Newsletter Positions Available

If you can spend a few hours every other month helping to produce this newsletter, you need us. Advanced skills and extensive experience are not required. This is an excellent way to get involved with the Sierra Club, especially for people who don’t like going to a lot of meetings. It is also good work experience for your résumé. There are no salaries, but all of your necessary expenses will be paid by the Chapter. For more information, call Kevin Bizyk at (505) 252-1532.

Art Editor

Responsibilities: Obtain and publish artwork or accompany particular articles as needed; compile a general set file for the Sierran. A fun job for someone with good artistic/design sensibilities. Approximate time commitment: 2-4 hours per issue.

Advertising Manager

Responsibilities: Contact potential advertisers to show Sierra, describe readership, and provide ad rate, work with advertisers to develop copy, show proofs, deliver invoices, collect payment. The position would be a great way to meet lots of interesting people, and probably get some good deals on outdoor equipment, etc. Don’t worry about not being a good salesperson; advertising in the Sierran will sell itself. Approximate time commitment: 3-5 hours per issue, for a minimum of 3 issues.

 Typist/Proofreader/Factchecker

Responsibilities: Help prepare submissions for publication, including using a scanner to enter typed material and graphic onto a Macintosh computer, formatting text, fact-checking, obtaining permission to reprint material, and proofreading. This is an excellent opportunity to learn computer desktop publishing skills and to read a lot of interesting articles. Must live near Las Cruces. Approximate time commitment: 8 hours per issue.

Distribution Manager

Responsibilities: Take charge of distributing Sierrans once it is printed, including: researching least expensive mailing methods, arranging for mailing, organizing mailing parties if necessary, ensuring that mailing labels were sent by San Francisco on time, responding to address changes and requests for subscriptions, keeping track of non-member subscriptions, arranging for regional subscriptions with other publications, and responding to requests for extra copies. An excellent opportunity to master Postal regulations. Approximate time commitment: 4-8 hours per issue.

The Rio Grande Sierran is printed on 100 percent post-consumer waste recycled paper by PrintWorld in El Paso, Texas.

The “Stealth” Sagebrush Rebellion

New Mexico Taxpayers and Environmentalists Almost Lose the Latest Racleration of the Sagebrush Rebellion without a Shot Being Fired

Ranching and mining interests, ever ready to privatize public land, launched a surprise attack during the most recent state legislative session. The pro-Sagebrushers introduced a spate of tremendously tilted bills that would have eviscerated the regulatory and administrative functions of state government as well as those of many cities and localities. Fortunately, none of the bills passed.

Senate Bill 328, the Regulatory Takings Act introduced by John L. Morrow (D-Colfax, Harding, Quay and Union), was the flagship of the takings bills. It would have required all state agencies and municipalities to evaluate their actions, rules, regulations, policies and proposed legislation to see if any “have constitutional implications” and “could effect a taking or deprive a property or property owner of property without due process of law.” In essence, the act would have required agencies to do “constitutional impact assessments” on most of what they do. Under the proposed act, aggrieved citizens could sue the government to recover the value of their lost property.

All this sounds quite American. No one wants to see anybody deprived of their property. However, this legislation would have gone far beyond protecting constitutional rights. It would have been a vehicle for the harassment of state and local government at all levels.

Under Morrow’s bill, citizens who successfully sued government agencies would automatically be awarded court costs and attorneys’ fees. (Usually the awarding of such costs is left to the discretion of the court.) Juries would come out of an agency’s operating budget, unless it submitted the amount of the proposed taking to the Department of Finaance and Administration.

“This legislation would have gone far beyond protecting constitutional rights. It would have been a vehicle for the harassment of state and local government at all levels.”

“This legislation would have gone far beyond protecting constitutional rights. It would have been a vehicle for the harassment of state and local government at all levels.”

Ike Eastvold Wins National Sierra Club Award—Page Six

Inside: ANWR Update • N.M. Senate • Chapter Appeal Results • Coors Suit

Rio Grande Chapter Sierra Club
P.O. Box 3705, UPB
Las Cruces, NM 88003

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
Paid
Las Cruces, NM
Permit No. 4 4
Are Friends of the Petroglyphs Trustworthy?

Dear Sir:

I am writing to you in regards to an article published in the Albuquerque Journal, on 11 May 1991. The headline read "Paradise Group Feels Betrayed over Usery. My question is, who doesn't? (Of course, that's historical.)"

The Paradise Hills Civic Association makes a strong case that the Friends of the Albuquerque Petroglyphs are not trustworthy. The newspaper documents that case. To the extent the accusation is true, the Sierra Club (as it's membership participates in Friends) is damaged.

The question has been long asked whether the petroglyphs on the West Mesa are suitable for extensive preservation. Some archeologists and historians say yes. Others, of equal reputation and qualification say no. A good argument is made that it is better to preserve than to destroy, and that argument carried the day. The Petroglyph National Monument resulted. The question will continue to be debated because the base issues are still there.

The people who have argued most strongly for the Monument have consistently argued against every planned development on the Westside that could possibly impact the Monument. Among these have been plans for Usery Mountain, Pasadera, North Valley, Las Olas, and the West Mesa. It is now apparent that preservation of the petroglyphs is a cover for a more important agenda: the complete obstruction of any meaningful development on the Westside or the West Mesa.

A question is raised by the Paradise Hills Association. Are the Friends and the Eastvald trustworthy? The answer is yes, they can be trusted to issue such concerns with every project that does not suit their special agenda. What that agenda may be the most simple task is to keep some people who object for the sake of the objection. The Sierra Club must represent reason and a constructive approach to issues. The Friends of the Albuquerque Petroglyphs represent neither.

Earl B. Hobbs, Jr.
Albuquerque

Bingaman Deserves Praise

Dear Sir,


My question is, who doesn't? (Of course, that's history.)

The Paradise Hills Civic Association makes a strong case that the Friends of the Albuquerque Petroglyphs are not trustworthy. The newspaper documents that case. To the extent the accusation is true, the Sierra Club (as it's membership participates in Friends) is damaged.

The question has been long asked whether the petroglyphs on the West Mesa are suitable for extensive preservation. Some archeologists and historians say yes. Others, of equal reputation and qualification say no. A good argument is made that it is better to preserve than to destroy, and that argument carried the day. The Petroglyph National Monument resulted. The question will continue to be debated because the base issues are still there.

The people who have argued most strongly for the Monument have consistently argued against every planned development on the Westside that could possibly impact the Monument. Among these have been plans for Usery Mountain, Pasadera, North Valley, Las Olas, and the West Mesa. It is now apparent that preservation of the petroglyphs is a cover for a more important agenda: the complete obstruction of any meaningful development on the Westside or the West Mesa.

A question is raised by the Paradise Hills Association. Are the Friends and the Eastvald trustworthy? The answer is yes, they can be trusted to issue such concerns with every project that does not suit their special agenda. What that agenda may be the most simple task is to keep some people who object for the sake of the objection. The Sierra Club must represent reason and a constructive approach to issues. The Friends of the Albuquerque Petroglyphs represent neither.

Earl B. Hobbs, Jr.
Albuquerque

Americans Are Funny That Way

A friend of mine spotted this bumper sticker on a BMW in Santa Fe: "Live simply so that others may simply live." I'm not surprised. People have an infinite capacity for denial and self-deception. When it comes to spending money, Americans still think that how much money they make and how many kids they have is no one's business but their own. Very few believe that the world is getting too crowded. Most likely, you make it too much. Most Americans do, and Sierra Clubbers earn more than most Americans. Average petroglyphic capacity in the U.S. is about 17,000. Sierra Club members have a median household income that is 170 percent of the national average. The trick is to see why live in the U.S. is better than Bangladesh, but not that much better.

Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream has a good policy that perhaps should apply to nations. Nobody makes more than three or four times what others earn in the same country. I'm not an economist, but it seems to me that money, and most forms of economic wealth, must have some connection to useful things that come from the earth, like food, wood, and bat guano. Money does not live by junk bonds alone.

If you accept that money is a tough proxy for energy and resources, then what you earn reflects your impact on the environment. It's an imperfect and convoluted relationship, but it must exist at some level. The bigger your paycheck, the more of the world's wealth that has been funneled your way, and the heavier your environmental footprint. The tragedy of money also spawns the evil of over-specialization. We have to have time to take responsibility for broad areas of our lives because we spend most of our time squirreled away in our own narrow specialities, which we were forced to pursue since the only way to get a good job. etc.

The result is that we rely on others, like the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, nursing homes, and Madama, to clean up after us. Take care of us, and make sure to do all the things that we should be doing ourselves and for each other.

To cite one example close to home: the Rio Grande Chapter is considering hiring a full-time employee to do organizing work. It seems that this wouldn't be needed if Chapter members worked less at earning 17 percent of the median household income, and spent more time on volunteer activities, i.e., good world citizens.

I don't mean to pick on Sierra Club members. Unilateral action by a few noble individuals would do a lot of good. We need to take a collective professional as a society. The trick is to find ways to reduce the incentive for individuals to make more than reasonably—indeed global ecological terms—amount of money. One politically impossible but intriguing solution is a cap on income say $30,000 annually per person and $50,000 per household.

The evidence that too many people now live on earth is everywhere. I've got my own list: the absence of wolves in most of the U.S., the decline of migratory songbirds, the Persian Gulf War, user fees at National Forests and on public land. But you don't have to take my word for it. Some scientists now tell us that humans usurp 40 percent of the world's net primary productivity (NPP) on land. NPP is, ecologically speaking, the whole pie. It is the energy fixed by green plants through photosynthesis above and beyond what they need themselves. It is the total amount of food available to all of the earth's millions of animal species.

