**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**

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Annual dues include subscription to Sierra magazine ($7.50) and Roaring 20s Seniors ($1). Some and pats to the Sierra Club support our effective citizen-based advocacy and policy programs, and there are no tax-deductible as standard options.

- Enclose check and mail to: Sierra Club
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**Texas Legislative Wrapup**

Compiled by Tom Brasfield

**The State of Texas** is in split between the Sierra Club Chapters.

El Paso, Lubbock, and Hudspeth counties are part of the Rio Grande Chapter with the remainder of the state making up the Lone Star Chapter. The Lone Star Chapter maintains a conservation office in Austin for the purpose of lobbying both the Texas Legislature and state agencies. Members of the El Paso Group work with the Texas state conservation office on various environmental issues. The following report was prepared from information provided by the Lone Star Chapter.

The 73rd Texas Legislature ended its 1993 session this summer and the Sierra Club has been evaluating it from an environmental perspective. Lone Star Chapter Director Ken Kramer said that "without the [lack of] legislative action, this has been the worst session on environmental issues in over a decade." Kramer added that "the best thing the Texas Legislature did for environmental protection this year was to quit and go home.”

According to a voting record analysis done by the Sierra Club, a clear majority of Texas House members and almost 2/3 of the members of the Texas Senate voted against the environmental position almost every time a vote was taken. Only 26 members of the House (out of 150) and four members of the Senate (out of 31) voted for the Sierra Club position on more than 1/3 of the roll call votes on environmental issues.

"The record of the majority of House and Senate members on the environment this session was abysmal," said Kramer. "Almost everyone in Texas knows that the 90s are the ‘decade of the environment.’ Unfortunately, when it came to environmental protection, the majority of Texas legislators seem to think this is the 1980s rather than the 1990s.”

The majority of the House Environmental Regulation Committee, House Agriculture & Wildlife Committee, and Senate Natural Resources Committee members were people who had the worst environmental voting records of the session. Indeed, both Rep. Warren Chism, chairman of the House Environmental Regulation Committee and Sen. Bill Sims, chairman of the Senate Natural Resources Committee, had zero environmental voting records.

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**Sierra Club Opposes Trade Pact**

The Verdict: NAFTA Would ‘Jeopardize Our Environment’

**WARNING**

That the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) would end the United States’ environmental sovereignty, the Sierra Club has announced it will oppose passage of NAFTA.

"U.S. environmental laws are the envy of the world and should serve as a model to other nations," said Sierra Club Chairman Michael McChesney. "But this NAFTA would provide loopholes for the weapons the judges refuse to allow, there are now many classes of weapons.

The United States, Canada and Mexico wrapped up talks on NAFTA in August. The Clinton administration must still sell the package to a skeptical Congress before it can become law.

The White House had hoped to put the pact into effect by Jan. 1, 1994. But with polls showing widespread public indifference and key congressional leaders such as Missouri Democrat Dick Gephardt opposing the administration faces an uphill battle.

"Clinton promised to fix environmental problems in a side pact," said
Dear Mr. Bednar,

I read with interest the "Jobs vs. Democracy" article by Mary Lou Jones, President, Zion Mountain Coalition in the July-August edition of the Rio Grande Sierran. I encourage the democratic process espoused by Ms. Jones and appreciate her concern. However, the article contained some information I wish to clarify so that your readership and Ms. Jones are properly informed.

McKinley paper's proposed facility will consist of a warehouse/receiving area, a stock preparation area and a paper production area. The facility will receive post consumer corrugated cardboard purchased from recyclers who have collected and baled the material. The source-separated, baled cardboard will be sold to McKinley Paper as raw material which will then be manufactured into rolls of new cardboard and other products.

After review of the technical information furnished by McKinley paper and analysis of the Air Quality Control Regulations, the Department determined no air emission standards would be below thresholds that trigger the requirement for an Air Permit.

The Department held a public hearing in Grants on June 2, 1993 to determine whether a ground water discharge plan would be required. The Department determined that no discharge plan would be required, as there would be zero discharge. All liquids will be kept in a closed-loop system utilizing reverse osmosis treatment and reuse. The liquids themselves are not toxic, more resembling a weak saline solution. Any spills or leaks will be captured by an internal drainage system and returned to the closed-loop system.

A recycling facility is required to have a solid waste permit. However, McKinley Paper's facility is not a recycling facility. It receives material that has already been collected and separated at a recycling facility and returned to use as raw material. The cardboard collected by a recycler is recycled material as defined by the Solid Waste Act.

Ms. Jones' article states that McKinley Paper is working with Sandia Labs to compost the leftover cardboard with fly ash that "contains amounts of heavy metals that even the EPA finds dangerous." Please be assured that if such a composting project were proposed, full laboratory testing of the compost would be required to ensure the end users and the environment would be adequately protected.

When I began my position as Secretary of the Environment, I stated on several occasions that the citizens must "hold the Department's feet to the fire." This questioning is what I mean and I welcome it. All parties must be fully informed and I will continue to strive for more complete understanding of the issues we face in protecting our environment.

Thank you and Mary Lou Jones for bringing these concerns to my attention. I enjoy the Rio Grande Sierran, look forward to future articles, and am available to discuss environmental concerns with your readership.

Judith M. Einoginsa
Secretary
NM Environment Department
Santa Fe.
Notes from the Population Chair:
Environmental Impacts of Population Growth

The environmental impact of any population is the impact per person multiplied by the number of people. Typically, environmentalists emphasize the per capita environmental impact (e.g., garbage production, water pollution, habitat destruction), although the per capita impact is only part of the problem. For example, it would require a major effort to decrease the total per capita impact by 10 percent. However, if population were to grow by 10 percent (as per capita impact declined by 10 percent) there would be essentially no net decrease in impact. At present the U.S. population is growing at almost one percent per year (the doubling time is 80 years). Clearly, any discussion of sustainable development must consider both the number of people and their levels of consumption. Thus it is surprising that some environmentalists still reject the concept of population growth as relevant to conservation efforts. Here are two examples of this approach.

This June, President Clinton announced the formation of the Council on Sustainable Development. He appointed business leaders, environmentalists, and government officials to the Council. He did not appoint any demographers or population specialists. How can the Council effectively design sustainable development policies without considering population issues?

Clearly, sustainable agriculture is one aspect of sustainable development — but any ecosystem is sustainable in the face of unbridled population growth. "Renewable" resources are not unlimited — we are using them faster than they can be replaced. For example, soil nutrients are depleted as land is used to produce more food. Chemical fertilizers are used to compensate for this loss of nutrients. However, fertilizers are a threat to water supplies. And energy is required to produce fertilizers. As population grows, more land is cultivated. But in many parts of the world, there is little suitable land left to bring under cultivation. The remaining land is marginal, semi-arid, mountainous, or rainforest. At present, land is being degraded through soil erosion, salinization and desertification. In addition, it is being covered by roads and houses. As a result, arable land per person is declining. In Africa, the decline is alarming: 17 percent of the land area there is now seriously degraded.

