But, most important, high-risk facilities should not be allowed to site themselves.

Doña Ana County has a special problem. It is a large county where TV emanates from Texas, and numerous newspapers serve the area. It is difficult for rural residents to learn of County decisions that may affect them. Special efforts should be made for public participation.

Presently the State inspects hazardous waste storage facilities only once every 6 months, and the inspectors are located in Albuquerque, a 5-6 hour drive away from Chaparral.

If you care, call the Doña Ana County Commissioners' offices. Pollution respects no political boundaries. Are there plans to site hazardous waste in your neighborhood? Do your County officials know about them? Are Counties willing and able to act to



Las Cruces Recycles

by C. Blevins

The citizens of Las Cruces and Doña Ana County are active recyclers! The City of Las Cruces maintains bins to accept aluminum, steel, and tin cans, aluminum foil and pie pans, newspaper (including inserts), cardboard and glass. These bins do not accept magazines.

The bins are located in the parking lots at:
Food Mart - 745 N. Valley Drive
K-Mart - 1240 El Paseo
Smiths Food and Drug Center - 2200 E. Lohman.

The City bins do NOT accept magazines, plastics or oil. BUT—
Magazines should be taken to:
Mesilla Valley Hospital - 3751 Del Rey Blvd.
Casa del Sol Senior Care Center - 2905 Missouri Ave.
Las Cruces Nursing Center - 2029 Sagercrest Ct.
Mountain Shadow Health Care Center - 1005 Hill Rd.

Packing Peanuts should be taken to: All World Shipping - 1240 El Paseo

Styrofoam #6 Plastic should be taken to: Tuscarora Plastics - 2355 Nevada St.

Oil should be taken to:
City Service Station - 1501 E. Hadley Ave.
Brewer Oil Company - 105 S. Compress St.
Pep Boys - 1203 E. Lohman Ave.
Toyota Parts & Service - 935 S. Valley Dr.

For you "info buffs", J and M Enterprises, Artesia, NM, presently has the contract with the City of Las Cruces to recycle newspaper, glass, cardboard, and cans. The main buyer of newspaper is Stone Container of Snowflake, Arizona.

Keep recycling and Make Every Day EARTH DAY!!

The as de ons. many Flats tocer bison walls which at on white a lak large bord Whe place ico, Sand nour insta alter shut

Lo ico i 100 east Adja Tularosa, is Holloman Air Force Base, they's Ft. Bliss McGregor Range National Park Service's White Sands National Monument, and the City Alamogordo and other towns and yes. WSMR also has 4 co-use areas adjacent to the Range's north and boundaries (the largest is 40 mi by 1 square). The ranchers in these areas can be evacuated several times to permit testing of long-range n.s. The evacuations almost DOUBLE the size of the Range when all areas are used. Besides firing rockets and missiles on White Sands, the range has developed launch facilities in other parts of New Mexico, Utah and Idaho for long-range testing. WSMR is larger than Israel, or larger than Connecticut (one to 3 m. people), or larger than combined states of Delaware and Maryland.

ile Range EIS

Department of Defense, Department of the Army is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for tests and Activities associated with the programs at WSMR. This will be the largest EIS ever

conducted. The first step in the process (the first step by NEPA- National Environmental Policy Act) held in Las Cruces for public input, I was told some activities at WSMR include ADS, and ATACMS, and Air Launchers, SRAMs, and B-1 and Navy RAMs, VAND and ASROCs, and Strategic Initiative Terriers and Black and NASA stress tests. As an environmentalist I was not interested in "rabbit soup", but the handouts references to some history, archeology, and wildlife. The Range has very little of the ecology that exist on WSMR.

The EIS will address potential impacts of several categories of future test projects being planned at WSMR and categories of expanded range mission. The future testing categories include: Missile Testing (i.e. THADD and Standard Missile) and High Altitude Testing (i.e. HABE and Research Rockets). The expanded missions include: Nuclear Effects Testing (i.e. Linear Accelerator and Gamma Range) and the launching of missiles from off-post with a final impact on WSMR. So this EIS will not look backward at activities or conditions that may need clean up, but it will look forward at potential impacts of future activities.

The mission of WSMR begins with a customer, the Army, Navy, Air Force, NASA, other government agencies, private industries, or foreign governments. WSMR is a multi-service test range whose main function is the support of missile development and test

programs. WSMR is under control of the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command (TECOM), Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Maryland. TECOM is the Army's test laboratory for planning and conducting engineering and service tests of all materials from missiles to rifles, tanks to trucks, clothing to radios, and from aviation to fire control equipment. See Large Blast Thermal Simulator- Sierran May 1993. Joint training exercises, mock wars, are conducted with Ft. Bliss, Texas/New Mexico. See Sierran - May 1993.

WSMR and the adjacent White Sands National Monument can be seen from space. This largest of military installations is an integral part of our state, New Mexico. All New Mexicans and all Americans need to care about this beautiful place, since many of our federal dollars are spent at WSMR and the public knows precious little about what exists there and what goes on there.

The Record of Decision for the Draft EIS is expected Sept. 30, 1994.

EPA Moves Toward Cabinet Status

by Marianne Thaeler

The EPA Cabinet Elevation Act S. 171, which would create a new Department of Environmental Protection, was expected to sail through the Senate when it was introduced by Sen. John Glenn (D-Ohio) in January. Republican Senators Roth (Del), Specter (Pa), Nickles (Ok), and Hatch (Utah) quickly attempted, unsuccessfully, to load amendments onto the bill. Amendments adopted were by Sen. McCain (R-Ariz) requiring an assistant secretary be named for Indian lands, another by Sen. Lieberman (D-Conn)

continued on next page