One glamorous species is us, co-opt, or renders unavailable 40 percent of NPP on land. And our numbers our projected to double to more than 10 billion within a half century or so.

But when it comes to telling people how many children they can have, we all do it, we are getting a new society, one that is more comfortable with the idea of population. I have seen otherwise enlightened people foam at the mouth when the topic is broached. This indignation would be amusing if it were not so dangerous. Something on the order of 15 million children die each year from not finding enough food to eat. Some part of the fault lies with rich people like you and me, persisting in the notion that we have a god-given right to reproduce and consume as much as we damn well please.

M.H. Salmon
Silver City
New Mexico Political Update

by Ken Hughes

The New Mexico Senate in 1991 was not busier in passing environmentally prudent legislation. Unlike the House, the Senate did not take up for floor vote many legislative matters of importance to environmentalists.

In fact, except for the Conservation East-ern bill, little that mattered to the Sierra Club passed the Senate floor. Many items ended the session buried in committee or victims of last-minute floor obstruction. Thus, voting patterns for New Mexico State Senate members seem to be inconclusive.

Governor King has been asked by Sierra Club and other environmental organizations, as well as his own cabinet Environment Secretary Judi Espinosa, to hold a special session to pass environmental agenda items passed by the House but left unfilled by the Senate. These bills, most of which have to be passed so that New Mexico conforms with federal mandates, include air, solid waste and water quality penalties and fees and other environmental mechanisms.

The justifiable fear is that, as surrounding states behave responsibly and pass their own legislation, New Mexico will be increasingly viewed as a convenient dumping ground while letting off violators with relatively minor penalties, if any.

Should the Governor agree, the session would be held just before the mandated special session to redistrict legislative boundaries. Otherwise, things will have to wait until 1992, when there is a 30-day session for the Governor’s package of bills and appropriations matters.

This so-called short session, also known as “30 Days of December,” occurs during an election year and soon after redistricting. Depending on events this year, and not just around special session time, items on the agenda for the 30-day session should include another attempt to join 48 other states in regulating mining, water allocations and quality, groundwater cleanup priorities and, if not yet addressed, the environmental penalties bills.

Looking up to confront us is a newly formed coalition, People for the West profiled in an Albuquerque Journal May 19 article. A coalition of powerful industries, led by major extractive industries, it seeks to slash, cut, mine, and over- graze agenda in bills called for multiple-use of federal lands. How environmentalists counter this threat may determine the fate of many pieces of legislation in the near future.

(1991 SENATE VOTES)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BILL NO.</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>sponsor</th>
<th>co-sponsors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>H.B. 538</td>
<td>May 11</td>
<td>Sosa</td>
<td>Belen, Marc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H.B. 711</td>
<td>May 12</td>
<td>Sosa</td>
<td>Belen, Marc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H.B. 712</td>
<td>May 13</td>
<td>Sosa</td>
<td>Belen, Marc</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Stealth (continued from front page)

have led to agencies such as ED and the Bureau of Mines losing federal funding, leading to even more ineffec-tual regulation, and in the case of the Bureau of Mines, even a lawsuit by the Bureau. The new law allows for $40,000 per year to be passed to prepare constitutional impact statements.

The list of affected agencies goes on: Game and Fish, Taxation and Revenue, the Highway Department, the State Land Office, the Historic Preservation Office, the Oil Conservation Division, virtually no agency would be immune.

Proponents testified that the bill was based on President Reagan’s Executive Order 12521. However, this allows state agencies to prepare a constitutional impact statement only if someone complains about an action. In effect, the New Mexico bill would have made each agency its own judge, jury and executioner.

New Mexico bill tied to broader efforts

The New Mexico takings legislation seems linked to similar efforts in Wyoming and other western states, parallel to previous Sagebrush Rebellion efforts. In turn, these efforts seem to be linked to or at least inspired by the National Federal Lands Conference (NFLC) which holds seminars throughout the West on how to apply the federal execu-tive order on takings to private property, “right-to-take” on public lands and other fantasies.

According to its literature, NFLC has ties to the Mountain States Legal Foundation and Pacific Legal Foundation groups that have given us the issues of James Watt and more recently Pete Pendley. It was Pendley who drew a standing ovation in Roswell when he told the Farm Bureau what the environmentalists have in store for it that it will make the most of the Congress-wild biests like the Magna Carta, and likened the per- petrators of the Holocaust to the environmental movement.

One doesn’t have to be paranoid to see the takings legislative effort as part of the right-wing fantasy to dismantle government. In 1993, through the Senate and appeared to be on a fast track in the House. It got as far and as fast as it did because agencies and municipalities that would be most affected by the act initially gave it as much chance of passage as legislation to build the proposed nuclear waste facility at La Ronde. The main opposition of this bill was that noted civil libertarian Bud Eppers, President of the New Mexico Cattle Growers Association. The bill failed since the New Mexico Cattle Growers Association was the last section, at which point it diverged sharply to include a “plaintiff at risk.”

“Senator Morrow and his Senate Conservation Committee are the main impediments to passage of environmental legislation in New Mexico.”

bears showed some backbone in voting to table the bill, but not without pressure. Luna, Vigil-Perez, McSorley, Foy and Caruso voted to table; Peralta voted against.) Some of them saw or will see their bills die in Morrow’s Committee, the major “killing field” for environmental legislation.

Other Takings Bills Attempted

House Bill 633, introduced by Michael Olglin (D-Socorro) was identical to S.B. 321. Amazingly, it passed the House Judi-cy Committee (the same committee that tabbed S.B. 320) by a margin of 11 to 1, with only McSorley voting against it! When the sponsor realized the fiscal impact to his district (the District is the major “killing field” for passage of environmental legislation in New Mexico), either directly by killing bills or indirectly through legislative intimidation and threats, the Senate’s support for such bills must either reach an accommodation with Chairman Morrow—not a complete im-posibility—or work with leadership to re-structure the committee.

(Perhaps the most deviant bill was H.B. 871, the New Mexico Civil Rights Deprivations Act, introduced by Rep. Underwood (D-Ruidous). This was the most deviant bill of the session. The bill was that noted civil libertarian Bud Eppers, President of the New Mexico Cattle Growers Association. The bill failed since the New Mexico Cattle Growers Association was the last section, at which point it diverged sharply to include a “plaintiff at risk.”)

T

here are several object lessons to be learned from this legislation, and the draft of takings bills particularly. The first is that the Sagebrush Rebels are respon-sible as well as devious and that the Sagebrush Rebellion, in all its various manifesta-tions, probably coinciding roughly with state activities.

The New Mexico Senate must treat every session as an environmental session, not just because of what we might win, but also because of what might be lost upon us. Our adversaries are becoming more desper-ate as grazing fees increase, become more probable, National Forest management is rationalized, etc. They will go increasingly on the offensive. Expect more sneak attacks. Practically, we must make sure that our phone trees are as effective as theirs. We must expand and mobilize our membership, etc.

Secondly, we have learned that Senator Morrow and his Senate Conservation Com-mittee are the main impediments to passage of environmental legislation in New Mexico, either directly by killing bills or indirectly through legislative intimidation and threats. Such bills must either reach an accommodation with Chairman Morrow—not a complete impos-sibility—or work with leadership to re-structure the committee.

(Perhaps the most deviant bill was H.B. 871, the New Mexico Civil Rights Deprivations Act, introduced by Rep. Underwood (D-Ruidous). This was the most deviant bill of the session. The bill was that noted civil libertarian Bud Eppers, President of the New Mexico Cattle Growers Association. The bill failed since the New Mexico Cattle Growers Association was the last section, at which point it diverged sharply to include a "plaintiff at risk."
Ike Eastvold Receives Award for Petroglyph Preservation Efforts

by Verne Huser

R o Grande Chapter member Isaac "Ike" Eastvold has received the Sierra Club's prestigious Special Achievement Award for his efforts to protect Native American cultural and archaeological sites. The award was presented at a ceremony held on May 11 in San Francisco to launch the Sierra Club's Centennial celebration. Ike has devoted nearly twenty years to studying, photographing, and protecting ancient Indian rock art and intactness in the American Southwest, most recently in New Mexico, where his efforts led to the establishment of Petroglyphs National Monument on the southwestern edge of Albuquerque.

In southern California he created Desert Watch to keep a collective eye on desert rock art sites, and in New Mexico he created Friends of the Albuquerque Petroglyphs (FOTAP), a citizen group that was instrumental in the creation of the new national monument in 1990.

Ike worked with several conservation groups and coordinating efforts of many different groups that led to the designation of the protected area on Albuquerque's West Mesa in the face of some of the most intensive residential development in the nation. He negotiated with landowners, real estate developers, all levels of government, business, and industry in a concerted effort that in less than five years turned the rapidly-developing wilds of the West Mesa from a shooting gallery and dumping ground into Petroglyphs National Monument. He preserved the ancient rock art not because of its historic value, but because of the spiritual value for native people, birds and animals as well as invertebrates and humans.

He continues to lead interpretative hikes through the area, organizes clean-up efforts and fencing projects to protect the area from illegal dumping and off-road vehicle abuse and indiscriminate shooting in an increasingly urban landscape. Ike worked closely with Native Americans to protect the petroglyphs that represent not only the ancient ones who created them but the present generation that still practices native religious ceremonies for which the petroglyphs have vital meaning.

FOTAP, created by Ike to lobby for protection of the petroglyphs, has elected Ike as its president and hired him to conduct specific research and educational projects. The organization continues to monitor the evolution of the Monument and projects that impact it, such as the proposed transportation routes that encroach and violate the integrity of the monument.

No area becomes a national monument from scratch in less than five years without broad support, and Ike's efforts have built that base of support, leading to the establishment of New Mexico's most recent national monument.

