

Rio Grande Sierran



News of the Rio Grande Chapter Sierra Club
September/October 1995

Goodbye to a Good Friend--Tom Brasfield

by Joseph Leach and John Sprui

The recent death of Tom Brasfield in El Paso has saddened his many good Sierra Club friends and associates, both in the El Paso Group and in the Rio Grande Chapter.

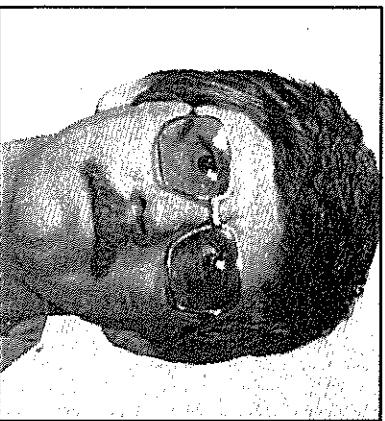
Since 1976, the year he joined the Club, Brasfield had worked hard to improve the El Paso environment and to preserve the wilderness in New Mexico. He was a hands-on worker, equally at home laying out or rebuilding trails, plotting strategy for a conservation campaign, carrying out trash, mapping the boundaries of a wilderness proposal, cheering up the tired and wounded, converting the non-believers, or shaming the heathens in general.

He was an outdoorsman, a leader of many El Paso Group outings, a participant in memorable backpacks across the Gila and along the Continental Divide in southern Colorado.

Tom was also a key man at the podium. He was a leader in the Club and a widely respected spokesperson for our ideals.

The El Paso Group knew him as Chairman in 1983, as Executive

Committee member in 1981-1987, as BLM Wilderness Chair in 1981, as Political Action Chair in 1982-1986, as Conservation Chair in 1982 and 1985-1986, as Environmental Quality Chair in 1989-1995.



The Rio Grande Chapter knew him as Chairman in 1987-1988, as Executive Committee member in 1984-1993, as Conservation Chair in 1990-1994, as Wilderness Co-Chair in 1994, as Political Action Chair in 1985-1986 and Outings Chair in 1985.

Beyond these key positions, Tom served as Chairman of the Southwest Regional Conservation Committee (SWRCC) and as Southwest Regional Vice President of the Sierra Club in 1990-1991. He was SWRCC Treasurer at the time of his death.

Distinguished service, without a doubt. But what truly set Tom apart was his level-headed style. It was an uncommon mix of great

intelligence, wit, common sense, positive attitude, honesty, pragmatism and humanity. In debate, he stayed focused on issues rather than personalities. He had a genius for guiding discussions towards positive solutions and away from deadlock or discord.

Perhaps more than anything else, it was respect for his style and his integrity that led the Rio Grande Chapter to honor Tom's contributions with its Environmentalist of the Year Award in 1989.

Outdoors, indoors, wherever Tom Brasfield led us as friend, Sierran, or all-around nice guy, he left us mighty good footprints to follow.

Petroglyph National Monument: Urban Park or Sacred Landscape?

by Ike Eastrold, Monument Issue Chair

Congress created Petroglyph National Monument on June 27, 1990, following only two years of legislative deliberation.

This unusual haste was explained in the findings of the Establishment Act: "[T]here exists...an urgent need to protect the cultural and natural resources of the area from urbanization and vandalism." Congress required rapid preparation of a General Management Plan (GMP) so that this protection would be provided in three years.

Five years later, the Park Service has issued a draft GMP with a Preferred Alternative (#1) which fails dangerously to protect the area from urbanization and vandalism, as Congress directed.

Steamrolling over the strenuous religious objections of Pueblo Indian tribes, the Park Service Preferred Alternative would introduce large-scale urban recreation on over 18 miles of mountain bike and horse trails, degrading a sacred landscape into an urban park. (These 8-foot-wide, hardened gravel trails would cost

over \$1.7 million to construct, and require significant staff to monitor and enforce.)

And, despite heartbreaking vandalism in 1994 due to uncontrolled access into one of the

Monument's finest areas, Rinconada Canyon, the Park Service's Preferred Alternative would create 11 largely uncontrolled "neighborhood access" and "parking" entrances, virtually

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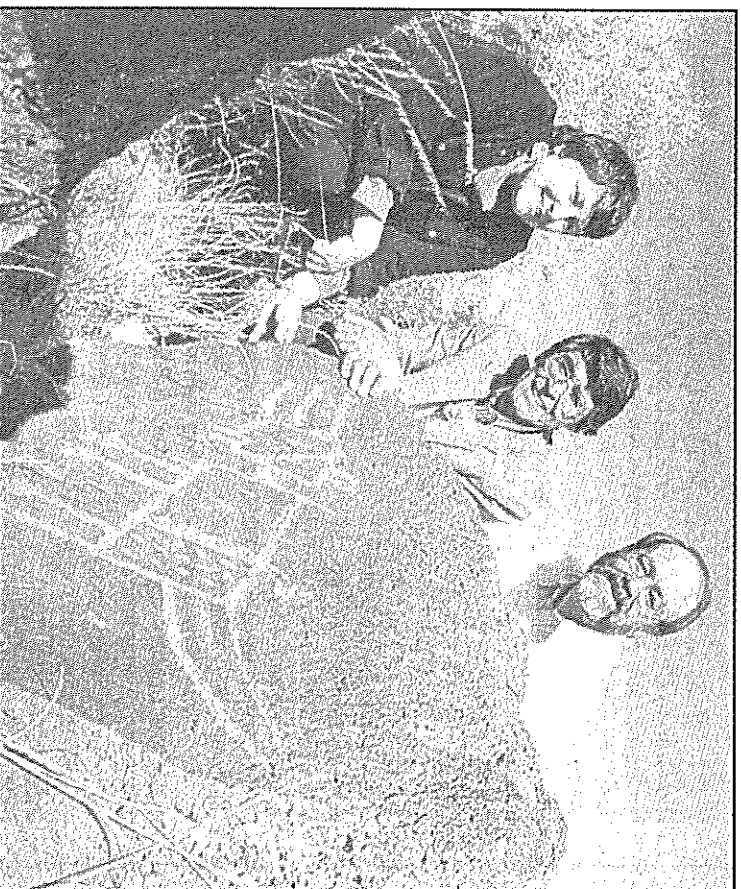


3 The Uneasy Chair

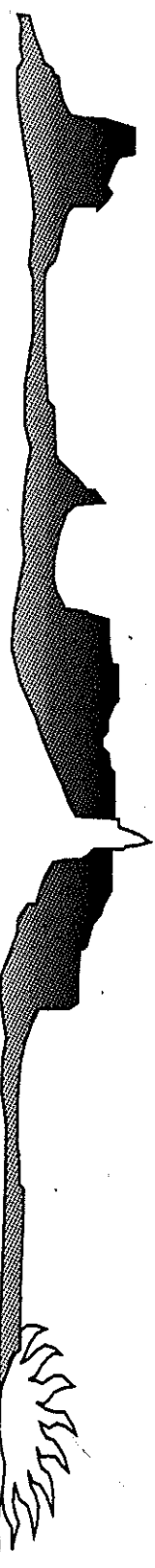
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Dr. Jane Young of UNM (American Studies), Herman Agoyo of San Juan Pueblo and Ike Eastrold look over one of the 150,000 Rio Grande style petroglyphs in the Monument.



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The Rio Grande Sierran is published by the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club as a benefit for Sierra Club members living in New Mexico and West Texas. (Make address changes by calling Membership Services at (415) 923-5653.)

Non-member subscriptions at \$10 per year are available from the Treasurer, Blair Brown. Send checks to 2226B Wyoming NE #272, Albuquerque, NM 87112. Please allow 8 weeks for processing.

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Contributions are welcomed from members and non-members. Send to *Rio Grande Sierran*, B. Johnson, 1 Encantado Loop, Santa Fe, NM 87505 or by E-mail to barbara.johnson@sierracub.org. Articles should be submitted by the 15th of the month prior to publication. Preferred format is via modem or on Macintosh disc as Microsoft Word file. Other formats may be compatible--check with the Production Manager. Letters and articles are subject to abridgment.

Printed on 100% post-consumer waste newsprint by PrintWorld in El Paso.

WE GET LETTERS

OLE Line

Dear Editor:

As a longtime (almost 30 years) Sierra Club member and a concerned environmentalist, I was very disappointed and disturbed by your article in the May/June issue of the *Rio Grande Sierran* on the routing of the PNM Ojo Line Extension (OLE).

As a resident of El Rancho in the Pojoaque Valley and someone who does very much care about the environment, I was stunned by how willingly the local chapter of the Sierra Club was willing to cut a deal with a large power company to achieve a certain goal, turning a blind eye to whether it was making a devil's pact. This is not the first time in the past couple of years where the local chapter's leadership has undertaken actions and positions that many members have felt are very questionable to the mission of the Club.

El Rancho is a historic, long-settled community with a healthy mix of families who have lived in the area for centuries and other, more recent arrivals who treasure its beauty and tranquility. The Sierra Club, along with some other groups and the Attorney General's office, to our mind, appeared very willing to sacrifice us at any cost to keep PNM's OLE line out of the Jemez Mountains. The community was never consulted about the "rebuild alternative" which, in fact, as far as El Rancho was concerned, did not involve rebuilding along the current power line corridor, but involved, instead, a completely new route.

Unlike the portrayal in the *Rio Grande Sierran* and in *The New Mexican*, there was very widespread opposition to this devastating, massive power line. I am willing to stake a high wager that not a single one of the Sierra Club officers involved in the behind-the-scenes brokering with PNM would have been any happier than we in El Rancho were if these massive towers were to be built next to their homes.

Community opposition was never based on suggesting that the proposed route return to the Jemez Mountains. El Rancho has many environmentalists who were glad the Jemez Mountain route was dropped back in December. But that did not mean we welcomed, as no one would, becoming sacrificial lambs.

The lines would have been immensely disfiguring--similar lines on 130 foot towers pass near Bernalillo and if you get up close to one as the lines pass over I-25, the true dimensions of the impact on a rural community would be obvious.

While the Sierra Club leadership was concerned about damage to the Jemez Mountains (as was I), no similar concern was shown for the devastating effect the "rebuild alternative" would have on sacred Black Mesa, for example, one of the most distinctive and special features of the northern New Mexico landscape, as it came around the east side of the mesa. There was no concern on what a 150-foot wide swath cut through El Rancho and passing along (for a stretch) the Pojoaque River would do to the riverine environment. (The 150-foot corridor must be maintained free of all vegetation above a few feet high--trees, shrubs, etc.)

The "rebuild alternative" was public relations flak since, in El Rancho, the alternative was going to be routed up to a mile away from the present power lines--effectively, through our inhabited area--it

was a whole new line as we saw it.

La Comunidad de El Rancho, the organization that spearheaded the effort to keep the PNM line out of our community, drew active participants from all of the Pojoaque Valley and as far as La Mesilla in the Espanola Valley. We did not "bombard" San Ildefonso Pueblo with false information. It was a firm position of La Comunidad that we would not in any way try to dictate to San Ildefonso how it should handle this matter. Our concern was strictly that the power lines did not have a place in El Rancho. The material we prepared in support of our effort did find its way to San Ildefonso, because of longstanding ties and close relationships between people in El Rancho and in San Ildefonso, a perfectly natural kind of relationship. As it happened, many members of that pueblo were not aware of the plans for a massive power line to go through their pueblo and pass close to Black Mesa. As they learned of it, members of that pueblo may have made up their own minds whether they wanted the power line close by to them.

While the national leadership of the Sierra Club is increasingly involved in issues affecting how large corporations impose environmentally disfiguring and damaging developments on small and largely powerless communities, it is truly ironic that our local New Mexico chapter works with powerful companies like PNM to try to ride roughshod over a small community like El Rancho.

In short, I believe the local chapter leadership of the Sierra Club has a lot to answer for. Its total lack of concern for the legitimate issues that local residents had, issues that, at the national Sierra Club level, are taken very seriously, is nothing short of a disgrace. To then write the kind of piece that appeared in the chapter newsletter and blame others unfairly, is to rub salt into some already painful wounds.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Alan Collins
 P.O. Box 3750 (Pojoaque Stn)
 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Hydropower

Dear Editor:

I am NOT an "organization," just an old man (93) who can't sit still any longer watching us waste billions of horsepower (meaning more than kws to most), going to waste while we waste our money and time "studying" alternative methods for electricity. I want hydro with all its other benefits developed nationwide, with electric autos to use it and solar on their roofs, and to recharge the great plains water basin (Ogallala aquifer, I believe it is). I feel so sorry for the poor people flooded out often when the flood water can be fed and pumped to the aquifer.

[In response to the article in the last issue]: Yes! There definitely is a sustainable energy future for New Mexico. It has been here all along, but is poorly recognized because it is so commonplace, and needs no expensive "study." It is the water flowing down our many streams. We simply refuse to recognize its great value. Water wheels drove the textile mills of New England and helped win the war for the North. Europe uses it a lot. Canada is forging ahead of us in hydropower, and so is China. Switzerland has the highest pipstern in the world, 5,670 ft. Niagara Falls has

I can sense the uneasy spirit of Bernard DeVoto stalking the land. Novelist, historian, author of a popular World War II-era column in Harper's Magazine, and a professional provocateur, according to his friend and protégé Wallace Stegner, Bernard DeVoto almost single-handedly stopped the wholesale giveaway of our western public lands in the late 1940s. Campaigning from his easy chair against an imminent transfer of federal land to the states, DeVoto called the backroom deal "one of the biggest land grabs in history" and accused the politicians in Washington D.C. who were orchestrating the transfer of wanting to "shovel most of the West into its rivers." Fortunately, DeVoto's outrage proved infectious and a chorus of complaint was raised across the country. The land transfer was killed the old fashioned way—by public demonstration. Now, nearly fifty years later, another land grab is under way and I can hear the cunnudgeon from Salt Lake City pacing creakily in the shadows, muttering to himself despairingly about the never-ending cycle of things—and the stunning familiarity of it all.