As arable land is lost (because it is eroded, or because houses or roads are built on it), people notice that there is a "shortage" of land. However, thinking in terms of "shortages" of land, water or energy leads us away from the root problem. As Garrett Hardin suggests, it is just as reasonable to be a "longage" of people. There is, however, a sense in which the term "longage of people" is more appropriate than "shortage of land" or water. It seems most appropriate to use the term "shortage" or "longage" for quantities which we can change. It is impossible to significantly increase the total land area of our finite Earth. What can change, and what has increased, is population. The land area has not increased. There is a "longage" of people, and a "longage" of per capita appetite for land, water, and energy.

Or consider water resources. The Colorado River does not reach the ocean. The Ogallala aquifer has less water than it had previously. Why? Has there been a shortage of rainfall? No.

The rain still falls. But population has increased. Again, there is a "longage" of people.

What you can do: Write to President Clinton and urge him to appoint demographers and population specialists to his Council on Sustainable Development. Population matters must be seen as pertinent to any discussion of sustainable development.

Population issues are not recognized as important at the Environmental Protection Agency. For example, Environmental Impact Statements do not assess the effect that projects will have on population. Thus the impact of the resulting population change is not considered in an EIS.

The EPA also lacks demographers and population specialists. Carol Browner (the new head of the EPA) said in May that the EPA has already avoided most of the gains possible through "end-of-the-pollution-stream" enforcement. Browner argues that now we need to move upstream to prevent pollution from taking place. Population growth is, of course, a big "upstream" contributor to pollution. It is time for a population department at the EPA.

What you can do: Write to Carol Browner and urge her to create a population department. Population effects must be seen as an important environmental impact.

This month's column was co-authored by Libby Hernandez (Population Issues Chair) and Steve Bill.

Ancient Forest Campaign: Clinton's Plan Fails the Test
From the Sierra Club's National News Report

It is rare that an American President has taken as keen an interest in our nation's public lands as President Clinton has taken in the fate of the ancient forests of the Pacific Northwest. The President now faces a historic decision on how to protect this magnificent natural heritage and to guarantee it to future generations. The ancient forests, after suffering decades of abuse at the hands of the U.S. Forest Service, could finally be rescued by Clinton, but to make the right decision he must hear from all of us in the Sierra Club.

Clinton is being besieged by letters generated by the timber industry and its allies in the "wine use" movement. These anti-environmentalists seek to prod the largest possible amount of logs from our Northwest national forests, even though these same interests benefited from Clinton in last year's election. However, Clinton has a rare opportunity to respond to the support the Sierra Club and other environmentalists gave him in the race. He can use this good and he will be keen to hear our thoughts.

At the same time, federal agencies are seeking comments from the public on a draft plan that Clinton has tentatively approved.

The administration's draft plan does not look good. While it is far better than earlier plans proposed by the Bush Administration, it still fails to adequately protect the endangered forest ecosystems of the Northwest on two counts. First, it sets up a system of "recreation" that are not really protected from logging. The federal agencies could pursue massive thinning of forests, as well as "salvage" of dead or dying trees that actually may be beneficial to the forest ecosystem. Logging will always be detrimental in some way to a forest resource and is simply inappropriate there.

Second, the plan does not protect enough of the virgin forest areas that are crucial to the survival of rare wildlife, plant, and fish species. Many stunning groves of trees that have survived nearly a millennium have, incredibly, been left out of the reserves. Particularly lacking from the reserves are younger natural forests that grow up after wildfires and insect storms. These are our best natural laboratories for studying these complex ecosystems regenerate themselves, and they will become the old growth forests prized by future generations.

Congress, in failing to resolve the ancient forest issue for the past decade, has abdicated the decision to the President. The burden has now fallen on President Clinton, who will consult with his Cabinet officials this fall before making a final decision on the fate of the forests. Our letters and calls on this issue have already produced a major impact on the new Administration and prevented Clinton's draft plan from being worse. A loud voice from the environmental community on this issue is critical to the final plan. If you rarely write letters to government officials, make this the time you write.

Please compose a short letter that includes the following points:

- No logging in Ancient Forest Reserves. All remaining ancient forest must be included in reserves that are completely off-limits to logging. We must not destroy any more ancient forest when all that remains is less than 10 percent of what once existed.

- Fully protect forest streams. Logging must not be allowed near forest streams because it heavily degrades water quality, increases the risk of flooding, and threatens wild salmon runs at risk of extinction. Streamside buffer zones, both in and out of re-
Texas Legislative Wrapup continued from first page

on the floor of their respective houses, and both carried some of the worst en-
vironmental legislation of the session.

Kramer asserted that the anti-
environmental record of most Texas legislators was reflected in the progress
which bad bills made during the re-
cently concluded legislative session. He noted that even environmentalists
and their allies were able to stop several bad bills from passing, a number of "anti-
environmental" bills, especially those seeking to curtail local government ef-
forts to protect the environment, passed both houses. Several other such bills
made considerable progress through the process before being stymied in the
last few days of the session.

There were a handful of positive notes during the session such as the
successful passage of H.B. 706, which shifts major funding for state and local
parks from a declining revenue source (the state lottery) to a more logical and
dependable source (the sporting goods tax). There were a handful of other
good bills which passed, but the ma-
Jority of good environmental and con-
servation bills went down to defeat or
ever went anywhere. Scott Royder,
State Conservation Director for the Lone Star Chapter, mentioned the bill
to regulate mountain lions and the bill outlawing so-called "canned hunts" as
two examples of merely needed wildlife
legislation which failed to pass. Royder indicated that the majority of Texas
legislators proved through their actions
on wildlife issues this session that they
are out of touch with the views of the
public and are mired in outmoded con-
cepts of wildlife management. He cited,
for example, the passage by the House
of a resolution urging Congress to
weaken the federal Endangered Species Act even though a clear ma-
Jority of Texans favor that law.

Indeed, Kramer and Royder em-
phasized that the majority of Texas
legislators, through their votes on en-
environmental issues, are clearly ignoring the wishes of Texas citizens for
stronger environmental protection, as

Texas Legislative Wrapup continued from previous page

Senate Bill 684 - "Animal Dung Doesn't Stink" Bill: This legislation
would have exempted agriculture op-
erations from all state air pollution
requirements. A $50,000 daily ceiling
could have moved next door to a subdivision with no citizen protection by air pol-
ution. This legislation was defeated in the House.

Senate Bill 1226 - Takings Legisla-
tion: SB 1226 would have required the
state attorney general to develop
guidelines for the evaluation of state agencies and
governments could evaluate whether their regulatory actions con-
tinued private property. This bill was totally unnecessary because
causes takings issues have not be
considered on a case-by-case basis to
determine if a taking for which
compensation is necessary has actually occurred.

GOOD BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES

Senate Bill 609 - Pesticide Pre-
vention: This bill, which restricts a local government's ability to regulate
pesticides, became law without the Governor's signature.

