



The Rio Grande SIERRAN

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Volume XIV, Number 3
July-August 1977

ROADLESS AREA REVIEW AND EVALUATION RARE Workshops Scheduled

Workshops have already been held in Carlsbad, Cuba, Silver City, Albuquerque, and Las Vegas, New Mexico. A workshop has been held in El Paso.

DATE	PLACE	TIME	LOCATION
July	18 T. or C., NM	7-10 pm	Hot Spring HS, Cafeteria
	20 Alamogordo, NM	7-10 pm	Holiday Inn
	26 Grants, NM	7-10 pm	Grants State Bank
	27 Magdalena, NM	7-10 pm	Ranger Station
	28 Mountainair, NM	7-10 pm	Ranger Station
Aug	1 Reserve, NM	7-10 pm	Reserve HS, Cafeteria
	2 Clayton, NM	7-10 pm	Clayton Airport
	3 Santa Fe, NM	7-10 pm	Sheraton Inn
	4 Las Cruces, NM	7-10 pm	NM State, Corbett Center Ballroom
	8 Taos, NM	7-10 pm	Carson NF, Supervisor's Office
	16 Albuquerque, NM	7-10 pm	Sheraton Old Town

A NEW ROADLESS AREA REVIEW HAS BEEN ORDERED FIRST REVIEW FOUND INADEQUATE

In 1972-73 the Forest Service conducted the Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE) in which they tried to identify all roadless areas of 5000 acres or more on the National Forests and then, through an elaborate computer qualification program and public input, selected those roadless areas which seemed most suitable for formal wilderness study.

As a result of the thorough going bias against wilderness and for resource exploitation in RARE, most of the roadless areas identified were not selected for wilderness study. Of the 56 million acres identified as roadless on the National Forests (1449 separate tracts) only 12.3 million acres (274 areas) were selected for wilderness study -- and many of these areas had already been scheduled for study as possible additions to Forest Service primitive areas.

Conservationists have protested the inadequacy and bias of RARE ever since 1972 and have taken their case to Congress several times, culminating in the Endangered American Wilderness Act (HR 3454 and S 1180) of this year.

Under Gerald Ford, the Administration generally opposed significant wilderness expansion, but Jimmy Carter was elected on an environmental platform that strongly supported a large wilderness system. Secretary of Agriculture, Rupert Cutler (a former Asst. Executive Director of the Wilderness Society), in testimony on the Endangered Wilderness Act before the House Interior Committee, not only expressed Administration support for the bill, but also announced that the Forest Service would undertake a new roadless area review and evaluation. We have a superb opportunity now with a more friendly administration to insure that more of the presently roadless and undeveloped lands on the National Forests will be protected as wilderness.

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COAL MINING INCREASES PLANNED IN N.W. NEW MEXICO

As a result of restrictions on the use of oil and gas in both existing and new power plants, utility demand for coal (as well as uranium) will increase substantially. National coal production is expected to increase from some 600 million tons in 1974/1975 to over one billion tons by 1985. Most of this growth will take place in the West. Whereas current annual production of this region is approximately 100 million, 1985 production forecasts approximately 400 million tons.

After uranium, coal is New Mexico's second most important energy fuel. The state's coal is located primarily in the same general region as the uranium reserves - the Four Corners Region, which encompasses all of McKinley and San Juan Counties and parts of Valencia and Sandoval Counties. New Mexico ranks tenth among the fifty states in the size of its unused coal reserves. On account of its low sulfur content, the state's coal is in great demand. In addition, because some of the reserves are located near the surface of the earth, mining is feasible.

In 1975 Northwest New Mexico's strippable steam coal (meaning that coal of mineable thickness which lies no more than 250 feet beneath the surface) was estimated at 6 billion tons -- about 40% of this is owned by the Navajo Tribe. Based on present production rates, this amounts to about a 600 year supply. The largest portion of this coal is located in the San Juan coal fields in San Juan County. Coal lying at depths between 250 and 1,000 feet is estimated to be 121.8 billion tons in the northwestern part of the state. It has been suggested that twice this amount could reasonably be expected at depths below 3,000 ft. -- if research into in-situ coal mining processes is successful.

Between 1975 and 1985, demand for electricity is expected to account for 37% of all energy consumption, compared with its current 28% share. Therefore, in order to help supply the population's energy demands, both strip and underground coal mining in New Mexico will increase significantly; several coal fields and power plants are to expand, others are under consideration. It should be realized, however, that except for coal fields which are actually being mined and power generating plants which are presently operating or under construction, proposals for the expansion of coal development and its use are dependent on factors such as: (1) development of other energy resources (2) environmental considerations (3) leasing policies and availability of water. Thus, proposals and considerations are subject to change or cancellation. Following is a brief summary of several power plants and coal fields, either under operation, construction, or consideration in NW New Mexico which, at this time, deserve the most consideration:

POWER PLANTS

(1) The five unit 2125 MW Four Corners Power Plant is operated by the Arizona Public Service Company (APSC). Three units of 175 MW capacity were built by APSC to supply the Phoenix area, and commenced operations in 1963. In 1969 and 1970, two additional 800 MW units were completed. These units of 175

MW capacity were built by APSU to supply the Phoenix area, and commenced operations in 1963. In 1969 and 1970, two additional 800 MW units were completed. These units are owned by a consortium of six utilities: (1) Southern California Edison, with 48% of the output, supplies the Los Angeles area; (2) Arizona Public Service, with 15% and Salt River Project, with 10%, supplies the Phoenix area; (3) Tucson Gas and Electric Company (TG & E), with 7%, supplies Tucson; (4) El Paso Electric, with 7%, supplies El Paso and the Las Cruces area; and (5) Public Service Company of New Mexico (PSCNM) receives 13% of Four Corners units 4 & 5 for its customers in New Mexico. The Four Corners plant is supplied with coal from the Navajo Coal Mine near Burnham -- which is operated by Utah International Inc. (UII). The five units, which may be mechanically sound for about another 25 years, have a maximum daily demand for approximately 27,000 tons of coal, or 7 million tons per year.

(2) The San Juan Power Generating Plant presently consists of two 350 MW units. These units, which began operating in 1975 and 1976, each consume about eight thousand tons of coal each day, or roughly two million tons a year. This power plant is jointly owned by PSCNM (which also owns the land) and T.G. & E. Coal is supplied by the Western Coal Company (WCC), a subsidiary of PSCNM and TG & E; the coal mine is operated by UII under a contract with WCC. Two other units, which are currently under construction, will each supply 500 MW. One is to open in 1979, the other in 1981. Water for units 1 & 2 is being pumped from the San Juan River. It has been proposed that once units 3 & 4 become operational, additional cooling water will be pipelined from ground water supplies discovered during uranium exploration drilling by Phillips, Gulf, and others.

(3) The Navajo Eastern Tribal Office in Crownpoint announced in April that they were pursuing the idea of constructing a 400-500 MW generating plant north of Crownpoint. Coal for the plant would be mined from the Standing Rock-Clearly area of New Mexico. Other than supplying power for reservation use, it is hoped that some might be marketed in the area as mining activity increases.

(4) PSCNM, Plains Electric Co., and El Paso Electric are considering constructing a 2000 MW plant in the Bisti area. Transmission lines might run to the Four Corners generating station, Albuquerque, El Paso, and the uranium mining operations near Grants & Gallup. However, the company has not yet submitted a lease application for the site to BLM.

GASIFICATION

(1) There are at least five proposed coal gasification plants to be built on the Navajo Reservation. Western Gasification Company (WESCO) hopes to construct four; El Paso Natural Gas Company hopes to build one large plant (which will have the production capability of two WESCO plants). WESCO is a joint venture of Texas Eastern Transmission Corporation (Houston) and Pacific Lighting Corporation (Los Angeles). WESCO plant would manufacture some 275 million cubic feet of synthetic gas per day from its first unit. Three additional plants of approximately equal output are also under consideration. Each plant

would cost approximately \$1.3 billion (in 1977 dollars). The four plant complex would take about nine years to build. Coal and water requirements would be supplied by UII.

(2) Fuel Conversion Company (a subsidiary of El Paso Natural Gas) may construct a pilot and three gasification plants, which will be capable of producing approximately 230 million cubic feet of synthetic or substitute natural gas per day, utilizing 11 million tons of coal annually. El Paso through a subsidiary, Mesa Resources Company, is considering a strip mining operation to fuel its proposed gasification complex.

MINES

(1) Pittsburg and Midway Coal Mining Company (a Gulf subsidiary) is expanding production capacity at its McKinley mine from (1976 level) 500,000 tons per year to approximately 5,000,000 tons per year by 1980. This mine currently supplies almost 500,000 tons annually to the 110 MW Cholla plant owned and operated by APSC in Joseph City, Arizona.

(2) Carbon Coal Company is preparing to open the Gameraico strip mine N.W. of Gallup. Production from this mine, which will be approximately 1.5 million tons per year, will supply the Arizona Electric Cooperative power plant near Benson, Arizona.

(3) Gailo Wash Coal (a subsidiary of Santa Fe Industries) is subleasing some of its San Juan coal properties to TG & E Production, which may not begin until 1985, is expected to rise from an initial 1.8 million tons to 4 million tons by 1993. The coal is to be used by TG & E at Springerville, Arizona. They will begin construction of three 350 MW generating units in 1978. These units are to come into line in 1985, 1988, and 1993.

(4) Chaco Energy (A subsidiary of Texas Utilities of Dallas) plans to mine 500 million tons of coal on land leased from Hospah Coal Company (a subsidiary of Santa Fe Industries) in the Star Lake and South Hospah areas. Production is to average 20 million tons per year during the first 15 years of operation and will supply utility companies in central and south Texas.

(5) Consolidated Coal plans two underground mines near La Ventana to produce some 60 million tons of coal between 1984 and 2024.

(6) Salt River Project plans two underground mines near La Ventana to produce some 60 million tons of coal between 1984 and 2024.

(7) Santa Fe Industries plans to construct a 70-mile, \$50 million railway from a main line between Albuquerque and Gallup to its properties in the Star Lake area southwest of Cuba. The property is to be the site of a major new strip mine. Mining is scheduled to begin in 1977 and coal will be shipped to a plant near St. John's, Arizona, in mid 1978. The operation will be a joint venture of Peabody Coal-Thermal Industries and Santa Fe Industries.

RV: JOE DIGRANES



Existing and Proposed

COAL ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

in Northwest New Mexico

Coal Mines (The mine will be stripmined unless otherwise indicated.)

I. Operating Mines

1. Utah International: Navajo Mine
2. Public Service Company of New Mexico: San Juan Pit
3. McKinley Mine

II. Planned Mines

4. Western Coal (1982-83) - Underground mine
5. Extension of Utah International's Navajo Mine to handle gasification demands (19??)
6. Creation of Mesa Resources Mine to handle El Paso coal gasification demands (19??)
7. Carbon Coal (1978)
8. Chaco Energy (1980)
9. Eastern Associates (1982)
10. Arch Minerals (1983)
11. Peabody Coal (1983)
12. Western Coal (1983)
13. Arch Minerals (1984)
14. Tuscon Gas & Electric (1985) - On private land
15. Chaco Energy (1985)
16. Salt River Project (1986)
17. Consolidation Coal (1987) - Underground mine
18. Navajo Tribe (19??)

Power Plants

I. Operating

- A. Four Corners Power Plant
- B. San Juan Power Plant

II. Planned

- C. Navajo Tribe - Standing Rock Unit
- D. Public Service Company of N.M. & El Paso Electric & Plains Electric (all three companies owners of same plant) 2,000 MW plant at Bisti

Gasification

I. Planned

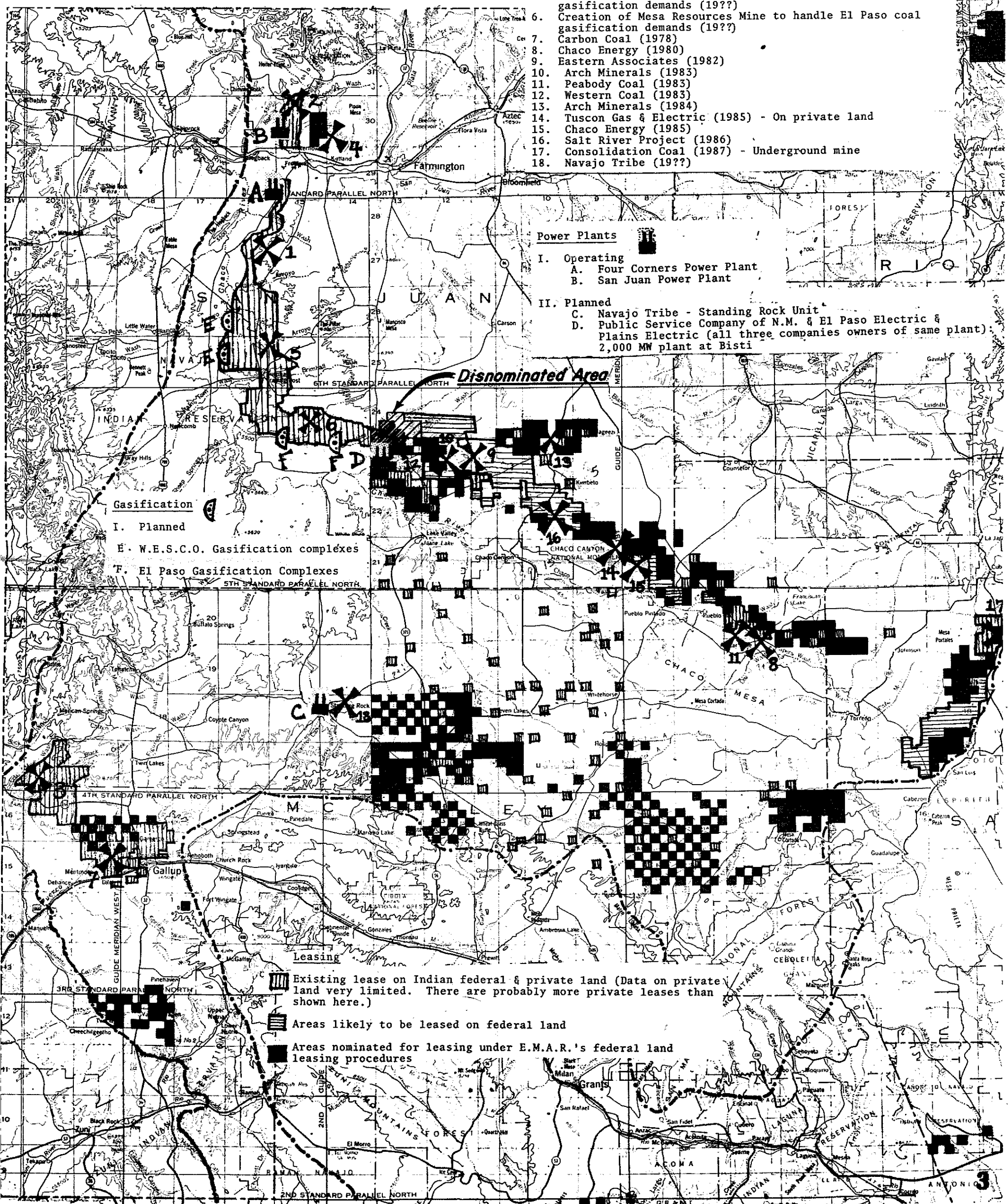
- E. W.E.S.C.O. Gasification complexes
- F. El Paso Gasification Complexes

Leasing

Existing lease on Indian federal & private land (Data on private land very limited. There are probably more private leases than shown here.)