Another Land Grab in Progress

As should be clear to anyone who believes in the intrinsic value of public land, there can be no doubt that another attempt at a massive land grab is underway in Washington D.C. Bills before both houses of Congress attack the fundamental philosophy of public land—of equal access, and every citizen's right to share in the stewardship of that land. Most politicians know that a wholesale giveaway of BLM or Forest Service land to the states is impractical to-day (contrary to the rhetoric of some "public servants"), so a more sinister, and effective, stratagem has been employed—to pick apart the federal land puzzle, piece by piece. Open the Arctic Wildlife Refuge to drilling, defund Mojave National Park, disarm BLM rangers, gut the Endangered Species Act, put pro-development language into a Utah wilderness bill, kill a twenty-five year-old land acquisition fund, downsize the federal land agencies, put a bounty on the head of a wild wolf, propose a National Park "de-commissioning" committee, legislate cattle ranching as the "highest and best use of public land"... Individually, these efforts accomplish much the same task as Senator Robertson of Wyoming tried in 1947, only in a bitterly cynical 1990s style. At least that fight was in the open.

West's "Obsession with Suicide"

DeVoto once marveled at the West's obsession with suicide. Why would a land, he wondered, with so much natural abundance, both material and spiritual, try so relentlessly to slit its own throat? He couldn't proffer an answer—no one can. Still, it is disheartening to see, fifty years later, the same debate being waged, the same half-truths

and full lies being hurled, and the same fingers being pointed. Has nothing changed in two generations? Anything at all? The West, despite the best intentions of public users and disapprovers, appears to be just as suicidal as ever. Western senators and congresspeople in Washington, D.C. have grabbed a sharp knife and are holding it directly over their hearts, saying "Don't try to stop me, I know what's best for the land." The question is—should we stop them or not?

Things Have Changed--Or Have They?

"Things have changed," I say to DeVoto's restless shadow, which appears to be searching vainly for a mechanical typewriter, "you have friends, for example, lots of friends." The entire modern environmental movement, I remind him, has flourished since he played the Lone Ranger, riding a stuffed chair, caressed by a gentle eastern sea breeze. Public land is not alone anymore, I tell him, it has millions of advocates, at least theoretically. It didn't do any good, I could still hear him pacing across the floorboards, hands clenched tightly behind his back. Why, his nervous behavior implored, was this happening again then? Why had the suicidal impulse

come back? How could a handful of politicians fly in the face of millions of campers, hikers, fishermen, and other outdoor enthusiasts of every stripe and think they could get away with it? He stopped pacing and turned a round, shadowy head toward me. How, he asked silently, could this be happening?

It was a good question. I didn't have an immediate answer. Nearly 300 million Americans visited the national park system last year, for example, which means, theoretically, the National Park Service should have 300 million constituents. So how could a group of vote-sensitive politicians think they could propose closing any national park and not get publicly disemboweled for their trouble? Well, the answer appears to be—because they can. They appear to be acting with impunity—they don't sense a backlash, so they don't fear one. Perhaps they sense no Bernard DeVotos out there, or perhaps (and probably more accurately) they sense complete voter apathy. Perhaps they are depending on that apathy. Perhaps after fifty years this is the greatest difference between DeVoto's age and our own.

His spirit resumed its fretful pacing. He was beginning to make me feel very uneasy.

Richardson Introduces Bipartisan Park Service Reform Act

Citing concerns about Congressional efforts to enact legislation to close National Parks, Congressman Bill Richardson (D-NM) has introduced alternative legislation to provide for responsible reform of the National Park System and to change the System's concession and fee policies to provide increased revenues.

HR 2181, the Common Sense National Park System Reform Act, would require the NPS to present a National Park System Plan to Congress. Such a plan would include a detailed financial management proposal and an identification of specific aspects of the nation's heritage which are not currently represented by the Park System.

Reform Concessions and Fees

The two other main provisions of the Richardson Bill are nearly identical to legislation which passed the House by a large margin last year but which was never enacted into law. One provision would reform the Park System concessions policy which governs the fees paid by businesses operating facilities on Park Service property. The other provision would reform the Park Service fee policy which governs entrance and user fees.

Alternative to Closure Bill

HR 2181 is designed to be an alternative to HR 260, legislation which has already passed the House

Committee on Resources and which calls for the establishment of a politically appointed park closure commission whose sole responsibility would be to recommend specific national park units for closure. HR 260 has been condemned as contrary to the principles of public ownership of public lands by a coalition of environmental and public interest advocacy groups from across the nation.

98% Support Parks

"The American public believes in the importance of the National Park System," said Richardson. "Recent polling data show that Americans overwhelmingly support preservation of the parks for future generations. What they do not support are attempts to shut down parks or impose policies which continue to neglect the protection of the precious public lands which belong to us all."

A May 1995 study by Colorado State University found that Americans support the parks by huge margins: 98% of all those surveyed said protecting the parks for the future was important and 80% of those surveyed who had never been to national park said it was very important that parks continue to be protected.

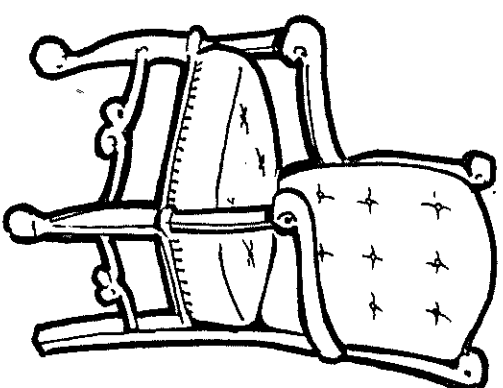
In the same study, 80% of those surveyed expressed a

willingness to pay higher entrance fees if the revenues stayed in the parks. Under Richardson's bill, a trust fund would be established so that the majority of increased revenues from entrance fee and concession reform could be used for park improvements.

"As millions of Americans enjoy their August vacations, many of which will take place in one of the 369 units of the National Park System, it is important for us to think about what kind of park system we want to leave to future generations," Richardson explained. "I do not believe the American people want to sacrifice their national park system to shortsighted political decisions which do not reflect the wishes of the 250 million citizen-owners of the National Park System."

HR 2181 has been co-sponsored by a core group of two Republican and two Democratic House members. It will be referred to the Committee on Resources and the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Lands, of which Richardson is the Senior Democratic member.

For information on the impact on New Mexico of park budget-cutting legislation which has already passed Congress, see page 4.

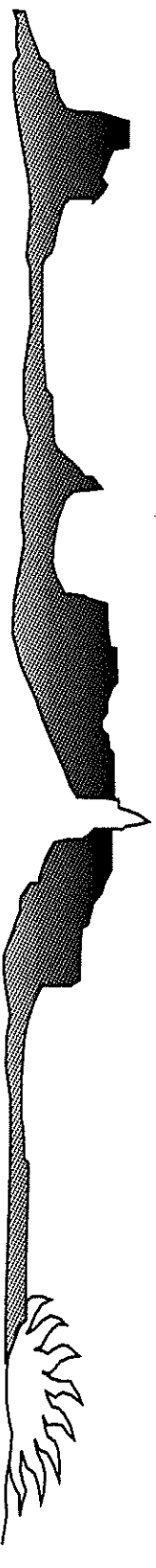


**The
Uneasy
Chair**
*Public Lands at Risk,
Again*

by

Courtney White





Finding Green Information

by
Larry Compton

Eco-activists need to be armed with information when waging their environmental battles. But the information explosion has just given us more stuff to sift through; here is some free advice from a librarian/information consultant.

Public and university libraries are provided to the public for pennies on the tax dollar, one of the best bargains in government spending. Use them. Many libraries now provide dial-up access to their on-line catalog from your home computer; see if your library offers this. (Disclaimer: your local library may or may not have the sources mentioned here. Also, each library is arranged differently; take time to get familiar with yours.)

The Internet

All of the recent hype about the Internet has spread some myths, e.g., that the Internet is free, and that all the information in the world can be found on it. The Internet is not free; you must get access through a commercial vendor, there is usually a monthly charge plus usage fees. If you have access to the Internet at a school, university or laboratory, the taxpayers are paying for it. Despite what some people will tell you, you cannot find anything and everything you want on it. It's, however, a useful tool for finding current information and data not readily available elsewhere.

A good 'net' site for environmental information is the E c o G o p h e r <ecosys.drtd.virginia.edu>. To see the EPA's library, telnet to <epalbm.rtpnc.epa.gov>. Two good books for learning about the Internet are *The Whole Internet*, 2nd ed., and *Zen and the Art of the Internet*. For more information on the Internet contact the Information Technology coordinators: Bruce Batson, 828-2570 <bbatson@ni.net> or Blair Brown, 265-3231 <bblairb@aol.com>.



Budget Cuts Proposed by Congress For New Mexico Parks

Under the Budget Resolution passed by Congress earlier this spring, 198 of the smallest parks could be closed to meet a Congressionally imposed budget cut of \$108 million in Fiscal Year 1996. Of the 13 units of the National Park system in New Mexico, 11 are on this list:

<i>El Malpais National Monument</i>	Potential Cut: \$58,000
<i>El Morro National Monument</i>	Potential Cut: \$34,000
<i>Fort Union National Monument</i>	Potential Cut: \$45,000
<i>Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument</i>	Potential Cut: \$21,000
<i>Pecos National Historical Park</i>	Potential Cut: \$108,000
<i>Petroglyph National Monument</i>	Potential Cut: \$76,000
<i>Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument</i>	Potential Cut: \$69,000
<i>White Sands National Monument</i>	Potential Cut: \$95,000
Total Potential Cuts in New Mexico: \$1,285,000	

Old-Fashioned Way

Lots of information is still found the old-fashioned way, in the library. Directories in the reference area can lead you to the right phone number or address. Check the keyword index on any "green" topic in *The Encyclopedia of Associations* to find activist groups. *The Washington Information Directory* and *New Mexico Blue Book* are also useful. For books with an environmental slant, try *The Information Please Environmental Almanac*, the *National Wildlife Federation's Conservation Directory*, or *The Green Encyclopedia*.

Indexes and abstracts can get you to articles and reports. The *Readers' Guide* is the old standby for articles in popular/general interest magazines. If you subscribe to CompuServe, tap into Magazine Database Plus. Most major newspapers have their own index. In larger university libraries you may find more specialized indexes, including *Pollution Abstracts*, a monthly index to international technical journals. *Environment Abstracts Annual* covers both scientific and popular journals as well as conference proceedings.

Government Information

Government information is very important to environmental researchers. The U.S. Government Printing Office has a depository system for distributing government publications. UNM and the State Library in Santa Fe are regional depositories; many larger libraries are selective depositories. If your library has a separate government documents area, use its specialized indexes and catalogs; government sources often are not in the regular library catalog. The basic index to government publications is the *Monthly Catalog*. The *Federal Register* is the daily listing of new regulations and legal notices issued by Federal agencies; the *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) is the set of current regulations. For environmental law in New Mexico, see the *New Mexico Environmental Law Handbook*, 3rd ed.

Rio Grande Sierran Now on E-Mail

The Rio Grande Sierran is now hooked into the Internet. To contact the Sierran, with comments or articles, use this address:

barbara.johnson@sierracub.org

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If you do not have access to a computer and wish to place an

Other important government sources include EPA Publications Bibliography, *Monthly Energy Review*, and the Bureau of Mines' *Minerals Yearbook*. The *Congressional Record* is the official proceedings of Congress; to find out what is really going on in Congress, try *Congressional Quarterly's CQ Almanac* and *Weekly Report* or *The National Journal*, both privately published. An excellent source for Congressional hearings, reports and bills is the *CIS Annual Index*. Other good sources include the *Almanac of American Politics*, *Almanac of Federal PACs* and *Congressional Staff Directory*.

CD-Rom

Several government databases are now being produced on CD-ROMs. Look at larger libraries for the *National Economic, Social, and Environment DataBank* (NESE), the *EPA Toxic Chemical Release Inventory* and the *DOD Hazardous Materials Information System*. Many government agencies now have their own Bulletin Board Systems. A good, inexpensive one-stop gateway is FedWorld. Set your communications software to 703-321-8020. EnvironText (ERTS) is an interagency database that can be searched at cost, for information call 703-603-8878.

Business Information

At times you may need to get information on a company that is involved in an environmental issue; go to the business library or reference section. For simple directory information, try *The Thomas Register of Manufacturers* or *Ward's Directory*; many states including New Mexico also have their own business directory. For more detail on larger companies, including officers and financial data, check *Standard and Poor's Register* or *D & B's Million Dollar Directory*.

A knowledgeable librarian can save you time. Information consultants, who charge for their services, may do some research on environmental issues on a pro bono basis.

article, contact the Production Manager. Letters to the editor may be sent typewritten or handwritten, if legible.

Remember, the deadline is the 15th of the month prior to publication, i.e., Oct 15 for the November/December issue.



Electronic Sierra Club

by bruce batson and blair brown

Have you checked out the World Wide Web? The Web, as everybody calls it, is a large number of interconnected computers all over the world, containing an enormous repository of text, pictures and even sound. You can forget about those dusty library shelves, microfiche and card catalogs.

Most important, it's open to anyone with Internet access at work or at home, by phone, using a personal computer with a modem and an Internet account with a local provider.

So what's available on the Web pages and why bother?

For starters, the Sierra Club Rio Grande Chapter is there along with the National Sierra Club and a growing number of other Chapters and Groups. Once you have established access to the Web, point your Web browser to:

<http://www.nm.org/~sierra/>
(Sorry, we told you the address was <http://www.nm.net/~sierra/> in the last issue).

You will be transported to the Rio Grande Chapter's Homepage. With a click of the mouse you'll find the information you need to plan your weekend by visiting the Outings page; another click will take you to Group Information where you can check on when and where the next Group meeting will be held. A few more clicks and you are transported to the National Sierra Club Homepage and from there on to other Chapters' Homepages. The Ecoregion site has great photos of special places and information about the activities of the Task Forces. At other sites you can learn about sustainable communities, look up a bird or a plant you just discovered, find out about volunteer opportunities, find what you need to plan your next kayaking or hiking vacation. Other Web sites let you review your congressman's voting record or learn about what's happening in Washington and even send an E-mail message to the President or your elected representative. We could go on and on... there is a world of information

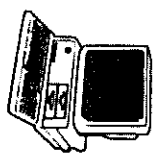
on the Web to help you learn about anything environmental (or any other interest you may have!).

