Chapter Executive Committee Candidates

The following are statements from candidates to the Rio Grande Chapter Executive Committee. The Executive Committee makes many administrative, financial, and policy decisions that determine the direction and effectiveness of our chapter. Please study the statements carefully and vote for three candidates. A ballot is on the back page.

Richard Adam
Albuquerque

I was appointed to complete the final year of a vacant position on the Executive Committee, and seek re-election so that I can continue to work on the critical process of identifying chapter goals and developing the means to achieve them.

Having participated in the recent chapter retreat at which we established a vision statement, I am prepared to contribute fully to the ExCom’s tasks.

My thirty years of experience in education, as a teacher, counselor and administrator, gave me skills in research, planning, organization, and budgeting. Part of my teaching responsibility is in an outdoor education program for young people in grades 6-10.

My work for the Albuquerque Group has been to organize and oversee publications sales, profits from which support our conservation and outings programs. I have concentrated in this work on developing and extending the network of volunteers who support the Sierra Club mission.

I am excited about the opportunities before us, and the challenge of existing a larger number of our members in addressing them.

Marc Bedner
Albuquerque

An environmental activist since the partial meltdown of Three Mile Island in 1979, I have been a Sierra Club member since 1983 and a member of the Rio Grande Chapter since 1988. I was editor of the Albuquerque group newsletter and am currently the group’s wildlife chair. Having worked with many environmental groups on the Endangered Species Fair in Albuquerque, I hope to build a coalition to rework (and ideally broaden) the Endangered Species Act, which will become Congress in 1992.

There has been increasing dissatisfaction among Sierra Club members around the country, particularly in the Rio Grande chapter, about how the national bureaucracy has been running the Club. Policy, in effect, determined by the unelected lobbying staff in Washington, with minimal direction from the self-perpetuating Board of Directors. The Club is becoming, just another Washington special interest group which milks endless appeals to send money.

I see the role of the chapter ExCom both as coordinating work on regional issues and helping to restructure the Sierra Club to give more power to the chapters. It is difficult to keep up with regional issues when Club funds go to Washington and San Francisco. Lobbying on the national level is critical, but it should not stop grassroots activism. Each chapter should be a base of support that members of Congress can see in their districts. If the Sierra Club is to be an effective organization, it must support activities in the chapters and groups.

We can also make better use of our limited resources if we stop endorsing political candidates whose commitment to the environment is questionable at best. Endorsements should only go to candidates with proven environmental records, not to anyone who promises to listen to environmentalists.

Jean Halvorsen
Albuquerque

I have been a member of the Sierra Club for the past eight years and have served for two years on the Albuquerque Group Executive Committee. Last year I was appointed to the Chapter Executive Committee, filling a term which expires this year. I would like to continue serving on the Chapter Executive Committee.

The Endangered Species Act is a law that is over 20 years old and needs to be reformed. It is time to develop a law that will work for the environment and the people it protects.

Jana Oyler
Santa Fe

My four years on the Chapter Executive Committee have given me a lot of food for thought about what the Chapter is and what it should accomplish. We have wrestled with a myriad of problems but can...
Letters to the Editor

Who is Jeff Bingaman?

Environmentalists helped elect Jeff Bingaman to the U.S. Senate. In light of his recent voting record, many of us now wonder what he stands for. At the beginning of this year, environmentalists in New Mexico were assured by Bingaman’s staff that the senator would try to get a wilderness bill enacted for Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands. This was welcome news, coming after years of frustrating delays and failed attempts to achieve a consensus on the issue among New Mexico’s congressional delegation. A Bingaman bill was long overdue and we made ourselves available to expedite its introduction and passage. We accompanied Bingaman’s staff on tours of proposed wilderness areas, provided maps and information, and, well...nothing.

Montevallo, 252-1375

Bingaman crossed the line. By voting to end debate, he essentially voted for the Johnston-Wallop “National Energy Policy Reconciliation Act” (S 1717), a bill that not only would have established a bankruptcy law for nuclear utilities, but one that would have opened up the landward side of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling as well.

The issue was conflict between competing worldviews: between the boundless appetites of industrial society versus the rights of other species and cultures to exist. Bingaman’s vote revealed where his constituents lie. For his action that day, many environmentalists will have a hard time ever voting for Jeff Bingaman again.

Addresses

Add to your senators' The Honorable U.S. Senate Washington, D.C. 20110

To write your representative: The Honorable U.S. House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

to telephone your senators or representives, call the U.S. Capitol Switchboard (202) 224-3122.
Anatomy of the Johnston Bill S.1220 Dissected

These are the provisions of the Johnston-Walltopp "National Energy Security Act" that the Senate killed by filibuster. Both of New Mexico's Senators voted to invoke cloture, i.e. end debate and vote on the bill, Texas' Lloyd Bentsen also voted for cloture. (Sen. Phil Gramm did not vote.) The bill could be reinvigorated with amendments.

Drains the Arctic First

The bill would allow oil and gas drilling in the pristine Alaskan wildlands of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. This would mean building a huge industrial complex in the "biological heart" of the only protected area in North America that includes a full spectrum of arctic and sub-arctic ecosystems in an undisturbed condition.

The Refuge's wild state supports a wondrous display of more than 200 species of wildlife including grizzly bears, wolves, foxes, musk oxen, snow geese and tundra swans. The fragile coastal strip of the Refuge — the very area that would be devastated by oil-drilling — provides crucial habitat for the 180,000-annual Piping caribou herd. These caribou migrate hundreds of miles each year for food and a place to give birth to their calves.

Puts Our Coasts and Deserts In Jeopardy

Coastal areas — Florida, the Northwest, and elsewhere — that are currently under threat from offshore oil drilling would be "reassessed," and potentially made available for leasing. Rangeland and deserts areas, as in North Dakota and California, could be condensed under "dominant domain" for crosscountry pipelines.

One-Stop Nuclear Licensing

A "streamlined" nuclear siting and licensing process would only require one hearing for both construction and operating licenses. This is clearly unacceptable to citizens in Pennsylvania and across the country where we have overwhelmingly rejected nuclear power.

Hand- Outs to Nuclear Industry

The bill would require us — U.S. taxpayers — to guarantee another $50 billion to the already heavily subsidized nuclear power industry, with no provision to recover any of the costs from electric consumers. The bill would also encourage development of an "advanced" nuclear reactor — with a blank check from taxpayers.

