

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 and discussed priorities, I am prepared to contribute fully to the ExCom's tasks.

My thirty years of experience in education, as a teacher, counselor and administrator, give 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 enlisting 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 renew (and

ideally broaden) the Endangered Species Act, which will come before Congress in 1992.

There has been increasing dissatisfaction among Sierra Club members around the country, particularly in the Rio Grande chapter, about the way the national bureaucracy has been running the Club. Policy is, 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 mails 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 most Club funds go to Washington and San Francisco. Lobbying on the national level is only credible if grassroots activists have built 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 activists 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 go only to candidates with proven environmental records, not to everyone 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.

As a retired real estate appraiser I have full time to devote to the causes of the Sierra Club. Presently, I represent the Sierra Club on the Aviation Department's Double Eagle II Master Plan Update Committee where I have been actively working to prevent the extension of the Paseo del Norte road through the Petroglyphs National Monument and to limit further damage to the Petroglyphs due to noise and pollution which would result from an enlarged airport just west of the Monument.

I have been politically involved in environmental issues for four decades. In the 1950's I played an active role in the development of the Horicon Wildlife Refuge in Wisconsin. In the 1970's, as a student at the University of Wisconsin, I lobbied against the development of the Alaskan oil fields and the transport of oil by tankers.

I have a firm belief that we have a great deal of work ahead of us to regain the ground lost over the past ten years. We must insist on closer monitoring of our nuclear waste disposal plants and our aging nuclear power plants. Specifically, if we are unsuccessful in opposing WIPP, we must pressure Congress to limit potential environmental damage by providing alternative transportation routes to the site.

As a member of the Chapter ExCom, I will continue to take an active role in lobbying for the repeal of the 1872 Mining Law, stop the stripping of our National Forests from the lumber companies, to prevent oil drilling in the National Arctic Wildlife Refuge, and to limit grazing on our public lands.

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 can and should accomplish. We have wrestled with a myriad of problems such

the rio grande SIERRAN

NEWS OF THE RIO GRANDE CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB • NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1991 • \$1.00

Senate Kills Energy Bill

by Kevin Bixby

WASHINGTON, D.C. — In a major victory for the environment, the U.S. Senate on November 1 killed a White House and oil industry-backed energy bill that would have opened up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for oil exploration but done little to promote energy conservation.

Senator Bennett Johnston (D-LA), sponsor of the "National Energy Security Act of 1991", conceded defeat when he was only able to line up 50 votes to cut off debate on the measure, 10 short of the number needed to end a filibuster.

Environmentalists were jubilant over the Senate's action. The Sierra Club and other organizations had made defeat of the bill a top priority.

"Today's vote kills a bad bill," said Phillip Berry, President of the Sierra Club. "We need an energy policy, but a good energy policy, one that includes strong fuel efficiency standards, energy efficiency, promote renewables such as solar and wind, alternative fuels, increased oil production from existing domestic wells,

and protection of environmentally sensitive areas such as the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge," said Berry.

The move was also hailed as a victory by leaders of the Gwich'in Indian tribe, whose livelihood depends on the huge herds of caribou that roam the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Both of New Mexico's senators—Jeff Bingaman (D) and Pete Domenici (R)—voted to end debate and proceed with the bill. Bingaman's vote surprised some observers since he is an opponent of drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and apparently had been deluged with constituent mail in opposition to the Johnston bill.

Texas' senator Lloyd Bentsen (D) also voted to end debate. Texas' other senator, Phil Gramm (R), did not vote.

Johnston left open the possibility that he would reintroduce an amended version of the bill. The Senate "may have defeated the national energy strategy...but we have not defeated the problem," he was quoted as saying in a *Albuquerque Journal* story.

Chapter Announces Priorities for 1992

SANTA FE — The Rio Grande Chapter announced its environmental priorities for 1992 at a press conference on October 14. Four specific priorities will be addressed:

- 1992 local, state, and national elections
- Reform of the 1872 mining law
- Increasing membership
- Increasing media coverage of environmental issues

The press conference, hosted by the Friends of Santa Fe County, was held in Cerrillos, New Mexico, overlooking one of New Mexico's gold mines.

"Every environmental issue has a foundation in our political process," said Gwen Wardwell, Chair of the Rio Grande Chapter. "We will develop a grassroots political action network which will work with candidates to turn out the environmental vote."

The 1872 Mining law is receiving increasingly negative publicity across New Mexico and West Texas because of the environmental destruction it permits. "Our goal is to develop leaders in rural communities throughout New Mexico and Texas who will pressure their legislators to change the 1872 Mining Law," said Wardwell.

The Chapter will expand its membership activities during the next year to increase the number of active members. It also plans to use the various media outlets to convey its environmental message.

"Our Chapter has now reached a point that we can spread our message about saving the environment, saving New Mexico, through TV, radio, and print," said Wardwell.

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The Rio Grande Sierran is published bimonthly by the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club. Sierra Club members residing within the Chapter receive a subscription as part of their membership dues. Address changes should be directed to The Sierra Club, 730 Polk St., San Francisco, CA 94109. Subscriptions for non-members are \$10 per year. Send payment and address corrections to Rio Grande Sierran, Star Route Box 26 Mesilla Park, NM 88047.

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LETTERS

[The following letter was sent to Chapter Chair Gwen Wardwell in response to the Chapter's decision to donate \$200 to the Concerned Citizens of Sunland Park. New Mexico Environment Secretary Judith Espinosa has refused to issue a permit to Nu-Mex, Inc. for its medical waste incinerator, but that decision has been challenged in court.]

Dear Mr. [sic] Wardwell:

On behalf of the Concerned Citizens of Sunland Park I wish to thank you and Sierra Club for your generous contribution to our effort. As you know, the quality of life in our community has been adversely affected by the operation of the industrial landfill and regional medical waste incinerator.

For the past year and a half the Concerned Citizens have struggled against great odds to stop the Nu-Mex operation. The resources available to the committee are insignificant compared to those at the disposal of Joab Inc. and its subsidiary Nu-Mex Inc. As such the Committee has had to rely on its most natural resource, the determination of the people. That coupled with the support of groups such as the Sierra Club and the Environmental Law Center have enabled the Committee to present its case to the State. Without the support of organizations such as yours the Concerned Citizens of Sunland Park would have been unable to carry on the struggle.

Now the decision is up to Ms. Judith Espinoza, Secretary of the Environment. Again, I thank you for your interest and support.

Manuel Minjarez, President
Concerned Citizens of Sunland Park

Special thanks to Lisa LaRocque and Steve Lueker for their help with this issue.

DEADLINE
for Jan./Feb. Sierran
is Dec. 15, 1991.

Letters to the Editor... An Untapped Resource

By Craig O'Hare

Letters to the editor of your local paper are probably the most effective way to present environmental views to the general public and to elected officials with minimal effort. Yet environmentalists aren't coming close to utilizing this readily available resource to its full potential.

The nice thing about letters to the editor is that they must be brief! Verbosity is not tolerated and is punished by the letter not getting printed. Generally, letters should be less than 200 words, three- or four- sentence letters are still effective and actually have a better chance of getting published.

