

Washington Directory

US Senators:

New Mexico
The Honorable Pete Domenici
US Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jeff Bingaman
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Texas

The Honorable Phil Gramm
US Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

US Representatives:

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

The Honorable
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

To telephone your senators or representative, call the U.S. Capitol switchboard in DC:
(202) 224-3121

Executive Branch:

President Bill Clinton
White House
1600 Pennsylvania NW
Washington, DC 20500
202-456-1414

Vice President Albert Gore
Old Executive Office Building
Washington, DC 20501
202-456-2326

Bruce Babbitt
Secretary of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240
202-208-7351

Jim Baca, Director
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 65800
Washington, DC 20035-8998
FAX 202-653-9118

Mike Espy
Secretary of Agriculture
14th St. & Independence Ave. SW
Washington, DC 20250

MEMBERSHIP FORM

☐ Yes, I want to join the Sierra Club! I want to help safeguard our nation's natural heritage.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES (Check one)

	Individual	Joint
REGULAR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35	<input type="checkbox"/> \$43
SUPPORTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> \$58
CONTRIBUTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> \$108
LIFE	<input type="checkbox"/> \$750	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000
SENIOR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> \$23
STUDENT	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> \$23
LIMITED INCOME	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> \$23

Annual dues include subscription to *Sierra* magazine (\$7.50) and *Rio Grande Sierran* (\$1). Dues and gifts to the Sierra Club support our effective citizen-based advocacy and lobbying programs, and therefore are not tax-deductible as charitable contributions. Thank you!

Enclose check and mail to:

Sierra Club
P. O. Box 7959
San Francisco, CA 94120-9943

W-1700

FRIP No.



Printed on 100%
recycled paper



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

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
El Paso, TX
Permit No 2370

24387135 1704 0093 0 CD4606
BARBARA H JOHNSON
1 ENCANTADO LOP
SANTA FE NM 87505 0270

SEPT
1993

RIO GRANDE SIERRAN

Environmental News of New Mexico and West Texas

Comments due by Sept. 13

Interior Department Announces "Rangeland Reform '94"

FOLLOWING UP on a promise it made in April when public land management reforms were dropped from President Clinton's economic package, the administration has announced major grazing reforms as part of its planned overhaul of Western land policy.

Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt announced Aug. 9 that the administration intends to more than double grazing fees on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands, mostly in the West, and impose regulatory changes designed to protect ecosystems already damaged by a century of cattle grazing.

The Sierra Club called the proposal "a good faith effort," but said that government handouts to the livestock industry must be completely phased out.

"We've still got a long way to go before we bring these programs into the 20th century," said Rose Strickland, chair of the Sierra Club's Grazing Subcommittee. "But Secretary Babbitt has taken a big first step in the right direction."

Raising grazing fees has been a hotly charged political issue for decades. Fees were historically kept low to encourage settlement of the West. Over time, inflation has increased the disparity between the fixed fees on public lands and what private landholders charge.

Despite this and the fact that the federal government loses an estimated \$20 million every year subsidizing grazing, every effort to raise fees has been stymied by Western interests. When Clinton

proposed higher grazing fees in his economic package in February, Western Democratic senators, including New Mexico's Senator Jeff Bingaman, quickly forced him to back down.

Under the proposal, which the Interior Department calls "Rangeland Reform '94," the monthly fee per animal would rise over the next three years from the current \$1.86 to an average \$4.28. This is less than the \$5 per head proposed by Clinton in his budget proposal — and far less than the \$10 per head average on private rangelands.

Babbitt's proposal would also:

continued on page 6

Club Endorses McSorley for Albuquerque Mayor

by Ron Grotbeck

THE ALBUQUERQUE GROUP of Sierra Club announced on August 12 its formal endorsement of Cisco McSorley for Mayor of Albuquerque. McSorley is a veteran State Legislator from District 18, and has long been active in the New Mexico House of Representatives in behalf of environmental improvement.

The endorsement capped a lengthy deliberation by the Group Political Action and Executive committees, following the evaluation process developed over the past decade for determining endorsement eligibility. The first step was an evaluation of the candidates' written responses to a detailed

12-point questionnaire, mailed to the 11 candidates in mid-July. The questionnaire examined the candidates' attitudes and public positions on a variety of environmental issues, ranging from air quality and groundwater protection to the appointment of environmental advocates to Albuquerque's boards and commissions.

The second round of the evaluation involved oral interviews of the seven candidates whose responses to the questionnaires were judged to be environmentally positive and consistent with Sierra Club policies and positions. The interviews averaged about 90 minutes

continued on page 7

Sierra Club Group News:

New! Gila Group page 11

Albuquerque: pages 12-14

El Paso: pages 15-17

Santa Fe: pages 18-20

Southern NM:
pages 21-23



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 cMail 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): El Paso (79983):
440 Carrillos Rd. 800 S. Piedras
(505) 983-2703 P.O. Box 9191
(915) 532-9645

Southern New Mexico: Southwest Field Office:
P.O. Box 3705 UPB 516 E. Portland St.
Las Cruces, NM 88003 Phoenix, AZ 85004
(505) 522-3421 (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) 989-1663

LETTERS

Animal Damage Control

To: Gwen Wardwell, Chair
Rio Grande Chapter, Sierra Club

Thank you for your letter regarding the Animal Damage Control (ADC) program in New Mexico. I appreciated the opportunity to learn of your views concerning this very important issue.

Gwen, I have deliberated at great length over this issue. As a practicing veterinarian, I have treated animals that have been caught in traps, as well as those that have been attacked by feral dogs and predators. While trying to alleviate the pain and suffering of these animals, I have witnessed the very intense and genuine feelings of the human beings that are involved on all sides of this issue.

As Commissioner of Public Lands, I believe that it is my duty to step back, gather all of the evidence, and make a rational decision about the role of ADC on State Land. This decision must be based on sound biological management practices.

The need for appropriate management has been underscored by the recent outbreak of Hantavirus infection in humans. This outbreak is being linked to one species of rodent. Also, the intensity of our state's perennial bubonic plague problem has a direct correlation to the density of rodent populations. Both of these pathogens, and their direct association with animals, illustrate the need for sound biological management and sustained healthy ecosystems. The predator's role in controlling rodent populations makes it an integral part of a balanced ecosystem.

The unfortunate truth is that, as the human species continues to use ever increasing amounts of the land for urban development, natural resource utilization and recreational use — the conflict between humans

and other species of flora and fauna will also increase. There are situations in which predators are damaging livestock and threatening household pets.

In view of these considerations, I will not allow ADC to operate on State Lands until the Land Office and Animal Damage Control can work out an agreement which establishes procedures that are biologically sound, humane, specific to the animals doing the depredation, and that allow producers to stay in business. I do not believe these goals are mutually exclusive, but it is essential that they be carefully thought out and tailored to specific situations.

Developing the appropriate procedures and arriving at an agreement for their implementation would break new ground in the field of resource management. If we are successful, this approach could very well become a model for public lands nationally.

Again, thanks for your comments.

Ray B. Powell, M.S., DVM
Commissioner of Public Lands
Santa Fe, NM

Herb Kinney

Dear Editor,

I am writing today on behalf of Herb Kinney, who has been serving our community as a Search and Rescue volunteer for over twenty years. He is the founder of the St. John's College Search and Rescue Team, and many outdoor recreationists owe their lives to him.

Now it is time for us to show our gratitude by offering him our support. Recently, State Police Chief John Denko made a political decision, on the recommendation of the State Search and Rescue Review Board, to ban Herb from participation in search and rescue missions. This suspension stems from

continued on page 11

CALENDAR

Sept 11: Conference on water problems on Rio Grande, cosponsored by EPA and Sen. Jeff Bingaman. Corbett Center on NMSU campus. For info, call Pat Montoya at (505) 766-3636.

Sept 11-12: Chapter Retreat, Kingston. See notice below.

Sept 15: deadline for October *Sierran*

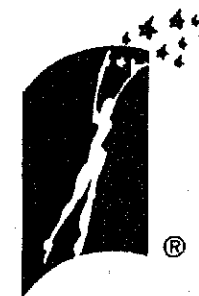
Sept 18: Grazing Abuse Conference, Albuquerque. See article on page 6.

Annual Chapter Retreat

The 1993 Rio Grande Chapter Retreat will be held at Kingston, NM, from 8:30 AM Saturday, September 11 through noon on Sunday, September 12. We will review our goals for 1993 and decide on goals for 1994.

The retreat gives us a chance to identify our priorities so that we can concentrate our efforts where we can be most effective. The goals provide guidelines for action plans which will be considered for funding at the December chapter executive committee meeting.

Costs are \$20 per person per night for bed and breakfast, or \$10 per person for camping and breakfast, plus \$12 per person for Saturday dinner. Scholarships are available. For reservations call Susan Gorman at 505-265-3231.



Earth ShareSM

EarthShare represents 40 national environmental organizations that protect people and our planet — including the Sierra Club Foundation. Get involved by asking your employer to sponsor a fundraising campaign at your workplace. For information, call 1-800-MY-SHARE (697-4273) or Sierra Club 1-415-923-5636.

NEWS SUMMARY

Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt announced Aug. 9 that the administration intends to more than double grazing fees on public lands and impose regulatory changes designed to protect ecosystems already damaged by a century of cattle grazing. The Sierra Club called the proposal "a good faith effort," but said that government handouts to the livestock industry must be completely phased out. **Page 1**

The Sierra Club announced on August 12 its formal endorsement of Cisco McSorley for Mayor of Albuquerque. McSorley is a veteran State Legislator from District 18, and has long been active in the New Mexico House of Representatives in behalf of environmental improvement. **Page 1**

The Sierra Club Population Committee does not view the increasing human numbers solely as a problem of "those poor people over there, far away over there." Yes, the International Population Assistance Campaign is one of the Sierra Club's four major priorities for 1993. Yes, it is a major focus of the Sierra Club's population program. However, it is not the only focus. **Page 4**

The Battleax Ranch, straddling the Lea-Eddy County Border near the NM-Texas border, will provide an opportunity to test the policies of the Holistic Management Resource Center. **Page 5**

The Sierra Club does not wish to oppose the NAFTA in the Congress. However, unless the situation changes radically in the near future, we are greatly concerned that we will have no choice but to oppose the agreement. We sincerely hope that President Clinton will not submit the NAFTA package to Congress until our concerns are substantially addressed. **Page 8**

Production of natural gas in the San Juan Basin of northwestern New Mexico and southwestern Colorado is increasing. While natural gas is often regarded as a clean fuel, the production and exploration of natural gas has many environmental consequences. **Page 10**

WANTED

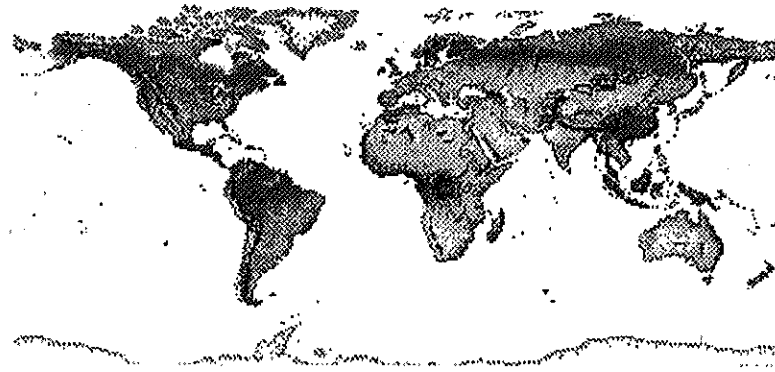
**OLD ORIENTAL RUGS
AMERICAN INDIAN RUGS
PERUVIAN TEXTILES**

Call Michael Andrews (415) 641-1937

From the desk of the Population Chair:

SUPPORTING JOCELYN ELDER'S appointment as Surgeon General is an environmental stand? Environmentalists are asking that family planning services be included in the Clinton Administration's basic health benefit package? Sierra Club members are debating local boosters, questioning their area's pursuit of growth and more growth in the name of prosperity? You bet! The Population Committee is leading Club activists in all these areas. The Committee does not view the increasing human numbers solely as a problem of "those poor people over there, far away over there." Yes, the International Population Assistance Campaign is one of the Sierra Club's four major priorities for 1993. Yes, it is a major focus of the Sierra Club's population program. However, it is not the only focus. The Population program also includes the Domestic Family Planning Campaign and the Local Carrying Capacity Campaign.

