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 an unprecedented mobility, speed, freedom and more horsepower than kings had in other times. But the car is a great server 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  b) Saturn  c) 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  b) 4,219,976  c) 1,320,809  d) billions and billions

3. Albuquerque drivers burn enough gasoline every day to
   a) fill ten gasoline trucks.  b) cover Lobo Stadium.  c) load a super tanker.  d) suck the Permian Basin dry.

4. For every gallon of gasoline burned, a typical car emits
   pounds of CO2.
   a) 1  b) 2  c) 10  d) 20

5. Oil spills from ships, pipelines, oil drilling platforms, trucks and trains occur
   a) daily  b) annually  c) 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  b) 5  c) 20  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 What is the percentage of the real costs of driving covered by the 6 cents per gallon tax increase soon to be repealed by the state legislature?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  b) 9  c) 19  d) 10  e) 35

8. A typical residential lot devote ______ of its space to a driveway and/or garage.
   a) one-tenth  b) one-quarter  c) 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  b) 3  c) 9  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

Range Reform Reforms
by Roger Peterson

Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt is shifting ground in major ways on reform measures. This fact, hinted 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 Director Dale Bereel Johnson) and from the Governor’s and Congressional offices. Major participants were chosen by the Governor’s office and not (as Albuquerque Journal editorsials accuse) by Interior.

On the 19th Mr. Babbitt had completed an eight-week series of meetings with corresponding groups in Colorado. On the table was “a 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 hiker, and a citizen-at-large (all at least five-year residents), who would have final say in spending some substantial grazing fees (or in some cases for non-use) 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 he 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 post last year by Gov. Bruce King. Several other Democratic and Republican candidates will also be in the race.

If elected, Wolff said he will ensure that state trust lands are managed for the benefit of public interests, not special interests. He 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 his campaign will be a grassroots effort to reach out to a broad spectrum of constituents looking for an alternative to politics as usual. He also hopes her candidacy will inspire others to step up to run for public office. As an Independent, Wolff will need to collect 12,537 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., Unlilien Church on Barcelona between Don Gaspar and Galisteo. See page 16.

El Paso
Will the Endangered Species Act survive this Congress? Activists from Gila 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 Arroyo. See page 16.

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 2481, corner of Mountain and Stanford, NE. See page 12.

Southern New Mexico
Jesús Hidalgo of the State Land Office (see above) will speak on "Cultural Properties on State Trust Lands," Thursday, February 24, 7:30 P.M., Elmo Hat, NMSU, Room 107. See page 21.

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

Inside...
From the Chair ........................................ p. 2
Water Issues Update .............................. p. 3
New Directions for Game & Fish? ............. p. 4
Santa Fe Legislative Report ..................... p. 4
Proposed Timber Sale in the Pecos ............ p. 5
Buying Y-Country Site ......................... p. 10
Driving on Earth Quiz ........................ p. 12
Back Page
Reeling Gas Tax a Bad Idea

One of the major issues facing New Mexico legislators this session is a proposal to increase the state’s gasoline tax. If passed, the new tax would affect all gasoline users, regardless of their residency. The purpose of this increase is to generate additional revenue for state programs and initiatives. However, this is a bad idea for at least two reasons: first, the state needs the money, and the tax will discourage automobile use.

Is there any question that the money could be put to good use in New Mexico? As such, the tax hike would result in the diversion of transportation funds, and the state would lose out on the potential for increased economic activity.

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 data from the World Resources Institute, the real cost of driving is $3.52 per gallon, if you include all of the externalities such as pollution, congestion, parking space requirements, and annual emergency medical services, etc. This is a good price to raise 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 tax by a dollar per gallon.

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

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 in a manner consistent with the 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 laws passed, good regulations adopted to implement the laws, and strict enforcement of the laws and regulations.

The Southern New Mexico Group was equally active, working on forestry issues with the Lincoln National Forest; protection of Otero Mesa, which has recently been proposed as a low-level radioactive waste disposal site in New Mexico; and the "Range Master Plan for Fort Bliss, Texas;" stabilization work at Mason Ranch, 21 miles north of Las Cruces; continued work on the Diamond Bar grazing issues; and work with the BLM Wildlife Study Committee.

In summary, the El Paso Group found itself involved in border environmental issues; continued work on issues concerning the Franklin Mountains; work with the BLM Wildlife Study Committee; and continued outreach to the local community through the Environmental Center.

The Santa Fe Group joined with other environmental and local groups to jump start support for the El Coyote 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 1979. Foremost, the hallmark 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 contribution. For that reason, in March we will be asking you to join us as a Parter in helping us fund our continuing effort in the protection and preservation of our precious environment.
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 of the habitation of wildlife habitat. We will be asking for $2.4 million for this "Conservation Division" of the department. (See article on this page.)