Senate Bill 1051 - Solid Waste
Management/Recycling: Although this may sound like a good bill, it is
essentially a "Christmas tree" bill full of a number of prized concepts
sought by economic special interest
groups involved in solid waste man-
agement or recycling. One of the most
offensive features of this bill is the en-
couragement of the use of what is
known as "mixed municipal solid waste dumping" as a waste man-
agement technique. Mixed MSW dis-
posal is essentially the practice of
taking the whole waste stream and
putting it into one or two of the
people to be used as solid amendments, or landfill. It is environmentally unsound.

Senate Bill 811 - Xeriscaping
Requirements: This bill will require state
agencies to move toward the use of"xeriscaping," a water-conserving land-
covering technique, by including
the locations of state buildings and roadides.

House Bill 706 - State & Local
Parks Funding: SB 706 will divert a
portion of the sporting goods sales tax
to the Texas Parks & Wildlife De-
partment's state and local parks ac-
count. This bill supports the TPWD's
parks and natural areas ac-
quisitions program for preservation of
the state's natural resources. Texas is still far behind in meeting Texas's de-
mands for open spaces. Texas ranks 33rd in park land per capita.

House Bill 2600/SB 1234 - Dedica-
tion of Fees to Environmental Pro-
grams: Among other provisions, this bill
reestablishes the dedication of en-
vironmental fee revenue to environ-
mental regulatory and remediation pro-
grams. This dedication was lost during the
last term of the legislature.

GOOD BILLS THAT WERE NOT ENACTED

Senate Bill 583 - Mountain Lions: SB 583 would have designated Texas
an American mountain lion as a game spe-
cies. Thus, although nobody knows (including the Texas Parks & Wildlife De-
partment) the status of the mountain lion population in Texas, unlimited and
unregulated killing is still allowed. Texas remains the only state where mountain lions reside that does not regulate them to any extent.

Senate Bill 584 - Animal Dung Doesn't Stink: This bill would have
exempted agriculture operations from all state air pollution requirements. A $50,000 daily ceiling could have moved next door to a subdivision with no citizen protection by air pollution.

Senate Bill 1226 - Takings Legis-
lation: SB 1226 would have required the state attorney general to develop guidelines for the evaluation of state agencies and local governments could evaluate whether their regulatory actions constituted a taking of private property. This bill was totally unnecessary because causes takings issues have not been considered on a case-by-case basis to determine if a taking for which compensation is necessary has actually occurred. The only aim of this bill was to discourage regulatory actions.

GOOD BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES

Senate Bill 814 - Xeriscaping
Requirements: This bill will require state agencies to move toward the use of "xeriscaping," a water-conserving landscaping technique, by including the locations of state buildings and roadides.

House Bill 706 - State & Local
Parks Funding: SB 706 will divert a
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VOTING RECORD OF WEST TEXAS LEGISLATORS

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PRO - Number of votes cast for Sierra Club's position
CON - Number of votes cast against Sierra Club's position
ABSENT - Number of votes absent, excused, absent, and not voting
PERCENT - Percent of votes cast for Sierra Club position

OCTOBER 1993
Covanda, Prairie Dogs and ADC

by Marc Bedner

W
ith all the media attention about Hantavirus, Albuerque county agencies have been receiving calls from residents to control the prairie dog population. Many calls have come from the foothills area, where prairie dogs are more numerous this year, even though there is no evidence that prairie dogs carry Hantavirus. (Prairie dogs in rural areas have been known to transmit plague, but there has been no report of plague associated with a prairie dog in Albuquerque since 1940.)

In an effort to deal with the calls, City Councilor Michael Brasher has introduced a bill (R-329) to contract with the US Department of Agriculture's Animal Damage Control agency (ADC) to get rid of prairie dogs and other animals considered to be "nuisance animals." The bill includes an appropriation of $50,000 in city funds, and recommends that Bernalillo county appropriate a similar amount.

ADC has a long history of eliminating coyotes, prairie dogs, and other animals considered to be a threat to ranchers. Its policies of indiscriminate poisoning and trapping have become so notorious, that it is now launching a campaign to change its image. Part of the campaign involves changing the name of the agency to Wildlife Services. Another aspect is presenting themselves as professionals whose services are available to city dwellers as well as ranchers and farmers.

Members of the Sierra Club, Sangre de Cristo Animal Protection, and Prairie Dog Pals have been meeting with Councilor Brasher and the Albuquerque Environmental Health Department to come up with an alternative. Since most of the problem appears to be an unfounded health concern among city residents, we have stressed the need for an educational program, and have volunteered to help with such a program. Prairie Dog Pals has also offered to relocate prairie dogs out of crowded city neighborhoods.

We have also pointed out that ADC employees are not professionals, and have no experience in public relations. According to the most recent ADC Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), three quarters of their time and money is spent on ranchers, and most of the remaining funds go to killing birds at Eastern airports.

According to the EIS, there is "no data available" regarding the persistence in soil and water of cholecalciferol, the poison the ADC plans to use in Albuquerque. The only previous ADC experience with this poison listed in the EIS is in Vermont.

What you can do:

Call your city councilor at 768-3100. Phone calls are effective: they were a major factor in convincing the City to propose the project, which was originally scheduled to be heard in August.

Testify at the city council meeting, Monday, October 18, 5 PM, at the City County Building (downtown Albuquerque at 5th & Marquette). Although we hope to convince Councilor Brasher to drop the bill, it will still be on the agenda, and a public presence will help insure that the city does not spend money on an unprofessional agency like ADC.

For more information, call Marc Bedner at 299-2004.

Condos or Cows

Several recent articles in papers around the country have suggested that we must make a choice between condos and cows on our public lands. The claim is that efforts to achieve reform of public land ranching is driving the ranchers off the lands, and that they are selling out to developers. A recent public television "documentary" sponsored by the livestock industry played the same theme.

Cows or condos? appears to be the latest attempt by the welfare ranchers to confuse the issues, to hide the fact that our public lands are being destroyed by livestock.

Before we are too quick to blame the environmentalists for the condo, let us consider a few other facts and ask a few hard questions:

- The condos are not being built on public lands; they are being built on private land.
- It is the ranchers, not the environmentalists, who are making millions selling their private lands to developers.
- Why should we allow who has such disrespect for private land and its value to wildlife to destroy our public lands as well?
- There are vast, solid blocks of public land broken only by isolated and small tracts of private land.

Fifty thousand acres of prime wilderness surrounding a forty-acre development is still fifty thousand acres of prime wilderness.

Even wilderness next to a large city has value.

The Sandia Mountain Wilderness has no cows on it, and it is completely surrounded by developments.

Is it the removal of cows that drive the developments?

Is not Albuquerque with all the other developments around the mountain richer because of the livestock-free wilderness?

What would happen to large blocks of our public lands if they were developed? Yes, the "wise use" crew would like, to the same ranchers that are destroying the small tracts of private land.

The condos are appearing on private lands even with livestock on public lands.

One of the sources of capital to develop the private comes from the loans the public land ranchers can take out using their below-cost federal grazing permits as collateral.

