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Rio Grande Chapter
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El Paso, TX 79983
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 very much appreciate 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 infections in humans. This outbreak is being linked to one species of rodents. Also, the intensity of our state's perennial bovine plague problem has a direct correlation to the density of rodent populations. Both of these pathways, and their direct association with animals, illustrate the need for sound biological management and sustained healthy ecosystems. The predation 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 reverse 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 threat-hunting 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 predation, and that allow property owners to stay in business. I do not believe that these goals are mutually exclusive, but it is essential that they be carefully thought out and tailored to specific situations.

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

Again, thanks for your comments.

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

Herb Kinecy

Dear Editor,

I am writing today on behalf of Herb Kinecy, 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 recreationalists owe their lives to him.

Now it is time for us to show our gratitude and our support. Recently, State Police Chief John Denso 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 11-12: Chapter Retreat, Kingston. See notice below.

Sept 15: deadline for October Sierra


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 meetings.

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 Garnett at 505-265-3231.

Earth Share

Earth Share 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 (587-4273) or Sierra Club 1-415-923-5686.

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.

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.

The Sierra Club Population Committee does not view the increasing human numbers solely as a problem of "these 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 Battle Tract, straddling the Las-Eddy County Border near the NM-Texas border, will provide an opportunity to test the policies of the Holistic Management Resource Center.

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.

The production of natural gas in the San Juan Basin of northwestern New Mexico and southwestern Colorado is increasing. While natural gas is often referred to as a clean fuel, the production and exploration of natural gas has many environmental consequences.

WANTED

OLD ORIENTAL RUGS
AMERICAN INDIAN RUGS
PERUVIAN TEXTILES

Call Michael Andrews (415) 641-1937
From the desk of the Population Chair:

Supporting Jocelyn Elders' appointment as Surgeon General is not an environmental stand; Environmentalists are asking that family planning services be included in the Clinton Administration's basic health benefit package. Since a subcommittee is 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 numbers solely as a problem of "those poor people over there, far away over there." Yes, the International Population Assistance Campaign is a major part 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 works to 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 locally and globally. 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 in 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 are 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 Opting 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 simply shortsighted. Bangladesh has 10 million inhabitants instead of 115 million, its impoverished people could live on prosperous farms away from the dangerous floodplains amidst a natural and stable upland environment. It is also sophisticate to point to the Netherlands and Japan, and in many commentaries incredibly still do so, as models of densely populated but prosperous societies. Both are highly specialized industrial societies, dependent on manufactured goods and 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 we join the advocates in providing effective family services to all.

The Local Carrying Capacity Campaign focuses on reducing unchecked development and its adverse impact on local communities. It is a campaign with tremendous relevance for our rapidly growing regions. 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 citizens, is the optimal population, taken for each country in turn, placed against the backdrop of global demographic theory? 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. What is the optimal population for each region, placed against the backdrop of national demographic theory? Our Northwest 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 host of issues, 25,000 acres (20,000 BLM and 4,000 state) are mostly desert scrub, with some grasses grasses on heavy soils and grasses on the abundant sandy sites. Shrub, kete, bush, mesquite and willows are prominent. Ellen Madera is trying a short duration grazing cell with some success, and bright green plains tigergrass flourishes near cell center.

With not enough tigergrass or success, the Maderas have 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 South. 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-term 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, javelinas and scaled quail, to name only species recognized as game animals.

For the Sierra Club, David McClellan and Roger Peterson have been participating in goal-setting and planning sessions, and we have taken a supportive position, until 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 support the interest of stockers and other BLM and HRM practices that we might question. With HRM's planning, flexibility and worthy goals, I feel that the land has little to lose and possibly much to gain, and much will be learned.

Battlewash Ranch to Test Holistic Resource Management by Roger Peterson

Standing Rock's Red Rock Lea-Eddy County Line near the Texas-New Mexico border, the Madera sisters' Battlewash Ranch has seen hard use. Its 25,000 acres (20,000 BLM and 4,000 state) are mostly scrub desert, with some grasses on heavy soils and grasses on the abundant sandy sites. Shrub, kete-bush, mesquite and willows are prominent. Ellen Madera is trying a short duration grazing cell with some success, and bright green plains tigergrass flourishes near cell center.

