

Rio Grande Sierran



News of the Rio Grande Chapter Sierra Club
July/August 1995

Gathering Thunder--Bad News for Public Lands

by Courtney White

It is becoming a bad month for our public lands. A storm is brewing over our parks, wildernesses, and other hallowed grounds, threatening to become a tempest. The forecast calls for increased fury and a deluge of change. The damage could be widespread. As I look out my window, at the gathering clouds, I see a very disturbing picture.

200 Parks to Close

On May 24, Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt announced, during the annual country-wide celebration of our national park system, that due to budget cutbacks proposed by Republicans in the House and Senate 200 National Park units would be closed. It was not an idle threat - I have seen the Park Service's internal memo. Gila Cliff Dwelling is #20 on the list El Morro is #60; Aztec is #61; Capulin is #70; Fort Union is #87; El Malpais is #123; Salinas is #140; Petroglyph is #153; White Sands is #174; Pecos is #183; and Chaco is #195. In other words, every park unit in New Mexico, except Bandelier and Carlsbad, is scheduled to be closed. It gets worse. Included on the

list are Arches National Park, Gates of the Arctic, Mount Rushmore (!), Canyon de Chelly, Little Bighorn Battlefield, Appomattox Courthouse, Mojave, Craters of the Moon, Organ Pipe, the Eisenhower home, Fort Sumter, Chiricahua, and...well, need I go on?

These closures are necessary, says Babbitt, because Congress is about to foist a 33% budget cut, over five years, on the Park Service. He has no choice. The agency is already underfunded, understaffed, and overwhelmed. The parks, as we all know too well, are overcrowded too, which sets up a painful irony - why cut an agency whose workload rises every year? Where is the logic in that? But the cuts are coming and the Park Service simply cannot absorb the blood-letting without shutting down parks and laying off staff.

Why is this happening? To balance the federal budget? I think not (the Revisions bill, recently vetoed by President Clinton, contained a \$42 million dollar cut for the Park Service, but none for the BLM and Forest Service - you can guess why). This situation should have the Park Service's 250 million constituents hollering at the top of their lungs all at the same time. Yet, Congress thinks it can get away with this attack on the nation's most beloved federal agency. Why, I ask, do politicians think they can close Mount Rushmore and get away with it? I'll make a guess - they're doing it, to paraphrase Oliver Stone, because they can. Because no one, apparently, seems to care. The thundering in from Washington, D.C. is drowning out our few voices.

Utah "Wilderness" Bills

There is more. On June 7th, the storm intensified. On that day the Utah delegation introduced legislation in both houses of Congress that would permanently ruin the BLM wilderness of southern Utah. House bill HR. 1745 and Senate bill S. 884 "protect" only 1.8 million acres of wild land, instead of the 5.7 million contained in a Sierra Club-backed bill. Worse, the bills mandate that all BLM land not designated as

wilderness be "managed for the full range of non-wilderness multiple use."

This is called hard release language and it would not be an overstatement to say that its inclusion may sound the death knell of the 1964 Wilderness Act. No fooling.

The Utah bills are significant because they will most likely be the first lightning strikes of the gathering storm over our public lands. Hearings are set for late June and action on the bills, i.e. their approval, is expected by fall. Then the deed will be done, unless Clinton issues a veto, which is not a certainty, especially considering the political whims of the looming election year. Every effort must be made to stop these bills, not only because they will drive a stake through the heart of southern Utah wildland but because their defeat will do much to stall the anti-public land mood in our nation's Capitol. We must raise our own tempest.

More to Come--What Can We Do?

There is more fury on the horizon. Our very own Senator Domenici has introduced a "rancher's rights" bill that gives cows unlimited right to run ruin over public land; plans are being laid to dissolve the BLM and turn over 200 million acres of federal land to the states; the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is targeted for exploratory oil drilling; and high timber cutting levels on our national forests will soon be mandatory. It goes on.

I know it gets depressing and sometimes it all can seem just too overwhelming. But these bills are real and will have real effects. What can we do? Anything? Yes we can, we can raise our voices -- we are talking about politicians after all. They may love lobbyists but they fear voters more. So write! Call! Gather your own thunder and hurl it back (See box on page 4 for addresses and phone numbers.)

More Donors, Less Money

The Box Score on our Annual Fund Appeal, to date:

Donations	Dollars
1995	161
1996	\$6930
Compare:	
1993	154
1994	\$9159

The message: More donors, less dollars. Thanks to all who have contributed. Listed below are additional contributors since our last issue.

We are well behind last year, and \$2000 short of our goal. If you haven't made your contribution yet, please consider your gift. We would like to include you as a Partner in Activism.

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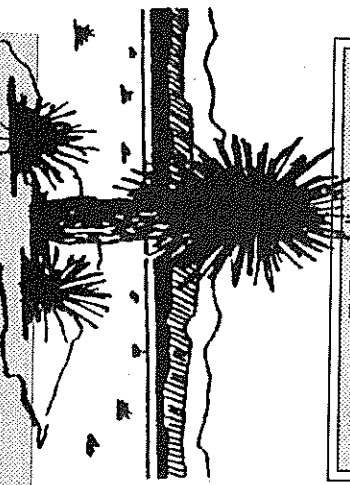
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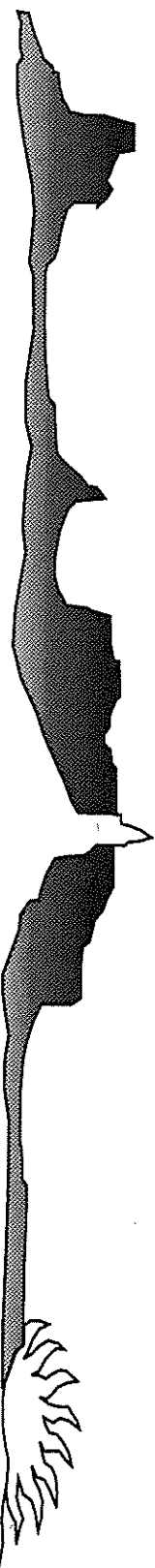


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WE GET LETTERS

Dear Editor:

Who's Sierra Club was Don Goldman referring to when he wrote in a recent commentary regarding the controversy over the negotiations for amending New Mexico's endangered species law, the Wildlife Conservation Act, that the "Club" felt the kind of compromise the Santa Fe negotiators made would provide "much more successful conservation" in "today's economic and political reality"?

Perhaps . . . the Rio Grande Chapter need[s] to consider the following words of the eminent David Brower, a founding father of the Sierra Club, from his newly released book, *Let the Mountains Talk, Let the Rivers Run: A Call to Those Who Would Save the Earth*:
 "What has happened to boldness in defense of the Earth?"

"For all the splendid increase in membership of the world's environmental organizations, both wilderness and the ecological life-support system of the planet itself are increasingly going down the tubes. Could this be because large environmental groups are acting like government bureaucracies?"

"Compromise is often necessary, but it ought not to originate with environmental leaders. Our role is to hold fast to what we believe is right, to fight for it, to find allies, and to adduce all possible arguments for our cause. If we cannot find enough vigor in us or our friends to win, then let someone else propose the compromise, which we must then work hard to coax our way."

"When the U.S. government proposed dams for the Grand Canyon, we at the Sierra Club said we'd accept no dams. People knew what we stood for and gathered around. We defeated the proposals. If we had said (or thought) that we'd accept one dam but not two, clearly would have vanished from our deeds and faces. People would have seen that we were just arguing about how much defilement is acceptable, not opposing it entirely. They would have gathered elsewhere if they gathered at all. Too often, in the 1990s, environmentalists are so

eager to appear reasonable that they have gone soft.

"I say to all those who consider themselves to be the friends of the Earth, and especially to those of you who consider yourselves leaders: Never give up what you haven't seen (unless they be chlorofluorocarbons). And don't expect politicians, even good ones, to do the job for you. Politicians are like weather vanes. Our job is to make the wind blow."

Sincerely,

Kristin Linkugel
 Rio Rancho

(Editor's note: David Brower has been elected to the Sierra Club's national Board for 1995-96, as was Dave Foreman of the Albuquerque Group.)

Chapter Issue Outings

by Norma McCallan, Chapter Outings Chair

With this issue, we hope to start a regular column devoted to one or more outings of interest to the whole Chapter. Of course, members anywhere are encouraged to check each Group's outings list and to participate in any trips that are of interest to them.

Use Mountain Field Trip—August 13—Remote and little known until the recent publicity regarding its possible sale to a developer interested in building a major resort, Use Mountain is a large, still-wild area near the town of Costilla, almost at the Colorado border. It has significant hydrological importance to the Rio Grande which flows along its western border, and provides habitat for a large number of wildlife species. This moderate-level trip will focus on a section of the Upper Rio Grande Gorge. Call Elizabeth Winter at (505) 751-7428 for more information and directions on getting there.

In the next issue, we hope to feature a trip into one of the more controversial BLM Wilderness Areas in the southern part of the State, to be arranged by John Wright.

Ecological Range Management Meeting

The Malpai Borderland Group of southwestern New Mexico will host the summer meeting of the Society for Range Management (SRM), Arizona and New Mexico Section, at Gray Ranch south of Lordsburg, August 11-12.

The meeting, and a tour of Gray Ranch, will take on a theme of consensus building between the ranching community, producer groups, environmentalists, and environmental groups that are concerned with the management of New Mexico's rangeland natural resources.

The Malpai Borderland Group is a nonprofit organization which tries to protect a healthy and unfragmented community of human, plant and animal life by working to encourage profitable ranching and other traditional livelihoods which will sustain the open space nature of the Borderland Region. Some of the group's programs include the Ranchers' Endangered Species Program, the Grass Bank Program, Pasture and Range Restoration, Community Based Conservation, and Conservation Easements.

SRM is a nonprofit association whose objectives are to properly take care of basic rangeland resources; develop an understanding of range ecosystems; to improve the effectiveness of range management; and to create public appreciation of the economic and social benefits from a healthy range environment.

For more information, contact George Chavez (505-761-4421) or Jim McCormick (505-525-4300).

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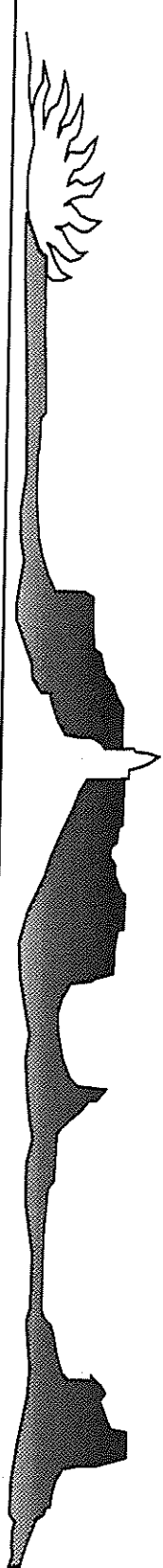
1995-96 Nominating Committee

In accordance with the Standing Election Rules of the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club, Gwen Wardwell has appointed the following persons to serve on the Nominating Committee for 1995-96:
 Ford Robbins, Chair - 7 Monte Alto Court, Santa Fe, NM 87505. Phone: (505) 466-7665

Heidi Fleischmann - 1512 Cornell Dr NE, Albuquerque, NM 87106. Phone: (505) 260-1217

Jim Winder - St Rt 2, Box 38, Deming, NM 88030. Phone: (505) 267-4227

Chapter members wishing to suggest names for consideration to be candidates for the Executive Committee should submit them to one of these Nominating Committee members in the coming months. See the next issue of the Sierran for the formal call for nominees.



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The fate of millions of acres of precious New Mexico wildlands remains up in the air as progress on a New Mexico Wilderness Bill seems to have stalled. Earlier this spring, activists from central and southern New Mexico traveled to several BLM Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) along with officials of the BLM to take a fresh look at WSAs that the BLM did not recommend for Wilderness status in its original inventory. Both the BLM and the activists reported that the trips were productive. The original BLM proposal called for less than a half-million acres be designated Wilderness while the NM Wilderness Coalition recommended more than 2 million acres as suitable for Wilderness designation by Congress.

Activists from the New Mexico Wilderness Coalition, and other organizations such as the Sierra Club that are members of the Coalition, have been trying unsuccessfully to meet with Senator Bingaman to find out his position on a Wilderness Bill. Many feel that Bingaman holds the key to the kind of Wilderness legislation that will pass Congress for New Mexico. Some activists are afraid of a similar situation to that in Utah where most of the political leaders are supporting minimal Wilderness designation. (See story on page 1.) Like Utah, New Mexico's BLM WSAs represent diverse landscape and ecology—vital to New Mexico's economic and cultural survival.

"Wildlands"

The Sierra Club, along with the New Mexico Wilderness Coalition, is working to make the public aware of the many and diverse values in these WSAs. Work has begun on publishing a revised "Wildlands" book that will give New Mexicans more information on these WSAs in an attractive format.

Meanwhile, New Mexico's wildlands continue to be at risk from recreational, mining and logging development, and from poor management of activities such as motorized recreation and grazing.

Centex

The BLM is moving ahead with plans to patent a mining claim by Centex American Gypsum in the Ojito Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) adjacent to the Ojito WSA. This area sees heavy recreational use from the Albuquerque area because it's less than an hour away—the closest WSA to New Mexico's largest urban population—and also because of its outstanding natural resources such as rare plants and unique geological features.

Centex's mining claim lies in the heart of the Ojito ACEC. BLM claims that it has no discretion to disapprove patents except according to the test of whether the claim is marketable. However, mining activists report that in other parts of the country the BLM has fought patent applications based on the higher economic value of the land as a recreational resource.

El Malpais

The BLM is also working on a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the El Malpais National Conservation Area (NCA). This area, south of Grants, contains unique ecosystems in some of the most recent lava flows in New Mexico. The EIS is being done because the original management plan was drawn up without an EIS to support it. Environmentalists had claimed in the appeal that the BLM had called for too much developed recreation in the area. Those fears remain as the BLM draws up a new plan along with the EIS.

In the southern part of the El Malpais is the Chain of Craters WSA. This area has many volcanic features and accompanying ecology that make it worth protecting as Wilderness. It is also used by the Ramah Navajo as a sacred area. Even while the plan was under appeal because of an overemphasis on developed recreation, the BLM designated the unimproved dirt road running along part of the Chain of Craters WSA a "National Scenic Byway." This dirt road completes a circle driving tour of the El Malpais, a concept the BLM has always promoted there. The effects of this type of development, along with the parking lots, information kiosks, road improvements and other visitor facilities such as restrooms, will be unknown without the EIS. However, such development is bound to have a significant impact in such a fragile environment.

The BLM has already been through one recreational debate in the El Malpais NCA. Also in the appeal is the BLM moved a herd of buffalo from Ft. Wingate to the El Malpais to create a "watchable wildlife program" designed again primarily for the benefit of auto tourists. Presumably buffalo were to be viewable from the roads along the El Malpais although people were cautioned from approaching them in the wild (primarily the Cebolla

Wilderness). However, the buffalo did not cooperate and moved out of their designated area causing the BLM to take them back to where they came from. Several buffalo died and thousands of tax dollars were spent on this attempt to create recreational opportunities out of natural areas.

Pecos

The Forest Service is also threatening to damage a potential addition to the Pecos Wilderness. The Angostura Creek area on the north side of the Pecos contains one of the few remaining native cutthroat trout areas in New Mexico, yet the Forest Service may recommend a timber sale there. This would require building roads and crossing the creek in sensitive areas. This area contains an existing trail network and would be a valuable addition to the Wilderness. Congressman Richardson has stated that he would be willing to introduce a bill designating the area as part of the Wild and Scenic Rivers network, however that hasn't happened yet.