Youth Award Winners

In addition to Ike Eastvold, 22 other individuals were honored with annual Sierra Club Awards.

Cara Cooper Award

Cara Cooper, with her years of experience in environmental advocacy, will be recognized for her contributions to the protection of the environment and ecosystems.

Daniel Roemer Award

Daniel Roemer, a leading figure in the preservation of natural areas, will be honored for his significant contributions to the protection of the nation's natural resources.

Editorial Awards

The Sierra Club's Editorial Board will present awards to individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to the protection of the environment and ecosystems.

Sierra Club Files Suit to Protect Petroglyphs

by Ike Eastvold

THE SIERRA CLUB AND FOUR other organizations have filed suit to protect Petroglyph National Monument from highway construction by the City of Albuquerque and the State of New Mexico. Created only one year ago by Congress to protect more than 15,000 examples of prehistoric Indian and historic Hispanic rock art, the Monument's magnificent galleries of ancient art are arrayed along a 17-mile volcanic escarpment squarely in the path of Albuquerque's westward growth. Petroglyph National Monument, consequently, is the most endangered monument in the National Park System.

The 12-mile highway project, comprised of a four-lane Unser Boulevard and a six-lane Paseo del Norte, would cut through the petroglyph-rich escarpment twice, and form the borders for three of four of the major visitor attractions. The City is rushing ahead with construction before the Park Service can complete a General Management Plan for the Monument.

The City is currently proposing a 190-foot wide cut with at least 1500 foot long ramp radiating noise and visual impacts from traffic climbing the escarpment and descending the Paseo del Norte. Commercial truck traffic also could be allowed. The environmental setting and character of the Monument would be devastated.

The City has segmented the 12 miles of highway unwaveringly, the suit contends, into five different pieces, all with separate environmental and design reviews. The first 1.1 mile piece of Unser which is the immediate focus of the lawsuit has Petroglyph-beautified rock outcrops with more than 500 petroglyphs, and forms the border of Rincónada Canyon, the most pristine large area left in the Monument.

"It is indeed shortsighted that the very municipality which had the foresight to acquire and protect much of what is now Petroglyph National Monument would turn around and jeopardize this special place," said Heidi Fleischmann, Chair of the Albuquerque Group of Sierra Club.

Although the City Council resolutions that required Unser Boulevard be built as a four-lane highway with a median no wider than necessary for turning lanes, the City's design calls for a median width of 25-40 feet and 8-12 foot wide shoulders Paved to the same thickness as the four-lane highway.

Less harmful designs offered by the National Park Service and national transportation expert Robert L. Morris would have reduced the design by as much as 35 feet more at environmentally-sensitive locations, created more park-like upraised shoulders planted with native grasses, and reduced the road to a four-lane highway. A huge intersection to eliminate direct encroachment into the Monument.

City violated state law

The lawsuit claims that, by rejecting less harmful designs for Unser, the City violated New Mexico's tough Prehistoric and Historic Sites Preservation Act, Language of the Act closely follows Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966 and Federal projects, prohibiting the use of public funds for any project that impacts a significant cultural site unless there is no "feasible and prudent alternative," and unless the "project includes all possible planning to preserve and protect and to minimize harm" to cultural sites like Petroglyph National Monument.

Several State legislators representing Albuquerque's west side have threatened to repeal this tough law and to revoke the $6 million State commitment to land acquisition for Petroglyph National Monument. We need to talk to our State legislators now to head off these threats.

We also need to write our Congressional representatives urging them to take one more visible role to preserve the integrity of Petroglyph National Monument. The degradation caused by the Unser-Paseo del Norte highway project could call into question the true national significance of our State's newest National Monument.

What you can do

Please write a short note to Senators Duramenci and Bingaman, and to your Congressman, urging them to become more involved in solving this acute conflict. In particular, urge that they work with the City and State to find alternatives to routing a six-lane Paseo del Norte through some of the most scenic and historic areas, the Piedra Marcadas Alcove and sand escarpment. Let your Congressmen know just how you feel about "Unser National Monument".

JUNE 1991
Ike Eastvold Receives Award for Petroglyph Preservation Efforts

by Verne Huser

Ike Eastvold (right) admires petroglyph with Dr. Jane Young and Herman Ageyo.

Other Award Winners

In addition to Ike Eastvold, 22 other individuals were honored with annual Sierra Club Awards.

Celia Johnson (mineral longevity) Ira B. Harris (mineral longevity) J. James (mineral longevity) Charles M. (mineral longevity) Shirley Taylor (for her special ways of bringing peace and harmony to the world) David Bowers Award for preventing destruction of ancient Indian rock art

Dieter W. Hofmann (National Park Service) William O. Douglas Award for protecting the natural world

Sierra Club Files Suit to Protect Petroglyphs

by Ike Eastvold

THE SIERRA CLUB AND FOUR OTHER organizations have filed suit to Protect Petroglyph National Monument from construction by the City of Albuquerque and the State of New Mexico.

Creating only one year ago by Congress to protect more than 15,000 examples of prehistoric Indian and historic Hispanic rock art, the Monument’s magnificent galleries of ancient art are arrayed along a 17-mile volcanic escarpment squarely in the path of Albuquerque’s westward growth. Petroglyph National Monument, consequently, is the most endangered monument in the National Park System.

The 12-mile highway project, comprised of a four-lane Unser Boulevard and a six-lane Paseo del Norte, would cut through the petroglyph-rich escarpment twice, and form the border for three out of four of the major visitor destinations.

The City is rushing ahead with construction before the Park Service can complete a General Management Plan for the Monument.

The City is currently proposing a 180-foot wide cut with at least a 1500-foot long ramp radiating noise and visual impacts from traffic and the encroachment of the City’s buildings on the Paseo del Norte. Commercial truck traffic also could be allowed. The environmental setting and character of the Monument would be devastated.

The City has segmented the 12 miles of highway unlawfully, the suit contends, into five different pieces, all with separate environmental and design reviews. The first 1.1 mile piece of Unser which is the immediate focus of the lawsuit has Petroglyph-bearing rock outcrops within the right-of-way, and forms the border of Rincónada Canyon, the most pristine large area left in the Monument.

"It is indeed short-sighted that the very municipality which had the foresight to acquire and preserve much of what is now Petroglyph National Monument would turn around and jeopardize this special place," said Heidi Fleischmann, Chair of the Albuquerque Board of Park Commissioners.

Although two City Council resolutions had required that Unser Boulevard be built as a four-lane highway with a median no wider than necessary for turning lanes, the City’s design calls for a median with a width of 25-40 feet, and 8-12 foot wide shoulders.

Paved to the same thickness as the four 12-wide travel lanes, thereby allowing for easy expansion to six lanes in the future.

Less harmful designs offered by the National Park Service, State and national transportation expert Robert L. Morris would have reduced the design by as much as 35 feet more at environmentally-sensitive locations, created more park-like upvalued shoulders planted with native grasses, and reduced the length. A huge intrusion to eliminate direct encroachment into the Monument.

City violated state law

The lawsuit claims that, by rejecting less harmful designs for Unser, the City violated New Mexico’s tough Prehistoric and Historic Sites Preservation Act. Language of the Act closely follows Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966 which prohibits the use of Federal funds for any project that impacts a significant cultural site unless there is "feasible and prudent alternative," and less the "project includes all possible plans to preserve and protect and to minimize harm" to cultural sites like Petroglyph National Monument.

Several State legislators representing Albuquerque’s west side have threatened to repeal this tough law and to revoke the $65 million State commitment to land acquisition for Petroglyph National Monument. We need to talk to our State legislators now to head off these threats.

We also need to write our Congressional representatives urging them to take a more visible role to preserve the integrity of our public lands. The dig-out caused by the Unser-Paseo del Norte highway project could call into question the true national significance of our State’s newest National Monument.

What you can do

Please write a short note to Senators Domenici and Bingaman, and to your Congressman, urging them to become more involved in solving this land conflict. Let them know that they are going to work with the City and State to find alternatives to routing a six-lane Paseo del Norte through some of the City’s most environmentally sensitive areas, the Piedras Marcadas Alcove and sand encroachment.
1872 Mining Law Reform

“After eight years in this office, I have come to the conclusion that the most important piece of unfinished business on the nation’s resource agenda is the complete replacement of the Mining Law of 1872.”

—Stewart Udall, Secretary of the Interior, 1969

C onservatives have struggled with the disastrous impacts of the 1872 Mining Law for many decades. Finally, the time for reform has arrived.

The mining of gold, copper, uranium, molybdenum and other “hardrocks” is governed by the 1872 law in over 400 million acres of public lands in the western U.S. This law makes mining the dominant use of the land; management agencies cannot say no to mining proposals, however important the ecological, recreational or cultural values a mine would destroy.

It has given us a legacy of toxic wastelands, mountains that once provided us water and abandoned mines that are unsecured, because it does not require proper regulation of mining operations. This law allows miners to take ore from the public’s land without paying any royalty, allows them to buy the land and the minerals beneath it (patenting) for $2.50 or $5 an acre. It is a complete disgrace that such destructive and destructive legislation is still on the books.

Reform bills introduced

On February 20th, Senator Dale Bumpers (D-AR) introduced S.433, the Mining Law Reform Act of 1991. The House, Mining Subcommittee chair Nick Joe Rahall (D-WV) has introduced H.R.918. This bill does not go as far as Senate Bumpers’ legislation, but does include a number of key reforms and is stronger than legislation introduced in the House in the last Congress.

A Survivor from a Different Era

One hundred and eighteen years have passed since Ulysses S. Grant signed the 1872 Mining Law. That was the heyday of western settlers, when Congress enacted various laws to promote rapid disposal of the public domain. Today, most of these disposal laws have been replaced by newer legislation that recognizes the value of the public domain and encourages wise stewardship of resources. The 1872 Mining Law is the one outstanding exception.

