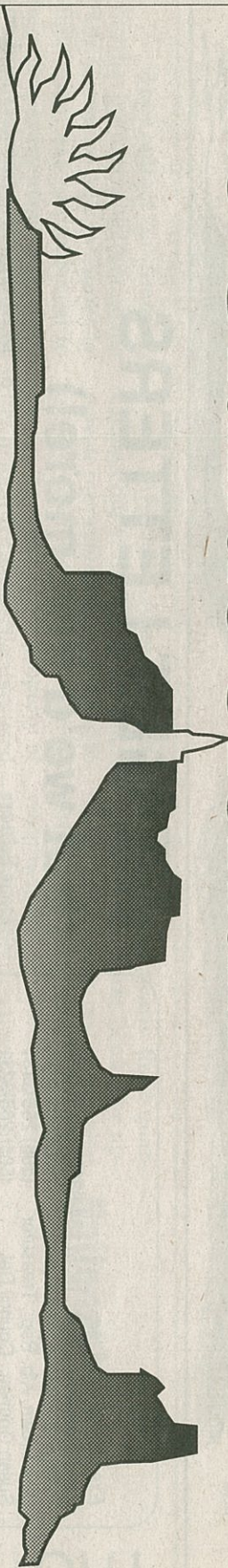


Rio Grande Sierran



News of the Rio Grande Chapter Sierra Club
March/April 1995

Sierrans Successfully Push Conservation Priorities in U.S. and State Legislatures

As reported in the last issue of the *Rio Grande Sierran*, the Chapter conservation campaigns are Water, Wilderness, and Wildlife. Our dedicated volunteers have been successfully pushing those campaigns in Congress and in the 1995 New Mexico State Legislature.

Water

One of best ways to address the quality and quantity of water available to a community is by watershed level management. The Sierra Club is advocating a Memorial which seeks to restore and protect watershed values through organization and support of community watershed groups.

Our New Look

As you might have noticed, we've made a few changes! Let us know what you think about the new format and about the *Rio Grande Sierran* in general. How can we make it more useful to you? We look forward to hearing your ideas.

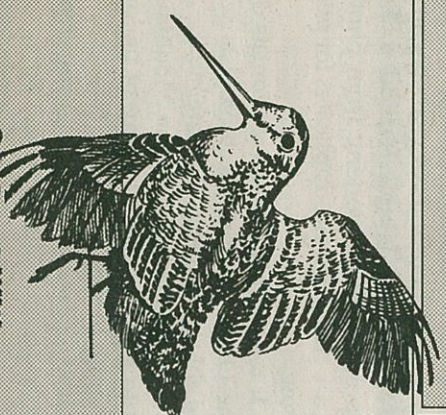
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These groups are composed of the members of the communities who live in a particular watershed, coming together in a cooperative way to manage their own watersheds. The goal of management is to restore and maintain healthy and vigorous human communities as well as the communities of plant and animal life within the watershed.

Our proposed memorial would also establish a citizen-based task force to develop a riparian and watershed education plan, based on example and demonstration. Finally, the task force would identify at least three opportunities for riparian restoration demonstration projects. The Task Force will coordinate the development and implementation of those projects.

Since the Sierra Club and cattle and sheep ranchers are working with Representative McSherry, who is a rancher himself, on the wording of this memorial, its passage is assured if consensus language can be achieved. As of February 23, the chances for success are high. Jim Winder, a rancher and new Chapter Executive Committee member, Sally Smith, a member of the Hot and Cold Creek watershed group and a Sierra Club member from the Silver City area, and Steve McDonald, a member of the Negrito Watershed group and a friend from Gila, came to the working sessions and were the key to reaching a beginning consensus.

Another related bill is SB863, Upper Rio Grande Water Needs Assessment, which authorizes the Department of Game and Fish to conduct a study of fish flow habitat in the upper Rio Grande Valley. This bill was introduced by Senator Carlos Cisneros at the request of the Sierra Club and Rio Grande Restoration. Steve Harris and Ron Gardiner, along with Sue McIntosh, our full-time volunteer lobbyist, are working to get this bill passed.

Senator Elizabeth Stefanics introduced two water bills devel-

oped by Sierra Club members. SB654, which passed in the Senate by 25 to 9, requires every water supplier to adopt a water conservation plan by July 1, 1997. SB657 allows a water user to apply for recognition of "conserved water." If their application is granted, the user/conservation gets to "reuse" 50% of the water (i.e., keep 50% of the water right) and 50% of the water right reverts to the State to be used only to maintain instream flow and remain "unappropriated."

Another important water bill introduced by Speaker of the House, Raymond Sanchez, is HB453 which creates a joint legislative water law codification committee to review and recommend changes to current laws regarding water quality and quantity.

At last count 30 water bills have been introduced. Sierra Club lobbyists will be meeting with the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee staff and the staff of the Senate Conservation Committee to review these as a group for possible consolidation.

Although the bills the Sierra Club has initiated have a good chance of being passed in both houses of the legislature, it is not clear how they will fare with Governor Johnson, especially if any funding is involved.

The watershed memorial does not have to be approved by the Governor so all we have to do is get it through the legislature.

Wilderness

Congressman Bill Richardson has reintroduced the bill to return the Bottleneck area in the Carson National Forest to Taos Pueblo. The bill has passed the House and is expected to pass the Senate because it also has the support of Senator Domenici. The Sierra Club worked with Taos Pueblo to get this bill introduced in 1994.

A number of Sierra Club members attended the BLM Wilderness Coalition meeting in Socorro in January. The group elected John

Wright, one of our new Executive Committee members, to succeed Dutch Salman as Chair. Coalition members agreed to work with BLM to expand its recommendations and with our Congressional delegation to introduce a bill based on Coalition recommendations. The Coalition will try to get an updated version of Wildlands published as an educational tool in the campaign to get a good BLM Wilderness bill passed.

Wildlife

Once we saw the Governor's budget, which contained absolutely no money for the Conservation Services Division of the Game and Fish Department, we decided to hold off on trying to expand the statutory authority of the Department to protect wildlife and wildlife habitat. A surprising opportunity came our way when Senator Timothy Jennings introduced his "bad" revisions to the Wildlife Conservation Act (WCA) which is New Mexico's limited statute providing for the listing of endangered species. The bill was tabled after a lengthy hearing in the Senate Conservation Committee attended by a full house of supporters and opponents. The bill was tabled - instead of defeated - on the condition that Senator Jennings (Roswell) produce a substitute agreeable to both sides. The Sierra Club is working with Senator Jennings and the agricultural industry to craft the substitute. The goal of the discussions is to clarify and improve the effectiveness of the Act to better protect and restore New Mexico's endangered wildlife and to begin to diminish the anxiety and polarity that surrounds the issue.

At our request, Senator Carlos Cisneros introduced SB528 to purchase Ute Mountain which would, hopefully, be traded to BLM to add to its Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River area or to the Wilderness Study Area on the west of the Rio Grande. State Land Commissioner Ray Powell has been very helpful in supporting this future trade.



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WE GET LETTERS (but we'd like more!)

Dear Editor:

A diversity of opinion exists in the Sierra Club on recreation in the eastern Organ Mountains.

The Organ Mountains of southern New Mexico are an ecological treasure. Their elevation, isolation, varied geology, and complex topography have produced high biodiversity with many rare and endemic species. The north and west sides of the Organ are managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The east side is managed by White Sands Missile Range (WSMR) and Fort Bliss, both agencies in the Department of Defense (DOD). The Fort Bliss portion is a backdrop for artillery practice and contains unexploded ordnance. There is no south side; the Organ comes to a point at the south end. A few small parcels are private. BLM lands are open to the public; DOD lands are not.

Several Sierra Club members and other Las Crucesans are seeking a transfer of the eastern Organ from DOD to BLM, to provide recreational opportunity. Statements urging management transfer and public access have appeared in the last three issues of the *Rio Grande Sierran*. I question the wisdom of the proposal for the following reasons:

1. Emphasizing recreation makes us look like a bunch of 4-wheelers. The general public already thinks we are elite backpackers intent only on our own pleasure. Why strengthen that impression?
2. Sniping and carping at DOD may cause us to lose our traditional annual escorted dayhike to the San Andres Mts. in WSMR.
3. DOD management adequately protects ecological values. The eastern Organ are a backdrop, not a target, so they aren't hit very often. An occasional stray shell may explode and cause local damage, but apparently many shells just lie quietly waiting to be stepped on. If you drive south on Owens Road and War Road, you don't see a lot of artillery scars in the mountains.
4. Sniping and carping at DOD may destroy all hope of a military wilderness in the Organ. Why should they be nice to us if we're not nice to them?
5. BLM management does not guarantee BLM wilderness. BLM consistently recommends for wilderness far less acreage than proposed by the Wilderness Coalition. In many prime areas, BLM has recommended zero wilderness.
6. The Beasley family, one-time landowners in Soledad Canyon in the eastern Organ, were asked to leave when Fort Bliss expanded during WWII. After the transfer proposal was publicized, Beasley heirs said they had not been adequately compensated, and they wanted their land back. They probably could not get it from DOD, but they might get it from BLM, and if they do, they could easily sell it to subdividers.

7. About every 3 to 5 years, agriculture surfaces for a highway through Soledad Canyon, linking Las Cruces with WSMR. So far, DOD use of the eastern Organ and the presence of unexploded ordnance have stopped highway plans. If BLM gains control of the eastern Organ, they could transfer land to the state Highway Department.

8. BLM regularly transfers land on the east mesa to the City of Las Cruces for city expansion. If BLM had control of the eastern Organ, they could transfer land to the city. The city could then sell the land to subdividers. Management transfer could bury the eastern Organ in urban sprawl.

9. Intensive recreational use destroys the ecosystem. The Pine Tree Loop trail in the BLM-controlled northern Organ is 2 to 3 feet wide, badly eroded, with many shortcuts. Tree roots are exposed. Tree trunks and branches have been hacked by hikers with hatchets. Trash is everywhere. Do we want the eastern Organ to look like this? Elsewhere in the north and west Organ, where no official trails exist, hikers have worn wide, deep, gullied-out trails with clipped, broken, and mutilated roadside vegetation. Some of these unofficial trails go directly through patches of rare plants. The eastern Organ will suffer the same damage if they are open to public access.

10. Other, ecologically less sensitive areas are available for hiking. Hikers are underutilizing the flatlands of Dona Ana County. Flatlands are scenic; they are less erodable than mountains; they harbor only a few rare species; because of their history of grazing, they support trample-tolerant vegetation; they occupy much more area than mountains; and they are nearly all open to public access.

11. Removal of unexploded ordnance to make the eastern Organ safe for hikers could cost several million dollars. If DOD can get that much money for non-military purposes from an increasingly reluctant Congress, they should spend it on removing feral horses from WSMR. Removing feral horses costs about as much as removing unexploded ordnance, and a herd of feral horses does far more ecological damage than an occasional stray artillery shell.

At a recent public meeting, I compared the Organ Mountains to a beautiful woman who is desired by many men. If every man who desires her has access to her, she will quickly lose her beauty and possibly her life. After the meeting, a woman in the audience came up to me and asked me to consider another analogy: that of a work of art hidden where no one can see it.

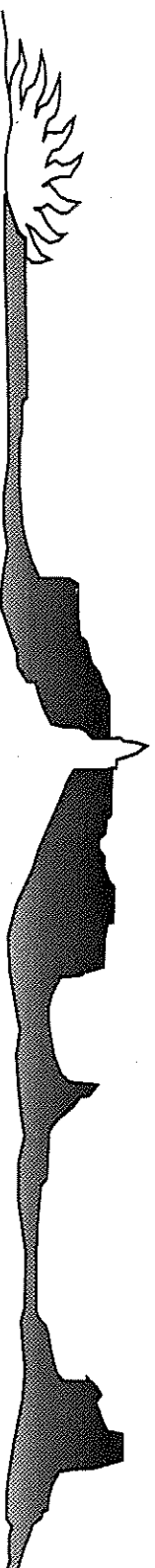
The Organ Mountains, like a beautiful woman, are alive and can be killed. A work of art is not alive and usually is not hurt by being looked at. The cave paintings in France are an exception. When the paintings were discovered early in this century, tourists flocked to see them, to shine light on them, to exhale water vapor and carbon dioxide on them. After a few decades, paintings that had endured tens of thousands of years began to fade. Public access is now forbidden, and contemporary artists, working from photographs, are creating exact duplicates for public viewing.

If too-enthusiastic recreationists destroy the Organ Mountains, biologists will never be able to create a duplicate.

All of us love the Organ Mountains enough to go there. How many of us love them enough to stay away?

Sincerely,

Alice Anderson
P.O. Box 4111
Las Cruces, NM 88003



3

The Contract "on" America, which has been moving through the 104th Congress like a runaway freight train, has the potential to undermine every major federal environmental law enacted in the last 25 years. Under the seductive rubric of 'regulatory reform,' Congress has been rapidly dismantling hard-won and popular environmental protections without a chance for the public to understand what is happening.

The "unfunded mandates" bill has already passed the House and Senate by wide margins, and President Clinton has said that he will sign it. This bill makes it harder for Congress to impose any regulatory obligations on cities and states without simultaneously allocating the federal dollars to pay for them. That means Congress will not be able to order state and municipal governments to stop polluting waterways with sewage or chemicals unless Congress underwrites the cost. If, in the great balance-the-budget-without-touching-the-military-frenzy, no funds are appropriated, state and local governments are free to pollute.

On February 8, the House Commerce Committee passed a risk assessment/cost-benefit bill (HR 9) which would subject all old and new government regulations dealing with health, public safety, and the environment to a cumbersome 23-step review. The bill requires that a full assessment of risks, costs and benefits be done on efforts to protect the food you eat, the products you buy, and the air you breathe. Hundreds, if not thousands of costly and lengthy risk assessments and analyses will be done in place of the more streamlined process which has guided the successful implementation of these safeguards for decades. The regulatory agencies have forecast that they will need to add thousands of additional staff positions to satisfy the requirements of the bill. If the easy-to-measure costs are greater than the hard-to-measure risk, existing programs could be eliminated and necessary new programs and standards would not be adopted. This bill will result in less protection for you, more bureaucrats for Uncle Sam and more business for lawyers. It may be too late to influence the vote in the House, but it is still important to let your Representative and Senators know how you feel about this bill.

Sierrans Needed to Work Together

by Susan Gorman

Sierrans in Farmington, Gallup, Socorro have responded to my offer to help them get to know other Sierrans who live near them. If you live in or near these towns, you can expect a call or a letter announcing the time and place for a Gathering, where you can discuss your concerns with other Sierra Club members in your area. In the Albuquerque area, there will be an East Mountain Gathering on March 19th and a Westside Gathering on April 16th. Several computerized Sierrans have sent e-Mail addresses to Blair Brown and Bruce Batson. See the article on the Electronic Sierra Club on page 15 for more news on how Sierrans can communicate with each other electronically.

We still need to find letter writers and phone callers so if you're willing to do either, call me! Contact Susan Gorman, 2226B Wyoming NE, #272, Albuquerque, NM 87112, Tel 505-265-3231, Fax 505-256-0373, EMail bblairb@aol.com

After HR 9 comes HR 10, the Takings Bill which provides that a private property owner is entitled to receive compensation for a reduction in the value of his property of 10% or more if the reduction is caused by the action of a regulatory agency. Regulatory takings laws have been passed by a few states but HR 10 would impose takings limitations on federal regulatory agencies. (See "The Trouble with Takings" in the January/February 1995 *Rio Grande Sierran*.)

According to a recent (Feb. 10, 1995) article in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, "Regulatory reform is a worthy enterprise. But the measures under consideration have little to do with reform or fairness. They aim to roll back health, safety and environmental safeguards and permanently tie the regulatory agencies in binding procedural and legal knots."