Outings

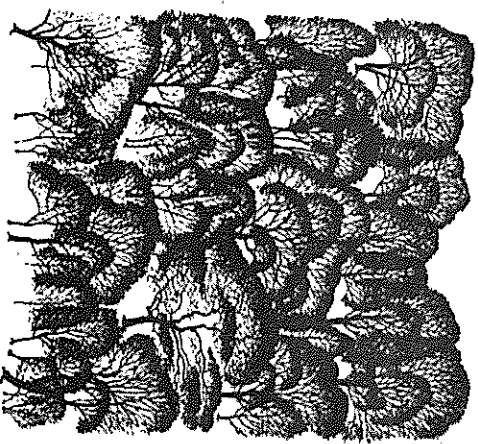
Sierra Club activists, along with others from the New Mexico Wilderness Study Committee, the NM Wilderness Coalition and Wilderness Watch, are organizing outings to look at the impacts of grazing in several Forest Service Wilderness areas. Overgrazing has hastened top soil loss and caused severe gullies in the San Pedro Parks Wilderness, and there has been extensive damage to areas of the Manzanos Mtns. Wilderness area also.

Other outings will look at management problems with ORVs in the Columbine Hondo WSA near Taos. Any member interested in Wilderness issues are welcome to join us on outings and by helping out with our work through writing letters, etc. Please contact John Wright at 247-4353 if you are interested.

by

John
Wright,

Wilderness
Issues
Co-Chair



War on the Environment Continues in Congress

by Craig O'Hare, Federal Legislative Issues Chair

Senate Bill 343 Regulatory "Risk Assessments" and "Cost-Benefit Analyses": (See last issue of *Sierra* for details.) As we go to press, Senator Dole's S343 was headed to the Senate floor—possibly somewhat weakened, but still disastrous. Even before the next *Sierra* comes out, we'll probably need calls and letters to President Clinton urging him to veto whatever has passed. Call your group conservation chair or me (474-3842) for an update. One item of interest: regulatory costs, as a percent of GDP (Gross Domestic Product) have decreased by 11% from 1977. The *Washington Post* (3/17/94) stated, "There is little evidence that environmental compliance costs have adversely affected the competitiveness of US manufacturing firms." The Contract on America "cries wolf" again.

Clinton Vetoes Rescissions Bill! In early June, Clinton vetoed

New Mexico Wilderness

At Risk from Recreation, Mining, Logging, Grazing

Endangered Species Act Headed for Frontal Assault in Early August: During July, both the House and Senate will be dealing with bills in committee to rescind, gut, weaken beyond recognition, etc. the ESA. The bills are expected to hit the floor in early August. While the "lead bills" in each chamber are not yet clear, the basic message is: we support a strong ESA. Call/write both our Senators and your Representative with that basic message. For Bingaman and Domenici, S 768 (gives species survival decision-making authority to the Dept. of Interior) can be opposed specifically. See story on page 4.

Utah Wilderness Bill: Per Courtney White's page 1 article, urge your Representative to co-sponsor Rep. Hinchey's good wilderness bill (HR 1500). 1500 includes the 5.7 million acres recommended by the Utah Wilderness Coalition.



The War On The Environment--What You Can Do

It should be crystal clear to everyone by now that the US House and Senate are on a fast track to make broad changes in the way the federal government does business.

Those of us who believe that the federal government has a clear responsibility for the oversight of public health and safety and protection of the environment must keep the letters, calls, faxes and E-Mail messages coming to Washington.

Here's what we must do:

- Press our Congressmen and Senators to oppose the open legislative assaults such as Takings and Risk Assessment bills and amendments as well as efforts to dismantle the Clean Water and Endangered Species Acts.
- Encourage President Clinton to use his veto power.
- Exhort Interior Secretary Babbitt to expose plans to eliminate National Parks and reduce regulation of resource extraction on public lands.
- Urge Energy Secretary O'Leary to advocate for funding for restoration and reclamation of federal facilities.

How to get involved:

- Volunteer for a Group Phone Tree (see Group pages for contact person).
- Join the letter writer network (send a postcard with your name, address and phone number to Ford Robbins, 7 Monte Alto Court, Santa Fe, NM 87505).
- Participate on the E-Mail listserve (send a request to Bruce Batson, bbatson@ni.net).

Editor's Note: See the Southern New Mexico Group pages for a refresher course on environmental protections.

Endangered Species Act Under Attack

As Craig mentioned in his article on page 3, the Endangered Species Act is currently under attack in Congress.

To try to prevent the bill from being gutted, environmentalists are trying to inundate legislators with letters and phone calls explaining why the Act should not be weakened.

If you wish to write your own letter, please see Michael Bromka's article in the El Paso Group News for 14 reasons why the Act should remain strong.

Also, please consider participating in National Call Congress Day on July 11. On that day, the Endangered Species Coalition is hoping to bombard legislators with phone calls from constituents saying "The Endangered Species Act protects us. Vote for a strong ESA."

This Act has been one of the most effective environmental laws in the world. If we don't speak out, this national accomplishment may be lost.

Military Expands in NM

by Marianne Thaele

I have been receiving telephone calls from government agencies and newspaper and magazine reporters asking me to explain the military expansions in New Mexico. If I can do this for the EPA, WSMR, BLM, FS, and private contractors for the Pentagon, perhaps I should do it for you.

In the past, military facilities or military base expansions were accomplished through occupation and then official withdrawals passed by Congress after public outcry. In New Mexico, and perhaps elsewhere in the United States, this procedure is now in progress. This occupation is being done/attempted in three ways: lease of private lands for launch pads and mobile tracking stations; the use of private contractors and State Lands as "Spaceport", and plans for the total use of lands designated by Congress as Joint Management areas.

Use of Private Land

The northern extension (200,000 to 300,000 acres) of White Sands Missile Range has been in the past a safety buffer zone. Ranchers were/are paid to evacuate their homes and ranches. Highways across the northern extension, also called the FIX Area (Flight in Extension), were/are closed to traffic. No particular attention has been/will be focused on the casual users: hikers, picnickers, campers, hunters, scouting the area, rock hounds, students from New Mexico Tech. Little concern has been accorded the natural resources: Wilderness Study Areas, Area of Sensitive Management, designated Back Country Byway, etc. Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) were signed by the major land manager, the Bureau of Land Management, and the State Land Office for the operation of the area as a safety buffer zone. Now the northern extension is no longer a safety buffer zone. A SAFETY BUFFER ZONE NO LONGER EXISTS.

State Lands

325,000 acres are being considered for a Spaceport north east of Hatch and Upham NM. Scattered parcels of State-owned lands are to be designated for launch and other facilities. No provisions have yet been made for payments to ranchers or for the evacuation of casual users during launches. No Memoranda of Understanding exist with the major land manager, the BLM. The only mission of WSMR, the adjoining property owner, is for mission control, tracking, mathematical analysis and liability. Although touted as a private enterprise on State Lands, WSMR will be providing mission control, tracking, mathematical analysis and the issues of liability are yet to be decided. This is a WSMR expansion. All other Spaceports in the nation are on federal facilities.

Military take-over of BLM/Military Jointly Managed Area

By law, the BLM and the military are to jointly manage McGregor Range, south of Alamogordo. This 600,000 acre tract was divided by gentlemanly handshake agreement after the joint management legislation was passed by Congress. BLM manages Otero Mesa and the Sacramento foothills for multiple use, and the military manages the rest (including lands for a DOD Personnel Only Hunting Area). Now a Ft. Bliss Master Plan exists whereby McGregor Range would be taken over completely by the military without Congressional action.

And also, Holloman Air Force Base has requested landing sites in the Lincoln NF for Air Rescue helicopter exercises. (Elephant Butte Lake has been used for Holloman water rescue exercises for a number of years.)

Ongoing Actions

Having alerted New Mexicans to the above, as Military Issues Chair, I am writing Comments to Environmental Assessments for the implementation of the actions. The Sierra Club has not taken any formal positions on military programs in New Mexico, but we are ever concerned for public safety and protection of natural resources. Of major concern are the Theater Missile Defense Extended Test Range programs under US Space and Strategic Defense Command, Huntsville Alabama, Ballistic Missile Defense Organization, The Pentagon.

I continue to monitor the annual Roving Sands military exercises from Ft. Bliss. As you may have read in the papers, there were a number of plane crashes this year during the Roving Sands exercises. We were successful in having the airspace down to 500 feet over the City of Las Cruces removed from use plans. This year, trucks ran over archaeological sites and spray paint was used in a number of places.

I testified at the Scoping Hearing in Las Cruces on the proposed Airborne Laser Defense System out of Phillips Lab at Kirtland AFB, which proposes to use the Extended Test Range. Since the hearings I have learned from news accounts that the lasers cannot be shot south for fear of knocking out equatorial orbiting satellites, cannot be shot through clouds, and will only be effective on missiles ascending from launch. Other reports are that the US and foreign manufacturers of missiles have already shielded missiles from laser attacks.

When asked why I do not detail environmental issues in greater detail, my answer is always, "Wish I had time, Public Safety First! We are concerned for the casual user of public lands including but not limited to Sierra Club members."

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

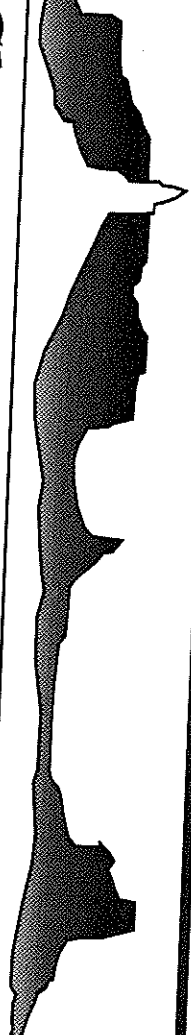
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Congressman Joe Skeen (R-NM)
Congressman Ron Coleman (D-TX)
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Write the President at
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, D.C. 20500

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:
georgiag@hr.house.gov
The White House:
<http://www.whitehouse.gov>



Electronic Sierra Club - On the World-Wide Web

Picked up any magazine or newspaper lately that did not have a reference to Internet, the 'Information Superhighway' or the 'World Wide Web'? Now that the Rio Grande Chapter is up and running on the 'Web,' you're going to want to get involved. Its actually pretty easy to do.

What do I need to do to get started? Almost any computer running today will do the job. However, to access the advantages of the latest multimedia environments, the more speed and power you pump into that box, the more rewarding your online time will be. You will also need a modem, which is the gadget that allows your computer to talk to other computers over a phone line. Again, the faster the better (9600 baud is the minimum you should consider and 14,400 or even 28,800 baud would be even better).

You will also need Internet application software, which you should get from your Internet service provider.

What is an Internet service provider, you ask. A 'provider' is an organization (could be commercial or a university) with a computer that's connected to the Internet. Those with access to the computer systems at the universities like UNM, UTEP, NMSU are already connected directly to the Internet. For the rest of us, the major online services such as America Online (AOL), CompuServe and Prodigy and a myriad of more local organizations, such as InternetDirect, Network Intensive, and Rtt66, are accessible through a local phone call to most Chapter members. To access the Web, make sure you get SLIP/PPP service and a Web browser software such as Netscape or Mosaic.

How much will all this cost? Of course, how much you spend on a computer, modem and software is up to you. The good news is that software and monthly connect fees charged by the 'providers' can be very economical indeed, anywhere from free for the software and as little as \$5 per month for 5 hours of connect

time to \$25-35 per month for 100+ hours. How can you beat that for all the information in the world?

Once up and running, how do I connect to Sierra Club? Two ways actually - The first is with electronic mail (e-mail) to send and receive messages from the Chapter's 'mailing list'. The 'list' is just a program that automatically mails copies of any message sent to it to everyone else on the list. The list provides a forum for all club members to exchange thoughts on relevant issues. Just use your provider's e-mail program and address a message to: bbatson@ni.net or blairb@aol.com and ask to be added to the mailing list (no fees here, just let us know you're interested). Once you are on the list, you will receive Club messages and be able to send messages for list members to see and respond to by addressing them to sierra@technet.nm.org.

The other way to access the Club is through the World-Wide-Web (some call it 'surfing the Web'). The 'Web' is a wonderful system of programs which allows anyone to 'browse' through information 'sites' containing rich mixtures of text, pictures, even sound and video-like presentations. The Web also makes using the Internet much easier than before by allowing users a familiar environment with clickable links to other documents, formats, and sites around the world. Even the mouseless among us can participate as there are browsers for text-only based applications as well. Once you're ready to browse, start with the Chapter's homepage at <http://www.nm.net/~sierra/> That's the Chapter's URL (Uniform Resource Locator), a form of address common to almost all Internet sites.

So, what are you waiting for? Jump in. Get involved. The 'mailing list' will also give you a forum to share ideas with other members. The Chapter's Web pages will help keep you informed about what's going on in our region and in the Club nationwide. See you on the Net.

Gatherings.....The Process Continues

Welcome to the Western New Mexico Section!

by Susan Gorman

On the road again...we headed west to explore Bluewater Lake State Park and hug a few Ponderosas in the Cibola National Forest near McGaffey. Then we joined the folks in Western New Mexico for their second meeting on April 30. Barbara Leonard was elected Chair and outings and issues were discussed.

May 19-21, we did the grand circle tour, to Farmington and Gallup. Friday evening, there was a productive meeting with the Four Corners folks, Sierrans Norma McCallan and Roger Peterson from Santa Fe and Mark Pearson from Durango and BLM representatives. A Four Corners Group seems a distinct possibility. The next day we participated in a hike lead by the BLM folks to explore Crow Canyon. We realized what a wonderful country lies just to the southeast of Farmington.

Sunday, we drove through Navajoland to Gallup and met with the Western New Mexico folks. This meeting was a breakthrough! We developed a plan to form the Western New Mexico Section of the Albuquerque Group. This provides the organization needed for activists to act on behalf of the Club while minimizing organizational requirements. The Albuquerque Group will provide guidance and support. The Albuquerque Group and Rio Grande Chapter Excons both approved this structure, so Welcome Western New Mexico Section!

On June 6, Margo Wilson organized a Gathering in Truth or Consequences for Sierrans in Sierra County. Marianne Thaeler provided support and encouragement (giving Blair and me the night off). The Sierran population density is even lower than the general population density but 15 folks came and the enthusiasm was infectious! Margo is now on the Southern New Mexico Group Excon and a Section is being discussed.

The Gathering on June 14 brought together Sierrans from Peralta, Los Lunas, Belen and Bosque Farms. These rapidly growing communities must deal with the pressures of urbanization to retain their quality of life!

News from Western New Mexico

by Barbara Brandt

The Western New Mexico Section of the Albuquerque Group is getting up steam and has been set on track, thanks to Susan Gorman and Blair Brown with their trips to Gallup.

We have had three meetings in Gallup. Our members have attended public meetings to give our input on environmental issues in McKinley and Cibola Counties such as clearcutting of state forests and proposed uranium and coal mining operations.

We now hope to sponsor some outings and work to get more members involved.

Thanks to Albuquerque for giving us the impetus to get started.

(Editors Note: The Chapter Executive Committee approved the formation of the Western New Mexico Section at its June 3-4 meeting.)

Where next? Elizabeth Winter, Taos, is working hard on Northern New Mexico issues and would like to gather more support. We are still hoping for Gatherings in Socorro, Roswell, Silver City, Carlsbad, Raton and Taos. How about Albuquerque, Corrales, Rio Rancho and Bernalillo?

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 blairb@aol.com or snailmail at 2226B Wyoming NE #272, Albuquerque, NM 87112. July is great month to travel!

With Fondest Memories

On April 28, 1995, Jeanne Fairweather Halverson, a long-time Sierra Club member and activist, died after a brief illness. Jeanne was active in the Albuquerque Group for many years. She served as a member of the Group Excon and was active at the state level as well. She worked keeping the office organized, but one of the most valuable jobs she performed was that of the always-available back-up person for our yearly fundraiser during the State Fair. She often worked five or more shifts, helping out in a pinch.

