

Driving On Earth: A Quiz

by Ken Hughes, Energy/Transportation Chair

Okay, let's see how really environmentally conscious you are. Let's take something everyday, like the car, which has given us unprecedented mobility, speed, freedom and more horsepower than kings had in other times. But the car is a great servant but lousy master. These machines, which number half a billion worldwide, are major polluters. Through this ten-question quiz, let's see what in fact a big deal cars do play upon the environment.

1. Americans collectively drive each day to and from _____.

- a) Mars c) Saturn
- b) Jupiter d) Pluto

2. Santa Fe County has 107,106 motor vehicles (more than one for each of its residents.) A single tree can absorb 13 pounds of carbon dioxide per year from the atmosphere. How many trees does Santa Fe County need to absorb the carbon dioxide emitted by its cars?

- a) 259,345 c) 4,219,976
- b) 1,320,809 d) billions and billions

3. Albuquerque drivers burn up enough gasoline every day to

- a) fill ten gasoline trucks.
- b) cover Lobo Stadium.
- c) load a supertanker.
- d) suck the Permian Basin dry.

4. For every gallon of gasoline burned, a typical car emits _____ pounds of CO₂.

- a) 1 c) 10
- b) 2 d) 20

5. Oil spills from ships, pipelines, oil drilling platforms, trucks and trains occur

- a) daily c) annually
- b) monthly d) weekly

6. Do-it-yourself oil changers who don't recycle their motor oil pollute the equivalent of _____ Exxon Valdez spills a year.

- a) 1 c) 20
- b) 5 d) 35

7. What is the percentage of the *real* costs of driving covered by the 6 cents per gallon tax increase soon to be repealed by the state legislature?

- a) 1 c) 19
- b) 10 d) 35

8. A typical residential lot devotes _____ of its space to a driveway and/or garage.

- a) one-tenth c) one-quarter
- b) one-half d) one-third

9. Tires, required to be recycled in all states but Alaska and New Mexico, are scrapped at a rate of _____ per second

- a) 1 c) 9
- b) 3 d) 39

10. The biggest welfare abusers turn out to be _____.

- a) public lands ranchers
- b) foreign-owned national forest logging companies
- c) Canadian-based mining companies
- d) you and me as motorists

Answers
1. D 2. C 3. D 4. B 5. C 6. D 7. A 8. D 9. B 10. You be the judge!

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RIO GRANDE SIERRAN

News of the Rio Grande Chapter
Sierra Club • February 1994

Range Reform Re-forms

by Roger Peterson

Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt is shifting ground in major ways on reform measures. This fact, bruited in the press for weeks, was brought to us forcefully by Mr. Babbitt and Assistant Secretary Bob Armstrong when they met with ranch and public interest representatives in Albuquerque on January 20. Morning meetings were behind closed doors with five ranchers followed by five environmentalists, and then (after lunch with Governor Bruce King and Senator Jeff Bingaman) with both groups together before an invited audience of twenty-plus from the two camps plus reporters, throughout the day with a silent handful of observers from BLM (including Acting State Director Bill Calkins) and from the Governor's and Congressional offices. Major participants were chose by the Governor's office and not (as *Albuquerque Journal* editorials accuse) by Interior.

On the 19th Mr. Babbitt had completed an eight-week series of meetings with corresponding groups in Colorado. On the table there was "the Gunnison proposal," prepared by the Gunnison County Stockgrowers' Association, Inc., and High Country Citizens' Alliance of Crested Butte. The proposal emphasizes local control by a council of two ranchers, an environmentalist, a hunter, and a citizen-at-large (all at least five-year residents), who would have final say in spending a somewhat enlarged grazing fee based in part (as now) on costs of producing livestock, but also partly on costs of administration by Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management (BLM), with a third small part to provide a return to the U. S. Treasury. Mr. Babbitt said that the Colorado "process" was enormously successful; even (continued on page 6)

Pat Wolff To Run For State Land Commissioner

Rio Grande Chapter executive committee member Pat Wolff has announced that she will run as an Independent for the office of Commissioner of Public Lands in the November 8 general election. Wolff will be challenging the current commissioner, Ray Powell Jr., who was appointed to the position last year by Gov. Bruce King. Several other Democratic and Republican candidates will also be in the race.

If elected, Wolff said she will ensure that state trust lands are managed for the benefit of public interests, not special interests. She also promised to respond to environmental concerns with more than lip service.

"The wealth of state trust lands must be sustained so we can continue extracting revenues from them for our public schools, universities, and other public institutions long

into the future," Wolff stated. "To achieve that goal, we must balance revenue generation with environmental protection, while finding new ways to generate income for the land office's designated beneficiaries."

Wolff said her campaign will be a grassroots effort to reach out to a broad spectrum of constituents looking for an alternative to politics as usual. She also hopes her candidacy will inspire other women to run for public office. As an Independent, Wolff will need to collect 12,337 signatures on nominating petitions to be filed July 12 with the Secretary of State. Registered New Mexico voters of any party may sign petitions for Independent candidates. If you would like to help circulate petitions, make a campaign contribution, or help in any way with the Wolff campaign, call 989-1663.

February Meetings

Santa Fe

Come join Victor Martinez, Jr. and George Jackson from the Santa Fe Ski Area Containment Coalition for an entertaining and informative presentation, including George's famous magic act. Tuesday, February 15, 7:30 P.M., Unitarian Church on Barcelona between Don Gaspar and Galisteo. See page 18.

El Paso

Will the Endangered Species Act survive this Congress? Activists from Gila Watch and Greater Gila Biodiversity Project will discuss its prospects. Wednesday, February 23, 7:30 P.M., St. Paul's Methodist Church, 7000 Edgemere, two blocks east of Airway. See page 15.

Albuquerque

The State Land Office manages 9 million acres of land and generates \$140 million for public schools and other institutions. Does it also pay attention to environmental values? Ray Powell, Jr., the current Land Commissioner and a candidate for re-election, will give his views on the subject. Monday, February 21, 7:30 P.M., UNM Law School, Room 2401, corner of Mountain and Stanford, NE. See page 12.

Southern New Mexico

Janis Hartley of the State Land Office (see above) will speak on "Cultural Properties on State Trust Lands," Thursday, February 24, 7:30 P.M., Science Hall, NMSU, Room 107. See page 21.

Chapter Executive Committee

The next Chapter ExCom meeting will be on March 5-6 in El Paso, location to be determined. Call Gwen Wardwell or Susan Gorman for more information.

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Rio Grande Sierran is published by the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club as a membership benefit for Sierra Club members living in New Mexico and West Texas. Send address changes to The Sierra Club, 730 Polk St, San Francisco, CA 94109. Nonmember subscriptions at \$10 per year are available from the Albuquerque office; please allow 8 weeks for processing.

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Contributions are welcomed from members and non-members. Send to *Rio Grande Sierran*, 3312 Camino Prado Vista, Santa Fe, NM 87505. Articles should be submitted by the 15th of the month prior to publication. Preferred format is on Macintosh disc as Microsoft Word file. Other formats may be compatible--check with editor. Letters and articles are subject to abridgement at the editor's discretion.

**Printed on 100% post-consumer waste
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EDITORIAL

Repealing Gas Tax a Bad Idea

One of the major issues facing New Mexico legislators this session is a possible repeal of the gas tax increase enacted last year, in view of a supposed surplus in the state treasury. Governor King favors repealing all but one cent of the six-cent tax increase.

This would be a bad idea for at least two reasons: the State needs the money, and the tax helps to discourage automobile use.

Is there any question that the money could be put to good use in New Mexico? As Sue McIntosh points out in her article on page four, approximately \$4 million is needed to bring wildlife management into the 20th century in this state. The Environment Department is facing a \$900,000 shortfall in funding this year. Education and social services always need additional funding, etc.

The gas tax also serves a useful public policy purpose in that it discourages individuals from driving. There are few activities engaged in by individuals that are more environmentally destructive than automobile use. According to the World Resources Institute, the real cost of driving is \$5.52 per gallon, if you include all of the externalities such as pollution, congestion, parking space requirements, attendant emergency medical services, etc. This is a good time to be raising the gas tax further, especially considering that the price of gasoline is at an all-time low in real dollars (even less than it was before the early 1970s). Indeed, Norway recently raised its gas taxes by a dollar per gallon.

Rather than crowding on the gas tax repeal bandwagon, New Mexico legislators and Governor King should consider how these revenues can be put to good use, including ways to make mass transit a more viable transportation option for New Mexicans.

—KB

From the Chair...

Amid charges of being too friendly with elected officials and groups with differing views, we need to pause and consider our goals. These are to preserve and protect the physical environment and human communities and cultures. One way we protect the physical environment is to get good laws passed, good regulations adopted to implement the laws, and strict enforcement of the laws and regulations. This means we have to work with legislators of various persuasions to get bills passed, the Governor to ensure he does not veto good legislation, boards and commissions to adopt regulations, and agency staff to enforce laws and regulations. On issues involving the federal government we again need to work with Senators and Representatives from both parties and officials in various departments.

Similarly, if we are to protect communities and cultures, we need to look for ways to protect the physical environment which do not endanger lifestyles or livelihoods.

None of this means that we do not present our own views. It does mean that we present them in a way that does not eliminate the possibility for discussion with persons with other views.

At some point, we will consider endorsing candidates for public office, but we are not at that point yet. When we say yes to one candidate, we will be saying no to her/his opponents, but even this can be done in a courteous manner. In the meantime, we intend to work with any and all appropriate persons to accomplish our goals.

—Gwen Wardwell

On the Waterfront

by Vickie Gabin (with apologies to E. Kazan)

The Sierra Club's involvement in regional/statewide water matters is increasing as water issues rise to the forefront of New Mexico's consciousness, and the need for coordinated, focussed stewardship of our water resources is gaining public acceptance. The following is a short description of activities in the recent past; if any strike you as an action activity, call me at 986-3884 for contacts.

Eric Ames, our other Water Issues Co-chair, provided testimony to the Water Quality Control Commission in recent hearings on water quality standards. Call him at 988-4714 (Santa Fe) or 266-6842 (Alb.) for ideas on water quality activism.

Regional water planning efforts received vehement Sierra Club support, and I hope to be included in the Interstate Stream Commission's task force which will work on providing structure and standards for regional plans, as well as the elements necessary for a statewide planning process. It's not too late to express your local concerns to the regional committee where you live.

Amigos Bravos invited Sue McIntosh and I to its October retreat to look at ways to expand its activities in the near future. Amigos is spearheading a Rivers Assessment Initiative in which I'm involved as well; they've been able to get a remarkable degree of cooperation and participation from federal and state agencies, and Indian pueblos and tribes. The Rivers Assessment objectives include identifying and evaluating river values and uses, promoting public involvement and awareness, and pinpointing critical data needs for future rivers protection.

The State Engineer's advisory task force on water policies as they relate to the three water rights applications in the Middle Rio Grande--Intel Corporation, Albuquerque and Rio Ranchos--held a public meeting in Bernalillo January 7. An impressive number of local residents spoke, as well as a good number of hydrologists and experts in other sciences. Much of the comment was focussed on the U.S. Geological Survey's latest report describing the aquifer underlying Albuquerque as much smaller than originally estimated. I commented on the legal process

(continued on page 8)

Chapter to Launch Fund Raising Appeal

by Ford Robbins

On March 1 the Rio Grande Chapter will launch its annual fund appeal, "Partners in Activism." In recognition of your role in Chapter and Group accomplishments, we will be asking you to become a partner with Chapter/Group activists through your financial contribution to our efforts in environmental protection and preservation.

As reported last month, 80 Chapter activists spent more than 15,000 volunteer hours of their time in 1993 representing your interest before municipal, county, state and federal legislatures, agencies and courts. Their accomplishments are impressive.

The Chapter accomplished a major long-term goal with the passage by the New Mexico legislature of the New Mexico Mining Act. Since passage, we have been actively involved in the preparation and drafting of the implementing regulations.

