

Rio Grande Sierran



News of the Rio Grande Chapter Sierra Club
May/June 1995

A Summary of Expanded Endangered Species Protection Negotiated by Chapter and Others

by Sue McIntosh, Conservation Chair

Recently enacted amendments to the New Mexico Wildlife Conservation Act (WCA) were signed into law by Governor Gary Johnson on April 5, 1995. The WCA is the law by which the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish addresses the issue of endangered species of wildlife in this state. (It is different and separate from the federal Endangered Species Act, which is generally administered by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.)

Prior to this year's amendments, which will take effect July 1, the WCA provided only for the listing of species as endangered. It did not provide a mechanism to produce and effectively implement plans designed to achieve the recovery of listed species. Although the statute called for review and update of the endangered species list every two years, and despite departmental recommendations to list several new species as endangered, neither of the last two Game Commission biennial reviews have resulted in updating of the list. The number of endangered

species currently on the WCA list is approximately 121. Few, if any of these species have been documented as recovering, and the department has provided little in terms of strategies and planning for species recovery.

The amendments, together called the Senate Judiciary Committee Substitute for the Senate Conservation Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 371 (SB 371), change several aspects of the WCA as it existed prior to amendment. Major areas of amendment include:

Biologically Based Listing

The process for departmental development of listing recommendations, as well as the Game Commission's final decision on whether to list a new species as threatened or endangered, must now be limited to consideration of biological and ecological data and theory. *Consideration of socio-economic or political factors is specifically excluded.* Although conservationists have always inferentially assumed and argued that the process already requires such a limitation, the WCA did not specifically address the question and the Game Commission's biennial reviews and the department's last two sets of recommendations have been heavily impacted by political and economic factors. With the amendments, if scientific investigation demonstrates that a species is threatened or endangered, the Game Commission must list that species appropriately.

Peer Review

Scientific investigation and analysis which is used to support department recommendations for listing, not listing or delisting a species will be peer-reviewed by qualified professionals from each of the four-year state universities. The process of peer review will track with commonly accepted scientific peer review principles.

Peer reviewers' comments are advisory only. Although not

currently required, according to the department, much of its work is already subject to an informal process of peer review.

Public Interaction and Involvement

Greater emphasis is placed on interaction between the department and the interested and affected public. Public meeting and public hearing processes are established which provide the department an opportunity to inform and educate the public regarding the species at risk and the habitat and other requirements necessary to its survival.

Protection of threatened and endangered species has been hampered by perceived and real socio-economic threats as well as an extraordinary amount of misinformation creating anxiety and

Legislative Roundup

by Doug Fraser, Sierra Club Lobbyist

This session was positive primarily because of support from our legislative friends. The result was that some good things were passed and signed into law, some bad things were killed and some new relationships were initiated.

Endangered Species Bill

We particularly want to thank Senators Tom Rutherford (D-Alb.), Tim Jennings (D.-Roswell) and Shannon Robinson (D.-Alb.) for their work on the amendments to the State's endangered species law. It was Sen. Rutherford's initial leadership which led to the melding of conflicting interests and Sen. Robinson's dedication in the last few days that assured its passage. Thanks also to Sen. Tom Wray (R.-Alb.) for his thoughtful comments and Sen. Tim Jennings for his willingness to strive for an equitable resolution for both the critics and the people who care for them. Thanks also to Reps. J. Roger Madalena (D.-Jemez Pueblo), Richard Knowles (R.-Roswell) and Max Coll (D.-Santa Fe) for their assistance in the House. Of course,

hostility toward species protection. The political voice behind this hostile public now threatens the integrity of the federal Endangered Species Act and it has prevented new listings in this state for years.

The scheme of public meetings and public hearings set forth in SB 371 is structured specifically to be geographically localized as well as unified.

It will encourage all interested and affected parties to be present together at the same meetings and hearings, in the same place, in order to work toward solutions through open debate. This open, unified and local public input scheme was chosen over a bifurcated public hearing process which would have provided

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RIO GRANDE CHAPTER DIRECTORY

Executive Committee

Gwen Wardwell, Chair (505) 984-8860/(w)/438-3060
 George Grossman, Vice Chair (505) 982-1024
 Blair Brown, Alb. Rep., Treasurer (505) 265-3231
 Susan Gorman, Council Del. (505) 265-3231
 Barbara H. Johnson, Santa Fe Rep. (505) 466-4935
 Sue McIntosh (505) 466-2001
 Ted Mertig, Council Alternate (915) 852-3011
 Richard Rheder, El Paso Rep. (915) 544-5659
 Mike Seidensticker, Membership (915) 544-5741
 Marianne Thaelel, So. NM Rep. (505) 522-3421
 Jim Winder (505) 267-4227
 John Wright, Secretary (505) 247-4353

Issue Chairs

Conservation—Sue McIntosh (505) 466-2001
 Vice Conservation—Peter Galvin (505) 538-0961
 Diamond Bar—Ted Mertig (915) 852-3011
 Energy & Trans.—Ken Hughes (505) 474-0550
 Fed. Facilities/DOD—M. Thaelel (505) 522-3421
 Fed. Facilities/DOE—Jay Sorenson (505) 884-4314
 Fundraising—Ford Robbins (505) 466-7865
 Inner City Outing—Richard Rheder (915) 544-5659
 National Parks—Open
 Oil & Gas—Nick Webster (505) 325-2366
 Outings—Norma McCallan (505) 471-0005
 Petroglyph Nat. Mon.—Ike Eastvold (505) 255-7679
 Political—Ron Grobeck (505) 296-0944
 Rangeland Issues—Roger Peterson (505) 983-7559
 Water—Eric Ames (505) 266-6842
 Vickie Gabin (505) 986-3884
 Wilderness—John Wright (505) 247-4353
 George Grossman (505) 982-1024
 Wildlife—Sue McIntosh (505) 466-2001

Legislative Lobbyist
 Douglas Fraser

(505) 662-5204

Rio Grande Sierran
 Production Manager—B. Johnson

(505) 466-4935

Sierra Club Addresses:

Albuquerque Group 207 San Pedro Ave. NE Albuquerque, NM 87108 (505) 265-5506
 So. New Mexico Group P.O. Box 3705 UPB Las Cruces, NM 88003 (505) 522-3421

El Paso Group 800 S. Piedras P.O. Box 9191 El Paso, TX 79983 (915) 532-9845
 Southwest Regional Ofc. 516 E. Portland St. Phoenix, AZ 85004 (602) 254-9330 FAX: 258-6533

Santa Fe Group 440 Cerrillos Rd. Santa Fe, NM 87501 (505) 983-2703
 Sierra Club National 730 Polk St. San Francisco, CA 94109 (415) 776-2211

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WE GET LETTERS

Dear Editor:

Please include a copy of this postcard, front and back, in the next *Sierran*. The idea for it came to me recently as I struggled with yet another call to write a letter on an environmental concern. I think this postcard meets three objectives:

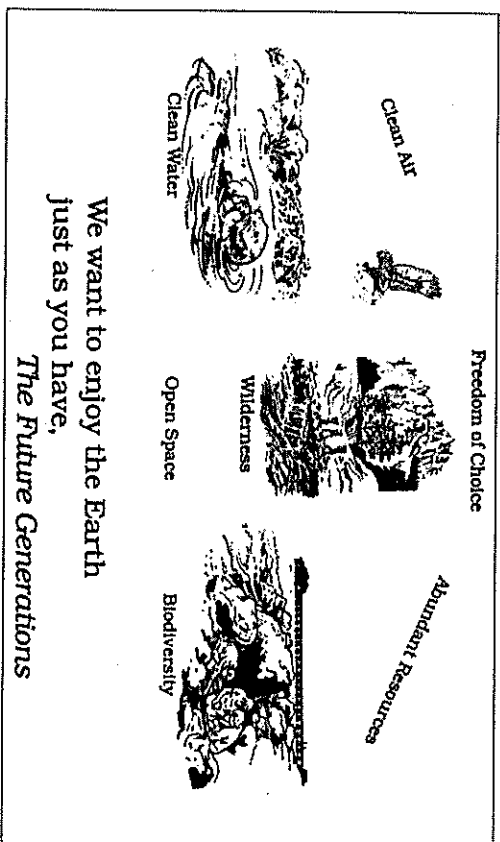
- 1) catches the attention of the reader and makes an impression;
- 2) conveys an overarching message; and
- 3) is quick to write and guarantees conciseness.

According to last month's *Sierran* and several other reported surveys, the vast majority of people polled are against any attempt to roll

back environmental protection laws. I assume 100% of the Sierra Club membership feels that way. Local, state and Federal elected officials need to hear that message, convincingly and often, from the grassroots level population, not just from lobbyists.

Maybe this comes across as having a high opinion of my idea, but I want to urge people to try whatever means they can to communicate their beliefs to their elected representatives. Another effective means is to use the Working Assets Long Distance service, which encourages such communication by providing free phone calls to members of Congress.

Ralph Wrons



Susan and Ralph Wrons sound off,
 For Leah and Evan and their children's children

Printed by High Country Printing & Graphics
 By Ralph Wrons 1995

Name as Registered Voter (per Permanent Voting Day Log)

Dear Editor:

Negotiating with the New Mexico Farm & Livestock Bureau, who have vowed in the past to gut the endangered species act, must have been a tricky endeavor for the Sierra Club lobbyists. For it is certainly harder to negotiate with people who get rural New Mexico riled up over something to fear, in this case nature, than try to improve both farm incomes and the environment.

What are farming's real issues? Family farms continually get squeezed out by agribusiness. Chemicals suggested by agricultural extension agents have poisoned our precious groundwater, and sanctioned planting techniques have caused topsoil to wash away. High priced farming shies away young people from the honorable practice, and debt-ridden farmers can't afford to get off commodity program subsidies. And 80% of New Mexico's water is used by farms, with increasing amounts pulled up from the ground, causing soil-ruining salt deposits. But instead of addressing these real issues, the Farm Bureau nationwide wants to gut regulations preserving flood-controlling wetlands and protecting some of God's more vulnerable creatures.

The Farm Bureau purports to represent 4 million farmers, but in fact only one-quarter of its members farm: 75% join to get cheap insurance rates. With massive backing from agribusinesses, it has become the nation's largest anti-environmental organization. Not only does it fight clean water, air pollution and wildlife protection legislation, it opposes the Voting Rights Act, the Delaney Clause outlawing carcinogens in food, and the World Court. What it does not like to talk about are the environmental consequences of massive uses of chemicals in farming. Derided by the Farm Bureau are time-tested methods of manure fertilizers and crop rotation. Such "bad old days" farming in fact

provides a good living for many small farmers in New Mexico, through direct sales of organic produce to customers at farmers' markets.

As if to avoid common sense and common ground by seeking ways to make farming both environmentally compatible and profitable, the Farm Bureau instead pits farmers against environmentalists. Its favorite way to do that is to categorize environmental protection as an assault on private property. Protecting wetlands, outlawing carcinogenic pesticides or saving a species on the brink of extinction, while going through an environmental review process initiated by President Nixon, is in their view a taking of private property. The Bureau opposes watershed protection, theorizing that farms would become less valuable were they required to stop polluting waterways. State endangered species programs are no good, for they would restrict one's "right" to destroy natural habitat. And the Farm Bureau wants ranchers reimbursed for any damage done by wildlife to grazing lands, even if leased from the government.

New Mexicans need to know that the Farm Bureau is using private property arguments as a back door method to gut sensible policies designed to protect our air, water and wildlife. It's ironic that those who scream the loudest about governmental takings are those happiest to receive government handouts. In fact, it is estimated that the federal government has contributed as much as 20%, or \$110 billion, to the value of the nation's farms. Perhaps if Farm Bureau members take a pledge to reduce their farms' values by that amount, their takings efforts would be treated with more seriousness. Absent that, the Sierra Club must tread carefully when negotiating with those whose interests are not exactly that of the bulk of environmentalists.

Sarah Grant
 P.O. Box 477

The last 25 years have produced scores of environmental laws and regulations. Some in Congress now suggest that there are too many laws and regulations and that they are infringing on business and private property rights, with little success for all of their cost and inconvenience.

If the last 25 years have shown us anything, they have shown us that that characterization of environmental safeguards is completely and totally untrue.

In fact, the evidence is that most environmental programs are not only effective but affordable.

Since the first Earth Day, we have asked for and received from our legislators protections from the consequences of dirty air, dirty water, toxic waste, lead in paint, and asbestos, to name a few, and we have made attempts, many successful, to save our natural resources, including wildlife and wilderness, from depletion.

Federal Legislation

The list of federal legislation from which we benefit is enormous, all enacted within the last 25 years:

—The Clean Water Act, the objective of which is to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of our nation's waters.

—The Clean Air Act, which establishes and enforces air quality standards "to protect public health with an adequate margin of safety."

—National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), which requires that environmental values be given consideration in decisionmaking.

—The Toxic Substances Control Act, which requires the EPA to test for and protect the public from substances that present an unreasonable risk of injury to public health or the environment.

—The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act or "Superfund," which allows the President to remove substances which present imminent and substantial danger to public health and welfare and to institute long-term remedial action to protect the public.

—The Endangered Species Act, which seeks to preserve endangered and threatened species.

—The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, which provides standards for hazardous and solid waste disposal.

—The Coastal Zone Management Act, which seeks to preserve, protect, and restore the resources of the coastal zone.

Dramatic Results

The result of such legislation has been dramatic. Just this year, for example, the bald eagle has been "downgraded" from endangered to "threatened." There were only 417 pairs of American bald eagles known to be nesting in the U.S. in 1963—there were 4,016 pairs in 1993. Most of the species protected by the first list of endangered species remain viable in the wild—some, like the

whale are rebounding from what was thought to be certain extinction.

New cars in 1970 emitted 100 times more pollutants than cars this year. The pollution-control devices which achieve this reduction cost only about \$400 per vehicle. In the same amount of time, improved fuel efficiency means that today's car burns about 300 fewer gallons of gasoline annually than the 1970 model, thus offsetting the cost of the pollution-control device.

In 1970, only a quarter of river miles met federal standards for fishing and swimming. Today about 60 percent do. Several large bodies of water, such as Puget Sound and Chesapeake Bay, which were facing biological death, have been showing steady improvement, with some resumption of fishing and swimming.

Ocean dumping of untreated sewage by major cities ended in 1992.

Lead has been eliminated as an air pollutant; carbon monoxide is down sharply. Sulfur emissions have fallen by a third since 1970. Release of chlorofluorocarbons, which deplete the atmosphere's ozone layer, have almost been eliminated. Emissions of airborne toxics have fallen a third in the last five years alone.