Is it possible that we can save some of the private land, and at the same time we are saving our public lands?

We need to keep the issues of cows on our public lands and condos on the adjacent private lands separate. Both the cows and the condo have an impact on our native wildlife. We need to address both, not end up with more of both. The solution to the condo problem is certainly not more cows destroying our public lands. The solution to the condo problem is certainly not privatization of our public lands.

Distributed by Public Lands Action Network. For more information, write to PLAN, P.O. Box 5631, Santa Fe, NM 87502, or call (505) 857-3062.

Cont'd. from previous page

Yellowstone Wolf Plan Draws Fire

A federal plan to reintroduce wolves to Yellowstone and central Idaho puts the animals at the mercy of the same groups that eradicated the wolf from the region decades ago, environmentalists warn.

"The proposal is simply too late," said Betty Bufington of the Sierra Club's Northern Plains field office. "The opportunity for abuse for killing wolves on a whim is just one of the blind spots of this so-called protection plan."

Long vilified in folklore as a bloodthirsty predator, the wolf was systematically eradicated from the West in cattle and sheep ranching spread in the early 20th century. The gray wolf is still numerous in Canada, making a temporary home in Minnesota and Alaska where it is considered threatened and has been listed as endangered in every other state since 1973.

The reintroduction of wolves into northern Rockies was conceived by environmentalist as a natural step in restoring the natural ecosystem. But now they say that the plan may sabotage a process that appears to be occurring naturally.

Under an exception provided by the Endangered Species Act, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Protection has proposed the wolves in the reintroduction program as "non-endangered experiment" populations. This designation could save the Fish and Wildlife Service to deny protection for wolf habitat and allow livestock owners and other landowners to kill wolves.

Bufington said the Fish and Wildlife Service recommended weak protections for the wolves to overcome the objections of area livestock owners.

For more information: Contact Betty Bufington in the Sierra Club's Northern Plains field office, (307) 672-7440.

To take action: Write Ed Bangs, Gray Wolf EIS Project Leader, P.O. Box 8017, Helena, MT 59601. Urge him to adopt augmentation as the strategy for reintroducing wolves the only alternative that places all wolves in Yellowstone and central Idaho under the full protection of the Endangered Species Act. Deadline for comments is Oct. 15, 1993.
1994 Sierra Club Calendars
America’s Best-Loved Nature Calendars

Trail Calendar
With fabulous peaks and passes as the backdrop, this features breathtaking photographs of mountain climbing, hiking, skiing, and expeditionary ascents around the world.

Wilderness Wall Calendar
This dazzling visual experience features natural masterpieces of the North American landscape, from the Oregon coast to the wilds of the Colorado Rockies and the wetlands of Georgia in this latest edition of the country’s best-selling nature wall calendar.

Engagement Calendar
Last year’s edition of this calendar was a sellout! Filled with brilliant images of Mother Nature’s most divine wildlands in North America, and plenty of room for notes, appointments and addresses.

Pocket Calendar
Experience nature on an intimate scale with thirty-eight photographs that reveal amazing patterns in items ranging from a fish’s eye to a flower petal.

How Not to Be Cowed
Livestock Grazing on the Public Lands: An Owner’s Manual

The following review will acquaint activists—and anyone concerned about the need for grazing reform on our public lands—with a recent and very timely booklet, “How Not to Be Cowed,” by Vicki Hoover, chair of the Sierra Club public lands committee’s grazing subcommittee, and other authors. With President Clinton’s recent administrative increase in grazing fees and other measures to help heavily grazed federal lands, activists are taking a greater part in this important debate than ever. The reviewer, Vicki Hoover, is a public lands activist with the San Francisco Bay Chapter.

Even if you live in a city,
No doubt you have thought it a pity
That on much western public land
Cattle grazing’s got out of hand.
The hum to areas riparian
The trampling, the erosion, the wearing down
The subsidies paid for by tax
Are burdens on those who pay the max;
Loss of plants burdens the ground;
A remedy MUST soon be found!

What to do? Get Congress to act—
To legislate redress after the fact;
but they balk, delay and dither,
While western grasses still wither.

Getting Congress to reform
Is so slow—inaction’s the norm.
Is there nothing now we can do?
Yes—we have a solution for you!

We have a slim book with advice,
Giving methods both practical and nice,
On how you, citizen activist, eagerly
Can make your own efforts less meager;
On how to give real help—not just ineffectual,
How to push BLM into being effective;
On how your vigor can inspire
BLM field staff to perform higher.
You’ll learn to assess damage causes;
How to get input into the process,
By which ranchers get to put cattle into spots where they do battle
With the land’s productivity;
Till the earth loses ability
To recover its fertility.
You’ll learn to direct BLM
On how many cows, and when,
May cavort in any given field,
Depending on dryness and yield.
This book’ll give you handy tools:
To dictate to BLM’s good rules;
To define issues on which they’re terrible,
To be an “affected interest” that’s credible;
To insist BLM show true cost,
To assure NEPA regs are not lost;
To manage each allotment very well,
So precious resources don’t go to hell;
To make sure the quality of water
Remains as good as it is sought to;
To get BLM to monitor and assess;
Or, if they go, to confess;
Persuade them to regulate and consider,
To act firmly, improve, and deliver
So their promise of real stewardship
Will be more than just service of lip;
To push for agency documentation
Of appropriate implementation
That can save wildlife and vegetation.

It might appear to you amazing,
That YOU can really reform grazing;
All this power and more
Lies ahead of you in store;
If you order your book now
You can become master of the cow.
Though you search far and wide,
You’ll find no other such guide
That not only laments the cancer,
But teaches you to find the answer.
We’ve only copies in stock
For those who would help lock
Our precious lands in the West
Into uses that for all are best.
Chief Sierra Club author Rose
Streikland had been pointing out wars.
From Johanna Wild, Joe Feller, Ken Rait,
Together they say hurry don’t wait—
Your action’s needed to help give us control
Of valued lands we’d like to keep.
Only three dollars—send your check—
Quick before the West’s a total wreck.

Ordering Information: To receive a copy of the activist’s manual, “How Not to Be Cowed”, (70pp), send a check for $3 per copy to Rose Streikland, P.O. Box 9056, Reno, NV 89507.

Calendars will be on sale at Sierra Club group meetings in Oct. and Nov.

OCTOBER 1993 RIO GRANDE SIERRAN
NAFTA Would Jeopardize Our Environment

Sierra Club Executive Director Carl Pope. "Now the fix needs fixing. Let's face it, it's broken and we should start again."

After reviewing the text of the just-concluded environmental side agreement promised during last year's election campaign as a way to address environmentalists' concerns Sierra Club analyst condensed it would not fix problems outstanding in the initial pact negotiated by the Bush administration.