The Albuquerque Group saw its efforts produce the adoption of the Middle Rio Grande State Park Management Plan; the Bike Facilities Plan; the drafting of the I-40 Bikeway Plan; significant involvement in the improvement of the air quality in the Albuquerque Metro Area, so that the city became an attainment city in 1993, the only city of its size that is in attainment of air quality standards this year; continued protection of Petroglyphs National Monument despite intense pressure from the city to extend the Paseo del Norte right-of-way through the monument; the establishment of a site-specific advisory board to Sandia Labs and Kirkland Air Force Base, on which Group members sit; and the reintroduction of an inner-cities outings program.

The Southern New Mexico Group was equally active, working on forestry issues in the Lincoln National Forest; protection of Otero Mesa, which has recently been proposed as a low level bombing range under the "Range Master Plan for Fort Bliss, Texas"; stabilization work at Mason Ranch, 25 miles north of Las Cruces; continued work on the Diamond Bar grazing issues; and work with the BLM Wilderness Issue Study Committee.

In 1993, the El Paso Group found itself involved in border environmental issues; continued work on issues concerning the Franklin Mountains; work with the BLM Wilderness Issue Study Committee; and

continued outreach to the community through its Environmental Center.

The Santa Fe Group joined with other environmental and local groups to jump start support for development limits in the foothills and mountains east of the city; worked to secure the purchase of the city's water system by the city, rather than a private company, thereby saving hundreds of pristine acres along the Santa Fe river from development; and helped a local community organize grassroots support against a proposal to build roads and test drill for oil and gas in an environmentally fragile and paleontologically rich area near the community.

There were many more accomplishments in 1993. To attain this record of achievement not only takes hours of dedicated volunteer effort, it also takes money. We recognize that most of us are not able to make a large time commitment. For that reason, in March we will be asking you to join us as a Partner in Activism to help us fund our continuing effort in the protection and preservation of our precious environment.

☐ Yes, I want to help safeguard our nation's precious natural heritage. My check is enclosed.

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Funds Sought for New Division at Game and Fish Department

by Sue McIntosh

The Sierra Club is in the forefront of an effort to obtain funding for the new Conservation Services Division (CSD) of the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (DGF). While the name is new, CSD is actually a consolidation of existing personnel and programs dealing with habitat evaluation, protection of endangered species, environmental education and evaluation of proposed federal land management actions. CSD should play the most important role in protecting species and conserving habitat of all of the agencies operating in New Mexico.

More than \$200 million is spent on non-consumptive "use" of New Mexico's wildlife, yet the State spends almost nothing to protect the resource that generates this revenue.

Unfortunately, CSD is and always has been underfunded. DGF estimates that approximately \$3.9 million in additional revenue is needed to enable CSD to meet the needs of wildlife and habitat conservation annually. The Sierra Club, along with other groups, has joined in an effort with the Game and Fish Commission to develop a legislative strategy to obtain the necessary funding.

The situation at CSD has become dire in the past few years. Because of the real shortage of funds combined with some changes in management line authority, the quality and frequency of DGF involvement in land use and development decisions around the state has been seriously compromised.

DGF is currently almost entirely funded by hunting and fishing license fees and penalties. Every program within the department is stressed for revenue, and CSD has never received the slice of the pie necessary for it to carry out its responsibilities.

New Mexico Legislative Report

by Douglas Fraser

At press time, I anticipate the following Sierra Club lobbying efforts during this year's short New Mexico legislative session:

Game and Fish Department Budget

The Sierra Club has been meeting with officials of the State Game and Fish Department over the past few months to expand its budget and define its statutory authority to include management and enhancement of wildlife habitat. We will be asking for \$2-4 million for this "Conservation Division" of the department. (See article on this page.)

Tire Recycling

We anticipate the introduction, following the support of the Governor, of a used tire recycling bill by Representative Gary King. The primary thrust of the legislation will be twofold: first, to fund a statewide survey to determine the exact extent of the problem of discarded car tires, and secondly, to create the seed money for corrective action and fund a rubberized asphalt fund to be used on our streets and highways. We need to find some positive use for this material.

Regional Water Planning

Through the efforts of Vicki Gabin (Water Issues Co-Chair) and representatives from regional planning committees around the state, the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission has requested, through the State Engineer, an additional

funding of \$500,000 for state and regional water planning. Since all of our state's surface water has long since been committed, and since the continued mining of our groundwater must be closely monitored, this planning objective for future water utilization is long overdue.

Motor Oil Recycling

We are also negotiating on a used car oil recycling bill, but at this writing it is too soon, particularly during this short session, to predict the outcome.

Energy, Minerals, & Natural Resources

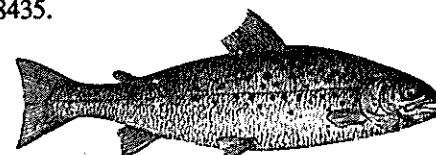
We will also be seeking funding in the amount of \$200,000 for a new Renewable Energy Authority within the Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department. This, along with matching federal dollars, will put the state back in the lead on renewable energy.

We will also be following the Department's budget to assure there are sufficient funds for continuing development of the hard rock mining reclamation regulations (another Sue McIntosh endeavor as Mining Issues Chair).

Public Utility Commission

And finally, another planning appropriation we will be supporting is a request for \$250,000 for the Public Utility Commission to be used to carry out integrated resource planning which will reward utilities and consumers for energy conservation.

design the best strategy for approaching the legislature and obtaining funding. Speaker of the House Ray Sanchez (D-Belen) has introduced legislation (HB 557) that will seek substantial additional funding for CSD. Governor King has agreed to send a supplemental budget item to the Legislature expressing his support for this legislation. With the Governor's support and the support of key figures in the Legislature, the prospects of this legislation passing are very good. For an update, call me at (505) 982-4146 or 986-8435.



The Sierra Club has worked closely with DGF and Game and Fish Commissioners James Koch and David Salmon to

Timber Sale Threatens Proposed Wilderness Area

by George Grossman

In 1980, Congress designated 438,000 acres of national forest lands in New Mexico as wilderness, about 60 percent of the acreage recommended by the Forest Service at the time, and less than 25 percent of what environmentalists wanted. Many areas were left out not because they were unsuitable, but because our Congressional delegation felt they had to limit the amount of wilderness acreage designated at any one time.

Now one of the areas Congress overlooked is threatened by a proposed timber sale. The Forest Service wants to allow logging in a proposed addition to the Pecos Wilderness Area in the Carson National Forest (see map), a development that would destroy the wilderness character of this area.

Background

Most of the areas that Congress failed to designate as wilderness in 1980s are still suitable for wilderness designation. Many of these areas have received very limited protection through the Forest Planning process, through classification as semi-primitive, non-motorized areas or something similar. This tenuous protection may last only until the next round of planning is completed, as early as 1996 for some New Mexico forests.

The Carson National Forest Pecos Wilderness Addition is one of the few areas that failed to receive any protection in the Forest Planning process and was therefore available for timber harvest. The area has not been threatened until now. We had looked forward to it being included in a new New Mexico wilderness bill; possibly a comprehensive Pecos Wilderness additions bill, a Carson National Forest wilderness bill or even a statewide forest wilderness bill. None of these possibilities has developed in the last thirteen years and none is expected to develop in the near future.

The part of the proposed wilderness area in which the timber sale would be located was harvested in the early part of this century (before 1930). Remains of old sawmills and logging camps can still be seen. There are also a few large old stumps but very few small ones. The old wagon trails that were used for the logging operations were once useable as jeep trails, but have now deteriorated to where they are suitable only for motorcycles, horses and foot traffic. The

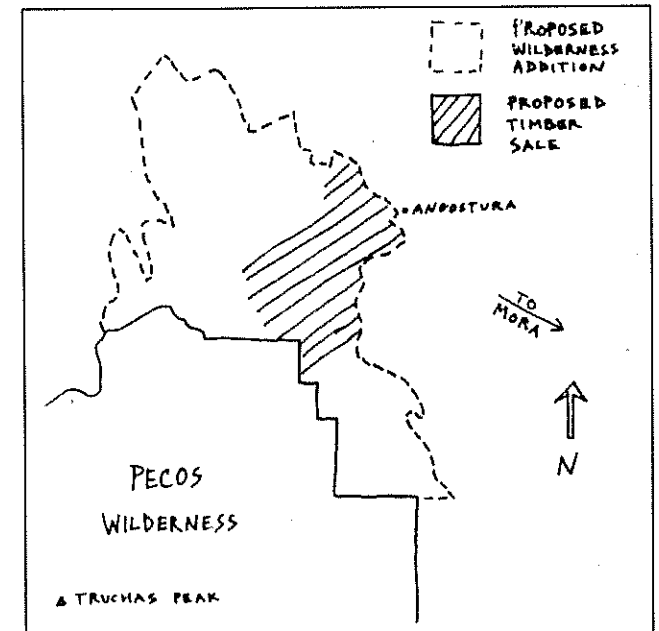
signs of old timber harvest activities in the area detract very little, if at all, from the wilderness values. About seventy-eight percent of the trees are over 100 years old. I think most people would feel the area is well qualified for wilderness.

The timber sale, which is officially known as the Angostura Vegetative Management Plan, has been analyzed by the Carson National Forest in a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). The public comment period has ended; however, many individuals and organizations submitted comments which pointed out the deficiencies of the document. Now the Forest Service is in the process of reviewing the comments, preparing responses, and developing a final management plan. This will lead to a Final Environmental Impact Statement that will present the Forest Service's responses to public comments and describe the selected management plan.

As described in the DEIS, the Forest Service's preferred alternative would allow harvesting of 6.9 million board feet of timber and construction of 17.5 miles of new roads. Clearly, activities of this magnitude would disqualify the area for wilderness designation. This de facto wilderness area is seriously endangered by the activities of the Forest Service, and we need to do everything possible to protect it.

We have tried for several years to convince Congressman Bill Richardson that he should introduce legislation to add this area to the Pecos Wilderness. He has indicated a willingness to introduce such a bill but so far has done nothing. We assume that he does not feel there is sufficient support from the general public for additional wilderness on Forest Service managed lands. The threat of timber harvesting and road construction in the area makes it essential to have this area added to the National Wilderness System as soon as possible.

In addition to timber harvest and road construction there is another use which is in



Approximate location of Angostura Timber Sale, Carson National Forest, Taos County, New Mexico.

conflict with wilderness: off-road motorcycling. The area has several trails that are designated for motorcycle use; however, we believe there are plenty of other trails in the nearby forest that could be used by motorcycles and never conflict with wilderness. If necessary, a few miles of new motorcycle trail could easily be constructed.

What You Can Do

We need letters to Congressman Richardson asking him to introduce legislation to designate as wilderness the Proposed Additions to the Pecos Wilderness which are located in the Carson National Forest. He already has all of the significant details, and if he should need any additional information, we can easily furnish it. Write to: Congressman Bill Richardson, 414 Paseo de Peralta, Santa Fe, NM 87501.

If you need additional information or a detailed map of the proposed addition, call George Grossman at (505) 982-1024 or write to 1391 Santa Rosa Drive, Santa Fe, 87501.

[The author is Wilderness Issues Co-Chair and a member of the chapter Executive Committee.]



Range Reform

(continued from front page)

where disagreement remained the issues—especially regarding water—were narrowed. But he said that he was signing no Colorado agreement—"the document is theirs, not mine"—and that many problems remain to be solved.

Resource Advisory Boards

The Secretary has adopted "local control" but without all of Gunnison's details. In our morning session he readily agreed with us (the Audubon Society, Gila Watch, Public Lands Action Network, Sierra Club, and Wilderness Society representatives) that "final say" could not be given his "Resource Advisory Boards": "I won't delegate decision-making power." Boards would use consensus procedure rather than "majoritarian democracy" so that a polarized group would cancel itself out. But "a great deal of responsibility" would rest with the boards; when they did reach consensus they would be listened to.

Thus the make-up of boards is crucial and was the subject of intense discussion. Ranchers do not want "a rag-tag army of environmentalists"; public-interest groups are concerned that all values of the public lands—emphatically including soil and water—be represented. Mr. Babbitt admitted the difficulties, including that of finding conservationists who would dare to speak out in some communities; we reviewed a history of threats and actions against individuals by ranchers and employers. Nonetheless he described as "the Secretary's bargain" in the Colorado and other Western discussions that decision-making would move toward the local level in exchange for a new definition of who the decision-makers are; "they must include all the stake-holders," though "questions and ambiguities" remain on how this is to be done.

