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CALENDAR

- March 6-8 Chapter Conservation/ExCom Meeting. Call (505) 438-3060 for location.
- March 15 Deadline for April *Sierran*. (March 20 for camera-ready group material.)
- Mar. 30-Apr. 2 Southwestern Rare and Endangered Plant Conference. State Land Office Building, Santa Fe. Call (505) 827-5830 for more info.
- April 4-5 Regional Mining Conference, Ft. Lewis College, Durango, Colorado. Topics: environmental impacts of mining, citizen action, regulation and legislation. Contact: David Mullon, Jr., P.O. Box 2998, Durango, CO 81302.
- April 4-5 Witness at Trinity: Stop Nuclear Testing & Proliferation. Trinity, N.M. Call (206) 833-2941 for more info.
- April 30 Deadline for submitting Sierra Club Centennial quilt squares. Call (606) 259-1922 for more info.
- May 8-10 Chapter Conservation/ExCom Meeting, Springtime Canyon Cmpgmd?, Cibola NF
- June 20-21 Summer Solstice Rio Grande raft trip to benefit Forest Guardians. Call (505) 988-9126 for more info.
- July 10-12 Chapter Conservation/ExCom Meeting, Springtime Canyon Cmpgrnd, Cibola NF
- Sept. 11-13 Chapter Retreat/ExCom Meeting.

the rio grande SIERRAN

NEWS OF THE RIO GRANDE CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB • MARCH 1992 • \$1.00

Bingaman Introduces Bill to Protect Jemez Mountains

by Oat



Recognizing the need to protect the Jemez Mountains in the Santa Fe National Forest, U.S. Senator Jeff Bingaman introduced legislation to establish a Jemez National Recreation Area on February 3, 1992.

Bingaman's action is a major step towards making the Jemez NRA a reality. His bill was introduced by Congressman Bill Richardson, who fought hard to pass it.

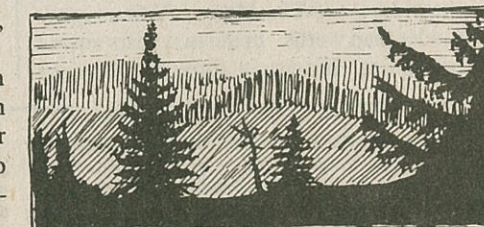
The Jemez NRA legislation calls for management that emphasizes recreation while allowing other uses of the land to continue, such as logging, and, yes, even mining. The key points of the bill are as follows: 1) primary management emphasis is to be on recreation. 2) The area will be withdrawn from future mining claims and no patents will be issued after the date of introduction of the legislation; any lands mined within the NRA will have to be returned to their original pre-mining condition. 3) Strong protection will be given for the major archeological sites within the area. 4) Timber harvesting will be geared to the local economy and be limited to vigas, millas, fuelwood and small timber sales. Letters of appreciation to Senator Bingaman for taking a bold stand on this issue are much deserved. Asking Bingaman for speedy hearings on the Jemez NRA is also important to help ensure passage of the legislation in this session of Congress.

It is time now to turn our attention to Senator Pete Domenici. In the past, Domenici has said that he is not opposed to legislation for the Jemez NRA, although he does have some reservations as to how it would impact the economy of the area. If anything, National Recreation Area status for the Jemez would increase the economic opportunities available in the area.

Now that it is clear that this legislation has no opposition from the New Mexico Mining Association and has the blessings of the U.S. Forest Service, we see no reason for Domenici not to co-sponsor this legislation. Letters of support and encouragement to the Senator to co-sponsor the Jemez NRA are needed now to keep the ball rolling.

The East Fork Preservation Coalition would like to thank the Sierra Club for its steadfast support over the past two and a half years, especially members who wrote letters, made phone calls, and lent financial support.

[In addition to being a member of the Santa Fe Group of the Sierra Club, the author is Director of the East Fork Preservation Coalition. For more information about this group or to make a donation, write to EFPC, P.O. Box 9307, Santa Fe, NM 87504 or call 983-1576.]



Mining Law Reform Action Calendar

- ✓ ATTEND MEETINGS OF THE STATE ENGINEER'S OFFICE on March 10th to support the Lone Mountain Ranch water application. Call Joan Leshner at (505) 473-9664 for time and place.
- ✓ ATTEND MEETINGS OF THE STATE ENGINEER'S OFFICE on March 17th to oppose the Pegasus Mining Company's water application. Call Joan Leshner at 473-9664 for time and place.
- ✓ BE PREPARED TO ATTEND HEARINGS (on two week's notice) on the Senate bill to reform the 1872 Mining Law. (Still no word on when or where these will be held.)



For more information, see article on page 7.

Welcome to the New Rio Grande Sierran

Beginning this month, the newsletters of the Rio Grande Chapter and its four constituent groups will be combined. Instead of receiving a separate newsletter from your local group, you'll now find news and announcements from your group inside these pages. (Some groups will continue sending announcements to their members, at least for a few more months.)

The Executive Committee of the Rio Grande Chapter made the decision to consolidate newsletters at its January meeting. The move is aimed at reducing costs to the groups, saving paper, and avoiding the duplication of effort. Newsletters were a major expense for all of the groups.

Under the new arrangement, groups will retain editorial control over their allotted pages in the *Rio Grande Sierran*. The Chapter will continue to pay the costs of producing, printing, and mailing the *Sierran*, which will be published ten times annually.

Inside: Legislative Update • OLE • ADC Secrets • El Malpais • Ballot Controversy

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Rio Grande Sierran
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Albuquerque: 207 San Pedro Ave. NE Albuquerque, NM 87108 (505) 265-5506
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LETTERS

Editor:

Your December article criticizing Senator Bingaman for a weak record on environmental issues was timely and his response to it was weak at best. While environmentalists have worked to ensure his election and reelection, he has voted with us on relatively low stakes issues (wild and scenic river designations) but he has shied away from the more difficult and controversial issues where true leadership would be required to overcome special interest opposition to environmental protection.

Bingaman's vote for the Bush (oil industry) energy plan must be seen as a watershed in Bingaman's career and any other politician who voted for this disastrous legislation. Energy policy must become one of our nation's top two concerns if the earth is to survive another two generations of humans. Our gluttonous waste of energy in all forms is contributing significantly to the global warming emergency, ozone layer depletion, conventional air pollution, land and habitat destruction through mining, and surface and groundwater pollution...

It's time to hold politicians to a higher standard than ever before. By voting for a status quo energy plan in 1991, Bingaman showed he is dangerously ignorant of the global environmental emergency. He and Domenici are either unaware of or unwilling to address the problems that threaten the survival of our biosphere: global warming, ozone depletion, and overpopulation. Saving humans and other species in the face of these crises will require true leadership and the spine to stand up to special interests like the oil and mining industries. But few politicians show such leadership and at best Bingaman has become better-than-average at a time when the average is fairly low.

Tom Ribe
 Eugene, Oregon

To the Editor,

I'd like to respond to Senator Bingaman (probably a staff member, because Sen. Bingaman is too busy for environmentalists these days) and Tito Meyer. Actions speak louder than words. In the two years since I heard Sen. Bingaman introduce Gaylord

Nelson at the Albuquerque Earth Day festivities, he has been a continuing disappointment. He sends his staffers to talk to us; his staffers say one thing (to appease us), Jeff Bingaman does another.

Bingaman waffled on the Bryan Bill [to raise mileage standards for new cars]. He was a supporter in Sept. 1990 and we thanked him; his staffer said he'd be a co-sponsor in 1991, yet he was never heard from. Bingaman said we didn't need to include ANWR in S.1220 (two letters to me said that) and even voted against it committee. Five months later, he was one of a handful of democrats ardently supporting S.1220 with ANWR (I could be wrong, but I suspect Mimbres N.M. was a trade for his ANWR stance). This year he has kept New Mexicans guessing on the site and date for a hearing on the 1872 Mining Law. These are but just a few examples. Where's his conviction when it counts?

His LCV rating of 40 is better than Schiff's 23, Domenici's 13 and much better than Skeen's ZERO, but it's poor by anyone's standard for a Congressman who claims an environmental platform (such as Richardson's 69). Bingaman is losing an important constituency.

Ralph Wrons
 Albuquerque

Dear Sierra Club members:

After reading your Jan./Feb. *Sierran*, I'm more convinced than ever that your club is radically wrong! All you do is promote socialism in a very sneaky way. Maybe "People for the West" know more than I thought they did about you people.

I must tell you that in NO way can I support your backward ways. In fact, I'm going to now do my very best to let others know your real goals: Bringing a total halt to all logging and hunting and all mining, because that's what your changes to the law of land would bring about!

I Stand against you.

George A. Neeley
 Rio Rancho

The Rio Grande Sierran is published monthly by the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club. Subscriptions for non-members are \$10 per year. Send payment to Rio Grande Sierran, Star Route Box 26 Mesilla Park, NM 88047.

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Contributions are welcomed from members and non-members. Send to the Rio Grande Sierran at above address. Articles should be typed, E-mailed (SIE426 on Sierra Club network; Ilarocque on Econet), or submitted on computer disk (3.5", Macintosh or DOS, Microsoft Word or ASCII text only format). Only very short handwritten or faxed submissions can be accepted.

SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO THE SIERRA CLUB, 730 POLK ST., SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94109.

Environmentalists to Domenici: "Don't make us scapegoats"

On February 7, Duke City Lumber Company—a subsidiary of the giant London-based Hanson PLC corporation—announced it was permanently closing its sawmill in Cuba, N.M., putting 45 workers out of a job. The company president blamed timber-sale appeals by environmentalists and the Mexican spotted owl.

The announcement elicited a swift response from New Mexico Senator Pete Domenici. In a February 7 press release, Domenici said

that he was "troubled" by the mill closure, and blamed environmentalists, particularly Forest Guardians, for misusing the timber-sale appeals process to halt logging on national forests. Domenici claimed that such appeals had resulted in the loss of jobs and millions of dollars of revenues to timber-dependent counties.

Environmentalists countered with an open letter to the Senator, penned by Jim Norton of the Wilderness Society, excerpted below.

Dear Senator Domenici:

Your news release shows that you have been misled by the timber industry. You stated that a "procedural maneuver" by environmentalists stopped timber sales. But there aren't any timber sale appeals or lawsuits pending on the Santa Fe National Forest. You stated that "the misuse of the appeals process [is] grinding to a halt the entire timber sale program." But last year the Santa Fe National Forest sold 23.4 million board feet of timber. You stated that "\$180 million in payments to timber dependent counties" has been lost. But Sandoval County, in which the Cuba mill is located, will receive exactly the same amount of revenue from the Federal Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program even if there are no timber receipts. In every New Mexico county but one, timber receipts simply offset payments the counties would get anyway from the PILT program.

The real reasons for Duke City's decision to close the Cuba mill are economic. First, this London based multi-national corporation is rebuilding its mill in Espanola which burned down last year. The new mill will employ only nine workers, compared to 50 at the old mill, and the new mill will require larger volume of timber. It is more efficient to truck the logs from the Jemez to the new mill in Espanola

than run them through an old mill in Cuba. It is modernization that is costing timber jobs in New Mexico and this trend has been going on for more than three decades.