Jeanne loved the outdoors and worked in conservation issues as well. She worked diligently with other activists to preserve the Westside petroglyphs, open spaces in the city, the Rio Grande bosque, and other public lands. She also helped the group in its outreach activities.

Jeanne was a remarkable individual, an inspiration and a good friend to many. We will miss her deeply.

In her honor, Jeanne's family has established a memorial fund. These funds will be earmarked for Zion National Park, a place for which Jeanne had a special love:

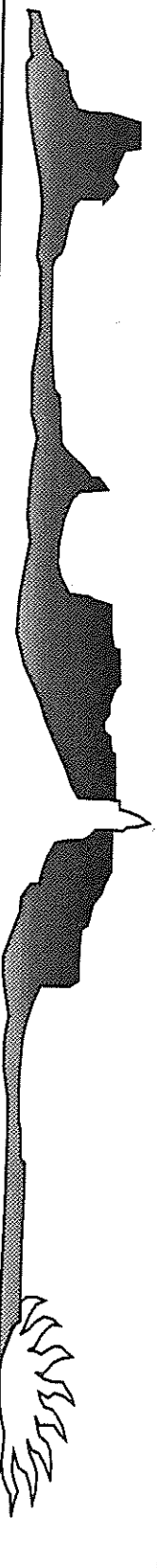
The National Parks and Conservation Association
Jeanne Fairweather Halverson Memorial Fund

1776 Massachusetts, NW Suite 2000
Washington, DC 20036

Please mark 'Memorial Contribution' on the envelope, and make checks payable to the NP/CA-Halverson Memorial Fund.

BOOK SALE

For your summer reading pleasure, there are a few Sierra Club clearance books available at 50% off the list price: The Best Sky Touring in America, The Home Energy Decision Book, Your Affordable Solar Home and The Backyard Birders Journal. Sierra Club members always receive a 10% discount on books; new titles recently ordered include Adventuring in the Rockies, American Nature Writing: 1995, Arizona Day Hikes, and The Sierra Club Family Outdoors Guide. The Fall 95 catalog is out, featuring many new books - Breakout, the Evolving Threat of Drug-Resistant Disease, The World of the Coyote, The Sierra Club Desert Reader and dozens of other titles. There are also lots of good books for children. All proceeds benefit the Albuquerque Group. Call Larry Compton, 899-0679.



July 17 General Meeting

THE FUTURE OF THE STATE LANDS -- REPORT FROM THE LAND OFFICE

New Mexico's State Trustlands are managed by the Land Office to generate over \$140 million annually in revenues for public schools and universities. Land Commissioner Ray Powell will tell us about the progress his office has made in the management of the state trust lands in ways which protects the environmental values, encourages environmental education, and optimizes the revenue generated.

Ray will also explain how the proposed changes in federal land management will impact the State Land Office and discuss the privatization movement, an effort to transfer public lands to private ownership.

August 21 General Meeting

CRITTERS AND KIDS

The Talking Talons kids and critters will visit us again, so come and bring your kids to see bats, raptors and other feathered friends up close and personal. This is a great opportunity to learn from the kids about where the critters live, what they like to eat and the ways we can peacefully coexist with them. Talking Talons is a New Mexico non-profit organization which has gained national recognition for the wonderful work they do.

NOTE: General meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at 7:30PM, UNM Law School, Room 2401, on the northwest corner of Mountain and Stanford NE. Meet new friends, learn about outings, issues and events. Bring a cup and enjoy goodies provided by the Albuquerque Group. Please come!

Classified Ads

Technical -- Professional

Working Group Member - Oil & Gas Industry, Public Lands Project

Duties include: Participation in the work of the Core Working Group, Public Lands Project, representing the Sierra Club, presenting the environmental viewpoint at meetings, participating in task groups, attending up to 6 meetings per year.

The most essential duty is to make sure that reinventing government does NOT ALLOW environmental degradation or PRECLUDE public involvement!

The ideal candidate should have a working knowledge of oil & gas exploration and production issues, environmental management systems and education in earth science or chemistry. A bright, fast learner will be considered.

Compensation: All travel, lodging and meal expenses to attend meetings in locations in WY, CO, NM, and CA, incredible opportunity to learn about the Oil & Gas industry and protect and preserve public lands.

Administrative -- Professional

Sierra Coordinator, ABQ Group

Duties include: Gathering articles and outings listings, writing calendar, and directory updates and program descriptions for the *Sierra*, expediting delivery to *Sierra* Editor before the deadline. Previous experience helpful but we will train you!

Compensation: Informed readers and happy writers!

Activist assistants -- MANY POSITIONS AVAILABLE!

Duties include: Calling other activists about alerts, writing letters to Senators, Congressmen, Editors, City Councilors, & other decisionmakers, assisting the Issue Chair to develop strategies & tactics to achieve victories. Previous experience helpful but not necessary.

Compensation: Connection to the Planet.

Watch Dogs -- MANY POSITIONS AVAILABLE!

Duties include: 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.

CALENDAR

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

July 5	Mexican Wolf Coalition, 7:30 PM
July 5	Deadline for agenda items for Group Excom. Call Susan Gorman at 265-3231
July 10	Group Excom, 7:00 PM
July 15	Chapter Communications Forum, Bosque del Apache, 10 AM to 4:30 PM. Call Barbara Johnson, 466-4935
July 17	General Meeting, UNM Law School, Rm 2401, 7:30 PM
July 19	Deadline for agenda items for Conservation Committee
July 24	Call Richard Barish, 247-8079
August 2	Conservation Committee Meeting, 7:00 PM
August 9	Mexican Wolf Coalition, 7:30 PM
August 9	Deadline for agenda items for Group Excom. Call Susan Gorman at 265-3231
August 14	Group Excom, 7:00 PM
August 15	Deadline for articles for September/October <i>Rio Grande Sierra</i>
August 21	General Meeting, UNM Law School, Room 2401, 7:30 PM
August 23	Deadline for agenda items for Conservation Committee.
August 23	Call Richard Barish, 247-8079
August 28	Conservation Committee Meeting, 7:00 PM

Group Directory

1995 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Office Telephone: 265-5506

Fax: 256-0373

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

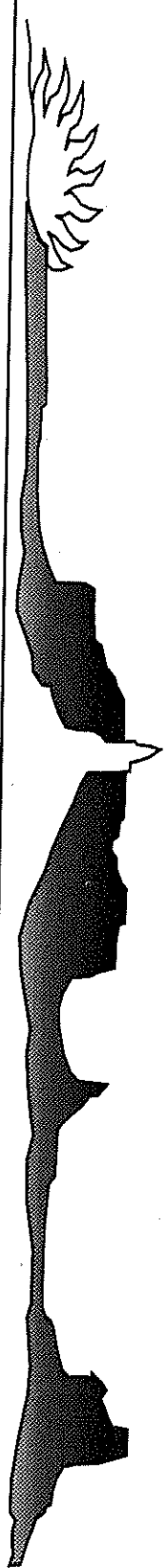
The Albuquerque Group of the Sierra Club depends entirely on the efforts of volunteers. To help our efforts, call the following issue coordinators:

ADMINISTRATION

Office Organizer	Leslie Lazaga	296-0944
Books/Calendars	Larry Compton	899-0679
Information Technology	Bruce Batson	828-2570
	bbatson@novalink.com	
	Blair Brown	265-3231
Membership Newsletter	OPEN	
Outings	OPEN	
	David Morrison	344-8693
	Stan Kauchak	839-4301
Phone Tree	Jean Valentine	869-2090
Political Chair	Ron Grobeck	296-0944
Programs	OPEN	

CONSERVATION

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



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.

Sun-Mon Jul 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 of the Jemez Box Canyon River Wade
We will spot cars at the lower end, travel to the upper meadow, walk the trail down to the box and start wading the narrow walled canyon. We will either plunge the falls or scramble our way around. Meet at 7:30 AM behind the Winchell's at San Mateo and Academy. Bring lunch.
Leader: David Morrison 344-8693

Fri Jul 7 Moderate Miles: 4 Car: 120
Tent Rocks & Slot Canyon by Moonlight, Jemez Mountains
We will first explore for a newly identified slot canyon in the area and then under an almost full moon we head to the Tent Rocks canyons. Bring flashlight and a snack or drink to share with friends. Meet at Far North Shopping Center behind Winchell's at San Mateo and Academy at 6:00 PM.
Leader: David Morrison 344-8693

Sun Jul 9 Leisure Miles: 3 Car: 0
Oxbow Wetland Hike
There is always something new to look at in the Oxbow. Three hours and three miles. Meet at 8:30 AM at Coors and St. Josephs.
Leader: David Morrison 344-8693

Sat-Sun Jul 15-16 Leisure-Moderate Miles: 6-8 Car: 240
3rd Annual Astronomy Car Camp, Magdalena Mtns
Up high in the mountains where the stars blaze, far away from the glare of the city, we set up chairs and a telescope and watch the night float by. Saturday we will take a hike into the surrounding area. Early Sunday we will travel to the Trinity site for an anniversary opening. Potluck dinner on Saturday night, bring a food item. Come up for just the evening or all weekend. Call for details.
Leader: Tom Leck 256-7217

Sat Jul 22 Moderate Miles: 4-5 Car: 210
Gallina Cave Exploratory Hike, Jemez Mountains
You think it's hard to beat the heat. How about attacking like a waterdog and freezing in the middle of July. We follow our guide Deb Harrison along Gallina Creek right into a cave for a very wet walk. Bring a spare set of clothes because you are going to get soaked from head to foot. Bring a waterproof flashlight or put your flashlight in a sturdy plastic bag. Lunch. Meet behind Winchell's at San Mateo and Academy at 8:00 AM.
Leader: David Morrison 344-8693

Sun Jul 23 Moderate Miles: 6-8 Car: 230
Jack's Creek to the Mesa Hike, Pecos Wilderness
We start with a mile of switchbacks on the trail to Pecos Baldy Lake. We reach the mesa for some further hiking, explore the mesa for wild irises, eat lunch, and return. Do not forget rain gear, water, and lunch. Meet at the Sierra Club office, 207 San Pedro NE at 9:00 AM. Leader: Bob Cornish 255-6037

Sat-Sun Jul 29-30 Moderate Miles: 6? Car: 200+
Too Many Good Places to Backpack, CO or Northern NM
It's hard to decide whether to go to the Latir Lakes, Cruces Basin, Weminuche, north Wheeler Peak, or South San Juan Wilderness Areas for some extremely fine backpacking. Maybe we should take off a year and do them all and a few dozen other areas in northern NM and southern Colorado. Give me a call and maybe you can twist my arm towards a certain area. Leave Friday night. Call for details.
Leader: Craig Dill 224-9795

Sat Jul 29 Leisure Miles: 1 or 2 Car: 45
Wildflower Identification in the Sandia Mtns Tour
We will head to a higher elevation in the Sandias for learning the process for identifying wildflowers. Sense of wonder is required. Bring field guides and magnifying glasses if you have them. Dr. Lowery from UNM will provide the expertise. Bring water, lunch, and rain gear. Meet at 9:00 AM at the UNM Astronomy and Physics parking lot at the NE corner of Lomas and Yale.
Leader: David Morrison 344-8693

Sun Jul 30 Moderate Miles: 6 Car: 180
Rio Resumidiero Hike, San Pedro Parks Wilderness
This area in the Jemez is known for numerous beaver and beaver ponds. After hiking up canyon, you will be greeted with a wide expanse of meadows. The canyon has some areas of red rock. Bring lunch and rain gear. Meet at 8:00 AM behind the Winchell's at San Mateo and Academy. For information call David 344-8693.
Leader: Richard Capua

Fri-Sun Aug 4-6 or Aug 18-20 Strenuous Miles: 10+ Car: 600?
Pikes Peak Backpack- Hike, CO
Leave Albuquerque on Friday evening and camp someplace in Colorado. Saturday we backpack up to the halfway point and then hike to the peak. This is the official way if you are trying to bag all of Colorado's fourteeners. As of June, Colorado still was snow packed, so we are setting a backup date.
Leader: Stefan Verchinski 888-1370

Sat Aug 5 Leisure Miles: 2 Car: 140
An Artist's View of the Jemez Mountains
Bring lunch, blanket or chair, art supplies [pencil and paper, paint, pastels, etc.] and enjoy a creative day in the Jemez. We will leisurely walk a short distance in from the Las Conchas trail head along the East fork of the scenic Jemez River, with meadows of wildflowers down stream. Meet at 8:30 AM behind the Winchell's at San Mateo and Academy. Bring rain gear, water, sunscreen and hat.
Leader: Marsha Cohen 897-1591

Sun Aug 6 Leisure Miles: 3 Car: 3
Rio Grande Bosque Hike
We will hike in the cool hours of the morning. Three miles and three hours. Meet at 8:30 AM at Burrito Co. at the corner of Alameda and Coors.
Leader: David Morrison 344-8693

Fri-Sun Aug 11-13 Moderate-Strenuous Miles: 12+ Car: 400+
Toltec Gorge, Tobacco Lake, Conejos Peak
We leave Albuquerque Friday evening. On Saturday we drive to Osier, one of the stops of the Cumbres-Toltec narrow gauge railroad, and climb down into the Toltec Gorge. On Sunday we will climb Conejos Peak by way of Tobacco Lake. We will be in Colorado and northern New Mexico. For details call David 344-8693. Leader: Richard Capua

Sat Aug 12 Leisure Miles: 3 Car: 3
Rinconada Canyon Hike, Petroglyph NM
This is the largest, most pristine area in the Monument with over 2000 petroglyphs. Meet at 8:00 AM. Bring camera, binoculars and sturdy shoes. RSVP.
Leader: Ike Eastvold 255-7679

Sat Aug 19 Leisure, Moderate, Strenuous Miles: 0 Car: 180
Wildlife Water Drinker BLM Service Project, Chijilla Mesa
Near Cuba, we will help biologist Andy Iskra dig a shallow 18 inch deep and 16 ft wide diameter hole. We install a "flying saucer" wildlife water drinker by bolting and gluing sections together. Transportation and tools are provided by the BLM. Meet at 8:00 AM at the BLM office at 435 Montano NE. Bring lunch, sunscreen, gloves, and sturdy clothes. Please RSVP.
Leader: David Morrison 344-8693

Sun Aug 20 Moderate Miles: 4-5 Car: 180
Nambe Lake Hike, Pecos Wilderness
We hike on Windsor trail up several switchbacks for a mile, then along the ridge, and then climb up to the lake. Wildflowers are very plentiful. Bring lunch, water and rain gear. For information call David 344-8693. Leader: Susan Larsen

Sun Aug 20 Leisure Miles: 3 Car: 3
Piedras Marcadas Hike, Petroglyph NM
Thompson Canyon trail and...

found elsewhere in the Monument. Meet at 8:00 AM. Bring camera, binoculars and sturdy shoes. RSVP.
Leader: Ike Eastvold 255-7679

Fri Aug 25 Moderate Miles: ? Car: 0
Critical Mass Bike Ride, Albq.
We will do an evening bike ride through the city. Bring out your ten speeds and mountain bikes. Meet at 5:30 PM at the NW corner of Central and Girard at the sundial.
Leader: Stefan Verchinski 888-1370

Sat Aug 26 Leisure Miles: 0 Car: 0
Zeitscaping
Judith Phillips, author, horticulturalist and landscape designer, will describe plants and methods for gardening that incorporate water conservation. The small park at the corner of Wyoming and Osuna has been planted with native plants including the grass lawns. After the talk we may have the chance to help the City with some voluntary maintenance of the park. Meet at the parking area just west of the Wyoming and Spain intersection at 9:00 AM. [Water conservation does not have much hope within Albuquerque without education about zeitscaping. The City's water misuse ordinance is a farce. About a dozen businesses near San Mateo-Osuna and I-25 have been turned in for wasted water pouring onto the streets. This area's pavement has small streams running most of the day. The water wasted is approximately equivalent to the usage of ten households each month. Each call to the City is followed by an excuse not to take action. Although businesses in the city may use less water than residences, their efficiency of conservation is about a hundred times less than the average residence.]
Leader: David Morrison 344-8693

Sun Aug 27 Leisure Miles: 3 Car: 25
Waterfall Canyon, Sandia Wilderness
We will walk up the canyon to the small (probably dry) waterfall. We will continue to some shady spot with views to eat lunch and then return. Hike will last about four hours. Meet at Sierra Club office, 207 San Pedro NE, at 8:30 AM.
Leader: David Morrison 344-8693

Fri-Mon Sept 1-4 Moderate-Strenuous Miles: 12-25 Car: 200
Pecos Wilderness Backpack
Plan on joining the Dallas Sierra Club over Labor Day weekend on their annual Pecos Wilderness backpack. Several options on locations. Call for details.
Leader: Stan Kauchak 839-4301

Sat Sept 9 Leisure Miles: 3 Car: 3
Geological Windows Hike, Petroglyph NM
Secluded petroglyph areas in a near wilderness like setting. Meet at 8:00 AM. Bring camera, binoculars and sturdy shoes. RSVP.
Leader: Ike Eastvold 255-7679

Sun Sept 17 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. Meet at 8:00 AM. Bring camera, binoculars and sturdy shoes. RSVP.
Leader: Ike Eastvold 255-7679

Demand for leisure and moderate hikes is very high. We could use about 5 times more leaders in these categories. If you would be interested in leading a hike, call David 344-8693.