Areas likely to be leased on federal land

Areas nominated for leasing under E.M.A.R.'s federal land leasing procedures



Gasification: Looming Threat to Navajo People

The energy corporations (El Paso Natural Gas and Western Gasification Company) are planning to build six large coal gasification plants on the Navajo reservation in northwestern New Mexico.

Coal gasification is a complex process by which coal is broken down and converted into artificial natural gas. Once removed from the ground, the coal is fed into the plant, mixed with water and oxygen and compressed into synthetic gas. Each plant (costing over \$1 billion each) is expected to produce 250 million cubic feet of gas a day consuming 25,000 tons of coal a day.

In order to accomplish this production, the companies must strip-mine over 58,000 acres of Navajo grazing land. Approximately 1.8 billion tons of coal will be strip-mined during the 25 year life span of the plants' operation and this energy resource will leave the reservation for cities in Oklahoma, Texas, and Southern California.

HAZARDS

Several years ago, the National Academy of Science released a report on the possibilities of restoring the stripmined land on the reservation to its original condition. They concluded that restoration of the land is virtually impossible due to the scant six inches of annual rainfall. The study described the reservation "national sacrifice area" because it would be too expensive and require too much water to restore the land for future productive use after it is stripmined.

In addition to ruining the land, the air will become polluted with at least two deadly toxic materials lead and mercury. They will be released into the air in uncontrollable quantities that will inflict permanent damage to all animal, plant and human life in the vicinity of the plants. Expert testimony from a National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) physicist revealed that all people living within 13 mile radius of the plants will have to be evacuated due to the high level of lead and mercury concentrations around the plants. In fact, it is predicted that all workers in and around the plants will have to wear protective face masks for health and safety reasons.

WATER AVAILABILITY

There is a very serious question of whether there is enough water in the nearby San Juan River to supply both NIIP and gasification plants. Each coal gasification plant will require about 10,000 acre-feet (one acre-foot = 326,000 gallons) of water a year. It is only a matter of educated guesswork that the 10,000 a/f per plant will be enough.

It has been proven that there is not enough water in the San Juan River for both NIIP and the six gasification plants. Should the plants require more water, it will surely be taken from NIIP's share of the river.

DANGER TO CROPS

Another toxic emission - boron - is feared by the planners of the Navajo Indian Irrigation Project (NIIP) because it can easily wipe out all of the crops grown there. The proposed plants are to be built next to NIIP.

When the Navajo people were forced to give up almost half of their ancestral homeland, they were promised an agricultural project by the U.S. government in their Treaty of 1868. NIIP is the project and it will eventually cover 110,000

acres that will produce a variety of crops for both human consumption and animal grazing. It will benefit some 30,000 Navajos through direct employment and in secondary food processing industries such as canneries, cooperative stores, and a food marketing and distribution system.

BENEFITS

The Navajo people will receive small coal royalties and few jobs. The current lease provides a 15 to 25 cent royalty on each ton of coal that is mined while the coal companies will sell it for \$4.50 a ton. The land is leased for one to two dollars an acre per year and the Tribe is contractually forbidden from taxing these plants in exchange for employment.

Further, haphazard boomtowns will spring up in the area which raises another question - who will pay for the maintenance of them? The companies or the Tribe? In addition, there will be an increase of the already serious social problems of alcoholism and suicide among the Navajo people not to mention a rise in the racial prejudice they face each day in the towns that border their reservation.

And a recent study done by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BuRec) estimates that 45 percent of the construction jobs will have to be filled by workers from outside the reservation and perhaps the state. The predicted influx of 50,000 non-Indians will pose a massive threat to the future of Indian sovereignty because it is doubtful that they will subject themselves to the traditional laws and customs of the Navajo Tribe.

Reprinted from:
AMERICANS BEFORE COLUMBUS
National Indian Youth Council
201 Hermosa, N. E.
Albuquerque, New Mexico

EDITOR'S NOTE

The crucial issue is how and when Indian resources should be developed and used by Tribes across the country. If a tribe decides that mining and industry are wanted, then certainly the least polluting industries should be pursued.

Gasification pollutes more, uses more water and creates less income than conventional power plants. It is also an experimental technology. Is this the most beneficial use of Navajo coal?

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gasification update

WESCO has a lease on 31,416 acres of reservation land for coal mining. El Paso has a mining lease for 40,286 acres.

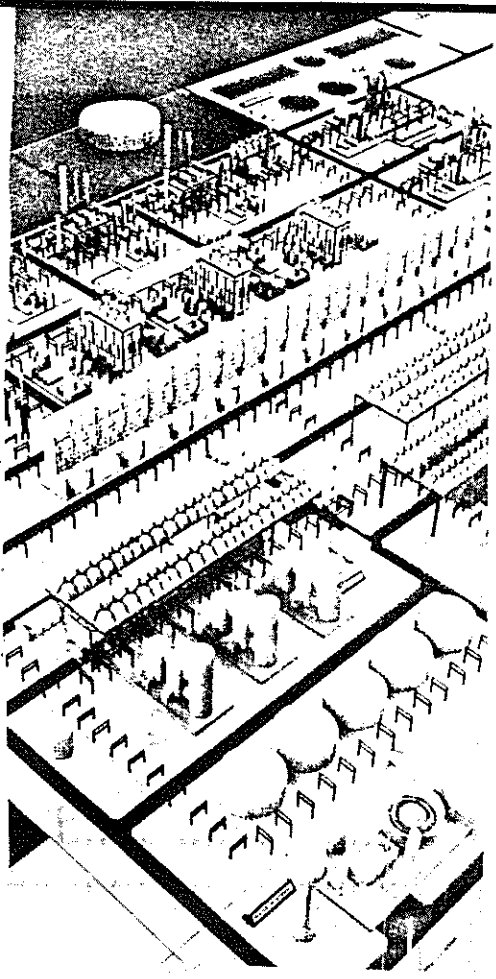
E.I.S.'s for both gasification projects are complete. However they have not been approved by the Secretary of Interior.

WESCO has been granted 35,300 acre ft of water. El Paso has not been granted any water.

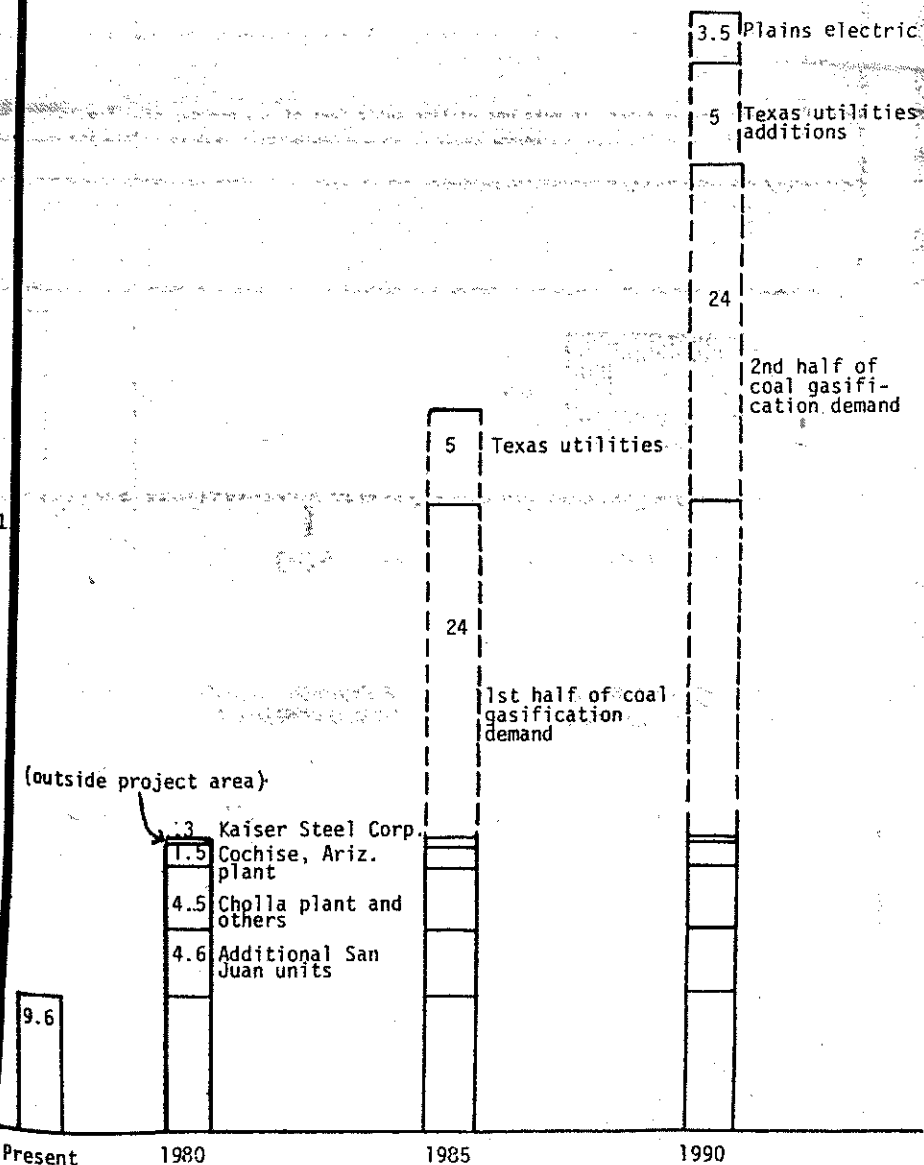
The Navajo Tribal Council must approve leases for construction sites for the plants. This has not yet been done. The local chapter, near the proposed sites, are opposed to the plants. Last year the majority of the Tribal Council signed a petition opposing the plants. However there is much pressure on the tribe to approve the sites.

The air in the area is already polluted beyond the limits of the Federal Clean Air Standards. There is no room in the air shed for more activities.

Legislation asking for federal subsidies for gasification plants are continually before Congress. This year the Synthetic Fuel Act of 1977 is being proposed.

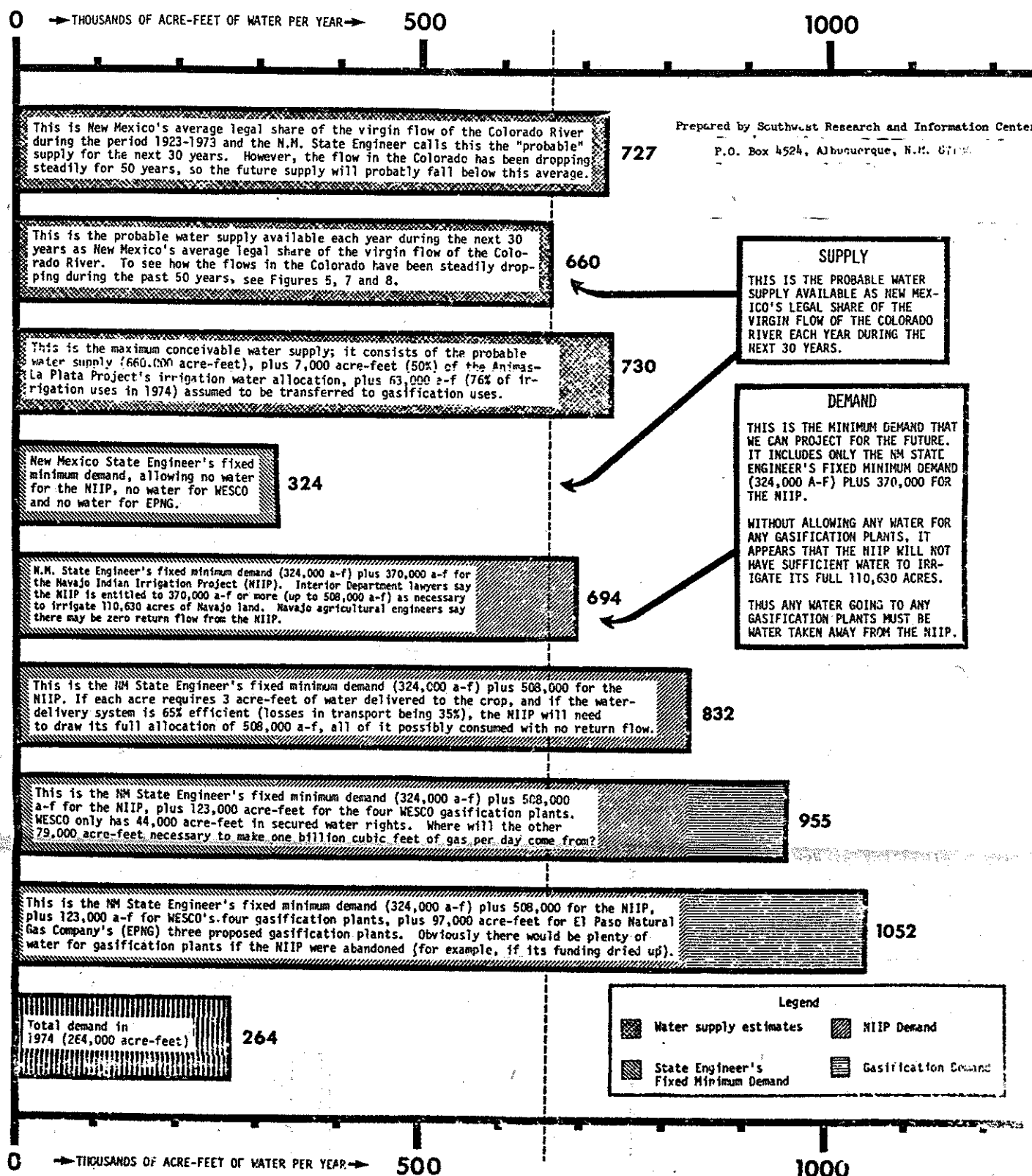


PROJECTIONS FOR COAL DEMANDS IN N.W. NEW MEXICO



Source: State Geologist - January, 1977

Gasification Plants Will Take Water From the Navajo Indian Irrigation Project



"The National Academy of Sciences book, Rehabilitation Potential of Strip Mined Lands (Cambridge, Mass. Ballinger, 1974), pg. 101, says that 20,000 to 30,000 acre-feet per day of pipeline gas, depending upon which particular gasification technology is selected.