Over the last 115 years, by bit by bit, the Congress has asserted some degree of control over the management of the public lands; in some locations, today, a private party must pay the government to extract sand or gravel from the public lands, but gold and silver are free. Coal is leased and a royalty is required on each ton extracted, but a mineral like copper is free for the taking.

Elaborate projects and plans are developed prior to actually putting a mineral like phosphate up for lease, including looking at the compatibility of development with other multiple use values; but hardrock mining is always considered to be the happiest and best use of the land and it routinely overrides all federal land use planning processes.

A Legacy of Problems

Critics have long called for an overhaul of the 1872 law based on its four major deficiencies: lack of adequate return to the Treasury, fraudulent acquisition of mineral lands, loss of public control of land that is patented, and elevation of mining to the highest use of the land.

One 160-acre claim, near the Keystone, Colorado, was patented in 1963 for $2.50 an acre; it was offered for sale in 1988 for nearly $11,000 an acre. Claims have been used for vacation housing, drug cultivation and a variety of other activities unrelated to mining.

A 1974 government study of 240 randomly selected claims determined that 239 were not being mined at the time of the visits, and there was no evidence that any mineral extraction had ever taken place on 237 claims. The study went on to note that “no minerals had ever been extracted in 197,000 of the estimated 200,000 claims.”

In 1989, approximately $1.5 billion in gold was mined in Nevada, much of it on the public lands, with no royalty payment for use of the public domain. Every other activity on public lands returns at least some payment to the public for the use of the resources.

Environmental Catastrophe

Of particular concern to environmentalists is the ecological damage that has resulted. Buildings and dams are useless to build and blast in some of this country’s most spectacular wild lands, including many national parks and wilderness areas. Because this antiquated statute continues to recognize mining as the highest and best use of the land.

This is done with no ability on the part of the federal land managers to weigh the value of the proposed mining activities against the value of competing multiple use values.

The law was inadequate at a time when mining was done with picks and pans. It does not begin to address the environmental problems brought on by new technologies. Gold operations are evolving up in Nevada, Oregon, California and other states as miners employ “heap leaching” technology.

Miners “leach” gold from low-grade ores using a cyanide solution. The resulting tailings ponds contain enough cyanide to poison wildlife.

The Mining Law makes no provision for environmentally responsible mine operation or reclamation. With miners now able and willing to move entire mountains to recover metals, sometimes excavating 50 tons of earth to recover a single ounce of gold, the scars on the public lands are growing larger.
ADC: All The Dead Critters

by Pat Wolff

A COYOTE-KILLING PROJECT in the Prescott National Forest was tempo-

rarily halted April 1 when two TV crews showed up to document the slaughter.

The plan to gun down the coyotes from helicopters was just another project being carried out under the auspices of Arizona Damage Control (ADC), a U.S. Department of Agriculture program. After the media

crowding, nesting, and other natural acts. Using federal funds to kill woodpeckers is justified, for example, because "woodpeckers may damage trees by pecking holes." All too frequently, however, animals are killed just to make public lands safe for cows and sheep.

ADC expenditures in New Mexico totaled $1,867,001, $1.5 million of which was de-

voted to protecting livestock, according to the 1990 New Mexico ADC pro-

gram report. Ranchers don’t even have to prove they’ve had any ani-

mals losses to warrant calling in the ADC troops. Just the threat of dam-

age is enough to justify killing all potential predators in an area.

The 1990 report includes some fasci-

nating statistics to justify the ADC pro-

gram here. The loss of 77 adult sheep and 35 adult cattle is attributed to golden eagles, for example, and ravens supposedly killed 32 adult sheep.

The coyote is ADC’s most despised crea-

ture, however. Of the 9,796 animals re-

ported killed by ADC in New Mexico last year, 7,174 were coyotes. Nearly 3,000 of these coyotes were killed by the infamous M-44.

The devices, filled with initial poison so-

dium cyanide, explode in the mouth of any animal unlucky enough to bite into the bait. Roughly 2,000 were set at one time; while over 1,000 were gunned down from fixed-

wing aircraft. Other killing methods included neck snares and "gumming,"

which involves digging out, hooking or

smoking out coyote dens and then shooting them or clubbing them to death.

Also reported inadvertently killed were 815 "non-target" animals, including 70 do-

mestic dogs, 134 porcupines, 21 mule deer and 315 foxes. Wonder how many unintentional kills were unreported.

The problems with ADC are legion. From an ethical perspective, what justification can there be for a program that tortures, maims and kills animals every year? From a taxpayer’s perspective, why should public funds be used to kill wildlife on public lands, to benefit a handful of already heavily subsidised wildlife ranchers?

More public and media attention needs to be focused on ADC so it can be exposed and stopped. Urge our federal and state repre-

sentatives to stop funding ADC. Urge the managers of our public lands to adopt new policies prohibiting ADC activities in their districts. Require ranchers and agricultural producers to use more innovative, non-le-

thal methods to handle their conflicts with wildlife.

To learn more about ADC and how to stop it, write to Pat Wolff, Lighthawk, P.O. Box 8163, Santa Fe, NM 87501. An ADC slide show can be rented for $25 through the same address.

Lessons from the North Country

Protecting Wolves and Livestock

by Harriet Lykken

There has been an increase in livestock losses and many are being killed for it. But both wolves and livestock may be dying need-

lessly.

During the past 10 years, the number of Minnesota wolves trapped and killed under the U.S. Depredation Control Program has increased from 21 in 1980 to 91 in 1990. The number of farms reporting such losses in creased from 17 in 1980 to 55 in 1990. Though wolves are classified as "threat-

ened" by the Minnesota Wildlife Recovery Plan adopted in 1978, federal agents are allowed to trap wolves within 1/2 mile of a farm with a verified livestock loss.

No one has been able to definitely an-

swer why there have been increased losses. Possible factors include an in-

crease in wolf numbers (due to a decrease in deer population?) and more affected farms (due to a widening of wolf range?).

But there appears to be another reason—

bad animal husbandry on the part of farmers. Prior to 1986, when the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service began conducting its Dep-

redation Control Program, wolf researchers reported that a number of livestock losses were due to poor animal husbandry; cattle allowed to calve in the woods, and dogs and animal carcasses dragged to the edge of the farm, where they attract predators.

The question is: How many recent live-

stock losses are due to such practices? Livestock losses have been reported only on a re-

latively small number of farms. In 1990, most of the verified losses were reported in Roseau County. There is also a report that wolves have visited some sites more than once.

There are also a number of other questions requiring answers. Experts estimate that only three percent of the wolf population preys on livestock. Why do these wolves prefer live-

stock to their natural prey—deer, beaver and moose? Are any of these "guilty" wolves forgoing "prey" to be rid of the livestock until the wild after their owners find them too diffi-

cult to handle? How successful are trappers in capturing the "guilty" wolves? Can this be done in an ethical way? After what period of time? For what number of weeks at a 1/2 mile distance from the farm experiencing livestock loss? It’s essential that any wolf control program take these issues into account.

Farmers who can show a verified live-

stock loss due to wolves are compensated by the state up to $400 per animal—regardless of farming methods. In 1990, the state paid a total of $31,000. By November, the fund was exhausted, with $6,000 still due to farmers. The legislature must appropriate more money before these farmers can be paid.

No research has been done to determine how Minnesota livestock losses may be pre-

vented or reduced. We have submitted a proposal to the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources for funding a two year research project that would determine why there has been an increase in wolf/ livestock depredation, and why only a small number of farms have been affected.

We need to reduce livestock losses and protect wolves. We feel that the Depredation Control Program should make every effort to use effective non-lethal controls, killing only the offending animals. There are a number of such techniques—guard dogs, steamers, flashing lights, lamas, fenc-

e, taste aversion—and they need to be tried before the very last resort is used. We oppose a "sport season" on wolves as a means of predator control, and do not accept the asser-

tion that if wolves can be killed legally, fewer will be taken illegally.

It is important for producers to present a model control program. Yellowstone Na-

tional Park and other states can provide a good example. We need to show that reintroduction of this beautiful American native can be successfully accomplished.

(The author is the Wildlife Task Force Chair for the North Star Chapter of the Sierra Club. This article originally appeared in the May/June 1991 issue of the Sierra North Star.)

The Lobo Needs Your Help

Congress is about to make a fatal decision on saving our New Mexico lobo. Your help is needed—right now—to return the Mexican wolf to the wild at White Sands Missile Range. The Fish and Wildlife Service is now asking Congress to appropriate $450,000 for accelerating the Mexican wolf reintroduction. If Congress provides the funds, the service can step up public education about wolf recovery, expand the captive breeding population, and build facilities for releasing lobos back to the wild, possibly within the next two years.

But Congress will act only if New Mexico’s own senators and congress-

man support the lobo’s recovery. Sen. Pete Domenici and Sen. Jeff Bingaman can play critical roles in assuring that the Mexican wolf reintroduction plans keep moving.

The Fish and Wildlife Service budget is already less than Congress, so write Senator Domenici now, write Senator Bingaman, and, as well, your congress-

man as possible.

Tell them that you want the Mexican wolf restored to the wild—right here in lobo country—at White Sands Missile Range. Ask them to give the Fish and Wildlife Service biologists the funds they need to make that happen.

Here’s where to write:

Rep. Sidney Yates
House Appropriations Com. Chair
2234 Rayburn Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

Hon. Sen. Robert Byrd
Senate Appropriations Com. Chair
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Notice: The House budget hearings are in progress—Joe Skenel will be discussion

The House budget hearings are in progress—Joe Skenel will be discussing

the funds for wolf reintroduction with Senate Budget Office. Yates needs to hear from the wolf advocates IMMEDI-

ATELY since he is crucial to this deci-

sion.
Timber Task Force Resolves Some Problems, Stymied by Others
by George Grossman

On May 10, the New Mexico Timber Task Force reached an agreement that the timber shorts from the Santa Fe National Forest in the near future.