At the same time let's not forget the Chapter's 'mailing list'. The 'list' serves as an electronic forum where members can exchange information with other members by simply sending an E-Mail message. It can be a place for electronic discussions about conservation issues, sharing of successes, requests for help, local alerts, but it only works if we all participate. To get on the 'list' send an e-mail request to bbatson@ni.net or blairb@aol.com.

The Electronic Sierra Club is getting better every day. We're part of the continuous, explosive expansion of on-line communications. Pointcom, an on-line provider of World Wide Web ratings and reviews, listed the Sierra Club's pages in the top 5% of all Web sites on the Internet (pretty impressive, we think). Their Top Ten list has appeared on CNN. Don't be left out! See you on the Net.

COMPTON RESEARCH SERVICES

Business, Legal & Technical Information



(505) 899-2975

4911 Butterfield Trail NW
Albuquerque, NM 87120
Larry Compton
President

What would it take to make Albuquerque a Great City?

by Susan Gorman

"A sustainable society is one that satisfies its needs without jeopardizing the prospects of future generations." --Lester Brown

If one thinks about great and old cities, like Amsterdam or Paris or London, that have survived wars, plagues, floods, population growth, infrastructure failures and other urban woes, it would seem that there are lessons to be gained from their histories. Clearly, these cities have been sustainable over many hundreds of years and they seem to be capable of continuing on.

There are many cities throughout the world that are trying innovative strategies to manage growth gracefully. Albuquerque can learn from the experiences of other places. We can support leaders with vision and courage, encourage planners, developers, architects and engineers with creative approaches and vote for intelligent infrastructure development. In the '70s, a coalition of groups and organizations worked with the City to develop a Comprehensive Plan which would have made Albuquerque a truly Sustainable City. But the Plan has been ignored and violated more often than it has been implemented.

As residents, we all must get involved. The current growth rate in the Greater Albuquerque Area has accelerated the momentum of development. A recent visit to the Westside demonstrated to me that Albuquerque is quickly being turned into another Los Angeles or Phoenix even as you read this. It's not only future generations, our children and their children, whose lifestyles are being threatened, it is ours!

While our attention has been fixed on the Montano Bridge, the big picture plans, like the Westside Strategic Plan, the Water Resources Management Plan, are all moving quietly forward through their respective processes. The documents describing these processes, when stacked up, make a pile over 8 inches high. We must find the way to read and comprehend all of the concepts, facts, statistics, data, information, legal requirements, maps, charts, options and considerations contained in this tower of paper. We must determine the cost associated with the projects which are proposed in these plans.

We must re-create the Grand Coalition we had before to develop the Grand Strategy for a Sustainable Albuquerque. This strategy must reflect the reality that we live in a fragile desert with a limited water supply and carrying capacity. It must acknowledge the strong pressures for development of the Westside and support a responsible set of policies to keep growth from destroying the unique beauty of this place. It must prevent development from endangering our single source aquifer, our airshed, the sweeping solidity of the Sandias, the intimate calm of the Bosque, the expansive landscape of the west mesa with its silent volcanoes and the spiritual richness of the Petroglyphs and the healthy social fabric

of neighborhoods. It must respect and preserve our connection to our diverse religious and cultural heritages and the expectations of all residents and the hopes of future generations. After all, it is these qualities that make Albuquerque the special place that it is.

We must act now, to develop a strategy to make Albuquerque a Great Sustainable City.

To get involved, leave a message on the Sierra Club Hotline: 265-5506.

Gatherings.....Finding Friends, Sharing Concerns and Saving Special Places

by Susan Gorman

It's been a quiet summer for Gatherings. We headed out to Continental Divide on July 22 to hike Foster Canyon with Barbara Leonard, Co-Chair of the Western NM Section. This is her special place and we were grateful to have her share it with us. She also let us sleep on her back porch, enjoying the star gazing as we fell asleep.

The three of us shared ideas and hopes for the future strengthening of Sierra Club activities. There are so many areas in this part of the state with special ecosystems, great beauty, historic, archaeological and cultural significance and unique geology. But 100 years of extraction of minerals and lumber from the mountains and grazing of the range and high meadows has taken a hard toll. Finding the sustainable balance between extraction and preservation for the future is the challenge.

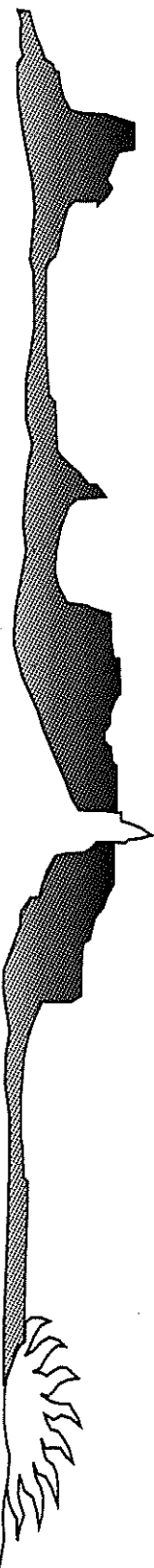
We joined the folks in Western NM for their meeting on July 23 to write letters to Congress and plan future meeting programs, outings and calendar sales. They are planning to schedule regular General Meetings, beginning in September.

The 4 Corners folks have had a grand summer of outings and have scheduled their first General Meeting for September 7.

Jean Valentine is working hard to educate and activate Sierrans in Valencia County about sustainable development and the need to participate in the transportation and land use planning process. She would really like some help!

Where next? How about Gatherings in Socorro, Clovis, Portales, Roswell, Carlsbad, Artesia, Silver City, Raton and Taos?

If you want to help organize a Gathering in your area, just contact me, Susan Gorman by phone at 505-265-3231, fax at 505-256-0373, EMail at blairb@aol.com or snailmail at 2226B Wyoming NE #272, Albuquerque, NM 87112. September is booked but October is a great month to travel!



September General Meeting

New Mexico and the Endangered Species Act

Steve Spangle and Leslie Dierauf from the Endangered Species Division of the Southwest Regional Office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be our special guests.

This is a great opportunity to learn how the Endangered Species Act currently affects our population of endangered and threatened species such as bald eagles, peregrine falcons, and northern and Mexican spotted owls. Habitat conservation planning, conservation agreements, and other creative strategies for protection and enhancement of habitat for endangered species in the Southwest will be addressed.

NOTE: General Meetings are held on the third Monday of each month, 7:30 PM, 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!!

October General Meeting

Biking for Commuting and Recreation

Do you want to know more about Albuquerque's bikeways for commuting or where to mountain bike in New Mexico? Stefan Verchinski of the Albuquerque Group Sierra Club and guest will give a video presentation and lecture on how to use Albuquerque's bus system in conjunction with bicycle commuting and what the city of Albuquerque is doing to support biking.

Also, balancing the popularity of mountain biking and preservation of open spaces is becoming a hot topic in our area. Learn about where the good spots are to bike responsibly and find out why some areas cannot withstand the wear and tear of recreational biking.

Special Opportunity to learn about the Alaska Rainforest!

Conservation Program

The Alaska Rainforest Campaign is coming to New Mexico to present an exciting slide show about Alaska's Tongass and Chugach National Forests.

The Alaska Rainforest forms a thousand-mile arc along the Pacific Ocean between the communities of Ketchikan and Kodiak. This beautiful coast represents the best of what remains of the world's temperate rainforests.

The vast majority of the Alaska Rainforest is public land and to save this from the fate of the rest of the world's rainforest, we must change government policies that currently subsidize and promote logging. The Alaska Rainforest Campaign is working to assure long-term protection of Alaska's rainforest ecosystem, to protect its sustainable economic base, and to promote compatible development.

The Alaska Rainforest Campaign doesn't accept any donations. They just need our grassroots support. Please join us!

When: Monday, September 25 at 7:00 PM.

Where: UNM Law School, Room 2401

"It's That Time Again"

by Larry Compton

Don't you just hate it when stores start playing Christmas muzak before Thanksgiving, and put out cards, wrapping and Santa stuff before Halloween? Me too. But it is that time already to start thinking about which 1996 Sierra Club calendars you want to give as holiday gifts.

The 1996 catalog is in. Available again are the Engagement Calendar for \$10.95, Wilderness wall calendar for \$9.95, Wildlife wall calendar for \$9.95, the pocket calendar for \$8.50 and Adventure Travel for \$9.95. The special wall calendars this year are The Last American Wildlands, and Aurora (beautiful photos of the northern lights); both are \$13.95. For the kiddies, there is also a very cute Baby Animals calendar for \$9.95.

Club members get a 10% discount; proceeds benefit the Albuquerque Group. Last year we made nearly \$500, an easy way to help raise money for environmental activism. Call Larry at 899-0679 to place your order.

CALENDAR

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

Sept 6	Mexican Wolf Coalition, 7:30 PM
Sept 6	Deadline for agenda items for Group Excom. Call Susan Gorman at 265-3231
Sept 11	Group Excom, 7:00 PM
Sept 14-17	National CIRCUS, SC Headquarters, San Francisco
Sept 16-17	Chapter Retreat, Black Range Lodge, Kingston, NM
Sept 18	General Meeting, UNM Law School, Rm 2401, 7:30 PM
Sept 18-22	Riparian Symposium, Hotel Four Seasons, Albuquerque. Call Douglas Shaw, 842-3256
Sept 20-21	Transportation/Land Use Town Hall. Call Ian Ford, 884-7168
Sept 25	Alaska Rainforest Program, UNM Law School, Room 2401, 7:00 PM
October 4	Mexican Wolf Coalition, 7:30 PM
October 4	Deadline for agenda items for Group Excom. Call Susan Gorman at 265-3231
October 9	Group Excom, 7:00 PM
October 15	Deadline for articles for November/December Rio Grande Sierran
October 16	General Meeting, UNM Law School, Room 2401, 7:30 PM
October 17	Deadline for agenda items for Conservation Committee. Call Richard Barish, 247-8079
October 23	Conservation Committee Meeting, 7:00 PM

Western New Mexico Section News

After a summer of Gatherings, the Western New Mexico Section is initiating regular programs and outings this fall. The first General Meeting will be held on September 19, 7:00 PM, at the McKinley County Health Dept, 1919 College Drive, Gallup.

On October 20, we're hosting a visit by State Land Commissioner Ray Powell. He'll give us an update on Land Office projects. He will also talk about the changing roles of the various land managers in Western New Mexico including (but not limited to) the Land Office, the BLM, the Forest Service, the Navajo, Acoma and Zuni Nations, the Santa Fe Railroad and many private landowners. Watch the papers for time and place or call Barbara Leonard 505-862-7915 or Barbara Brandt 505-488-5233.

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
	Stefan Verchinski	888-1370

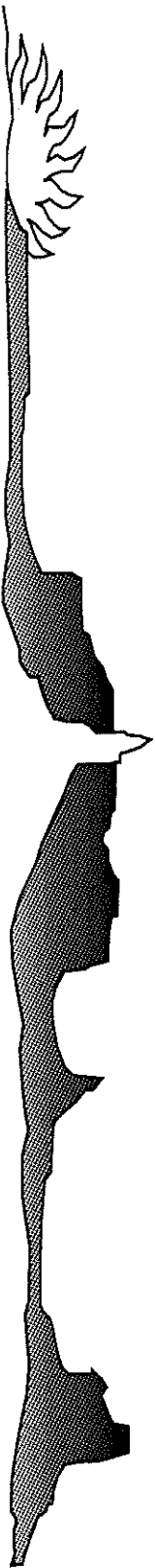
The Albuquerque Group of the Sierra Club depends entirely on the efforts of volunteers. To help our efforts, call the following issue coordinators:

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	
	David Morrison	344-8693
Outings	Stan Kauchak	839-4301
Phone Tree	Jean Valentine	869-2090
	Jack Humphrey	243-5319
Political Chair	Ron Grobeck	296-0944
Programs	Leslie Lazaga	296-0944

CONSERVATION

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



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

Outings may be cancelled or changed due to weather or other reasons, please call leader before outing. You must bring appropriate shoes, clothes, pack, rain gear, and water.

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 National Monument
Secluded petroglyph areas in a near wildernesslike setting. Meet at 8:00 AM. Bring camera, binoculars and sturdy shoes. RSVP.
Leader: Ike Eastvold 255-7679

Sat-Sun Sep 9-10 Leisure Miles: 12 Car: 350
Bisti Badlands Wilderness Car Camp
Join us for a leisurely geology/camping trip again this year in this very interesting area. See petrified trees, look for fossils and learn about the geology of the land. Potluck dinner and breakfast. Primitive camping. Bring plenty of water and things that won't spoil for your lunches.
Leader: Georgia 881-9365 & Stan 839-4301.