Second, Duke City has been in an intense bidding war with the Albuquerque-based Bates Lumber Company for Jemez timber. As these companies bid up the price of timber their costs rise and it eventually makes economic sense to stop buying.

Third, the nation is in a long and severe recession. Housing starts are down and, as a result, the demand for lumber is down. At times like this, timber companies close mills to wait for a more favorable economic climate. We have no control over these macroeconomic factors.

Several of us participated, at your request, in a task force last spring to resolve timber conflicts in New Mexico. We worked hard and in good faith to reach an agreement to keep the sawmill in Cuba open while complying with applicable environmental laws. In doing so, we gave up our rights as citizens to appeal several key timber sales—an unprecedented and very painful decision for us to make. Now, Duke City has reneged on that agreement by closing down the mill prematurely.

Senator, we represent more than 12,000 New Mexico citi-

zens who care about the natural and cultural wonders of our state. None of our members want mill workers to lose their jobs. But they do recognize the long term economic trends that are causing all of the extractive industries—logging, mining, grazing, and others—to play a steadily declining role in the economy of our state. As your constituents, we hope in the future that you will consult with us to get a better understanding of the facts before swallowing the hollow rhetoric of a few logging industry executives.

Sincerely,

•Joanie Berde, La Comunidad

•Ted Davis, Save the Jemez

•Janie Dohrmann, Santa Fe Nat. Forest Watch

•David Henderson, Nat. Aud. Soc., NM Office

•Tom Jervis, Sangre de Cristo Aud. Soc.

•Jim Norton, The Wilderness Society

•Henry Oat, E. Fork Preserv. Coalition

•Michael Stewart, Lighthawk

•Janice Varela, Upper Pecos Assoc.

•Gwen Wardwell, Rio Grande Chap. Sierra Club

1992 Santa Fe Wrap-up

By Ken Hughes, Rio Grande Chapter Lobbyist

The emphasis during the recently completed 1992 New Mexico Legislative session was on budgetary matters, leaving little room for discussion of the environment. On a bright note, the Rio Grande Chapter's top priority—mining reform—was one of the most prominent issues of the session, right up there with ethics reform. Though the outcome was less than we hoped for, environmentalists were able to battle industry lobbyists to a draw on this and most other issues.

Responsible Mining

Rep. Gary King once again pushed a bill that focused on reclamation, to be accomplished through regulations promulgated by a mining commission under the auspices of the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department. The Sierra Club worked to strengthen the bill with provisions for siting and land use criteria, protection of wildlife and habitat, reclamation requirements, public participation, notice and citizen suit requirements, disclosure, and financial assurance.

The bill received three days of hearings before the House Energy Committee (highly unusual in a 30-day session) before being tabled. Voting with mining industry on key amendments were Reps. Mora, Barber, Knowles, Light, Sandel, and Wallach. Voting with environmental groups were Reps. Salazar, Shirley Baca, Madalena, McSorley, Morgan and Picraux. The latter deserve letters of praise.

Memorials were then introduced by Rep. King, calling for a task force to make recommendations to the Legislature, and another calling for a delay in the issuance of new mining-related permits by the Department of the Environment and the State Engineer's Office.

House Speaker Sanchez sent the memorials to two committees (likely heeding the advice of his friend and lobbyist for Pegasus Gold Co., Bobby McBride) even though the original bill only had one committee assignment.

The task force memorial passed the Energy Committee 8-2 but was killed on a motion by House Whip Michael Olguin in Rep. Luna's Business Committee, 9-0. The permit-delay memorial died ignominiously the last day of the session for lack of a quorum in the Energy Committee.

Air Quality and Hazardous Wastes

The Legislature passed amendments to the Air Quality Control Act, introduced by Rep. King, which increased the Environment

Department's enforcement and permitting capabilities as needed to comply with the federal Clean Air Act. Civil penalties were increased to \$1-15 thousand per day, and violations of regulations regarding commercial or industrial incineration, federal standard of performance, hazardous air pollutants, or toxic air pollutants were upgraded to felonies.

Sen. Harvey carried a bill, also passing, which increased penalties for illegally, knowingly and willfully dumping hazardous waste. Penalties under the bill basically mirror those in the air quality bill. Together these were the biggest victories of the session.

Groundwater

Bills were introduced by Rep. Sandel and Sen. Bradley to limit liability on the clean-up of contamination at leaking underground storage tank sites. Once again, the McBride-Speaker Sanchez special interest connection was prominent. After the Speaker assigned Bradley's bill to two committees, McBride was seen rushing to the phone. The Speaker picked up his phone moments later, and then changed the committee assignment to just one committee. The bill subsequently passed.

Recycling

Bills were introduced again this year seeking the imposition of "green taxes" on items that pollute, paid by those who produce or consume the item. Sen. Robinson pushed a bill to tax or restrict products with environmentally unsound packaging, but it never got out of the "black hole" of Senate Conservation.

Sen. Maes pushed bills to recycle batteries and tires, but they suffered the same fate. Rep. Porter's tire recycling bill, which would have imposed a 50¢ per tire fee to raise funds for localities to buy or lease tire shredders, died in House Appropriations.

Wildlife/Endangered Species

The Legislature passed two memorials regarding endangered species. The good one, introduced by Rep. McSorley, supported education of New Mexicans on endangered species. It passed the House 44-17 before being greatly weakened in Senate Conservation.

A highlight of the year was seeing children testify before the House Judiciary Committee on the need to have wildlife live in their natural habitat; a low point was watching Senator Morrow, Chair of the Senate Conservation Committee, explain why he could not support the bill. Displaying a stupefying lack of under-

standing of the current human-caused extinction crisis, he declared "there's no way to bring back dinosaurs anyway."

The other endangered species memorial, by Sens. Altamirano, Cisneros, Campos, Martin and Morrow, called on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to *not* list the Mexican spotted owl as a threatened species, as well as redefine sustainable logging as that which would keep Catron County sawmills open.

Rep. Coll's attempt to eliminate the State's \$880,000 annual contribution to Animal Damage Control programs in New Mexico was unsuccessful.

Energy

Head-in-the-sand thinking prevailed on energy issues. A Sierra Club-supported memorial, sponsored by Rep. Madalena, to promote planning for energy conservation and renewable energy sources was tabled.

The Legislature passed another memorial, by Rep. Whitney-Welles, that called on the California Public Utility Commission to back off its proposal to figure air emission externalities into its rate base. Legislators were apparently swayed by BP International's arguments that New Mexico's economy would be suffer if renewable sources of electricity took hold in California. (BP International holds the lease to 2 billion tons of coal in the Navajo Nation.)

Finally, the Legislature passed a progressive measure, sponsored by Rep. King and promoted by the Land Office and Energy Department, that establishes a timetable for converting State vehicles to natural gas.

Solid Waste

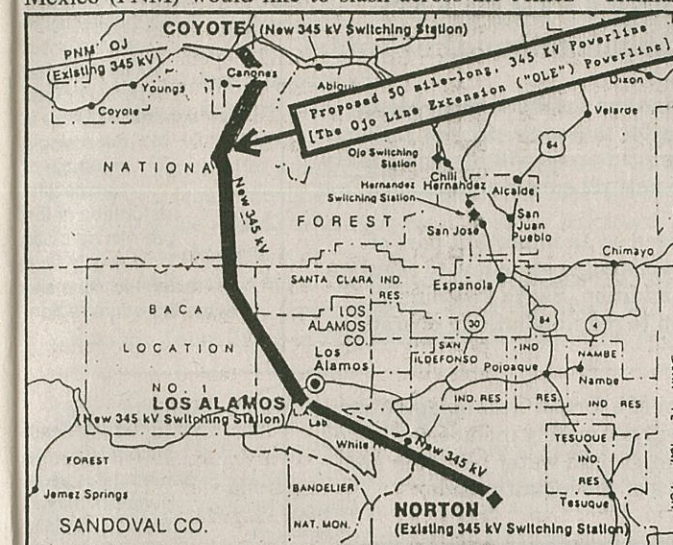
Sen. McKibbin, at the request of the New Mexico Municipal League, sought to alter the implementation schedule for the New Mexico Solid Waste Act. In the words of the Solid Waste Act's author, Sen. Maes, McKibbin's bill would have "gutted" the law. The bill was offered as an alternative to increasing the Environment Department's fund for helping municipalities comply with the law. Fortunately, it failed.

Thanks to all of you who took the time to communicate with your representatives on these matters. Unfortunately, the New Mexico Legislature is an anachronistic body that all too often looks to the business community for cues and money. Our concern and votes are our only real weapons.

Public Service Commission to Hold Hearings on OLE Power Line

by Ted Davis, M.D.

Many people are aware of the costly and unnecessary 345 kV, 50-mile long power line known as the Ojo Line Extension Project (OLE) that Public Service Co. of New Mexico (PNM) would like to slash across the Jemez



Mountains.

The NO WAY, OLE coalition (Save the Jemez, Sierra Club, All Indian Pueblo Council, several individual Pueblos, and Consumers for Utility Responsibility and Efficiency) has been effectively fighting this project in federal court and before the New Mexico Public Service Commission (PSC). In addition, the New Mexico Attorney General's Office and a number of individual intervenors, are actively opposing OLE before the PSC.

People will soon have an opportunity to show and voice their opposition to OLE at the upcoming PSC hearings in Santa Fe. This is the utility regulatory forum that will decide whether or not PNM will be allowed to build OLE.

Although the PSC hearings will last several weeks, the first day or two of the hearings are for public comments. All concerned citizens should attend if possible, and provide comments to the PSC at that time.

The hearing is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, April 21, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. It will be held at the New Mexico Public Service Commission Building, 224 East Palace (near corner of East Palace and Paseo de Peralta) in Santa Fe.

(As always, hearing dates can change, so check with the Sierra Club at 983-2703 in Santa Fe, or Save the Jemez at 268-7822 in Albuquerque, to confirm time and place.)

People may also want to be present at different times during the course of the hearings to hear our several nationally and internationally recognized expert witnesses testify.

Dr. Amory Lovins, one of the world's foremost authorities on energy, will testify about energy efficiency and related least-cost alternatives to OLE. Mr. Ned Hannah, of the Engineering firm of Cainski and Hannah, will present engineering alternatives to OLE.

Dr. Robert Ribe, who is a landscape architect at the University of Oregon, will show by computer simulation the irreversible visual impact that OLE would have on the Jemez viewshed. Mr. Herman Agoyo, Governor of San Juan Pueblo, and Chairman of the Eight Northern Pueblo Tribes, will testify on the negative effects that OLE would have on the Pueblo quality of life.