Thus the four WESCO gasification plants (producing a total of one billion cubic feet of gas per day) will require 80,000 to 120,000 acre-feet of water per year.

And thus the EPNG gasification plants (producing a total of 788 million cubic feet of pipeline gas per day) will require 63,000 to 95,000 acre feet of water per year."

(From Peter Montague's Comments on the EPNG Coal Gasification Draft Environmental Statement)

Where will the necessary water come from to supply the gasification plants? As the accompanying chart indicates, it must come from the water allocated to the Navajo Irrigation Project.

Electric power plants with dry cooling towers use one gallon of water for each 34,400 BTU's of electrical energy produce. Gasification plants should use one gallon of water for each 13,300 or 8,870 BTU's of gas.



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Carcinogens from gasification - the Center raises some serious questions.

The following is a summary of parts of a speech given by Peter Montague of the Southwest Research and Information Center on March 1977 - the quotes are from the speech.

The WESCO coal gas complex will create 2,247,360 tons of by-products a year. The byproducts are basically crude phenols, naphthas, tar and oil tar. "Fundamentally their chemical make-up is the same: benzene plus toluene and xylene plus lesser quantities of other hydrocarbons." "Benzene the main constituent of naphtha and the thicker coal tars, is a known carcinogen." Some of the other carcinogens in tar are diphenyls, phenanthrene and methlated naphthalenes.

The nation's industries typically lose .5-3% of the materials they produce each year. "The losses can be reduced by diligent effort on the part of a particular industry, but losses cannot be entirely eliminated from any industrial operation. If the coal gasification industry loses just 1% of its phenols and naphthas, WESCO will be losing 15,000 lethal doses of material each year."

"This will cause an undetermined amount of damage among the general public. At greatest risk, of course, will be the 10,000 or so coal gasification workers and the 30,000 members of their families exposed to the toxic environs of the plants.

FOUR CORNERS IS NOT CLEANING UP!

BY Mike Williams

The controversy over the emission from large coal fired power plants in the San Juan Basin has now reached its 10th year and it continues unabated. In 1966 Joe Devaney observed marked degradation of air quality in New Mexico associated with emissions of the Four Corners Powerplant. Since that time the powerplant has quadrupled in size and two federal studies (Department of H.E.W. in 1970 and the multi-agency Dept. of Interior Southwest Energy Study in 1972), one senate committee hearing, three lawsuits and a number of state regulatory hearings have been focused in part on the pollution from the Four Corners power plant.

PARTICULATES

Despite all this activity clean up at Four Corners has been very limited.

The particulate emissions from the three smaller units, comprising 575 mega watts of capacity, have been dramatically reduced from approximately 370 tons per day to 4 tons per day. Further more, sulfur oxide emissions have been reduced by about 30% from these units.

However two large units, 800 MW each, were added in 1969 and 1970. Particulate emissions from two units total 75 tons per day when the units are operating properly. On occasion these values have been exceeded by large factors- as control devices operated inefficiently. Particulate emissions regulations have also been violated.

While the particulate emissions have been reduced, overall the improvement in visibility has been much less because many of the particulates controlled were large ones with relatively little effect on visibility and second-

ly gaseous emissions have been increased.

SO_x & NO_x

Sulfur oxide emissions from the entire plant total some 350 tons per day and they are accompanied by 150 tons per day of NO_x. Gases such as SO₂ and NO_x may convert to fine particulates which effectively impair visibility. Thus significant reductions in visibility are expected occasionally in the Rio Grande Valley from the Four Corners Power Plant emissions.

SAN JUAN POWER PLANT

In addition to the Four Corners plant, the San Juan plant is now operating in the basin with two units generating approximately 130 tons per day, NO_x are approximately 37 tons per day and particulate emissions are about 4 tons per day. Particulate and SO₂ emissions are expected to decrease to one tenth their present values as SO₂ scrubbers now under construction come on line in the near future (the end of 1977).

A.P.S. SUIT WRECKS SO₂ REGS.

Not only is the current situation bad, but it is not likely to improve in the near future. This is because Arizona Public Service Company recently fought and won a challenge to a regulation which ultimately would have required the large units at Four Corners to reduce their SO₂ emissions to one tenth their current levels. The original decision by the regulatory board was based, in part on the need to provide room in the airshed for other sources, the courts ruled that emissions from sources could be controlled only to the point at which ambient air standards are met.

Under this ruling it appears that a single source can pollute up to the level at which the air is legally dirty. Once this happens no other source can make any significant addition to the pollution.

COME TO HEARINGS

In the Four Corners region the combined pollution from the San Juan and Four Corners Power Plants produces concentrations well in excess of the standard on the high terrain just south of Mesa Verde National Park. The same area would be affected by the proposed WESCO gasification facilities. Even though their emissions are relatively small, 30 tons/day of NSO and 30 tons per day SO₂ for each of their two facilities, they probably cannot get a permit to build.

EFFECT ON AIRSHED

There is some hope that part of the situation may be resolved at an upcoming hearing in Farmington on August 17th. At this hearing new regulations will be considered for the control of SO₂.

Both the N.M.E.I.A. and the Arizona Public Service Company have proposed 65% control of SO₂ (A.P.S. has threatened to sue if a higher level is chosen.) However A.P.S. wants to relax a particulate emission regulation which would require the large units to clean up particulates as well as units 1-3 have. This regulation has been held in abeyance pending resolution of the SO₂ situation, on the grounds that the SO₂ control equipment will influence the type of particulate control to be used.

New Mexico Citizens for Clean Air and Water have proposed a much higher control level (approximately 90% based on air dispersion modeling drawn from experience with high

terrain in the southwest. (The regulations that the court overturned asked for approximately 90% control.)

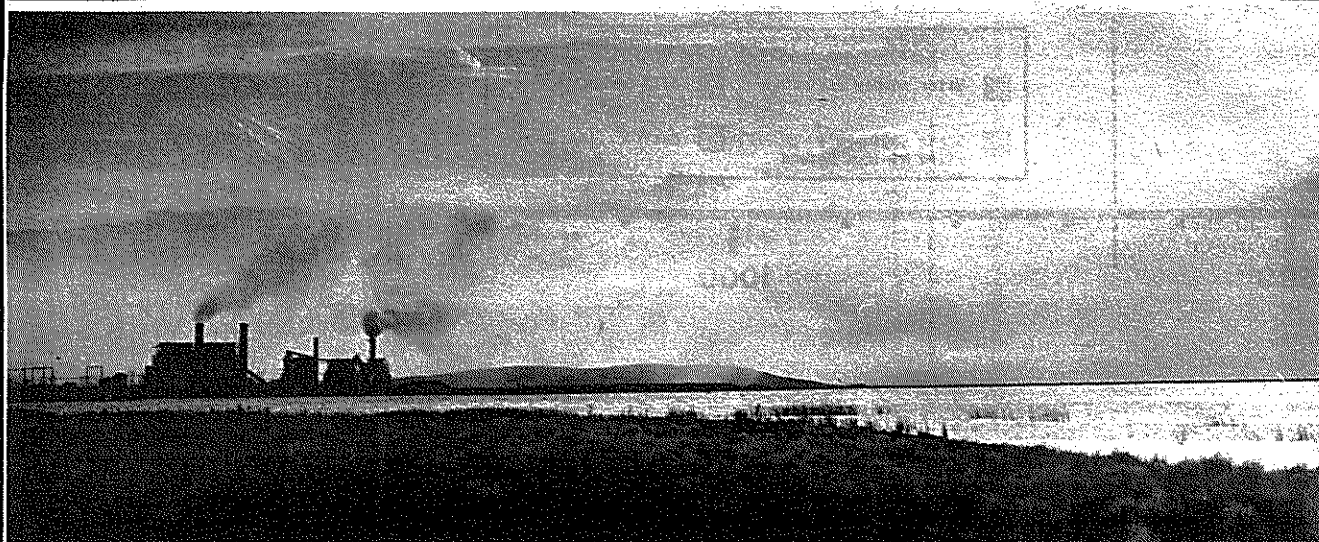
In either case, the regulations would be designed so that all the Four Corners and San Juan units, will together just meet the "dirty" N.M. standards for clean air.

The future will probably include a clean up of San Juan and Four Corners plants to a 60-90% control of SO₂, plus much better particulate control. It will also probably include the El Paso Natural Gas gasification facilities, a new 2000 MW coal fired power plant belonging to PSCNM and Texas utility companies, and a 500 MW plant belonging to the Navajo Tribe. Because of WESCO's nearness to Four Corners, it is not likely that present regulations would allow construction. It is also likely that control of SO₂ particulates at Four Corners is 5 to 8 years away. One factor that may change all of this is the recent sulfur emissions tax passed by the Navajo Tribe.

SO₂ EMISSIONS TAX

The Navajo Tribe recently adopted a tax on SO₂ emissions. The tax begins at 10 cents a pound of sulfur emitted and increases to a maximum of 50¢ a pound during the 5th year. The tax applies to any source emitting over 100 tons per year which is located on the Navajo reservation. Under A.P.S.'s current plans this plant would be taxed at 27 million dollars a year some five years hence. A similar amount would also be assessed against the Navajo Plant at Page, Arizona.

This tax is similar to, but slightly more restrictive than one rejected by the New Mexico House of Representatives in the last legislature.



DIRTY STANDARDS

The La Mesa fire gave residents of Los Alamos and Santa Fe a clear grasp of the meaning of the federal particulate ambient air standards. At a time when the smell of smoke hung heavy on the air and the landscape disappeared into the haze, federal standards (also the state standards) in Santa Fe and Los Alamos were not violated.

Federal standard permit 150mg/m³ for 24 hours and an average of 60 mg/m³ over the year. Measurements in Santa Fe on Saturday June 18, 1977 ranged from 73 to 133 mg/m³. In Los Alamos the value was 81 mg/m³ and at White Rock the value was 102 mg/m³.

In an area just meeting the air standards 60 days a year the value could be as high or higher than that measured at White Rock. Approximately 140 days a year the value could be as high or higher than that measured at Los Alamos during the peak of the fire. These values would be considered legally "clean air".

BY: MIKE WILLIAMS

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Las Vegas, N.M.
505-454-0551

Conservation- John Schneider 535 Douglas St.
Santa Fe, N.M.
505-983-5701

Executive Committee Meetings
The executive committee meets every 5-6 weeks to
discuss conservation issues and chapter business.
Everyone is welcome and its a good place to learn
about what the chapter is doing. Next meeting
is August 20-21, in Santa Fe. location undecided.
Please call John Schneider for the meeting place

Local Groups - all of the groups want as many members involved
as possible- don't hesitate to call your local
leadership and find out what is happening!

Albuquerque

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Alb. 87116
268-2040

Conser.- Ray Bahm - 831-3911
Outings- Don Meaders - 266-8823
Newsletter- Barbara Kerrish
877-2187

El Paso

Chair- Gayle Eads 8801 Darlina
E.P. 79925
915-591-8685

Conser.- Wes Leonard - 584-7730
Outings- Bill Hoppes - 584-8942
Newslet.- John Colburn- 592-4033

Gallinas (Las Vegas)

Chair- John Gavahan
Box 36
Montezuma, 87731
425-8813

Llanno Estacado (S.E.)

Chair- Ruth Bolin
821 W18
Portales 88130
356-8395

Santa Fe

Chair- Katie Parker 535 Douglas St
S.F. 87501
983-5701

Conser.- John Schneider- 3-5701
Outings- Maurice Dixon - 8-1190

Southwest Regional Group

Chair- Ted Zobeck
915 University Ave.
Las Cruces
524-8764

Conser-Jennifer Barnhart
Outings - Ed Tedesco

Communications

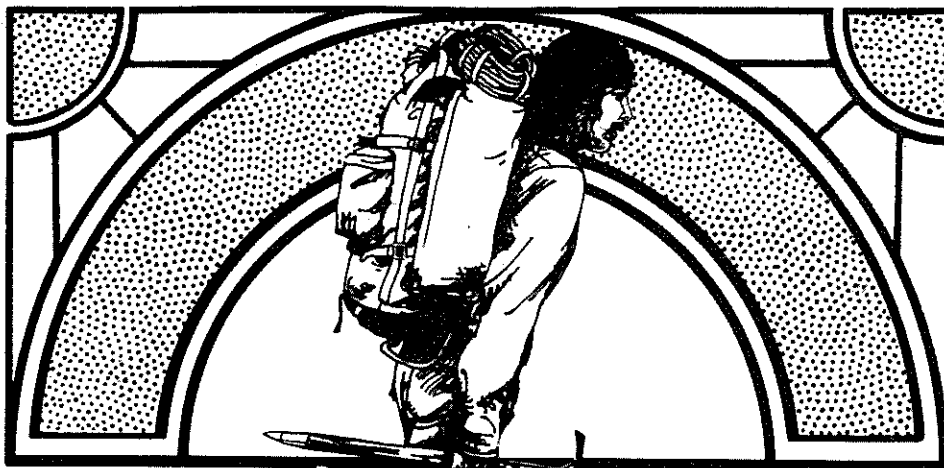
Rio Grande Sierran - published bi-monthly
editors- Stephanie Moyer & Nancy
Hilding

Group newsletters - Santa Fe, Albuquerque, El Paso
& Southwestern groups publish
regular newsletters

SWRCC - Southwest Regional Conservation Committee -
SWRCC meets 4-6 times a year to discuss conser-
vation issues that effect all the four corners
states - anybody and everybody that comes has
a vote - meetings will be announced in Sierran
and group newsletters.