White House Needs a Little Energy Awareness

Compiled by Heidi Fleischmann from various Sierra Club and other sources

President George Bush proclaimed Octo- ber 91 as Energy Awareness Month, urging all Americans "to observe this month with an eye to the importance and urgency of our energy programs and activities." "Our comprehensive National Energy Strategy calls for continued development of all our Nation's energy resources..." the proclamation goes. We wholeheartedly concur in the need for greater energy awareness. Unfortunately, the President has abused this occasion by plagiarizing his own bankrupt national energy strategy as embodied in S.1220, recently killed by Senate filibuster. (See article on page 3.) This cynical attempt to spruce up energy education with unabashed lobbying is indicative of the Bush Administration's all-out campaign to spin through Congress an unpopular and environmentally disastrous energy plan for the nation.

President, this is a small measure that the U.S. would never be held hostage to foreign oil, the Johnston-Walltopp bill was an energy dis- illusion that would have expanded the failed policies of the past while providing little vision for the future. A delusion by the congressional Office of Technology Assessment anticipates the need for increased domestic energy production and better conservation to prevent dramatically increased dependence on foreign oil. While calling for higher domestic production, the study concludes that the answer to curtailing the growth of imports is not in developing "conventional" energy sources as in the Arctic Refuge, but by drilling in existing fields, enhancing oil recovery, and by reopening shut or marginal wells.

Bogus Auto Fuel Efficiency Standards S.1220 leaves automobile fuel efficiency standards (called CAFE or Corporate Average Fuel Economy) to the discretion of the same Department of Transportation that is currently fighting any increase in fuel economy to 40 mpg by the year 2000. Oppose the bill unless Senators Lugar, Roth, Byrd, and Lieberman — the leaders of the environmental opposition to S.1220 — agree that the bill has been transformed into an environmentally positive energy strategy, which they also occur in and continue to be added to existing wilderness areas. In addition to the physical developments, we have the direct impact of overcrowding; of loss of vegetation, erosion, loss of soil, loss of the ability for rainfall to infiltrate the soil, loss of natural waters, loss of hundreds of miles of riparian habitat and thousands of streams and springs.

Massive overgrazing of the West began in the mid 1800s. By the 1930s, domestic live- stock had spoiled our public lands of two- thirds of its original flora. Today, fifty-seven years after the Taylor Grazing Act, less than 5 percent of our public lands is better than 75 percent of its original condition. In other words, as wildlife habitats, 95 percent of our public land remains in a barren state. What good is sterile wilderness stripped of its native flora and fauna? The recently designated West Maui and Cebolla Wilderness Areas are excellent examples of the problem. Without the an- derness areas. Every single point made above applies to these two areas. Our Governor (Bruce King) runs 1300 head of cattle on public lands in and around the wilderness areas. At last estimate, the pronghorn herd stood at 200 and declining. Even under its current degraded condition, the area could support a herd of over 1000 pronghorn, if the Govern- or had not expanded the public lands out of our wilderness areas.

Sure, with the Governor's blessing, we got a past (about half) of the qualifying area designated wilderness. But what did we accomplish? As far as I can tell from my recent trip out there nothing. The Governor's hired hands continue to drive anywhere they want, anytime they want. They continue to put in and maintain artificial water that allow the Governor's cows to remain in areas that do not have adequate vegetation to support them without severe and irreversible degradation of the land and loss of wilder- ness values.

Big Horn sheep, Mexican wolves, and black-footed ferrets are but three of the many species that can no longer be found in the Malpais as a direct result of domestic livestock. The Governor's sacred cows continue to trample the last vestiges of reclamation of these three native species.

The time has come to pit Wilderness against public land mismanagement. We can no longer have both. We have lost all the wilderness we can afford to lose before we take on public land problems.

Livestock Free Wilderness!

by Jim Fish

On October 6, the New Mexico Wilderness Coalition voted overwhelmingly to oppose expanding their BLM wilderness areas in the state's efforts to include the phase out of grazing of domestic livestock. In the end, the Coalition took the position that an area already designated by the national environmental bureaucrats that we should get as much wilderness designated as possible before we begin to eliminate grazing, the one use of land that is fundamentally incom- pable with true wilderness concepts.

While grazing is an issue for all public lands, not just that small percent of the public lands that need to be designated wilderness, certain facts concerning wilderness and grazing cannot be denied. Vast areas of the West have been rendered incapable of meeting the wilderness criteria as a direct result of public land ranching. Many areas that are viable for designation as wilderness today are in danger of not being viable in the future if current Interior Management Plans for livestock development are not reevaluated.

Designation of other areas that clearly meet the wilderness criteria at the time of consid- eration has been blocked politically by the livestock industry and are now being sys- tematically destroyed by the livestock in- dustry. Almost all of our public lands that have been designated wilderness continue to be degraded by livestock operations. The New Mexico Cattle Growers Association has been the leading opponent of the New Mexico Wild-erness Coalition proposal for BLM wilderness in New Mexico.

Windmills, stock tanks, pipelines, powerlines, fences and cor- rals cover our public lands like a pox; and to every development is a road, or in some cases, two or three roads. Not only do these developments limit the areas that can be considered for wilderness designation, but they also occur in and continue to be added to existing wilderness areas. In addition to the physical developments, we have the direct impact of overcrowding; loss of vegetation, erosion, loss of soil, loss of the ability for rainfall to infiltrate the soil, loss of natural waters, loss of hundreds of miles of riparian habitat and thousands of streams and springs.

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The time has come to pit Wilderness against public land mismanagement. We can no longer have both. We have lost all the wilderness we can afford to lose before we take on public land problems.

The New Mexico Wilder- ness Coalition has de- clined the land charge. They, therefore, looking for people who would like to help me put together a no-nonsense compromise group dedicated to getting legislation out of all design- ated and potential wild- nesses areas in New Mexico, I'm interested, please write.

WILD WILDERNESS! P.O. Box 712 Puebla, New Mexico 87043

Jim Fish is the founder of Project Rio Grande, which worked with, and a member of the Rio Grande Chapter 1.
Lujan Convenes ‘God Squad’

by Kevin Bidue

...the Act says you cannot take into consideration economic disruption. That bothers me. Maybe we should change the law.

—Manuel Lujan, Jr., 1989

Interior Secretary Manuel Lujan Jr. announced on September 30 that he will convene a special committee to determine if an exemption to the Endangered Species Act should be granted to allow the Bureau of Land Management to go forward with 44 timber sales in spotted owl habitat in Oregon. The committee is known as the ‘God Squad’ because of its power to authorize activities likely to wipe out species.

The BLM timber sales were halted last May after the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service determined that they would result in the death of 41 owls—13 percent of the owl population on the bureau’s land in western Oregon.

