

County Payments

(continued from front page)

ments is quite complex, but the result is simple. Every county has a base PILT payment determined by the acreage of federal land in the county and its population. The actual amount of PILT that a county receives each year is this base payment minus payments from federal land management agencies, including the Forest Service. By law, each national forest and grassland is required to return 25 percent of its receipts for use in the counties in which it is located.

Because Forest Service payments are subtracted from PILT payments, most counties in the Four Corners states (92 out of 112) do not receive any additional funds from the federal government as a result of Forest Service payments. These 92 counties would get the same amount of federal money even if the Forest Service cut no timber and payments dropped to zero.

For instance, Rio Arriba County, New Mexico, is entitled to \$800,250 a year in PILT payments. A report from the Office of the State Auditor in New Mexico shows that in 1989 the county received \$176,057 from the Forest Service, \$9,880 from other federal land management agencies, and \$614,313 in PILT. Had the county received nothing from the Forest Service that year, it still would have received \$800,250 from the federal government, \$790,370 in PILT plus \$9,880 in payments from other federal land management agencies.

PILT payments are made by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on behalf of all federal land management agencies. Because the check comes from the BLM, many counties are not aware that PILT has anything to do with the national forests. When I first looked into PILT payments, I was told by county treasurers that they had nothing to do with national forests. So I called the local forest and they told me the same thing, as did the Forest Service's regional office in Albuquerque. I had to call Forest Service headquarters in Washington, DC, to confirm that PILT payments came from the national forests.

Many claims are made about how timber sales produce money for county budgets. Our report shows that this is seldom the case. There may certainly be economic benefits from logging on the national forests, but raising funds for county governments is not one of them.

[Lane Krah is Director of the National Forest Program of the Forest Trust.]

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THE SIERRAN



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Study shows few NM counties benefit from National Forest logging

by Lane Krah

SANTA FE, NM — Every year the U.S. Forest Service reports that it has given millions of dollars to counties. However, 92 of the 112 counties in the Four Corners states that receive these payments do not benefit from them.

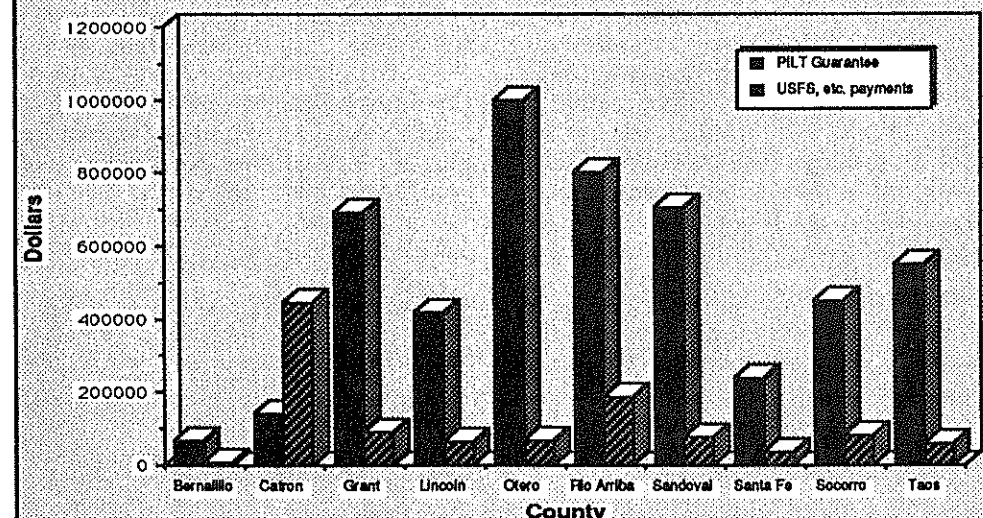
The Forest Trust, a conservation organization based in Santa Fe, New Mexico, has released a report showing that Forest Service payments do not generally benefit counties in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah. What the federal government gives to counties with one hand, it takes

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 (PILT) 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 PILT pay-

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Guaranteed PILT payments v. receipts from federal land management agencies for selected counties in NM
The latter must exceed PILT guarantees in order for counties to directly benefit from logging on national forests



Inside: Desert Wilderness Bills • Legislative Priorities • Grazing Fees • Officers

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LETTERS

Dear Editor:

Your article on election results in the latest *Sierran* prompts a response from me.

I did not support the Chapter's endorsement of the candidates for governor and land commissioner. In fact, I question the wisdom of endorsing candidates for public office by an organization such as Sierra Club. Should your endorsed candidate lose, the organization has created a disadvantage in efforts to work with the winner the organization opposed.

As for the defeat of the proposed amendment to make it easier for the land commissioner to engage in land exchanges, I see that as good. I opposed that one, and still do, as well as that rather silly one to retroactively approve land exchanges made in the past.

I am relieved and pleased that the voters rejected the proposed changes to the constitutional safeguards imposed upon the land commissioner in making land exchanges.

Elbert E. Earnest
Santa Fe

Dear Editor:

Burnt Cabin, Dutchman, Sheep, Redstone, Meadow Creek, Eagle Peak, Buzzard, Ward, Scott Able, Poison, Elk Mountain, Creek, Bird, Perk, Pepper, and many others—these are just a few of the actual or proposed timber sales on national forests in New Mexico. Few, if any, of these sales would generate a positive cash flow for the federal government or the taxpayers. They amount to a blatant giveaway of everybody's resources to a privileged few, i.e., "welfare logging."

Diamond Bar, Kelly, Devils Park, Dry Creek, Lightning Mesa, and many others—this list could go on forever. Most, if not all, of the wilderness areas, national forests, and BLM lands in the west are covered by grazing allotments. These are also managed with a negative cash flow to the federal government, costing taxpayers millions of dollars—a blatant giveaway to a privileged few, i.e., "welfare ranching."

The four-footed lawnmower has other negative impacts that are difficult to measure in dollars: increased erosion, destruction of riparian areas, loss of native species, and many others. Beef costs more than what you pay in the store.

Ted Mertig
Public Lands Chair, El Paso Group

Dear Editor:

I just wanted to tell you how much I enjoyed reading through your December/January issue. It is rare to see a publication of this type so thorough in both its national and regional reporting. The "Group Reports" section especially impressed me. The reports are a sharp tool for environmentalists: a concise list of current regional issues along with the names of who to contact for further information and involvement.

I was also happy to see that your publication is produced in a completely recyclable newsprint format. This is important when you consider that environmental groups are now being attacked for contributing to the same type of mail-distributed waste that they themselves criticize other organizations, businesses, and industries for generating.

I am becoming increasingly disturbed by the mainstream news media's apparent anti-environmental sentiments in New Mexico. That the *Albuquerque Journal* runs Alston Chase's syndicated column in their Sunday editorial page speaks volumes on where it stands regarding environmental issues. Provocative environmental issues often seem to be purposely omitted from their coverage. For example, there have been no articles printed in either of *Albuquerque's* main papers on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's December 21 [1990] deadline for considering the Mexican spotted owl as an endangered species. After working for the Ancient Forest Alliance in northern California last year, and all the media coverage concerning the northern spotted owl (after all, the bird even made the cover of *Time* last summer), I am amazed at the overall lack of interest on this subject in New Mexico. I am hoping the *Sierran* will cover this issue in the months to come.