Southwest Regional Office of Sierra Club
has recently moved to Santa Fe! It is open
9 to 5 Monday thru Friday. It has a library
and files on conservation issues and might be
able to answer questions you might have about
the club.

Sierra Club Southwest Regional Office
338 East De Vargas
Santa Fe 87501
505-982-4349



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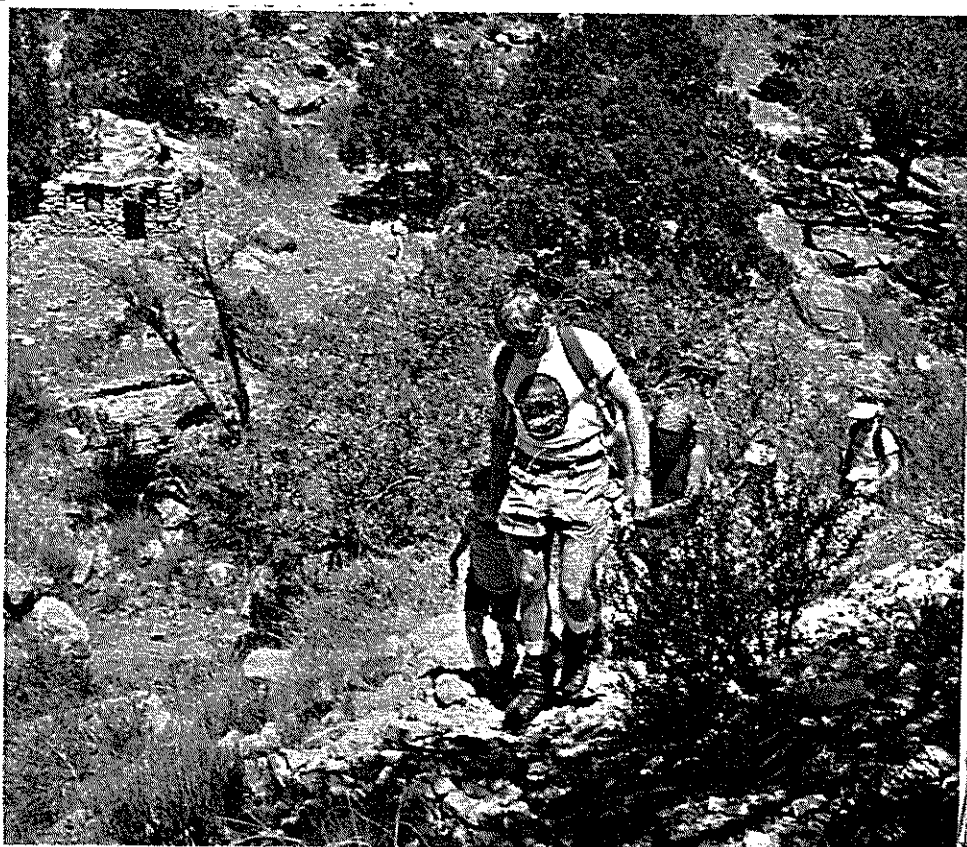
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Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501



El Paso Group hike

southwestern N.M. group activities

On April 30, 1977, the Executive Committee of the Rio Grande Chapter accepted the by-laws of the newly formed Southwestern New Mexico Regional Group. On May 13, 1977 credited status was granted by the Sierra Club Council. The SWNM Group has a current membership of more than 65 Sierrans residing in Catron, Dona Ana, Grant, Hidalgo, Lincoln, Luna, Otero, Sierra, and Socorro counties of New Mexico.

Members of the SWNM Group Executive Committee have expressed interest in organizing projects such as developing and maintaining a strong environmental education program within the Public Schools, city park beautification, bike path modification, and wilderness study.

The most active interest of the Group has been in wilderness study. Our first outing on May 1 in the West Potrillo Mountains, an area under consideration for wilderness designation by the BLM, was designed to determine the nature and extent of any man-made intrusions. Eight persons drove to the area, We of Las Cruces, and spent several hours hikeing in small groups. Further studies of the area, possibly including the East Potrillos, are planned. Interested persons should contact Terry Hicks (505-522-7905) or Ed Tedesco (505-645-1912).

In an effort to promote the Sierra Club philosophy and wilderness study in general, we have been working with our local public television station, KRWG-TV, on a series of four, one-hour shows to be aired throughout the year. The first show televised May 9 introduced the local SWNM Group to the viewing audience relating the history of the Sierra Club, it's philosophy, and the activities of the local Group. A large portion of the show was devoted to BLM wilderness study. The next show is planned for sometime in September. If you would like more information contact Steve Ropp, Media Chairman (505-526-1426).

BY: TED ZOBECK

Chairlady's Corner

JOANNE SPRENGER

The following is reprinted from Council Newsletter, which goes to Chapter and Group Sierra Club leaders:

THE MEMBER WHO NEVER CAME BACK:

"It amuses me now to think that your organization spends so much time looking for new members-when I was there all the time. Do you remember me? I'm the fellow who was asked to join. I paid my dues and then I was asked to be a loyal and faithful member.

I'm the fellow who came to every meeting, but nobody paid any attention to me. I tried several times to be friendly, but everyone seemed to have his own friends to talk to and sit with. I sat down among some unfamiliar faces several times, but they didn't pay much attention to me.

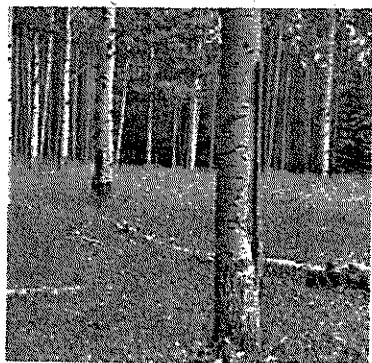
I hoped somebody would ask me to join one of the committees or to somehow participate and contribute - but no one did.

Finally, because of illness, I missed a meeting. The next month no one asked me where I had been. I guess it didn't matter very much whether I was there or not. On the next meeting date I decided to stay home and watch a good television program. When I attended the next meeting no one asked me where I was the month before.

You might say that I'm a good guy, a good family man, that I hold a responsible job and love my community.

You know who else I am? I'm the member who never came back."

Sometimes group officers get tied up with details at general meetings and don't find time to greet every member. We need help from all of you to help new members and visitors, especially, to feel welcome at Sierra Club meetings. Don't neglect those old familiar faces hover. People join the Sierra Club for a variety of reasons. Some want to help with conservation projects, others want to go on outings, and some merely want to contribute their dues to help a good cause. However, most people want to feel welcome and part of their group. This was vividly expressed by the fantastic turnout at the Albuquerque Group's Christmas Party last December. The organizers may want to look for a larger church next Christmas. Let's all do our part to show every member that he's wanted.



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you to the native ecology of
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advertisement

el paso group activities

Forty-plus members and visitors went to Dog Canyon for a day hike April 30. Memorial Day weekend we had 11 Sierrans in Mexico and 16 in the White Mountains for the annual family backpack. Seven from El Paso joined others from Las Cruces and Silver City to do a wilderness inventory in the Aldo Leopold area in May. Outings have claimed much of our time with more to come.

John Colburn was invited by the Forest Service to be the environmentalist on a panel to discuss the Eagle Creek Dam proposal in Ruidoso. He went and reports that he was only booed once (at the mention of the name "Sierra Club") and that he behaved admirably, supporting the Forest Service position on the E.I.S.. Ruidoso wants to have the dam and water without addressing the other problems such as increased tourism in the area which calls for facilities that will cost money to provide.

Sarah Jane Dodds has resigned from the ExCom after years of service, but continues to serve on the Franklin Mountain committee (of the Goals for El Paso) along with new Sierra Club member Devin von Finger. We all have hopes that there will be continued progress on preservation of the Franklins through the work of this committee.

The latest on the Rio Grande is that the Draft EIS will not be ready until early 1978. There is also a revision of the plan by the Boundary Commission being prepared. We are waiting to see what the new proposal will be before taking a definite position. We are also still gathering information about the area.

El Paso will continue to meet during the summer and has lined up programs on the BLM - Las Cruces District, the Clean Air Act, and climbing Mt. McKinley by Dave Saas (For those of us who enjoy vacationing by osmosis).

BY GAYLE EARS

30 YEAR MEMBERS

The Rio Grande Chapter now has fourteen life members. Eight persons recently received Courtesy Life Memberships in the Club by virtue of their having been members for a total of thirty years. Those receiving this honor include Mr. and Mrs. Henry Tendall of Albuquerque, Lowell Sumner of Glenwood, Mrs. Stewart Loeb of Farmington, Elsa Naumann of Los Alamos, and John Muchmore, Phoebe Sumner and Carl Overhage of Santa Fe. Congratulations to you all.

santa fe

outings

- | | |
|---|--|
| August 7 - Strenuous - call Ken 983-1949 | |
| August 14 - Moderate - call Ann 983-8870 | |
| August 20-21 - Overnight call Walt and Anne 983-7904 | |
| August 21 - Easy - call Bill 982-5334 | |
| August 28 - Moderate - call John 983-5836 | |
| September 3-5 - Backpack - call Betsy 983-8870 | |
| Sept 11 - Moderate - call Ingrid 988-5426 | |
| Sept 17 - Strenuous - call John 983-1250 | |
| July 17 - Moderate Hike - call Carol - 988-5131 | |
| July 23-24 - Overnite Backpack-Santa Barbara area of Pecos - call Ingrid 988-5426 | |
| July 24 - Moderate - call Brett 983 - 2862 | |
| August 6 - Moderate - call Betsy 983-8870 | |
| August 7-9 - Backpack - call Maurice 988-1190 | |

Next General Membership Meeting: Tuesday, September 20, 1977.

outings SOUTHWESTERN GROUP

Sometime during summer -
Catwalk at cliff dwelling,
weekend trip, Long's canyon,
day hike

July 26 - Group meeting
Late July or early August
4 day Gila Wilderness Trip
Late August - Fund raising
picnic
August 24 - Group meeting

For more information, call
Ted Zobeck at 505 524-8764!

CHAIRMAN: Ted Zobeck
VICE-CHAIRMAN: Robert
DeVilice
SECRETARY/TREASURER: Gary
Garwood
CONSERVATION: Jennifer
Barnhart

OUTINGS: Ed Tedesco
WILDERNESS ACTION: Teresa
Hicks

MEDIA: Steve Ropp
General meetings of the
Southwestern New Mexico Re-
gional Group are planned for
the last Tuesday of each
month.

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Albuquerque, N.M. 87105

The forest service is doing a
new official roadless area
review. The action starts
this summer (see cover article).
The New Mexico Wilderness Study
Committee is a "watchdog"
volunteer group who is doing
their own roadless area inven-
tory. They will be very busy
this summer and they need your
help-activities will include
hikes to proposed wilderness
areas. For more information

Contact Dave Fore-
man (P.O. Box 38 Glenwood, NM
88039 539-2645) or the follow-
ing conservation leaders:
SANTA FE: Central Clearing
House 982-4349 - George Gross-
man 982-1024 ALBUQUERQUE: Jim
Stewart 831-1941, Armen Chak-
erian - 883-1897 LAS CRUCES:
Terry Hicks 522-7905, Joanne
Mazzio 526-4246, EL PASO: Wes
Leonard 584-7730, LeBron Hardie
584-4695, SILVER CITY: Bob
Langsenkamp 388-4326 LAS
VEGAS: Joanne Sprenger 454-0551,
LOS ALAMOS: Dorothy Hoard
672-3356; JEMEZ SPRINGS: Jack
Dembs 829-3610 SOCORRO: Paul
Krehbiel 835-0759; PORTALES:
Ruth Bolin 356-8395.

NMWSC briefings on RARE II

Las Cruces - July 26 Tuesday
101 Hardman Hall
7:30 PM

Santa Fe - August 1 (Monday)
Central Clearing
House 7.00

Silver City - Bob Langsenkamp
388-4326 for
details

for more info:

Groups do not always have their outings planned 2 months in ad-
vance. For more up to date information check your local news-
letter or call your group chairperson or outings person. (see p. 7)

wilderness study

SPEND YOUR SUMMER IN PICTURES-
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DO YOURSELF AND N.M.W.S.C.
A FAVOR)

The following is a schedule
of outings planned by the N.M.
Wilderness Study Committee
(N.M.W.S.C.) northern region.
The outings are into some of
the areas proposed as additions
to the Wilderness System. If
you are interested in going
on any of these outings call
Chuck Schwartz 982-1520 home
471-3232 w George Grossman
h - 982-1004

July 16 - Thompson Peak Area
Pecos - Day trip

July 30 - Hyde Park Area -
Pecos - Day trip

August 6-7 - Pajarito - Pecos
Car Camp/Day hikes

Sept. 10-11 - Elk Mountain -
Pecos - car camp/day
hikes

Sept. ? Canjilon - El Rito-
Carson

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"Headquarters for the self-propelled man"

May 14, 1977

Dear Editor,

In reading the current issue
of the Sierran I came across what
appears to be a less than serious
"filler" about smallpox, (Another
Endangered Species, pg 7). Con-
sidering your support of various
endangered species, (whales for
one) I fail to see any humor in
the smallpox item. Consider: the
World Health Organization has
been able to destroy smallpox
in such a short (relatively)
time is the fact that smallpox
is the ONLY virus that lives
exclusively in man. I for one,
would not like the idea of losing
this unusual virus forever. DNA
research is in its infancy right
now. But consider - in the fu-
ture we might be able to modify
the smallpox virus into a benign
agent to combat other virus.
We can't do it now, but why lose
the possibility? So, I would
like to say in all seriousness-
Save the Smallpox virus.

