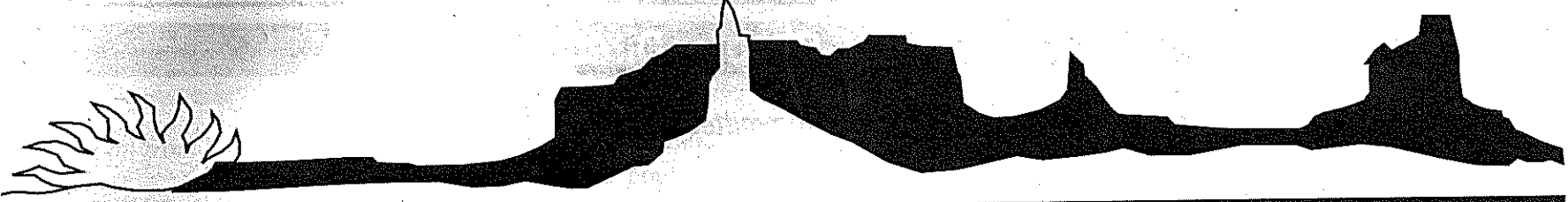


Rio Grande Sierran



November / December 1999

News of the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club

Inside this Issue

Water Planning Council	Page 6
Sprawl and Roads	Page 6
Road and Rail	Page 7
Uniting for the Animals	Page 8
Wilderness	Page 9
Sprawl Report	Page 9
Chapter ExCom Election	Page 10
Population	Page 12
Issue Outings	Page 24
Stay Informed	Page 24

Group News and Elections

Southern	Page 13
Pajarito	Page 14
Santa Fe	Page 15
Central	Page 18
El Paso	Page 22

Chapter and Group Elections


It is CRITICALLY important that you express your voice. We had a great turnout last year, let's do it again!

The direction that your local Sierra Club takes depends upon the folks you elect. Take the time to read the candidates statements and send in your ballot(s).

Every member in New Mexico and El Paso County, Texas gets to vote in the Chapter election. Each member also gets to vote in their respective Group election.

Please mail your Chapter and Santa Fe group ballots to the Chapter Secretary:

Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club
Secretary
PO Box 22247
Santa Fe, NM 87502-2247



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Sierra Club
P.O. Box 9191
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Pajarito, Central and Southern Groups: Copy Your
Name, Address, Member #, and Group # to your Ballot!

Baca Sale Back On

Management and Authorization Bill Introduced In Senate

Jennifer Johnson
Vice-Chair, Executive Committee
Rio Grande Chapter, Sierra Club

The on again-off again sale of the Baca Ranch seems to be on again. The approximately 95,000 acre ranch, owned by the Dunigan family of Abilene, Texas, and located in the Jemez Mountains, has been offered to the federal government several times since the early 1900's. In the past, negotiations for purchase have broken down for various reasons, and most recently the Dunigans withdrew their offer to sell in January of this year when a problem arose, apparently concerning the appraisal. The Clinton administration, through the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), has been working with the Dunigans and others for the past several months, and in early September a deal was announced.

A little over two years ago, in September of 1997, Senator Jeff Bingaman (D, NM) introduced a bill (S.1210, the Valle Grande/Valles Caldera Preservation Bill) which would have authorized the U.S.D.A. Forest Service to acquire the ranch and add the lands to the Santa Fe National Forest. However, due to partisanship that bill languished. As the 105th Congress approached the appropriations process in the early summer of 1998, the prospects for a purchase looked bleak. Then, be-

cause of an up welling of support for the purchase from across America, numerous members of Congress began asking our New Mexico delegation, "What is the Baca Ranch?". President Clinton took an active interest in the purchase and promised \$40 million from the Land and Water Conservation Fund as a down payment. Finally, in October, 1998, due to much public pressure, Senator Pete Domenici introduced a bill (S.2621, the Valles Caldera National Preserve and Trust).

