“Cashing Out” Employee Parking

by Ken Hughes

Parking lots at job sites throughout New Mexico, despite decent bus service in most cities and ideal cycling weather in all, are jammed with cars. Corporate and government office space is often over one-half parking lots, land that could be put to more valuable use, such as green space or office expansion. To date, employees have had little incentive to use other means to get to work when innumerable alternatives to drive alone exist. Parking, taking that away would be tantamount to cutting muscles over loss of this bounty. Indeed, back in the 1970s then-Senator Charles Percy of Illinois proposed charging Capitol Hill staffers for parking and a lot quit on the spot!

We motorists have become accustomed to the hidden subsidized lives we drive. Free parking is one of the more subtle, if innocent, coves. But instead of initiating or hiking fees, financial inducements to those taking alternative means to work seem to offer the greatest hope for reducing single occupancy driving parking.

Obtaining parking at employer-paid parking; translated into English that means those who carpool, bike or walk to work get the cash equivalent of what the market rate is for parking spaces. For instance, if a parking space costs an employer $1,200 per year, and an employee work 250 days per year, the forgone opportunity is worth $4.80 a day. Why not offer that $4.80, or a portion thereof, to the non-motorist employee, who in effect is chilling the daily car habit in saving his/her firm that much more in not needing to acquire adjacent land for building more parking lots?

Such a cash-out scheme goes beyond the immediate parking lot fences, and comes near-by streets (less traffic), air (fewer pollutants) and water (less oil-laden runoff). The local economy is also a winner of every $10 spent on a gallon of gasoline $8.50 leaves the local economy, whereas a $10 bus pass generates $35 in local spending.

(The author is Chapter Energy/Transportation Chair.)

Rangeland Reform ‘94

by Roger Peterson

Yes, Secretary Babbitt has retreated from this August 1993 proposals for “sweeping reform of public rangeland management. But much that is good remains in his March 25 Federal Register publication of new draft regulations. And we must tell him by July 28 what is good and what more is needed.

Main points of the Babbitt plan: grazing fees will double (but with 30 percent off for “good stewardship”); standards and guidelines will be designated on state or ecoregion basis (with some full back, national standards to be met, as a minimum, if regional standards are not created within 18 months); and 15 percent of riparian areas will be subject to grazing (which have been represented ranch interests). Restoration of riparian areas is given high priority. The odious burden of attaining “af- fected-impact” status is gone; if you express interest in procedures and interested public will be kept informed.

Nothing in the proposal subtracts from NDFs in appeal: public and private rights. In fact, appeal rights are strengthened from Babbitt’s 1993 rule, in that the public will have 30 days to appeal followed by 45 days during which Interior’s Office of Hearings and Appeals must grant or deny a petition to stay a decision.

The Federal Register account comprises (1) 13 pages of clear, intelligent discussion of the proposal, including how it differs from present regulations and from the August regulations; (2) 14 pages of section-by-section analysis of the regs; and (3) 14 pages of regulations. Included is the text of the Colorado Range- land Reform Working Group-subject of four months’ controversy among conservation groups and also among ranch interests. Yet to come are a joint Forest Service-BLM EIS on impacts of the proposal and, later, separate regulatory criteria for the “good stewardship” discount.

Most difficult for ranchers, probably, are the fee increases. Less than August’s propos- al of $4.38 per cow per month but more than New Mexico’s $3.31 on state lands, the pro- posed base value of $3.96 is twice today’s federal rate, and the proposed formula for annual adjustment seems more sensible than today’s, in part because it would reflect chang- es in private lease rates. For the Sierra Club a question more controversial than the base fee is the proposed 30 percent discount for ranch- ers who agree to use “best management prac- tices” and comprehensive monitoring and to work toward specified resource conditions and goal. Eligibility for the discount is to be decided in a separate rule-making effort over coming months.

Another bitter pill for ranchers—and unwelcome to some environmentalists—is the proposed committee structure.

Chapter Endorses State Candidates

by Van Perkins

The Rio Grande Chapter has endorsed the following candidates in the New Mexico primary election to be held June 7. Jim Baca for Governor, Patricia Madrid for Lieutenant Governor, and Ray Powell for State Land Commissioner. All members are urged to provide any support you can to these candi- dates, and to vote for them in the primary election.

All primary candidates for Governor, Lieu- tenant Governor, and Land Commissioner were sent questionnaires early in March to elicit their stands on key environmental is- sues. All primary candidates who completed questionnaires and indicated a willingness to be interviewed were queried by members of the Chapter Political Committee and the Chap- ter Executive Committee in Albuquerque on April 9. Decisions regarding endorsements were made that afternoon. Sierra Club policy requires that an endorsement of a candidate be by two-thirds vote of the entire membership (not simply those present and voting) of two committees acting separately. All these endorsements were by votes in both committees that exceeded the two-thirds require- ment. Jim Baca is well known to most Chapter members. He served one full term and one part term as State Land Commissioner before leaving that office to become Director of the

(continued on page 5)
Dear Sierra Club Members:

On behalf of many concerned conservationists here in its northern New Mexico, and grassroots environmental groups, including La Comunidad and the Continental Environmental Group, we are concerned Sierra Club members in Taos County, I am writing to express our great disappointment and anger over the Sierra Club’s recent endorsement of Mr. Powell, rather than the far better conservation candidate, Pat Wolff. They have asked us to write the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club, expressing both their disappointment, and notifying the Club of their consideration of dropping their memberships.

As an environmental activist, I am an activeconsumer forest activist, working full-time on forest protection issues in this bioregion. I have never joined national envi-

rimental groups, for the very reason the members who have contacted me have expressed concern about. Here is another example of how the big national groups do not truly have the best interests of the land or the communities that depend upon the land in mind. Pat Wolff has demonstrated her commitment to working for New Mexico’s state and public lands. She has shown leadership, and a commitment to state government and natural resources issues. It is


Adios;

With this issue I am resigning as editor of the Rio Grande Sierra. The demands of a new baby, combined with planned move back to Las Cruces, and a desire to put my energy into the Southeast New Mexico Sierra Chapter, make it the right time to leave. Barbara Johnson of Santa Fe will be taking over. Barbara was active with the Sierra Sierra in southern Colorado in the past. In reality, I’m sure she’ll do a great job. I wish her all the best.

I’d like to thank the Chapter for the opportunity to serve as editor, and for giving me the resource to develop my skills. I enjoyed getting to know more people in the chapter. I’m looking forward to a continued involvement in the environment of the or the Club.

However, the Sierra Club is a democratic organization, and the policies of the organization are changing. I urge you to continue to participate in the activity of the organization and to let me or the Sierra Club on the need to change.

Sincerely,


The River Grande Chapter will gratefully accept contributions at any time. Please send a check payable to “The Rio Grande Chapter of Sierra Club” to Jana Oyler, Treasurer, Route 19, Box 120-KO, Santa Fe, NM 87505. Note that contributions to the Sierra Club are not tax-deductible. All contributors are given a tax receipt.

Please do not send your dues renewal or other Club business items to this address — these matters are handled through the national office and will be delayed substantially if they are mailed to this address.

Thank you for your continued support.

