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FRM No. W 1700

Study shows few NM counties benefit from National Forest logging

by Lane Krahls

SANTA FE, NM — Every year the U.S. Forest Service reports that it has given millions of dollars to counties. However, 82 of the 112 counties in the Four Corners states that receive these payments do not benefit from them.

The Forest Service, a conservation organization based in Santa Fe, New Mexico, has released a report showing that Forest Service payments do not generally benefit counties in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah. What the federal government gives to counties with one hand, it takes away with the other. On one hand, counties receive Forest Service 25-percent payments. On the other hand, those payments are subtracted from what they receive in Payments in Lieu of Taxes.

Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PLIT) is a federal program to compensate counties for the property taxes they lose by the presence of tax-exempt federal land within their boundaries, including national forests. The formula for PLIT payments is thecheckbox and county data.
**LETTERS**

**Dear Editor:**

Your article on election results in the latest Sierra prompts a response from me. I would like to express my appreciation for the thoughtful manner in which the article was written. It provided a valuable perspective on the issues at hand and helped to clarify the complex political landscape.

Sincerely,

John Doe

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**Public Lands Ranching**

by Wes Leonard

The deadline for April/May Sierran is March 15, 1991.

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**Editor**

Scott Hyatt

Albuquerque
Saving wilderness in the Saguarro State
Arizona Desert Wilderness Act moves way for New Mexico wilderness bill
by Rob Smith

In literally the last few moments of the 101st Congress the Senate gave final approval to the Arizona Desert Wilderness Act. The bill, which was signed into law last for some wilderness activists was nearly a 20-year effort to preserve Sonoran desert BLM lands in the National Wilderness Preservation System. With the President’s signature of the 2.4 million acre bill, the amount of protected wilderness in Arizona more than doubled.

The Grand Canyon Chapter of the Sierra Club had joined with other conservationists as part of the Arizona Wilderness Coalition (AWC) to push for a 4.1 million acre proposal for both BLM and national wilderness refuge areas. The final wildlife refuge boundary, which includes 1.5 million acres, closely follows what both the Fish and Wildlife Service and the AWC had proposed. The 1.1 million acres of designated BLM lands represent a slight gain over the 1 million acres proposed by BLM, but another 100,000 acres remains under wilderness study area protection or is included within the newly established Gila Box National Riparian Conservation Area.

Wilderness advocates, who had organized an adoption program for individual areas, had a significant influence over which BLM areas were protected. Although five areas recommended by BLM were dropped in Rep. Bob Stump’s (R) district, nine non-recommended areas were added to the bill elsewhere due to citizen support. The greatest acreage gains were in Rep. Mo Udall’s (D) district, where the BLM had recommended wilderness status for only 25 percent of the acreage considered, but had to accept 85 percent as new wilderness.

The first introductions was in the spring of 1989 by both U.S. Senators from Arizona. It included only 900,000 acres of wilderness, all but 30,000 of them on BLM lands. That was closely followed by Udall’s bill for 2.7 million acres, which were about equally divided between wildlife refuge and BLM lands. The final version basically split the difference on BLM areas, and reflected compromise between conservationists, hunters and the military roads and overflights for the two big wildlife refuges, Kofa and Cabras Frieza.

The final legislation included almost every area with significant amounts of flowing water, an extremely valuable feature in the desert for both recreational and ecological reasons. Equally important was language in the bill explicitly creating a federal wilderness water right for instream flows.

The battle over water rights ground things to a halt several times during the Congressional process. At one point it looked as if the Arizona House delegation would split the issue when Rep. Jim Kyland and Jay Klohs (both R) demanded that the federal water right be processed first through the state court system. Conservationists strongly objected to this attempt to limit the ability to protect wild- ness water through the federal courts if necessary. Udall pressed ahead with his bill as drafted without the weakening water provisions, and finally the delegation... (continued on next page)

Their wilderness boundary came down to the high water line, and a wilderness water right in the areas remained intact.

New Mexico Senator Pete Domenici (R) also refused to allow the Arizona bill to proceed until a clause was added that protected the authorization for Hooker dam on an alternative on the Upper Gila River.

Increased motorized use and development of rangers was raised at an issue early in the process was eliminated by the Congressional delegation because the industry could not show any evidence that changes were needed to existing wilderness grading guidelines. The designation of the holy contended Gila Box as a National Riparian Conservation Area was a compromise crafted by Rep. Jim Kolbe (R) to mollify local communities which opposed anything called... (continued on page 23)

NM Wilderness Coalition ups ante
New proposal would more than double wilderness acreage in the state
by Jim Norton

The New Mexico Wilderness Coalition, composed of more than a dozen environmental groups in the state including the Sierra Club and the Wilderness Society, plans to more than double the wilderness system in New Mexico. To date, only 1,650,797 acres, or 2 percent of New Mexico has been formally designated as wilderness. These acres are divided among 34 wilderness areas, all but eight of which are administered by the U.S. Forest Service. The BLM lands of New Mexico include approximately 1.9 million acres of primarily BLM land to the wilderness system.

The Coalition is revising that proposal now because the BLM has acquired some new lands and coalition members have completed some new inventories. The revised proposal will more than double the 2.4 acres.

The Coalition suggests that because the New Mexico have extraordinary values that need permanent protection. They contain archaeological sites that may help to unlock the mysteries of ancient civilizations, rare plants and animals that are found in only a few other locations, free flowing rivers and streams, and outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation.

The Coalition is hopeful that Congress will move ahead this year to add deserving BLM areas to the wilderness system. Wilderness recommendation of the BLM are expected to be forwarded to Congress this year. Of the 12.8 million acres of BLM land in New Mexico, approximately 925,000 acres were studied by the BLM, and just 26,000 acres are recommended by the agency for wilderness organization. The Coalition feels that BLM’s proposal is flawed because it inadequately studied rare plant and animal populations, overemphasized manageability constraints, showed a lack of flexibility in land use areas, and overestimated conflicts with minimal development.

Attempts in Congress to reach agreement over BLM wilderness designation have been frustrated by the House for three years over a disagreement about how to handle water rights and grazing.

Similarly, some members of the delegation and the Coalition feel that existing grazing guidelines which allow grazing in wilderness under carefully crafted criteria are working and should not be changed. Other members would like to expand the ability of ranchers to use motor vehicles and build new range developments in wilderness areas.

The Coalition is pushing to protect wilderness areas from future water development, while others wait to deny federal reserved water rights for New Mexico wilderness areas.

Passage late last year of Arizona desert wilderness bill may help to provide momentum for the New Mexico bill, but the water and grazing issues could slow the process of the bill. (See article on the Arizona wilderness bill elsewhere in this issue).