Keep up the good work.

Scott Hyatt
Albuquerque

THE DEADLINE
for April/May *Sierran*
is March 15, 1991.

Public Lands Ranching

by Wes Leonard

He's a big man...He's tomorrow's beef steak with a grin on his face...He's the country's most rugged individualist with a cocked left eyebrow...He carries nations on his big shoulders...He's America riding on a horse...Democracy wearing a big hat...He's freedom holding a branding iron...He's the future of the world in a pair of tough leather boots...He's a rancher!
(from *What is a Rancher?* by Dan Valentine)

For years the western rancher has represented frontier values and has been portrayed as a symbol of the best in America. But, just as the symbol of the Marlboro Man faded as the truth about cigarette smoking became known, the unfortunate truth about western public lands (or what some term "welfare") ranching is beginning to emerge.

A more accurate view of such ranching is best articulated by the late Ed Abbey who described the western rancher as follows:

The rancher is a man who strings barbed wire all over the range; bulldozes stock ponds; drives off elk and antelope and bighorn sheep; poisons coyotes and prairie dogs; shoots eagles, bears and cougars on sight; supplants native grasses with tumbleweed, snakeweed, anthills, mud, dust, and flies. And then leans back and grins at the TV cameras and talks about how much he loves the American West...

Grazing must be recognized as one of the most environmentally damaging and economically unsound uses of the public lands. Grazing negatively impacts the vast majority of the public lands in the west and is a significant burden to the U.S. taxpayer. The natural heritage of the

American people is being systematically destroyed by a system that benefits a tiny, but privileged group supported by a vast array of subsidies.

Overgrazing on the fragile ranges of the West has destroyed most riparian areas, forced out wildlife, threatened endangered species, and turned large areas into wastelands. And all the more shocking is the fact that the taxpayer is providing the public lands ranchers more than \$130 million dollars per year to do this damage to land owned by all Americans—and to produce only two percent of the nation's red meat.

The public lands rancher, in order to protect his interests, cannot act in a responsible manner; therefore, we must act for him. Our goal should be to have grazing on the public lands phased out over a period of time. Just as there is no room in a world becoming more environmentally aware for the old-time industrialist who spews toxic poisons into our waters and air, so must the public lands rancher be held accountable for the mass ecological destruction selfishly caused by a way of life no longer appropriate.

The modern rancher is not the romantic image portrayed in the movies; rather he is simply a businessman taking our tax dollars and our precious resources to support his business interests. Stopping this outrage will not be easy because of their political influence which is far out of proportion to their numbers, but the first steps should be taken now.

[Wesley Leonard is chairman of the El Paso Group, vice-chair of the Rio Grande Chapter, and a former Bureau of Land Management employee.]

EDITORIAL

Saving wilderness in the Saguaro State

Arizona Desert Wilderness Act smooths 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 of 1990, culminating what 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 a 4.1 million acre proposal for both BLM and national wildlife refuge areas. The final wildlife refuge boundaries, which include 1.3 million acres, closely follow 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 a 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 nonrecommended 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.

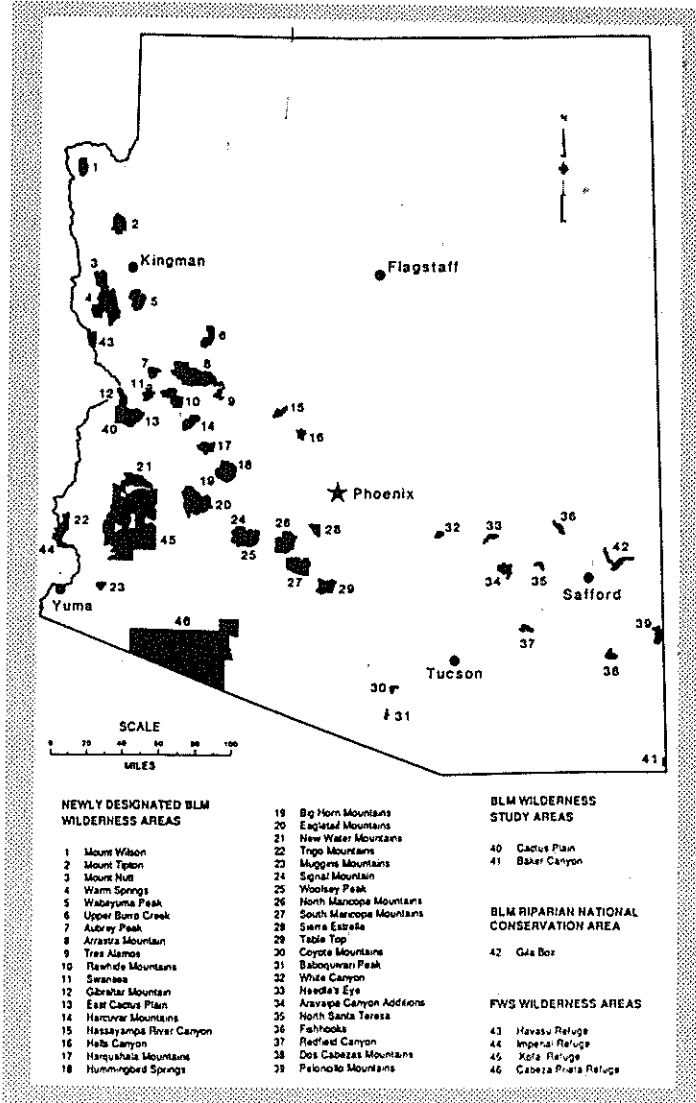
The first bill was introduced in the spring of 1989 by both U.S. Senators from Arizona. It included only 900,000 acres of wilderness, all but 30,000 of them on BLM lands. That was closely followed by Udall's bill for 2.7 million acres, which were about equally divided between wildlife refuge and BLM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

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 on the issue when Reps. Jon Kyl and Jay Rhodes (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 wilderness 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)



came back together in support of the final version with additional procedural explanations which did not change existing law.

Well, not quite everyone came back together. Rep. Stump remained true to his convictions and consistently argued against any wilderness in his district and voted against the bill at every opportunity. He alone among the entire Arizona delegation did not support the bill on its final passage.

Water rights became an issue up until the final days in the Senate, too. Despite a united front from both Senators DeConcini (D-AZ) and McCain (R-AZ), Senators Jim McClure (R-ID), Malcolm Wallop (R-WY) and Bill Armstrong (R-CO) continued to find reasons to hold the bill from a final floor vote. Only after various provisions were added to the legislation did they allow it to get final approval by the Senate. While Armstrong and McClure have now retired

from the Senate, Wallop remains and it is possible for any one Senator to indefinitely stall final approval of a bill.

The added Senate language was unnecessary and even somewhat foolish, but it was not damaging to the concept of wilderness water rights. This was due to the hard work of both Arizona Senators, and especially McCain, who refused to accept major changes that would undo the deals made in the House. One provision stated that an Arizona wilderness water right would not be taken from the water allocations already made for the Colorado River's Upper Basin (which it never would have anyway.)

Armstrong generated some headlines in Colorado regarding his amendment denying a water right from the Colorado River for two of the refuge wilderness areas, despite the fact that the Colorado does not actually flow through either of these areas.

Their wilderness boundaries came down to the high water line, and a wilderness water right within 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 or an alternative on the Upper Gila River.

