

## Santa Fe Wrap-up

(continued from page 12)

House Appropriations in deference to a Governor-appointed task force.

A solar tax credit, reimposed for passive only at 15 percent up to \$1,500, passed House Energy but was tabled in Taxation & Revenue. A bill that would have added a surcharge on the purchase price of fuel-inefficient cars, and provided a rebate to buyers of fuel-efficient cars, was tabled in House Energy. A bill to require life cycle-costing on all projects above a certain size in order to determine the true costs of buildings, equipment and motor vehicles passed the House Government Affairs Committee but was tabled in House Appropriations.

A memorial calling for a transportation policy which included alternatives to single occupancy car commuting (based on a resolution of Sierra Club's Rio Grande Chapter's Conservation Committee), passed the House floor. And a measure to establish a task force chaired by the Land Commissioner to look at opportunities for converting state and local government vehicles to alternative fuels passed the House floor.

### Land Use

The Senate passed with little debate a seemingly innocuous bill with potentially broad and devastating consequences. The Regulatory Takings Act and associated legislation was written by James Watts' associates and picked up by a few cattle ranchers as a way to

strengthen the hand of private land-owners at the expense of the ability of state and local governments to protect New Mexico's land, people and wildlife.

The takings bill set up new and onerous requirements on government agencies to determine the constitutional impacts of their regulations. All state agencies, cities, counties and local public bodies, and all regulations, ordinances, policies, permits and licenses, would have been affected. The Land Commission, for instance, is directly impinged by 140 laws and over 8,000 regulations; reviewing these would have entailed over 3 man-years of work, with at least one full-time employee devoted solely to constitutional impact statements.

The bill undoubtedly would have triggered an avalanche of lawsuits. Adverse court decisions could easily wipe out many agencies' budgets. Claims filed against the State Game Commission, for example, for compensation for forage consumed by game animals on private property could have totaled over \$7.3 million per year. Fortunately, after a great deal of work by wildlife groups, the Sierra Club and municipalities, the bills died in House Judiciary and Appropriations.

[Ken Hughes is the lobbyist for the Rio Grande Chapter.]

## Refuges 2003 Planning: Public Participation

by Jana Oyler

An earlier article in this newsletter addressed the reevaluation of the National Wildlife Refuge System and the possibility for Sierra Club members to participate in public meetings on the range of options for dealing with the management of the system.

Unfortunately, the United States Department of the Interior did not send out the schedule of public meetings early enough for me to announce in this publication the Albuquerque meeting, which was held March 19, 1991. There will be a meeting April 15, 1991, in Denver, Colorado — that is the closest meeting place left.

You will still have a chance to participate in the process, however. The Draft Plan/EIS will be released for a 90-day review period in March 1992, and there will be public hearings on that draft. If you wish to receive the Draft Plan/EIS, send your request to

Refuges 2003 Planning Team  
U.S. Department of the Interior, FWS  
Mail Stop - 670 ARLSQ  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240

As an incentive, please note that the FWS received over 33,000 comments on its inadequate 1988 EIS for the National Wildlife Refuge System—and more than 32,000 of those were from pro-hunting and other individuals and groups who want to see refuges managed primarily for recreational and commercial uses rather than for the benefit of wildlife. ■

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# THE SIERRAN

NEWS OF THE RIO GRANDE CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB • APRIL/MAY 1991 • \$1.00

## Arctic Refuge under siege...again

*Bingaman, Domenici wield key votes*

by Pat Penfield

*Wilderness is an anchor to windward. Knowing it is there, we can also know that we are still a rich nation, tending to our resources as we should—not a people in despair searching every last nook and cranny of our land for a board of timber, a barrel of oil, a blade of grass, or a tank of water.*

—Former U.S. Sen. Clinton P. Anderson, New Mexico

Sixty miles east of the oil fields of Prudhoe Bay, in far northern Alaska, lies the last pristine stretch of Arctic coastal plain, so special it has been dubbed "America's Serengeti". It is part of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), and the heart of one of the last remaining truly intact ecosystems left in North America. The Refuge is rich with millions of migratory waterfowl and the Porcupine Caribou Herd, 165,000 strong. It is rich with musk oxen, grizzly and polar bears, wolves, wolverines, and countless other animals. But this remarkable place is in trouble: it has not been protected by Congress as a wilderness, and it may contain oil.

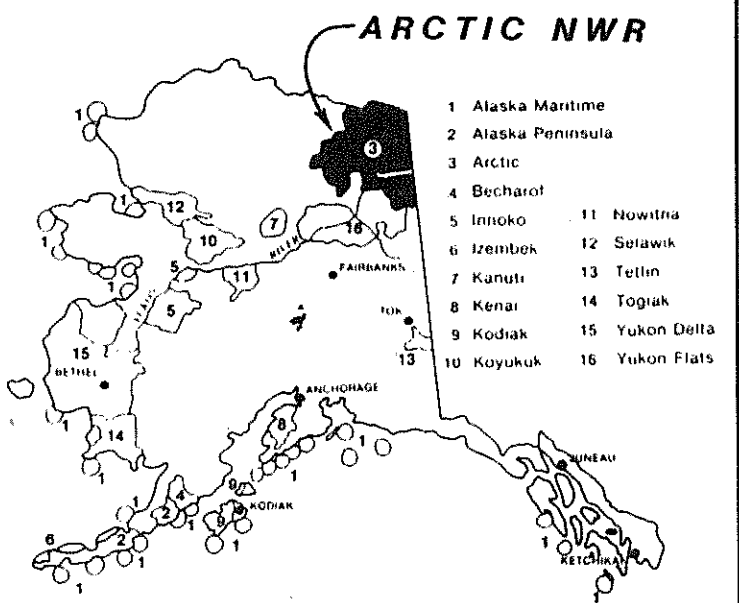
### The land in trouble

The oil industry would have us believe that it can explore/drill the Refuge without causing environmental damage. But preservation of the Refuge and oil exploration/drilling are incompatible. This has been demonstrated time and again in northern North America. The oil industry has shown, through the ExxonValdez disaster, numerous other oil spills, and the terrible environmental blight at Prudhoe Bay, that it has neither the capacity nor the will to carry on such development without serious damage to the environment.

Examples of environmental problems on Alaska's North Slope are rife. To name only two: 1) Since 1972, oil development there has caused more than 17,000 spills; 2) Each day, the oil industry at Prudhoe Bay generates large amounts of air pollution, spewing out the equivalent of one-third of the nitrogen oxides produced by New York City.

As Dwight Holing has argued recently in *Amicus Journal* (Winter, 1991), drilling in the ANWR and the Outer Continental

(continued on page 6)



Inside: Energy Wars • NM Legislature • Las Huerfias • Adopt Allotment • Wolf Update

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## LETTERS

Dear Editor:

I enjoyed the grazing fee article by Jim Fish in the February/March issue. The fictitious real estate transaction was particularly good in illustrating the complexity of the grazing fee dynasty.

I raise beef cattle, on a small scale by industry standards, on my own land, and have no access to public lands for grazing my herd. As a long time environmentalist, I have long felt that the grazing permit system is an "Old West" tradition whose time has long since come, but whose roots are so deep in our western political structure that a difficult struggle is inevitable.

I commend the suggestions as to "What You Can Do", with one exception: the boycott. In an effort to hurt the small number of offenders, all the rest of us beef-raisers are hurt. No boycott can target the T-bone or the hamburger produced by "them". Because there are a lot more of small producers like me, your 3 percent reduced consumption is going to have a much greater impact on me and my strata in the industry than it will on "them". It's reminiscent of the "baby in the bathwater" routine.

One side remark made in the boycott paragraph about "we'd be healthier": be careful in making statements like that. Dig into the nutritional facts before climbing out on that limb!

Hey, I'm all for having the public lands ranching abuses corrected, but let's do it in a reasonable way through the governmental channels from whence it grew.

Dorothy B. Smith  
Corrales

Dear Editor:

I am in receipt of the February/March issue of *The Sierran*. In that issue, the planned expansion of Unser Boulevard is taken to task, and club members are asked to weigh-in against the proposals of the Public Works Department. My wife and I are long term contributors to the Sierra Club, but we must strongly disagree with the club in this instance. We wholeheartedly agree with the proposed development of Unser Boulevard as a major arterial road along the lines of Tramway in northeast Albuquerque or even into a freeway concept.

We have a deep interest in the historical and scenic values placed on the West Mesa. We do not want the area developed into a hodge-podge of mismatched industrial, commercial, and residential areas. We endorse reasonable city planning and zoning to

make the west side a more liveable and accessible place. The completion of Unser Boulevard and the Montano Bridge project are central to those goals.

I would have addressed my letter to Alan Armijo; but, he does not seem to care what goes on in his area. That is evidenced by the fact that he votes against us at every turn.

Earl B. Hobbs Jr.  
Albuquerque

Dear Editor:

There are many assaults on the public lands occurring every day. One of the most flagrant of these violations of public trust is being predicated upon the Gila and Aldo Leopold Wilderness areas by the Forest Service under the guise of a grazing allotment called the "Diamond Bar".

The Diamond Bar grazing allotment is made up of 144,507 acres, 85 percent of which are contained within the two wilderness areas. The permittees are presently increasing their herd size up to the permitted numbers of 1188 cattle year long.

The Forest Service recognizes the fact that the riparian areas in this allotment are severely over grazed. Despite this they are not considering removal or reduction in cattle numbers to protect the resource. The Forest Service and the permittees are proposing to build 45 or more stock watering systems, 40 miles of fence, and all of this in wilderness using motorized equipment! For what? To overgraze the remaining areas? What happened to the opportunity for solitude?

It is a sorry situation when the Forest Service puts a higher value on protecting the interests of the "Intermediate Credit Bank of Texas" thru an unwise memorandum of understanding rather than their original obligation to wisely manage and protect the National Forests and its resources.

The Forest Service in the Diamond Bar allotment has chosen to ignore, disregard, and misinterpret federal law, including the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934, the Endangered Species Act of 1973, and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. It has disregarded its responsibility under such laws to the detriment of the Gila and Aldo Leopold wilderness areas. Instead they are intent on turning these areas into maximum use cow pastures to the detriment of all wildlife.

Ted Mertig  
Public Lands Committee, El Paso Group

## OPINION

# U.S. Needs Real Energy Policy

## Bush fiddles while oil burns

by Wesley Leonard

At a time when this country imports over 50 percent of its oil and has so recently been at war over oil in the Persian Gulf, it is incredible that we have had no national energy policy for over a decade.

President Jimmy Carter, of course, recognized the need to diversify our energy base, and he developed strategies that put much more emphasis on efficiency and non-polluting renewable energy sources. Unfortunately, Carter's sound energy policy went out with his Presidency.

Among the many deeds of omission and commission for which Ronald Reagan will be harshly judged by history was his deliberate reversal of the energy gains of the 1970s. Not only did he *not* continue the development of new energy resources, he dismantled the work that had already been done. As one example, he cut the budget for solar research to 2 percent of what it had been under Carter.

Bush thus far has been no better than Reagan. The energy strategy of our so-called "environmental" president is simply business-as-usual with incentives for oil exploration in environmentally sensitive areas, such as ANWR, and an emphasis on accelerating licensing of questionable nuclear power plants.

The Reagan-Bush energy legacy is one of increasingly polluted urban areas; despoiled wilderness; oil spills in Alaska, California and the Persian Gulf; oil fires in Kuwait; gas guzzling autos; and pollution caused deaths and other health problems. What is so regrettable is that during the 1980s there was truly a window of opportunity when significant gains could have been made.

The argument for the Reagan-Bush approach is that it relies on the "free" market, provides cheap energy, and keeps government involvement to a minimum. Let's examine these assumptions.

First, oil markets are not true "free" markets, but rather are controlled by a few, large producing countries which regulate supply, and therefore price. More importantly, these suppliers are located in a very unstable part of the world and thus keep world markets hostage to the events of the region.