If the House passes these bills, they will work to weaken or dismantle the Endangered Species Act. Yet, even with the existing law, a National Biological Survey study determined that 30 ecosystems across the US have declined by more than 98% of their area, and are considered critically endangered. The report was based on a year-long survey of scientific literature, databases and conservation agencies. One of the biologists who conducted the survey noted that: "We're not just losing single species here and there, we're losing entire assemblages of species and their habitats." (*New York Times*, 2-14-95).

If Congress passes these bills, the next thing we can expect is bills to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling, to give the National Forests and BLM lands to the states, and to dismantle the National Park system.

The gains that have been made in environmental protection can be lost in this Congress. Right now, the power in Congress is held by people who do not share our belief that we must stop squandering the earth's resources and polluting the air and water. These people are interested only in today's profits. They deny to themselves and the American people that these actions will leave our children a place which has lost its beauty and ability to nurture life.

The speed with which these bills are being "considered" is apparently part of a strategy to confuse the voters. A recent (12/27/94) *Newsweek*

poll shows that nearly three-quarters of all Americans "would be upset if cutting back on government seriously weakens or eliminates environmental regulations." The short turn-around time on these bills, and the lack of media coverage, has helped to shield the truth of the "Contract's" consequences for America.

That is why the Sierra Club has launched a massive, nationwide grassroots campaign to alert the American people and to force Congress to respect the wishes of the majority of voters.

Each of us needs to call and/or write our Representative and Senators on each of these bills. Calls are fairly easy because you only need to say that you are against a bill. The general message is, "Americans have the right to a safe and healthy environment. These bills place many health and safety provisions in jeopardy." If possible, mention a specific threat in your area. If you need more information for writing letters, call any of the persons listed below.

We also need Media Watchdogs who will monitor a specific newspaper, radio call-in show, or television program for misleading or incomplete coverage of these bills. Persons who are willing to do this should contact one of the persons listed below. Persons who monitor the media may respond themselves or one of the persons listed below will find someone to respond:

--Susan Gorman in Albuquerque at 265-3231;

--Ted Mertig in El Paso at 852-3011;

--Marianne Thaeler in Las Cruces at 522-3421;

--Gwen Wardwell in Santa Fe at 984-8860 or 438-3060.



Monitor Your Legislators with New Service

According to the *Los Angeles Times*, Americans now have a way to watch over the shoulders of their representatives as Congress works through the first 100 days of the "contract on America."

By using a toll-free number, a caller can get access to information on the votes of members of Congress, the status of legislation, campaign contributions, lawmakers' positions on issues in their 1994 campaigns and more.

Project Vote Smart is operated by a non-profit, bipartisan organization founded by current and retired federal lawmakers, including former Presidents Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter. The number is 1-800-622-SMART. They also operate a BBS (1-503-737-3777) and are available online through gopher gopher.neu.edu, or through pbs@neu.edu.

National News: Contract with America Equals War on the Environment What We Can Do

TELL IT TO NEWT!

Want to Speak to the Speaker, tell him what you think about issues?

He wants to hear from people on e-Mail.
His address is:
georgiab@hr.house.gov



In Every Cloud There is a Silver Lining

by

*Brynda Gutierrez,
Albuquerque
Waste
Minimization
Unit*

On June 1, 1994, the City of Albuquerque's Southside Water Reclamation Plant received its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit from the EPA which sets standards for toxins and pollutants in any wastewater the plant discharges into the Rio Grande. The "revised" NPDES permit allows the plant to discharge up to 4.2 parts per billion (ppb) of silver for a daily maximum, or 3.72 ppb for a 30-day average. This new limitation for silver presented a problem for the City.

Samples collected at various points in the city showed that silver levels were at times unacceptable, and that the treatment plant was walking a fine line in terms of NPDES compliance. In response to this problem, the Waste Minimization Unit (a non-regulatory section of Industrial Pretreatment) joined forces with the New Mexico Silver Users Association (an organization formed by businesses using silver, who were concerned about the new silver discharge limits) to develop the 5 Parts Per Million (SPPM) Silver Program. The goal of this program is to reduce total silver discharges to the sanitary sewer system to below 5 parts per million, by encouraging voluntary compliance among photographic facilities, X-ray laboratories, jewelers, and printers, as well as other interested businesses.

To participate in the SPPM Silver Program, a business must, in some manner, use silver in their product, production or sales and must meet the following criteria:

A. The business should have or be prepared to install and maintain appropriate techniques or equipment in order to maintain a silver discharge of under 5 PPM.

B. Records should be kept showing that silver recovery equipment is being maintained properly or techniques are being followed and that materials are being reclaimed or disposed of properly.

Site Surveys are conducted by Waste Minimization personnel to

determine facility compliance. Samples may be taken to determine silver discharge levels.

The 5 parts per million silver limit is easily attainable for photoprocessing businesses by installing silver recovery equipment. The initial cost of the equipment is usually recovered over time by selling the silver to a refiner, usually for 80 to 85% of the bullion price of the refined silver. Small photographic businesses that do not have the capital to invest in silver recovery equipment have some alternatives; these businesses can collect "spent" photographic fix containing silver and either take it to Southwest Radiographics or Safety Kleen who charge a small fee for recovering the silver. Both Safety Kleen and Southwest Radiographics provide containers and pick-up services for an additional fee, if the business requests it. Both businesses have specific requirements and should be contacted directly for additional information.

Other Albuquerque businesses may lower silver discharge levels by material substitution, modification of processes, improvements in housekeeping, and employee training. The Waste Minimization Unit offers free technical assistance, referrals, and source reduction materials for businesses.

The City of Albuquerque is inviting different types of businesses that use silver to form committees that in turn agree upon "Codes of Practice" for their particular type of business. The "Code of Practice" agreed upon will promote the sharing of current scientific, technical, and economic information, and will focus on improved housekeeping, material substitutions, reclamation and recycling, and improved testing. These approaches should help to maintain the voluntary compliance and forge an alliance between private businesses and the City.

The first awardees of the SPPM Silver Program were honored in a ceremony at Congressman Steve Schiff's office on December 16, 1993. The City's Public Works Department and the New Mexico Silver Users Association would like to proudly recognize the awardees in the Five Parts Per Million Silver Program for 1994/95:

Academy Corporation; FinePrint Custom darkroom; Albuquerque Color Lab; Fox Photo; Allied Findings; Gordon Printing Co.; Bill Mohr, Photographer; Hillcrest X-Ray Laboratory; Bob Davis-Photographer; Image Masters; Boston Brass, Inc.; Indian Silver Crafts, Inc.; Brooks Photo, Inc.; Koogle & Pous Engineering; Camera Graphics Photolab; Mountain Shadows Photo; Camera Works, Inc.; Pat Bennett, Photographer; Carl's Darkroom; Qualex, Inc.; Chroma Color, Inc.; Ritz Camera Centers; Comgraphix, Inc.; Robert Reck Photography; Dataco Printers; Shube's Manufacturing, Inc.; Designs & Images; Southwest Radiographics; Dick Ruddy Photography, Inc.; Starline Printing Co.; DoPaso Corporation; Sunwest Silver Co., Inc.; Designs by Sanel; New Valiant Printing; Theta Plate.

BECOME A PARTNER IN CHAPTER ACTIVISM

by Ford Robbins

On March 1, the Rio Grande Chapter will launch its annual fund appeal, "Partners in Activism."

In recognition of your role in our accomplishments, we will be asking you to again become a partner with Chapter/Group activists through your financial contribution to our efforts in environmental protection and preservation.

During the last four years, the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club has led an effort to steer our state away from the destructive "robber baron" environmental policies which have dominated life here for a century. We are now beginning to chart a new course toward a sustainable future supported by healthy ecological systems.

We began in 1993 with the enactment of the New Mexico Mining Act and then, in 1994, proceeded with the Tire Recycling Act and statutory establishment of the critical Conservation Services Division within the Game and Fish Department. We helped set in place government/citizen task forces on oil recycling and wildlife/habitat conservation.

Yet today, all of that and much more stands at great risk. For the next four years, the job of protecting our environment, a full time job in any event, will require drastically more effort and resources. Many who oppose environmental protection have the power to eliminate our progress. There is and will be much to do! The Rio Grande Chapter does not have sufficient resources to retain what we all have gained without all of us continuing our financial support for our legislative and administrative effort in 1995.

Over 85 Chapter activists spend more than an estimated 15,000 volunteer hours of their time annually representing our interest before municipal, county, state and Federal legislatures, agencies and courts. Their accomplishments are impressive.

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

11th Annual Southwest Institute

The Institute was founded in 1984 as a holistic multidisciplinary forum to promote knowledge and appreciation of the diverse natural and human landscapes of the American Southwest. This year's Institute, hosted by New Mexico Tech at Socorro, will present 2 programs. Each program will consist of a 2-day lecture symposium followed by a 6-day field experience led by an interdisciplinary team of scholars and experts who research, teach, and write about the study area.

Enrollees in the Gateway Plains/Santa Fe Trail program will study the southern High Plains and the Indian, Hispanic, and Anglo cultures that have occupied the area crossed by the western portion of the Santa Fe Trail. The focus will include ecology, history, geography, Indian culture, and geology. Participants will be able to see the remains of the Mountain and Dry Cimarron branches of the Trail and to meet and learn from the people who currently reside there.

Participants in the Canyon

Country/Colorado Plateau program will study the geology, geography, ecology, Mormon history, and prehistoric Indian cultures of southern Utah and northern Arizona. Time will be included for optional trips to Arches and Canyonlands, Capitol Reef, Bryce and Cedar Breaks, Zion, Grand Canyon, and Painted Desert/Petrified Forest National Parks.

Available for 3 hours of Graduate CREDIT or AUDIT. Gateway: June 10-17 OR July

8-15

Canyon Country: June 24-

July 1 OR July 29-August 5

Cost: approx. \$700, which includes tuition, transportation, many meals, and lodging.

RESERVATIONS: Please send a \$150 deposit by May 15, 1995 to:

SOUTHWEST INSTITUTE/NMTECH

c/o Dr. Jerry L. Williams

Bandelier West 106/UNM

Albuquerque, NM 87131.

For further information, call Dr. Williams at (505) 277-2828.

There is talk throughout the West about "taking back the land" — abolishing the Bureau of Land Management and the National Forests and turning federal publiclands over to the states.

Publiclands benefit us all in different ways. Federal permittees who live and work on the land have access to resources they probably could not afford to buy. City dwellers have access to the essence of the West—wide open spaces that have sustained us culturally and spiritually since our ancestors left the range.

Many proponents of "taking back the land" dismiss these broader social values, and object to management initiatives that increasingly restrict their private control of publiclands. It takes little exaggeration to suggest that this movement could lead to less public access to public land, leading eventually to privatization.

Before we move much farther down this road, we need to understand the big picture and realize that we're all in this together.

Recently, several New Mexico counties adopted ordinances claiming federal publiclands under the "equal footing" doctrine, which purports to prove that, contrary to the U.S. Constitution, New Mexico was denied statehood on an "equal footing" with the original 13 states. Since the federal government reserved no public land in the original

states, the theory holds, it cannot legally own the 23 million acres it claims in New Mexico.

I asked my staff to look into the implications of challenging federal ownership of these lands. We discovered that, rather than "equal footing," anyone filing such legal challenges could be on shaky footing.

First, litigating the "equal footing" doctrine is pointless and only benefits the lawyers. Congress' authority to give and take land from the states was established by the U.S. Supreme Court before the Civil War and is still the law of the land. "Equal footing" applies only to such things as a state's right to be represented in Congress, not to equality in land ownership. In our own statehood compact with the federal government, we, like most other states, agreed to "forever disclaim all right and title to the unappropriated and ungranted public lands..."

Second, "equal footing" could have major economic impacts for New Mexico. It has been portrayed as a way to keep the estimated \$100 million in publicland revenues that now go to Washington annually. However, the implication that Washington merely siphons all of our resources is not quite accurate. New Mexico gets more than \$150 million a year in federal land revenue. In 1993, about \$143 million was received from mining royalties, which are shared equally with the

federal government.

New Mexico is the Number 1 recipient of BLM payments-in-lieu-of-taxes (PILT), which go directly to county governments. In 1994, the PILT was about \$10.6 million. National Forest revenues, which benefit the public schools, totaled nearly \$1.5 million. Catron County, the largest and most sparsely populated county in New Mexico, got about \$547,000 from those two sources, or about \$213 per capita. Lincoln and Otero Counties received a combined \$1.4 from those two sources. It is ironic and sad that these counties, which have adopted "equal footing" documents, would suffer the most from it.

In addition to loss of these revenues, county and state governments would incur significant financial obligations for even minimal management of their newly obtained public lands. Then there is the economic significance for the nearly 2,000 federal land employees and their families.

"Taking back the land" also fails to address the value of federal lands in non-financial terms. What is the value of access to a public forest for fishing, hunting or camping? What is it worth, being able to have a picnic or take a hike in the country?

Look at the Big Picture in U.S. Public Lands Debate

by
Ray Powell
State
Commissioner
of
Public Lands

Joan of Arc or Don Quixote?

by Susan Gorman

The Albuquerque Group Executive Committee elected me Group Chair. The term of office is 1995 or burn-out, whichever comes first! So I'm wondering if I will be Joan of Arc, leading the Green Crusaders to victory, or Don Quixote, tilting at Windmills.

If you've been reading my recent writings, you may have detected a common theme: Gatherings! True confession: I didn't think this up alone. Folks from all over the Club have realized that we need to get better at bringing people together to talk, to listen to each other, to create concern about the course of current events, to seek creative new ways to work together, to find the synergy (1 + 1 = 4!) that comes from sharing ideas.

The Executive Committee had a gathering on a sunny Sunday in January at Nick Persampieri's house in Cedar Crest. It wasn't easy to be inside confronting reality when we all would have liked to be out hiking, but we hung in and had a good discussion and reached some conclusions.

The Albuquerque Group's highest priority for 1995 is to significantly increase (how about by a factor of 10?) the number of volunteers who are willing to do a little or a lot to help save our small chunk of the

Planet.

Our Group has lots of new members because of the successful door-to-door canvass last summer. We must make all of these new folks feel welcome and needed and help them to get more involved. (To all of you new members, we are SO HAPPY to have you and we hope you will tell us what you think you'd like to do to help!)

We are committed to a Grassroots Invigoration Campaign which includes: —Holding Gatherings anywhere there is a group of Sierrans who are interested.

—Organizing a Workshop to train activists and volunteers to be effective and to organize more participation in Conservation Campaigns.

—Selecting 2 or 3 Priority Campaigns which offer opportunities for lots of folks to participate. Some possibilities are: Water, Sustainable Community Planning, Transportation.

So right now, I feel like I could be Joan of Arc if I could only find the Green Crusaders. If you want to enlist, call me at 265-3231, after 5:00 PM or weekends, and let's talk.

The Sierra Club and Metro Area Transportation Planning

What sort of city do you want? Easy to get around for you and your children? Accessible for shopping, employment, and entertainment without driving all over the place? Less noisy? An easy commute by rail to visit Santa Fe? We feel it's never too late to take the way to mobility that supports better economic growth and community well-being.

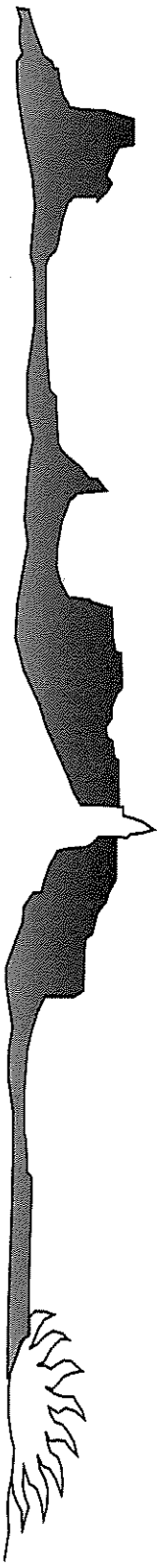
Your Sierra Club has been actively involved in the transportation planning process since 1990. Stefan Verchinski is the Group's Transportation Chair (888-1370). He now chairs the Regional Council of Government's Public Involvement Committee of the Urban Transportation Policy and Planning Board which acts in a direct advisory role in transportation issues. You are invited to attend these meetings. To get notice of the latest meeting and location, call 247-1750.