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 form of a New Mexico 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.

The Sierra Club anticipates 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 tires, and secondly, to create the seed money for corrective action and fund a recycled asphalt fund to be used on nears and highways. We need to find some positive use for this material.

Regional Water Planning
Through the efforts of Vicki Gabbin (Water Issues Co-Chair) and representatives from regional planning commissions 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.

Public Utility Commission
And finally, another planning appropriation will be supporting 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.

This is true despite the large amounts of revenue actually generated by non-consumptive wildlife "use" in this state. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, more than $300 million was spent last year in New Mexico on consumptive use of New Mexico's wildlife (e.g., photography, bird watching, etc.) and a survey of percent of map of state generated to buy a supplemental budget item to the Legislature expressing its 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 estimate, call me at (505) 982-4146 or 986-8435.

Timber Sale Threats 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 which were already 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 Carrizo 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 1980 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 step of planning is complete, as early as 1996 for some New Mexico Forests.

The Forest Service's preferred alternative would allow harvesting of 6.9 million board feet of timber and construction of 17 miles of new roads. Clearly, activities of this magnitude would disqualify the area for wilderness designation. This deforestation wilderness area is an area the Sierra Club has been seriously concerned about since Congress passed the Wilderness Act. The Forest Service and we need to do everything possible to stop it. We have tried for several years to convince Congressmen 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 the 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 conflict with wilderness: off-road motorizing. 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 can be used by motorcy- clers and never conflict with wilderness. If necessary, a few miles of new motorcycle trail could easily be constructed.
Range Reform
(continued from front page)

where disagreement remained the issues—especially regarding land use. But he said that he was signing no Colorado agreement—"the document is theirs, not ours." He added that many problems remain to be solved.

Resource Advisory Boards

The Secretary has adopted "local control" but without all of Gunther’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 "a modified system of "majoritarian democracy" to which a polarized group could never be united. 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. Buffett admitted the difficulties, including that of finding conservationists who would dare speak out in some communities; we reviewed a host of possible actions against individuals by ranchers and employers. Nonetheless he described as "the Secretary’s bargain" in part to his realistic discussion that decision-making would move toward the local level in exchange for a new definition of who the decision-makers are and who the stakeholders are, 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. Buffett. 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 increased stream requirements—our clients' definite criteria should be spelled out by which decisions can be made as to which lands are appropriate for livestock grazing. Mr. Buffett claimed to think that such decisions could be left to local boards that are armed with new federal guidelines to ensure the diversity and standards and guidelines. "We expressed preference for five-year (or ten-year) leases to improve accountability; we are planning a reply letter but held off and leaning toward ten-year leases, again in the name of stability.

On the plus side, Mr. Buffett 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 the work. Public-interest groups are obviously not satisfied with a system that has failed to reform itself.

Mr. Buffett 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 Society, Wilderness Society, New Mexico Wildlife Federation, Sierra Club, and Wilderness Society in Albuquerque). Mr. Buffett said that he had decided to produce a range-reform bill for two or three years and was resigned to living with him 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 any range responsibilities be turned over to non-ranchers—in view of ranchers' irresponsibility.

And Wolf Buffett Baiting

Neon-orange color and noise were contributed by twenty or so black-hatted ranchers and their families parading and chanting outside the meeting building. The UAW with placards bearing messages such as "Are You a Communist, Mr. Buffett?" and "Wolf Buffett is a Wolf in Sheep’s Clothing." These were billed as the voices of "Rangeland Revolt ‘94," including a warning voice, "Will the West Survive ‘95?" A 90 percent increased tax rate on the livestock industry would mean the range would go up.

Obviously the public-land ranch industry (a study of three of the worst of the work force in New Mexico) continues to exercise disproportionate political power. We’ve had less of talk, but real reform seems almost as far from us as in 1976. A government official said it was "a good deal less likely than it was after last spring’s public hearing.

The BLM in New Mexico

by Roger Peterson

The BLM’s Land Management (BLM) plans for New Mexico include a 12,000-acre proposal for almost 13 million acres of surface in Mexico, one sixth of the state, organized in four districts: Parado (part of the Pecos and Taos resource areas), La Crues (Caballos, Mimbres, and Socorro resource areas in New Mexico), and Taos (also the Pecos and Taos resource areas). BLM administers an additional 26 million acres of subharbaceous lands, federal lands, Indian lands, and state-estate lands.

Almost 100 million acres of BLM land is grazed by livestock. But the big money, 96 percent of the $235 million received by New Mexico BLM in Fiscal Year 1992, comes from minerals. That’s mostly oil and gas in the San Juan (Anita, Ariz., Roswell, and Roswell districts), but with coal mining also a past and future problem (see Jeff Radford, 1986, The Chapo Coal Scandal)!