Although the "free" market approach may seem to be successful, since the price of gasoline at the pump appears to be relatively low, the true cost is much higher and paid for with your tax dollars, a polluted environment, and increased health risks. The specifics of these costs include: military support in the Gulf region; support for the strategic petroleum reserve; huge subsidies to the conventional energy industries (estimated by one source to be \$44 billion per year); pollution-related health care; and environmental restoration (oil spill containment and clean-up, ground water decontamination from oil drilling activity and underground fuel tank leaks, and air pollution

*Among the many deeds of omission and commission for which Ronald Reagan will be harshly judged by history was his deliberate reversal of the energy gains of the 1970s.*

reduction—to name a few.) Thus, the present oil market is neither "free" nor are its products inexpensive, nor is government not involved.

What can be done in the short-term to effect energy reform and to develop a national energy strategy that makes sense? First, we must develop a strategy that does not rely on the so-called "free" market system and one that confronts new realities.

Such a strategy must recognize the following:

- 1) Subsidizing oil exploration in the U.S. will have little long-term effect on domestic oil supplies.
- 2) Environmental considerations—such as protecting environmentally sensitive national treasures and concern about carbon dioxide build-up, acid rain, smog, and nuclear waste issues—should not be discarded in an attempt to increase short-term energy supply.

3) Demand-side efforts that improve energy efficiency can be very powerful, cost effective, and help our country compete in the global economy. Increasing the U.S. automobile fleet fuel economy is but one example.

4) Nuclear power has severe technical, waste disposal, political, and cost problems. Even if these can be solved, it is unlikely that this option can have significant impact within a reasonable time-frame.

5) Natural gas, a domestic and presently abundant resource, can serve as a motor fuel in the short-term, with reduced air pollution.

6) Renewable energy options have demonstrated promise. For example, solar and wind-powered electric generating plants are today delivering energy at costs comparable with their conventional fuel counterparts, but without the hidden costs of pollution or dependence on imported sources of fuel.

There are viable alternatives to the short-sighted policies of the Bush Administration, and we must demand that our representatives in Congress take a leadership role in changing the way this country deals with domestic energy policy so that we will not again be forced into global conflict to insure our future energy needs. ■

[Wesley Leonard is director of the University of Texas Energy and Environment Center and vice-chair of the Rio Grande Chapter Executive Committee.]

## THE DEADLINE

for June/July *Sierran*  
is May 15, 1991.

# Energy wars heat up in Congress

*News from the frontlines*

by Leslie England

Our Arctic Refuge/energy campaigns are racing down the track at full steam. Major developments occurred in the week prior to the Easter recess, with the introduction of the Mrazek/Udall Arctic wilderness bill and Senator Wirth's alternative energy package, and with the successful markup of Sen. Bryan's bill on CAFE standards. This is a HUGE campaign, and help from activists is vital to carrying it out!

## *The Mrazek/Udall Bill*

Rep. Robert Mrazek (D-NY) announced March 21 that he would introduce H.J. Res. 239, the Morris K. Udall Wilderness Act of 1991. The bill pays tribute to Mo Udall, who has been our champion for years, and who was the chief architect of the Alaska Lands Act. In addition, the bill designates the coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge as wilderness. We applaud Congressman Mrazek's action, and are working to get cosponsors on H.J. Res. 239.

## *The Wirth Package*

Also on March 21, Sen. Tim Wirth (D-CO) introduced his alternative energy package, S. 741. Sen. Wirth has already enlisted a significant number of cosponsors for his bill, including some from the Senate Energy Committee which will consider the legislation. To date, cosponsors are: Sens. Mark Hatfield (R-OR), Jeff Bingaman (D-NM), Wyche Fowler, Jr. (D-GA), Brock Adams (D-WA), Richard Bryan (D-NV), Joseph Lieberman (D-CT), James Jeffords (R-VT), and Thomas A. Daschle (D-SD).

Although Senator Wirth's alternative energy package is not perfect, it is a good starting point for the energy policy debate with which Congress will deal this session. It includes excellent energy efficiency provisions, which, when taken together, save 20 times more energy than those in the Johnston energy package. The CAFE standards in the Wirth proposal are identical to those in the Bryan bill. From our perspective, the most important element in the Wirth energy package is something it does not contain—there is no "drill the Arctic" section. We are also launching a major cosponsor drive for Sen. Wirth's bill, and once again, activist help is a critical part of our effort.

## *The Bryan Bill*

Sen. Bryan's CAFE bill, S. 279, passed out of a Senate Commerce Committee mark-up March 19 by a strong 14-5 vote. We expect early floor action on the Bryan bill, possibly as soon as the end of April. This bill will save 2.5 million barrels of oil each day by 2005—ten times the estimate of oil in the Arctic Refuge! It will do this by raising the corporate average fuel economy standards, or CAFE, from a 27.5 mile-per-

gallon average to an average of approximately 40 miles-per-gallon by the year 2000. Because the Bryan bill saves ten times as much oil as might be under the Arctic Refuge, this avoids the need for development of the Arctic to be any part of U.S. energy strategy.

## *National Energy Strategy*

The Administration has finally introduced its so-called "National Energy Strategy," a huge package which contains a "drill the Arctic" section. The Bush package contains no CAFE standards and does nothing to wean the U.S. away from its addiction to oil and other finite resources. The Administration is threatening to veto energy legislation if development of the Arctic coastal is not part of the final package; at a March 12 Senate Energy Committee hearing, Secretary Watkins warned that a national energy strategy which did not include development of the Arctic coastal plain "is a vetoable issue."

The very fact that Bush is threatening a veto is an indication that our message is getting through. The Administration knows that we are pushing for CAFE standards; they figure they can get Arctic drilling hitched to CAFE if they characterize such a move as a "compromise." Our response: the compromise has already been made.

The oil industry can lease the entire northern coast of Alaska except for this one last remaining exquisite jewel. Moreover, there are several undeveloped oil fields with proven reserves that can go on line, including the huge West Sak with an estimated 15-25 bil-

lion barrels, as well as those at Point McIntyre, Seal Island, Sandpiper and others. Additionally, for the past ten years, the scales have been weighted heavily in favor of the oil industry; it's time for the scales to move toward energy efficiency. The Bush and Johnston proposals only pay lip service to energy efficiency; the cornerstone of their packages is continued development at the cost of precious resources.

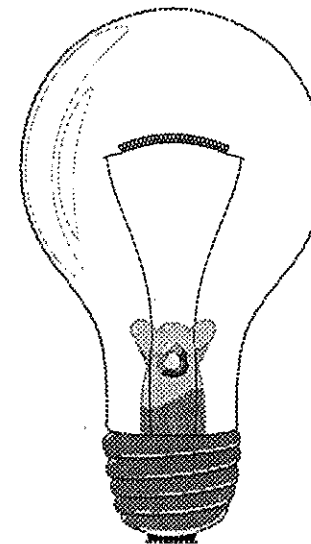
## *Energy Committee Mark-up*

As expected, Senate Energy Committee Chairman Bennett Johnston introduced a comprehensive energy package (S. 341) containing a section which would open up the

*Secretary Watkins warned that a national energy strategy which did not include development of the Arctic coastal plain "is a vetoable issue."*

Arctic Refuge coastal plain to leasing and development. As a step in that process, Johnston held a hearing March 12 on the Arctic Refuge title in his development bill, S. 341. Mike Matz, Alaska Coalition Chairman, and Brooks Yeager of National Audubon spoke against development; Johnston is committed to try to open up the Arctic Refuge coastal plain and is pushing to have his bill out of Committee and ready for the floor by the end of April.

All of this since the opening days of the



102nd Congress, when bills to designate the Arctic Refuge coastal plain wilderness, S. 39 and H.R. 39, were introduced; both have garnered a significant number of cosponsors: 21 Senators on S. 39 and 80 Representatives on the Udall bill. Energy efficiency CAFE legislation was also introduced early in the 102nd Congress; Rep. Barbara Boxer (D-CA) offered H.R. 446, and Sen. Richard Bryan (D-NV) reintroduced his CAFE bill, S. 279. The Boxer bill now has 46 cosponsors, and the Bryan bill, with 35 cosponsors, is headed to the Senate floor!

Development interests introduced their legislation. Besides Sen. Johnston, Sen. Frank Murkowski (R-AK), and Rep. Don Young (R-AK) offered bills to lease the coastal plain.

## *Action Needed!!*

The spring promises to be extremely busy for us, with the possible prospect of both a good bill (Sen. Bryan's S. 279) and terrible bill (the Johnston bill) hitting the Senate floor at about the same time, and with continued hearings and mark-ups. We very much need the help of grassroots activists to make our Arctic/energy campaign successful. Please write or call your Senators and Representative, and urge your friends to do the same. Here are points you can stress:

1. It is important for the U.S. to have an energy policy, but it should be a policy based on energy efficiency, one which contains CAFE standards, as the Bryan and Boxer bills outline, and not continued production of finite resources, as Sen. Johnston is pushing in S. 341. Discuss S. 741, the Wirth alternative energy package, with your Members of Congress and point out that Wirth's bill contains no drilling of the Arctic Refuge coastal plain.
2. Urge your Senators to cosponsor S. 39, the Roth-Baucus Arctic Refuge wilderness bill; urge your Representative to cosponsor the Mrazek bill, H.J. Res. 239, which will designate the Arctic Refuge as wilderness and will also pay tribute to one of our long-time champions, Mo Udall.
3. Urge your Senator to vote for S. 279, Sen. Bryan's CAFE bill, against the filibuster which the polluters are planning, and against any weakening amendments.

For more information, call Melinda Pierce, Alaska Coalition Grassroots Coordinator, at 202/675-7912, or Leslie England, Sierra Club Washington Office, at 202/547-1141.

## Keep in Touch

To write your senators:  
*The Honorable* \_\_\_\_\_  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

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*The Honorable* \_\_\_\_\_  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

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## The Hidden Cost of Automobiles

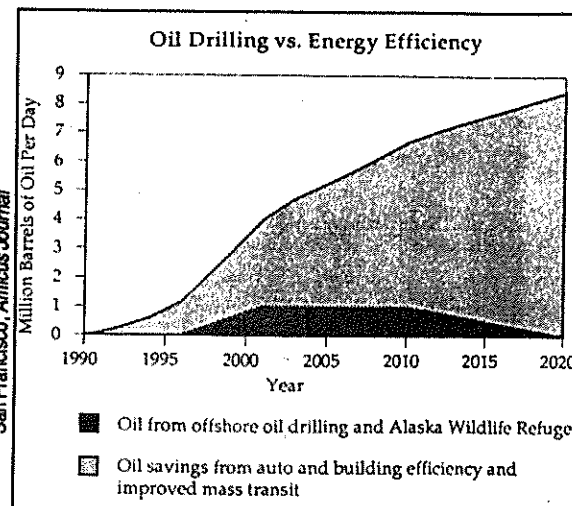
from "Accounting for the Autocracy" by Rich Peckham\*

1. Half of the land in an average American city, and two-thirds of Los Angeles, is paved over for cars.
2. In Pasadena, the aggregate cost of parking space (at the supermarket, library, etc.), paid for through increased retail prices, smaller paychecks, and mortgages, is approximately \$1000 per vehicle annually.
3. The cost of vehicle operating space in Pasadena, paid for by increased rents, mortgage payments, and gasoline taxes, is also about \$1000 per vehicle annually.
4. In Pasadena, the cost of local government services devoted to automobile use (e.g. traffic control, police and fire protection, road maintenance, etc.) is about \$350 per vehicle per year.
5. The IRS does not tax employer-provided parking as income, but does tax employer-supported public transit use.
6. The total hidden cost of automobile use, including environmental pollution, military expenditures to protect oil, and health costs, is an estimated \$5000-7000 per passenger vehicle, excluding maintenance, depreciation, fuel, insurance, and finance.

[\*Printed in the Sierra Club's Energy Report, Winter 1991. Peckham is newsletter editor for the Alternative Energy Association based in Cincinnati.]