We Have Supported - The I-40 Bikeway (grade separated bike trail for commuting and recreational purposes from Tramway to 98th street). Status: Petition drive yielded last City Council's unanimous approval. Feasibility Study Completed (State). Approved by both advisory boards on bicycling (City). Now up for review before the Urban Transportation Planning and Policy Board (Regional). Also up for review in I-40 studies across the city (State).

What you can do - Write the Governor (who is a bicycle supporter) and ask that he make it a priority in the State Highway and Transportation Dept. Call your City Councillor and County Commissioner and ask how they will vote on the Regional Board.

We Have Supported - In a two-year review process that involved the production of a Long Range Transportation Plan (Regional), we were instrumental, in a citizens group made up of developers and community leaders, in creating an aggressive plan for an 18% Reduction in Single Occupant Vehicle Trips (SOVT). This plan was needed to meet our local air quality and energy goals and to virtually eliminate roadway congestion by the year 2015. Local politicians watered this down to a 10% SOVT Reduction Plan which guarantees congestion on more roadways and no changes in sprawl growth.

What You Can Do - Write the Mayor and the City Council and request that an aggressive approach to Single Occupant Vehicle Trip Reduction be implemented by a shift in funding to least-cost transportation alternatives such as Ride Pool, Redesignated Transit and Land Use Policies, bicycling and pedestrianism.



March 20 General Meeting

Mount McKinley, Denali National Park, Alaska - Magnificent but Risky

Mount McKinley is a magnificent and popular place, a destination for people from all over the world. At 20,000 feet, it is a major challenge to climb to its summit. Kathy Walters, Outdoor Recreation Planner for the Albuquerque BLM office, took that challenge in May 1993.

Kathy recognizes the huge impact that humans have as they enjoy wilderness areas. While it's great that they want to experience their wildness, it's becoming commonplace that some areas are being "loved to death." Kathy considers herself a master of "leave no trace" and stresses the importance of adopting techniques to minimize impact on wilderness trips. She also learned on her expedition how ill-prepared some people are for the Mt. McKinley challenge. Annually, \$100,000 is spent on rescues which could be avoided.

Kathy will present a slide show of her expedition. She will also discuss and demonstrate the environmental ethics of "leave no trace" and discuss the need for more responsibility on the part of the risk taker and other rescue issues.

April 17 General Meeting

Activist Nexus from Western New Mexico: the Theatre Missile Defense plan and other Scary Stuff

There is a very effective grassroots coalition at work in western New Mexico, the Zuni Mountain Coalition, which tries to bring about social, economic and environmental justice. One injustice which members of the group are trying to thwart is the heavy hand of the military, the backbone of New Mexico's economy. Testing of missile systems, specifically the Theatre Missile Defense (TMD), has the potential for harming rural residents who are in the flight path.

The threat from the military has global significance. As long as the Pentagon can convince Congress and the Administration that there are military threats to US national security, the military complex will continue to command the lion's share of the national budget. Even with recent military downsizing, demilitarization costs still represent less than 1% of total military expenditures (source: World Watch Institute Paper 122, "Budgeting for Disarmament"). Whatever happened to the Peace Dividend?

Zuni Mountain Coalition members Mary Lou Jones, Scott Jones and Mervyn Tilden will travel from the Zuni Mountain area to give us a presentation on the Group's activism, fighting threats to their region's quality of life from the military.

General Note

The location for General Meetings is Room 2401, UNM Law School. The Law School is located at the NW corner of Mountain and Stanford NE (West of Girard, between Lomas and Indian School). Persevere when you confront the traffic directing message which prohibits left turns onto Stanford from Constitution. The meetings begin at 7:30 PM. There may be a \$1.00 parking fee for the Law School Parking lot. Check at the Law Library. Refreshments are normally provided, so bring a cup. Please come and bring a friend or family member.

Transportation Planning

(con't from page 5)

We Have Supported - A Transit and Bicycle Plan Element to be added to the overall plan for development of the area known as Uptown by Coronado and Winrock. This designated Urban Center in the city master Comprehensive Plan is in the worst air quality zone in the city. New development and transportation planning has proceeded without designation of land uses to support the investment of over a million dollars in an Uptown Transit Center or without the circulation and other concerns required to make the area bicycle friendly.

What You Can Do - Watch for the Uptown development proposals in the newspaper. Call a City Councilor and request that the land uses support transit by having increased employment and housing density in Uptown. Support the incorporation.

Help is needed. New initiatives should help us redefine the city policies regarding land use and have it drive what are desirable transportation alternatives instead of roads defining what our land use should be. I need help in doing analysis of alternative strategies and spending for least-cost transportation planning. Some of this work will look at options to the Paseo del Norte Bridge through the Petroglyph National Monument. We need activists from all areas of the city and county to go to different meetings to keep these issues in the forefront.

CALENDAR

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

March 1	Mexican Wolf Coalition, 7:30 PM
March 4 & 5	Chapter Executive & Conservation Committees, Black Range Lodge, Kingston, NM. Call Susan Gorman, 265-3231, for info
March 8	Deadline for agenda items for Group Excom. Call Susan Gorman
March 13	Group Excom, 7:00 PM
March 19	East Mountain Gathering, 3:00 PM. Call Nick Persampieri, 281-7845, for info
March 20	General Meeting, UNM Law School, Rm 2401, 7:30 PM
March 21	Deadline for agenda items for Conservation Committee
March 27	Call Richard Barish, 247-8079
April 5	Conservation Committee Meeting, 7:00 PM
April 5	Mexican Wolf Coalition, 7:30 PM
April 5	Deadline for agenda items for Group Excom. Call Susan Gorman
April 10	Group Excom, 7:00 PM
April 15	Deadline for articles for May/June Rio Grande Sierran Westside Gathering, 3:00 PM. Call Stan Kauchak, 839-4301 for info
April 16	General Meeting, UNM Law School, Rm 2401, 7:30 PM
April 17	Deadline for agenda items for Conservation Committee.
April 17	Call Richard Barish, 247-8079
April 22	Earth Day 1995, Tiguex Park. Call 254-1111 for info.
April 24	Conservation Committee Meeting, 7:00 PM

Group Directory

1995 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Office Telephone: 265-5506
Fax: 256-0373

Group Chair	Susan Gorman	265-3231
Vice Chair	Nick Persampieri	281-7845
Secretary	open	
Treasurer	Blair Brown	265-3231
	Richard Barish	247-8079
	Ron Grobeck	296-0944
	Irv Karp	271-4932
	Jay Sorenson	884-4314
	Stefan Verchinski	888-1370

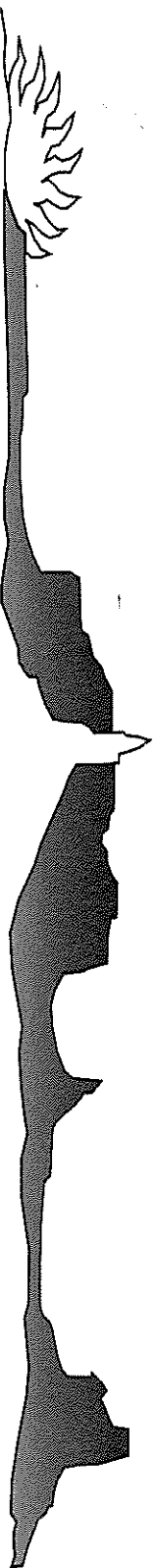
The Albuquerque Group of the Sierra Club depends entirely on the efforts of volunteers. To help our efforts, call the following issue coordinators:

ADMINISTRATION

Office Organizer	Leslie Lazaga	296-0944
Books/Calendars	Larry Compton	899-0679
Information Technology	Bruce Batson	828-2570
	batson@novalink.com	
	Blair Brown	265-3231
	bblairb@aol.com	
Outings	David Morrisson	344-8693
	Stan Kauchak	839-4301
Phone Tree	David Bouquin	265-7853
Political Chair	Ron Grobeck	296-0944
Programs	Ralph Wrons	275-0856

CONSERVATION

Conservation Chair	Richard Barish	247-8079
Air Quality	Heidi Fleischmann	260-1217
Bosque	Richard Barish	247-8079
East Mountain	Nick Persampieri	281-7845
Education	Ann Beyke	265-3087
	Teresa Adams	880-0737
Energy	Ralph Wrons	275-0856
Mining	open	
Petroglyphs/Westside	Ike Eastvold	255-7679
Population	Michelle Meaders	266-8823
Public Lands	Barbara Stone	265-5304
Transportation	Stefan Verchinski	888-1370
Waste/Recycling	David Bouquin	265-7853
Water	Jack Pinney	293-3405
Wildlife/	open	
Endangered Species		
Wildlife/Mexican Wolf	Susan Larsen	897-2527



Abbreviations: WSA-Wilderness Study Area, SW-Sandia Wilderness, NM-National Monument, SC-Sierra Club, ACEC- Area of Critical Environmental Concern

Outings may be cancelled or changed due to weather or other reasons, please call leader before outing

Sun Mar 5 Leisure-Moderate
Miles: 1 Car: 0
Oxbow Trash Cleanup

Last time, I had the wrong date down, so I will try it again. Teenager party trash and construction material have been dumped. Plastic bags will be provided. Three hours. Meet 10:00 a.m. at the corner of St. Josephs and Coors. Leader: David Morrison 344-8693

Sat-Sun Mar 11-12 Intermediate
Miles: 4-6 Car: 340
Enchanted Forest X/C Ski

Join the Sierra Club on a trip to the Red River area and Enchanted Forest. Marked trails, spectacular views and cabins to rest, warm, and have a snack. Contact Georgia for information at 881-9365. Leader: Stan Kauchak/Georgia

Sat Mar 11 Leisure Miles: 3 Car: 3
Rinconada Canyon Hike,
Petroglyph National Monument

This is the largest, most pristine area in the Monument with over 2000 petroglyphs. The Park Service is planning to build a large visitor parking lot in the area. Bring camera, binoculars and sturdy shoes. RSVP. Leader: Ike Eastvold 255-7679

Sat Mar 11 Chapter Outings Meeting, Bosque del Apache
We will be planning Rio Grande Chapter outings, service projects, picnics, and joint group outings. Contact Norma McCallan (505) 471-0005

Sun Mar 12 Moderate-Strenuous
Miles: 4-8 Car: 210
San Lorenzo Canyon
Exploratory Hike

The information is that this is a spectacular steep canyon with side canyons west of Socorro. If we do not spend all of our time in this area, we will once again attempt the remote Box of the Rio Salado. Meet 8:00 a.m. at the UNM Astronomy and Physics parking lot, NE corner Yale and Lomas. Leader: David Morrison 344-8693

Sat Mar 18 Moderate Miles: 8 Car: 40
Rio Puerto Fossils and Geodes Exploratory Hike
David cancelled the last trip into this area, but found a new leader who has more experience in the area. Welcome Bill to the group of leaders. We will trudge out four miles through sandy arroyos to get to some ridges out along the Rio Puerto. Hopefully we can find some of the fossils and geodes in the area. Bring good boots, lunch, water, and sunscreen. Meet 8:00 a.m. at the Burrito Co. at the NE corner of Alameda and Coors. Leader: Bill Anderson 265-7460

Sat Mar 18 Leisure Miles: 3 Car: 3
Piedras Marcadas Hike,
Petroglyph National Monument
Tremendous variety and unique petroglyphs not found elsewhere in the Monument. Bring camera, binoculars and sturdy shoes. RSVP. Leader: Ike Eastvold 255-7679

Sun Mar 19 Leisure-Moderate Miles: 3 Car: 3
Salinas Complex of Indian Ruins Exploratory Hike
Primarily, we will try to find some of the lesser known ruins that are on public land, and look for some mines and canyons in the area. As a last resort we will head to the National Monument areas. Meet 8:00 a.m. at the UNM Astronomy and Physics parking lot, NE corner Yale and Lomas. Bring lunch, water, and jacket. Leader: David Morrison 344-8693

March 24 through April 2
Orange County Ski Week

Joint ski adventure between the Rio Grande Chapter and the Singles Section of the Sierra Club Orange County Group in California. Something for everyone. X/C events at Ski Rio in Costilla, Williams Lake near Taos, and the wide open spaces at Tres Piedras. Downhill days at Taos and Ski Rio. Participate in the whole week or selected days. Lessons available for beginners in ski touring, telemarking, and alpine downhill. Comfy bargain-priced accommodations

have been arranged. Classy dining or simple fare. See "Ski Report" and Santa Fe Outings for particulars and dates of events. Contact Stan 839-4301 or Georgia 881-9365 for details. Leader: John Turnbull (505) 466-9329

Sat Mar 25 Leisure Miles: 3 Car: 3
La Joya State Game Refuge Hike

From the stone house, we will walk down along the ponds, and then into the bosque. There should be plenty of wildlife, but a fair amount of brush. Meet 9:00 a.m. at the UNM Astronomy and Physics parking lot, NE corner Yale and Lomas. Bring lunch, water, and jacket. Leader: David Morrison 344-8693

Sat Apr 1 Intermediate Miles: 7 Car: 300
Brazos Cliffs X/C Ski

Join the Orange County California Group in the Carson National Forest for a X/C ski to the scenic Brazos Cliffs. Dress in layers, bring lunch and plenty to drink. Leader: Stan Kauchak 839-4301

Sun Apr 2 Moderate-Strenuous
Miles: 6-8 Car: 120-200 Elevation: ?
Jemez Mountains
Exploratory Hike

This area is northwest of Cochiti. We will do all cross country travel to several Indian ruins in the area. Meet at 8:00 a.m. behind the Winchell's at San Mateo and Academy. Leader: David Morrison 344-8693

Sat Apr 8 Moderate Miles: 4-6 Car: 160
El Malpais National Monument East- Braided Cave
This is a lava flow tube at the southwestern end of the monument. Knarled lava ropes and trees are characteristic. Last time the weather roads prevented us from getting to this cave SW of Grants. High clearance vehicles are desirable. Bring lunch and layers of clothes. Call for meeting details. Leader: Tom Leck 256-7217

Sun Apr 9 Leisure Miles: 3 Car: 0
Oxbow Hike, Rio Grande Bosque

Various waterfowl, some hawks, and other wildlife can be seen in this wetland within Albuquerque. Three hours long. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the corner of St. Josephs and Coors. Leader: David Morrison 344-8693

Sat Apr 15 Moderate Miles: 4-6 Car: 120
Fourth of July Canyon Hike, Manzanos
With luck the snow has regressed to the higher elevations and we will make it to the ridge. This is a good time to see a bear in this area. Bring lunch, water, and a jacket. Call for meeting details. Leader: Craig Dill 224-9795.

Sat Apr 15 Intermediate Miles: 4-6 Car: 300
Chama X/C Ski

We will head to the wide open expanses of meadows mixed with forests of spruce and fir in the Chama area. This is our last X/C ski trip scheduled this year. Bring lunch and plenty to drink. Leader: Stan Kauchak 839-4301

Sun Apr 16
Easter Pot Luck Dinner

Meet at 6:00 p.m. Bring a dish for 6-8 people. New and nonmembers welcome. For those of you who haven't come to one, why don't you join us? Stan Kauchak will be our host. Take I-40 west to Unser, exit north, and then turn west on 98th Street (second light). Continue to the end and turn left onto Calle Azulejo. The house is the third to the last house on the right (2119 Calle Azulejo). Leader: Stan Kauchak 839-4301.