Western NM Section Outing
Sat Sept 16 Moderate Miles: 8
Foster Canyon Hike

Explore Foster Canyon, near Red Mesa, east of Gallup, with a BIA forester. We'll follow the arroyo observing the impacts of erosion, then up on the mesa to walk through oaks and ponderosa. Enjoy the vistas of red rock and the geology of the area. Meet at 9:00 AM at the Giant Travel Center, Exit 39 of I-40, 18 miles east of Gallup. For Albuquerque departure, meet at 7:30 AM at UNM Astronomy Physics parking lot, NE corner of Yale and Lomas. Bring lunch, water and raingear.
Leader: Barbara Leonard 862-7915

Sun Sept 17 Leisure Miles: 3 Car: 3
Boca Negra Arroyo Hike,
Petroglyph National Monument
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

Sun Sept 17 Strenuous Miles: 8-10 Car: 300
Rio Embudo Exploratory Hike
Wading, extreme scrambling through a narrow canyon through which the Rio Embudo runs. Bring sneakers for river wading. We will start with a tour of the Harding mine. Meet at 7:30 AM behind the Winchell's at San Mateo and Academy. For information call David 344-8693.
Leader: Richard Capua

Sat Sept 23 Leisure Miles: 2 Car: 170
Fall Raptor Migration, Manzanos Tour
We drive up a bumpy dirt road to Capilla Peak in the Manzanos mountains. Hawk Watch International will be counting and trapping raptors. Ospreys, golden eagles, bald eagles, and peregrine falcons are just a few of the raptors to be sighted. Bring binoculars and a jacket. Meet at 9:00 AM at the Sierra Club office, 207 San Pedro NE.
Leader: David Morrison 344-8693

Sun Sept 24 Moderate-Strenuous Miles: ? Car: 320
Cerro Pedernal Exploratory Hike

Climb the landmark mesa peak of Pedernal back behind Abiquitu. This area was painted by Georgia O'Keeffe. Meet at 8:00 AM behind the Winchell's at

344-8693.
Leader: Susan Larsen

Fri-Sun Sept-Oct 29-1 Moderate Miles: 12 Car: 380
Red River-Taos Backpack
Due to demand, this is a follow-up from a backpack in July. We will leave Friday evening and camp. Saturday we will do a car shuttle and backpack from the Taos ski area to Red River. Bring a fishing pole or watch the aspens change. Call for details.
Leader: Craig Dill 224-9795

Western NM Section Outing
Sat Sept 30 Leisure-Moderate Miles: ? Car: 20
Bluewater Canyon ACEC
Great hike, that few people know, in this riparian canyon surrounded by piñon-juniper on BLM land. Visit some archaeological sites. Meet at 9:30 AM at the Dairy Queen at the Bluewater exit on I-40 about 20 miles west of Gallup. For departure from Albuquerque, meet at 8:15 AM at UNM Astronomy and Physics parking lot at Yale and Lomas. Bring lunch and raingear. For information call Barbara 862-7915.
Leader: Dennis Dixon

Sun Oct 1 Leisure Miles: 4 Car: 160
Fall Colors in the Manzanos
We will hike Blanco Canyon to Cave Spring and the crest south of the crowded 4th of July Canyon to capture the reds and pinks of the maples and the yellows of the oaks and aspens. Meet at 8:30 AM.
Leader: Ralph Center 867-0714

Sat Oct 7 Moderate Miles: 5-7 Car: 180
Chijulla Mesa Exploratory Hike
Check the wildlife drinker installed in August and look at the sandstone bluffs and canyons. Meet at 8 AM behind Winchell's at San Mateo and Academy.
Leader: Tom Pentecdn 255-1497

Sun Oct 8 Moderate Miles: 6-8 Car: 120
Guadalupe Mesa Exploratory Hike, Jemez
Brian and Julie are guiding this one. We wade across the Guadalupe River into a narrow canyon with a small stream forming spectacular waterfalls and lush green pools. We head up to the mesa rim to some petroglyphs and onto the mesa to some Indian ruins and views of the Jemez valley. We then head down Virgin Canyon to shuffled cars. Dogs welcome. Expect to get your feet wet or even take a cool plunge. Meet at 9:00 AM behind the Winchell's at San Mateo and Academy.
Leader: David Morrison 344-8693

Sun Oct 8 Leisure Miles: 3 Car: 3
Rinconada Canyon Hike,
Petroglyph National Monument
This is the largest, most pristine area in the Monument with over 2000 petroglyphs. Meet at 9:00 AM. Bring camera, binoculars and sturdy shoes. RSVP.
Leader: Ike Eastvold 255-7679

Sat Oct 14 All Levels Miles: 0 Car: 0
Oxbow Wetland Dig in the Mud
Bring out your wading shoes and shovels to try to clear out the channel invaded by silt from the San Antonio Arroyo. Work to about noon and then lunch on pizza.
Leader: David Morrison 344-8693

Sat-Sun Oct 14-15 Leisure-Moderate Miles: 6-8 Car: 240
Astronomy Car Camp, Magdalena Mountains
During the July trip, we got rained out. This will be a repeat. 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. During Saturday we will take a hike into the surrounding area. Potluck dinner on Saturday night, bring a food item. Come up for just the evening or all weekend. Possible visit of the Langmuir Lighting Observatory. Call for details.
Leader: Tom Leck 256-7217

Sun Oct 15 Leisure Miles: 3 Car: 3
Rio Grande Bosque Hike

We will hike to the bosque north of Central. Three miles and three hours. Meet at 9:00 AM at the parking area on the east side of the river and on the north side of Central.

Sat Oct 21 Moderate Miles: 4 Car: 130
Las Conchas Trail To East Fork Parking Lot
A beautiful hike in spring, summer, fall and X/C skin winter, expect an invigorating hike and crisp temperatures. Lunch at Los Ojos in Jemez Springs.
Leader: Stan Kauchak 839-4301.

Sat Oct 21 Leisure Miles: 3 Car: 3
Piedras Marcadas Hike,
Petroglyph National Monument
Tremendous variety and unique petroglyphs not found elsewhere in the Monument. Meet at 9:00 AM. Bring camera, binoculars and sturdy shoes. RSVP.
Leader: Ike Eastvold 255-7679

Sun Oct 22 Leisure Miles: 3 Car: 30
Tres Pistoles Canyon, SW
On the south side of the Sandias we will hike up Three Gun Canyon to the spring below the ridge. Bring lunch. Meet at 9:00 AM at the SC office.
Leader: David Morrison 344-8693

Sat Oct 28 Moderate Miles: 8 Car: 200
Guadalupe/Salado Canyons Exploratory Hike, Rio Puerto
We head away from the ghost town of Guadalupe to the west. We will explore and may include Banca de la Casa, the second and third slot canyons in Tapia. Bring your 4-wheel drive vehicle. Meet at 7:30 AM behind Winchell's at San Mateo and Academy.
Leader: Dennis 899-8104

Sun Oct 29 Strenuous Miles: 4-6 Car: 200
Buckman Cave in Diablo Canyon Exploratory Hike
This canyon is behind Santa Fe and across from Banderlier. Bring 4-wheel drive or high clearance vehicles, hard hats and flashlights. Extreme scrambling. Petroglyphs. Meet at 8:00 AM behind Winchell's at San Mateo and Academy. For information call David 344-8693.
Leader: Richard Capua

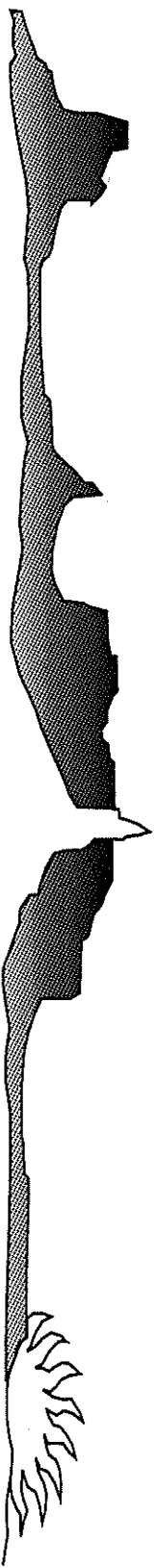
Sat Nov 4 Leisure to Strenuous Miles: 3-4 Car: 160
Chapter Outing, Cabezon WSA
This will be a leisure hike around the base of the this cerro, with an optional strenuous climb to the top of this Diné religious site NW of San Ysidro. Bring boots, lunch and water. Call for details.
Leader: John Wright 247-4353

Sat-Sun Nov 11-12 Moderate-Exploratory Miles: 6+ Car: 300
Gobernador Wash Car Camp and Exploratory Hike
This area is just south of Bloomfield. The Wash has Indian ruins and badlands. We will probably camp at Angel Peak. Expect to leave at an early 7:00 AM. Potluck dinner Saturday night. Call for details.
Leader: David Morrison 344-8693

Outings Notes

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





the LORAX - El Paso Group News

Meeting Schedule

Wed Sept 6	I.C.O. mtg 6 p.m. Env Ctr
Wed Sept 6	EXCOM mtg 7:30 p.m. Env Ctr
Wed Sept 27	Conservation Mtg 6 p.m. Jaxon's
Wed Sept 27	Gen Mtg 7:30 p.m. 7000 Edgemere
Wed 4 October	I.C.O. mtg 6 p.m. Env Ctr
Wed 4 October	EXCOM mtg 7:30 p.m. Env Ctr
Wed 25 October	Conservation Mtg 6 p.m. Jaxon's
Wed 25 October	Gen Mtg 7:30 p.m. 7000 Edgemere
Wed 1 Nov	I.C.O. mtg 6 p.m. Env Ctr
Wed 1 Nov	EXCOM mtg 7:30 p.m. Env Ctr

Outings and Events

August 30 (Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.) **Membership Meeting**
Come hear Ron Hillin, the new Assistant Superintendent of Franklin Mountains State Park, who will talk about plans for land acquisition, land use and new facilities. He will also suggest ideas for how the Sierra Club can participate. Held at St. Paul's Church, 7000 Edgemere.

Sept. 1-4 (Friday-Monday; Labor Day Weekend) **Northern Gila Key Exchange**
Moderately strenuous, 19 miles, from Canyon Creek Trailhead to Double Springs Trailhead (and vice versa). Led by Rolin Wickenden (vice), 534-6594, and Laurence Gibson (versa), 594-7342.

Sept. 10 **Osha Trail Day Hike**
Short (2-1/2 miles), easy hike on a marked nature trail in Cloudcroft. Led by Trish Puente, 833-7585.

Sept. 16 **Aguirre Springs Day Hike**
A moderate (4-1/2 miles) round trip in the ponderosa pines by Las Cruces. Led by Ann Faulkner, 833-9162.

Sept 15-18 **Capitan Trail Overnight**
See a remote part of the Capitan Range, leaving Friday eve and returning Sun eve. Need a 4-wheel drive for this difficult trail. Call leader Debbie Tomacelli 584-3929 for reservations and additional information.

Sept. 22-25 (Friday-Monday) **Crest Trail Key Exchange**
Combined Inner City Outings and regular Sierra Club trip in the White Mountain Wilderness by Ruidoso, camping at Ice Spring and Spring Cabin. Challenging 22 miles. Led by Richard Rheder (ICO), 544-5659, and Ted Mertig (regular Sierra Club), 852-3011.

Sept 27 (Wednesday 7:30 pm) **General Meeting**
Leon Metz will discuss the history of the desert southwest and will sign copies of his newest book. St. Paul's Church, 7000 Edgemere.

Oct 7 **Guadalupe Peak Dayhike**
Moderately strenuous. We will leave El Paso early Sat morning and travel to the trailhead at Pine Springs Campground in Guadalupe Mtns Natl Park, elevation 8749 feet, the highest point in Texas. The summit offers magnificent views of the entire area. Call leader Gary Williams, 562-3540 or 544-8484, for reservations. Limit 12, leader approval required.

Oct 7-8 **Three Rivers Backpack**
Easy. Call leader Roy McCloud 505-437-0179 for details. Limit 12, reservations and leader approval required.

Oct 7-8 **Guadalupe Carcamp Trip**
Easy. Call leader Dan Opplinger 595-8943 for details. Limit 12, reservations and leader approval required.

Oct 14 **Rabb Park-Cureton Canyon Dayhike**
Moderate, 6 miles roundtrip. This hike will depart early Sat morning for the 3 hour drive to the trailhead off NM Highway 90. Our trail will take us up and over the foothills on the backside of the Black Range and down into Rabb Park, a wide and unusual collection of smoothly and intricately worn boulders and rock formations interspersed with conifers. Along the way we may take the time to duck into the steep and narrow Rabb Canyon, where the only walkway is the stream bed itself. Limit 12. Call leader Carl Horkowitz, 755-3968 (H) or 755-9344 (W) for reservations and approval, which are required.

GROUP DIRECTORY

Chairman/ Public Lands	Ted Mertig	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	OPEN	
Franklin Mtns	John Sproul	545-5157
Political Action	Jim Bell	581-8864
Population	OPEN	
Env Center	OPEN	
Mail	Bill Phillips	772-6503
Hospitality	Barbara Mertig	852-3011
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

Oct 14-15 **Manzano Mtns Backpack**
Strenuous. Call leader Carol Morrison 545-1701 for details. Limit 12, reservations and leader approval required.

Oct 21 **Feather Lake Nature Walk Sunset Dayhike**

A behind-the-scenes look at habitat management and a chance to enjoy the wildlife at Feather Lake Wildlife Sanctuary. This easy 1-mile walk around the lake will begin at 5:30 pm to catch the peak of bird activity at the end of the day. Feather Lake is managed by El Paso's Audubon Society and is located at 9500 North Loop in the lower valley. Call leader John Sproul early for reservations. Limit 20.

Oct 21 **McKittick Canyon Dayhike**
This is our annual outing to see the beautiful fall colors in McKittick Canyon. The hike is an easy 7 miles roundtrip on a level canyon bottom trail. You can expect many hikers on this weekend. Call leader Dale Harris 544-7149 early for reservations. Limit 20.

Oct 21-22 **Myers Cabin Backpack**
Strenuous backpack in the San Mateo Mtns, Cibola Natl Forest, New Mexico. Call leader Kathy Sunday 584-9301 or 778-8030 for details and reservations. Limit 8.

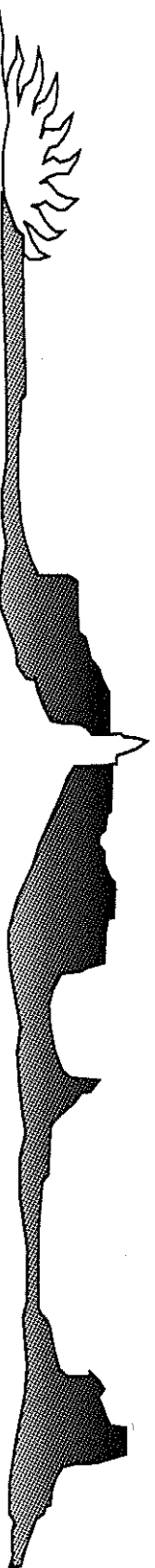
Oct 21-22 **McKittick Canyon/Dog Canyon Key Exchange**
Strenuous hike in Guadalupe Mtns Natl Park. Call leader Richard Rheder 544-5659 for information and reservations. Limit 20.