The Task Force was appointed in April by the New Mexico Governor and state forest management officials. It was charged to make recommendations on both the short- and long-term aspects of timber supply problems from national forests in the state.

The 15-member task force includes representatives from the timber industry, the public, labor, state and national wildlife agencies, the Forest Service, and the environmental community.

The Forest Service agreed to analyze timber harvest goals for the forest, and to delay offering timber sales in the Elk Mountain area until the study is completed. Environmentalists agreed to withdraw their appeal of the Smokey Bear timber sale, and to refrain from taking action to block certain other sales.

The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish agreed to work with the Forest Service to resolve wildlife issues on certain sales, and to refrain from appealing or litigating those sales if its concerns are adequately addressed.

The Task Force met again on May 22 and 23 in Las Cruces to discuss timber-related issues on the Gila and Lincoln National Forests. Members approved the Gila's existing timber program, but failed to reach agreement on Lincoln timber issues.

The task force scheduled a June 12 tour of the Bird and Ranger timber sales on the Lincoln, and has scheduled a look at Lincoln issues again at a later date. Members of the task force are: Judy Bishop, NM and AZ Parks Conservation Council; Leslie Davis; George Grossman, Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club; David Henderson, National Audubon Society; Sam Hitt, Forest Guardians; Jim Norton, Wilderness Watch, Betty Jane Curry, Cibola Public Land Users Association; Art Daley, Stone Forest Industries; Mike Hess, White Sands Forest Products, Inc.; Tom Lapinski, Dake City Lumber Co.; Charlie Lopez, Western Council of Industrial Workers; Pete Spragins, Baca Lumber Co.; Forrest Carpenter, Dept. Regional Forester, Forest Service; Jennifer Fowler-Propst, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Andrew Sardoval, NM Department of Game and Fish.

The Santa Fe Agreement

The Forest Service agreed to:

- Reassess the Santa Fe Timber Plan as it relates to timber production, giving particular consideration to issues relating to the Jarroz Mt. saddle, northern goshawk, Mexican spotted owl, old growth, and timber economics.
- Not offer any timber sales in the Creek Divinity Unit, including Elk Mountain, until after this reassessment.
- Delay a decision on the Calaveras timber sale until June 10, 1991.
- Not bring timber production shortfalls from previous years forward into 1992-93.

Environmentalists agreed to:

- Withdraw existing appeals on timber sales in Smokey Bear/San Miguel Divinity Unit, not to reappear until after a reassessment if litigation is in these sales.
- Not to appeal or litigate Sanchez, Laguna, Maestas, Gurule, or Twocito timber sales.
- Join in a consensus process regarding the Calaveras timber sale, without reinitiating the right to appeal or litigate.

State Land Trust Advisory Board

by Ben Zerby

Most of you have heard of Sections 2, 16, 33, and 36. These four square miles of land in each 160-acre tract are set aside under an 1850 act of Congress. Sections 2 and 32 were an additional gift from the Federal Government when New Mexico gained statehood in 1912. An 1898 act of Congress broadened the purposes for which the income from these lands could be used. These lands are the source of the $2.4 billion in permanent funds administered by the State Investment Council for the benefit of New Mexico's schools, universities, hospitals, penitentiary, etc. Management of this bonanza is vested in the Commission of Public Lands, a major player within the executive branch of New Mexico State Government who is elected every four years. The current Board of Commissioners is requested to determine the future of the Santa Fe Timber Sale. This Board of Commissioners is appointed by the Governor in consultation with the Forest Service, and is established by the State Land Trust Act of 1980. The Board consists of seven members: two from the beneficiaries, one from agriculture, one from the public at large. It is geographically and politically balanced with members serving staggered six year terms. I was appointed as the conservation member of the Board for 1991-96.

The next meeting will be held in Albuquerque on June 11. The group will review the 12,000 acre Mesa del Sol site near the Albuquerque International Airport and state tracts within and adjacent to the Petroglyph National Monument. It will try to keep Santa Fe residents abreast of developments.

National Forests Bleeding Red Ink

Carson National Forest
P.O. Box 558, Taos, NM 87571

Filipino Timber Sale

In response to pressure from forest guardians and N.M. Dept. of Game and Fish, Forest Supervisor Leonard Lindquist has decided that an EIS will be prepared for this controversial sale on the Elks Range District. The Filipino Sale contains the last significant stands of old-growth on the Valles Caldera Forest Service Unit.

Dry Canyon Timber Sale
An environmental analysis is being prepared for this $500,000 proposed sale in the Cloudcroft Ranger District. Comments were due by May 24.

Recreation Development

The Forest Service was planning a major recreation plan for this area to include up to 50 new recreation developments, including campgrounds, trailheads, and trails. The list of proposed projects was mailed to 230 individuals, agencies and organizations of which 10 responded. In his decision memo, Forest Supervisor Lee Pouget characterized the changes as nonsignificant, and determined that an environmental assessment was unnecessary.

Burnt Canyon Allotments

The Forest Service is preparing an allotment management plan and environmental assessment for this grazing allotment in the Mayhill Ranger District. Comments were due by May 12.

Bird Timber Sale

In response to appeals by environmentalists, the Forest Service has withdrawn plans for the Bird Timber Sale. The proposed sale area included the highest density of Mexican spotted owls known on a New Mexico national forest.

Gila National Forest

26100, Silver Street, Silver City, NM 88061

New Recreational Developments

The Forest Service is proposing to amend the Plan to schedule additional recreation developments for further analysis. These include a 100-unit campground at Little Walnut on the Silver City Ranger District; a 1,000-acre wilderness study area in the Apache Loop Scenic Drive; additional visitor facilities along State Highway 15 to the Cliffs Dwellings; and the creation of a trail taking visitors on the Reserve Ranger District. Comments on the proposal are due by May 15. Contact Ron Henderson or Delbert Gorie for more information at 535-3820.

Rocky Timber Sale

The Forest Service is preparing an environmental assessment for the proposed 543 acres Rocky Timber Sale on the Reserve Ranger District. According to the FS' sale notice, Mexican spotted owls, goshawks, flammulated owls, and Gooding's oxoins have been identified as species of concern on the analysis of the proposal by the end of April, but will be accepted until the assessment is actually written.

Apache Creek Allotment

An interdisciplinary team has completed a scoping document identifying issues related to this grazing allotment on the Quemado Ranger District. The permit may add issues and make comments due until June 30.

Lily Timber Sale

The initial planning for this timber stand improvement sale on the Luna Ranger District is underway. The sale area contains Mexican spotted owls, and will be surveyed for goshawks. Preliminary comments were due by May 16.

Lincoln National Forest

Federal Building, Alamogordo, NM 88310

Timber Task Force

In May, the Congressionally appointed timber task force reached an agreement on some Santa Fe National Forest timber issues. (See article in this issue.) According to Sam Hitt of the Forest Guardians, environmentalists were "politically strongminded" but still managed to salvage some concessions from the Forest Service. The chief victory was an agreement by the FS to delay the long-fought Elk Mountain Timber Sale until a reassessment of the Santa Fe's timber program is completed.

San Fe National Forest

P.O. Box 1689, Santa Fe, NM 87504

Timber Task Force

In May, the Congressionally appointed timber task force reached an agreement on some Santa Fe National Forest timber issues. (See article in this issue.) According to Sam Hitt of the Forest Guardians, environmentalists were "politically strong-minded" but still managed to salvage some concessions from the Forest Service. The chief victory was an agreement by the FS to delay the long-fought Elk Mountain Timber Sale until a reassessment of the Santa Fe's timber program is completed.
1991 Chapter Fund Appeal Results

Our 1991 Chapter Fund Appeal has been a success—we raised $10,072 by mid-May, which will help our chapter treasury enormously. Thank you to all of you who gave your hard-earned dollars, and thanks also to those volunteers who gave their time and energies to get the appeal out and keep it organized. The chapter is especially grateful to:

- Louie, Erin, and Heidi from Albuquerque, Dan from Socorro, Benny, Jana, and Gwen from Santa Fe, who gave us a beautiful spring Saturday to mail the appeal (and thanks too to Gwen for the great fund-raising help).
- Kay Carlson for typsetting the appeal letter.

---

Solid Waste Update

by Erin Jones Boughin

LAST FALL, THE RIO GRANDE CHAPTER OF the Sierra Club, along with the Environmental Law Center, NMBFSC, League of Women Voters of New Mexico, Conservation Voters Alliance, and Southeast Research and Information, requested that a group be established for the purpose of negotiating the new New Mexico Solid Waste Act regulations and that these regulations be presented for public debate at hearings throughout the state and not simply in Albuquerque and Santa Fe.

The negotiating group was established several months ago and has finished its task. The regulations will come before the Environmental Improvement Board on June 10. At that time the Board will decide when and where the public hearings will be held, and they will be held for a safer future, which is a must.

We have suggested that the hearings be conducted in the following five areas: Bernalillo County; the Rio Grande, Roswell, Hobbs, Artesia area; the Las Cruces, Lordburg, Silver City area; the Taos and Española area; and the Farmington area. The Board will select three of these areas and the meetings will occur about two months after they are announced. It is critical that we have at least fifty community members interested in this hearing. The Board is under considerable pressure to go light on certain areas of the regulations and thereby weaken the Solid Waste Act.

The biggest issues, as we see them, will be the question of how to control solid waste (the關 to recycling in the region, interstate waste disposal, and siting issues). The Sierra Club will like to provide information to groups and individuals in the areas where these meetings will be held.