Increased motorized use and developments for ranchers was raised as an issue early on, but was quickly dismissed by most on the Arizona Congressional delegation because the cattle industry could not show any evidence that changes were needed to existing wilderness grazing guidelines.

The designation of the hotly contested 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

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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 1,609,797 acres, or 2 percent of New Mexico has been formally designated by Congress as wilderness. These acres are divided among 24 wilderness areas, all but eight of which are administered by the U.S. Forest Service.

In 1987, the Coalition proposed adding 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 grow to include more than 2.0 acres.

The BLM lands of 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 recommendations 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 were studied by the BLM, and just 487,000 acres are recommended by the agency for wilderness designation.

The Coalition feels that the BLM's proposal is flawed

because it inadequately studied rare plant and animal populations, overemphasized manageability constraints, showed a bias against less visually attractive areas, and overrated alleged conflicts with mineral development.

Attempts in Congress to reach agreement over a BLM wilderness bill for New Mexico have been stalled for the past three years over a disagreement about how to handle water rights and grazing.

Some members of the delegation (and the Coalition) feel that existing grazing guidelines which allow grazing to continue 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.

Similarly, some members of the delegation and the Coalition want to protect wilderness areas from future water developments, while others want to deny federal reserved water rights for New Mexico wilderness areas.

Passage late last year of a compromise Arizona desert wilderness bill may help to provide momentum for the New Mexico bill because the water and grazing issues were settled to the satisfaction of the Arizona Wilderness Coalition and key members of Congress. (See article on the Arizona bill elsewhere in this issue.)

For more information about the New Mexico Desert Wilderness process, feel free to contact me at 505-986-8373 or Dutch Salmon, state coordinator of the Coalition at 505-388-3763.

Legislative priorities for 1991

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

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:

Leaking Underground Storage Tank Funding. This measure would, through the Corrective Action Fund, allow EID to take corrective action at sites contaminated by 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, Septage, 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 septage 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 for the state to be more stringent than federal law in protecting New Mexico's air quality. Another amendment establishes

a Rio Grande Corridor monitoring program for ozone.

Hazardous Waste Permitting and Enforcement. This bill would amend the state Hazardous Waste Act to authorize hiring additional staff to review permits, corrective actions at contamination sites, ground water monitoring systems, closure plans and inspections. It would also remove the 30-day waiting period before EID can act to force compliance with law, and allow for public hearings on minor modifications to permits if significant public interest exists.

Enhanced Environmental Enforcement. This measure would increase civil and criminal penalties for violations of the major state environmental laws and add other crimes to make it more costly for polluters to ignore laws.

Below Regulatory Concern. This would amend several laws to prohibit deregulated radioactive waste from being dumped into New Mexico landfills or incinerators.

State Environmental Review. This would set up a state NEPA that would require an environmental impact analysis for state funded projects.

State/Federal Stringency Language. This would be a generic change for all state environmental laws to enable state laws to be more stringent than the federal laws. Many of our laws, thanks to industry lobbying, have prohibitions against the state setting stricter standards and regulations than

what the feds have done.

Wildlife Initiatives

A number of wildlife-related bills are expected to be introduced during this session.

Wildlife Department. This bill would change the name of the Department of Game and Fish, broaden its authority to include nongame wildlife, expand the number of Game and Fish Commissioners from five to seven, increase penalties for poachers, and eliminate Class A Game Parks (game ranches.)

Game Ranching. There is some talk that game ranching will rear its ugly head again and attempts will be made to get a bill passed. Many conservationists are strongly opposed to any game ranching because it would allow individuals to lock up public wildlife on their lands for hunters, and result in a decrease in the size of public wildlife populations.

Water Bills

Instream Flow. There will be yet another in a long line of attempts to pass legislation allowing water to be left in streams and rivers for wildlife. This is a top priority of the Wildlife Federation.

Rivers Inventory. This will be an attempt to secure state and federal funding for a study of New Mexico rivers.

Recycling and Solid Waste Initiatives

Battery and tire recycling. Sen. Roman Maes (D-Santa Fe) is promoting 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 on 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. Maes is also promoting a bill to provide for the collection, recycling and reuse of vehicle tires.

Beverage container recycling and packaging limits. Rep. Danice Peraux (D-Albuquerque), Rep. Gary King (D-Moriarty) and Sen. Stephen Stoddard (R-Los Alamos), with active support of the New Mexico Public Interest Research Group (NMPiRG) and State Land Commissioner Jim Baca, are pushing a bill to require a 5-cent deposit on beverage containers, and another to tax or restrict the entry into New Mexico of products with environmentally unsound packaging.

Newsprint Recycling. This would mandate the use of recycled newsprint in New Mexico.

Solid Waste/Public Utility. This would declare solid waste facilities a public utility which would give the public greater control over prices and access to financial information so that waste companies could be deterred from monopolistic activities.

Transportation Issues

A number of transportation bills will be watched carefully by environmentalists.

Rapid Rail. This would provide funding for an assessment of environmental impacts of a Rapid Rail from Albuquerque to Santa Fe, and a study of financial options to pay for such a project. If done properly, this project could substantially reduce air pollution and congestion in both cities.

Unser Boulevard funding. This would authorize money for widening Unser Boulevard in Albuquerque. The Sierra Club is opposed to the widening of Unser through the Petroglyphs National Monument. [See article on page 12 of this issue.]

Transit Authority. This would set up a transit authority to mitigate the impacts of roads and look at alternatives.

Hazardous Wastes

Orphan Waste. This would allow the

Department of Public Safety to respond to chemical or toxic waste spills.

EIB radioactive waste transportation safety authority. This is a WIPP-related attempt to remove EIB's authority to address safety issues related to radioactive waste transportation and give it to the Highway Department.

Administrative Measures

Department of the Environment. This bill would separate the EID from HED and elevate the new department to Cabinet level to give higher stature and powers to environmental issues. This was one of Governor King's major campaign promises.

Whistleblower protection. This would provide protection for employees who report violations of state, local or federal law. It may be narrowed to simply include environmental laws to reduce opposition from all kinds of businesses. Many state employees have been harassed in trying to do their job protecting the environment.

Citizens Suit. This would provide citizens with the ability to go after polluters when the state cannot or will not enforce laws. CVA is extremely interested in getting this bill out of the Legislature, and it will be tough.

EID Budget. EID is asking for \$1,169,000 in expansion items such as hazardous waste, septic sludge and air quality. Environmentalists will be watching this process very closely to see that EID has sufficient funds for inspections, monitoring and enforcement, particularly since Governor King had made enforcement a priority in his campaign promise.

Miscellaneous Bills

New Mexico State University Environmental Center. NMSU is trying to introduce this bill to get \$3 million to set up an Environmental Center to "develop and house practical environmental information" and to share that information with the public, scientists, educators, etc. around state. Environmentalists are concerned that the bill as proposed is not representative of diverse environmental interests around state.

Responsible Mining Act. This would set up a program for the reclamation of lands affected by exploration, mining or extraction of minerals other than coal (which is regulated by other laws). The Sierra Club and New Mexico Conservation Voters Alliance

(NMCVA) will work to make this bill stronger, with such things as strict disclosure requirements for companies, more public hearings, enforcement, etc.