Systematic municipal recycling began about a decade ago, when the national annual recycling rate was about 3 percent. Today, it is about 22 percent. There were some 3700 U.S. curbside collection programs in 1993, including one in Santa Fe (where I live), compared to just 600 five years before. Most are affordable and financially successful. As a result, even though consumer consumption has continued to increase, the amount of material sent to municipal landfills has been declining since the late 1980s. Imagine what could be achieved if we reduced consumption by even a small percentage!

Impact on New Mexico

Some federal regulations have had significant impacts on New Mexico's natural resources. For example, the 1980 New Mexico Forest Service Wilderness Expansion bill designated an additional 700,000 acres of wilderness and wilderness study areas in New Mexico. The Bisti and De-Na-Zin Wilderness areas in San Juan Basin were preserved. The El Malpais National Monument and Wilderness bill was enacted. The Petroglyph National Monument was established, protecting Albuquerque's West Mesa petroglyphs. The Jemez National Recreation Area was designated, protecting over 58,000 acres of the Jemez from stripmining and other inappropriate uses. Much of the Sandia and Manzano Mountains as well as much of the Bandelier and Carlsbad backcountry are now in wilderness.

New Mexico Legislation

During these same 25 years, New Mexico has followed the federal lead, and in some cases gone beyond it, in protecting our health, safety, and environment.

own Clean Air and Clean Water Acts, helping to protect our most precious resources. The New Mexico Clean Air Act helped clean up emissions from the Four Corners Power Plants and, to a large measure, responsible for the clean air we take for granted in Northern New Mexico today.

The New Mexico Tire Recycling Act makes it easier to remove a major waste component from landfills and to create useful products from old tires.

The New Mexico Solid Waste Act is one of the most progressive landfill siting and operations laws in the country.

The New Mexico Hazardous Waste Act provides for hazardous waste management and control. The New Mexico Petroleum Storage Clean-up Act of 1988 adopted regulations more stringent than the federal ones to monitor and mitigate underground storage leaks and spills.

The Radiation Protection Act established regulations for radioactive waste management. The 1986 New Mexico Hazardous Chemical and Information Act mandated emergency planning and notification to deal with releases of extremely hazardous substances.

The New Mexico Occupational Health and Safety Act protects the life and health of New Mexicans at work and keeps them on the job.

The New Mexico Mining Reclamation Act, one of the best state mining laws in the nation, attempts to minimize the damage to the land from the operation of hardrock mines.

The New Mexico Subdivision law assures adequate water and waste disposal for medium to large subdivisions.

The Wildlife Conservation Act provides for the management of nongame species. The Endangered Species law, just amended in the 1995 Legislature, provides for listing and recovery plans for threatened and endangered species.

The Natural Lands Protection Act provides a mechanism to acquire significant natural habitats for threatened and endangered species that occur on the private land of willing sellers.

A Long Way to Go

We've come a long way in 25 years. But there is still a long way to go. As long as we increase consumption, we will only be playing "catch up" with our pollution problems, and we will eventually deplete all of our natural resources and much of those of the world. In other words, we need continued and expanded environmental safeguards, not less.

We hope you will sign the Environmental Bill of Rights on page 16, to let your elected representatives know that you believe that every American has the right to a safe and healthy environment and that you oppose any measures that would roll back the environmental progress of the last 25 years.

Please also see our "War on the Environment Update" on page 14.

Earth Day 25: the Good News

a Message from Chair Gwen Wardwell



Join Us at ExCom Meeting,
June 3-4

The Chapter's next Executive and Conservation Committee meeting will be June 3 and 4, 1995 at New Buffalo Bed & Breakfast, Arroyo Hondo, NM. All members are welcome.

For information, call Gwen Wardwell at 984-8860.



Beneficial Settlement with PNM over OLE in Jeopardy

by
Barbara
Johnson

A potentially beneficial settlement of an action before the Public Utility Commission (PUC) regarding PNM's proposed Ojo Line Extension (OLE) may be derailed. San Ildefonso Pueblo has rescinded its agreement to have a PNM right-of-way on its property as a result of opposition from the community of El Rancho. Without this right-of-way, the PUC may end up approving the original plan for the line which went through the Jemez Mountains.

The History

PNM proposed a 345 kilovolt (kv) transmission line through the Jemez Mountains to, as they put it, "cover a gap in our transmission system and give New Mexico electric customers more reliable service." The line would have gone through the mountains to Los Alamos, eventually connecting up with the existing Ojo Line from the Four Corners power plants (see Map below).

The Environmental Impact Statement for the project was final in 1986. Several environmental groups, including the Sierra Club, challenged it in federal court. In 1992, the U. S. Court of Appeals upheld the validity of the EIS, which could have allowed construction of the project.

In 1991, however, a coalition of citizens (Save the Jemez, Sierra Club, All Indian Pueblo Council, Citizens for Utility Responsibility and Efficiency, San Juan and Jemez Pueblos), along with the Attorney General's office, intervened in an action before the PUC, challenging the project. In 1992, four months of hearings were held. Our experts testified that there was no need for the project and that it would have an irreversible impact on the Jemez Mountains and on the Pueblo quality of life, in particular on Pueblo religion. There was evidence that there were less damaging and more cost-effective alternatives to the project, including alternative routes, local generation, conservation, and demand management.

In January 1993, its Board, and new President and CEO

Benjamin Montoya, instructed PNM to again look at alternatives to OLE.

The PNM Rebuild Alternative

Negotiations have been underway for the last two years between PNM, the Sierra Club, the Attorney General and Plains Electric Generation and Transmission Cooperative, to come up with an alternative that everyone could live with. And that had been achieved: the PNM Rebuild Alternative (PRA).

In December 1994, PNM negotiated rights-of-way with San Ildefonso, Santa Clara, and San Juan Pueblos to rebuild an existing Plains 115kv line which goes through those pueblos' property. All parties had stipulated to this alternative in the PUC action.

In general, the new 345kv line would track the old 115kv line. The 26-mile line would originate at the Ojo substation located northwest of Hernandez and connect up with the Norton substation west of Tesuque. The corridor would be widened from 50 to 150 feet in order to lessen impacts from electromagnetic fields (EMFs). Houses which are currently in or near the existing corridor would be condemned and the residents relocated, so that they would not be adversely affected by the EMFs. However, in some areas near the Ojo substation, the routing could actually be moved away from residences. This would result in fewer persons being impacted from the new line than from the existing line.

The new transmission towers would be taller than the existing lines, but there would be fewer of them. The new towers are proposed to be single poles, constructed of the most expensive corten steel in populated areas, because corten steel is designed to rust to a brownish color which blends into the countryside, thus having a visually benign impact. In unpopulated areas, the towers would be wooden "H" frames, as are currently there. The towers were also to be designed to minimize EMF effects.

In return for everyone's agreement regarding rights-of-way on Indian land, PNM, Plains, and the Department of Energy agreed to avoid future electrical development in the mountains. PNM also agreed to restore the mountain areas damaged by preliminary construction for OLE. The Pueblos were to determine for themselves the cultural impact of the power line, rather than have an outsider try to, as was done in the EIS. \$12 million was to be paid in compensation for the rights-of-way. Another \$1.2 million was to be set up as a trust fund to be used to protect the mountains from future electric development.

Where We Are Now

All parties agreed that this alternative provided a permanent solution which solved electrical need without destroying environmentally or religiously sensitive areas.

When the community of El Rancho heard about this alternative,

fearing its impact on their local environment and on their property values. By bombarding San Ildefonso Pueblo members with exaggerated information about the impacts of the PRA, they caused enough controversy within the Pueblo to cause San Ildefonso to rescind its right-of-way agreement.

There is to be a Prehearing Hearing on May 8 before the PUC, which was to have set up a procedural schedule for the PRA, i.e., setting up public hearings, giving notice, setting intervention deadlines, etc. Now it is unclear what may happen. Negotiations are still underway to convince San Ildefonso to honor its original right-of-way agreement. If the Commission believes that it is still possible to save this settlement, they may give the parties more time. If they believe that this agreement cannot be saved, they may proceed to decide the case, and perhaps allow PNM to build the original OLE project through the Jemez Mountains.

Steve Michel, the attorney who has donated his time to represent the Sierra Club and the environmental and pueblo coalition throughout the PUC action, is hopeful that San Ildefonso Pueblo will reconsider. "This is a good resolution to this situation, better than we could have hoped for back when we started the PUC action. We hope that the Pueblo will see that and reinstate its agreement to the right-of-way for the alternative."

Supporters of PRA Alternative to OLE

Save the Jemez

Rio Grande Chapter, Sierra Club

All Indian Pueblo Council

New Mexico Attorney General

Public Service Company of N.M.

Dunigan Intervenor

El Paso Electric Company

Los Alamos County

N.M. Industrial Energy

Consumers

Texas New Mexico Power Co.

U.S. Department of Energy

San Juan Pueblo

Santa Clara Pueblo

Citizens for Utility Responsibility

and Efficiency

National Audubon Society

Sangre de Cristo Audubon Society

East Fork Preservation Coalition

Light Hawk

Carson Forest Watch

Santa Fe National Forest Watch

Public Forestry Foundation

Forest Guardians

N. M. Environmental Law Center

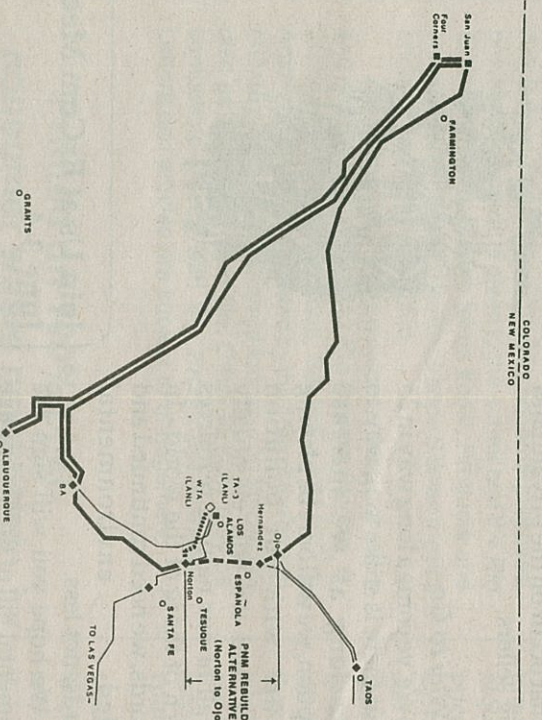
N. M. Conference of Churches

Western Area Power

Administration

Don Hancock

Joan Chernock



TRANSMISSION SYSTEMS MAP INVOLVING
PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW MEXICO'S
REBUILD ALTERNATIVE

Electronic Sierra Club - We're Making Progress

by Bruce Batson bhatson@novalink.com & Blair Brown bblairb@aol.com

The last issue of the *Sierran* discussed some projects in the works that could facilitate communications between Chapter members. Mentioned were a Bulletin Board System (BBS), e-mail, a mailing list, and/or a World Wide Web (Web) server on the Internet.

In this issue we are pleased to announce the presence of our electronic mailing list available to club members. The "list" is a forum for the input of ideas, questions and comments which are received by list subscribers who subsequently may respond with ideas, questions, comments or suggestions of their own.

To become a member of the 'list,' please e-mail either bhatson@novalink.com or bblairb@aol.com. Your e-mail address will be added to the list and once it is confirmed, you will then begin receiving

messages from other members and can send messages to be read and responded to by other participating club members. Correspondence to the list from members or others may be addressed to: sierra@technet.um.org.

Also, hopefully by the middle of May, we will have a Web 'home page' that will present current information about the Chapter and its groups, Club bulletins and issues, as well as links to related remote sites both within and outside of the region. To access the Web home page, you will need either a TCP/IP stack and a browser (such as Trumpet Winsock for Windows, Netscape or Mosaic) with a SLIP/PPP connection or a dial up connection to an Internet service provider with its own browser software. Alternatively, subscribers to Prodigy or (soon) America Online and Comuserve will be able to surf the Web through these services. When we are up and running, we will post a message on the 'list' with instructions.

Gatherings: Where Next?

by Susan Gorman

So far folks on the East side of the Sandias, Farmington, the Gallup area and on Albuquerque's West Side have responded to our offer to come anywhere in the Rio Grande Chapter to help with a Gathering. If you live too far from Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Las Cruces or El Paso to come to the regular meetings, just call us and Blair and I will help you to arrange a special Gathering in your area.

The first one, East of the Sandias, happened on a beautiful sunny Sunday in March at Nick Persampieri's house in Cedar Crest. Twenty Sierrans came to share concerns about the rapid development happening in the East Mountain area as a result of people escaping Albuquerque. We shared ideas and promised to keep working to build a strong network of activists to provide comments to the County Planning Commission.

We hit the road early on April 1 to head northwest for the next Gathering. After a stop to hike on Cuba Mesa, we drove on and met John and Bic Hamilton at the Farmington Civic Center in time to find the room and set out literature. A dozen folks came and we talked about the Animas La Plata Project, a convoluted system to move water from its natural flows to other places. It didn't take long to realize that it is hard to keep the players, interests and bedfellow's straight. But it is clear that the environmental view is essential in this debate and we encouraged the Northwest Sierrans to use this as their mobilizing issue. We also talked about the delicate balance required to deliver the conservation message to a community where a lot of the people work for logging, mining, oil, gas, agriculture and energy generation companies.

Then there's the fun stuff like outings and potlucks and picnics to bring folks of like mind together. This is just as important as activism,

Notes from Transportation Chair--Stefan Verchinski

Call to action: Montano Bridge

This issue should still be in the press as you get the Sierran. If the alternative study envisioned by the city council is brought forward you should call the City Council and express your appreciation (768-3100). Points to focus on are: we need alternative transportation and land-use scenarios modeled to reduce congestion and provide for a more economical and livable city.

The Sierra Club is on record as opposing the entire bridge proposal as another project which will fragment the Bosque natural area and not contribute to the long-term transportation solutions needed for our growing metropolitan region.

The I-40 Bikeway - Five Years to A Success! - But more help is needed.

A grade-separated-from-the-freeway bike trail for commuting and recreational purposes, from Tramway to 98th Street, was unanimously approved by the Council of Governments to be placed on the Bikeways Master Plan. Imagine taking only 5 to 10 minutes more to get around while touring through our Urban Forests and Parks. If you have been to Boulder, Colorado, Madison, Wisconsin or Davis, California you know that you always wanted to see such facilities here.

The Master Plan assures that this bikeway must be considered in all work by the State Highway Dept. along I-40. We were also successful in receiving a \$50,000 immediate appropriation for an Environmental Assessment.

What you can now do. Call me and get on my list of activists who want to help on defining what this bikeway should look like (888-1370). While the environmental assessment is being completed, we also need to write the Governor, State Capitol, Santa Fe, NM 87501 (who is a bicycle supporter) and ask that he make it a priority for funding in the State Highway and Transportation Dept.