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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 Bohm, Albuquerque
Blair Brown, Albuquerque
Tom Bradfield, El Paso
Tom Emery, Albuquerque
Dan Feller, Albuquerque
Sue Feller, Albuquerque
Susan Gormley, Albuquerque

Ben Haggard, Santa Fe (for mailing work)
David Hanson, Albuquerque
DeWitt Henderson, Santa Fe
Don and Michelle Meaders, Albuquerque
Ted Merig, El Paso
Caryl Merson, El Paso
Halsey McCloud, Albuquerque
Cyoto Mckinnon, Santa Fe
Liloed Raccico, Santa Fe
James R. Yoe, Albuquerque
Ira Wasi, 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 new ideas of rangeland 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 assure that the Forest Service be included in the new regulations," noted 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 new BLM standards.

Rabbit proposed 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 savings," 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 20035-5999.

McMorris for Mayor continued from first page

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

The third round was conducted in a closed meeting of members of the committee, which evaluated the inter- view responses of the candidates, their past accomplishments in government and leadership, and their political electability. The result of the third round was a recommendation of endorsements to the Group Exec. The Exec voted to accept the committee's recommendation at its regular meeting on August 9, and that decision was subsequently ratified by the Chapter Exec in a telephone vote, as required by National Sierra Club political action guidelines. Albuquerque Group Chairman Jay Sorensen cited McMorris' extensive record of environmental leadership as one of the major factors influencing the decision. Said Sorensen: "During a time when environmental sound programs and regulations are of growing importance to all the citizens of New Mexico, Cisco McMorris has been one of the most consistently supportive members of the Legislature."

Ron Gottheb, member of the Group's Executive Committee, seconded Sorensen's acknowledgement of McMorris' legislative leadership: "During the last several years, when ships were down on reforming New Mexico's antiquated and unfair mining reclamation laws, Cisco McMorris was the only member of our delegation to vote on the bill that was both effective and acceptable to the other members of the House and Senate."

In its announcement of their endorsement of McMorris 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 too: "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 affects the West Mesa, the Rio Rancho Valley and beyond. Cisco McMorris 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 percent.

A concerted effort by a small cadre of energetic, dedicated volunteers can easily swing several thousand votes to our candidate, Cisco McMorris. 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: developing an issue database, information literature at homes throughout a targeted precinct, calling voters on the telephone for information about the candidates, stuffing envelopes with information literature for mailing, hosting evening gatherings for friends and neighbors to meet the candidates, 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 Bouquet at 267-7653 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, c/o 207 San Pedro NE, or call us at 887-7653 to "Cisco McMorris 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 U.S. 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 unlikely 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.
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 or 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.
- U.S. environmental protections in other countries that are not higher than what is accepted by NAFTA parties.
- 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 the countries to ensure 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

The Sierra Club does not wish to oppose the NAFTA in Congress. However, unless the situation changes radically in the near future, we are greatly concerned that NAFTA 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 McCluskey, 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 U.S. Trade Representative must prepare an Environmental Impact Statement on NAFTA. While the EIS is informative and non-binding it would inform negotiators and the US Congress about the implications of NAFTA for the North American Environment.

According to Sierra Club Chairman Michael McCluskey, “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 filed on 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 U.S.-Mexico border environment continues to have an impact 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 pollution 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 our Represetatives, Senators, President Clinton and the National Sierra Club.

We want to initiate a dialog on NAFTA and the U.S.-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.

continued from previous page
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 organization members, various state and Federal agencies, and local and federal legislators. As you might guess, most were from Colorado, but NM, CA, KS, CO, 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. Concerns 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 within the community and the local situation. If we fail to do this, we will lose the solutions to the Federal government and will have to live with what they decide still pay the costs.
- Anti-degradation of water quality (not allowing existing pristine waters to be degraded to standards deemed acceptable elsewhere) must be enforced and enforced.
- Watershed Management (looking at an entire watershed) is becoming the more accepted approach to the management of water resources.