Sincerely, **LETTER TO**
Dennis Virzi **THE EDITOR**
Alb.

outings EL PASO GROUP

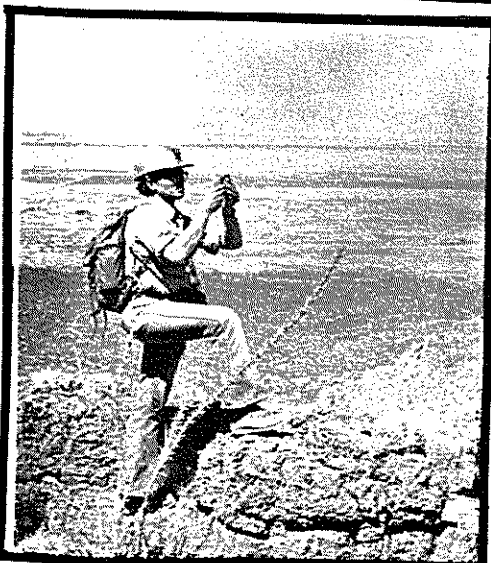
July 16-17 Cloudcroft Car Camp

July 16-17 - Cloudcroft Car Camp
call Galye - 591-8685

July 23-24 - Beginners Back Pack
call John - 592-4033

July 30-31 - Wilderness Study
Back Pack - call
Wes - 584-7730

For more information call Bill
Hopkes 584-8942 or consult El Paso
Group Newsletter "LORAX"



ALBUQUERQUE GROUP outings

Our outings program seems to be
going well this summer. Our most
recent outing was to San Pedro
Parks. 11 people enjoyed the
high altitude beauty. We also had
our resident astronomer along to
point out the beautiful stars in
the clear mountain sky.

16,17 July - Ghost Town Trip

24 July - Fossil Outing

30, 31 July - Latir Lakes Back-
pack (Fishing Trip)

For more information on outings
see the July, August and September
issues of Albuquerque group news-
letter.

activities of the albuquerque group

The Albuquerque Group is not planning on gearing down for the
summer, in fact, we are planning on stepping up our activities.
Although national membership week is over we are planning several
new member activities, and also some to draw in more new members.
We are planning some future potluck dinners and also an "old fash-
ioned" ice cream social. We are also planning to have a special
meeting for new members to show what issues the group is presently
involved in and what issues we can foresee in the future. To help
us in this area, we are sending all new members a questionnaire to
fill out - this we hope will furnish us with the volunteer help
needed to carry out our objectives.

The Albuquerque group is in the process of establishing a tele-
phone chain. This chain will be used to alert members of issues
needing letters and/or telegrams to their Congressmen.

The monthly general meetings of the group have been very success-
ful, with an attendance of 75-100 people, with many standing room
only crowds.

The program for the July general meeting will be the Sierra Club
slide show "Redwoods". This is a new presentation showing the
true story of what is happening to Redwoods National Park - a park
that may die - unless congress acts swiftly to preserve these beau-
tiful giants.

Fifteen to twenty Albuquerque group members attended the Alaska
hearings in Denver on the 4th of June. We would like to thank
those members who went and especially all the new members for giving
a weekend to save Alaska wildlands.

The Albuquerque group is also working on a study of coal strip-
mining in northwestern New Mexico; study of more efficient lighting
in Albuquerque; nuclear waste disposal in N.M. and putting Public
Service Announcements on radio and television.

BY: NICK NICOLAUS

ECO-TRIUMPH

I am Life.

Though parceled
and packaged
and drowned
in cement;

Though
tall
buildings
now
tower
where trees
once sang
in the breeze,

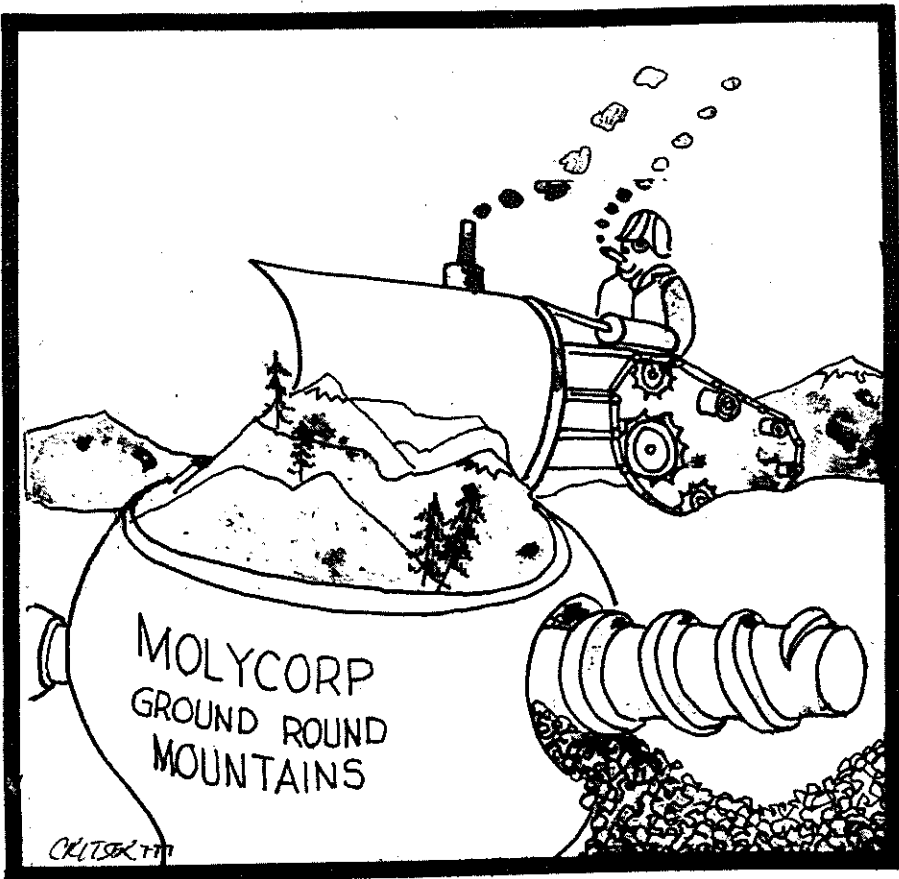
I Life.

I hide,
and bide
my time.

Someday
I shall return.

Castles
will crumble
to the creeping
vines,
and robins
will line
their nests
with computer tape.

By: T. S. Ross



MOLYCORP TO CLEAN UP!?

court suit settled BY: AL FORSYTH

Molybdenum Corporation (Molycorp) stripmines are from the guts of what was once a lovely mountain in the spectacular Red River area near Questa. Molybdenum is extracted from the ore at the site in a large mill that uses a flotation process. This process uses 4 1/2 million gallons of water a day, drawn from the Red River upstream from the mill and returned to the Red River about 8 1/2 miles downstream after being carried by slurry pipeline to tailings ponds where the residual ore solids are settled out.

The operation has two continuing environmental effects that the Sierra Club has kept an eye on. (The mountain is gone). One is the quality of the continuous effluent from the tailings pond, and the other is the occasional stream pollution that occurs where a slurry pipe breaks and spews the slurry into the Red River.

Molycorp was issued an N.P.D.E.S. discharge permit by the federal E.P.A. (Environmental Protection Agency). The original permit set levels of several metals for the effluent that were lower than Molycorp could meet and Molycorp petitioned to have these limitations raised. An adjudicatory hearing was proposed, a rather formal trial of issues. Negotiations were undertaken by E.P.A. to reach a satisfactory solution without the expense and time that a formal hearing would consume. After many meetings, E.P.A. proposed a new permit on terms that were stricter than Molycorp hoped for, though more lenient than those stated in the original permit.

The Sierra Club intervened and participated in conferences in December 1976 and February 1977. So also did the New Mexico Citizens for Clean Air and Water. After careful consideration, a compromise settlement was agreed on by all parties and a revised discharge permit has been issued.

A part of the settlement was a \$75,000 civil penalty paid by Molycorp for 5 pipeline spills in 1975 and 1976.

Until July 1, 1983, Molycorp may discharge from its tailings ponds 78 pounds of molybdenum per day on a six-month average, but not more than 156 pounds daily maximum. After July 1, 1983 these figures must be reduced to 75 and 50 pounds, respectively. Similar provisions relate to other components of the effluent.

One might ask why the lower figures were not insisted upon immediately; why put it off until 1983? The answer, in part, is that the technology needed to remove molybdenum from the mill effluent does not now exist. Molycorp has been given time to develop it, but if it can't meet the standards by 1983, it has agreed to reduce the quantity of effluent so as not to exceed those lower levels or close up shop. It must also complete by October, 1977 a definite schedule of work to reduce the hazards of pipe spills along the slurry line. One major pipe spill and several minor spills occurred while negotiations were under way and more may occur. However, the work now being done may be expected to lessen the number and severity of the spills and also to divert spills from entering the river.

Legal counsel for the Club approved joining in the stipulation to settle the issues. Although there can be no real assurance that more spills or new violations of permit discharge limits will not occur, probably better terms and more definite commitments were obtained by the agreement that could have been expected as the result of a full-dress adjudicatory hearing. Also, the Club remains an intervening party, with rights to open the legal proceedings with E.P.A. at any time it finds Molycorp in violation of its agreement.

Update on ORV Appeal in S.F. Forest

It began last January when the Santa Fe National Forest Service made public its final "ORV Management Plan." The Plan, designed to regulate the use of off-road vehicles such as motorcycles and snowmobiles, could fairly be called a travesty.

Over 1,195,000 acres of the Santa Fe National Forest were declared open to any and all types of off-road vehicles. (Excluding certain areas previously closed to ORV traffic--such as the San Pedro Parks and Pecos Wildernesses--this translates to mean 87% of the forest in the power of the Forest Service to open or close was deemed suitable for ORV use.)

The Appeal's Status: Last March the Santa Fe Group of the Sierra Club and New Mexico's Public Interest Research Group appealed the ORV Plan. This is what has happened since then:

1) The initiation of the appeal last March was merely a one page letter, timely expressing our disagreement. The body of the appeal--a 60 page "supporting statement"--took until June 6 to compile, and was coordinated by John Schneider, Katie Parker, Betsy Fuller, Phil Nelson, Dan Brandt, and as PIRG's attorney, Denise Fort.

The supporting statement contains a) the legal arguments explaining why the Plan violated the 1972 Presidential Executive Order (which had triggered the drafting of the Plan in the first place).

This is the heart of the appeal, though not even a lawyer could love this many subsectioned section; b) memos, letters and directives from the Forest Service files (obtained under the Freedom of Information Act) which help to support our argument of inadequacy in both the methodology and outcome of the Plan; c) maps and affidavits compiled by Sierra Club members, giving examples of particular areas and trails which, because of impact on wildlife, sensitive soils, non-inventoried roadless areas and conflicts with hikers, should not have been opened to off-road vehicles.

2) The administrative appeal process is akin to a nightmarishly slow tennis game. Since we've completed our supporting statement, the ball is now in their court. And we wait. Under the regulations Forest Supervisor Zamora must "promptly" prepare his own statement defending the ORV Plan.

According to the Forest Service's Joe Quade, who is helping draft it, the response will not be ready until late July at the very earliest. We will then be sent a copy and given a chance to reply to their rebuttal, then all papers are transmitted to the Regional Forester (Zamora's immediate superior) in Albuquerque. (At this stage we can explain our arguments, in person, at an informal oral presentation.)

3) If the Regional Forester agrees with us, another ORV Plan, more accurately reflecting the mandate of the 1972 Executive Order, will have to be developed.

If the Regional Forester upholds the ORV Plan as written, any subsequent appeal would be directed to the Forest Service Chief in Washington, D.C. Related Developments: The ORV Plan, as written, is presently

being put into effect. The Sierra Club made no effort to "stay" the implementation during the appeal; however inadequate the Plan may be, it still closes 13% more of the Forest than before.

Nevertheless, even the Plan's marginal benefits are somewhat illusory: A) The Forest Service intends to install signs to warn ORV's of those areas and trails which are closed, rather than indicate those areas where ORV use is permitted. The folly of this approach is clear: if it is the "closed" areas which are marked, the signs can be overlooked inadvertently, or any vandal can negate the enforceability of such closure by simply removing the signs.

B) On June 8th the Forest Service published the implementation timetable, revealing the signing program to be even more toothless. Because of "funding and manpower capabilities," the installing of signs will be spaced over 4 years. This means that the designation of even those few areas and trails which are to be closed will not be finished until 1980. (And, of course, enforcement--meaning arrests or citations--can only take place on those areas which have been properly signed.) How this lamentable time schedule should best be challenged has not yet been decided.

Carter's Executive Order & What

You Can Do! Amid the largest letter writing campaign to descend upon Washington D.C. this year (from ORV's worried about a rumored Executive Order totally banning them from all public lands) Carter issued his ORV Order on May 24. The alarm among the ORV's was completely unjustified. Carter's 1977 Order, intended to supplement and clarify Nixon's 1972 Order, changed very little. But it made more explicit something which environmentalists believed inherent within the '72 Order--Whenever ORV use "will cause or is causing considerable adverse effects on the soil, vegetation, wildlife, wildlife habitat or cultural or historic resources of particular areas or trails" such areas or trails shall be immediately closed.

While there is some looseness in the above language (what is "considerable adverse effects?") this emergency provision can be a tool in active citizen monitoring of ORV use in the Santa Fe Forest--if you see what you consider significant and un-earthly damage occurring (or about to occur) notify the Forest Service and request that the area or trail be closed immediately.

BY: DAVID DOUGLAS

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Conservation Chairman's Corner

D.D.T.

TO BE USED FOR PLAGUE CONTROL

DDT has been approved by the Environmental Protection Agency for use in New Mexico this summer to control the bubonic plague. The reasons for this assault and insult to our environment are quoted here from the request letter to the EPA from William Stephens, Director of the New Mexico Department of Agriculture:

1. "Carbaryl, the only pesticide registered for flea control for plague, is a non-persistent material. Due to manpower limitations, it would not be possible to retreat high risk areas with carbaryl."