Sat Apr 22 Moderate Miles: 5-6 Car: 210
South Rim Frijoles Canyon, Bandelier NM Exploratory Hike

From the headquarters parking lot, we will hike up to the mesa top amidst the pines and along the rim. We will look for Frijolitos ruin. Bring lunch. Meet behind Winchell's at San Mateo and Academy at 8:00 a.m. Leader: Tom Penlencin 255-1497

Sat Apr 22 Intermediate Miles: 14 Car: 170
Zuni-Acoma Trail Mountain Bike

Spring is here and mountain biking has begun in earnest. Exploratory trip, expect a work-out. If we have time we will do anything else that suits our fancy. Leader: Val 265-5945

Sun Apr 23 Leisure Miles: 3 Car: 3
Geological Windows Hike,
Petroglyph National Monument

Secluded petroglyph areas in a near wilderness-like

setting. Bring camera, binoculars and sturdy shoes. RSVP. Leader: Ike Eastvold 255-7679

Sun Apr 23 Leisure-Moderate
Magdalena Mountains Hike

We will try some of the trails off of Water Canyon or the area above Magdalena. There will probably be some spring wildflowers on this forested mountain. Meet at the Sierra Club office at 207 San Pedro NE at 9:00 a.m. Leader: Bob Cornish 255-6037

Sat Apr 29 Leisure Miles: ? Car: 260
Harding Mine, Taos Area

We be looking for lithium based minerals such as pegmatite and rarer crystals. We will be able to go partially into one of the mines. Bring lunch, and be prepared for a scattering of snow. We may stop at Rancho de Chamaayo for dinner afterwards. Call for meeting details. Leader: Tom Leck 256-7217

Sun Apr 30 Leisure Miles: 3 Car: 3
Boa Negra Arroyo Hike,
Petroglyph National Monument

Exciting flute and parrot figures together with some of the oldest petroglyphs in the Monument. RSVP. Leader: Ike Eastvold 255-7679

Sun Apr 30 Leisure-Moderate
Miles: 4 Car: 12
Piedra Lisa Trail, Sandia Wilderness Hike
This is a nice trail with a relaxed uphill incline. We will eat at the pass. Bring lunch, sturdy shoes, and water. Meet 9:00 a.m. at Smiths parking lot at the NE corner of Tramway and Montgomery. Leader: Melissa Smith 292-8853

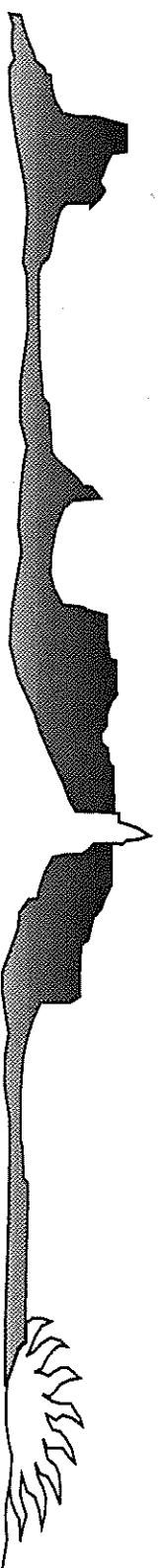
Outings Reports

Abiqui Badlands Thanks Richard for leading this one. This hike has to be one of the best hikes in New Mexico. Two people were so thrilled by the area, they returned the next day. 13 people. Stallion WSA We spent most of the time looking for the mustangs, but only found their sign. I would still like to do some of the excellent canyons in the area. 12 people. Riley and Cave We did not find any bats, or the second cave, but did find some small cave formations. 17 people. Embudo Trail We hiked up while it snowed, and walked down in the sun. 6 people. Ball Ranch We found a pueblo ruin and the area with petrified wood. 13 people.

LAS CONCHAS BURN TRAIL TO EAST FORK PARKING LOT CROSS COUNTRY SKI

by Georgia Januzzi

From the time 6 of us set foot on our skis, the trip was enchanting. It started out with a short period called "getting your ski legs" on a small hill which led across the river, just for practice. We observed huge rock formations as the trail wound along the river which was dotted with unique log bridges. There were a couple of challenging uphill climbs, and an area where the wind had blown down some trees over the trail and we had to take off our skis and do a bit of bushwhacking around the fallen timber. Nothing that was very strenuous. Now and then we would hear a bird or two and even squirrels chattering down at us from the treetops. At the meadow-like area chosen for lunch, many of the surrounding mountain tops were visible. From this spot on, it was a nice gentle sloping downhill run. By the time we were ready to return home, mother nature was sprinkling a little bit of snow to keep the trail fresh for another day.



February Meeting: Jan Hartman of UTEP's Center for Environmental Resource Management (CERM) will offer a presentation on local border environmental issues like air & water quality, water management, and hazardous waste.

The program will start at 7:30 p.m. on Wed 22 Feb 1995 at St. Paul's Methodist Church at 7000 Edgemere, east of Airway. For info, call Ted 852-3011.

March Meeting: Ana Tierra from Vida Verde, Peru, will speak. The program will start at 7:30 p.m. on Wed 29 March at St Paul's Church. Conservation Meetings will convene over supper at Jaxon's at 1135 Airway at Viscount, starting at 6 p.m. on the last Wednesday of each month, just before the Gen Mtg.

Outing Leaders' Workshop: Sun 5 March at 1 p.m. in the Env. Ctr, we will hold an Outing Leaders' Workshop for potential leaders of regular Sierra Club outings (not I.C.O. outings). We encourage as many experienced leaders and also as many newcomers as possible to attend. Our outing leaders are a valuable resource who have much wisdom to impart about how to make outings successful. The workshop is free, but we will have a dozen copies of the little official outings "Red Book" for sale at \$5 each. The workshop will last only four hours, with frequent leg-stretching breaks. All local Sierrans are welcome.

First Aid Workshop: A number of local Sierrans now have current First Aid certification, so the local group EXCOM is considering a policy some leaders may feel restrictive. If an outing leader lacks current first aid certification, he or she may soon be required to be sure to have another Sierran with current certification along on the outing. To avoid having to be "babysat" just to offer an outing, any leader lacking First Aid certification would be well-advised to sign up to get it soon.

To that end, for a third time in seven months, we are scheduling a two-night certification class with Barbara Zuzierla at Basic Life Support School at 700 E. Yandell, opposite H&H Carwash, at the corner of Ochoa, phone 532-0120. Starting at 6 p.m. on Mon 6 and Mon 13 March, the two-session class costs \$12.50 and is valid for two years. All local Sierrans are encouraged to enroll.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wed 22 Feb	Conservation Mtg 6 p.m. Jaxon's
Wed 22 Feb	Gen Mtg 7:30 p.m. 7000 Edgemere
Sun 5 March	Outing Leaders' Wkshop, 1 p.m. Env. Ctr
Mon 6 & 13 March:	First Aid Wkshop, 6 p.m., 532-0120
Wed 8 March	I.C.O. mtg 6 p.m. Env Ctr
Wed 8 March	EXCOM mtg 7:30 p.m. Env Ctr
Fri 10 March	LORAX filer deadline 532-2652
Wed 29 Mar	Conservation Mtg 6 p.m. Jaxon's
Wed 29 Mar	Gen Mtg 7:30 p.m. 7000 Edgemere
Wed 5 April	I.C.O. mtg 6 p.m. Env Ctr
Wed 5 April	EXCOM mtg 7:30 p.m. Env Ctr
Sat 22 April	Earth Day, Channizal, call Ted 852-3011

the LORAX - El Paso Group News

ONE EARTH, ONE CHANCE.

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

New Member Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____

ZIP _____

Phone (Optional) () _____

	INDIVIDUAL	JOINT
REGULAR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35	<input type="checkbox"/> \$43
SUPPORTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> \$58
CONTRIBUTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> \$108
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

Sierra Club

P.O. Box 52968
Boulder, Colorado

80322-2968

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Contributions or gifts to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible as charitable contributions. Annual dues include subscription to *Sierra* (\$7.50) and chapter publications (\$1), and other member only benefits.

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Cardholder Name: _____ Expiration Date: ____/____/____

Sprout Thanks Seidensticker: Thank you to Mike Seidensticker for his recent heroic work, hauling and selling recyclable materials for the Environmental Center and to John Green and Mary Lou Parker for helping at the Center the day of our Wine & Cheese Party. Thanks also to all of you who bring recyclables to the Center. Your contributions keep us in business. We currently accept aluminum, newspaper, magazines (once again!), white office paper, computer paper, corrugated cardboard, tin cans, styrofoam egg cartons & packing peanuts. We do NOT accept other plastics or glass, please. Located at 800 S. Piedras, we are open Wednesday through Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Stop on by! Want to volunteer at the Center? We'll be needing special help on Thu 9 March, Sat 18 March, Sat 15 April, and Fri 28 April.

GROUP DIRECTORY

Chairman/	Ted Mertig	852-3011
Public Lands	Betsy Julian	544-5741
Vice Chair	Mike Seidensticker	544-5741
Secretary	Kathy Sunday	584-9301
Treasurer	Debbie Tomacelli	584-3929
Member	Sondra Denney	532-2652
Member	Adela Escudero	592-1570
Inner City		
Outings	Richard Rheder	544-5659
Env. Quality	Tom Brasfield	584-8739
Franklin Mtns	John Sprout	545-5157
Political Action	Jim Bell	581-8864
Population	OPEN	
Env Center	OPEN	
Mail	Bill Phillips	772-6503
Hospitality	Barbara Mertig	852-3011
Membership	Patricia Wood	542-0553
Office Rep.	Neil O'Hara	565-4735
LORAX, Outings,		
Publicity	Michael Bromka	532-2652

Sierra Club Environmental Center

800 S. Piedras @ Paisano
532-9645, 532-4876 fax

Membership:

SIERRA CLUB
409 Robinson Rd
El Paso, TX 79902

LORAX information:

Michael Bromka
300 W. Schuster #5
El Paso, TX 79902

UPCOMING OUTINGS

Diablo Dam Petroglyphs Dayhike, Sat 4 March, Fort Hancock, call Gary Williams 562-3540.

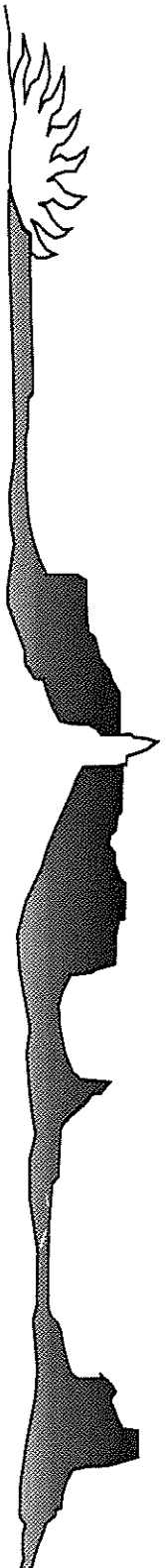
Alamo Mtn Backpack, Sat 11-12 March, Cornudas Mtns, mod strenuous 7 miles, call Bill Phillips 772-6503. We'll ride a half hour on paved roads, then an hour on gravel to reach the petroglyph site for a dayhike. After lunch, we'll drive to the trailhead and backpack a steady and challenging climb to the flat-topped peak. Each camper must carry a gallon of water, plus camping gear. On a clear night, this campsite offers a classic western view.

Gila Cliff Dwellings Dayhike, Sun 12 March, easy, call Mike Moffett 833-5172. We'll swing by City of Rocks State Park for a morning meander through that maze of geologic giants, then continue on to the Cliff Dwellings to see the abodes of our geographic forebears.

Grand Canyon Backpack, Fri 17-23 March, Grand Canyon Nat'l Park. Sorry, waiting list filled.

West Mesa Flatlands Dayhike, Sun 19 March, Organ Mtns, moderate 10 miles, negligible elevation gain, call Alice Anderson 505-523-5179. We can expect wild flowers, songbirds, and views of surrounding mountains. Flatland has its own special magic to renew the spirit. If you have hiked only in the mountains, come discover a different kind of scenic beauty.

Aguirre Springs Dayhike, Sun 26 March, Organ Mtns, moderate 4.5 miles, \$3 per car fee for park admission, call Juan Enriquez 859-1913, wk 778-9911. This classic local hike is easy to reach yet lovely to relish. Bear/Tejas Loop Dayhike, Sat 1 April, strenuous 10-12 miles in the Guads, call Jim Bell 581-8864, wk 594-2501. This classic dayhike starts gently up the Frijole trail then steeply gains 2000 ft on the Bear Canyon switchbacks. With good weather and an eager group, we have the option of hiking through the Bowl. Hunter Peak offers one of the best views in the Guads. The Tejas trail will sprawl our descent over open terrain. Ambitious Sierrans could choose to carcamp at Pine Springs and venture out on their own Sunday hikes.



Aguire Springs Doggie Dayhike, Sat 8 April, Organ Mtns, moderate 5 miles, call Ann Falknor hm 833-9162, wk 855-2105. Good challenging hike for medium or large-sized dogs in a state of good fitness. Pack a lunch and bring water for both you and your dog. All dogs must be kept on leashes, and should be docile and sociable with other four- and two-legged trekkers.

Three Rivers Dayhike, Sun 9 April, White Mtn Wilderness, easy 5 miles, call Roy McCloud 505-437-0179. We'll meet early in Alamogordo and drive to the trailhead. A pleasant wooded hike will bring us to our streamside lunchspot.

Blue Dog Loop Backpack, Fri 14-16 April, Guads, strenuous 17 miles, call Michael Bromka 532-2652. Fri evening we'll drive out to carcamp at Dog Canyon. Saturday morning we'll hike Bush Mtn trail then Marcus trail to the Blue Ridge campsite. On the way, we'll admire the historic Marcus Cabin and the doublebreasted Lost Peak. Sunday affords a dayhike to Bush Mtn, the 2nd highest in Texas. The backpack out will be a gradual 7-mile descent, with a short bushwalk up to summit Lost Peak. A rare look at the back end of the Guads.

Sunspot Dayhike/Carcamp, Sat 15-16 April, near Cloudcroft, easy 5 miles, call Roy McCloud 505-437-0179. We'll rendezvous in Alamogordo, and drive to the trailhead near (but not at) Sunspot. Enjoy this wooded mountain dayhike, and then opt to carcamp or head home.

Rim Trail Dayhike, Sat 29 April, near Cloudcroft, moderate 14 miles, call Jim Bell hm 581-8864, wk 594-2501. This woody dayhike will be a car shuttle, allowing a lovely stretch of untrekking trail.

Sapillo Creek Backpack, Sat 29-30 April, Gila, moderate + 15 miles, car shuttle semi-loop with 1000 ft loss & gain stretched over 7 miles. Call Rollin Wickenden hm 855-6836, wk 534-6594. We'll enjoy a beautiful view of the lower central Gila riparian ecosystem and camp near Sapillo Creek.

Indian Hollow Backpack, Sat 6-7 May, Organ Mtns, easy, call Alice Anderson 505-523-5179. Our traditional easy spring backpack offers a campout close to home. We'll hike partly on a trail and partly dodging Spanish Bayonet. Our route passes through the area that was burned last summer, so we will have a chance to observe its recovery. Sunday morning we will dayhike to Sugarloaf. On returning to camp, we will enjoy a lunch of wild nettle soup, and pack out in the late afternoon.

Hillsboro Peak Dayhike, Sun 7 May, Black Range, moderate but long, call Carolina Greenfield hm 594-7342.

Guadalupe Peak Dayhike, Sun 14 May, moderate 9 miles, 2000 ft gain, call Sondra Denney 532-2652. We'll keep a moderate pace on this classic dayhike to the rooftop of Texas.

Spring Cabin Backpack, Sat 20-21 May, moderate, call Carolina Greenfield 594-7342.

Mineral Creek Backpack, Sat 27-29 May, moderate, call Laurence Gibson 594-7342.