Outings Notes

The Guadalupe Mesa hike in the Jemez ran into high water on the Rio Gaudalupe. We ended up going to another ruin. This outing will be repeated in the fall or winter and probably will include Virgin Canyon

Best scenic trip of a lifetime? The Memorial Weekend trip is very high near the top. Ask Bill, Kate, Susan, David, Richard, Nicole, Chinara, Carole, Sandy, Susan, Cathy, Lena, Abdel, Gwen, Ralph, or Karen. Muddy roads prevented us from getting to Escalante, so we headed to Paria River-Buckskin Gulch. Antelope and Kabito slot canyons were

Albuquerque Group News - Outings

July Meeting: Chuck Turner and John Walton will speak on the use of the bicycle not as toy, but as mode of transport. Be ready for some enlightening show & tell. The meeting will be at St Paul's, at 7:30 p.m. on Wed 26 July.

August Meeting: Ron Hillin, the new Assistant Superintendent for Franklin Mountains State Park, will speak on their new management plan. Exciting things are in the works for this remarkable urban wilderness. We'll hear what is happening today and what's planned for the immediate future. We'll also learn how we can get involved as volunteers in helping to operate the park and care for its resources. The presentation will start at 7:30 p.m. on Wed 30 August at St Paul's Church at 7000 Edgemere, east of Airway. 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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wed 5 July	I.C.O. mtg 6 p.m. Env Ctr
Wed 5 July	EXCOM mtg 7:30 p.m. Env Ctr
Wed 26 July	Conservation Mtg 6 p.m. Jaxon's
Wed 26 July	Gen Mtg 7:30 p.m. 7000 Edgemere
Wed 2 August	I.C.O. mtg 6 p.m. Env Ctr
Wed 2 August	EXCOM mtg 7:30 p.m. Env Ctr
Wed 30 Aug	Conservation Mtg 6 p.m. Jaxon's
Wed 30 Aug	Gen Mtg 7:30 p.m. 7000 Edgemere
Wed 6 Sept	I.C.O. mtg 6 p.m. Env Ctr
Wed 6 Sept	EXCOM mtg 7:30 p.m. Env Ctr

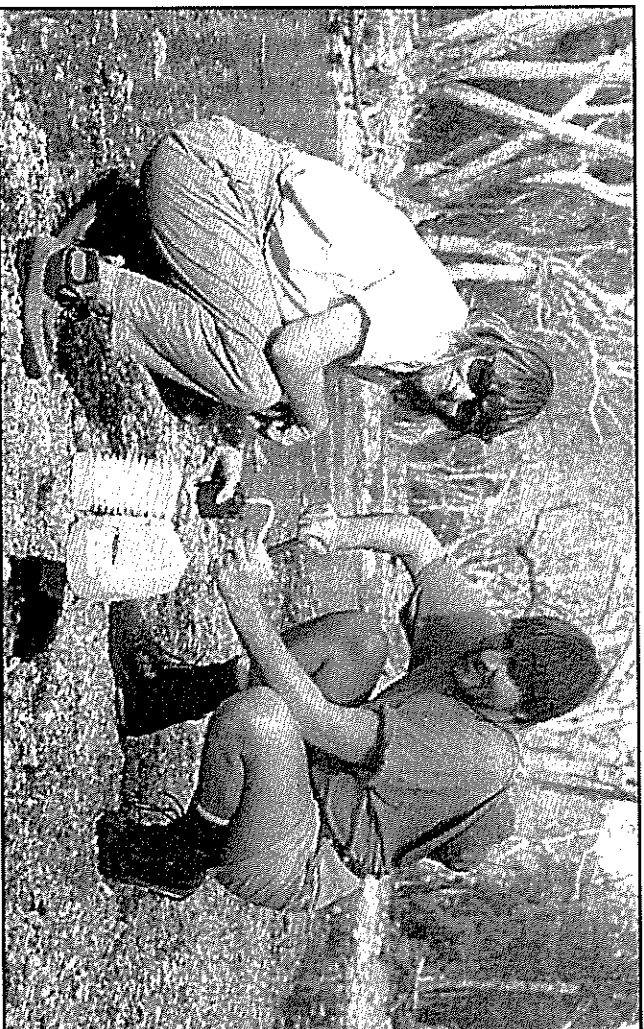
I.C.O. Outings Leaders Workshop: Meeting on Sat 17 June at a wooded campsite near Cloudcroft were Richard Rheder, Mary Lou Parker, her young nephew Jimmy Torcher, Sondra Denney, Michael Bromka, Ted and Barbara Merrig, Trish Puente, Betsy Julian, Ian Hanna, Dee Dee Duncan of the Transitional Living Center, and Jim Flores. Many of us carcarined both Fri & Sat nights. We spent much of the morning in trio discussions, reporting back to the entire group, on the topic of how to lead safe, fun, and effective I.C.O. outings. The "cooperative learning" format seemed to make the information accessible and fun to swap around. After a leisurely lunch, Richard paired us off then regathered us all as a group to study and present an array of terrific group games. Our biggest regret was not having allocated more hours for more games. One of the favorites was everyone holding hands in a circle, passing a hula hoop around, from person to person, without using hands. Another was a big dense knot of people with hands joined. We had to untie the knot by stepping over, ducking under, worming through each other's arms. The game teaches cooperation, strategy, and most of all hilarity. Before dinner, we enjoyed a two-mile hike. Our supper dodged a light sprinkle, but camping overall was a cool woodsy delight.

Mr. Who Goes to Washington? Because of his avid participation in recent local workshops on environmental issues, Michael Bromka was asked by the National Wildlife Federation to represent west Texas in a four-day (June 25-28) lobbying effort in D.C. to drum up support for keeping a strong Endangered Species Act. He will submit a detailed report on this effort in the September/October *Sierra*.

Bromka Salutes Letter-Writing Lobbyists: Michael Bromka thanks the personal commitment and labors of local ecologists who wrote letters supporting the reauthorization of the Endangered Species Act. Among these activists were Rob Belk, Jim Flores, Mary Ann Miller, Jan Hartman, John Sproul, Steve Del Grosso, Jim, Helen & Chris Bell, Georgena Askins, Rick Suders, Debra Tomacelli-Brock, Ann & Larry Falknor, Norma Vargas, Joe Rodriguez, Chuck & Wyona Turner, John Walton, Bill & Shirley Phillips, Patricia & Klaus Christiansen, Sondra Denney, Ian R. & Ian M. Hanna, Adriana Ybarra, Geleena Mongold, Linda Groetken, Erika Episcopo, Doris Drow, Betsy Julian, Mike Seidensticker, Barbara & Ted Merrig, Richard Rheder, Mary Lou Parker, and Nick Miller.

Endangered Species Act Needs You

Save Species: Write a Letter Now: Dear Fellow Sierrans of El Paso: Would you please write a letter to save the Endangered Species Act? Many members of Newt Gingrich's Congress want to weaken or repeal the ESA.



GROUP DIRECTORY

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

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

Membership: SIERRA CLUB 409 Robinson Rd El Paso, TX 79902	LORAX information: Betsy Julian 615 E. Baltimore El Paso, TX 79902
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They say that loggers, ranchers, and developers should totally disregard American biodiversity. We can oppose these rapacious scoundrels only with effective lobbying.

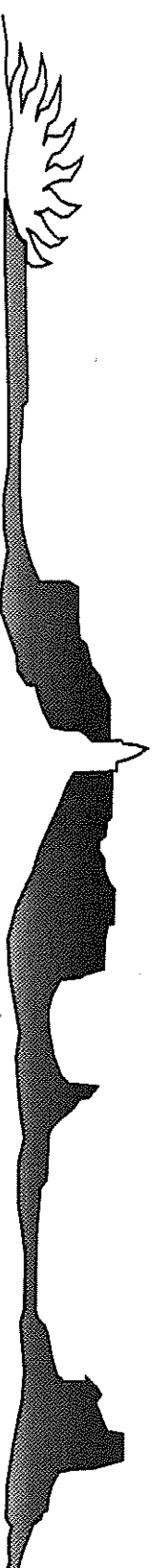
The letters of many folks to Ron Coleman helped in the recent lobbying blitz in Washington. But we need to keep up the pressure while the ESA is up for reauthorization. If you haven't written yet to your congressman, please do so. Beyond that, send letters to Senators Gramm, Hutchinson, Domenici, and Bingham. Regardless of a legislator's public stand on an issue, you should make that legislator aware of your views. One very valuable person to write to is Honorable Wayne Gilchrest (Republican, 1st district in Maryland). Congressman Gilchrest is leaning toward proposing a moderate reauthorization which would call for a strong ESA to remain intact. *All other majority proposals amount to efforts to gut or utterly discard the ESA.* So we would do well to tell Congressmen Gilchrest that we support his efforts.

Please, in your own words, write these ideas — Dear Congressman/Senator: I support the reauthorization of a strong and effective Endangered Species Act. [Here are reasons for the ESA:]

1. Each species is a thread in life's tapestry. When one species is threatened, it shows us that an entire ecosystem may become threadbare and unravel.
2. Once extinct, a species can never return. We must preserve our legacy of American biodiversity.
3. Endangered plants like the Rosy Periwinkle and Purple Foxglove give us medicines to treat cancer and heart disease.
4. Wild plant relatives of wheat and corn provide natural variations to make our crops pest-resistant.
5. Protective measures in the ESA promote responsible development while protecting species from extinction.
6. Species decline hurts economy. For example, loss of salmon in the Pacific Northwest caused thousands of commercial fishermen to lose their jobs.
7. Sustainable fishing and logging depend on responsible management of our resources. The ESA protects our fishing and timber resources for future harvests.
8. The spotted owl is not a lone critter. It's an indicator of over 100 other old-growth species which are endangered.
9. Each plant or animal on the ESA list is a messenger telling us to clean up our act.

Surrounded by sycamores, Kathy Sunday and Tim Channell purify water from Sapillo Creek.

Photo courtesy of Michael Bromka



10. Our pollution and encroachment can destroy whole industries, such as tourism off coastal Florida.
 11. Children need no special urging to see the value in rare plants and animals. We must preserve their American biodiversity heritage.
 12. Each year more than 100 million Americans hunt, fish, bird, observe, feed, or photograph wildlife.
 13. If we don't protect plant and animal species, we will lose our \$59 billion wildlife recreation industry.
 14. If we don't protect plant and animal species, we will lose all that is essential in preserving our own human species.
- Ask Kids to Draw Pictures:** Help your child write a letter, and then draw a color illustration of an endangered plant or animal. (See library books or the March 1995 *National Geographic* for source pictures.) Include a plea like "Dear Congressman Coleman, Please Save the Horned Lizard!"
- Brainstorm your own arguments.** Find points which illustrate endangered habitats close to El Paso.
- Here are the Generic Addresses:** *Senators* Phil Gramm, Kay Bailey Hutchison, Pete Domenici, Jeff Bingaman / Washington, DC 20510, and *Congressmen* Ron Coleman, Joe Skeen, and Wayne Gilchrest / Washington, DC 20515.
- National Call Congress Day: July 11** — From 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. (El Paso time), on Tue 11 July, we are asked to call our Representatives in Congress to speak up in favor of the Endangered Species Act. Locally, you can call 534-6200, and ask to be put through (at no charge to you) to Congressman Coleman's Washington office. In Las Cruces, y'all can call 527-1771 locally and ask to be connected with Congressman Skeen's Washington office. Blitzing the Congress with phone calls on that one day is in part a coordinated effort to gain publicity for the Endangered Species Act.

Farewell

Farewell to Sondra Denney & Michael Bromka: Sondra Denney will soon begin a new career as an Environmental Chemist for the Carlsbad Environmental Monitoring & Research Center, affiliated with NMSU in Carlsbad, NM. So Sondra, Michael, and Leela the Wonderdog will be moving there after active contributions to the El Paso Group of Sierra Club. Sondra has offered a General Meeting presentation, led I.C.O. service trips, served on the EXCOM, helped conduct outing leaders training, planned and prepared this year's May picnic, attended meetings galore, and gone on regular group outings. Sondra still looks forward to leading cave and trail trips in the Carlsbad and Guads vicinity.

Michael has been active in outings here since 1989. In recent months, he has helped plan the outings program and put out the LORAX. He also hopes to continue leading popular hikes and backpacks in the Guads and Carlsbad Caverns Park backcountry.

Sondra & Michael's new address and phone number are: 411 S. Maple St / Carlsbad, NM 88220 / (505) 885-3029.

Betsy Julian takes LORAX: Her address and phone number are listed above. She will *not* be phoning you for information. But if y'all take the responsibility to gather and compose your messages, and send them to her, she will dutifully pass them on into print.

Outings to be Passed like a Rugby Ball: For two months at a shot, experienced outings leaders will be sharing and passing the duties of putting together a vibrant outings program. This may be a blessing, for a good program requires the active input and cooperation of everyone.

UPCOMING OUTINGS

Gila High Country Backpack, Fri 30 June—Tue 4 July: Strenuous 40 miles over 4 days, call Kathy Sunday 584-9301.

Family Gila Backpack, Sat 15-16 July, easy 3 miles, call Rollin Wickenden wk 534-6594, hm 855-6836. For parents with children age ten and older.

Guadalupe Ridge Caving Carcamp, Fri 21-23 July, moderate, call Sondra Denney (505) 885-3029. We'll visit Cotton and Black Caves.