The Bureau has been less amenable to public input than has the Forest Service, and less well staffed. Each national forest has quarterly input of projects and anyone can routinely receive notices of projects. In contrast, the BLM has no 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 requests. Even when one asks for a document is known to be available a specific request get it—if it concerns grazing issues. In 1981-82 (500rd) they had to establish "affected interest" status.

NEPA applies and bad decisions can usually be protested and appealed, but the Bureau is working closely with agencies facilitating decisions from the owners of the land: a 1991 decision on a national vegetation-treatment EIS was signed by the Department of Agriculture, but no appeal could go to an Interior administrative court. In 1993 the Roswell Resources Area avoided protests on an herbicide project by spraying before malling the decision notice (even though—or perhaps because—we reminded the area manager that we awaited it). Historically BLM has served and sometimes still serves to serve livestock, mining, and petroleum industries rather than public welfare.

So for public-interest groups, monitoring 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 five districts, and also a few locations in the Pecos and Taos resource areas, especially because few members in Carlsbad or Roswell are in position to speak out. We need to get more involved in the Belen (Farmington) and Hondo (Socorro) areas. There is also the concern of Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) who has championed the view that the BLM should work to make the 1988 Act (the BLM’s 1988 Act) as a foundation for land management. BLM could get more money for services; they could try to become more efficient; BLM could try to become more efficient; BLM could try to become more efficient; BLM could try to become more efficient. Taking a "rangocon" 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 Anna Martin (San Juan) Plan—which, like a forest plan—set 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, decreased to 0.8 percent by the year 2000, with 98.3 percent increasing to 99.2 percent for livestock. The Roswell District has also proposed to take over 100 acres of old-cloak-through the over last dozen years, converting prairie-chicken and mule-deer habitat to grass pastures—at no expense to the ranchers, which have selected which lands should be traded. This is an agency that needs help. To receive the Draft EIS it will be written by the BLM, updated and updated until the document is known to be available a specific request get it—unless it concerns grazing issues. We have to do it again—0-2 (5000) is the task. But the Bureau’s business is done every day, not at 10-15-year planning intervals. Working with the resource-areas offices is Felicia Harvey (Dexter, 347-2910), Hank Saato (Taos, 758-9712), Barbara Stone (Albuquerque, 344-8009), Marianne Thiel (Farmington, 377-7009) and (Las Cruces, 339-8333) and Phil Somerwell (Shiprock, 368-5702); this chair’s project, our project.

But the BLM’s business is done every day, not at 10-15-year planning intervals. Working with the resource-areas offices is Felicia Harvey (Dexter, 347-2910), Hank Saato (Taos, 758-9712), Barbara Stone (Albuquerque, 344-8009), Marianne Thiel (Farmington, 377-7009) and (Las Cruces, 339-8333) and Phil Somerwell (Shiprock, 368-5702). This chair’s project, the project.

The environmental aspects of the grazing laws must be reformed also. The goal of the Bush administration of 1981-82 was to update and maintain healthy range landscapes that support a thriving population of native plants and animals 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," he said, "wilderness. Intensive livestock operations overall coordination. But the Bureau is not in state for months and a half a volunteer is needed there, though David Wolf continues active from afar on Dark Canyon oil-drilling protests. Also representing the BLM on the Taos Area’s Santa Fe Canyon protection, Roger Peterson on the Rio Puerco Area’s ambitions upper Rio Puerco watershed project, and John R. Cline and Carl Pope on Socorro Area wilderness issues.

Senator 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 Mexico’s favor grazing reform and higher fees and don’t want their ranchers," Bishop stated. "Taxpayers can no longer afford to provide for the rich."
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 significance 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 permitting under the 1872 Mining Law.

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

This bill is significant in that it recognizes the nomenclature, iconic, 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 sold for $2.50 an acre, nor will any future mineral claims be allowed. All lands that are mined on current valid mining claims will be subject 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 not to 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 ensuring 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 brick-topped camp- ing and picnic areas, RV parks, and increased services. Recent development and increased backcountry use and logging, have put the Jemez and Chamis River sparsely marked 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 Jemez 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 Petersen, Jim Norton, Sam Hilt, David Henderson, and to the memory of Jack Kinley, whose inspiration I would never have started on this journey.

Unfortunately, successes such as this do not come cheaply. We are still 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, NM 87504.

The author is director of the East Fork Preservation Coalition.

On the Waterfront (continued from page 3)

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

San Juan and other groups are watching closely the "Pecos River Native Riparian Restoration Project," a proposal dedicated to rehabilitation 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.