For more information about the New Mexico Desert Wilderness process, feel free to contact me at 505-986-3833 or Dave, Salmon, state coordinator of the Coalition at 505-380-3763.
Legislative priorities for 1991

By Ken Hughes, with contributions from Lynda Taylor and Kevin Bizby

Strengthening existing environmental laws, and thereby strengthening the hand of government and citizens alike, is the focus of the Sierra Club and other organizations during the first session of the 40th New Mexico Legislature.

EID Legislative Package

The Environmental Improvement Division (EID) is expected to seek passage of a legislative package that includes the following bills and amendments:

- **EID Legislative Package**
  - **The Environmental Improvement Division (EID)** is expected to seek passage of a legislative package that includes the following bills and amendments:
  - **Leading Underground Storage Tank Funding**
    - **The measure would, through the Corrective Action Fund, allow EID to take corrective action at sites contaminated by tank leaks (primarily petroleum products) from underground storage tanks. There is worry, however, that oil companies may use this fund as an excuse to decrease its insurance against spills and stick the whole bill to the public.
  - **Water Quality Act Enforcement, Storage, Sludge and Liquid Waste Initiative.**
    - **This would amend the Water Quality Act to increase civil penalties, increase criminal coverage, add administrative enforcement procedures for transporting, treating and disposing of sewage in sewers and other similar wastes, and authorize spending $484,000 to hire nine new staff to increase enforcement of waste disposal.**
  - **Air Quality Act Amendments.**
    - **These would amend the state’s Air Quality Act to increase civil penalties, adopt changes necessary to meet federal Clean Air Act amendments, increase criminal and civil penalties for violations, provide stronger enforcement, and allow the state to be more stringent than federal law in protecting New Mexico’s air quality.**
  - **Sulfur/Federal Stringency Language.**
    - **This would set up a state NEPA that would require an environmental impact analysis for state facility projects.**

Recycling and Solid Waste Initiatives

- **Battery and tire recycling.** Sen. Roman Martinez-Democrat of a bill that would charge a $1 refundable deposit on new lead-acid batteries sold for cars, etc., to create a fund to provide education to battery recycling, and research and marketing for using recycled batteries rather than dumping them in landfills. This would greatly reduce the lead and hazardous chemicals in dumps from batteries. Man is also promoting a bill to provide for the collection, recycling and reuse of vehicle tires.
- **Home container recycling and packaging limits.** Rep. Danilo Perales (D-Albuquerque), Rep. Gary King (D-Murrieta) and Rep. H. Doyle (R-Los Alamos), with active support of the New Mexico Public Interest Research Group (NMPIRG) and State Land Commissioner Jan Baca, are pushing a bill that requires a 5-cent deposit on beverage containers, and another to tax or restrict the entry into New Mexico of products with environmentally unsound packaging.
- **Newspaper Recycling.** This would mandate the use of recycled newspapers in New Mexico.
- **Solid Waste/Public Utility.** This bill would declare solid waste facilities a public utility which would give the public greater control over their waste. It would be funded by a tax on solid wasteتحميلهاتي. This would be funded by a tax on solid waste and in the Southwest.
- **Transportation Issues.**
  - **A number of transportation bills will be watched carefully by environmentalists.**
  - **A bill to fund a Rapid Rail system from Albuquerque to Santa Fe, and a study of financial options to pay for such a project.**
  - **A bill to reduce radiation to less than a doubling of background radiation.**
- **Water Bills**
  - **New stream flow, water quality, air quality, recycling, creation of a separate Department of the Environment, wildlife management, improvement transportation, responsible mining, rivers inventory, and preservation of the Rio Grande bosque in the Mesilla Valley.**

Most of these issues are priority concerns for a number of other groups as well. Club members concerned about a particular bill should contact me at the Sierra Club office in Santa Fe to make their voices heard.

[Ken Hughes is the lobbyist for the Rio Grande Chapter Lynda Tyler is a member of the Executive Committee of the New Mexico Conservation Voters Alliance.]

NM Energy Research Institute. This would provide the computer software for developing a strong database on New Mexico energy resources.

Organic communities. The Organic Farming bill enacted last year needs $100,000 appropriation.

State Historic Preservation bill. Attempts may be made to amend the State Historic Preservation Act to weaken protections for cultural and historic sites (this is particularly worrisome with respect to the proposed new airport in the Rio Grande Bosque and protecting surrounding areas).

Conservation Education Bill. This bill would promote conservation, natural resource and environmental literacy throughout New Mexico, including programs in public schools, conservation education training for teachers, create a conservation education task force and fund. An alliance has been formed among several groups and citizens to get this through.

Conservation Easement Bill. This will affect conservation groups and conservation easement groups to purchase private land for wildlife habitat and conservation.

Miscellaneous Bills

New Mexico State University Environmental Center. NMSU is trying to introduce a bill that would create a separate Department of the Environment, wildlife management, improvement transportation, responsible mining, rivers inventory, and preservation of the Rio Grande bosque in the Mesilla Valley.

NMCCVA will work to make this bill stronger, with such things as strict disclosure requirements for companies, more public hearings, enforcement, etc.
Congress kills grazing fee increase

Fair–market bill traded away in committee

by Jim Fish

Late in the 101st Congress, Representa-
tive Syrun from Oklahoma offered an amend-
ment to the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill that would have raised
livestock grazing fees on western public
lands and national forests to fair market
value. The amendment passed the House,
251 to 155. The Senate ducked the issue
and—a week after a intense lobbying by
the livestock industry—the grazing fee in-
crease got traded away in Committee Con-
ference for another year’s moratorium on off-
shore oil and gas leasing.

Currently, the federal grazing fee is $1.81 per animal unit month (AUM). An AUM is the amount of forage consumed by
the average cow over five days while eating
approximately 900 pounds of grass and forbs. The BLM re-
dently determined that the current market
value of forage available to livestock in the western states is $8.70/AUM. Because of the low federal fee, the
BLM and the Forest Service lose millions
dollars a year in their grazing programs.
For example, the BLM’s range pro-
gram costs over $40 million per year. The
BLM estimates, however, that it will receive
only $15 million in grazing fees in 1991.
The $25 million loss comes out of the pockets of the American consumer.

Raising the grazing fee would have an
insignificant impact on the national beef in-
dustry. Only 8 percent of western ranchers
hold federal grazing permits, and the forage
consumed by cattle on public lands accounts
for less than 3 percent of the nation’s beef.
Furthermore, many of the 30,000 ranchers
who hold federal permits practice ranching as
a hobby or second income. A case in
point, our new governor (endorsed by the Rio
Grande Chapter during the election) runs
1200 head of cattle on the new El Malpais
National Conservation Area south of Grants,
most of them on the two wilderness areas.
His direct subsidy from the American tax-
payer on these 1200 cows is almost $100,000
each year.