Jana Oyler, Treasurer

River Grande Chapter of Sierra Club

The Rio Grande Chapter of Sierra Club is permitted to mail only one solicitation letter to its general membership each year. The national office of the Sierra Club may send Club members solicitation letters at various times throughout the year, and does so for legitimate national environmental campaigns. Neither the Rio Grande Chapter nor the local groups of the Sierra Club have any control over national solicitations. You may wish to write to the national Sierra Club office at 730 Polk Street, San Francisco, CA 94109, if you would like to be taken off the list of recipients of national solicitations.
Endorsements (continued from front page)

Bureau of Land Management in May. 1992. As Land Commissioner, Baca instituted a number of reforms in the administration of state land programs. He set in motion the process which led to a substantial increase in grazing fees, and he increased oil and gas royalties significantly and increased state land revenues.

As BLM Director, Baca worked to reform grazing practices on federal lands. His advocacy of meaningful reform brought him into conflict with Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt when the latter backed away from a proposal he had advanced to make major changes in BLM policies. When Baca was forced out as director, environmental organizations, including the Sierra Club at both the national and chapter levels, objected strenuously. Baca’s resignation was seen as further evidence of retrenchment by the Clinton administration on environmental issues important to all of us.

Baca responded positively to the entire range of issues raised by this group. Particularly significant is his concern about water issues in the state, both regarding quantity and quality. His strong efforts in this area and his advocacy of BLM’s position on water quality and issues, now divided between two state agencies. He also said he would establish a planning and data system to address land and water issues. His present effort is a major breakthrough.

Patricia McDavid is a former District Court judge and long-time political activist. Among her environmental priorities are establishment of a state environmental assessment program similar to the federal requirement for review of proposed projects, particularly those with significant environmental impact, and more effective programs for the prevention of pollution. A special concern of the Sierra Club is the pollution of rivers by mine effluents. At BLM, she aspired to continue Baca’s reform program for “environmental justice,” which would eliminate present practices whereby a disproportionate share of the nation’s pollution is visited upon lower socio-economic neighborhoods. Madrid has long been interested in this issue, and she pledged to use the office of Lieutenant Governor to fight for “environmental justice” in New Mexico. Her response to all the issues raised by this group indicates that she will be an active, dedicated environmentalist as Lieutenant Governor.

Chapter Committees Meet

by Susan Gorman

The Chapter Conservation and Executive committees met in El Paso on March 5 and 6 to elect officers for the chapters. Senator Tom Harkin was reelected for a second term as President. Following the defeat in Congress of the reform legislation, Inter- nary Secretary Bruce Babbitt pledged to continue the BLM’s grazing reform but has backed off significantly.

Jim Plassman, who has been active in the staff and conservationist groups, will run for the BLM Executive committee to replace Max Baca who has moved to Tennessee. Gwen Ward was reelected to the Board of Directors with George Messina, Vice Chair. Jera Oury will serve again as Treasurer, Susan Gorman is Secretary and Council Member. Tom Bradford, Vickie Gable and Mike Sauber will represent the Chapter on the Southwest Regional Conservation Commission.

The next meeting of the General Board will be April 15. The Conservation and Executive Committees agreed to make this a focus issue and to call on all Chapter members to participate in a strong initiative to make certain that a good grazing reform policy results from this process.

Endorsements in the Primary Election

The decision was made to initiate the process of gathering information from candi- dates in contested primaries. The process which includes evaluation of candidates responses and interviews has been com- pleted and results are reported elsewhere in this issue.

Range Reform

(continued from front page)

SCDLF Protest Helps Protect Carlsbad National Park

From a SCDLF report

After three years of tenacious lobbying by the Rocky Mountain Office of the Sierra Club Local Defense Fund (SCDLF), the Bu- reau of Land Management has finally agreed to a plan to protect newly discovered caves at Carlsbad Caverns National Park from poten- tial destruction by oil and gas drilling. SCDLF’s efforts were undertaken in an attempt to halt a proposal by the Kentucky Oil Company to drill at least three "yards" of core from each of the three thousand feet of oil and gas in the area.

Our legal action forced BLM, which tried to slide through the National Environ- mental Policy Act by throwing together a quick Environmental Assessment, to prepare a more thorough Environmental Impact Statement. Our legal action forced BLM to actually go out on the Park which threatened to destroy the Park’s cave resources, including world-famous Le- ducchaga Cave. The EIS led to establishment of a permanent cave protection zone where no drilling may occur. SCDLF represented the Wildness Society, the Sierra Club, and the Leducchaga Cave Project in the matter.

Leducchaga Cave is the deepest cave in the United States and may be the largest. Discovered in 1986, it is probably the most pristine underground wilderness in the world. The most recent expedition, which drilled into the cave revealed passages trending to the northwest, in the direction of proposed BLM drilling sites.

Yates Energy Corporation pushed BLM to approve its original drilling lease location, claiming BLM was under a "backlog" and needed to lease for about $200 million of lost natural gas if the corporation were prevented from drilling. Geologic mapping shows that a significant portion of the lands underlying the drill site, and the presence of limestone (limestones visible on the surface which may harbor hydrocarbons) have been closely correlated with the entire site (see below) around the near drill site area strongly suggests that caves are present underground. Despite the blatant geological warning signs, BLM had intended to allow Yates Energy to proceed. But our demands that BLM prepare an EIS for the action stopped the drilling and made BLM’s approval of the lease conditional on development of restrictions on the location of drill sites.

BLM developed the final EIS with help from the National Park Service and a panel of experts in karst geology. The Record of Decision on the EIS adopted the park expert panel’s recommendation that BLM not allow drilling on a buffer zone of 500 feet. around the park and park boundaries, and mandatory removal of drill sites to ensure that no gaps in the strata exist under drill sites.

The Enemy in the Bathroom Mirror

by John A. Turnbull

On April 12-13. the Bernalillo Environmental Health Department and UNM’s Col- lege of Public Health conducted a fac- ilitated Alternative On-site Waste Disposal Technologies Conference. I was invited to present a paper on composting toilet technology.

I was surprised to find myself the only speaker who brought a topic of treatment with a hot button issue, has the remarkable capability, with off-the-shelf, devices, to halve the groundwater depletion, halve the wastewater discharge, make great improvements and pain practical, and to solve a lot of wastewater chemical pollution. Composting toilets.

Such an approach takes the remedy into the private space of people’s bathrooms. Mod- eling in people’s bathrooms is a ecologically dangerous ground, and something that engi- neers and chemists are ill-prepared by educa- tion and disposition to address.

Certainly realized, though, that the citizenry would be eventually involved -as it is now- when it comes to rate taxes to pay for the engineering solutions. Unlike scientists, engineers know what that mean: personal degradation. Nobody is fooled, too, that taxes or no taxes, the citizenry would become involved when their wells were so polluted as to make their houses unliveable without investment of thousands of dollars in well treatment apparatus; or when desperate regulatory fixes to cope with lingering natural chemical hazards had them all out there digging up their septic tanks.

But our conference was about engi- neering, not politics.

I thought about all the thousands Sierra Club members around there, and the legions of those who had funded, within, with their five-gallon-water dusting toilets and their ten-gallon showers, they were as much as the Sierra Club.

Our conference was a start, more of a problem statement than a study of solutions. But there are thoughts: First, a start, start where, and in this situation we have the political luxury of unanimity about the problem, environmentalists and water quality folks and bad guys and good. Also, we have a path.

The author, when not skiing, is a geologist, con- sultant, and technical instructor, with consider- able experience in bioreclamation and hydrology, after recent successful experience in design and installation of alternative systems. He has conducted experiments in outdoor-test de- sign and has had a dry toilet at home for 11 years.
ADC: A Response from the State Land Office

By Ray Powell

[The item is incomplete and contains a signature]

I appreciate every opportunity to comment further on this matter, and we will be working at the State Land Office and the plans I have for guiding this vital agency toward the 21st Century.