## Refuge

(continued from front page)

shelf of North America will cause:

...extensive new damage to an already beleaguered environment. Mounting scientific evidence reveals that every aspect of the fossil fuel cycle—from exploration to drilling, from transport to refining, from distribution to use—exposes land, air, water wildlife, and humans to a host of dangerous pollutants, many of them toxic.

Wildlife scientists have predicted that oil development within the Refuge would seriously jeopardize a number of species, especially the Porcupine Caribou. According to a Fish and Wildlife Service report, oil exploration/development of the Refuge would probably cause declines in populations of some of the species the Refuge was established to protect, including:

- up to a 40 percent decline in caribou (loss of 72,000)
- up to a 50 percent decline in snow geese (loss of 162,000)
- a 50 percent loss of muskoxen (loss of more than 300)
- marked declines in grizzlies, wolves, and polar bears.

### The Gwich'in people at risk

But not only this remarkable land is at risk. Some 7,000 native people, the Gwich'in, live in the Arctic coastal plain in both Alaska and Canada. The Gwich'in and their ancestors have lived here for 30,000 years. For

their livelihood and traditional culture, they depend upon the Refuge's fish, berries, and Porcupine Caribou herd. Oil development threatens not only the Refuge's natural world, but the Gwich'in culture as well.

**Johnston's bill threatens Refuge**  
Senator Bennett Johnston of Louisiana has recently introduced a bill, S. 341, entitled the "Energy Conservation Act of 1991." Johnston's bill allows oil exploration and development in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Such a provision to compromise the Refuge is, simply put, unacceptable. But because

Johnston is proposing a bill that claims to provide the nation a much-needed comprehensive energy plan, it is appealing to a number of Senators, including New Mexico's Jeff Bingaman and Pete Domenici.

Moreover, Johnston's bill offers environmentalists a sop—some modest steps to increase national energy efficiency. But the price to be paid for these modest and thoroughly inadequate efficiency proposals is high—a massive package to develop and produce energy that includes drilling the Arctic Refuge, increased reliance on dirty nuclear power, and more subsidies for the oil industry.

### Alternatives to our oil addiction

Johnston's bill represents "business as usual", business that will destroy the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge wilderness, and other wild areas of North America. The tragedy is that this approach not only lacks vision, but is unnecessary. Energy experts tell us that we have available to us, right now, the technology and ability to seriously reduce our oil addiction without drilling every last barrel in wild areas. The alternative: the systematic application of energy conservation and efficiency measures. According to Dwight Holing, "Energy analysts calculate that by implementing existing technologies and practices, the nation could cut its fossil fuel use in half by the year 2015 and effect a savings of \$1.5 trillion."

What we lack is federal government commitment to foster such measures. By way of example, if the federal government were to require an economy standard of 40 miles per gallon for autos and small trucks, we could save between 8 and 9 billion barrels of oil by the year 2010. This is over 2.5 times the amount of oil the government thinks *might* be found inside the Arctic Refuge. (There is a 19 percent chance the

Refuge contains 3.2 billion barrels of oil—a 200 day supply for the U.S. at its current rate of consumption.)

### Bingaman's position wavers

Both Senators Bingaman and Domenici are members of the key Senate Energy Committee that will decide on the contents of Johnston's bill. Senator Domenici is pro-development. Up to this point, Senator Bingaman has been our ally in the fight to protect the Refuge from drilling. But now he is wavering.

Bingaman has stated that he will try to have any provision for drilling of the Refuge deleted from Johnston's bill. This is good news, but he has also stated that, in the interest of a comprehensive energy package, he will vote for Johnston's bill on the Senate floor, even if it contains the provision to allow drilling the Refuge. This is very bad news.

Bingaman was asked what it would take

## ANWR Facts

•According to the U.S. Interior Department, the chance of finding economically recoverable oil under the Refuge is less than 20 percent.

•If oil is found, it is likely to be in the neighborhood of 3.2 billion barrels—enough to supply U.S. energy needs for 200 days. The chance of finding a larger deposit—the size of Prudhoe Bay—is 1 in 100.

•Most of the North Slope—55 million acres of Alaska's arctic coastline—is already open to oil development. ANWR comprises only 3 percent of this area.

•The infrastructure needed to develop oil in the Refuge would probably include, at a minimum:  
4 airfields  
100 miles of pipeline  
2 ports  
2 desalinization plants  
7 large production facilities  
60-100 drill pads (several acres apiece)  
6000 workers  
300 miles of roads.

•There have been more than 17,000 oil spills on Alaska's North Slope since 1972, most at Prudhoe Bay.

to get him to change his mind. His answer: a groundswell of public opinion. If you care about the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, now is the time to let Senator Bingaman know that no environmentally sensitive politician should sacrifice the Refuge, especially to get a "comprehensive" but environmentally weak energy package passed into law.

### What you can do

Write (most effective) or call (slightly less effective) Senator Bingaman and Senator Domenici. Urge them to vote against Senator Johnston's Bill, S. 341, as long as it contains provisions allowing oil exploration and drilling in ANWR. Ask them to support S. 39, which would designate the Refuge a wilderness and truly protect it. Tell them the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge must not be compromised. ■

[Pat Penfield is a member of the Executive Committee of the Southern NM Group of the Sierra Club.]

## Lessons never learned

The following excerpted article appeared in the *New York Times* on May 11, 1988.

"WASHINGTON—An unreleased preliminary report by officials of the Fish and Wildlife Service says oil development in northern Alaska has caused far more environmental damage than the Government predicted...

"The report...says development of the Prudhoe Bay oilfield and the Trans-Alaska Pipeline has been on a substantially greater scale than was envisaged in the Government's environmental impact statements, prepared before the projects began 16 years ago...

"...[A]mong its findings are that 11,000 acres of vegetation used by wildlife at Prudhoe Bay have already been lost, almost double what was predicted, and that most bird species in the area have declined in population, as have bears, wolves, and other predators...

"[Representative George] Miller asserted...that the Interior Department had deliberately suppressed the report. The reason, he said, is that the document is damaging to...efforts to quickly open the Arctic refuge to oil exploration and development...

"...The oil industry and the Interior Department contend that the history of the Prudhoe field and the Trans-Alaska Pipeline shows that oil development and environmental protection can be compatible in the far north..."

## More War Casualties Likely From Mideast Oil Fires

from the Sierra Club's Nat. News Report

Environmental and health damage from the Persian Gulf war could continue for months or years, mostly due to the hundreds of burning oil wells that are blackening the skies over Kuwait and surrounding countries.

"The air pollution from oil fires will cause casualties from the Gulf war long after hostilities have ended," said Daniel Weiss, Sierra Club Pollution Specialist.

Weiss believes the fires pose the greatest threat to human health of any of the environmental damage to the Gulf region, including the oil spill. "The oil well fires are chemical warfare waged on everyone downwind from Kuwait," he said.

A U.S. Defense Department report said the atmosphere around some wells is "extremely flammable as well as dangerously poisonous."

The clouds of black smoke from burning oil wells can contain carcinogens such as benzene, as well as sulfur and particulate matter that impair lung functions. Increased cancer and respiratory illness rates are expected to result from continuous breathing of the pollution. Breathing the smoke also reduces resistance to disease and may result in permanent lung damage.

Over 500 of Kuwait's 1,080 high-pressure oil wells were reported fractured and set afire with explosive charges. It is estimated that up to 2 million barrels of oil a day are going up in smoke—an amount equivalent to one-sixth of U.S. daily consumption. Experts fear that with the large number of fires, their continuous supply of fuel, and their distance from water sources, the fires could burn for years. ■

## Arctic bills in 102nd Congress

### Wilderness bills:

- S. 39 and H.R. 39, to designate the coastal plain as wilderness, introduced 1/3/91 by Rep. Morris Udall (D-AZ) and 1/14/91 by Sen. William Roth (R-DE).

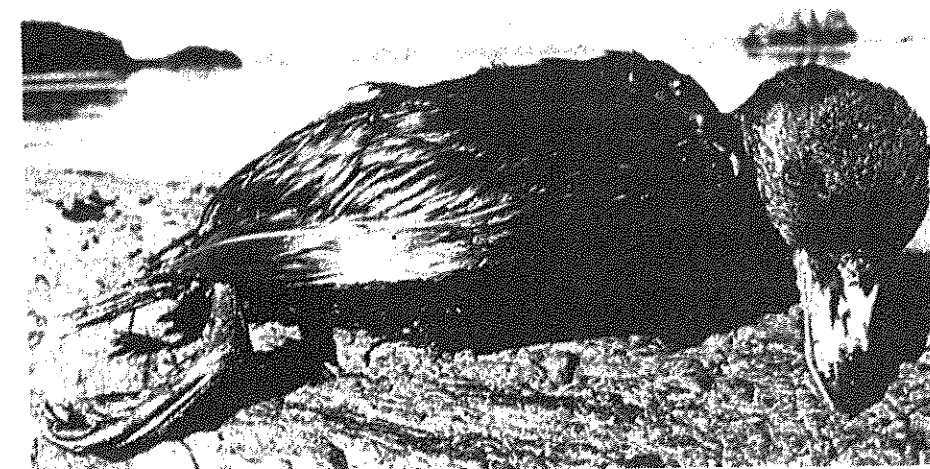
### Development bills:

- S. 341; "Energy Security Act of 1991" introduced by Sens. Bennett Johnston (D-LA) and Malcolm Wallop (R-WY) 2/5/91; Title IX would open coastal plain to phased oil and gas leasing program.
- S. 109; "Arctic Coastal Plain Public Lands Leasing Act of 1991", introduced by Sen. Frank Murkowski (R-AK) 1/14/91, would open coastal plain to oil exploration and

## Arctic Activists Sought

I am trying to develop a network of members in various communities who are willing to be Alaska Activists. I would like these activists to identify people in their communities who would be willing to contact our Congressional members whenever a threat to the Arctic Wildlife Refuge arises. I plan to prepare a monthly (or more frequent) newsletter to keep activists as up to date as possible. Please contact me if you're interested.

Heidi Fleischmann  
260-1217



## Sierra Club launches energy campaign

All over the country, from Portland, Maine to Portland, Oregon, Sierra Club activists are organizing the Club's "Kick the Oil Habit" campaign.

On February 20, the day President Bush officially revealed his ecologically disastrous energy plan, activists launched Sierra Club's "Kick the Oil Habit" campaign at 19 cities across the country. Twelve of the locations held highly successful press conferences attracting extensive print, radio and television coverage.

The three major television networks (ABC, NBC, and CBS) also sent to their affiliates nationwide a video news release (VNR) produced by Sierra Club. A VNR is a 90 second news story that TV stations can pull down from satellites and air intact on the day's news broadcast. The Sierra Club VNR enumerated the problems with the Bush/Johnston Energy Plan and provided visuals of the splendor of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

In Washington D.C., Sierra Club President Sue Merrow spoke with Representative Barbara Boxer (D-CA) to 35 reporters at a

press conference. In her press statement, Merrow called on Congress to "do the job that the Bush Administration seems unable to do — to end this country's dangerous addiction to oil." She said that beginning on February 20, Sierra Club grassroots activists throughout the country would call "on every Representative and Senator to reject the Bush Administration's scandalous energy plan."

The Bush Energy Plan has been largely embodied in S. 341, an energy bill put forth by Senator Bennett Johnston (D-LA). If the proposals—collectively called the "Bush/Johnston Energy Plan"—became law, they would open up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling, jump-start the dying nuclear industry by weakening public oversight, and make only feeble efforts at energy conservation.

The Bush/Johnston Energy Plan, and the subsequent "Kick the Oil Habit" campaign, emerge almost two years to the date after the Exxon Valdez spilled 11 million gallons of oil into Prince Edward Sound on March 24, 1989. ■

## New drive to clean air

The Sierra Club is supporting a California legislature proposal that would give consumers financial incentives to drive less-polluting cars. The proposal, introduced by state Sen. Gary Hart, would institute a program called "DRIVE Plus" (Demand-based Reductions in Vehicle Emissions plus reductions in carbon dioxide).