What you can do

1. Let the Sierra Club know that you con-
sider this issue important.
We are getting up for another attempt at
raising the federal grazing fee in the 102nd
Congress. Although Rose Strickland, Chair of
the Grazing Subcommittee of the Sierra Club’s
Public Lands Committee, was one of those
leading the charge for increased grazing fees,
the official position of the Sierra Club
remains one of accepting meager progress
more than half a century after Congress
passed the Taylor Grazing Act in response to
massive destruction of public lands by live-
stock. Many within the Sierra Club would
like to elevate the priority of the grazing
issue. You can help by raising the issue with
your group, chapter and national Sierra Club
leaders.

2. Let your Representative and Senators
know that you consider this issue important.
All three of New Mexico’s Representa-
tives voted against the Syrun amendment.
Representative Coleman of Texas, where
there is no public land ranching, voted for it.
There are more members of the Rio Grande
Chapter than there are ranchers with federal
permits in New Mexico. Why should they
push us around? Texas members should call
and write Rep. Coleman to let him know
that you appreciate his vote on the Syrun Amend-
ment and encourage him to vote for proper
management of our public lands in the fu-
ture. New Mexico members should request

a written statement from their Representa-
tives on the reasons for their negative vote.
Statement of positions should also be re-
quested from the New Mexico and the Texas
Senators. Let’s start educating them now!

3. Get involved in tracking a grazing allot-
ment.
Public Lands Action Network (PLAN) is deve-
loping an "Adopt an Allotment" pro-
gram. To get on PLAN’s mailing list, con-
tact us at P.O. Box 5631, Santa Fe, NM
87502-5631. People with a background of
interest in land management studies are
especially needed. The BLM has agreed to
provide training. Contact Jim Fish at P.O.
Box 712, Placitas, NM 87043 to sign up.
The training will involve both office sessions
in the evenings and field work on the week-
ends. We hope to start early in February.
PLAN will be developing a video based on
the training so if we can round up enough
funds.

4. Boycott public land beef
Reducing the consumption of beef by
three percent nationally would eliminate
the need for cattle grazing on public lands.
We would be healthier; we would have to
pay less taxes; and our public lands would once
again be viable habitat for wildlife. A na-
tional public land beef boycott is being or-
ganized by Nancy and Denzel Ferguson, au-
tors of Sacred Cows at the Public trough,
and the Oregon Natural Desert Association.
For more information, contact ONDA, P.O.
Box 1005, Bend, Oregon 97709.

The artificial real estate value of a federal grazing permit

The obvious reason for raising the federal grazing fee is to stop the drain on the U.S. Treasury. The most important reason is more subtle.
Under the Taylor Grazing Act, each federal grazing permit is tied to some base property—a specific piece of
private property or water development. Although grazing permits are not transferable, it has become common prac-
tice for the Forest Service to sell to BLM to reassign a grazing permit to the new owner when a base property is sold.
Because of the low grazing fee, the federal grazing permit represents a cheap source of forage for a livestock
operator. The operator, therefore, is willing to pay more for the base property than for a comparable piece of private
property with no associated federal grazing permit. Like-
wise, an owner of base property can borrow money against the federal grazing permit because he or she could sell the base property for an artificially enhanced value.
Let us illustrate the problem with a fictitious but quite
typical case. Tom makes a little money on a real estate deal and decides he would like to be a cowboy. His friend Dan
has 160 acres of undeveloped land cut in the middle of
nowhere. With this base property, however, is associated a grazing permit for 50,000 acres of BLM land. Under the
permit, Dan runs 1000 head of cattle. With his banker’s blessing, Tom offers Dan $37,000 for the base property; $57,000
for the private property at $325 per acre; $5000 for the
BLM grazing permit at $100 per permitted head. Knowing
that Tom is a “value” of $125 per permitted BLM permit is between $350 and $1000 per head and that some exocrypts are calling for
an end to all public land grazing, Dan takes the money and runs.
The next year, Tom goes down to the office of his
banker friend and gets him to up the loan to the maximun value of $1000 per head and uses the $500,000 to finance
his campaign for Governor.
Meanwhile, BLM, the BLM Range Specialist, fi-
nally gets a day away from the office to do a range study
of Tom’s new allotment for which no study has been done for five years. Six months later, Welsey analyzes the data
and determines that the allotment should be cut to 500 head
instead of the 1000 head. He recommends a priced reduc-
ction of 50 percent over five years.
Welsey’s Area Manager calls Tom to break the news
to him. Tom calls his banker and together they call their
friend, the Senator. The Senator calls his friend, the Secre-
tary of the Interior. The Secretary calls his friend, the
Director of BLM. The Director calls his friend, the State
Director of BLM. The State Director calls the Area Man-
ger. Welsey’s study is buried and Welsey gets transferred
to Alaska in the middle of winter.
Tom continues to run 1000 head of cattle on the
allotment. The springs and streams that have been dried up
by overgrazing stay dried up. The land and water and grass
continue to suffer. Tom increases supplemental feeding.
Top soil continues to wash downstream, adding to the de-
struction of fish habitats all the way to Elephant Butte.
Fishers wonder what happened to the 475 elk, the 725
mule deer and the 1200 pronghorn that the land could sup-
port (with steady and dramatic improvement of its
current degraded state) if there were no cows.* A Sierra
Club hiker wonders what happened to the predators, the
meadow, the raptors, the lizards, the snakes, the song
birds and the wild flowers that should be there.

Raising the federal grazing fee to fair market value is
the first step in stepping destructive welfare ranching on
our public lands. Grazing levels should be dictated by the
concepts of multiple use and sustained yield, not by loan
value.

The forage consumed by one cow is equivalent to
that consumed by 1.9 elk or 5.8 mule deer or 9.6 prong-
horn. The numbers above assume that the allotment could support 500 cows as determined by Welsey’s study. Half of
this available forage is allocated to a elk, one-quarter to mule
deer and one-quarter to pronghorn.
Santa Fe National Forest

Elk Mountain Timber Sale

Opposition to the Elk Mountain Timber Sale continues to mount on several fronts. The Forest Service has received approximately 6000 comments on the sale. The New Mexico Game and Fish Department has withdrawn its support for the sale based on its decision to list the Rio Blanco elk as a candidate for listing in the sale area. Another state agency, the Environment Improvement Division, has informed the Forest Service of its concerns about the impact of logging on water quality.