OUTINGS REPORTS

Cristo Rey Dayhike, Mon 26 Dec 1994: The day was sunny, the trails pristine, and the splendid chaps of the Cristo Rey Restoration Project guarded our cars. Hiking up this gradually switchbacking trail were Troy, Donna, & Maria Blakeney, Duane Springer, Martha Jo Rice, Matthew Knepper, Dave Robertson, Jerry Urnas, Barbara Burton, Dennis Stensrud, William Gutierrez, Steve Vinson, Art & Lily Rebeles, Javier, Magdalena, Humberto, Iris, & Moises Prospero, Rollin Wickenden, Sondra Denney, and leader Michael Bromka.

New Year's Eve Guads Backpack, Sat 31 Dec—Mon 2 Jan. What better way is there to start the New Year than by hiking, and what better place is there to hike than the Guadalupe? Three of us hiked 12 miles from Pine Springs up the Tejas trail to the Dog Canyon campground, where we arrived in plenty of time for New Year's Eve. Lacking champagne, there were no wild parties. After a cold, crisp night, we negotiated the Bush Mountain trail to the Blue Ridge campsite. Here we met the rest of the group, who were doing only a two-day hike instead of our three-day trip. Also joining us at Blue Ridge were two wild turkeys. On the way out the next day, we overlooked canyons filled with fog as we walked out in pleasant weather via the Bush Mountain trail. Little did we know that we'd be descending into a winter wonderland. At Pine Springs, with the temperature hovering in the 20s (F), the trees were covered with a glistening coat of crystalline ice. Spending New Year's in the Guadalupe were Alice Anderson, Joe Rodriguez, Mike Episcopo & daughter Dionne, Rollin Wickenden & daughter Kathy, and leader Kathy Sunday.

Winter Caving Carcamp, Fri 6-8 Jan. On Friday evening, leader Sondra Denney teamed up with Michael Bromka, John Walton & daughter Roy, and Ian & Ian Hanna (father & son) to drive out to Parks Ranch, six miles west of Whites City. We made camp, and shared a modest camp fire and hot chocolate. Sat am., we drove through Carlsbad in search of Endless Cave. Easier said than done! At one point, while Sondra sought the crucial turn-off, we hiked along the highway, collecting bags of aluminum cans for the Env Ctr's recycling program. Reaching the cave entrance at noon, we toggled out, donning helmets, headlamps, and kneepads. Endless Cave is labyrinthine, so Sondra

marked our path behind us with reflective "limb lights," a trick from our hunting brethren. At the full exuberance and stature of her seven years, Rory locomoted easily through the cave, while we adults often crawled along. Using a headlamp (when we extinguished all other lights), Sondra demonstrated the phosphorescence of some formations. Emerging to witness a lovely sunset, we headed back to camp. John & Rory returned to El Paso, while we others stayed a second night and got in a morning exploration of the Parks Ranch gypsum caves.

South Franklin Peak Dayhike, Sun 8 Jan: A baker's dozen gathered for a leisurely trek up South Franklin Peak. Sunny skies provided a canopy for brunch on top. Joining leader Carol Morrison for a perfect winter day were Don Schwartzkopf, Shirley & Bill (Billy Backpacker) Phillips, Wes Leonard, Monty Ault, Jim Bartos, Monte Gilbert (minus Moose the pooch), Noreen Rossi, Lidia Padilla, Gus Pena, Jim Montes, and Willie Gutierrez. Just a great day in the Franklins! **Tonto National Forest Backpack**, Fri 13-16 Jan: Five Sierrans trekked among the saguaros in the Superstition Mtns of Tonto Nat'l Forest, east of Phoenix. Leaving El Paso at 5 p.m. Friday, Rafaela Schuler, Susie Wickenden, Juan Enriquez, Michael Bromka, and leader Rollin Wickenden drove I-10 into Arizona past Bowie, then north on 191 (formerly 666) and west on 266 to carcamp in the Coronado. Rising early Sat, we grabbed breakfast on the run in Safford then drove on past Superior to the Peralta trailhead. On the roadin, sad to see, some roadside saguaros were riddled with bullet holes from good ole boys with big guns, little weenies, and tiny brains. After changing Juan's flat tire and pumping up the semi-flat spare, we set out amid a horde of local dayhikers. A mere ten minutes up the trail left crowds behind us. The Dutchman's Trail (104) rises gradually, switching back through surprisingly lush Sonoran vegetation: grasses filling gaps between aptly named Palo Verde. Bright, furry-looking Teddy Bear Chollas seemed to be asking, "Where is your friend Dionne?" Most stately of all were the towering saguaros, like giant spiny terrestrial hydras, arms akimbo. Our trail reached its first pass early, then dropped to a streamside lunchspot. The many running streams with the frequent sound of gurgling water made this an odd desert to hike through. As we climbed to the second major pass of the day, we admired an arching stone window, colorful jagged rock faces, and a lively wee waterfall. Passing the campsite of a dozen boisterous Prescott College coeds, we mused on the mudiness of our trail — would this augur a rainy night? Dusk brought an inopportune squall, dubbed Catclaw Campsite by Bramble Bend, a thorny place to pitch three tents. We shared a chatty supper, then let a babbling brook serenade us. Sunday's ominous clouds urged us to turn out early, hiking back on the shorter but loftier Bluff Springs trail, completing our eleven-mile loop. At the trail's high point, Steelers fan Juan tuned in a handheld TV to watch his team lose the AFC title. Off the trail, we drove east to Apache Jet for Juan's new tire (a sidewall puncture had doomed its predecessor). South of Safford, just 200 yds off Rte 366, we camped in deserted mountainside Noon Creek Campground. Around midnight a plump black & white striped fluffytailed mammal pounced atop Rafaela to ask for a snack. An indignant slap sent the skunk scurrying without leaving an aromatic calling card. Rafaela opted to relocate her food to the car. Steady rain lulled us to sleep.

Ron Coleman Trail Dayhike, Sun 22 Jan: A group of intrepid Sierrans shuttled cars between the Transmountain Rd terminus and the trailhead in McKelligan canyon. We set out under a dark, cloudy sky, foreboding a grim day's slog. But just above the caves, as we reached the first ridge, we saw clear blue sky hailing us from the west. Brisk breezes gently gusted us on our way. We ate lunch before reaching the window, then scrambled over this one worrisome stretch. Special congratulations to Lidia Padilla, who overcame initial trepidation with the help of fellow trekkers. They simply constructed a human wall blocking a view she found a bit too precipitous at that one point. Joining Lidia and leader Carolina Greenfield were Jim Montes, Gus Pena, Mark Shouse, Bill Sanders, David Robertson, Rafaela Schuler, Monty Ault, Paul Bronson, Joanna Blackburn, Mary Mooney, Christa McKinney, and Ron Glover.

Sapillo Creek Backpack, Sat 28-29 Jan: On a clear, bright morning we gathered: David Robertson, Joe Rodriguez, Kathy Sunday, Mark Wood, and leader Alice Anderson. We began our 6.5 mile hike by crossing the ice-cold Sapillo Creek seven times in half a mile. After observing that all ten feet were still pink, not blue, we put on dry socks and hiked over seven ridges (5 major, 2 minor), pausing to admire the view of Sapillo Box before descending to our campsite by the creek. In the morning, David and Alice walked downstream to the confluence of Sapillo Creek with the Gila River, crossing Sapillo Creek three times down, then another three times coming back. Mark explored shallow caves in the cliffs above the creek but found no Indian artifacts. A messy campsite near the confluence had been cleaned up since our last visit. Thank you, whoever you are! On the way out, we again admired the Sapillo Box and vowed to come back when the water is lower and warmer to explore the Box from the bottom. Our trip ended with a repeat of seven ice-cold stream crossings.



Santa Fe Group News

MARCH MEMBERSHIP MEETING Tuesday, March 21

The featured speaker for this meeting is Jerry Rogers, new Southwest Regional Director for the US National Park Service (NPS). Jerry is a 25-year veteran of the NPS and a dedicated supporter of conservation. He is responsible for 41 park units including national parks, monuments and preserves, national recreation areas, a national seashore, a wild and scenic river and two National Historic Trails, encompassing northeastern Arizona and the states of New Mexico, Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana and Oklahoma. Jerry will speak about his priorities as regional director, the reorganization and down-sizing of the NPS, and local park issues such as Petroglyphs National Monument.

APRIL MEMBERSHIP MEETING Tuesday, April 18

John McClure, a long-time active member of the Sierra Club and retired physicist at Lawrence Livermore Laboratory in California, will present a slide show of Iran from a trip he made there in 1976 shortly before the Shah was overthrown. John visited interesting, non-touristy places that were off the beaten track and will share them with us. John came to Santa Fe in the fall of 1994. For 25 years in California, he led week-long burro trips in the Sierra Nevada and Panamint Mountains and many Sierra Club chapter day and overnight trips. He has traveled extensively around the world.

Membership meetings are *FREE* and open to the public.

Membership meetings are held at the
Unitarian Church, on Barcelona Street (between Don Gaspar and Galisteo) at 7:30 PM.

♦ ♦ SANTA FE GROUP OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS ♦ ♦

Chair — Mark Mortier*	983-5870	Outings — Norbert Sperlich	983-1962
Vice-Chairs — Don Goldman*	473-2821	— Norma McCallan*	471-0005
Jerry Bober*	466-7212	Political Committee — Ken Hughes	474-0550
Secretary/Treas — Lionel Sorocco*	983-6715	Welcome — Susan Banks	757-2284
Answering Machine — L. Sorocco*	983-6715	Phone Tree—Fundraising—Education	open
Chapter Representative — Barbara Johnson	466-4935	* Member of the SF Group Executive Committee	
(alt.) Norma McCallan*	471-0005		
Conservation — George Grossman*	982-1024	Terms expire 12/95:	
Membership — Gwen Wardwell*	984-8860	McCallan/Mortier/Sorocco/Goldman/Grossman	
Newsletter Editor — Kay Carlson	982-3926	Bober/Freeman/Johnson/Wardwell	
Office — Carolyn Keskulla	982-9570	12/96:	

MEETINGS

call for location and time

Executive Committee:

(Mark Mortier 983-5870)

April 4 and May 2 at 7 PM

Conservation Committee:

(George Grossman 982-1024)

March 28 and April 25 at 7 PM

Outing Leaders Workshop:

(Norma McCallan 471-0005)

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

SANTA FE GROUP OUTINGS

Sat Sun March

- 4 Lionel Sorocco (983-6715) Moderate Cross-Country Ski Tour to wherever snow is good. Leave 8 AM.
- 4 Norma McCallan (471-0005) Easy Hike Arroyo Chamanisa Loop. Dogs Allowed. Leave 9:30 AM.
- 5 Norbert Sperlich (983-1962) Moderate/Strenuous Hike Diablo Canyon to Sagebrush Flats and White Rock Canyon Overlook. Most off-trail. Call for details and reservations.
- 11 Bob McKee (672-3426) Moderate Exploratory Hike "Bandelier Bushwack II" Mostly off-trail. Call leader.
- 11 Joe Whelan (984-0746) Moderate/Strenuous Cross-Country Ski Tour Leave 8:30 AM. Call leader for location of trip.
- 12 Easy/Moderate Hike from Galisteo Dam to Waldo. Leave at 9 AM. Call 471-7575 for details.
- 18 Norrine Sanders (984-0386) Easy/Moderate Hike from Ojo Caliente area. Leave 8:30 AM.
- 18 Caroline Glick (984-3184) Strenuous Hike in Bandelier. Call leader for reservations/information.
- 19 Julie Montoya King (438-7197) Moderate Hike Call leader for destination and time of departure.

Saturday and Sunday, March 18 and 19

- Margo Wilson (1-505-744-5860) Truth or Consequences for a weekend of new scenery and camaraderie. Camp in at Margo's house, Moderate Day Hike Sat to Turtle Back Mountain, followed by a bath at a hot springs in TorC, pot-luck supper Sat night, Moderate day hike Sun in Hillsboro area. Leave after work on Fri, Call Norma McCallan (471-0005) for carpooling. Dogs welcomed.
- March 24 through April 1 — Joint Ski Week
Between Rio Grande Chapter and Orange County (CA) Sierra Club. (see full write up in next column)
- 25 Carolyn Keskulla (982-9570) Easy/Moderate Hike in Tent Rocks. Call leader for meeting place. Leave 9 AM.
- 25 Leader training workshop (see below for information)
- 26 Elizabeth Altman (471-8490) Easy Hike Leave 9 AM.

JOINT SKI WEEK PLANNED March 24 through April 1

The Rio Grande Chapter and Orange County (California) Sierra Club (Singles Group) has come up with something for everyone: cross-country events at Ski Rio at Costilla, Williams Lake near Taos, and the wide open spaces at Tres Piedras, downhill at Taos and Ski Rio. Participate in the whole week or selected days. Comfy bargain-priced accommodations have been arranged. Classy dining, simple fare, or bring your own. See *Ski Report* column and specific events as follows. Don't miss it! Phone trip coordinator John Turnbull (466-9329) well in advance for info and reservations.

March 25-26 Cross-country and Alpine (Downhill) at Ski Rio, near Costilla. Convenient resort scene, great food, fireplaces. Lessons available for beginners in ski touring, Telemark, and Alpine. Even dog sled tours!

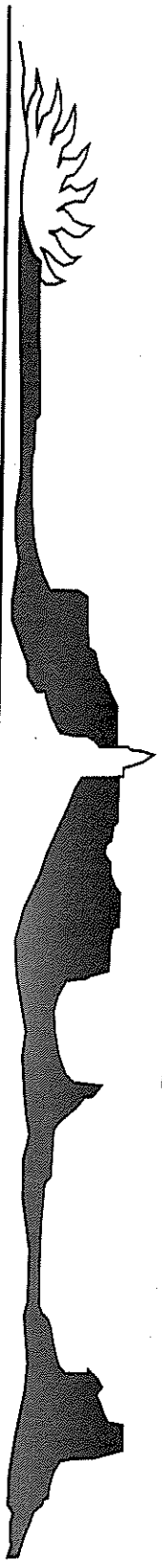
March 28 Downhill skiing at world class Taos Ski Valley, or cruising around galleries and shops in Taos and trip to Taos Pueblo for authentic pueblo-style cuisine.

March 29 Short cross-country trip in high country to Williams Lake, Taos area. Après ski at Taos Ski Valley.

March 30-31 Cross-country touring at Hopewell Lake area, near Tres Piedras. Rolling country and big views. Lodging in Taos, and après ski at Eske's Brew Pub, Taos.

April 1 Cross-country ski trip to Brazos Cliffs, a New Mexico classic trip. Long downhill runs and breathtaking views of the gorge.

Note: Saturday, March 25, will be a leader training workshop from 9 AM - 4 PM, for all active and potential outings leaders and any other interested parties. Please call Norma McCallan (471-0005) or Norbert Sperlich (983-1962) for information.



SANTA FE GROUP OUTINGS (continued)

Sat Sun April

- 1 Lionel Soracco (983-6715) Strenuous Cross-Country Ski Trip to Neff Mountain near Cumbres Pass. 12 miles roundtrip. Not for beginners. Leave 7:30 AM.
- 2 Julie Montoya King (438-7197) Moderate Hike Leave 8:30 AM. Call leader for information.