Uptown Again!! (Area bounded by McAnall, Pennsylvania, I-40 and San Pedro is up for Sector Plan Review)

Imagine an Urban Center with great access by both bicyclists and pedestrians, where, if you should work there, your employer provides a small workout facility with showers and clothing lockers, and storage for your bicycle. It can happen. Imagine an Urban Center with Co-housing Garden Apartments and other housing and supporting businesses available nearby to enable you to walk to work, do most of your day-to-day activities in walking distance, and close to a Transit Center that enables you to go to UNM or Downtown without having to get in your car. It can happen. Maybe.

Or it can develop into a Suburban Center that is not in keeping with our City Long Range Comprehensive Plan with poor quality

especially in communities where the term "environmentalist" may be a red flag to many people.

The next day, we headed across the San Juan River and South to Gallup with a brief stop to marvel at Shiprock and the amazing geology this region. In Gallup, we met Barbara Leonard and Barbara Brandt who had arranged the meeting place and supplied plenty of great munchies. Another dozen folks came from western New Mexico communities to talk about the Theatre Missile Defense tests at Ft. Wingate, clear cut logging in the Cibola National Forest near McGaffey and plans to extract Uranium "Yellow Cake" from sites near Church Rock and Crownpoint. We were impressed by the knowledge of the Sierrans and appalled by the severity of the issues they face in this part of the state. Their next meeting is already set for Sunday, April 30th.

We headed home on I-40 admiring the awesome clouds and stunning red rock, feeling happy to have made so many new friends and optimistic that together we can all protect this land.

The next Gathering was closer to home: Albuquerque's West Mesa, at the foot of the escarpment. Stan Kauchak hosted an Easter potluck where we talked about the scary stuff happening in Washington, DC and signed up volunteers to write letters, be watchdogs and participate in the phone tree. The results were gratifying!

So, where next? Socorro, Roswell, Silver City, Carlsbad, Raton, Taos? If you want to help organize a Gathering in your area, just contact me, Susan Gorman, by phone at 505-265-3231, fax at 505-256-0373, Email at bblairb@aol.com or snailmail at 2296B Wyoming NE #272, Albuquerque, NM 87112. We're ready to be on the road again!

architecture, auto-oriented, inefficient for transit, and with a lack of public places or community identity.

The Environmental Planning Commission just had hearings on Uptown. The Sierra Club had no one to deliver comments that we had because of a competing hearing. We need members who have a background or interest in Urban Planning or Design and Architecture to help review and comment on this plan. Final Review should come up in the next two to three months.

The current draft plan still has weaknesses. It doesn't support the employment and housing numbers necessary to support transit. It does not have an extensive enough Bicycle Plan Element to allow for safe circulation and bike parking. It does not define enough public spaces and how the pedestrian plan for the area needs to be developed and financed. It doesn't speak to the need to eliminate one lane or two from Louisiana to make it more pedestrian friendly.

In a model Ecological Urban Center some readings suggest that square footage should be organized as follows: Main Employment Offices and Support 50%, Housing 34%, Anchor scale grocery, retail and banks 5%, Post Office and Government Offices 5%, Community Day Care, Fire and Police, Community Center, 3-4%, and the balance in entertainment.

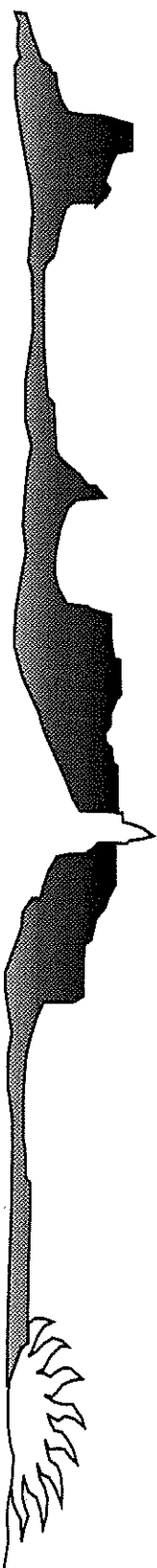
What You can Do - Watch for the Uptown development review dates in the newspaper. Call me (888-1370) if you want to go to the meetings and make a statement for Urban Ecology. Call a City Councillor (768-3100) and request that the land uses support transit, bikes, pedestrians.

Clean Air and Transportation - Why we oppose the City Finding us in Air Quality Compliance. We really aren't.

The Sierra Club testified in front of the City Air Board against our redesignation as an attainment city for Carbon Monoxide.

We found out that city tests conducted recently showed we would have been in non-attainment at least twice this last air pollution season. The reason why we were not was that the city had removed the Uptown Air Station doing the EPA monitoring in 1985. If EPA finds us in attainment, the city stands to lose millions of dollars of funding for alternative transportation from the Feds. Further, Federal Highway Funds can continue to be released for new roadway capacity with no restriction.

What to Do. Write the US Environmental Protection Agency, Air Quality Administrator, Region 6, 1445 Ross Ave., Suite 1200, Dallas, Texas, 75202. Request that the application for redesignation be denied. According to Federal Policy on Redesignation, Line 39, one of the several core provisions is #3, "Evidence of a monitoring network adequate to provide verification of continued compliance." State that as a resident who frequents Uptown for shopping, you are concerned that the city is not sufficiently monitoring the area to protect our public health. Ask for their response. Please send a copy of your letter to our Sierra Club Office so we can place it on file.



May 15 General Meeting

Public Lands Grazing Reform -- Why It Must Happen

The May Membership Meeting features John Horning of Forest Guardians, a Santa Fe-based conservation organization, which focuses primarily on issues involved with preserving ancient forests and the wildlife and/or people native to those forest ecosystems.

Since joining Forest Guardians after a two and a half year tenure with the National Wildlife Federation, John has drawn on his public lands policy experience to form a Watershed Protection Program, whose main objective is to establish cattle-free public lands in the Southwest.

John will present a 30 minute slide show on the effects of livestock grazing on public lands and will describe the ecologic and economic costs of this government-subsidized practice. The focus is on maintaining, better yet improving, the biologic integrity of Southwest public lands and why this form of federal welfare is just as much in need of reform as are the other, more publicized welfare programs.

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.

THERE WILL BE NO GENERAL MEETING IN JUNE. THE NEXT GENERAL MEETING WILL BE MONDAY, JULY 17.

Classified Ads

Coordinator - ABQ Group Phone Tree
Duties include:
Adding new folks, filling vacancies, and mailing letters to participants.
Previous experience helpful but not necessary.
Compensation: Good feelings & lots of new friends

Activist Assistants
MANY POSITIONS AVAILABLE!
Duties include:
Calling other activists about alerts, writing letters to Senators, Congressmen, Editors, City Councilors, and assisting the Issue Chair to develop strategies & tactics to protect Albuquerque's environment.
Previous experience helpful but not necessary.
Compensation: Connection to the Planet

Watch Dogs
MANY POSITIONS AVAILABLE!
Duties include:

ALBUQUERQUE GROUP PICNIC

When: Sunday June 11, 1995

Where: Oak Flats Picnic Ground
Take 1 - 40 East to Exit 173, go South on Rt 337 (some know it as South 14) for 8.8 miles to Rt 413, go left (East) 1 mile to entrance.

Time: 1:30 PM until whenever ???
Cooking will get underway about 3:30 PM. Feasting will begin around 4 PM

Activities: Hike, play Frisbee, Volleyball, Horseshoes, etc

What you should bring:

A main dish, salad or dessert that will feed 6-8 people
Any meats you wish to cook (the club will supply charcoal)
All your own cups (no glass, please), plates, and utensils. (We're trying to minimize use of disposable items)
Folding chairs

The Club will provide:

Soft drinks, Ice, Charcoal, plus cooking utensils, Condiments (ketchup, mustard, pickles, salsa, etc)
CAN YOU HELP AND BRING THE FOLLOWING? LET US KNOW!
Coolers
Coleman stoves to help keep food warm.
Sports equipment (volleyball net & ball, horseshoes)
Music - guitar, banjo, tuba !!
ANY QUESTIONS? CALL RHODA, 271-4932

CALENDAR

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

May 3 Mexican Wolf Coalition, 7:30 PM
May 10 Deadline for agenda items for Group Excom. Call Susan Gorman
May 15 Group Excom, 7:00 PM
May 22 General Meeting, UNM Law School, Rm 2401, 7:30 PM
May 24 Deadline for agenda items for Conservation Committee Call Richard Barish, 247-8079
May 29 Conservation Committee Meeting, 7:00 PM
June 3 & 4 Chapter Executive & Conservation Committees, New Buffalo Bed & Breakfast, Arroyo Hondo, NM. Call Susan Gorman, 265-3231, for info

June 7 Mexican Wolf Coalition, 7:30 PM
June 7 Deadline for agenda items for Group Excom. Call Susan Gorman

June 11 Albuquerque Group Annual Picnic. See notice above.
June 12 Group Excom, 7:00 PM
June 15 Deadline for articles for July/August *Rio Grande Sierran*
June 21 Deadline for agenda items for Conservation Committee. Call Richard Barish, 247-8079

Reading papers & clipping environmental articles, listening to radio & watching TV for pieces on environmental issues, attending public meetings and hearings, reporting to Conservation Chair.
NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED! We will train you.
Compensation: Heightened awareness

Administrative Assistant - ABQ Group Office
2-3 POSITIONS AVAILABLE
Duties include:
Opening mail, taking phone messages, replying to or referring callers, and sending membership packets to potential members.
NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED! We will train you.
Compensation: Gratefulness of Excom and Issue Chairs

These jobs are not difficult. Any time you can spare (even as little as a couple of hours a week) will go a long way to improve the effectiveness of the Club.

Contact Susan Gorman at 265-3231

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	Blair Brown	265-3231
Treasurer	Richard Barish	247-8079
	Ron Grotbeck	296-0944
	Irv Karp	271-4932
	Jay Sorenson	884-4314
	Stefan Verchinski	888-1370

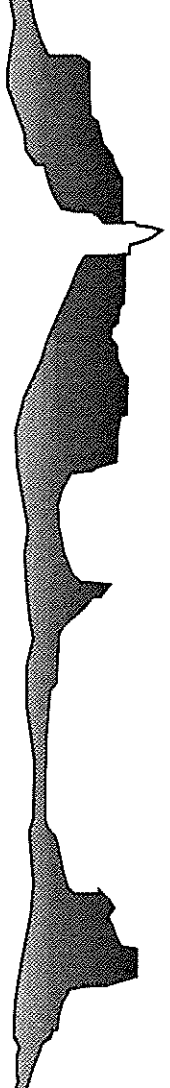
The Albuquerque Group of the Sierra Club depends entirely on the efforts of volunteers. To help our efforts, call the following issue coordinators:

ADMINISTRATION

Office Organizer	Leslie Lazaga	296-0944
Books/Calendars	Larry Compton	899-0679
Information Technology	Bruce Batson	828-2570
	bbatson@novalink.com	
	Blair Brown	265-3231
	bblairb@aol.com	
Membership Newsletter	OPEN	
Outings	OPEN	
	David Morrison	344-8693
	Stan Kauchak	839-4301
Phone Tree	OPEN	
Political Chair	Ron Grotbeck	296-0944
Programs	OPEN	

CONSERVATION

Conservation Chair	Richard Barish	247-8079
Air Quality	Heidi Fleischmann	260-1217
Bosque	Richard Barish	247-8079
East Mountain Education	Nick Persampieri	281-7845
	Ann Beyke	265-3087
	Teresa Adams	880-0737
Energy	Ralph Wrons	275-0856
Mining	OPEN	
Petroglyphs/Westside Population	Ike Eastvold	255-7679
Public Lands	Michelle Meaders	266-8823
Transportation	Barbara Stone	265-5304
Waste/Recycling	Stefan Verchinski	888-1370
Water	OPEN	
Wildlife/Endangered Species	Jack Pinney	293-3405
Wildlife/Mexican Wolf	OPEN	
	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. You must bring appropriate shoes, clothes, pack, rain gear, and water.

Exploratory Hikes These hikes are awesome and explore in detail New Mexico's backcountry. The area, roads and routes may change due to conditions, rumors, and interest. The rating given an exploratory hike should represent the baseline difficulty--you can finish a moderate hike at a moderate level. Exploratory hikes may have challenges that include exposure, scrambling, or caving. These options can make the hike strenuous. The leader will judge route acceptability and provide help to individuals. All exploratory hikes are off-trail, expected to last all day, time of return is an approximation; the leader has not previously hiked the entire route or has not been in the area ever before.

Sat May 6 Strenuous Miles: 14 Car: 125
Elevation: 3500ft

Monte Largo Canyon Hike, Manzano Mountains
We will attempt to follow an old Forest Service trail out of use for a long time up a pretty canyon on the west side of the Manzanos. We will be scrambling and bushwhacking. Don't expect to be back to the cars by sundown. Expect hot weather. Bring rain gear, boots, water, jacket, lunch, and sunscreen. Meet at UNM Astronomy and Physics parking lot at the corner of Yale and Lomas at 8:00 A.M.
Leader: Bill Anderson 265-7460

Sat May 13 Moderate-Strenuous
Nogales Canyon, North of Cuba, Exploratory Hike
Richard is guiding this one. Nogales Canyon is about 20 miles north of Cuba in the Santa Fe Forest. We will check out the Indian ruins that this canyon is known for. This is an exploratory hike with plenty of scrambling. Bring lunch and a jacket. Meet at 8 A.M. behind the Winchell's at San Mateo and Academy.
Leader: David Morrison 344-8693

Sat May 13 Leisure Miles: 3 Car: 3
Rinconada Canyon Hike, Petroglyph NM

This is the largest, most pristine area in the Monument with over 2000 petroglyphs. Bring camera, binoculars and sturdy shoes. RSVP.
Leader: Ike Eastvold 255-7679

Sun May 14 Leisure-Moderate Miles: 2 Car: 225
El Morro NM Hike

Located about an hour south of Grants, Inscription Rock stands as a written testament of those People who shaped the history of New Mexico and the American West. See petroglyphs, names and notations carved into the sandstone walls of El Morro, by those early People. Bring lunch, sturdy shoes, camera and the family.
Leader: Stan Kauchak 839-4301

Sat-Sun May 20-21 Leisure Miles: Few Car: 275?
Western New Mexico History Car Camp

This is the first in a series of tours that cover in greater detail the history of some important sites in New Mexico on a regional basis. Background historical information will be provided. On Saturday we will travel to Acoma Pueblo and nearby areas. If you like you can make Saturday into a day trip and return home. Saturday evening we will camp at some place like Inscription Rock. On Sunday we will continue further west and south, stopping at some ghost towns and maybe a salt lake. Campers and trailers are welcome. Call for details.
Leader: Craig Dill 224-9795

Sat May 20 Leisure Miles: 2-3 Car: 80
Spring Wildflower Identification Hike on the Colorado Plateau