The program would increase the sales tax on new vehicles that produce more pollutants than the average car, and decrease the sales tax on vehicles that are cleaner than average. The bill includes a formula that the state Air Resources Board would use to calculate the average amounts of certain pollutants produced by new vehicles, and to convert each deviation from the average into a tax increase or decrease.

For example, according to the draft formula, a new car that emitted 0.1 gram per mile less hydrocarbon than average would be entitled to a sales tax reduction of \$192.50 for that pollutant. The car's total tax reduction or increase would be the net sum of the adjustments for hydrocarbons, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxides, particulates, and

carbon dioxide.

The program would not cost the state any money—it is designed to be "revenue neutral." People who pay the increased sales taxes would essentially be paying the people who receive the rebates.

A unique feature of this program is that market incentives would continually induce manufacturers to produce cleaner cars. As emission standards are strengthened and more low-emission vehicles are produced, the average standard would decrease.

Another important feature of the bill is the inclusion of carbon dioxide as a pollutant. Presently, there are no regulations on carbon dioxide, the principal "greenhouse gas" that contributes to global warming. Each gallon of gasoline burned pumps about 19 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere.

This legislation received strong bipartisan support from the California legislature during the 1990 session, but failed to gain then-Governor Deukmejian's signature.

For a copy of the bill, contact Paula Carrell at the San Francisco office at (415) 923-5668. ■

## Kicking the Oil Habit

Never again will we allow our reckless addiction to oil threaten the lives of Americans and the peace of the world.

No longer will we allow overconsumption of fossil fuels to endanger the world's food supplies, forests and climate.

Never again will we allow the oil cartel to plunge American families into recession or inflation through massive price fluctuations.

No longer will we tolerate attempts to destroy our coastlines, wildlife and wilderness in the vain pursuit of one last fix of oil.

Our leaders tell us that the pursuit of oil is worth the lives of Americans, the risk of global warming, the jeopardizing of our economy, and the destruction of our children's natural heritage. We say to the President, the Congress, the oil industry, and the auto companies that American lives, the stability of our climate, economic security and the preservation of our environment are worth a major national commitment to energy efficiency and secure, renewable energy sources.

We commit ourselves as consumers and as citizens to demand:

- automobiles that average 45 miles per gallon by the year 2000.

- protection of our—crown Jewels, such as the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and our fragile coastal areas, from destructive oil and gas drilling.

- a transition to an economy based on safe, clean and renewable energy sources like solar power and wind—not nuclear.

- aggressive programs to improve the energy efficiency of the nation's buildings, utilities, and appliances.

## Support needed for critical energy vote

Senate to vote on Bryan bill soon

by Dan Becker

Senators Bingaman, Domenici, Gramm, and Bentsen need to hear from you! If 60 senators commit to voting against an auto industry and Big Oil filibuster, in early May the U.S. Senate will vote on a bill that would significantly reduce our nation's dangerous dependence on oil, protect Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and America's coastlines, and help curb global warming.

All of this could be accomplished by passing The Motor Vehicle Fuel Efficiency Act (S.279), authored by Sen. Richard Bryan (D-NV). Better known as the Bryan Bill, it requires U.S. automakers to improve the fuel efficiency of cars and trucks 40 percent by the year 2000.

Last year, we fell three votes shy, so even though a majority of

*This legislation would save more oil per day than the most optimistic estimates for the Arctic Refuge, plus the total reserves off California, plus every drop of oil we import from the Persian Gulf.*

the Senate favored the bill, the filibuster could not be cut off and the bill wasn't brought forward for a floor vote. Don't let them thwart the will of the majority again!

If passed by the Congress, this legislation would build up to saving 2.5 million barrels of oil per day in only 14 years. That's more than the total oil reserves off California's coasts, plus the most optimistic estimates for the Arctic Refuge, plus every drop of oil we

import from the entire Persian Gulf. It would decrease air pollution, lessen the odds of another Exxon Valdez disaster, and be the single biggest step this country could take to decrease the threat of global warming.

Senators Bingaman, Domenici, Gramm, and Bentsen may also have a chance to vote for a key strengthening amendment to the Bryan Bill. Called the "Truth in Testing" amendment, it would ensure that government miles-per-gallon ratings reflect the vehicle's true efficiency. Current tests exaggerate fuel efficiency by 15 percent.

Despite the overwhelming environmental and economic benefits of fuel efficient automobiles, Congress is under tremendous pressure from Big Oil and automakers. You can help fight this well-financed lobbying blitz and steer America toward a safe energy future by writing and phoning your Senators right now, and by exhorting your friends and family to do so, as well. Your letters and calls are the most powerful means of contradicting industry's misinformation and lies.

Contact them by mail at the U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510, or phone the Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121. Encourage them to take the following action:

- Vote for "cloture" to cut off the auto industry filibuster against the Bryan Bill, S. 279.
- Vote against ALL weakening amendments.
- Support the "Truth in Testing" amendment to keep government testing from exaggerating vehicles' miles-per-gallon ratings.

[Dan Becker is the Sierra Club's Washington Director for Energy & Climate Policy.]

## State legislatures defeat resolution to open Arctic Refuge

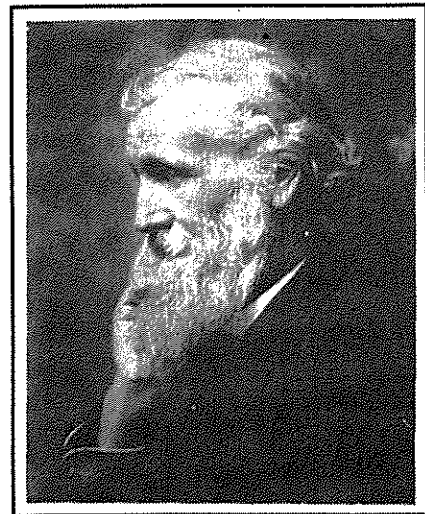
Environmentalists defeated a proposal to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas development at the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) State-Federal Assembly meeting, held in Washington, D.C., on Dec. 12-14, 1990.

The NCSL is a non-partisan organization which serves the legislators and staffs of our states, commonwealths, and territories. This was the first time that national environmental organizations participated in an NCSL meeting. Although the oil industry has lobbied the NCSL for many years to pass a resolution urging opening of the Arctic Refuge, they have been held at bay by the earnest efforts of some environmental leaders in the state legislatures.

The Environment Committee of the

NCSL defeated the Arctic Refuge pro-development resolution by a vote of 11-9. The same policy was passed by the Energy Committee by a vote of 10-3. The oil industry's lobbyists got five prodevelopment legislators appointed to the Environment Committee just before the vote and actually during the vote.

This was an important vote because it means that NCSL representatives will not be lobbying Congress for development of the Arctic Refuge. In addition, NCSL has an extensive network of party leaders back in the states to lobby their congressional delegations. The next meeting of the NCSL's State-Federal Assembly will take place in Washington, D.C., May 2-4, 1991. The Arctic Refuge will again be on the agenda.



John Muir portrait by W. Dasso (1913?)

William E. Colby Memorial Library

# Santa Fe Wrap-Up

*Tough going for environmental initiatives*

by Ken Hughes

Roger Morris of the *Santa Fe Reporter* labeled it an "environmental rout." Others have bemoaned the sad state of environmental legislation as it has gone through the legislative labyrinth. Now, at the end of the 1991 60-day session, it's clear that pressures from the business-as-usual crowd and a Senate ending the session in a filibustered frenzy has left us achieving less than hoped for. However, the environmental community also can claim credit in stopping or weakening special interest bills that would have done harm to the environment.

Accompanying this article is a voting record for House members on some of the more important pieces of legislation which had a relatively close vote. [Ed. note: At publication time, the voting records of Senate members had not been tallied.] There were other bills that passed with near unanimity and others that didn't make it to the floor. These are discussed below. I've also assigned a subjective green rating to each member, based on their positions on environmental bills and their willingness to push or resist them.

### Department of Environment

A bill to split out the Environmental Improvement Division from Health and make it a cabinet level department has been signed into law. It administers programs created under the hazardous waste, water quality control, occupational health and safety, and environmental improvement legislation. Yet to be decided are which programs located elsewhere, such as at Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources, will be folded into the new department.

### Groundwater

The Environmental Improvement Division wants to boost efforts to meet provisions of the Ground Water Protection Act to clean up contamination at leaking underground storage tank sites. One bill by Rep. Hawk, which passed both floors, creates an Underground Storage Tank Committee; as amended, it includes a representative from the environmental community. Another by Sen. Bradley waives liability of landowner

for cleanup costs if in compliance with the groundwater act provisions; the bill was revised before passing both floors after questions raised by environmentalists. And Rep. Salazar's bill, passing both floors, sets up a "LUST Buster" groundwater response team.

Fortunately the legislature did not heed Senate Conservation Committee chairman Senator Morrow who, despite EID testimony that 335 leaks from tanks have been reported, decried the "senseless waste of

*One legislator was heard to say, "The environmentalists won't be satisfied until there are no businesses left in the state."*

money on cleanups when nature can do the job."

### Recycling

Many bills sought the imposition of "green taxes" on items that pollute/litter, paid by those who produce or consume the item. Reps. Porter and McSorley, with active support of the New Mexico Public Interest Research Group, Land Commissioner Jim Baca, and Sierra Club phone tree activists in Santa Fe and Albuquerque, pushed a deposit on beverage containers. Rep. Picraux introduced a bill to tax and/or restrict importation into New Mexico of products with environmentally-unsound packaging. The former got pounded by litter lobbyists in House Business, but the packaging bill passed the House floor by a 2-1 margin before losing in the black hole of Senate Conservation.

Sen. Maes pushed bills to recycle batteries and tires. The battery bill was tabled in Senate Corporations, with the tire bill

illegally doctored by pro-pyrolysis lobbyists Scott Scanlin and Jerry King before losing on the Senate floor by 2 votes. A similar tire bill put in the House by Rep. Michael Olguin lost on a tie floor vote. And an attempt by Rep. Cheney (who gets the obstructionist of the House award) to disallow fees levied by EIB on recyclable materials passed the House floor but died in the Senate.

### Responsible Mining

Rep. King's bill to reclaim lands affected by exploration, mining or extraction of non-coal minerals was weakened by amendments inserted by House Energy Chair Mora at industry's request to delay implementation of the act until all regulations are finalized, and to strip out a citizen suit provision in the mining bill. Voting to strip the citizen suit section: Mora, Barber, Knowles, Light (who was heard to say afterwards "environmentalists won't be satisfied until there are no businesses left in the state"), Sandel, Smith, and Wallach. Voting to keep the provision: Salazar, Madalena, McSorley, Morgan and Picraux. The bill went to Judiciary, where it was tabled, i.e. a victory for environmentalists.

### Citizens Suit

This bill, introduced by Rep. Casey in a profile in courage, would have allowed citizens the chance to go after polluters in court when the state could or would not enforce laws. It also would have authorized courts to grant relief to the plaintiff and legal fees. The bill cleared House Judiciary and Appropriations Committees, in victories for our side, before defeat on the floor.

### Solid Waste/Public Utility

Rep. Whitney-Welles' bill would have declared solid waste facilities to be public utilities, thereby giving the public greater control over prices and access to financial information. It was tabled in House Business. Defeat was a top priority for major waste firms.

### Water

Senators Maes and Robinson and Rep. McSorley sought to strengthen the Water Quality Act enforcement procedures and penalties, as enforced by the Water Quality Control Commission. The bill would have required regulations on the movement and disposal of septage and sludge, and on the operation of permitted facilities. Penalties would have been increased up to \$15,000 per day per permit violation, \$25,000 per day for continued noncompliance. Certain

violations, such as discharging water contaminants without a permit, lying in any document required under the act, tampering with any monitoring device, violating any permit condition, or violating any rule or regulation under the act would have been upgraded from a misdemeanor to a fourth degree felony. Subsequent violations would have resulted in a third degree felony, as would any violation that harmed humans, wildlife, groundwater, livestock or crops. Despite strenuous efforts from environmen-

talists and EID, the bill died in the Senate filibuster.