One of the thorniest issues I have encountered is the use of Federal Animal Damage Control agents on state land. Because the issue is so visceral and polarized, it has been susceptible to gross misunderstanding. I want to thank the Sierra Club for allowing this opportunity to address concerns about the draft position statement I issued recently regarding predator management for livestock protection on state livestock.

In early 1992, it came to the attention of the Commission of Public Lands Jim Rana that the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal Damage Control (ADC) program was authorized on state trust land without a formal agreement with the State Land Office. Negotiations began and there were many points of agreement, including the allowable use of epsilon and M-44s (toxins).

The main point of disagreement, which even limited negotiations to a collapse, was the allowable use of killing traps to be checked. Until that point, everyone agreed on the proposed agreement and that it was a fair trade-off. It did not encourage preventative measures, such as baits and other tactics to minimize the killing of wildlife.

When the two agencies couldn't resolve the issue of the trap-check, Frank Ranastructed ADC from state trust land. Regrettably, that is still the status today. For all our efforts, ADC has not met with a fair response to the proposal. The ban will stay in effect until at least ADC returns to the table and we reach a new agreement.

Notwithstanding, when I succeeded Mr. Rana as Commissioner of Public Lands last year, I became clear that this matter would require more than just a negotiated bilateral agreement between the two agencies. Even with such an agreement, I was convinced that other considerations must be a part of ADC operations on state trust land.

I identified four principles that must guide predator control/livestock protection activities on state trust land. Activities must: 1) be conducted within the legal bounds of state animal damage control, 2) be reasonably designed to decrease the conflict generation, 3) minimize risk to non-target species, and 4) provide livestock producers a fair opportunity to maintain a viable business.

Because there are many personal values and divergent views in this issue, I initiated a process that would let me explore these personal, financial, and philosophical interests at state and national levels, and that included other pertinent information. I chose facilitated discussions to bring the differing interests groups together.

I also rejected representing public and private organizations with the appropriate level of coverage of the participants. They included the Sierra Club, the Equine Animal Protection Inc., and the Mexican Wolf Coalition, as well as the New Mexico Farm and Livestock Bureau, the Cattle Growers and the Woodgrowers Associations, and a handful of state and federal and wildlife management agencies. It was the first such meeting in the Western United States.

My primary goal was to reduce the volume of the debate, to minimize the polarizing statements that characterize the debate, and to continue education about the competing factions. Another goal was to receive recommendations that would formalize and improve the current predator control policy for state trust lands.

This process began with some valuable accomplishments, mainly the breaking down of barriers to understanding. But it also raised some concern about the difficulty of reaching an agreement before it results in substance recommendations.

The question is, then the onset of the spring lambing season in New Mexico, I felt compelled to transform the four principles into a concrete measure that would address some immediate needs. The result is the draft position statement, which describes alternative and opportunities for addressing predator livestock conflicts during the interim.

The proposal is not meant to supersede the progress made in the group discussions, but rather to be a substitute for continued dialogue among the group. It was distributed to all groups for their comment and, as a draft, solicits comments that will help refine its format.

Outings Notebook

by John A. Turnbull

Chapter Ski Trip

This past season featured our first chapter-sponsored ski outing, in late February, near Alpine, Arizona. Some 22 members participated. We rented a room in the Alpine Motel, the only place in Alpine, and several from Bisbee, Tonto, and the Albuquerque group ferried so many participants to Alpine and daily back and forth daily to Williams Valley. The weather cooperated with remarkable precision, nobody needed digging out, and the three-day weekend was lot of fun for everybody.

National Trails Day

This outing is coming up again on June 4, and everybody loves the outdoors should do something. There will be events of one or another every week, such as news, the ones. One of these programs is scheduled with the Forest Service, Tena Piedras Ranger District, custodians of some 1200 miles of trails in the southern part of the county.

The north trail featured a trip with Ranger Dan Real, a "Weekend" to discuss flora and bird life, the various bird species, including insights into the biology of the area. There, to an old on the mountain, on Deer Trail, with the ranger provided a picnic on the skiing and hiking trails, and the rolling meadows. After lunch at Hopkins Lake Platform, north to some 30 miles and rangers were again on hand to participate and Mary Ann Biddin on a reconaisance ride along the Idaho Trail. Details are in the San Fe Outing schedule.

Making a Difference

In these days of shrinking budgets, federal land management agencies such as the National Park Service and Forest Service have increasingly turned to citizen volunteers to accomplish important things that Washington wouldn't dare to do. As a result, the recreation trails development is one of these.

On the weekend of July 4, we have an ambitious and potentially very productive program to be conducted jointly between Sierra Club, N. M. Volunteers for the Outdoors and U.S. Forest Service, Tena Piedras Ranger District. The whole chapter is invited and we hope some folks from down south will join in. We will be doing trail reconnaissace, marking, trail cleaning, and possibly building rock cists.

The Forest Service has planted a trail into the Crucer Basin Wilderness starting east of Chama, in Colorado, and running back into New Mexico. In addition, there are some shorter proposed skiing/hiking trails in the Hoosier Park and other areas.

The Forest Service has a historical building near San Antonio Mountain, which is in need of stabilization and study for possible recreational use. We will be scouting a ski trail to the structure, and evaluating its possible use as a ski but. It is an exciting idea, particularly since this is near an easy wintering area.

Participants may camp out and do some skiing at Hoosier Lake. Alternatively, there are inexpensive motel accommodations nearby. We are planning a semi-polite feast and program Saturday evening at Hoosier Lake. Participants are invited even if unable to stay the entire weekend.

Be a Volunteer

San Juan National Forest Association needs volunteers to spread the word about New Mexico's backcountry trails and the wilderness of the San Juan National Forest in Southwest Colorado. You can help spread the word about leave no trace, special regulations, and answer questions about wilderness. As a San Juan National Forest Association volunteer, you'll meet backcountry enthusiasts and get a head start on some of the new trails. Details are in the San Fe Outing schedule.

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Potluck Schedule

There will not be a potluck in May. Come to the picnic instead on May 22! The date and place for the June Potluck has not been decided yet. Call the Albuquerque Sierra Club Hotline - 265-5506 for information.

We are buying a better answering machine for the office, which will have recorded information on outings, programs, and other events. Try it!

Primary Election Coming Soon!
The Rio Grande Chapter has endorsed Jim Baca for Governor, Patricia Madrid for Lt. Governor, and Ray Powell for State Land Commissioner. All three candidates need volunteers to get their message to the voters. If you want to help, call Ron Grobbeck, 265-5506, or call the Sierra Club Hotline, 265-5506 and leave a message. Workers and money are needed to help our candidates win! Remember to vote on June 7th!

Spring Cleaning
For those of you who are new to the area, Albuquerque and Bernalillo County residents can take their household hazardous wastes such as used motor oil, brake fluid, paint, solvents, and pesticides to the Household Hazardous Waste Center, located at 6133 Edith Blvd., NE. It is open Fridays from 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM and Saturdays from 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM (March through October). Call for winter hours. For more information, call 345-1650. Don’t pour these items down the drain!

City residents, including apartment dwellers, should already be participating in the city’s curbside recycling program. Plastic (#1 and #2, except food tubs), tin and aluminum cans are recycled by placing them in a clear plastic garbage bag, supplied by the city. Newspapers and cardboard are also collected weekly. Glass is collected monthly at sites throughout the city. Call the city recycling office at 761-8176 for locations.