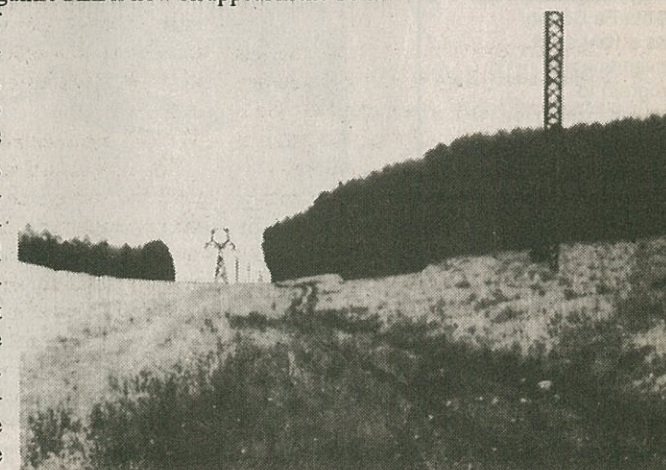
Dr. Suede Rely, a former New Mexico Public Service Commissioner, will explain why the PSC should deny the OLE permit from a regulatory perspective. And there will be other expert witnesses on our side.

However, the legal meat and bones of our Public Service Commission case have been put together by the untiring efforts of Santa Fe utility attorney, Mr. Steve Michel. Steve has crafted the legal strategy, and done the day-to-day work of tracking and dealing with the extremely complex details of the case. He will be representing us throughout the PSC Hearings.

Our attorney, our expert witnesses, and other volunteers, have already donated over \$150,000 dollars of services to this effort! Please attend the hearings and show your support.

Update on the OLE lawsuit

Our lawsuit against OLE is now on appeal in the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver. Letty Belin, the attorney who is handling this part of our case, will be presenting oral arguments to a panel of federal Appeals Court judges in the near future. Letty and attorney Grove Burnett have been working with us since 1985.



Computer simulation of how proposed OLE powerline will appear along the existing Camp May-Guaje Canyon hiking and ski trail in the Jemez Mountains. (Simulation by Robert Ribe, Ph.D.)

The author is President of Save the Jemez and a practicing Albuquerque physician. For more information, contact Save the Jemez, Box 4067, Albuquerque, NM, 87106; (505) 268-7822.

Anatomy of an Ad

An advertisement similar to the one shown below appeared recently in the Albuquerque Journal. Pegasus Gold Corporation is seeking the necessary permits from the State Engineer and Santa Fe County to go ahead with its plans to mine for gold in the Ortiz Mountains using the controversial open pit cyanide heap leach process. We asked our mining expert, Bob Salter, to respond to the ad.

This corporate commitment must have developed recently. At a similar mine in Phillips County, Montana, its commitment has been to totally ignore the complaints and pleas of their nearest neighbors, the Gros Ventre and the Assiniboiné Indians. There at the Zortman Landusky mine, Pegasus Gold has already destroyed sacred sites and spiritual values critical to the way of life of these Native Americans. This outrage continues unabated today and together with a 12-year history of persistent environmental degradation it calls to question all the claims of commitment on the part of these Canadian snake oil salesmen.

Suggesting that Santa Fe County has a very strict environmental program to regulate mining is at the very least deceptive. The Santa Fe County ordinance referred to has minimal and inadequate inspection and enforcement provisions and lacks any staff or resources to deal with such slick operators. The reclamation standards are incredibly weak.

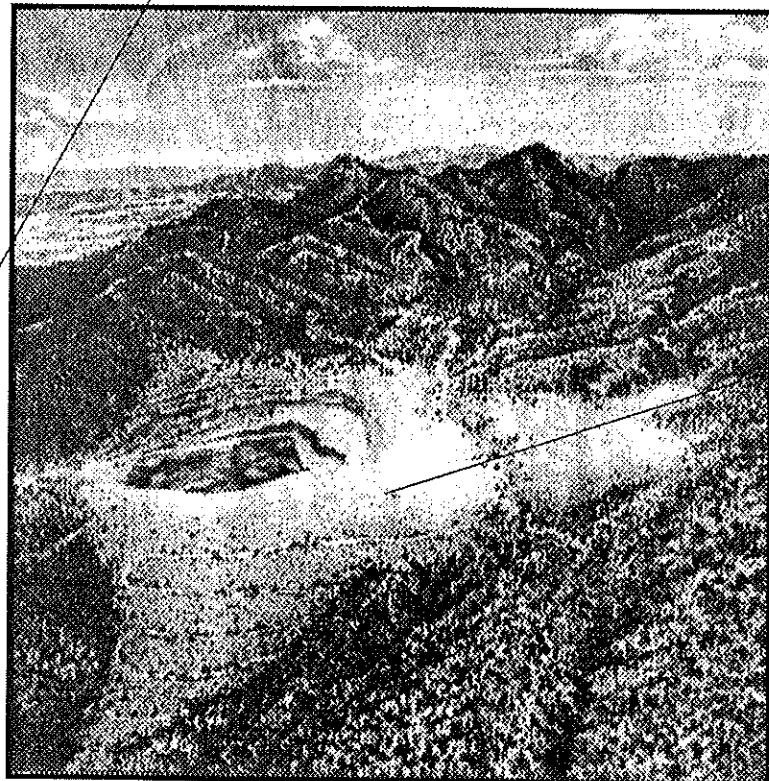
Reclamation in the Ortiz Mountains

Pegasus Gold Corporation's Commitment to Santa Fe County

Pegasus Gold Corporation's proposed mine in the southern Ortiz Mountains has been designed from the beginning for thorough, prompt reclamation. Upon completion of reclamation, the mined areas will become quality habitat for wildlife and will blend with the natural surroundings.

Reclamation of mined lands is now recognized as an important part of mining. New Mexico is in the process of developing a state law to regulate mining, and in particular, reclamation. In addition, Santa Fe County already has a strict environmental program to regulate mining operations in the county.

This spring, Pegasus will begin reclamation of a former mining operation in the Ortiz Mountains. The reclamation will ultimately include reshaping and revegetating the land surface to prevent ground water pollution and will gradually restore the native appearance of the mountainside.



Artist's conception of the former mine area 15 to 20 years after the completion of reclamation.

Pegasus Gold Corporation Ortiz Project JV P. O. Box 8 Cerrillos, NM 87010 (505)471-0434

Claiming that the "reclaimed" area will become quality habitat is the equivalent of suggesting that turpentine cures snakebite. There is not a single example of successful restoration of the pre-mining biotic diversity on a reclaimed mine site in the entire region.

Efforts to enact such a law were defeated this year. Hardrock mining remains essentially unregulated under state law.

Even the artist's hand could not cover all the potential problems. The pit remains and you cannot from the vantage provided see the groundwater aquifers intercepted by this wound or what becomes of those waters. A reconstructed channel picks up surface drainage from an upslope canyon and unnaturally directs it to a vague discharge point somewhere. Waste rock has been dumped in the lower part of the same canyon to great depth and with a very steep outslope. These are classic conditions that lead to acid drainage and heavy metal contamination.

Mining Law Update

1872

Federal Action Expected Soon

The hard-rock mining industry has targeted for defeat much of the environmental agenda from wilderness to endangered species, to old growth, to grazing fees through its front-group, People for the West! It has pursued this strategy in an effort to find allies in its fight to retain its abysmally unpopular economic and environmental subsidies.

THE TIME FOR ACTION BY CLUB MEMBERS IS NOW. A House reform bill may move through the House Interior Committee this Spring. Representative Bill Richardson is an important vote on this committee, so please write (handwritten is fine) to him at the address shown on page 23.

Urge him to support strong mining reform legislation containing: an end to patenting; royalties for federal minerals; land manager discretion to prohibit and control mining; and ironclad reclamation requirements. H.R. 918 by Rep. Nick Joe Rahall will probably be the vehicle for reform, but it presently lacks some of these crucial elements.

After a bill passes out of committee, it will go onto the House floor, where votes by representatives Schiff and Skeen will be important. Those living in those districts should also write soon.

New Mexico Gold Rush is On

The failure of the New Mexico Legislature to place a moratorium on hardrock mining until protective regulations are in place (see report on page 4) couldn't have come at a worst time. Gold mining is booming. Besides Pegasus in the Ortiz Mountains, and Santa Fe Pacific Minerals above Pecos, there are 12 other gold exploration and development operations underway in New Mexico.

But Only Some States...

When hearings on a bill (H.R. 918) to reform the federal 1872 Mining Law were held in Santa Fe last May, representatives of the hardrock mining industry argued that federal action was unnecessary because regulation by the states was more appropriate.

Taking industry at its word, State Rep. Max Coll of Santa Fe introduced a bill in the recently completed 1992 legislative session on behalf of State Land Commissioner Jim Baca. The bill would have levied a 2 percent severance tax on any mineral production upon which no royalties are paid (i.e. on federal lands). This would have made state mineral resources more competitive with the federal resources which are currently free.

Bowing to considerable opposition from the mining industry, the House Taxation and Revenue Committee gave the bill a swift execution by voting 14-0 on a motion to table.

Baca Supports Federal Cyanide Tax

State Land Commissioner Jim Baca recently announced his support for the cyanide tax legislation being introduced by Rep. Les AuCoin of Oregon. "Because New Mexico is one of only two mining states without a 'hardrock mining' statute on the books," Baca said, "we must look to the Federal government for action. I commend Rep. AuCoin for his proposal, and hope for early passage in the Congress."

Hike Planned to Proposed Gold Mine

By Norma McCallan

On Saturday, April 25, the Santa Fe and Albuquerque Groups are sponsoring a trip to the proposed Pegasus Gold Mine in the Ortiz Mountains. If Pegasus receives the necessary permits from the State Engineer and Santa Fe County, this foreign-owned mine will dwarf any previous mining activity in the area.

To extract the minute amounts of gold through the new open pit cyanide heap leach process, some 1000 acres of old-growth timber will be clearcut; 50,000 tons of explosives will be detonated to break up 150,000,000 tons of waste rock and ore; 16,438 tons of sodium cyanide will be used to drench the ore; up to 720,000 gallons of water per day will be consumed for 30 years; and 30,000,000 tons of crushed tailings and 120,000,000 tons of waste rock containing heavy metals will be abandoned when the company moves on to new exploits.

The potential for large-scale contamination of ground and surface water is enormous, not to mention the immediate threat to birds and wildlife.

Pegasus canceled out on the first planned tour on February 8. We have the assurance of company

officials that, whatever the weather or condition of roads on April 25, the tour will take place.

We will meet at the fire station in Madrid at 9 a.m. and receive a briefing from Jeannie Cragin, head of the Friends of Santa Fe County, and (hopefully) Bob Salter, our Sierra Club mining expert. The tour itself will take at least four hours, so bring a picnic lunch and wear sturdy hiking boots, since the area will be muddy. Most of the tour will be via 4-wheel drive, but we may walk up a couple of canyons.

Pegasus needs a head count of participants, so please RSVP to Norma McCallan in Santa Fe (505-471-0005) or David Morrison in Albuquerque (344-8693). If you can bring a 4-wheel drive vehicle, we need to know that also.

New Mexico Taxpayers

Tired of rattlesnake round-ups and coyote shoot-outs? Check the *Share with Wildlife* box on your tax return, and help support intelligent management of nongame wildlife in New Mexico.