The decision to convene the committee came in response to a request by BLM director Cy Jamison. Formerly known as the Endangered Species Committee, the committee has 170 days from Lujan’s decision to decide whether an exemption should be granted.

Who is the God Squad?

Created by Congress through an amendment to the Endangered Species Act in 1978, the Endangered Species Committee is composed of the Secretary of Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of the Army, the chair of the Council of Economic Advisers, the administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and a representative from the affected state (in this case Oregon) who is recommended by the Governor and appointed by the President. How are they likely to vote? One can only speculate, but past actions and statements provide some clues.

Michael J. Boskin
Chairman, Council of Economic Advisers

A respected economics professor at Stanford before coming to Washington, Boskin helped prepare Reagan for his nationally televised debate with Jimmy Carter in 1980. He favors reduced government intervention to solve society’s problems, at least in economic matters. He meets regularly with President Bush one-to-one.

Probable vote: to exempt.

John Knauss
Administrator, NOAA

After being gutted during the Reagan years, NOAA has rebounded under the guidance of this 64-year-old oceanographer and long-time university dean. Knauss is more comfortable as a scientist than a regulator, but he has appointed strong environmentalists to key positions.

Probable vote: not to exempt.

Michael P.W. Stone
Secretary of the Army

After nearly 20 years in the California wine business, Stone was appointed to the U.S. Meston in Cairo in 1982. From there he moved up fast, becoming director of Caribbean Basin Initiative Affairs for AID, then Undersecretary of the Army, and finally Secretary of the Army in 1988.

Probable vote: to exempt.

Representative from Oregon

To be appointed by President Bush

Probable vote: to exempt.

Edward Madigan
Secretary of Agriculture

A moderate Republican, Madigan voted to reauthorize the Endangered Species Act on several occasions during his nearly 30-year tenure as a Congressman from Illinois. As Agriculture Secretary, however, he failed to stand up to a high-ranking Forest Service official who claimed he was punishing farmers who did not establish and protect owl habitats, as required by the Act.

They argue that the man was politically-inspired, and the beginning of an attempt to undermine protection for the owl.

Probable vote: to exempt.

William K. Reilly
Administrator, EPA

Reilly brought solid environmental credentials to EPA as the former president of the Conservation Foundation and World Wildlife Fund. Although his record at EPA has been mixed, his veto of a major water project (Two Forks Dam) is encouraging. The Two Forks decision was justified, he said, to counter the threat of a "very heavy, first, and irremovable loss of an environmental treasure of national significance." [Source: 1989 Current Biography]

Probable vote: not to exempt.

William L. Reilly
Politics and Population

The Reapportionment of New Mexico

by Rep. Pauline Eisenstadt

The State Legislature met for ten days in September to determine how to reshape the legislative and congressional districts to better conform to the population shifts in our state as determined by the 1990 census.

There is high drama in this situation because there are many conflicting and competing interests seeking political advantage. The Democrats control both houses and there is an effort by incumbents to protect their districts. The Indian tribes, Hispanic groups and Native American tribes, personal ambitions and our vision for the state were all in conflict.

The Congressional districts changed very little even though much discussed effort to split Albuquerque in three to accommodate a majority minority districts in the Southwest had some support. The rural areas felt threatened to be in a district with Albuquerque and the big city seemed not to want the split either.

The votes for Concept II were never there and Governor King's reluctance to change the Congressional districts very much prevailed. Five unaided counties went into the second District (see map). The First District gained some precincts in Sandoval County in my district.

The State Legislative districts changed to conform to the growth patterns. Doña Ana County will gain a House and Senate seat, Sandoval County will gain a House seat and two half of Senate seats, and Valencia will gain a house seat.

The House will add a seat in the House and Senate. Socorro, Grants, Los Alamos and Truth or Consequences may have trouble hanging on to their locally controlled legislative seats due to politics and population.

There was frequent discussion in Santa Fe about the possibility of a legal challenge and the rejection by federal lawyers of the State Senate redistricting. The reasons were lack of a Hispanic majority district in the southeast and the small Native American percentages in northwest districts.

What it means for the environment

The Sierra Club needs to evaluate the growth areas of Rio Rancho, Doña Ana, and Valencia counties where there are open seats and open opportunities to educate those constituents about environmental concerns.

The redistricting changes were not focused on the environmental issues but rather on the issues of minority representation and politics. However, the open seats and growth areas represent opportunities for the environmental community in the state to focus their issues on the political agenda.

Many of us in the political arena are hearing from our constituents more frequently about environmental issues and we think our groups such as the Sierra Club for this public awareness.

[The author is a Sierra Club-endorsed state representative whose districts include Rio Rancho, Corrales, and Bernallillo Counties, and the Pueblos of Sandia and Sanitas Ana.]

Environmental Groups Settle Lawsuit Against IBWC

by Lori Potter, Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund

In July 1990, conservation groups and the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) entered into an historic consent decree which resolved a long simmering environmental dispute. The decree settled a lawsuit brought by the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund's Denver Office on behalf of the Sierra Club, the National Audubon Society, and the Friends Audubon Society in 1989 to challenge the IBWC's practice of clearing brush from the banks of the Rio Grande in southeastern Texas near the Gulf of Mexico.

The IBWC cleared brush from the U.S. side of the Rio Grande for roughly 30 years as part of the Lower Rio Grande Flood Control Project. The U.S. and Mexico had agreed to adopt flood control measures, including brush clearing, necessary to pass specified water flows in the river at given points and to ease its system of interior levees, floodways, and canals to divert and control floods.

In the 1960s, the IBWC's brush clearing practices ran afoul of a burgeoning movement to protect the Rio Grande's riparian habitat for wildlife purposes. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has made preservation of riparian lands in the Lower Rio Grande Valley its foremost priority, has acquired approximately 40,000 acres of land near the Rio Grande as part of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Wildlife Refuge, and is in the process of acquiring over 100,000 acres in the area.

The agency's object is to create a "wildlife corridor" comprising eleven districts.

The plaintiffs in the suit formed the Wildlife corridor Task Force to assist in the process of identifying, acquiring, and managing lands for the corridor. Pressure by the IBWC to destroy prime habitat through its annual brush clearing program, Task Force members wrote a series of letters to the IBWC's U.S. Section, asking for the rationale for the clearing. The IBWC kept the U.S. Section to support the clearing with hydrologic data, and seeking an alternative flood control device. If the IBWC was necessary at all, Interprese, the U.S. Section took the position that clearing activities were required by international agreements and claimed compensation from the National Environmental Protection Council (NEPC).