Early on, the Sierra Club identified four major problems with the trade agreement. It proposed: 1) leave U.S. environmental laws vulnerable to challenges under NAFTA; 2) shut out the public from much of the workings of NAFTA, especially in the trade dispute process; 3) fail to clean up the heavily polluted U.S.-Mexico border, perhaps the most telling legacy of trade thus far; and 4) pressure the United States to lower its environmental, health and safety standards to match weaker laws and tax enforcement in Mexico.

Ancient Forest Campaign

...must be given the full protection called for by the administration's Scientific Advisory Team. • Protect all "round" forests. Forest areas still without roads and undisturbed by logging must not fall to the chain saw for any reason. • Limit experimental forestry. "Salvage and thinning" logging must be limited to areas outside reserves that have been previously logged. These experimental techniques should not be used unless determined they will improve habitat conditions for ancient forest species. • Protect all ancient forest species. Forest protection must assure a "high probability" of survival for all the unique, ecologically diverse ancient forest species. • Minimize timber industry influences. Proposed "adaptive management areas" must not be given industry special incentives or financial incentives to deforest the timber cutting in national forests. Many adaptive management areas should be converted to ancient forest reserves and managed for the best interest of all Americans, not just local communities.

Send your letter to: Interagency SEIS Team P.O. Box 3623 Portland, OR 97208-3623

Letters must be postmarked no later than October 28, 1993. The earlier your letter arrives, the more impact it will have.

Remember with a Memorial Gift

Consider saving a meadow instead of sending flowers. You can honor and preserve the memory of a special person while providing important funds towards accomplishing the Sierra Club's long term goals.

For more information call Teresa Swersey at (415) 776-2211.

SIERRA CLUB
Memorials Program
730 Polk Street
San Francisco, CA 94109

SANTA FE

SANTA FE GROUP NEWS
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1993

Our October general membership meeting will focus on Atalaya Mountain and its neighboring arroyos, valleys, peaks and ridges. Right now, legal access to Atalaya is limited to the familiar trail, which begins at St. Johns College and Ponderosa Ridge. But even this route is endangered due to the claims of private ownership and continuing development on Atalaya's western slopes. Sierra Club and Friends of Atalaya are working to gain several new access easements to Atalaya in order to establish a system of trails along paths already familiar to many hikers. Only minutes from the Plaza, the Atalaya region offers Santa Feans a convenient, quiet experience of the outdoors.

The program begins with slides taken "on the trail" by Charles Bell. This will familiarize you with the geography and beauty of the Atalaya area. Next, you'll hear a panel discussion of the problems and of the actions being taken and still required. On the panel will be Tom Simons (president of Friends of Atalaya), Kent Williamson (activist concerned with development on Atalaya) and Ouida MacGregor (City Council member working for Atalaya). Following a question period, you'll learn what role you can play.

Here's a chance to help the Santa Fe Group do something for Santa Fe. Be there. The general membership meeting will be held at the Unitarian Church (on Barcelona between Don Gaspar and Galisteo) on Tuesday, October 19 at 7:30 PM. The meeting is free and open to all!

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, Tallmadge & With, 322 Montezuma. The next two meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, November 2, and Tuesday, December 7, 1993. All members are welcome to attend and bring your lunch.

The Conservation Committee of the Santa Fe Group meets at 7:00 PM on the fourth Tuesday of each month at the group office, 440 Corilllos 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, October 26 and Tuesday, November 23, at 7:00 PM.

> > SANTA FE GROUP OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS <<

Chair — Jana Oyler* 984-2020 Newsletter Editor — Kay Carion 982-3926 Vice-Chair — Cody Mackley* 983-5483 Phone Tree — Martha Acme Freeman 438-0697 Secretary/Treasurer — Léonard Soracco* 983-6715 Membership — Pat Stevens 982-5052 Conservation — Van Perkins* 983-8801 Kids' Sierra Club — Justine Freeman 988-9126 Chapter Representative - Sue McIntosh* 982-4146 Education/Recycling/Offering — Chapter Committee — Ken Hughes* 988-9297 Cucylo Kaessla 982-9570 Datings — Norma McCallon* 471-0005 * Member of the SF Group Executive Committee Political Committee — Mark Mortier* 982-5870 Terms expire 12/93: McCallon/Mortier/Mackley/Oyler/Soracco 12/94: Hughes/McEntosh/Kaessla

>> SANTA FE GROUP OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS <<

OCTOBER 1993 RIO GRANDE SIERRA

12
SANTA FE
SANTA FE GROUP OUTINGS

Sat-Sun  October
2  Lionel Sorace (983-6715) Moderate Hike to Ciénaga 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) Steenshose Hike Lake Katherine; 14.5 mi. Leave at 8 AM.
4  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.
5  Norrine Sanders (984-0386) Easy Hike Pacheco Canyon Road and Borrego Trail. Leave 8:30 AM.
6  Julie Montoya King (438-7197) Moderate Hike to Golerita Ghost Town. 6.5 miles round trip; 950' elevation gain. Leave at 8 AM.
7  Art Judd (982-3212) Steenshose Hike Tramp Lake. 11.5 mi. 2,440' elevation gain. Leave at 8 AM.
8  Bob McKay (672-3296) Steenshose Hike from Ponderosa Campground to Old Bidwell Road, 10 miles round trip, 2,000' elevation gain. Call leader for meeting place.
9  Louise Leopold (983-4992) Moderate Hike on Aspen Vista. Dogs allowed. Leave at 8 AM.
10  Steven Janus (984-4137) Moderate-Hike on La Duc Trail and off-trail to the Thumb. Possible stop for dinner in Albuquerque afterwards. Leave at 7:30 AM.
11  John Jasper (982-8572) Easy/Moderate Hike on Lower Wimer Trail to Big Tesqueque. Leave 8 AM.
12  Joe Whelan (984-0746) Moderate Hike Call leader for destination. Leave at 8:30 AM.
13  Elizabeth Altman (471-8490) Easy Hike to Tent Rocks. Leave 9 AM.

Sun  November
6  Arnold and Carolyn Keshulla (982-9970) Easy/Moderate Hike on Forest Road 79. Leave 8:30 AM.
7  Victor Ayala, Jr. (471-7854) Easy/Moderate Hike in the Cerillos Hills. Leave 8:30 AM.
7  Caroline Glick (984-3184) Steenshose Hike to the Stone Lions. Call for reservations.
13  Lionel Sorace (983-6715) Moderate Hike to Shaggy Pekik and Apache Canyon. Mostly off-trail. Wear sturdy boots. Leave 9 AM.

Thu-Fri-Sat-Sun  (Nov 11-14)
Norma McCallan (471-0005) Car Camp and Moderate Day Hikes in Moab area of SE Utah, including hike up Prof Canyon and trek to Pritchett Arch. Dogs allowed. Leave Wed. (11-10) PM.
20  Steven Janus (984-4137) Steenshose Hike to Pecos Badly (condition uncertain). Leave 7:30 AM.
21  Bob McKay (672-3296) Moderate Hike on the Burro Trail in Bandelier. Call leader for time and meeting place.
27  Norrine Sanders (984-0386) Steenshose Hike to the Stone Lions from Ponderosa Campground. 15 miles round trip. Leave 8 AM.
28  Joe Whelan (984-0746) Moderate X-C Ski (if snow; otherwise Moderate Hike); call for details.
28  Norbert Sperlich (983-1962) Moderate Hike on the Cajal del Rio. Leave 8 AM.
28  Elizabeth Altman (471-8490) Easy Hike to Kitchen Mesa, near Ghost Ranch. One rock scramble. Leave 9 AM.