CALENDAR

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

May 3: Activities & Special Planning Meeting, 7PM Sierra Club Office.
May 5: Mexican Wolf Coalition, 7:30 PM.
May 9: Executive Committee Meeting, 7PM.
May 22: Annual Picnic. See article on previous page.
May 23: Conservation Working Session, 7:30 PM.
June 2: Mexican Wolf Coalition, 7:30 PM.

THE RIO GRANDE SERENAN MAY/JUNE 1994
Albuquerque Outings

Sun May 6 Leisure Miles 3 Car: 3
Geological Windows Hike, Elks Spring NM: Three geological windows are above the Charlotte Farms community, and below the valleymouth. Bring camera, binoculars, and sturdy shoes. Leader: Ike E崽cess 255-7679

Sun May 6 Leisure Miles 3 Car: 1
Santa Fe River Service Project: In conjunction with the Santa Fe County, three NM, NMSOFO some of the Santa Fe schools and neighborhood associations we will do river bed enhancements and remove trash and debris. Various other events are planned such as the 2nd Annual Hike and Bike, and, clothes, shoes, the usual cleaning, trash collection, and other things. Meet Elks Spring, Winchell’s at San Mateo and Academy at 8:30 AM. Leader: David Morgen 344-8693

Sun May 7 Moderate Miles: 10 Car: 240
Brazos Cross XC Ski: New Mexico - Spring to Summer Hike to the Brazos Cross and back. Hikes in late May and early June. Meet at the park. For more information call the sun tan lotion. Leader: Sun Kuschk 539-4301

Sat May 7 Leisure Miles: 3 Car: 3
Pastureland Hike: Elks Spring NM National Monument: Unique geological formations separate this area from other areas of the monument. View thousands of petroglyphs. Bring sturdy shoes, camera and binoculars. RSVP. Leader: Ike E崽cess 255-7679

Sat May 7 Leisure Miles: 3 Car: 3
Rincornada Hike: Elks Spring NM National Monument: A moderate hike with Volcanoes Option. After a severe drought between 1275 and 1300 AD, Indians began to settle along the Grande in large numbers. Records of the Spanish indicate walking from the Acoma Pueblo to the Galisteo and then to the Rio Grande (1375). A rabbit hunter found us this hike a few years ago. Bring a sauce lunch. This hike is like a picnic for an optional hike to the volcanoes. We will have a car pool to create a new way to travel. RSVP Leader: Ike E崽cess 255-7679

Sat May 7 Moderate Miles: 12 Car: 110
Kid's Outing: This wilderness lies adjacent to Sandileri Community, west of the Rio Grande on the north side above Cuyoh, hike to a waterfall, then continue on to a picnic area in the Dineo Wilderness, Bring lunch. Meet beliani Winchell’s at San Mateo and Academy. Leader: Rich Persynski 281-7845

Sat May 8 Moderate Terrain Miles: 4 Car: 300
Our last planned XC Ski trip this year. Dress in layers, bring lunch and bring luck. Leader: Mark Vossel 281-7845

Sat May 14 Leisure to Strenuous Miles: 1-14 Car: 140
Elk Spring Miles Project-Ritterbush Transplanting: Duane Elks Spring is a wonderful painting involving many wildlife as a food source. Elk Spring is an important route for grizzly elk on the west slope of the Jemez Mountains. We will plan on planting native transplanting and other projects if time permits. The climb begins at the Belo Mill and follows the Acoma Pueblo. Meet the Belo Mill, 435 Montano Rd NE at 8:30 AM. Bring lunch and water. Leader: Barbara Stone 302-5504

Sat-Sun May 14-15 Leisure Miles: 3 Car: 400
Painted Desert and Petrified Forest NM Family Car Camp, AZ: Drive through some dense sand, visit some Indian hallowing bowls, take several very short hikes, go to Elk Springs, and visit other sites in the area. Meet at a campground nearby. Leave Sunday morning. Leader: Warren Smith 819-4709

Sun May 14 Leisure Miles: 3 Car: 3
Elks Spring Hike: Take a walk through the area of blooming irises, dramatic views surround you. We will climb down into the lush vegetation along the mesa. We will cross a Mesa Lake to make a loop trip. Bring lunch, water, and binoculars. Meet Elks Spring, Winchell’s at San Mateo and Academy. Leader: Nick Persynski 281-7845

Sat Jun 4 Leisure Miles: 7 Car: 7
National Trails Day Program - Tres Piedras Ranger District: We will join the San Fe group on a morning field trip with District Ranger to the Los Alamos site and discuss floral succession of the various tree species, and then take a hike through the Los Alamos Deer Trail Creec to see some ou in a large number of species from 12-noon. Meet in the Front picnic ground. Steve 343-4001 Kid’s Outing: The Picnic We will have face painting at the picnic. We will take a hike in the surrounding area of some of the plants. Plan on running around the plant to see if nature has been invited to the area. Leader: Warren Smith 819-4709

Sat Jun 6 Leisure Miles: 6 Car:120
River Hike: We head up the West Fork in a open valley on a trail, we will need to make some stream crossings, so bring water bottles. We will then backpack to the falls and the river area. Meet at 9:00 AM, behind Winchell’s at San Mateo and Academy. Leader: David Morgen 344-8693

Sat Jun 11 Kid’s Outing: Trip and Trail: (Three Guns) Spring Canyon Dayhike: We will hike down into the river area then hike up the trails and stop to eat lunch before hiking back to town. Bring a day pack, water, and lunch. Leader: Warren Smith 819-4709

Sat Jun 11-12 Moderate Miles: 2 Car: 200
Pecos Wilderness Backpack: Starting out at Iron Gate, we will backpack into the river area and camp at the river. Bring your lunch. This place is full of rock formations. This is a moderate hike. Leader: Tom Leck 256-7217

Sat Jun 12 Leisure Miles: 3 Car: 3
Great Basin National Park: Bring sturdy shoes, camera and binoculars. RSVP. Leader: Ike Elks Spring 255-7679

Sat Jun 12 Moderate Miles: 10 Car: 200
Hamilton Mesa Hike: Starting from Iron Gate, we will take off across the mesa, bring a sauce lunch. This hike is the area around Iron Gate and will be a great hike. Leader: Sun Kuschk 539-4301

Sat Jun 13 Leisure Miles: 3 Car: 3
Boca Negra Canyon Hike: Petrified Forest NM National Monument: Unique ecological formations separate this area from other areas of the monument. View thousands of petroglyphs. Bring sturdy shoes, camera and binoculars. RSVP. Leader: Ike Elks Spring 255-7679

Sat Jun 14 Leisure to Strenuous Miles: 2 Car: 200
Rio Grande Cleanup by Raft, Kayak, Canoe: We will float the river while cleaning up the area. Bring raft, canoe or kayak, empty water bottles, and a sauce lunch. Bring your out of the door festa. Leader: Ike Elks Spring 255-7679

Sat Jun 17 Leisure Miles: More? Car: 7
Hillside Hike: We will hike along the hillside and above the hillside. Bring your lunch and your camera. Leader: Rich Persynski 281-7845

Sat Jul 5 Leisure Miles: 3 Car: 14
Backpack in the Wheeler Peak Wilderness Area: Wildflowers should be out in abundance. Leave town Friday night and start walking early Saturday morning. Backpack in about 7 miles to a lake see. Leader: Chris Dill 224-9795

Sat Jul 5-6 Moderate: Strenuous Miles: 14 Car: 250
Astronomy Car Camping in the Magdalena Mountains Our trip is in the mountains, where we will travel and see the stars above with the seeing being fair to good for the area. We will set up shop at the river and see the stars, a camera, and the family. Super (voted children). Leader: Peter Kuschk 539-4301

Outings: Photography Contact David Morgen has delayed the outcome of this event until the beginning of June. We will be out there then.