The issues have been set down to some key points; for example, the effect to ground water from various methods of disposal. This information may be distributed through producing and circulating video tapes or holding town meetings.

Anyone interested in either helping to produce materials or distribute them please call the Albuquerque Office at 265-3506 and leave your address and phone number. These regulations will have a tremendous impact on the future reuse, recycling, and disposal of solid waste in our region. We’ll keep you updated!

[The author is the Solid and Hazardous Waste Chair for the Rio Grande Chapter]
How to Deal with the Sierra Club
by Hart Schaefer

The Sierra Club is a powerful, venerable organization, with nearly 500,000 members behind it. It has more than 770,000 members in the United States. It also has a Byzantine bureaucracy that serves to keep its members under control, at least to the extent that for all their sincere commitment, those members get very little done. As to that mistake, the individual members of the Sierra Club have a deep commitment to protecting wilderness and wildlife. Most members join the "Club" because they believe that is what the Club stands for. They are right. That is what the Sierra Club stands for. It just isn't what the Sierra Club actually does anymore.

What the Sierra Club actually does these days is: 1) generate funding, especially from large and conservative grant-making institutions; 2) preserve its good name ("credibility") with those institutions, and with the political "powers-that-be" in Washington; 3) endorse "politically correct" legislation that is likely weak or ineffectual, in order to be able to claim "victories" afterwards, and reassure its members that their dollars and volunteer efforts have done some good; and 4) use its convoluted bureaucracy and deliberately vague rule structure to intimidate and silence those of its members who might wish to challenge those practices.

If you read Sierra Club publications from anything "above" the "Chapter level," you will notice the close absence of any mention of any proposal not endorsed by the Club's national managers. This is a form of censorship which the Club is not anxious to acknowledge. Sierra Club managers will never know from reading their Sierra Club mail that any legislative proposals other than the ones the Sierra Club managers endorse ever exist. The managers control the flow of information. (We are encouraged to call these managers "Leaders." During the time that your proposal has been involved with the Club, we have not had any "Leaders" that I know of. We do, however, have an abundance of managers. Leaders are usually those who sell the organization's loyalty and trust. Leaders take chances; they chart new courses; they set an example of courage and self-sacrifice that others aspire to. Managers manage resources, they take personal risks, they offer new ideas, they use corporate double-speak to avoid responsibility, they do not question established authority, and no one really trusts them. Currently, the Sierra Club has managers.)

These managers manage the members well. All over the country, time and time again individual activists are systematically intimidated by the party structure when they advance proposals for real environmental reform. Such activists are routinely instructed by patient, well-meaning, solicitous Sierra Club bureaucrats about the even more complicated procedures they "must" follow in order to comply with "Sierra Club policy." At every step, they are kindly and patiently shown a new and more convoluted set of Sierra Club "rules," new hurdles are revealed at every level of bureaucracy; more new approvals must be sought, more forms must be filled out... until eventually even the most committed activist gives up. And that, of course, is the point.

But most of these rules are nonexistent (as well as arbitrary and capricious). The Sierra Club activist who runs into the most problems is the one who tries to obtain permission, who blandly and faithfully tries to follow all the "rules." It is impossible. And no one at the Sierra Club even knows all the "rules." The rules they tell you about are mostly just a set of handbook guidelines. If you read them carefully, most of those "rules" aren't even binding on you. (In those committees' own books, you are usually told what you "may"

During the time I have been involved with the Club, we have not had any "Leaders" that I know of. We do, however, have an over-abundance of managers.

It's Time for a Change
by Wesley Leonard

"The essence of life is change, and the most effective organizations are those that adapt quickly to changing circumstances." —Anonymous

There are a number of major environmental organizations in San Francisco, including the Sierra Club. The Wilderness Society is one. The Wilderness Society has a large professional staff in Washington and regional representatives throughout the U.S. The 400,000 members (I'm one) pay their dues to support this professional staff to act on their behalf to influence public policy. The staff, and members are not called upon to attend public meetings, write letters or lead local groups or chapters. The Wilderness Society is not a grassroots activist organization. Everyone understands this, and members are happy to support the paid staff. The Sierra Club, on the other hand, is one of the greatest grassroots activist organizations of all time. We are best organized at the local level, and members are the ones that do the real work. We go to the meetings, we give testimony, we write letters, we have confrontations with polluters, ranchers, miners, and loggers; in short, we are on the front line in the battle to save the planet.

To help coordinate our efforts, we have, over the years, developed a structure of paid employees. Included are staff in Washington, San Francisco, as well as regional representatives. In doing this, we have, however, created a sizable and overburdened bureaucracy with all of its negative consequences. We now support "executives" with titles such as "Chairman," "Executive Director," "Publisher," "Director of Public Affairs," "Associate Director for Finance and Administration," and so on. They have a chain-of-command, corporate policies, perks, etc. At times, it's unclear what we are dealing with the Sierra Club or EXXON.

As members of a bureaucracy, our paid staff has one overriding duty, and that is to preserve their jobs. Any attempt to link the leadership of the national organization to the original purposes of the organization is tenuous, at best. And, it is at this point that compromise and trade-offs re-emerge in the name of dedication and effectiveness. An example of this bureaucratic atrophy is the situation with our regional representatives. Our representatives are good people, but they are not responsive to the grassroots leaders of the Club. Have you ever tried to get the regional rep to assist you with anything under the sun? Under the current set-up, they are not even supposed to. They don't work for us, they report to the "executives" in San Francisco.

As grassroots leaders and volunteers, our mission should be to use our time and our resources to influence public policy in order to make the planet a better place for generations to come. In reality, since 93 percent of Club revenue goes to the corporate headquarters (see accompanying chart), much of our time is actually taken up doing fund raising to support the Club at the local level. Something is profoundly wrong when 93 percent of the heart of the organization, the local group, gets only $1 out of the dues that members pay.

I offer the following modest proposal to return control of the Club to the members:

1) First, and most important, allocate 50 percent of all dues and other revenues to the groups and chapters. This will eliminate the need for most fund raising, provide needed funds so that we can support local efforts and cut down on the bureaucracy in San Francisco. (Perhaps, we'll have some of the laid-off people in San Francisco to serve as our staff members.)

2) Eliminate the Sierra Club Council and expand the scope of the regional conserva tion committees to all parts of the corporate Council functions. The Council costs money that could be put to better use, is a waste of volunteer time, and serves no useful purpose.

3) Have the regional representatives report directly to the head of the local coordinating committees in our case, SWRCC). This will ensure that we work on appropriate regional issues and are responsive to the grassroots leadership, rather than as "executives" in San Francisco.

Use of Funds

INFORMATION & EDUCATION (32%)  
INTERFACE PUBLIC POLICY (32%)  

e.g., the Sierra Club is a national organization with over 400,000 members nationwide. It advocates for the protection of wilderness and wildlife. The Sierra Club's leadership manages the organization's resources, making decisions that may not align with grassroots members' interests. The author, Hart Schaefer, highlights the disparity between the organization's stated goals and its actual practices, suggesting that the leadership prioritizes fundraising and maintaining institutional stability over direct action and community involvement. Similarly, Wesley Leonard discusses the need for a change in the Sierra Club's structure, advocating for greater accountability and responsiveness to grassroots members' needs. Leonard calls for a shift in leadership to prioritize grassroots activism and local-level engagement, contrasting the current setup with the past, when the Sierra Club was more directly involved in local activism and supported by active members. These articles reflect the tension between grassroots activism and bureaucratic oversight within environmental organizations.
Biodiversity Bills Introduced
Three bills have been introduced in Congress that would protect biological diversity. In the House, Rep. James Scherer (D-N.Y.) has introduced his National Biological Diversity Conservation and Environmental Research Act, H.R. 3585. Scherer's bill calls for:
- The development of a federal strategy for preserving biological diversity;
- Review of biodiversity in preparing environmental impact statements;
- Greater coordination of federal, state, and private efforts to protect biodiversity;
- Biodiversity research and education; and
- Data management and dissemination.

The focal point of the bill would be the establishment of a National Center for Biological Diversity and Conservation Research in the Smithsonian Institution. Scherer already has 89 co-sponsors. Rep. Gerry Studds (D-Mass.), chair of House Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation and Environment Subcommittee, has also introduced a biodiversity bill, the National Biological Diversity Conservation Act, H.R. 3586. Studds' bill garnered 14 co-sponsors. In the Senate, Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-N.Y.) has introduced a bill, S.38, which is similar to Scherer's but includes a section that focuses on the international aspects of biodiversity.

Grassroots Heroes Honored
Seventeen individuals from around the world were honored on Earth Day with the second annual Goldman Environmental Prize for grassroots environmental heroes. This year's winners were:
- Sam Laibush, of San Francisco, whose film of dolphins being slaughtered triggered a national tuna boycott.
- Evaristo Mugagru, of the Aguruma tribe in Peru, for his efforts on behalf of indigenous peoples of the Amazon.
- Dr. Wangari Maathai, founder and coordinator of the Green Belt Movement of Nairobi, Kenya.
- Twelve-year-old Roland Tienius and his teacher, Elisa Kern, of Sorunda, Sweden, for raising more than $1.5 million to purchase rain forest land in Indonesia.
- Catherine Wallace of Wellington, New Zealand, for her work toward the comprehensive protection of Antarctica.

LCV Gives Bush a "D"
The League of Conservation Voters has given President Bush a grade of "D" on its mid-term Presidential Scorecard. "Clearly there are two George Bushes on the environment," said League President George Babbitt. "The first George Bush made a strong positive commitment early in his presidency to strengthen the Clean Air Act. He followed through with a good legislative proposal and resisted heavy pressure to weaken the acid rain title of his bill."