Sierra Club member Yvonne Chauvin has been working for the Nature Conservancy Heritage Program identifying plants. She will help us with identifying the plants and flowers in the Ojito area. A UNM botanist has been invited along to help. This half-day trip will look at some new and threatened species in the gypsun badlands. Bring lunch. Meet at 9 A.M. behind the Winchell's at San Mateo and Academy.
Leader: David Morrison 344-8693

Sun May 21 Leisure Miles: 3 Car: 3
Piedras Marcadas Hike, Petroglyph NM
Tremendous variety and unique petroglyphs not found elsewhere in the Monument. Bring camera, binoculars and sturdy shoes. RSVP.
Leader: Ike Eastvold 255-7679

Sun May 21 Moderate Miles: 5-6 Car: 210
South Rim Frijoles Canyon, Bandelier NM Exploratory Hike

This trip in April was cancelled due to snow. 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 Pentencin 255-1497

Fri-Sun May 26-29 Moderate-Strenuous
Miles: ~ 20 Car: 420

Gila Wilderness Memorial Day Backpack
Come join us in the aspen, pines, spruce and fir of America's first Wilderness. Aldo Leopold worked in this area and pushed Congress to initiate the Wilderness Act. The Gila Wilderness contains the world's largest virgin stand of ponderosa pines. This will be a 3-day backpack traveling the higher elevations with views all the way into Mexico. Call Val for details.
Leader: Val 265-5945

Fri-Mon May 26-29 Leisure-Strenuous Miles: 20+ Car: 800+
Fourth Annual Utah Memorial Day Bash-Antelope, Upper Kabito, Water Hole Slot Canyons, Escalante's Spooky, Peek-a-boo, Brimstone Slot Canyons Exploratory Car Camp

The Escalante WSA is being threatened by Utah's counties being asked to make Wilderness recommendations. Although surveys show the Utah public supports additional Wilderness, the public is being ignored. We will be leaving Friday night and car camping enroute. We will be spending the next two and a half days exploring these six slot canyons in Arizona and Utah. Leisure hikers will have the opportunity to hike portions of the canyons. RSVP. Bring plenty of water for day camp. Call for details. pollock dinner Saturday night.
Leader: David Morrison 344-8693

Sat Jun 3 Leisure Miles: 3 Car: 3
Geological Windows Hike, Petroglyph NM
Secluded petroglyph areas in a near wildernesslike setting. Bring camera, binoculars and sturdy shoes. RSVP. Leader: Ike Eastvold 255-7679

Sat Jun 3 Moderate Miles: 6-8 Car: 15 Elev.: 500
Sandstone Bluffs, El Malpais NM East Exploratory Hike

We will hike to several natural arches, sandstone cliffs, Indian ruins, hoodoo rocks, and lava flows. This is an exploratory hike in one of our newest National Monuments in New Mexico at an easy moderate pace. Be prepared for rock scrambling. Bring lunch, rain gear, boots, and water. Meet at 8:00 A.M. at the UNM Astronomy and Physics Parking Lot at the corner of Yale and Lomas.
Leader: Tom Pentencin 255-1497

Sat Jun 10 Leisure-Moderate Miles: 4-6 Car: 170
Ridges and Springs, Manzano Wilderness Hike
We travel among the new growth of maples to some shady canyon springs on the east side of the Manzanos near Fourth of July. We will pop up to the ridge to catch the cool breeze and views. Call for meeting details. Bring lunch and water.
Leaders: John and Phyllis 247-4353

Sun Jun 11 Moderate Miles: 8-12 Car: 240
Tsipping Ruin on Pueblo Mesa Exploratory Hike
Richard is guiding this one. We will explore this Indian ruin on a mesa top near Abiquiu. This area has just been opened for the season due to endangered species, possibly the spotted owl. If we have extra time we will hike Canones Canyon or Plaza Blanca. Meet at 7 A.M. Trip limited to 15 people. RSVP.
Leader: David Morrison 344-8693.

Sun Jun 11 Leisure Miles: 3 Car: 3
Boca Negra Arroyo Hike, Petroglyph NM
Exciting flute and parrot figures together with some of the oldest petroglyphs in the Monument. RSVP.
Leader: Ike Eastvold 255-7679

Sat Jun 17 Moderate Miles: 5-6 Car: 120
Gaudalupe Mesa Exploratory Hike, Jemez
Brian and Julie are guiding this one. We wade across the Gaudalupe River into a narrow canyon with a small stream forming spectacular waterfalls and lush green pools. We head up to the mesa rim to some petroglyphs and onto the mesa to some Indian ruins and views of the Jemez valley. Dogs welcome. Expect to get your feet wet or even take a cool plunge. Meet at 9:00 A.M. behind the Winchell's at San Mateo and Academy.
Leader: David Morrison 344-8693

Sun Jun 18 Moderate-Strenuous
Miles: 6-8 Car: 120-200 Elevation: ?
Culle Canyon Exploratory Hike
This area is NW of Cochiti. We will try to get to some of the narrows while walking up a small creek and scrambling some pour offs. Meet at 8:00 A.M. behind the Winchell's at San Mateo and Academy.
Leader: David Morrison 344-8693

Sat-Sun Jun 24-25 Upper level-Intermediate
Miles: ? Car: 350
Tres Piedras Mountain Bike/Car Camp
Ride among the whispering aspen, expansive meadows, and grazing elk. Expect a workout as Val leads you through one of the most beautiful areas New Mexico has to offer. Call for details.
Leader: Val 265-5945

Sat Jun 24 Leisure-Moderate Miles: 6 Car: 120
Jemez Wild and Scenic River Hike
We will head up the East Fork of the Jemez River in an open valley walking up a trail and wading in the river. We will need to make some stream crossings, so bring wading shoes. You must bring shoes that you can get wet. We will then backtrack to the cars. Bring lunch and water. Call for details.
Leader: Tom Leck 256-7217

Car: 180
Rio En Medio Hike, Pecos
Richard is guiding this one. We will walk along Forest Service Trail 163 along a narrow creek canyon above Tesuque. Some scrambling for those interested. We return along the same route. Some stream crossings; wading shoes may be appropriate. Bring lunch. Meet at 8 A.M. behind the Winchell's at San Mateo and Academy.
Leader: David Morrison 344-8693.

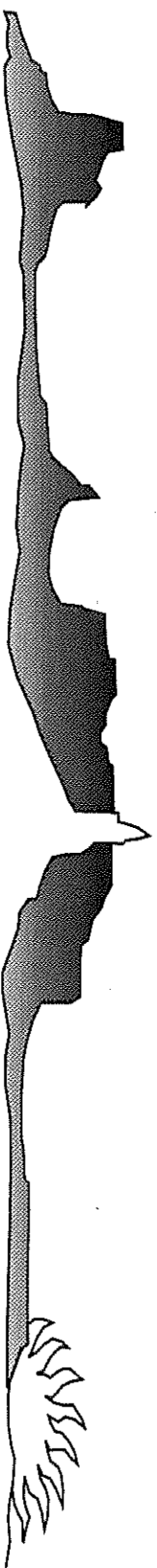
Sun-Mon July 2-3 Moderate Miles: 12 Car: 360
Tres Piedras Ranger District Car Camp
Enjoy good friends, good food, homemade beer, and interesting conversation around the campfire. Wake to explore the proposed Tony Marquez recreational trail in the Tres Piedras Ranger District. Should be a good time for all.
Leader: Stan Kauchak 839-4301

Sun Jul 2 Strenuous Miles: 4 Car: 150
East Fork, Jemez Box Canyon River Wade
We will spot cars at the lower end, travel to the upper meadow, walk the trail down to the bow and start wading the narrow walled canyon. We will either plunge the falls or scramble our way around. Meet at 7:30 A.M. behind the Winchell's at San Mateo and Academy. Bring lunch.
Leader: David Morrison 344-8693

Summer Reading is Coming Soon

Would you like to improve your mind and help out the Sierra Club at the same time? You can. Buy a Sierra Club book. We have hiking tolebooks, Petersen's field guides, naturalist essays, photography collections, postcards, and children's books. Larry Compton, Books/Calendars Chair, will be ordering new books soon, and can order a specific Sierra Club title for you anytime. Members receive a 10% discount and all proceeds benefit the Albuquerque Group. Give Larry a call at 899-0679.

Albuquerque Group News - Outings



the LORAX - El Paso Group News

May Meeting: Our May meeting will be an outdoor picnic at the Chamanizal. A modest fee will be charged to cover burgers, and we encourage folks to bring salads, vegetable side dishes, and desserts. For info, call Ted 852-3011. **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.

Outings Leaders Workshop, Sun 5 March: For four hours, experienced leaders and newcomers brushed up on the basics of outings theory and practice. Thanks are in order for the insights and cooperation of Ann Falknor, Alice Anderson, Rollin Wickenden, Carolina Greenfield, Laurence Gibson, Jim Bell, Bill Phillips, Jim Channell, Terry Bond, Joe Rodriguez, Lidia Padilla, Marianne Thaeler, Roy Julian, Norma Vargas, Mike Moffeit, Subhankar Banerjee, Kathleen Anderson who attended and pooled their wisdom during this cooperative learning workshop. Undying gratitude to Sondra Denney for the hours of typing she did and errands she ran to arrange refreshments. Feedback to Sondra and Michael was very positive, and suggestions for further refinements ensure that the next workshop will be soon and fun.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wed 3 May	I.C.O. mtg 6 p.m. Env Ctr
Wed 3 May	EXCOM mtg 7:30 p.m. Env Ctr
Wed 31 May	Outdoor Picnic, Chamanizal
Wed 7 June	I.C.O. mtg 6 p.m. Env Ctr
Wed 7 June	EXCOM mtg 7:30 p.m. Env Ctr
Wed 28 June	Conservation Mtg 6 p.m. Jaxon's
Wed 28 June	Gen Mtg 7:30 p.m. 7000 Edgemere

UPCOMING OUTINGS

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, Sat 13 May, moderate 9 miles, 2000 ft gain, call Ann Falknor 833-9162. We'll keep a moderate pace on this classic dayhike to the rooftop of Texas.

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

Comanche Park Sunset Hike, some weeknight to be announced, call Sondra Denney 532-2652. Here's one summer hike that won't give you sunstroke.

Trans-Gila Backpack, Sat 10-18 June, moderately strenuous, 60 miles at about 8 miles per day, call Laurence Gibson 594-7342. We'll follow the spine of the Mogollon Mtns east from above Glenwood.

South Franklin Peak Breakfast Hike, Sat 17 June, moderately strenuous 5 miles, call Dennis Stensrud 581-3817. We'll leave shortly after first light for an early morning local trek.

Grand Teton National Park Backpack, Sat 22-30 July, moderately strenuous 50 miles at elevations mostly below 10,000', call Laurence Gibson 594-7342.

OUTINGS REPORTS

Franklin Mountains Dayhike, Sun 15 Jan: We met out near Martin Luther King, north of the North Hills subdivision there. Gathering for the outing were Annie Zimmermann, Ben Lucero, Edward Duran, Mary Moonney, William Gutierrez, Don Schwartzkopf, Nan Napier, Monty Aul, Norma Vargas, Lidia Padilla, Barbara Nehring, Dave Dale, Betty Walls, and leader Claus Christiansen. From the trailhead, we hiked on trail toward the Franklins, then off trail into a side canyon underneath Anthony's Nose. Reaching a rock outcropping, we shared lunch. Returning by another trail, we completed a loop. The weather was sunny, clear, and pleasant. That was quite a contrast from the last time Claus and William hiked the same route. Back in August, they began at 7 a.m. and finished with an airtemp above 100

GROUP DIRECTORY

Chairman /		
Public Lands	Ted Mertig	852-3011
Vice Chair	Betsy Julian	544-5741
Secretary	Mike Seidensicker	544-5741
Treasurer	Kathy Sunday	584-9301
Member	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 Sproul	545-5157
Political Action	Jim Bell	581-8864
Population	OPEN	
Env Center	OPEN	
Mail	Bill Phillips	772-6503
Hospitality	Barbara Mertig	852-3011
Memberships	Patricia Wood	542-0553
Office Rep.	Neil O'Hara	565-4735
LORAX, Outings,		
Publicity	Michael Bronka	532-2652

Sierra Club Environmental Center
800 S. Piedras @ Paisano
532-9645, 532-4876 fax

Membership:	LORAX information:
SIERRA CLUB	Michael Bronka
409 Robinson Rd	300 W. Schuster #5
El Paso, TX 79902	El Paso, TX 79902

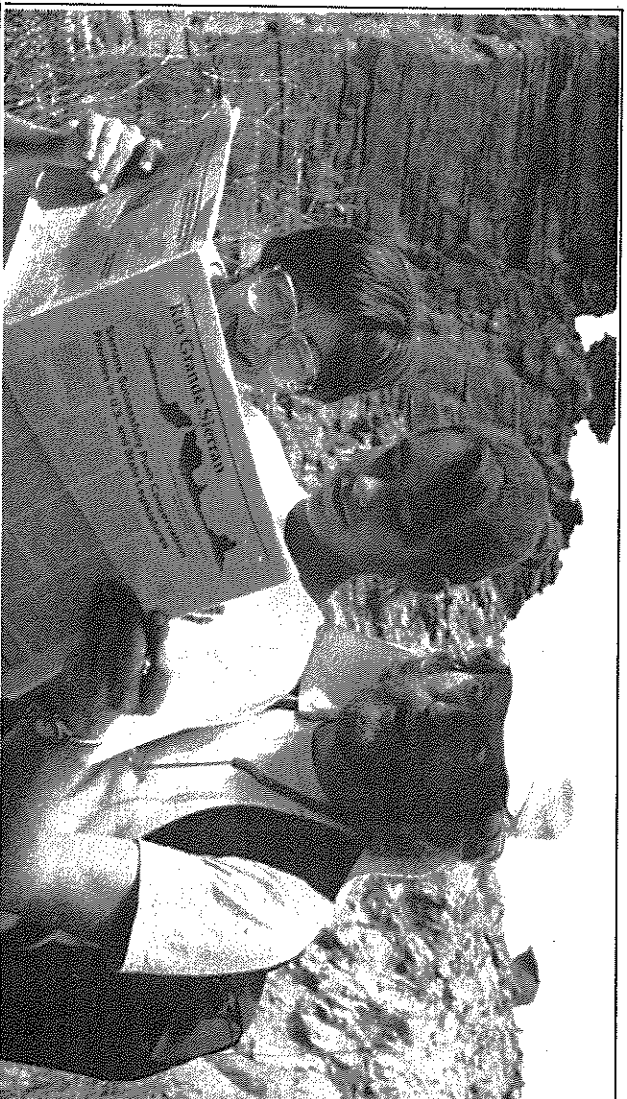
degrees. A few hours later, the thermometer rose to 117 degrees, the hottest day of last summer.