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

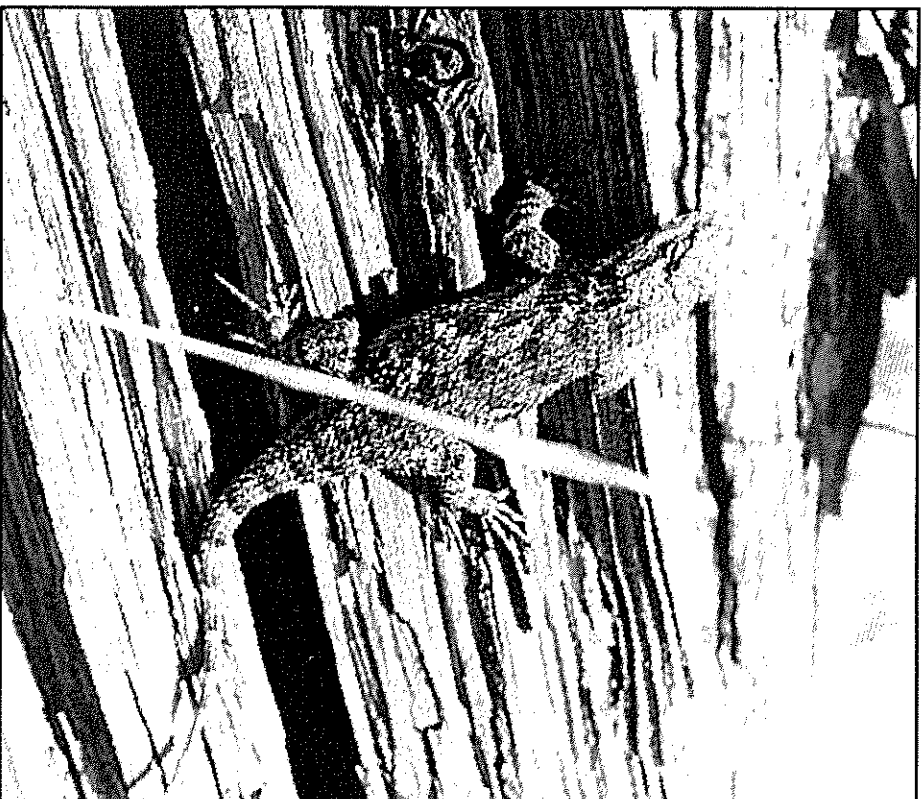
Gila Backpack, Fri 11-14 Aug, moderately strenuous 30 miles, call Mike Episcopo 833-3770.

Northern Gila Key Exchange Backpack, Fri 1-4 Sept, moderately strenuous, call Laurence Gibson 594-7342, and Rollin Wickenden wk 534-6594, hm 855-6836. We'll hike 19 miles in three days, from Canyon Creek Trailhead to Double Springs Trailhead, and vice versa.

OUTINGS REPORTS

Sapillo Creek Backpack, Sat 29-30 April: We left El Paso on Sat a.m. and drove to the Gila, leaving two cars at the Trail 247 Sapillo Creek Trailhead (near where Sapillo Creek flows under Route 15). We drove ten miles south on Rte 15, then five miles on dirt Rd. 282 to Sheep Corral Canyon trailhead. Setting out together were Rafaela Schuller, Joe Rodriguez, Kathy Sunday, Roy McCloud, Terry Bond, Tim Channell, Ann Falknor, Alice Anderson, Michael Bromka, Sondra Denney, and leader Rollin Wickenden. We hiked Trail 231, two miles of which was dirt road, to Sapillo Creek. In a grassy meadow by broad & shallow Sapillo Creek, we camped under large white budding sycamore trees. We enjoyed pleasant temperatures as we admired the impressive canyon walls. On the next morning, we had a long warm hike. The trail switchbacked up and out of the canyon, then contoured across a mesa, affording spectacular views down into the box canyon of Sapillo Creek. We hiked up and down several major canyons. When at last we rejoined Sapillo Creek, it was deep enough in one spot to offer a warm swim. Our last mile called for several stream crossings. This was a challenging weekend in the Gila.

Indian Hollow Backpack, Sat 6-7 May: By popular acclaim, our outing was reorganized as a doggie overnighter, to accommodate Boots and Leela. Human hikers were Roy Julian, Ann Falknor, Rafaela Schuller, Peter Skaates, Sondra



This banana-length lizard welcomed hikers to the Gila

Photo courtesy of Michael Bromka

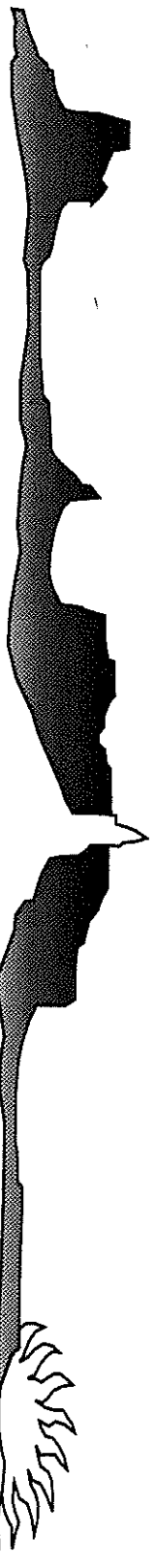
Verbena was blooming brightly, among the charred remnants of last summer's fire, and lush herbage of four o'clocks promised more color later. At our campsite, the stream and waterfall were not running. But limpid pools among the willows offered plentiful water. Some hikers were so eager for nettle soup that they cooked it for Saturday night's dinner. Sunday morning we dayhiked east over several ridges and valleys to a viewpoint where we could look down into Rock Springs and Maple Canyons and up at Sugarloaf. We returned to camp for two big pots of nettle soup for lunch and then packed out.

Hillsboro Peak Dayhike, Sun 9 May: Hiking five miles up and five back, we braved a blizzard. Setting out on a cold morning were Carl Horkowitz, David Keeney, Jean Collins & Jim (whose last name eludes us at presstime, sorry), Willie Gutierrez, Laurence Gibson, and leader Carolina Greenfield. David had only a thin shirt, but we scratched up garments to go around. Thank goodness we all had ponchos! Flurries started just 1.5 miles from the summit. Up top, the snow started coming fast & furious. We sought refuge in the cabin for a quick lunch, then braved sideways blowing snow during our shivery trek back down. Despite the cold, we finished our picturesque adventure in good spirits.

Spring Cabin Backpack, Sat 20-21 May: Dry weather suppressed the usual profusion of flowery splendor to some rather sad, runty blooms. Joining for this short, easy backpack, up four miles then down three, were Mark Post, Joanna Blackburn, Bill & Shirley Phillips, Rafaela Schuller, and leader Carolina Greenfield. We camped near a pleasant spring, and shared a site near a troop of well-behaved boy scouts.

Mineral Creek Backpack, Sat 27-29 May: Our relaxed group of eight awoke to the call of the mockingbird at Sheridan Corral and headed up Butsum Rd to South Mineral Creek Trail after dropping off cars at Cooney Trailhead. Hitting the trail shortly before lunch, we met the only other hikers we were to see as we descended the steep, forested path to Mineral Creek itself. They were a foursome of dayhikers from Tucson visiting the Gila to escape the holiday hordes there. We turned downstream, passed Whitetail Canyon Falls, and pitched camp at the first good spot, a grassy flat at streamside with only a few twigs of poison ivy emerging. After a chilly night followed by the usual Gila concert of birdcalls at dawn, we continued down a widening canyon showing the first evidence of mining days past: a huge boiler set up in a beautiful meadow above Trailer Cabin. We had worn long pants in anticipation of more catclaw on the unmaintained trail but this day's obstacles were willows, logs from high water, and one startled black-tailed rattlesnake identified by trip botanist Alice Anderson and captured on film by official trip photographer Roy Julian. Lower elevations brought the huge sycamores and elaborate redrock ruins of mining mills. It was a long day for all of us — ten hours for Rafaela — as we looked for that ideal campsite all the way to Cooney. A bend in the river with terraced ruins above our camp under the sycamore tree. This night we enjoyed a campfire and fine fellowship 'til late. Once more the chorus of birds began at first light, diminishing as we and the sun arose. The final mile-and-a-half of our thirteen-mile trek was in some ways the most beautiful. Like a smaller Whitewater Canyon without the catwalk, the walls towered above us as we crisscrossed the creek running in U-shaped chutes, thanking our stars there was no rain to flood us. Thanks to a wonderful group of Sierrans — Suzanne Boon, Dave Kofoed, Claire & Roy Julian, Alice Anderson, Rafaela Schuller, Carolina Greenfield, and leader Laurence Gibson — for a safe and satisfying trip.

Comanche Peak Sunset Hike, Tue 6 June: Georgena Askins, Rick Suders, doggie Aspen, Cheryl Frey, Leigh Floro, Marcus Golt, Ian Hanna, Linda Groetken, and leader Michael Bromka met before sunset, sauntered up the

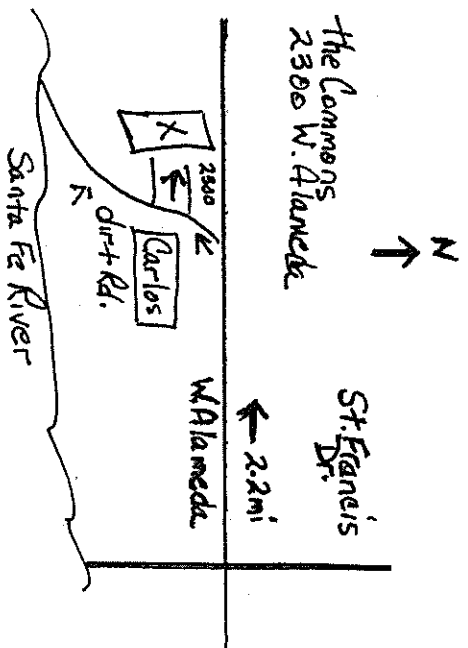


SANTA FE GROUP ANNUAL PICNIC

With Special Guest Stewart Udall

**Sunday, June 16
5:00 PM**

at the Commons on the Alameda
2300 West Alameda



Come join us for our annual potluck summer picnic, to be held this year at the Commons on the Alameda.

Stewart Udall, longtime environmentalist and historian, grew up in Arizona, was a three-term Congressman from Arizona, and was the Secretary of the Interior under Presidents Kennedy and Johnson. He wrote the well-received *To the Inland Empire: Coronado and Our Spanish Legacy* in 1987 and last year published *The Myths of August, a personal exploration of our tragic cold war affair with the atom*. The latter title explores the covert actions of our government and the nuclear weapons industries which caused radiation injuries and death to our Southwest citizens. Stewart has agreed to make some after-dinner remarks and to be available for questions.

Also on the program will be awards presented to those Santa Fe area state legislators who were helpful on various environmental bills which were debated in this year's legislature. This picnic offers a great occasion to meet informally with some of our local environmentally concerned legislators.

We encourage you to bring family members and guests. For each individual who is coming, please bring a dish sufficient to feed eight people of one of the following: main dishes, casseroles, cooked vegetables, meats, salads, breads, appetizers and deserts. We also need beverages: fruit juices, beer, wine, soft drinks. The Commons has a very well equipped kitchen with dishes, silverware, and glasses, so you do not need to bring utensils. There is an oven for warming things up.

Be there rain or shine, as there is a portal and a large dining room for escape in the event of afternoon showers. Since there is no July or August general meeting, our summer picnic presents the only summer opportunity to meet with other fellow Sierrans, renew old acquaintances and make friends with new members. It is always a very social and upbeat event — come, one and all! For more information, call host Ken Hughes at 474-0550.

♦ ♦ SANTA FE GROUP OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS ♦ ♦

Chair — Don Goldman*	473-2821	Outings — Norbert Sperlich	983-1962	Executive Committee:	(Don Goldman 473-2821)
Vice-Chair — Jerry Bober*	827-2885	— Norma McCallan*	471-0005	August 1 and September 5 at 7 PM	
Secretary/Treas — Lionel Soracco*	983-6715	Political Committee — Ken Hughes	474-0550		
Answering Machine — L. Soracco*	983-6715	Welcomer — Susan Banks	757-2284		
Chapter Representative — Barbara Johnson*	466-4935	Phone Tree — Norma McCallan*	471-0005	Conservation Committee:	(George Grossman 982-1024)
(alt.) Norma McCallan*	471-0005	Fundraising — Education open		July 25 and August 22 at 7 PM	
Conservation — George Grossman*	982-1024	Martha Anne Freeman *	438-0697		
Membership — Gwen Wardwell*	984-8860	* Member of the SF Group Executive Comm			
Newsletter Editor — Kay Carlson	982-3926	Terms expire 12/95:			
Office — Carolyn Keskulla	982-9570	McCallan/Soracco/Goldman/Grossman			
Publicity — Kay Carlson	982-3926	Bober/Freeman/Johnson/Wardwell			

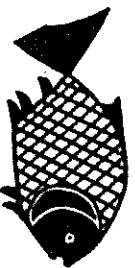
MEETINGS call for location and time

All meetings, outings, and activities (including picnics) are FREE and open to the public.

EXCOMM NEWS

Mark Mortier, who has served on the ExComm as Chair for several years, has regrettably submitted his resignation from the ExComm due to the increased amount of time necessary for him to devote to his growing business. More business is great for Mark, but unfortunate for us, and we thank him for his hard work for the Sierra Club and the environment.

His departure leaves a vacancy on the ExComm for the remainder of his term which expires in December. If you'd like to become more involved or know of someone else who may, please call Don Goldman (473-2821).



Please note that we now have a new mailing address *and* a new office. Eleanor Eisenmenger has graciously allowed us to use a room in her new home. The phone number will remain the same and messages left on the answering machine will be picked up as usual.

P. O. Box 22333 • Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502
505 • 983-2703

RELIGION, ECONOMICS AND SUSTAINABILITY

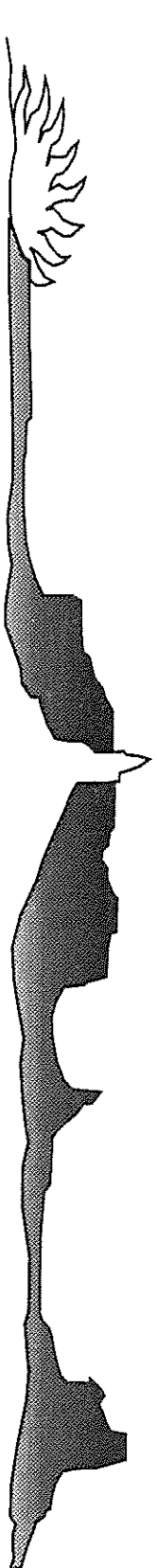
**with
John B. Cobb Jr. and Herman Daly**
Saturday, July 15, at 3:00 PM
First Presbyterian Church
208 Grant

for further information, call
Sustainability Project 466-2052

SANTA FE RIVER WALK

Gary Lacy, who has contributed to the livability of Boulder, CO, by working on the Boulder Creek River Walk for the last ten years, will now be helping to design a walk for the Santa Fe River. On Friday, August 4, 7:30 PM, at the Commons on the Alameda, he will present a slide show with photos from Boulder Creek and how it is possible for Santa Fe to emulate the Boulder trail. The proposed Santa Fe River Walk will run non-stop from Frenchy's Field to Upper Canyon Road.

The next day Gary will lead a hike from Frenchy's Field to Alto Park to give a flavor of the area. Meet at 9 AM on August 5 at Frenchy's Field. Questions? Ken Hughes 474-0550.



SANTA FE GROUP OUTINGS

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, 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) Short but steep Moderate Hike False Peak of Lake Peak. Lv 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 has been changed to August 5-14 due to snow pack in Colorado. Religion, Economics and Sustainability, 3 PM, First Presbyterian Church, 208 Grant. For further info call The Sustainability Project 466-2052.
- 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 ABQ or elsewhere, call leader for meeting place in Cuba or near trailhead. A great opportunity to get to know this lush, though overgrazed, plateau.

Sat Sun August

- Friday, August 4, Santa Fe River Trail Slide Show See write-up.
- 5 Hike from Frenchy's Field at 9 AM to Alto Park along proposed Santa Fe River Trail.