The second George Bush has neglected his chance to promise to be the "environmental president," said the former Arizona governor. "On virtually every important national and international environmental issue, the second George Bush has failed to provide consistent leadership for environmental protection."

Babbitt cited the president's National Energy Strategy in particular. "The president has the opportunity to frame policy for decades to come on an issue that will affect every American consumer. His plan is an endorsement of the status quo and a risk to our long-term national security."

Highway Department wants to cut trees near Glenwood
The New Mexico Environment Department (via their contractor, Karl Souder and Associates) is searching the state for toxic sites. These are locations where some activity took place prior to environmental regulation, which might have left soil or water contaminated with toxic chemicals when the activity took place. Some examples are:
- old smelters or mills
- wood treatment facilities, such as creosoting of railroad ties
- old town dumps or junkyards
- sites where explosives were manufactured or stored
- old sheep dips
- old dry cleaners.

Sites identified during this search will be investigated to determine whether they require immediate cleanup or monitoring. If you have any information about such sites - perhaps there used to be a little metal-plating operation down the street from you, or you've come across the remains of an old mine and mill in your back-country rambles - please contact Karl Souder and Associates by phone at 983-4611; or write to us at 1476 St. Francis Drive, Santa Fe NM 87501. Your information could help to prevent severe damage to public health or the environment.

For more information, contact Mike Sauber at Gil Lake Bike & Hike, Silver City 388-3222.

Statewide Toxic Sites Search
The New Mexico Environment Department (via their contractor, Karl Souder and Associates) is searching the state for toxic sites. These are locations where some activity took place prior to environmental regulation, which might have left soil or water contaminated with toxic chemicals when the activity took place. Some examples are:
- old smelters or mills
- wood treatment facilities, such as creosoting of railroad ties
- old town dumps or junkyards
- sites where explosives were manufactured or stored
- old sheep dips
- old dry cleaners.

Sites identified during this search will be investigated to determine whether they require immediate cleanup or monitoring. If you have any information about such sites - perhaps there used to be a little metal-plating operation down the street from you, or you've come across the remains of an old mine and mill in your back-country rambles - please contact Karl Souder and Associates by phone at 983-4611; or write to us at 1476 St. Francis Drive, Santa Fe NM 87501. Your information could help to prevent severe damage to public health or the environment.

For more information, contact Mike Sauber at Gil Lake Bike & Hike, Silver City 388-3222.

Lawyers for the People! Targets Jim Baca
People for the West (PFW) the anti-wilderness alliance of loggers, miners, ranchers, and other subsidized public land users, has reaffirmed its intention to keep a close eye on New Mexico Land Commissioner Jim Baca.

According to a non-biased article in PFW's June 1 newsletter, Baca has set himself up as "Public Lands Enemy No. 1." The author accuses Baca of ignoring his obligation to "keep the public trust lands from making money for public schools and other beneficiaries while emphasizing preservation of the assets, which the author contends is a lesser aspect of his job description."

The author goes on to question the propriety of Baca's decision to give the Wilderness Society's Board of Directors, and concludes that New Mexicans will be "looking closely" at their Land Commissioner to make sure he does his job. Indeed.

Judge axes logging plans in owl habitat
On May 23, U.S. District Court Judge William Dryer blocked the U.S. Forest Service from selling timber on 66,000 acres of land designated as critical spotted owl habitat in Washington, Oregon, and California. Dryer's ruling was in response to a request by environmentalists for a permanent injunction against the sales. The Sierra Club and other groups had strongly condemned the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's proposal to protect the threatened northern spotted owl by setting aside 11.6 million acres of "critical habitat" while allowing logging in the area.

Georgia Club Chapter Scores Victory for State
After years of lobbying by the Sierra Club and National Wildlife Federation, Georgia Governor Jimmy Carter recently passed the Georgia Environmental Policy Act.

Georgia's law is modeled after the National Environmental Policy Act, and is similar to environmental legislation in 15 other states which requires that state agencies assess the environmental effects of any proposed state project. The assessment must also discuss possible alternatives to the proposed project.

The Georgia Chapter's effort was funded by a State Efficiency Grant from the Sierra Club, chapter monies, and matching funds from the Sierra Club Gulf Coast Region.

"Our endorsements and electoral efforts played a major role in the passage of the new law," noted Chuck McGrady, who led the chapter's efforts. "At a general critical point, we were successful because key legislators went to bat for the legislation because of our work in their elections."

Administration Seeks to Gut Clean Air Act
Last year's Clean Air Act amendments that mandated the Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") set up a permit program designed to make public involvement and enforcement easier than ever before. Just seven months after signing the new amendments into law, President Bush, acting through Vice President Quayle's Competitiveness Council, is seeking to gut these provisions by altering permitting regulations to the EPA.

If proposed regulations just released by EPA are adopted, polluters would be illegally allowed to revise their own permits without public scrutiny and involvement, and without judicial review. State pollution control agencies would have only seven days to object to the changes. Polluters would be allowed to increase their emissions without limit in most instances.

The Environmental Protection Agency loophole demanded by Vice President Quayle is contained in a part of the rule misleadingly called "minimizing permit amendments." Congress and Clean Air Act champions and environmental organizations view these as major changes to the law, and are fighting the proposed regulations.

Among other things, the proposed regulations would:
- Authorize emission increases without public notice, opportunity for judicial oversight or meaningful agency review.
- Transform EPA efforts to clean up the Great Lakes into meaningless rhetoric.
- Eliminate the Act's requirement that each source submit a compliance plan and schedule.

Tree Hugger near Glenwood
The New Mexico Environment Department (via their contractor, Karl Souder and Associates) is searching the state for toxic sites. These are locations where some activity took place prior to environmental regulation, which might have left soil or water contaminated with toxic chemicals when the activity took place. Some examples are:
- old smelters or mills
- wood treatment facilities, such as creosoting of railroad ties
- old town dumps or junkyards
- sites where explosives were manufactured or stored
- old sheep dips
- old dry cleaners.

Sites identified during this search will be investigated to determine whether they require immediate cleanup or monitoring. If you have any information about such sites - perhaps there used to be a little metal-plating operation down the street from you, or you've come across the remains of an old mine and mill in your back-country rambles - please contact Karl Souder and Associates by phone at 983-4611; or write to us at 1476 St. Francis Drive, Santa Fe NM 87501. Your information could help to prevent severe damage to public health or the environment.

For more information, contact Mike Sauber at Gil Lake Bike & Hike, Silver City 388-3222.

Statewide Toxic Sites Search
The New Mexico Environment Department (via their contractor, Karl Souder and Associates) is searching the state for toxic sites. These are locations where some activity took place prior to environmental regulation, which might have left soil or water contaminated with toxic chemicals when the activity took place. Some examples are:
- old smelters or mills
- wood treatment facilities, such as creosoting of railroad ties
- old town dumps or junkyards
- sites where explosives were manufactured or stored
- old sheep dips
- old dry cleaners.

Sites identified during this search will be investigated to determine whether they require immediate cleanup or monitoring. If you have any information about such sites - perhaps there used to be a little metal-plating operation down the street from you, or you've come across the remains of an old mine and mill in your back-country rambles - please contact Karl Souder and Associates by phone at 983-4611; or write to us at 1476 St. Francis Drive, Santa Fe NM 87501. Your information could help to prevent severe damage to public health or the environment.

For more information, contact Mike Sauber at Gil Lake Bike & Hike, Silver City 388-3222.
Southern New Mexico Group Meetings

At the March 28 General Meeting, Claire Tippom, Share with Wildlife Coordinator for the New Mexico Game and Fish Dept, presented a most interesting illustrated program on non-game wildlife and how the Share with Wildlife Program is helping these species through research and protection. We hope everyone checked off a portion of their New Mexico Income Tax refunds for this worthwhile cause.

An April meeting was moved to the 18th part of the Earth Day celebration and was held at the Cruces Plaza at Corbett Center. Some 10-12 members provided readings of inspirational and mystical qualities concluding with environmental songs.

For those wishing to participate in the Legislative session, the Lawson Legate of the Sierra Club Utah Office presented a program on the need for substantial revision of the 1872 Mining Law. Lincoln recently returned from a lobbying trip to Washington, D.C. on behalf of the Bumper/Ralph revisions.

A sub-committee of the Group En Com has been formed to develop criteria for awarding a $500 prize to a science student for projects relating to the Dripping Springs Research Center in the future since Storm Serreny arranged to have it printed on recycled paper. A sub-committee of the Group En Com has been formed to develop criteria for awarding a $500 prize to a science student for projects relating to the Dripping Springs Research Center.

El Paso Group No report received.

Albuquerque Group Programs

Mountain Biking co-existing with hikers on wildlands was the April general meeting for the Albuquerque group. The May program will focus on PMN’s proposed Oso powerline in the Jemez Mountains. The presenter will be Ted Davis of Save the Jemez.

Onsight David Morrison has organized a service outing to maintain the Embudo Trail in the Sandia Mountains. The Embudio is the group’s adopted trail. A large turnout is expected.

Funding the Group participated in a follow up phone bank to the March fundraising letter. The money raised will go for maintaining our office and basic expenses.

Conservation (continued on next page)

We have been moving around for our general meeting which was held at the Unitarian Church to finish its renovations. Nonetheless we enjoyed a good attention. Our April general meeting will feature a slide show on grazing by Katherine Bichler, and at May’s which featured Rick Smith from the National Park Service on Soil Conservation in the National Park System.

We hope that anyone passing through Santa Fe will join us at the Chapin Creek En Com for our annual Sunstone Picnic on Saturday June 22. Please call me at 471-0005 for location.