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POB 5141, Dept. NM, Tucson, AZ 85703; or call (602)628-9610.

The Fight to Learn ADC's Secrets

by Pat Wolff

The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) was passed twenty-five years ago to protect the American public's right to know what its own government is up to.

It sounds good in theory, but in practice, the law is frequently undermined by bureaucrats who would rather operate their agencies without public scrutiny.

That's what I discovered when I filed a FOIA request for information last August with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal Damage Control (ADC) program. ADC poisons, traps and shoots thousands of animals every year on public and private land in New Mexico and other states, allegedly to protect livestock.

Under FOIA, any citizen can request and receive documents from any federal agency, provided the requested information is not exempted from disclosure under one of nine exemption categories. Too frequently, however, the government stamps documents "exempt" just to cover up bureaucratic bungling and avoid political embarrassment.

I made an effort to ask for information that I felt should not be exempted. My request was comprehensive—necessarily so, given ADC's history of withholding information from the public. I sought:

1. Documents that revealed the education and training level of field personnel.
2. FAA numbers of all fixed-wing aircraft used in aerial gunning of coyotes.
3. Copies of written agreements with cooperating federal and state agencies.
4. Documentation of each request for service, including address and ownership of property, nature of request and action ADC took in each case during 1990.
5. Policy criteria that justify lethal control activities.

6. Documentation for how many of the reported livestock losses were confirmed onsite by ADC, number of losses determined not due to depredation, who determines value of livestock lost and under what criteria.

7. Lists of animals killed since 1980 that are state or

federally listed as threatened or endangered.

8. Information related to the inadvertent killing of domestic dogs and cats by ADC.

My FOIA request was acknowledged in an August letter from State ADC Director Curt Mullis and in August 16 letter from Cheryl Landini, FOIA officer of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Landini also sent a fact sheet on FOIA fees, indicating that I could be charged \$20 an hour to have a professional search done for the documents and 20 cents per page for copies. Apparently, the feds hope they can discourage citizen inspections by threatening to charge hundreds of dollars for the public documents they seek.

On September 6, I fired off a letter to Landini challenging the fees. On October 6, Landini responded that "additional information is needed before we can make fee waiver determination." I was required to provide lengthy answers to five questions.

Finally on November 1, my request for a fee waiver was granted and a few days later, one of my questions was answered when I was given the FAA aircraft numbers. In the same letter, ADC claimed it had no record on how many threatened and endangered species it had killed, nor records of any communications with owners of killed pets.

Then I received a phone call from State Director Mullis, saying that the bulk of information I wanted would be "blacked out" on the documents they were going to send me. He said the ownership and location of property on which ADC wildlife killing takes place is secret and would not be disclosed. He also said that his agency would no longer publish an annual report because he had discovered that annual reports were "illegal"! (He was also quoted in the Nov. 10 Albuquerque Journal as saying that he wouldn't publish any more annual reports because the public had "misused" them.)

Despite my frequent calls and letters to the FOIA officer in charge of responding to my request, despite my pleadings to my U.S. Senators and Congressman, ADC still hasn't come forth with the information I requested.

By law, federal agencies are supposed to provide information 10 days after it is requested, or 20 days if the request is lengthy, as mine was. As of February 15, I have waited six months for public documents that they ever do get to me—will be heavily censored by federal bureaucrats who don't want the public to know what ADC is really up to.

PostScript

In mid-January I asked State Director Mullis what his current and proposed annual budgets were. He wrote back, telling me that to get budget information, I'd have to file a Freedom of Information Act request.

[The author is Wildlife Chair for the Rio Grande Chapter.]



Activists demonstrate against ADC on Jan. 24 at the State Capitol in Santa Fe. Protest was organized by Pat Wolff. Photo by Marc Bedner.

PROFILE

Santa Fe National Forest Watch Thriving After First Year

by Janie Dohrmann

The Santa Fe National Forest Watch came into being one year ago as the result of a need perceived in the environmental community for more citizen involvement in forest issues.

Forest Trust, Forest Guardians, LightHawk, the National Audubon Society, New Mexico Environmental Law Center, the Santa Fe Group of the Sierra Club and the Wilderness Society all unanimously endorsed this grassroots organization and have provided invaluable information, both informally and through workshops, about how the Forest Service works and how we can each be instrumental in forcing much needed reform and revised environmental ethics.

In one year's time our core group of enthusiasts has met with all of the district rangers, adopted timber sales, joined Forest Service planning ID (interdisciplinary) teams, and become involved in such critical issues as the proposed expansion of the Santa Fe Ski Basin.

In May we will be involved in a statewide conference on forest issues being put together by the Audubon Society, Forest Guardians, and the Wilderness Society to present a greater range of information to the five Forest Watch Groups which now interact with all five of New Mexico's national forests.

The objective of the conference is to bring to one forum specialists in all areas of ecological, environmental and economic concern in the Forests, as well as Congressional and New Mexico lawmakers who have the power to help reform today's lopsided perspective of our national forests as a marketable crop rather than a national treasure.



Environmentalists Say El Malpais Management Plan Should Be Scrapped

by John Wright

Several environmental groups and individuals have joined together to appeal the final General Management Plan (GMP) for the El Malpais National Conservation Area (NCA) near Grants, New Mexico.

Environmentalists have criticized the GMP for favoring development over conservation of resources. The plan calls for the development of visitor centers, parking areas, interpretive and other trails, and other improvements. Visitor impacts to the area are projected to increase dramatically.

The El Malpais NCA was established in 1987 by Congress and includes two Wilderness areas, a Wilderness Study Area, and other land administered by the Bureau of Land Management. The El Malpais National Monument was also created by the same Act, and includes adjacent land administered by the National Park Service.

The NCA includes over 250,000 acres of land featuring some of the most spectacular lava flows in North America as well as many other natural and cultural resources. Additionally, the area is used by several Native American groups for religious purposes.

The appeal was made by the New Mexico Wilderness Coalition (of which the Rio Grande Chapter is a member), the New Mexico Wilderness Study Committee, and three individuals. Nicholas Persampieri, an Albuquerque lawyer, filed the appeal on behalf of the environmentalists to the Board of Land Appeals of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

The basis of the appeal is the failure of the BLM to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the plan. The BLM had reached a "finding of no significant impact" (FONSI) in formulating the plan. Under the

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), a federal agency is not required to prepare an EIS if a project will not have a significant impact on the environment.

The BLM claims that the GMP and associated Environmental Assessment is sufficient to assess the impacts of the proposed management plan and its alternatives. (An Environmental Assessment is less comprehensive than an EIS.)

Environmentalists argue that the plan constitutes a major federal action, and that the proposed developments could have a significant negative effect on the area. The appellants also maintain that BLM has failed to assess the cumulative impacts of its management plan.

Persampieri said it could be several months before the board hears the appeal.

[The author is the National Forest Wilderness Chair for the Rio Grande Chapter.]



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Proposed Ballot Measures Stir Controversy

Sierra Club members will be asked to vote on controversial proposed changes to the Club's bylaws in this year's elections. Voting will take place from February 28 to April 11. Members will also be asked to elect one-third of the Club's Board of Directors.

The proposed bylaw amendments were prepared by a Bylaws

Committee in response to a request from the Sierra Club Council to clarify the Club's organizational structure. Statements in support and opposition to the proposed changes are printed below. They have been edited for length. Copies of the unedited statements may be obtained by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to the Editor.

National Sierra Club Threatens Chapters

by Marc Bedner

This year, Sierra Club members will be asked to give the national Board of Directors the power to remove at will elected members of chapter and group executive committees.

The proposed amendments to the by-laws would add (as §8.5) a provision giving the Board the power to replace an entire executive committee with people of its own choosing, not all of whom would even need to be members of the chapter! Another provision (§8.9) would give the Board the power to order chapters and groups to carry out any action "that the Board determines to be in the best interest of the Club."

Why does the Board of Directors feel the need to establish military discipline in the Sierra Club? The immediate threat seems to be from the Atlantic Chapter, which has dared to express its opinion on legislation on which the national club (i.e. the lobbying staff in Washington) has taken no official position. But other chapters have expressed differences.

We may all be environmentalists, but we do not all live in the same environment. A case in point is the Clean Air Act of 1990, lauded by the president of the Sierra Club at the time as "the most significant environmental protection program passed by Congress in the last ten years." The law specifically authorizes increased pollution levels in officially "clean" states like New Mexico.

If the national office is willing to sacrifice the air of the intermountain west for the benefit of the coasts, how do they feel about our land and water? Will they order us to stop our campaign to reform the 1872 Mining Law?

National environmental organizations have become indistinguishable from other D.C. special-interest lobbies. Much of their time and energy is spent on fund-raising appeals which may include a modicum of information about an issue, but are properly regarded as junk mail. The bottom line is that the environmental crisis of the moment can be solved by sending \$100, or \$50, or at least \$25 to keep up the lobbying effort.

To the extent that members of Congress are subject to influence from environmentalists, it is on issues where they can see concern from their constituents. But Sierra Club chapters cannot adequately organize these constituencies when the bulk of the membership dues is drained off to support offices in San Francisco and Washington.

Like other national environmental organizations the Sierra Club is experiencing a decline in contributions. The Board of Directors blames the recession. But at a time when the general public is growing disgusted with members of Congress and organized lobbies, it is not surprising that junk mail appeals from Washington get little response. Strengthening the Sierra Club will require returning power to grassroots activists.

What can be done to remedy the situation? First, and simplest, vote against the proposed by-law amendments! The Board of Directors is counting on the usual low participation in the election.

Second, support your local group and chapter. Sierra Club policy reserves 11 months of the year for fund-raising for the national organization. We need your help during the one month the chapter is permitted to raise funds. The chapter and groups are always looking for volunteers. We welcome your help on the issue(s) of your choice.

[The author is a member of the Rio Grande Chapter Executive Committee. Another statement, endorsed by more than 20 Sierra Club leaders nationwide, was received by the editor in opposition to the proposed amendments.]

Proposed Bylaw Amendments Make Sense

submitted by the undersigned Sierra Club members

The Board of Directors and Sierra Club Council, representing all 58 chapters, ask the membership to approve bylaw amendments on the Club ballot mailed out in March.

The amendments were drafted by a committee consisting of a past president of the Club, a Club officer and director, and the chairs of two Council committees concerned with grassroots administration: *Bylaws & Elections*, and *Chapters & Groups*. They were approved unanimously by the board in November 1991, after overwhelming approval by Council.

Recommended by legal counsel, these changes make the Bylaws more consistent and clarify the Board's ability to manage the Club's internal affairs.

One change will help the Board resolve significant conflicts in chapters and groups that have not responded to dispute resolution. Under current Bylaws, if a chapter is paralyzed by conflict, the Board can only suspend or annul the chapter, and the chapter must be re-organized. This is like burning the village to save it, to borrow a Vietnam analogy. *It should be a last, not a sole, resort.*

The amendment provides flexibility, allowing an alternative, less drastic step of suspending or removing excom members, with these comprehensive safeguards: specific grounds for action given to the chapter excom, an opportunity to respond, and advice from Council.