Oct 22 **Peak Traverse Dayhike**
After setting up our car shuttle, we will take a strenuous hike along the spine of the Northern Organ Mtns in New Mexico, starting at San Augustin Pass, going over the top of Baylor Peak and out Baylor Canyon. We can expect moderate brush, boulders and spectacular views. We will be off-trail most of the way and gain a total of 2000 feet in elevation. Limit 12. Call leader Alice Anderson 505-523-5179 for reservations.

Oct 28 **Rim Trail Dayhike**
Easy to moderate dayhike through Sacramento Mtns, Lincoln Natl Forest, New Mexico. Call leader Jim Bell 581-8864 for information and reservations. Limit 12.

Oct 28-29 **Hummingbird Saddle Backpack**
Moderate + backpack through Gila Natl Forest, New Mexico. Call leader Joe Rodriguez 833-9655 for information and reservations. Limit 8.

Oct 29 **Dog Canyon Dayhike**
We will leave from the Cohen Stadium parking lot at 8 am Sun morning. There is a fee per vehicle to enter the park, so carpooling is encouraged.



The elevation gain is approx 1000 feet for the moderate 5 mile roundtrip. We will eat lunch at the line cabin and then hike up the Eyebrow Trail for a magnificent view of the valley and canyon. Call leader Mark Post 581-2696 early for reservations and additional information. Limit 12.

For an up-to-date recording giving the details of Sierra Club outings, please call 532-9645.

Outings Report

TRANS-GILA BACKPACK

by Alice Anderson

DAY 0 - Our trip began with a car camp at Sacaton Trailhead.

DAY 1 - Saturday June 17. Mockingbird song awakened us. We left 2 cars at the trailhead and drove to Pleasanton, and then up F.S. Road 217 to the trailhead at the wilderness boundary. Chautfeurs Shannon and Hilda drove on to Whitewater Cr. for a dayhike, and backpackers Rafaela Schuller, Alice Anderson, and leader Laurence Gibson entered the wilderness of oak-juniper woodland, which quickly became mixed-conifer forest. We found an abandoned metal stock tank and numerous fragments of plastic pipe that had once fed it. Here is an opportunity for a service trip. Dropping into Holt Gulch, we were astonished by the magnificent display of yellow columbines. We soon left the creek and climbed up a dry forested hill to our first camp at Holt Spring.

DAY 2 - Sunday June 18. Again, birdsong brightened the morning, as it would for the rest of the week. We followed Trail 181 over the shoulder of Holt Mountain, to the sign for Midnight Spring. Rafaela continued on the trail, but Laurence and Alice dropped their packs and walked down to the spring, a concrete basin holding only a little water. After lunch at Camp Creek Saddle, we walked past Rock Spring directly on the trail, another concrete basin with only a little water, in this case stagnant and unappealing. On to Spider Saddle for camp, with a long walk down to lush, freely flowing Nabours Spring for water. We looked for, but could not find, the abandoned trail going from Nabours Spring to Spider Creek.

DAY 3 - Monday June 19. We were beginning to run on "mountain time" instead of "city time". Mid-morning, Rafaela, who was in front, came face to face with The Other in the form of a young bear walking toward her on the trail. The bear turned and ran. During lunch at Spruce Creek Saddle we met other people for the first time - a father and daughter from Los Alamos who had come up from Redstone Park and intended to go out through Hummingbird Saddle. The many down trees on the next segment made walking tedious, but eventually we reached Apache Saddle and camp. That night the stars were brilliant, much brighter than at Sacaton Trailhead.

DAY 4 - Tuesday June 20. By now we were open to the wilderness experience. At Hobo Spring we met four backpackers who were beginning a much longer trip. Hobo Spring had very little water. We lunched at West Fork Saddle and then climbed the north ridge of Mogollon Baldy to camp near Blacktail Spring, at 10,300 ft., the highest camp of our trip. The trail to the spring passes through flowery meadows and aspen groves. The spruce trees bore dense clusters of rose-purple young cones. The water at Blacktail Spring disappointed us at first, but after straining it through a dish towel, we found it clear and wholesome. After dinner, Alice and Laurence walked to the top of Mogollon Baldy for a survey of the landscape, a view of the sunset, and a conversation with the fire lookout.

DAY 5 - Wednesday June 21. We walked over the tip of Mogollon Baldy, pausing for a conversation with the other fire lookout, and dropped into Snow Park, a meadow dominated more by grass than by flowers. Some fire ecologists from the University of Arizona were said to be camped here, but we didn't see them. We dropped into Gobbler Canyon on a well-graded trail switch-backing down a very steep hillside. On the lower, flatter part of the hillside, porcupines had stripped bark from many ponderosa pines, exposing the bare blonde wood, sticky with sap, to glow wetly in the afternoon sun. We reached Gobbler Creek, the welcome cool pools coinciding with the first poison ivy. At our campsite, we found an old blazed trail leading up the ridge to the west, seemingly used more by bears than by people.

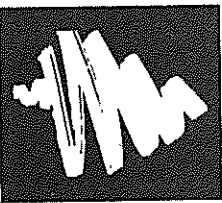
DAY 6 - Thursday June 22. We left Gobbler Creek to climb over a dry wooded ridge and down to Mogollon Creek and deer flies, where we verified Laurence's theory that deer flies are attracted to motion. If you sit down and sweat the flies that have been following you, you can sit quietly as long as you like without attracting more. We walked down Mogollon Creek trailing a cloud of flies and admiring the rushing water

the creek for a 3 mile 1000 foot detour, on which we met two leathery grizzled men on horses. After gaining 1000 feet, we immediately lost it again to reach our campsite on Mogollon Creek, where, for the first time, we could sit in pools with water up to our chins.

DAY 7 - Friday June 23. Rafaela went on to our next campsite while Laurence and Alice explored Mogollon Creek. First they went upstream to discover the reason for the previous day's 3-mile detour. Alice stopped at the first deep pool, and chose instead to sit in a shallower pool and commune with the trout. Laurence continued upstream about a mile, swimming through eight pools before reaching the previous day's trail. Then they went downstream, past the campsite, down to the confluence of Mogollon Creek with West Fork Mogollon Creek. At this point Mogollon Creek has three deep elongated pools connected by small waterfalls, carved into smooth gray rock. They returned to our campsite, dipped their shirts in the creek for coolness, and followed Rafaela on the trail to our last campsite on West Fork Mogollon Creek. Rafaela was reading in an alder grove at the stream side, because the deer flies at the campsite were fierce. We had dinner in the alder grove, waiting for the cool evening air to put the flies to sleep, before we went up to the campsite.

DAY 8 - Saturday June 24. We rose early, so as to begin hiking before the flies woke up. Trail 189 has been the subject of several service trips and much hand work by Sierra Club members. We were disappointed to see that heavy horse traffic has destroyed most of our work - kicking out or going around water bars and check dams. The trail is worn down, gullied, and covered with a layer of loose rocks. The loose rocks are particularly hazardous on the steep part just above Rain Creek. At Rain Creek, we took a last dip in cool clear mountain water before walking the short distance to Sacaton trailhead and our vehicles, and to the end of our brief jump out of the system.

the LORAX - El Paso Group News



- 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.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

☐ 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 _____

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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
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Sierra Club
P.O. Box 52968
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80322-2968



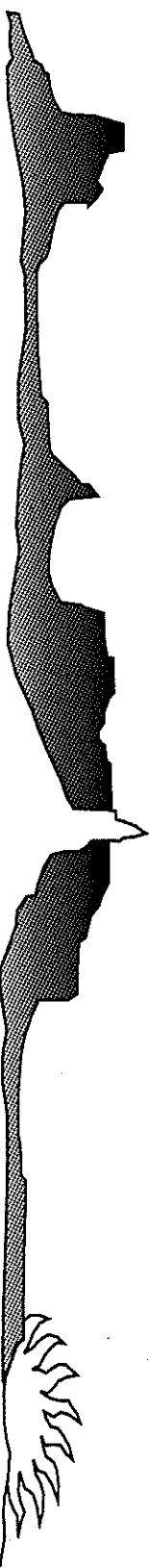
Contributions or gifts to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible as charitable contributions. Annual dues include subscription to Sierra (\$7.50) and chapter publications (\$1), and other member only benefits.

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ONE EARTH, ONE CHANCE



SANTA FE GROUP MEETINGS

ALASKA RAINFOREST IN DANGER !!

Tuesday, September 19, 7:30 PM

Beautiful, lush and remote, the Alaska Rainforest scribes a thousand-mile arc along the Pacific Ocean between the communities of Ketchikan and Kodiak. More than ten million acres of ancient forests are found here, including spruce trees hundreds of feet tall and more than 1000 years old. This is the home of the world's largest remaining population of grizzly bears, eagles and salmon, set against an inspiring backdrop of 18,000' mountains, overlooking hundreds of mist-shrouded islands.

This incredibly beautiful coast is the largest and most intact of what remains of the world's temperate rainforests. Half the ecosystems on the coasts of New Zealand and Patagonia and up to 95% of parts of America's Pacific Northwest rainforests have been devastated by logging. And now, extensive clearcut logging threatens the Alaska Rainforest as well.

Tabitha Gregory, from the Alaska Center for the Environment, a coalition of groups involved in the Alaska Rainforest Campaign, will present an exciting slide show about Alaska's Tongass and Chugach National Forests. They are working to assure long-term protection of the ecosystem and its sustainable economic base and to promote compatible development.

NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT

Tuesday, October 17, 7:30 PM

As we all know, there has been a change in the administration in our state which has caused concern for the environment by some of our membership. Mark E. Weidler, Secretary of the New Mexico Environment Department, has graciously agreed to come to our October meeting as guest speaker to let us know what the future holds for New Mexico with respect to the environment.

The format will be simple: Secretary Weidler will first make a presentation dealing with the goals and philosophy of the present administration which will then be followed by a question and answer session.

Please join us and bring your concerns for what should be a most informative meeting !!

All meetings, outings, and activities are FREE and open to the public.

Membership Meetings are held at the Unitarian Church on Barcelona Street (between Calisteo and Don Gaspar).

♦ ♦ SANTA FE GROUP OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS ♦ ♦

Chair — Don Goldman*	473-2821	Outings — Norbert Spetlich	983-1962	Executive Committee:	(Don Goldman 473-2821)
Vice-Chair — Jerry Bober*	827-2385	— Norma McCallan*	471-0005		
Secretary/Treas — Lionel Sorocco*	983-6715	Political Committee — Ken Hughes	474-0550		October 3 and November 7 at 7 PM
Answering Machine — L. Sorocco*	983-6715	Welcome — 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			September 26 and October 24 at 7 PM
Conservation — George Grossman*	982-1024	Martina Anne Freeman *	438-0697		
Membership — Gwen Wardwell*	984-8860	Courtney White *			
Newsletter Editor — Kay Carlson	982-3926	* Member of the SF Group Executive Comm			
Office — Carolyn Keskulla	982-9570	Terms expire 12/95:			
Publicity — Kay Carlson	982-3926	McCallan/Sorocco/Goldman/Grossman/White			
		12/96: Bober/Freeman/Johnson/Wardwell			

MEETINGS

The Executive and Conservation Committee meetings will now be held at our new office at 621 Old Santa Fe Trail, Suite 10 (Plaza Desira)

EXCOMM NEWS

The Executive Committee has decided that it would be in the best interest of the Club to change the format of the General Meetings to make them more meaningful and increase attendance. Even though they will continue to be informal, the format will be as follows:

1. Introduce new people in the audience
2. Give a summation of the last ExComm meeting
3. Make any appropriate announcements
4. Open the floor to discussion about concerned issues
5. Introduce the guest speaker

The meeting will still begin at 7:30 PM with the intent to have the guest speaker begin at 8 PM. We will make every effort to start the program on time and seek your input on advising us on any other way the meetings can be improved.

In addition to the new format, an attendance sheet will be passed around for all to sign, asking for your name, phone number and interests. Under the interests column, we ask you to list those items relating to the environment, outdoor activities, trail clean-up, etc., that you are concerned about. The purpose of this list is to get people with similar interests together. It has been suggested that a group take on the task of doing some riparian improvement, and it's programs like this that we are interested in getting started. The list can also assist the ExComm in deciding who to invite as guest speakers. Since it is our intention to type up the attendance sheet and make it available for all at the next general meeting, we ask you to print as legibly as possible. Please let us know if we misspell your name or put down the wrong information.

GRATEFUL THANKS

The Santa Fe Group would like to thank the following individuals for their recently received financial contributions:

Base Camp
Friends of the Santa Fe Mountain Center
Jess Clemens

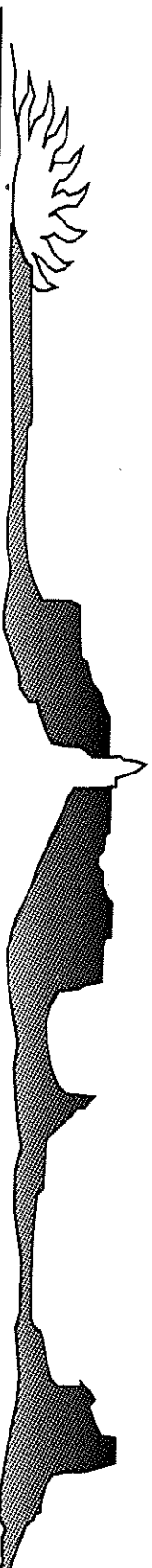
NEW EXCOMM MEMBER

Welcome to Courtney White who has been selected by the Santa Fe ExComm to fill the remaining term of Mark Mortier, who resigned from the ExComm last month.

NEW GROUP OFFICE

We are again sharing office space with the League of Women Voters, this time at 621 Old Santa Fe Trail, Suite 10, in Plaza Desira. Come and visit us!