Bantin Timber Sale

The Forest Service is conducting additional Mexican spotted owl studies before allowing the Bantin Timber Sale to go forward. The sale area also includes excellent habitat for the Jemez Mountain salamander, a proposed federal endangered species. Some cutting units have already been dropped from the original proposal.

Calaveras Timber Sale

The Forest Supervisor is expected to approve plans for the Calaveras Timber Sale shortly. The sale area is one of the last uncut areas in the Jemez, and contains the highest known concentration of Mexican spotted owls in the northern part of their range. The area probably contains goshawk territories as well.

Gila National Forest

Spring Timber Sale

Forest Guardians and the Gila Guardians have successfully appealed this sale in the Quitobaquito Ranger District. Logging would eliminate an important wildlife corridor and threaten many late Pueblo archaeological sites. Of particular concern are the potential impacts on black bears and goshawks. The Regional Forester has instructed the Forest Supervisor to reconsider issues raised by the appellants.

Eagle Peak Timber Sale

In another victory for conservationists, the Regional Forester upheld the Forest Service’s decision to scale back timber cutting and road building in the Eagle Peak Timber Sale. The decision had been appealed by the timber industry and Carson County. There were many intervenors on behalf of the Forest Service in this appeal, including the El Paso Group of the Sierra Club, National Audubon Society, the Wilderness Society, Forest Guardians, and the Native Plant Society. This tall sets a precedent in that forest officials defended their decision by arguing that the Allowable Sale Quotas (ASQ) for the forest constitutes an upper limit for logging rather than a goal, in contrast to the more prevalent Forest Service interpretation found elsewhere.

Ward Timber Sale

The EIS for the Ward Timber Sale which recommends a "no action" alternative (i.e., no logging), has not yet been approved by the Forest Supervisor.

Lincoln National Forest

Bird Timber Sale

Two appeals have been filed on this sale; one by Forest Guardians and the Mesiella Valley Audubon Chapter, the other by Amanda Turner to the Southern New Mexico Group of the Sierra Club. The sale area includes closed canopy/multi-storey forest, steep slopes, and encompasses 11 known Mexican spotted owl territories. The appeals are based on the questionable economics of building a lengthy and expensive road system to serve the sale, the impacts of steep slope logging, the impacts on wildlife, and unflavored concerns of big timber as assumptions regarding flammulated owl habitat. Both the El Paso and Southern New Mexico Groups have intervened in the appeal.

Scott Ablott/Polygon Timber Sales

At press time, the co-plaintiffs in a suit against the Forest Service to stop the Scott Ablott/Polygon Timber Sales—Forest Guardians and the Audubon Society (Mesiella Valley and Trans-Pecos Chapters)—were set to request a preliminary injunction to halt logging. This sale includes areas which contain old growth forest and excellent habitat for the Santa Teresa Mountains salamander—a Forest Service sensitive species and a New Mexico state listed endangered species. According to Sam Hitt of Forest Guardians, no more than three percent of the Lincoln's original old growth remains.

Carson National Forest

Felixio Timber Sale

The Forest Supervisor has temporarily withheld approval for the Felixio Timber Sale due to concerns expressed by the NM Game and Fish Department and Forest Guardians about cumulative environmental impacts. According to Sam Hitt of Forest Guardians, "the Forest Service dropped Escudillo Canyon from the proposed sale to assure DFG concerns, but doubled proposed cutting levels elsewhere. The sale area contains relatively intact old growth, but is unfortunately located in the Vallescalos Federal Sustained Yield Unit. The Vallescalos was created by Congress in the 1930s to promote local economic development by providing long term timber contracts, such as in the Tongass National Forest in Alaska. Hitt says the Vallescalos contracts have proved a bonanza to one timber company, but have provided only a handful of low-paying local jobs. Forest Guardians are urging an EIS be done for the sale.

(Thanks to Sam Hitt of Forest Guardians for most of the information on this page.)

Forest Activists Needed

There are seven national forests and one national grassland located within the boundaries of the Rio Grande Chapter. These areas are located within the San Juan Mountains. Conservationists are working with grassroots organizations and working with the Forest Service to protect our forests and wildlife. We need your help to protect these forests and the wildlife that depend on them.

[Editor's Note: the following is an excerpt of a letter recently mailed by Friends of the Gila River. It merits wider distribution.]

P.O. Box 211, Gila, New Mexico 88038

24 January 1991

TO: Fellow Conservationists

SUBJECT: Gila River Grazing Allotments

Attached is a copy of the just-released [Forest Service] announcement from the Silver City Ranger District concerning three active grazing allotments that include major portions of the upper Gila River. Perhaps you might consider responding.

We are asking everyone to educate themselves on the issues, and then send written comments to the Forest Service later than 28 February. Your letter should be as personal and site specific as you can make it. You might want to also call the Forest Service or pay them a personal visit.

It is very important that all of us with concern for the Gila River and its diverse flora and fauna make our voices heard. Tell your friends. If you need more background beyond what you can get from the Forest Service, give us a call. All of us, ranchers and conservationists included, will benefit from a healthy, restored Gila River riparian habitat. We are in this together...

The Gila River and associated areas have the highest biological diversity of any region in New Mexico. Species diversity includes over 550 kinds of plants, 67 mammals, 265 birds, 11 amphibians, 40 reptiles, 7 native fishes, and innumerable invertebrates are known for this area (Hubbard 1977). This area of the state provides or protected important habitat for a large number of state and federally listed threatened and endangered species...

Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

Stephen O. MacDonald 355-4290
Susan Mullen 355-4392
Howard Smith 353-4147
Conservationists challenge plans for Unser Blvd.

by Ike Eastvold

The Sierra Club, National Trust for Historic Preservation, and Friends of the Albuquerque Petroglyphs have filed a formal appeal to the City Council on the design of Unser Boulevard. The three groups have also secured legal representation and a nationally-recognized expert in transportation planning to testify as an expert witness. Litigation is not out of the question, but the appellants are trying to negotiate with the Mayor and Council for changes to soften the impact of Unser on Petroglyph National Monument and West Side neighborhoods, thereby averting years of legal battles. Your letters and phone calls are essential if we are to have any leverage in these negotiations.

The real problem is that the Public Works Department and their development allies never have accepted the 4-lane roadway design for Unser mandated by the City Council after many late-night, stormy Council hearings on the issue. Instead, they have come up with a major arterial design easily expandable to six lanes, including an 80 foot median minimum, and two 12-foot wide shoulders paved to the same thickness as the four travel lanes! If this 120-foot swath reminds you of a highway you’ve driven, it’s probably the interstate.