The *Domestic Family Planning Campaign* seeks full access to comprehensive family planning services in the United States. Our country is the third most populous nation in the world (after India and China). Because of our affluence, our population has an enormous impact on the environment, both local and global. Depending on whose figures one accepts, our impact is equivalent to that of between four and ten billion people living as people do in India. And our population is growing rapidly. We are the fastest growing industrialized nation. Our total fertility rate has been increasing in recent years. We are a leader all right: a leader among the developed countries in unintended pregnancies, in teenage pregnancies, and in abortions. In New Mexico, 20% of the 1992 births were to women under 18. The vast majority of these pregnancies is unintended. 40% were to single mothers. In the face of these statistics, real federal spending for family planning decreased by two thirds during the Reagan-Bush years.



The Domestic Family Planning Campaign works to reverse these trends.

But is this work environmental work? It is, if one considers getting a handle on our population growth important to the environment. In his book *The Diversity of Life*, E. O. Wilson writes the following: "The raging monster upon the land is population growth." In its presence, sustainability is but a fragile theoretical construct. To say, as many do, that the difficulties of nations are not due to people but to poor ideology or land-use management is sophistic. If Bangladesh had 10 million inhabitants instead of 115 million, its impoverished people could live on prosperous farms away from the dangerous floodplains midst a natural and stable upland environment. It is also sophistic to point to the Netherlands and Japan, as many commentators incredibly still do, as models of densely populated but prosperous societies. Both are highly specialized industrial nations dependent on massive imports of natural resources from the rest of the world. If all nations held the same number of people per square kilometer, they would converge in quality of life to Bangladesh rather than to the Netherlands and Japan, and their irreplaceable natural resources would soon join the seven wonders of the world as scattered vestiges of an ancient history." Do we want our quality of life to move toward that of Bangladesh? Are we willing to sacrifice our irreplaceable natural resources for the dubious benefits of continued population growth? If not, we join advocates of providing effective family services to all.

The *Local Carrying Capacity Campaign* focuses on reducing unchecked

development and its adverse impact on local ecosystems. It is a campaign with tremendous relevance to our rapidly growing region. This campaign deals with the question of carrying capacity, i.e., the number of individuals who can be supported without degrading the NATURAL, social and cultural environment. It asks how many people can live in an area without reducing the long term ability of the environment to sustain a desired quality of life. The Local Carrying Capacity Campaign seeks to help local activists raise these questions in their area's public policy debates.

No one can doubt that these are questions of tremendous current environmental importance. Once again I quote E. O. Wilson: "Every nation has an economic policy and a foreign policy. The time has come to speak more openly of a population policy. By this I mean not just the capping of growth when the population hits the wall, as in China and India, but a policy based on a rational solution of the problem: What, in the judgment of its informed citizenry, is the optimal population, taken for each country in turn, placed against the backdrop of global demography? The answer will follow from an assessment of the society's self-image, its natural resources, its geography, and the specialized long-term role it can most effectively play in the international community." We ask: What is the optimal population for each region, placed against the backdrop of national demography? Our Southwest region urgently needs to consider this question, reflecting deeply on our region's

continued on next page

Population *continued*

self-image, its natural resources, its geography, and the specialized long-term role it can most effectively play in the national community.

The Local Carrying Capacity Campaign will help us address these issues. We face a daunting task. As Wilson writes, "The goal of an optimal population will require addressing, for the first time, the full range of processes that lock together the economy and the environment, the national interest and the global commons, the welfare of the present generation with that of future generations. The matter should be aired not only in think tanks but in public debate. *If humanity then chooses to breed itself and the rest of life into impoverishment, at least it will have done so with open eyes.*"

The leadership is in place. But none of these campaigns can succeed without effective, local volunteer involvement. You can become involved in any of these diverse population programs by contacting me or your group population issues chair.

Libby Hernandez
Chapter Population Issues Chair

(Note: The E. O. Wilson quotes are from his excellent book *The Diversity of Life*, pp. 328-329. I have added the italics for emphasis. I highly recommend Wilson's book. Every page is full of fascinating information, and the book is beautifully crafted and illustrated. — L.H.)

News Flash

Senator Jeff Bingaman was one of the first co-sponsors of the Kerry "Dear Colleague" letter to Senator Leahy requesting \$725 million in FY94 for international population assistance. *Thank you Senator Bingaman!* The Kerry letter now has 13 co-sponsors. Senators Gramm and Hutchinson of Texas have not signed. Senator Domenici has not signed.

Battleax Ranch to Test Holistic Resource Management

by Roger Peterson

STRADDLING the Lea-Eddy County Line near the Texas-New Mexico border, the Madera sisters' Battleax Ranch has seen hard use. Its 25,000 acres (20,000 BLM and 4,000 state) are now mostly desert scrub, with some grama grasses on heavy soils and dropseeds and lovegrasses on the abundant sandy sites. Shin-oak, lotebush, mesquite and wolfberries are prominent. Ellen Madera is trying a short duration grazing cell with some success, and bright green plains bristlegrass flourishes near cell center.

With not enough bristlegrass or success, the Maderas have given a management contract to Allan Savory's Holistic Resource Management Center (HRM). A series of Savory disciples have failed to produce acceptable results in the Southwest. This time he'll try it himself, with Miles Keogh as planning leader and Wallace Rennels as ranch manager. Contracts will be for one year, and Keogh predicts visible improvement in a year, but all parties hope that this will be a long-time relationship that will demonstrate what the HRM decision-making process can do under tough conditions. Mr. Savory emphasizes that he is not now a champion of short-duration grazing cells but of holistic decision-making; and (happily) Mr. Keogh hates fences. Vegetative and wildlife diversity are prime objectives, and there's already a start of mule deer, javelina and scaled quail, to name only species regarded as game animals.

For the Sierra Club, David McClurg and Roger Peterson have been participating in goal-setting and planning sessions, and we have taken a supportive position, urging BLM to let HRM go to extremes, if desired, in order to give Savory's theories a fair test. I recommend that in this instance we withhold criticism of stocking rates or other BLM and HRM practices that we might question. With HRM's planning flexibility and worthy goals, I think that the land has little to lose and possibly much to gain, and much will be learned.

Continuing Thanks To Our Donors

WE ARE STILL RECEIVING an occasional donation to our Chapter fund appeal. Our thanks to those donors who asked that their gifts not be acknowledged, and our public thanks to the following recent donors:

Barbara Boehm, Albuquerque
Blair Brown, Albuquerque
Tom Brasfield, El Paso
Ike Eastvold, Albuquerque
Dan Feller, Albuquerque
Susan Gorman, Albuquerque

Ben Haggard, Santa Fe (for mining work)
David Hanson, Albuquerque
DeWitt Henderson, Santa Fe
Don and Michelle Meaders, Albuquerque
Ted Mertig, El Paso
Carol Morrison, El Paso
Helen Moser, Santa Fe
Coby Muckelroy, Santa Fe
Lionel Soracco, Santa Fe
James R. Voet, Albuquerque
Isolde Wait, Santa Fe
Barbara White, Albuquerque

Rangeland Reform '94

continued from first page

- Make the length of leases contingent on ranchers' stewardship of lands.
- Add new voices to rancher-dominated grazing advisory boards.
- Allow the government to maintain water rights.

"The important part of this proposal is not the fee increase but the change in land management practices," said Melanie Griffin, director of the Sierra Club's Public Lands Program. "It's a change in direction that's very refreshing."

"Citizen input is needed to insure that the Forest Service be included in the new regulations," notes Susan Schock of Gila Watch. BLM, an agency of the Department of the Interior, is proposing standards and guidelines to improve range conditions. The US Forest Service (USFS), an agency of the Department of Agriculture, has not yet decided whether to adopt the proposed BLM standards.

Babbitt promised that the grazing reforms — expected to generate an extra \$20 million per year — would be followed by new mining regulations next month and timber and water rights reforms.

"The higher fees still amount to a subsidy," Griffin said, "But this proposal represents a change in the long-standing mind set. The simple recognition that these lands have some ecological value and that they shouldn't be destroyed is some progress."

Senator Pete Domenici (R-NM) has announced his intention to introduce legislation to block the grazing fee increase.

What You Can Do

The BLM will be preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) on the new public land grazing policy. Comments on the EIS should be sent to Michael J. Penfold, Assistant Director for Land and Renewable Resources, Bureau of Land Management, P.O. Box 65800, Washington, DC 20035-9998.

Other comments on Rangeland Reform '94 should be sent to Jim Baca, Director, Bureau of Land Management, P.O. Box 65800, Washington, DC 20035-9998.

Comments on Forest Service policy should be sent to Director, Range Management Staff, Forest Service USDA, P.O. Box 96090, Washington, DC 20090-6090.

All comments must be postmarked by September 13.

Editor's note: this article was compiled from the Sierra Club National News Report (August 16, 1993), the Federal Register (August 13, 1993) and a telephone interview with Susan Schock. For updated information, call Susan Schock at (505) 388-2854.

National Conference to be Held in Albuquerque

Public Lands Grazing Abuse Conference Set for Sept. 18

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISTS from around the nation will gather in Albuquerque September 18 for the second annual national Public Lands Grazing Abuse Conference. Sponsored by Rest the West and the Public Lands Action Network, the conference will serve to turn up the volume on the already-raging debate over federal grazing policies and intensify demand for better management of public lands.

"A relatively small number of corporate welfare ranchers have had control of the public lands for over a century," said Jim Fish, director of the Public Lands Action network. "It's time for the public to take back and restore these lands before any more damage is done."

"This conference is for activists who want to network, learn more about the issue and plug in at the grassroots level," Rest the West director Bruce Apple said. "We will focus on the ecological problems caused by public lands ranching, but also on ways to solve those problems."