Environmental Concerns About Natural Gas Production by Chris Shuey, Southwest Research & Information Center

Production of natural gas in the San Juan Basin of southwestern 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 methylene chloride processing plants and gas compressor stations
Water quality:
- Disposal of produced water from gas wells may contaminate groundwater.
- 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 congestion, and maintenance of roads
- Increased number of spills of produced water
- Increased pipeline construction and attendant land disturbance
- Uproar in "lowdowner rights" movement in southwestern New Mexico and southwestern Colorado.

Letters continued from page 2

an incident in May in which Herb officially resisted in helicopter support for a body evacuation at an airplane crash site near the Santa Fe Air Base. Herb’s strongly worded comments over his two-way radio to the State Police, who were required to provide the needed support, were captured by the TV news media and aired that evening, which the State Police considered as an embarrassed. For this, our entire community must do without Herb’s expensive and dedication.

Please support Herb by writing to his state representative and the chairman of the State Senate and Rescue Review Board: Jim Gary, Chairman
New Mexico State and Rescue Review Board
3217 Tahiti NE
Albuquerque, NM 87111

Thank you.
- Gary Shiftmiller
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 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 constantly move to and from the Sierra Club members in Albuquerque might better spend their energies on chlorinating the pollution in their own city before exporting it.

Honky for the Governor’s veto and 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 (excess) and adopted standard Sierra Club by-laws. Once the chapter exec has approved the by-laws and geographic boundaries, Sierra Club members in the area will automatically become members of the new group.

BLM’s Shinnery by Roger Peterson

Shinnery is our only tallgrass prairie, the main home for sage 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 on 100,000 of its 1,000,000 acres of shinnery, preferring ungrazed grass pastures for cows to fine wildlife habitat. BLM believes that the (which have huge underground stem systems) will recover and the grass dominated by the will 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 than in untreated. An additional 100% and in numbers, but birds in treated areas were smaller, with less fat, than those with access to oak.

The 12½ 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. Saunders Addleman’s illegal decision to just go ahead and spray 3,000 acres in a "no-spray" wildlife habitat area) without issuing the decision document that would have been the basis of protest. Strong outcries to Mr. Allen, to Acting Stale BLM Director Monte Jor- dan, 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 Massantin, are honest and intelligent and have no livestock-and-Mining ax 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 oak 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 boxes, as recommended by the 1979 growing EIS). The Southern NM Group’s representative in the RMP process in Falceta Harvey (347-2910, home).
SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING
WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR THE ENVIRONMENT - A CONSERVATION WORKSHOP
By Susan Garman

Bio-Diversity...Non-Affirmation Area...Ecosystem...Reclamation...NM Edward...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!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Packing List: 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 it is something important you can do for the environment! Call Nick Nicolas, 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% of 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 Sierra. Leading meetings is optional.

Water Issues Chairman: The Water Quality and Quantity project is really taking shape with Erin Anson and Vivica Galini 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 Garman, 265-5231.

CONSERVATION BREAKFAST

Join us for coffee and bagels at E's Coffee House, Yale and Silver, to meet other activists and talk about what's happening in your favorite environmental threat! We'll start at 7:30 AM. September 27, and will all meet at the end of the day.

This is not 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 anywhere else so why not the Sierra Club?

We will 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 265-5231 for more information.

PETROGLYPH UPDATE

The Albuquerque Journal reported on August 19th that Rio Grandes Precinct "no longer has plans to pursue the $11 million outdoor amphitheater at the Southwest 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 Dominici and Mayor Louis Sisneros were informed by National Park Service director Roger Kennedy that he saw "no prospect" of extending Pueblo del Norte through the Monument and that the city "has no authority to build a highway through the Monument."

REDUCE DOMESTIC HAZARDOUS WASTE

An alternative to using packages for household cleaning agents: add a detergent浓缩 to the washing machine, wait five minutes and vacuum.

If you need to get rid of paint, print toner, motor oil, car batteries, cleaning 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. 426-6599.

CLEANING THE AIR

The RIDEPOOL Ridgeback report that the City Environmental Health Department is reporting the following data beside the fact that Albuquerque's carbon monoxide (CO) levels met the EPA standard last year. Albuquerque had to do "exceedences" in 1992, meaning that no time did CO levels exceed 9 parts per million (ppm). The highest reading, 8.8 ppm, was on Christmas Eve at the intersections of San Mateo and Menil (it was "OK for R".