Outings Reports: Petroglyph Cleanup- We had 22 people out on this rainy day. We removed 10 tons of trash, mostly glass. We have removed some serious close to 300 tons of trash from the monument, this is a correction from the last Sierran issue. Upon reviewing the area, new trash and glass has already been disposed. It appears that the Park Service is unwillng to work with Albuquerque Open Space to open up a fence or barrier (even some large rocks) to block use of the area.

Rumsgale Sale: Despite the promise of a cold, wet weekend, we had 25 families contributing miscellaneous items. Seven people helped to organize the tables. With the money made, we have ordered a new set of gear telephones for the Sierra Club office. Yes.

Triesty Site-Tom had about 12 people out to the various sites. Tom thought it was fairly sunny when the Sierra Club out of Dellen had asked to take the trip. Turns out they had spent an afternoon at the variousick and out on the river. Maybe we will see something in the Sierra magazine.

Cabanowz- Harv led nine people and almost all of the equipment was used. It was not as bad as it looked.

Kid’s Petroglyph Hike- Woke up to a downpour of rain, so we canceled.

Indio Mesa- Every 15 minutes the weather would change, from windy, to sunny, to cloudy. We came upon a golden eagle on the ring which flew in and out of our hands. While looking into the drainage, the most beautiful flower we have ever seen came out and saw off in the water.

Phoenicians-Lenis-Ogaza gave a great background of the history and territory in the rock. They turned out clear and windy. We gave up trying to get to the fossil area due to wet dirt roads.
MAY PICNIC AT CHAMIZAL
Join other Sierra Club outdoor enthusiasts for our annual picnic in Chamizal National Park on Wednesday, May 25. Our chefs will start grilling at 5:30 pm on the east side of the Visitor’s Center. Shake out the cobwebs from winter and celebrate the beginning of summer.
This year’s picnic will feature a raffle of some great camping equipment and sharing hiking stories and favorite camping spots. Bring a salad, dessert, or veggies, and the hambergers and hotdogs will be provided. Soft drinks will be $1.50 and beer $1. Admission is $2 per person.

JUNE MEETING
Our June speakers will discuss the importance of putting the environment in a school curriculum. Dr. Laura Alpern and Ms. Georgianne Boullion, Director and Development Coordinator, respectively, of the El Paso Country Day School maintain that environmental education should be a once or twice a year topic. They emphasize that concern for the environment should be integrated into the students’ lessons all year long. Join us for this lively presentation. The program will start at 7:30 pm on Wednesday, June 29, at St. Paul’s Methodist Church, 7000 Edgemere (two blocks east of Airway). For more information, call Ted Mertig, 852-3011.

The Environmental Center
Volunteer to Help Our Environment... The Center continues to need volunteers. Please contact the Center (532-9645), John Sproul (545-2157) or Ted Mertig (532-3011) if you can volunteer one or more days per month.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENT
Health and Environmental Speaker in El Paso... John Robbins will be speaking in El Paso on Saturday, May 14, at the Recital Hall in Fox Fine Arts Center on the UTEP campus at 7:30 pm. His visit is sponsored by the Vegetarian Society of El Paso. He is the author of a best-selling book, Diet for a New America, and he is the founder of the non-profit EarthSave Foundation, an organization that provides education and leadership for the transition to more healthy and environmentally sound food choices, non-polluting energy supplies, and a wiser use of natural resources. Tickets are $12 in advance, $14 at the door and $8 for students and senior citizens. Call 915-860-5855 for advance ticket purchase.

EL PASO
the LORAX

MAY 1994

EL PASO
OUTINGS

HOLT MOUNTAIN BACKPACK
Chamizal Wilderness
DATE: May 7-8, 1994
CLASS: Strenuous
LIMIT: 8, leader approval and reservations required
LEADER: Kathy Sunday, 584-9301
Located in a scenic area of the Gila Wilderness, the trail to Holt Mountain presents a strenuous, challenging hike with a 3,000 elevation gain. The exciting vistas from the top are well worth the effort. We will leave the Holt Mountain trailhead and camp at Spectar. Saturday morning we will drive the short six miles to the trailhead. Our hikes to a camping spot near the summit of Holt Mountain will be about six miles on a generally good trail. We will arrive near camp early enough for some dayhiking in the high country with excellent views over looking Big Dry. Water will have to be carried about 3/4 mile from Holt Mountain to our camp. Kathy early for additional information and reservations.

BEGGINNER’S BACKPACK
Aldo Leopold Wilderness
DATE: May 14-15, 1994
CLASS: Easy
LIMIT: 12, reservations required
LEADER: Betty and Wellesch Fishbeck, 581-0174
This is a trip designed especially for those who would like to try backpacking for the first time. It is a short hike (about 5.5 miles) over a fairly easy, but beautiful streamside trail. You will get a feel for what it is like to shoulder a pack and be self-sufficient and safe in the wilderness. Call for more details or help in planning equipment, etc.

HILLSBORO PEAK DAYHIKE
Aldo Leopold Wilderness
DATE: Sunday, May 22, 1994
CLASS: Moderate
LIMIT: 20, leader approval and reservations required
LEADER: Carolina Gedell, 594-7342
This is one of the best dayhikes in our area. The trail ascends the mountains through pines, spruce, Douglas fir and aspens. Breathing views occur along this 10-mile roundtrip hike with an elevation gain of 1,800’. Call early for reservations.

ANNUAL SIERRA CLUB PICNIC
Chamizal National Park
DATE: Wednesday, May 25, 1994
CLASS: Food, Fun & Lots of Good Conversation
LIMIT: None
Join us for our official summer welcome.

MAY 1994

MOGOLLON RANGE KEY EXCHANGE BACKPACK
Gila Wilderness
DATE: May 27-30, 1994
CLASS: Moderately strenuous
LIMIT: 24, (12 in each direction) leader approval and reservations required
LEADER: Rollin Wickenden, 598-8042 (tem)
We will leave Friday night and drive to our nearby trailheads. Rollin’s group will leave from the Deltoche Canyon trailhead (7,100’); Wesley’s group will leave from the Sheridan trailhead (6,600’). The route led by Rollin follows the Deltoche Trail (175) down to Whites Water Creek and up Win Canyon, gaining 2,600’ to Spider Saddle. We then follow the Holt-Apache Trail (181) past Camp Creek Saddle and Holt Spring down to Sheridan Corral. Wesley’s group will follow the same trails in the opposite direction, gaining 1,300’ to the Holt campsite. Each group has considerable elevation gain and loss over the three-day trip. Total mileage is approximately 19 miles. Each group will spend two nights in the backcountry with water nearby. This route passes through some of the highest and most remote sections of the Gila Wilderness. As always, this subject is subject to change due to weather conditions and water availability. Call Rollin or Wesley early for reservations and details.

GILA WILDERNESS BACKPACK
DATE: June 10 - 26, 1994
CLASS: Moderate/Difficult
LIMIT: 12, leader approval and reservations required
LEADER: Lawrence Gibson, 594-7342
This trans-Gila trip will explore many of the Gila’s treasures: springs, cool mountain streams, and canyons. Experience in multi-day backcountry required.