Though any recent changes to the original bill are unknown, in its early form S.2621 is a far cry from the initial legislation introduced by Senator Bingaman. Senator Domenici's bill would "authorize the acquisition of the Valles Caldera..., to provide for an effective land and wildlife management program for this resource within the Department of Agriculture through the private sector, and for other purposes." This management would be based on an experimental model. The preserve would be managed by the "Valles Caldera Trust", a quasi-governmental corporation comprised of a nine-member board of private citizens. The trust would have wide latitude to make management decisions mostly independent of traditional national forest land-use laws.

See Baca Sale on Page 3

Cut Here

Rio Grande Chapter Executive Committee - Vote for THREE (no mas)

Member	Spouse
<input type="checkbox"/> Cecily Vix	<input type="checkbox"/> Norma McCallan
<input type="checkbox"/> Ted Mertig	<input type="checkbox"/> Michael Norte
<input type="checkbox"/> Blair Brown	<input type="checkbox"/> Barbara Johnson

Santa Fe Group

Vote for only Five (no mas)
(valid only if you are in the Santa Fe Group)

<input type="checkbox"/> Dee Ann Sands	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Gwen Wardwell	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> John Buchser	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Eleanor Eisenmenger	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Courtney White	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Norma McCallan	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Lionel Soracco	<input type="checkbox"/>

**BALLOT MUST BE
RETURNED BY NOV. 30, 1999**

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Sierra Club Structure

The Club has three structural levels. The National Board of Directors determines the overall direction of the Club. The National Organization is subdivided into Chapters, and each Chapter is further divided into Groups. One representative from each Chapter reports to the National Board through the Council of Club Leaders. The nearest full-time Club staffers are in Phoenix.

The Rio Grande Chapter hires a lobbyist full-time during the session of the New Mexico Legislature. The largest part of the Chapter's budget goes to the printing and mailing of this Newsletter, followed by the salary and expenses for the lobbyist.



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Ted Mertig, Gwen Wardell; Elizabeth Walsh (alternate)
Council of Club Leaders Delegate
Barbara Johnson; Norma McCallan (alternate)

Sierran

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Make address changes by contacting Membership Services at 415 977-5649 or send member name and number to address.changes@sierraclub.org

Non-member subscriptions at \$10.00 per year are available. Send checks to Blair Brown, Treasurer; 2226B Wyoming NE, # 272, Albuquerque, NM 87112. Please allow 8 weeks for processing.

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Contributions are welcome from members. Email contributions preferred. Send to jbuchser@ni.net or mail to John Buchser, 223 N. Guadalupe PMB 419, Santa Fe, NM 87501. **All submissions should be received by the 10th of the month prior to publication.** (The Rio Grande Sierran is published in early January, March, May, July, September, and November.) Photos, artwork and poems are also welcome. Letters and articles are subject to abridgement.

Contact editor for advertising policy and rates.

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Save the Baca

Baca Sale on from Page 1

There are several concerns with the bill as it was originally introduced. First, the legislation has a weak and confusing conservation mandate. Though it has as the purpose to protect and preserve.... the scenic and natural values of the Baca.", it would also be required to be managed as a "working ranch" and establish recreation, logging, grazing and sustained yield as equal purposes and allowed to occur "insofar as is consistent with the other purposes". But all uses are not equal since some have a much greater inherent capacity to degrade. Second, it exempts the Trust from complying with the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act and hence, an amendment to it, the National Forest Management Act. This would do away with all requirements for forest planning, maintenance of minimum viable wildlife populations, and restrictions on clear cutting, among other things. It also calls for no administrative appeals, which takes away the process by which the public can raise concerns, challenge project level decisions or the management plan, other than in federal court, which would force aggrieved parties into litigation.

Third, the legislation directs the Trust to seek financial self-sufficiency. This could create an incentive to exceed carrying capacity of any use or resource in order to generate revenues sufficient for management and administrative expenses. Besides the potential for over-development, revenue generating

uses, and resource damage, a self sufficiency mandate could force user fees to be set, and set too high to benefit residents of northern New Mexico. It could also force non-revenue producing activities such as monitoring, research and education-interpretation to take a back seat to revenue producing activities.