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

Organic commodities. 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 Petroglyph National Park 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 seek authority and funding to enable conservation groups to purchase private lands for wildlife habitat and conservation.

Mesilla Valley Bosque. Conservationists will seek funding to complete state acquisition of bosque parkland along the Rio Grande north of Las Cruces.

Sierra Club Priorities

The Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club is focusing on a variety of issues listed above, including: leaking underground storage tanks, state environmental review, instream flow, water quality, air quality, recycling, creation of a separate Department of the Environment, wildlife management improvement, transportation alternatives, responsible mining, rivers inventory, and preservation of 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 Taylor is a member of the Executive Committee of the New Mexico Conservation Voters Alliance.]

Congress kills grazing fee increase

Fair-market bill traded away in committee

by Jim Fish

Late in the 101st Congress, Representative Synar from Oklahoma offered an amendment 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—after a week of intense lobbying by the livestock industry—the grazing fee increase got traded away in Conference Committee 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 one cow for one month, approximately 900 pounds of grass and forbs. The BLM recently determined that the current market value for rangelands in the western states is \$8.70/AUM. Because of the low federal fee, the BLM and the Forest Service lose millions of dollars a year on their range programs. For example, the BLM's range program 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 taxpayer.

Raising the grazing fee would have an insignificant impact on the national beef industry. 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 taxpayer on these 1200 cows is almost \$100,000 each year.

What you can do

1. Let the Sierra Club know that you consider this issue important.

We are gearing up for another attempt at raising the federal grazing fee in the 102nd Congress. Although Rose Strickland, Chair of the Grazing Subcommittee of 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 livestock. 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 Representatives voted against the Synar 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 Synar Amendment and encourage him to vote for proper management of our public lands in the future. New Mexico members should request

a written statement from their Representatives on the reasons for their negative votes. Statement of positions should also be requested from the New Mexico and the Texas Senators. Let's start educating them now!

3. Get involved in tracking a grazing allotment.

Public Lands Action Network (PLAN) is developing an "Adopt an Allotment" program. To get on PLAN's mailing list, contact us at P.O. Box 5631, Santa Fe, NM 87502-5631. People with a background or interest in rangeland monitoring 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 weekends. We hope to start early in February. PLAN will be developing a video based on the training 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 national public land beef boycott is being organized by Nancy and Denzel Ferguson, authors 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.

[Jim Fish is the founder of the Public Lands Action Network.]

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 practice for the Forest Service and 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. Likewise, 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 out 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 \$537,000 for the base property: \$32,000 for the private property at \$200 per acre; \$5000 for the windmill on the private property; and \$500,000 for the BLM grazing permit at \$500 per permitted head. Knowing that the current "value" of a BLM permit is between \$300 and \$1000 per head and that some ecofreaks 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 maximum value of \$1000 per head and uses the \$500,000 to finance his campaign for Governor.

Meanwhile, Wesley, the BLM Range Specialist, finally gets a day away from the office to do a range study

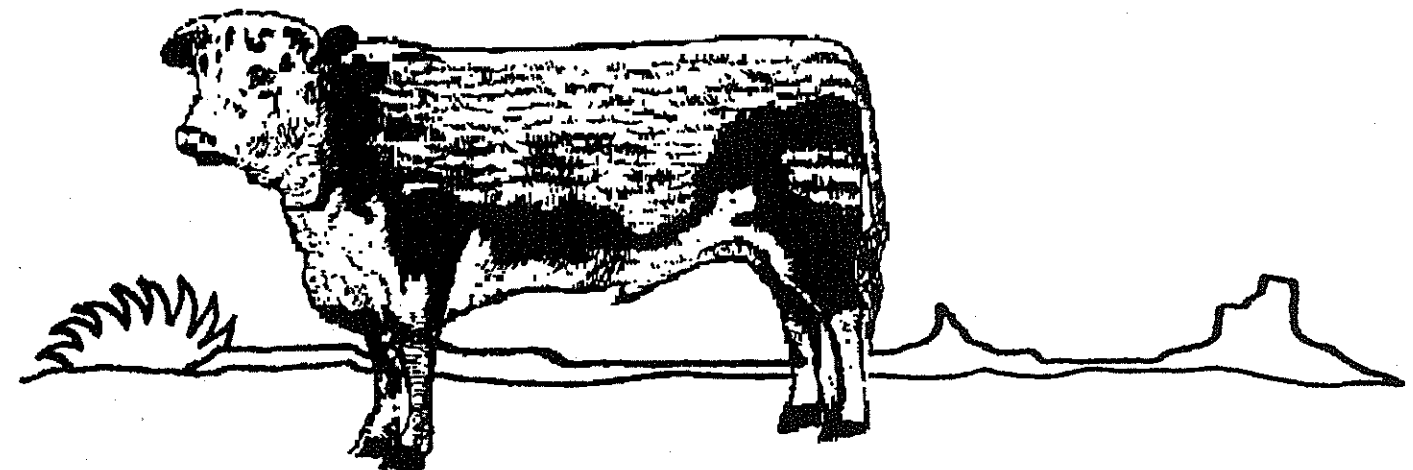
of Tom's new allotment for which no study has been done for five years. Six months later, Wesley analyzes the data and determines that the allotment should be cut to 500 head instead of the 1000 head. He recommends a phased reduction of 50 percent over five years.

Wesley'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 Secretary 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 Manager. Wesley's study is buried and Wesley 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 snake weed and cactus infestation worsens. Tom increases supplement feeding. Top soil continues to wash downstream, adding to the destruction of fish habitat all the way to Elephant Butte. Hunters wonder what happened to the 475 elk, the 725 mule deer and the 1200 pronghorn that the land could support (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 rodents, 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 stopping 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 pronghorn. The numbers above assume that the allotment could support 500 cows as determined by Wesley's study. Half of this available forage is allotted to 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 1000 letters opposing the sale. The New Mexico Game and Fish Department has withdrawn its support for the sale based on its decision to deemphasize elk habitat in the sale area. Another state agency, the Environmental Improvement Division, has informed the Forest Service of its concerns about the impact of logging on water quality.

Bonito Timber Sale

The Forest Service is conducting additional Mexican spotted owl studies before allowing the Bonito 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 concentrations 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 Monsters have successfully appealed this sale in the Quemado 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 Catron

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 sale sets a precedent in that forest officials defended their decision by arguing that the Allowable Sale Quantity (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 Mesilla Valley Audubon Chapter, the other by Marianne Thaeler, a member of the Southern New Mexico Group of the Sierra Club. The sale area includes closed canopy/multi-storied 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 unfounded Forest Service assumptions regarding flammulated owl habitat. Both the El Paso and Southern New Mexico Groups have intervened in the appeals.

Scott Able/Poison Timber Sales

At press time, the co-plaintiffs in a suit against the Forest Service to stop the Scott Able/Poison sale—Forest Guardians and the Audubon Society (Mesilla 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 Sacramento 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

Felipito Timber Sale

The Forest Supervisor has temporarily withdrawn approval for the Felipito 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 Escondido Canyon from the proposed sale to assuage DGF concerns, but doubled proposed cutting levels elsewhere. The sale area contains relatively intact old growth, but is unfortunately located in the Vallecitos Federal Sustained Yield Unit. The Vallecitos was created by Congress in the 1930's to promote local economic development by providing long-term timber contracts, such as in the Tongass National Forest in Alaska. Hitt says the Vallecitos contracts have proved a bonanza to one timber company, but have provided only a handful of low-paying local jobs. Forest Guardians is urging that 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 listed below, with acreage in New Mexico and addresses. Readers are urged to get on the mailing lists for these areas and keep abreast of important developments. Please forward information to the *Sierra* for publication in this column.