JUNE MEETING
DATE: Wednesday, June 29, 1994
CLASS: Educational
LIMIT: None
SPEAKERS: Dr. Laura Alpern & Ms. Georgianne Boullion
Join us for this environmental education session.

CALENDAR
May 25
Annual Member Picnic
June 1
EXCOM Meeting (7 pm at 800 So. Piedras)
June 10
Deadline for El Paso newsletter information
June 29
General Meeting
July 6
EXCOM Meeting (7 pm at 800 So. Piedras)
EL PASO

OUTING REPORTS

PLAN AHEAD FOR THESE SUMMER TREKKS!

July 9-17 Weminuche Wilderness (CO) Backpack (Laurence Gibson, 594-7342)
August 6-14 Wyoming Backpack - either the Tetons or the Wind River Range (Laurence Gibson, 594-7342)

Chiricahua National Monument Carcamp, 2/12-13/94

Driving West on I-10 can get pretty monotonous. But, if you turn off onto a dirt road at Bowie, AZ, the scenery gets more interesting. This is the route that most of our group took to get to Chiricahua National Monument. After setting up our tents and eating lunch at the group campsite, the group drove to Massai Point (6,870') and dayhiked the scenic Echo Canyon Loop Trail. After gourmet meals were prepared and consumed under the glow of our Coleman lanterns, we bedded down for a long chilly night. Sunday dawned gray, windy and colder. While the Simons rose early to board the shuttle bus to Massai Point and dayhike back to the Visitor Center, the rest of us enjoyed the warmth of our sleeping bags for longer than usual. After breakfast, the fast group consisted of pack up and head home. Making the trip this year were Laura, John, Guisell, and John Paul Delgado, Rita, Dwanye, and Jennifer Sluesser, Rasafer Schaller, Pat Wood, Barbara Richardson, George and Pat Simon from Alamosa, Edward, Kathy, Susie and Leader Rollin Wickenden.

El Capitan I.C.O. Service Trip, 5/11-14/94

This was a multi-day hike through the Guadalupe National Park. We drove to our Pine Springs camp. On Saturday, Trail Boss Jack Koenick led us down a winding dirt road to Williams Ranch for two days of work. We carried tools and timers over a half mile of winding trail to the undeveloped Shumard site. There, we dug trenches, dressed, drilled and hammered in timbers, then bolted them together, forming a perimeter. Using Polaskis and McClouds, we filled the interior, weeding and setting out plants and rocks, leveling the site. We built four sites. Eddie Hernandez supervised Sunday while we transplanted ocatillo and built chains to open and mark the new trail. A few years' entry, Eddie found a bedrock mortar which probably spoke history. We pondered those who had toiled here before us.

Grand Canyon Backpack, 3/18-24/94

Serendipity took on new significance as nine upbeat Stetsons ventured on their inaugural visit into the grandest of canyons, the wonder of North America. Picture this: thick white cumulus clouds rolling over the north rim of the canyon, dissipating immediately upon entering the massive abyss. The evening rains cleared the tobacco desert, and we acquired the wind. The orange colors of the sandstone were everywhere. We lay over day dawned a welcome opportunity for everyone's personal desires. Some did 12-mile dayhikes to elegant Ribbon Falls. A few hung around Phantom Ranch relaxing and enjoying the inner canyon with its trust banding of deer. Others went to the shores of the mighty Colorado to frolic on the beach and build sandcastles for the canyon gods. On day 3 we reached Indian Gardens by noon giving us ample time to hike out to Plateau Point. From here one becomes fully aware of the sensational immensity of the canyon. Our last day was the most arduous with a 3,000+ foot elevation gain. We were spread out on the way up being intermittently intervened by the curious from our "dayhiker" dayhike, and having to bow out of the way to a half dozen mule trains. On top after a shower we met up in Flagstaff to treat our palates to Mexican cuisine, leaving the Raman Noodle Surpise as just a distant memory. Our group consisted of the "Rambo Noodle Blues Brothers" Big Gus Pena and Jim Montes, Pat "1 can make it" Woods (on just her second backpack---well, yes, Pat!), visitor Karen Thompson from Albuquerque, Suzann Boone, assistant leaders Dave Kofoid and Carolena Greenfield, and Maria and leader Mike Episcopo.

North Franklin Peak Dayhike, 4/3/94

Susan Pratt and Rafael Perez climbed El Paso's mothball with Michael Bronca. We enjoyed the scramble ascent of the crest until our path emerged onto the dull mining road. Up top, we ate lunch and collected litter for proper disposal. The mining road descended past saddle till its is washed out. We stepped and slid down an arrow to rejoin the road. A nice hike right here in town.

Guadalupe Peak Dayhike, 1/10/94

We left El Paso at 7 am for a shuttle to Pine Springs Trailhead (Later we learned a shuttling lesson: turn headlights ON while driving; turn headlighs OFF while hiking). Weather was sunny with a gentle breeze and rare scudding clouds. Our first half hour of switchbacks made us vow to get more exercise. The trail eased up and stretched out to afford an ever-increasing view of the Guads. On reaching the saddle, we found our first view of the peak. Inspired, we rallied onward to the summit and lunch. The afternoon's descent brought nothing delight to Patty Watson, Karen Weaver, Lee Ward, Rudy Provenzo, Rafael Perez, Barbara McDougall, Pam Gregory, Ann Falknor, Gary Enos, Barbara Elizade, Victor Dorado, Warren Cowles, and leader Michael Bronca.

SANTA FE

SANTA FE GROUP NEWS

GENERAL MEETING MEETING TUESDAY, MAY 17, 1994

WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE . . . WHERE ???

How much water does Santa Fe have, anyway? Where is it? What are we doing with it? How on earth were 17,000 new residential units approved without a thorough examination of whether there's enough to serve them? Find out the real truth about our water resources and what the future may hold from Tony Mayne, executive director of the Santa Fe Metropolitan Water Board and featured speaker. Since 1976 the Metropolitan Water Board has been the planning entity which administers Santa Fe's city-owned share of its San Juan-Chama rights. While the Board lacks any regulatory authority, it routinely makes recommendations about water allocation to the city, county and PNPM. With the city buyout of PNPM and our ever-growing population, we need to be informed about just how water is managed in Santa Fe. Don't miss a chance to hear Tony's vision for integrated city/water planning and how we can balance water resources and demand at the general membership meeting, which is free to all and will be held at the Unitarian Church (on Barcelona between Don Gaspar and Galisteo) Tuesday, May 17, 1994, at 7:30 PM.

ANNUAL SUMMER SOLSTICE PICNIC SUNDAY, JUNE 18, 1994

It's time to celebrate summer in Santa Fe with our annual summer solstice picnic, with an opportunity to visit the alternative lifestyle of the Comuneros on the Alameda, at 2300 West Alameda. The picnic starts at 6 PM at the Commons House. (2 miles west of the St. Francis intersection, at the city limits, just past where the pavement used to end and horse farms begin) All members, significant others, friends, children and guests are invited to the potluck and to browse the grounds of the co-housing development. (Children's playground and kid's room in the Common House are available!)

Jack Zirker, of the National Solar Observatory in Alamoso, a leading expert on solar eclipses, will be at the pollute for discussion and questions.

Food: Please bring 8 servings of a food item for each individual coming of one of the following: appetizers, salads, casseroles, cooked vegetables, meat dishes, bread, desserts, wine, beer, soft drinks, juices. In the interest of the environment (and clean-up!), please bring your own dishes and flatware.