In the water quantity arena, attempts to address shortfalls from the Pecos River and others to encourage farmers to obtain water-conserving irrigation equipment passed both floors. Rep. Coll's bill to set standards for instream flow was tabled in House Agriculture.

*(continued on next page)*

## The Scorecard

*How green legislative priorities fared in 1991*

The following chart shows the fate of legislative measures that were considered priorities by environmentalists, either to support or oppose, prior to the start of the 1991 session. Clear environmental victories are shown in boldface.

Initiative	Fate
<i>EID legislative measures</i>	
•Leaking Underground Storage Tank Clean-up Fund .....	LUST "Task Force" & "Response Team" established
•Water Quality Act: strengthening amendments .....	Died in Senate
•Air Quality Act amendments to meet federal CAA .....	Died in Senate
•Hazardous Waste Act: strengthening amendments .....	Died in Senate
•Increased penalties for environmental law violations .....	Died in Senate
•Prohibition on disposal of deregulated radioactive wastes in landfills .....	Passed House, died in Senate
•State environmental policy act .....	Not introduced
•Removal of prohibition on state laws being more stringent than federal laws ..	Not introduced
<i>Wildlife bills</i>	
•Broader authority, name change for Department of Game and Fish .....	Died in House Agriculture
•Game ranching proposals .....	Not introduced
<i>Instream flow .....</i>	
Tabled in House Agriculture	
<i>Recycling/Solid Waste bills</i>	
•Bottle bill .....	Tabled in House Business
•Battery deposit .....	Tabled in Senate Corporations
•Tire recycling .....	Killed on Senate/House floors
•Recycled newsprint requirements for newspapers .....	Delayed; memorial passed by Senate requesting Governor to create task force to study issue
•Tax on unsound packaging .....	Passed House, died in Senate Conservation
•Designation of solid waste facilities as public utilities .....	Tabled in House Business
<i>Transportation bills</i>	
•Funding for study of rail system between Santa Fe & Albuquerque .....	Passed as part of appropriations bill
•Funding for widening of Unser Boulevard .....	Killed in Senate Finance
•Creation of transit authority to look at transportation alternatives .....	Senate memorial passed
<i>Administrative measures</i>	
•Creation of separate Department of the Environment .....	Passed, signed by Governor
•Whistleblower protection .....	Never scheduled for hearing
•Citizen lawsuit .....	Failed on House floor
<i>Land Protection</i>	
•Conservation Easement Authority .....	Passed, signed by Governor
•Mesilla Valley Bosque acquisition .....	Failed in House Appropriations



# Wrap-up

(continued from previous page)

## Air Quality

Rep. King's bill, which died in the Senate filibuster, would have amended the Air Quality Control Act to increase EID's enforcement and permitting capabilities, in compliance with the federal Clean Air Act. Civil penalties would have been increased to \$1,000-15,000 per day. Violations of regulations regarding commercial or industrial incineration, federal standard of performance, hazardous air pollutants, or toxic air pollutants would have been considered a fourth degree felony.

On a positive note, high-powered lobbying by the hospital industry to delay air quality standards for hospitals failed in the face of environmental opposition and the industry's own lack of candor about the real intent of the legislation.

## Land, timber, and wildlife

A joint memorial to set up an Organ Mountains Conservation Area passed both floors, though cattlemen's association lobbyist worked to weaken the bill to allow continued grazing. Attempts to secure funding for the Bosque park, also near Las Cruces, failed.

The conservation easement bill, with brilliant testimony by its sponsor, Speaker Sanchez, passed and was signed into law, although the Farm Bureau got the Senate Conservation Committee to weaken it by striking scenic easements as a qualifying type. The law, however, will permit New Mexico to join nearly every state in the union in allowing conservation easements.

Offsetting memorials on Forest Service timber cutting passed each floor. The Senate approved a memorial by Sen. Cisneros calling on the Forest Service to cut as many trees as allowed on national forests. On the last night of the session, the House passed a counter-memorial by Rep. Morgan urging the Forest Service to allow only sustainable timber sales.

Sen Ingle's bill to prohibit hunting by spotlight also passed each floor.

## Energy

A package of bills introduced by Reps. Eisenstadt and King aimed at curbing fossil fuel consumption fared poorly. A bill to create an energy conservation task force, promote renewable energy sources, assess ways to promote recycling and develop markets for recycled materials, and to encourage energy conservation, was tabled in

(continued on back page)

HOUSE MEMBER	HOUSE VOTING RECORDS								Green Score
	HB 88 Tire	HB822 LUST	HB798 BRC	HB899 Sol Waste	HB465 Easements	HB573 Citizen	HB438 H2O	HB481 Package	
Alwin	-	/	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Altkly	-	+	+	-	+	-	-	+	5
Baca	-	+	+	-	+	-	-	+	4
Barber	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	3
Buffett	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	1
Caruso	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	5
Casey	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	8
Cheney	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Coll	+	-	/	+	+	+	-	+	10
Curtis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Eisenstadt	-	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	8
Ferrari	-	+	+	-	+	/	+	+	5
Foy	+	+	/	+	+	/	+	+	7
Gallejos	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	-	5
Gurule	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	8
Harrington	-	-	-	-	-	/	-	-	0
Hawk	+	+	/	+	+	-	-	-	7
Huerta	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	9
King	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	8
Knowles	-	-	/	-	+	-	-	-	1
Lambert	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Light	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Lujan	+	+	+	/	+	+	/	-	8
Luna	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	7
Madalena	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	9
Martinez	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	5
McMullan	-	-	-	+	-	-	/	-	1
McSherry	+	-	+	+	-	-	/	-	5
McSorley	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	10
Michael	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	1
Miera	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	10
Mora	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	8
Morgan	-	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	8
Nicely	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	4
Olguin, M	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	7
Olguin, R	-	-	+	+	-	+	/	+	5
Olson	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Peralta	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	8
Perez	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	8
Picraux	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	10
Porter	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	10
Rawson	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	1
Robbins	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Roberts	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Ryan	+	+	/	+	+	-	+	-	6
Saavedra	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	8
Salazar	+	+	+	+	+	-	/	+	7
Sanchez Luis	-	+	-	+	+	-	+	-	3
Sanchez Raymond	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	8
Sanchez RR	-	-	+	-	-	/	+	+	2
Sandel	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	1
Sandoval	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	9
Shirley	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	9
Silva	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	7
Simms	-	-	/	-	-	/	-	-	0
Smith	-	-	+	/	+	+	/	+	7
Stell	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	3
Taylor	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	10
Torrez	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	7
Townsend	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	6
Tyler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Underwood	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	7
Varela	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	8
Vigil	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	7
Wallace	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	4
Wallach	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Wallin	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	1
Watchman	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	+	7
Whitaker	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	1
Whitney-Welles	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	9

# Adopt a public land grazing allotment

## Part I. Getting Started

by Jim Fish

Many conscientious employees of both the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Forest Service (FS) would like to see an end to the destruction of the public lands of the West. They need our help. The purpose of this article is to help you get started in helping our friends within the agencies. Public Lands Action Network (PLAN) is developing a pair of handbooks, one for each agency. They should be available by summer. Meanwhile, back at the ranch, the bovine termites and the woolly maggots munch away at our public lands.

You do not need to be an expert or to wait for the handbooks to get started. You can learn as you go. The first step is to pick your allotment and locate it on a map, any kind of map. Think about some public land area you have visited where you have seen livestock or signs of livestock. If you would not mind spending a few days a year in this area, you have your allotment.

The next step is to start gathering data on your allotment. This step requires a visit to the local agency office. Keep in mind that the agency employees are paid, with your tax money, to manage your public lands. Part of their job, by law, is to help you understand, appreciate, enjoy and get involved in the management of your public lands. If you run into anyone who is confused on this matter, please let me know. That said, assume the best.

When you get to the agency office, ask to see someone who can help you with a grazing allotment. When asked what allotment, pull out your map. When asked what you want to know, pull out the following check list.

1. Who has the permit for the allotment?
2. How big is the allotment and what are the boundaries? Get a map of the allotment if you can.
3. How many animals are permitted on the allotment and for what period are they permitted?
4. How many animals have actually been grazed on the allotment for the past five years?
5. What is the condition and the trend in the condition of the allotment? Ask for a copy of any data they have to support the condition they claim. Where and when was the data taken?
6. Has an Allotment Management Plan been prepared for the allotment. If so, ask for a copy. If not, ask when one will be prepared.
7. What range facilities (fences, artificial waters, roads, corrals, etc.) are on the allotment and where are they? Are there any plans for new facilities?
8. When is the permit up for renewal?

Before leaving the office, ask to be placed on the mailing list for any

information related to the allotment.

Now that you have the basic data, the fun starts. Get to know your allotment. Walk the boundaries. Locate the range facilities. Count the animals. Make sure they are on the allotment only when they are permitted to be. Look for areas on the allotment that show signs of damage: excessive bare ground, erosion, trampled riparian areas, lack of wildlife, etc. Make lots of notes. If you are a camera buff, take lots of photographs.

Finally, let us know what you find. Contact PLAN at P.O. Box 5631, Santa Fe, NM 87502-5631 or me at P.O. Box 712, Placitas, NM 87043. If you need information or guidance quickly, call me at 867-3062. ■

[Jim Fish is founder of the Public Land Action Network and a Sierra Club member.]

## Protecting our agency friends

If you find a friend within one of the agencies, rejoice, but not too loudly. Political pressures are still being exerted on those trying to do their jobs responsibly. We need friends within the agencies. We do not want them to be fired or transferred to Wyoming.

We can protect our friends by being careful.

1. Be especially careful in the office, on the phone, and in any letters to maintain a professional tone in your interactions.
2. Develop independent sources of any useful information given to you by your friend. Use the information to ask the right question of someone else. Or find some related information in some document you have and request an explanation of the related information from your friend's superior. Get the superior to give you the useful information.
3. Pass *extremely* useful information on to someone not obviously connected with either you or your friend and have that person develop an independent source.
4. Be patient with our friends. They cannot always do what we want as fast as we would want them to do it.
5. Sometimes, however, it may be necessary to pressure your friend publicly, either to disguise the friendship or to give the friend fuel to go to his or her superior with the argument that the public is demanding action. Make sure your friend knows what you are doing.

Above all, nurture our agency friends. We need them and they need us.

# Las Huertas Canyon

*Which way recreational management?*

by Marion Davidson

Just past Will's house, which is the last house on the road, the pavement ends abruptly and the walls of Las Huertas Canyon loom above the rutted dirt track. Locusts, elder, and capulin compete for space beside Las Huertas creek, the largest stream and the only fishery in the Sandia mountains. The secrets of this narrow place partially reveal themselves in the caves of its walls and along the banks of the creek.

The bones of the Sandia man and his dinner remind us of the long history of human habitation in the Canyon. Pueblo Indians utilized sites within the Canyon for their ceremonies. Spanish settlers and their burros roamed the forests of the Canyon for wood and game (deer, antelope, bear and wild turkey.) From time to time, Indians would raid the flocks of sheep and goats that

were grazed in the meadows between the narrow walls. More recently, the charms of the Canyon lured homesteaders who tried to eke out a living in the narrow canyon. The old log canyon midway up the eight mile road was built in the late 1880s by the Ellis family.

With this rich history, as well as great natural beauty, Las Huertas Canyon has lured picnickers and hikers for many years to explore her mysteries. My friend Teresa's family has gathered in the Canyon for Easter Sunday breakfast for generations. Mother's Day seems to be another date for family gatherings along the banks of Las Huertas Creek.