Let’s hit the City Council and Mayor’s offices with an avalanche of letters and ring the phones off their hook!! Write to Councilman Paul G. Bubela, Land Use Committee Chairman, and copy Council President Michael Bratich at the City of Albuquerque, PO Box 1293, Albuquerque, NM 87103. If you live in Albuquerque, by all means send a copy to your own Councilor as well. Then leave phone messages at 768-3100. Mayor Louis Saavedra’s continued on next page

Unser Blvd.

(continued)

address is the same, and his phone is 768-3000. In your own words, strongly urge injection of the Public Works Department’s design for Unser because:

- Their design does not comply with the parkway compromise embodied in City Council Bill R-455, and therefore in a brazen betrayal of that good faith commitment.
- A parkway is the most flexible and naturalistic of all highway designs, allowing a maximum fit with the environment it passes through. Public Works’ design is so rigid that, for example, escarpment rocks at Rinconada Canyon are buried on the right-of-way edge when freeing up 20-30 precious feet from the huge median and shoulders could easily avoid those erosive impacts.
- We really need to fill City Hall’s 9th floor Council Committee room with supporters of our appeal. Please come at 5 p.m. on February 13th. We need YOU!

Bond bill threatens Petroglyph National Monument

by Ike Eastvold

Albuquerque’s West Side State legislators are pushing this session for $32 million in debenture bonds to finish construction of a massive highway complex through the newly-created Petroglyph National Monument. There are no guarantees that the Monument values will ever be considered, much less protected, although such guarantees could be written into the bill. And it appears that Governor Bruce King may have given Senator Martin Chavez his initial support for this legislation. Governor King really needs to hear from you if he is to wake up and smell the coffee on this one.

The Unser Boulevard/Paseo del Norte project will cause the National Monument to be twice pierced by major arterials, and also will form the sensitive boundaries of three of the four major visitor destinations. Imagine trying to experience ancient Indian art with traffic roaring by and reverberating off the rocky cliffs and canyons of the Monument! At some points, these roads would be only a matter of feet from major petroglyph concentrations.

Please make a commitment to write and/or call your State representative, senator, and Governor Bruce King in support of keeping NM-PHIHPA intact. The mailing address for all three is "State Capitol, Santa Fe, NM 87503," and the legislature’s switchboard is 984-9300. If you are unsure of your legislator’s name, call your County Voter Registrar (Bernalillo: 768-4083; Sandoval: 867-2259; Santa Fe: 984-5089). In your own words, convey your strong support for retaining the NM Prehistoric and Historic Sites Preservation Act intact with no changes, meaning:

- The Act helps protect the very cultural sites which attract tourists here, and is of great importance to our economy. Tourism in our state accounts for nearly 50,000 jobs and $2 billion yearly in revenues.
- The Act helps preserve our historic and cultural heritage which is a tremendous educational resource for our secondary school and college students.
- The Act has been used to allow Unser Boulevard to be built through Petroglyph National Monument at the State’s first 4-lane roadway, proving it is a law that can balance development and preservation needs.

Call me at 255-7679 for more information on when we will be going to Santa Fe to lobby on this and other pieces of legislation. We will arrange carpools with you!
El Paso Group

Eagle Peak/Russard Timber Sale. The Group intervened on the side of the Forest Service concerning the revised Eagle Peak/Russard Timber Sale in the Gila National Forest. We were informed as this issue goes to press that the Forest Service position has been upheld. [Editor’s note: see update in this issue’s National Forest Report]

Bird Timber Sale. The Group has also intervened against the Pinkie Lea Incursion into the Bird timber sale in the Lincoln National Forest.

Meadow Creek/Redstone Timber Sale. The Group’s public lands committee has designated the Meadow Creek/Redstone timber sale in the Gila National Forest as a major priority. This is an area used heavily for recreation and should not be logged.

Group Office/Recycling Center. The Group’s office at 600 S. Piedras is now open and functioning as a drop-off recycling center.

El Paso City Issues. The Group has also been involved in the initiation of a curbside recycling pickup program to be started by the City in future tests and the passage of a fire place burning ordinance.

Wine and Cheese Party. The annual wine and cheese party was a huge success this year being attended by 175 members and guests.

Elliot and evening slides were enjoyed by all.

Southern New Mexico Group

New Officers Chosen. In recent Group elections, Bob Arnecht, Kevin Blythe, Ann McBeth, Paul Nachman, Perry Plummer, Storm Sermay, and Ben Zerby were elected to the Group Executive Committee. Pan Penfield resigned as Group Chair, and Ben Zerby was elected to take her place.

Conservation Committee revitalized. After a period of dormancy, the Group’s Conservation Committee was reformed to meet every month on the Monday before the Group Executive Committee meets. An initial meeting was held in January. The Conservation Committee hopes to provide a forum for discussing issues and strategies at greater length than afforded at ExCom meetings.

El Paso Group

Group intervenes in Bird Timber Sale. The group has intervened on behalf of Marianne Thielor’s appeal of the Bird Timber Sale in the Lincoln National Forest.

Meeting held with state representatives. The Group’s ExCom met with most of Dona Ana County’s state legislators in early January to get acquainted and discuss issues of concern. The legislators responded positively to a slide show outlining the issues. State Senator Ruben Smith suggested that the Group take the legislators on a hiking tour of some of the proposed wilderness areas.

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Show. The Group sponsored a Las Cruces presentation of “The Last Great Wilderness,” a slide show and lecture on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). The show was given by Lenny Kohm, a photographer/activist from Seattle. More than 120 people attended. Kohm emphasized the importance of enlisting the help of Senators Domenici and Bingaman, who both sit on committees of key importance for protecting ANWR.

Southwest Environmental Center Fundraiser. In an effort to help get the Southwest Environmental Center off the ground, the Group sent a postcard invitation to most of its members, signed by Chair Ben Zerby, inviting them to a fundraiser for the Center on February 11 at the Fountain Theater in Old Mesilla.

Albuquerque Group

No report received.

Santa Fe Group

No report received.

NMSU Student Group

The student Sierra Club of NMSU is off to a great start. Formed in October, we have been introduced to some of the Sierra Club’s endeavors. We have organized some of our own outings and have seen video presentations on some issues that concern all of us.

Chapter hires lobbyist

The Chapter recently hired Ken Hughes to lobby on its behalf during the current session of the New Mexico legislature. Prior to coming to New Mexico, Hughes was a Sierra Club lobbyist for two years in Washington, D.C., where he specialized in population and growth management issues. Before that, he served as an aide to several legislators on Capitol Hill, and headed his own group to promote bicycling as a legitimate form of transportation in third world development projects.

“New Mexico’s environment was a key reason for my wife and I moving here, and I want to do all I can to protect and improve it,” Hughes said.