NO GENERAL MEETING IN JUIN/JULY/AUG/SEP

Please come to the May Meeting, May 17 and Solstice Picnic June 18

SANTA FE GROUP OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Co-Chairs — Mark Mortier* 593-5870
Norma McCullan* 471-0005
Secretary/Treasurer — Lionel Sorocco* 982-3926
Conservation — Van Perkins* 982-1024
Chapter Representatives - Sue McIntosh* 982-3926
Publicity — Norma McCullan* 982-3926
Funding — Outings — Norma McCullan* 471-0005
* Member of the SF Group Executive Committee

Treasme expire 12/94: Hughes/McIntosh/Freeman/Perkins
12/95: McCullan/Mortier/Sorocco/Gable/Grosman
Sat Sun May

** ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE / ISSUE OUTING FOR MAY ★ **

1 SANTA FE RIVER CLEAN-UP DAY Meet 10 AM, Alto Park (on West Alameda). A variety of events, including tree planting, habitat rehabilitation and trout release. Jointly sponsored by the Sierra Club, Potorgophy per los Niles, Trees New Mexico, River Guardians, Sweeney and Agua Fria Elementary Schools, Santa Fe High School, and several neighborhood organizations. George Nagel (982-9454) (local Sierra Club contact) JOIN IN!!

1 Bob McKee (672-3420) Moderate Hike on the Quemazon Trail near Los Alamos. 9 miles roundtrip, 2200' elevation gain. Call for time and meeting place.

** ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE / ISSUE Hike FOR MAY ★

7 Ted Williams (984-2664) RETURN OF THE RIVER Easy Tour Mr. Williams, a civil engineer, has a dream [endorsed by the Old Santa Fe Association, among others] of having water running down the Santa Fe River all day, every day, all year long! Walk several stretches of the river with him and see how he would achieve this exciting goal, and control flooding and erosion. Leave 9:30 AM.

7 Caroline Glick (984-3184) Strewnos Hike to Thompson Peak, via Glorieta Baldy. Considerable elevation gain. Call for reservations.

8 Norbert Spach (983-1902) Strewnos Hike Shaggy Peak and Deer Creek. Mostly off-trail. Call leader for reservations.

8 Jeff Jones (984-2389) Easy Hike on the Chamisa Trail. 4% miles roundtrip. Slow pace, suitable for parents with small children. Leave 9:30 AM.

14 Norcie Sanders (984-0386) Strewnos Hike to the Stone Lions in Bandelier from Ponderosa Campground. Leave 8 AM.

14 Victor Aytes (471-7545) Easy Bike on the Frei Trail in Bandelier from the campground to Ceremonial Cave. Leave 9 AM.

15 Art Judd (982-3312) Moderate Hike somewhere up in the high country. Leave 8 AM.

21 Stephen Janus (988-4137) Moderate/Strewnos Hike to Cerro Picacho and St. Peter's Dome via Steve's Canyon. Considerable off-trail and elevation change. See some of the most remote portions of Bandelier. Leave 8 AM.

21 Jocelyn and Caroline Kesikull (982-9570) Easy Hike up Aspen Vista Road. Leave 8:30 AM.

28 Lionel Sorace (983-6715) Moderate Hike from Black Canyon campground, plus... some off-trail... Leave 9 AM.

1 Elisabeth Altman (471-8409) Moderate Hike on Backman Mesa. Leave 9 AM.

Monday, May 30 (Memorial Day)

Julie Montoya King (438-7197) Moderate Hike Hermit's Peak (near Las Vegas) 8 mi. RT. Leave 8 AM.

Thursday to Monday, May 26 to 30

Norma McCaig (471-0055) 5-Day Backpack to Dark Canyon, Utah. Leave Wednesday noon. Will probably go down Woodenchut Canyon and return via Peavine. 37 miles and some day hikes up side canyons. A beautiful, remote canyon system. Expect hot days.

NOTES FROM THE CHAIRS' CORNER... Mark Moritz and Norma McCaig

Now that the Santa Fe Mayoral and City Council elections are over and the primaries are coming up, it seems to us to reflect on our Group's political endorsement process. We have heard a number of concerns from members about this process, so we would like to explain it and follow it with a plea for help from our members.

We began in January with a discussion by members of our Political Committee as to what issues were important to the Santa Fe Group. These included development, water, transportation, energy, and waste disposal. From this discussion, a draft questionnaire was written and circulated among members of the Santa Fe Committee and the ExComm, as well as several other members. Based on their comments, the questionnaire was revised and sent out to all of the candidates to be completed in advance of the endorsement meeting.

We received responses from almost all of the candidates. These were then circulated among the members of the two committees and discussed in the...
Santa Fe hosts the quarterly meeting of the Rio Grande Executive Committee on June 4 and 5 at 2300 West Alameda, at the Commons House of the Cooperator housing community. Everyone is invited to a potluck on June 5 at 6 PM. Please RSVP to 983-2701. Also, please call if you have a spare bedroom. Rumors are there may be a dance following the potluck!

Election News

The race for the Governor of New Mexico will be decided during the June primaries when Jim Baca, the environmental candidate endorsed by the Sierra Club, will run against Casey Luna and Bruce King. Register to vote now!!! and Vote in June!!

For news of receptions being held during the week of May 16 for Jim Baca, gubernatorial candidate, and Ray Powell, State Land Commissioner candidate, also endorsed by the Sierra Club. Do not miss out on any of these fun events.

Outing Notes: All outings, unless otherwise specified, leave from the PEPRA parking lot at the corner of Paseo de Peralta and Old Santa Fe Trail (across the street from the State Capitol and Court). Carpooling will be arranged at the parking lot, and each hiker should come prepared to pay $5 a mile to the driver of the car in which hikers ride. 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 appearance appears unsuitable. Leaders have the right to alter destination of hikes or cancel the trip due to weather, undesirable 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 not permitted on hikes unless noted otherwise. Telephone leader for details of the individual hike. 

Southern New Mexico

Holloman AFB Clean Up in Progress

Holloman Air Force Base (HAFB) is located between the City of Alamogordo, NM, and adjacent to White Sands National Monument. According to the Minutes of the HAFB Technical Review Committee Meeting of January 28, 1994, 50,000 gallons of fuel were discovered in 1981 to have leaked from five underground storage tanks at the BX Service Station. Various systems consisting of recovery trenches and wells recovered 48,000 gallons of the free-phase product from beneath the site. Virtually all of the product has been recovered. However, the fuel-contaminated soil containing petroleum hydrocarbons at the average concentration of 8,000 ppm has not been remediated. The remedial action chosen for the site was soil vapor extraction. A 30 day Pilot Test, conducted on a small, highly contaminated area of the site in July and August 1993, reduced the petroleum hydrocarbon content of the soil by 48% and the RTEX concentration by 80%. Design specifications for a full-scale soil vapor extraction system were received in January 1994. The full-scale system will be constructed this summer.

At another site investigations were conducted in order to remediate an apparent 2,000 gallon release. However the contractor encountered from 5 to 7 feet of free-phase product on the water table beneath the site in a 500 x 700 foot area. The investigation was then expanded to delineate the full extent of contamination beneath the site. There are estimated to be 1.7 million gallons of weathered JP-4 fuel beneath the site. The Army Corps of Engineers initiated a rapid response contract to remediate the site. Enhanced Soil Vapor Extraction was chosen as the most feasible alternative for removal of the free-floating product and remediation of the fuel-contaminated soils beneath the site. A 24 hour Pilot Test was conducted at the site in December 1993 in which 300 gallons of fuel were recovered from the water table. Two additional wells were to be installed at the site in February, 1994. The operation and maintenance of the full-scale system is currently funded. All fuel recovered from the site will be burned through a flare system.