ALBUQUERQUE
ALBUQUERQUE GROUP

October General Meeting: Transportation Alternatives
By Ralph Wrems

October is National Energy Awareness Month - a good time to focus on where we as individuals and as citizen activists stand on energy production, use, and conservation. The sector of greatest energy use in Albuquerque, as well as in New Mexico and the United States, is transportation. Between 1985 and 1990, the metropolitan area population rose by approximately 6% while transportation energy use increased by nearly 33%. As gasoline consumption has increased, so has traffic congestion. Vehicle emissions contribute 74% of the air pollution in Bernalillo County, according to the 1991 State Energy Policy.

In Albuquerque, there are several efforts underway to address and improve the situation. The City's first Energy Strategy, complete and approved by the Administration but not yet approved by the City Council, has a section devoted to transportation system improvements. The Shared Vision Transportation Caucus is focusing on the alternative modes of transportation to help move us away from our reliance on the single occupant vehicle, which constitutes about 80% of all trips.

And finally, the Middle Rio Grande Council of Governments (MRGOG), the transportation planning agency for the Albuquerque Metropolitan Area, has issued the region's first Long Range Transportation Plan. Because the city is a non-attainment area for carbon monoxide (CO), it has to be implemented by October 1, 1993. The highlight of the LRTP is the section detailing with the recommendations of the City's Advisory Committee.

The October general meeting features two members of the CAC, Sabra Basler and Paul Silverman. Both are ardent and indefatigable advocates for a multi-modal transportation system. Sabra is the Director of Ridepool and served as Vice Chair for the CAC. Paul is a local developer, currently serves as the Chair of the Shared Vision Transportation Caucus and was a motivating force on the CAC. Our two guests will share facts and figures, but more importantly, how to and why we must achieve a more balanced mode of transportation split.

We will meet on Monday, October 18th, 7:30 P.M., in room 2401 of the UNM Law School at the NW corner of Mountain and Stanford NE. Please be aware that during the school year, even after normal hours, there is a $1 fee for parking in the lot. The permit can be obtained inside at library desk, or you can park on the street. Please bring a cap if you care to have the refractions provided by the Club. Preceding the main program, we mention upcoming events and outings, recaps of outings and alerts on issues with opportunities to write letters and to get involved.

Hope to see you there!

2 Cents Makes Sense

In the upcoming October 5 election, Albuquerque voters are being asked to vote on a number of tax and bond questions. The first choice they will have is whether to support a 2 cent per gallon increase in the tax on gasoline.

The Albuquerque Group of the Sierra Club supports a yes on the 2 cents per gallon. While we certainly don't support increased taxes as a rule, we feel that the benefits that the city will realize from the additional funds make the increase worthwhile of our vote.

How will the money be spent?
- Half of the money will be used to improve transit service with more frequent service during weekdays, later evening service, improved weekend service, park and rides, bike racks on buses, bike storage lockers, and improved SunVan service.
- One quarter of the money will fund pothole repair and resurfacing of problem roadways to keep our streets in safer condition.
- The other quarter of the money will construct and maintain a network of off-road bike trails to connect the entire city and improve the street system for commuter cyclists.

What are the benefits? Cleaner air, energy conservation, improved health, environmental quality, additional recreation and less traffic congestion - all goals of the Sierra Club.

What can you do? VOTE ON OCTOBER 5th!
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Program Chairman: It's not too late to take on this great opportunity of finding and bringing the programs you think would be most interesting for the monthly General Meetings. This is really a fun job, and easy, too. All you do is call the potential speakers to invite them to present a program, send notices to the press, and write the notice for the Serran. Leading meetings is optional.

Water Issues Chairman: The Chapter has selected Water Quality and Quantity as a priority campaign for 1994. Albuquerque Group needs people to work on water conservation and groundwater protection. If you live in Bernalillo County and drink water, these issues hit you by where you live! Volunteer today!

For information about these positions, contact Susan Gourley, 265-3321.

Albuquerque Group Executive Committee: Elections are coming up in Jan-

uary and we need nominations for the executive committee. If you are inter-

ested or have someone you want to recommend, call Jay Sorensen, 884-4314.

REMEMBER TO VOTE ON OCTOBER 5th!

The Albuquerque Group has endorsed Cindy McSeigler for mayor. Please read the interview article the July/August Serran and the endorsement article in the September Serran to learn more about Cindy's positions and history of sup-
port for environmental issues. Cindy is the ENVIRONMENTAL CANDIDATE.

If you live in the areas bound by Louisiana, Montgomery, Juan Tabo, and Lo-

can, you are probably in City Council District 7. If you are in District 7, a County Clerk. Albuquerque Group has endorsed Stephen Voelkel in this race. He is a strong activist and advocate for environmentally sound city pol-

icy. For more information on his position, call him at 888-1370.

1994 Sierra Club calendar on-sale now! Call the Sierra Club office (265-5505) to place an order.

The Rio Grande Nature Center has a variety of activities this month, in-
cluding the annual birds of a feather weekend, October 23-26. Call 344-7240 for more information.

CALENDAR

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

Oct 5: Election Day
Oct 5: Activities & Special Planning meeting, 7pm. Call Terri - 265-8247 or Dave - 344-8693 for location.
Oct 7: Mexican Wolf Coalition, 7:30 PM.
Oct 11: Executive Committee Meeting, 7PM.
Oct 12: Macintosh Training (see Outings) 7PM. Dave - 344-8693.
Oct 13: Sierra Club Office Open house (see Outings) 5PM. Dave - 344-8693.
Oct 13: 12:00 Noon. Deadlines for articles for Nov-Dec newsletter. Macintosh preferred. Call Larry if supplying

hurry only. Note that this is a two-month issue!

Oct 18: 5 PM City Council will consider contract with Animal Damage Control.
Oct 18: Sierra Club General Meeting, UNM Law School, Rm 2402, 7:30 PM.
Oct 25: Conservation Committee meeting, 7:30 PM.
Nov 2: Activities & Special Planning meeting, 7pm. Call Terri - 265-8247 or Dave - 344-8693 for location.

Abbreviations: WS - Wilderness Study Area NM - National Monument SCI - Sierra Club SW - Santa Fe Wilderness

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


RIO GRANDE SIERRAN OCTOBER 1993

RIO GRANDE SIERRAN OCTOBER 1993

16

17
Sunday October 10: We’ll meet at the north parking lot of the Pan American Center at 8:00 am for a day excursion to Pine Tree Trail. It’s on the east side of the Organ Mountains, so wear layers, it may be cool. Bring plenty of water and a snack. This is an easy hike, but will take a good part of the day.