Activists Needed

The Chapter is looking for members in the Roswell and Carlsbad areas to act as liaisons and watchdogs for the BLM, Forest Service, and National Park Service.

The Chapter also needs a new Winter Issues Chair. For more information, contact George Grossman at 982-1024.

Chapter Group Reports (continued)

Some of the outings included: a trip to the Gila Cliff Dwellings complete with tour, a short hike, and some snow; a hike near the Rock City Las Cruces presentation of “The Last Great Wilderness,” a slide show and lecture on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). The show was given by Lenny Kohm, a photographer/activist from Seattle. More than 120 people attended. Kohm emphasized the importance of enlisting the help of Senators Domenici and Bingaman, who both sit on committees of key importance for protecting ANWR.

Some of the presentations included a video on overgrazing, a video on ANWR, a video on Demuti National Park, and a slide presentation by Storm Sermay on some of the ESA’s included in Wildlands.

This spring semester we are planning trips to New Cave, the Cooke’s Range, and other nearby areas. Hopefully through this Club a deeper “love, respect, and admiration for the land” (as stated in the preamble) will be attained. If you have any suggestions or would like to help, please call me, Andrew, at 646-3756. Thank you.

State Incentive and Strategic Grants Awarded

Some $200,000 was made available in the Club’s FY92 budget for the work of state/provincial entities in influencing government policy decisions at this level of government. Checks were sent out in late November and early December.

Nearly every state and province applied for the grants, which is based on the number of Club memberships in the state or province. To qualify for Incentive Grants, the applicant entity must have had a demonstrable on-going commitment to political work at the state or provincial level.

Thirty seven proposals were received for Strategic Grants, with requests totaling nearly $500,000. The Conservation Coordination Committee focused on those with the largest number of votes.

In a series of difficult decisions between five projects, the Conservation Coordination Committee approved funding for 13 of the proposals. Said Freeman Allen, Sierra Club Vice President and CCC Chair, “We hope that in future years we will be able to make more and larger strategic grants.” The Strategic Grant proposals funded were the following:

- Funds for intern-lobbyists in Alabama.
- Fees for expert witnesses to challenge timber harvest plans in Alberta.
- A project in Arizona for a part-time coordinator to prepare for legislation and an initiative.
- Funds for a lobbyist and a brochure to enact a Georgia Environmental Policy Act.
- Money for a lobbyist in Kansas, with a focus on energy and biodiversity.
- A three-state project to protect the Northwoods involving separate components in Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. The focus is on protecting biological diversity in these forests.

(The Nebraska Chapter’s proposal to draft legislation, build networks, and add lobbying time for legislation on the use of agricultural chemicals.

- A program to produce government decisions on the North Bay hydroelectric project in Quebec.
- An initiative for an innovative program in South Carolina that involves monitoring and quickly reporting votes that occur in the state legislature.
- A clean air project in Texas. Work on protecting rivers in W. Virginia.)

New chapter officers selected

In recent chapter elections, incumbents Tom Bratfisch (El Paso), Norma McCullar (El Paso), and Gwend Wardwell (Santa Fe) were reelected to the Chapter Executive Committee. A total of 176 votes were cast choosing the five candidates.

At its January meeting, the new Executive Committee appointed Ted Mergi (El Paso) to fill one of two vacancies left by the resignations of Steve Flint and Storm Sermay from its ranks. Gwend Wardwell was selected to replace Steve Flint as Chapter Chair, Wes Leonard was selected as vice-chair, and Jana Oyster was reelected secretary and treasurer. Oyster was also appointed as delegate to the National Sierra Club Council. Flint was commended highly by the Committee for his leadership during the past year.

The Executive Committee named George Grossman, David Bouquais, and Gwend Wardwell as delegates to the Southwestern Regional Conservation Committee. George Grossman was named as Public Lands Conservation Chair, and Tom Bratfisch was reelected Chapter Conservation Chair for Environmental Quality. Gwend Wardwell was reelected member-at-large for the Board of Directors. Jana Oyster was reelected as SCOCOPE Chair. George Grossman was appointed to head up the new Chapter Legislative Committee.

New Chapter Issue Chaired is listed in the directory on page two.
Fundraising Workshop

On Saturday and Sunday, February 23 and 24, the National Sierra Club will present a fundraising workshop for the Rio Grande Chapter Executive Commis-
sion and any interested club members. This national fund-raising team has put on workshops for chapters and groups all over the country, and has observed the majority of its members' need for additional training in helping nonprofit environ-
mental groups raise money. Any Sierra member is welcome to attend.

The workshop will be held at the UNM Law School in Albuquerque from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and 9:30 to 12:30 on Sunday. The Albuquerque group has

SCLDF Docket

Legal Defense Fund wades into dirty waters

The Rocky Mountain Office of the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund has received several requests for legal help from conservation groups which seek protection and sound management of our public lands. As a re-
sult, we have developed expertise in public land and wildlife law, which has led to more requests to handle those types of cases.

We’re standing in the forefront of protecting public lands in the Rocky Mountain West, but we believe that it is time to stop into the field of pollution litigation as well. We have been actively litigating with clients in our region (which roughly consists of Colorado, Utah, New Mexico, Arizona, Texas, Wyoming, and Montana) about potential Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act cases.

For example, one of our attorneys has been investigating potential Liability Underground Storage Tank (UST) cases. In another pollution matter, Fern Sheppard recently testified to Denver and the EPA that the failure to properly regulate carbon monoxide in Denver violated the Clean Air Act.

Mark Hughes is investigating how the recent Clean Air Act amendments affect our ability to bring a citizen’s suit on this matter. These are examples of the types of cases we are starting to investigate and bring on behalf of citizens and groups in the region.

We hope that this new initiative will enable us to address issues confronting urban citizens and minimally groups as well as the problems of our traditional clients. Industrial pollution has had a disproportionately greater impact on minority groups than on other population segments, and this problem is aggra-
vated by the fact that minority groups have had relatively little representation in the major environmental organizations.

If you would like us to look into a matter concerning a possible violation of the Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, or another pollution statute, we’d like to hear from you. The first step is to contact us in writing, giving us as many details about the problem as you can. Your letter will be referred to one of the attorneys, who will get back to you to discuss it further. Contact: SCLDF, 1631 Glenarm Place, Suite 300, Denver CO 80222.

State/Provincial Government Program/Province Program Director

On December 1, Paul Carroll, formerly a lobbyist for Sierra Club California, took on the responsibilities of the newly created position of State/Provincial Government Program Director. In her new role, Paula will be the principal liaison between the Club and its state and provincial volunteers, working to influence state governments in the US and provincial governments in Canada. One of her responsibilities will be to administer the new grants program for state and provincial lobbying programs.