Summer weekends find the Canyon crowded with visitors, the picnic grounds bulging and the road bumper to bumper with

car that churn up great clouds of dust. Monday mornings see the price the Canyon pays for its secrets—trash, pollution of the watershed, vehicular incursions into the wilderness, and illegally cut trees. The Canyon presents a management problem similar to that of other beloved riparian areas close to growing metropolitan areas—how to handle an expanding visitor population in a narrow canyon with diverse vegetation and wildlife. How the Forest Service decided that paving and realignment of the old one lane dirt road through the Canyon "maximizes net public benefits" is beyond me.

Citizen opposition to the paving of the road through Las Huertas Canyon dates back nearly twenty years when paving was first proposed. Then, in 1985, the Forest Service's Management Plan for the Cibola Forest presented three alternatives for management of the Canyon—reconstruction, closure or rerouting. The entire Cibola Forest Plan was appealed by several environmental groups (including the Sierra Club and Sandoval Environmental Action Community) and the State of New Mexico. In the issues raised in the appeal of the Forest Plan, the plan's treatment of the Canyon was a major one.

The 1986 settlement agreement and consequent Forest Plan Amendment required that the Forest Service involve a "citizen working group" in the analysis of the Canyon's future. As the chair of the working group, I can tell you that we spent hundreds of hours developing alternatives for future management of the Canyon. Ignoring the recommendations of the Citizen Working Group (which had met twice a month for almost a year and a half), the Forest Service's 1988 draft environmental impact statement (EIS) proposed paving and developing the Canyon.

The overwhelming public response at meetings and in writing—nearly 400 letters—opposed this plan. The *Albuquerque Tribune* opposed paving as did Representa-

tive Bill Richardson. Despite the concerns raised, the final EIS, issued in June of 1989, again proposed the paving and realignment of the southern portion of the road through the Canyon with the northern portion slated for improvement and aggregate surfacing.

This decision was appealed by seven local environmental organizations (Sierra Club and SEAC were again involved) and Sandia Pueblo which had consistently voiced concerns over their ability to perform religious activities in the Canyon in the event of development. The Pueblo's attorney represented all these groups in the appeal. In addition, three appeals were filed by upper canyon landowners claiming that the winter closure of the road contemplated by the Forest Service's decision would improperly restrict access to their land for commercial activities at the Ellis ranch. The Forest Service's ruling on the four appeals denied all the issues raised by the environmental appellants but ruled in favor of concerns raised by the opposing landowners.

The decision to develop and partially pave the road through the Canyon sells its delicate beauty to the gross intrusion of pleasure driving, although the vast majority of the public would prefer to leave the Canyon unpaved and undeveloped. Once more friends of Las Huertas Canyon gird their loins for another battle over the future of the Canyon. The services of environmental attorney, Grove Burnett, have been obtained to challenge this decision in federal district court.

If you would like to learn more about the Canyon, join us on June 2 for a Save Las Huertas Canyon Tour. (See listing under OUTINGS.) Volunteers and contributions are also needed to fund the lawsuit. Call me at 867-5178 or write c/o SEAC, P.O. Box 1220, Bernalillo, NM 87004. ■

*[Marion Davidson, besides serving as the Chairman of the Las Huertas Citizens' Working Group, is a member of the Sierra Club and a founding member of the Sandoval Environmental Action Community.]*

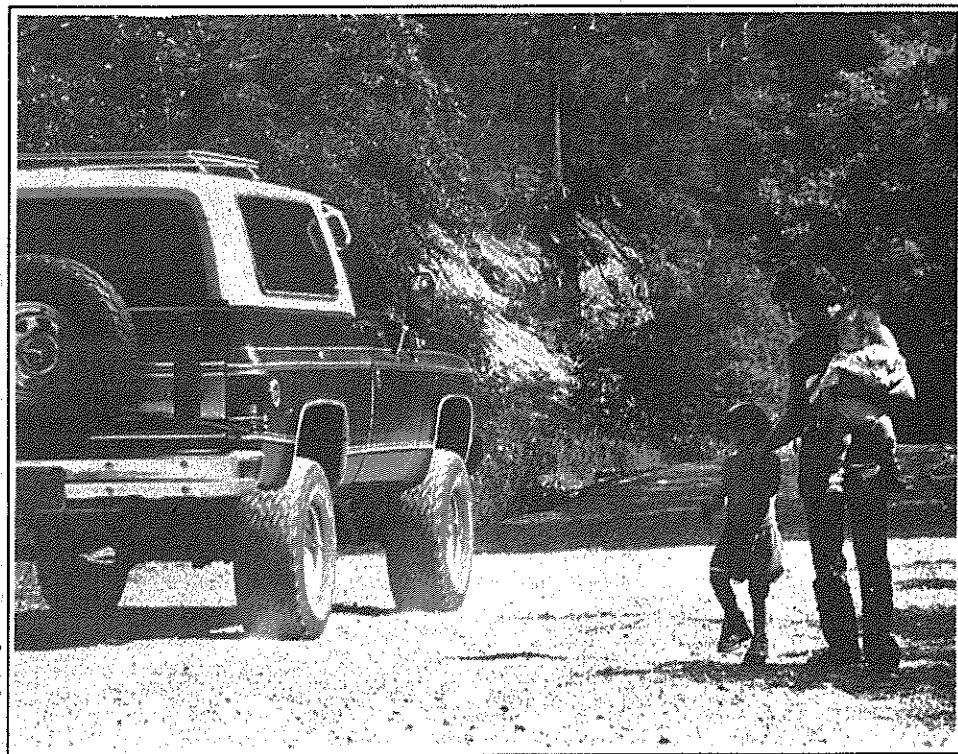
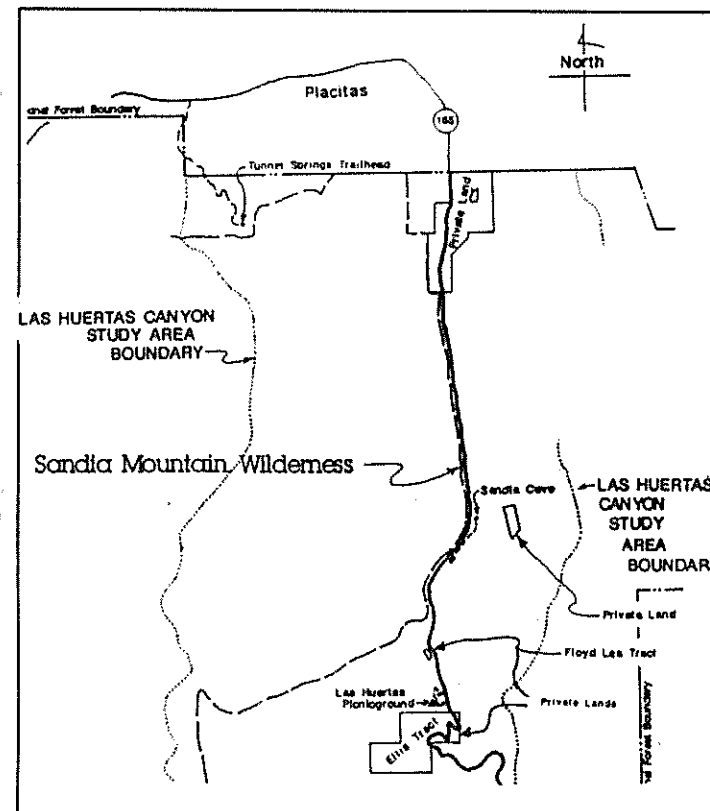


Photo by Greg Johnson

## CALENDAR

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| April 10    | David Mech, wolf biologist, speaks at UNM, Woodard Hall, 7:30 p.m., Albuquerque.  |
| April 14    | Last day for Wolves and Humans Exhibit at New Mexico Museum of Natural History, Albuquerque.  |
| April 20-21 | Chapter ExCom Meeting, Las Cruces. The meeting will start at 3 p.m. to allow Ex-Com members to attend Earth Day Fair on NMSU campus.  |
| April 21    | John Muir's Birthday. Aldo Leopold dies fighting brush fire. Earth Day.   |
| April 26    | Project del Rio Congress, Chamizal National Monument, El Paso.  |
| April 27-28 | Southwest Regional Conservation Committee (SWRCC) meeting, El Paso.   |
| April 27-28 | Silviculture for Southwestern Forests: A Workshop. School of Forestry, Room 103, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, Arizona. Sponsored by the Plateau Group of the Sierra Club and the Northern Arizona Audubon Society. Workshops to acquaint activists with the basics of silviculture will be given by Lane Krah, a forester with Forest Trust, and Jim Tolisano, a Southwestern ecologist and hydrologist. David Henderson of the National Audubon Society, Sam Hitt of Forest Guardians, and Jim Norton of the Wilderness Society will present a workshop on getting involved in Forest Service decisions. For more information, call (505) 983-8992. |
| May 4-5     | Silviculture for Southwestern Forests: A Workshop. Zion Conference Room, Student Center, Southern Utah University, Cedar City, Utah. Sponsored by Friends of the Dixie National Forest, Utah Wilderness Coalition, and the Wilderness Society. Workshops to acquaint activists with the basics of silviculture will be given by Lane Krah, a forester with Forest Trust, and Jim Tolisano, a Southwestern ecologist and hydrologist. For more information, call (505) 983-8992.   |
| May 15      | Last day to comment on recovery plan for Mexican Wolf.  |
| May 18      | Chapter Conservation Committee, Socorro.  |
| June 22-23  | Chapter ExCom meeting, Santa Fe.  |



## Gila National Forest

### Spring Timber Sale

Forest Guardians has won its administrative appeal of the Spring timber sale on the Quemado District of the Gila National Forest. The Spring is one of a cluster of 10 sales on the marginally productive Quemado District that are scheduled for logging over the next 10 years. Goshawks have been seen and there are an extraordinary number of late Pueblo ruins in the area. The Forest Service Regional Office remanded the sale for failure to consider the impact of logging on wildlife. [Source: *Forest Guardians*.]

### Allotment Management Plans

The Forest Service is preparing allotment management plans for the Harden Cienega (north of Highway 78) and Holt Gulch (east of Highway 180) allotments. Public comments will be accepted until April 5. For more information, call Elizabeth Gross at (505) 539-2481.

## Carson National Forest

### Felipito Timber Sale

The Felipito timber sale on the El Rito District of the Carson National Forest was withdrawn by Forest Supervisor Leonard Lindquist a few days before the 45-day appeal period was due to expire. The Felipito area has the last significant stands of old growth left on the Vallecitos Federal Sustained Yield Unit. Forest Guardians and N.M. Department of Game and Fish both have strongly objected to the loss of this vital forest habitat.

The new analysis team, unlike those in all other forests in the region, excluded members of the public and outside agencies. Lindquist also excluded public participation on planning teams when he was supervisor on the Kaibab National Forest. Such actions clearly violate the National Environmental Policy Act, which mandates public involvement "to the fullest extent possible." A new decision on the Felipito is scheduled to be made soon. [Source: *Forest Guardians*.]

### Angostura Timber Sale

In response to concerns raised by Forest Trust and La Comunidad, the Forest Service has redesigned the road system for the proposed Angostura Timber Sale. The new road proposal eliminates stream crossings in the upper reaches of the Rito Angostura and

protects a unique population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout. Concerns still remain about the viability of the proposed cutting practices. However, it is encouraging to see the Forest Service responding to issues raised by local activists. [Source: *Forest Trust*.]

## Lincoln National Forest

### Bird Timber Sale

Forest Guardians joined with the Mesilla Valley Chapter of the Audubon Society in an administrative appeal of the Bird timber sale on the Lincoln National Forest. This area is aptly named because it contains all or part of 11 Mexican spotted owl territories—the largest density of owls that we have seen in a timber sale area. The owl management guidelines were stretched beyond reasonable limits to permit logging and road construction in this sensitive wildlife area. The Forest Service also failed to consult the Fish and Wildlife Service over the impacts of logging to the threatened Mescalero thistle.

Marianne Thaeler of Las Cruces also appealed this sale, and the El Paso Group of the Sierra Club intervened on our behalf. (An attempt by the Southern New Mexico Group of the Sierra Club to intervene barely missed the deadline.) A decision by the Regional Forester is due April 8. [Source: *Forest Guardians*.]