- **Apache National Forest** (614,000 acres in NM) (NM portion administered by Gila National Forest.)
- **Carson National Forest** (1,391,000 acres) P.O. Box 558, Taos, NM 87571
- **Cibola National Forest** (1,635,000 acres) 10308 Candelaria, NE, Albuquerque, NM 87112
- **Coronado National Forest** (69,000 acres) 300 W. Congress, Tucson, AZ 85701
- **Gila National Forest** (2,705,000 acres) 2610 N. Silver Street, Silver City, NM 88061
- **Lincoln National Forest** (1,103,000 acres) Federal Building, Alamogordo, NM 88310
- **Santa Fe National Forest** (1,569,000 acres) P.O. Box 1689, Santa Fe, NM 87504
- **Kiowa National Grassland** (136,000 acres) (Administered by Cibola National Forest.)

Goshawk alert

According to a recent Forest Service study, there are 102 known goshawk nest sites in the Southwestern Region, and perhaps 100 more than have not been found. The Regional Forester has convened a goshawk task force to evaluate current regional Forest Service guidelines for protecting goshawks, but only one representative from the environmental community was selected—David Henderson (National Audubon Society.)

According to Sam Hitt, current Forest Service policy is woefully inadequate to protect goshawks. Existing guidelines provide up to 20 acres for each nest, but some studies suggest that as many as 5000 acres per nest are needed to maintain a long-term viable goshawk population.

The Forest Service's own research shows a precipitous decline of goshawks on the north Kaibab Plateau in Arizona. There is evidence to suggest that a similar decline is underway in the Jemez Mountains in New Mexico. The goshawk may be on the verge of extinction in the southwest. Hitt recommends that any timber sale proposed within goshawk territory be challenged due to the precarious status of the species.

HELP YOUR CHILDREN



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Their air and water are being poisoned, their forests destroyed, their climate altered. But there is hope. The Sierra Club GREEN GUIDE provides leads to over 470 free or inexpensive educational aids covering 67 environmental topics. From air pollution to wildlife, the GREEN GUIDE directs you to resources that can help your children become responsible caretakers. Only \$6 for members (\$8 non-members).

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Sierra Club, 730 Polk Street
San Francisco, CA 94109
Code _____

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



friends of the Gila River

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 no 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 conservationist included, will benefit from a healthy, restored Gila River riparian. 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 350 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 provided important habitat for a large number of state and federally listed threatened and endangered species...

Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

Stephen O. MacDonald 535-4290
Susan Mullen 535-4352
Howard Smith 535-4147

Legislators threaten Historic Sites Preservation Act

by Ike Eastvold

Several of Albuquerque's West Side legislators have promised to repeal or otherwise weaken the New Mexico Prehistoric and Historic Sites Preservation Act (NM-PHSPA), one of the State's best pieces of environmental legislation. Without your letters and phone calls, they may succeed.

The NM-PHSPA is our local parallel legislation to the tough Federal 4(f) process, and picks up where Federal law leaves off for local and state funded projects. Public funds may not be used for a project which will involve a significant historic or prehistoric site unless there is no feasible and prudent alternative to such use, and all possible planning has been exhausted to minimize harm to the site. Since many other environmental values, including riparian habitat, are frequently found in combination with cultural resource sites, the NM-PHSPA indirectly protects much more than just cultural values. We should fight hard to retain use of this strong law.

Please make a commitment to write and/or call your State representative, senator, and Governor Bruce King in support of keeping NM-PHSPA 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 names, call your County Voter Registrar (Bernallillo: 768-4085; Sandoval: 867-2209; 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, mentioning:

- 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 tri-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 as the State's first 4-lane parkway, 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!

Conservationists challenge plans for Unser Blvd.

by Ike Eastvold

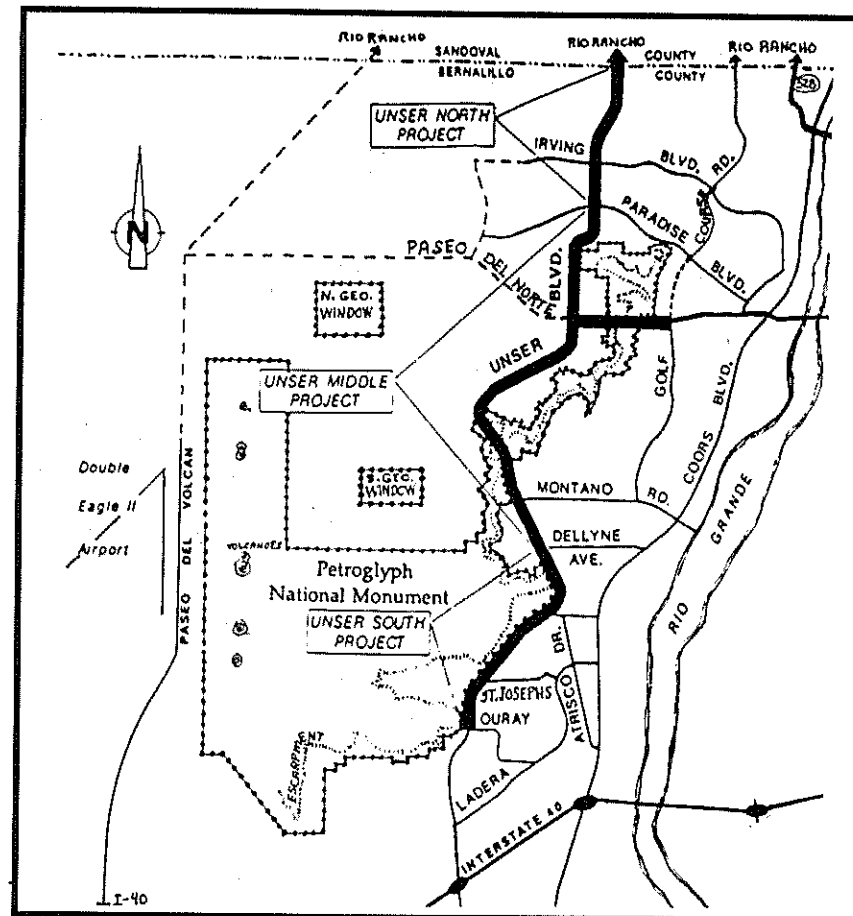
The Sierra Club, National Trust for Historic Preservation, and Friends of the Albuquerque Petroglyphs have filed a formal appeal to the City Council on the design of Unser Boulevard. The three groups have also secured legal representation and a nationally-recognized expert on transportation planning 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 avoiding 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 parkway 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 inflexible 30-foot median minimum, and two 12-foot wide shoulders paved to the same thickness as the four travel lanes! If this 102-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 hooks!! Write to Councilor Pauline Gubbels, Land Use Committee Chairman, and copy Council President Michael Brasher at: 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

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Unser Blvd.