Saturday, October 16: Get ready for the hike of your life as we ascend the Organ Needles. This is a very difficult hike that will take all day! Bring lots of food and water, and wear good hiking boots. Please call Steve Kalavity for reservations and information at 382-8419.

Saturday, October 23: We are having an field trip to Otero Mesa on Ft. Bliss/McGregor Range. The military is allowing us to visit this unique and spectacular area. We may see lots of wildlife! The trip is limited to six vehicles, and members only. Call Marianne Thaele for a reservation at 522-3421.

Saturday, October 30: Take a hike with us to Achenbach Canyon. This is a local and easy day hike. Call Steve Kalavity for more information at 382-8419.

Saturday, November 6: We’ll have another nice day hike to the Doña Ana Mountains. Call Steve Kalavity at 382-8419 for more information.

Meetings

Thursday, October 14: There will be an Executive Committee meeting at the Southwest Environmental Center at 7:00 pm. (This is a tentative schedule so dates may change!)

Thursday, October 28: There will be a general meeting at Science Hall room 107 on the NMSU campus. Elizabeth Hernandez of the Rio Grande Chapter will give a program on “World Population and Immigration.” All are welcome.

Thursday, November 11: The Executive Committee will meet at 7:00 pm All Sierra Club members are invited.

Saturday, November 20: The Riparian Council is holding a conference at NMSU, on Livestock Grazing and Riparian Recovery in the Southwest. Call Karl Wood at 646-5441.

The LOG needs more articles!
The Southern New Mexico LOG has been allotted three pages of space in the Rio Grande Sierran. We need people to write small articles on topics of interest such as local environmental problems, events, issues and general fact finding information. All entries should be received by the 11th of each month in order to meet Sierran deadlines. If you would like to submit an article, please mail it to:

Marianne Thaele
2015 Huntington Dr.
Las Cruces, NM 88011.

SOUTHERN NM

NEW MEXICO WILDERNESS COALITION
By Marianne Thaele

On Sept. 3, 1993, Dutch Salmon, Chair of the New Mexico Wilderness Coalition sent a letter to Jim Baca, Director, of the Bureau of Land Management in Washington, urging him to correct flaws in the New Mexico BLM wilderness inventory, study and recommendation process. The Wilderness Coalition represents all conservation groups in New Mexico working on wilderness issues, including The Wilderness Society, Sierra Club, National Audubon Society and dozens of others, supporting a proposal to designate 2.5 million acres of BLM in New Mexico as roadless wilderness areas.

The Coalition Proposal represents the culmination of almost two decades of work by citizens across the state who have dedicated themselves to identifying and studying the extraordinary resource values of each and every area proposed. They inventoried not only BLM lands but Forest Service and State Lands also.

On May 22, 1992, President Bush sent to Congress a New Mexico BLM Wilderness Proposal. The Bush proposal would protect only 487,186 acres in 25 areas and release to development 420,400 acres in 39 areas. Ironically, then BLM State Director, Larry Woodward, sent forward another proposal including another additional 220,627 acres. This illustrates the magnitude of the flaws in the study and recommendation process.

The Wilderness Coalition is asking the BLM Director to conduct on the ground inspections, to exercise his discretionary authority under Section 202 of the Federal Land Management Act to study the wilderness suitability of lands in the Coalition proposal that BLM failed to recognize, and to expand interim protection to include the more than 700,000 acres of non-Wilderness Study Area land that the BLM manages but failed to acknowledge during the inventory process, and to place a moratorium on all surface disturbing activities in the wilderness candidate lands until Congress makes a final decision about which areas to permanently protect.

Notice was made of what appears to be concerned efforts, (also reported here), to place new developments including stock tanks, pipelines, oil and gas wells, etc. in wilderness candidate lands.

NMSU Student Sierra Club

The Student Sierra Club is off and running for the semester. We have lots of fun outings planned, and some interesting guest speakers lined up. Our meetings are on the 1st Wednesday and 1st Thursday of each month. Come join us at 7:30 pm in Science Hall room 107 at NMSU.
## OUTINGS

**Abbreviations:** WSA- Wilderness Study Area, NM- National Monument, SC- Sierra Club, W- Sandia Wilderness

Outings may be cancelled or changed due to weather or other reasons, please call before leaving charging.

### Sun Oct 7 - Leisure-Moderate Miles 4 Car 150 "Walking Along the Jemez River"

Traveling along the East Fork of the Jemez River from an easy to moderate forest, the area offers some beautiful scenery. We will leave the car and hike out to the Jemez Ranger Station if we get two laps already.

### Sun Oct 11 - Leisure-Moderate Miles 24 Car 150 "South Fork Jemez Trail"

Our group will hike down the South Fork Jemez Trail. We will stop and see the river and the beautiful scenery along the way.

### Sun Oct 14 - Leisure-Moderate Miles 4 Car 150 "Petroglyph NM Hike"

Our group will hike to the Petroglyph National Monument. We will see the beautiful petroglyphs and learn about their history.

### Sun Oct 17 - Leisure-Moderate Miles 3 Car 140 "Boca Negra Canyon"

Our group will hike in Boca Negra Canyon. We will see beautiful scenery and learn about the history of the area.

### Sun Oct 21 - Moderate Miles 5 Car 140 "Artists' Cabin Autumn View"

Our group will hike to the Artists' Cabin. We will see beautiful fall colors and learn about the history of the area.

### Sun Oct 24 - Leisure-Moderate Miles 4 Car 150 "Tree Spring Trail Hike"

Our group will hike along the Tree Spring Trail. We will see beautiful scenery and learn about the history of the area.

### Sun Oct 27 - Leisure-Moderate Miles 3 Car 140 "Tremont Trail Hike"

Our group will hike along the Tremont Trail. We will see beautiful scenery and learn about the history of the area.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**Program Chair:** It's too late to take on this great opportunity and make the programs you think would be most interesting for the monthly General Meetings. This is really a fun job, and easy, too. All you do is do to the potential speakers to invite them to present a program, and submit notices to the press, and write notice for the Sierra. Letting meetings is optional.

**Water Quality Chair:** The Club has selected Water Quality and Quantity as a priority campaign for 1994. Albuquerque Group needs people to work on water conservation and groundwater protection. If you live in Bernalillo County and drink water, these issues hit you where you live! Volunteer today!

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

### REMEMBER TO VOTE ON OCTOBER 16th

The Albuquerque Group has endorsed Cindy McSkerney for mayor. Please read the interview article in the July/August Sierra and remember to vote in the September Sierra to learn more about Cindy's positions and history of support for environmental issues. Check the ENVIRONMENTAL CANDIDATE.

If you live in the area bounded by Louisiana, Montgomery, Joa Tabor, and Loveta, you are probably in City Council District 7. If you live in the area bounded by Sandia, Central, and County Clerk. Albuquerque Group has endorsed Stephen verdinovski in this race. He is a strong activist and advocate for environmentally sound city policies. For more information on his positions, call him at 888-1370.