2. "Carbaryl is registered for flea control on wild rodents. However, the flea population remains suppressed for less than one week and then builds rapidly back to pretreatment levels. Because of the large numbers of rodent burrows which must be treated, the number of man hours involved makes retreatment at weekly intervals with carbaryl prohibitive.

The determination that carbaryl is not an effective method for controlling fleas on wild rodents is supported by several years of field experience and experiments conducted by personnel of the General Sanitation Section, Environmental Improvement Agency, Santa Fe, New Mexico (Miller, person communication)"

3. "The economic impact of not controlling plague in New Mexico could be severe. New Mexico's economic base depends mainly on the tourist population which visits this State. If plague should continue to increase without any appropriate controls being initiated, tourists are likely to avoid visiting New Mexico, thus the State can suffer great economic losses. New and effective methods of flea control are necessary in order to control plague. It is hoped through the use of the above mentioned pesticides, effective control will occur."

4. "The individual patient contracting the disease suffers a great economic loss. The cost of hospital care, physician care, and loss of pay over a significant period of time is hard for many individuals to recover."

5. "In 1976, two deaths from plague occurred in this State. It is almost impossible to put a price tag. (or economic loss) for the loss of a human life."

6. "Analysis of possible adverse effects on man and environment. Only a small amount of active ingredient is applied to each rodent burrow and the material is confined underground. Little adverse environmental effects are expected."

(Placing of above quotes in numbered subsections was done by author - not original format)

DDT USE UNNECESSARY AND HARMFUL

The reasons cited by Mr. Stephens are based on erroneous information and assumptions. We will address each of his reasons:

1. A letter to Allan Barnes PhD with the Public Health Service from Thomas E. Baca the then acting director of the New Mexico Environmental Improvement Agency dated July 7, 1976 stated:

"It is a fact that, due to its residual, DDT would require probably only one application per season; whereas, carbaryl or systemics require follow-up treatment to maintain flea control. However, this Agency is willing to commit the manpower resources to accomplish this in areas where flea control is deemed necessary." (Emphasis added)

2. The E.I.A., in a report on the Status of Plague in New Mexico attests to the effectiveness of Carbaryl in controlling flea populations:

"Carbaryl is a biodegradable chemical which has been proven, through a number of years of use by the HSSD in New Mexico, to be very effective in controlling flea population. In addition, research conducted by Barnes et al. (1972) showed that carbaryl dust was very effective in controlling fleas in burrows of prairie dogs in Colorado. Treatment of burrows resulted in 100% elimination of an important plague vector within 24 hours, and the burrows remained free of this flea for 2 months. In later research, Barnes et al. (1974) controlled fleas on another rodent important in plague in Colorado by applying carbaryl dust in bait stations. Control was maintained for 9 weeks."

with the stations rebaited as needed. There was no measurable deterioration of carbaryl in bait stations for 11 weeks. Krishna Murthy et al. (1965) observed that carbaryl dust insufflated into rat burrows in India controlled oriental rate fleas for 12 weeks. These studies thus indicate that the control of fleas achieved with carbaryl is adequate to control epizootics among sylvatic rodents, particularly if the areas are retreated at reasonable intervals."

3. The assumption that plague would keep tourists away is not founded in fact, as 1975 was a record year for plague and no effect was felt by the tourist industry.

I agree that new and effective methods of flea control would be helpful, but cannot class DDT as such.

(A certain person in Santa Fe suggested we develop a spray for tourists!)

4. DDT may cost us more than plague in medical bills. In an article in the Medical Annals of the District of Columbia two doctors (M.D.) Karling and Hastings state:

"It was found that amounts of the pesticide DDT which are well below those ingested by the average American citizen are capable, in certain selected persons, of reducing electrophysiological potentials and causing fatigue, slowed thought, withdrawal from reality, blurred vision, headache and ataxia."

DDT has been linked with cancer in animal studies.

I agree that human lives are valuable. In the years between 1949 and 1976 12 people in New Mexico have died from plague, 1,966 died from heart disease, 1,289 from malignant neoplasms (cancerous tumor), and 484 in auto accidents. I suspect that more than 12 of the cancer and heart disease deaths were related to the contamination of the body by some form of pesticide.

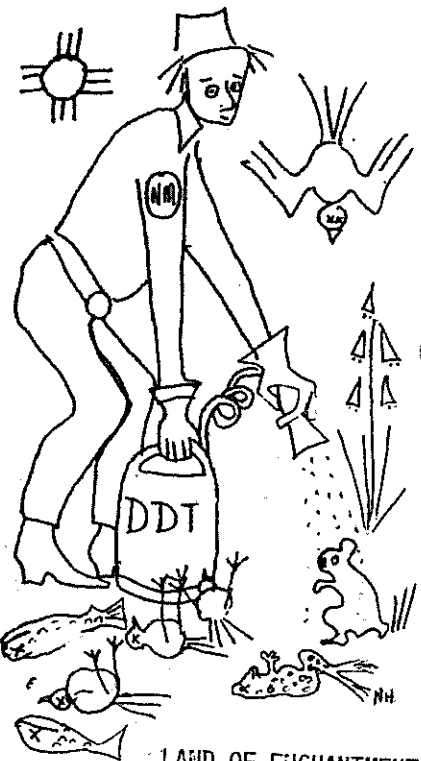
6. Mr. Stephens' reasoning is beyond me. Rodents are continually clearing out their burrows, which means they will be bringing dirt and DDT to the surface. Once at the surface it can be transported hundred of miles as detailed in a publication of the American Chemical Society by J.M. Cohen and C. Pinderton:

LAND OF ENCHANTMENT

"There is increasing evidence that pesticides have contaminated extensive areas of the world not directly treated with pesticides. In many instances, the translocation can be attributed to food or water as the transmission vehicle. Another medium of dispersal of pesticides is the atmosphere. Analyses of rainwater and dust have revealed the presence of chloro-organic substances in all samples examined. Identification of specific pesticides has demonstrated that at least some of the chloro-organic compounds are pesticidal in origin. An analysis of dust, whose distant origin was documented by meteorological evidence, proved that pesticide-laden dust can be transported over great distances via the atmosphere and can be deposited over land surfaces remote from the point of application."

"Little adverse environmental effects are expected". - Absurd! DDT concentrates in the food chain, persists for decades in the soil, kills fish, drastically reduces the reproduction rate of birds and is mutagenic and carcinogenic in laboratory animals.

The EPA banned the use of DDT in 1972 due to the hazards it posed to the environment. Where was (is) the New Mexico Department of Agriculture? BY: JOHN SCHNEIDER



WATCHING CROW, LOOKING SOUTH TOWARD THE MANZANO MOUNTAINS

BY: JOY HARJO

crow floats in winter sun
a black sliver
in a white ocean of sky
he is the horizon
drifting south of Albuquerque

the horizon dances
along the blue edges
of the Manzanos
wind is an arch
a curve
on the black wing of crow

a warm south wind
if it stays for a while
will keep a crow dancing for
thirty years
on the ridge
of a blue mountain breeze

Forest Service Supports Wilderness for Sandias, Manzanos, Chama Canyon

The Department of Agriculture, on behalf of the Administration (and the Forest Service), has issued its final report on the Endangered American Wilderness Act (HR 3454). This bill, introduced by Congressman Morris Udall, would designate as wilderness 14 areas within the National Forest system and designate 8 additional areas for wilderness study. In New Mexico, the Sandia and Manzano Mountains would be instantly designated as wilderness, and Chama Canyon on the Santa Fe National Forest would be mandated for a wilderness study. Under the Ford Administration last year, the Forest Service opposed a similar bill.

However, under the new Carter Administration, the Forest Service has essentially endorsed (and in some cases improved) the bill. The Forest Service and Administration

position now is in favor of designating as immediate wilderness 16 of the areas in the bill totalling 914,510 acres, and designating 5 areas totalling 945,500 acres for wilderness suitability study.

In New Mexico the Forest Service supported immediate wilderness designation for the Manzano Mountains (37,000 acres); Sandia Mountains (30,930 acres -- we had proposed 30,700 acres); and Chama Canyon (51,400 acres -- we had just proposed 50,900 acres for study!). On the Sandias, the Forest Service would add 370 acres to our wilderness proposal and delete 140 acres for trailheads, etc. In Chama Canyon, the Forest Service would add 225 acres of private land and 275 acres of Forest land in Gallinas Canyon.

So, with relatively little opposition to these areas, and support from New Mexico con-

servationists, the public, the Forest Service, Governor Apodaca, Senators Pete Domenici and Jack Schmitt, and Congressman Lujan, New Mexico should see 3 new wilderness areas totaling about 120,000 acres this year.

By: Dave Foreman

WHAT YOU CAN DO!

Write: Dr. Rupert Cutler
Assistant Secretary of
Agriculture
Washington, D.C. 20250

and thank him for the strong pro-wilderness stand that the Forest Service and the Administration have taken on this important wilderness issue. You may want to send copies of your letter to Congressman Lujan and Runnels and Senators Domenici and Schmitt.

CLEAN AIR ACT 1977 AMENDMENTS

Excerpts from the Testimony of Richard E. Ayers of Natural Resource Defense Fund Before the Committee on Public Works Subcommittee on Environmental Pollution - United States Senate

February 10, 1977

This hearing marks the third consecutive year in which the Congress has been asked to consider amendments to the Clean Air Act, to weaken and delay the deadlines and requirements set out more than six years ago. In most areas of the country, our citizens are still exposed to air that does not meet the minimum federal health standard for one or more of the regulated pollutants. Yet in this context the loudest voices remain those asking for more delay, weaker standards and gutting amendments.

Many of these requests are now cast in an arcane jargon -- "non-attainment areas," "intermittent controls," compliance date extensions" -- and come cloaked in reasoning that obscures what they are all about: continued exposure of millions of Americans to air that causes disease. Two years ago EPA released a study giving estimates of what it would mean if the minimum national health standards remained unmet through 1980. They concluded that between 1975 and 1980, the nation's people would experience

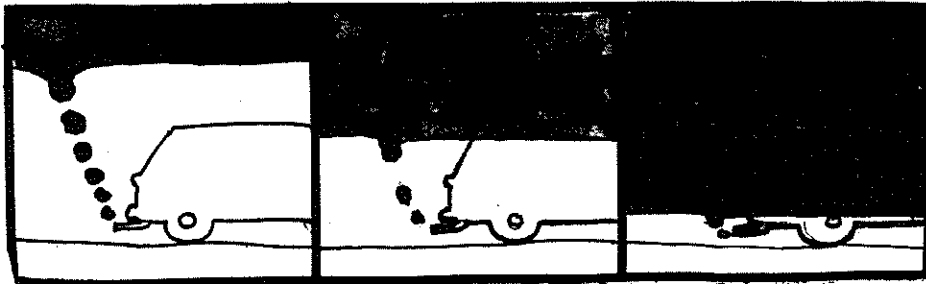
- 25,000 excess deaths
- 160 million person-days when the elderly would experience aggravation of heart and lung diseases;
- 50 million excess attacks of asthma;
- 2-4 million instances of acute respiratory disorders, such as croup, bronchitis, and pneumonia, among children
- 900,000 additional adults reporting persistent chronic respiratory disease symptoms each year.

Obviously, these figures are not precise, but they do pose starkly the real issue as each industry asks for "relief". For what is "relief" for industry is not for our citizens. It is, starkly put, additional unnecessary deaths and disease.

Similarly, much has been said about the costs to industry of meeting the Act's standards. Though these have been grossly exaggerated in many quarters, no one can deny that pollution control will cost money. But the point to remember is that these are not costs you can wish away: they will be paid, regardless of what you do. The question is not whether they will be paid, but to whom -- manufacturers of pollution control equipment, or of hospital equipment.

I. Auto Emissions Control

In 1970, the Congress mandated a five year schedule for reducing the emissions of hydrocarbons (HC), carbon monoxide (C), and nitrogen oxide (NO_x) of 90% from the uncontrolled levels. Since then, despite the fact that studies by disinterested bodies such as the National Academy of Sciences have repeatedly shown that the standards could be met with essentially no impact on fuel economy, the companies continue to refuse to meet them. In the last Congress, they requested yet another five year "freeze" at present standards, and asked that you permanently rescind the 90% control requirement for NO_x.



When presented a generous compromise, they lobbied successfully to kill your bill. As Senator Muskie pointed out at the time, the companies had thrown down the gauntlet: give in or else we will close down.

As the law now stands, the industry must meet statutory standards for all three pollutants in the model year 1978. Confident that it has won its bluff with you, the auto industry has proceeded to assume that they have forced you to change the law. Executives of the major auto companies have publicly flaunted their intention to ignore the statutory standards, presenting cars to EPA that merely meet 1977 interim standards.

So the question before you is whether you or the auto industry make public health policy for the people of the United States. We do not advocate that you close down the auto industry. We do, however, propose that you refuse to capitulate by weakening and delaying the statutory standards, and we propose a measure that will continue to apply pressure on the auto companies to meet statutory standards without closing down the industry.

We propose you adopt a noncompliance penalty on cars that fail to meet the applicable statutory standards on time.....

By adopting the penalty approach Congress is freed to stick by an action-forcing timetable and standards. Thus we propose that the Congress leave untouched the requirement that new car emissions of HC and CO in the model year 1978 shall be reduced to the statutory standards. We believe the industry already has at hand technology that can accomplish this goal, and we believe that with a serious effort the companies can install this technology on most if not all new 1978 models. The technology for controlling nitrogen oxides emission to the levels required by the statutory standards is not so widely demonstrated, although as you know one foreign manufacturer, Volvo, has come very close to meeting the statutory standards with the 3-way catalyst installed on its 1977 automobiles. For this reason, we propose that 1978 model cars be allowed to meet a standard of 2.0 grams of NO_x per mile, which is five times higher emissions than would be allowed under the statutory requirements. Beginning in model year 1979, we would require all new cars to meet a NO_x standard of 1.0 grams per mile, a standard still 2 1/2 times less stringent than that in the statute. In 1980, we propose reaching the present 0.4 standard.