New Concern for Industry "Stability"

Livestock-industry stability has become a watchword for Mr. Babbitt. He emphatically refused to try to roll back the James Watt legacy of private water rights on public lands because the action would threaten stability. Permits based on water rights will continue to be valid. He gave us to understand that he would prevent further losses of rights to private claimants; agencies will file for rights under state law. Also on

grounds of stability he refused our argument for suitability requirements—our claim that definite criteria should be spelled out by which decisions can be made as to which lands are appropriate for livestock grazing. Mr. Babbitt claimed to think that such decisions could be left to local boards that are armed with new "ecosystem health-and-diversity standards and guidelines." We expressed preference for five-year (vs. ten-year) leases to improve accountability; we got no reply but the Secretary is reportedly leaning toward ten-year leases, again in the name of stability.

On the plus side, Mr. Babbitt plans to abolish BLM's infamous "affected-interest" rule that has restricted public comment on allotment decisions to persons who have previously been granted affected-interest status by district managers. It will be "wide-open participation," with appeal rights restricted only by the requirement of prior participation in a process.

According to an Interior Department release, Mr. Babbitt has come to favor a split-level incentive grazing fee structure with a lower rate for ranchers who follow "sound conservation practices." Fees were not discussed our meeting, though we did argue that ranchers and agency managers should be held accountable not for promises or practices but only for results: what is good or bad in the rangeland ecosystem.

Color was added (literally) by Jim Fish's photos of "trashed" areas in Bruce King's BLM allotment and by Susan Schock's photos of overgrazed riparian zones in the Gila Forest's Diamond Bar allotment, presented to buttress points about the need for agency responsibility in view of permittees' irresponsibility.

Red Wolf Babbitt Baiting

Noontime color and noise were contributed by twenty or so black-hatted ranchers and their families parading and chanting outside the meeting building at UNM with placards bearing messages such as "Are You a Communist, Mr. Babbitt?" and "Mr. Babbitt is a Wolf in Sheep's Clothing." These were billed as the voices of "Rangeland Revolt '94," including a worried voice, "Will the West Survive Till '95?" Increased government control was the central target.

The two-hour afternoon meeting, though mostly civil in tone, did little to satisfy the Secretary's search for consensus; New Mexico is not Colorado. Ranchers are happy

On the plus side, Babbitt plans to abolish BLM's infamous "affected-interest" rule that has restricted public comment on allotment decisions.

with the present all-rancher Grazing Advisory Boards, which were terminated by the 1976 statute that governs BLM but continue to exist by executive fiat; "we don't need environmentalists' help" to do right by the land. Public-interest groups are obviously not satisfied with a system that has failed to restore healthy rangelands.

Mr. Babbitt plans to visit New Mexico—probably Socorro—again before his EIS with draft regulations appears in late February or early March.

On January 13, Senator Pete Domenici discussed range reform with ranchers and natural-resource economists in Las Cruces and with environmental representatives (Audubon, Nature Conservancy, New Mexico Wildlife Federation, Sierra Club, and Wilderness Society) in Albuquerque. Mr. Domenici said that he did not expect Congress to produce a range-reform bill for two or three years and was resigned to living until then with administrative revisions—which, however, he would do his best to modify to avoid damage to the public-land ranchers. He was especially adamant about not allowing major changes in rangeland water rights—although in fact Mr. Babbitt's proposal of August only returns water rights to the rules that obtained before James Watt's term at Interior.

The senator did admit the force of arguments that we need agencies with enough muscle to monitor and to improve range conditions—BLM especially has always been starved for money and power—but saw little chance that Congress would ante up.

Obviously the public-land ranch industry (about a tenth of one percent of the workforce in New Mexico) continues to exercise disproportionate political power. We've had lots of talk, but real reform seems almost as distant and shines a good deal less brightly than it did after last spring's public hearings.

The author is the Rio Grande Chapter's Rangeland Issues Chair.

The BLM in New Mexico

by Roger Peterson

The federal Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is responsible for almost 13 million surface acres of New Mexico, one sixth of the state, organized in four districts: Farmington, Albuquerque (comprising Rio Puerco and Taos resource areas), Las Cruces (Caballo, Mimbres, and Socorro resource areas), and Roswell (Carlsbad and Roswell resource areas). BLM administers an additional 28 million acres of subsurface rights on other federal lands, Indian lands, and split-estate lands.

Almost 100 percent of BLM land is grazed by livestock. But the big money, 98 percent of the \$238 million received by New Mexico BLM in Fiscal Year 1992, comes from minerals. That's mostly oil and gas in the San Juan and Permian basins (Farmington and Roswell districts), but with coal-mining also a past and future problem (see Jeff Radford, 1986, *The Chaco Coal Scandal*).

The Bureau has been less amenable to public input than has the Forest Service, and less free with information about its activities. Each national forest mails quarterly lists of projects and anyone can routinely receive notices of projects. Not so with BLM: if we're lucky we get a list of the fiscal year's undertakings three to six months after the year begins, and some resource areas (especially in Roswell and Farmington districts) have been unwilling to put out draft assessments or other notices to requesters on a regular basis, though if a document is known to be available a specific request should get it—unless it concerns grazing allotments, for which one may first have to establish "affected interest" status.

NEPA applies and bad decisions can usually be protested and appealed, but the Bureau pulls tricks to avoid such nuisances from the owners of the land: a 1991 decision on a national vegetative-treatment EIS was signed at the Interior secretarial level so that no appeal could go to an Interior administrative court. In 1993 the Roswell Resource Area avoided protests on an herbicide project by spraying before mailing the decision notice (even though—or perhaps because—we reminded the area manager that we awaited it). Historically BLM has served and sometimes still seems to serve livestock, mining, and petroleum industries rather than the public.

So for public-interest groups, monitor-

ing and working with BLM is not easy. Sierra Club groups are responsible for BLM lands in their areas—and that leaves the Southern New Mexico Group with four of the eight resource areas, a tough assignment especially because few members in Carlsbad or Roswell are in position to speak out. (Please, southeastern members, call Marianne Thaeler at 522-3421 if you can help!). To get the hard-to-get information necessary to monitor the Bureau, Club contact persons should do a lot of elbow-rubbing. Taking a "rangecon" for coffee is (or would be, if we had money) a reimbursable expense.

Our biggest effort with BLM this year should be, I think, a strong response to the Roswell Area's first Resource Management Plan—which, like a forest plan—sets directions for 10 to 15 years. This RMP will replace (among other documents) the 1979 East Roswell Grazing EIS, which mandated that 1.7 percent of forage be reserved for wildlife, decreasing to 0.8 percent by the year 2000, with 98.3 percent increasing to 99.2 percent for livestock. The Roswell District has sprayed over 100,000 acres of oak-brush over the last dozen years, converting prairie-chicken and mule-deer habitat to grass pastures—at no expense to the ranchers, who have selected which lands should be treated. This is an agency that needs help. To receive the Draft EIS when it appears, write or call now: Area Manager Sandra L. Allen, Bureau of Land Management, POB 1857, Roswell, New Mexico 88202-1857; (505)-624-1790.

But the Bureau's business is done every day, not at 10-15-year planning intervals. Working with the resource-area offices are Felecia Harvey (Dexter, 347-2910), Hank Saxe (Taos, 758-9512), Barbara Stone (Albuquerque, 344-8605), Marianne Thaeler (Las Cruces, 522-3421), and Ron Thomas (Socorro, 835-2834), and for the Farmington District two volunteers are newly aboard: Mary Jo Clark (Farmington, 327-7069) and Phil Somervell (Shiprock, 368-5072). Issue chairs back them up, especially Nick Webster for oil-and-gas (Farmington, 235-2366), Roger Peterson for rangelands (Santa Fe, 983-7559), and Tom Brasfield (El Paso, 915-833-4727) for wilderness issues and overall coordination. David McClurg of Carlsbad is out of state for several months

and a volunteer is needed there, though David continues active from afar on Dark Canyon oil-drilling horrors. Also representing the Club on particular projects are Van Perkins on the Taos Area's Santa Fe Canyon protection, Roger Peterson on the Rio Puerco Area's ambitious upper Rio Puerco watershed project, and Paul Krehbiel and Carl Popp on Socorro Area wilderness issues.



Senate Candidate Calls for Grazing Reform, Livestock-Free Wilderness

Independent candidate John Bishop said he will push for reform of federal grazing policies if elected to the U.S. Senate. He made the statement in a December press release. Bishop is challenging Democrat Jeff Bingaman, who sided with Republican Pete Domenici during the recent Congressional debate over grazing reform.

Bishop said, "The financial and environmental impact of the grazing fee laws which date back to the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934 need to be updated and restructured with current considerations in mind. Most New Mexicans favor grazing reform and higher fees and don't want their tax dollars used to subsidize wealthy ranchers," Bishop stated. "Taxpayers can no longer afford to provide welfare for the rich."

"The environmental aspects of the grazing laws must be reformed also. The goal of federal rangeland management should be to maintain healthy rangeland ecosystems that support a thriving spectrum of native plants and animals and that don't pollute our rivers and streams."

Bishop also questioned the current practice of allowing grazing in federal wilderness areas. "If an area is designated wilderness, that's what it should be, wilderness. Intensive livestock operations are incompatible with the concept of wilderness."

On the Waterfront

(continued from page 3)

where applicants for water may successfully avoid public input and review.

The Sierra Club and other groups are watching closely the "Pecos River Native Riparian Restoration Project," a proposal dedicated to saltcedar eradication on the Pecos south of Artesia. We are looking at numerous aspects of the project, including the herbicides, the size of the buffer zone to the river, the proximity of possible endangered species habitat, the methods by which native species will be introduced, and water quality monitoring.

The author is Chapter Water Issues Co-Chair.

Jemez National Recreation Area Becomes Reality

by Henry Oat

On October 12, 1993, President Clinton signed into law HR 38 creating the Jemez National Recreation Area, the first national recreation area to be created in the Southwest. The signing of the legislation marks the end of a four-year battle, valiantly spearheaded by Representative Bill Richardson, to protect a portion of the Jemez Mountains from future mining claims and land patenting under the 1872 Mining Law.

Passage of the Jemez national Recreation Area legislation marks a clear victory for the environment over the outrageous and destructive practices allowed under the 1872 Mining Law and offers a model for protection of other areas in the future.

This bill is significant in that it recognizes the recreational wildlife, scenic, cultural resource and ecological values of the Jemez over and above the extraction and exploitation of the natural resources of the area. Under this new designation, land will no longer be able to be patented or bought for \$2.50 an acre, nor will any future mining claims be allowed. Any lands that are mined on current valid mining claims will be sub-

ject to strict reclamation standards, requiring that the land be returned to its pre-mining condition, both visually and hydrologically. Logging and other commercial uses of the land will be limited so as they do not conflict with the purposes of the legislation.

Unfortunately, the battle does not stop here. The Forest Service will be charged with developing the management plan for the Jemez NRA. Public participation in the development of the management plan will be crucial to ensure adherence to the intent of the legislation.

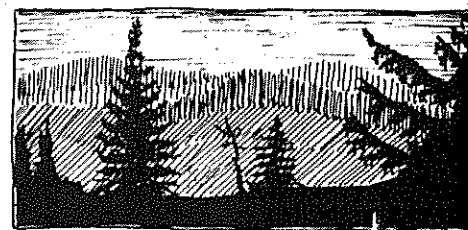
The Jemez Ranger District will almost certainly receive a substantial increase in recreation funding. Too often in the past, recreational development as viewed by the Forest Service has meant black-topped camping and picnic areas, RV parks, and increased services. Recent development and "improvement" by the Forest Service along the Jemez and Chama Rivers sparked major public opposition and outrage. Only active public participation will prevent this from happening in the Jemez. If you have an interest, contact the Santa Fe National Forest.

This has been a hard fought battle to get this legislation passed. We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Rep. Richardson, Senator Bingaman, and all of the people who put in thousands of hours working on this issue.

The Sierra Club has played a leading role in supporting this effort, both financially and politically. I would like to extend my personal thanks to George Grossman, Roger Peterson, Jim Norton, Sam Hitt, David Henderson, and to the memory of Jack Kinney, without whose inspiration I would never have started on this journey.