On the Waterfront

Mexican Activist Beat Up by Drug Thugs

From Forest Guardsians’ FRONTLINE

Fax Report

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

Eulalio Bustindil, 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 and foresters who work for the national forestry service. He had been working for a local drug kingpin named Artemio Fontes.

Bustindil 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 one of the most biologically diverse forests in Mexico, containing more species of pine than any other place on earth.

It has also become one of Mexico’s leading drug trafficking areas.

Bustindil was in Santa Fe recently to launch a cooperative effort with Forest Guardsians to protect the forests of northern Mexico. At a press conference held at the Cannon Hotel’s dinner on water, Bustindil and other Forest Guardsians announced plans to form a national organization to protect the forests of the area. They are also working to establish a network of indigenous communities working in concert with the Forest Guardsians.

Bustindil and others reported that violence is escalating against anyone who opposes logging.

The new Forest Guardsians renamed their organization after Taishaman community, 35 people who have been killed over the past two years. Bustindil and other representatives were opposed with automatic weapons fire last spring.

The situation in the Sierra Madre is extremely serious. Under NAFTA a rapid increase in drug trafficking has been occurring across the border. The result is a large reduction in the number of boats and land used to control the marijuana plants.

And what would we have talked about? Let’s look at what we’ve accomplished. Well managed grazing has restored savannas in southern Mexico, stopped erosion in semi-arid areas and has helped contain agricultural land on and tribal lands. In Northern Mexico, some rural communities are protecting agricultural land by developing enterprising which add on value to agricultural resources.

Forest Conservation, from the Taos Pueblo to the Dima of Ramah, rural residents have fought to save these land for agricultural and rural communities large and small. They also have consistently opposed the very few who have 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 value to land and wool, as well as marketing livestock and the products.

In the United States, local and private land management are there, but this administration seems to want to disrupt the value of the headlines orchestrated by politicians, environmentalists and agrarians, rather than getting to the heart of the problem.

An example of this is the Babbitt grazing summit in Albuquerque (Jan. 20) and the various New Mexico counties 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 committee that much of the public land in northern Mexico was acquired from the common lands of villages and pueblos and other rural natives. This land acquisition was made under threat of the turn of the century tilted vapor floor from its natural relationship to high mountain communities and the sonority of traditional grazing. It drove countless families off their land into the migrant worker streams, and created chronic poverty in at least four New Mexico counties where public land comprises over half the acreage. It would be at least polite to invite to the committee the author of this conference which has emphasized on tourism has wanted improvement on land prices for on those agriculture...land.

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...Just like elsewhere, the solution involving the rainforests with their old sciences and medicines protected by countries over the centuries. But the value of these sciences is something less important with the medicinal and plant genus diversity protected by U.S. indigenous culture.

Rural people are frontline caretakers of their land and water resources. Health and well being is dependent on the land. According to rural communities secure their cultural heritage, develop sustainable agricultural economies and participate in developing public land policy.

Longtime Rio Arriba community organizer Maria Varela is co-director of the Ganados del Valle cooperative in Los Ojos. This essay originally appeared in the Albuquerque Journal, 1/23/94. Used with permission.

Land Summit Includes 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 major issue is long-term viability of public lands which exist within the rural areas of this nation.

We must not limit itself to habitation within public lands. Its habitats is both public and private lands. Public land habitat can only be as healthy as adjacent 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...

...We need access to public lands so that this nation does not lose the national treasures found in old agricultural and pastural 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 allocations for private lands is even getting into considerable debt: the market rate for permitted animals on the National Forest is $1000 and $500-600/cow. Purchasing private land is out of the question as the emphasis on tourism has jacked up prices on prime agriculture land...

...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 paid in? How can low-income families start out in agriculture afford to graze public lands?

Some of the 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.

Communities and families desiring to conserve and practice other agricultural and grazing practices in the northern New Mexico must be protected from this action.

We need access to public lands 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 insist on 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...Just like elsewhere, the solution involving the rainforests with their old sciences and medicines protected by countries over the centuries. But the value of these sciences is something less important with the medicinal and plant genus diversity protected by U.S. indigenous culture.
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 and bargain prices, particularly with the large retailers.

If this is the year to buy, the next logical question is, what type of skis and boots are 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 come out.

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.

Ski: Width
Deep, loose, powder snow, staying up on top is important. It's called "rotation". Look for a wide ski at least 50 mm wide, and preferably 55 mm or wider. The wider, the better. A backcountry touring ski has "side-cut" meaning that it is wider at the tip and tail than at the waist. Typically 105 to 110 wider. This makes for an easier turning ski.