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, 7. Call Terri - 265-3274 or Dave - 344-8693 for location.
- Sept: 13: Executive Committee Meeting, 7; 7: 7: 12 noon. Deadline for articles for October group newsletter; Macintosh preferred. Call Dorothy if supplying hand-copy only.
- Sept: 20: Sierra Club General Meeting, UNM Law School, Room 207. 7:30 PM.
- Sept: 27: Conservation Committee meeting, 7:30 pm.

1993 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Office Telephone: 265-5506

Group Chair Joby Sorensen 884-4314
Vice Chair Jeff Brown 265-3231
Treasurer Richard Scott 261-0879
Secretary David Bouquin 265-7853
Conservations Lon Gremmel 296-0544
Brad Cotton 265-6907
Nick Nicholson 884-5433
Steffen Verchinski 888-1370

The Albuquerque Group of the Sierra Club operates entirely on the efforts of volunteers. To help out our efforts, call the following numbers:

Activities: Teri Moyer 265-8274
Special Planning: Heidi Hausman 260-1217
Air Quality: Rich Adam 264-4657
Calendars: Bob Brown 267-8079
Petroglyphs: Richard Barron (vacant)
City Planning: Dan Pelleter 266-1922
Endangered: Rachael Bates 608-0288
Energy: Ralph Wyman 275-0856
La Fiesta: Mary Cox 345-7138
Mailings: Doreen Galliers 345-7919
Mexican Wolf: Susan Lassen 697-5257
Mining: Laura Brown 265-3221
New Mexico Dorothy Bencher 275-6113
People: Larry Campion 990-0679
Programs: David Morgan 344-5093
Public Lands: Stan Kuester 292-9318
Ridepool: Mary Beck 265-7853
Salt: Barbara Steen 344-8005
Water: Marc Bedard 299-2004

ANNOUNCES

The Garden Shop has traps baited with an insecticide (phenol) for specific species, which can help gardeners avoid repeated spraying of insecticides. Call the Council of Albuquerque Garden Clubs, 265-6028.

The 1993 Annual Meeting of the Grants Award Luncheon of the Albuquerque Community Foundation will be on Friday, October 1, 863-2240.

The Neighborhood Association Leadership Training Academy will be offered on Sep. 8, Sep. 9, and Oct. 11: 786-3790.

SEPTEMBER 1993
Outings: 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 leaving.

Fri-Mon Sept 3-6 Moderate-Strenuous Miles: 12-22 Cdr, 200 Pepee Wilderness Backpack Plan on joining the Dallas Sierra Club over Labor Day weekend on the Pepee Wilderness backpack. Several options on location. Call for details. Leader: Stan Sorensen 293-9133.

Sat-Sep 11 Moderate Miles: 1 Cdr Osoh Service Project Last time we fenced 88 cottosets. We are aiming to finish protecting an island of trees near the center of the Osoh. Bring water shoes, short, white and insect repellent. This is fairly easy terrain, but if there were just a little chicken to try the wading. Meet at 8:00 AM at Saint Joseph’s Church. Should be finished before lunch. Leader: Nick Nickolous 884-5435

Sat-Sep 11 Leisure Miles: 6 Cdr, 20 Walk for the Mountain Goat Stefan Vermichski wants to switch from hiking peaks to helping public citizens to running for City Council. We will help him our monetary labor of some by passing out literature from the front door. One of our campaign promises is to provide us with beer afterwards. Let’s see if he breaks his first promise. Meet at 2000 Espanola NE at 1:00 PM. Leader: David 344-8693.

Sat-Sep 11 Leisure Miles: 3 Cdr, Rock Canyon Peaks Hike, Pothgry PH Predecessors of the largest rock art sites in North America. Surveys have confirmed that there are numerous examples of the escarpment, a 17 mile ridge of basalt boulders created by volcanic eruptions 150,000 years ago. RSVP7 Leader: Ike Eastwood 255-7579.

Sun-Sep 12 Moderate Miles: 10 Cdr, 200 Proposed XCJ Ski Trail Service Project at 10:00 AM in the work day and evening, this is in the Old Town area of the city, will be a fun and rewarding experience for the contributors. A 17 mile ridge of basalt boulders created by volcanic eruptions 150,000 years ago. RSVP7 Leader: Ike Eastwood 255-7579.