Other changes (1) allow the Board to require specific provisions in chapter bylaws (as in Council's model bylaws for chapters and groups); (2) allow the Board to require actions to further the Club's goals (intended primarily for administrative actions such as treasurer training, handling of funds and membership lists, insurance, and outings administration); (3) reflect the legal requirement that chapter and group funds are Club funds; and

(4) ensure that national committees operate under similar standards.

Opponents claim these changes are undemocratic. On the contrary, Sierra Club differs from most national organizations in having a board democratically elected by the members. The Club is a single unit, a single national corporation, rather than a collection of independent affiliates, like other organizations. The directors are trustees of the members and are legally responsible for advancing the Club's purposes and protecting its assets. Chapter leaders are not elected by the whole Club and do not have the same legal responsibility.

Our all-volunteer Board represents us, the members. On the March ballot we elect five directors, one third of the Board. These are our representatives. Let's give them the tools they need.

Sierra Club's hallmark is conservation action from the grassroots to Washington, D.C. As we enter our second century, Sierra Club must have the tools to ensure that all parts of the Club participate. These amendments do that and deserve your support.

Philip Berry, Sierra Club President; Edgar Wayburn, Sierra Club Vice President and former President; Ann Pogue, Sierra Club Treasurer; Michele Perrault, Sierra Club Director & former President; Vivien Li, Director; Tony Ruckel, Sierra Club Secretary; Rebecca Falkenberg, Sierra Club Director; Sanford Tepfer, Sierra Club Director and former Secretary; Mark Gordon, Sierra Club Director; Bonnie Pence, Sierra Club Council Vice Chair; Delegate, Ohio Chapter; Mary Mayhew, Chair, Council Bylaws & Elections Committee & Delegate, Cumberland Chapter; Barry Satlow, Chair, Council Chapters & Groups Committee; Delegate, Rocky Mountain Chapter; and 11 others.

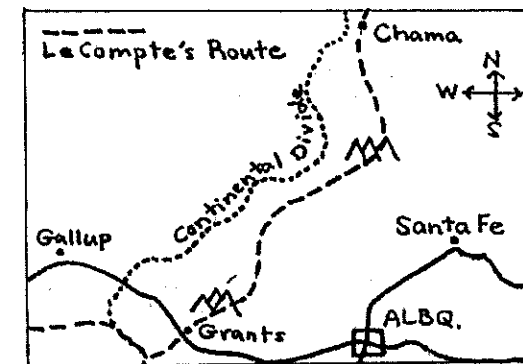
March Meeting: Hiking the Southwest Circle

by Ralph Wrons

It's a goal of many, but accomplished by few: chart a course through the wilderness, leave the troubles of work behind, enjoy the solitude and majestic beauty of hiking off the beaten path and explore your inner self.

Last summer, Brett LeCompte traveled a route of his own creation, hiking 1400 miles in a circuitous tour of the four corner states. He calls it his "Southwest Circle Quest" and it required a year's worth of thinking and planning. Brett's route through New Mexico is shown on his hand-drawn map accompanying this article.

Although he has traveled extensively in the West the last ten years, he's a newcomer to New Mexico and Albuquerque. The Albuquerque Group is very pleased to welcome him to our March 16 public meeting. Brett will share his experience in a slide show that he has proudly assembled since completing his Vision Quest. (Continued on page 2)



Albuquerque Group Centennial Project

by Laura Jenkins

The Sierra Club has made a difference in the last 100 years! Our group has planned a fitting observance for this centennial year. It will make a difference in our community for maybe another century.

We are going to plant trees! Lots of trees!

Our group initiated a plan to plant trees in the Rio Grande Valley State Park (our Bosque) and we were instrumental in helping the City Open Space Division obtain a grant for the purchase of trees and other expenditures. They have the equipment to dig holes; we have the manpower to plant the trees. Everyone can take part in it.

Co-Coordinator Laura Jenkins has participated in a number of tree planting projects in New Mexico. David Bouquin, Conservation Chair, and David Barish, Bosque Chair are also coordinating. Please call Laura at 293-7527 soon to sign up for a few hours of rewarding work.

April Meeting: Muir's Birthday Celebration

by Ralph Wrons

Just another reminder: In conjunction with the Sierra Club Centennial, we are commemorating John Muir's birthday on April 21. We have changed our usual meeting day (third Monday in April is the 20th) to the next day. Please make a note of it on your calendars.

As you may recall, to celebrate this gala event, we are going to have a birthday bash of sorts. We want to show slides of the places John Muir loved and wrote about. Offers of slides, readings and even a song have been trickling in to me. Please continue to rummage through your collections to help make this event special. I'd like to know what to expect by March 31. Thank you.

Energy Conservation

Second of Seven Parts
by Ralph Wrons

Reducing your energy consumption has important environmental consequences. I worked at a coal-fired power plant for three years; incredible amounts of finite resources are gobbled up in delivering electricity to your home, as well as the resultant pollution. Depending upon your situation, you can implement energy conserving measures at home and at work. You can also educate others as you learn.

As noted last month, the handbook, 50 simple things You can do to save the Earth, is a good resource of ideas. That includes energy conservation tips. An even better reference is the 1991 Consumer Guide to Home Energy Savings, with foreword by Denis Hayes, originator of Earth Day 1970. You can find it for \$7 in most bookstores. Bor-

(continued on page 2)

ALBUQUERQUE GROUP - page 2

March Meeting - continued from page 1

Brett started and finished his trek in the San Francisco Peaks of Northern Arizona. He traversed ten Wilderness Areas and four National Parks and went as far north as the La Sal mountains of Utah ("my intent was to go over mountains, not around them; I wanted to see where I was going and from where I had come"). His slides of Paria Canyon (Utah/Arizona border) and the Colorado Rockies are accompanied by music.

For those of you who have not attended our public meeting before, it begins at 7:30 PM and is held in room 2401 of the UNM Law School, corner of Constitution and Stanford. Please be aware that there is \$1 parking fee unless you park on the street. Hope to see you there.

Energy Conservation - continued from page 1

rowing the line used by Hayes, "Buy it, read it and be guided by it."

The scope of conserving energy is so broad, that I will keep it to household applications. If you don't mind, I'll cite measures we've implemented at home:

- 1) Within days after moving in, I installed an R-10 blanket around our water heater and insulation on the hot water outlet pipe.
- 2) I upgraded the attic insulation value to R-36 and I'm counting on a 2-year simple payback. If you recall in last month's Wildline, I mentioned cellulose insulation. That's what I used; it's very satisfying to know that we used recycled newsprint to save energy (twice, if you get my meaning).
- 3) I'm installing compact fluorescents where applicable. That is, when the light is not switched on and off frequently.
- 4) We're making and installing insulated window shades; "warm windows" can increase the R-value of your single-pane window 10-fold.
- 5) If you don't use your open fireplace (you wouldn't if you read the latest Sierra magazine), blank it off on the inside. We don't and we did (even with damper closed you could see daylight).
- 6) We use our solar dryer. If you don't have one, put one up. Solar energy is the most under-utilized resource in this state and the most obvious use is for drying clothes.

The list goes on, but I'll stop. The City of Albuquerque has set a goal of 10% energy use reduction by 1995. To help attain that, the City is planning to implement cost-effective recommendations from a one-day "Sustainable Energy Future" workshop. On the State level, the Sierra Club, in concert with other groups and the NM Solar Energy Industries Association, is trying to convince State legislators to adopt the same goal. And on a Federal level, there is the same 10% goal, mandated for Federal agencies. To do our part, we should set an even loftier goal: 25% by 1995.

Thank you for your efforts. **NEXT MONTH: Water Conservation**

1992 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Group Chair	Stefan Verchinski	888-1370
Vice-Chair	Ralph Wrons	275-0856
Secretary	Heidi Fleischmann	260-1217
Treasurer	Richard Barish	247-8079
Programs		
Chapter	Jeanne Halverson	296-4180
At-Large	Bob Cornish	255-6037
At-Large	Blair Brown	265-3231
At-Large	Teresa Johnson	265-5506

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

Air Quality	Heidi Fleischmann	260-1217
Books/		
Calendars	Rich Adam	266-4657
Bosque	Richard Barish	247-8079
City Planning	David Bouquin	265-7853
City Trails	vacant position	
Conservation	David Bouquin	265-7853
Energy	Ralph Wrons	275-0856
Las Huertas	Marion Davidson	867-5178
Mexican Wolf	Susan Larsen	897-2527
Newsletter	Dorothy Brethauer	275-6113
	Jessica Bailey	857-0286
Outings	David Morrison	344-8693
Petroglyphs/		
Westside	Ike Eastvold	255-7679
Population	Bruce Ferguson	765-5757
	Michelle Meaders	266-8823
Public Lands	Hubert Davis	299-6904
Solid Waste	David Bouquin	265-7853
Water Quality	Leslie Amrhein	298-2081
Wildlife	Marc Bedner	299-2004

Science Fair - Continued from page 3

scientist in order to evaluate projects (certainly you know more science than a middle school student!). You do need to be available on Friday, March 20 from 11:45-3:45.

We will have a planning meeting at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, March 10 at 1011 Monroe NE (Ellen's house). We will discuss judging strategies and criteria for selection. Please call Ellen Loehman (265-3179) or Dibby Olsen (281-3969) for more information.

ALBUQUERQUE GROUP - page 3

Science Fair Judges Needed

by Ellen Loehman

Last year, the Albuquerque group awarded prizes at the regional science fair to middle and high school students presenting projects of environmental interest. The winners were awarded a certificate and a year's membership in the Sierra Club. As any parent of middle school students will tell you, it's science fair time again.

We need members to judge the many worthy projects. You don't have to be a (continued on Page 2)

Annual Petroglyph National Monument Cleanup

by David Morrison

Most of us missed the recognition ceremonies for Ike Eastvold, but here is another chance to express your appreciation for his unceasing work to preserve the Albuquerque petroglyphs. Come out on Saturday, April 4 and help remove trash from the monument. Over the years we have removed 80 to 100 tons of assorted trash. The Open Space Department will be on hand with dump truck, loader, and/or compactor. During breaks, Ike will take us on tours of the nearby petroglyphs.

Refreshments and garbage bags will be provided. Bring shovels, rakes, wheelbarrows, gloves, drinking water, sturdy shoes, a hat, and lunch. Come and go as you want from 9AM to 3PM. Meet at the north parking lot of the Ladera Shopping Center. For more information, call Ike Eastvold at 255-7679 or David Morrison at 344-8693. See you there!