IBWC documents obtained by the environmental groups showed that the amount of acreage cleared and the manner in which clearing was conducted varied by year. The groups concluded that the IBWC actually exercised a great deal of discretion in determining the time, place and manner of brush clearing, and that that discretion should be used with sensitivity toward the rich and diverse resources of the Rio Grande Valley.

When a protracted exchange of letters failed to break this deadlock, the conservation groups gave the U.S. Section formal notice of their intent to file suit. The U.S. Section had never filed an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement on any aspect of the Flood Control Project, nor had the U.S. Section ever consulted formally with the Fish and Wildlife Service pursuant to section 7 of the ESA.

Attorneys for the parties met immediately but made considerable progress in negotiation attempts to reach a settlement. The consent decree which the court eventually approved embodied the parties' agreement, based in part on other things, that:

1. The U.S. Section will enter into formal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service over the impacts of brush clearing on endangered species.
2. In that consultation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has the authority to develop reasonable and prudent alternatives to brush clearing.
3. Contingent upon receiving sufficient funding from Congress, the IBWC will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement to assess the effects of brush clearing on all environmental values. In January 1991, the IBWC held the first of a series of required public hearings associated with EIS preparation.
4. The U.S. Section agreed to largely curtail its brush clearing activities while the Endangered Species Act consultation progresses, and to leave strips of brush along critical edges (even in those limited areas where brush clearing may be inevitable, such as in the vicinity of bridges) where brush clearing will continue.
5. The consent decree set up a detailed schedule for compliance, which the court will oversee. The U.S. Section also agreed to pay the conservation groups' legal fees.

The consent decree has far-reaching implications for the future. First, it set in motion a process with potentially major impacts on all aspects of environmental protection. Second, the process of negotiating the decree and parsing the requirements of the applicable international agreement and the U.S. environmental laws from the IBWC's responsibilities toward those ambitious and important conservation efforts.
State Energy Plan: No Plan at All

by Ken Hughes

Many of our groups are involved at the national level in opposing [a] myopic [Bush energy] strategy and wish to avoid similar policy initiatives at home here in New Mexico. For over 20 years we have made the case for aggressive conservation strategies, for efficiency improvements and for greatly increased application of renewable sources instead of the economically losing proposition of greater development of oil.

Today we continue to subsidize the coal, oil and nuclear industries, hide the environmental and social costs of production and use of conventional energy sources, and inhibit the truly free enterprise marketplace that industries claim to like so much. New Mexico should be taking steps to face these issues head-on.

What we have before us in an absence of priorities, hence no policy. Let’s call it for what it is, a very readable, useful background report. Thus my comments react not only to this report, but also to what we feel ought to be a true energy policy. [Efficiency and environmental policy are] bound together. New Mexico has a special natural environment to protect. Indeed, environmental protection should be priority number one as we move forward in formulating a plan. We see little evidence that environmental protection is a driving force in making choices.

For instance, although the report acknowledges the threat of global warming and admits that we are actively contributing to the world in doing something about the problem, no strategy is proposed to deal with over "the probability of regulatory restrictions" on carbon dioxide emissions, let alone to get out front on an environmental problem. The report’s suggested approaches on fossil fuels in effect call for waiting the problem through increased fossil fuel burning.

We feel that taxes should be taxed at the rate of extra carbon, with refining, used to mitigate higher fuel bills and to recoup homes of New Mexicans needing assistance. Also, steps must be taken to directly offset C02 emissions, such as planting trees at abandoned mines, riparian sites and other places needing reforestation.

We have literally built our country and economy on a cheap energy sources. Yet the real costs have been hidden in a layer of tax breaks, loans and programs at both the federal and state levels. A study by the Rocky Mountain Institute shows that subsidies given to efficiency improvements, as many as these subsidies are, yield 12.5 million btu’s per dollar of subsidy. By contrast, the $16 billion subsidy to nuclear power yielded 0.1 Mbtu’s of subsidy.

If the plan was to do nothing else, the "leader- ship and innovation" asked for by the governor would be achieved if it charted a course for incorporating real energy costs and removing taxpayer subsidies for well established industries.

We appreciate the inclusion in the report of solar and renewable, and in noting their advantage on the jobs front: 3 times that of fossil fuels and 4-5 times that of conventional electric generation. Just as economic growth is recognized to grow as energy efficiencies displace sloppy use of fossil fuels, we look toward policies advancing efficiency improvements and renewables for ways to create jobs, both directly and through higher disposable levels of income (filtering through the local economy).

What we need to see is real commitment to the development of some of these sources, of the kind that can have many different kinds of energy demands, the real starting point for an energy policy. This implies shifting investments away from conventional, polluting sources to efficiency and renewables. It means making our energy decisions based on life-cycle costing, on real energy costs. It means a significant change from the status quo. It means backing up rhetoric with action.

The conservation and efficiency chapter of the report makes a compelling case for strong action in this direction, with excellent examples culled from other states as well as pilot efforts here in New Mexico. Yet when the report says in the uranium chapter that the U.S. needs up to 200 new central power plants in the next nine years, there is an inherent contradiction when policy setting time comes.

In closing, let me state that we in New Mexico are faced with a choice. If we must go the way of the Park Service, project wilderness, save money by the barrelful, clear the air and take the oil weapon safe from the likes of Saddam Hussein, all without a sistema cultural crown jewels, Mammoth expansion, DEI and a six-lane Panode del Norte highway through the Petrified Forest unnecessarily violate the City’s stewardship role.

Petroglyphs Update

by Ken E环境下

Double Eagle Could Become Giant Airport

Separated from Petrified Forest National Monument’s western boundary by only a wire fence is a small general aviation airport called Double Eagle II (DEII). Opened in 1983, DEII today is used mostly by light weight local aircraft for training and pleasure flights. Monument supporters had anticipated the utilization of the two existing runways would continue for these types of uses, and that conflicts with overflights and noise pollution could be worked out.

Albuquerque officials, however, have different plans. They are proposing a mammoth expansion that ultimately would have more pavement than Logan International in Boston, almost twice as much traffic as Albuquerque International new has, and would have as many runways—four—as the new $2.4 billion Denver International Airport when it opens.

The existing relatively quiet uses of DEII would gradually be replaced with jet maintenance operations for large airlines and general aviation aircraft, air freight operations, commercial airlines flight training, corporate jets, and a doubling of general aviation operations. DEII would become the busiest airport in the state and National Monument visitors would be bombarded with aircraft noise.

Together with the City’s plans to punch a six-lane Ponce del Norte with trucks through the Piedras Macuas Unit of the Monument, and to extensively impact the rest of the Monument’s eastern, Petrified Forest-high side with U.S. 82 Boulevard constriction, these newly developed expansion of DEII would constitute the coup de grace extinguishing the integrity and national significance of Petrified Forest National Monument.