Commenting on an article or editorial that the paper ran also increases the likelihood of seeing your name in print. If an editorial or letter runs that is anti-environmental and it really irritates you, take action by rebutting the letter with your own!

Don't be discouraged if your letter doesn't get published. Some papers are inundated with letters and wait until they've received four or five on a certain subject before they'll run one. While your pro-environment letter didn't get printed, it may have helped someone else's with the same general message make it to the editorial page.

Never send a copy of a letter you sent to a politician or addressed to another paper and ask them to run it as a letter to the editor. Just like the rest of us, newspapers like to feel "special" by having correspondence directed specifically to them. That doesn't mean you can't send a letter with the exact same content to the two or three papers in your area—just address them separately.

If you were to purchase equivalent ad space as your letter, it would cost well over a hundred dollars in many papers. What a cheap way to get the "green" message across to tens of thousands of people! If your letter does run, send it to the appropriate politicians (city council members, senators, etc.), with a short hand-written note. Usually their staffs read them in the paper but just in case

[Reprinted by permission from Canyon Echo, the newsletter of the Grand Canyon Chapter of the Sierra Club. Craig O'Hare is Chapter Conservation Chair.]

EDITORIAL

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 if we made a mistake.

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. Such a 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 then...nothing.

Months went by. We were assured that a bill was being drafted, and it would be introduced when the time was right. We were kept in the dark about the bill's contents, so we didn't know if it would be something we could support or not. All we could do was wait and trust that Bingaman would come through as promised.

He didn't come through. No bill has been introduced, nor is one likely to be introduced this session. Rumor has it that People for the West, an ersatz grassroots organization almost entirely funded by the mining industry, has Bingaman and Rep. Bill Richardson (D) running scared. All bets are off—again.

Part of the fault is ours. The Sierra Club and other environmental groups had perhaps become a little complacent. We had failed to utilize our grassroots strength to clear the political path for a wilderness bill, and anti-wilderness advocates seized the advantage.

But then came several more major disappointments from Washington. On September 13, the Senate killed—by one vote—a proposal to place a one-year freeze on approving claims under the 1872 Mining Law. The law currently allows anyone who files and nominally works a mining claim on federal land to acquire clear title to the land for \$5 per acre or less. The moratorium seemed a sensible idea given that several bills to reform the 119-year old policy have been introduced, and change seems likely. Bingaman voted against the moratorium.

On September 17, the Senate defeated an appropriations bill amendment that would have raised public land grazing fees from \$1.97 per AUM to \$5.13 by 1996. The House had already approved an increase to \$8.70. The current fee, far less than that charged on private Western lands, is less than it was ten years ago when it stood at \$2.31 per AUM. Bingaman voted against the increase.

Then came the crowning blow. The Sierra Club and other groups had made protection of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge—one of America's largest remaining wilderness areas—a high priority this year. We worked hard to educate our representatives and the public on this issue. We collected signatures, we wrote letters and editorials, we made calls. We let Bingaman's staff know that this was not an issue that could be compromised. The sacrifice of yet another pristine natural area in the name of almighty oil was unacceptable. In the words of Senator Joseph Lieberman (D-CT), the line was drawn in the tundra.

On November 1, Bingaman crossed that line. By voting to end debate, he essentially voted for the Johnston-Wallop "National Energy Security Act of 1991", a bill that not only would have established a bankrupt national energy policy, but one that would have opened up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling as well.

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

Admittedly it is unfair to pick on Senator Bingaman and ignore New Mexico's other senator, Republican Pete Domenici who also voted for S.1220. But we didn't work to get Domenici elected. He has done some good things, like support El Malpais National Conservation Area, Petroglyphs National Monument, and—following Bingaman's lead—the Mimbres National Monument. But on most issues Domenici is, frankly, a lost cause.

Despite his claims to the contrary, Domenici is not an environmentalist. His

outlook is decidedly anthropocentric, and when push comes to shove, he will choose to protect the profligate American standard of living rather than spotted owls, wilderness, clean air, the Gwich'in culture, etc. It goes without saying that we must work to defeat Domenici, but reform is probably a waste of time. That's not to say that we shouldn't keep up the pressure so that he doesn't do too much damage while still in office.

Nobody can accuse Bingaman of being a coward. He voted his conscience against the wisdom of public opinion polls on two major issues over the past 12 months: to not go to war with Iraq, and to not confirm Clarence Thomas' appointment to the Supreme Court. But if he is not a coward, why does he vote the way he does on the environment?

The inescapable conclusion is that either Bingaman does not share our views on the environment, or he doesn't care enough about the issues or the environmental community to risk upsetting more powerful constituencies.

We have two choices if we want to achieve our agenda in Congress. We must ourselves acquire the power that will command the attention of Bingaman and our other representatives, through more effective grassroots organizing and political involvement, or we must work to defeat Bingaman in 1994. We need a champion in the Senate, and right now, we don't have one.

Addresses

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

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

To telephone your senators or representatives, call the U.S. Capitol switchboard:
(202) 224-3121

Anatomy of the Johnston Bill S.1220 Dissected

These are the provisions of the Johnston-Wallop "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 reintroduced 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 in its 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-animal Porcupine caribou herd. These caribou migrate hundreds of miles each year from Canada to calve on the coastal plain. This spectacle of the great congregations of wildlife on the African Serengeti or long-gone bison herds of the American West.

Puts Our Coasts and Deserts In Jeopardy

Coastal areas—Florida, the Northwest, and elsewhere—that are currently under moratoria 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 condemned under "eminent domain" for crosscountry pipelines.

One-Stop Nuclear Licensing

A "streamlined" nuclear siting and licensing process would require only 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 contribute another \$20 billion to the already heavily subsidized nuclear power industry, with no provision to recover any of these costs from industry. The bill would also encourage development of an "advanced" nuclear reactor—with a blank check from taxpayers.

Sacrifices Ratepayers, Renewables and Energy Efficiency

The bill would encourage the construction of new electric generating facilities instead of least-cost power planning, energy efficiency and safe renewable resources. It would undermine much of the progressive energy policy designed in California and other areas across the country.

Rivers Be Dammed

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the agency that has rarely met a dam it didn't like, would be put in charge of applying national environmental laws; a bit like leaving the fox to guard the hen house. This energy agency would be given the power to override conditions for hydropower projects that are now set by the Forest Service or National Marine Fisheries Service to protect fish and wildlife.

Environmental Laws Be Dammed

Projects less than 5 megawatts (many hydro projects in Maine and Arizona fall below this threshold) would be able to bypass federal laws such as the National Environmental Policy Act and the Endangered Species Act.

Sabotages the Clean Air Act

The bill would allow existing coalburning power plants to be expanded without meeting stricter emissions requirements for new plants. The Clean Air Act specifically required the same standard for both new and refurbished plants so that utilities could not elude pollution.

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 actively fighting any increase in miles-per-gallon requirements. Even though improved auto fuel efficiency would be the single biggest step we could take to curb global warming and help us kick the oil habit, this bill completely ignores this essential step.