Saturday, August 5 to Monday, August 14

- Norma McCallan (471-0005) Annual 10-day backpack on Continental Divide Trail in Colorado. Hike south from Jones Pass to CO Hwy 82, below Independence Pass. 97.6 miles, with re-supply point midway at Copper Mtn. Possible to do only the first (43.6 miles) or last (54 miles) portion. Experienced backpackers only. Call for reservations. Leave Fri PM, Aug 4; return Tues, Aug 15. NOTE: If snow conditions should still be inappropriate for a long backpack, we will do a week-long backpack with several day hikes in Escalante Canyon.
- 5 Caroline Glick (984-3184) Strenuous Hike from Cowles to Lake Kathryn. 18 miles RT, total climb 3,300'. Dogs allowed. Call leader for reservation.
 - 6 Lee Sullivan (662-6185) Moderate Hike St. Peter's Dome Road to Rabbit Hill. 8 miles RT, 1,400' elevation gain. Meet in Los Alamos at parking lot behind fire station on West Jemez Road near Diamond Drive at 8:30 AM or carpool from PERA parking lot in Santa Fe at 7:30 AM.
 - 12 Moderate Hike Nambé Lake. 7 miles RT, 2,100' climb. Highest point 11,400'. Leave 9 AM. Call 471-7575.
 - 13 ★ ISSUE HIKE ★ One Mountain, 40 miles north of Taos. Elizabeth Winter (1-505-751-7428) Easy/Moderate Hike, about 4 miles RT, some rough terrain. Call leader or e-mail to ewinter@laplaza.taos.nm.us.
 - 13 Art Judd (982-3212) Strenuous Hike Spirit Lake. 13 miles RT, highest point 11,060'. Leave 8 AM. Call leader if not familiar.
 - 19 Carolyn and Arnold Keskulla (982-9570) Easy/Moderate Hike on Aspen Vista Road. Leave 8:30 AM.
 - 20 John Buchser (474-7044) Strenuous Hike in the Pecos. Leave 8 AM. Call leader for destination.

Friday/Saturday/Sunday, August 25/26/27

- Norma McCallan (471-0005) 3-day Car Camp & Exploratory Day Hikes on trails leading to the crest of Colorado Sangre de Cristo Mountains, usually short, but quite steep; and magnificent scenery. Dogs allowed. Call for reservations. Possible backpack instead of day hikes.
- 26 Lionel Soracco (983-6715) Moderate Hike to La Vega, optional extension of bushwhacking to Lookout Rock (an extra mile). 7 miles RT and 1,500' climb to La Vega. Leave 8 AM.
 - 27 Elizabeth Altman (471-8490) Easy Hike Cañada Bonita (near LA Ski Area). 5 miles RT, highest point 9,650'. Leave 9 AM.
 - 27 Jeff Jones (466-2389) Very Strenuous Hike Santa Fe Baldy, Lake Kathryn & Spirit Lake. 16 miles RT, some off-trail, total climb 3,200'. Lve 7:30 AM. Call leader if not familiar w/hike.

- 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.
- 16 SUMMER PICNIC 5 PM at The Commons, 2300 West Alameda — see write-up on opposite page.

Friday/Saturday/Sunday, July 21/22/23

- Bob McKee (672-3426) 3-day trip on Continental Divide north of Wolf Creek Pass. Backpack from Lobo Peak to Archuleta Lake (8 miles) on Sat, day hike to Mount Hope (12,834') and environs on Sat, return to Lobo Peak on Sun. Call leader for reservations.
- 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 Corbae). Carpooling will be arranged at the parking lot, and each hiker should come prepared to pay \$6 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.

Sat Sun September

- 2 Carolyn & Arnold Keskulla (982-9570) Easy Hike Ski Basin. Lve 8:30.
- 3 Norbert Sperlich (983-1962) Moderate/Strenuous Hike to Cerro Pedernal. One rock scramble. Call leader for departure time.

Saturday/Sunday, September 2/3

- Joe Whelan (984-0746) Car Camp & Day Hikes at Cumbrés Pass. Leave Sat 8:30 AM, drive to Trujillo Meadows Campground, hike from there Sat PM. Sun hike to beautiful Red Lake, 11,700' in South. San Juan Wilderness (1,400' elevation gain). Leader will consider staying over Sun night and doing day hike on Labor Day if interested. Call to reserve.
- 9 Moderate hike Rock Overlook just behind La Vega Trail, SF Ski Basin. Leaves may be turning by then. Leave 9 AM. Call leader at 471-7575.
 - 10 Jeff Jones (466-2389) Easy Hike to Tent Rocks. Parents with small children encouraged. Leave 8:30 AM.

Friday/Saturday/Sunday, September 8/9/10

- Bob McKee (672-3426) Backpack to Fish Lake at 12,160' in So San Juan Wilderness (3,120' elevation gain). 20 miles RT. Camp will be ½ mile from the lake; group will day hike Sat to the Continental Divide Trail and/or explore nearby Gunsight Pass. Return on Sun. Spectacular views.
- 16 Lionel Soracco (983-6715) Strenuous Hike Holy Ghost C.C. to Spirit Lake in Pecos Wilderness. 14 miles RT. Leave 7:30 AM.
 - 16 ★ ISSUE OUTING ★ Riparian restoration on Rio Grande, near Pilar. 9 AM - 3 PM. The Sierra Club is helping the BLM with non-chemical removal of tamarisk at the Orilla Verde Recreation Area. Call Roberta Salazar (758-8851) (Taos BLM) or Elizabeth Winter (751-7428) (Sierra Club contact person) for info and to help on this useful project. No skills needed, just willing workers.
 - 17 Art Judd (982-3212) Moderate Hike in the high country. Leave 8 AM.
 - 23 Norrine Sanders (984-0386) Moderate Hike up Aspen Vista Road to the Rock Overlook for golden aspen! Leave 8 AM.
 - 23 Linda and John Buchser (474-7044) Very Strenuous Hike from Borrego Mesa, past the Dome, to North Truchas Peak. 3,400' elevation gain, 18 miles RT. Leader approval required.
 - 24 Elizabeth Altman 471-8490 Easy Hike Upper Tesuque Creek. Lve 9 AM.

Saturday and Sunday, September 23 and 24

- Julie Montoya King (438-7197) Moderate Exploratory Hike Black Mesa, highest point in Oklahoma. 6 miles RT. Lve Sat AM, car camp in vicinity Sat night (it is just over the NM-OK border from Clayton), climb Black Mesa Sun AM and return Sun PM.
- 30 Caroline Glick (984-3184) Moderate Hike Dockwiler Trail, Pecos Wilderness, 8 miles RT. Fall foliage should be colorful. Dogs allowed. If access road to Panchuela C.C. is still closed, an add'l 3 miles will be added to access this little known trail. Call leader.

Friday/Saturday/Sunday, September 29/30, October 1

- Norma McCallan (471-0005) 3-day Backpack Manzano Mtns, possibly along little used Crest Trail. Great vistas. Dogs allowed.

The Log-So. New Mexico Group News

GROUP DIRECTORY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Marianne Thaeler, Chair	522-3421
Jim Winder, Secretary	267-4227
Elizabeth Hernandez, Treasurer	521-1606
Cheryll Blevis, Publicity	526-6220
Jim Basler, Outings	521-4822
Erika Kocsi	527-0523
Subhankar Banerjee, SSC Advisor	521-3022
Margo Wilson, Sierra County Section Liaison	744-5860
Margaret Katze	521-1475
Bonnie Cruz, Chair NMSU Student Sierra Club	

Executive Committee meetings are open to the membership. Call Marianne for meeting dates, time, and place.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NEWS

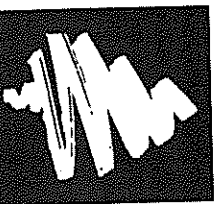
The Southern New Mexico Group Executive Committee has lost two of its most active members, temporarily we hope. Myra Price, a past Group Chair, has been accepted to Graduate School in Wildlife at Colorado State in Fort Collins. And David Pengeley, also a past Group Chair and the NMSU Student Sierra Club Faculty Advisor, has taken a year's sabbatical to the Seattle, Washington area.

But, we have two new ExCom members who were appointed at the June ExCom Meeting to fill unexpired terms. Margo Wilson of Elephant Butte, who is organizing a Sierra County Section of our Group, and Margaret Katze of Las Cruces, an avid backpacker and hiker.

We already miss Myra and David, but Welcome! Margo and Margaret to our leadership ranks.

Lori Schmierer, Chair of the NMSU SC Student Group, is graduating and moving to Alaska. But, Bonnie Cruz, was elected this spring to Chair the SSC this fall. Welcome Bonnie! The Chair of the Student Group is an Ex-officio member of our ExCom.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS



- You'll Be Helping The Planet
- Sierra Magazine A one year subscription to *Sierra*, our award-winning magazine
- Discounts on publications, including our distinguished books celebrated calendars.
- Worldwide Outings Program
- Local Chapter Membership conservation news and invitations to outings and events.

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

New Member Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____

ZIP _____
Phone (Optional) () _____

	INDIVIDUAL	JOINT
REGULAR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35	<input type="checkbox"/> \$43
SUPPORTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> \$58
CONTRIBUTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> \$108
LIFE	<input type="checkbox"/> \$750	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000
SENIOR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> \$23
STUDENT	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> \$23
LIMITED INCOME	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> \$23

Sierra Club

P.O. Box 52968

Boulder, Colorado
80322-2968



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

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ONE EARTH, ONE CHANCE

Sierra County Members Organize

On June 6th, Sierra Club members and prospective members who live in Sierra County met to organize a Section of the Southern New Mexico Group. Under the able leadership of Margo Wilson and James Wells, an enthusiastic group had a very successful meeting and agreed to meet again. Refreshments were provided by Mary Char Strain. There was a lively discussion about the reintroduction of Desert Big Horn sheep into the Caballo Mountains.

Marianne Thaeler, Chair of the Southern New Mexico Group, was a guest and she brought other ongoing local issues to the table. These included: how we might encourage the recycling of copper while telling the public the danger of burning copper wire to remove the insulating coatings, which creates the deadly cancer-causing chemical, dioxin. There are numerous dioxin contaminated sites in the area. A number of requests to drill wells have been denied because of known sites where wire was burned.

The Sierra County Section is planning hikes and picnics, and is looking for a unique name for their group.

ACTIVITY CALENDAR

The Southern New Mexico Group takes a vacation during the summer from its usual schedule of monthly meetings.

FAIL KICK-OFF — Saturday, August 26
The fall KICK-OFF will be on August 26 at the Aguirre Springs group picnic area in the Organ Mountains. Remember to bring pot luck lunch and NMSU students interested in the Student Sierra Club will be given FREE FOOD, so the rest of us must bring enough!
Carpooling: We will meet at Pan American Center north parking lot at 10 AM. There is a per car fee to enter Aguirre Springs. For information call Marianne at 522-3421.

OUTINGS

Saturday September 9, Sawyer Peak Hike (moderate) from Emery Pass. Car pooling from Las Cruces leaves north Pan Am parking lot at 8:00 AM. Arrive Emery Pass 9:30-10 AM. Bring sack lunch and water. Leader: Chet Warwick, 894-6427 (TorC). Contact Chet in TorC or Marianne Thaeler, 522-3421 in Las Cruces for more information.

Saturday and Sunday, August 12-13, car camp to Red Canyon west of Dusty. Call Ray and Mary Katherine Rayburn at Dusty 1-505-772-5655.

October 7-8 Springtime Campground day hikes into the Apache Kid Wilderness Area and overnights. Dry camp—bring plenty of water. At discretion of leader. Contact Margo Wilson in T or C at 744-5860.

OUTDOOR PLANNING

Planning for the fall is in progress. Being planned are an organized camping trips to the Gray Ranch in Hidalgo County in August, a day trip to McGregor Range in Otero County on September 23rd, a day trip to the Ladder Ranch on October 14th, and a day trip to the Pedro Armendariz Ranch on October 28th.

Hikes include Pine Tree and Baylor pass trails in the Organ Mountains, and, if leaders are available, Willie White Canyon trail in the Lincoln National Forest, and a schedule of Gila back packs. But these can be replaced with others if leaders will volunteer.

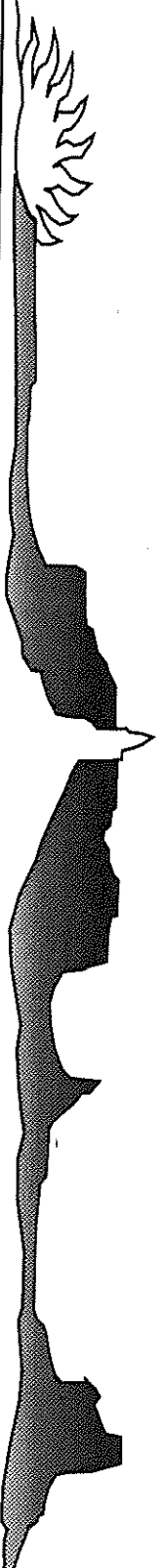
If you are interested in leading day tours, hikes or backpacks, we'd like to hear from you! Contact Jim Basler (521-4822) for hikes, Subhankar Banerjee (521-3022) for backpacks, or Marianne Thaeler (522-3421) for day trips.

Monthly Program Meetings

In the fall, monthly general membership meetings and programs are held in 107 Science Hall on the NMSU campus.

The Sierra County Section monthly meetings are planned for the 1st Tuesday of each month and are usually held at the T or C Public Library. Because of the 4th of July holiday, the July meeting will be held at the home of Chet and Mern Warwick on July 11th at 7 PM. Contact Margo Wilson (744-5860) or Chet or Mern Warwick (894-6427) for directions.

If you have a program which you believe would be of interest to the general membership, please contact Marianne Thaeler (522-3421). Programs including slide presentations are preferred.



BACK TO ENVIRONMENTAL BASICS - a mini refresher course

by Marianne Thaeler

It never hurts to remind ourselves of the progress we have made in protecting our environment, and ensuring health and safety. As we read in our newspapers and watch television about Congress' attacks on environmental health and safety regulations, and on public lands, perhaps we should refresh our minds on what is at stake. Attacks are being made through legislation, and/or budgeting and appropriations cuts.

The following are highlights and facts about some of the environmental progress that has been made since the first Earth Day. This list is not inclusive. If some of this is familiar to you, pass it along to a friend who may not be aware of specifically what is at stake.

Environmental Health and Safety

1. Clean Air Act (First passed in 1970. Amended in 1977, 1990.)

The Clean Air Act currently addresses four types of air pollution. The Air Act requires the clean up of:

- * urban smog from motor vehicles and factories;
- * acid rain from coal-fired power plants;
- * airborne toxic chemicals, such as mercury and benzene, from oil refineries, chemical plants and other industrial facilities;
- * chlorofluorocarbons (CFC's) that destroy stratospheric ozone.

Many scientific studies link air pollution to respiratory ailments, lung disease, and death. Harvard researchers have recently linked air pollution with increased heart disease.

Successes: Motor vehicle emissions are down 50%, despite the massive increase in vehicle miles traveled. Release of lead into the air is down by 98%, due to the phasing out of lead from gasoline. The release of toxic air pollutants is down by 860 million pounds over the last five years. Sulfur emissions from coal-fired power plants, a major source of acid rain and haze, have been reduced by one-third.

Problems: 100 million Americans still live in metropolitan areas that violate federal health standards for smog. In addition, there is evidence that the existing health standard is inadequate to protect public health, particularly among vulnerable populations. Billions of pounds of airborne toxic chemicals, including mercury and benzene, are emitted annually.