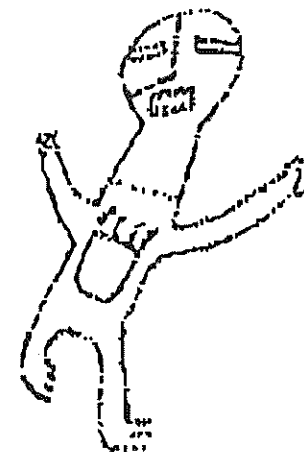
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address is the same, and his phone is 768-3000. In your own words, strongly urge rejection of the Public Works Department's design for Unser because:

- Their design does not comply with the parkway compromise embodied in City Council Bill R-455, and therefore is 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 these egregious 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

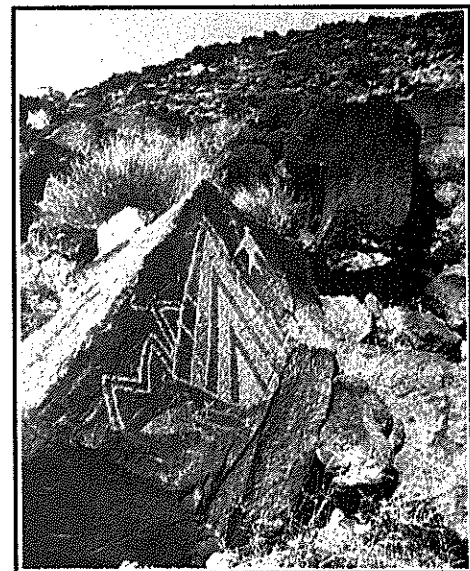
by Ike Eastvold

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 even 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 coves 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 opposing Senate Bill 81 unless iron-clad guarantees are added to the bill. (See preceding article for addresses and phone numbers). In your own words, strongly urge the following:

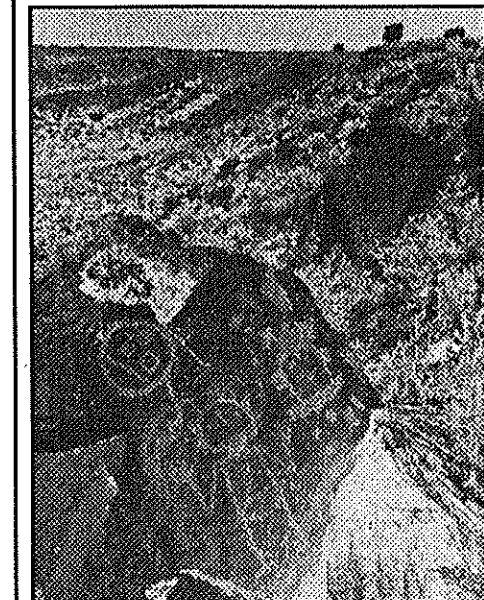
- Unambiguous language in the legislation guaranteeing that Unser and Paseo del



Norte remain 4-lane roads with strict parkway standards to mitigate impacts to Petroglyph National Monument. No trucks over 5 tons should be allowed.

- Paseo del Norte would cause severe impacts to the Piedras Marcadas Alcove and Sand Escarpment part of the Monument. All the tests of the NM Prehistoric and Historic Sites Preservation Act should be written into the legislation to assure that all prudent and feasible alternatives, including transit, are vigorously examined; and that the projected need for Paseo del Norte be subject to exhaustive analysis and public scrutiny.

Call me at 255-7679 for more information, and to learn how you can join us in carpooling to lobby the legislature together on these important issues.



El Paso Group

Eagle Peak/Buzzard Timber Sale. The Group intervened on the side of the Forest Service concerning the revised Eagle Peak/Buzzard 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 Forest Service concerning 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 800 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 on a test basis 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. Fellowship and outing slides were enjoyed by all.

Southern New Mexico Group

New Officers Chosen. In recent Group elections, Eva Artschwager, Kevin Bixby, Ann McBeth, Paul Nachman, Perry Plummer, Storm Sermay, and Ben Zerbey were elected to the Group Executive Committee. Pat Penfield resigned as Group Chair, and Ben Zerbey was elected to take her place.

Conservation Committee revitalized. After a period of dormancy, the Group's Conservation Committee has re-organized and plans 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.

Group intervenes in Bird Timber Sale. The group has intervened on behalf of Marianne Thaeler's appeal of the Bird Sale in the Lincoln.

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 on BLM wilderness. 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 Zerbey, 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 Wildlife Issues Chair. For more information, contact George Grossman at 982-1024.

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 Robledos-Las Uvas WSA where we were fascinated by all the fossils and the geology of the area; and a picnic and hike at White Sands National Monument, complete with some volleyball and an ensemble of music using rudimentary instruments of various types. An encore presentation was held at the January meeting of the Southern New Mexico Group Ex-Com meeting.

Some of the presentations included a video on overgrazing, a video on ANWR, a video on Denali National Park, and a slide presentation by Storm Sermay on some of the WSA'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" (A. Leopold) can be attained. If you have any suggestions or would like to help, please call me, Andrew, at 646-3756. Thank you.

New chapter officers selected

In recent chapter elections, incumbents Tom Brasfield (El Paso), Norma McCallan (Santa Fe), and Gwen Wardwell (Santa Fe) were reelected to the Chapter Executive Committee. A total of 176 votes were cast chapterwide for five candidates.

At its January meeting, the new Executive Committee appointed Ted Mertig (El Paso) to fill one of two vacancies left by the resignations of Steve Flint and Storm Sermay from its ranks. Gwen Wardwell was elected to replace Steve Flint as Chapter Chair, Wes Leonard was selected as vice-chair, and Jana Oyler was reelected secretary and treasurer. Oyler was also reappointed 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 Bouquin, and Gwen Wardwell as delegates to the Southwestern Regional Conservation Committee. George Grossman was renamed as Public Lands Conservation Chair, and Tom Brasfield was renamed Chapter Conservation Chair for Environmental Quality. Gwen Wardwell was reappointed Membership Chair, Norma McCallan was renamed Outings Chair, and Jay Sorensen was reelected as SCCOPE Chair. George Grossman was appointed to head up the new Chapter Legislative Committee.

New Chapter Issue Chairs are listed in the directory on page two.

State Incentive and Strategic Grants Awarded

Some \$200,000 was made available in the Club's FY91 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 and was awarded an Incentive Grant, which is based on the number of Club memberships in the state or province. To qualify for Incentive Grants, the applicant entity merely had to demonstrate an on-going commitment to political work at the state or provincial level.

Thirty seven proposals were received for Strategic Grants, with requests totalling nearly \$500,000. The Conservation Coordinating Committee focused on those with precedent-setting impacts for other states and provinces.

In a series of difficult decisions between fine projects, the Conservation Coordinating 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 toxics 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.
- Programs to influence government decisions about the James Bay hydroelectric projects in Quebec.
- Funds 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.

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 Committee and any interested club members. This national fund raising team has put on workshops for chapters and groups all over the country, and has a great deal of expertise in helping nonprofit environmental groups raise money. Any Sierra member is welcome to attend.

The workshop will be held at the UNM Law School in Albuquerque from 9 to 6 on Saturday, and 8:30 to 12:30 on Sunday. The Albuquerque group has volunteered to find sleeping spots for all out-of-town attendees. Please call your group contact person for more information and carpooling, or call Erin Boquin in Albuquerque at 265-7853 to reserve a bed and a spot at the seminar.