The conference will feature the movement's most prominent leaders and articulate spokespersons, including:

Katherine Bueler, Public Lands Action Network, Santa Fe, NM

Linda Craig, National Audubon Society, Portland, OR

Jim Fish, Public Lands Action Network, Placitas, NM

Dave Foreman, Wildlands Project, Tucson, AZ

Steve Johnson, Native Ecosystems, Tucson, AZ

Randy Morris, Committee for Idaho's High Desert, Mt. Home, ID

Susan Schock, Gila Watch, Silver City, NM

Tom Skeele, Predator Project, Bozeman, MT

Larry Tuttle, Oregon Natural Resources Council, Portland, OR

George Wuerthner, biologist, writer, photographer, Livingston, MT

Nancy Zierenberg, Wildlife Damage Review, Tucson, AZ

The one-day conference will take place at the University of New Mexico Continuing Education Conference Center, 1634 University Blvd NE, in Albuquerque. Seating is limited, so advance registration is advised. A registration fee of \$25 includes admission, refreshments, lunch and educational materials. Lunch will not be included for those who register after September 6. For more information, call PLAN at (505) 867-3062 or write to Rest the West, P.O. Box 10065, Portland, OR 97210.

McSorley for Mayor *continued from first page*

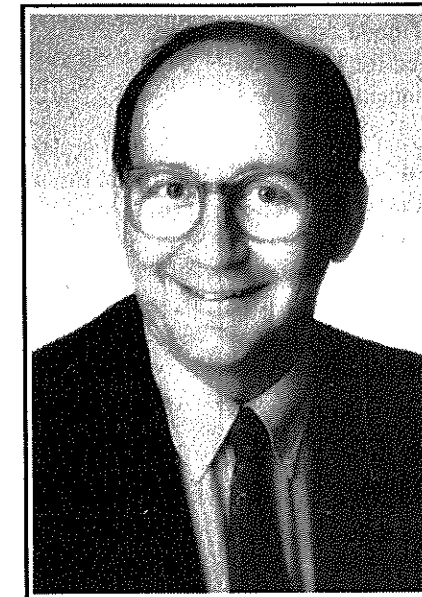
each, and covered a wide range of environmental topics in greater detail than was possible in the questionnaires.

The third round was conducted in a closed meeting of members of the committee, which evaluated the interview responses of the candidates, their past records of environmental commitment and leadership, and their political electability. The result of the third round was a recommendation of endorsement to the Group Excom. The Excom voted to accept the committee's recommendation at its regular meeting on August 9, and that decision was subsequently ratified by the Chapter Excom in a telephone vote, as required by National Sierra Club political action guidelines. Albuquerque Group Chairman Jay Sorenson cited McSorley's extensive record of environmental leadership as one of the major factors influencing the endorsement. Said Sorenson: "During a time when environmentally sound programs and regulations are becoming increasingly important to all the citizens of New Mexico, Cisco McSorley has been one of the most consistently supportive members of the Legislature."

Ron Grotbeck, member of the Group's Executive Committee, seconded Sorenson's acknowledgement of McSorley's legislative leadership: "During the last session, when the chips were down on reforming New Mexico's antiquated and unfair mining reclamation laws, Cisco McSorley was the one who stayed up, night after night, until the wee hours. Cisco worked tirelessly with the Sierrans in Santa Fe to craft a legislative package that was both effective and acceptable to the other members of the House and Senate."

On a practical note, David Bouquin, Chairman of the Group's Political Action Committee, credited McSorley's electability as another key factor in the endorsement decision: "It was clear to us that Cisco McSorley has broad support from among many

diverse elements of the Albuquerque electorate. As an environmental spokesman, he will be able to appeal to the interests of small business, city and county workers, labor, and teachers, as well as the majority of citizens concerned about our city's environment. Cisco can draw together people from all sides and get them focused on solutions to common problems."



In its announcement of their endorsement of McSorley at the Downtown Civic Plaza, the Club looked beyond the city limits to recognize the impact of Albuquerque actions on other parts of New Mexico: "Typically, we do not imagine that most mayoral races will have impacts much beyond the city limits. The case of Albuquerque is different because decisions made by the city have repercussions up and down the Rio Grande Valley, and its growth increasingly effects the West Mesa, the Rio Puerco Valley and beyond. Cisco McSorley will be a mayor with a vision for Albuquerque which balances growth and development with concern for the environment and our natural, cultural and historic values."

What You Can Do

Sierra Club members have a unique opportunity to influence the outcome of this Mayoral election. Because there

are so many candidates (11), the race will be decided by only a few percentage points. A concerted effort by a small cadre of energetic, dedicated volunteers can easily swing several thousand votes to our candidate, Cisco McSorley. And what a difference that will make over the next four years! There are a number of tasks common to all city-wide campaigns like this one: dropping candidate information literature at homes throughout a targeted precinct, calling voters on the telephone with information about the candidate, stuffing envelopes with informational literature for mailing, hosting evening gatherings for friends and neighbors to meet the candidate, keeping records, maintaining computer databases, etc. We have been asked to help with all these tasks, plus all the many others which will come up before the election.

If you can help at any time during the weeks prior to the election, but especially now while the focus is on getting Cisco's environmental message out to the voters, please volunteer. If you can make time available on Saturday mornings for precinct walks (good exercise to start the weekend), or on thursday nights phone banks, call now! Contact Dave Bouquin at 265-7853 for information on the time and place of the next event.

Members living outside the Albuquerque city limits can help, too! What the city does in shaping and executing environmental policy has widespread impacts throughout the region. If you can't come to town for the events, how about sending a check? Campaigns always need money for literature, bumper stickers, radio and TV advertising, and a host of other expenses. With the help of dedicated volunteers, any money you send will return the greatest number of votes on election day. Send checks to the Albuquerque Sierra Club office, 207 San Pedro NE, made out to "Cisco McSorley for Mayor." Remember, money sent early in the campaign develops more leverage than late money. Do it now!

The North American Free Trade Agreement and the Environment

by Susan Gorman

LAST OCTOBER, President Bush signed the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which, if ratified, will phase out industrial tariffs between the United States, Canada, and Mexico over the next 15 years. Bush considered NAFTA to be the cornerstone of his US economic policy. During the negotiation process, the environmental community insisted that the impact of trade on the environment should be considered and provided for but the final agreement has quite a number of environmental deficiencies. (See sidebar).

Since the "fast track" procedures that govern NAFTA do not allow Congress to amend the agreement, it is imperative that the environmental problems in NAFTA are corrected before the agreement is submitted to Congress. We can't count on using the implementing legislation that accompanies NAFTA to fix the problems because they are unilateral and therefore do not bind the other NAFTA countries.

When President Clinton took office, he endorsed the NAFTA with assurances to the environmental community that he would address the deficiencies through a supplemental agreement on the environment. Sierra Club welcomed this approach and the opportunity to focus America's vision on environmentally sound trade.

The Sierra Club has been participating with other environmental groups in negotiations on the side agreements since May. Limited progress has been made on the issue of public participation, the creation of the North American Commission on the Environment, and on enforcement of domestic environmental laws. But a number of the deficiencies have not been corrected.

To make NAFTA environmentally sound the side agreements must:

1. Provide a dedicated source of funding for border clean-up.
2. Prevent the flight of industries which seek to take advantage of lax environmental, health and safety standards.
3. Preserve the rights of countries, states, and localities to maintain and establish strong environmental conservation, health, and safety standards to protect global and domestic natural resources, including wildlife, through national legislation and international agreements.
4. Provide meaningful opportunities for public participation in trade and environment disputes and in investment and trade decisions affecting individual communities.

How will NAFTA Harm the Environment?

- NAFTA can weaken existing legal protection for the environment and human health by prohibiting the U.S. from enforcing laws regulating the production process on products entering the United States.
- NAFTA can limit our ability to enter into International Environmental Agreements (IEAs). It will also restrict our right to use trade measures in complying with IEAs to which we are already parties.
- NAFTA criteria for acceptable foodstuff regulation could expose U.S. consumers to unsafe products.
- NAFTA will greatly reduce the ability of states to extend the level of environmental protection beyond what is accepted by NAFTA parties, leaving state governments with reduced levels of protection.
- NAFTA's harmonization of standards toward international levels may lead to the weakening of our own.
- NAFTA administrative and dispute processes lack avenues for democratic accountability, essential for citizens in all three countries to insure responsible government behavior.
- NAFTA's energy chapter promotes the increased use of fossil fuels, threatening air quality and the global environment.
- NAFTA lacks funding mechanisms for clean up and building necessary environmental infrastructure in Mexico.
- NAFTA creates incentives for governments to leave existing environmental laws unenforced, so that business interests are not discouraged from investing in their countries.

continued on next page

North American Free Trade Agreement *continued from previous page*

The Sierra Club does not wish to oppose the NAFTA in the Congress. However, unless the situation changes radically in the near future, we are greatly concerned that we will have no choice but to oppose the agreement. We sincerely hope that President Clinton will not submit the NAFTA package to Congress until our concerns are substantially addressed.

As the Clinton Administration reached agreement on the NAFTA Side Agreements, the Sierra Club declared August 13 that if key flaws are not fixed NAFTA will damage the environment. "Clinton trade negotiators missed the target in their attempt to fix NAFTA's environmental deficiencies. They have failed to produce side agreements that would provide an environmentally acceptable NAFTA," said J. Michael McCloskey, Chairman of the Sierra Club. "The Clinton Administration has not made sufficient progress in the side agreements for us to endorse NAFTA," said Carl Pope, Executive Director.

The four major problems:

- Loopholes that leave U.S. environmental laws vulnerable to attack under NAFTA remain intact.
- Border clean-up funding is inadequate.
- The public still does not have a say when U.S. environmental laws are challenged as trade barriers.
- The process for stopping polluters from crossing the borders to do business where environmental laws are weak or poorly enforced is cumbersome.

An Environmental Impact Statement on NAFTA?

On June 30, 1993, US District Court Judge Charles Richey ruled that the US Trade Representative must prepare an Environmental Impact Statement on NAFTA. While the EIS is informative and non-binding it would inform nego-

tiators and the US Congress about the implications of NAFTA for the North American Environment.

According to Sierra Club Chairman Michael McCloskey, "This critical decision means trade agreements can never be negotiated again without a conscious consideration of the environment."

The decision is the result of a lawsuit filed by Sierra Club, Public Citizen and Friends of the Earth in August 1992. The case was heard in March 1993 and the decision was announced June 30. The Court found that the United States Trade Office has acted contrary to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) by failing to prepare an EIS prior to submitting NAFTA to Congress.

This decision also important because it forever changes the way trade agreements are negotiated. Trade has tremendous impacts on the environment and any trade agreement negotiated by the US will now have to include an EIS.

An appeals process was begun on July 2 and hearings began August 24. As this article is being written, the fate of the NAFTA EIS is uncertain. Watch your newspapers for updates.

NAFTA in New Mexico and West Texas

As the drama of NAFTA negotiations proceeds in Washington, the reality of the US-Mexico border environment continues its effects on New Mexico and West Texas. Is NAFTA good for us? With or without it, the maquila plants across the border continue to operate as they have for 25 years. The border population continues to grow as Mexican workers move north to find jobs. Infrastructure improvements have not kept pace with this growth and the concentration of manufacturing industries along the border have resulted in significant pol-

lution problems.

What do Rio Grande Sierrans think about NAFTA? This agreement has important implications for us and our neighbors across the border. This is a "backyard" issue for us and we need to consider our position and communicate it to our Representatives, Senators, President Clinton and the National Sierra Club!