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

Ski: Length
The first question on most buyers' minds is how long their skis should be. The correct answer 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 6'1". The ideal ski will be essentially flat when the skier stands on them. Not surprisingly, most men find themselves on 210 cm skis, which will be both lightweight and available. Lighter than average people can easily move on a shorter ski. Heavyweights, on the other hand, have a problem, and usually must go to a taller than average model, such as a mountaineering ski. The price is stiffer, too.

Where to Ski
This is a low-snow season, and skiers need to look for suitable conditions. The high plateau west of Two Medicine, for instance, is not the choice area in the state, with about two to three feet of still-flock powder. Snowshoers have picked the area west of HIppoway Lake, but the floors to the west and the east of the lake, including Meconite Canyon, Deer Trail Creek, and the Grasshopper Airstrip, are still located. For excellent, Big Mountain, are excellent for skiing.

Call The Two Medicine Ranger District, Cameron National Forest for information at (406) 759-6678. Ask for Mary Ann Elder or Thomas Chavas. If there has been a recent snowstorm, ask about how far snow has been cleaned along U.S. 89. It varies, depending upon how the State Highway Department feels that it is safe to drive today or not.

The forecast is "JAY."

Boots
Unfortunately the first priority for the backcountry skier. If your boots (and bindings) are right you'll look good even if your skills are lacking. A good touring boot is stiff, and can be stiffened for those occasional excursions into deep snow. Most good-backcountry skiers, or the better selection of the ski, will make the best skis stiffen a little extra. A good boot will be a good feeling. Your feet will not be cramped.

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 sore, restless squabbling with the salespeople, for reasons below.

Once a turn, going back to 1972, 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." It was heavyweight, or regular versions, every boot fettling every. No thinking required. Life was happier back then. Today, however, contrast, buying bindings is more complicated than buying computers, and if you guess wrong, you end up buying another boot, or dress boot, of course is impossible. Then there is the question of ski boots, which must be of aluminum, for some marvelous and unknown reason, always come with easy strap adjustments. Expect a price of about $150 on sale.

An added advantage of aluminum poles is choice in grip design. Mountaineering poles typically are offered with a palm-fitting, 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 has a length adjustment buckle. Although more expensive, aluminum poles, like diamonds, are forever.

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

Telemarking in late December winter near Braggins Dome, some of the most breathtaking scenery in New Mexico, about 40 miles south of Colorado line. A favorite location for springtime skiing.

4th Annual Backcountry Ski/Winter Leadership Skills Week
San Juan Mountains, Colorado
March 20-26, 1994
Leaders: Bill Donaldson and Dan Daniels

This trip combines the best of backcountry skiing, extraordinary scenery, excellent backcountry camping and protection in a remote area with primitive, winter backcountry ski and 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 for loan, or bring your own. Skills sessions cover safety and techniques, emergency management, avalanche safety, weather, and navigation. Call Bill at 980-0792 or Dan at 980-0781 for complete description of trip or further information. Formerly offered as a Sierra Club National outing for $275, now only $65.
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, recap 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 Motyer 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 - continued from previous page

We offered National Sierra Club support through our office in Washington for this legislation.

The water use by the new land plant was discussed, and we told him we were working on a discharge plan for landfill in which purified effluent water would be cascaded into dry areas 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
Support City Open Space Land Purchase!
The Quality of Life tax money will not be spent for any National Arts Center. No 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 open land for City Open Space. Watch the papers for meeting times and locations.

EMBEDITO 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 clear 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.

CALENDAR
Unless otherwise noted, meetings take place at the Club office at 297 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 EMBEDITO trail parking lot.

For more information call Barbara 277-9047 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

Sat- Sun, Feb 19-20 Winter Cinque Camp on the Snow We will head up north to the Pecos, the Jemez or the Rio Grande for north depending on snow conditions and the preference of the Cinque members! This is the culmination of the previous Cinque outings. Not limited to Cinque participants. Leader: Craig Hill 224-9795

Sun Feb 20-21 Rio Grande Camp/X/C Ski At X/C ski the White Mountains, Az, Phoenix, Albuquerque will be in residence. Call for details. Leader: Steve Thomsen 982-9359

Sun Feb 26 Moderate Exploratory Miles 4-6 Call: 1-800 Guadalupe, Picacho NM This is the first mountain range to the south of the Mountains. There are a few short trails around Guadalupe peak. We will probably explore an old mine in the area. Bring lunch, pick up, and return to the camp on your own time and location. Leader: Tim Locke 256-7217

Sat Feb 26 Moderate- Special Enzo Miles 10 Call: 1-800 San Antonio S XC Sping X/C Ski Enjoy a magical moon lit ski in the woods of the San Antonio State Spring. Snow will be icy, small moonlight and weather permitting (might be changed to Brasos day trip). Call for details. Leader: Stan Kinsack 292-9128