April 1-2, Saturday and Sunday

- Norma McCallan (471-0005) Two Day Hikes and optional overnight car camp redrock country No. of Ghost Ranch. Sat Easy/Moderate Hike (7 miles) on Rim Vista/Salazar Trails. Sun Exploratory Moderate Hike Martinez Canyon or elsewhere in same area. Leave PERA 8:30 AM Sat. Call for a meeting place if you want to come only on the Sun hike or need more information. *Dogs welcomed.*

April 7-8-9 (Friday, Saturday, Sunday)

- Bob McKee (672-3426) Exploratory 3-Day Backpack along the massive slickrock fin of Comb Ridge between Highway 95 and Highway 163 in SE Utah. 20 miles as the crow flies, a few more with route-finding. Leave early Thurs afternoon (April 6). Call for details.
- Norrine Sanders (984-0386) Moderate Hike to Ancho Rapids. 6 miles roundtrip. Leave 8:30 AM.
- 9 Norbert Sperlich (983-1962) Moderate/Strenuous Hike to Chino Mesa & Rio Grande Rim. 9 mi. RT, rough terrain. Lv 8 AM. Call leader if not familiar with this hike.
- Carolyn and Arnold Keskulla (982-9570) Easy/Moderate Hike in Tesque Hills. Leave 9 AM.
- John Turnbull (466-9329) SF/ABQ SM Ttp Cumbres Pass, above Chama. Travel Fri 4-14, stay overnight (est \$20) at Elkhorn Lodge, Chama. Call leader for info. Dramatic and beautiful country!
- 16 Elizabeth Altman (471-8490) Easy Easter Morning Hike Leave 8 AM. Call leader for information.

Sat Sun May

- 6 Julie Montoya King (438-7197) Easy/Moderate Hike to Ghost Hotel, near Glorieta. 6½ miles RT. Leave 8 AM.
- 6 Steven Janus (988-4137) Strenuous Hike from Atalaya Trailhead to Thompson Peak and back via Talaya Peak. Some off-trail, 12 miles roundtrip. Leave 8 AM.
- 7 Norbert Sperlich (983-1962) Moderate Hike to Olowi Ruins and Queen Mary Mesa. 8 miles roundtrip, all off-trail, some rock scrambling. Leave 8 AM. Call leader if unfamiliar with area.
- 13 Carolyn and Arnold Keskulla (982-9570) Easy Hike on Penstemon Ridge. Leave 9 AM.
- 13 Caroline Glick (984-3184) Strenuous Hike to Glorieta Baldy. 11 miles roundtrip, steep but satisfying. Call for time and meeting place.
- 14 Bob McKee (672-3426) Moderate/Strenuous Hike Obsidian Ridge, near Bandelier. 11 miles roundtrip, 1800' elevation gain. Call for meeting time and place.
- 20 Joe Whelan (984-0746) Moderate Hike somewhere in the Pecos. Leave 8 AM.
- 21 Norrine Sanders (984-0386) Strenuous Hike in Bandelier, lower Lummis Canyon Tr. to the Rio Grande. Lve 8 AM.
- 21 Jeff Jones (466-2389) Easy Hike up Channisa Trail to the Rio Tesque. Families & children welcome. Lve 9 AM.
- Thursday through Monday, May 25-29
- Norma McCallan (471-0005) 5 Day Backpack in Southeast Utah, probably Escalante Canyon. Leave Wednesday 5-24 at 1 PM. Call for information and reservations.
- 27 Moderate Hike up Atalaya Peak, 7 miles roundtrip, 1781 elevation gain. Leave 9 AM. Call leader at 471-7575.
- 28 Lionel Soracco (983-6715) Strenuous Hike from Holy Ghost Campground to Spirit Lake in the Pecos, 14 miles roundtrip. Leave 7:30 AM.

Outings Notes — Unless otherwise noted, all outings leave from the PERA parking lot at the corner of Paseo de Peralta and Old Santa Fe Trail (crosses the street from the State Capitol and Corbee). Carpooling will be arranged at the parking lot, and each hiker should come prepared to pay \$4 a mile to the driver of the car in which hiker rides. Hikers should bring a lunch, water, sturdy hiking boots or shoes, and clothing suitable for the weather — leader reserves the right to turn away anyone whose equipment or experience appears unsuitable. Leader has right to alter destination of hike or cancel the trip due to weather, unfavorable conditions, or insufficient numbers of participants. Unaccompanied minors must have written permission from parents or guardians to participate; permission forms are available at the Sierra Club office. Dogs not permitted on hikes unless noted otherwise. Telephone leader for details of the individual hike.

- 16 John Turnbull (466-9329) SF/ABQ Groups skiers' pot luck dinner. Car pool from Santa Fe, leaving from Wild Mountain Outfitters 5 PM. Bring a favorite dish to share.

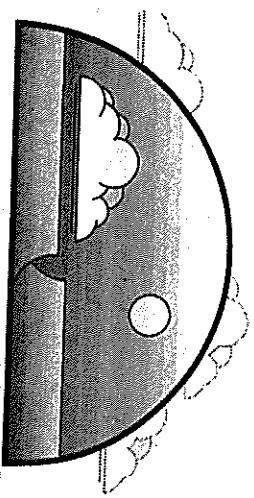
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- Joe Whelan (984-0746) Strenuous Hike to Stone Lions in Bandelier. 13 miles roundtrip, 2,700 feet total climb. Leave 8:30 AM. Call leader if not familiar with this hike.

- 23 Easy/Moderate Hike to Tent Rocks. Leave 9 AM. Leader can be reached at 471-7575.

April 22-23 (Saturday-Sunday)

- Margo Wilson (1-505-744-5860) Car Camp at Springtime campground, San Mateo Mountains. Two Day Hikes Dogs allowed. Arrive Fri evening or Sat before 8 AM. Leave Sun afternoon. Call leader for information.
- 29 Caroline Glick (984-3184) Moderate Hike to Window Rock. 8 miles roundtrip. Call leader for information.
- 30 Jeff Jones (466-2389) Easy Hike to Tsan Kari Ruins in Bandelier. 2 miles roundtrip. *Kids Welcome*. Lve 9 AM.



EDITORIAL...

Every month as I type in these outings, I yearn for the solitude of the wilderness and, instead of a vicarious experience, wish I could get away from my computer and be on one of these great adventures offered every week by our outing leaders. This month, while I had the same yearnings, especially with our breathtakingly beautiful sunny and warm days, I was overwhelmed with the magnitude of the miracle that occurs each week for us, the members of the Santa Fe Group.

These hikes and trips don't just happen. Norma McCallan and Norbert Sperlich make jillions of calls to the numerous hike leaders to cajole them into leading us on these junkets. The coordination of putting together perfect weekends, satisfying our psyches and taking into consideration the wide range of abilities of our short, round, tall, skinny, various shaped and out-of-shaped bodies and conditionings, is mind boggling to anyone versed in simply trying to set up a simple meeting with five people.

I'd like to take advantage of this otherwise blank space of paper and thank Norma and Norbert for their dedication and perseverance to helping the local Sierrans and our many visitors experience the great diversity of wildness that surrounds us. Certainly not to be forgotten are the hike leaders who shepherd us on these escapades. They have to receive a certain amount of training, and their patience is limitless. They receive uncounted phone calls and give us tenderfeet encouragement (and sometimes first aid) on our hikes.

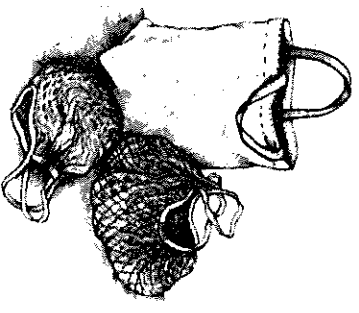
So, the next time you go on a hike or talk to these intrepid leaders, show your appreciation.

- Ed.

The most asked question these days is "paper or plastic."

The answer is neither.

Keep a cloth shopping bag in the car and remember to bring it in the store with you.



OFFICE SPACE WANTED

Get us out of the basement! We're looking for a new office, doesn't have to be big, are willing to share with another organization, need handicap access and would dearly love a window. Any ideas, call Norma (471-0005) or Mark (983-5870)



GROUP PROGRAMS

All Programs are held at NMSU Science Hall 107. For more directions, call Marianne at 522-3421

March 23, 1995, Thursday 7:30 PM SLIDE PRESENTATION: Subhankar Banerjee. Hiking, Backpacking and Driving through the Southwest: New Mexico's Organ Mountains and Gila National Forest, Colorado's Uncompahgre National Forests, and Rocky Mountain National Park, and parts of Arizona and Southern Utah. We will discuss possible hiking/backpacking trips to some of these places.

April 5, 1995, Wednesday 7:30 PM SLIDE PRESENTATION: Pat Penfield. Edible And Useful Southwestern Plants. Come explore some of the ways that Southwestern people have used wild plants as food, clothing, shelter, and medicine. This talk, with slides, will emphasize edible plants. This program is jointly organized by the Student Sierra Club and the Southern New Mexico Group.

April 27, 1995, Thursday 7:30 PM SLIDE PRESENTATION: Dr. Ron Lautenbach. Mt. McKinley. Ron Lautenbach shows his Alaskan slides and narrates his international team's experience through 28 days of beautiful scenery, avalanches, and earthquakes!! Daily life and death ordeals are integrated into the humor and technology of living in one of nature's challenging environments!! Dr. Lautenbach says, "One doesn't conquer a mountain of this majesty, it allows you to succeed, you must dance and harmonize with it and treat it like a best friend!!"

OUTINGS

March 4 - Easy Day hike in the Box Canyon. There will be some nature study. Call Jim Basler (521-4822).

March 18 - 19 - Join Margo for a day hike on Saturday at the Turtleback Mtn., followed by a bath at the hot spring in T or C and a moderate day hike on Sunday in the Hillsboro area. Those staying over Saturday night can camp-out at Margo's house and share a potluck supper. Call Margo Wilson (TorC) 744-5860 for further details.

March 24 - 26 - Whitewater Creek Back Pack. Moderate. We will car camp Friday night. Saturday we will hike in, camp, and Sunday we will hike out, and drive back. This is one of the most spectacular and pleasant hike in the Gila Wilderness. Limit 10 people. Call Subhankar Banerjee (521-7025) at least one week in advance.

April 21 - 23 - Car camp at the Springtime campground (no water) on Friday night. Moderate dayhikes at the San Mateo mountains. Dogs allowed. Bring plenty of water. Call Margo Wilson (TorC) 744-5860 for further details.

April 29 Day Hike to Achenbach Canyon. Moderate. Contact Jim Basler at 521-4822 for details. Leave North Pan Am Parking Lot at 9 AM. If you have high clearance vehicle tell Jim.

May 13 - Moderate 10 mile day hike to the gorgeous Hillsboro Peak in the Aldo Leopold Wilderness in the Gila National Forest. Call Jim Basler (521-4822) in Las Cruces, and Chet Warwick (894-6427) in T or C.

GROUP DIRECTORY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Marianne Thaeler, Chair	522-3421
Myra Price, Vice Chair	524-0261
Jim Winder, Secretary	267-4227
Elizabeth Hernandez, Treasurer	521-1606
Erika Kocsi, Conservation & Membership	527-0523
Cheryl Blevins, Publicity	526-6220
Jim Basler, Outings	521-4822
David Pengelley, Faculty Advisor SSC	646-3901 (O)
Subhankar Banerjee, Outings, SSC Faculty Advisor, Sierran Log Editor	521-7025

NMSU STUDENT DIRECTORY (new officers will be elected in March)

Coordinator, Lori Schmierer	527-1120
Asst. Coordinator, Andrew Hands	523-9059
Outdoors Coordinator, Bruce Gahner	524-3241
Sec. and Publicity, David Mondragon	
Internet Coordinator, Tony Garcia	dmondrag@nmsu.edu
	tony@taipan.nmsu.edu

OUTINGS REPORTS

January 14-16: Chapter-wide ski weekend in the Cloudcroft. A group of 14 people from Las Cruces, mostly beginners, arrived in Cloudcroft on Saturday about noon. Barbara Coon gave lessons that afternoon in the Karr Canyon area. A group of 4 drove down from Albuquerque/Santa Fe with leader John Turnbull. The two groups met and had dinner. After dinner four enthusiasts from Las Cruces joined others from Sun Spot for a wonderful full-moon night ski tour in the Atkinson Canyon area. Four die-hards camped out in the snow and enjoyed a wonderful windless clear-sky fool-moon night. The rest stayed in motels. The following day we all went to the lift area. Some went downhill skiing, while others took telemark lessons from John Turnbull. In the afternoon we returned to Atkinson Canyon to ski. Sunday night we met a group of three from El Paso and enjoyed the evening talking by the fireplace in the lodge. Following day we skied the Sun Spot area. At first the beginners had a tough time with the icy snow, but it got better. Overall we had a great weekend. Thanks to John Turnbull (Santa Fe) and Georgia Januzzi (Albuquerque) for organizing such a wonderful trip.

January 28: Organ Mountain Baylor Pass Hike. A group of 14 people lead by Subhankar Banerjee started hiking from the west side of the Organ Mountains about 10 am. It was a wonderful cool sunny day. It took us about 2 hours to reach the pass, where we had lunch. It was windy and cold at the pass, however the views on either side were clear and spectacular. We got back to our car about 2:30 pm. We all enjoyed this easy/moderate 8 mile hike.

February 11: Organ Needle dayhike. Leader Ben Zerby. Organ Needle back-ground from Dick Ingraham's "Guide to Organ Mts": "The Needle is the high point of the Organ Range, a trifle over 9000 feet high, and marks the southern terminus of the climbing rock. Seen from the west, it is (in spite of the name) a broad, blunt tower, bracketed by what appear to be two subsidiary towers, like ears. From the east, it forms one end of an impressive rampart of gray rock over a mile long and well over 1000 feet high - the great East Face."

Five motivated souls lead by Bruce Gahner hiked in and camped Friday night. After the weather cleared up, it was windy and chilly (slight frost) but a beautiful night. Saturday morning, Ben Zerby's group of 11 began hiking at 8 am, and met up with the overnight campers en route at the Grey Eminence Saddle. After leaving the saddle, the climb was in beautiful fresh snow, up to a foot deep in some places. Dark Canyon tested everyone with snow, cold, and strong winds. Participants were glad that they had brought gloves and hats. With the group was Ted Dunning, one of the most experienced Organ Mt Climbers. Ted's expertise was helpful during the final stages of the climb when a difficult scramble was required. After the scramble, it was easy to the summit or the highest point in the Organ Mts. All signed in the register, but did not stay on the summit long. When the clouds parted the views were great and displayed a winter scene that has not been seen by many local residents. After the summit, it was a quick and slippery trail down. Upon returning to the saddle, the groups split, with the campers returning to enjoy another night of Organ Mt camping and the others returning home. After dinner and a small campfire, all five campers cramped into one tent and tried to learn a Japanese card game from Tomo. Of course Tomo was the winningest and every round would come up with a new and confusing rule. After a very loud and windy night, camp was packed up early Sunday am.

It was a first summit hike/climb experience for most of the group. So they were happy and proud of themselves at the end of the trip.

STUDENT SIERRA CLUB SCHEDULE

March 4 - 12 - SPRING BREAK. Some have expressed some interest in organizing a Copper Canyon (Mexico) trip. Contact Kerl (524-3241).

March 18-19 - WHITE SANDS FULL MOON. Its really a full moon this time! Experience the full moon at the White Sands National Monument. There will probably be a cookout. Contact Bruce (524-3241).

March 26 - DAY HIKE. A day hike near some old volcanoes in the area. (Between LC and El Paso), Contact Bruce (524-3241).

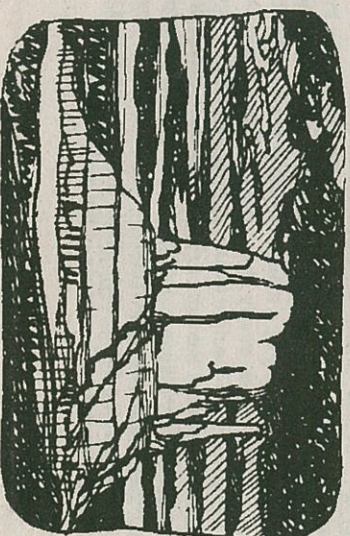
April 5 - Student Sierra Club meeting. 7:30pm, Science Hall 107.
April 8-10 - BACK PACK. Chiricahua Mountains (AZ/NM border, near Lordsburg). We will explore the east side of the mountains. Lots of great birding here too. Contact Andrew (523-9059).