White House Needs a Little Energy Awareness

Compiled by Heidi Fleischmann from various Sierra Club and other sources

President George Bush proclaimed October 1991 as Energy Awareness Month, urging all Americans to "observe this month with appropriate educational programs and activities." "Our comprehensive National Energy Strategy calls for the wise and effective development of all our Nation's energy resources..." the proclamation gushes.

We wholeheartedly concur in the need for greater energy awareness. Unfortunately, the President has abused this occasion by plugging his own bankrupt national energy strategy as embodied in S.1220, recently killed by a Senate filibuster. [See article on front page.] This cynical attempt to couple energy education with unabashed lobbying is indicative of the Bush Administration's all-out campaign to ram through Congress an unpopular and environmentally disastrous energy plan for the nation.

Touted as a means to ensure that the U.S. would never be held hostage to foreign oil, the Johnston-Wallop bill was an energy dinosaur that would have extended the failed policies of the past while providing little vision for the future.

A recent study 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 curbing the growth of imports is not in developing "frontier production" such as in the Arctic Refuge, but by drilling in existing fields, enhancing oil recovery, and by reopening shut or marginal wells.

Although the Senate has turned back S.1220 for now, it could be brought up for a vote again at any time. If it does, contact your senators and ask them to:

- Support any strengthening amendments that may be offered, particularly Senator Bryan's amendment to increase average fuel efficiency to 40 mpg by the year 2005.
- Oppose the bill unless Senators Baucus, Roth, Bryan, and Lieberman—the leaders of the environmental opposition to S.1220—agree that the bill has been transformed into an environmentally positive energy strategy.

OPINION

Livestock Free Wilderness!

by Jim Fish

On October 6, the New Mexico Wilderness Coalition voted overwhelmingly to oppose expanding their BLM wilderness proposal to include the phase out of grazing of domestic livestock. In the end, the Coalition took the stand long maintained by the national environmental bureaucrats that we should get as much wilderness designated as possible before we try to eliminate grazing, the one use of land that is fundamentally incompatible with true wilderness concepts.

While grazing is an issue for all public lands, not just that small percent of the public lands that may someday 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 Allotment Management Plans for livestock developments are never implemented.

Designation of other areas that clearly met the wilderness criteria at the time of consideration have been blocked politically by the livestock industry and are now being systematically destroyed by the livestock industry. Almost all of our public lands that have been designated wilderness continues to be degraded by livestock operations. The New Mexico Cattle Growers Association has been the leading opponent of the New Mexico Wilderness Coalition proposal for BLM wilderness in New Mexico.

Windmills, stock tanks, pipelines, powerlines, fences, line camps and corrals 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 area 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 overgrazing: 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 seeps and springs.

Massive overgrazing of the West began in the mid 1800s. By the 1930s, domestic livestock had stripped 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 habitat, 95 percent of our public land remains trashed. What good is sterile wilderness stripped of its native flora and fauna?

The recently designated West Malpais and Cebolla Wilderness Areas are excellent examples of the problems of grazing in wilderness areas. Every point made above applies to these two areas. Our Governor [Bruce King] runs 1500 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 10,000 pronghorn, if the Governor got his cows off our public lands and out of our wilderness areas.

Sure, with the Governor's blessing, we got a part (about half) of the qualifying area designated wilderness. But what did we accomplish? As far as I can tell from my recent trips out there: nothing. The Governor's hired hands continue to drive anywhere they want to, anytime they want to. They continue to put in and maintain artificial waters 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 wilderness values.

Bighorn 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 stand in the way of reintroduction of these three native species.

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

The New Mexico Wilderness Coalition has declined to lead the charge. I am, therefore, looking for people who would like to help me put together a new no-more-compromise group dedicated to getting livestock out of all designated and potential wilderness areas in New Mexico. If interested, please write:

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

[Jim Fish is the founder of Public Lands Action Network, and a member of the Rio Grande Chapter.]



Wilderness in name only. The cows belong to our governor.

Lujan Convenes 'God Squad'

by Kevin Bixby

"...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—12 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. Formally known as the Endangered Species Committee, the committee has 170 days from Lujan's decision to decide whether an exemption should be granted.

Although the panel's scope is limited in this case to a relatively small geographic area, its decision will have a major impact on implementation of the 18-year old federal Endangered Species Act. A vote to grant an exemption would likely encourage further requests, leading to a broad review of the owl's status in the Pacific northwest.

The committee's actions could also influence congressional review of the Endangered Species Act next year, when the law is due for reauthorization. Industry groups have already announced their intention to seek weakening amendments to the Act.

The committee, created by Congress in 1978 through an amendment to the Act, consists of the Secretaries of Interior, Agriculture, and Army, the chair of the Council of Economic Advisors, the administrators of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Environmental Protection Agency, and a representative from the affected state(s) appointed by the President. An exemption to the Act requires

at least five votes.

The committee has gone through full deliberations only twice since its inception. In its first incarnation, the committee ruled against completion of the Tellico Dam, a decision later overridden by Congress. Later, the committee decided to allow completion of the Grayrocks Dam in Wyoming after a mitigation plan was worked out to protect whooping crane habitat downstream on the Platte River.

Unlike its previous cases, the committee this time is faced with a controversy involving a species that is widely distributed and whose protection is in conflict with a vital sector of the economy.

Environmentalists contend that the decision to convene the committee was premature because the BLM has not considered "reasonable and prudent" alternatives to protect owl habitat, as required by the Act. They argue that the move was politically-inspired and the beginning of agency attempts to undermine protection for the owl.

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 Advisors, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, 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.

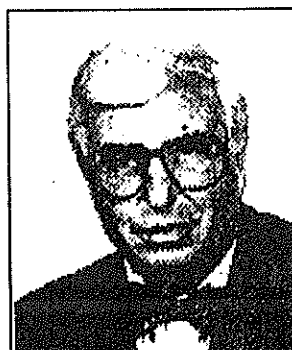
How are they likely to vote? One can only speculate, but past actions and statements provide some clues.

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.



Manuel Lujan, Jr.

Secretary of the Interior

Lujan is no friend of endangered species. During his 20 year tenure in Congress he received poor marks for his record on environmental issues. As Interior Secretary, he has said on several occasions that the Endangered Species Act is too strict. His statements reveal little understanding of conservation biology.

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 20-year tenure as a Congressman from Illinois. As Agriculture Secretary, however, he failed to stand by a high ranking Forest Service official who claims he was punished for not cutting enough trees. Farmers, not endangered species, are his concern.

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, final, and irremediable loss of an environmental treasure of national significance." [Source: 1989 Current Biography.]

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. Mission 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.



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The 1992 elections present a once in a lifetime opportunity to change the way Congress deals with environmental issues. Redistricting could create at least 50 open House seats and far more contested races than usual. In January, 1993, there could be as many as 100 new faces in Congress.

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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 so 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 cities and counties, Hispanic groups and Indian tribes, personal ambitions and our vision for the state were all in conflict.