Sat Feb 26 Leisure Miles 3-3 Rinconada Canyon X/C Ski Potregy NM 1000's of potregy. Bring cameras, binoculars and sturdy shoes. RSVP. Leader: Lex Eastwood 235-7657

Sun Feb 27 Leisure- Special Enzo Miles 0 Call: 1-800 Bluewater Canyon X/C Ski Service Project Finally, we have the opportunity to do something. We will display a colorful entrance to this area of Critical Environmental Concern (CEC). Bring lunch, weather appropriate, and bring warm dress layers, as usual the BLM will have will have have some cold, but bring shovels, gloves, pruners, etc. Transportation provided by the BLM. Meet at the BLM office, 435 Montana Road NW at 9:00 AM. Leader: David Morris 344-8693

Sat Mar 5 Leisure Miles 3-3 Oxbow Hike These hosts of the water line is low, but there is still plenty of water, folklore, landscape and the occasional hawk. Meet at St. Josephs and Coors at 9:00AM. Leader: David Morris 344-8693

Sun Mar 6 Moderate Miles 5-5 Cinque Trail Delightful XC Ski Stil Trail This is a XC ski trail that starts just past the tree line across some open meadows, and returns by a nice fire trail glide. There is a possible option of ending up on the overlook on Valle Grande. Call Cinque for meeting time and location at 202-9318. Bring lunch. Leader: Barbara Stone

Sat Sun Mar 12-13 Strenous Miles 5-5 Snowshoe Colorado 14ers skiers to the top of Molas Peak, maybe something else with the mountain guide. Leader: Steve Vorhanski 888-1370

Sat Mar 12 Leisure Miles 4-6 Car 20 South Santa Fe Trail, SW Walk to waterfall and cave system on to the coast if group is enthusiastic and snow permitting. Bring lunch. Meet at SC office at 9:00AM. Leader: Bob Conish 355-6057

Sat Mar 19 Enchanted Trail Service Project, SW Meet at trailhead parking lot, Call David 244-8693 for details. Small group project

Sat Apr 19 Potregy National Monument Cleanup Sat May 1 Santa Fe River Project Sun May 22 Sierra Club Picnic Sun Jun 4 National Trails Day Project Sat Jun 18 Rio Grande Cleanup by Rail, Kayak and Canoe

Siesta Club Environmental Center

Necessary - Used Equipment for IC1: Don't know what to do with that old (but still good) frame pack, camera, stove, cookpot, boat, 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 sitting up there by itself? Sell your old hi-tech or even low tech camping equipment and drop it off at the Environmental Center. Or better yet, call Richard Rhoder 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 Cabral. We can still use help, though. Please contact the Center (532-9645), John Spaul (544-5157) or Ted Morris (320-3011) 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.

Siesta Club Environmental Center

Siesta Club Environmental Center

Siesta Club Environmental Center

Erika Episcopo and Fred Cabral.

To sign up, contact

Erika Episcopo at 532-9645, John Spaul at 544-5157 or Ted Morris at 320-3011.

Thank you for your help.

To learn more about the Siesta Club Environmental Center, call 532-9645.

To sign up for another day, please call 544-5157.

To learn more about the Environmental Center, call 320-3011.

Thank you for your help.

To sign up for another day, please call 544-5157.

To learn more about the Environmental Center, call 320-3011.

Thank you for your help.

To sign up for another day, please call 544-5157.

To learn more about the Environmental Center, call 320-3011.
CHIRICAHUA NATIONAL MONUMENT CARCAMP
Southern Arizona
DATE: January 27, 1994
CLASS: Moderate
LIMIT: 20
LEADER: Rollo 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 day hikes 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 Rollo for details and reservations.

SNOW FUN WEEKEND
Alpine, Arizona
DATE: February 19-21, 1994
CLASS: Fun
LIMIT: None
LEADER: Jeanne French, 592-1660
This is a Rigo 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 Ski Station at the Gila Hills and Hills. Join us for the fun, and meet fellow Sierraans 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
El Paso
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 BackPackking 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: Betty 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 Betty for details and travel arrangements.