### Recreation developments

The Forest Service is planning to amend the Lincoln Forest Plan to include more than 80 additional recreation and trail development projects. Public comments were accepted until April 5. The top projects include (in order of Forest Service priority): Trestle picnic area development, Sitting Bulls Falls rehabilitation and expansion, Rio Bonito Recreation Area development, Cloudcroft scenic byway, Cottonwood Cave area development (parking area, toilets), and Baca Campground development.

## Santa Fe National Forest

### San Miguel/Smokey Bear Timber Sale

The Santa Fe National Forest withdrew its decision on Sept. 4, 1990, to allow 15 million board feet of lumber to be cut and 24 miles of road to be built in the San Miguel/Smokey Bear area east of Cuba. This timber sale was appealed by Forest Guardians, Sangre de Cristo Chapter of the Audubon

Society, Save the Jemez and the Santa Fe Group of the Sierra Club. The area has been heavily cut in the recent past. The Environmental Assessment analyzed only one action alternative and failed to offer adequate protection for the sensitive wood lily and goshawk. [Source: *Forest Guardians*.]

## Cibola National Forest

*Las Huertas Recreational Development*  
See article on page 14.

[Editor's Note: Most of the information on this page came from two New Mexico-based groups, *Forest Guardians* and *Forest Trust*. I recommend that readers interested in national forest issues support these groups and subscribe to their excellent newsletters. Addresses: *Forest Guardians*, 616 Don Gaspar, Santa Fe, NM 87501; *Forest Trust*, P.O. Box 519, Santa Fe, NM 87504.]

## Mexican spotted owl threatened, FWS says

John Turner, the director of the FWS, announced in late February that his agency would propose listing the Mexican spotted owl as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. A team of biologists from the FWS and the states of Arizona and New Mexico had spent a year reviewing the status of the birds, and recommended in December that the subspecies be protected. Actual listing is probably a year away, following a public comment period.

Mexican spotted owls are found almost exclusively on national forests in the New Mexico and Arizona. The total population is estimated at 1,956 birds. The review team found that about 23 percent of the owl's historic habitat has been rendered unusable to owls due to logging and other causes. The team's report noted that five of the 11 national forests in the southwest were planning to increase logging on steep slopes, which provide some of the best remaining owl habitat. The team found that the Forest Service's existing guidelines for protecting Mexican spotted owls were "inadequate" and inconsistently applied.

## Judge stops Lincoln Forest timber sales

U.S. Judge Juan Burciaga issued a preliminary injunction on April 3 halting the Scott Able and Poison Timber Sales in the Lincoln National Forest. The move came in response to a lawsuit filed against the Forest Service by the El Paso/Trans-Pecos and Mesilla Valley Chapters of the Audubon Society and Forest Guardians.

Burciaga's action stops logging in the areas at least temporarily. Already, two old-growth stands have been logged, and cutting was taking place in the area's best Sacramento Mountain salamander habitat. In February, Burciaga had denied a request for a temporary restraining order.

Meanwhile, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and N.M. Environmental Improvement Division (EID) joined N.M. Game and Fish in opposing the Able/Poison timber sales. Now every agency with a mandate to protect the environment has come out against these logging operations.

FWS is concerned about the impacts of logging on the federally protected Mescalero thistle. The largest known population of this plant, found only in the Sacramento Mountains of south-central N.M., is in the pristine upper reaches of Scott Able Canyon. Siltation, erosion and changes in the water table caused by logging and road construction would adversely affect the thistle.

The Endangered Species Act requires that the Forest Service consult with FWS on logging operations where listed species, such as the thistle, are present. The Forest Service ignored this requirement. FWS has determined that there "may be" an adverse effect on the thistle population.

EID has expressed concern that water quality may be at risk because of intense logging in the Scott Able area. EID officials point out that more than one-third of the steep slopes of at least one canyon draining into the Sacramento River will be logged. Also they are concerned over health risk and increased water treatment costs for the town of Timberon as a result of degraded water.

## Sierra Club activists hit with SLAPP suit

Kaibab Industries has filed a "SLAPP" suit (Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation) against the Plateau Chapter of the Sierra Club. The suit alleges that the Plateau Chapter of the Sierra Club violated a Kaibab National Forest settlement agreement when it joined a Forest Guardian lawsuit contesting the Kane timber sale on the North Kaibab Ranger District, Kaibab National Forest in northern Arizona.

Forest Guardians attorney Letty Belin says the SLAPP suit is without merit. The settlement agreement specifically does not prevent any party from challenging timber sales. The Club is represented by Phillip Berry, a long-time Sierra Club board member and an acknowledged expert on SLAPP suits.

## Ancient Forest Protection Act Reintroduced

Our opportunity to protect the remaining 10 percent of our ancient forests is rapidly slipping away. Either Congress protects these lands within the next few years, or the ecosystem will disappear.

Last April, Rep. Jim Jontz (D-IN) introduced "The Ancient Forest Protection Act," which ultimately garnered 133 Members of Congress on board. Later in the session, Rep. Bruce Vento (D-MN) introduced legislation which included an ancient forest reserve system, and Vento's bill was reported out of his Interior Subcommittee.

Rep. Jontz has again introduced his ancient forest protection bill; at the time of introduction, his bill (H.R. 842) had 73 original cosponsors, and several have joined since the bill's introduction.

## Mexican Wolf Update

by Susan Larsen

Returning the Mexican Wolf (*Canis lupus baileyi*) to the wild has advanced one small step on the long road to recovery. In March, public scoping hearings were held in Las Cruces and Tucson to determine the issues surrounding wolf reintroduction. At this time, White Sands Missile Range (WSMR) and four Arizona sites are being considered as potential first-release areas. WSMR has already been evaluated and is capable of supporting 30-40 wolves in the Sierra Oscura and San Andres Mountains. The Arizona sites are just now being studied to determine their suitability. A draft environmental assessment should be out by the end of the year.

If you wish to make written comments about reintroduction, write to:

Mike Spear, Regional Director  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 2  
P.O. Box 1306  
Albuquerque, NM 87103-1306

Comments must be received by May 15, 1991. (The original deadline has been extended.)

There will not be a public hearing in Albuquerque, as many people have requested. Mexican Wolf Recovery Coordinator Dave Parsons of the FWS felt that the issues were sufficiently stated in the two previous hearings for the purpose of developing a draft environmental assessment.

Also, as many wolves as possible have been paired this year in the hopes of producing as many offspring as possible. The current number of wolves in the captive breeding program is only 38. The population will have to reach 75-100 before any releases will be considered by the FWS.

## Wolf Expert to Speak

David Mech, world-renowned wolf biologist, is coming to Albuquerque. Mech will speak on April 10th at 7:30 p.m. at Woodward Hall on the University of New Mexico campus (just west of the Student Union Building.) Dr. Mech has studied wolves in northern Minnesota for over 20 years and has recently studied arctic wolves on Ellesmere Island north of the Arctic Circle. His books include *The Wolf* and *The Arctic Wolf: Living with the Pack*.

The event is sponsored by the Mexican Wolf Coalition, ASUNM Speakers Committee, and the New Mexico Museum of Natural History. Tickets are \$2 for general admission, \$1 for students and seniors. Parking is scarce, so plan extra time to get there.

## El Paso Group

**Group Office/Recycling Center Open House.** The El Paso Group, together with Audubon Society, Habitat for Humanity, and the League of Women Voters, will host an open house on Friday, April 19, from 4-6 p.m. at the Environmental Center, 800 S. Piedras Street. El Paso mayor Suzie Azar will cut the ribbon to dedicate the center.

**SWRCC Meeting.** The Sierra Club's Southwest Regional Conservation Committee will hold its next meeting at the Group's office/environmental center on April 20-21.

**John Muir Dinner.** The Group's annual John Muir dinner will be held on Saturday, April 27. Leon Metz, noted southwestern writer/historian, will be the featured speaker. The Group will present its annual awards.

## Southern New Mexico Group

**Meetings.** A provocative discussion on public lands took place at the Group meeting on February 28. Dr. Jerry Holochek, NMSU range scientist, presented a program showing "the good, the bad, and the ugly." A round-table discussion followed. Tom McCormick of BLM and rancher Jim Winder presented their views on the public grazing and holistic resource management. A spirited question and answer session rounded out the program.

**ExCom Advised by Sierra Club Volunteer Director.** Attending the March 21 Group Ex-Com Meeting was Sierra Club Director of Volunteer Development, Rich Hayes. Mr. Hayes imparted some tips on membership recruitment, how to involve people organizationally, and how to set goals and reach them.

**Conservation.** The ExCom sent a strong letter to Senator Bingaman regarding oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Another letter was directed to the Las Cruces City Council chastising it for its failure to take bicycling serious as an element in the city's transportation plan, and calling for more bicycle lanes, planning, and safety programs.

**Outings.** The Three Rivers Day Hike scheduled for March 16 was postponed due to a dust storm. A few hardy souls took an alternative hike in Achenbach Canyon in the

Organ Mountains. The Sierra Student Group had two successful outings, a four-day backpack in the Gila Wilderness during spring break, and a climb of Cooke's Peak on March 23.

**Southwest Environmental Center.** Group members were sent invitations to a February 11 fundraiser for the Southwest Environmental Center, held at the Fountain Theater in Old Mesilla. More than 120 people attended the event, including Senator Jeff Bingaman, and more than \$1200 was garnered as well as numerous offers of volunteer help. Progress is being made toward finding a storefront location for the Center.

## Albuquerque Group

**Fundraising.** The Albuquerque Group has been very active on a number of fronts. We did a great job hosting the fundraising workshop and initiated a Sierra Club first—an urban treasurer hunt. The group has already started participating in fundraising activities, such as helping to mail the Chapter's direct mailing and telephoning potential donors.

**Programs.** Our program in February included Lila Bird of the Mineral Policy Center discussing reform of the 1872 Mining Law, and Elden Hughes speaking on the California Desert Protection Act. The program for March was a state legislature wrap-up by Ray Powell of the Governors office, State Land Commissioner Jim Baca, a representative from the attorney general's office and Ken Hughes, our chapter lobbyist.

**Outings.** Our outings program has been revitalized by David Morrison, outings chair. One of his wonderful ideas is to tie outings with conservation by educating and showing how participants can get involved after they've hiked in a threatened area.

**School Outreach.** Group members judged a competition and presented awards at a regional high school and middle school science fair.

**Conservation.** Our conservation activists are busier than ever:

- Meeting with BLM about the Rio Puerco Resource Area;
- Meeting with other Cibola National Forest activists;
- Commenting to Albuquerque city agencies

and elected officials on source reduction and recycling policies, groundwater protection, historic building preservation, Unser Blvd., hazardous waste, electric utility franchise, city trails and bike lanes, air quality and reduction and recycling of CFCs, and city and county open space.

## Santa Fe Group

**Santa Fe to Los Alamos Road.** The Santa Fe group filed comments on the supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement for this project. We oppose all routes under consideration because of negative impacts on White Rock Canyon and Bandelier National Monument. Opposition is building in Los Alamos as well where a new group called "New Mexicans for a Land of Enchantment" has formed to fight the project.

**Santa Fe Environmental Ordinances.** A package of ordinances designed to protect Santa Fe's urban environment will soon be considered by the city council. The city contracted with Lee Wilson & Associates to draft the ordinances with public involvement. Environmental and neighborhood activists are critical of the draft mainly because of its narrow focus on industrial pollution and hazardous waste. Transportation issues get little or no attention. The business community has complained about the establishment of a "mini-EID" to enforce the ordinances and about proposed buffer zones around residential areas.

**Duke City Lumber Pressures Congressman Richardson.** Duke City Lumber, one of two major logging contractors in northern New Mexico, staged a pre-Christmas layoff of its Espanola mill workers in order to agitate the local community and scare politicians and forest managers into relaxing environmental protection of the forest. Congressman Richardson got the message at a February 14 meeting in Espanola and promised to get Duke City the trees it wants. Mandatory timber quotas are a disaster for any forest and would upset the Santa Fe's fledgling attempt to implement federal environmental standards. The Santa Fe group will watch this situation closely.