....As to the noncompliance penalty.....the first alternative we propose is that the funds generated from the fine be used as matching grants to help fund their (polluted cities) transportation control plans.....A second alternative would be to rebate the proceeds of the penalty to those who buy new cars meeting the applicable standards.

1977 AMENDMENTS TO CLEAN AIR ACT

The House passed a version of the Clean Air Act Amendments that contains an amendment (the Dingell amendment) that extends the deadlines for automobile emissions cleanup. It also has an amendment (Breaux amendment) that allows significant degradation near parks and wilderness. This amendment makes Intermountain Power Project possible. The Senate has passed a bill that maintains the integrity of the Clean Air Act. The Senate and House must agree on a compromise and the big fight will be over auto emissions. The auto industry has been lobbying heavily. The Senate and House conferees will meet later in July. It is possible that the conferee report will not be voted on before the August recess. DOMENICI IS ONE OF THE CONFEREES! If you've been meaning to write a letter about clean air, there is still time to write Domenici.

RARE II - Continued from Page 1

roadless area review

is complete. 2) The public will then be asked to participate in a general discussion about the final size and complexion of the National Forest Wilderness System: How much National Forest Wilderness should there be? Where should it be? What types of ecosystems should be represented? What kinds of standards should be used to evaluate specific areas for inclusion? There will no doubt be the inevitable discussions over the values of wilderness and various wilderness myths. Written comments will be accepted until September 15.

During the fall and winter, the Forest Service will analyze the public input and begin to develop alternative programs to be considered in a possible draft environmental statement. There will probably be another round of public workshops in the winter to rate and prioritize specific areas. We will be asked to help divide all the roadless areas into one of three categories: 1. Areas that should be recommended for immediate wilderness designation; 2. Areas that should be further studied for wilderness recommendation; 3. 'Release' areas that should be dropped from any further wilderness consideration and be available for resource development.

During the summer of 1978, more public input, especially in the form of field studies, will be encouraged and then, in August, 1978, a final listing of the above 3 categories for all roadless areas in the nation will be developed, along with a final environmental impact statement. After this point, it still has not been determined how the F.S. will proceed. However, the areas on the 'immediate' list will be given to Congress for its action.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Your participation in this process is probably the most significant action you will ever take, for the preservation of wilderness in the National Forests is being determined over this next year. You can help in the following ways:

1. Participate in the public workshops listed on the cover page. For more information on the areas to be discussed contact Dave Foreman, a N.M.W.S.C. leader near you (see list on activities page - p. 9), or the Forest Service 517 Gold Ave. S.W. Albuquerque, 87102.

2. Take part in field studies of these many roadless areas. We have completed final boundary proposals for quite a few of these areas; and hope to finalize our proposals for others this summer. Some of the areas, however, we have no knowledge of. Your help is needed to look at all of these areas -- to familiarize yourself with the areas already completed so you can support them from a position of personal knowledge; to help finish studies in other areas so we can present our recommendations to the Forest Service; and to take a look at the 'unknown' areas, so we can determine if they qualify for wilderness consideration or not. Helping in wilderness field studies is fun and easy. You can do it! For information on how to get involved contact the N.M.W.S.C. leader near you (see list on page 9) or Dave Foreman, P.O. Box 38, Glenwood, N.M. 88039.

Reprinted from the New Mexico Wilderness Study Committee Newsletter and an article by Dave Foreman

STATUS of

STRIPMINING REGULATIONS HR 2 & S?

The bills passed by congress were weaker than previous bills twice vetoed by Ford. Given Carter's support, the bills could have been stronger - industry was out in force. The House's version was stronger than the Senate's. House and Senate conferees will be meeting to work out a compromise. Issues to be resolved are - stripping of alluvial valleys, giving "small" operators delayed deadlines, requiring permission of surface owners who do not have subsurface rights, before mining can take place. On June 30th the conferees were very close to being finished. Both houses should be approving the conferee's report sometime in July.

AMENDMENTS TO OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF HR 1614 AND S 9

The 1953 law governing offshore drilling needs to be updated to properly address problems raised by recent deeper and more extensive offshore drilling activities. Carter supports the bill. What originally promised to be strong bills may be being eroded by industry lobbying. The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee and the House Ad Hoc Committee on the Outer Continental Shelf are considering the respective versions of the bills. They may go to the floor early in July. Debate points are: exploration and development leasing procedures, more research, citizen suits, state government input, NEPA protection etc.

ENVIRONMENTAL BILLS- as of June 30, 1977

PUBLIC WORKS APPROPRIATIONS BILL FUNDING FOR WATER PROJECTS 1973

Carter proposed withdrawing 1978 funding for 32 water projects. The projects were generally environmentally damaging, economically unsound, and political favors. C.A.P. and Hooker Dam were among the original 32. The 32 projects were compromised down to 18 projects. Then the House rejected any funding cuts (however not by an overwhelming vote). Carter retaliated by threatening to veto the appropriations bill. On June 30th the Senate was to vote on a compromise bill. Predictions were that the Senate would delete funding for about 8 projects. Whatever the Senate decided, the House and Senate conferees will be meeting to come up with a compromise during July and their report might go to both houses for a vote. Carter needs letters of support because he may decide to veto the bill. For more information on bill see S.C. Bulletin May - page 24 or R.G. Sierran May page 6.

ENDANGERED WILDERNESS H.R. 3454

In a significant victory for wilderness conservationists, the House Subcommittee on Indian Affairs and Public Lands has approved 14 areas for "instant wilderness designation". 7 areas originally in H.R. 3454 were rejected. New Mexico's Rio Chama, Sandias and Manzanos were approved. The widespread public support, that gave us the victory, needs to continue as the bill battles its way through the full committee, the House and the Senate.

NATIONAL ENERGY PLAN (H.R. 5331) AND HR 6660

Carter's energy plan is presently being rewritten by the House Ways and Means Committee and the House Commerce Committee is working on some related bills. His taxes on gasoline and incentives for fuel efficient cars have been rejected. Alternative energy, conservation in buildings and utility reform measures have been faring better. Letters are needed.

On committee, Bentsen introduced amendments which would have allowed no deadlines by which areas would have to meet ambient air standards. All they had to do was make some progress, however small. Domenici was a leader in overturning the Bentsen amendment, for which we are grateful.

How Can You Ever Find Out What Is Happening With Environmental Issues and What the Sierra Club is Doing?

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National News Report.
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The **National News Report** is issued about 35 times a year, usually weekly during sessions of Congress.

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It tells you **HOW YOU CAN HELP** - by writing letters or by contacting your elected officials.

It reports on what Sierra Club chapters and groups are doing around the nation to protect the environment.

It reaches you by First Class mail with all the latest news.

BREEDER

(HR 6796 AND S. 1340)

Despite Carter's disapproval of the Breeder, Congress is moving to fund the Clinch River Breeder Reactor. Both houses have bills passed out of committee with authorization and full funding for the Breeder. The Senate may vote on the Breeder early in July. (For more information, see S.C. Bulletin March - p. 12)

CLEAN WATER ACT AMENDMENTS

Hearings on the Clean Water Act are presently being held by the Senate Environmental and Public Works committees. The hearings will end in June. Floor votes on the amendments probably won't be heard before September. Issues are: best available technology, better enforcement, toxic substances, better federal funding programs etc. For more information see S.C. Bulletin p. 14, February. Senators Bensten and Domenici are on the committee.

MARINE MAMMAL PROTECTION ACT S 1550

In the continuing saga of the tuna industry vs. the dolphins, the House passed a compromise measure succumbing to industry pressure. The bill increases the number of marine mammals that may be killed. However it provides better police measures to make sure the quota is obeyed. A far more superior bill, S. 1550 will be presented in the Senate.

RADIOACTIVE WASTE

An amendment will be introduced to the ERDA authorization act that would give a state legislature the authority to veto any radioactive waste disposal sites proposed for their state. This amendment will have been voted on in the Senate by the time you get this paper.

OTHER BILLS

In this congress one can expect to see a bill calling for reform of the 1872 mining law, a bill to protect more wild rivers, and a bill asking for subsidies of synthetic fuels.

CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES

Below is a list of committees that New Mexico and Texas senators and representatives are on. Committee members have a great deal of influence over the bills that must pass through their committees. If you write to your congressmen it is helpful to know their committees.

HOUSE

Manuel Lujan is a member of

1. Interior and Insular Affairs and sits on its
-Energy and Environment
-Water and Power Resources subcommittees
2. Science and Technology and sits on its
-Development and Demonstration subcommittees

Harold Runnels is a member of

1. Interior and Insular Affairs
-mines and mining
-special investigations
2. Armed Services Committee

James Wright is a member of

1. Budget committee

Lloyd Bentsen is a member of

1. Environment and Public Works and sits on its
-Transportation
-Regional and Community Development subcommittees

2. Finance Committee - and sits on
-Private Pension and Employee Fringe Benefit subcommittee

John Towers

1. Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs and sits on its
-Financial Institutions subcommittee

2. Armed Services Committee

Peter Domenici is a member of

1. Environment and Public Works and sits on its
-Nuclear Regulation
-Water Resources
-Transportations subcommittees
2. Energy and Natural Resources and sits on its
-Energy Conservation and Regulation
-Energy Research and Development
-Public Lands and Resources subcommittees
3. Budget Committee

Domenici is also assistant minority whip

Harrison Schmitt is a member of:

1. Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs
2. Commerce, Science and Transportation and sits on its
-Science Technology and Space subcommittee

Senators address: Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

Congressmen address: House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515

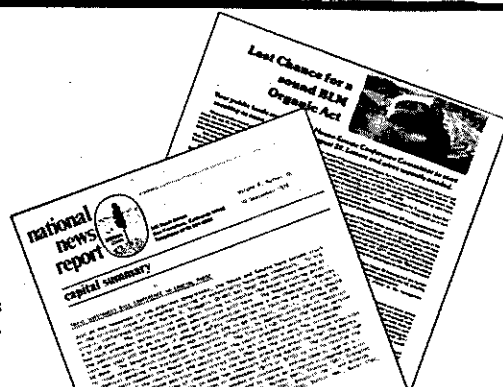
Senators and Congressmen may be called via the Capitol operator: (202)224-3121
Call the local offices inexpensively. Your message will be relayed.

Senator Harrison Schmitt
Santa Fe 988-6647
Albuquerque 766-3636
Senator Pete Domenici
Santa Fe 988-6511
Albuquerque 766-3481
Roswell 622-9272
Las Cruces 523-7433

Congressman Manuel Lujan
Santa Fe 988-6521
Albuquerque 766-2538
Las Vegas 425-7838
Congressman Harold Runnels
Lovington 396-2252
Las Cruces 863-3400
Congressman Richard White
El Paso (915)543-7650

VOTING RECORD

ISSUE	'BAROMETER'	NO VOTE	WITH US	AGAINST US
Stripmining House	Final Bill	Lujan	Wright	Runnels
Senate	Hart Amend.			Bentsen Domenici Schmitt
Water Projects (Supporting Carter) House		Runnels		Wright Lujan
Senate				
Clean Air Significant deterioration House	Breaux Amend.			Wright Lujan Runnels
Senate	Stevens Amend.		Domenici Bentsen	Schmitt Tower
Auto Emissions House	Dingel Amend. Preyer Amend. Baker Amend.	Runnels Runnels	Wright Lujan	Lujan Wright
Senate			Domenici Bentsen	Schmitt Tower



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*APODACA DOES NOT SEEK RAD-WASTE VETO

STATE OF NEW MEXICO

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT BOARD

P.O. Box 2348
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87503

The Honorable Jerry Apodaca
Governor, State of New Mexico
Executive Legislative Building
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87503

Dear Governor Apodaca:

In recent months the Environmental Improvement Board has followed reports on the ERDA Waste Isolation Pilot Project near Carlsbad with concerned interest. During this time several citizens and groups have sought the assistance of the Board in curtailing the project until its effect on our environment can be ascertained, though the Board has no such authority.

The Governor of a state can, however, petition the federal government for formal veto power over such projects in his state. Governor William Milliken of Michigan has asked for, and received, such authority over similar projects within his state.

The testimony before the Board is that the Governor of this state should have the power to cause personnel of the WIPP project to cease operation, at any stage of its development, in order to allow time for study and investigation of procedures and potential dangers to the health of New Mexico citizens. This testimony also indicates that the Governor should request the power of veto over the entire project and the power to prohibit its presence in New Mexico should that project be found unsafe or undesirable by his Technical Excellence Committee, Environmental Improvement Agency, Environmental Protection Agency, or other responsible agencies and individuals.

The Environmental Improvement Board, having been apprised of the potential harm a high level radioactive waste site in New Mexico may have on future generations, respectfully recommends that the Governor of New Mexico request the power of veto over the ERDA Waste Isolation Pilot Project in the Carlsbad area from appropriate federal officials. Should you desire additional information on the subject the Board will be pleased to assist in any way possible.

Sincerely,

KENNETH G. BROWN, Chairman

STATE OF NEW MEXICO

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
SANTA FE
87503

June 17, 1977

JERRY APODACA
GOVERNOR

Mr. Kenneth Brown
Chairman
Environmental Improvement Board
P. O. Box 2348
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87503

Dear Mr. Brown:

Thank you very much for your recent letter indicating the recommendation of the EIB that I request Power of veto over the ERDA Isolation Pilot Project near Carlsbad.

I do not believe such a request is wise at this time. First of all, the veto power attributed to Governor Milliken concerned Project Seafarer, a project which prompted me to request similar veto power.

The veto power offered to Governor Milliken in Michigan seemed to me to be more of a personal authority offered by President Ford to his home state. I do not believe President Carter is disposed to grant such authority over nuclear disposal.

It is our feeling that ERDA is working cooperatively with New Mexico in keeping us advised of the Carlsbad project. I have believed that the proper position for me to take is one of concerned neutrality, awaiting the evidence before taking a firm position. This issue, in my opinion, should be decided on the scientific considerations, not the political consequences.

I appreciate your concern, and you may rest assured I will keep it in mind should we feel such a request is necessary.