Outings Notes: Pegasus Mine Tour

Pegasus cancelled 3 days prior to the scheduled tour under a variety of unusual circumstances. Seventeen people from Santa Fe and Albuquerque still showed up for a discussion by Bob Salter and Jeannie Cragin regarding Pegasus mining problems. -- David Morrison

Thanks to all Wildline Mailers

Most of us don't realize how many different steps there are in getting out a newsletter, and that volunteers are involved every step of the way. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank a group that did it's job quietly, efficiently, and with little fanfare: the Mailing Party. Led by the ever-pleasant Doreen Kahl, this group of 8-12 met regularly on the last Thursday of the month to assemble, staple, and label our newsletter. With the consolidation of the Sierran and the Wildline, these folks will get a little time off. We hope, however, that we can enlist their help in getting the Sierran out in the future. -- Heidi Fleischmann

Wanted: Software

Now that we have a computer, we need some software. Our computer consultant (a.k.a. Marc Bedner) is hoping that some kind and generous member can help us out. We are looking for any standard work processing program for a Mac Plus computer. We would also like an external floppy or hard disc drive. Please call Marc at 299-2004.

CALENDAR

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

Mar 5: Mexican Wolf Coalition, 7:30 PM

Mar 7: Deadline for all articles for combination Wildline / Sierran on disk. Jessica Bailey (857-0286) is the April editor.

Mar 9: Executive Committee Meeting, 7:30 PM.

Mar 10: Science Fair judges planning meeting, 7 PM. (see article above)

Mar 16: Sierra Club General Meeting, UNM Law School, rm. 2401, 7:30 PM

Mar 20: Science Fair, 11:45 AM - 3:45 PM. (see article above)

Mar 23: Conservation committee meeting, 7:30 PM.

April 4: Annual Petroglyph National Monument Cleanup, 9AM - 3PM. (see article above)

the LORAX

Sierra Club
El Paso Regional Group

MARCH GENERAL MEETING

PUBLIC LANDS GRAZING:
GOOD OR BAD

The March general meeting of the El Paso Regional Group of the Sierra Club will feature both sides of the controversial grazing on public lands issue.

Douglas A. Baird, Catron County Agricultural Agent and Jim Jackson, rancher, will present the grazing aspect from the ranchers' point of view. William Dick Petty, botanist, will present the negative impact of public lands grazing.

The meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 25, 1992, at St. Paul's Methodist Church, 7000 Edgemere (two blocks east of Airway).

Join us for an informative meeting and take the opportunity to voice your opinion on public lands grazing. For more information contact Ted Mertig, 852-3011.

SOME EVENTS TO MARK
ON YOUR CALENDAR

APRIL

- April 11 Leader's Workshop
April 18-20 Easter Backpack to the Gila Meadows (3-day)
April 25-26 Carcamp to San Mateos Coffee Pot
April 25-26 Backpack to Gila Little Bear

MAY

- May 2 Reserved for John Muir Dinner
May 3 John Muir Celebration Dayhike to Hillsboro Peak
May 16-17 Beginner's Backpack
May 23-25 Memorial Day Gila Backpack and Key Exchange (3-day)
June 27-28 Kiddie Backpack to Diamond Creek

GROUP DIRECTORY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Chairman:	Ted Mertig	852-3011
Vice Chairman:	Joe Rodriguez	833-9655
Secretary:	Fernando Dubove	544-5973
Treasurer:	Kathy Sunday	584-9301
Members:	Todd Daugherty	584-2730
	Carolina Greenfield	593-2838
	Betsy Julian	544-5741

CONSERVATION:

Environmental Quality:	Tom Brasfield	584-8739
Franklin Mtns:	John Sproul	545-5157
Political Action:	Jim Bell	581-8864
Population:	Patty Pagels	592-7485
Public Lands:	Ted Mertig	852-3011

ADMINISTRATION:

Environmental Center	Linda Mahlow	532-9645
		532-4876
Group:	Bill Phillips	772-6503
Hospitality:	Barbara Mertig	852-3011
ICO:	Jeanne French	592-1660
LORAX Mail:	Bill Phillips	772-6503
Membership:	Carolina Greenfield	593-2838
Office Rep.:	Neil O'Hara	565-4735
Outings:	Carol Morrison	585-9077
Programs:	Betsy Julian	544-5741
Publicity:	Todd Daugherty	584-2730

Sierra Club/Environmental Center

800 S. Piedras
532-9645, 532-4876

Please send any changes or corrections in membership to
Carolina Greenfield, Membership Roll, 1510 Dale Douglas, 79936

EL PASO SIERRA CLUB
OUTING LEADER'S WORKSHOP

Our annual Leader's Workshop is scheduled for Saturday, April 11, at 9 a.m. Brunch will be served. This workshop is open to the approximately 30 leaders presently leading outings and to prospective leaders.

Todd Daugherty will kick off the session with a review of first aid and a presentation of the revamped first aid kits. The second portion of training will focus on trip administration, regulations and legal responsibilities. The last part of the training will be open to all participants who choose to stay, but will target prospective leaders who need basic map reading/compass skills. A later scheduled training session will provide a more extensive session to develop map/compass skills required for many Sierra hikes.

It is our goal to widen the Club's options for leaders and hikes. . . so call Carol Morrison for reservations if you are interested in attending this session. (915) 585-9077

BEGINNER'S BACKPACK
MINI-SERIES

The second of a three-part series on backpacking will be held on Wednesday, March 25, 1992, from 6:30 - 7:15 p.m. prior to the general Sierra Club meeting. This session will focus on "How to Stay Alive and Comfortable on the Trail" and will cover weather, clothing and boots issues. Betty Fisbeck will help new and experienced backpackers make wiser choices about fabrics and layering. Raingear, parkas, longjohns, etc. will be available, and we will even include some reminders for those of you who dayhike while out on a backpack. . . common sense for everyone.

The third session in April will cover rules of the trail, minimum impact camping and

personal safety. At the completion of the three month mini-series, Betty Fisbeck will lead the traditional Spring Beginner's Backpack, which is open to all less experienced backpackers. As always, a pre-hike mandatory planning session will help everyone be ready for a memorable and pleasant experience in the wilderness.

Join us for the remaining two events. . . it's not too late to be a part of the beginner's backpack trip. We'll help you if you missed the first session on "How To Pack A Backpack" (both internal and external frame), where several great basic equipment lists from pros were given out. We'll have hints on weight, convenience and weather safety.

MARCH EVENTS

BIG BEND OUTER MOUNTAIN LOOP
HIGHLIGHT TRIP

Date: Thursday p.m., March 5 - Sunday, March 8

Place: Big Bend National Park, Texas

Class: Strenuous, both hiking and driving

Limit: 10, reservations and leader approval required

Leader: Gary Williams, 562-3540

This is a repeat of last year's highly successful trip. We will be able to hike the entire Outer Mountain Loop (32 miles) in 3 days without having to carry backpacks or look for water. Distances will be long all 3 days, the terrain rugged, and an elevation gain from 2000' to 2500' each day. This outing is strenuous and will be limited to experienced hikers prepared for such a challenge. We will leave El Paso Thursday evening and drive to Big Bend NP where we will camp at a primitive backcountry campsite. Friday, we will hike from the Basin through the Chisos Mtns. and down Juniper Canyon to the junction with the Dodson Trail.

There our support vehicle will meet us with our sleeping bags, food, water, etc. Saturday, we will hike the Dodson Trail through the Sierra Quemada to Blue Creek Ranch. We will spend the night near the ranch, and hike up the Blue Creek Trail Sunday into the Chisos Mtns. and through Laguna Meadow to our trailhead in the Basin. Then it is back to El Paso where we will arrive late Sunday night.

ALBUQUERQUE EXPECTED TO BE SITE OF MARCH MINING LAW HEARING

The El Paso Regional Group of the Sierra Club will organize support for the public hearings and/or Rio Grande Chapter/Sierra Club activities AS SOON AS these events are published. The bad news is that they will probably be in March in Albuquerque on a weekday. The good news is that we have one more chance to express our views about the need for reform. You may call Carol at 585-9077 or Ted at 852-3011 to get on the 1872 Mining Law Network. We'll keep you informed about dates and events, and put you in touch with folks who plan to attend the events so we can caravan together.

FRANKLIN MOUNTAINS DAYHIKE

Date: Saturday, March 14, 1992
Place: Franklin Mountains State Park
Class: Easy +
Limit: 20, reservations required
Leader: Claus Christiansen, 532-4066 H
594-2505 W

This hike will go to a canyon on the east side of the Franklins that we have rarely visited. The hike is about five miles long, with very little elevation gain.

It is an excellent hike for beginners and children. Please come and join us for an enjoyable time.

GUADALUPE PEAK DAYHIKE

Date: Sunday, March 22, 1992
Place: Guadalupe Mountains National Park
Class: Moderate
Limit: 16, reservations and leader approval required
Leader: Cindy LeBleu, 584-3303 evenings

We will depart El Paso at 7:00 a.m. for an energetic day of hiking. Guadalupe Peak is a treat, eight miles roundtrip with about 3000' elevation gain. You'll need to bring your water and a lunch to enjoy atop the highest point in Texas.

ACHENBACK CANYON DAYHIKE

Date: Saturday, March 28, 1992
Place: Organ Mountains, New Mexico
Class: Moderate +
Limit: 20, reservations and leader's approval required
Leader: Rollin Wickenden, 598-8042

We will meet early Saturday morning and drive to our trailhead east of Las Cruces. Our route follows a trail up a grassy canyon, over a ridge, then down a dry stream bed with two dry waterfalls. We will then hike across the desert back to the cars.

This is a fairly long dayhike of 7-8 miles, with a lot of walking on a stream bed of loose rocks. Bring water and a lunch.

ROBLEDO PEAK CARCAMP

Date: Saturday & Sunday, April 4-5, 1992
Place: Robledo Mountains, New Mexico
Class: Moderate
Limit: 20, reservations required
Leader: Ted Mertig, 852-3011

We will leave Jewel-Osco on the west side at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, drive to Radium Springs, and take the side road to Robledo Peak. We'll carcamp, climb Robledo Peak, and have a great time.

SANTA FE GROUP NEWS

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - TUESDAY, MARCH 17

Pegasus Gold Mine in our Ortiz Mountains (south of Santa Fe) will be the feature story at our March meeting. A half hour video tape showing the environmental devastation wrought by the new cyanide heap leach process of gold mining will be shown. This mining process is fast destroying huge areas in the Western states. The proposed Pegasus Gold Mine, if allowed, would use 27-56 million pounds of sodium cyanide, remove 80-120 million tons of waste rock, and consume *daily* 720,000 gallons of water. As we speak, Pegasus is attempting to obtain the appropriate permits from the NM State Engineer and from Santa Fe County. Jeannie Cragin and/or Brenda Foy of the Friends of Santa Fe County Citizen Activist Group will show the video and answer questions. Paula O'Neill will show slides of other Pegasus mines and what the implications would be for the state if the mine is allowed to open.

The general meeting is free and open to the public and will be held at the Unitarian Church on Barcelona between Don Gaspar and Galisteo, Tuesday, March 17, at 7:30 PM.

CHAIR OF THE MONTH CLUB

For the rest of 1992, the Santa Fe Group will rotate the chair position, and each month there will be a different Chair-of-the-month. I think this is a very positive move, one that allows all members of the Executive Committee to share equally in the glories and responsibilities of chairpersonship.