### 1994 Sierra Club calendars out now!

Call the Sierra Club office (265-2500) to order an.

### The Rio Grande Nature Center has a variety of activities this month, including the annual Birds of a Feather weekend, October 22-24. Call 344-7240 for more information.

### CALENDAR

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 5</td>
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<td>6PM.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 4</td>
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<td>7:30 PM. Call Terri - 265-8274 or 344-8692 for location.</td>
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Bats

By Marianne Thaeler

When dead or ailing bats are found they should not be touched! According to the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish only about 1% of bats contract and carry rabies. (Dogs and cats also contract and carry rabies.) Bats have recently been the subject of public health announcements. The following interesting facts about bats are excerpted from a paper written by Kris Paulsen, a Student Sierra Club leader at New Mexico State University.

In the world to day, many organisms are facing a decline in populations and even extinction. Many species of bats are endangered. There are many benefits to be derived from bats. In the past people collected bat droppings (guano) to use as fertilizer. Guano is presently being researched to clean up toxic waste, since one tablespoon of guano can contain up to 600 species of bacteria. Bats also consume large quantities of insects. Bats disperse seeds for many important plants in the southeast, and are important to the pollination of many native plants.

Bats have very good vision and use memory when leaving their roosts. Bats use echolocation to find food at night. Echolocation is defined as an energy-emitted form of orientation using high frequency sound waves. These sound waves are bounced off a prey and other objects back to the bat, and collect in specially developed facial membranes and large ears. These sound waves give the bat a clear picture of what is around, and are so precise that the bat can determine the difference between a moth and a beetle without the aid of vision. Although bats use echolocation for moving around, bats are not blind. Bats also have highly specialized and acute hearing which aids the echolocation process.

Here in New Mexico a highway overpass just outside of Belen was built with special consideration made for bats. People are building bat houses to put in their yards, realizing that the bats will act to naturally control insects. Bats are fun to watch at Carlsbad National Park. There is a group of bat conservationists called Bats Conservation International (BCI). You may have seen some of their T-shirts and mugs.

ADC in the Gila National Forest

By Marianne Thaeler

The following letter arrived my desk dated August 30, 1993:

United States Department of Agriculture
Animal Plant Health Inspection Service
Animal Damage Control Program
In cooperation with
New Mexico State University-New Mexico Department of Agriculture

Hello:

USDA, Animal Damage Control is in the initial stages of conducting an environmental assessment for Animal Damage Management on lands administered by the Gila National Forest. When complete, this assessment will be used to prepare an operating plan for ADC animal damage management for the Gila National Forest. This analysis will examine the environmental effects of animal damage management on the forest and wildlife resources. Livestock depredation by coyotes, bear and mountain lion will be the primary focus. Public comments are invited and encouraged. Please send all correspondence concerning Animal Damage Management to:

Animal Damage Control
P.O. Box 30003, Dept. 4001
Las Cruces, NM 88003-0003

Responses will be accepted until September 30, 1993. Thank you for your input.

Sincerely,

Alan May District Supervisor

Need I say that the Gila does not need ADC? The EA should address the taking of individual roguine animals ONLY. And as citizens to NMSU cooperating in the above venture, no matter the fact that it is the New Mexico Department of Agriculture, it should not condone the standard operating procedures of the Agency, as this letter head would have one believe it does. And if we are graduates, as I for one am, Masters in Public Admin, should we object as alumni! ADC in New Mexico does not recognize single animal control. We would like to suggest that in addition to commenting to the proposed EA, letters, and or comments be sent to:

Dr. James Halligan, President
New Mexico State University
Dee. Hasley 210
New Mexico State University

SOUTHERN NM

Getting A Good Start... When you bring recyclable materials to the Environmental Center, your newspaper, corrugated cardboard, and tin cans all go in large dumpsters. Those dumpsters are provided at low cost/ no cost by Waste Management of the Southwest and, most recently, El Paso Diagou. We greatly appreciate both companies helping us in this way, and we appreciate their commitment to the promotion of recycling in El Paso.

Our Latest Volunteers at the Center: Jan Hartman, Roy McBee and Denise Stafford have done a great job. Many thanks to all!

Would You Like to See Your Name in Print? We love to publicly thank our volunteers who give so generously of their time. Your name, too, can appear here because the Center has a critical need for volunteers on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Can you contribute a few hours each week or each month to keep the Environmental Center at full strength? Please contact the Center (535-6405), John Sproul (545-5157) or Ted Merig (852-3011) if you can help.

The Environmental Center

OCTOBER MEETING

The Environmental Defense Fund is gearing up to launch its El Paso-Juarez Clean Air Project, and our October general meeting will be your chance to learn more about it. Pete Emerson, Senior Economist for the EDF, will be our speaker on Wednesday, October 27. He will outline EDF's plans to promote improved air quality in the El Paso-Juarez area by taking advantage of opportunities for international cooperation among government, business and the public. He'll also address environmental implications of the North American Free Trade Agreement.

The program will begin at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 27, at St. Paul's Methodist Church, 7000 Edgemere (two blocks east of Airway). For more information, call Ted Merig, 852-3011.

OCTOBER 1993

GROUP DIRECTORY

Executive Committee
Chairman/Public Lands Ted Merig 852-3011
Vice Chairman/Finances Mike Sproul 545-1157
Secretary Joe Rodgers 853-6655
Treasurer Karen Mariner 246-9209
Member/Outings Mike Elcote 337-3770
Member/EDF Richard Rinder 544-5659
Member/Programs Barry Judd 544-5741
Conservation Tom Brauer 584-6793
Nature Action Jim Bell 581-8846
Population open

Administration
Environmental Center open
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Membership Carol Greenfield 594-7343
Publicity Todd Daughter 505-7790

EDF/Bell E-mail/Sierra Club Wyo Torren 852-0521

Sierra Club Environmental Center
800 S. Piedras
532-9645, 532-4846
Send all changes/corrections to Membership Carol Greenfield, Membership Roll 3190 East 8th/3993 Street

Send LORAX information to Wyo Torren, Editor, 331 vista del Rey, 79912

1994 SIERRA CLUB CALENDARS

Enjoy the beauty of nature throughout the year with one (or more) of the always beautiful Sierra Club calendars. There are four to choose from this year: Trail, Wildlife, Wildlands, and Medieval Earth, in addition to the engagement and pocket calendars. They make great gifts for the holidays! They will be on sale at the October and November meetings. Prices range from $9 to $13. If you aren't able to make the meetings to pick out your favorites, call Ted at 852-3011.

CALENDAR

October 6 EXCOM (800 Sq. Piedras)
October 13 EXCOM (800 Sq. Piedras)
October 27 General Meeting (7000 Edgemere)
November 3 EXCOM (800 Sq. Piedras)
December 1 General Meeting for both November and December (7000 Edgemere)

20 RIO GRANDE SIERRAN OCTOBER 1993

21 RIO GRANDE SIERRAN OCTOBER 1993