The Congressional districts changed very little even though the much discussed effort to split Albuquerque in three to accommodate a majority minority district 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 E were never there and Governor King's reluctance to change the Congressional districts very much prevailed. Five eastside 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 halves of Senate seats, and Valencia will gain a house seat.

The eastside will lose a seat in the House and Senate. Socorro, Grants, Los Alamos, and Truth or Consequences may have trouble hanging on to 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 given were the lack of a Hispanic majority district in the southeast and the small Native American percentages in northwestern districts.

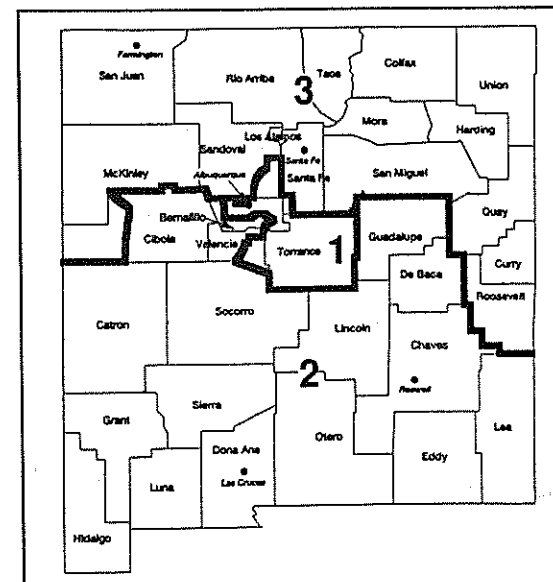
What it means for the environment

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 I think we owe groups such as the Sierra Club for this public awareness.

[The author is a Sierra Club-endorsed state representative whose district includes Rio Rancho, Corrales and Bernalillo Counties, and the Pueblos of Sandia and Santa Ana.]



New Mexico's proposed new Congressional districts

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 Frontera Audubon Society in 1989 to challenge the IBWC's practice of clearing brush from the banks of the Rio Grande in southeast 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 use their systems of interior levees, floodways and canals to divert and control floods.

In the 1980s, 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 district biotic communities.

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. Frustrated by the IBWC's destruction of 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, requesting the U.S. Section to support the clearing with hydrologic data, and seeking an alternative flood control device, if one were necessary at all. In response, the U.S. Section took the position that clearing activities were required by international agreements and claimed exemption from domestic environmental laws.

IBWC documents obtained by the environmental groups showed that the amount of acreage cleared and the manner in which clearing was conducted varied enormously from year to year. The groups concluded that the IBWC actually exercised a great deal of discretion with respect to the time, place and manner of brush clearing, and that that discretion should be

used with sensitivity toward the rich and diverse resource values 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 finalized 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 almost immediately began negotiations to attempt to reach a settlement. The consent decree which the court eventually approved embodied the parties' agreement, and provided, among 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 on 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 actions while the Endangered Species Act consultation progresses, and to leave strips of brush as cat corridors even in those limited areas (principally 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 promising prospects for resource protection. Second, the process of negotiating the decree and parsing the requirements of the applicable international agreements served to educate both parties to the possibilities for meeting international obligations while simultaneously complying with domestic environmental law. Finally, the litigation has heightened the awareness of both the IBWC and the general public with respect to the Wildlife Corridor program and the IBWC's responsibilities toward that ambitious and important conservation effort.

[Excerpted and reprinted by permission from the Summer, 1991 issue of the Transboundary Resources Report, University of New Mexico Law School.]

State Energy Plan: No Plan at All

by Ken Hughes

Many of our groups are involved at the national level in opposing th[e] 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 oil, coal and nuclear industries, hide the environmental and social costs of production and use of conventional energy sources, and inhibit the truly free energy 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.

[E]nergy policy 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 behind the rest of the world in doing something about the problem, no strategy is proposed to deal with even "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 worsening the problem through increased fossil fuel burning.

We feel carbon emissions should be taxed at the point of extraction or refining, with funds used to mitigate higher fuel bills and to retrofit homes of New Mexicans needing assistance. Also, steps must be taken to directly offset CO₂ emissions, such as planting trees at abandoned mines, riparian sites and other places needing regeneration.

We have literally built our country and economy on a cheap energy sources. Yet the real costs have been hidden in a labyrinth 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

puny as these subsidies are, yield 12.6 million btu's per dollar of subsidy. By contrast, the \$16 billion subsidy to nuclear power yielded 0.1 MM btu's/\$ of subsidy.

If the plan were to do nothing else, the "leadership 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 renewables, and in noting their advantage on the jobs front: 3 times that of fossil fuels and 4-5 times that of conventional electric generation. So, just as economic growth is recognized to grow as energy efficiencies displace sloppy use of fossil fuels, we can 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 these sources of energy, the kind that can take of 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 act rationally and with foresight to adopt a state energy policy that provided safe and efficient choices, we would do our part to curb global warming, protect wilderness, save money by the barrelful, clear the air and take the oil weapon away from the likes of Saddam Hussein, all without lowering our standard of living by a single Isuzu Trooper. Of course if the Trooper is powered by compressed natural gas all the better!

PETROGLYPHS UPDATE

by Ike Eastvold

Double Eagle Could Become Giant Airport

Separated from Petroglyph National Monument's western boundary by only a wire fence lies a lightly-used 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 expected 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 now 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 Paseo del Norte with trucks through the Piedras Marcadas Unit of the Monument, and to extensively impact the rest of the Monument's eastern, petroglyph-rich side with Unser Boulevard construction, these newly unveiled plans for a expansion of DEII would constitute the *coup de grace* extinguishing the integrity and national significance of Petroglyph National Monument.

The City is making these recommendations for unconstrained 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). Greiner 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 Department proposes to do lesser "environmental analyses" bit by bit as 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 on the entire Master Plan proposed by the City. The EIS must look at other site locations which would not impact Petroglyph 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 2000 acres of Petroglyph National Monument. Congress entrusted this local government entity with one of our nation's cultural crown jewels. Mammoth expansion, DEII and a six-lane Paseo del Norte highway through the Petroglyphs outrageously 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 1872 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 activist to your acquaintances? _____

3) Would you be able to volunteer your time

one day a month? _____

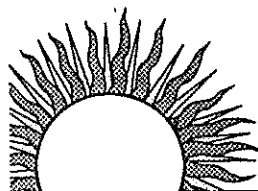
one weekend a month? _____

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

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

For further information, call
Gwen Wardwell at (505) 473-9664

These excerpted comments were provided to the New Mexico Department of Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources on behalf of the Rio Grande Chapter and nine other environmental organizations regarding the proposed state energy policy unveiled in September. The author is a member of the Santa Fe Group and a part-time lobbyist for the Chapter.



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 fourway 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 civil service subcommittee that is looking into allegations that the Bush administration used illegal reprisals against environmental whistle-blowers in the Park and Forest services.

Mumma testified that current timber quotas are unattainable within 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 for timber in 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 Mehlhaff, 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 quota set for the northern region.