In her four years of service for California, including eight years in the Sacramento legislative office, Paula has made tremendous contributions. Not only has she been on the front lines in fighting California’s Governor Reagan’s from overly stringent state’s environmental programs, she has succeeded in getting some important programs past his desk. Among her success has been a major re-write of the state’s Highways Program and, just recently, the first major improvements to California’s reliving law in decades. Before her work in Sacramento, Paula worked for the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund and for the San Francisco Bay Chapter.

If you have questions about the state’s program, you may reach Paula in the national office at (415) 923-5668.

Turn concern into action

The Bureau of Land Management will hold its annual meeting with envi-
ronmentalists at two locations in New Mexico. The first will be held at the Laramie Mountains, Fe on February 5, 7 p.m., at the Hilton Hotel. The other will be in Las Cruces, February 15, 7 p.m., at the Hilton Hotel.

Sixth Annual Educators’ Environmental Workshop

From air and water quality, to the need for innovative education strategies, the Sierra Club is dedicated to providing the best possible learning environment for our nation’s young people. What better way to help schools and communities than through the sixth annual Environmental Workshop, the highlight of which this year will be the Environmental Education Symposium, which will take place on March 11, 1991, at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. The symposium will focus on the latest developments in environmental education, with presentations by experts from around the country. The workshop will also include hands-on activities and field trips for educators and students, as well as workshops on specific environmental issues. This year’s workshop is expected to attract over 200 participants, making it one of the largest environmental education events in the country.

BLM to meet with environmentalists

The Bureau of Land Management will hold its annual meeting with envi-
ronmentalists at two locations in New Mexico. The first meeting will be held at the Laramie Mountains, February 5, 7 p.m., at the Hilton Hotel. The other meeting will be in Las Cruces, February 15, 7 p.m., at the Hilton Hotel.
U.S. Left Out in the Cold on Global Warming

U.S. delegates block treaty to reduce CO2 emissions

from the Sierra Club's National News Report

1991: What's Ahead for the Sierra Club

from the Sierra Club’s National News Report

Public Lands

Arctic

The first six months of the 102nd Congres will be critical ones in the fight to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. President Bush, Sen. Johnston, Rep. Walter Jones of NC, and Sen. Ted Stevens of Alaska are all expected to come out strong for drilling in the Refuge. The celebration of the 10-year anniversary of the Alaska Lands Act, to be held in Washington, D.C., Feb. 2-5, will kick off the Club’s campaign to save the Arctic Refuge.

Wilderness

The major goals of the wilderness campaign in 1991 will be protection for areas in Idaho, Montana, North Carolina, Western Nevada, South Dakota, New Mexico, and the Condor Range and Rivers; to mount administrative lobbying campaigns on the BLM, Forest Service, and other environmental policies; and to gain cooperation for the California desert and Utah wilderness bills.

Ancient Forests

The major priority on ancient forests is to end regulations that will permanently protect ecologically important stands of old growth forest. The Club will also work to protect the Endangered Species Act and other environmental statutes. Rep. Jonze is expected to reintroduce his forest protection bill, and the Senate will likely introduce a similar bill.

1872 Mining Law

Action is expected from Sen. Bumpers and Rep. Rahall, the two subcommittee chairs with jurisdiction over mining. The Sierra Club is pushing for a total replacement of this antiquated law that declares mining to be the "highest and best use" of over 400 million acres of public lands in the West.

Global Warming and Energy

The passage of Sen. Bryan’s Monitor Valley, Idaho Policy Act will be the focus for global warming and energy efforts in 1991. In the Senate, only three more votes are needed to pass the bill. The Club was able to win passage of the Bryan bill from the 101st Congress. Strong resistance is expected to continue from the auto industry and the Bush administration.

The Sierra Club supports two amendments to the Bryan bill: raising the Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standard to 45 mpg by the year 2000, and correcting the inaccuracies of the CAFE testing procedure. The current test exaggerates a car’s fuel efficiency by 15%. The “truth in testing” amendment would correct the test’s flaws and provide accurate information to consumers.

In the House, Rep. Boxer is expected to reintroduce her auto fuel efficiency bill that includes both a 45 mpg standard and truth in testing. Legislation that deals with fuel efficiency is good for both the Energy and Commerce Committee, whose chairman, Rep. Dingell, is a strong advocate for the auto industry.

President Bush’s National Energy Strategy will likely be the most disappointing and the most contentious energy proposal of early 1991. Sources indicate that all but the most modest energy efficiency proposals have been dropped from consideration. What remains seems tailored to the auto, oil, and nuclear industries. The administration supports proposals which would open the Arctic Refuge to development, open the Continental Shelf for oil drilling, does allow CAFE standards, and streamlines the licensing process for nuclear power plants.

International Tropical Forests

The overall objective is to curtail logging and other industrial activities in the world’s remaining tropical forests. The first step in that effort is to enact legislation that requires that all imported tropical hardwoods bear a label identifying the country where the wood was originally logged. This would allow U.S. consumers to make an informed choice when purchasing tropical hardwoods. Opposition to this bill could come from some furniture outlets, trade unions, and foreign embassies.

A complete reform of the World Bank’s tropical forest management policies is crucial to saving the rain forests. A European lobbying coalition on rain forests is being formed now. The Club will focus on the G-7 Summit in July, 1991, and the U.N. Conference in Brazil in 1992. The Sierra Club is currently evaluating the U.S. policy positions on rain forests.

Population

The primary goal is to raise international population assistance funding to $570 million. Both Senate and House Budget and Appropriations committees will be asked to include funding for the full amount.

Hopes are that the Foreign Affairs and Foreign Relations Committees will pass a bill increasing authorization to $570 million, with automatic $70 million per year increases to the year 2000.

Pollution

Toxics

The Sierra Club’s 1991-92 toxics campaign will be a “War on Waste” with emphasis on preventing the creation of hazardous and solid waste.

The Sierra Club will attempt to persuade Congress to pass legislation to amend RCRA to prevent and/or significantly reduce the production of hazardous and solid wastes. There will be heavy emphasis on recycling, waste minimization, and pollution prevention, as well as safe disposal policies for the remaining wastes.

The 102nd Congress is expected to also debate garbage disposal and incinerators; hazardous waste disposal; pollution prevention; DOD facility cleanup; and waste reduction. The Mitchell-Eckart bill to allow states to force hazardous waste cleanups at federal facilities is expected to move early in this congressional session.

Great Lakes

In 1991, the Great Lakes Program will continue to work on the range of laws that affect the Lakes. The three major laws, for the time being, are the Clean Water Act, RCRA, and implementation of the Clean Air Act.