Contact persons:

Santa Fe Group: Norma McCallan 471-0005

Albuquerque Group: Erin Boquin 265-7853

Southern New Mexico Group: Storm Sermay 521-3348

El Paso Group: Tom Brasfield 533-2662

Caught between Iraq and a hard place?

Try solar on for size. Classes (one day) are available through UNM Division of Continuing Education taught by our own Sierra Club activist Stephan Verchinski.

April 13, 9 am-5 pm: *Passive Solar and Energy Efficiency*

April 20, 8 am-6 pm: *The Independent Powered Solar Electric Home*

May 11, 8 am-6 pm: *Solar Box Cooker Construction*

For more information, call 277-CLASS or 888-1370.

Sixth Annual Educators' Environmental Workshop

Imagine: fresh air, spectacular scenery, intellectual stimulation, and fun with family and friends. An appealing combination that you can experience this summer at the Sierra Club's 6th Annual Educators' Environmental Workshop in the heart of the Sierra.

From July 7 through July 14, 1991, educators, youth leaders, and Sierra Club Environmental Education Chairpersons will convene at Sierra Club's Clair Tap-paan Lodge in Norden, California for a week-long series of workshops examining the roles and techniques of environmental education. Entire families are encouraged to come as there will be activities for everyone. Youth will have their own environmental "Young People's Program."

Joan Rosner, the conference organizer, says that "the Sierra Club Environmental Workshops are noteworthy for their informality. Learning, recreation, and community living blend together, and teaching is hands-on." A strong commitment to the concepts of awareness, knowledge, appreciation, values modification, and action has underscored the spirit of the workshops for the past six years. The workshops are lead by a staff of seven experienced environmental educators and activists.

Daytime activities will include: field exploration of local ecology, environmental activism workshops, technique sessions, and trips to Donner Pass, Truchee, and Washoe Indian Site, among others. In the evening participants with have an opportunity to discuss global environmental problems in coordination with environmental education.

Including lodging, the week-long program costs \$260 for adults, \$195 for teens (13-17), and \$160 for children (7-12). Teaching credit is available. To reserve a space, a \$50 deposit fee for each adult and \$10 for each young person (7-17) may be sent to: Sierra Club Environmental Workshop, c/o Executive Office, Sierra Club, 730 Polk Street, San Francisco, CA 94109. Please make checks payable to Sierra Club Environmental Workshop. A \$10 late fee will be charged after May 1. For more information call Workshop Director Michele Perrault at 415-283-6683.

BLM to meet with environmentalists

The Bureau of Land Management will hold its annual meeting with environmentalists at two locations in New Mexico. The first will be held in Santa Fe on February 5, 7 p.m., at the Hilton Hotel. The other will be in Las Cruces, February 12, 7 p.m., at the Hilton Hotel.

SCLDF Docket

Legal Defense Fund wades into dirty waters

The Rocky Mountain Office of the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund historically has received the majority of its requests for legal help from conservation groups which seek protection and sound management of our public lands. As a result, we have developed expertise in public land and wildlife law, which has led to more requests to handle those types of cases, and so on as the cycle repeats itself.

We're staying in the business of protecting public lands in the Rocky Mountain West, but we believe that it is time to step into the field of pollution litigation as well. We have been actively talking 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 Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) cases. In another pollution matter, Fern Shepard recently sent notice to Denver and the EPA that the failure to properly regulate carbon monoxide in Denver's air 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 ready 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 minority 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 aggravated by the fact that minority groups have had relatively little representation by 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 best way to start the process is to contact us in writing, giving 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 80202.

State/Provincial Government Program Director Hired

On December 1, Paula Carrell, 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 staff and volunteers working to influence state governments in the USA 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 15 years with the Club, including eight years in the Sacramento legislative office, Paula has made tremendous contributions. Not only has she been on the front lines in preventing California's Governor Deukmejian from overly damaging the state's environmental programs, she has succeeded in getting some important programs past his desk. Among her successes have been a major re-write of the state Off Highway Vehicle program and, just recently, the first major improvements to California mining 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 Club's state provincial government program, you can reach Paula in the national office at (415) 923-5668.

Turn concern into action

The Sierra Club Public Affairs Department has just released the new edition of the *Sierra Club Sourcebook*. This 46-page booklet is filled with listings of over 190 conservation fact sheets, policies, books, audiovisual materials, and posters available from the national office. It is printed with soybean ink on unbleached recycled newsprint made from 100 percent post-consumer waste.

The first edition, published on Earth Day 1990, was requested by over 90,000 grassroots activists, educators, parents, and others wishing to learn more about environmental issues. As with the first edition, the new *Sourcebook* is available for free by contacting the Public Affairs Department, Sierra Club, 730 Polk Street, San Francisco, CA 94109.

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

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LIFE	<input type="checkbox"/> \$750	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000
SENIOR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> \$23
STUDENT	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> \$23
LIMITED INCOME	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> \$23

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FRIP No.

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

At the Second World Climate Conference in Geneva in November, the United States refused to follow the lead of the rest of the industrialized nations in taking action to curb global warming.

The United States, supported by the Soviet Union and Saudi Arabia, effectively blocked an international accord for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The rest of the 135 participating nations had to settle for issuing a watered down joint statement that proposes only to stabilize emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other global warming gases, and does not set any target reductions or deadlines.

"The United States helped make this conference a failure," stated Dan Becker, Sierra Club Global Warming Director, who attended the conference. "The more than 700 scientists at this meeting sent out a clarion call for action now, and the United States was the only industrialized country that refused."

Eighteen Western European countries, along with Japan, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, have pledged to reduce or stabilize their greenhouse emissions by the year 2000. The United States, the biggest greenhouse gas polluter with 22 percent of the world's CO₂ emissions, refused to make a firm commitment to reductions, instead calling only for further study of the problem.

"This leaves the United States isolated among the big economic powers as far as a policy on global warming is concerned," said Rafe Pomerance, of the World Resources Institute. Great Britain, which had until recently supported the U.S. position, sided with the rest of Europe in encouraging CO reductions.

A primary concern among scientists and environmentalists is that the United

States' refusal to adopt a strategy on global warming will discourage developing nations from participating in an international treaty on global warming scheduled to be signed in Brazil in June of 1992.

"This is definitely a setback for the negotiations," said Alden Meyer, of the Union of Concerned Scientists. "It's clear that the Bush administration has no inten-

The United States, the biggest greenhouse gas polluter with 22 percent of the world's CO₂ emissions, refused to make a firm commitment to reductions, instead calling only for further study of the problem.

tion of budging on this."

Head of the U.N. Environment Program, Mostafa K. Tolba, warned that the threat of global warming is "potentially more catastrophic than any other threat in human history."

At the conference, a group of over 700 scientists from 130 countries called on the world's governments to take immediate action. They repeated the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's warning that unless steps are taken, global temperatures could rise five degrees Celsius by the end of the next century, raising sea levels and disrupting agricultural production worldwide.

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 Congress will be critical ones in the fight to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. President Bush, Sen. Johnston, Rep. Walter Jones, and the oil companies 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, Niobrara river, South Dakota, New Mexico, and the Condor Range and Rivers; to mount administrative lobbying campaigns on the BLM wilderness recommendations for the West; and to gather cosponsorships for the California desert and Utah wilderness bills.