Craig wrote that the failure to achieve "the assigned timber target" illustrated a "complete lack of management and direction."

In reply, Robertson blamed the shortfall on environmentalists' legal challenges to proposed timber sales. Deputy Forest Service Chief James Overbay followed by suggesting that all public

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.

appeals of Forest Service timber sales be prohibited. This quickly prompted environmental groups to call for Overbay's dismissal.

"Overbay's contention that appeals should be eliminated is outrageous, and completely beyond the pale of responsible public policymaking," said James Conner, the Sierra Club's Montana Chapter chair. "What Overbay said suggests that the agency cares more about meeting timber quotas than managing for true multiple use."

"The problem is, we've got a timber industry addicted to national forest timber," said Conner. "We've got more mill capacity than the national forests can provide on a sustainable basis, but nobody is willing to accept it."

A recent U.S. General Accounting Office report on Montana's Flathead National Forest showed that timber goals for the forest were unrealistically high and not legally achievable.

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 an 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 woods.

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

The Sierra Club is supporting Sen. Al Gore and Rep. Peter Kosumayer's Tropical Forest Consumer Information and Protection Act, S.1159/H.R.2854, which Fogel calls "the most important step Congress can take" to protect the rain forests.

Because indigenous rain forest peoples possess intimate knowledge of tropical forest ecosystems, the Sierra Club deems 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, \$8 billion global plan designed to improve forest conservation and slow deforestation through increased forestry lending, it has instead led to accelerated 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 fuelwood needs, and require 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 local forest issues has read and 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 firm 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 Ortiz Mountains near Santa Fe.

According to *The Economist*, many companies are fearful of a takeover by Hanson because they consider it an "asset-stripper", one that exhausts a company's resources and then sells it.

Duke City is not interested in the long-term sustainability of our national forests or the long-term well-being of its workers. Its primary interest is profit. After Duke City has been used to strip the assets here (the publicly-owned timber of the Southwest), it will simply be sold off or written off by its London-based parent company.

As Lord Hanson himself said in a recent interview in the British publication *The Spectator*, "Priority number one in our organization is the shareholders. As long as they are happy, we can do what we want."

The next time Duke City Lumber Co. stages a lay-off of its workers in the wake of a timber sale appeal or comes out in the press denouncing local citizen environmentalists as "preservationist zealots," remember who's pulling the corporate strings in London.

[Pat Wolff is Wildlife Chair for the Rio Grande Chapter.]

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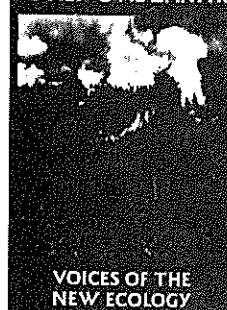


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Chapter Activists Hash Out Goals, Strategies at Retreat

by Ralph Wrons
and Kevin Bixby

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 soul-searching at the Ghost Ranch on October 12-13.

We hold this yearly event for the purpose of focusing 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 the anti-environmental protection group, People for the West! and the 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 Channell, 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 rousing, 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. And it was work.

Tim told us that every successful organization needs a vision statement, a "fantasy" that we are always seeking to achieve. Can you imagine 28 long-time activists, mixed with some young idealists, 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 an esteemed 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 chastising

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 eliminating duplicates, 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 Fleishman noted that almost all of the remaining goals fit into four categories: 1) strengthen the organization; 2) affect public policy; 3) increase public awareness; and, 4) specific conservation goals. We were able to proceed after agreeing to select one major goal in each of the four categories. These were:

Organization

Recruit more activists.

Public Policy

Help elect environmentally sensitive political candidates who will promote our agenda.

Public Awareness

Increase media coverage of positive environmental activities.

Conservation

Reform the 1872 Mining Law.

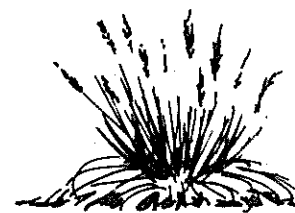
Once the primary goals were identified, we broke into small groups again and developed specific objectives and plans of action for each goal.

The weekend involved some arduous group process and strategic planning. Most of the participants felt the retreat was a success. Of the 25 people who completed post-seminar evaluations, 17 said the event was a success, 7 responded with "maybe", and one respondent said it was not a success. Some participants, however, made it clear that they did not feel the time was well spent and did not fill out the evaluation.

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 office 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 diverse yet 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.
- 10) Develop grass roots support for the renewal and broadening of the Endangered Species Act.
- 11) Increase media coverage of environmentally positive activities.
- 12) Develop an integrated environmental plan along 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 men-

tion being "unsure that the discharge plan, DP-55-Pegasus Gold Corporation, will solve discharge problems"; "concern about acid drainage problem"; "concern about groundwater because monitoring wells are shallow" 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 page 11 if you can help with this important effort.

—Gwen Wardwell

Cyanide-based Gold Mining Planned in Ortiz Mountains

by Jeanie Cragin

The price of gold is \$357 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 sulphuric 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. Five hundred gallons of water 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.

Two open pit mines of 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 5000 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 530 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 flagrant 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.

Sample comments from
retreat participants:

"I'm glad to see there has been some constructive organizing catalyzed by this process."

"The Chapter has, in the minds of most, kept a very low profile. This mobilization of Chapter activists helped us establish a vision, with some clear goals and objectives."

"I came here to check out the pulse of the Chapter - it's alive and kicking."

"I came here to find the soul of the Sierra Club. I didn't find it."

"One thing we didn't decide, which will be the hardest yet, is how we will prioritize these goals and how we will allocate our resources."

95,000 Acres and Counting

BLM Destroys Wildlife Habitat

by Roger Peterson

An ancient oak forest anchors more than a million acres of sandy soils on southeastern New Mexico's plains. A "forest" only two feet tall, but the two-foot stems are mere tips of underground tree-size stem systems. "Ancient" because each underground stem so far studied dates from before the arrival of cattle; no one has found a young shin oak. Ecologists have called this a postclimax association: the end of the line in vegetative succession, but an end not reachable under today's dry conditions.

The shinners, it is called, from Louisiana French *chênier*, oak woodland. The oaks (shin oak or sand shinners oak or Havard oak) are hidden by six-foot grasses including sand bluestem, giant dropseed, giant sandreed, and switchgrass, where these have survived livestock grazing—but survival is not common. The tall-grass and oak mix is favored habitat for prairie chickens and mule deer and a host of non-game species such as the sand dune lizard. Shin oaks, especially the big acorns, are the main food source for prairie chickens and mule deer. Bison and Indians were thus nourished in earlier days, and their skeletons dot the shinners. Probably mastodons and Paleo-Indians, whose remains are also present, focused on the same productive oak community.

But ranchers don't like it. Cattle having eaten away the grass, the shinners is more clearly suitable for wildlife than for livestock. Cattle do eat the oak, and during drought that may be all that they can find, but grass would be tastier, especially in spring when tannins of the young oak leaves are toxic to cows, requiring extra work to move and feed them. Therefore the Bureau of Land Management, which listens to ranchers rather more closely than to wildlife advocates, has destroyed the shin oak on 95,000 acres—about 8 percent of the shinners that the Bureau manages—and is planning another 10,000 acres for 1992.