BLUE DOG LOOP BACKPACK
Guadalupe Mountains National Park
DATE: Saturday, February 26, 1994
CLASS: Strenuous
LIMIT: 12, leader approval and reservations required
LEADER: Rollo Wickenden, 598-8042
We will depart El Paso early Saturday and drive to Dog Canyon via Dell City. Our hike in will be tough. The trail west from Dog Canyon to Marcus Cubins will gain you less than 1,000' over the final 2,000' gain along Marcus Trail to Blue Ridge. The day will total 3,000' gain and 1,000' loss over 8.5 miles. We'll carry water; though snowbanks may provide more. Heading up, we'll hardly lose Peak from afar. The next day's hike out will be a seven-mile cakewalk, including an easy scramble up Lost Peak. Weather and geopmation 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 each direction)
LEADER: Rollo Wickenden, 598-8042 (home)
Wesley Leonnard, 747-6659 (work)
We will depart El Paso early Saturday morning and drive to our respective trailheads. If all goes as planned, Rollo's group will hike in on Trails 233 (Cow Creek) and 231 (Sheep Canyon) to our campsite among Gila daisies along Sapillo Creek. Wesley's group will hike in on Trail 247 (Spring Canyon) to the same campsite. On Sunday, we will exchange cars keys and each group will hike out via the other group's route the day before. Come learn the way of the Coyote. 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 Rollo or Wesley early for reservations.

SOUTHERN ARIZONA OUTINGS
FEBRUARY 1994

PLAN AHEAD FOR THESE HOLIDAY & SUMMER TREKS

March 19-24 Spring Break Grand Canyon Backpack (Mike Episcopo, 802-0770)
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 (CC) BackPack NOTE DATE CHANGE (Laurence Gibson, 594-7342)
August 6-14 Wyoming Backpack—either the Tetons or the Elk River Range (Laurence Gibson, 594-7342)

Cook's Peak Carcamp, 12/4-5/93
We departed El Paso Friday evening and drove to our camp, which was located south of Cook's Peak. On Saturday morning, under excellent weather conditions, sixdayhikers vigorously challenged the miles and rocky climb up the peak. Once we reached the top, we had a magnificent 360 degree view of the surrounding areas as well as encountering hundreds of ladybugs on the way up 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: A. Lui Hernandes, John Hamly, Kathy Sunday, Alice Anderson & leader Joe Rodriguez.

Anthony's Nose Dayhike, 12/15/93
Six Sierrans spent a Saturday scuffling Anthony's Scabozuela in the Franklin. Lollin Alvarez, Larry Hughes, Michael Bromka, Chris Christiansen, Rudy Provencio and leader Mike Episcopo met at 8 AM at Tom Miller's 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 occuluto, agave, and jumping cholla which sought to detain us. Often the hikers offered a choice of lightening over precipitous rock edges or sneaking through dense clusters of ocotillo.

Soon began chily then warmed to sunny splendor. We paused to watch a hawk ride thermals. We maredewed at the path paved with fossils. From the bridge of the nose to its top took 30 minutes of constant scree slippage. We snacked on top, penning notes left in the communal glass jar for subsequent (and from previous) scabozuela. The trek back was dicey and difficult, but 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, starting at UTEP and carpooled to the Cristo Rey parking lot. Salvador Salas and the men of the Mt. Cristo Rey Restoration Project guarded our cars. Two TV news teams filmed us along the way.

Headed up, we admired the beautifully maintained, smooth, jeep-wide trail. Up top, the white concrete "crowns" formed a windbreak and a toasty solar reflector to warm us as we ascended. The clear weather afforded us a splendid view of the international view of this 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 Mr. Salas and his colleagues maintain.

Among the hikes to Mt. Cristo Rey were Abe & Laura Rosas, Rudy Provencio, Mohammed & Hussein Alamein, Myrta George, Joanna Lippman, Mike & Dionne Episcopo, Martin Gilbert, David & J.B. Brown, Ellen O'Neill, Allan Fulkner, Barbara Eklund, Paul Phillips, Enrique Andlecho, Nina Armen, Greg Valentino, Eliza, Jorge & Norma Vergas, Sam & Greta Moore, Victor Caballero, Peter & Martha Jo Rice, Madelyn Connolly, Margaret Buxton, Michael Post, Jennifer & Suzann Davidson, Lynda Rushing, Sylvia Price, Lucy Acosta-Reyna, The McMahan Family and leader Michael Bromka.

Lookout Peak Dayhike, 12/12/93
The weekend was perfect and it was a great day for a hike on Saturday, the first of January, as 19 infrared and barely hung over everyone's forecasted 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 switchbacks on the West Ridge route on the billboard road. It was a little cool and breezy on the peak during lunch as the wind blew 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 Jimmie and Jerry Eldon, Luis Hernandez, Mark Post, Rita and Andrea Schmidt, Chris McKeaney, Lorraine Ellis, Jim Tisdale, Carolina Greenfield, Laurence Gibson, Bill Rodrigues, Sieve and Barbara Carabajal, Mike Bromka and Rudy Provencio (the gourmet lunchers) and leader Kathy Sunday. Also along to enjoy the beautiful day, but not competing for the summit bid, were Greg Yakobovitch 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 had a canoe except the dog, who followed us as we sorted our water transport. We loaded the vans, roads to the car 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 no one had appeared at first and up, and 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 Hisman had said he would be a little late, but when he still hadn't arrived by 9 pm on Sunday, leader Alice Anderson climbed the peak via the old rail 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 less difficult route than Alice had. John returned on Sunday night 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 enthusiastic 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 grassroots level to help preserve the mountains around Santa Fe. The meeting, as always, will be held at the村Marian Church (on Baranoa between Don Gaspar and Gallinas) 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 ElCom and Martha Anne Freeman has been elected to fill her unexpired term.