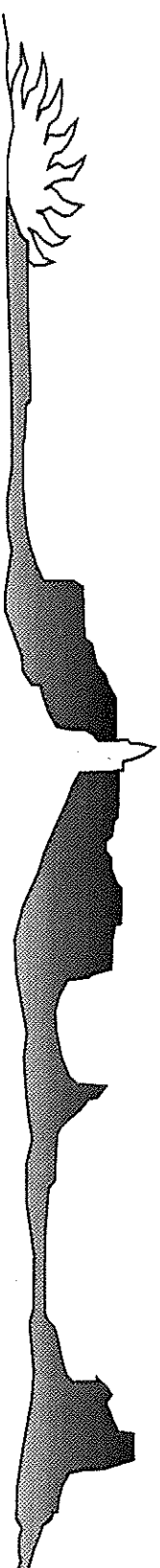
Cooke's Peak Carcamp, Fri 3-5 Feb: Eight Sierrans completed the journey to the top of Cooke's Peak on Saturday morning. It seemed like a journey after we had to trek through two to three feet of snow we encountered on the talus slope located on the Northeastern side of the Peak. The top awaited us with gorgeous clear blue sky and only a calm slight breeze to remind us of a fair winter. That evening, we celebrated our ascent to Cooke's Peak with a roarin fire, a hearty meal and some wine that carried us late into the night. On Sunday morning we decided to go on a tour of Cooke's Peak Range to see some of the interesting historical landmarks and petroglyph sites in the area. I am happy to report that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) installed landmark signs on several significant sites depicting the history from that time era. The next time we can hope for is a visitor center, in the preservation of this wonderful area we call Cooke's Peak Range. Special Thanks to Harold for guiding us to the petroglyphs. Participants included Tom Casey, Roy McCloud, Sally Meek Harold Naylor, Peter Skaates, Kathy Sunday, Chuck and Wyona Turner, Mar Wood and leader Joe Rodriguez.

Aguirre Springs Oryzian Dayhike, Sun 5 Feb: Duty called outing leader Patricia Wood unexpectedly to a conference in Albuquerque. Richard Rheder asked Juan Enriquez to serve as substitute leader. Cecilia Cardenas and Pam Greir showed up at Albertson's for the rendezvous to find Juan waiting faithfully. Others had yet to show. Cecilia & Pam chose to go ahead by themselves while Juan waited for the others. Meanwhile, Ann Falknor, Sondra Denney, & Michael Bronka had already set out to hike the Aguirre Springs loop trail with their two dogs, Boots and Leela. They found a challenging uphill trail meandering through trees, boulders, patches of snow, and mountain streams. Shortly after the loop's high point, they met up with Cecilia, Pam, and four-legged Loki, the Norse dog of mischief. This chance rendezvous prompted a luxurious picnic I.C.O. **Leadership Carcamp,** Sat 11-12 Feb: This round-robin roundup in the desert pooled the wisdom of Wyona & Chuck Turner, J.D. Guinn, Ian Hanna Ted Mertig, Mario Ruiz, Elizabeth Cereceres, Jonathan & Elizabeth Chase Everest Alams, Adrian Villalba, Anne & Jimmy Parker, Ann Falknor, Sondra

Ignoring the Grand Canyon's splendors, Maria Episcopo, Kathy Wickenden and Michael Bronka read their Rio Grande Sierran.

Photo courtesy of Sondra Denney





Eric Dickey, 15, and seven other residents of the Texas Youth Commission's Schaeffer House enjoyed their first backpack trip February 17-20, visiting Arizona's Superstition Mountains National Wilderness as part of the El Paso Group's Inner City Outings program. Here Eric demonstrates his puniche recipe at their campsite near Werner's Needle.

Photo courtesy of Richard Rheder

Denney, Michael Bromka, and leaders Mary Lou Parker & Richard Rheder. While Mary Lou and Anne Parker led the lads on a climb up the mini-Mt Everest, the conferees discussed I.C.O. issues, practices, and upcoming outings.

We expressed particular appreciation of Mario's work with Schaeffer House, and the fine young men he's been bringing out on hikes and service trips. Sondra reported on our attempts to set up caving service trips with officials at Carlsbad Caverns, who have recently expressed interest in having us volunteer out there. We hope to find a new liason to Project Vida, now that their current intrepid camper, Jennifer Riggan, is leaving. (*¡Buen Viaje, Jennifer!*) For lunch we ate individually constructed Dagwood sandwiches. The later afternoon allowed for individual dayhikes. Doggies Leela & Stormy fraternized but little. Morning winds died down to perfect calm for our evening campfire, as we grilled shish kabobs provided by Sondra. Close to 10 p.m., Richard led a moonlit hike some fifteen minutes from the campsite in silence. On Richard's cue, we all howled like a pack of rowdy coyotes. We waited in silence one minute. Again we howled. The goal here was to induce the true coyote pack to reply—it *can* work, Richard read about in a book. Although we got no reply from the coyotes, we did convince a few listeners. First, Leela the shelly dog had a paroxysm of primal trembling; whatever these humans intended with their howling, they were up to no good! And the next morning, Wyona (who'd turned in early) asked if we had heard those coyotes howling so early in the night? On the following morning's dayhike, the lads found the carcass of a coyote poisoned by bounty trappers, our tax dollars at work....

Anthony's Nose Dayhike, Sun 19 Feb: Ten Sierrans set out on a sunny, blustery morning to tackle the toughest peak in the Franklins. Hiking and rock-climbing up to the crest were Lolina Alvarez, Alice Anderson, Jim Bell, Elizabeth Chase, Sondra Denney, Larry Hughes, Robert Jack, Peter Skates, and leader Michael Bromka. The wind remained stiff and chilling till nearly 10 a.m., but we resolved to push on toward the Nose. As the sun warmed us and wind abated, we admired a wide-angle view of Chaparral, N.E. El Paso, Canutillo, and Anihony. We took note of landmarks for our way back—the "Citadel" and a northerly false spur-ridge which does *not* lead to it—a route to avoid when you're wearily returning. An 11 a.m. pistop served to re-moleskin Sondra's tender feet, blistered by new boots. Alice prudently opted for lunch at the bridge of the nose. Up top, we admired many ladybugs, then burrowed through the top of the rock cairn to find a jar. In it were the note from our Dec 1993 summit and the business card of our leader then, Mike Episcopo. 'T was he who built the trail and rock cairns over a two-year stretch. Elizabeth used the hollowed summit cairn to shelter the lit candle of her frosted cupcakes as we sang "Happy Birthday" to her. Arriving out of the blue at the summit was our tenth Sierran, Joe Pachorek, who had missed our morning rendezvous, lost the Episcopo trail, and bushwacked up to the ridge. A speedy hiker, he reached us as we began our descent. Not to be deterred, he charged back ahead of us, took that wrongway northerly false spur-ridge toward the Citadel, and doggedly bushwacked back to his car. The rest of us were happy to have hiked the full trip on the Mike Episcopo trail.

Silver Peak Carcamp/Dayhike, Sat 25-26 Feb: Jim Bell and Rafaela Schuler joined leader Rollin Wickenden at 8 a.m. on Sat for the drive west, stopping in Denning for breakfast. At Road Forks, NM, they left I-10 and headed south on the highway toward Douglas, AZ. Reaching the trailhead, Rollin and Jim hiked on ahead, while Rafaela followed at her own pace. The trail up to Silver Peak circles much of the mountain through high mesa junipers, then eventually climbs into a pine forest. With 3000' gain over 4.5 miles, this hike offered both aesthetic and aerobic motives for a periodic pause to take in the evolving scenery. Up top, you can look over the Chiricahuas in all directions.

The flat campground was free, with a tap for water. Night was cold and lovely. Sunday's four-hour hike along the Basin Trail offered outstanding views over the surrounding countryside, with high peaks etched in contrasts by snowfall.

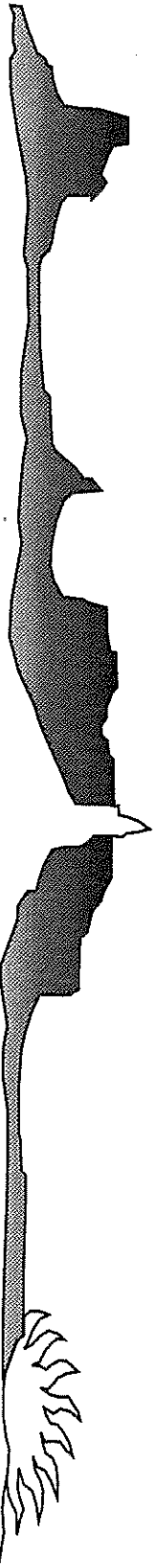
West Mesa Flatlands Dayhike, Sun 19 March: Abundant wildflowers enchanted Linda Groetken and Alice Anderson on the west mesa near Las Cruces. Particularly magnificent was the yellow lespquerella, forming pools of light among new green grass. White spectacle pod mixed with purple locoweed to form large patches of color. We also saw purple phacelia, pale blue flax, bright orange globe mallow, mauve pale trumpets, candy-striped cactus flowers, yellow desert dandelions and desert mangold, white desert chicory, white daisies, very tiny white starflower, low kinds of white forget-me-nots, and faded flowers of both white and yellow evening primrose. White, yellow, and orange butterflies danced over the fields of flowers, while sparrows flitted through the brush. Overhead we saw white-necked ravens and a red-tailed

hawk. We gloried in the natural beauty and solitude of the desert in bloom, as we walked five miles along a fenceline road branching off the Corralitos Road.

Grand Canyon Backpack, Sat 18-21 March: Despite floods, flat tires, worrisome weather reports, rock slides, high winds, forgotten tent poles, one tummy ache, and a lone hiker's wrong turn, eleven El Paso Sierrans happily trekked the Grand Canyon again this year. Before we ever got there, a thirty-year-rain washed out the Bright Angel Trail and broke a vital South Rim water main. This precluded our scheduled third night of camping at Indian Gardens, cut off a fourth day of hiking, and doubled the hike we would have on our last day out. On the eve of our trek, we carcamped free in the Kaibab National Forest about ten miles south of the park. Sunday morning, we waited at our Tusayan rendezvous for news that Jim and Chris Bell's car had broken down on the way up from Flagstaff. Setting out from Hermit's Rest together were leader Rollin & daughter Kathy Wickenden, Mike & Maria Episcopo, Suzanne Boon, Dave Kofoed, Sondra Denney, Michael Bromka, and Ann Falknor. Rollin sagely had chosen the "unmaintained" Hermit Trail for our descent, to keep us in rougher and more sparsely populated country. Weather was sunny for our steep descent to the Dripping Springs Jct. Up to this point, we shared the trail with a few dayhikers. For the rest of the trip, we mostly had the trail to ourselves. We climbed over several rockslides with boulders the size of armchairs; thus we learned how "unmaintained" a trail can get. Occasional frustration and fatigue brought comments like *This is like Anthony's Nose on steroids!* Compensating for a long trek were vast vistas. We were all delighted to reach Hermit Creek camp in good shape. Your own wee watertall to soaplessly shower in is a welcome reward. Monday's move was a mere three miles to the lovely Monument Creek Camp. An early arrival there allowed naps, bathing & basking, and for Rollin & the two Mikes a dayhike to the brown churning Granite Rapids of the Colorado River. Back at camp, Jim & Chris Bell had arrived, determined to get in at least two long days of backpacking. Our last day out covered 8.5 miles of steady rocky climb back up the Hermit Trail. Ann, Sondra, and Michael Bromka set out before dawn to get a jump on the day. Bats fluttered overhead in a final feed before their bedtime. Jim & Chris Bell soon took the lead. Everybody eventually lapped Michael & Sondra who, slowly but steadily, brought up the rear. The most bizarre sights along the trail were human: three packless men in running shoes — one with a gashed gory knee, super-fit spandexed racewalkers putting in 25-mile days, and a bushy-bearded Oklahoma City schoolteacher wearing lowtop Converse sneakers and carrying in one hand a gallon jug of weaning lowlop Converse sneakers and carrying in one hand a gallon jug of milk. For our final steep ascent from the Dripping Springs Jct, we pushed along against high gusting winds. We shared a worry for Ann's whereabouts until she arrived at last, having corrected a wrong turn at our second-last junction. She was intact, though chagrined. Special praise goes to Rollin for his ever level-headed leadership, and to the quiet poise and stalwart hiking of our youngest trekkers, Kathy Wickenden (12), and Chris Bell (13).

Aguire Springs Loop Dayhike, Sun 26 March: A pat on the back to Norma Vargas, Kathleen Anderson, and leader Lidia Padilla for their successful dayhike in the Organ Mtns. All three Sierrans had no sooner attended the outing leaders' workshop than they were on the trail leading eager hikers out, Kelly, Stacy, & Ian Reed, Barbara Richardson, Pat Wood, Therese, Larry, & Stephen McElmore, Sylvia & Adrian Padilla, Dara Morgenstein, and Maureen White. Hikers followed the loop trail while avid nature photographer Adrian snapped pictures of the scenery. (Good luck on your Earth Day project at Oshesa School, Adrian!) Lidia and assistant leaders Norma and Kathleen were happy to report pleasant dayhike with no fatalities, broken bones, snake bites, dragon burns, lost Sierrans, or blisters. Leading an outing proved a doable deal, even for first-timers. Congratulations!

Bear-Tejas Loop Dayhike, Sat 1 April: Five hikers set out on a clear, windy west-Texas spring day on an eleven-mile loop hike in the Guadalupe Mtns. Father & son Michael & William Carter, Pablo Dominguez, Lidilla Padilla, and the leader Jim Bell left Pine Springs along the steady gain of Frijole trail, then the steep climb up Bear Canyon. Up top, we eschewed the Bowl and rather walked a half mile through evergreens to reach Hunter Peak. There, we lunched in sunshine and breeze, taking in the view of six peaks, El Capitan, and the thin ribbon of highway 62-180. Reluctant to move on but wary of approaching clouds, we hiked down the Tejas trail which offered a sprawling view of Guadalupe Peak, Devil's Hall, and Pine Spring Canyon. In our final minutes on the trail, we were appointed by gentle rainfall, a blessing from Mother Nature on all her creatures, including Sierrans.



SANTA FE GROUP MEETINGS

MAY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Tuesday, May 16
7:00-9:00 PM

Hiking — Camping — Backpacking — Equipment
Show & Tell

Have you finally decided to buy a backpack, but don't know whether an internal or external frame is best for you? Are your boots tractionless and dog-eared, but you're afraid to invest a lot of money in the wrong style? You know you need a tent after that last all-night rain, but how big? What type? And then there's all that expensive Goretex raingear — but what level of raingear will keep you dry in a sudden storm without overwhelming your pocketbook?