Unfortunately, successes such as this do not come cheaply. We still are well over \$40,000 in debt. Any donation you could make to help alleviate this situation would be greatly appreciated. Send to: East Fork Preservation Coalition, P.O. Box 9307, Santa Fe, 87504.

The author is director of the East Fork Preservation Coalition.



Mexican Activist Beat Up by Drug Thugs

From Forest Guardians' FRONTLINE Fax Report

A community organizer working with Santa Fe-based Forest Guardians to protect the forests and Indians of northern Mexico was severely beaten on December 28.

Edwin Bustillos, 29-year old director of the *Consejo Asesor Sierra Madre*, a non-profit group promoting environmentally sound farming and logging practices, was attacked in his home village of Guachochi, Chihuahua. His assailants included local police officials and others believed to be working for a local drug kingpin named Artemio Fontes.

Bustillos has been an outspoken critic of the environmental damage caused by logging, and opium poppy and marijuana cultivation in the rugged western Sierra Madre. The region is home to the most biologically diverse forests in Mexico, containing more species of pines than anywhere else on earth. It has also become one of Mexico's leading drug trafficking areas.

Bustillos was in Santa Fe recently to launch a cooperative effort with Forest Guardians to protect the forests of northern Mexico. At a press conference held at Congressman Bill Richardson's (D-NM) office, Bustillos and Forest Guardians' director Sam Hitt announced that Forest Guardians would aid Bustillo's work by providing financial, technical, and political support.

Bustillos and others reported that violence is escalating against anyone who resists the loggers and drug traffickers. In one Tarahumara community, 35 people have been killed over the past two years. Bustillos' own house was sprayed with automatic weapons fire last spring.

The situation in the Sierra Madre is expected to worsen under NAFTA as land traffic increases between Mexico and the U.S. Hitt urged New Mexicans to contact Congressman Bill Richardson (a leading proponent of NAFTA) to ask Mexico's president Carlos Salinas de Gortari to appoint an independent panel of judges to bring the drug traffickers to justice. Write to Richardson at: 2349 Rayburn House Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20515.

Land Summit Excludes Key Players

by Maria Varela

The issue before the Clinton administration is not the raising of grazing fees or the extent to which public lands should be grazed. The issue is the long term sustainability of public lands which exist within the rural areas of this nation.

Wildlife does not limit itself to habitat within public lands. Its habitat is both public and private lands. Public land habitat can only be as healthy as surrounding private lands. Surrounding private lands need to remain in agriculture, providing a buffer zone for public lands.

Surrounding rural communities must sustain themselves on agricultural activity while providing habitat for wildlife...

...The models for sustainable public and private land management are there, but this administration seems to need to dance to the tune of the headlines orchestrated by politicians, environmentalists and agribusiness, rather than getting to the heart of the problems.

An example of this was the Babbitt grazing summit in Albuquerque [Jan. 20]. Hispano, Native American and other small-scale growers were excluded from this meeting...Are we not perceived as equal enough to sit at the table where the future of our lands and our agricultural cultures are discussed?

We must remind the secretary that much of the public land in northern New Mexico was acquired from the common lands of villages and pueblos and other native peoples. This act of creating national forests at the turn of the century ripped valley floor from its natural relationship to high mountain meadow, thus destroying the sustainability of traditional grazing. It drove countless families off their land into the migrant worker streams, and created chronic poverty in at least four northern New Mexican counties where public land comprises over half the acreage. It would be at least polite to invite to the table those whose ancestral land was used to create national forests.

And what would we have talked about? Let's look at what works. Well-managed grazing has restored savannas in southern New Mexico, stopped erosion in semi-arid areas and restored habitat in national forests and on tribal lands. In Northern New Mexico, some rural communities are protecting agricultural land by developing enterprises

which add on value to agricultural resources.

From Costilla to Gallina, from the Taos Pueblo to the Diné of Ramah, rural residents are working to regenerate their agricultural cultures, lands and waters. They also have persistently objected over the last eight decades to destructive public land policies which have degraded timber, land and water resources.

...In the village of Los Ojos, four businesses and 45 new jobs have been created by Ganados del Valle. Ranchers are encouraged to address organic markets and keep their land free of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Ganados enterprises add on value to lamb and wool, as well as marketing arts, crafts and foods of more than 200 farm and artisan families in Rio Arriba, Taos and Mora counties.

"[We] need access to public lands so that this nation does not lose the national treasures found in old pastoral cultures."

...Historic buildings have been preserved, which encourages cultural tourism and discourages resort tourism, damaging to land and water. Ranching families have been able to stay on the land because of higher prices for their crops and livestock, and the new jobs created.

Yet all of this is threatened because of lack of grazing land. Obtaining grazing allotments for public lands means going into considerable debt: the market rate for permitted animals on the National Forest is \$100/ewe and \$500-600/cow. Purchasing private land is out of the question as the emphasis on resort tourism has jacked up prices on prime agricultural... land.

The secretary needs to address the root problems related to public lands and surrounding rural communities. The question is not whether grazing should continue on public lands and the raising of fees. The first question is what is the health of each public land entity and what is the health of the surrounding rural community?

The next question is how will health be regenerated within public lands and buffer

communities? What role does grazing, the process of obtaining allotments and the fees play in that? How can low-income people graze public lands? How can young people starting out in agriculture afford to graze public lands?

Perhaps some grazing allotments should be reserved for those working to add on value to crops and natural resources in an effort to create healthy rural economies. Perhaps some allotments should be reserved for young ranchers, many of whom are now locked out of acquiring land in their own communities.

Families and communities desiring to conserve and practice old agricultural sciences need access to public land so that this nation does not lose the national treasures found in old agricultural and pastoral cultures.

The livestock industry also needs to ask some tough questions: What will it take for us to create healthy rural economies that will protect the health of the public lands surrounding our communities? What is the future for agriculture if we persist in only growing and shipping out raw products? We will lose our agricultural land and our kids to the cities if our rural economies remain in the colonial era.

And, finally, environmentalists need to ask themselves what happens when prime agricultural and grazing land is gobbled up by the tourism which they seem so quick to recommend as an alternative...

Environmentalists worry about losing the rainforests with their old sciences and medicinals protected over the centuries by indigenous cultures. Are the old sciences of this country somehow less important with the medicinal, plant and animal genetic diversity protected by U.S. indigenous cultures?

Rural people are frontline caretakers of the nation's land and water resources. Health will only be restored to public lands when surrounding rural communities secure their cultural heritages, develop sustainable agricultural economies and participate in developing public land policy.

Longtime Rio Arriba county community organizer Maria Varela is co-director of the Ganados del Valle cooperative in Los Ojos. This essay originally appeared in the Albuquerque Journal, 1/21/94. Used with permission.

Cross-country Ski Report

Shopping for Skis

by John Turnbull

If you have been thinking of buying cross-country skis, this season may be your golden opportunity. After two exceptional snow years, 1993-94 appears, as of late January anyway, to be an unusually dry one, and ski sales probably are far below normal. That means lots of excess inventory and lots of clearance sales at bargain prices, particularly with the larger retailers.

If this is the year to buy, the next logical question for many of us is what to buy. All skis and boots are not the same, and the proper selection of equipment can make a major difference. Start shopping now, so you know what's out there, and where, before the sale advertisements.

By far the majority of Sierra Clubbers are interested in what is called "Backcountry Skiing", which is simply touring about in unbroken snow off in the woods. The following guidance assumes this objective.

Skis: Width

In deep, loose, powder snow, staying up on top is important. It's called "flotation". Look for a wide ski: at least 50 mm wide, and preferably 55 mm or more, in the waist. A backcountry touring ski has "side-cut", meaning that it is wider at the tip and tail than at the waist. Typically 10 mm wider. This makes for an easier turning ski.



A 4-mile Santa Fe Group beginners' introductory ski tour in January, above Deer Trail Canyon, near Tres Piedras. Three feet of fluffy powder. About 1 1/2 hours north of Santa Fe.

All shops, for unfathomable reasons, always stock lots of very narrow, parallel-sided flat-track recreational and racing skis. On a backcountry ski tour you can always tell who has them, because they're a foot deeper in the snow than everybody else, and usually struggling a lot. Shops are always anxious to unload flat-track skis on unsuspecting or indefinite buyers, so be prepared to squabble. Even better, take along a knowledgeable friend on your shopping adventures, and let them squabble with the salespeople.

Skis: Length

The first question on most buyers' minds is how long their skis should be. The correct question is how stiff the ski, because this is the measure of how well the ski will support a person's weight on the soft snow, and how fast it will go. Manufacturers design skis to be progressively stiffer as they become longer—the theory being that taller people usually are heavier people. It's a generalization, of course. A typical 210 cm ski is designed for a person somewhere around 165 to 175 lb., and about 5'10" to 6'0". The ideal ski will be essentially flat when the skier stands on them. Not surprisingly, most men find themselves on 210 cm skis, which often will be the longest available. Lighter than average people can easily move to a shorter ski. Heavyweights, on the other hand, have a problem, and usually must go to a stiffer than average model, such as a mountaineering ski. The price is stiffer, too.

When measuring stiffness of a backcountry ski (which technically is of double-cambered design), a simple method is to stand the intended skier on both skis, with weight equally divided. The entire base of the ski should contact the floor except for about 18" directly under the foot. A calling card or paper should slide easily underneath. As the person shifts all of his/her weight to one ski, this 18" air space should then contact the floor like the rest of the ski. It takes a very flat floor to do this correctly, so be careful. Most good shops will have a weight/height chart, which is useful if you can't find a flat floor. Most sales

Where to Ski

This is a low-snowfall season, and skiers need to check around diligently for suitable conditions. The high plateau west of Tres Piedras continues to be the choice area in the state, with about two to three feet of still-loose powder. Snowmobiles have packed the area west of Hopewell Lake, but the forests to the south and east of the lake, including Maquinita Canyon, Deer Trail Creek, eastern Hopewell Ridge, Forest Road 91B, and Burned Mountain, are excellent for skiing.

Call the Tres Piedras Ranger District, Carson National Forest for information at (505) 758-8678. Ask for Mary Ann Elder or Tomas Chavez. If there has been a recent snowstorm, ask about how far snow has been cleared along U.S. 64. It varies, depending upon how the State Highway Department feels that day. What is true today may not be true tomorrow.

—JAT

clerks will ask you to hold your arm up in the air, the idea being that the ski should come to your hand/wrist joint. As you stand there imitating the Statue of Liberty customers over in the basketball department probably will think you're delivering a political speech, have lost your mind, or both.

Boots

Unquestionably the first priority for the backcountry skier. If your boots (and bindings) are right you'll look good even if your skis are junk. The criterion is stiffness: torsional stiffness, which is the resistance of the sole to twisting; and, for want of a better term, ankle stiffness, or the stiffness of the upper, particularly around the ankle bone. In backcountry boots the leather itself will extend up above the ankle joint. Boots with only a spongy snow cuff above the ankle will not provide the needed support. What is called an "Intermediate-weight touring boot", the minimum we want for backcountry skiing, will cost at normal retail from \$90. to \$150. Anything significantly cheaper probably will be too flimsy to control your ski in loose snow. For extra performance "Heavy touring/Light Telemark boots" are wonderful, but somewhat heavy, and expensive at around \$200. Typically of black leather, and with a welted sole construction, they last forever, and may be a better selection in the longer term. Mountaineers, whose lives may depend on their skis going where they're supposed to, all use them.

Bindings

A boot will transmit to the ski only the power and control that the binding allows it to, so always select a solid backcountry, Telemark, or mountaineering-weight binding, with either the intermediate or heavy touring boot. The added performance is well worth the extra cost. This is your second priority, after boots. Prepare for more righteous squabbling with the salespeople, for reasons below.

Once upon a time, going back to 1927, selection of bindings was comparatively easy. Other than mountaineers, who used cable bindings, everyone used a thing called the 75 mm Nordic Norm, or, colloquially, "Three-pin". In heavy-duty or regular versions, every boot fit every binding. No thinking required. Life was happier back then. Today, by contrast, buying bindings is more complicated than buying computers, and if you guess wrong, you end up buying another pair of boots as well, because nothing is interchangeable.