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Sun-Sep 12 Leisure to Moderate Miles: 5 Cdr A year after Carol LD. CDs Archaeology Excavation Of Old Town, Service Project Before construction of the new Visitor Center, we will help the Al. Archaeological Society excavate an area where the first New Mexico church and a

In the Lorax
El Paso 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 September 29. Don’t forget the Alaska Wildlife Refuge, Denali National Park, and the glaciers that have carved out mountains and nested 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 Elsmere (two blocks east of Airway). For more information, call Ted Metz, 382-3011.

CALENDAR
September 1 EXCOMM (800 So. Piedras)
September 8 Deadline for Sep newsletter information (send to 331 Vista del Rey, 79912)
September 11-12 Rio Grande Chap. EXCOMM (Edelbrooks, NM)
September 29 General Meeting (7000 Elsmere) EXCOMM (800 So. Piedras)

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

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The Environmental Center
Thank you to volunteers, Jean Hagerfeldt and Josefine Heidestad 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 Sprod. 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 needs 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 working at the Center. All this, of course, in addition to the other things that he does with his life, like serve as a spokesperson for environmental issues in the Franklin Key and the El Paso region, speak to school children about the environment and lead 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: and thank you John for the many hours you’re there for.

Recycling News: During its operating hours (9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday), the Center continues to accept a

wide range of recyclable materials: aluminum cans, tin cans, newspaper, corrugated cardboard, computer paper, white office paper, plastic soft drink bottles, plastic milk and juice cartons. When you are able to, please bring the Recycling Guide; it describes materials accepted and how they should be prepared.

The Club’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? To pass our contact phone number (372-0945), John Sprod (545-5157) or Ted Metz (382-3011) if you can help.

EXCOMM THANKS COLEMAN
The El Paso Group EXComm 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 Senate Bill 20, dealing with the border (SB 20, 95th Legislatu, 1995), the Forest Biodiversity and Clearcutting Protection Act, and the Endangered Species Act Amendments of 1993.
EL PASO
OUTINGS

NORTH FRANKLIN PEAK DAYHIKE

DATE: September 11, 1993
CLASS: Moderate
LIMIT: 12, leader approval and reservations required
LEADER: Carl Hoderick, 775-3998 (hm) or 755-0544 (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 unobstructed vantage point. $1.00 per vehicle entrance fee is required. Call Carl early for reservations and details.

ORGAN PEAK DAYHIKE
Las Cruces, NM

DATE: Saturday, December 2, 1993
CLASS: Strenuous
LIMIT: 12, leader approval and reservations required
LEADER: Alice Anderson, 352-7279
Organ Peak, the second highest point in the Organ Mountains, is reached by a bristle bushly upfill Pilgrim Canyon. From there we can see it was a perfect day with the clouds being our blanket and keeping cool. As we hiked up to the top of the peak, we could see the city of El Paso and beyond. The trail to the summit is not too steep and the trees and shrubs should be displaying full colors. The views should be beautiful. The hike is nine miles round trip on an intermittent, or absent trail. Elevation gain is 3,000.

ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER SERVICE TRIP

800 Sic. Piedras

DATE: Sunday, October 3, 1993
CLASS: Easy
LIMIT: NONE
LEADER: John Spzeit, 545-5175 or Mike Episco, 833-3770
The Environmental Center is in need of some general maintenance, both inside and out. If you can spend 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 the University.

RAIN CREEK TRAIL MAINTENANCE
CARCAMP AND DAYHIKE

Gila Wilderness

DATE: October 8-11, 1993
CLASS: Easy, but bring work gloves
LIMIT: 40, reservations required
LEADER: Rollie Wickenden, 508-8402
We will leave El Paso Friday afternoon and camp at the Sacaton trailhead. Saturday morning we will be met by rangers from the Gila Wilderness, who will bring tools. We will set up on Trail 189 bristle bushing, building tread, and fixing water bars. The El Paso crew will used to spend at least one weekend a year working on Trail 189. We have a few unsolved issues in 1986, and 1987, and then the trail has been somewhat neglected. Dayspends will be needed to carry - dry water and trash. In the afternoon, we will work on Trail 188. We now have a fish ladder, kiosk and ice cream. Plans on returning to El Paso on Sunday or, if Monday in a holiday on Sunday. Come to this biweekly trail service for the Gila Wilderness.