Changes in RCRA are a part of the Club’s Great Lakes Federal Agenda for the 1990s. Clean Air Act implementation activities will center on the conference in Chicago, May 17-19, on strong implementation of the air toxics provisions of the Clean Air Act. On May 20, there will be a training session on RCRA. On Clean Water, the Club is pushing toward zero discharge and is working with other groups to formulate that agenda.
Sat Feb 9
FRANKLIN MOUNTAINS
Dayhike to Tom Mayo Peak to Tin Mine
Bill Phillips 915-772-5603 (El Paso)

Sat Feb 9
SURPRISE LOCATION
Intermediate & advanced cross-country ski tour Mary Summers 867-3442
(Abuquerque)

Sat Feb 9
PETECA PINTA NATIONAL MONUMENT
Easy hike in Bernalillo Canyon. Ike Eastwood 255-7679 (Abq)

Sat Feb 9
NORTHERN NEW MEXICO Moderate cross-country ski tour. Myles Brown 471-5078 (Santa Fe)

Sat Feb 9
GILA RANCH AREA
Moderate hike on Orphan Mesa. Brian Johnson 436-2087 (Santa Fe)

Sun Feb 10
SANITA MOUNTAINS
Easy hike in the foothills. Steve Vaughns 868-1370 (Abiquiu)

Sun Feb 10
SANTA FE AREA
Easy hike. Elizabeth Allman 471-8460 (Santa Fe)

Sat Feb 16
OLDOA CAUENT
Easy-moderate hike. Norven Sanders 964-0386 (Santa Fe)

Sat Feb 16
NORTHERN NEW MEXICO Moderate cross-country ski tour (or hike if no snow). Joe Wheelon 984-0746 (Santa Fe)

Sat Feb 16
QUITO WILDERNESS STUDY AREA
Exploratory hike. David Morrison 344-6903 (Abq)

Sat Feb 16
SACRAMENTO MOUNTAINS
Day hike near: Cloudcroft, probably in snow. Jock Zierer 682-2751
McBeth 526-8300 (Las Cruces)

Sat/Sun Feb 16-17
COOK'S PEAK
Car camp and day hikes. Sandy Anderson 523-5179 (Las Cruces)

Sun Feb 17
SANDIA MOUNTAINS
Beginner cross-country ski trip. David Morrison 344-8603 (Abq)

Sun Feb 17
BETULA PEAK
Easy hike. Mango Murray 473-1916 (Santa Fe)

Sat Feb 23
BOSQUE DEL APACHE
Sunset viewing of the geese & cranes.
Ralph Wofford 275-2666 (Abq)

Sun Feb 23
CABALLO CAVERNS
Day hike to New Cave. Todd Daugherty 919-564-2780 (El Paso)

Sat Feb 23
SANTA FE AREA
Moderate day hike. Arnold Keasula 982-970 (Santa Fe)

Sat Feb 23
PETECA PINTA NATIONAL MONUMENT
Easy hike to Geologic Windows. Ike Eastwood 255-7679

Sun Feb 24
DIALO CANYON
Moderate/Serious hike. Norbert Spatz 983-1902 (Santa Fe)

Sun Feb 24
COCHISE AREA
Easy hike. Victor Alys 471-7545 (Santa Fe)

Sat March 2
BANDERILLYS NATIONAL MONUMENT
Moderate/Serious hike. John McCune 473-1916 (Santa Fe)

Sat March 2
SANTA FE AREA
Moderate cross-country ski tour (or hike if no snow). Joe Wheelon 984-0746 (Santa Fe)

Sun March 3
THREE GUINS CANYON
Easy hikes in this proposed open space. Louise Wilson 592-8279 (Abq)

Sun March 3
DIALO CANYON
Easy hike, dogs allowed. Charles Cooke 473-0008 (Santa Fe)

Sat March 9
ARBUJO
Serious hike to Pahinuungue Run on the way to Loaahas. Brian Johnson 438-2087 (Santa Fe)

Sun March 9
PETECA PINTA NATIONAL MONUMENT
Easy hike to Red Rock Monocays & Arroyo Ike Eastwood 255-7679 (Abq)

Sat March 9
WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE
Dayhike. Robin Wickenden 915-595-8042 (El Paso)

Sat/Sun March 9-10
COMBIES PASS
Ski in and out overnight hike at the Yurt. 525 fee covers meals & lodging. John and Linda Burch 281-2015 (Abq)

Sun March 10
NORTHERN NEW MEXICO
Moderate strenuous cross-country ski tour. Myles Brown 471-6076 (Santa Fe)

Sat March 16
WHITE ROCK
Moderate hike on Red dot/Blue dot trial. Norven Sanders 964-0386 (Santa Fe)

Sun March 17
GAULTED BASSIN
Easy hike. Dogs allowed. Louise Leopold 988-4692 (Santa Fe)

Sun March 17
SANTA FE AREA
Easy hike to Serious hikes. Art Judz RS-3212 (Santa Fe)

Sun March 17
PETECA PINTA NATIONAL MONUMENT
Easy hike to Bosqu Negra arroyo. Ike Eastwood 255-7679 (Abq)

Sun March 17
THREE RIVERS/LATUROSA
Moderate & easy day hikes. Pat Simon 424-1211 (Las Cruces)

Sat March 23
BAYO CANYON, LOS ALAMOS
Moderate hike. Arnold Keasula 982-970 (Santa Fe)

Sat March 23
GILA RANCH AREA
Exploratory hike. David Morrison 344-6903 (Abq)

Sun March 24
SERRILLOS HILLS
Easy hike. Victor Alys 471-7545 (Santa Fe)

Sun March 24
RO GRANDE/MONTICO PEAK
Serious hike. Norbert Spatz 983-1902 (Santa Fe)

Sun March 24
RO GRANDE BOSQUE
Easy hike. David Morrison 344-8603 (Abq)

Thurs-Sun March 28-31
BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK
Outter Loop Mountain Bike trip. Bill Phillips 915-772-6603 (El Paso)

Fri-Sun March 29-31
SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO/FRONTIER MNTS
Car camp & day hikes; dogs allowed. Norma McCallen 471-0006 (Santa Fe)

Sat March 30
SANTA FE AREA
Easy hike. Elizabeth Allman 471-8490 (Santa Fe)

Sun March 31
BANDERILLYS NATIONAL MONUMENT
Moderate strenuous hike. Merrill Goodwyn 471-5442 (Santa Fe)

Sun April 7
ORGAN MOUNTAINS
Easy hike. Poul Bronson 521-0700 (Las Cruces)

Sat/Sun April 7-8
CHIRICAHUA MOUNTAINS
Car camp & day hikes. Marionne Traizer 522-3241 (Las Cruces)