We want to initiate a dialog on NAFTA and the US-Mexico border issues among Rio Grande Chapter members and we invite your participation. Send your ideas, comments and opinions to Susan Gorman, Sierra Club, 207 San Pedro NE, Albuquerque, NM 87108 or call me at 505-265-3231.

Sierra Club Calendars Now on Recycled Paper

AFTER A LONG SEARCH for recycled papers suitable for high-quality reproduction of photographs, Sierra Club Books has begun integrating recycled stocks into its popular calendars line. The Sierra Club 1994 Pocket Calendar has been printed on paper containing 50 percent recycled material — including 20 percent post-consumer waste. The calendar's virgin fiber is obtained from tree farms and is bleached without chlorine.

"We are extremely pleased with the results of our multi-year search for paper that meets the Club's standards for the environment," said Susan Ristow, Sierra Club Books' director of production. "We hope to produce additional calendars on similar stock next year."

Most Sierra Club Books titles are already on paper containing substantial amounts of recycled fiber, Ristow said, but the development of recycled papers capable of high-quality reproduction of color photographs has been slow in coming.

Colorado Water Workshop "The Big Squeeze"

by Blair Brown, Susan Gorman and Susanne Dooley

IN LIGHT OF the Chapter emphasis on Water Quality and Quantity, members of the Albuquerque and Santa Fe groups attended the 18th Annual Colorado Water Workshop in Gunnison, Colorado in late July.

Attendees numbered about 200 and represented the academic community, the press, ranchers, ski interests, citizen interest organizations, various state and Federal agencies, and local and federal legislators. As you might guess, most were from Colorado, but NM, CA, KS, CR, NV, VA and Washington, DC were also represented.

We were surprised to find we were the only attendees from New Mexico and that the only representatives from other environmental groups were the Nature Conservancy and a local group in Crested Butte.

The program included speakers, panels, and lots of opportunities for group discussions. Concepts which tended to reappear all through Conference were:

- Cooperation must be chosen over confrontation as approaches to problems are discussed, with input by all parties early in the process.
- It is best to keep the implementation of solutions at the local level with people who understand the local situation. If we fail to do this, we will leave the solutions to the Federal government and will have to live with what they direct and still pay the costs.
- Anti-degradation of water quality (not allowing existing pristine waters to be degraded to standards deemed acceptable elsewhere) must be embraced and enforced.
- Watershed Management (looking at an entire watershed) is becoming the more accepted approach to the management of water resources.

- A holistic approach to determination of water quality management is better than the specification based criteria used in the past. This means water quality will be determined by the uses it can support (i.e. drinking, swimming, etc.) rather than on the quantitative measurement of impurities.

- It is far better (and much less expensive) to maintain the natural ecosystems than to use technology to repair damage after it has occurred.

An interesting fact: New Mexico is the only state that does not recognize 'instream flow' as a beneficial use of water. It was suggested by one of the attendees that Instream Legislation on the model of the Colorado law should be considered for New Mexico.

How did we benefit from this conference? First, all three of us feel that our heads are full of new information and concepts about water issues. The challenge is to make this knowledge available to the Chapter Water Issues folks. We plan to meet with Vickie Gabin and Eric Ames, our Chapter Co-Chairs and brief them on what we learned and discuss how it can be incorporated into our Chapter program. Secondly, we met a large number of people who are intimately involved with the issues of water quality and quantity, who have probably encountered many of the problems that face New Mexico. We offer to be 'consultants' and help Chapter water folks find resources and people to provide specific help.

A final observation: A number of the attendees made a point of seeking us out to let us know that they were pleased that we were there, both as representatives of the Sierra Club and as people from New Mexico, and invited us to return next year and bring friends.

Environmental Concerns About Natural Gas Production

by Chris Shuey, Southwest Research & Information Center

PRODUCTION OF NATURAL GAS in the San Juan Basin of northwestern New Mexico and southwestern Colorado is increasing. While natural gas is often regarded as a clean fuel, the production and exploration of natural gas has many environmental consequences. Following are some of the concerns:

Air emissions:

- Volatile hydrocarbons, carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane and hydrogen sulfide from field operations
- Volatile hydrocarbons, priority pollutants, CO₂ and methane from gas processing plants and gas compressor stations

Water quality:

- Disposal of produced water from gas wells may contaminate ground water.
 - Use of unlined pits in ground-water vulnerable areas of San Juan Basin being phased out as a result of state regulations adopted in 1985 and 1993.
 - Natural gas (methane) contamination of 70+ private water wells in the Animas River valley in Colorado and New Mexico in past 6 years.
- Aesthetics and Indirect Impacts:
- Increased truck traffic and concomitant wear and tear on roads
 - Increased number of spills of produced water
 - Increased pipeline construction and its attendant land disturbance
 - Upsurge in "landowner rights" movement in northwestern New Mexico and southwestern Colorado.

Editor's note: This article was adopted from a summary of problems of natural gas production in the San Juan basin which Chris Shuey prepared in July. For more information, call him at Southwest Research and Information Center, (505) 262-1862. Look for a more detailed article in an upcoming Rio Grande Sierran.

Letters continued from page 2

an incident in May in which Herb rightly insisted in helicopter support for a body evacuation at an airplane crash site near the Santa Fe Airport. Herb's strongly worded comments over his two-way radio to the State Police, who were reluctant to provide the needed support, were captured by the TV news media and aired that evening, which the State Police perceived as an embarrassment. For this, our entire community must do without Herb's expertise and dedication.

Please support Herb by writing to your state representative and the chairman of the State Search and Rescue Review Board:

Jim Gary, Chairman
New Mexico Search and Rescue Review Board
3217 Tahiti NE
Albuquerque, NM 87111

Thank you.

Gary Schiffmiller
Santa Fe, NM

High Speed Rail

Editor, Rio Grande Sierran
Dear Sir:

With regard to the article "High Speed Rail Gets Off the Track..." let me say that not all Sierra Club members are in favor of having light rail between Santa Fe and Albuquerque.

Mass transit between the two cities is nothing but a commercial development, and one that many Santa Feans do not want to see. We don't need a quick and easy way for ... masses of people to come to Santa Fe for the day. Sierra Club members in Albuquerque might better spend their energies on cleaning up the pollution in their own city before working to export it.

Hooray for the Governor's veto and I hope the federal government does spend its (our) mass transit money elsewhere.

Donald Kaye
Santa Fe

New Sierra Club Group Forms in Gila Bioregion

SIERRA CLUB MEMBERS in Silver City and other areas around the Gila National Forest are in the process of organizing the Gila Bioregional Group of the Rio Grande Chapter. The new group has chosen a temporary executive committee (excom) and adopted standard Sierra Club by-laws. Once the chapter excom has approved the by-laws and geographic boundaries, Sierra Club members in the area will automatically become members of the new group.

Election of a permanent group executive committee will coincide with chapter elections at the end of the year. In order to be listed in the November-December *Rio Grande Sierran*, members in the Gila area should notify Susan Schock by October 1 of their intention to run for the group excom.

Susan can be reached at 388-2854; mailing address P.O. Box 309, Silver City, NM 88062.

BLM's Shinnery

by Roger Peterson

SHINNERY IS OUR ONLY tallgrass prairie, the main home for mule deer and whitetails on New Mexico's southeastern plains, almost the only home for lesser prairie chickens, and important for bobwhite, pronghorn and other wildlife. In a program that ran from late 1980 through July 1993, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) undertook to kill most or all oaks on 100,000 of its 1,000,000 acres of shinnery, preferring unnatural grass pastures for cows to fine wildlife habitat. BLM believes that the oaks (which have huge underground stem systems) will recover and the grass dominants be restored. Perhaps that's right, though the pastures treated more than ten years ago still have little oak, thus denying deer and prairie chickens their principal food source. The main study in New Mexico, funded by BLM, found 80% fewer prairie chickens in treated areas; a Texas Tech study found no difference in numbers, but birds in treated areas were smaller, with less fat, than those with access to oak.

The 12 1/2 year program ended on a sour note when we (Rio Grande Chapter and the Southern NM group, along with the Native Plant Society of New Mexico) were cut out of a planned protest by Resource Area Manager Sandra Allen's illegal decision to just go ahead and spray 3000 acres (in a

"no-spray" wildlife habitat area!) without issuing the decision document that would have been the basis of protest. Strong outcries to Ms. Allen, to Acting State BLM Director Monte Jordan, and to BLM Director Jim Baca have led to appointment of an investigating team that is looking into our allegations of illegal procedures, of rancher-run single-purpose mismanagement, and of the resource area's continuing refusal to respect public input. No results at press time, but team members, headed by fisheries biologist Roy Masinton, are honest and intelligent and have no Livestock-and-Mining axe to grind.

The team's results—and our own continuing input—will feed into the resource area's forthcoming Resource Management Plan (RMP), which will include a decision on future treatment of shinnery. On present knowledge our recommendation to restore grass is prescribed fire, to shock the oaks and make a season's soil-water available for grass. Combined, of course, with at least two seasons' rest from livestock and then enforcement for the first time of the light use factors (such as 25% of sand bluestem) required by the 1979 governing EIS. The Southern NM Group's representative in the RMP process in Felecia Harvey (347-2910, home).

ALBUQUERQUE GROUP

SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR THE ENVIRONMENT - A CONSERVATION WORKSHOP

By Susan Gorman

Bio-Diversity...Non-Attainment Area...Ecosystem...Reclamation...NMED...Animal Damage Control...Endangered Species...NEPA...Mining...Groundwater.

Does enviro-speak leave you confused and wondering how you can help the environment without going back to school? The September General Meeting program offers you the opportunity to learn a bit more about the major conservation issues we face in New Mexico and right here in Albuquerque.

The workshop will begin with a brief overview of the high priority issues: Water, Mining, Grazing, Wildlife, Public Lands, Air, Waste, Transportation, Energy, Petroglyphs, Bosque and Population. After a break for refreshments and visiting, we will gather in smaller issue discussion groups to give you a chance to learn more about the issue you're most interested in.

Come, learn and offer your ideas to help Sierra Club members make a real difference.

The meeting will be held on Monday, September 20th, at 7:30 PM in Room 2401 of the UNM Law School Building on the Northwest Corner of Stanford and Mountain NE. PLEASE COME!

PLEASE COME

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Parking lot: State Fair is coming soon and we need you to work for an hour or two or three managing the parking lot. This is the Albuquerque Group's major fund raising project so we need lots of support and energy to set a new sales record. If you're a new member and have never done this before, give it a try. It's fun and rewarding and is something important you can do for the environment! Call Nick Nicolaus, 884-5433.

Program Chairman: This is your chance to find and arrange the programs you think would be most interesting for the monthly General Meetings. We always have more program suggestions than months 90 your assignment, should you accept this position, is to call the potential speakers to invite them to present a program (they almost never refuse!) Other duties include sending notices to the press and writing the notice for the Sierran. Leading meetings is optional.

Water Issues Chairman: The Water Quality and Quantity project is really taking shape with Eric Ames and Vickie Gabin leading us at the Chapter level. We need someone in the Albuquerque Group to be responsible for following the urban water issues that the City is facing. Read the Albuquerque Journal, August 6, for more information about the potential water shortage we will soon face unless we begin conservation NOW. This is your chance to make a difference by taking a leadership role in water.

For information on these positions call Susan Gorman, 265-3231.