Hazardous waste had historically been discharged into the HAFB sewage lagoons. In 1988 HAFB entered into a Federal Facilities Compliance Agreement which set in motion a number of actions including the removal of 4,000 tons of PCB contamination lagoons in 1990. As a result the EPA has removed HAFB from the significant non-compliance list in 1993, as relates to the lagoons.

Numerous other sites are also being cleaned up on HAFB. General John Miller Commander at HAFB has stated that good progress has been made, and he hopes no additional new sites will be discovered as new construction projects continue on the base.
THE BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY CONVENTION

from Article by John Hopkins published in SC Public Lands Newsletter

The Convention on Biological Diversity entered into force on December 29, 1993, three months after the 30th country ratified its signing of the Convention. The Convention, as an international treaty, is legally binding on those countries that have ratified it.

President Clinton signed the Convention last year. Although the treaty is in force internationally, the Senate must consent to ratification of the treaty by a 2/3rd vote before the U.S. becomes legally obligated to refrain from acts that would defeat the treaty's object and purpose. President Clinton submitted the Convention to the Senate late last year, and we expect the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to take up ratification soon.

The Convention addresses the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and various issues related to the utilization of genetic resources. Several articles of the Convention lay out a set of basic steps necessary for the protection of biological diversity, although they include modifications at the beginning of each article, attenuating phrases such as "as far as possible as an appropriate" or "in accordance with particular conditions and capabilities".

Articles Six through Eight of the Convention provide the key provisions for in-situ conservation and sustainable use. The actions they call on nations to undertake are all ones which federal land managers in this country should pursue on our public lands as well. Principally, these actions include:

- develop strategies and programs for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and the integration of conservation and sustainable use into plans for other relevant sectors of the nation's activity.
- identify and monitor components of biological diversity and activities that are likely to have a significant adverse impact.
- establish a system of protected areas and promote protection of ecosystems, natural habitats and the maintenance of viable populations of species.
- manage biological resources outside protected areas for conservation and sustainable use.
- promote environmentally sound and sustainable development in areas adjacent to protected areas.
- rehabilitate and restore degraded ecosystems and promote recovery of threatened species.
- prevent introduction or control ecologically damaging alien species.
- provide conditions needed for compatibility between present uses and conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use.
- regulate and manage activities determined to have a significant adverse impact on biological diversity.

In addition, Article Ten calls for further measures to insure the sustainable use of components of biological diversity, including integration of conservation and sustainable use into national decision-making.

If nations address the spirit as well as the strict letter of the Convention, we will take large steps forward in the years ahead to curb a massive wave of species extinctions, set aside biologically functional systems of protected areas, and adjust a range of human activities to protect biological resources and use them sustainably.

The Sierra Club and many other organizations have formed a network known as Bio-Net (Biodiversity Action Network) to address global biodiversity issues. Although much of BioNet's focus is in the international arena, it will also address domestic biodiversity issues.

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS LAUNCH "BUY RECYCLED" CAMPAIGN

Thirty-two cities and 18 counties in the United States announced that they would adopt policies that "mirror" President Clinton's executive order on recycled materials issued last fall. Clinton's order calls for post-consumer recycled paper to be made up 25% of printing and writing paper bought by the federal government by the end of 1994, and 30% by the end of 1998. It also mandates purchases of re-refined oil and recycled tires.

The announcement kicks off a National "Buy Recycled" Campaign by the US Conference of Mayors and the National Assn. of Counties, in response to rising demand for the 43 million tons of recyclables collected annually by local governments. More than 400 cities and counties already require some purchases of recycled goods. According to a Mayors/Counties press release, the campaign aims to foster "even more aggressive" programs for buying recyclables.

What is your city, county, and state doing?

OUTINGS

April 23, 1994 - Hike - strenuous, all day, leaves at 6 AM to the Organ Mountain Needle, Call Jim Bailey 521-4822 for reservations and information.

May 7, 1994 - Hike - Achenbach Canyons in the Organ Mountains. Easy to moderate, Bring water and lunch. Call Jim Bailey 521-4822 for meeting time and place.

May 28, 1994 - Hike - Emory Pass Trails, which trail will depend on the experience of those taking the hike. Call Jim Bailey 521-4822.

MEETINGS

April 21, 1994 - Combined with the Student Group, Dr. Rich Speltenberg will present slides and presentation on the differences in Chihuahuan and Sonoran Desert, NMSU, 107 Science Hall, 7:30 PM.

Thursday, May 26, 7:30 P.M., 107 Science Hall, NMSU. John Kramer, Gila National Forest, Willcox, will present slide program "Hiking in the Gila: Lesser Known and Lightly Used Trails." For more info call 522-3421. For Summer Sierra Club Meetings check your Las Cruces newspapers, for time and place.

Other meetings of interest:

May 4, 1994 - 9-12 AM, Grazing Reform what the new proposed regulations actually say and mean. Presented by the BLM at BLM Offices, 1800 Marquessa St, Las Cruces (between Buena and Valley).

May 4, 1994 - 7 PM, BLM Scoping Meeting for proposed designations of Areas of Critical Environmental Concern in the Caballo Resource Area, Alamogordo, 7PM, Civic Center, 800 First St., Alamogordo.

May 5, 1994 - 7 PM BLM Scoping Meeting same time as above, in Las Cruces, BLM Offices, 1800 Marquessa St., Las Cruces (between Buena and Valley Drive).
ADC (continued from page 6)
ever, since ADC was banned from state trust land. If it and the New Mexico Department of Agriculture have trained ranchers in the use of M-44s, I am increasingly troubled by the way the |
individuals and I discuss it. I am carefully evaluating the |
challenge. Given that many industriously manufactured |
padded leghold traps are just as non-selective and |
injurious as unpadded traps. |
Recent studies of leghold traps can be |
species-selective and can target offending |
animals in problem areas when placed |
carefully and adjusted properly by |
experience professionals. In fact, this is the |
most selective method compared with other |
available options, with the possible |
exception of firearms. The methods of |
this subject are generally approved by the |
scientiﬁc community, although the issue | is |
debatable. But based on peer-reviewed publi- |
cations, padded leghold traps appear to |
reduce nuisance already. |
Other provisions complement and enhance |
selectivity for target animals and minimize |
injuries to non-target animals, and a 24-hour trap-check |
with emphasis on early morning inspection to |
minimize the ﬁshing out of length of time a non-target |
animal is held. |
CONCERN: There are no enforcement pro- |
tested against ADC. Therefore ADC is checking traps |
every 24 hours. |
RESPONSE: The position statement empha- |
izes the importance of accountability, and it |
allows my staff to accommodate inspections |
called for herein. It should not be |
interpreted that professional employees of ADC |
would intentionally fail to report. However, |
State Land employees will be monitoring |
ADC activities and if it is true, I |
will take immediate action. |
CONCERN: The position statement does |
not speciﬁcally identify aerial gassing as a permitted |
procedure. |
RESPONSE: There is no speciﬁcally |
identified aerial gassing as a permitted |
procedure, or prohibited method of predator |
control, but in conjunction with other |
procedures it would not |
be a feasible technique. |
Statements |
required that activities be speciﬁc to the |
offensive |
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