The program is another subsidy to ranchers, requiring the Bureau to produce imaginative benefit-cost analyses that predict, with no factual basis, increases in hunting and in non-hunter recreation on treated lands. Instead of harkening to advice like "don't kill shin oak where mule deer habitat is a goal" (Texas

Tech Range & Wildlife Management Note 7, 1985), BLM predicts large increases in deer herds after their main food plant is 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 shinner treatment on the birds, one found a sharp decrease in numbers on treated areas and the other shows 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 these tactics fail, we may in the end have to take the Bureau to court, which 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 Santa Fe Group.]



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 as dry as the uplands."

The report recommended giving higher priority to protecting air, water, and soil quality—collectively called watershed management.

[Source: Albuquerque Journal]

Mimbres National Monument Bill Approved by Senate Committee

A bill to establish a national monument in the Silver City area to preserve ruins and artifacts of the Mimbres Culture has passed the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

Headquarters for the Monument would be situated on three acres in downtown Silver City. The bill, sponsored by Senator Jeff Bingaman and co-sponsored by Sen. Pete Domenici, would also protect four outlying ruin sites.

The bill would prevent the Park Service from taking additional land without the consent of landowners and Congress, and prohibits land condemnation or the removal of existing owners from their lands.

Bingaman is negotiating with Rep. Bruce Vento (D-MN) to introduce a similar measure in the House.

[Source: Albuquerque Journal]

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

Instead of alleviating 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]

Ethnic and Cultural Diversity Grants Available

Grants of \$500-2500 are now available to chapters 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, leader-

ship, 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 of ongoing ethnic/environmental coalitions; special recruitment efforts for activists of color; and solidarity action in support of conservation campaigns lead by organizations representing communities of color.

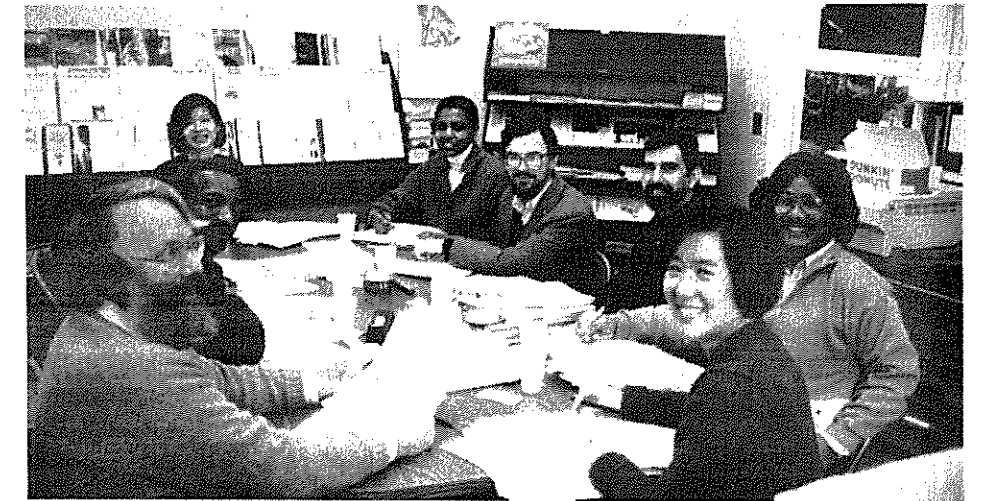
For more information, call the Ethnic and Cultural Diversity Task Force at (415) 923-5675 or (617) 536-2353.

New 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



Sierra Club's Ethnic Diversity Task Force at work

the next 25 years, and to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by nearly 50 million tons.

The DOE is also considering raising efficiency standards for room air conditioners, water heaters, ranges and ovens, and other major appliances.

[Source: Sierra Club National News Report]

Senator Symms Finds New Vehicle for "Private Property Rights" Legislation

Senator Steve Symms (R-ID) won Senate approval in early October for an amendment that would force the government to pay compensation to landowners when it issued regulations restricting the use of their land. The amendment was attached to a bill elevating the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to cabinet-level status. The bill was passed by the Senate.

Symms had previously attached the amendment to a highway bill passed by the Senate (S.1204) that is now stalled pending action by the House.

[Source: Congressional Quarterly]

Amphibian Die-offs Linked to Ozone Loss

Mysterious declines in amphibian populations in widely scattered parts of the world may be due to ozone loss in the upper atmosphere, according to an Oregon State University zoologist.

While cautioning that the evidence is circumstantial, Andrew Blaustein believes increased exposure to ultraviolet radiation could be responsible for recent mass die-offs in two Oregon lakes and elsewhere. Blaustein said that tadpoles from the lakes developed normally in the laboratory away from direct sunlight. He said past research has shown amphibian eggs and tadpoles to be very susceptible to increases in ultraviolet radiation.

Scientists have observed an alarming decline in amphibian populations worldwide. In the Northwest, the western spotted frog is no longer found in western Oregon and western Washington. The red-legged frog, once the most common frog in California,

has disappeared from the Central Valley, and is declining elsewhere. The gastric-brooding frog is no longer found in Australia, and the golden toad has disappeared from a national park in Costa Rica.

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 Golliehear of Belen, fed the cattle \$10,000 worth of 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 reduce stocking rates on the allotment by 19 percent over several years.

[Source: GrassRoots, the newsletter for PLAN]

Controversy, Ranchers Keeps 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 controversial.

Mission Wolf organizer Pamela Brown cancelled the tour after being denied permission to bring wolves to schools in Glenwood 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 protested wolf education "in an intimidating manner."

A spokesperson for the New Mexico Farm and Livestock Bureau, Eric Ness, was quoted in the *Las Cruces Sun-News* as saying that

Brown'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."

Peruvian Environmentalists Stop Oil Drilling in Amazon Nature Reserve

A campaign by Peruvian environmentalists to end oil drilling in a nature reserve ended in victory on August 29 when U.S.-owned Texas Crude announced it was abandoning plans to continue looking for oil in the area. In a letter to the Peruvian national oil company, Petroperu, Texas Crude explained that its decision not to sign an oil exploration contract was the result of growing opposition from environmentalists and political pressure. Texas Crude had already invested \$500,000 in the project.

Environmentalists opposed oil drilling in the Pacaya-Samiria National Reserve in eastern Peru because of its harmful environmental and social impacts. They argued that oil development activities threatened to contaminate streams, kill aquatic life, and jeopardize the fishing-based livelihoods of area residents. They maintained that allowing oil drilling in a protected nature reserve was illegal and a bad precedent.

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 contains habitat for several state and federally threatened and endangered species, including the bald eagle, peregrine falcon and Gila chub. Bonita Creek is a designated State Unique Waters, meaning it has superb water quality and riparian habitat. The Gila Box is proposed for listing as a Wild and Scenic River.