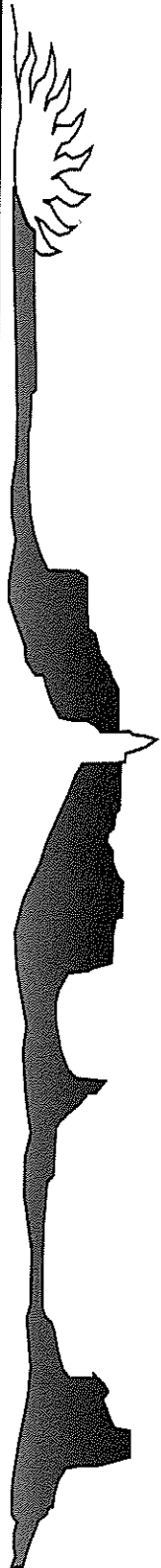
April 23 - DAY HIKE. Bishop's Cap (Organ Mountains). A day hike to look at the southern peak of the Organ Mountain range. Contact Bruce (524-3241).

Note: Earth Day probably will be celebrated this weekend. We are going to try to work with A.W.A.R.E. on this. The day hike to Bishop's Cap will be on the day that Earth Day is not.

April 29 - DAY HIKE. Hueco Tanks (East of El Paso). Some great bouldering/mountain biking, and the largest serpent petroglyph in the world. Should be fun! Contact Kerl (645-3762).

May 6 - End of semester PARTY! Potluck get-together. Location and time TBA.
NOTE: Student Sierra Club meetings have been changed to 7:30 pm, same place, Science Hall 107.





WILD SENTRY - NORTHERN ROCKIES AMBASSADOR WOLF PROGRAM

by Lori Schmierer, Coordinator NMSU Student Sierra Club

On January 31st at the NMSU campus, the NMSU Student Sierra Club hosted "Wild Sentry-the Northern Rockies Ambassador Wolf Program" as part of our outdoor programs series. Pat Tucker, founder of Wild Sentry, and Bruce Weide, a freelance writer and storyteller, travel around the country with Koani, their ambassador wolf, to bring information to the public regarding wolves.

How is the wolf portrayed and imagined, and what is the wolf in reality? Many people have deeply engrained misconceptions about the gray wolf because of fairy tales and movies.

Pat and Bruce began their program by telling personal stories about their first encounter with a wolf and memorable experiences with Koani. Slides and information on wolf biology were intermingled with stories by Bruce, and they discussed potential negative interactions with livestock and wolves. The audience was even encouraged to participate in a howling session. Wayne and Kiki Suggs of the Mexican Wolf Coalition entertained the audience with a song they had written about Aldo Leopold and the "fire in the wolf's eyes." Then

appeared Koani, the captive-reared gray wolf who demonstrates the differences between wolves and dogs, and brings her species a good name. This magnificent creature came on stage and the people were in awe. What a beautiful animal she is with her charcoal fur, and intense small gray eyes. Koani was accompanied by Indy, her canine companion.

Indy helps Koani feel safe when she comes out on stage. Some questions were answered and the animals left the stage. Pat and Bruce should be commended for their presenting unbiased information about wolves in an entertaining way that kids and adults can understand.

We wish to express our special thanks to David Pengeley, our faculty advisor, who spent hours with me getting this program approved as a campus event, and who arranges for audiovisual equipment and saw that the program ran so smoothly.

The Log

STAY OUT!

by Marianne Thaeler, Military Issues Chair, Rio Grande Chapter

The Northern Extension Area of White Sands Missile Range, south of Mountainaire, east of Socorro and west of Carrizozo, is no longer just a safety buffer zone. It has been shot at by cluster bombs lobbed in from Ft. Bliss outside of El Paso, Texas (one missed its target by over 30 miles!), and there is now a missile launch pad on private land in the Area.

On the publicly owned lands of New Mexico, where there are few if any designated trails (none in the Northern Extension Area to our knowledge) and cross country hiking and bush wacking is the norm, who is looking out for public safety? Who is going to tell the public, picnickers, hikers, back packers, hunters, rockhounds, etc. to STAY OUT? and when is the public to STAY OUT? and how will they know? Who will enforce this? The understaffed Bureau of Land Management, the major land manager? The U.S. Army? at gun point? Black helicopters like the ones that are patrolling the lands south of Interstate 10 across southern New Mexico? Who will be liable if there is an accident?

These are just a few of the questions surrounding the issue of evacuation of the Northern Extension Area, as the U.S. Army and WSMR expand the military takeover of New Mexico.

National Wildlife Refuge System Endangered Species in the U.S.

According to a Government Accounting Office publication (GAO/RCED-95-7, Nov. 14, 31 pages): Of all the nearly 900 species listed under the Endangered Species Act, one quarter can be found in national wildlife refuges. These listed species include plants, birds, and mammals. Although a significant portion of the current habitat for 94 listed species is on 66 wildlife refuges, many other listed species use refuge lands on a temporary basis for breeding or migratory rest stops. Refuges and refuge staff contribute to the protection and the recovery of listed species in several ways. First, the refuges themselves represent about 91 million acres of secure habitat, including more than 310,000 acres that have been acquired by the Service specifically for the protection of listed species. Second, refuge staff, by identifying specific actions that can help a species recover, help to develop recovery plans that the Fish and Wildlife Service requires for listed species. Funding limitations constrain efforts to manage wildlife refuges. Two 1993 Interior Department reports found that available funding was not enough to meet established objectives for refuges because the level of funding has not kept pace with the rising costs of managing existing refuges.

Barbara Elizalde, El Paso
George&Daphne Orgeron, El Paso
Tom&Joyce McCabe, El Paso
Adela Escudero, El Paso
Bill Kane, Los Lunas
Charles Little, Placitas
Gae Nichols, Corrales
Anne Taylor, Corrales
Michael Maher, Tijeras
Terri Shaw, Youngsville
Jim Salinas, Albuquerque
Rita Matteucci, Albuquerque
Paula Arundale, Albuquerque
Steve Petrakis, Albuquerque
Robin Filey, Albuquerque
William Orzen, Albuquerque
Betty Hawm, Albuquerque
Harvey Buchalter, Albq.
Barbara Bungalow, Albuquerque
John Miller, Albuquerque
Jean Mobly, Albuquerque
Robert Powell, Albuquerque
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Jeanne Smithpeter, Albq.
Cristella Duarte, Albuquerque
Janice Jennings, Albuquerque
Elise Rozzi, Albuquerque
Stewart Barnwell, Albuquerque
Michael & Diane Montoya Jr., Albuquerque

Theresa Garwood, Albq.
Magdalene Lucero, Albq.
Peggy Zuris, Albuquerque
Patrick Fry, Albuquerque
Ida Manning, Albuquerque
Claudia Reiter, Albuquerque
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Gary Martone, Albuquerque
Mary Miello, Albuquerque
Fred Chavez, Albuquerque
Elizabeth Anderson, Albq.
Francesca Tuoni, Albuquerque
Leah Bates, Albuquerque
Nathan Herrera, Albuquerque
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Brita Gust, Albuquerque
John Oelfke, Albuquerque
Andrea Leonard, Albuquerque
Edda Cisneros, Albuquerque
Soledad Marjon, Albuquerque
Julia Olguin, Albuquerque
Susan Diamond, Albuquerque
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Natalie Plunyan, Albuquerque

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Katie Gill, Albuquerque
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Thomas Barresi, Albuquerque
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Elena Tabet, Albuquerque
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Carla Baron, Albuquerque
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Lee And Moseley, Albq.
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Richard Dorin, Albuquerque
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Natalie Alderson, Albuquerque
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Stephen McKernan, Albq.
Barry Grigsby, Albuquerque
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Patricia Murphy, Albuquerque
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Peggy Oakes, Albuquerque
Judith Fleischman, Albq.
Elizabeth Johnson, Albq.
L. Squendra, Albuquerque
Cathy Sierra, Albuquerque
Pee Wee Karlson, Albq.
Kimberly Wygant, Albq.
Robert Stark, Albuquerque
Naomi Julian, Albuquerque
Jake Carriaga, Albuquerque
Dona Dow Anaya Y Ga, Albq.
John Estep, Albuquerque
Renee Manning-Day, Albq.
Laurie Jauregui, Albuquerque
Mickey Guest, Albuquerque
Mike And Jenny Apodaca, Alb.
Joyce And Vidal Tapia, Albq.
Kathryn Warner, Albuquerque
Donna Webb, Albuquerque
Gilbert Baca, Albuquerque
Katie Rooney, Albuquerque
Phillip Medrano, Albuquerque
Tim Grenfell, Albuquerque
Mark Burgett, Albuquerque
Lyn Dawson, Albuquerque
Dave Sisneros, Albuquerque
Deborah&Chris Kenny, Albq.
Carola Lamadrid, Albq.
William Shiver, Albuquerque
Kenneth&Charlene Simms, Albuquerque

Morgan Gerard, Albuquerque
Janet Selgado, Albuquerque
Emma Griego, Albuquerque
Patricia Telles, Albuquerque
Nancy Menges, Albuquerque
Alma Butler, Albuquerque
Gertrude Friedman, Albq.
Elizabeth Vrabec, Albq.
Susan Zmroczek, Albuquerque
Pamala Kellner, Albuquerque
Halene Weaver, Albuquerque
Joy Lucero, Albuquerque
Ann Burch, Albuquerque
David Weatherman, Albq.
Robert Dubroff, Albuquerque
Gwen Robinson, Albuquerque
Melinda Cone, Albuquerque

Welcome New Members!

(since
August 1, 1994)



Ski Report

by

John
Turnbull

Host Ski Week. It's coming up the last week of March. The Orange County (California) Sierra Club (singles group) will be here for a week of skiing, and we're hoping for an enthusiastic turn-out from the Rio Grande Chapter. The California folks will arrive in Albuquerque on 24 March. Comfy bargain-priced accommodations make this event affordable. One may participate in selected events or for the entire week. Don't miss it! See Santa Fe Group and Albuquerque Group Outings schedules. Phone John Turnbull in Santa Fe (466-9329), or in Albuquerque phone Stan Kauchak (839-4301) or Georgia Jannuzzi (881-9365).

January Ski Classes. If our December class was a success, the January one was a whopper. Though the indoor class, as a result of a blizzard and icy streets, drew only about a dozen intrepid souls, the outdoor class two days later at Los Alamos was a mob scene, attracting 48, with two more appending themselves half-way through. For the second time instructor Gordon Spencer came to the rescue. Los Alamos, Albuquerque, Santa Fe, and Las Cruces were represented. It appears that our relistings of events in the newspapers are significant to these successes. It is also clear that at this level of participation we really need to develop more program structure. The chapter's Ski Committee will be making some proposals soon, and ideas from anyone are welcome.

Snowmobiles, 1995: What to think. Every winter, according to estimates, snowmobiles in ever-increasing numbers put more air pollutants into the air of Yellowstone National Park than all of the automobiles in the entire history of the park. At the same time they create a tremendous stress on winter-weakened

wildlife, destroy dormant vegetation, and between the noise and smoke make the park useless for any other sort of visitation. All of this in a park which, by law, is supposed to be managed by the National Park Service principally as natural wilderness. According to concerned Montana residents, the NPS, for political reasons, is in a state of near-paralysis on the issue.

Closer to home, on Cumbres Pass above Chama, in early February there was a snowmobile rally. All of the areas set aside by the Rio Grande National Forest either for skiing or for forest revegetation were indiscriminately trashed by snowmobiles, making an utter mockery of the Forest Service's voluntary separation policy, and its revegetation program as well.

In February 1994 the national Cross-country Ski Areas Association (whose member resorts routinely utilize snowmobiles to tow grooming equipment), which is tired of filling their resorts with blue smoke, passed a resolution asking snowmobile manufacturers to offer better mufflers, and less-polluting, quieter four-stroke engines. In some states injuries resulting from snowmobile crashes are a major source of admissions to hospital emergency wards. Snowmobiles capable of automobile speeds frequently are operated by children under the age of 10.

Snowmobiles, the winter version of off-road vehicles, are rapidly becoming a major crisis for a lot of people. It's the cross-country skiers who witness it the most, for the simple reason that they're out there at the same time.

To be sure snowmobiles have their legitimate uses. Neither the Forest Service, Fish+Wildlife agencies, Ski Patrols, Search+Rescue

units, nor many rural dwellers could get along without them today. But on the recreational side, something needs to be done, and it probably should include (1) Strict limits on entry on public lands, including stiff penalties for trespass, (2) Federal regulations on speeds, exhaust pollutants and noise, and (3) State licensure both of the machines and the drivers. I will be developing some proposals for consideration by the Rio Grande Chapter, the Congressional delegation and state legislature, and will welcome any input and/or assistance from similarly concerned persons.

Spring Skiing. Although it's been a very warm winter, in the north of New Mexico the snowpack in favorite areas like Chama and Tres Piedras is deep, the base is firming up nicely, and new snow continues to accumulate. What this means is that Spring skiing will probably be marvelous. It's the time of year for skiing in shorts and T-shirts, and a good time to bring along doggie. On the firm surfaces it's easy walking and little doggie feet won't mess up the tracks. Also Springtime is the time for wine + cheese trips: Balmy days, effortless skiing, and sharing with friends your favorite cheeses, crackers, and vintages. A Spring trip is a natural conclusion to the skiing season, and a celebration of all that's gone before.

(The author is a former Chairman of the Santa Fe Group, a long-time Nordic instructor, a member of the Professional Ski Instructors of America and the U.S. Amateur Ski Instructors' Association, an associate of the International Skiing History Association, and Regional Staff Editor of NordicWest Magazine, published in Bend, Oregon.)

Rio Grande Skiers Conquer Cloudercroft

by Georgia Jannuzzi

Skiers from Los Alamos, Santa Fe, Albuquerque, Truth or Consequences, Las Cruces and El Paso converged on the quaint mountaintop town of Cloudercroft for the All Chapter - 3 day weekend ski January 14th thru 16th. With some help from National Ski Patrol Member, Bill Hull, we found very nice places to ski. There was even a full moon moonlight ski into Atkinson Canyon, which Bill led. Some of the

Las Cruces group went snow camping the night of the moonlight trip. They picked the right evening, as the next night it got very cold and the wind blew. Both downhill skiers and freewheelers did some practicing for half a day at the downhill area. Fireplace relaxation, piano music, good food, great company, fresh air and marvelous scenery were just a few of the things making this trip enjoyable, not to mention the

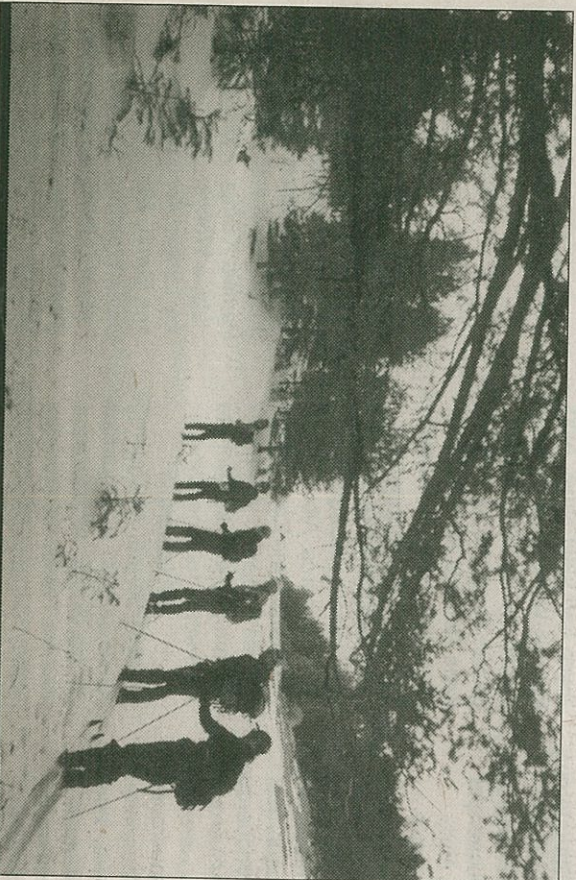
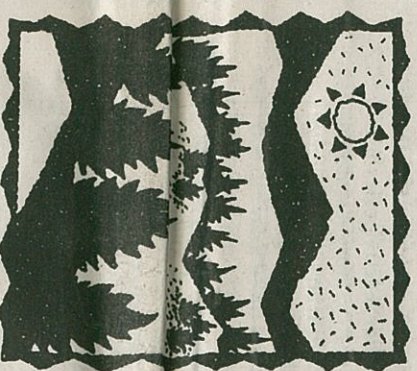
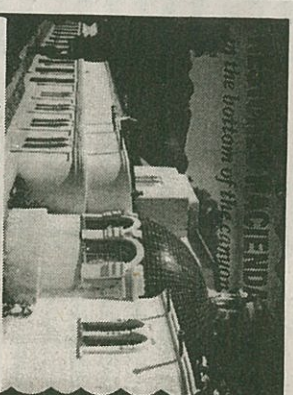


Photo Courtesy of John Turnbull

antelope, ostrich farm, 8 wild turkeys walking up the road toward us and actually seeing them fly, along with several deer directly in front of us. Our last day we took a trip to Sun Spot to do a tour of the National Solar Observatory (a rather interesting place) and then our last ski of the weekend in that same area on a short bit of narrow trail through the trees, an excellent place for trying many techniques, along with some one-legged practice on a downhill area, better known as practicing to be a crane. (We are assured by our Fearless Leader that we need this expertise.) After a tailgate lunch, we bid our farewells to some old and some new friends, and got on the road for our return trip—a little later than we had planned, as time flies when you're having fun. A big thank you to John Turnbull for all the lessons, to those in each chapter who helped coordinate things making this possible for so many, Bill Hull for places to ski, and the folks in Cloudercroft who were so pleasant and helpful to

us.