**"Forest Watch" Launched, Workshop Set.** Several of Santa Fe's environmental organizations have banded together to launch "Forest Watch", a project to monitor timber sale proposals and other activities in the

## Utah Wilderness bill goes in the hopper

Congressman Wayne Owens (D-UT) introduced the Utah BLM wilderness bill into the 102nd Congress March 20. His bill bears the number H.R. 1500, the same bill number as last Congress; Rep. Owens reserved that number for his legislation.

H.R. 1500 will preserve more than five million acres of Utah's wildlands. Much of the wilderness designated in H.R. 1500 complements the seven national parks formed around the land carved over eons by the Colorado River drainage system; the remainder is located in the unique desert island ecosystems of Utah's Great Basin.

The bill encompasses wildlands of extraordinary diversity and splendor, lands which Bob Marshall termed "second only to Alaska in beauty and majesty." Rich in wildlife, including the threatened desert tortoise and desert bighorn sheep, these lands also house spectacular archaeological petroglyphs and other art forms left by prehistoric civilizations which lived in Utah's canyons and mesas.

When the bill was introduced, 63 representatives had signed on to the legislation with Rep. Owens. A cosponsor drive is actively under way. Please urge your Representative to sign on to H.R. 1500. For more information, call Leslie England at 202/547-1141, or Lawson LeGate at 801/355-0509.



## Group Reports

(continued)

**Santa Fe National Forest.**

Forest Watch volunteers met on March 16 for a day of intensive training on federal laws governing forest management, how to read environmental documents, what to look for on the ground, and basic silvicultural and wildlife issues. At the meeting volunteers formed teams to follow (and influence) specific timber sale proposals and monitor favorite forest locations.

## Program to Assist Chapters with Clean Air Act Implementation

The State Government Program will assist chapter activists who are willing to get involved in clean air implementation activities. While much of the work must wait until the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations are published in November of 1991, there are key projects that can begin now.

Many of the actual reductions of toxic and other air pollutants required by the Clean Air Act will come through source-by-source reductions; the requirements of which will be established by the states. State clean air laws and "implementation plan" standards will be the vehicles for these requirements.

The federal law simply sets clean air goals; it is up to the states to fill in the details. Without strong encouragement from clean air activists, states are likely to avoid making the tough decisions needed to ensure that polluters actually reduce their emissions enough to protect our health and environment.

While the new law does set lower emissions levels for new autos, they are not as low as the standards established in California. Under the California standard, cars sold in 1997 will emit about one-third less hydrocarbons, and cars sold in 1999 will emit one-half the hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides. Other states can adopt the California program in lieu of the federal program, but

may not establish their own program.

Any state that has smog problems would benefit from adopting the more stringent California standards because more reductions in auto emissions with generally mean fewer necessary reductions from industrial and commercial sources. If enough states adopt the California standards, it could create a consumer demand large enough that auto manufacturers will be forced to produce cleaner cars for all domestic markets.

The new Clean Air Act requires the sale of less polluting gasoline in the nine most polluted cities by 1995. The governor of any state that has at least one city over the EPA smog standard can "opt-in" to the reformulated gas program simply by notifying the EPA.

Every state must revise its clean air act implementation plan to meet the new federal requirements. Among the most important requirements will be new metropolitan transportation plans designed to promote alternatives to motor vehicle use, such as mass transit and van pooling.

For more information on Clean Air Act implementation, contact Blake Early in the Sierra Club Washington, D.C. office, (202) 547-1141. For more information on the State Government Program, contact: Paula Carrell in the Sierra Club San Francisco office, (415) 923-5668.

## Proposed grazing fee hikes galvanize ranchers

According to a recent report in *Farm Bureau News*, four agricultural organizations have joined forces to convince Congress that grazing fees on public lands should not be unfairly increased. The move is in response to recent legislative attempts to raise grazing fees charged by federal land management agencies.

The newly formed Western Livestock Producers Alliance, comprised of the Farm Bureau, American Sheep Industry Association, the Association of National Grasslands, the National Cattlemen's Association and the Public Lands Council, is seeking the help of public land permittees to prevent passage of a bill that would drastically increase grazing fees.

The coalition has sent letters to the 25,000 ranchers and livestock producers who pay to graze their animals on public lands, seeking their support to "provide the truth to the public, the policy-makers and the media."

Dennis Stolte, AFBF public lands specialist, said that livestock grazing of public lands can enhance watershed management, soil conservation, forage production and wildlife habitat.

"If grazing fees are raised to unreasonable levels, ranchers will seek substitutes, resulting in less forage utilization on public lands and lower returns to the federal government," he said.

Listed below is a compilation of the four groups' outings for April and May in the hopes that it will provide the opportunity for all our members to find more outings of interest.

It is strongly recommended (and in many cases required) that the individual leader be called to confirm details of meeting place and time of departure. Dogs are allowed only when noted.

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

—Norma McCallan  
Chapter Outings Chair

Sat April 6  
BUSII MOUNTAIN, GUADALUPE MOUNTAINS. Strenuous hike.  
Jim Bell 915-581-8864 (h) 594-2501 (w) (El Paso)

Sat April 6  
TENT ROCKS, NEAR COCHITI. Moderate hike.  
Joe Whelan 984-0746 (Santa Fe)

Sun April 7  
ORGAN MOUNTAINS. Moderate/strenuous hike, 7 miles.  
Paul Bronson 521-4070 (h) 678-7313 (w) (Las Cruces)

Sun April 7  
AVISTA CANYON, FRANKLIN MOUNTAINS. Easy hike for  
doggies & their owners.  
Carolina Greenfield 91g-593-6187 (El Paso)

Sun April 7  
ATALAYA PEAK, SANTA FE. Easy/moderate hike.  
Dan Mitchem 982-2082 (Santa Fe)

Sun April 7  
BANDELIER NATIONAL MONUMENT, SANCHEZ CANYON,  
SAN MIGUEL RUINS, PAINTED CAVE. Strenuous loop hike.  
Merrill Goodwyn 471-5442 (Santa Fe)

Sat/Sun April 13/14  
GILA NATIONAL FOREST. Car camp & day hike  
Ed Lambert 522-6647 (Las Cruces)

Sat/Sun April 13/14  
LOWER GILA BOX. Easy hike & car camp.  
Dan Opplinger 915-595-8943 (El Paso)

Sat April 13  
PETROGLYPHS NATIONAL MONUMENT. Easy hike to Rin-  
conada Canyon, optional side trip to Volcanoes.  
Ike Eastvold 255-7679 (Albq.)

Sat April 13  
MANZANO MOUNTAIN FOOTHILLS. Moderate hike.  
Charlie Hogan 268-5779 (Albq.)

Sat April 13  
BAYO CANYON, NEAR WHITE ROCK. Easy hike.  
Brian Johnson 438-2087 (Santa Fe)

Sat April 13  
SANTA FE AREA. Moderate/strenuous hike.  
John McClure 473-1916 (Santa Fe)

Sun April 14  
ARROYO CHAMISA, SANTA FE. Easy hike, dogs allowed.  
Charles Crooks 471-0005 (Santa Fe)

Sat April 20  
WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE, SAN ADREAS WILDLIFE REF-  
UGE. Hike (if open to public again.)  
Rollin Wickenden 915-598-8042 (El Paso)

Sat April 20  
BANDELIER NATIONAL MONUMENT. Moderate hike.  
Arnold Kesulla 982-9570 (Santa Fe)

Sun April 21  
PETROGLYPHS NATIONAL MONUMENT, PIEDRAS MARCADAS.  
Easy hike.  
Ike Eastvold 255-7679 (Albq.)

Sun April 21  
WHITE ROCK CANYON, CAJA DEL RIO. Strenuous hike.  
Norbert Sperlich 983-1962 (Santa Fe)

Sun April 21  
SANTA FE SKI BASIN, BORREGO TRAIL. Easy hike.  
Elizabeth Altman 471-8490 (Santa Fe)

Fri April 26  
ALBUQUERQUE AREA. Full moon 1-mile leisure hike and  
"Dead or Alive Naturalist  
Reading."  
Dave Morrison 344-8693 (Albq.)

Sat April 27  
RIO GRANDE RIVER, WEST OF LAS CRUCES. 4-mile easy hike.  
Ed and Ann McBeth 526-8060 (Las Cruces)

THREE GUNS CANYON, SANDIA MOUNTAINS (Proposed  
Open Space.) 1-mile leisure hike and lunch at Sierra Club  
Office.  
Louise Wladron 292-8272 (Albq.)

Sun April 27  
SANTA FE AREA. Moderate hike.  
Myles Brown 471-5075 (Santa Fe)

Sun April 28  
UNNAMED CANYON, EAST SIDE OF FRANKLIN MOUNTAINS.  
Easy hike.  
Claus Christiansen 915-532-4066 (El Paso)

Sun April 28  
OJO CALIENTE. Easy/moderate hike.  
Noreen Sanders 984-0386 (Santa Fe)

Sun April 28  
LA LUZ TRAIL, SANDIA MOUNTAINS. Strenuous hike.  
Steven Merdler 988-4137 (Santa Fe)

Sat May 4  
WILDERNESS STUDY AREA (proposed BOSQUE ON THE RIO GRANDE  
leisure/moderate hike.)  
Bob Cornish 255-6037 (Albq.)

Sat May 4  
KITCHEN MESA, GHOST RANCH. Moderate hike.  
Joe Whelan 984-0746 (Santa Fe)

Sun May 5  
ALABASTER CAVE, JEMEZ MOUNTAINS. Moderate spelunking tour.  
Duke McMullen (call David Morrison 344-8693, Albq., for informa-  
tion)

Sun May 5  
BANDELIER NATIONAL MONUMENT. Strenuous hike.  
Merrill Goodwyn 471-5442 (Santa Fe)

Fri/Sat/Sun May 3/4/5  
GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK. 3-day backpack/strenuous.  
Norma McCallan 471-0005 (Santa Fe)

Sat May 11  
PETROGLYPHS NATIONAL MONUMENT, GEOLOGIC WINDOWS. Easy  
hike.  
Ike Eastvold 255-7679 (Albq.)

Sat May 11  
WHITE CLIFFS AND BADLANDS NEAR ABIQUIU. Exploratory, off-trail  
hike.  
Brian Johnson 438-2087 (Santa Fe)

Sat May 18  
WSA ADDITIONS, PECOS WILDERNESS. Hike.  
John Wright 877-5259 (Albq.)

Sun May 19  
PETROGLYPHS NATIONAL MONUMENT, BOCA NEGRA ARROYO. Easy  
hike.  
Ike Eastvold 255-7679 (Albq.)

Sun May 19  
DEER CREEK (BETWEEN LAS VEGAS & SANTA FE.) Moderate/strenu-  
ous hike, rough terrain.  
Norbert Sperlich 983-1962 (Santa Fe)

Sat May 25  
HERMIT'S PEAK, NEAR LAS VEGAS. Strenuous hike.  
Gary Enos 982-0516 (Santa Fe)

Sat/Sun/Mon May 25-26-27  
RAINBOW BRIDGE (BORDER OF UTAH & ARIZONA.) Backpack.  
Stefan Verchinski 888-13700~Albq)

Sat/Sun/Mon May 25-26-27  
SOUTHEAST UTAH CANYON COUNTRY. Car camp or backpack  
Norma McCallan 471-0005 (Santa Fe)

Sun June 2  
LASHUERTAS CANYON, SANDIA MOUNTAINS. Save Las Huertas tour.  
(See article on page 14 about Las Huertas controversy.)  
Marion Davidson 367-5178 (Albq.)

Sat June 8  
EMBUDITO TRAIL, SANDIA MOUNTAINS. Service project.  
Glen Kepler 296-0402

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