For backcountry skiing the choices, until this year, were either the old 75 mm Nordic Norm, or a new, patented, plastic boot/binding system called "New Nordic Norm—Backcountry", (or "NNN-BC" for short). This year there is a third, called "Salomon Profil—Country". In the shops you will see, additionally, a welter of other lightweight plastic racing and recreational models. These



Happy skiers from the Albuquerque Group on a ten mile "moderate" trip to Brazos Cliffs.



Telemarking in balmy December weather near Brazos Cliffs, some of the most breathtaking scenery in New Mexico, about 40 miles south of Colorado line. A favorite location for springtime skiing.

combined boot/binding models are designed for racing on hard, prepared snow surfaces and/or skiing on golf courses in Minneapolis, and not what you want in the mountains.

Poles

Often an afterthought, ski poles rarely receive the attention they deserve. Most people, after breaking two or three fiberglass poles miles from their vehicle, or after a year of fighting impossible strap-adjustment mechanisms (which seem inevitable with fiberglass), usually buy a set of aluminum poles. Stout and easily restraughtened, aluminum poles, for some marvelous and unknown reason, always come with easy strap adjusters. Expect a price of about \$16 on sale.

An added advantage of aluminum poles is choice in grip design. Mountaineering poles typically are offered with a palm-filling, flanged grip, similar to that found on Alpine (i.e. "downhill") poles, and this design works very well for all backcountry skiing, especially in bottomless, loose powder. Mountaineers know what it takes! Don't expect much help from salespeople, except in specialty backcountry shops. When all else fails, you may fit flanged Alpine grips to your poles, but be sure the grip straps have a length-adjustment buckle. Although more expensive, aluminum poles, like diamonds, are forever.

For backcountry shuffling poles should be a trifle shorter than normal, reaching to the armpit. Unlike fiberglass poles, aluminum poles can be shortened by simply pulling off the grips and sawing them off. If in doubt, buy them longer, not shorter.

Gaiters

Sometimes referred to as "leggings", these fit around the lower leg and boot-top, and keep the snow out, and provide protection from scratchy branches. They come in all price ranges, and are essential for backcountry skiing. The key criterion is ease of installation. Look for models with the zipper or velcro on the front or side, not the back. Make sure they are large enough to accommodate your leg diameter. An adjustable strap (as opposed to a string) under the arch is now available even on medium-quality models, and is a great convenience.

Cheaper gaiters often are made entirely of coated material, and may cause perspiration to condense inside. This is undesirable, but on the lower leg has not proven too serious—people simply leave the tops loose for ventilation. The better (and more expensive) designs have an upper of porous, breathable material, which eliminates this problem.

The author is a member and former chair of the Santa Fe Group, and has conducted ski classes and tours for many years. He writes nationally on the subject of Nordic skiing, and is Regional Staff Editor of Nordic West magazine. He is a member of the Professional Ski Instructors of America—Rocky Mountain Division, and also the U.S. Amateur Ski Instructors Association.

4th Annual Backcountry Ski/Winter Leadership Skills Week

San Juan Mountains, Colorado
March 20-26, 1994
Leaders: Bill Donahue and Dana Densmore

This trip combines the best in backcountry skiing, extraordinary scenery, excellent food, comfortable accommodations in a remote and rustic lodge, and optional winter leadership skills sessions. All levels of skill welcome; expert ski instruction provided. A wide variety of slopes and trails begin right at the lodge (at 11,500 ft.). Ski equipment available free, or bring your own. Skills sessions cover winter safety equipment and techniques, energy management, avalanche safety, winter navigation, and emergency shelters. Call Bill or Dana at 983-3675 for a complete trip description sheet or further information. Formerly offered as a Sierra Club national outing for \$975, now only \$695.

ALBUQUERQUE GROUP

February General Meeting: Managing 9 Million Acres of New Mexico Land - Report from the State Land Office

by Susan Gorman

The vast acreage of New Mexico's State Trust lands is managed by the Land Office and generates over \$140 million annually in revenues which are used to support our public schools and universities. Land Commissioner Ray Powell will tell us about the uses which generate this money and his BEST plan to manage the state trust lands in a way which protects the environmental values, provides environmental education, and optimizes the revenue generated.

Since his appointment to the office of Land Commissioner last May, when our former Commissioner, Jim Baca, moved to Washington to head up the BLM, Ray has continued to provide good leadership and to initiate his own programs. He will tell us about his accomplishments and his plans and will answer questions about land management and stewardship.

The February meeting will be on Monday, February 21, 7:30 P.M., in room 2401 of the UNM Law School at the NW corner of Mountain and Stanford NE. Please bring a cup and enjoy goodies provided by the Albuquerque Group. Preceding the main program, we will talk about upcoming events and outings, recaps of recent outings and alerts on issues. Please come!

Valentine's Day Potluck - Sunday, February 13th at 5PM

Continuing our newly revived (and very enjoyable) Albuquerque Group tradition, we are again having an informal "Potluck Supper" on Sunday evening February 13th from 5-8 PM. Charlotte Moter will be our host for this one. She lives at 405 San Juan de Rio Drive in Rio Rancho, which runs parallel to and east of Rio Rancho Blvd., just north of Southern Blvd. Her phone number is 892-0291 if you need further directions.

All members are welcome. There's no formality, just a chance to meet some of your fellow members in a more casual atmosphere than the general meeting. Charlotte asks us all to bring "finger foods" to share and she will provide the beverages and table service. We plan to eat around 6PM. See you there!

Meeting With Mayor Chavez

On January 6, representatives of the Albuquerque Group spent an hour and a half with Albuquerque's new mayor, Martin Chavez, talking about the changes he is planning, providing input, and offering our help. The discussion was honest and open and hopefully will be the first of many.

City Planning

Mayor Chavez supports a planning policy which promotes in-fill development rather than sprawl. The Planning Department is being reorganized and we offered to provide input for this effort.

Air Quality

Albuquerque was in air quality attainment continuously during 1993. We are the only city of our size which was previously out of attainment to have achieved this. This suggests that the programs to improve air quality are working, but we all agreed that we need to continue to work on improvements. We pointed out that the expansion of the airshed to include neighboring communities would help, and a decentralized emission inspection system

makes it easier for the residents in these communities to have their cars inspected.

Transportation

We told Chavez that we strongly support improvements in bus service, Ride Pool, and more access and parking areas for bicycles. We recommended that he consider appointment of a bikeways coordinator.

Water Quality and Quantity

The Groundwater Protection Policy is being reviewed, but Chavez pledged that its implementation would not be delayed. We expressed great interest in the results of this review and requested that he keep us informed. We agreed to provide information on alternatives to septic systems.

We discussed the possibility of amending the federal Atomic Energy Act to allow cities to have more control of the discharges of water containing radioactive contamination to the water treatment facilities.

continued on next page

Meeting with Mayor Chavez - continued from previous page
cilities. We offered National Sierra Club support through our office in Washington for this legislation.

The water use by the new Intel plant was discussed, and we told him we were working on a discharge plan for Intel in which purified effluent water would be cascaded into dry arroyos rather than directly into the Rio Grande.

We emphasized our support for a stronger water conservation effort and offered to provide input for this program.

We will be having regular meetings with Mayor Chavez and invite input from everyone on issues for future discussions. Call Susan at 265-3231 with your suggestions.

ALERT ALERT ALERT Support City Open Space Land Purchase!

The Quality of Life tax money will not be spent for a new Arts Center, so Mayor Chavez is planning a series of public meetings to get ideas about alternative ways to spend it. Attend a meeting and support purchase of more land for City Open Space. Watch the papers for meeting times and locations.

EMBUDITO Trail Service Project Saturday, March 19 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM

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

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

1994 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Office Telephone: 265-5506

Group Chair	Jay Sorenson	884-4314
Vice Chair	Ron Grotbeck	296-0944
Secretary	Blair Brown	265-3231
Treasurer	Richard Barish	247-8079
	Stefan Verchinski	888-1370
	Nick Nicolaus	884-5433
	Nick Persampieri	281-7845
	Will Richardson	

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

ADMINISTRATION		
Activities/	vacant	
Special Planning		
Books/	vacant	
Calendars		
Newsletter	Dorothy Brethauer	275-6113
	Larry Compton	899-0679
Outings	David Morrison	344-8693
	Stan Kauchak	292-9138
Programs	Evelyn Buie	266-5267
CONSERVATION		
Conservation	Susan Gorman	265-3231
Chair		
Air Quality	Heidi Fleischmann	260-1217
Bosque	Richard Barish	247-8079
Energy	Ralph Wrons	275-0856
Las Huertas	Marion Davidson	867-5178
Mining Reform	Blair Brown	265-3231
Petroglyphs/		
Westside	Ike Eastvold	255-7679
	Nick Persampieri	281-7845
Population	Michelle Meaders	266-8823
Public Lands	Barbara Stone	265-5304
Waste/	David Bouquin	265-7853
Recycling		
Water	(vacant)	
Wildlife/	Barbara Bates	888-0388
Endangered Species		
Wildlife/	Susan Larsen	897-2527
Mexican Wolf		

CALENDAR

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

- Feb 3: Mexican Wolf Coalition, 7:30 PM.
- Feb 8: Activities & Special Planning Meeting, 7PM Sierra Club Office.
- Feb 12: 12 noon. Deadline for articles for March-April group newsletter. Macintosh preferred. Call Larry if supplying hardcopy only.
- Feb 13: Pot Luck Dinner 5PM. See article on page 1.
- Feb 14: Executive Committee Meeting, 7PM.
- Feb 21: Sierra Club General Meeting, UNM Law School, Rm 2402, 7:30 PM.
- Feb 28: Conservation Working Session, 7:00 PM.
- Mar 3: Mexican Wolf Coalition, 7:30 PM.
- Mar 8: Activities & Special Planning Meeting, 7PM Sierra Club Office.

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

Cold Drinks Provided. Come out when you want and stay as long as you can. Hiking will range from 2 to 10 miles.

OUTINGS

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

Sat Feb 5 Moderate Miles:7 Car:160
Bluewater Canyon ACEC
Great hike, that few people know, in this riparian canyon surrounded by pinyon-juniper. Welcome a new leader, Craig. Craig has led hundreds of outings for the Dallas group. Meet at 9:00 AM. Bring lunch and dress warm.
Leader: Craig Dill 224-9795

Sun Feb 6 Strenuous Miles:13 Car:10
South Peak Snowshoe, Sandias
We will hike up Embudito trail until we hit snow, strap on snowshoes and continue on up to south peak. Brisk walk for your weekly aerobic workout. Meet at SC office.
Leader: Stefan Verchinski 888-1370

Sun Feb 6 Moderate- Strenuous Miles: 4 Car: 130
Las Conchas Burn Trail To East Fork Parking Lot X/C Ski
A beautiful hike in spring, summer, and fall, it should be just as beautiful covered in snow. A moderate X/C ski overall, expect strenuous conditions as we climb from the canyon floor up to the East Fork Ridge Trail.
Leader: Stan Kauchak 292-9138.