GAS TAX FOR TRAILS & PUBLIC TRANSIT

On October 5, citizens of Albuquerque will be asked to approve a 2¢ gas tax to pay for an extensive trails network, enhanced public transportation and better maintenance of existing roads. Unlike state and federal gasoline taxes, it will be used for projects only in Albuquerque.

CONSERVATION BREAKFAST

Join us for coffee and bagels at EJ's Coffee House, Yale and Silver, to meet other activists and talk about what's happening with your favorite environmental threat! We'll start at 7:30 am, September 27, and talk until we all need to leave for work.

This is sort of a support group to give you a chance to let us know your concerns and interests or to just listen to what others are doing. Albuquerque probably has more networking groups per capita than anyplace else so why not the Sierra Club?

We will till hold the evening Conservation meeting at the Sierra Club office at 7:30 pm, September 27 but if people like the breakfast meeting, we may switch in October. What do you think? Let's give this a try! Come on over and join us. Call Susan at 265-3231 for more details.

PETROGLYPH UPDATE

The Albuquerque Journal reported on August 19 that Rio Grande Pavilion "no longer has plans to pursue" the \$11 million outdoor amphitheater at the 98th Street site, one half mile from Petroglyph National Monument. Friends of the Albuquerque Petroglyphs and two neighborhood associations had filed a lawsuit against the project.

The same day it was reported that Sen. Pete Domenici and Mayor Louis Saavedra were informed by National Park Service director Roger Kennedy that he saw "no prospect" of extending Paseo del Norte through the Monument and that the city "has no authority to build a highway through the Monument."

ALBUQUERQUE GROUP ENDORSES STEFAN VERCHINSKI FOR CITY COUNCIL

One of Albuquerque Group star activists is running for City Council. Stefan Verchinski, energy and transportation guru, has entered the race for the District 7 seat.

A City Council member, Stefan will focus on improving public transit, developing a rational land use policy with emphasis on open space, upgrading air and water quality, and conserving water resources. Those of you who have talked with him know he has been developing innovative ideas on how to solve City problems in these areas for year. We can count on him to be a tireless and continuous support of a better urban environment for Albuquerque.

The next step is to give him our Active Support. He needs volunteers to walk his precinct and drop literature. If you live in District 7, volunteer to put a sign in your yard to build name recognition. Finally, you can make contribution to pay for the literature (send checks to Stefan Verchinski Campaign, 2700 Espanola NE, Albuquerque, NM 871 10)

And, of course VOTE !

Susan Gorman

REDUCE HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

An alternative to using commercial rug and upholstery cleaners: sprinkle dry cornstarch on the rug, wait five minutes and vacuum.

If you need to get rid of paint, paint thinner, motor oil, car batteries, caustic cleaners, pool chemicals, insecticides or herbicides, bring them to the **Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center**. The center is located at 6133 Edith NE and is open from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Fridays and 8 am to 3 pm Saturdays. 345-1650.

CLEARING THE AIR

The RIDEPOOL Rideguide reports that the City Environmental Health Department is rejoicing over the fact that Albuquerque's carbon monoxide (Co) levels met the EPA standard last year. Albuquerque had no CO "exceedences" in 1992, meaning at no time did Co levels go above 9 parts per million (ppm). The highest reading, 8.9 ppm, was on Christmas Eve at the intersection of San Mateo and Menaul (it was "OK to Burn").

CALENDAR

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

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.
Sept 13: Executive Committee Meeting, 7 pm.
Sept 18: 12 noon. **Deadline** for articles for October group newsletter. Macintosh preferred. Call Dorothy if supplying hardcopy only.
Sept 20: **Sierra Club General Meeting**, UNM Law School, Rm 2402, 7:30 pm.
Sept 27: Conservation Committee meeting, 7:30 pm.

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
	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/ Special Planning	Terri Moyers	265-8274
Air Quality	Heidi Fleischmann	260-1217
Books/ Calendars	Rich Adam	266-4657
Bosque	Richard Barish	247-8079
City Planning	(vacant)	
City Trails	Dan Feller	266-1922
Endangered Species	Barbara Bates	888-0388
Energy	Ralph Wrons	275-0856
Las Huertas	Marion Davidson	867-5178
Mailings	Doreen Kahl	345-7919
Mexican Wolf	Susan Larsen	897-2527
Mining Issues	Blair Brown	265-3231
Newsletter	Dorothy Brethauer	275-6113
	Larry Compton	899-0679
Outings	David Morrison	344-8693
	Stan Kauchak	292-9138
Petroglyphs/ Westside	Ike Eastvold	255-7679
Population	Michelle Meaders	266-8823
Programs	Susan Gorman	265-3231
Public Lands	Barbara Stone	344-8605
Solid Waste	David Bouquin	265-7853
Water	(vacant)	
Wildlife	Marc Bedner	299-2004

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Garden Shop has traps baited with an attractant (pheromone) for specific insects, which can help gardeners avoid repeated **spraying of insecticides**. Call the Council of Albuquerque Garden Clubs, 296-6020.

The 1993 Annual Meeting and Grants Award Luncheon of the **Abuquerque Community Foundation** will be on Friday, October 1. 883-6240.

The **Neighborhood Association Leadership Training Academy** will be offered on Sept. 8, Sept.22, and Oct.11. 768-3790.

OUTINGS

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

Fri- 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 Moderate Miles: 1 Car: 1
Oxbow Service Project Last time we fenced 88 cottonwoods. We are aiming to finish protecting an island of trees near the center of the Oxbow. Bring wading shoes, shorts, water and insect repellent. This is for all those people who stated they were just a little chicken to try the wading. Meet at 8:00 AM at Saint Joseph's and Coors. Should be finished before lunch. Leader: Nick Nickolaus 884-5433

Sat Sept 11 Leisure Miles: 6 Car: 20
Walk for the Mountain Goat Stefan Verchinski wants to switch from bagging peaks to bagging public citizens by running for City Council. We will help his momentary lapse of sanity by passing out literature from door to door. One of his campaign promises is to provide us with beer afterwards. Let's see if he breaks his first promise. Meet at 2700 Espanola NE at 1:00 PM. Leader: David 344-8693

Sat Sept 11 Leisure Miles: 3 Car: 3
Rinconada Canyon Hike, Petroglyph NM Visit one of the largest rock art sites in North America. Surveys have confirmed the presence of 15,000 petroglyphs along the escarpment, a 17 mile ridge of basalt boulders created by volcanic eruptions 150,000 years ago. RSVP. Leader: Ike Eastvold 255-7679

Sun Sept 12 Moderate Miles: 10 Car: 300
Proposed X/C Ski Trail Service Project Participate in the map work and leg work required in laying out a new X/C ski trail in a remote and beautiful section of Northern New Mexico, near Hopwell lake. In conjunction with the Santa Fe group. Possible car camp Sat. night. Contact Stan for details 292-9138

Sun Sept 12 Leisure to Moderate Miles: 0 Car: 0
Archaeological Excavation of Old Town, Service Project Before construction of two new buildings in Old Town, we will help the Alb. Archaeological Society excavate an area where the first San Felipe church and a

mercantile use to stand. These two structures dated from around 1706 to 1790. This area now lies under a parking lot. Meet at 8:00 AM. Call to make sure this trip has not been rescheduled. Bring gloves, water, lunch. Leader: David 344-8693

Sun Sept 19 Moderate to Strenuous Miles: 1-2 Car: 135
Pueblo Blanco Service Project We will help the State Land Office continue with the work of building erosion control structures to protect some of the ruins at Pueblo Blanco. Last time we visited some petroglyphs including one of a bear and were given an interpretive tour of the pueblo. Near the town of Gallisteo. Bring shovels, pliers, lunch, and water. Meet at 7:30 AM at Smith's at Central and Tramway. Leader: David 344-8693

Sun Sept 19 Leisure Miles: 3 Car: 3
Geological Windows Hike, Petroglyph NM The petroglyphs were first created about 1000 BC. The age of the petroglyphs can be estimated from the darkness of the patina; comparison of style, content, and execution to the rock art of other areas; comparison of pottery design to petroglyph design; and the superimposition of one petroglyph on top of another. RSVP, 9:00 AM. Leader: Ike Eastvold 255-7679

Mon Sept 20 Premeeting Dinner
Terri wants to try the Double Rainbow at 3416 Central SE. Meet at 6:00 PM Terri 265-8274

Fri- Sun Sept 24-26 Moderate- Strenuous Miles: 20 Car: 240
Apache Kid Wilderness Backpack We will leave Friday evening, Sat. we hike with full packs in 5 miles to camp at Twentyfive Yard Spring. Sunday we will dayhike to the grave site of Apache Kid. Hopefully we will see the leaves changing. Call for meeting time and place. Leader: Tom Leck 256-7217

Sat Sept 25 Leisure Miles: 3 Car: 2
Rio Grande Bosque Hike We will hike into an area south of Paseo del Norte. Meet at the Burrito Company, Coors and Alameda at 8:00 AM. Leader: David 344-8693

Sat Sept 25 Leisure to Moderate Miles: 6 Car: 20
Walk for the Mountain Goat Let's show our support for Stefan's run

for City Council. He is the strongest environmental candidate that has ever run for the Council. Meet at 2700 Espanola NE at 1:00 PM. Leader: Stefan 888-1370

Sun Sept 26 Leisure Miles: 3 Car: 25
Waterfall Canyon Hike, Sandias Trail starts in Tijeras Canyon and climbs the eastern slope past a waterfall. If we are motivated we will head for the ridge looking into Alb. Leader: David 344-8693

Sat Oct 2 Moderate Miles: 8 Car: 140
Guadalupe Mesa and Tapia Canyon Back behind Cabezon in the Rio Puerco Basin, we visit the ruins on top of Guadalupe Mesa. We trek into Tapia Canyon's petroglyphs, natural bridge, and the best slot canyon in the state. Afterwards, we cool off with a cold one at a rustic bar. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet at 7:30 AM behind Winchell's at Academy and San Mateo. Leader: David 344-8693

Sun Oct 3 Moderate Miles: 4 1/2 Car: 150
Wild & Scenic Jemez River Hike Traveling along the East fork of the Jemez River through an aspen forest, enjoy the autumn colors of the aspens and the seasonal wild flowers. Bob Crostic, of the Jemez Ranger Station will be our guide. He will discuss the management plan for the river. Leader: Marsha Cohen 897-1591

Sat- Sun Oct 9-10 Strenuous Miles: 24? Car: 400?
Fourteeners around Lake City, CO [The trip to La Garita listed in the last Sierran has been changed to this area] We will stay at a bed and breakfast, and hike out to some of the area's peaks. A dusting of snow could be possible. Some of the aspens may still be in color. RSVP. ASAP (as soon as possible). Limit on number of participants. Leader: Stefan 888-1370

Thanks
*Marsha Cohen, Terri Moyers, and Irv Karp for the great office signs.
*Susan, Jay, Richard, Sandy, Terri, Blair, David, Marsha, and the masked man for the office changeover.
*Photos Carol Lucero, you are bound to win, you are the only one who has entered the contest so far.
*Utah Car Camp in Oct. is cancelled

the LORAX Sierra Club El Paso Regional Group

SEPTEMBER MEETING

El Paso Group of the Sierra Club will begin the fall season with an exciting presentation on the wonders of Alaska on Wednesday, September 29. Don't miss the wonders of the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge, Denali National Park, and the glaciers that have carved out mountains and melted into bays, all of which make Alaska one of the most beautiful places on the North American continent.