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



SANTA FE GROUP OUTINGS

Sat Sun September

- 2 Carolyn & Arnold Keskulla (982-9570) Easy Hike Ski Basin. Leave 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 Cumbres 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 for reservations.
- 9 Moderate hike Rock Overlook just behind La Vega Trail, SE Ski Basin. The aspen 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 South 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.

Sat Sun October

- 1 Moderate Hike to La Vega and Rock Overlook. About 8 miles RT. Leave 9 AM. Call leader at 471-7575.
- Friday, October 6 to Sunday, October 15
- Norma McCallan (471-0005) 5-6 day Exploratory Backpack along the Great Western Trail in Utah, Fishlake Nat'l Forest Section, from Torrey to the Gooseberry Valley, near I-70. 45 miles; elevation range 7,000' at Torrey to 10,000' ± along most of the route. Possible climb of one of the peaks. Use the remaining days to backpack the Slickrock Trail on the eastern edge of Boulder Mtn, or do a short section of the GWT near the town of Escalante. Call for details/reservations.

- 7 Joe Whelan (984-0746) Moderate Hike on Rim Vista-Salazar Trail. About 7.5 miles, 1700' elevation gain. Leave 8:30 AM.
- 8 Lionel Soracco (983-6715) Strenuous Hike on Penitente-Lake Peak Loop. About 10 miles, 2700' elevation gain. Leave 8 AM. Call leader for reservation.
- 14 Arnold and Carolyn Keskulla (982-9570) Easy/Moderate Hike on Penstemon Ridge. Leave 8:30 AM.
- 14 Stephen Janus (988-4137) Strenuous Hike to North Truchas Peak by way of Leonarda Lakes. Leave 6 AM. Call leader for info and reservations.
- 15 Julie Montoya King (438-7197) Moderate/Strenuous Hike to Cerro Pedernal. Leave 8 AM. Call leader.
- 21 Norrine Sanders (984-0386) Moderate Hike from Aspen Ranch down Rio Nambé and back. Some steep parts. Leave 8:30 AM.
- 22 Lee Sullivan (662-6185) Strenuous Hike to Cerro Pelado Lookout in Jemez Mtns. 9 miles, 2400' elevation gain. Leave 8:30 AM from Los Alamos at parking lot behind fire sta on W Jemez Rd, west of Diamond Dr or carpool from PERA parking lot in Santa Fe leaving at 7:30 AM.

Friday, October 27 to Sunday, October 29

- Bob McKee (672-3426) Exploratory Backpack along slickrock hogback of Comb Ridge, between hwy 95 and 163 in SE Utah. Do Slickhorn Canyon if not enough vehicles for shuttle. Leave PM of 10-26. Call leader.
- 28 Caroline Glick (984-3184) Strenuous Hike to Trampas Lakes, 11.5 miles RT, 2450' elevation gain. If weather/trail conditions bad, substitute hike to Otowi Ruins/Bayo Canyon. Dogs allowed. Call leader to reserve.
- 29 Jeff Jones (466-2389) Easy Hike to Tent Rocks. Kids welcome! Leave 9 AM.

- 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. Leave 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. Leave 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 additional 3 miles will be added to access this little known trail. Call leader.

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

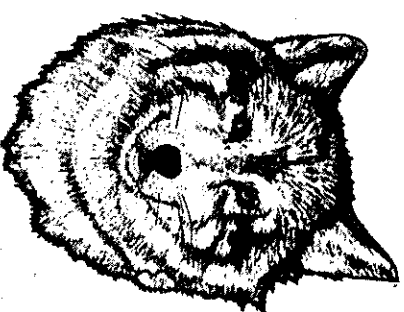
- Norma McCallan (471-0005) 3-day Backpack Manzano Mtns, possibly along the little used Crest Trail. Great vistas. Dogs allowed.

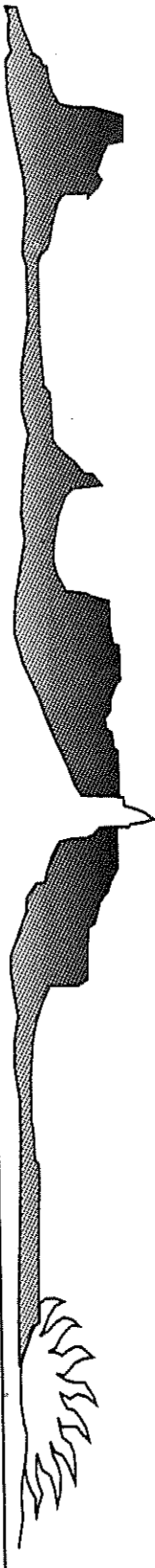
Outings Notes — Unless otherwise noted, all outings leave from the PERA parking lot at the corner of Paseo de Peralta and Old Santa Fe Trail (across the street from the State Capitol and Corbett). Carpooling will be arranged at the parking lot, and each hiker should come prepared to pay \$4 a mile to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

Sat Sun November

- 4 * CHAPTER ISSUE OUTING * Cabezon Wilderness Study Area — John Wright (1-505-247-4353) Easy Hike with optional climb to the peak and discussion of BLM wilderness issues affecting New Mexico. Call for time and meeting place.

- 4 Joe Whelan (984-0746) Strenuous Hike in Bandelier. 13 miles. Upper Crossing Loop/South Rim of Frijoles Canyon. Leave 8:30 AM.
- 5 John Jasper (466-8572) Easy/Moderate Hike with car shuttle — Aspen Vista/Tesuque Creek/Ski Basin. Leave 9 AM. Slow pace. Carolyn and Arnold Keskulla (982-9570) Easy Hike in the Tesuque Hills near Tesuque River. Leave 9 AM.
- 11 Steven Janus (988-4137) Strenuous Hike in the Sandias, up old trails to Chimney Rock Canyon, lunch on Crest, return via variations of the La Luz Trail. Call for meeting time and details.
- 12 Julie Montoya King (438-7197) Moderate Hike to Diablo Canyon and the mesa top. Leave 8 AM.
- 18 Bob McKee (672-3426) Moderate Hike in Bandelier. Call leader for time and meeting place.
- 25 Easy/Moderate Hike in Tent Rocks. Leave 9 AM. Call 471-7575 for more information.
- 25 Lionel Soracco (983-6715) Moderate Cross-Country Ski Trip (if there's snow!) If no snow, a Moderate/Strenuous Hike near Santa Fe. Leave 8 AM. Call leader!
- 26 Norbert Sperlich (983-1962) Moderate Hike to the Blowhole in the Caja del Rio. Some bushwhacking. Call for information if not familiar with the hike. Leave 8 AM.





GROUP DIRECTORY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Marianne Thaeler, Chair	522-3421
Subhankar Banerjee, Vice Chair and NMSU Student SC Advisor	521-3022
Margo Wilson, Warm Springs Section	744-5860
Jim Winder, Secretary	267-4227
Elizabeth Hernandez, Treasurer	521-1606
Cheryll Blevins, Publicity	526-6220
Jim Basler, Outings	521-4822
Erika Kocsi	527-0523
Margaret Kalze	521-1475
Bonnie Cruz, Chair NMSU Student Sierra Club	

NMSU STUDENT SIERRA CLUB FALL ACTIVITIES AND MEETINGS

WILL BE SCHEDULED AFTER FIRST DAY OF CLASSES. CALL ADVISOR: Subhankar Banerjee for information 521-3022(h) OR 646-6231(campus).

SPECIAL FIELD TRIPS!

This fall, the Southern New Mexico Group is leading field trips to the New Mexico properties owned by Ted Turner and Jane Fonda. In the past, field trips to the Ladder Ranch had to be limited to Southern New Mexico Group members. This year, all Sierra Club members are invited to come along, but you must contact Marianne Thaeler, Leader, 505-522-3421.

FALL SCHEDULE OF Outdoor Activities

(If you live in the Las Cruces area, call Marianne Thaeler 522-3421 for instructions on where to meet the party unless otherwise indicated below. If you live in Sierra County, call Margo Wilson, evenings, at 744-5860.)

September 9, 1995, Saturday
Hike - Moderate - to Sawyer Peak from Emery Pass. This hike goes through old growth forest. Car pools leave from Las Cruces North Pan Am Parking Lot promptly at 8:00 AM. Call Marianne Thaeler at 522-3421. Those coming from T or C area, call Chet Warwick, hike leader, at 894-6427, for carpooling and other. Bring day pack, sack lunch and water, and wear your hiking boots.

September 23, 1995, Saturday
Day field trip to McGregor Range, south of Alamogordo. Leaves promptly from Pan Am North Parking Lot at 8:00 AM. Bring sack lunch and water. McGregor Range is jointly managed by BLM and US Army Ft. Bliss. The military has plans to expand and use this area as a bombing range. Come out to see this beautiful grassland, what New Mexico was like before the turn of the last century. Spectacular grass lands, views, antelope! Contact Leader: Marianne Thaeler, 522-3421.

September 30, 1995, Saturday (JOINT HIKE WITH STUDENT GROUP)
Baylor Pass in Organ Mountains from Aguirre Springs Recreation Area on east side of the mountains. Leave North Pan Am Parking Lot at 9 AM. Bring day pack, lunch and water. For further information call Jim Basler at 521-4822.

October 7-8, 1995, Saturday and Sunday
Overnight camp and day hikes (strenuous, grade) from Springtime Campground. Camp is dry so bring plenty of water. Hikes into the Apache Kid Wilderness Area in the Black Range. Spectacular views and trails. Contact Margo Wilson, leader, at 744-5860 for further information.

October 14, 1995, Saturday
Day field trip to the Ladder Ranch, Turner/Fonda New Mexico properties. See bison and game habitat. Attendance limited to Sierra Club members. High clearance vehicles needed, some carpooling available. Leave Pan American North Parking Lot at 8:30 AM. Bring lunch and water. Contact Leader: Marianne Thaeler, 522-3421.

October 15, 1995, Sunday
Moderate to strenuous hike up Dog Canyon, south of Alamogordo from Oliver Lee State Park. Leaves North Pan Am Parking Lot at 8 AM. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Call Jim Basler for further information at 521-4822.

October 28, 1995, Saturday
Day field trip to Pedro Armendariz Ranch, Turner/Fonda New Mexico properties. This is a first ever field trip for the Sierra Club. Bring lunch and water. High clearance vehicles needed, some carpooling available. Attendance limited to Sierra Club members, but not limited to Southern New Mexico Group members. Leave Pan Am North Parking Lot promptly at 8:30 AM. Contact Leader: Marianne Thaeler at 522-3421.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Annually, the Southern New Mexico Group holds elections for members of its Executive Committee. If you are interested in serving, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee. The following have been named to the Nominating Committee: Jack Smith (525-8326), Subhankar Banerjee (521-3022), and Marianne Thaeler (522-3421). The Ballot will be in the next issue of the *Sierran*.

ALASKA

Last Chance for America's Rainforest

After our long hot summer, come to our General Membership Meeting on September 21, 1995, Thursday, at 7:30 PM in Room #107, Science Hall at New Mexico State University. An activist from Anchorage, Alaska, Tabitha Gregory, will present an exciting slide show about Alaska's Tongass and Chugach National Forests.

Beautiful, lush and remote, the Alaska Rainforest describes a thousand-mile arc along the Pacific Ocean between the communities of Ketchikan and Kodiak. More than ten million acres of ancient forests are found here, including spruce trees hundreds of feet tall and more than 1,000 years old. This is the home of the world's largest remaining population of grizzly bears, eagles and salmon, set in an inspiring backdrop of towering coastal mountains, as tall as 18,000 feet, overlooking hundreds of mist-shrouded islands.

This incredibly beautiful coast represents the best of what remains of the world's temperate rainforests. Temperate rainforests never covered more than one fifth of one percent of the planet's surface, gracing the coasts of New Zealand, Patagonia, and America's Pacific Northwest. Logging has devastated this ecosystem both world-wide and in America. Half the world's temperate rainforests, including up to 95 percent of the Pacific Northwest rainforest in its southern reaches, are already gone.

This leaves Alaska with the largest, most intact temperate rainforest remaining on earth. But extensive clearcut logging threatens the Alaska Rainforest as well.

DIRECTIONS TO GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING PLACE

All Sierra Club General Membership Meetings (except for Fall Picnic and Holiday Party) are held in #107 Science Hall, at New Mexico State University. To get there, enter the NMSU campus on Espina Street going south. At the second Stop sign, Steward St., turn left (east), at the next Stop sign, Sweet St., turn left again. Enter the parking lot immediately on your right, it fills the corner. Take the walk way in the northeast corner of the lot straight ahead and into Science Hall, cross lobby and take corridor to #107. See you there!!

WARM SPRINGS SECTION ACTIVITIES and REPORTS

by Margo Wilson

Hi! The Warm Springs Section of the Southern New Mexico Group welcomes members and prospective new members to its monthly meetings, 1st Tuesday of the month in the T or C Public Library.

Our scheduled activities include the following:
The car camp and hike from Spring Time campground in the San Mateos is scheduled for the week end of October 7. We will rendezvous on Friday night the 6th. Call Margo Wilson (744-5860) for more information and let her know if you will be arriving on Saturday morning.

The trip to the Ladder Ranch is on October 14th and the trip to Pedro Armendariz Land Grant is on October 28th.

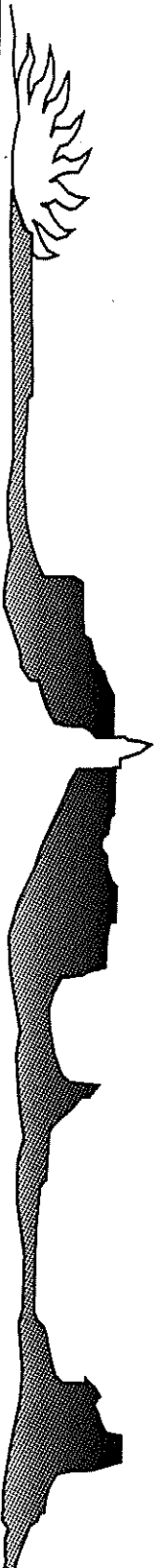
On November 4th Bill Bussmann will be leading an easy hike in the Seco Creek area along the shores of Caballo Lake. We will have a guided tour of the largest prehistoric pueblo on the west side of the lake. Rendezvous at the KOA at Caballo Lake for a 9:00 AM departure. Call Bill at 743-3441 for more information.