Sun Feb 6 Leisure Miles:3 Car: 3
Piedras Marcadas Hike, Petroglyph National Monument
1000's of petroglyphs. Bring camera, binoculars and sturdy shoes. RSVP.
Leader: Ike Eastvold 255-7679

Tues Feb 8
Winter Camping Course/CarCamp
This is part three of a three lecture series that culminates in a winter car camp on Feb. 19-20. This session will cover food and cooking during a camping trip during the winter. Meet at 7:00, call for location. If you missed the previous sessions you can still attend.
Leader: Craig Dill 224-9795

Sat Feb 12 Leisure Miles:3 Car:0
South Rio Grande Bosque Hike
Ducks, hawks and sandhill cranes. Meet at Furrow's Building Supply on Rio Bravo at 9:30 AM. Three hours.
Leader: David Morrison 344-8693

Sun Feb 13 Moderate Miles:8 Car:80
Let There Be Snow, Las Huertas Canyon X/C Ski Plunge
Start with a chant for 2 feet of new snow, next a car shuttle to Placitas, a car trip to Balsam Glade, then a deliciously long X/C ski plunge on Las Huertas Canyon road back towards Placitas. If there is no snow stay home and read the Sunday comics. Meet 9:00AM at Winchell's at San Mateo and Academy.
Leader: David Morrison 344-8693

Sat- Sun Feb 19-20
Winter Car Camp in the Snow
We will head up north to the Pecos, the Jemez or further north depending on snow conditions and the preference of the group. Snowshoeing anyone? This is the culmination of the previous sessions held. Not limited to session participants.
Leader: Craig Dill 224-9795

Sat- Mon Feb 19-21
Rio Grand Chapter X/C Ski, Az X/C-ski the White Mountains near Alpine, Arizona.
Accommodations will be inexpensive. There will be a variety of activities. There will be a big dinner on one evening. Contact Stan for details at 292-9138.
Leader: John Turnbull 982-9329

Sat Feb 26 Moderate Exploratory Miles: 4-6 Car: 140
Galinas Peak, Cibola NF
This is the first mountain range to the south of the Manzanos. There are a few short trails around Galinas peak. We will probably explore an old mine in the area. Bring lunch. Call for meeting time and location.
Leader: Tom Leck 256-7217

Sat Feb 26 Moderate- Strenuous Miles: 10 Car: 130
San Antonio Hot Spring X/C Ski
Enjoy a magical moon lit ski to the warmth of the San Antonio Hot Spring. Snow can be icy. Full moon and weather permitting (might be changed to a Brazos day trip). Call for details.
Leader: Stan Kauchak 292-9138.

Sat Feb 26 Leisure Miles: 3 Car: 3
Rinconada Canyon Hike, Petroglyph NM
1000's of petroglyphs. Bring camera, binoculars and sturdy shoes. RSVP.
Leader: Ike Eastvold 255-7679

Sun Feb 27 Leisure- Strenuous Miles: 0 Car: 160
Bluewater Canyon ACEC Service Project
Finally, we have the opportunity to destroy. We will disassemble a corral at the entrance to this Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). Bring lunch, water, and bring warm dress layers. As usual the BLM will have will have lots of tools, but bring shovels, gloves, prybars, etc.. Transportation provided by the BLM. Meet at the BLM office, 435 Montano Rd NW at 8:00AM.
Leader: David Morrison 344-8693

Sat Mar 5 Leisure Miles:3 Car:0
Oxbow Hike
Three hours. Most of the water is iced over, but there is still plenty of waterfowl, songbirds and the occasional hawk. Meet at St. Josephs and Coors at

9:00AM.
Leader: David Morrison 344-8693

Sun Mar 6 Moderate Miles:5-6 Car:190
Pajarito X/C Ski Trail
This is a X/C ski trail that starts just past the downhill ski area. The trail crosses some wide open meadows, and returns by a nice downhill glide. There is a possible option of skiing up to the overlook into Valle Grande. Call Stan for meeting time and location at 292-9138. Bring lunch.
Leader: Barbara Stone

Sat- Sun Mar 12-13 Strenuous Miles:? Car:500?
Snowshoe Colorado 14'ers
Snowshoe to the top of Mt. Bierstadt, maybe something else with the mountain goat.
Leader: Stefan Verchinski 888-1370

Sat Mar 12 Leisure Miles:4 Car:20
South Sandia Trail, SW
Walk to waterfall and cave continue on to the crest if group is enthusiastic and snow permitting. Bring lunch. Meet at SC office at 9:00AM
Leader: Bob Cornish 255-6037

Sat Mar 19 Embudito Trail Service Project, SW
Meet 8:30AM at trailhead parking lot. Call David 344-8693 for details.
(See Alb. group pages)

Sat Apr 19 Petroglyph National Monument Cleanup

Sat May 1 Santa Fe River Project

Sun May 22 Sierra Club Picnic

Sat Jun 4 National Trails Day Project

Sat Jun 18 Rio Grande Cleanup by Raft, Kayak and Canoe

Thanks Terri Moyers for establishing and running the ASP committee in 93. You will be missed. Marsha Cohen for hosting the Holliday party.

Sat Mar 26 Flea Market and Bake Sale
Bring all your used items that you would like to contribute and baked goods to a parking lot sale at the Sierra Club office. You can bring your stuff by Friday evening between 6 and 8PM. We need volunteers to watch the tables, etc..
Call Marsha Cohen 897-1591

UNM Student Group
Meetings are bimonthly on Thursdays at 5:30 PM at Room 24E, the Sierra Club office in the UNM Sub, lower level. We would like to extend an open invitation to our meetings or to help us out on upcoming projects. Write or give us a call.
President Allena Cochran 268-7990

the LORAX

FEBRUARY MEETING

Representatives from Gila Watch and Greater Gila Biodiversity Project will speak at the February meeting. The presentation will focus on the implications and impact of the proposed legislation in Congress concerning the Endangered Species Act. Please join us and learn more about this very important and timely topic.

The program will start at 7:30 pm on Wednesday, February 23, at St. Paul's Methodist Church, 7000 Edgemere (two blocks east of Airway.) For more information, call Ted Mertig, 852-3011.

Don't forget!

BEGINNING BACKPACK SERIES begins at 6:15--right before the meeting. Please join us!



The
Environmental
Center

Needed: Used Equipment for ICO... Don't know what to do with that old (but still good) frame pack, canteen, stove, cookpot, boots, hat, vest, sleeping bag? Why not donate them to the El Paso Sierra Club Inner City Outings group. Most kids who participate in ICO don't have the money to buy equipment, and what good is it doing cluttering up your closet?!!?

So pack up your old hi-tech or even low tech camping equipment and drop it off at the Environmental Center. Or better yet, call Richard Rheder at 544-5659 for other arrangements to obtain your old gear.

Remember Uncle Sam is always happy that you have successfully achieved another write-off on your 1994 Schedule C. And besides that, it might make the difference in some kid's attitude about the environment and the world we live in.

More Thanks... are in line for our newest volunteers: Erika Episcopo and Fred Cabrera. We can still use help, though. Please contact the Center (532-9645), John Sproul (545-5157) or Ted Mertig (852-3011) if you can volunteer at the Center one or more days per month. If you want to get involved in a bigger way, the Center continues to need an office manager, a recycling coordinator and a volunteer coordinator.

CALENDAR

February 2	EXCOM Meeting (7 pm at 800 So. Piedras)
February 12	Deadline for El Paso newsletter information (send to 331 Vista del Rey, 79912)
February 23	Beginning Backpacking Series (6:15 pm at 7000 Edgemere)
	General Meeting (7:30 pm at 7000 Edgemere)
March 2	EXCOM Meeting (7 pm at 800 So. Piedras)
March 5-6	Rio Grande Chapter EXCOM Retreat El Paso, TX

GROUP DIRECTORY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairman/Public Lands	Ted Mertig	852-3011
Vice Chair/Outings	Mike Episcopo	833-3770
Secretary	Joe Rodriguez	833-9655
Treasurer	Kathy Sunday	584-9301
Member	Betsy Julian	544-5741
Member/ICO	Richard Rheder	544-5659
Member	Debbie Tomaselli	584-3929
CONSERVATION		
Environmental Quality	Tom Brasfield	584-8739
Franklin Mtns	John Sproul	545-5157
Political Action	Jim Bell	581-8864
Population	OPEN	
ADMINISTRATION		
Environmental Center	OPEN	
Group/LORAX Mail	Bill Phillips	772-6503
Hospitality	Barbara Mertig	852-3011
Membership	Carol Morrison	545-1701
Office Rep.	Neil O'Hara	565-4735
Publicity	OPEN	
LORAX Editor/SIERRAN	Wyna Turner	585-0251

Sierra Club Environmental Center
800 S. Piedras
532-9645, 532-4876

Please send any changes or corrections in membership to
Carol Morrison, Membership Roll
728 Kern Drive/79902

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

CLUB NEWS

Officers for 1994 have been elected by the EXCOM. They are:

Chairman	Ted Mertig
Vice Chair	Mike Episcopo
Secretary	Joe Rodriguez

and Kathy Sunday was reappointed to be Treasurer.
CONGRATULATIONS!

Welcome to new members Phil and Susan Brown and Sam and Anne Hales!

BIG BEND RANCH STATE NATURAL AREA DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW

The Big Bend Ranch is a 265,000-acre tract acquired by the state in 1989. Part of the Chihuahuan Desert, the area supports many kinds of unique plants and animals. The remains of more than 10,000 years of human occupation also are found there, ranging from Native American hunters and early agriculturists to Spanish, Mexican and Anglo-American settlers and ranchers.

The plan is available for public review and comment through February 28. Contact Luis Armendariz, Big Bend Ranch SNA, P.O. Box 1180, Presidio, TX 79845 for your copy. Keep this address and remember to send your comments this month. **The deadline is Monday, February 28.**

OUTINGS

CHIRICAHUA NATIONAL MONUMENT CARCAMP

Southern Arizona

DATE: February 12-13, 1994
 CLASS: Moderate
 LIMIT: 20, leader approval and reservations required
 LEADER: Rollin Wickenden, 598-8042

We will depart El Paso early Saturday morning and drive to the National Monument via Bowie, AZ. We have the group campsite reserved for Saturday night. Campground fees will be shared among participants. Entrance fees to be paid by each vehicle. We plan to take dayhikes both Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning, hiking at least one new trail. The hiking is moderate, 5-7 miles per day, on well maintained trails. Come visit one of the most scenic places in the Southwest. Call Rollin for details and reservations.

SNOW FUN WEEKEND

Alpine, Arizona

DATE: February 19-21, 1994, President's Day Weekend
 CLASS: Fun
 LIMIT: None
 LEADER: Jeanne French, 592-1660

This is a Rio Grande Chapter outing, so there will be folks there from all four groups of the Chapter. All levels of cross country skiing will be available, including lessons for beginners. Accommodations are inexpensive. Ski rentals are available locally, but if you're going through Silver City, pick up equipment from Sierra Club folks at the Gila Hike and Bike. Join us for the fun, and meet fellow Sierrans from New Mexico.

FRANKLIN MOUNTAINS STATE PARK

El Paso

DATE: Saturday, February 19, 1994
 CLASS: Moderate
 LIMIT: 20, leader approval and reservations required
 LEADER: Claus Christiansen, 594-2505 (w)

We will hike six miles total with very little elevation gain. Call for more details.

BEGINNING BACKPACKING SERIES

DATE: Wednesday, February 23, 1994
 CLASS: Fun with lots of information
 LIMIT: None
 LEADERS: Experienced Sierra Club Backpackers

Join us at 6:15 pm for the Beginning Backpacking Series...right before the General Meeting at St. Paul's Methodist Church at 7000 Edgemere.

ADEN CRATER DAYHIKE

East of El Paso

DATE: Saturday, February 26, 1994
 CLASS: Easy
 LIMIT: None
 LEADER: Betsy Julian, 544-5741

Join us for this annual close-to-home hike. The crater shows one of nature's most impressive landmarks in the El Paso region. Call Betsy for details and travel arrangements.

BLUE DOG LOOP BACKPACK

Guadalupe Mountains National Park

DATE: February 26-27, 1994
 CLASS: Strenuous
 LIMIT: 12, leader approval and reservations required
 LEADER: Michael Bromka, 532-2652

We'll leave El Paso early on Saturday and drive to Dog Canyon via Dell City. Our hike in will be tough. The trail west from Dog Canyon to Marcus Cabin will gain then lose 1,000' before the final 2,000' gain along Marcus Trail to Blue Ridge. The day's totals will be 3,000' gain and 1,000' loss over 8.5 miles. We'll carry water, though snowbanks may provide more. Heading up, we'll study Lost Peak from afar. The next day's hike out will be a seven-mile cakewalk, including an easy scramble up Lost Peak. Weather and gumption may let us add a dayhike to Bush Mountain, the second highest peak in Texas.

SAPILLO CREEK KEY EXCHANGE BACKPACK

Gila Wilderness

DATE: March 5-6, 1994
 CLASS: Moderate +
 LIMIT: 12, (6 in each direction)
 LEADER: Rollin Wickenden, 598-8042 (home)
 Wesley Leonard, 747-6649 (work)

We will depart El Paso early Saturday morning and drive to our respective trailheads. If all goes as planned, Rollin's group will hike in on Trails 233 (Cow Creek) and 231 (Sheep Corral Canyon) to our campsite among the sycamores along Sapillo Creek. Wesley's group will hike in on Trail 247 (Spring Canyon) to the same campsite. On Sunday, we will exchange car keys and each group will hike out via the other group's route the day before. Come learn the way of the Cougar. Roundtrip mileage is about 15 miles. Elevation gain is less than 1,000'. Come see the Gila Wilderness before the crowds of summer arrive. This trip is subject to cold, rainy weather. Call Rollin or Wesley early for reservations.