We have been talking with Fred Friedman from the Highway Department about possible trails-to-tracts projects on the old Chili Line and on the about-to-be-sold arm of the Santa Fe Railroad from Lamy to Santa Fe. If someone has information on other trails-to-tracts projects in the state, or would like to be involved in these, please let Fred know, at 827-0410 (Santa Fe).
Sierra Club Plans to Sue
by Yuki Ishizuka, Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund

LAST MONTH, THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER OF the Sierra Club announced plans to sue the Adlake
Coors Brewing Co. for well over a hundred violations of the Clean Water Act. Investigations conducted by the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund in Denver have revealed that for the past five years, Adlake Coors Brewing Co. has continuously discharged unlawful amounts of toxic and non-
organic substances into a nearby stream. The Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund will represent the Sierra Club in the upcoming litigation.

Under the Clean Water Act, any company which discharges pollutants into water bodies of the U.S. must obtain a permit from the Environmental Protection Agency or an authorized state health agency. This permit it is stringent standards limiting the amount of pollutants each company can discharge. Over the past five years, Coors has violated the limits for cyanide, mercury, nickel, nitrogen, ammonia, and fecal coliform, among others. The worst problem has been consistent violations of the standard for silver.

Coors has a long history of environmental problems. In 1988, the EPA named Coors the single largest polluter of 134 companies that dumped hazardous waste at the Lovelad Fill in Colorado. Last year, Coors was cited by the EPA and the Colorado state health department for violations of hazardous waste and water quality laws. State health officials also cited Coors for illegally pumping contaminated water into Clear Creek for over a decade from the mid 1970s to the mid 1980s. Coors plead guilty to violating state water quality laws and agreed to pay $750,000 in fines. Just recently, on May 5, Coors "accidentally" dumped 155,000 gallons of beer and raw sewage into Clear Creek, killing as many as 17,000 fish.

After hearing of the Sierra Club’s intent to sue them for their CWA violations, Coors spokesman Jon Goldman said they were "disappointed" by the Sierra Club’s action and that the permit limitations were difficult to meet. In recent years, Coors has tried to portray itself as an environmentally conscious company by launching programs such as the Pure Water 2000 campaign. Dr. Eugene DeMayo, chairman of the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the Sierra Club, called Coors a "chronic polluter" and stated that, "The Department of Health has tried unsuccessfully for a year to convince Coors that they must comply with their permit. With this suit, the Club hopes to send a message that Coors cannot ignore. The citizens of Colorado will not stand idle while Coors degrades our environment."

Kauai Bicycle Tour
The Hawaii Sub committee of the Club’s Outings Committee is sponsoring another popular bicycle tour in the islands from July 7 - 12, 1991. A low impact cycling tour allows participants to really experience the sights and smells, the people and the culture and beautiful plant life that gives Kauai its nickname, the Garden Island.

The tour includes the Hanalei and Hanapalai valleys, Malwea Canyon, and the Alakai Swamp with five riding days of between 25 and 40 miles. Visiting museums, bikes and swimming will also be included on the layover days. The group will use beach camps and mountain cabins at Kokee State Park. A sag wagon will carry all participants’ gear and equipment.

The trip cost is $1,080, excluding airfare. For more information, please write to the Sierra Club Outing Department, 730 Polk Street, San Francisco, CA 94109, and ask for the brochure for trip #91-272. For further questions, contact the leader, John Rydz, 7569 Alba Road, Walnut Creek, CA 94595, telephone (415) 939-5181.

Dealing with the Club
(continued from page 16)

revoke your chapter’s charter or disband your Club, but it doesn’t really want to do that. It doesn’t want to have to run your chapter for you. (Generally, it is too easy and too inconvenient to do so anyway.) And if your chapter is actually disbanded, you and your friends could always run for reelection when it is reorganized, and win. The national by-laws prevent your being thrown out of the Club as long as you are willing to pay your annual dues.

Most important, if such action ever were taken against you, you could talk to everyone under the sun about it. The national Club is clearly afraid of bad publicity. Bad publicity from defrocking-at-the-gate means that the Earth Club is one thing and bad publicity from within the Club is something else. As a bona fide "volunteer leader," your criticisms of "Club policy" carry considerable weight.

All of the above may make you want to just ignore the Sierra Club... but please don’t. The Earth Club is one of the biggest and largest environmental groups in the world. As of now, it is still one of the most respected. And we need the Sierra Club if we are to save anything. We need the Sierra Club to be what it claims to be, what most people still think it is. The danger is that people may begin to realize that the Club isn’t living up to its reputation these days. Already, some of the people who really know how to fight for wilderness are giving up in disgust, bowing by the bureaucrats. These folks are walking away and leaving the Club in the hands of a group of hollow stamen-seekers. Soon, the individual members may realize what is going on. If that happens, the Club will be in danger of collapsing.

Without a strong and sincere Sierra Club, much wilderness and wildlife would be lost that could otherwise be saved. What the Club does in Washington may be disgusting, but what it does for the environment can and must turn out to be tragic.

However, you can stop the Club’s decline. Those of you reading this are probably the only people who can... You may not like the Club, but you can be far more effective as a member, preferably with a title, than you can be today. The Sierra Club is one of the biggest. If you decide, anyone can, with a petition containing the signatures of 2 percent of the number of

Albuquerque
(continued from previous page)

The Chapter has filed a lawsuit with other environmental groups to assure that the city of Albuquerque follows parkway. In May, a judge on Unser Blvd. that are the last harm to the Potrygloh National Monument.

Hubert Davis and others have been meeting with the Cibola National Forest Warch each month to protect the forest’s biological diversity.

We have formed a new population committee with Bruce Ferguson and Michelle Meadors as chairpersons. The committee is cosponsering a dinner and speech by Ex-Governor Lamm of Colorado on June 24. Mr. Lamm will discuss the issue of population growth.

A comprehensive recycling policy should be approved by the Albuquerque city council on their May 20th meeting. This is hard fought victory.

Stefan Vecherlinski and Heidi Fleschmuth wrote a letter to the state highway department requesting a bike lane on I-40 bridge.
Newsletter Positions Available

If you can spend a few hours every other month helping to produce this newsletter, we need you. Advanced skills and extensive experience are not required.

This is an excellent way to get involved with the Sierra Club, especially for people who don’t like going to a lot of meetings. It is also good work experience for your resume. There are no salaries, but all of your necessary expenses will be paid by the Chapter. For more information, call Kevin Bilkay at (505) 525-1352.

Art Editor
Responsibilities: Obtain or produce artwork to accompany particular articles as needed; compile a general art file for the Sierra. A fun job for someone with good artistic/design sensibilities. Approximate time commitment: 3-4 hours per issue.

Advertising Manager
Responsibilities: Contact potential advertisers to show Sierras, describe membership, and provide ad space; work with advertisers to develop copy; show proofs, deliver textsheets, collect payments. The position would be a great way to meet lots of interesting people, and probably get some good discounts on outdoor equipment, etc. Don’t worry about not being a good salesperson; advertising in the Sierras will sell itself. Approximate time commitment: 3-5 hours per issue, for a minimum of 3 issues.

Typist/Preparer/Patch Editor
Responsibilities: Help prepare submissions for publication, including using a scanner to enter typed material and graphics onto an Macintosh computer; formatting text, fact-checking, obtaining permission to reprint material, and proofreading. This is an excellent opportunity to learn computer desktop publishing skills and to read a lot of interesting articles. Must live near Las Cruces. Approximate time commitment: 8 hours per issue.

Distribution Manager
Responsibilities: Take charge of distributing Sierras once it is printed, including: researching least expensive mailing methods, arranging for mailing, organizing mailing parties if necessary, ensuring that mailing labels were sent by San Francisco on time, responding to address changes and requests for subscriptions, keeping track of non-member subscriptions, arranging for reprints, subscription with other publications, and responding to requests for extra copies. An excellent opportunity to master Postal regulations. Approximate time commitment: 4-8 hours per issue.

The Rio Grande Sierras is printed on 100 percent post-consumer waste recycled paper by Printworld in El Paso, Texas.

The “Stealth” Sagebrush Rebellion

NEW MEXICO TAXPAYERS AND ENVIRONMENTS have lost the latest skirmish of the Sagebrush Rebellion without a shot being fired. Ranching and mining interests, ever ready to privatize public land, launched a surprise attack during the most recent state legislature. The New Mexico Conservationists introduced a spate of innocuously titled bills that would have eviscerated the regulatory and administrative functions of state government as well as that of most cities and localities. Fortunately, none of the bills passed.

Senate Bill 328, The Regulatory Takings Act introduced by John L. Morrow (D-Collins, Harding, Quay and Union), was the flag-ship of the takings bills. It would have required all state agencies and municipalities to evaluate their actions, rules, regulations, policies and proposed legislation to see if any “had constitutional implications” and “could effect a taking or deprive a person of property without due process of law.” In essence, the act would have required agencies to do “constitutional impact assessments” on most of what they do. Under the proposed act, aggrieved citizens could sue the government to recover the value of their lost property.

All this sounds quite American. No one wants to see anybody deprived of their property. However, this legislation would have gone far beyond protecting constitutional rights. It would have been a vehicle for the harassment of state and local government at all levels.

Under Morrow’s bill, citizens who successfully sue government agencies would automatically be awarded court costs and attorneys’ fees. (Usually the awarding of such costs is left to the discretion of the court.) Judgments would come out of an agency’s operating budget, unless it submitted the amount of the proposed taking to the Department of Finance and Administration.

“This legislation would have gone far beyond protecting constitutional rights. It would have been a vehicle for the harassment of state and local government at all levels.”

Ike Eastvold Wins National Sierra Club Award – Page Six

Inside: ANWR Update • N.M. Senate • Chapter Appeal Results • Coors Suit (Continued on page five)