December 2nd James Wells will be leading a strenuous hike from Railroad Canyon to Negro Bill Springs and/or Hillsboro Peak in the Black Range. Rendezvous at the KOA at Caballo Lake for a 8:00 AM departure. For more information call James at 744-9117.

Reports:

The September outing with Mary Katherine Ray in West Red Canyon was a great success, with several easy hikes in the area: Coffee Pot Canyon, John's Box and prehistoric room blocks along the drainage of West Red. We also saw the Montezuma Quail!

The Warm Springs Section continues to take a closer look at the Elephant Butte Irrigation District Bills introduced in this session of Congress and we will have speakers from State Parks and EBID.



WATER!!!! RECREATION! And Money!

by Marianne Thaeler

An association of farmers, the Elephant Butte Irrigation District (EBID), is looking forward to acquiring title to 57,000 acres of Elephant Butte Dam and associated lands plus 800 miles of irrigation laterals, ditches and canals. Currently at issue are New Mexico State Parks: Elephant Butte, Caballo, Percha, and Leasburg, and money. These Parks are built on Bureau of Reclamation lands which are leased to the State of New Mexico.

The farmers who own 5 acres or more of farm land and receive water from the Rio Grande Project, believe they paid for Elephant Butte Dam and now they own the dam and all lands that were used for its construction. They want the dam, irrigation laterals, ditches, and canals turned over to them. During the last Session of Congress, Congressman Joe Skeen and Senator Pete Domenici had legislation passed which authorized the Secretary of Interior to transfer the laterals, ditches and canals to EBID, but Secretary Babbitt has not yet acted. Congressman Skeen and Senator Domenici have introduced legislation in this session of Congress (House Resolution 1232, Senate Bill 620) to turn over "Federal Reclamation Facilities to Project Beneficiaries" at no cost.

Also included in the legislation are the lands associated with Brantley Dam and Reservoir near Carlsbad. These include Sumner and Brantley State Parks. The State of New Mexico has long-term repayment obligations (\$3.6 million Bureau of Reclamation, \$1.2 million State over 50 years) for development of recreational facilities. The bill does not say how these obligations would be repaid.

Where is the public interest?

- EBID is a local form of government under State and Federal Law, but only farmers who receive water from EBID and own 5 acres or more can vote for the EBID Board of Directors. That is, only select land owners can vote.

- EBID and its Executive Director readily admit they are interested in maximizing revenues.

- The State of New Mexico has made major investments in State Park facilities.

In 1990, EBID sued the federal government and the State of New Mexico to gain control of the project lands and revenue without having to compensate either the federal or state governments for publicly owned assets. This case is still pending.

The present legislation in Congress should be a major concern to all New Mexico citizens. Will Congress act to keep the issues out of court? Will multiple suits ensue even if Congress does act?

Where will this all end up??? We can guess who will pay.

TOUR REPORT - MALPAIS BORDERLANDS

by Jim Winder

On August 12th, the NM Section of the Society for Range Management sponsored a tour of the Grey Ranch and neighboring area ranches in the boot heel of New Mexico and in Arizona who are cooperating in the Malpais Borderland Group (MBG). The focus of the tour was the MBG's efforts towards cooperative community management of a huge resource area. The tools used in their work include prescribed fire, satellite imaging and grass banking. Perhaps the most lasting impression of the tour is the dedication to open spaces which are beginning to be secured through strategic use of conservation easements.

Some of the Sierra Club members who took the tour included Roger Peterson from Santa Fe, Marianne Thaeler from Las Cruces, and Tom Wooten from Dona Ana County. Other environmental groups had representatives on the tour also.

Welcome New Members!

Hiram Abe, Albuquerque
Arthur Abrams, Roswell
Sue Achard, Farmington
Kris Alwin, Gallup
Anita Atkinson, Albuquerque
Richard Bain, Albuquerque
Linda Barker, Alamogordo
Jamie Bauer, Ranchos De Taos
Mr. Isauro Bazan, Albuquerque
Lucy Bourke, Los Alamos
Erin Brender, Albuquerque
Ms. G. Broeren, Clovis
Harvey Brown, El Paso
Dr. Jerome Brown, Las Cruces
Kenneth Brown, Santa Fe
Mae Buck, Albuquerque
Cathy & Charly Bullock, Grants
Roger Burton, Jacksonville
Susan Capaldi, Albuquerque
Ms. Rosemarie Carnarius, Las Cruces
Ms. Beth Carson, Las Cruces
Mr. David Casey, El Paso
Dr. Dennis Cohen, Angel Fire
Vageli Coutias, Albuquerque
Mr. James Cox, Ruidoso
Elly Cruise, Las Cruces
Ms. Ana Davidson, Albuquerque
Brooks De Fabio, Albuquerque
Pamela Demmer, Santa Fe
Armand Di Meo Jr., Albuquerque
Susan Dyer, Albuquerque
Ellen Fenter, El Paso
Alfreda Fielek, Santa Fe
Eleanor Finley, El Paso
James Flores, El Paso
Michael Ford, Alamogordo
William Franklin, Albuquerque
Catherine Frider, Albuquerque
Mr. Byron Garner, Albuquerque
Suzanne Garney, Santa Fe
Janie & Becky Grebosky, Albuquerque

Mrs. Elinor Heller, El Paso
Charlett Helm-Pfeiffer, Cloudcroft
David Hensinger, Albuquerque
Sharyn & Joi Hershman, Santa Fe
Amy Hill, Albuquerque
John Horning, Santa Fe
Susan Jensen, El Paso
Luis Jimenez, Hondo
Mark Johns, El Paso
Roy Julian, El Paso
Frank Kelly Jr., Albuquerque
Jean Kenaston, Santa Fe
Maggie Kenessy, Tijeras
Kenneth Kessin, Las Cruces
Enoch Kimmelman, El Paso
Patrick Kuhnell, El Paso
Ms. Peggy Kyser, Roswell
Cindy Lamm, Pecos
E. Lefkowitz / Z. Engel, Santa Fe
Ruth Lommel, Santa Fe
Paige MacFarland, Santa Fe
Micela Maez, Albuquerque
Mary-jane Major, Albuquerque
David Maness, Albuquerque
Tamara Mason, Albuquerque
Lois McConnell, Albuquerque
Janet McVickar, Farmington
Victor Mendoza, El Paso
Dolores & J.W. Millard, Albuquerque
Margaret Mondore, El Paso
Ned Morris, Albuquerque
Ms. Charlotte Murray, Las Vegas
Jacqueline Neckels, Farmington
Dan Nester / Allan Rosenfield, Albuquerque
Herbert Newman, Aztec
Frank Nordstrom, Aztec
Rachelle Normali, Albuquerque
Kimberly Opperman, Albuquerque
Harry Ornelas, Albuquerque
Jane Osburn, Clovis
Santa Parker, El Paso
Jim Paul, Las Cruces
C. Payne, Santa Fe

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Call President Clinton at
(202) 456-1111
Call Newt Gingrich at
(202) 225-0600

Write your representatives at these addresses:

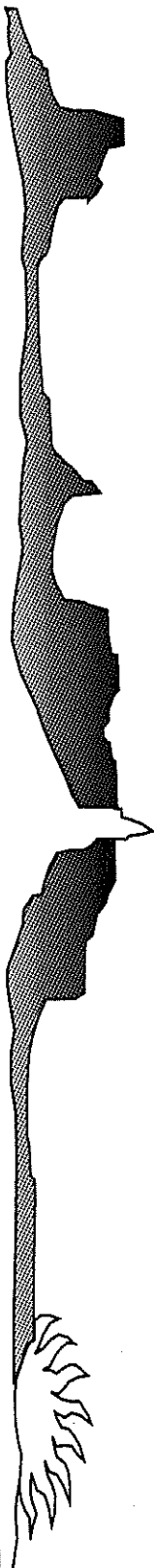
Congressman Bill Richardson (D-NM)
Congressman Steve Schiff (R-NM)
Congressman Joe Skeen (R-NM)
Congressman Ron Coleman (D-TX)
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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:
georgia6@hr.house.gov
The White House:
http://www.whitehouse.gov



Livestock Grazing Act: Same Old Washington Formula

by
Ray Powell
Commissioner of Public Lands

The controversy over livestock grazing on federal public lands is NOT merely a contest between ranchers and environmentalists. Nothing could be further from the truth. It is a central premise that the federal lands belong to all Americans. They are leased to ranchers for the purpose of supporting essential government services and providing food for the people.

In return, permitted ranchers should have the opportunity to make a reasonable profit, while protecting the land for the use of future generations.

Changes in Grazing Affect Us All

Any substantial changes in federal grazing policy affect us all. In reality and practice, federal lands are irrevocably intertwined with state, tribal and private lands. Federal lands also contribute mightily to the financial, educational and social well-being of all New Mexicans.

That is why many more people need to be involved in the decision-making process, especially benefited from the more than \$400 million in royalties from state trust lands and federal public lands.

And that's why I'm afraid that our senior U.S. Senator has misplaced his priorities in his Livestock Grazing Act (S.852).

I say this reluctantly because Senator Domenici has done many good things in the 23 years he's been in Washington. But he's apparently lost touch with what's important in the day-to-day lives of most New Mexicans on this issue.

Politics as Usual
This regrettable bill is the usual out-of-touch, politics-of-polarization Washington formula,

intended to score political points by pitting two camps against each other.

The issue is not, as Senator Domenici recently wrote: "a quota system for public participation, weighted in favor of national groups from faraway places like Washington D.C." versus "those most dependent on the land [who] will do the best job taking care of it."

That's a disservice to all New Mexicans. It's true that the environment and the livestock industry bear the primary effects of federal grazing laws. The arid West demands the conservative use of water and plants, and their optimal use determines the long-term viability of the traditional livestock industry.

All Americans Need to Participate in the Debate

But neither the environment nor the ranching industry can be protected unless all Americans are allowed to participate in the debate and find a way to work together.

That is the fundamental flaw of Senator Domenici's bill. The bill does little to generate support for citizens, especially hunters and other recreation users that make up the majority of the American population. They are all but excluded from land management decisions.

Any plan needs to include the participation of every interested person—not just those identified as "affected interests," in devising a program of appropriate land use. And if you live in New Mexico, YOU HAVE AN INTEREST.

Last year, royalties from the extraction of oil, gas and other minerals from federal lands in New Mexico totaled nearly \$300 million. Half of that amount—about \$140 million—stayed in New Mexico. It supported our

public schools, universities, police and corrections, public health, aid for the disabled and public assistance for the needy. That is money we did not pay in taxes.

The American people benefited from the remainder of those royalties, which supported everything from national defense to job training. That is money we did not pay in taxes.

Similarly, the state's trustland and financial assets contributed \$270 million to the educational, health and correctional institutions in New Mexico last year. That is money we did not have to pay in taxes.

That's important because federal, state trust, and private lands are intermingled in most parts of the state. Most ranch units contain both privately-owned and government-leased land. Any federal grazing management changes will have direct and immediate influence on the state trust lands that I administer.

Bill Offers No Real Solutions

There are many other specific provisions in the bill that take us away from achieving understanding or real solutions. The bill:

--Mocks the federal multiple use concept by elevating grazing to a status higher than every other use, and places livestock operators in a position to enforce that preference by excluding other uses like recreation;

--Prevents federal land managers from stopping abuse of public lands until "permanent" damage is confirmed, which by definition is too late;

--Offers no incentives for good ranching practices, like the State Land Office program that reduces fees for quality range operations;

--Gives permittees inappropriate control over

hunters' access to big game and other wildlife; and

--Hides the exclusion of the public in multiple levels of industry-dominated advisory councils and committees in every state. More bureaucracy controlled by special interests is hardly what the American people want.

Underlying Economic Factors Not Addressed

Furthermore, this bill does little to help public lands ranchers survive in the long run.

It does not address the underlying economic factors that have already forced many New Mexico ranchers to get day jobs.

It does not deter ranch corporations, very rich individuals or foreign investors from gobbling up lands and leases, driving family operations out of business.

It provides no opportunities for communities to diversify their economies or otherwise remain healthy and viable.

I understand that Senator Domenici will attempt to modify this bill before it goes much further through the Senate. My view is that this bill is defective and major changes would still leave us with a bad law.

Senator Domenici would do well to pay attention to what New Mexicans have said they want. According to public opinion polls, they clearly want a clean, healthy environment, and they want land used so that it stays healthy and productive. They say they want to preserve the symbolic, traditional ranching way of life and understand that it is an increasingly difficult way to make a living.

We Need to Lay Aside Political Agendas

If we use that formula and lay aside our political agendas, I'm sure we can reach consensus on a common vision--the responsible use and preservation of the wide open spaces that give this arid region its character and soul.

To get there, our urban population needs to appreciate the importance of strong rural communities and a strong agricultural industry. Local empowerment is the way to make sure land decisions meet local needs, if they are made with the participation of all sectors. Senator Domenici's bill does not allow this.

Timber Sales Halted to Protect Owl

U.S. District Court Judge Carl Muecke has ordered the U.S. Forest Service to temporarily halt 36 logging operations in the Southwest, 15 of them in New Mexico's five federal forests, to protect the Mexican spotted owl, a federal "threatened" species.

Judge Muecke determined that the Forest Service failed to allow U.S. Fish and Wildlife—the agency charged with protecting endangered species—to assess the cumulative impact of all planned and ongoing timber sales in the Southwest on the owl. Instead, the Forest Service "piecemealed" its assessment of danger to the owl by restricting its consultations with Fish and Wildlife to the impact on the owl of individual timber sales. That approach, often employed by government agencies, hides the full extent of the damage caused by logging. "Piecemealing" is prohibited under NEPA.