2. Clean Water Act (Passed in 1972 [over Nixon veto]. Amended in 1977, 1981, 1987 [over Reagan veto].)

Establishes a goal of "zero discharge of pollution," and requires American waters to be "fishable, swimmable" by 1985. Addresses human sewage discharged into waterways; toxic chemicals from factories discharged into sewers and waterways; wetlands protection; and runoff pollution from farms, roads.

Successes: Two-thirds of US waters now meet fishable, swimmable goal. Toxic discharges reduced by 2.2 million pounds/day.

Problems: Half of the nation's lakes, and one-third of the rivers, are unsafe for fishing or swimming. Run-off pollution is the major source of untreated water pollution, particularly in coastal areas, such as Chesapeake Bay. Wetlands destroyed at rate of 300,000 acres/year.

3. Safe Drinking Water Act (Passed in 1974. Amended in 1976.)

Designed to protect drinking water from contamination caused by bacteria, parasites, heavy metals, and other chemicals. Requires monitoring and limits on such contaminants, based on "feasible" technology while considering costs and health effects.

Successes: Drinking water is cleaner, with reduced human exposure to lead and other toxic chemicals. Every year, the SDWA prevents at least 100,000 cases of gastro-intestinal illnesses related to parasites in tap water.

Problems: 30 million Americans still drink tap water from systems that violate public health standards. It is estimated that contaminated tap water kills 900 people and sickens nearly a million people annually.

4. Resources Conservation and Recovery Act (Passed in 1976. Amended in 1984.)

Establishes a "cradle to grave" program for hazardous waste generation, handling and disposal.

Success: Hazardous waste disposal practices have dramatically improved.

Problems: Millions of pounds of waste from petroleum refining and other industries are probably hazardous, but are essentially uncontrolled under existing law.

5. Superfund (Passed in 1980. Amended in 1986.)

Requires polluters to pay for clean-up of abandoned toxic waste sites. One in four Americans lives within four miles of at least one priority waste site.

Success: Illegal dumping of toxic waste declined severely. Immediate threats to environment removed at over 2,000 sites. 1 and-

term clean-up plans in place for over 1,300 sites.

Problems: Only 278 of the sites were permanently cleaned up. Millions of dollars has been wasted on lawyers fees and litigation by responsible parties.

6. Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (Passed in 1986.)

Requires companies to publicly report their annual emissions of toxics into air, land, and water.

Success: With public reporting, total environmental releases are down by 35%.

Problems: Only 5-10% of estimated toxic releases are reported. Key sources, including power plants (major emitter of mercury) and garbage incinerators (major emitter of lead), are not required to report.

Other Important Environmental Law

* Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) establishes safeguards for pesticide use.

Milestones in Protecting Natural Resources

Park and Wilderness Designations — designating lands as components of the National Park System or of the National Wilderness Preservation System ensures that they will remain pristine and wild for the enjoyment of this and future generations.

The National Park System is now 83,305,980 acres in size; 53,794,692 acres (or two-thirds) were added in the last quarter century. The wilderness system grew from 10.4 million acres in 1970 to over 100 million acres today with the passage of the historic California Desert Protection Act.

Much of our wilderness heritage remains to be protected. Neither Idaho nor Montana has completed wilderness designations for roadless forest lands, and most of the potential wilderness on western public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management has not yet been designated. For example, there is a 6 million acre wilderness bill pending before Congress for Utah BLM lands. See page 1.

A few highlights of the wilderness and park bills:

Alaska National Interest Conservation Act of 1980 — designated 104 million acres of parks, wildlife refuges and wilderness areas. Of this, 56 million acres were added to the wilderness system.

Endangered American Wilderness Act of 1978 — designates 1.3 million acres of threatened wild lands in 16 areas.

Eastern Wilderness Act of 1975 — vastly expanded the Eastern representation in the wilderness system by adding 16 wilderness areas in the East and calling for the study of 17 additional areas.

California Desert Protection Act of 1994 — the most recent addition to the parks and wilderness system was enacted at the end of the 103rd Congress and designates more than 8 million acres of park and wilderness in southern California.

Wild and Scenic Rivers Designations — The National Wild and Scenic Rivers System designed to protect America's wild, free-flowing rivers from dams, diversions and development, has grown dramatically in the years since the first earth day. In 1970, 868 miles of rivers were protected in the Wild and Scenic River System. Today there are 10,734 miles of river protected.

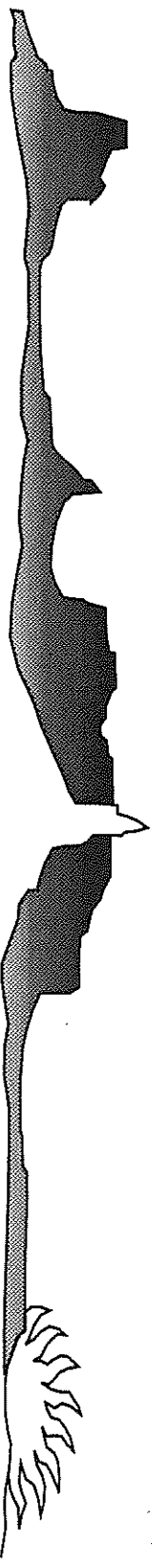
Endangered Species Act of 1973 — requires the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to maintain a list of all species that are "endangered" (at imminent risk of extinction) or "threatened" (likely to become so), calls for a plan to be developed and implemented for the recovery of each species. Examples of species that have been brought back from the brink of extinction include the whooping crane, peregrine falcon, California sea otter and bald eagle. Unfortunately, the mandated recovery plans for some 40 percent of the 700 species that have been listed since 1973 have not yet been completed, and there are another 3,000 species awaiting listing.

Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 — Established retention of the 341 million acres of public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management as a federal policy, required a wilderness inventory and review of the lands, required protection of critical environmental resources.

National Forest Management Act of 1976 — provided for improved management of national forests, and called for the protection of biological diversity.

Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act — required reclamation of strip mines.

Sources: US Environmental Protection Agency; Natural Resources Defense Council; Department of Interior; US Forest Service; Department of



Welcome New Members!

(from March 1 to
May 31, 1995)

Yelde Sokoya, El Paso	Martin Frost, Albuquerque	Kevin Doherty, Albuquerque	J. Beyer, Santa Fe
Leroy Olson, El Paso	Susan Kane, Albuquerque	Kyung Kim, Albuquerque	Lorene Willis, Dulce
Andrea Mendoza, El Paso	Lisa Roskosky, Albuquerque	Mr. Michael Fusco, Albuquerque	Steve Harris, El Prado
Paul Trout, El Paso	Ms. Annette Chakerian, Alb.	Robert Rice, Gallup	Ms. Sherrie McGraw, El Prado
Charlotte Cloninger, El Paso	Tricia Cyman, Albuquerque	Katherine Monday, Gallup	Ann Ward, El Rito
Corina Guerra, El Paso	Carolyn Cooper, Albuquerque	R. Stock, Gallup	A. C. Rutland, Morieta
Robert Milton, El Paso	Shirley Van Valkenburg, Alb.	Leslie Kerr, Crownpoint	Barbara Hengendorf, Morieta
B. Burdick, El Paso	Ian Ford, Albuquerque	Susan Kregler, Thoreau	Erica Chavez, Lamby
Margaret Randall, El Paso	Marv El Piper, Albuquerque	David Kessler, Zuni	Wilma Bruce, Los Alamos
Brynda Gutierrez, Belen	Ms. Teresa Smith, Alb.	Zeida Bennett, Zuni	John Seagrave, Los Alamos
Bobbie Germany, Coyote	Philip Simmons, Albuquerque	Christopher Baxter, Farmington	John O'Donnell, Los Alamos
Leslie Quade, Edgewood	Prince Pierce, Albuquerque	Tessa Schultz, Farmington	Ms. Edwina Lieb, Los Alamos
Ms. Ann Adams, Estancia	Chris Lang, Albuquerque	Mary Fischer, Farmington	Marilyn Dienes, Los Alamos
Jean Maxwell, Jemez Springs	John Pearson, Albuquerque	John Parker, Farmington	Nicholas Vanderborgh,
Susanna Young, Jemez Springs	Ronald Goldwyn, Albuquerque	Ms. Brenda Randolph, Bloomfield	Los Alamos
Chandra Mason, Peralta	Lem Powers, Albuquerque	Gary Horner, Farmington	Susan Radzinski, Los Alamos
Jean Valentine, Peralta	Judy Hedgecock, Albuquerque	Gerald Eichelkradt, Santa Fe	Robert Gilkeson, Los Alamos
Paul & Patrice Fish, Placitas	Barbara Parks, Albuquerque	Patricia & Thomas Hesselein,	Maggie Desilver, Questa
Susan Morgan, Sandia Park	Anne Lamberson, Alb.	Santa Fe	Fred Schwartz, Ranchos De
Ms. Mary Martin, Sandia Park	Nick Gordy, Albuquerque	Margot Shiesley, Santa Fe	Taos
Joyce Flagg, Sandia Park	Edward Calvert, Albuquerque	David Schladach, Santa Fe	Sawnie Morris, Taos
Nathan Gifford, Corrales	M. Glover, Albuquerque	Merry Stephen, Santa Fe	Page Sullivan, Taos
Debra Abbey, Corrales	Joyce Good, Albuquerque	Eventyr Janzan, Santa Fe	Lillian Renke, Las Vegas
Carrie Stiles, Corrales	Kendra Golden, Albuquerque	Dayton Lummis, Santa Fe	Priscilla Stotts, Las Vegas
Joyce Puleo, Corrales	Ellen Copland, Albuquerque	Juliana Mayhron, Santa Fe	Reva Barron, Las Vegas
Ms. Cindi Pearlman, Tijeras	Arthur Larkin, Albuquerque	Alex Ramsey, Santa Fe	Mrs. H. Brannon, Raton
Dianna & Bobby Keogh, Tijeras	Clifford Ho, Albuquerque	Ann Littlefield, Santa Fe	Michael Nelson, Raton
Glenn Sveum, Tijeras	Ms. Louise Kemp, Alb.	Anton Pierce, Santa Fe	Stephanie Jansen, Raton
Donald & Carol Bush, Tijeras	Greg Gorman, Albuquerque	Georgia Milisaps, Santa Fe	Cynthia Crowder, Lemitar
Edward Franzblau, Albuquerque	Thomas Blejwas, Albuquerque	John Davis, Santa Fe	Philip Dooley, Magdalena
Susan Priest, Albuquerque	Raymond Barr, Albuquerque	Ted Liversidge, Santa Fe	Katherine Lizer, Magdalena
Doris Higgins, Albuquerque	William Merry, Albuquerque	Doris Watson, Santa Fe	Mary Strain, Elephant Butte
Regina Ruiz, Albuquerque	Scott Sandager & Mary	Carl Lindahl, Santa Fe	Mr. Phillip Neuburger,
S. Clark, Albuquerque	Mathieu, Albuquerque	B. Blatchley, Santa Fe	Las Cruces
Doyle & Winifred Kimbrough, Alb.	Elizabeth Godden, Albuquerque	Gena Torticelli, Santa Fe	Jeribeth Creager, Las Cruces
Mr. Jimmy Boyd, Albuquerque	Sally Fish, Albuquerque	Allan Curtis, Santa Fe	Katherine Porter, Las Cruces
Joel Holt, Albuquerque	Evelyn Kie, Albuquerque	Eric Thomson, Santa Fe	Eujenia Smith, Las Cruces
Michael Joy, Albuquerque	Russell Grayson, Albuquerque	Andrew Winka, Santa Fe	James Botstorf, Las Cruces
Debora Kerkof, Albuquerque	Chris McKean, Albuquerque	Debbie Martinez, Santa Fe	Mark Vieth, Las Cruces
Jessie Brown, Albuquerque	Lowell Tash, Albuquerque	Cullen & Jone Hallmark,	Wayne Stiggs, Las Cruces
Marjorie Williams, Albuquerque	Ross Layman, Albuquerque	Santa Fe	Mr. & Mrs. James Robertson,
Sarah McDonald, Albuquerque	Robert George, Albuquerque	Jerry Cagle, Santa Fe	Las Cruces
Edith King, Albuquerque	Janet Ratliff, Albuquerque	Ilona Klein, Santa Fe	Paul Millard, Las Cruces
E. Fitzgerald, Albuquerque	Kevin Dagger, Albuquerque	Ms. Deborah Brown, Santa Fe	Margaret Katze, Las Cruces
Kira Duckworth, Albuquerque	Mr. Glen Miller, Albuquerque	Betty F. Bertroni, Santa Fe	C. Schomover, Las Cruces
Ms. Mary Howe/Marty Barnaby,	Kathy & Steven Batson, Alb.	Jill Ciburum, Santa Fe	Lewis Spencer, Las Cruces
Albuquerque	Larry Hammer, Albuquerque	Mr. Bryan Fant, Santa Fe	Rosario Jeremias, Las Cruces
Twila Grubbe, Albuquerque	Judy Ghoslin, Albuquerque	Janice Mohr-Nelson, Santa Fe	David Vancott, Las Cruces
Kathleen Rhoades, Alb.	Donna Ackermann, Alber-	Frank Demattia, Santa Fe	Indrani Rauth, Las Cruces
Robert Castillo, Albuquerque	que	Margaret Livermore, Santa Fe	Klim Maling, Las Cruces
Gayle McIntyre, Albuquerque	J. Nelson, Albuquerque	Patricia Adams, Santa Fe	Vance & Joanne Smith, Anthony
Barbara Parrish, Albuquerque	Tracy Britt, Albuquerque	Rahman Thiel, Santa Fe	Doug McKenna, La Mesa
Matthew Follett, Albuquerque	Carolyn Slaymaker, Rio Rancho	Paige Morgan, Santa Fe	Thomas Bennett, Pinos Altos
George Steingewald, Alb.	Mr. Adam Kasler, Rio Rancho	Nancy Dahl, Santa Fe	K. Hawkins, Clovis
M. Liberman, Albuquerque	Todd Kelly, Rio Rancho	Allegra Dicarpegna, Santa Fe	Tim & Naomi Marshall, Clovis
J. Laval, Albuquerque	K. Legrand, Rio Rancho	George M. & Edith Flores,	Melvin Easterling, Portales
Barbara Freeland, Albuquerque	Robert James, Rio Rancho	Santa Fe	Patricia Case, Roswell
Michael Garrett, Albuquerque	Edwin Ledbetter, Rio Rancho	Lillian Diaz, Santa Fe	Tim Jennings, Roswell
Stanley Turner, Albuquerque	Bob Peterson, Albuquerque	Melissa Epples, Santa Fe	E. Gonzales, Roswell
William Anderson, Albuquerque		John Becker, Santa Fe	William Pabst, Roswell

Transportation Chair Named to State Bicycle Committee

Ken Hughes has been named Chair of the State Bicycle, Pedestrian and Equestrian Committee of the State Highway Commission. The original committee, appointed last year by then-Governor King, was charged with drafting a state master plan for these three nonmotorized modes of transportation. A draft plan has been prepared, with public comments to be received at hearings throughout the state during the summer.

The plan offers the 4-E's of bicycling — engineering, education, enforcement and encouragement—as its basis for action. Hopefully the plan will include the following elements:

--Repeal of the regulation (LD 101) banning bicycling on the interstate;

--Incorporation into any new or improvement of existing roads bicycle friendly design features;

--Mandatory 3 hours of driver's education on alternatives to driving;

--Full-time bicycle coordinator for the State, as well as for any New Mexico city above 30,000 in population;

--Establishment of an annual NM Bike to Work Day, aka, Leave Your Car at Home Day;

--Electronic bulletin board of cycling/equestrian events;

--Statewide map of cycling trails.