The City is making these recommendations for unprecedented growth at DEII without benefit of a full Environmental Impact Statement, even though 90 percent of the funds being used are from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Garth Engineering, the same consultant whose design for Unser South precipitated a lawsuit from national conservation groups and FOTAP, has a $144,100 contract to “update” the Airport Master Plan for DEII without complying with the National Environmental Policy Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, and other federal laws.

Instead of one comprehensive EIS addressing the whole of the action, the City Aviation Board is calling for a series of EIRs to do lesser “environmental analyses” bit by bit bit by bit. The FAA makes available funds to put each piece of the Master Plan in place over the next 20 years. As a result, a full EIS looking at real alternatives, including other alternative site locations, would never be done for the City’s grandiose Master Plan.

What You Can Do

Write and call your congressional representatives and Interior Secretary Manuel Lujan, Jr. (Washington, DC 20240), emphasizing some of the points below, especially the idea that the Park Service must be free of political pressure in making its recommendations to the City.

• No further federal funds should be used to expand DEII until a full EIS is done in accordance with the Master Plan provided by the City. The EIS must look at other site locations which would not impact Petrified Forest National Monument, and must strongly consider just utilizing the two existing runways at DEII with no further expansion.

• The City is supposed to be a “partner” in acquiring and managing about 2500 acres of Petrified Forest National Monument. Congress authorized this local government entity to conduct these projects as cultural crown jewels, Mammoth expansion, DEII and a six-lane Ponce del Norte highway through the Petrified Forest and unnecessarily violate the City’s stewardship role.

Rural Activists Needed

Attention Sierra Club members with ties to rural communities: If you are interested in organizing support for reform of the 1972 Mining Law and other issues, we need you! Please fill out and send us this survey.

NAME

ADDRESS

PHONE NUMBER

SIERRA CLUB GROUP:

What small community are you most interested in?

Were you born in a small town?

Do you live there now?

Do you work there?

Have you relatives in a small town?

Close Friends?

Would you be willing to:

1) Work with people you know to develop support for conservation issues?

2) Introduce a Sierra Club activity to your acquaintances?

3) Attend or speak at local group meetings?

4) Write letters to editors?

5) Be a local Sierra Club member?

6) Attend environmental committee meetings?

7) Help with fund-raising events?

8) Be an environmental guide?

9) Would you be able to volunteer your time one day a month?

10) One weekend a month?

Thank you for being willing to share your concern! Please return by December 1st to

Sierra Club Rio Grande Chapter
945 Camino de Chelly
Santa Fe, NM 87501

For further information, call Grady Wardwell at (505) 473-9564.
Forest Service Cuts Forester for Not Cutting Forests

A Sierra Club news release

The national forests of Idaho and Montana are at the center of a four-way tug-of-war between environmentalists, the timber industry, the U.S. Forest Service, and Congress. The odd man out in this contest is the Forest Service’s top officer in the northern region, John Mumma, who resigned after he was removed from his post for failing to produce the congressionally mandated amount of timber in his region.

Mumma testified Sept. 24 before a House service subcommittee that is looking into allegations that the Bush administration used illegal regulations against environmental whistles-blowers in the Park and Forest services.

Mumma testified that current timber quotas are unrealistic, given the law and that he endured “undue interference and pressure by political figures” to conduct excessive logging in the national forests he managed.

“It is not possible to meet the required timber quotas,” Mumma said, “because meeting them would require us to violate other laws, standards, or regulations.”

Under the 1976 National Forest Management Act, national forests are to be managed for multiple uses. Jud Moore, a regional Forest Service spokesman, acknowledged that Mumma had fulfilled all of the agency’s management goals during his tenure except timber production volume.

Records show that Mumma’s region, which includes 13 national forests in Montana, Idaho, and the Dakotas, offered only 786 million board feet for sale in timber for 1990 — well under the 1.1 billion board feet that Congress had demanded from the area. Annual Forest Service reports show that Mumma, a wildlife biologist, held down the level of timber harvests in recent years, citing the negative impacts on other forest values as a result of overproduction.

“This situation simply illustrates how Forest Service employees are forced to choose between obeying Congress or obeying the law,” said Larry Mehlaff, the Sierra Club’s Northern Plains staff director. “Mumma’s resignation shows what happens when they choose to obey the law.”

Earlier this summer, Idaho Republican Sen. Larry Craig sent a letter to Forest Service Chief Dale Robertson, blasting him for not meeting the timber harvest quota set for the northern region.

Sierra Club Launches Campaign to Save Tropical Rain Forests

from the Sierra Club’s National News Report

The Sierra Club’s International Program has launched a campaign to stop the rapid destruction of the world’s primary tropical rain forests.

The main goal: to enact a federal law requiring labels on imported tropical woods and wood products, listing the country of origin and wood species. Such information would allow consumers to selectively purchase wood products from countries that sustainably manage their tropical rain forests. The United States presently imports approximately 10 percent of all internationally traded tropical wood.

“Everyone can help save tropical rain forests,” said Cathy Fogel, associate international representative for the Sierra Club. “Unwitting consumers of endangered tropical woods in the United States is a major problem.”

The Sierra Club is supporting Sen. Al Gore and Rep. Peter Kostmayer’s Tropical Forest Consumer Information and Protection Act, S.1159/H.R.2554, which Fogel calls “the most important single Congress can take” to protect the rain forests.

Because indigenous rain forest peoples possess intimate knowledge of tropical forest ecosystems, the Sierra Club does their support and participation essential to any effort to protect tropical rain forests.

The campaign will seek to establish a national consumer education program on the environmental and economic value of tropical rain forests. The program will also evaluate different countries’ track records on forest protection and management.

The Sierra Club will continue to push the world’s industrialized nations to prohibit foreign assistance for rain forest logging and to adopt sound environmental practices at the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

The World Bank’s Tropical Forestry Action Plan is a target for major reform. An ambitious, $5 billion global plan designed to improve forest conservation and slow deforestation through increased forestry leasing, it has had little to accelerate forest destruction.

The Sierra Club has asked the World Bank to discontinue all international funding for logging in primary tropical rain forests, increase international funding for forest conservation and reforestation, and require full community participation in forest planning exercises and complete public access to forest project information.

The International Program will also press the International Tropical Timber Organization for immediate implementation of its goal of trading tropical woods only from sustainable sources, and for immediate adoption and implementation of sound rain forest conservation policies and projects for all participating countries.