If you weren't there this year, we sure hope you join us next year.



Hidden in the misty reaches of the Sierra Madres, a little known, only partially explored canyon, deeper and 5 times larger than our Grand Canyon. Called Copper Canyon, inhabited by secretive Tarahumara, solitary cowboys, and team prospectors who plunk down solid silver to buy goods, and leave at first light with heavily laden mules. Hidden on the tropical bottom, below the rapids that cascade over huge boulders in the forgotten village of BATOPILAS, is the fabulously restored Hacienda Chama. Maintained for a few select guests, who appreciate authenticity, privacy and isolation. At the end of an 8 hour rugged cliff-hanging dirt road, the Hacienda's shady courtyard fountain invites relaxation in another era. The life of the village goes on at its own pace, just outside the massive adobe walls.

YOU are invited. Call Judy at our U.S. Office.

1-800-776-3942



We may remember the 1960s for the Beatles and love beads, but environmentalists remember them for another reason as well. It was in the late 1950s and 1960s that a growing citizen movement against growth for growth's sake arose. Across the United States, battles were fought between highway lobbies and citizens fighting to preserve their neighborhoods and parks.

Thirty years later, population growth and new development has reached New Mexico with a vengeance. In Albuquerque, the battle over the proposed Montano Bridge has reached fever pitch, with the bridge serving as an all too perfect symbol of how the city reacts to population growth.

When I lived in Santa Fe, I viewed the Montano Bridge as a neighborhood battle, and didn't really see much significance to it. This view is just what bridge proponents hope for, denigrating its opponents as NIMBYs (not in my backyard) and elitists. The truth about the bridge is quite different.

Albuquerque's Bosque is its treasure. It runs through the heart of the city, providing habitat and shelter for humans and other species. In fact, it is one of the last cottonwood bosques in the Southwest, the remainder having been destroyed through channelization, clearing, and other widespread practices.

Biologists tell us that fragmentation of the Bosque destroys the habitat of the neotropical migratory birds who breed there. This is not a minor impact, because this section of the Bosque was said by a leading expert, Dr. Robert Ohmart of Arizona State University, to "be comparable or equal in species numbers of breeding birds to some of the best [habitat] that has ever been reported." For us, the human users, every bridge introduces the unwelcome presence of noisy cars and trucks and intrusive structures in what should be a sanctuary within the city.

At one time, Albuquerque's growth was to have been "contained" within the east side of the city, with expansion happening towards the south (remember Jim Baca's planned city near the Airport?) The city's latest planning effort would allow growth in a 150 square mile area from the Rio Grande to the Rio Puerco. From the current population of 70,000 people, the westside population is expected to swell to 351,000 people by the year 2100. (City planners are evidently presuming that they will bring their own water with them.) And these numbers don't include the booming city of Rio Rancho, which is within Sandoval County just north of Albuquerque.

With this growth has come a demand for easy automobile access between the east and west sides of the river. Virtually no public transportation exists to help with the commuting headaches. The Montano Bridge is the logical result of this dynamic, but it will do almost nothing to solve the problems that led to its creation. It will be limited to two lanes of traffic, carrying at its maximum 850 cars per hour. The drivers who await the bridge with messianic

zeal have yet to absorb that it will deposit them in an old neighborhood that is already a model of traffic congestion. Because the neighborhood is established, some 70 curb cuts, for access to existing homes, churches, and businesses, will enter Montano Road.

The bridge has evidently become of symbolic importance to Albuquerque's gung-ho developers and to the city's largest paper. For environmentalists, the question is whether the city will destroy everything that stands in the way of development. Columnist and architectural critic V.B. Price put it well:

"If the city can actually build the Montano Road bridge through the historic heart of the North Valley and violate the spirit of the city-county comprehensive plan by desecrating bosque open space and subsidizing sprawl development on the west side, it can do anything anywhere." (*Albuquerque Tribune*, January 6, 1995)

As everyone with a passing familiarity with this issue knows, opposition to the bridge has resulted in a trail of litigation. Unfortunately, the resulting pro-development decisions have implications for environmentalists everywhere in New Mexico. These implications led to Sierra Club volunteer attorney Nick Persampieri (Vice-Chair of the Albuquerque Group ExCom) to prepare and file an amicus curiae brief in the most recent case before the Supreme Court. The legal avenues of redress are now virtually exhausted and the city may begin bulldozing the quarter-mile swath through the Bosque by April 1st. (The symbolism of commemorating the 25th anniversary of Earth Day in this fashion is apparently not perceived.)

Perhaps the most distress-

ing aspect of the city's litigation strategy has been an attack on the plaintiffs who brought this litigation, with a claim against them as individuals for the purported losses to the city from the injunction against it. \$1.7 million are sought! This sort of litigation tactic is usually used by major corporate defendants and is calculated to intimidate all environmental plaintiffs in the state.

Despite all, the cause is not yet concluded. A rally against the bridge was held in a sunny meadow at the corner of Montano and Rio Grande and was attended by 700 people. City councilors continue to question the project and state representative Raymond Sanchez is a staunch opponent of the bridge.

Montano Bridge:

Why We're Still Fighting

by

Denise Fort

Bridge Update

by Stefan Verchinski

Mayor Chavez has now requested a four-lane bridge. This new design request will have to go through the local Middle Rio Grande Council of Governments for approval.

Models of transportation and growth show that this \$26 million project will be at full gridlock by 2015, as will most of our urban transportation system, unless we are able to move 20% of the trips currently done by single occupant vehicles into alternatives. So far, alternatives are not being funded at a level to effectively make the change, given our constrained transportation budget of \$2.2 billion over the next 15 years. With about half of these monies going for

rehabilitation of existing roads, this is also the reason why an expensive tunnel is impractical. The \$26 million would more effectively move people if spent on the programmed direct roadway connection between Coors Blvd. and I-40 East, or for a full West Side Transit system, for Ride pool and improved bikeways connections to the major urban centers and work centers.

What You Can Do: Call the Legislative switchboard in Santa Fe. Oppose both Senate Bill 168 by Maloof and Senate Bill 522 by Wray, both which request money to get upgrades to the two-lane Montano Bridge Proposal. Call the Mayor, City Councilors and write the newspapers.

Electronic Sierra Club--The Sequel

by Bruce Batson bbatson@nowlink.com and Blair Brown blbrn@btlntb@aol.com

Several Sierrans have indicated interest in the Electronic Sierra Club since Part 1 appeared in the last issue. Meanwhile, as more people throughout the community continue to discover the rich potential of on-demand, personal "info linking," the variety and affordability of access services have continued to improve.

At this point, the most likely choice for a Chapter-wide communications forum is an Electronic Bulletin Board (BBS) with discussion forums and E-mail for Club Group and Chapter activities. It would certainly provide us with an invaluable set of tools for Sierrans at all levels of activity. Additionally, through the Internet, we could have access to an incredible array of information from educational, government and commercial organizations is now available beyond the local BBS to help support almost any project.

The BBS will be located with a service provider, probably in Albuquerque who can deliver reliable, low-cost access to the greatest number of members throughout the state. It would be accessed locally by direct

dial, across the state by direct and 800 numbers, and from anywhere via the Internet.

We are also pursuing two other approaches to initiate electronic communications for members of the Rio Grande Chapter: a Mailing List Server and a Home Page on the World Wide Web. These could be deployed sequentially or in tandem.

Mailing List Server

Visualize being able to write a memo and send it out to a whole list of other Sierrans. They can respond to you and the rest of the group so that discussions can take place interactively. The mailing list server is set up by an Internet provider and all of the subscribers can dial in using a modem and send messages via the provider to all members of the list. The list server is a good way for members to exchange ideas and would be a valuable first step.

Home Page on the Web

We'd be on the leading edge with this, folks! There is an exciting new system called Global Hypertext

or the World Wide Web (WWW). Through a front-end software like Lynx or Mosaic, users could access graphical, extremely user friendly and fun gateways to a host of Club information sources, located on our 'Home Page.'

Input needed!

If you have comments, ideas or suggestions about what you would like your Club BBS to be, let us know. Also, send along your experiences and favorite places in cyberspace. If you're already on the Net, here are a few interesting places you can visit:

The White House: <http://www.whitehouse.gov>

Congress: <http://www.congress.gov>

Jeff Bingaman: Senator_Bingaman@bingaman.senate.gov

Sierra Club (national): <http://www.sierraclub.org>

Activist Profile

Norma McCallan

Norma first joined the Sierra Club in Phoenix in 1966 because she thought that the national club was doing a good job on conservation issues, but she wasn't active until 1968 when she discovered that there was a local group. She started going on hikes and participating in other activities and she has never stopped.

Norma dates her passion for hiking and backpacking to a Grand Canyon burro-backpack trip when the leader, John Riker, asked her to come on as the cook when the scheduled cook had to drop out. She said the trip "was just wonderful. John Riker was a very, very good leader. He was a mentor to me on what a hike should be like and what a leader should be like." He inspired Norma to become an outings leader.

At that point Norma ran a branch library and had few two-day weekends, but she went on as many hikes as she could.

Norma moved to Santa Fe in 1975 to work in the State Library where she had a normal work week and could do more hiking. She started leading hikes and became the Outings Chair for the Santa Fe Group "more years ago than I can remember."

At some equally distant point, Norma was elected Chair of the Santa Fe Group, a position she held off and on until the

Chapter ExCom in 1988 and again in 1991. She became Chapter Outings Chair in 1988.

She has been Secretary of the Santa Fe Group and of the Chapter, Program Chair of the Group, Vice Chair of the Group, and who knows what else.

She has been continuously involved in almost every activity of the Chapter and Group. According to Chapter Chair Gwen Wardwell, "We can always count on Norma to walk precincts, make get-out-the-vote phone calls, attend hearings and meetings, write



letters, make calls to elected officials. Recently she has taken on the task of maintaining the telephone tree."

Norma's special backpacking project is to hike the entire Continental Divide trail in Colorado and she has done over 1/2 of the 754 mile trail. She has led backpacks on some segment of this trail most of the last 6 to 8 years. She started at Cumbres Pass and has now gone as far as Independence Pass. She has done some sections with the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the Sierra Club, starting at the Wyoming Border and going South.

For years Norma was both State Southwest Librarian and State Documents Librarian. Now, she is officially State Documents Librarian but spends some time at the Southwest Reference Desk. Norma feels that her job is complementary to her personal interests because, in it, she collects information on environmental issues.

Norma belongs to 15 to 20 environmental organizations and supports them all with dues and other contributions, but the only environmental group for which she does serious volunteer work is the Sierra Club. She feels that it is the only environmental group which does significant work at all--local, state, and national--levels.

Committed Chapter Volunteers Working with Legislators to Aid NM Environment

by Douglas Fraser

At the halfway point (February 21) of the 1995 New Mexico legislative session, we are, like this mild winter, doing fairly well.

Representative G. X. McSherry, rather than reintroducing his takings legislation of last term, has been working with us on a riparian restoration memorial (see article on page 1). This has occasioned a dialogue to begin between the ranching, farming, and environmental communities with the help of new Executive Committee member, Jim Winder.

We have been working with Senator Tom Rutherford on two important fronts: the first is to address concerns regarding the State endangered species program (see article on page 1). This has the potential to be as important an initiative as our hard-rock mining effort of two years ago. Secondly, we hope to resolve differences with industry on a program of governmental inducements for the early reporting of the results of company environmental audits. We hope to meld the regulations of enforcement agencies with existing civil and criminal penalties into a program that could result in environmental "prevention" rather than costly cleaning up after the fact.

Representative Shirley Baca and Senator Elizabeth Stefanics have introduced the Container Reuse and Recycling Act, H567 and S77. We are hopeful. After 22 years, es tiempo.

Two small "takings" bills, SB846 and SB864, have been introduced but have gone nowhere. Two memorials, HM12, introduced by Representative Timothy E. Mack, and SM3, introduced by Senator Joseph Carraro, support construction of a road through Albuquerque's petroglyphs, and we are working to defeat them.

We are working closely with Senator Roman Maes on a battery recycling bill, SB60, and at our request, Representative Janice Picraux introduced the perennial little NEPA Act, HB944.

There are many other issues and good bills such as Senator Elizabeth Stefanics' SB158 and Representative William Porter's HB443, which prohibit the sale of the State's lizards and snakes. There will be a more complete report at the end of the session. Stay tuned.

I particularly want to thank our new lobbying team: Tone Abell, Eleanor Eisenmenger, George Grossman, Robert Holzapfel, Jan Kindel, Courtney White, and, as always, Sue McIntosh. We meet every morning at the legislative coffee shop to divide up the work. We have the best legislative presence ever.

Santa Fe Mountain Ordinance Update

We are very encouraged that the strong, environmentally focused Mountain Ordinance left the Extraterritorial Zoning Commission (EZC) *unchanged and intact*. The EZC could have handed it off to the decisionmaking body, the Extraterritorial Zoning Authority (EZA) with recommendations for significant change and restructuring, but this did not occur.

We feel that the Mountain Ordinance is one of the most significant pieces of environmental legislation ever to affect Santa Fe, and we strongly encourage public participation in the upcoming EZA public hearing process. We believe we can win this, but we need a strong show of community support before the vote occurs in mid-April. Following are key dates in the EZA schedule of events. As Bill Donohue said in his article in the January/February *Sierra*, call Bill at 983-3675 or me at 984-2219 if you would like to help.

March 6: Staff packets available (these compile testimony, recommendations, and other written comments previously submitted)

March 9: Oral comment on staff packets (at a place to be determined)

March 15: Last day to submit written comments on staff packets

March 21: EZA Study Session on Ordinance

April 4: Last day for amendments to be placed in packets distributed to EZA (and available to public)

April 18: EZA Special Public Hearing (and voting) on Ordinance. **STRONG PUBLIC SUPPORT NEEDED.**



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