PLAN AHEAD FOR THESE HOLIDAY & SUMMER TREKS

March 19-24 Spring Break Grand Canyon Backpack
 (Mike Episcopo, 833-3770)
 March 19-27 Spring Break Gila River Raft Trip (trip will be a backpack if there is not enough water)
 (Ted Mertig, 852-3011)
 June 19-26 Gila Wilderness Backpack
 (Laurence Gibson, 594-7342)
 July 9-17 Weminuche Wilderness (CO) Backpack
 NOTE DATE CHANGE
 (Laurence Gibson, 594-7342)
 August 6-14 Wyoming Backpack - either the Tetons or the Wind River Range
 (Laurence Gibson, 594-7342)

OUTINGS REPORTS

Cooke's Peak Carcamp, 12/4-5/93

We departed El Paso Friday evening and drove to our camp which was located south of Cooke's Peak. On Saturday morning, under excellent weather conditions, six dayhikers vigorously challenged the steep and rocky climb up the peak. Once we reached to top, we had a magnificent 360 degree view of the surrounding areas as well as encountering hundreds of lady bugs that inhabited the peak. Sunday morning we hiked into nearby Hadley Draw Canyon, where we came to an impressive waterfall with about a twenty foot dropoff and other interesting sites. Those participating were Jimmy Alden, Luis Hernandez, John Hamlyn, Kathy Sunday, Alice Anderson & leader Joe Rodriguez.

Anthony's Nose Dayhike, 12/18/93

Six Sierrans spent a Saturday scaling Anthony's Schnozola in the Franklins. Lolina Alvarez, Larry Hughes, Michael Bromka, Claus Christiansen, Rudy Provencio and leader Mike Episcopo met at 8 am in Tom Mays Park. We drove west to a northern parking spot and began trekking.

The first 40 minutes were among the day's most arduous, with rapid ascent and rock scrambling. Gaining the crest, we spent the next two hours following it over craggy ups and downs. We dodged ocotillo, agave, and jumping cholla which sought to detain us. Often the hike offered a choice of tightroping over precipitous rock edges or snaking through dense clusters of lechuguilla.

Weather began chilly then warmed to sunny splendor. We paused to watch a hawk ride thermals. We marveled at the path paved with fossils. From the bridge of the nose to its top took forty minutes of constant scrambling. We snacked on top, penning notes left in the communal glass jar for subsequent (and from previous) schnoz scalers. The trek back was dicey and difficult, thus a delight.

Our highest praise to Mike Episcopo for having single-handedly built this trail over recent years. (submitted by Michael Bromka)

Mt. Cristo Rey Dayhike, 12/26/93

Fifty hikers and then some climbed this sacred peak on a sunny Sunday morning. We met at UTEP and carpooled to the Cristo Rey parking lot. Salvador Salas and the men of the Mr. Cristo Rey Restoration Project guarded our cars. Two TV news teams filmed us starting out.

Heading up, we admired the beautifully maintained, smooth, jeep-wide trail. Up top, the white concrete "crown" formed a windbreak and a toasty solar reflector to warm us as we snacked. The clear weather afforded us an international view of the tri-state area, including a soccer game in Juarez. In Spanish and English we read aloud Matthew 4:1-11. Down below again, hikers donated \$2 each to the restoration fund that Mr. Salas and his colleagues maintain.

Among the hikers to Mt. Cristo Rey were Abe & Laura Rosas, Rudy Provencio, Mohammed & Hussein Alhumaid, Marge, George, & Joanna Lippman, Mike & Dionne Episcopo, Martin Gilbert, David & J.B. Brown, Ellen O'Neill, Ann Falknor, Barbara Elizalde, Bill & Shirley Phillips, Enrique Anchondo, Nina Arenal, Greg Valentino, Eliza, Jorge & Norma Vargas, Sam

& Greta Moore, Victor Caballero, Peter & Martha Jo Rice, Madelyn Connolly, Margaret Bonneau, Maria Schmidt, Mark Post, Jeanette & Suzann Davidson, Lynda Rushing, Sylvia Price, Lucy Acosta-Reyna, the McManus Family and leader Michael Bromka.

Lookout Peak Dayhike, 12/19/93

The desert was austere on this mid-December day. Creosote bush and yucca were green, but many other shrubs were leafless. The cacti huddled under their spines or shrank into the ground, and snakes and lizards slept in their dens. Summer's bright pattern of sunlight and shadow was muted into a gentle grey under the cloudy sky. We drove to Faulkner Canyon, walked up a side canyon to a dry falls, up to a larger, more impressive dry falls, over a creosote flat with panoramic views, and up the steep north side of Lookout Peak. Summiteers were Sierrans Paul Bronson, Francis Turner, guests Parry Buck and Lee Wilcox and leader Alice Anderson. Valient strivers were Estella Levy and Bob Dean.

North Franklin Peak Dayhike, 1/1/94

The weather was perfect and it was a great day for a hike on Saturday, the first of January, as 19 intrepid and barely hung-over explorers started off for the summit of North Franklin Peak. Our path to the 7,192' summit was the challenging, little-used Ridge Scramble ascent from Cottonwood Springs, which avoided the standard "tourist route" on the bulldozer road. It was a little cool and breezy on the peak during lunch as the sun went behind a cloud for awhile, but the hike back down to the parking area on the graded roadbed was made under mostly sunny skies. Enjoying the view from the summit were Jimmy and Jerry Eldon, Luis Hernandez, Mark Post, Rita and Andrea Schmidt, Christa McKinney, Lorraine Ellis, Jim Tisdale, Carolina Greenfield, Laurence Gibson, Joe Rodriguez, Steve and Barbara Carbajal, Mike Bromka and Rudy Provencio (the gourmet lunchers) and leader Kathy Sunday. Also along to enjoy the beautiful day, but not opting for the summit bid, were Greg Yakobian and Ellen O'Neill.

Big Hatchet Peak Carcamp and Dayhike, 1/1-3/94

We left town mid-morning on New Year's Day and drove to the Hatchet Ranch to pay our respects to the rancher. No one was home except the dog, who followed us as we sorted our way through a tangle of roads and gates, correcting our map as we went. Eventually we found the right way, and the dog returned to the ranch. We came to Thompson Windmill, drove through a mesquite grove that wasn't as thick as it appeared at first, and up the canyon to our campsite. We set up camp and explored further up Thompson Canyon on foot. The evening was cold and clear, with ample opportunity to try out a recently purchased field guide to stargazing. John Hamann had said he would be a little late, but when he still hadn't arrived by 9 am on Sunday, leader Alice Anderson climbed the peak via the old mule trail and Harold Naylor explored a few side canyons. Meanwhile, John had arrived and climbed the mountain by the east side, taking a much longer and more difficult route than Alice had. John returned on Sunday and Alice and Harold on Monday.

SANTA FE GROUP NEWS

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1994

SANTA FE SKI AREA PROPOSED EXPANSION

The February general membership meeting will focus on the status of the proposed expansion of the Santa Fe Ski Area.

As we speak, the Ski Area and the Forest Service are working on the draft Environmental Impact Statement, which is supposed to be issued at any time. When this happens, there will only be a short period of time to evaluate and comment on the proposed alternatives.

Come join Victor Martinez Jr. and George Jackson from SACC (Ski Area Containment Coalition) for an entertaining and informative presentation, including *George's famous magic act*. Following the presentation, there will be a question and answer period and you will learn what role you can play in the process.

Here's a chance to meet and show support for some of the local people who are doing something at a grass roots level to help preserve the mountains around Santa Fe. The meeting, as always, will be held at the Unitarian Church (on Barcelona between Don Gaspar and Galisteo) Tuesday, February 15, 1994, at 7:30 PM. The meeting is free and open to all! After the SACC presentation, there will be a brief Legislative Update.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NEWS

The Executive Committee of the Santa Fe Group will meet at 7 PM at the Sierra Club Office, 440 Cerrillos Road, on Tuesday, March 1, 1994. Everyone is welcome to attend.

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 Cerrillos Road. All conservation matters to be brought before the Executive Committee should be presented first at the Conservation Committee meetings for discussion and recommendation. The next meeting is February 22, 1994, 7:00 PM.

Helen Moser regretfully resigned from the ExCom and Martha Anne Freeman has been elected to fill her unexpired term.

PASSINGS

We regret to report the death of Dan Mitchem on October 26, 1993. Dan was a member of the Santa Fe group of the Sierra Club Executive Committee in 1986 and 1987, head of the Conservation Committee in 1988 and 1989 and led energetic hikes for the group for eight years. He worked as Sierra Club liaison in developing the Atalaya Mountain trail when it was threatened by development, thus helping to keep this beloved trail in use by the many active people of Santa Fe. He was a painter of western scenes, co-authored a book on sailing and was interested in music and Southwest history.

Memorial contributions may be sent to the Santa Fe Group of the Sierra Club, 440 Cerrillos Road, Santa Fe, NM 87501, or to The Hospice Center at 1422 Paseo de Peralta, Santa Fe, NM 87501.

>> SANTA FE GROUP OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS <<

Co-Chairs — Mark Mortier*	983-5870	Political Committee — Ken Hughes*	988-9297
— Norma McCallan*	471-0005	Newsletter Editor — Kay Carlson	982-3926
Secretary/Treasurer — Lionel Soracco*	983-6715	Phone Tree — Martha Anne Freeman*	438-0697
Conservation — Van Perkins*	983-8801	Social/Membership — Patty Bray	989-1924
— George Grossman*	982-1024	Kids' Sierra Club — Justine Freeman	988-9126
Chapter Representatives - Sue McIntosh*	982-4146	Recycling/Office — Carolyn Keskulla	982-9570
— Norma McCallan*	471-0005	Education —	
Publicity —		Outings — Norbert Sperlich	983-1962
Fundraising —		— Norma McCallan*	471-0005
* Member of the SF Group Executive Committee		Vickie Gabin*	986-7315

Terms expire 12/94: Hughes/McIntosh/Freeman/Perkins
12/95: McCallan/Mortier/Soracco/Gabin/Grossman

MARCH CITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS CRUCIAL TO SANTA FE'S ENVIRONMENT

Members of the Sierra Club, as well as the general public, have a keen interest in how candidates for public office stand on issues affecting our air, land and water. As a result, the Sierra Club will make endorsements of candidates for mayor and for City Council. Your participation is welcome in the endorsements, which will take place at a meeting of the committee on Tuesday, February 8, at 7 PM in the Sierra Club office.

To help in the endorsement process, we have asked candidates to respond to the following questionnaire. Newsletter deadlines prevent responses from being run in the *Sierra*; however, you are welcome to contact the Political Committee to find out individual candidate responses (or at the February meeting).

1. Water use, availability and effects on its quality.
 - In the interest of controlling development, especially its effects on water use, do you support a hotel moratorium?
 - Do you support mandatory water efficiency measures, including low flow showerheads and toilets in new homes and businesses?
 - Do you favor making it legal for Santa Fe residents to apply greywater to lawns and shrubs?
 - Would you vote to mandate the use of recycled water on golf courses?
2. Studies in other cities show that a major chunk of property tax revenue is used for street maintenance, rather than other pressing needs. In order to have motorists pay more towards their true cost to the city:
 - Would you support charging market prices for downtown parking?
 - Would you favor developers paying more for the price of new streets in or near their developments?
3. Santa Fe is prized by residents and tourists alike as that rare city where walking is a preferred mode of transportation. To encourage alternatives to single occupancy driving:
 - Do you favor giving workers who commute by means other than their own car cash equivalent to the value of free parking, say \$50/month?
 - Would you favor underwriting the expansion of bus service?
 - Do you support allowing pedestrians only traffic in the Plaza?
 - Would you favor an expanded network of biker/hiker trails to serve all Santa Feans, even if private property must be used for the trails?
 - Do you favor annual emissions testing of motor vehicles?
4. Will you push for adoption of the Master Plan, so that it allows continued citizen input on issues such as conservation?
5. The City's Open Space Task Force is formulating a Master Plan, to be announced in the spring. In anticipation of its recommendations:
 - Would you support preserving and purchasing open space, even if private property must be used?
 - Would you support requiring developers to pay the costs of buying open space?
 - Are you for keeping Atalaya Mountain preserved from development?
6. Are you for or against any expansion of the Santa Fe ski area?
7. Finally, what have you personally done in the last two years to protect or enhance Santa Fe's environment?