For more information, contact Cathy Fogel in the Sierra Club’s Washington, D.C. office at (202) 547-1141.

‘Local’ Logging Firm Owned by Global Giant

by Pat Wolff

Anyone who follows forest issues has heard about Duke City Lumber Company and its logging operations on national forests in the Southwest. What few people realize is that Duke City is not some struggling mom-and-pop operation, but part of a London-based multinational conglomerate called Hanson PLC.

With billions in annual earnings, Hanson ranks 79th on the Fortune 500 list of industrial giants and is the fifth largest company in the United Kingdom.

Duke City Lumber Company’s parent company also owns Peabody Coal Company, the largest coal producer in the world, and Gold Fields, the notorious mining company that laid waste to the Oritz Mountains near Santa Fe.

In 1988 to 1990, the company has been ordered to stop logging and has since paid $2.8 million to the state of New Mexico.

Duke City Lumber Company’s activities have been a magnet for environmental groups and have been challenged in court.

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Chapter Activists Hash Out Goals, Strategies at Retreat

by Ralph Wrons and Kevin Bizby

Thirty-four activists of the Rio Grande Chapter, including six members of the new, growing NMSU Student Chapter in Las Cruces, gathered for a weekend of intensive soil-sensing at the Ghost Ranch on October 13-15. We hold this yearly event for the purpose of focusing on the Chapter’s conservation efforts. This year, however, was different. A new method was motivated by several concerns, among them discouraging loss of grassroots activism, mounting threats by anti-environmental protection groups, People for the West and absence of a clear, focused conservation agenda.

Gary Williams, El Paso Group Chair and one of the lead organizers of the retreat, had in mind a definite purpose. “We need to achieve a greater sense of collective, organized direction, for the Chapter and for the Groups,” Williams said. “We want to act as a whole, we need to become more sophisticated.” Consultant Tim Channel, a Sierra Club member from the El Paso Group, acted as our facilitator, in order that we would not stray from our intended mission. After a roundabout, introductory speech by Rick Smith, who is the assistant director for SW region of the National Park Service and also a Club member, we started to work. All went well.

Tim told us that every successful organization needs a vision statement, a “fantasy” that we are always striving to achieve. Can you imagine 28 long-time activists and some younger ideals trying to agree on one visionary statement to guide us in our efforts?

At the end of a three-hour plus struggle, we reached a consensus on our vision: “To respect, restore and protect natural ecosystems for all species, so that humanity is in harmony with the Earth and its life forms.”

We broke for dinner. While Ghost Ranch is an excellent place for a retreat, somebody forgot to tell the cook that New Mexico has a deserved reputation for its unique New Mexican fare. At least we didn’t have to worry about anybody nodding off after stuffing themselves at a meal.

After dinner, author John Nichols read to us from his latest book, *The Sky’s the Limit*, accompanied by slides he’s taken over the years near his home in Taos. Nichols stimulated a lively discussion by charging the Sierra Club for opposing small-scale traditional public land grazing in northern New Mexico. Afterwards, we resumed our mission. With a vision statement and Channel to guide us, we worked on setting goals through a three-tiered process.

First, as individuals we each came up one major Chapter goal. In small groups, we distilled our ideas into two goals per group. These 12 goals were then presented to the whole body. (See sidebar next page.)

We then faced the task of further narrowing our choices down to four overall Chapter goals for the coming year. By elimination and duplication, it was a relatively easy matter to reduce the number to eight.

But then the group bogged down. After lengthy discussion, the impasse was broken when Heidi Fishman noted that almost all of the remaining goals fit into four categories: 1) strengthen the organization; 2) affect public policy; 3) increase public awareness; 4) improve conservation goals. We were able to proceed after agreeing to select one major goal in each of the four categories. These were:

**Proposed Chapter Goals**

These are the 12 goals developed in small groups at the retreat from which 4 primary chapter goals were chosen. They are listed in no particular order.

1. Reform the 1872 Mining Law.
2. Consolidate newsletter for all groups.
3. Develop an active outreach program for the Chapter.
4. Enact a major Wilderness Bill in the next two years.
5. Help elect environmentalist candidates to public offices who will help promote our agenda.
6. Develop support for reform of the 1872 Mining Law.
7. Increase Club interest, awareness and involvement in population issues and legislation over the next year.
8. Strengthen the organization by recruiting a large and more active membership, to establish more groups and to utilize resources and expertise of other groups and agencies to further environmental goals.
9. Substantially reduce domestic livestock grazing in wilderness areas.
11. Increase media coverage of environmentally positive activities.
12. Develop an integrated environmental plan for the U. S. and Mexico border.

*Message from the Chair*

As part of the campaign to reform the 1872 Mining Law, the Sierra Club will work to pass model county and state mining legislation. We will cooperate with local groups in areas immediately threatened by mining. The following article describes proposed mining in Santa Fe County. We may be asking you to attend hearings on this issue soon.

In order to demonstrate significant public interest in public hearings, please write to the Groundwater Section, Department of the Environment, P.O. Box 26110, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502. Letters need only mention being “in favor of the discharge plan,” “DK-S5-Pegasus-Gold Corporation, will solve discharge problems”; “concern about acid drainage problem”; “concern about ground water contamination” and/or “the experimental nature of the method for treating cyanide contamination.”

Another facet of the campaign will be to identify and support opponents of mining in the villages of New Mexico. We hope you will complete and return the questionnaire on pages 11 if you can help with this important effort.

—Gwen Wardwell

Cyanide-based Gold Mining Planned in Ortiz Mountains by Jeannie Cragin

The price of gold is $337 an ounce, high enough to intrigue many. At the expense of the life and beauty in the Ortiz Mountains, a Canadian mining company plans in 1992 to begin using a deadly method to remove small amounts of gold eight miles east of Cerrillos.

Pegasus Gold, Inc. is not the first company to be tempted by gold in the mountains near Golden. Gold Fields, Inc. left cyanide and sulfuric acid seeping into wells and five million tons of residual rock which the Canadian company is required to clean up, but thus far have done very little. This operation, Pegasus Gold assures Santa Fe County, will be different. When they are finished, they say, the land will be as good as new.

Mining this low grade, disseminated ore, Pegasus will use the “heap leach” method in which crushed rock is piled on a leach pad and doused with a cyanide solution. Small amounts of gold separate as the cyanide filters through the rock and drains into a lined holding pond. A second round of water containing gold would be drawn every minute, 720,000 gallons per day from the same aquifer in the high desert which supplies residents with drinking water. In addition to this 810 acre feet, Pegasus has asked for 122 acre feet for dewatering.