The Chair-of-the-month will be responsible for conducting the Executive Committee meeting and the General Meeting, answer the phone messages, and generally attend to all immediate administrative business. Any long-term, ongoing activities undertaken by a particular individual will be continued by that person, so as not to disrupt continuity. I will be the year-long Vice-Chair in order to provide back-up assistance, as needed.

Norma McCallan

February Chair and 1992 Vice-Chair

NEWSLETTER NEWS

As you may have noticed by now, you have not received your Santa Fe Group Newsletter. You're not going to, either. Because of increasing newsletter costs to the various groups, the Rio Grande Chapter Executive Committee voted to incorporate Group news into the *rio grande SIERRAN*, starting with March. We promise to continue bringing you local Santa Fe issues and news as usual.

Kay Carlson, Editor



>> SANTA FE GROUP OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS <<

March Chair — Carolyn Keskulla*	982-9570	Publicity — Jana Oyler*	988-1858
Vice-Chair — Norma McCallan*	471-0005	Outings — Norma McCallan*	471-0005
Secretary — Jana Oyler*	988-1858	Arnold Keskulla	982-9570
Treasurer — Lionel Soracco*	983-6715	Publications — Betsy Fuller	983-8870
Conservation — Sue Harrod	986-8825	Education/Recycling/Office — Carolyn Keskulla*	982-9570
Chapter Representative — Sue Harrod	986-8825	Newsletter Editor — Kay Carlson	982-3926
Legislation — Ken Hughes	988-9237	Phone Tree — Martha Anne Freeman	438-0697
Membership — Pat Stevens	982-5051		
Fund Raising — Web Kitchell*	471-7539		
* Member of the Santa Fe Group Executive Committee		John McClure*	473-1916
Terms expire 12/92: Freeman/Keskulla/Kitchell/McClure		Janie Dohrmann*	988-1996
12/93: Dohrmann/McCallan/Moore/Oyler/Soracco		Randy Freeman*	982-5220
		Lani Moore*	989-7711

>>>>>>>>> SANTA FE GROUP OUTINGS <<<<<<<<<<<

Sat Sun March

★ ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE / ISSUE HIKE FOR MARCH ★

- 1 David Morrison (1-344-8693) Downhill Ski Trip in the Tesuque Basin to review area of proposed ski basin expansion. Call to arrange meeting place and time.
- 8 Paul Miller (473-3107) Easy/Moderate Hike on Chimney Rock Trail by Ghost Ranch, with optional climb to Mesa Montosa (this part is steep, off-trail & may be snowy) - leisurely pace, 1500' elevation gain. Leave 8 AM.
- 14 Caroline Glick (984-3184) Moderate Hike to Otowi Ruins. Leave 8 AM.
- ★ ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE / ISSUE HIKE FOR MARCH ★
- 14 Randy Freeman (982-5220, work 986-1152) Easy Cross-Country Ski Tour of areas which would be significantly affected by proposed Santa Fe Ski Basin expansion. Group will tour the Nordic (Norski) Loop, the Tesuque Basin and/or Ravens Ridge. A member of the Norski Racing Club (who put in the loop) may also give a presentation. Actual skiing will be easy, but participants must be able to ski - no time for instruction. Leave PERA at 8:30 AM.
- 15 Steven Merdler (988-4137) Moderate/Strenuous Hike on Sanchez Canyon Ridge Loop and Cerro Picacho. All off-trail. Leave 8 AM.
- 15 Elizabeth Altman (471-8490) Easy Hike Leave 9 AM. Call for destination.
- 21 John McClure (473-1916) Moderate/Strenuous Hike in Bandelier. Leave 8 AM.
- 22 Arnold Keskulla (982-9570) Easy Hike Penstemon Ridge. Leave 9 AM.
- 28 Charles Crooks (471-0005) Easy Hike La Bajada Hill. Dogs allowed. Lve 9:30 AM.
- 29 Norbert Sperlich (983-1962) Moderate/Strenuous hike in La Cienega. Call leader for reservations and further details.
- 29 Victor Atyas (471-7545) Easy Hike in Diablo Canyon. Leave 9:15 AM.

Sat Sun April

- 4 John McClure (473-1916) Moderate/Strenuous Hike in Bandelier. Leave 8 AM.
- 5 Charles Crooks (471-0005) Easy Walk with dogs & friends. Leave 9:30 AM.
- 12 Stephen Janus (988-4137) Strenuous Hike on La Luz trail to Sandia Crest and return via La Cueva Canyon. Leave 7:30 AM.
- 18 Brian Johnson (438-2087) Moderate Hike Leave 7:30 AM.
- 19 Elizabeth Altman (471-8490) Easy Hike to sunrise on Aspen Vista Road. Conditions permitting (call leader first). Leave 5:30 AM.
- 19 Caroline Glick (984-3184) Moderate/Strenuous Hike Leave 8 AM.
- 25 Norrine Sanders (984-0386) Moderate Hike in Ojo Caliente. Leave 8 AM.

★ ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE / ISSUE HIKE FOR MARCH ★

- 25 Norma McCallan (SF coordinator 471-0005) Tour of proposed Pegasus Gold Mine in the Ortiz Mountains. [see write up elsewhere in the bulletin for details]
- 26 Victor Atyas (471-7545) Easy Hike in Bandelier to Rio. Leave 9:15 AM.

April May

- 25 - 3 Peter Kiefer (662-6092) Week-long trip to Grand Canyon, including a 4-day Backpack into Havasupai Canyon. Leave Saturday, April 25. Call soon as possible for reservations and more information.

CROSS COUNTRY SKIING

- March ** Please Note ** two possible ski tours are in the planning for March. Call John Turnbull (982-9329) for details.
- 7 Joe Whelan (984-0746) Moderate Ski Tour in the Jemez Mountains. Lve 8:30 AM.
- 8 John Turnbull (982-9329) Beginner/Intermediate Ski Tour Brazos Cliffs. Leave 8:15 AM, return probably 7:30 PM.
- 14 Randy Freeman (982-5220, work-986-1152) Easy Cross-Country Ski Tour of areas which would be significantly affected by proposed Santa Fe Ski Basin expansion. (see issue hike for March for details)
- 14 15 Brian Johnson (438-2087) Strenuous Snowshoe Backpack to Puerto Nambe. Leave 8 AM Saturday.
- April
- 5 John Turnbull (982-9329) ADVANCED (!) Beginner/Intermediate Ski Tour Destination to be determined - *definitely call John first*. Leave 8:15 AM, return probably 7:30 PM.
- 11 Joe Whelan (984-0746) Cross Country Ski Tour or Hike depending on conditions. Leave 8:30 AM.

SKI TOUR NOTES: If you don't have your own cross country ski equipment, you can rent skis from a shop for about \$9.00.

Call leader for details and reservations before all tours - most important!

For all-day tours, bring big lunch, snacks and water.

Proper clothing is essential - the weather can turn suddenly.

Outings Notes - All outings, unless otherwise specified, leave from the PERA parking lot at the corner of Paseo de Peralta and Old SF Trail (across street from State Capitol and Patis Corbae). Carpooling will be arranged at the parking lot, and each hiker should come prepared to pay 5 cents a mile to the driver of the car in which hiker rides. Hikers should bring a lunch, water, sturdy hiking boots or shoes, and clothing suitable for the weather - leader reserves the right to turn away anyone whose equipment or experience appears unsuitable. Leader has the right to alter destination of hike or cancel the trip due to weather, unfavorable conditions, or insufficient numbers of participants. Unaccompanied minors must have written permission from parents or guardians to participate; permission forms are available at the Sierra Club office. Dogs are not permitted on hikes unless noted otherwise. Telephone leader for details of the individual hike.

SIERRA CLUB -- Santa Fe Group
440 Cerrillos Road
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501
Telephone 505/983-2703



>>>>>> MEETINGS - MEETINGS - MEETINGS <<<<<<

All members are invited to all meetings

Conservation Committee *	Membership Meeting **	Executive Committee *
Tuesday, March 31, 7 PM	Tuesday, March 17, 7:30	Tuesday, April 7, 7 PM

* Held at the Sierra Club office at 440 Cerrillos Road

** Held at the Unitarian Church (on Barcelona between Don Gaspar and Galisteo)

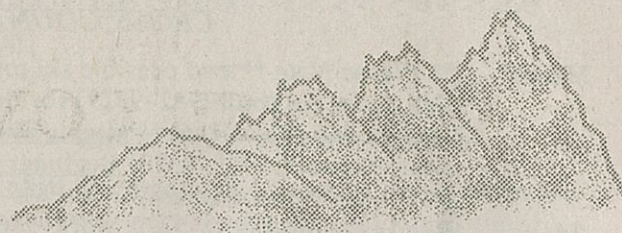
The Deadline for Submission to the April Newsletter is Friday, 5 PM, March 6.

Remember: OLF Powerline Hearings Wednesday, March 11, 10 AM to 5 PM
NM PSC Building, 224 East Palace

THE

LOG

Southern New Mexico Group



SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO GROUP GOALS 1992

WORK TO IMPROVE MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS TO INCLUDE:

Wilderness Protection and Legislation
Grazing Management Programs and Practices
National Forest Management Plans and Practices

Contact: Ben Zerby, 526-6207
Contact: Storm Sermay, 521-3348
Contact: Kevin Bixby, 525-1532
Karen Fuller, 1, 824-4602
Contact: Myra Price, 524-0261
Contact: Storm Sermay, 521-3348

Protection of Cultural Sites such as Lucero Canyon Petroglyphs
Reform 1872 Mining Law

REDIRECT MANAGEMENT OF RIO GRANDE & EBID CANAL MANAGEMENT TO INCLUDE:

Public Access
Restoration of Natural Conditions
Wildlife Habitat

Contact: David Pengelley, 525-8286
Contact: Kevin Bixby, 525-1532

WORK TO PROTECT & IMPROVE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY IN SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO TO INCLUDE:

Investigate Pollution, Solid Waste, Toxics, Hazardous Materials & Groundwater Policy
Encourage Las Cruces & NMSU to become more bicycle-friendly
Support Environmental Candidates for 1992

Contact: Marianne Thaeler, 522-3421
Contact: Karen Fuller, 1, 824-4602
Contact: Kevin Bixby, 525-1532
Contact: Marianne Thaeler, 522-3421

RECRUIT AND ENCOURAGE MORE ACTIVISM FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION:

Encourage and Enlarge Student Group Chapterwide
Increase Activism within Group
Establish Group Office as part of Southwest Environmental Center
Produce Hiking Guide for Southwestern New Mexico

Contact: David Pengelley, 525-8286
Contact: Susan Worley, 646-5522
Contact: Kevin Bixby, 525-1532
Contact: Cheryl Blevins, 524-4861

WE NEED COMMITMENT

Wouldn't it be nice if we all agreed and our government was in harmony with the idea that we must all do our best to protect Earth and all her inhabitants?