According to the Mining Plan of Operations the pit will ultimately measure about

4,000 feet in diameter and be 1,200 feet deep. It will be a sulfuric acid heap leach operation with a crushing plant, leach pads, waste dumps and a solvent extraction-electronic winning plant to extract the copper.

[Source: Article by Lainie Levick, Tucson. Reprinted by permission from Canyon Echo, the newsletter of the Grand Canyon Chapter of the Sierra Club.]

Environmentalists Appeal Calaveras Timber Sale

Sam Hitt, Forest Guardians

A coalition of Santa Fe-based environmental groups, including the Santa Fe Group of the Sierra Club, Sangre de Cristo Chapter of the Audubon Society and Forest Guardians have appealed the Calaveras timber sale located on the Santa Fe National Forest. The Forest Service plans to cut 7.4 million board feet of timber in the area despite limits in the Santa Fe 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 concentration of Mexican spotted owls in northern New Mexico. Other rare species include the peregrine falcon, northern goshawk, flammulated 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 despite the presence of excellent habitat. 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 goshawk which leaves the decision whether to survey up to local foresters.

Mitsubishi International Ticketing Day Planned

Rainforest activists worldwide are planning a creative protest against the giant Mitsubishi Corporation. Teams will be placing "eco-tickets" on the windshields of Mitsubishi cars in parking lots in America

and around the world. The "tickets" will inform the car's driver of Mitsubishi's Forest Products activities. Each ticket has a tear-off postcard addressed to Mitsubishi headquarters.

The purpose of the stunt is to alert thousands of Mitsubishi car owners to Mitsubishi's role in tropical deforestation and to send a strong message to Mitsubishi that an all-out boycott may soon be a reality.

Organizers of the protest are urging rainforest supporters everywhere to participate. They suggest notifying local TV, radio, and newspapers to report the event. Related lectures, workshops, and parties are optional.

Groups can order tickets at cost from Alex at the Rainforest Action Network, or create their own. For more info, call 415-398-4404 or Econet to "RAINFOREST".

[Source: Rainforest Action Network]

Hopes for Environment Tied to Population Crisis

A coalition of environmental groups, including the Sierra Club, has released the first major report linking human population growth with massive environmental degradation.

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 forests, and the yearly erosion of 26 billion tons of topsoil.

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 countries 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 environmental 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.

World population has increased from 3.7 billion to 5.4 billion over the past 20 years. It is estimated the total 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 generations 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 succeed only if the U.S. sets international population assistance as a top priority," she said. "Sustainable population levels are the cornerstone of an environmentally secure future."

For more information, contact Nancy Wallace or Karen Kalla at the Sierra Club's Washington, D.C. office at (202) 547-1141.

[Source: Sierra Club National News Report]

Reducing the Junk

Last year, Americans received 63.7 billion pieces of junk mail, according to the U.S. Postal Service. And junk mail accounts for 2.4 percent of the nation's solid waste, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

People can stop the flow of junkmail, however, by writing back to the individual companies, or to one of two national companies, Direct Marketing Association or Equifax, Inc.

To have your name removed from national 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, NY 10163-3861; or Equifax Option, P.O. Box 740123, Atlanta, GA 30374-0123.

[Source: Los Angeles Daily News]



OUTINGS

The outings above represent a compilation of the four groups' schedules for November and December, with the hopes that it will provide the opportunity for all members to find more outings of interest. It is necessary to call the individual leader to confirm details of time and meeting place. Dogs are allowed only as

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

—Norma McCallan
Chapter Outings Chair

Nov 16/17	BUSH MOUNTAIN, GUADALUPE MOUNTAINS. Backpack. Carol Morrison 915-585-9077 (El Paso)	Dec 7/8	PINE SPRINGS, GUADALUPE MOUNTAINS. Carcamp & day hikes. Ron Leiman 915-860-0221 (El Paso)	Thu Dec 17	X-COUNTRY SKI INSTRUCTION CLASS (Indoors at Unitarian Church) John Turnbull 982-9329 (Santa Fe)
Sat Nov 16	LUCERO CANYON PETROGLYPHS (near RADIUM SPRINGS). Moderate hike; guest archeologist along. Ben Zerbey 526-6207 (Las Cruces)	Sun Dec 8	GHOST RANCH AREA. Moderate hike. Brian Johnson 438-2087 (Santa Fe)	Sat Dec 21	ATALAYA MOUNTAIN, SANTA FE. Moderate hike. Noreen Sanders 984-0386 (Santa Fe)
Sat Nov 16	PIEDRAS MARCADAS ARROYO, PETROGLYPHS NAT. MON. Leisure hike. Ike Eastvold 255-7679 (Albq)	Sun Dec 8	GRAZING ON BLM LANDS. ISSUE HIKE. Katherine Bueler 984-1428 (Santa Fe)	Sat Dec 21	CROSS COUNTRY SKI INSTRUCTION for beginners, Santa Fe area. John Turnbull 982-9329
Sat Nov 16	GUADALUPERUINS and ROCK PANEL PETROGLYPHS. Ralph Genter 881-3147 (Albq)	Sat Dec 14	DRIPPING SPRINGS-FILLMORE CANYON-LA CUEVA. Moderate hike, off trail. Ed Macbeth 526-8060 (Las Cruces)	Sat Dec 29	WINDOW ROCK, north of ESPANOLA. Moderate hike. Margo Murray 473-1916 (Santa Fe)
Sat Nov 16	OUTINGS LEADERS WORKSHOP (at Santa Fe Airport). Conducted by Santa Fe Group. Any leaders or potential leaders welcome. Norma McCallan 471-0005 (Santa Fe)	Sat Dec 14	BANDELIER NATIONAL MONUMENT. Moderate/strenuous hike. Joe Whelan 984-0746 (Santa Fe)	Sun Dec 29	GALISTEO DAM. Moderate hike. Louise Leopold 988-4592 (Santa Fe). Dogs allowed.
Sun Nov 17	BOSQUE DEL APACHE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. Tour. Ralph Wrons 275-0586 (Albq)	Sat Dec 14	SANTA FE AREA. Easy/moderate hike. Ken Adam 983-1949 (Santa Fe). Dogs allowed	Thu Jan 9	X-COUNTRY SKI INSTRUCTION CLASS (Indoors at Unitarian Church) John Turnbull 982-9329 (Santa Fe)
Sun Nov 17	BANDELIER NATIONAL MONUMENT. Moderate/strenuous hike. John McClure 473-1916 (Santa Fe)	Sun Dec 15	CROSS COUNTRY SKI TOUR. Moderate. David Brown 662-2185 (Los Alamos)	Sat Jan 11	X-COUNTRY SKI INSTRUCTION FOR BEGINNERS, Santa Fe area. John Turnbull 982-9329
Sat Nov 23	BANDELIER NATIONAL MONUMENT, LOWER LUMMIS CANYON. Moderate hike. Noreen Sanders 984-0386 (Santa Fe)				
Sat Nov 23	BOX CANYON & PICACHO PEAK, west of Las Cruces. Easy/moderate hike. Ed Macbeth 526-8060 (Las Cruces)				
Sat Nov 23	BEAR DEN CANYON, WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE. Day hike. Rollin Wickenden 915-598-8042 (El Paso)				
Sun Nov 24	BOSQUE, RIO GRANDE, Albuquerque. Hike. Kate Fuller 2268-2866 (Albq)				
Sun Nov 24	BUCKMAN MESA/OTOWI MESA near LOS ALAMOS. Moderate hike. Norbert Sperlich 983-1962 (Santa Fe)				
Fri Nov 29	RIO GRANDE LEVEE. Twilight hike. Carolina Greenfield 915-593-6187 (El Paso)				
Sat Nov 30	PENSTEMON RIDGE, SANTA FE SKI BASIN ROAD. Easy hike. Arnold Kesulla 982-9570 (Santa Fe)				
Sun Dec 1	FRANKLIN MTS. Day hike. Claus Christiansen 915-532-4066 (El Paso)				
Sun Dec 1	ATALAYA MOUNTAIN, SANTA FE. Easy/moderate hike Art Judd 982-3212 (Santa Fe)				
Sun Dec 1	CERRILLOS HILLS. Easy hike. Victor Atyas 4717545 (Santa Fe)				
Sat Dec 7	BANDELIER NATIONAL MONUMENT. Moderate/strenuous hike. John McClure 473-1916 (Santa Fe)				