TO THE MIDDLE FORK OF THE GILA

Cloudburst, NM

DATE: October 16-17, 1993
CLASS: Easy
LIMIT: 12, leader approval and reservations required
LEADER: Rollie Wickenden, 508-0174
This is a trip just a little more difficult than the trip done in the spring, but will be suitable and planned for beginners and some with little experience. We leave early Saturday morning and drive on our trailhead to T.J. Corrl 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 in good shape, there should be time for some dayhiking up the Middle Fork. Call and we will help you plan equipment, food, etc., if you need our help.

ROCO PASO
OUTINGS REPORTS

Hillbore Peak Dayhike/Backpack, 6/26/2793

On Saturday, seven early birds drove to Emory Pass, where we stopped up to Hillbore Peak. Being prepared for rain showers, we were pleasantly surprised that we did not have to make use of our ponchos. But we didn’t get rained on by the sun either. All around it proved it was a perfect day with the clouds being our blanket and keeping cool. After lunch on top of the peak, we said goodbye to Joe Roberts for the rest of the day and Ralf Schulte, who backhopped into Railroad Canyon. Continuing back down the trail in the sun hot El Paso were Barbara Nehring, Jeannie Blackburn, David Robertson, Lollina Alvare and Eva Poppell, dayhike leader.

Rio Grande Float Trip, 6/20/93

Our return to Perches Dam State Park after an absence of several years found the water high and fast. After floating the spillway to get the adrenaline going, we were able to launch our boats without incident. The sky was beautiful and birds were everywhere. We enjoyed the bullfrog's songs, the blue herons, and the lazy feet of the fish broken by an occasional riptide as we floated down to Goforth. Exiting the swift river proved to be the greatest challenge as we were reminded once again that our concrete kayak should be left ashore! Back at the dam, El Paso crew members Don and Grace Middleton with leader Lawrence Gibson and son Chris, had a chance to visit further with new friends from the Albuquerque Group - Tita Owen, Jake and Corey Gellet-Ross and Dana Dodge.

Minnies Loop Backpack, 7/3-5/93

We didn’t see any fireworks. There wasn’t even any lighting as we hiked the Minnies 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 Minnie Lake. Lucky for us there were no camping spots, but don’t worry, we got plenty of water. We hiked a total of seven miles along the crest to Jack’s Peak, then the trail has - some bloody neglected. Dayspends will be needed to carry - dry water and trash. In the afternoon, we will work on Trail 188. We now have a fish ladder, kiosk and ice cream. Plans on returning to El Paso on Sunday or, if Monday in a holiday on Sunday. Come to this biweekly trail service for the Gila Wilderness.

Three Rivers Camp/Cayak, 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 sit around and relax. Instead it was a full of surprises, such as woodchopping, a motorcycle and loud partying. Sunday morning we packed up and walked the trail a few miles through to the Four Rivers. We then walked back to the cars and home. We had a full group including Tony and Amanda Bente, Dale Harris, Mike Hamilton and Marla and Patricia Christianson, John and Sally McCutcheon, newscaster Sisty Moses, Eva Poppell and leader Roy McCcloud. Thanks to all for good company and especially to assistant leader Dale Harris.

Moonlight Desert Walk, 7/15/93

Two Lakes crossed headed south on the freeway on the evening of July 11. After waiting for the Measquite junction, we sadly concluded that the El Paso contingent wasn’t coming, so we drove into the desert to the powelline road. The first rattlesnake was pricked 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 our feet were full of sand. As we walked back we saw a ray of the Big Dipper appeared through the trail in the clouds. The clouds thickened to completely cover the moon. As we walked back to the parking lot under the moon, we saw lightning flashes in the distance, but rapidly approaching, thunderheads. The second rattlesnake was briefly illuminated by our headlights as we drove east. Rattlesnakes were plentiful, 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 Needlepoint trailhead for the ride back to Deming. Our small group was comprised of Rafaela Schulth, Kathy Sunday, Joe Rodriguez, Chris Gibson, Caroline Greenfield, and leader Laurence Gibson.