... The Santa Fe Group has joined the TeleGuide information service. To access call 820-2020, after connection, punch in the category number for up-to-date information on Membership (2500), Hikes & Outings (2501), Meetings (2502), etc. Use this free service to nonprofit groups.

... Recycling ... Environmental Control is now located on the right side of Airport Road, past the entrance of Agua Fria Street — turn right at the sign saying *Mountain Storage*, then immediately left to the Recycling center.

Outings Notes -- All outings, unless otherwise specified, leave from the PERA parking lot at the corner of Paseo de Peralta and Old Santa Fe Trail (across the street from the State Capitol and Patis Corbae). Carpooling will be arranged at the parking lot, and each hiker should come prepared to pay 5 cents a mile to the driver of the car in which hiker rides. Hikers should bring a lunch, water, sturdy hiking boots or shoes, and clothing suitable for the weather — leader reserves the right to turn away anyone whose equipment or experience appears unsuitable. Leader has the right to alter destination of hike or cancel the trip due to weather, unfavorable conditions, or insufficient numbers of participants. Unaccompanied minors must have written permission from parents or guardians to participate; permission forms are available at the Sierra Club office. Dogs are not permitted on hikes unless noted otherwise. Telephone leader for details of the individual hike.

SANTA FE COUNTY OPEN SPACE INVENTORY

The Santa Fe County Planning Dept is initiating an inventory of potential open space lands within the county as part of its program to update the county General Plan. The process is being managed by ERO Resources Corp of Denver. To submit suggestions, receive pertinent forms and additional information, contact Mark DeHaven or Steve Dougherty at ERO (303-320-4400) or write to ERO Resources Corp, 369 Montezuma, Suite 242, Santa Fe, NM 87501.

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

Sat Sun February

- 5 Lionel Soracco (983-6715) Moderate Cross-Country Ski Trip in the Jemez. Leave 9 AM.
- 6 Norma McCallan (471-0005) Easy to Moderate Hike from Galisteo Dam to Waldo. Minimal elevation change. Dogs allowed. Leave 8:30 AM.
- 12 Joe Whelan (984-0746) Moderate Cross-Country Ski Trip Call leader for destination. Leave 8:30 AM.
- 13 Victor Atyas (471-7545) Easy Hike Destination depends on weather and road conditions. Leave 9 AM.
- 13 Steven Janus (988-4137) Strenuous Snowshoe / Tele / Cross-Country Trip to Santa Fe Baldy. Call leader for time and meeting place.
- 19 - 20 - 21 Saturday-Sunday-Monday
- John Turnbull (982-9329) Chapter wide Cross-Country Ski Weekend in Alpine, Arizona. See chapter story for details elsewhere in the newsletter. Don't miss this one!
- 19 Julie Montoya King (438-7197) Easy Hike from Diablo Canyon to Rio Grande and back, weather permitting. Leave 9 AM.
- 20 Bob McKee (672-3426) Moderate Hike from Otowi Bridge along Rio Grande. Call leader for time and meeting place.
- 26 Norrine Sanders (984-0386) Moderate Hike on Forest Road 79; 600' elevation gain. Leave 8 AM.
- 27 Elizabeth Altman (471-8490) Easy to Moderate Cross-Country Ski Trip where snow is best. Call leader for information.

**Sat Sun March**

- 5 Lionel Soracco (983-6715) Moderate Cross-country Ski Trip to wherever there is snow. Leave 8:30 AM.
- 5 Brian Johnson (983-5672) Moderate Hike Martinez Canyon, north of Abiquiu. 10 miles RT. Lve 8 AM.
- 6 Jeff Jones (984-2389) Very Easy Hike in Eldorado area. Good for families with small children. Meet at 10 AM at the main (second) entrance to Eldorado (Avenida Vista Grande).
- 6 Norbert Sperlich (983-1962) Moderate Hike near La Cienega (Santa Fe River Canyon), mostly off-trail. Call leader for reservations and departure time.
- 12 Bob McKee (672-3426) Moderate/Strenuous Hike up Water Canyon (near White Rock). Some bushwhacking. About 9 miles roundtrip. Call for time and meeting place.
- 13 Victor Atyas (471-7545) Easy/Moderate Hike to Tent Rocks. Leave 9 AM.
- 19 Norrine Sanders (984-0386) Easy Hike up Arroyo Chamisa. Leave 8:30 AM.
- 19 Joe Whelan (984-0746) Moderate Cross-country Ski Tour to wherever there is snow. Leave 8:30 AM.
- 20 Julie Montoya King (438-7197) Moderate Hike to Window Rock. Leave 8 AM.

Sunday, March 20 to Saturday, March 26

- Bill Donahue (983-3675) Ski/Winter Leadership Skills Week, San Juan Mountains, Colorado. See write-up elsewhere in this issue.
- 26 Arnold and Carolyn Keskulla (982-9570) Easy Hike in the Pojoaque Barranca. Leave 8:30 AM.
- 27 Steven Janus (988-4137) Strenuous Hike in the Sandias, through Chimney Rock Canyon to the Crest and return on the La Luz Trail. Call for leader approval and time of departure.

Thursday, March 30 to Sunday, April 3

- Norma McCallan (471-0005) 4-day Car Camp with Moderate Day Hikes in Canyonlands National Park, Utah. Leave Wednesday afternoon.

Interested in ski touring, but nothing is scheduled? There may be a last-minute trip happening, or if there is sufficient interest one may be arranged. Phone either John Turnbull (982-9329) in Santa Fe or Stan Kuchak (292-9138) in Albuquerque. The non-scheduled trips often are the best of all, taking advantage of new snow, etc.



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

THE LOG SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO GROUP

Outings

February 19-21: Enjoy a cross-country ski trip to Alpine Arizona with the chapter for a three day weekend. Ben Zerbey will be the co-coordinator for southern New Mexico. Please call 526-6207 for reservations!

March 12-13, 19-20: The work project for Slokum/Mason Ranch has been postponed until these two weekends. Volunteers are still needed to perform stabilization work at the historic ranch 25 miles north of Las Cruces. Please call Ben Zerbey at 526-6207 for more information on this great opportunity to restore an archaeological site!

March 26: A day hike to Kibourne Hole and Aden Crater will be led by Jim Basler. Bring water and a snack, and don't forget your sunscreen and a hat! For more information call Jim at 521-4822.

Notice : The March 12 trip to Baylor Pass has been canceled.

Meetings

Wednesday, February 9: The Executive Committee meetings will be at 7:00 pm. Please call Marianne to find out where. The Executive Committee meetings have been changed to Wednesdays in exchange for the presence of a secretary.

Thursday, February 24: There will be a general meeting at Science Hall room 107 on the NMSU campus. Please join Janice Hartley of the State Land Commission at 7:30 pm to discuss the "Cultural Properties on State Trust Lands."

Group Directory

Chair, Marianne Thaeler	522-3421
Vice Chair, Myra Price	524-0261
Newsletter/Secretary, Kris Paulsen	
Treasurer, Ben Zerbey,	526-6207
Student Advisor, David Pengelly	646-3901
Outings Chair, Jim Basler	521-4822
Programs Chair, David Pengelly	646-3901
Membership, Tony Chiaviello	525-1802
Publicity, Cheryl Blevins	524-4861
Agriculture, Jim Winder	267-4227
Sierra Seniors, Marian Nygard	522-4689

Education Committee

Andrew Hands	
Jim Winder	267-4227

Conservation Committee

Marianne Thaeler,	
BLM, FS and Military	522-3421
Erika Kocsis,	
Water Conservation	522-0726
Tony Chiaviello,	
Grazing issues	525-1802
Ben Zerbey,	
National Parks	526-6207

The NMSU Student Sierra Club is still going strong and we are waiting for you to come join us at our outings and programs. Meetings are held on the first Wednesday and third Thursday of each month in Science Hall room 107.

Student Directory

Lori Schmierer President 526-1093
Myra Price, Vice-president 524-0261
Phil Rotherham, Treasurer
Carol Evans, Programs Chair
David Pengelly, Student Advisor 525-8286

Welcome to our new Executive Committee Members, Erika Kocsis, James Basler and Marian Nygard. And welcome back to David Pengelley, Myra Price, Cheryll Blevins and Andrew Hands.

A New Challenge

By Kris Paulsen

Brace yourselves! People for the West, an organization by and for ranchers, miners, loggers and other land users hopes to form a new chapter in Las Cruces within 60 days!

Already the organization for "wise abuse" has 26 chapters throughout New Mexico, and approximately 600 members.

People for the West came to New Mexico three years ago claiming to be an environmentally ethical group. Since then they have fought against increases in grazing fees, mining law reform and other efforts to preserve our natural resources.

To the people of New Mexico who truly care about the preservation of our lands, this poses a new challenge. We conservationists and ethi-thinkers must unite and work together to end the "wise abuse" that continues to drain our state of its natural beauty and energy! As a representative for People of the West in Tucson said, "Get involved and be very visible." I couldn't have said it better myself, and I know that is what the opposition will be doing.

Fascinating Food Wrap

By Kris Paulsen

Researchers at the University of Vermont have created an ecologically sound, economical way to wrap your food without using plastic. The fascinating solution is "edible film" made from whey protein, the thin watery part of milk left over when cheese is made. Once perfected the edible film may take the place of plastic wrap and other plastics used to store food, and it may even be eaten with your food. To top it off, it will cut down on waste from processing cheese. The step is to perfect the flavor. Who knows maybe we can get rid of plastic after all!

Details for the Special Election

By Marianne Thaeler, Chair

Our Southern New Mexico Group Bylaws state that our Executive Committee (ExCom) shall be made up of 15 members. The Bylaws also state that the ExCom should meet at least quarterly.

Due to the scope and breath of Southern New Mexico activities, particularly in the area of conservation, the ExCom meets once per month. No one objects to this, but for a variety of reasons, such as vacations, class conflicts, etc., it is often difficult to fill our required quorum of seven members attending each meeting. This problem has been ongoing for two years. After lengthy discussions on alternative solutions we decided that changing the number of positions required to make the ExCom would be best.

The present ExCom voted on January 13, 1994 to place before you, the general membership, the proposition to amend the Bylaws to require that the ExCom be made of 9 members, and the Chair of the Student Sierra Club Group at NMSU be named an ex-officio member.

The Bylaws state: "These Bylaws are fundamental and shall not be added to, amended or repealed except by 2/3rds vote of the Group Executive Committee and a 2/3rds vote of all mail ballots cast in an annual or special election, followed or preceded by approval of the Chapter Executive Committee."

The Bylaws presently read:

"Bylaw 2: Executive Committee

Section 1: Number and Powers

2.1 Numbers. Subject to the powers of the members as provided by these Bylaws, the management of the affairs and activities of the group shall be in the hands of the Executive Committee of 15 members, elected by the members of the group for the terms of two years each, 7 to be elected in odd-numbered years and 8 in even-numbered years."

It is proposed to amend the Bylaws to read:

"Bylaw 2: Executive Committee

Section 1: Number and Powers

2.1 Numbers. Subject to the powers of the members as provided by these Bylaws, the management of the affairs and activities of the group shall be in the hands of the Executive Committee of 9 members, elected by the members of the group for the terms of two years each, 5 to be elected in odd-numbered years and 4 in even-numbered years. The Chair of the NMSU Student Sierra Club Group shall be an Ex-officio member of the Executive Committee."

1994 Ballot

Special Election

Bylaw Amendment as stated above

For ☐

Against ☐

Please clip out the ballot and mail in an envelope to:

Sierra Club

P.O. Box 3705

Las Cruces, NM 88003

Place your membership number on the flap of the envelope.