Twopen shots of mines over 200 acres each will be dug in Lukas and Carache Canyons; both will become permanent craters. The most serious problem, however, heavy metal contamination in tailings, has not been solved. Although cyanide is deadly, (a teaspoon of a 2 percent solution is fatal), heavy metal contamination is even more dangerous.

The company owns mineral rights to 58,000 acres including land in the Ortiz Mountains, (they usually mention only 3000 acres), and the announced plan calls for disturbance of only 1100 acres. But in Montana, Pegasus owns a gold mine, the Zortman-Landusky in the Little Rocky Mountains. Groups like the Friends of Santa Fe County and the Sierra Club fear that what will happen in the Ortiz may be predicted by what is happening in Montana.

There, the initial mine covered 350 acres, but ten expansions later, it has become 1200 acres. The Plains Indian tribes living in the little Rockies suffer the roar of large trucks and blasting explosions. Tailings may have contaminated their reservation’s King Creek. Inspectors discovered that the company was overloading cyanide heap leach pads used in extraction by 10,000 tons, the most flagsrant violation they had ever witnessed.

The Rio Grande Chapter joins forces with the Friends of Santa Fe County in opposing Pegasus Gold’s plan for the Ortiz Mountains. We do not believe that there is any fair price for the loss of the land.
BRIEFS

Forest Service Panel Blasts Forest Management in Southwest

The priority given to commodity production, especially grazing, has devastated riparian areas and caused serious erosion on U.S. Forest Service lands in New Mexico and Arizona, according to an internal Forest Service report. The report, completed in September, was prepared by a five-person team of Washington, D.C.-based Forest Service employees, as well as an employee of the Environmental Protection Agency. The team based its report on visits to the Lincoln National Forest in New Mexico, and the Tonto and Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests in Arizona.

"The projects we were shown were driven by commodity or output issues," the report said. "Riparian areas, instead of being lush, green oases in the hot, dry climate, are void of vegetation, eroding, and frequently dry as the uplands." The report recommended giving priority to protecting air, water, and soil quality—collectively called watershed management.

[Source: Albuquerque Journal]

Ethnic and Cultural Diversity Grants Available

Grants of $500-$2,500 are now available to schools and groups to support activities designed to enhance the ethnic and cultural diversity of the Sierra Club and the environmental movement. The funds are to be used for conservation campaigns that bring together Sierra Club activists and activists representing communities of color; for efforts that enhance the diversity of the Club's membership; leadership, staff or program; or for any other projects which help build dialogue, awareness, or collaboration between the Club and diverse constituencies.

Examples of eligible activities include: conservation campaigns that unite diverse constituencies; workshops or conferences concerning issues of ethnic or cultural diversity; minority internship programs; support for ongoing ethnic/environmental coalitions; special recruitment efforts for activists of color; and solidarity action in support of conservation campaigns led by organizations representing communities of color.

For more information, call the Ethnic and Cultural Diversity Task Force at (415) 923-5675 or (617) 536-2353.

New Border Crossing Won't Ease Traffic Problems, Feds Say

Instead of relieving traffic congestion at existing border crossings in El Paso, the Santa Teresa (New Mexico) crossing will likely generate its own traffic, according to a General Services Administration study released in late October.

"It is not expected that the existing passenger vehicles crossing at El Paso would normally divert from the downtown crossings to Santa Teresa," said the study.

El Paso officials have supported the new crossing, with the hope that it will relieve traffic congestion at the city's bridges over the Rio Grande, where delays of an hour or more are commonplace. Vehicles waiting to cross the border are a major contributor to air pollution in the area.

[Source: Albuquerque Journal]

Tech Range & Wildlife Management Note 7 (1985), BLM predicts large increases in deer herds after their main food plants are destroyed and replaced with grasses (which comprise 2 percent of deer diets in southeastern New Mexico). Similarly, BLM claims to be enhancing habitat for prairie chickens and predicts increases in their numbers after treatment, although of the two studies made on effects of Shirley treatment on the birds, one found a sharp decrease in numbers on treated areas and the other showed no change in numbers but a marked decline in the birds' health (for instance in fat reserves) in the absence of acorns.

The Sierra Club is trying to persuade BLM to stop using taxpayer money to destroy wildlife habitat, so far the Bureau does not listen. We will try to persuade the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish not to sign off on the BLM projects. If that fails, we will have to take the Bureau to court, which is what the Chapter Executive Committee voted on October 13 to do. Those sandy soils, subject to wind erosion whenever drought kills BLM's fragile, unnatural grass pastures, should be kept in New Mexico.

For more information, or to join this campaign, contact me at St. John's College, Santa Fe 87501-4599.

[Roger Peterson is the Rio Grande Chapter's BLM Issues Chair and a member of the Sonora Fe Group.]

New Energy Standards for Appliances

The Energy Department has revised its minimum efficiency standards for washing machines, dryers, and dishwashers, claiming the changes will save the nation 390 million barrels of oil over the next 24 years—63 percent of the oil industry's highest projections for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Under the new rules, which will take effect in May, 1994, washing machine efficiency will increase by 27 percent, dryer efficiency by 15 percent, and dishwasher efficiency by 30 percent.

The new standards are expected to save the country approximately $2.26 billion over
the next 25 years, and to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by nearly 50 million tons. The DOE is also considering raising effi-
ciency standards for room air conditioners, water heaters, ranges and ovens, and other major appliances. 

[Briefs: Sierra Club National News (34)]

**Cattle Starve to Death on BLM Allotment in New Mexico**

Thirty of 200 cattle on the BLM’s Cerro Chato grazing allotment in western New Mexico have starved to death since the spring of last year. Surviving animals are described as gaunt and weak.

According to the Public Lands Action Network (PLAN), the permittee, Wayne C. Grandstaff of the Bolen Finance Corporation, has not ordered hay over the winter in violation of BLM regulations. The BLM had been warned last fall that stock tanks on the allotment were running dry. BLM had planned to re-

stocking rates on the allotment by 19 percent over several years.

[Controversy, Ranchers Keep Wolves Out of Schools]

An educational program that brings live wolves into the classroom was cancelled in southwestern New Mexico because school administrators feared it would be too controv-

ersial. Mission Wolf organizer Pamela Brown cancelled the tour after being denied permis-
sion to bring wolves to schools in Greenwood and Silver City, and receiving resistance from Deming school officials. The tour, with a stop also planned in Las Cruces, was intended to educate children about wolves.

In a letter to tour supporters, Brown said she cancelled the show because she feared for the safety of the wolves. She wrote that she was told by the principal of Silver City High School that a representative of a ranching organization had appeared at a local school board meeting and presented wolf education in "an intimidating manner."