Sincerely,

JERRY APODACA
Governor

HIGH COUNTRY NEWS COMMENTS ON

CARTER'S ENVIRONMENTAL MESSAGE

Environmentalists hailed President Carter's environmental message delivered May 23, saying it marked "the sharpest shift on environmental matters since Theodore Roosevelt (who created the national parks system) was President."

While it did not include particularly innovative ideas, it did endorse several controversial proposals now in Congress. Its most important direct impacts will likely be through the executive orders on floodplains, wetlands, and off road vehicles, which do not have to be approved by Congress.

Endorsing all of the over 70 existing wilderness proposals totaling 24 million acres pending before Congress, Carter also recommended four new National Park wilderness areas, including three in Utah...Arches, Canyonlands, and Capitol Reef.

He also recommended immediate attention to the Aravaipa Canyon in Arizona, which would be the first wilderness area on Bureau of Land Management land.

In addition to the wilderness proposals already being considered by Congress, he recommended enlarging the following Western wilderness areas or study areas: Idaho and Salmon River Breaks in Idaho, Guadalupe Escarpment Wilderness in New Mexico and Texas, Beartooth-Absaroka in Montana and Wyoming, and the wilderness in the Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona.

Lamenting that only 19 free-flowing rivers have been designated as part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, Carter recommended that segments of eight rivers be added to the system and that 20 river segments be studied before they are dammed, channelized, or damaged by unwise development.

Carter proposed adding segments of the following Western rivers to the system: Bruneau River in Idaho, Dolores River in Colorado, and Salmon River in Idaho.

He also proposed designating study of the following Western rivers: Gila River in New Mexico, Green River in Utah, Sweetwater

River in Wyoming, Yellowstone River in Wyoming and Montana, Salt River in Arizona, Gulkans River in Alaska, Delta River in Alaska, and the Madison River in Montana.

Water Policy

Sen. Hatch's fear that Carter wants to stifle development in the West, however, may have been inspired more by the President's statement on water policy than upon his wilderness and wild river ideas. Carter directed the Secretary of Interior to prepare a nationwide evaluation of the water supply needs and availability for development of various energy resources. The President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) explained that Carter thinks these uses of water may "impose unacceptable cumulative demands, particularly in water-short regions."

The water policy reform will also mean more attention to environmental and indirect economic costs from water development projects. A joint study by the CEQ and two other federal agencies on water policy is to be completed within six months.

To protect water quality, Carter recommended that Congress authorize \$4.5 billion in each of the next 10 years for municipal waste water treatment facilities.

Mining Leasing

Many environmental and mining groups waited with interest to hear details of Carter's recommendations for mining of both coal and hardrock minerals. The effects of his statement on both are expected to be significant in the West.

Carter agreed with Western environmental groups' contention that 16 billion tons of federal coal is already under lease. The federal government normally responds to this argument against further leasing by saying that production on these leases is extremely limited. Existing leases were not covered by most of the provisions of the new leasing program that went into effect last year since they were "grandfathered" out.

APODACA'S ACTIONS CRITICIZED

"The question is not whether to exercise the veto authority, only whether to seek it and place the state in a decisive role on this vital question. States do have the ultimate responsibility to protect the health and safety of their citizens. This is not a theoretical question when considering nuclear wastes. The federal government's Hanford Washington waste storage site is an example of the kind of dangers that can develop. The Columbia River in that state is now considered the most radioactive river in the world...."

The Governor's reasons in his letter refusing to seek authority over the WIPP project are a smoke screen and are misleading. Other states have sought control over radioactive waste disposal.

One ERDA official has already made a public statement saying they would not put the waste disposal site here if the state did not want it. The Governor must acknowledge his role and the role of the state in that decision.

We call on the Governor to reconsider his position. We urge the people of the state to write to Governor Apodaca and express their desire that the state reserve veto power over this project.

And finally we ask that the Governor face up to his legal and moral responsibilities and insure that the people of this state will play a decisive role in the waste disposal project proposed by ERDA."

From a press release of:
Southwest Research and Information Center
P. O. Box 4524
Albuquerque, New Mexico



TO CONGRESS

Carter directed Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus to take appropriate action on existing leases, to assure that they will be developed in a "timely and environmentally acceptable manner." He suggested Andrus would offer to exchange environmentally unsatisfactory leases for environmentally acceptable public lands of equivalent value, as a last resort, condemn the leasing rights upon payment of reasonable compensation if necessary to prevent environmental damage. Congress would have to pass a law allowing such condemnation powers.

Andrus is not to lease any new tract until he is satisfied that the environmental impact of mining would be acceptable and that the federal government will receive a fair market value for the lease.

If Congress approves the reforms that Carter suggests for rock mining laws, the federal government will have the power to use similar leasing procedures for minerals such as uranium, gold, silver, iron, copper, lead, zinc, etc. Presently, under the Mining Law of 1872, anyone who wants to mine on public land can acquire exclusive rights by simply filing a notice of claim in the local county courthouse. The government can't refuse a mining permit and lacks clear authority to establish any environmental standards to protect public lands, according to the CEQ.

BLM officials have said privately that the proposed leasing system will protect the public but will tend to discriminate against individual prospectors who can't afford to bid for the resource in a competitive system and who can't afford proper reclamation procedures.

ORV's, Predators

Carter's executive order on off-road vehicles seemed to generate the most interest from the public. The actual impact of the order, however, will depend largely on each federal land manager's interpretation of it.

Carter said that whenever the head of an agency determines that use of off-road vehicles (ORV's) will cause or is causing "considerable adverse effects on the soil, vegetation, wildlife, wildlife habitat, or cultural or historic resources" of particular areas or trails, he shall immediately close that area to the type of vehicles that are causing the damage. He may open the area again if he determines that the adverse effects have been eliminated.

Carter said he supports the executive order prohibiting routine use of poisons for killing predators on public lands and that he favors focusing on the individual predators causing the problem rather than on the species.

Entering an even more controversial arena, Carter stated his support for the Endangered Species Act, asking that all critical habitat be identified as soon as possible.

Floodplains

In another executive order, Carter announced that the federal government will also no longer subsidize development in floodplains. While Congress is considering legislation to gut even the present limitations on development in floodplains, Carter ordered more stringent controls.

Wetlands

As a boost to other wildlife species, Carter proposed a budget increase of \$295 million for wildlife refuges and an increase of \$50 million over the next five years to purchase wetlands.

In addition, he announced the federal government will no longer "subsidize" the destruction of wetlands. He issued an executive order directing all federal agencies not to give any financial support to proposed developments in wetlands unless the agency determines that "no practicable alternative sites exist."

Reprinted from the:
HIGH COUNTRY NEWS
BOX K
Lander, Wyoming 82520

FERAL BURRO
REDUCTION AT BANDELIER

The Park Service in N.M. has recently been placed in the difficult position of having to shoot 66 feral burros at Bandelier. The burros were overgrazing a large section of Bandelier. What follows are excerpts from a letter by Roland H. Wauer, Chief of Natural Resource Management S.W. Region of the National Park Service in which he explains to an estranged citizen the reasons for the shootings. The Sierra Club officially supports the Park Service and commends the Southwest Office for their sincere efforts to involve the public and to find a decent solution to the problem. Those people appreciating their efforts could help by writing a letter to William Whalen, Director of the National Park Service, Washington D.C.

Excerpts From Letter

"We are fully aware of the controversial nature of a burro reduction program and our obligation for keeping the public informed. We, therefore prepared an environmental assessment on the subject.... and presented alternative actions at a publicized public workshop on Dec. 15, 1976....

...Based upon the above response from the public, we published our intentions as follows: Step one would be to provide for a 30 day live trapping and removal program to test that alternative. This program was initiated in February and 19 special use permits were issued. A total of only nine burros were removed at a cost of 340 man-hours per animal; this included an extension of this program for an additional 30 days. We consider this alternative unsuccessful.

Step two was to develop a program with the U.S. Forest Service, within the Southwest corner of the Monument, to continue research studies to determine burro movements and distribution within the adjoining lands. This study will continue through 1978.

Step three--direct reduction by shooting-- was to take place east of the study area and only if step one did not succeed. And this program would not take place until wintertime. For safety reasons, visitors would no longer be using the backcountry of the park.

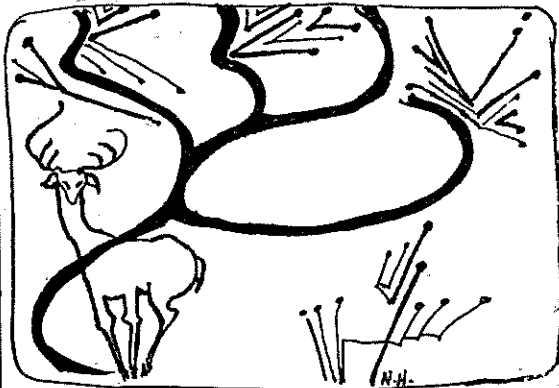
LA MESA FIRE

This is where we stood on the issue when the La Mesa Fire severely burned the upper one-third of Bandelier National Monument. The fire destroyed much of the deer and elk summer range and forced many of these animals into their winter range and direct competition with burros. Research previously had convinced us that this lower range already was in very poor condition from longtime use by burros. Researchers also compared small mammal and bird populations in similar habitats on burro range against areas not utilized by burros. Populations of small mammals were only one-half as great on the burro range as on burro-free range. So song birds had been reduced by 24% on burro range, or 258 birds per 100 acres on burro range compared with 338 birds per 100 acres on burro-free range. We believed that unless we took immediate action that the winter time mortality of burros, deer and elk would be unavoidably high.

We prepared a park-wide rehabilitation plan that included the reduction of burros from the deer and elk winter range. On Wednesday, June 29, we announced to the news media our intention to immediately reduce the burro population to relieve the inevitable over use of winter range. By noon, Friday, when the reduction activities ceased, the burro population had been reduced by 66 animals ...

The National Park Service is the only land-managing agency that believes in full preservation of the natural processes. All other land-managing agencies follow policies that relate to multi-use of their resources. Park Service mandates established by Congress directly includes the elimination of all exotic species, whether they be non-native plants or animals. It is that guideline that we follow in managing less than 1% of the land within the United States.

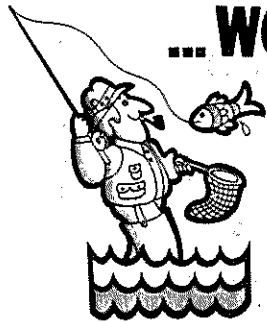
It is our sincere purpose to comply with the Congressional Mandates that guide the management of the National Park System, while at the same time be totally candid with the American public. We believe in our actions and that anyone understanding the details of the situation will support the program.



SHARE YOUR TALENT

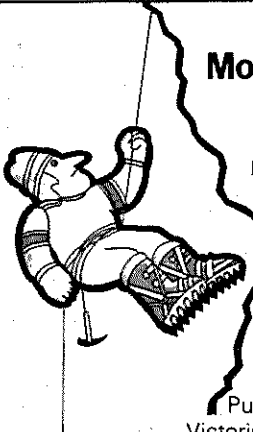
We need your help to make the Rio Grande Sierran a better paper. We need ARTISTS to help with layout and design. We need WRITERS to help create articles and we need TYPISTS. We need people to send in POEMS, PHOTOS & SKETCHES. We will be running a trail guide section in each newspaper - we need HIKERS who are willing to share their knowledge with others.

Have you got
what it takes?
... we do!



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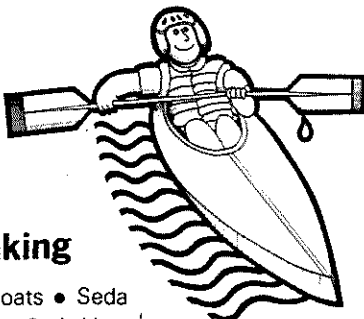
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ROADLESS AREA REVIEW AND EVALUATION RARE Workshops Scheduled

Workshops have already been held in Carlsbad, Cuba, Silver City, Albuquerque, and Las Vegas, New Mexico. A workshop has been held in El Paso.

DATE	PLACE	TIME	LOCATION
July 18	T. or C., NM	7-10 pm	Hot Spring HS, Cafeteria
	Alamogordo, NM	7-10 pm	Holiday Inn
	Grants, NM	7-10 pm	Grants State Bank
	Magdalena, NM	7-10 pm	Ranger Station
	Mountainair, NM	7-10 pm	Ranger Station
Aug	1 Reserve, NM	7-10 pm	Reserve HS, Cafeteria
	2 Clayton, NM	7-10 pm	Clayton Airport
	3 Santa Fe, NM	7-10 pm	Sheraton Inn
	4 Las Cruces, NM	7-10 pm	NM State, Corbett Center Ballroom
	8 Taos, NM	7-10 pm	Carson NF, Supervisor's Office
	16 Albuquerque, NM	7-10 pm	Sheraton Old Town

A NEW ROADLESS AREA REVIEW HAS BEEN ORDERED FIRST REVIEW FOUND INADEQUATE

In 1972-73 the Forest Service conducted the Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE) in which they tried to identify all roadless areas of 5000 acres or more on the National Forests and then, through an elaborate computer qualification program and public input, selected those roadless areas which seemed most suitable for formal wilderness study.

As a result of the thorough going bias against wilderness and for resource exploitation in RARE, most of the roadless areas identified were not selected for wilderness study. Of the 56 million acres identified as roadless on the National Forests (1449 separate tracts) only 12.3 million acres (274 areas) were selected for wilderness study -- and many of these areas had already been scheduled for study as possible additions to Forest Service primitive areas.

Conservationists have protested the inadequacy and bias of RARE ever since 1972 and have taken their case to Congress several times, culminating in the Endangered American Wilderness Act (HR 3454 and S 1180) of this year.

Under Gerald Ford, the Administration generally opposed significant wilderness expansion, but Jimmy Carter was elected on an environmental platform that strongly supported a large wilderness system. Secretary of Agriculture, Rupert Cutler (a former Asst. Executive Director of the Wilderness Society), in testimony on the Endangered Wilderness Act before the House Interior Committee, not only expressed Administration support for the bill, but also announced that the Forest Service would undertake a new roadless area review and evaluation. We have a superb opportunity now with a more friendly administration to insure that more of the presently roadless and undeveloped lands on the National Forests will be protected as wilderness.

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