SANTA FE GROUP OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Co-Chairs — Mark Mortier* 983-5870 471-0005
Norma McCalian* 983-6715
Secretary-Treasurer — Lionel Soracco* 983-6715
Conservation — Van Perkins* 983-8801
George Crossman* 982-1024
Chapter Representatives — Sue McIntosh 982-4146
Norma McCalian* 471-0005
Publicity —

* Member of the SF Group Executive Committee

PASSINGS

We regret to report the death of Dan Mitchell 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 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 (505-320-4400) or write to ERO Resources Corp., 369 Montezuma, Suite 242, Santa Fe, NM 87501.

SANTA FE

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.

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 houses and businesses?
   • Do you favor making it legal for Santa Fe residents to apply graywater 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 at 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 a expanded network of bike/hiker trails to serve all Santa Feans, even if private property must be used for the trails?
   • Would you favor annual emissions testing of motor vehicles?
   • Will you push for adoption of the Master Plan, so that it allows continued citizen input on issues such as transportation?

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?
   • Are you for or against any expansion of the Santa Fe ski area?

6. 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 (350), Hikes & Outings (201), Meetings (202), etc. Use this free service to inform your nonprofit groups.

...Recycling/Office: At the Recycling Center, a landfill for household hazardous materials is located on the site of the Needle Rock Road, past the entrance to Agua Fria Street — turn right at the sign saying Sierra Santa Fe, and then immediately left to the Recycling center.

Golfing Notes — All outings, unless otherwise specified, leave from the PEPA parking lot at the corner of Paseo de Peralta and Old Santa Fe Trail across the street from the State Capitol and Pena Capilla. Carpooling will be arranged at the parking lot, and each striking hiker should be prepared to pay $5 extra for the ride to the trailhead.

VICKIE GALBAIN

THE RIO GRANDE REPORTER
FEBRUARY 1994

THE RIO GRANDE REPORTER
FEBRUARY 1994
SANTA FE GROUP OUTINGS

---

**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 Zerbe 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 Zerbe at 526-6207 for more information on this great opportunity to restore an archaeological site!

March 26: A day hike to Kiboume Pole and Aiden Croner will be led by Jim Basler. Bring water and a snack, and don’t forget your sunscreen and hat! For more information call Jim at 521-4822.

---

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

---

**SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO GROUP**

**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 Thaler 522-3421
Vice Chair, Myra Price 524-0261
Secretary, Kris Paulsen 267-4227
Treasurer, Ben Zerbee 526-6207
Student Advisor, David Pengelly 646-3901
Outings Chair, Jim Basler 521-6022
Programs Chair, Tony Chiavillo 646-9091
Membership, Tony Chiavillo 525-1822
Publicity, Cheryl Bevins 524-0861
Agriculture, Jim Windse 267-4227
Sierra Sever, Marianne Nygren 522-4899

---

**Education Committee**

Chair, Andrew Hands 522-3421
Vice Chair, Myra Price 524-0261
Secretary, Kris Paulsen 267-4227
Treasurer, Ben Zerbee 526-6207
Student Advisor, David Pengelly 646-3901
Outings Chair, Jim Basler 521-6022
Programs Chair, Tony Chiavillo 646-9091
Membership, Tony Chiavillo 525-1822
Publicity, Cheryl Bevins 524-0861
Agriculture, Jim Windse 267-4227
Sierra Sever, Marianne Nygren 522-4899

---

THE RIO GRANDE SERRAN

FEBRUARY 1994

FEBRUARY 1994
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 Schmieter, President 526-1093
- Myra Price, Vice-president 524-0261
- Phil Broderham, 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 Pengelly, Myra Price, Cherryl Blevins and Andrew Hands.

**A New Challenge**

By Kris Paulsen

Bruce 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 envi-thinkers must unite and work together to end the "wise abuse" that continues to drain our state's 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 Theeler, 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 must meet at least quarterly.

Due to the scope and breadth of Southern New Mexico activities, particularly in the area of conservation, the ExCom meets once per month. No one object 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 that 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, 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, 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 it in an envelope to:

Sierra Club
P.O. Box 3705
Las Cruces, NM 88003

Place your membership number on the flap of the envelope.