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

CALENDAR

September 1	EXCOM (800 So. Piedras)
September 10	Deadline for El Paso newsletter information (send to 331 Vista del Rey, 79912)
September 11-12	Rio Grande Chap. EXCOM (Hillsboro, NM)
September 29	General Meeting (7000 Edgemere)
October 4	EXCOM (800 So. Piedras)



The Environmental Center

Thanks to our volunteers... Jean Hagesfeld and Josefina Hernandez for their recent volunteer work at the Center. Special thanks go to Jose Ramirez, who worked at the Center through a Summer Youth Employment Training Program administered by the El Paso Independent School District. He did an outstanding job during his stay.

Another very special volunteer at the Environmental Center has been John Sproul. For over a year he has been a tireless worker for the Sierra Club by spending three to four days a week in the Center doing whatever needed to be done. He has done everything from general maintenance, arranging for recycling bins to writing grant proposals. And, since April, when the Club lost its office manager, he has spent even more time at the Center. All this is, of course, in addition to the other things that he does with his life, like serve as a spokesperson for environmental issues in the Franklins and the El Paso region, speak to school children about the environment and head the Franklin Mountains Wilderness Coalition. In order to pursue other interests, John will be cutting back his time at the Center, but we all want him to know that we, members of the El Paso Group of the Sierra Club, appreciate all the dedication that he has given to the Club. Say Thanks to John the next time you see him. **Recycling News...** During its operating hours (9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday), the Center continues to accept a

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
3120 Red Sails, 79936

Send LORAX information to
Wyona Turner, Editor, 331 Vista del Rey, 79912

wide range of recyclable materials: aluminum cans, tin cans, newspaper, corrugated cardboard, computer paper, white office paper, plastic soft-drink bottles, plastic milk jugs and more. When you visit the Center, be sure to pick up a Recycling Guide; it describes materials accepted and how they should be prepared.

The Center's recycling program remains popular, but its success presents a problem. Recycling creates most of the workload at the Center, and, as the volume of recyclables grows, so does the need for volunteers. Without more help, we will soon have to cut back on recycling operations. Can you contribute a few hours each week or each month to keep the recycling program at full strength? Please contact the Center (532-9645), John Sproul (545-5157) or Ted Mertig (852-3011) if you can help.

EXCOMM THANKS COLEMAN

The El Paso Group Excom has sent a letter to Rep. Ron Coleman expressing appreciation for his support of border environmental issues. In addition, he co-sponsored several pieces of legislation including the Wetlands Reform Act of 1993, the Forest Biodiversity and Clearcutting Prohibition Act, and the Endangered Species Act Amendments of 1993.

OUTINGS

NORTH FRANKLIN PEAK DAYHIKE

DATE: September 11, 1993
 CLASS: Moderate
 LIMIT: 12, leader approval and reservations required
 LEADER: Carl Horkowitz, 775-3968 (hm) or 755-9344 (wk)
 We will begin early Saturday morning from the Tom Mays unit of the Park and follow one of two routes to the summit. Roundtrip mileage is eight miles with a 3,000' elevation gain. Come view the surrounding Franklin Mountains State Park from an unequalled vantage point. A \$3.00 per vehicle entrance fee is required. Call Carl early for reservations and details.

BEAR-TEJAS LOOP DAYHIKE

Guadalupe Mountains

DATE: Sunday, September 12, 1993
 CLASS: Strenuous
 LIMIT: 15, leader approval and reservations required
 LEADER: Michael Bromka, 532-2652

We will leave El Paso at daybreak for a two-hour drive to the Guads. From Pine Springs Trailhead, we'll go gently uphill 1.5 miles, then hike 3.3 miles up that Bear of a Canyon to Pine Top. Having gained 2,000', we'll amble through evergreens to Hunter Peak which offers a lovely view. More piney ambling will bring us to Tejas Trail for a scenic and gradual descent to Pine Springs, completing our ten-mile loop.

CATWALK-WHITewater CREEK BACKPACK

Mogollon Mountains

DATE: September 18-19, 1993
 CLASS: Easy +
 LIMIT: 14, leader approval and reservations required
 LEADER: Mike Episcopo, 833-3770

Departing Friday evening, we will drive to our carcamp site at Sheridan Corral. Saturday we head for our trailhead at the Whitewater Picnic Area and begin our backpack at the Catwalk. Our campsite will be at the confluence of Whitewater Creek and the South Fork of Whitewater Creek, near the old Power Plant. From our base camp fishing, dayhiking, or just relaxing will be the order of the day. Total roundtrip is approximately five miles with minimal elevation gain. Call Mike early for reservations.

WILLIE WHITE TRAIL DAYHIKE

Cloudcroft, NM

DATE: Sunday, September 26, 1993
 CLASS: Easy to moderate
 LIMIT: none, leader approval and reservations required
 LEADER: Eva Peppel, 591-9713

Come join us for a hike through the colorful woods. This trail is located about ten miles outside of Cloudcroft. We will drive to the trailhead and get warmed up for the mostly downhill hike by climbing up the first mile. This four-mile trail passes through lovely meadows, which are surrounded by aspens that should be at their peak of colors, and emerges below Bluff Springs. Call Eva for reservations.

ORGAN PEAK DAYHIKE

Las Cruces, NM

DATE: Saturday, October 2, 1993
 CLASS: Strenuous
 LIMIT: 12, leader approval and reservations required
 LEADER: Alice Anderson, 505-523-5179

Organ Peak, the second highest point in the Organ Mountains, is reached by a brushy scramble up Fillmore Canyon. The summit offers views in all directions, and the trees and shrubs should be displaying fall colors. The views should be beautiful. The hike is nine miles roundtrip on poor, intermittent, or absent trail. Elevation gain is 3,200'.

ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER SERVICE TRIP

800 So. Piedras

DATE: Sunday, October 3, 1993
 CLASS: Sweaty
 LIMIT: none
 LEADER: John Sproul, 545-5157 or Mike Episcopo, 833-3770

The Environmental Center is in need of some general maintenance, both inside and out. If you can spare a few hours to help in the cleaning and general sprucing up, stop by the Center anytime between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Tools will be provided, but please bring a pair of working gloves along. Help show your support for our local environment, the community, and our club.

RAIN CREEK TRAIL MAINTENANCE
CARCAMP AND DAYHIKE

Gila Wilderness

DATE: October 8-10 or 11, 1993
 CLASS: Easy, but bring work gloves
 LIMIT: 40, reservations required
 LEADER: Rollin Wickenden, 598-8042

We will leave El Paso Friday night and carcamp at the Sacaton trailhead. Saturday morning we will be met by rangers from the Glenwood Ranger District who will bring tools. We will work on Trail 189 brushing, building tread, and fixing water bars. The El Paso Club used to spend at least one weekend a year working on Trail 189. However, our last work trip was in 1986, and since then the trail has become badly neglected. Daypacks will be needed to carry daily water and lunch. In the afternoon, we will return to the lawn chairs, grills and ice chests. Plan on returning to El Paso on Sunday; or, if Monday is a holiday, on Monday. Come to this beautiful, remote section of the Gila Wilderness.

BEGINNER BACKPACK TO
THE MIDDLE FORK OF THE GILA

DATE: October 16-17, 1993
 CLASS: Easy
 LIMIT: 12, leader approval and reservations required
 LEADER: Weldon and Betty Fisbeck, 581-0174

This will be a trip just a little more difficult than the trip done in the spring, but will be suitable and planned for beginners and those with little experience. We will leave early Saturday morning and drive to our trailhead at T.J. Corral in the Gila Wilderness. We will hike four and a quarter miles on the Little Bear Trail to our campsite on the Middle Fork of the Gila. If the group is so inclined, there should be time for some dayhiking up the Middle Fork. Call and we will help you plan equipment, food, etc., if you need help.

OUTINGS REPORTS

Hillsboro Peak Dayhike/Backpack, 6/26-27/93

On Saturday, seven early birds drove to Emory Pass, where we started up to Hillsboro Peak. Being prepared for rainshowers, we were pleasantly surprised that we did not have to make use of our ponchos. But we didn't get roasted by the sun either. All around it was a perfect day with the clouds being our umbrella and keeping us cool. After lunch on top of the peak, we said goodbye to Joe Rodriguez, Kathy Sunday and Rafaela Schuller, who backpacked into Railroad Canyon. Continuing back down to the cars and hot El Paso were Barbara Nehring, Joanne Blackburn, David Robertson, Lolina Alvarez and Eva Peppel, dayhike leader.

Rio Grande Float Trip, 6/27/93

Our return to Percha Dam State Park after an absence of several years found the water high and fast! After floating the spillway to get the adrenalin going, we were able to launch our flotilla without incident. The sky was beautiful and birds were everywhere. We enjoyed the bullfrogs' songs, the blue heron, and the lazy feel of the river broken by an occasional riffle as we floated down to Garfield. Exiting the swift river proved to be the greatest challenge as we were reminded once again that car keys should be left ashore! Back at the dam, El Paso Group members Don and Grace Middleton with leader Laurence Gibson and son Chris, had a chance to visit further with new friends from the Albuquerque Group - Tita Owre, Julie and Casey Gellert-Ross and Dana Dodge.

Mimbres Loop Backpack, 7/3-5/93

We didn't see any fireworks. There wasn't even any lightning as we hiked the Mimbres Loop on the 4th of July weekend. What we did find was the solitude and beauty of the Black Range. After walking 12 miles the first day, we camped that night at Mimbres Lake. Lots of great camping spots, but don't count on getting any water from that "lake." At least not this year (see Rollin for details). Luckily, a good spring was nearby. The next day it was seven miles along the crest to Reed's Peak. Some of us opted to camp in the meadow, while others preferred the comforts and luxuries of the Forest Service cabin. The next day, it was 12 more miles back to the cars. Surviving this tiring but scenic trek were Roy McCloud, Eva Peppel, Lolina Alvarez, Alice Anderson, Carol Morrison, David Archer, Rollin Wickenden, Joe Rodriguez, Robert Deitz, Norma McClelland, Mark Leon and leader Kathy Sunday.

Colorado Backpack, 7/10-18/93

Our '93 Colorado backpack featured great scenery, good weather, good fishing and fine company. From our trailhead east of Silverton we covered forty-four miles (who wrote that guide book, anyway!) in five days plus our afternoon hike from the trailhead to the Highland Mary Lakes. The real challenge was in elevation gained: Hunchback Pass, Bebo Pass and finally Columbine Pass into the Chicago Basin--all 12,500' or better with 3,000' up to Columbine. This trip was a real alpine experience, across many snowfields, with wildflowers at their peak. We even had Chicago Basin virtually to ourselves. The

return to civilization was eased by catching the narrow-gauge railway at Needleton trailhead for the ride back to Durango. Our sturdy group was comprised of Rafaela Schuller, Kathy Sunday, Joe Rodriguez, Chris Gibson, Carolina Greenfield, and leader Laurence Gibson.