Staff from **Base Camp** and from **Wild Mountain Sports** will present a show and tell, hands-on program on understanding the ins and outs of basic hiking, camping and backpacking equipment and how to make the wisest choice for your needs. The program will be divided into six segments: shoes/socks/ boots, raingear and layering, tents/pads/sleeping bags, stoves, water filters, and backpacks/day packs. Sierra Club outing leaders will be on hand to share their experiences of what works and what doesn't work when you're actually out on the trail.

There will be a table available for attendees to bring in used equipment which they would like to sell or trade. Please mark with your name and asking price and be prepared to donate 15% of the sale price to the Sierra Club. Bring in used items between 6:30 and 7:00 so we can begin the program on time at 7:00 PM. (Questions? Call Norma McCallan 471-0005)

JUNE MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Tuesday, June 20
7:30 PM

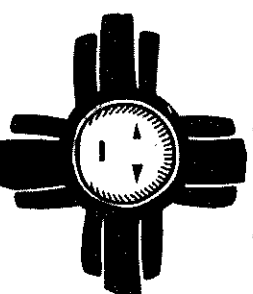
Mark Bryant, Editor of *OUTSIDE MAGAZINE*, will be our June guest.

Why did this high circulation, prestigious magazine move to Santa Fe? What is the magazine all about and what are its goals? How easy is it to get an article published?

Besides covering these points, Mark will talk about the broader issues of how the environment is generally presented by the press — and how environmentalists might work to change that, as well as the sticky issue of "advocacy" versus "impartial" reporting of environmental issues.

Mark will discuss recreational trends which the magazine has discovered and share some of his and his staff's more unusual and interesting experiences in going after stories. He will bring slides to illustrate some of his points.

Join us for a fascinating evening with one of Santa Fe's newcomers !!



Membership meetings are **FREE** and open to the and are held at the Unitarian Church, on Barcelona Street (between Don Gaspar and Galisteo)

ENVIRONMENTALISTS WEEKEND

All Sierra Club members and residents are invited to a Rio Grande sponsored "environmentalists weekend" in Farmington, Friday evening, May 19 through Sunday, May 21.

Participants will dine together at a local restaurant Friday evening, then proceed to a community meeting at 7 PM at the Henderson Fine Arts Center at San Juan College. Roger Peterson, Chapter Rangeland Issues Chair, and local Bureau of Land Management staff will be present to help lead the discussion about various local environmental concerns. There will also be an opportunity to further discuss whether Farmington wants to become a separate Group within the Chapter. It is currently part of the Santa Fe Group.

On Saturday there will be field trips, led by BLM staff, to several areas of unusual significance. And on Sunday a hike to a nearby area, perhaps the Bisti or De Na Zin.

Local members will make housing arrangements (i.e. a comfortable floor) for those who are coming from out of town. This is a good opportunity to meet some of the Farmington area folks and learn more about the special attributes and environmental problems of the Four Corners Area. For more information, call Mary Jo Clark (505) 327-7069.

♦ ♦ SANTA FE GROUP OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS ♦ ♦

Chair — Mark Mortier* 983-5870
Vice-Chairs — Don Goldman* 473-2821
Jerry Bober* 466-7212
Secretary/Treas — Lionel Soracco* 983-6715
Answering Machine — L. Soracco* 983-6715
Chapter Representative —
Barbara Johnson* 466-4935
(alt.) Norma McCallan* 471-0005
Conservation — George Grossman* 982-1024
Membership — Gwen Wardwell* 984-8860
Newsletter Editor — Kay Carlson 982-3926
Office — Carolyn Keskula 982-9570
Publicity — Kay Carlson 982-3926

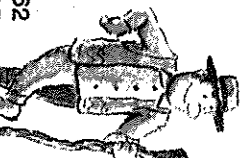
Outings — Norbert Sperlich 983-1962
— Norma McCallan* 471-0005
Political Committee — Ken Hughes 474-0550
Welcomer — Susan Banks 757-2284
Phone Tree — Norma McCallan* 471-0005
Fundraising — Education open

Martha Anne Freeman* 438-0697

* Member of the SF Group Executive Comm

Terms expire 12/95:

McCallan/Mortier/Soracco/Goldman/Grossman
12/96: Bober/Freeman/Johnson/Wardwell



MEETINGS
call for location and time

Executive Committee:
(Don Goldman 473-2821)
June 6 at 7 PM

Conservation Committee:
(George Grossman 982-1024)
May 23 and June 27 at 7 PM

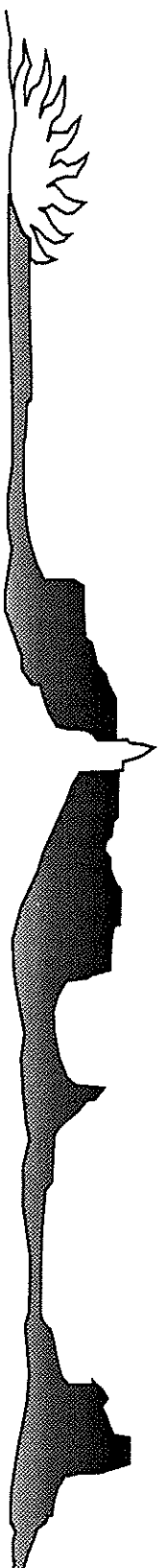
New from Drake Mountain Maps Map of the Mountains of Santa Fe

Trails—both popular and less well-known
Topography—contours and shaded relief
Waterproof and durable

Available at most local sporting goods and book stores
Questions? Call Bill Drake or Janet Peacock, 988-8929

I want to express appreciation to the *Rio Grande Sierran* for the activist profile on me in the March/April issue. I have received many compliments on it. I should have captioned the photo, which was taken by Robert Dietz on top of Parkview Peak (12,300'), the highest point on my second Continental Divide trip in '94. If you have a yen for long trails, note my upcoming Continental Divide trip listed in the Santa Fe July hiking schedule.

Norma McCallan



SANTA FE GROUP OUTINGS

Sat Sun May

- 6 Julie Montoya King (438-7197) Easy/Moderate Hike to Ghost Hotel, near Ghorietta. 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 Otowi 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 Ghorietta 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 Lumis Canyon Tr. to the Rio Grande. Lve 8 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.
- 28 Jeff Jones (466-2389) Easy Hike up Chamisa Trail to the Rio Tesque. Families & children welcome. Lve 9 AM.

Sat Sun June

- 3 Norrine Sanders (984-0386) Moderate Introductory Hike to the high country. Ski Basin to La Vega. 7 miles round trip. Total climb 1,500'. Leave 8 AM.
- 4 Julie Montoya King (438-7197) Strenuous Hike to Hermit Peak. 8 miles roundtrip, total climb 2,700'. Leave 7:30 AM. Call leader for reservation.
- 10 Carolyn and Arnold Keskulla (982-9570) Easy Hike on Winsor Trail from near Ski Basin to Borrego trailhead. Leave 9 AM.
- 11 Moderate Hike from Ski Basin to Puerto Nambé, 9 miles RT, total climb about 2,000'. Call Leader at 471-7575.
- June 17-18, Saturday-Sunday
- Norma McCallan (471-0005) High Mountain Hikes & Car Camp in Taos Ski Valley. Sat hike Gold Hill Loop, 10 miles RT, 3411' elevation gain. Car camp Sat night to get an early start for Sunday's hike to Wheeler Peak (NM's highest at 13,161'), up via Williams Lake (short and very steep), down via Bull of the Woods (longer and more gradual). Dogs allowed. May drive up Friday night if group desires. Can do Gold Hill as an optional day hike only. Call leader for reservations & meeting time & place. There may be snow patches at higher elevations — heavy boots a must.
- 17 Caroline Glick (984-3184) Strenuous Hike to Hidden Lake. About 13 miles RT, total climb 2700'. Call leader for reservation.
- 18 Lee Sullivan (662-6185) Moderate Hike Pajarito Ski Area to Los Alamos townsite via Guaje Ridge Trail. 9 miles, 500' up, 2400' down. Some steep descent. Meet 9 AM at pkg lot at bottom of ski hill road (near Los Alamos) or carpool from PERA pkg lot in SF at 8 AM. Call leader for information.

Sat Sun July

- 1 Norrine Sanders (984-0386) Easy Hike on Pacheco Canyon Loop, near Santa Fe Ski Basin. Leave 8:30 AM.
- 1 Lionel Soracco (983-6715) Moderate/Strenuous Hike Black Canyon to McClure Reservoir overlook. Wear sturdy hiking boots — some off-trail scrambling. Leave 8:30 AM.
- 2 Julie Montoya King (438-7197) Moderate Hike to Stewart Lake from Holy Ghost Campground in the Pecos. Leave 7:30 AM.

July 2-3, Sunday-Monday

- John Turnbull (466-9329) Joint Albuquerque-Santa Fe overnite outing to Tres Piedras area. Leave midday Sunday, car camp Sunday evening, hike the proposed Tony Marquez Trail in Tres Piedras Ranger District, about 10-12 miles in length, on Monday. Must call John for reservations & departure time. Leave from Wild Mountain Sports on Cordova Road in Santa Fe.
- 8 Caroline & Arnold Keskulla (982-9570) Moderate Hike (short but steep) to the False Peak of Lake Peak. Leave 8:30 AM.
- 9 Art Judd (982-3212) Moderate Hike somewhere in the high country. Leave 8 AM.

Thursday, July 6, through Sunday, July 15

- Norma McCallan (471-0005) Annual 10-day backpack on the Continental Divide Trail in Colorado. Proceeding northwards, hike south from Jones Pass to Colorado Hwy 82, below Independence Pass. 97.6 miles, with a re-supply point midway at Copper Mtn, so it is possible to do only the first (43.6 miles) or last (54 miles) portion. Experienced backpackers only. Call for reservations/information. Leave Wed PM July 5; return Sun, July 16.
- 15 Jeff Reginald (661-6707h or 662-9412w) Easy/Moderate Issue Hike in San Pedro Parks Wilderness Area. Leave Santa Fe 8 AM. Optional car camp Sat nite for those who want to stay over. If coming from ABO or elsewhere, call leader for meeting place in Cuba or near trailhead. A great opportunity to get to know this lush, though overgrazed, plateau.
- 16 Norbert Sperlich (983-1962) Moderate Hike along the beautiful East Fork of the Jemez River. Bring shorts & wading shoes since there may be some walking in the river. Call leader for reservations and meeting time.

June (continued)

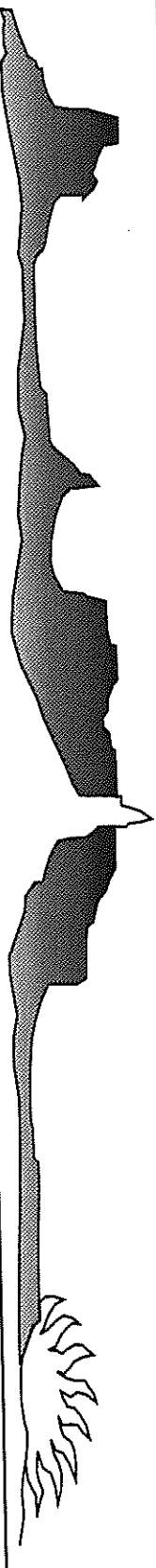
- June 23-24-25, Thursday, Friday, Saturday
- Bob McKee (672-3426) Three day backpack in Pecos Wilderness. Call leader for info.
- 24 Lionel Soracco (983-6715) Moderate/Strenuous Hike to Shaggy Peak. Some steep terrain, some bushwhacking. Leave 8 AM. Call leader for reservation.
- 25 Jeff Jones (466-2389) Easy Hike on Aspen Vista. Kids Welcome. Leave 8 AM.
- 25 Jeff Reginald (661-6707) Wilderness Issue Hike Angostura [near Jicarita Peak] Moderate/Strenuous. Leave 8 AM. Call leader for more information.

July (continued)



- 22 Joe Whelan (984-0746) Moderate/Strenuous Hike somewhere in the Pecos Wilderness. Leave 8:30 AM.
- 23 Jeff Jones (466-2389) Easy Hike Bear Wallow Loop. 4 miles RT. Children welcome. Leave 9 AM.
- 29 Caroline Glick (984-3184) Strenuous Hike Lake Katherine-Santa Fe Baldy Loop. Considerable elevation change. Call leader for reservations/information.
- 30 Elizabeth Altman (471-8940) Easy Hike Nambé Creek area. Leave 9 AM.
- 30 Steven Janus (988-4137) Strenuous Hike to Pecos Baldy Lake, with option to climb Pecos Baldy. Leave 8 AM. Call leader for meeting place. If road to Jack's Creek Campground trailhead still closed, there will be an alternative hike.

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 (across the street from the State Capitol and Corbett). Carpooling will be arranged at the parking lot, and each hiker should come prepared to pay \$5 a mile to the driver of the car in which 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.



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
Cheryll Blevins, Publicity	526-6220
Jim Basler, Outings	521-4822
David Pengelley, Faculty Advisor SSC	646-3901(O)
Subhankar Banerjee, Outings, SSC Faculty Advisor,	521-3022

SIERRA CLUB ON WORLD WIDE WEB

The Sierra Club has now established a "home page" on the part of the Internet known as the "World-Wide-Web". Our information is now available to anyone who has a connection to the Internet that allows them use of the WWW through programs such as Mosaic or Netscape.

The Sierra Club is pleased to announce a web server at the URL:

<http://www.sierrclub.org/>

The Sierra Club Home Page gives access to the following information:

- an overview of the Sierra Club and its history
- a list of current conservation action alerts so that you, too, can make a difference
- a searchable collection of Sierra Club Conservation policies
- descriptions of 1995 Outings - outdoor trips throughout the U.S. and around the world - hiking, biking, canoeing, skiing, service trips, and much more....
- descriptions of books published through our award-winning

Sierra Club Books program

- how to contact local Sierra Club Chapters throughout North
- information about other organizations affiliated with the Club
- *The Planet - the Sierra Club's newsletter for activists*
- pointers to other environmental resources on the Internet
- Sierra Club membership information

As you look at the Sierra Club's Web pages, you will get a sense of our mission:

- To explore, enjoy, and protect the wilderness;
- To practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources;
- To educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment; and
- To use all lawful means to carry out these objectives.

These Web pages have been primarily assembled by a group of volunteers from the Sierra Club Information Technology Committee and Sierra Student Coalition, led by volunteer Dan Anderson.

STUDENT SIERRA CLUB SCHEDULE

May 6 - End of semester PARTY! Pot luck get-together. Location and time TBA. Call Lori Schmierer (527-1120) for more information.

WORLD WIDE WEB

by Tony Garcia, NMSU Student Sierra Club and Marianne Thaeler,

The Sierra Club now has home pages on the World Wide Web. And now, the NMSU Student Sierra Club is composing their own WWW home page.