Sierra Blanca Peak Dayhike, 7/18/93

Although originally planning to hike Sierra Blanca Peak, I couldn’t find 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 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.

Altogether our plan views of the Guadalupe Mountains, Bear Mountain Range and Capitan Mountains were enjoyed by all as well as the sight of a distant herd of elk grazing in the lush, tall grasses. Our good-nature group consisted of Jeff Branson, Amanda Beatty, Roy McCcloud, Jean and Ben Collins, Roy Provenco, Larry Hughes, Lollina Alvarez, Dave Robertson, Rita and Andreas Schreiber, Gilbert Gallegos, Karen Schwartz, Debbie Tomassini, Olgia Denson, Wendy Mertt, Bob and Sue McFarland, Bonnie Carroll and leader Mike Episco.
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 Athouse of Eco Seco® and the Sustainable Community Institute, a permaculture-based community to be built off West Alamed Street. Robert will discuss 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 Barrenas Streets) on Tuesday, September 21 at 7:30 PM. The meeting is free and open to all.

See you there!!

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 Jurgen, Tulipiddle & 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.

>> SANTA FE GROUP OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS <<

Chair — Jana Coyer* 984-2020
Vice-Chair — Coby Mucklelog* 983-5453
Secretary/Treasurer — Lionel Soracco* 983-6715
Conservation — Van Perkins* 983-8801
Chapter Representative — Sue Mclntosh 982-4146
Publicity & Programs — Helen Moser 438-3365
Outings — Norma McCalla* 471-0005
Political Committee — Ken Hughes* 988-2927
* Member of the SF Group Executive Committee

Newsletter Editor — Kay Carlson 982-3926
Phone Tree — Martha Anne Freeman 438-0607
Membership — Pat Stevens 982-9591
Kids' Sierra Club — Justine Freeman 988-9126
Education/Recycling/Office — Carolyn Kestella 982-9570
Fundingraising —
Mark Motier* 983-5870

RULES FOR OFF-ROAD BIKING

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

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 Pats Cellar). Clothing 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 they ride. Riders should bring a lunch, water, sturdy hiking boots or shoes, and clothing suitable for the weather — unpredictable 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.
THE LOG

MEETINGS AND OUTINGS

This fall our bikes will focus on the exploring the Organ Mountains and the Dona Ana Miss. 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 Cummins 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 (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-EP 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 archaeological site at the base of Cooke's Peak, presented by Don Couchman.

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

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 - difficulties. 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 Doña Ana Mountains.

November 11, Tuesday - Executive Committee Meeting.


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

SOUTHERN NM

Southern New Mexico Group

Group Directory
Marthar Thacker, Chair 522-3421
Steve Schollery, Vice Chair, Outings 522-8419
Jim Zeilinger, Treasurer 556-6207
Tony Chiavetta, Conservation Chair 515-1802
Karen Utley, Publicity Chair 834-6402
Andrew Hanle, Co-Chair, Outings 518-2252
David Pospichal, Program Chair 515-8246
Cheryl Brazilian, Publicity Chair 515-4861
Libby Jordana, President Chair 527-1460
Jean Winsor, Agriculture Chair 267-4227
Erica Paskin, Log Editor 287-7243
Susan Worthy, E-mail Diversity Chair 645-5322
David McClurg, Carco Chair 887-5761
CONSERVATION CORNER

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

One of the highlights that the Birding Day planning committee is looking forward to is the Siskiyou Biodiversity Project, which is scheduled for March 25. This project will bring together experts from various fields to discuss and develop strategies for protecting and conserving the rich biodiversity of the Siskiyou region.

The project will include workshops on topics such as birding, wildlife monitoring, and habitat management. There will also be opportunities for hands-on field work, including bird surveys and plant identification. Attendees will have the chance to network with other conservationists and share ideas and resources.

The Siskiyou Biodiversity Project is a collaboration between the Oregon Natural Heritage Program, the Siskiyou Land Trust, and the University of California, Davis. It is supported by a grant from the National Science Foundation.

For more information, please visit the project website at www.siskiyouscience.org. We look forward to seeing you there!