Sierra Blanca Peak Dayhike, 7/18/93

Although originally limited to 12 people, I couldn't refuse anyone knowing what a great hike this was, so 20 of us made the trip. As we began our hike, we were surprised to see an abundant variety of wildflowers in full bloom. Onward we trekked, by Ice Spring and onto the ridge where the views became better and better. This route is truly an outstanding example of sub-alpine tundra in southern NM. Upon reaching the Apache Bowl, those with energy remaining continued the final ascent toward the 12,000' summit, while others relaxed and enjoyed the view. At the summit distant views of the Guadalupe Mountains, Black Range and Capitan Mountains were enjoyed by all as well as the sighting of a distant herd of elk grazing in the lush, tall grasses. Our good-natured group consisted of Jeff Brannon, Amanda Beatty, Roy McCloud, Jean and Ben Collins, Rudy Provencio, Larry Hughes, Lolina Alvarez, Dave Robertson, Rita and Andrea Schmidt, Gilbert Gallegos, Karen Schwartz, Debbie Tomacelli, Olga Dorronsoro, Wendy Mertig, Bob and Sue McFarlane, Bonnie Carrol and leader Mike Episcopo.

Three Rivers Carcamp/Dayhike, 7/24-25/93

After meeting in Alamogordo, we drove north to the Three Rivers petroglyph site. There we walked around the hill looking at the many examples of rock art. After eating lunch there, we drove on to the campsite and set up camp. The weather was so good that many didn't set up tents. Unfortunately, the night was full of surprises, such as woodchopping, a motorcycle and loud partying. Sunday morning we packed up and walked up the trail a couple of miles, and after a stream-side lunch, we returned to the cars and home. We had a full group including Toni and Amanda Beatty, Dale Harris, Rae Hamilton, Claus and Patricia Christiansen, John and Sue DiCara, newcomer Sally Meeks, Eva Peppel and leader Roy McCloud. Thanks to all for good company and especially to assistant leader Dale Harris.

Moonlight Desert Walk, 7/31/93

Two Las Cruces headed south on the freeway on the evening of July 31. After waiting for an hour at the Mesquite junction, we sadly concluded that the El Paso contingent wasn't coming, so we drove into the desert to the powerline road. The first rattlesnake was perched in a prickly pear near our parking space. As we walked down the road, the sun set in a blaze of red and orange, and the almost-full moon shone through misty clouds. The sky darkened and the Big Dipper appeared through a break in the clouds. The clouds thickened to completely cover the moon. As we walked back to the vehicle, we saw lightning flashes in the distant, but rapidly approaching, thunderheads. The second rattlesnake was briefly illuminated by our headlights as we drove out. Hikers were Paul Bronson and Alice Anderson. Deepest apologies to the hikers stranded in El Paso.

SANTA FE

SANTA FE GROUP NEWS

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1993

Autumn is here! Celebrate with old and new friends as we begin a new season of informative and entertaining meetings. Our featured speaker for the September meeting will be Robert Althouse of *Eco Seco®* and the *Sustainable Community Institute*, a permaculture-based community to be built off West Alameda Street. Robert will discuss the various environmental methods we can incorporate into our homes, yards, and lives here in the high, arid desert.

The general membership meeting will be held at the Unitarian Church (between Don Gaspar and Barcelona Streets) on Tuesday, September 21 at 7:30 PM. The meeting is free and open to all!!

See you there !!

Eco Seco® (Dryland Ecology)



A Permaculture-Based Sustainable Community
Designed for the Future
Overlooking Santa Fe and the Rio Grande Valley

MEETING SCHEDULE

The Executive Committee of the Santa Fe Group is currently meeting at noon on the first Tuesday of each month at the offices of Jurgens, Tallmadge & With, 322 Montezuma. The next two meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, October 5 and Tuesday, November 2, 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, September 28 and Tuesday, October 26, 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 —	
Publicity & Programs — Helen Moser*	438-3365	Carolyn Keskulla	982-9570
Outings — Norma McCallan*	471-0005	Fundraising —	
Political Committee — Ken Hughes*	988-9297	Mark Mortier*	983-5870

* Member of the SF Group Executive Committee

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

SANTA FE

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

Sat Sun September

Labor Day Weekend, Sat (9-4), Sun (9-5), Mon (9-6)

- Bob McKee (672-3426) Easy/Moderate Backpack to the Latir Wilderness. Backpack 5 miles in to Heart Lake and camp, spend middle day hiking up to 12,700' Latir Mesa. Call for reservations.
- 4 Arnold Keskulla (982-9670) Moderate Hike in the high country. Leave 8 AM.
- 5 Norbert Sperlich (983-1962) Strenuous Hike Caballo Peak, Jemez. Lve 7 AM. Call for reservations.
- 11 Lionel Soracco (983-6715) Moderate Hike Frijoles Canyon from Visitor Center, Bandelier N.P. Leave 8 AM. If group desires, will visit the caves and cliff dwellings afterwards.

★ ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE / ISSUE HIKE FOR SEPTEMBER ★

- 12 John Turnbull (982-9329) Moderate/Strenuous one-way Hike Forest Road 91-B from Hopewell Lake along proposed cross country ski trail. We hope this route, in a remote and beautiful section of Northern NM, will become part of the Ski Trail System in the Carson Nat'l Forest. It will also be good for hiking & biking and is a spur route from the Continental Divide Trail. Though close to 14 miles, there is little elevation change. Call for reservations & carpooling info. If interested, participants can car camp there the night before.

Fri (9-17), Sat (9-18), Sun (9-19)

- Norma McCallan (471-0005) Backpack up Fish Lake Trail in the Chalk Mountains, about 5.5 miles, to timberline for camp. Spend Saturday hiking up the trail to where it meets the Continental Divide Trail near Blue Lake • 3,125' elevation gain. Spectacular views. Call for reservations.
- 18 Julie Montoya King (438-7197) Moderate Hike, moderate pace, to Nambe Lake, 2100' elevation gain, 7 miles roundtrip. Leave 7 AM.
- 19 Victor Atyas (471-7545) Easy Hike Bandelier N.P. along Frey Trail to Ceremonial Cave. Lve 9 AM.
- 18 + 19 Join the Service Trip sponsored by the State Land Office to help repair Pueblo Blanco, a large archaeological site which is eroding badly. Meet at the Galisteo Church on Sat and/or Sun at 9 AM. Bring water and lunch, a shovel or a rake. Call Janis Hartley at the S.L.O. for details (827-5763)
- 25 Steven Janus (988-4137) Strenuous Hike to Lake Katherine via Mary's Lake and return by standard route. 14 miles R.T., considerable elevation change. Leave 8 AM.
- 25 Norrine Sanders (984-0386) Easy Hike Leave 9 AM.
- 26 Elizabeth Altman (471-8490) Moderate Hike Winsor Trail-Puerto Nambe. 8 mi R.T. Leave 9 AM.

RULES FOR OFF-ROAD BIKING

1. Yield the right of way to other recreationists.
2. Use caution when overtaking another and make you 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.

Sat Sun October

- ★ ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE / ISSUE HIKE WITH FRIENDS OF ATALAYA ★
- 2 Lionel Soracco (983-6715) Moderate Hike to Cañada Corral and Sierra Pelada (south of Atalaya); 1,500' elevation gain. The aim is to secure permanent access to this part of the National Forest. Meet at 8 AM at St. Johns College visitors parking lot.
- 3 Jeff Jones (984-2389) Strenuous Hike to Lake Katherine. 14.5 miles round trip; 3,200' elevation gain. Leave at 8 AM.
- Friday, October 8 to Monday, October 11
- Norma McCallan (471-0005) 4 day Backpack in Dark Canyon, SE Utah. Leave the afternoon of Thursday, October 7. Call leader for details.
- 9 Norrine Sanders (984-0386) Easy Hike Pacheco Canyon Road and Borrego Trail. Leave 8:30 AM.
- 10 Julie Montoya King (438-7197) Moderate Hike to Glorieta Ghost Town. 6.5 miles round trip; 950' elevation gain. Leave at 8 AM.
- 10 Art Judd (982-3212) Strenuous Hike to Trampas Lakes. 11.5 miles round trip; 2,440' elevation gain. Leave at 8 AM.
- 16 Louise Leopold (988-4592) Moderate Hike on Aspen Vista. Dogs allowed. Leave at 8 AM.
- 17 Bob McKee (672-3426) Strenuous Hike from Ponderosa Campground to Obsidian Ridge. 10 miles round trip; 2,000' elevation gain. Call leader for meeting place.
- 23 Steven Janus (988-4137) Moderate/Strenuous Hike on La Luz Trail and off-trail to the Thumb. Possible stop for dinner in Albuquerque afterwards. Leave at 7:30 AM.
- 24 John Jasper (982-8572) Easy/Moderate Hike on Lower Winsor Trail to Big Tesuque. Leave 8 AM.
- 30 Joe Whelan (984-0746) Moderate Hike Call leader for destination. Leave at 8:30 AM.
- 31 Elizabeth Altman (471-8490) Easy Hike to Tent Rocks. Leave 9 AM.

BARGAIN HUNTING STILL TO COME!

The day at the flea market to raise money for Group operations was canceled — we did not have enough donations to make it worthwhile. We have now scheduled a garage/rummage sale for Saturday, September 25, 1993, to be held at Carole Owens' house at 1859 Camino de Pabito (off Galisteo Street, south of Zia Road). We'll have books, artwork, stuffed toys, kitchen and household goods, music tapes and equipment, board games, office equipment, and a host of other bargains. Please stop by the sale!

We still have room for many more items. Please contact Norma McCallan at 471-0005 or Ken Hughes at 988-9297 to arrange to drop off your castoffs before the 25th. Even one box of items will bring in needed funds to our Group coffers.

RECYCLING FOR SANTA FE COUNTY RESIDENTS

Environmental Control is now located on the right side of Airport Road, past the entrance of Agua Fria Street — turn right at the sign saying *Mountain Storage*, then immediately left to the Recycling center. They accept aluminum cans (which they pay for), but also steel cans, glass bottles, plastic bottles marked "1" or "2" on the bottom within the recycling symbol Δ; ledger paper (typing), C.P.O. paper; corrugated cardboard. Nothing can be credited to the Sierra Club.

Capital Scrap Metals on Cooks Lane is not accepting recycling materials except scrap metal and old automobiles — an excellent contribution to the recycling effort.

Carolyn Keskulla (982-9570)

CHANGE THE COURSE OF HISTORY...

... of the Santa Fe Group, that is. If you've ever had any ideas about how the Group might do things better, if you'd like to meet interesting people, or if you'd just like to contribute more to the Club, then please consider running for a position on the Group's Executive Committee. This fall we will hold an election to fill five (5) positions. The ExCom meets once a month to budget the Group's resources, set policy on local conservation concerns, and plan social and fundraising activities. Inexperience in Club activism is no hindrance: the Sierra Club offers the best on-the-job training around, and fresh perspectives are always welcome. If you're interested, please call Jana Oyler at 984-2020 weekdays, before the end of September.

THE LOG

Southern New Mexico Group

MEETINGS AND OUTINGS

This fall our hikes will focus on the exploring the Organ Mountains and the Dona Ana Mtns. Our field trips are designed for families. Special arrangements have been made with the military to visit Otero Mesa on Ft. Bliss' McGregor Range to see wildlife, and with the BLM to visit Fort Cummings archaeological site at the base of Cooke's Peak.