Ancient Forests

The major priority on ancient forests is to enact legislation 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. Jontz is expected to reintroduce his forest protection bill and someone in the Senate will likely introduce a similar bill.

1872 Mining Law

Action is expected from Sen. Bumpers and Rep. Rahall, the two subcommittee chairmen 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 Motor Vehicle Fuel Efficiency Act will be the focus for global warming and energy efforts in 1991. In the Senate, only three more votes are needed to add to the 57 cloture votes on the Bryan bill from the 101st Congress. Strong resistance is expected to continue from the auto industry and the Bush admini-

stration.

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 faces a rough road in 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 Outer Continental Shelf for oil drilling, does not raise 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 primary tropical forests. The first step in that effort is to enact legislation that requires that all imported tropical woods 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 planned. The rain forests will be a critical issue at the next 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 need 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; DOE 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.

Listed below is a compilation of the four groups' outings for December & January in the hopes that it will provide the opportunity for all our members to find more outings of interest. It is strongly recommended (and in many cases required) that the individual leader be called to confirm details of meeting place and time of departure. Dogs are allowed only when noted.

For everyone's well-being, leaders reserve the right to turn away anyone whose clothing or equipment or experience appears unsuitable for the particular trip. Carpooling is usually arranged at the meeting place. Happy hiking!
—Norma McCallan
Chapter Outings Chair

Sat Feb 9
FRANKLIN MOUNTAINS
Dayhike Tom Mays Peak to Tin Mine
Bill Phillips 915-772-6503 (El Paso)

Sat Feb 9
SURPRISE LOCATION
Intermediate & advanced crosscountry ski tour Mary Summers 867-3442 (Albuquerque)

Sat Feb 9
PETROGLYPHS NATIONAL MONUMENT
Easy hike in Rinconada Canyon. Ike Eastvold 255-7679 (Albuquerque)

Sat Feb 9
NORTHERN NEW MEXICO
Moderate crosscountry ski tour. Myles Brown 471-5075 (Santa Fe)

Sat Feb 9
GHOST RANCH AREA
Moderate hike on Orphan Mesa. Brian Johnson 438-2087 (Santa Fe)

Sun Feb 10
SANDIA MOUNTAINS
Easy hike in the foothills. Stefan Verchinski 888-1370 (Albuquerque)

Sun Feb 10
SANTA FE AREA
Easy hike. Elizabeth Altman 471-8490 (Santa Fe)

Sat Feb 16
OJO CALIENTE
Easy-moderate hike. Noreen Sanders 984-0386 (Santa Fe)

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

Sat Feb 16
OJITO WILDERNESS STUDY AREA
Exploratory hike. David Morrison 344-8693 (Albq)

Sat Feb 16
SACRAMENTO MOUNTAINS
Day hike near Cloudcroft, probably in snow. Jack Zirker 682-2751; Ed McBeth 526-8060 (Las Cruces)

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

Sun Feb 17
SANDIA MOUNTAINS
Beginners crosscountry ski trip. David Morrison 344-8693 (Albq.)

Sun Feb 17
TETILLA PEAK
Easy hike. Margo Murray 473-1916 (Santa Fe)

Sat Feb 23
BOSQUE DEL APACHE
Sunset viewing of the geese & cranes. Ralph Wrons 275-0856 (Albq.)

Sat Feb 23
CARLSBAD CAVERNS
Day hike to New Cave. Todd Daugherty 915-584-2730 (El Paso)

Sat Feb 23
SANTA FE AREA
Moderate day hike. Arnold Keskulla 982-9570 (Santa Fe)

Sun Feb 24
PETROGLYPHS NATIONAL MONUMENT
Easy hike to Geologic Windows. Ike Eastvold 255-7679

Sun Feb 24
DIABLO CANYON
Moderate/strenuous hike. Norbert Sperlich 983-1962 (Santa Fe)

Sun Feb 24
COCHITI AREA
Easy hike. Victor Atyas 471-7545 (Santa Fe)

Sat March 2
BANDELIER NATIONAL MONUMENT
Moderate/strenuous hike. John McClure 473-1916 (Santa Fe)

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

Sun March 3
THREE GUNS CANYON
Easy hike in this proposed open space. Louise Waldon 292-8272 (Albq)

Sun March 3
DIABLO CANYON
Easy hike, dogs allowed. Charles Crooks 471-0005 (Santa Fe)

Sat March 9
ABIQUIU
Strenuous hike to Poshuouinge Ruins on the way to Lobato Mesa. Brian Johnson 438-2087 (Santa Fe)

Sat March 9
PETROGLYPHS NATIONAL MONUMENT
Easy hike to Piedras Marcadas Arroyo. Ike Eastvold 255-7679 (Albq)

Sat March 9
WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE
Dayhike. Rollin Wickenden 915-598-8042 (El Paso)

Sat/Sun March 9-10
CUMBRES PASS
Ski in and spend night at the Yurt. \$25 fee covers meals & lodging. John and Linda Buchser 281-2015 (Albq)

Sun March 10
NORTHERN NEW MEXICO
Moderate/strenuous crosscountry ski tour. Myles Brown 471-5075 (Santa Fe)

Sat March 16
WHITE ROCK
Moderate hike on Red dot/Blue dot trail. Noreen Sanders 984-0386 (Santa Fe)

Sun March 17
GALISTEO BASIN
Moderate hike; dogs allowed. Louise Leopold 988-4592 (Santa Fe)

Sun March 17
SANTA FE AREA
Easy/moderate hike. Art Judd 982-3212 (Santa Fe)

Sun March 17
PETROGLYPHS NAT. MONUMENT
Easy hike to Boca Negra arroyo. Ike Eastvold 255-7679 (Albq)

Sun March 17
THREE RIVERS/TULAROSA
Moderate & easy day hikes. Pat Simon 434-1211 (Las Cruces)

Sat March 23
BAYO CANYON, LOS ALAMOS
Moderate hike. Arnold Keskulla 982-9570 (Santa Fe)

Sat March 23
PETECA PINTA WILDERNESS STUDY AREA
Exploratory hike. David Morrison 344-8693 (Albq)

Sun March 24
CERRILLOS HILLS
Easy Hike. Victor Atyas 471-7545 (Santa Fe)

Sun March 24
RIO GRANDE/MONTOSO PEAK
Strenuous hike. Norbert Sperlich 983-1962 (Santa Fe)

Sun March 24
RIO GRANDE BOSQUE
Easy hike. David Morrison 344-8693 (Albq.)

Thurs-Sun, March 28-31
BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK
Outer Mountain Loop Highlight trip. Bill Phillips 915-772-6503 (El Paso)

Fri-Sun, March 29-31
SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO/PELONCILLO MTNS?
Car camp & day hikes; dogs allowed. Norma McCallan 471-0005 (Santa Fe)

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

Sun March 31
BANDELIER NAT. MONUMENT
Strenuous hike. Merrill Goodwyn 471-5442 (Santa Fe)

Sun April 7
ORGAN MOUNTAINS
Moderate/strenuous hike. Paul Bronson 521-4070 (Las Cruces)

Sat/Sun, April 27-28
CHIRICAUHA MOUNTAINS
Car camp & day hikes. Marianne Thaeler 522-3241 (Las Cruces)

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