Walking, the most energy efficient form of transportation, is not ignored. The plan will offer pedestrian-friendly sidewalk standards. Ideas to draw upon include the master plan for the Tierra Contenta development,

which will have its corners jutting out into the street. In effect, the pedestrian will only have to cross half as much street as is typical. The development also will have a network of hiking/biking trails connecting parks, schools and neighborhood/town centers. The point is

that we should strive for the best out there, and incorporate the three modes of transport to enhance the liveability of our communities.

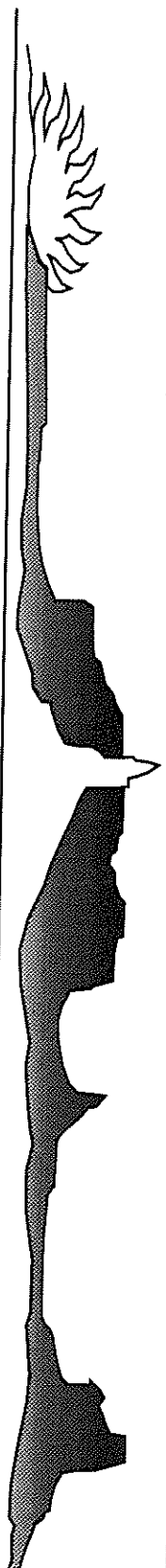
Sustainability Discussion in Santa Fe

On Saturday, July 15, at 3 p.m., Santa Fe's First Presbyterian Church will be hosting a talk by John B. Cobb, Jr. and Herman Daly on "Religion, Economics and Sustainability." The event is being sponsored jointly by the First Presbyterian Church and the Sustainability Project, a nonprofit group which is based in Santa Fe.

Cobb and Daly are two of the most eminent authorities in the field of sustainability, as described in their book, *For the Common Good*. In it, they demonstrate how our growth-oriented, industrial economy has led to environmental disaster and offer a new paradigm for economics, public policy, and social ethics. John Cobb is a noted process theologian and is currently professor emeritus at Claremont School of Theology. Herman Daly, foremost proponent of a steady state economy, is currently a professor of economics at the University of Maryland and former senior environmental economist at the World Bank.

The event will begin in the Sanctuary at First Presbyterian, 208 Grant Ave., and will adjourn to the patio for an informal reception at the conclusion of the talk.

We invite you to come, bring your friends and enjoy an afternoon of lively discussion! For further information, contact The Sustainability Project in Santa Fe at 466-2052.



First, the Chapter ExCom convened. Chapter Chair Gwen Wardwell reported that the executive committee voted against joining a lawsuit by Forest Guardians regarding grazing. She said that many members felt there was not enough information at this point to join in a lawsuit.

The ExCom tabled a request to join PACE (Progressive Alliance for Community Empowerment) because it was felt that we did not have enough information on the group to make an informed decision.

Norma McCallan reported that a Chapter-wide outings committee is getting started. One suggestion was to invite state legislators to visit an environmentally rich ranch. Other suggestions included visiting BLM Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs). There was discussion on how the media could be involved.

The ExCom approved a proposal by Blair Brown and Susan Gorman for the Rio Grande Chapter for a phase of having its own Homepage, which would be available to those with World Wide Web Access. There was much discussion over how there is a critical need for better information dissemination to the members, groups, and the public.

Susan Gorman reported that the Interstate Oil and Gas Committee was looking for environmentalists to be represented at meetings. It was decided to look for someone to volunteer.

The ExCom adjourned and the Conservation Committee then convened. The group Conservation Chairs and the Issue Chairs present made their reports.

Albuquerque Conservation Issues

Reporting on issues in the Albuquerque area, group conservation chair Susan Gorman reported that the group is inundated with issues with West Side development issues dominating. These include the Montano Bridge issue and the Paseo Del Norte road through the petroglyphs. They are also working on a Park and Ride proposal to take people to trails and skiing in the Sandia Mountains. Susan also reported that people were getting together on the East Side of the Sandias to talk about development issues. Susan also reported that she and Blair were meeting with people in Western NM and Belen areas forming sub-groups and working on issues.

El Paso Conservation Issues

Ted Mertig reported from the El Paso Group that they organized a very successful Earth Day with nearly 20,000 people attending. Their Inner City Outings program is impacting 250-300 kids. Ted said that the economic and environmental situation in Mexico is deteriorating; since NAFTA they don't see inspectors, water treatment plants are on hold and there is no money for the environmental arm of the Mexican government. He said that state politics are poor also—

Texas passed a takings bill and put a hold on emissions testing.

Santa Fe Conservation Issues

George Grossman reported on the Santa Fe Group conservation activities. The OLE power line settlement has fallen through and the issue is back in the hands of the Public Service Commission. Ratters and residents are at odds over management of the Rio Grande and Elizabeth Winter will represent the Sierra Club with the BLM. At a meeting with Bill Richardson, the congressman said that there was no chance for a statewide Wilderness Bill but that he would introduce legislation to add Angostura Creek to the Wild and Scenic Rivers network. The 4th edition of *Day Hikes in the Santa Fe Area* is out.

So. NM Conservation Issues

Jim Winder reported for the Southern NM Group that there was support for the Endangered Species Act changes and that he sees opportunity for consensus building. They are supporting development of Sierra Club groups in Carlsbad, Roswell and other areas. Jim, who was elected to the Board of Directors of the Society for Range Management, said the society will be taking a more professional approach to the way it works instead of being a political arm of certain elements of the ranching community. He reported that they are making significant progress in protecting riparian areas on ranches through using conservation easements. The Malpai Borderland Group is working on this also.

Transportation Issues

Ken Hughes, transportation chair, said he was named chair of a state highway bicycle committee and will be working on setting up a map of trails. He said that a highway conference in August will focus on land use. He has been working on model land use-subdivision ordinances for counties and that grants may be available for global warming reduction programs. A draft report of the Land and Water Fund of the Rockies shows that the market driven approach of the states and federal government is towards Natural Gas and clean-burning coal. They are at a cross-roads between conventional energy and sustainable energy sources.

Water Issues

Eric Ames, water issues co-chair, reported that the Water Quality Control Commission adopted water quality standards that were minimal but could be expanded. He said there was opposition from the Municipal League and Los Alamos who said it would drive them to zero discharge. Abatement regulations from the Environment Department would force cleanup to go further than before. Public input and participation was improved. Eric said that he is working with several organizations looking up and down the river for Clean Water Act violations. There are problems with the MolyCorp

application to re-open, they are not getting good cooperation on public notification. The Silvery Minnow was listed as endangered and critical habitat designated, the first fish species so designated in the Rio Grande.

Public Lands Issues

Courtney White announced that there is a list of 200 parks to be closed through budget cuts including Petroglyph and Pecos. While the Utah delegation is setting up an anti-Wilderness Bill, there is a good showing of support for wilderness among the public in that state. Courtney will work on National Parks issues for the Chapter.

Grazing Issues

Roger Peterson, Rangeland issues chair, said that the Domenici grazing bill will allow federal grazers to avoid endangered species laws and other similar effects. He asked the Chapter to give him input on who to nominate to the BLM Resource Advisory Council.

On the Diamond Bar issue, Ted Mertig said that it's likely that the permittee will sue and Gila Watch will sue over decisions. He said the Southwest Region Ecosystem Task Force is looking for help to work on an eco-region project.

Wilderness Issues

George Grossman reported that the Chapter is seeking funding for a new Wildlands publication from the Sierra Club Foundation. John Wright reported that he is continuing to work on issues regarding Centex American Gypsum's attempts to mine in the Ojito ACEC and to avoid regulations. The BLM is redoing the El Malpais Management Plan and EIS and Sierra Club and other organizations will be looking at avoiding excessive recreational development there. There was some progress in southern NM in meeting with the BLM on WSAs that were in disagreement. That has now stalled.

Taos Resource Area Issues

Steve Harris and Ron Gardiner of Rio Grande Restoration reported that the BLM Rio Grande Planning Process has problems because it seems concerned with a recreational management plan instead of an ecosystem management plan. There will be no instream flow study. Elizabeth Winter's comments to the BLM were approved and she was designated Taos Resource Area Issues Chair. The State Land Office will study values at Ute Mountain to see if it could acquire it possibly for trade to BLM. Conservation easements will be looked at as a compromise.

Legislative Issues

Craig O'Hare will be working on Federal Legislation for the Chapter as an issue chair and will coordinate press releases and letters to the editor.

Jim Winder said that a Riparian Bill that came out in the legislature showed that there was interest in riparian issues. He will set

Report on June ExCom and Conservation Committee Meetings

by
John
Wright,
Secretary

up meetings with ranchers and environmentalists on riparian issues.

Doug Fraser, legislative lobbyist, said that this session of the legislature was positive—all the bad issues like Takings, risk assessments and land grab bills were killed. They got the subdivision act through and the Endangered Species Act is positive, but resistance will come from the bureaucracy. The Water Conservation Bill also got through. Thank yous to legislators will be given at parties in Alb. and Santa Fe. Ford Robbins said that good results came from fundraising, \$7,200. He said that we need to build relationships with members and communicate better. There was discussion on whether to have a separate mailing for election ballots. It was felt that lack of communication is affecting membership and fundraising. There was discussion on going back to local group newsletters.

Calendar

There will be a special meeting on communications issues on July 15 in Socorro at the Wildlife Refuge at 10 a.m.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee of the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club will be the 16th and 17th of September at the Black Range Lodge in Kingston.

Activist Profile Richard Barish

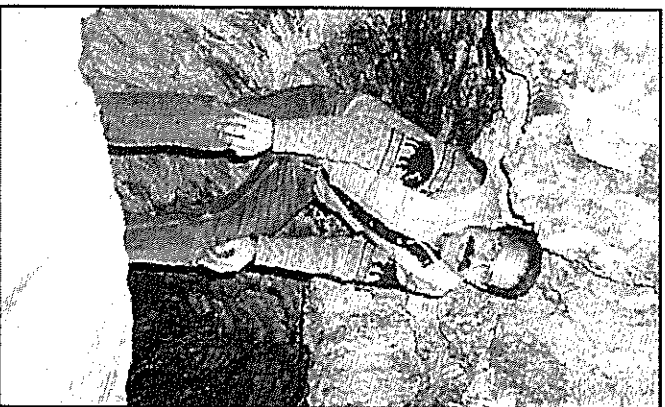
Although always committed to environmental protection, Richard Barish did not join the Sierra Club until after he graduated from the University of New Mexico Law School in 1967. When he joined the Albuquerque Group of the Sierra Club, he was asked to be a member of the Group's Executive Committee and has been an Executive Committee member ever since. He has long served as Treasurer of the Group and is currently serving his second term as Conservation Chair. He is also the Bosque Issues Chair.

In addition, Richard has been the Legal Chair for the Albuquerque Group for a number of years and has been Legal Chair of the Chapter for the last four years.

The major part of Richard's conservation work has been on issues concerning the Rio Grande bosque in Bernalillo County. Richard describes his work as being primarily "reactive." He reacted to the plan for Rio Grande State Park, which encompasses all the public land in the bosque in Bernalillo County, with a number of rounds of comments. He felt that the original plan involved too much intervention. The new plan is not so intrusive, but it doesn't seem to have a good scientific basis.

A specific bosque problem addressed by Richard is the Ox Bow. This is an area of private land, including some held by the Sierra Club Foundation, in the bosque on the west side of the Rio Grande. This was a marsh area, but sand being washed down the San Antonio Arroyo due to development along its upper stretches has blocked water coming into the Ox Bow so it is drying up. Richard and others from the Albuquerque Group have been working to remedy this situation.

Richard has been very



active in the effort to prevent the Montano Bridge from being built across the bosque. (See the article by Denise Fort in the March/April *Sierra*.)

Richard entered the legislative arena this year with a "star" turn in the Sierra Club effort to defeat an attempt by the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy to achieve control over the Rio Grande State Park, which is already supervised by the state, county, and City of Albuquerque. (See Doug Fraser's article on the 1995 legislative session in the May/June issue of the *Sierra*.) On one day's notice, Richard wrote and reproduced a concise, comprehensive summary of the issue; asked appropriate committee members to vote against the bill; testified against the bill; and was amazed to find it killed in committee. We hope that this positive experience will encourage Richard to greater participation in legislative issues.

Richard would like to be more pro-active, rather than reactive, and to that end he will be working with Sue McIntosh and others to organize and participate in community watershed restoration teams.



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Is There a Sustainable Energy Future for New Mexico?

by Ken Hughes, Energy/Transportation Chair

In 1978, on Sun Day, President Jimmy Carter proclaimed a vision of 20% solar for the year 1995. How have we done in meeting that goal? In the sense that we are nowhere near the goal, the U.S. is doing abysmally. Yet in terms of the impact of energy efficiency and, even more importantly, the promise of efficiency/renewables in the near future, we still can offer a sunny vision.

A sustainable energy future, a far different vision than our current energy mix, is a viable, cost-effective and environmentally preferred route, according to a forthcoming report by the Land and Water Fund of the Rockies. "How the West Can Win: A Vision of a Sustainable Energy Future" is based on an in-depth analysis of the energy resource base of the Rocky Mountain and Southwestern states, including New Mexico. From fusion to efficiency, coal to wind, it gives a revealing snapshot of the current breakdown by source of energy use, then it posits critical guesses on the future energy mix for the region.

The key ingredient for making the vision a reality is a region-wide integrated resource plan, in which the percentage of electricity generated from coal burning, power plants is reduced, while efficiency measures and renewable resources are increased. This assumes that the costs of solar and wind resources decline, low natural gas prices persist, and clean coal gasification technologies develop. If these assumptions do not hold up, we are in for massive rounds of new coal plants and concomitant increases in sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides by 50 percent, severely impacting visibility and urban air quality.

The report, which will be released later this summer, comes on the heels of a state-by-state solar survey by Critical Mass Energy Project, a public interest group, showing New Mexico as a leader in renewable energy. In a sense, it's encouraging that, when it comes to photovoltaics, geothermal, direct solar hot water and biomass energy,

New Mexico shines. We're in hot water, whether it's pumped up from the ground or focused down from the sun, because individuals and companies decided it's worth the effort to go with renewables.

New Mexico ranks 7th among states in its per capita use of solar hot water, 3rd in photovoltaic generation of electricity, 5th (out of 18 states) in direct geothermal, and 10th (also out of 18 states) in wind generation. The figures do not tell the whole story, however, for New Mexico's potential far outshines the current application of renewable energy resources. In fact, we could be a solar Saudi Arabia. The report estimates New Mexico's wind could generate 436 billion kilowatt hours of electricity, 30 times as much electricity as is currently used by New Mexicans.

The key ingredient for the top ranked states is the ability to commercialize proven renewable energy technologies on a wider scale. As cost and scientific barriers fall, policy and market resistance must loosen up to allow the sun in to play a major role in providing us with energy needs for the 21st century.

BACKWOODS MEXICO Last Outpost of Civilization

In the unexplored Sierra Madres, a little known, only partially explored canyon - maps are crude at best. Cool streams, pine woods and ancient, uncharted inhabited caves, amidst endless weird wind rock formations straddling the Continental Divide. Cowboy's rough log cabins perched on immense cliffs. God's country! The Highland Lodge staff includes Jesús the tracker, Reyes, the good-natured Tarahumara guide, and Chef Ramon. No electricity, phones or HBO.



Descend 7,000 feet down the wild and crazy cliff-hanging dirt road to the tropical bottom of the deepest canyon to the frontier town of BATOPILAS. Ruined mansions line the single narrow street along the rushing river. 90 carpenters labored 3 years without power tools (no electricity!) in the howling wilderness to restore the Banopilas Hacienda's elegant salons and patios' 1880's splendor. Make no mistake... this is primitive country. No guarantees. No place for anyone who worries "what if... what if..." For the adventurous and flexible only. Copper Canyon Lodges U.S. Office -

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