Many people have tried to describe "the web," but it is really best to see it for yourself. Basically, people or organizations write up a home page of text, which can have pictures interspersed throughout the text. Electronic pictures are scanned from actual photographs. Within the text of the page(s), one makes phrases, or words, "hot." That is, these words are selectable, and when selected they act as links to other pages on the web. The World Wide Web, or WWW (www) for short, is THE INFORMATION SUPERHIGHWAY!

When the web page(s) is complete it is placed on a web server. A web server is a computer that allows people from anywhere in the world to read the page(s). And we do "mean" anywhere in the world. Universities in New Mexico have web servers. Services like Prodigy, America on Line, and Compuserve may have access to the www. The software that allows access to the WWW of Internet is Mosaic or Netscape. By using the "hot" words or phrases you can web browse for hours of learning and fun.

On the web one can find just about anything. NASA has home pages at Florida, California, Houston, etc. You can find mpegs (movies) of parts of the shuttle missions, pictures from shuttle missions, information about up-coming launches, etc. Scientists and the world TV networks saw Hubble Space Telescope pictures in real time using the WWW. President Clinton has gotten into the act. There is a White House home page that has information about the various branches of government, and even an audio recording of President Clinton welcoming you to the White House home page.

Every University in the county and in the world seems to have a home page. When Marianne was browsing and selecting from the White House home page, she discovered the CIA, and the FBI. Tony found The Frog Home page, Star Trek home page, the Lego Home page, Doctor Fun home page (electronic cartoons), People's Pets home page, and a home page for just about every musical group in existence. Sarah McLachlan has a great page with tour dates, picture, lyrics and everything. And most important, the Sierra Club has home pages too. The address is <http://www.sierrclub.com/>

And now that you know you can play around on the web, we want to put some more Sierra Club home pages and other environmental information on the web. The NMSU Student Sierra Club is putting together a web home page thanks to Tony's help. And Marianne wants to get some of the serious information onto and from the web.

This is the future people! Have you seen the Cyperscope page in the weekly news magazine, *Nerweek*? Now we begin telling each other, "Hey you can find..... at <http://www.....>"

The future is now. As one great-grandmother told friends, "My secret is keeping interested in all that my children are doing. It keeps my mind young."

NMSU STUDENT DIRECTORY

Coordinator, Lori Schmierer
Asst. Coordinator, Andrew Hands
Outdoors Coordinator, Bruce Gahner
Sec. and Publicity, David Mondragon
Internet Coordinator, Tony Garcia
dmondrag@nmsu.edu
tony@taipan.nmsu.edu

OUTINGS

May 13 - Moderate 10 mile dayhike 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 TorC.

Protest Rescissions Bill Timber Riders

Amendments to the 1995 Rescissions Bill contain a sneak attack on our nation's forests. They would allow the U.S. Forest Service and the BLM to log on publicland without following any federal environmental laws, without public input, and without recourse to administrative appeal or the courts.

Please call or fax your concerns to President Clinton immediately. Ask him to tell the House/Senate to drop the timber riders. If they are not dropped, ask him to veto the entire bill. Remind him that just two years ago, at the Forest Conference in Portland, he promised that his administration would follow all environmental laws. Tell him you expect him to keep his promise to the American people.

BAT TELEMETRY RESEARCH PROJECT: VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES - 5 June to mid August 1995

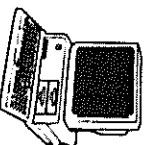
Full time volunteers are being sought for a USFS Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station (Albuquerque, NM) radiotelemetry project examining roost requirements and foraging areas of bats that use low elevation piñon-juniper woodlands, grasslands, and riparian areas in north central New Mexico. Volunteers will gain valuable experience in mist netting, radiotracking of bats, roost exit counts, and roost, vegetation, and habitat analyses.

Volunteers are needed who are able to work independently in remote locations at night as well as in close quarters with a group. Overnight stays in the field are likely to be required (potentially camping). The work involves moderate to strenuous physical exercise, long hours, and outdoor field conditions. This project is a great opportunity for those with an interest in mist netting, telemetry, field biology, and bats or for those who simply enjoy field research.

For more information, contact: Alice Chung-MacCubrey, USFS Rocky Mountain Experiment Station, Albuquerque.

COMPTON RESEARCH SERVICES

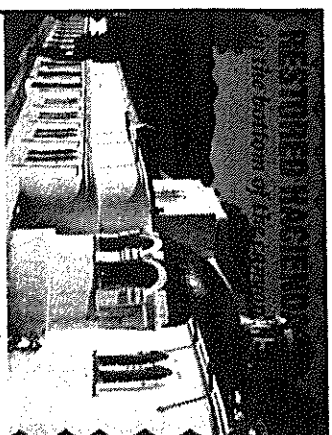
Business, Legal & Technical Information



(505) 899-2975

4911 Butterfield Trail NW
Albuquerque, NM 87120

Larry Compton
President



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 lean prospectors who plunk down solid silver to buy goods and leave a 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, the dream of American businessman Skip McWilliams. 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

Ford & Margaret Robbins, Santa Fe
Elizabeth Cumby, Alb.
Isabelle Goetz, Albuquerque
Alexandra Diworth, Silver City
Douglas & Kathy Fraser, Los Alamos
Heidi Fleischman & Jim Scott, Albuquerque
James Meem, Santa Fe
Josefina Alvarez, Las Cruces
William Bacchus, Arlington
Judy & Garland Bills, Alb.
Bob Field, Santa Fe
Renee Hardy, Taos
Barbara Platt, Corrales
Sally Venerable, Santa Fe
James Wells, Elephant Butte
William & Sharon Gross, Alb.
Ann Aeves, Santa Fe

Harold & Norma Brown, Santa Fe
Mack Dankert, Placitas
Michael Derr, Las Cruces
Janet Drexler, Radium Spring
Pamela Epple, Santa Fe
Gibbs Family, Albuquerque
David Faulkner, Albuquerque
Weston Studio - Foundry, Ltd., Santa Fe
Ann Gately, Albuquerque
Lindsay Grant, Santa Fe
Abe Jacobson, Los Alamos
Pat & Franz Jahoda, Santa Fe
Mark & Lynn Jones, Los Alamos
Sydney Walter & Kathleen O'Rourke, Santa Fe
Ronald P. Klein, Santa Fe
Alexander & Mar Maish, Corrales

Stephen McCleary, Los Alamos
William McClellan III, Alb.
John Miller, Albuquerque
Coby Muckelroy, Santa Fe
Sandra Penn, Albuquerque
Danny Rubin, Santa Fe
Paula Schwartz, Albuquerque
William Sibbit, Albuquerque
Lionel Soracco, Santa Fe
R. T. Souders, Espanola
Chuck & Wyona Turner, El Paso
Northeast Veterinary Clinic, El Paso
Maryann Wasoliek, Alb.
Thomas & Rebecca Shankland, Los Alamos
Charles Campbell, Alb.
Richard Komrusch, Alb.
Elma Udall, Albuquerque
Jean Winterfelt, Santa Fe
Doris & Julius Miller, T or C
Michael Andrews, Roswell
Marian Baldwin, Sandia Park
Helen Barto, El Paso
Jan Blanchard, Albuquerque
Irma Botello, El Paso
Constance Durand, Santa Fe
Issac Eastvold, Albuquerque
Mary Grube, Albuquerque
Col. William Harris, Roswell
Curtis & Lyda Hawley, Santa Fe
Chuck & Jean Hinkle, Las Vegas
Byrmina Jones, Elephant Butte
Rani Kalita, Tijeras
Robert Templeton & Karen Cohen, Los Alamos
Cliff Kramer, Albuquerque
Frank F. Lee, Santa Fe
Robert & Patricia Leeds, Alb.
Charles Little, Placitas
Lynda Manning, Los Alamos
Glen McClain, Hobbs
John McClure, Santa Fe
Tom & Jean Payne, Alb.
Paula Rustan, Santa Fe
Earl & Liz Schwerts, Rio Rancho
Sharlene Shoemaker, Santa Fe
Joyce Simonds, Albuquerque
Josef Towner, Sandia Park

Joan Watts, Galisteo
Charles White, Albuquerque
Mercedes Agogino, Portales
Alice Anderson, Las Cruces
Edward Barengo, Alb.
Renate Cipolat, Santa Fe
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Bryant & Marjorie Denniston, Santa Fe
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Kenneth Ewing, Los Alamos
Jerry Hogan, El Paso
Donald & Sally Kersting, Alb.
Cleis Land, Los Alamos
Charlotte LaTier, Raton
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William Stewart, Tesuque
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Jack Zinker, Sunspot
Mildred Crater, Rio Rancho
Thomas Hay, Silver City
Margaret Morey, Mesilla Park
Jorge Tristani, Albuquerque

Mexican Wolf EIS to be Released

The draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Mexican Wolf reintroduction is about to be released to the public. Two primary reintroduction locations are being considered, the Blue Range Area (BRA) in eastern Arizona and the White Sands Area (WSA) in south central New Mexico. The EIS analyzes four alternatives for reintroduction and the Fish and Wildlife Service encourages public participation in the consideration process, via written comments or comments at any of the soon to be scheduled public hearings.

Alternative A is reintroduction of nonessential/experimental populations into the primary reintroduction locations, allowing dispersal into adjacent secondary areas. The secondary area for the BRA is the Gila National Forest in New Mexico and the secondary area for the WSA is BLM land immediately to the west. The "nonessential/experimental" designation is part of the Endangered Species Act and allows the Fish and Wildlife Service greater flexibility in managing animals. This is the alternative favored by Fish and Wildlife and endorsed by the Mexican Wolf Coalition. Alternative B calls for no reintroduction of wolves, but works for natural recolonization of wolves from Mexico. Alternative C is reintroduction of nonessential/experimental populations into the primary release locations only. Alternative D is reintroduction of wolves under full protection of the Endangered Species Act.

If you would like to receive a copy of the draft EIS, write to Mexican Wolf Regional Coordinator, Attention: EIS, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 1306, Albuquerque, NM 87103. For more information, call Bud Lensing of the Mexican Wolf Coalition at (505) 873-2218.

Paula Schwartz, Albuquerque
Susan Kelly, Albuquerque
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Robert Chavez, Albuquerque
Lyn Robie, Albuquerque
Venetia Fregni, Albuquerque
Robert Easley, Albuquerque
Greg Naze, Albuquerque
Ranch Gurule, Albuquerque
Marilyn Leary, Albuquerque
Patricia Snowdon, Alb.
Julian Nurre & Erika Riewe, Albuquerque
Ronald Wolfers, Albuquerque
Ismeal & Frances Valenzuela, Albuquerque
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Linda Reineke, Albuquerque
Orel Ortega, Albuquerque
Chris & Kate Musello, Alb.
Jacquelyn Armijo, Albuquerque
Patricia Hancock, Albuquerque
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Sean Ryan, Albuquerque
William Tidwell, Albuquerque
Thomas Duncan, Albuquerque
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Alice Stancher, Albuquerque
Peggy Lowe, Albuquerque
Kellie Norsworthy, Alb.
Lorraine Wright, Albuquerque
Jerry Bohanan, Albuquerque
Mary Lou & Edgar Jensen, Albuquerque
Gene Des Georges, Alb.
Harriette Heierman, Alb.
Marcia Millenbah, Alb.
Paula McVay, Albuquerque
Deanna Sevier, Albuquerque
Maureen Marcilla, Alb.
Richard Beck, Albuquerque
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C. Shover, Albuquerque
Valerie Parish, Albuquerque
Lee Gamelsky, Albuquerque
Marilyn Snook, Albuquerque
Francis Martin, Albuquerque
Thomas Keyes, Albuquerque
Greg Robinson, Albuquerque
Sean Urquhart, Albuquerque
William Buranen, Albuquerque
Diane Carman, Albuquerque
Ana Gil, Albuquerque
Kirk Mazzie, Albuquerque
Eva Wallace, Albuquerque
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Dalphine Rowden, Alb.
T. J. Tucker, Albuquerque
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John Wayne, Albuquerque
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Kathryn Miller, Albuquerque
Algene Henrick, Albuquerque
Tom Leahy, Albuquerque
Cathy Drake, Albuquerque
Jane Poppenger, Albuquerque
Nancy Fordyce, Albuquerque
Michael Anderson, Alb.
Peter Swift / Virginia Schaff, Albuquerque
James & Barbara Murdoch, Albuquerque
William McNamara, Alb.
Linda Adams, Albuquerque
Tatiana Bryan, Albuquerque
Doug Lang, Albuquerque
Thomas Butchart, Alb.
Angelina Ortiz, Albuquerque
Tracy Henderson, Alb.
Lynn Louise Coburn, Alb.
Carolyn Wells, Albuquerque
Barbara Jacob, Albuquerque
Michael Hatton, Albuquerque
Jeffrey Mason, Albuquerque
Anthony Traweck, Alb.
Hamid Fakhrail, Albuquerque
Andrew Morgan, Albuquerque
David Cloud/David Meyer, Alb.
Judith Murphy, Albuquerque
Joseph Hifka, Albuquerque
Richardson Crook, Alb.
Virginia Kuffer, Albuquerque
S. Heatt, Albuquerque
Paula Gentry, Albuquerque
Beverly Jackson, Albuquerque
Jamie Parra, Albuquerque
Suzanne Presley, Alb.
Alicia Byers-Smith, Alb.
Denise Novak, Albuquerque
Thomas Bernota, Albuquerque
Kelli Burkinshaw, Albuquerque

Thank You!

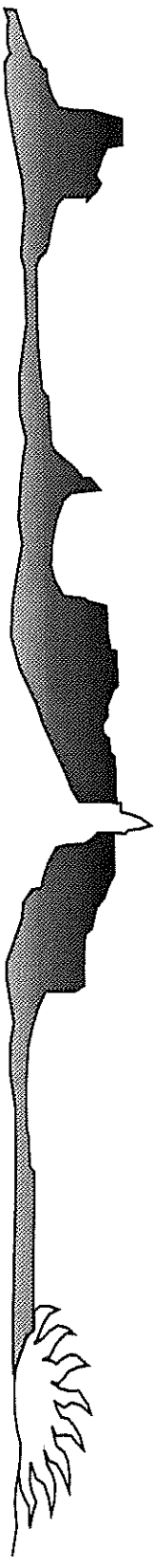
to our 128 Fund Donors Appeal

who Gave \$6035 to the Chapter

(since August 1, 1994)

Welcome New Members!