The judge's order requires the Forest Service to consult with Fish and Wildlife about the overall impact of its logging program on the owl. That process may take six months and could result in reduced logging levels throughout the Southwest.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS DESIRING TO PETITION FOR ELECTION TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

By press time for this issue of the *Sierra*, the Nominating Committee will have completed the preparation of its proposed slate of 1995 candidates for election to the Executive Committee. Accordingly, the Nominating Committee advises the membership of the following rule adopted to govern ExCom elections:

"Any member in good standing of the Rio Grande Chapter as of the date of commencement of solicitation of signatures (for 1995, September 1st) may run for election by petition presented to the Nominating Committee no later than September 26 of each year. The petition must contain the signatures of at least 50 members in good standing of the Rio Grande Chapter as of the date of signing the petition."

Members of the Nominating Committee are Ford Robbins, chair (505/466-7665), Heidi Fleischmann (505/260-1217) and Jim Winder (505/267-4227). If you have questions, please call.

produced electricity for many years, yet it gets little credit for it. We seem to like smoke.

Yes, New Mexico, a dry state, has millions of horsepower going to waste. Most of the units in place can be improved. Elephant Butte was some years ago. Some of our dams are not in use for hydro, not planned for it. Little if any use is made of the more acceptable run-of-the-river (ROR) method proposed and urged by the DOE Idaho office for hydropower.

We might as well face it, hydropower will be developed some day. Why wait until an emergency? If we Sierrans push the plan, we have a chance of helping guide it so it will improve our rivers, fish habitat, erosion control, flooding, and general usefulness and beauty. A flowing stream is not more beautiful than a pond with its fish and plant life. We can have both, running water and quiet pools. And with it hydropower to run the State.

I got Sen. Tom Wray to introduce a measure in the last legislature to get the move started, SJM51, but it got "lost" in the shuffle. I'm too old to attend sessions so I don't know what really happened to it. But definitely, New Mexico has the energy going to waste. Let's harness it!

Sincerely,

Duncan Simmons
2636 Cardenas Dr. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87110

WSMR Replies

Dear Editor:

In the July/August *Rio Grande Sierran*, Marianne Thaeler makes some exaggerated claims about the military expanding in N.M. She paints White Sands Missile Range as an organization eating up the lands surrounding the range.

In reality, the missile range continues to work with private land owners and public land agencies which border White Sands to ensure we remain good neighbors. And in the future we will remain just that, "neighbors."

First of all, to say the proposal to build a New Mexico spaceport "is a WSMR expansion" is ludicrous. The U.S. Army is not interested in owning or operating a spaceport. Spaceport officials see the missile range as a convenient piece of controlled land and airspace which makes their job simpler. By using White Sands they would not have to acquire as much land to make the spaceport a reality.

The White Sands Missile Range mission is directed by the Department of Defense. At the same time, if the state of New Mexico wants to pursue the idea of a spaceport, like good neighbors, we are certainly listening. Another reason we are listening and talking with officials is that we have serious concerns about the spaceport interfering with our basic mission. If a spaceport will interfere with that mission, we want an ongoing dialogue with officials to

register our concerns.

Secondly, Thaeler implies that the nature of the call-up area north of White Sands has somehow changed drastically. This area, 40 miles by 40 miles, was formally established in 1960 so White Sands could fire missiles such as the Talos and Nike Zeus their full range from the south end of the missile range and impact in the northern call-up area.

We have contracts with the ranchers living in the area to pay them to evacuate during these firings. Our agreements with the public land owners allow us to block the roads leading into the area to protect the safety of casual users such as hikers and hunters.

This arrangement has been in effect for 35 years benefitting all users. The missile range has been able to accomplish its test mission without acquiring additional land. Ranchers are fairly paid for this use and casual users are only denied access a few weekdays each year.

The only thing we have changed recently in the arrangement is a supplement agreement with some of the ranchers to build a small, temporary launch complex on private land in the northern call-up. This will allow us to launch targets from there toward the missile range and shoot them down once over the middle of the range. To the ranchers and casual users, this activity will present little change. There will be the same evacuations, same amount of time, and the same roadblocks—no more frequently than has been traditional during the past 35 years.

As far as safety is concerned, it is the missile range's number one concern. More than 5,000 employees and hundreds of families work and live within six to ten miles of our main launch complexes. Since 1945 we have fired close to 40,000 rockets and missiles from these launch complexes with an excellent safety record. The same procedures, equipment and personnel which have produced this superior safety record will be used in the call-up area.

Probably the most noticeable change in the area, which was analyzed in the environmental assessment, will be increased traffic on the main road through the area because of workers going back and forth.

The third thing Thaeler says is that "there were a number of plane crashes this year during the Roving Sands exercises." She implies that the planes were part of the exercise. In reality, none of the planes which crashed this spring had anything to do with Roving Sands. I realize this doesn't have much to do with White Sands but I point it out because her statement is simply not honest.

My fourth item also deals with accuracy and honesty. Thaeler says, "I testified at the Scoping Hearing in Las Cruces on the proposed Airborne Laser Defense System." In reality, she did not speak at the hearing nor did she register at the hearing. She mailed in her comments.

If she had been there, she would have heard the Air Force's

proposal which simply called for diagnostic tests of the laser system in the airspace over White Sands. This would entail flying a Boeing 747 over the range with a few other chase aircraft while simple tests would be conducted on the laser's optics, aiming system, etc. The powerful laser would not be fired over White Sands but would be tested over the Pacific Ocean.

I would suggest that if anyone has any questions about White Sands Missile Range and what we are doing, give us a call. If we can't answer right away, we'll get you an answer as quickly as possible. Our phone number is (505) 678-1134.

Sincerely,

Larry D. Farrow
Chief of Public Affairs
WSMR

Chapter Outings Notes from Norma

I hope to initiate this as a regular column, which will not only list our featured Chapter Issue Outing, but provide information, hopefully of interest to the whole chapter, on equipment, trails, techniques, or unusual places to visit. Anyone wishing to submit a brief article for a future issue should contact me.

Great Western Trail—Ever heard of it? Evidently, few have. When it became evident that I could not undertake my yearly trek along the Continental Divide Trail in Colorado this summer, because of the great snow pile there, I decided to check out the Great Western Trail, which I had happened upon when poking around Boulder Mountain, Utah, earlier this year. Being a librarian, I checked out all available bibliographic sources, and found only one short article in *Backpacker*, written in 1990. The 2400 mile trail runs from Canada to Mexico, crossing the length of Arizona, Utah, and Idaho, with fingers into Montana and Wyoming. It is currently 70% complete, with Utah having the most connected parts. The trail is known as the Arizona Trail in that state. Like the Continental Divide, the trail consists in large part of existing trails, jeep roads, and sometimes 2WD forest roads. The section that our small group hiked several weeks ago, across Boulder Mountain, was relatively well marked with cairns, blazes, and the Great Western Trail logo. Not having a guidebook is a hindrance when intersections aren't marked, or you need information about the reliability of streams,

Letters

(cont. from page 2)

roughness of terrain, etc. It is shown on more recent Forest Service maps, and the Trails Illustrated maps. I was delighted to find another long-distance trail to conquer, piece by piece, and plan to do the section north of Torrey in October (see the Santa Fe Group Outings for more information).

—Norma McCallan, Chapter Outings Chair

Chapter Issue Outing

Saturday, November 4, 1995
CABEZON WILDERNESS STUDY AREA (south of Cuba). Travel to the heart of the Rio Puerco Valley and visit Cabezon Peak. Spectacular views and a close look at the internal plumbing of a volcano. John Wright (505-247-4353) will lead an easy hike in this distinctive WSA, with an optional climb up Cabezon, and will conduct a discussion of BLM wilderness issues around the state, including the status of the long-proposed BLM Wilderness Bill. Call John for time and meeting place.

Correction to the Report of the June ExCom Meeting

Contrary to the impression given in the Report of the June ExCom Meeting in the last *Sierran*, Jim Winder reported that, in Southern New Mexico, the feelings about the changes in the New Mexico Endangered Species law were that there was support for consensus on a broad range of issues but they didn't want to see things compromised. There were values that needed to be maintained.

The basic problem with the changes was that there was a failure to communicate with the groups and more feedback was needed. There was support for the process of consensus but not for the changes because people felt left out.



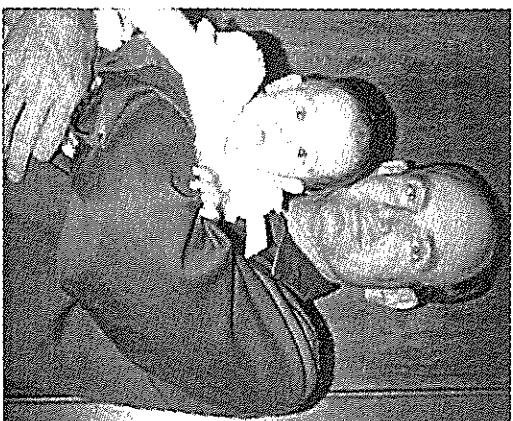
Activist Profile Jim Winder

Chapter Ex-Com member Jim Winder is a rancher, but a rancher with a difference. He has taken his membership in the Sierra Club so seriously that he has become an outspoken proponent of "environmentally active" ranching, which he is proving is profitable both for him and for the environment.

Winder's home ranch is 18,320 acres in Luna County, near Nutt, which he manages by himself, on a motorcycle. The property is divided into 62 pastures separated by knee-high two-wire electric fences, constructed in part with grant monies from the Society for Range Management. Winder runs about 450 cows on the acreage, moving them every few days, so that each pasture "rests" about 98% of the time. When to move the herd is determined by species utilization. When the cattle have eaten a predetermined amount of the most vulnerable or most valuable plants in a given pasture, they are moved, no matter how much good feed of other types is left. The result is what Jim preaches to other ranchers and environmentalists: properly managed cattle can be a tool for restoring land depleted by poorly managed cattle.

In addition to doubling the book value of the ranch, Winder has dramatically improved the riparian areas on the ranch. A creek which 6 years ago had only a few cottonwoods and water only occasionally in the winter is now a thicket of willow, cottonwood, ash, grasses, sedges, reed and other water-dependent plants. Water flows year-round. According to Jim, "I only kept a few heifers in there almost year-round before, but they managed to eat back any new growth. I fenced a 200-acre area to keep the cattle out during the growing season and it just took off."

With only \$300 of fence, the riparian area has become the lush equivalent to an irrigated pasture. The area covered by water-dependent species is



Jim and his daughter Shae

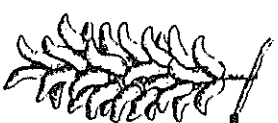
expanding up and down the creek. As a result, the water table is rising and Jim's downstream neighbors are seeing an increase in growth along their sections of the creek. Elsewhere on the ranch, thick grasses have slowed surface water flow and aided infiltration to the point that springs are now flowing where no one remembers them before.

"I'm a far better rancher than I used to be because of what I've learned from knowledgeable environmentalists," says Winder. He has given talks around the state about the success of his riparian restoration and his increased profits while benefiting the environment. Among other things, he emphasizes the importance of nonfeed plant species and the many tiny organisms that enrich the ecosystem, from fungus to termites. "I want a robust biotic community as I can get, and I feel that cattle can find a place in that community and thereby support me and my family as well as fund improvements that benefit the whole. It's like having your cake and eating it too."

Jim, who is also Secretary of the Southern New Mexico Group, believes that "there are good social values in both the traditions of ranching and environmentalism, and they are not mutually exclusive. I believe in the middle ground." He also believes that protecting the land is a good way to protect his two children and to provide for their future.



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



BICYCLE TOUR of the Upper Rio Grande Valley -- CHILE PEPPER PEDAL -- 8 a.m., Sunday, October 1 El Paso, Texas

Discover the joy of riding on rural roads by the Rio Grande through chile and cotton fields and pecan groves. Or challenge yourself to conquer the mile-high pass in the Franklin Mountains. There's a scenic route into the small towns of West Texas and New Mexico for all ages and abilities:



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- 31 miles -- Fun and Family route with level roads through the rural, scenic Upper Valley

JOIN THE FUN: Free T-SHIRTS to first 100 registrants, PRIZES (awarded by drawing), and completion CERTIFICATES

Water and snacks will be available along the route; sag wagon will patrol for mechanical breakdowns. For your safety, HELMETS are required.

Partial profile to Sierra Club's Inner City Outings program

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CHILE PEPPER PEDAL, OCT. 1, 1995 PREREGISTRATION

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Make check payable to El Paso Bicycle Club and send to P.O. Box 13069, El Paso, TX 79913. Ride begins at Gallegos Park, Canutillo, TX; directions to start place will be mailed. Packet with route map and T-shirt is available day of event.

Petroglyph National Monument

(cont. from page 1)

guaranteeing fresh blooms of graffiti which endure on the varnished basalt as long as the petroglyphs themselves... thousands of years!

Fortunately, Alternative #2 in the GMP largely eliminates these problems, limiting urban recreation to two short crossings of the Monument, and more carefully controlling access. However, Alternative #1, not Alternative #2, shows the most appropriate site for the visitor center: the already impacted portion of Boca Negra Canyon where the old Indian Petroglyph State Park was located prior to creation of the Monument.

Your comments are urgently needed. Please write to the Monument Superintendent before November 1, saying that you support Alternative #2 with the visitor center and administrative headquarters at Boca Negra Canyon. Access should be pedestrian and controlled in order to protect this fragile area and to

show the proper respect for Pueblo Indian and Hispanic land grant heir traditions. Send your comments to: Superintendent, Petroglyph National Monument, 4735 Unser Blvd. NW, Albuquerque, NM 87120

Also, a public hearing before members of the Monument's Advisory Commission will be held October 19, 1995, at the Albuquerque TVI Board Room, University and Coal Aves, from 2-5:30 and 7-9:30 pm.

And the City's Environmental Commission will have their own hearing on September 28 at the Albuquerque City Council Chambers, 4th and Marquette, beginning at 3 pm.

Our adversaries will be beating the drum for freeways and recreation ways through the park. Come with your own, different drum! Call me for more detailed, up-to-date information, (505) 255-7679.

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