Well, unfortunately, what is being heard are all too many voices throwing around rhetoric like "wise use" "multiple use" and "development" which mean: logging, mining, drilling, grazing, paving, raping. Business as usual at whatever peril to biodiversity and sustainable use. As cancer kills its host, it simultaneously creates its own demise. A lesson some business and their government sponsors fail to grasp.

We would like to believe our elected representatives will make sustainable decisions. Somehow it seems not so. Even now that President Bush has finally decided to admit the scientists are right and something must be done about CFC's; I believe if he is re-elected, Quayle's Committee on Competitiveness will only evade protection. Rather like what is likely to happen to the Endangered Species Act; protection of business, not environmental concerns.

I speak to you as the relieving editor of the Sierra Club Southern New Mexico Group. I say relieving, because Storm Sermay worked long as a wonderful editor, but asked for some relief. She is a very active Environmentalist. Something all of us need to become. ACTIVE. There is often a gap between being and doing.

I have been a member of the Sierra Club for many years, but I have been UNactive. I suddenly realized that sitting around mumbling under my breath wasn't going to change the things that concerned me. We need MANY voices. People committed to sharing their ideas, being part of the process to change business as usual and committed to adding their voices in protest of irresponsible, unsafe and unsustainable practices.

As you can see, our group has set forth goals upon which all of us should become active participants. These goals include various categories of interest and they are all important to our region and our future.

As a newly committed activist and relieving editor of your newsletter, I ask you: Please make a commitment to one or more of the areas included in our Group Conservation Goals.

If an area has been overlooked, please alert us. NOW is the time to begin forming committees to work on these very important issues. SO, GET OFF YOUR DUFF TOO. AND GET INVOLVED! Pick up the phone and make a commitment to join a committee on whatever area or areas interest you.

We would also appreciate your comments, ideas and any drafts or completed articles that you would like to submit:

Karen Fuller
651 Tumbleweed
Chaparral, NM 88021

Group Executive Committee

Myra Price, Chair (524-0261)
David Pengelley, Vice Chair (525-8286)
Kris Paulsen, Secretary (523-7413)
Ann Macbeth, Treasurer (526-8060)

Kevin Bixby, Gp Conservation Chair & etc. (525-1532)
Cheryl Blevins, Publicity (524-4861)
Paul Bronson, Outings (521-4070)
Karen Fuller, Newsletter (1, 824-4602)
Steven Kalavity, NMSU Student Facilitator (382-8419)
Paul Nachman, Population (523-8439)
Storm Sermay, Conservation & Wilderness (521-3348)
Susan Worley, NMSU Student Club President (646-5522)

FYI

U.S./Mexico Plan Flawed

By Amanda Vesey

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is developing an "Integrated Environmental Plan" for the U.S.-Mexico border area in the context of negotiations for a North American Free Trade Agreement. NMPIRG responded to the EPA's invitation to comment on a draft of the border plan in September.

Although the goal of the EPA plan is sustainable development, NMPIRG found that the plan lacked the stringent and enforceable measures needed to protect environmental, public, and occupational health.

In particular, the plan failed to identify the means of securing sufficient resources for regulation and infrastructure. It also lacked adequate provisions for public participation and for oversight of the plan's implementation.

NMPIRG recommended binational compliance with the strictest regulations of either country and that no local, regional or federal regulations protecting environmental, public, or occupational health be pre-empted by the agreement or open to challenge as a non-tariff trade barrier.

Another shortcoming was the plan's focus on a narrow area extending only 100 kilometers on each side of the international boundary. Because the effects of free trade go beyond the border area, NMPIRG recommended a comprehensive plan addressing environmental issues in the entire sovereign territories of the participating nations.

Rather than negotiating the border plan as an integral part of the Free Trade Agreement, the Bush Administration is negotiating it as a parallel agreement, not subject to congressional oversight or approval. The Free Trade Agreement itself will receive only minimal consideration by Congress, under a legislative procedure

called "fast track" which allows Congress just a "yes" or "no" vote on the completed agreement with no amendments

permitted and with just 60 days to examine a document that could be thousands of pages long.

Given the magnitude of the deficiencies and the lack of congressional oversight, NMIRG is skeptical about the prospects for improvements in the plan that will meet minimally acceptable standards by the time Congress votes on the Free Trade Agreement some time in 1992. This is a major, and perhaps overriding, health and environmental issue; please contact your congressional representatives to let them know your concerns.

About the Author: Amanda Vasey is a graduate student at UNM and is a member of the NMPIRG board of directors.

[Reprinted from the Winter 1992 "New Mexico PIRG Reports". These reports are published three times annually by the New Mexico Public Interest Research Group (NMPIRG). This is a non-profit, non-partisan research and advocacy organization working on behalf of consumers and the environment: NMPIRG, Box 66 SUB, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 87131. (505) 277-2757.]

"Immediate action is required if waste reduction and recycling are to be viable waste management options in New Mexico, now or in the future."

--Kevin Bean
Director of Environmental Projects
NMPIRG

Albuquerque Group

Sun Mar 8 RINCONADA CANYON HIKE, PETROGLYPH NATIONAL MONUMENT Come and find out about the proposed resort that may decrease the monument by more than 70 acres. Leisure, RSVP, Ike Eastvold 255-7679.

Sat Mar 14 RIO PUERCO WILDLIFE PIPELINE SERVICE PROJECT We will improve the existing watering devices and enclosure fencing in an area NW of San Ysidro. The BLM will provide transportation and most of the tools. Bring fence pliers, if you have them. Meet 8:30 AM at the BLM office, 435 Montano NE. Glen Kepler 296-0402.

Sun Mar 15 IGNACIO CHAVEZ WILDERNESS STUDY AREA HIKE In this area proposed for wilderness we will look at the effects of overgrazing, a proposed road closure, and a prescribed burn plan as we climb Chivato Mesa among petroglyphs, an archaeological site, arrowheads, pot shards, and a possible sighting of a black bear. Moderate-Strenuous, 8 miles, near Cabezón, bring lunch. Meet at 9:00 AM at Winchell's, San Mateo and Academy. Phyllis Martinez 344-4386.

Mon Mar 16 PREMEETING DINNER, FRONTIER RESTAURANT 2400 Central SE, 6:00 PM, back section. Tonight's questions: Are Ralph 1's trips always for the birds? Does Ralph 2 consider any road in NM a 4wd road? David Morrison 344-8693.

Sat Mar 21 PIEDRAS MARCADAS ARROYO HIKE, PETROGLYPH NATIONAL MONUMENT View thousands of petroglyphs as Ike explains the recent conflict between the FAA and the city government regarding the monument. Bring sturdy shoes, binoculars, cameras. Leisure, 3 miles. RSVP, Ike Eastvold 255-7679.

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

OUTINGS

The outings listed below are a compilation of the four groups' outings schedules for March, as of press time. It is hoped that this list will provide all members with the opportunity for the broadest hiking opportunities.

It is imperative to call the 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

Sun Mar 21 SIERRA DE LAS CANAS WILDERNESS STUDY AREA HIKE Near Socorro, in this proposed wilderness of broken, twisted and convoluted badlands, gnarled junipers, cuestas and multicolored shear escarpments we will look for a petroglyph, archeological sites, and a variety of minerals including fluorspar. Meet at Sierra Club office, 207 San Pedro NE, 8:00 AM. Exploratory, Moderate, 4 to 5 miles. RSVP, Ralph Genter 881-3147.

Sat Mar 22 PIEDRA LISA TRAIL HIKE, SANDIA MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS North of the Juan Tabo picnic ground, this trail heads north up over a ridge and into riparian canyon with a small stream, a great area for mountain lion sign. Meet at Sierra Club office, 207 San Pedro NE, 9:00 AM. Leisure-moderate, 6 miles. Bring lunch. Bob Comish 255-6037.

Sat Mar 28 RAPTOR MIGRATION HIKE, SANDIA MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS Spring migration of raptors over the Sandias has begun. Hike has reschedule date in case of bad weather. Forest Service lists trail as difficult, 3 to 4 miles. Bring binoculars, limit 8 people. Meet at 8:00 AM at the gas station on the SW corner of Central and Tramway. Ralph Wrons 275-0856.

Sun Mar 29 THE OXBOW INCIDENT HIKE, RIO GRANDE BOSQUE The proposed solution to the San Antonio Arroyo siltation of the Oxbow includes a 3 acre settlement pond within 100 feet of a raptor roosting area and small bird nesting area, and the building of a string of barrow pits on cattail marshland, a portion of which is owned by the Sierra Club. Plentiful wildlife, bring binoculars, 3 miles, leisure. Meet at 9:00 AM at St. Josephs and Coors. David Morrison 344-8693.

Sat Apr 4 ANNUAL PETROGLYPH NAT. MONUMENT CLEANUP, RINCONADA CANYON

Here's the BIG ONE; see group news section for details, suitable to all experience levels, 9 AM to 3 PM. Ike Eastvold 255-7679

Sun Apr 5 ANTELOPE WILDERNESS STUDY AREA HIKE After this area was illegally graded by a rancher, the BLM switched its recommendation to no wilderness. We may visit Little San Pasqual Wilderness and explore the backside of Bosque del Apache. Moderate, 4 miles. Optional dinner. Meet at Sierra Club at 8:00 AM. David Morrison 344-8693.

Sat Apr 11 CALLISTEO ARROYO, RIO GRANDE BOSQUE HIKE We will explore this area between Alameda and Paseo del Norte, 2 to 3 hour. Meet at 9:00 AM at Burrito Company, NE corner of Coors and Alameda. David Morrison 344-8693.

El Paso Group

Mar 5/8 BIG BEND OUTER MOUNTAIN LOOP HIGHLIGHT TRIP. Rigorous 3-day trip with vehicles at camp each night. Gary Williams 562-3540 (El Paso)

Sat Mar 14 FRANKLIN MOUNTAINS DAYHIKE. Excellent hike for beginners and children Claus Christiansen 532-4066 (El Paso)

Sun Mar 22 GUADALUPE PEAK DAYHIKE. Climb to the highest point in Texas. Eight miles roundtrip. Moderate. Cindy LeBlue 584-3303 (El Paso)

Sat Mar 28 ACHENBACK CANYON DAYHIKE. 7-8 mile day hike east of Las Cruces in the Organ Mountains. Moderate. Rollin Wickenden 598-8042 (El Paso)

Apr 4/5 ROBLEDO PEAK CARCAMP. Carcamp and climb Robledo Peak near Radium Springs, New Mexico. Moderate. Ted Mertig 852-3011

MEMBERSHIP FORM

☐ Yes, I want to join! I want to help safeguard our nation's precious natural heritage. My check is enclosed.

New Member Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____ ZIP _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

	INDIVIDUAL	JOINT
REGULAR	\$35	\$43
SUPPORTING	\$50	\$58
CONTRIBUTING	\$100	\$108
LIFE	\$750	\$1000
SENIOR	\$15	\$23
STUDENT	\$15	\$23

Enclose check and mail to:

Sierra Club

Dept. H-113
P.O. Box 7959
San Francisco, CA
94120-7959

W1700

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