Hal Senke, Albuquerque
David De Funiak, Albuquerque
Helen Rumble, Albuquerque
David Clark, Albuquerque
Anne Morris, Albuquerque
H. Herrera, Albuquerque
Kim Brown, Albuquerque
Raymond Perry, Albuquerque
John Kinker, Albuquerque
Carolyn Aranda, Albuquerque
David Burton, Albuquerque
Jacqueline Campbell-Cole,



War on the Environment Moves to Senate

by
Craig
O'Hare

At no time during the last quarter century has the challenge to environmental preservation been so great at the national level. The last issue of the *Sierra* coupled with a four-page "Special Edition" highlighted the Contract on America's "War on the Environment" and the specific legislation moving through the House of Representatives. The short (sad) story of that legislation is that Newt and his groupies essentially got their in way in the House—all with very little deliberation, hearings, or, frankly, common sense. Now the battle has moved over to the Senate. Luckily, procedural measures peculiar to the Senate (primarily the filibuster) strengthen our chances of winning this war in that forum.

Recall that the Contract has been so effective to date because it uses a stealth approach to gut years of environmental protection. Popular and reasonable sounding phrases are used as a diversionary tactic while the underlying objective is to undermine government's authority to protect the public health, safety, and welfare. In contrast, James Watt's strident and blatant approach in the early 1980s was easily seen by the American public for what it was. In fact, we have Mr. Watt to thank for a dramatic rise in Club membership during that period. Mr. book deal Getrich...er Gingrich is much more savvy in his tactics.

Senate Update: Take Action Now!
The Senate leadership is moving forward on regulatory reform bills, including risk assessment and cost-benefit proposals. A floor vote is expected in early May so calls/letters to Senators Bingham and Domenici are needed ASAP.

Sen. Orrin Hatch's (R-UT) S343 and Sen. William Roth's (R-DE) S291 lead the way. Here are some handy arguments to use in opposing each bill:

S343 sets up a cumbersome and costly review of every proposed regulation that imposes an arbitrary \$50 million cost to the economy; regulations that protect public health and the environment are frozen until the review is completed; "fox guarding the chicken coop"—prohibits "peer review" by federal agency experts but welcomes industry representatives; lowest cost regulatory alternative replaces a health-based standard; overturns the "Delaney Clause" that prohibits pesticides in most processed foods.

S291 allows Congress a fast-track approach to veto specific safeguards; promotes conflict of interests by allowing industry peer review of regulations; suspends environmental safeguards if a burdensome review isn't conducted every 10 years; requires phony cost-benefit analyses. How much is human life worth? What costs do we

impose on our grandchildren by polluting groundwater?

When in Doubt...

If you're confused, the short and sweet message is that we care strongly about protecting public health and "if it ain't broke, don't fix it." National polls repeatedly reveal that Americans don't think existing safeguards are overly burdensome on businesses and industry. They believe in being on the safe side and not finding out, after it's too late, that public health has been harmed (a la DDT, TCE, lead in gasoline, etc). The November elections were not a public referendum on environmental protection. Any calls or letters you can generate during this critical period will help immensely. Addresses and phone, fax and Internet numbers are included in our "Contact your Representatives" guide on this page.

Quick Guide to Contract's "Doublespeak"

Here's a quick guide to the Contract's environmental double-speak:

"Regulatory reform" = go back to the old days of letting industry do whatever it wants.
"Risk-assessment" = chemicals (pollution) are innocent until proven guilty. Wait for disease, cancer, and deaths to occur before taking action rather than erring on the side of caution.

"Cost-benefit analysis" = conduct a voodoo accounting of all the easy to quantify costs and impossible to quantify benefits of public health safeguards. If the underestimated dollar benefits of saving lives and preventing human suffering don't exceed the costs of pollution control, no safeguards.

"Private property rights" = polluters' bill of rights. Give industry a "right" to pollute that supersedes your right to clean air and water. Taxpayers get to pay polluters not to pollute if they want a healthy living and working environment.

Contact your Representatives

Call the Capitol Switchboard and ask for your Congressman or Senators:

(202) 224-3121

Call President Clinton at

(202) 456-1111

Call Newt Gingrich at

(202) 225-0600

Write your representatives at these addresses:

Congressman Bill Richardson (D-NM)

Congressman Steve Schiff (R-NM)

Congressman Joe Skeen (R-NM)

Congressman Ron Coleman (D-TX)

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Senator Jeff Bingaman (D-NM)

Senator Pete Domenici (R-NM)

Senator Phil Gramm (R-TX)

Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX)

U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Fax to these numbers:

Sen. Bingaman (202) 224-2852

Sen. Domenici (202) 224-7371

Rep. Richardson (505) 988-7296 (ask them to forward to Washington)

On the Internet:

Jeff Bingaman:

Senator Bingaman@bingaman.senate.gov

Newt Gingrich:

georgia6@hr.house.gov

The White House:

http://www.whitehouse.gov

Utah Wilderness Under Assault--Help Needed

by Courtney White

Even as you read this, wheels are turning quickly to destroy the last pockets of wilderness on the BLM lands of southern Utah. Utah's Governor has spearheaded a rapid-fire campaign to introduce into Congress a deplorable "wilderness" bill to replace the decade-old 5.7 million-acre bill long championed by the Sierra Club and other environmental organizations. All through the spring, the county commissioners of southern Utah, acting on marching orders from Salt Lake City, have been holding hearings on this "new" wilderness bill. On April 1st they finished their work.

The "new" wilderness bill recommends less than 1 million acres of red rock wilderness for protection! Worse, it will also recommend "hard release" language for all lands not considered wilderness-worthy. Translated, this means all rejected land must be opened to development and can never again be considered for inclusion in the wilderness system. Governor Leavitt indicates that this proposal is very acceptable to him and will send it along to Utah's congressional delegation, which plans to introduce it in Congress on June 1st. The entire delegation, which is almost uniformly Republican, is

united behind this effort to "settle the wilderness question" once and for all. They mean business this time and if we don't work hard, they might succeed.

The Sierra Club has launched a national campaign to stop this bill from becoming law, but we need your help. The effort is two-pronged:

First, we need to get Congresspeople to co-sponsor the original 5.7 million acre wilderness bill, H.R. 1500, which was reintroduced by Representative Maurice Hinchley on April 7th. We need as many co-sponsors as possible in order to send a clear message about the importance of protecting this wilderness. We must also make crystal clear our opposition to the "anti-wilderness" bill that is coming. *We must, in other words, write letters and make phone calls.*

For example, Representative Bill Richardson, who in the past has been a co-sponsor of H.R. 1500, has not signed up this year. We must, at least, write and urge him to become a co-sponsor again.

Secondly, we must let President Clinton know how we feel. His veto may be all that keeps the "anti-wilderness" bill from becoming law. We can do this by urging co-

sponsors to sign onto H.R. 1500 and to fight the other bill, but we must also write the White House. We cannot assume, as everyone is now painfully aware, that Clinton will automatically veto the Republican bill. His record is too wishy-washy on environmental concerns to assume where he might stand on this issue. Fortunately, we do know one thing--Clinton responds to heat. So let's turn it up.

A great deal of hard work by a great many dedicated wilderness-lovers is in jeopardy. So is a great deal of magnificent wilderness. Please help us.

For more information, please contact me at P.O. Box 4126, Santa Fe, NM 87502.



for separate hearings in urbanized areas, where no habitat for the at-risk species exists. Such a bifurcated process is more likely to produce little more than a catalogue of opposing viewpoints as well as the reinforcement of a perception of environmental organizational elitism.

Species Recovery Plans

The SB 371 amendments create a species recovery plan development and implementation process. The WCA does not currently provide such a process. SB 371 defines a recovery plan as "a designated program or methodology reasonably expected to lead to restoration and maintenance of a species and its habitat." This definition, as well as the specific objective criteria for an acceptable recovery plan, are notable because of their specific recognition of the necessity to restore and maintain species habitat as well as the individual animals themselves.

To the extent practicable, a species recovery plan will be developed for any species listed as threatened or endangered. If indicated, the director will conduct a social and economic analysis and, if adverse impacts are found, he will develop a social or economic mitigation plan.

Wherever such an opportunity exists, the director will attempt to develop recovery plans that include several threatened or

endangered species that utilize similar habitats or share a common threat or both. This type of multiple species recovery plan will be designed to accomplish recovery of the shared habitat or reduce a common threat or both.

A species recovery plan must be submitted to the Game Commission within two years from the date of listing. In order for the Game Commission to approve the proposed recovery plan, it must find that the plan will achieve the following objectives:

1. restoration and maintenance of a viable population of the threatened or endangered species and its habitat reasonably expected to lead to the delisting of the species;
2. avoidance or mitigation of adverse social or economic impacts;
3. identification of social or economic benefits and opportunities;
4. use of volunteer resources and existing economic recovery and assistance programs and funding available from public and private sources to implement the plan.

As the initial action in the development of a species recovery plan, the director will schedule a public information meeting, or meetings, in each of the quadrants of the state determined by the director to be affected by the development of a recovery plan. At these meetings, the director will present background

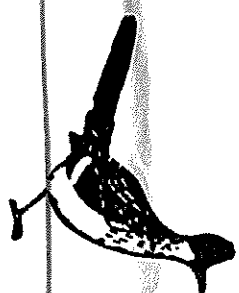
information about the basis of the listing, an explanation of the process to develop a recovery plan and its probable content, if known. The director will discuss questions and concerns regarding the process.

Upon completion of the public information meetings, the director will solicit all interested individuals, organizations and governmental agencies to serve on an advisory committee to participate in the development of a recovery plan. Advisory committees will be open to anyone who wishes to participate in good faith, and the director is given the ability to appoint working groups to facilitate progress in large advisory group situations.

A draft recovery plan will be made available to the public for review and comment prior to submission to the Game Commission of a final proposed recovery plan. When the Game Commission approves the proposed recovery plan, or approves it with conditions, the director will actively seek cooperative implementation on public and private land to achieve the recovery and delisting of the species.

Native American Exemption

SB 371 amends the WCA so that its provisions do not apply to a taking of wildlife by a Native American for religious purposes, unless it negatively affects an endangered or threatened species.



Legislative Roundup

(con't from page 1)

Water

Additionally, we want to thank Sen. Stefanics for her tireless efforts on water conservation. Since water is the Chapter's number one priority, we hope for her continued support. Water Chair Vickie Gabin, with an assist from Page Morgan, worked very hard on these issues. And notwithstanding the Governor's veto, House Speaker Raymond Sanchez's sponsorship (on the Club's behalf) of H. 453, for a review of the State's water law, is appreciated.

We also want to express our appreciation to Rep. G.X. McSherry (D.-Denning), who, as Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, worked with us (in the person of ExCom member Jim Winder) to develop a dialogue for future protection of riparian areas. A lot of work will be needed by Jim and Sue and others to see this achieved.

"Bottle Bill"

Despite efforts by Rep. Shirley Baca (D.-Las Cruces) and Sen. Stefanics during this past year, the "bottle bills" were defeated once again. The Chapter, in the person of former Albuquerque Chair Robert Holzapfel, worked with Kevin Bean of the New Mexico Public Interest Research Group in attempting to answer the industry attack. We got farther than we have in the past, and with Rep. Baca obtaining the passage of House Memorial 31, we can address this matter in the next regular

legislative session. Let us keep up the endeavor.

On another recycling front, Sen. Roman Maes (D.-Santa Fe) introduced a battery recycling bill. David Warren, staff to Sen. Rutherford, was very helpful in giving technical assistance in this effort. Next time.

Ute Mountain

We want to extend our appreciation to Sen. Carlos Cisneros (D.-Taos) for his successful sponsorship of the Ute Mountain memorial asking the State Land Office to review the area for possible purchase. In this regard, we particularly want to thank Land Commissioner Ray Powell, Jr., for his strong support in this and other Club efforts. Steve Harris, Ron Gardner, Elizabeth Winter and Greg Braden, all from the Taos area, were essential for this successful effort. Now we will try to raise the money for its purchase in a future session.

Road Through Petroglyphs

The Club was successful, largely through the efforts of Ike Eastvold, Albuquerque's Petroglyph National Monument Chair, Jaime Chavez, Project Director of the Artisco Land Rights Council and Bill Weahkee, Director of the Five Sandoval Indian Pueblos, Inc. in defeating legislative attempts in both houses to support road construction through the Monument. They made

Endangered Species

Bill

Summary

(con't from page 1)

loopholes have, for the most part, been plugged.

There were many other matters on which the Club's lobbying team worked: support for the State's acquisition of the Chama Land and Cattle properties sponsored by Sen. Edward Lopez (D.-Santa Fe) and vetoed; monies for an environmental impact study on the proposed Dona Ana County spaceport; support for the wildlife plate bill sponsored by Sen. Michael Wiener (R.-Alb.) and vetoed; opposition to an industry sponsored environmental audit confidentiality bill, which died; the proposed (but failed) amendments to the State's trails system by Rep. Robert Perlis (D.-Corrales) with whom we have promised to work in the future; the successful opposition to bills proposing the transfer of Federal lands to either State or private hands; and more.

Gracias

Special thanks to Reps. Danice Picraux (D.-Alb.) and "freshmen" Mimi Stewart (D.-Alb), who are always there for us. Rep. Picraux even introduced another "little NEPA" on our behalf, which, unfortunately, had to be left for another day.

On the executive side of the ledger, we want to send a "thank you" to Governor Gary Johnson for

(con't on page 16)

Bill of Rights

Every An
We urge
We oppose a
last 25 years.

We urge all elected officials — local, state, and federal — to protect that right.

will hold public officials who represent us accountable for their stewardship of the planet.

1. Prevent pollution. Every American is entitled to air, water, food and communities free from toxic chemicals. Government policies and regulatory standards must prevent pollution before it happens, expand citizens' right to know about toxics, and guarantee protection for citizens, particularly for the most vulnerable among us — infants, children, pregnant women, and the elderly.

II. Preserve America's national heritage, wild and beautiful, for our children and future generations. Wildlife, forests, mountains and prairies, wetlands, rivers, lakes, historic sites, urban parks and open space, oceans, and coastlines are all part of our national heritage.

III. End the give-aways of public assets, such as mineral, timber, grazing and fishery resources. End the subsidies for oil and energy companies. Polluters should pay to clean up the mess they create. No one has the right to use property in a way that destroys or degrades the surrounding community. We reject the idea that good neighbors must pay bad ones not to pollute.

IV. Conserve America's natural resources by controlling waste, increasing energy efficiency, and protecting against overuse and abuse. Encourage sustainable technologies that meet human needs without destroying the environment.

V. Get the big money out of politics. No more government for sale. Let's take our government back from the big campaign contributors and exploiters who control it today.

[illegible]

SIERRA CLUB

ONE EARTH, ONE CHANCE

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Legislative Roundup

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note of appreciation to Attorney General Tom Udall for his year-long effort on the subdivision act amendments.

lobbying team for an unprecedented effort. To Eleanor Eisenmenger for keeping us organized; to Sue McIntosh and George Grossman for

and subdivision acts. Two very positive steps. Additionally, a big "gracias" enough times to our

always being there; and to Robert Holzapfel, Tone Abell, Ian Kindel



Rio Grande Chapter
Sierra Club
P.O. Box 9191
El Paso, TX 79983

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