Outings, including hikes and field trips, usually begin from the Pan American Center north parking lot. You need to call 522-3421 to learn the departure time and any special requirements (sack lunch, driving time, etc.). You must be prompt, outings and field trips leave exactly at the designated time, no exceptions.

Our General Membership Meetings are scheduled for the 4th Thursday of every month in 107 Science Hall, on the New Mexico State University Campus. If you have never been there, call 522-3421 for a map.

DATES:

September 9, Thursday - Executive committee meeting 7:30 PM SEC.

September 11, Saturday - Senator Jeff Bingaman and US-EPA Director Carole Browner to hold meeting in Corbett Center Auditorium, NMSU, on Rio Grande river issues. Time 9AM until 4PM.

September 23, Thursday - Second General Membership Meeting. 107 Science Hall, NMSU, 7:30 PM. Program: Ft. Cummings, a slide presentation of the BLM archeologic site at the base of Cooke's Peak, presented by Don Couchman.

September 25, Saturday - Hike to Rabbit Ears Canyon/Plateau.

September 26, Sunday - Field Trip to Ft. Cummings. Bring the family if you wish. Carpooling for the rest of us. Don Couchman will guide the field trip. Learn more about the history of southern New Mexico.

Group Directory

Marianne Thaler, Chair	522-3421
Steve Kalavity, Vice-chair, Outings	382-8419
Ben Zerby, Treasurer	526-6207
Tony Chiaviello, Conservation Chair	525-1802
Karen Fuller, Conservation Chair	824-4602
Andrew Hands, Co-Outings Chair	526-2282
David Pengelley, Programs Chair	525-8286
Cheryl Blevins, Publicity Chair	524-4861
Libby Hernandez, Population Chair	527-1440
Jim Winder, Agriculture Chair	267-4227
Kris Paulsen, Log Editor	287-2245
Susan Worley, Ethnic Diversity Chair	645-5522
David McClurg, Caves Chair	887-5761

October 2, Saturday - Hike to Fillmore Canyon waterfall.

October 10, Sunday - Hike Pine Tree Trail.

October 14, Thursday - Executive Committee meeting

October 16, Saturday - Hike to the Organ Needles - difficult. Leaders permission required.

October 23, Saturday - Field Trip to Otero Mesa on Ft. Bliss' McGregor Range. The military is allowing us to visit this unique and spectacular area. We should (one can NEVER promise) see lots of wildlife. Trip limited to 6 vehicles and members only. Call as soon as possible if you wish to go.

October 28, Thursday - Third General Membership Meeting. 107 Science Hall, NMSU, 7:30 PM. Program: Elizabeth Hernandez, Sierra Club Rio Grande Chapter, Population Issue Chair, to speak on world population and immigration.

October 30, Saturday - Hike Achenbach Canyon.

November 6, Saturday - Hike in the Dona Ana Mountains.

November 11, Thursday - Executive Committee Meeting

November 20, Saturday - Riparian Council Conference NMSU - Livestock Grazing and Riparian Recovery in the South west. Call Karl Wood, NMSU 646-5441

November 25, Thursday - THANKSGIVING!! Cheers! General Membership meeting postponed until December 2nd.

CONSERVATION CORNER

Welcome back from vacation! While you all were out enjoying the enchantment of the Land of Enchantment, public lands management agencies have been busy, and so have many Sierra Club members.

Tony Chiaviello heard that the Ski Hummingbird planning grant was NOT funded. The plan was for a Ski Area and runs (man made snow) on White-water Baldy in the middle of the Gila Forest and Wilderness Area. Members of the deciding board said they had never before received so many telephone calls against a proposal. To all of you who wrote or called, muchas gracias.

According to Kieran Suckling, Director of the Greater Gila Biodiversity Project, all our petitions, and letters opposing the Bull Pasture timber sale in an area of the the Gila Nat. Forest which has an unique abundance of biodiversity worked. The sale was abandoned.

According to the Silver City Newspaper, El Reportero, the Gila Forest closed two of the three pastures on the Diamond Bar Allotment to grazing last spring. If any of you saw any cows up there this summer please let us know!

The Lincoln National Forest was to have its Environmental Assessment for the Burgett Fire Salvage Timber Sale complete some time early this summer. The EA was delayed because... a bolt of lightning zapped the computer that held the document. The EA was signed July 30, 1993. An emergency was declared by the Regional Forester, Larry Henson, thus making this timber sale un-appealable, i.e. exempt from the NEPA Appeal Process. According to the EA "damaged timber that is selected to be harvested needs to be removed within 6 months or the value will decreased due to deterioration". We commented during the scoping process, that the dead trees should be left in place. Experience at Bandalier

Nat. Monument has shown that when trees are removed outstanding elk habitat is created, elk eat the new seedlings and trees never are restored to the area. Our comments were not acknowledged in the EA, nor were our concerns. By phone the Timber Manager stated, "since the Bandalier findings have never been published, the Lincoln did not have to consider them." The EA indicates fences are to be constructed to protect the seedlings. Sounds like this timber sale will be again be below cost, and the taxpayers pay again!!!

The Lincoln also was planning a prescribed burn in Jakes pasture area, just north of McGregor Range on the west side of the Sacramento Mountains. But....it rained, so the burn has been postponed until later in the year. This prescribed burn is auspiciously to create wildlife habitat, but in fact it is to create grazing habitat for cows. When I asked "A prescribed burn, for what wildlife?", I was told "ER, deer I guess." When I asked "Is the burn for cows and grazing?", I was told "Yes."

The Lincoln has also been planning to emphasize recreational development. We wrote requesting that the Forest work with the State Highway Department to blade areas in the winter along the road to Sunspot for cross country skiers to park their cars. We have not received a response in writing to this request. We'll keep trying skiers!!

The BLM Wilderness Study Areas (WSA) have received some attention this summer. The new permittees for the grazing allotment just east of the Cedar Mountains WSA proposed the construction of a new water line. We submitted Comments to the effect that, since an Allotment Management Plan is to be completed in January, the location of the water line should be part of that Plan with a goal of reducing the grazing pressures on the WSA which has been, in BLM parlance, in BLML

documents said to be "over utilized".

The Mudgett's WSA is located just north of Carlsbad Cavern National Park's Lechuguilla Cave. Yates drilling, the same Yates who had asked for a permit to drill near Lechuguilla Cave, now wants to drill in the Mudgett's Wilderness Study Area also.

Speaking of Lechuguilla Cave, the Cave Protection Act passed the House of Representatives. Senator Jeff Bingaman co-sponsored the companion bill in the Senate. This bill establishes a Cave Protection Area and withdraws mineral, oil and gas development rights. Representative Joe Skeen of New Mexico testified on behalf of Yates drilling's request for \$32m for expected lost revenue. BLM is evaluating the situation. Newspaper accounts float numbers like \$4m as being considered more realistic. We raised the question, why any \$, over outlays already made. Tax payers money going again for nothing, because of bureaucrats can not see the value of public lands in anything more than commodity production when making their plans and rendering decisions.

US Representative Andrews of Texas introduced the Capitan Reef Protection Act to consolidate the management of the cave area under the National Park Service. Presently this geologic formation that holds all the caves, is managed by three agencies, the BLM, the FS, and the National Park Service. Senator Bingaman was asked to introduce a companion bill in the Senate. He refused saying in his letter, "In my opinion, withdrawing the area from multiple-use would not result in an appreciable benefit to the resources, and I do not believe that it is necessary at this time." There seems some confusion between multiple use and multiple agencies.

continued on next page

Conservation *cont.*

The public lands managing agencies (Forest Service and BLM) in southern New Mexico have been notorious for signing contracts, before the end of the Appeal process, and in full knowledge that Appeals can be expected. Signing these contracts before the end of the appeal process is possible under existing Regulations. Then the taxpayer is asked to pay when the appeals are successful.

It has been a long hot summer. The fall schedule of events should be a lot of fun. We need some Sierra Club fun. See you at the meetings, field trips, or

Especially For Teachers

and Leaders of Youth Groups and all the rest of us also

The Sierra Club's National Environmental Education Committee has produced THE TEAM NOTEBOOK (Teacher' Environmental Action Manual. It contains 183 pages of lesson plans, activities, resources, and environmental education ideas for teachers of kindergarten through 12th grade. It covers the ground thoroughly with worksheets, diagrams, poems, classroom games and activities. The three-ring binder format allows for easy copying of individual pages. Teachers will especially appreciate the notebook's extensive resource listings, which includes bibliographies of books on the environment, lists of environmental organizations, environmental job opportunities, educational materials, and much more. Copies of the THE TEAM NOTEBOOK are available at \$15.00, plus \$3.00 with each order for shipping and handling. Please send your check or money order to Sierra Club TEAM Notebook, Dept. SA, P.O. Box 7959, San Francisco, California 94120. Or call Sierra Club Public Information at 415-923-5660.

GAP ANALYSIS: Regional Biodiversity Assessment

by Patrick J. Crist, GAP Assist. Project Director, New Mexico

Environmentalists, biologists, and land managers have been urging the use of a regional, ecosystem based approach to land management decisions for at least the past two decades. The Gap

Analysis Project (GAP) is the first federal project to undertake such an unprecedented approach, and is now underway nationally. It is currently funded and managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, primarily through the Cooperative Research Units; but with expected passage of the National Biological Survey (NBS), these units, and the project will be transferred to the new NBS agency.

The project was begun in Hawaii with a study of conservation of habitat for endangered bird species. The results of that study indicated that only 10% of the preserves coincided with the birds' habitat, and that the areas where all species were found together were excluded from protection, thus the term "Gap Analysis" was coined to describe the gap between biodiversity richness and conservation management. GAP recognizes that most preserve selection in the U.S. has been based on scenic and recreational values, and seeks to establish biology as a priority for future actions.

New Mexico GAP in cooperation with twelve state and federal agencies is using satellite (Landsat TM) imagery analysis to produce a current, detailed vegetation map which identifies the dominant cover species at a 30 pixel resolution, or .4 acre. We are currently seeking individuals from both non-profit organizations and government to provide data review and field verification to ensure a highly accurate map. If you wish to volunteer, call 646-6303. This map will be used in conjunction with several ancillary data layers and derived data layers in a

Geographic Information System to predict the distribution of about 700 vertebrate and selected invertebrate species in New Mexico.

The sum of these data layers will be a prediction of distribution of plant communities and animal species in New Mexico which can then be analyzed for species richness in relation to land management strategies that promote conservation of biodiversity. All areas of the state, including private land will be categorized according to their management for biodiversity. A comparison of areas of high species richness with management status will indicate focus areas for more detailed study.

Mike Scott, National Gap analysis program Director, recently said, "I tell people, 'Look, I'm offering you a data set you can use to make judgments on vital issues. Granted, some of it could be good news for you, or it could be bad news. But it's REAL news. It's knowledge - of the kind everyone ought to have available."

Data will be used by all government agencies, including local planning departments. The data will also be available to the public which should find it of extraordinary value in monitoring land management activities and focusing conservation efforts.

When complete, New Mexico GAP data will be merged with that of surrounding states, and eventually the entire U.S. for a true regional approach to biodiversity management. In the meantime, some states such as California and Arizona have begun implementation projects of their own which will use the full array of conservation efforts which include change of management practices or status, incentives on private lands, land swaps, or acquisition.