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 people 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 Hatch, Truth or Consequences, and Fort Hancock (TX). The students will be participating in a cooperative water quality monitoring project that involves high school students in the U.S. and Mexico. The project is designed to increase environmental awareness, encourage intercultural understanding and communication, and teach science and problems solving skills. It will take place from March 23 through April 11, 1992.

Volunteers will work with a class during

this three week period as the students study the watershed, learn water testing procedures, and actually sample Rio Grande water. Together with other participating schools, the students will collectively develop a water quality profile for a stretch of the river. Using this data, and with the encouragement of you and their teacher, students will identify water quality problems and develop action plans for dealing with them. The project culminates in a Student Congress where students from both sides of the border meet face to face to discuss what they've learned and decided.

Volunteer training will take place during two Saturday sessions in March. This is a great opportunity to share your enthusiasm for the environment with young people. For more information, please call me at 505-646-5745.

GROUP REPORTS

Santa Fe

A lot of Executive Committee time has been spent the last year or two in figuring out ways to raise money to support local group activities, particularly the newsletter. Our new treasurer, Lionel Soracco, figured out that each month we need to raise and 380 (above & beyond chapter contributions) to cover office & newsletter expenses (revenues from the hiking book are earmarked for conservation projects). Depressing.

We tried a second Flea Market sale several weeks ago, with far fewer goods received than the 1st very successful one in May. Weather was good, and the volunteers, including Web Kitchell, Carole Owens, Wes Horner, Norma McCallan, and Rhonda Avidon had a good time, but the conclusion was only try one a year!

We have had several good programs this fall. Ron Mitchell showed slides of his stint in Antarctica working for the U.S. Navy Base there. Pat Wolff did an excellent presentation on the gruesome and expensive federal animal damage control program which wages war on wildlife. Next one will be the Audubon video on overpopulation, *What is the Limit?* presented by Ken Hughes; hopefully there will be sufficient interest to establish a population committee here.

The annual Christmas potluck supper is planned for Sat. Dec. 14th at the Unitarian Church. We will again try a silent auction. Any Sierrans from elsewhere are most welcome!

The Group and the East Fork Preservation Committee have been working extensively with Rep. Richardson's office in revamping the Jemez National Recreation Bill; many positive changes have been made, including enlarging the boundaries and adding language to limit timber harvesting to vigas, latillas, fuelwood and small timber sales. Unfortunately Senator Bingaman has yet to support this legislation.

Sadly, Randy Freeman is resigning as Group Conservation Chair; it will be hard to find someone else as enthusiastic & hardworking.

The Pegasus gold mine near Cerrillos is shaping up as a major issue to work on. We have been putting on one issue hike each month; all to date have been well received.

The second annual outing leaders' workshop will be on Nov. 16th.

Paul Miller is the new Group Representative to the Chapter ExCom.

Albuquerque

No report received.

Southern New Mexico

The group ventured into electoral politics by developing a questionnaire on growth and environmental issues, which we sent to all 12 (not a typo) candidates for mayor in Las Cruces and all 18 candidates for city council. The questions dealt with topics ranging from optimal Las Cruces population size to the impacts of the proposed border crossings with Mexico to the role of bicycles in the city's transportation plan. Most of the candidates responded. We did not make any endorsements; none of the candidates really stood out on the basis of their answers, and we didn't have time to do follow-up interviews. Next time we'll start earlier. But we did publish the candidates' responses in an Environmental Election Guide which we sent to all Las Cruces members (almost 300) and distributed copies to the public and the media. This marks the beginning of much greater involvement of the group in local politics.

The Group is planning to have a booth at the Forest Service's 3-day Centennial Celebration at NMSU on Nov. 7-9. Susan Worley and several other members of the NMSU student group are coordinating the effort.

We had an absolutely spellbinding September meeting as local environmentalist Ron Lautenbach recounted his adventures

climbing Mt. McKinley this past summer.

Group Executive Committee member Paul Nachman presented an excellent October program entitled "Overpopulation: the mother of all environmental problems." It's interesting that the Santa Fe group also held a program focusing on population issues.

Our annual December potluck will be held on December 6 at Ed and Ann MacBeth's house. Members, families, friends, and the curious are all invited.

Administrative

Ann MacBeth has replaced Connie Falk as group treasurer. The secretary position is vacant. A nominating committee has been formed to find candidates for the group ExCom.

David Pengeley and Storm Sermay represented the group during KRWG-FM's fall fundraiser. In exchange for answering phones at the station, they were given the opportunity to talk about the Sierra Club on the air.

Our group is discussing with the El Paso Group the possibility of combining newsletters.

It is with deep regret that the Group announces the death of longtime member Gary Garwood of Las Cruces. Gary fell from a cliff while hiking alone in the Florida Mountains. A memorial service was held, and his family has made a donation in his name to the group. We will miss him.

El Paso

No report received.

Rep. Richardson Attends Forest Activists' Meeting

Rep. Bill Richardson was the guest of honor at a gathering of forest activists held Sunday, September 8 at the Randall Davey Audubon Center in Santa Fe. The event, attended by 150 people, was organized by Pat Wolff and co-sponsored by Forest Guardians, The Wilderness Society, National Audubon Society and the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club.

Richardson reported on his recent Lighthawk flight over national forests in the Pacific Northwest, saying he never comprehended how devastated the forests were until he saw the effects of clearcut

logging firsthand. He said he would support legislation to save old growth forest remnants in the Northwest, but declined to endorse any particular bill.

Richardson also said he would consider supporting a moratorium on further logging of old-growth forests in New Mexico, pending a study to determine how much oldgrowth actually remains.

Special thanks go to the Santa Fe Brewing Company, Blue Sky, caterer Liz Tidrick, and volunteers Anick O'Meara and Rick Rushing for their help in making this event a success.