A spokesperson for the New Mexico Farm and Livestock Bureau, Eric Neco, was quoted in the Las Cruces Sun-News saying that the Bureau’s program is "not reality. To bring a fuzzy little wolf into the schools and say it’s harmless isn’t reality. They’re dangerous animals."

[Briefs: Sierra Club National News (34)]

**Peruvian Environmentalists Stop Oil Drilling in Amazon Nature Reserve**

A campaign by Peruvian environmentalists to stop oil drilling in a nature reserve ended in victory on August 29 when U.S.-

owned Texaco announced it was abandoning plans to continue looking for oil in the area. It is the first Peruvian national oil company, Perupetro, to TEXACO announced that its decision not to sign an oil agreement with the Peruvian government is due to opposition from environmentalists and po-

litical pressure. Texaco had already invested $500 million in the project.

Environmentalists opposed oil drilling in the Pacaya-Samiria National Reserve in eastern Peru because of the harmful envi-

ronmental and social impacts. They claimed that oil development activities threatened to contaminate streams, kill aquatic life, and jeopardize the fishing livelihoods of indigenous peoples. They maintained that allow-

ing oil drilling in a protected nature reserve was illegal and a bad precedent.

[Briefs: Sierra Club National News (34)]

**Open Pit Copper Mine Planned Near Gila Box**

AZCO Mining Company of Colorado has proposed an open pit copper mine on BLM land near Safford, Arizona. This will be the largest mining plan ever reviewed by the BLM for public lands in Arizona.

The mine site is only a couple of miles from the Gila Box Riparian National Conservation Area and Bonita Creek, and con-
tains habitat for several state and federally threatened and endangered species, including the bald eagle, peregrine falcon and Gila 

cobra. Bonita Creek is a designated State Unique Waters, meaning it has report water quality and riparian habitat. The Gila Box is proposed for listing as a Wild and Scenic River.

According to the Mining Plan of Opera-
tions, the site will ultimately measure about 4,000 feet in diameter and be 2,000 feet deep. It will be a sulfuric acid heap leach operation with a crushing plant, leach pads, waste dumps and a solvent extraction-electro-

crystallization winning plant to extract the copper. [Source: Article by Larry Lowie, Tucson. Reprinted by permission from Canyon Echo, the newsletter of the Grand Canyon Chapter of the Sierra Club.]

[Briefs: Sierra Club National News (34)]

**Calaveras Timber Sale**

A coalition of Sierra Clubἀresidents, Friends of the Audubon Society and Forest Guard-

ians have appealed the Calaveras timber sale located on the Sierra Nevada State Forest. The Forest Service plans to cut 7.4 million board feet of timber in the area despite limits in the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan which permitted only 4 million board feet to be cut. Most of the Calaveras area has never been logged. It is unique in that it is the largest uncut mid-elevation forest left in the Jemez Mountains and is home to the highest con-
tinental species of Mexican gray wolves in north-

ern New Mexico. Other rare species include the peregrine falcon, northern goshawk, 

flamboyant owl, and the Jemez Mountain 

Salamander, which is found nowhere else on earth.

Environmentalists contend in their appeal that the Forest Service failed to survey for the spotted bat, pine marten and goshawk 

which exist in the area. The spotted bat and pine marten are both listed as endangered by N.M. Department of Game and Fish. The Forest Service recently adopted guidelines for the spotted bat which leaves the decision whether to survey up to local foresters. [Source: Sierra Club National News (34)]

[Hopes for Environmental Tied to Population Crisis]

A coalition of five environmental groups, in-

ccluding the Sierra Club, has released the first major report linking human population growth with massive environmental degrada-
tion.

The report, "Population and Environment: The Challenges Ahead," links population growth to nearly two-thirds of the increase in worldwide carbon dioxide emissions, 80 percent of deforestation of tropical rain for-

tests, and the yearly erosion of 26 billion tons of soil.

The report presents the U.N. Amsterdam Declaration as the blueprint for solving the population problem. Under the guidelines of 

the 'Declaration, the United States and other member nations would devote 4 percent of 

their foreign aid budgets to international population assistance.

"The report clearly shows that we must act now in order to resolve the major environ-

mental crises of our time," said Nancy Wallace, Washington director of the Sierra Club International Population Program. The coalition is calling on Congress to take immediate action to stabilize world population by allocating $650 million of this year's federal budget to family planning programs. [Source: Sierra Club National News (34)]

World population has increased from 3.7 billion to 5.4 billion over the past 20 years. It is estimated the world will grow by another 1 billion people by the year 2000 if no action is taken.

"Action to stabilize population growth rates must begin today if tomorrow's gen-

erations are to breathe clean air, drink pure water, and have adequate food, fuelwood, and shelter," said Wallace.

"All of our major efforts to conserve and protect the earth and its resources will suc-

ceed only if the U.S. population growth assistance as a top priority," she said, "Sustainable population levels are the pre-
chersets of an environmentally secure fu-

ture."

For more information, contact Nancy Wallace or Karen Kato at the Sierra Club’s Washington, D.C. office at (202) 547-1141. [Source: Sierra Club National News (34)]

Reducing the Junk

Last year, Americans received 63.7 bil-

lion pieces of junk mail, according to the U.S. Postal Service. And junk mail accounts for 24.9 percent of the nation’s solid waste, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

People can stop the flow of junkmail, it was said, by writing to the individual companies, or to one of national companies, Direct Marketing Association or Equifax, Inc.

To have your name removed from na-

tional direct advertising mailing lists, send your name and address to Mail Preference Service, Direct Marketing Association, 11 West 42nd Street, P.O. Box 3861, New York, N.Y. 10103-3861; or Equifax Option, P.O. Box 740122, Atlanta, GA 30374-0123. [Source: Los Angeles Daily News]
International Student Project Looking for Volunteers

by Lisa LaRocque

Project del Rio is looking for volunteers to help with a high school water quality monitoring project on the Rio Grande. We are looking for enthusiastic high school students who enjoy working with high school students as they explore "real" environmental issues. No experience is required - we'll provide all the training you'll need.

We need volunteers to help students in Hidalgo, Tamaulipas and Hidalgo, Mexico to monitor the river. The project is designed to increase environmental awareness. Students participating in the project will learn to interpret data, compare data from their stations with data from other stations, and contribute to the overall project data collection.

Volunteers are needed for 2-3 hours on two days a month, starting in March. If you are interested, please contact Lisa LaRocque at 915-635-5707 or email la_ralorocque@utep.edu.