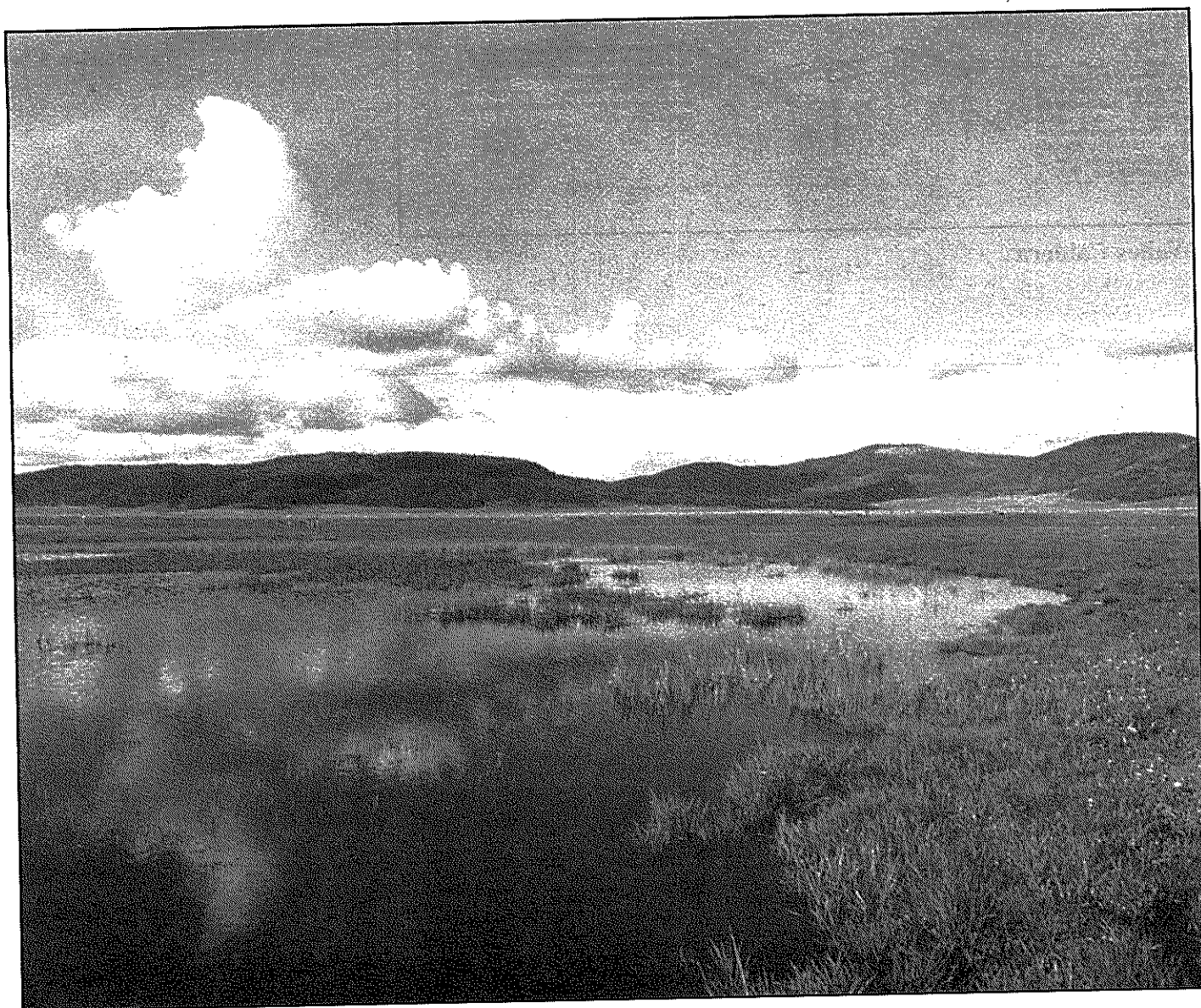
Finally, the bill deals with the addition of lands to Bandelier National Monument and completion of a USFS/NPS "watershed management study" which is extremely problematic. The justification and need for management of Bandelier National Monument through acquisition of its watersheds was accepted and passed into law in October, 1998 in the Bandelier Headwaters Protection Act S.1132. There is no need to conduct a "watershed management study", instead, the bill should require that upon acquisition of the Baca Ranch the Secretary of the Interior shall assume administrative jurisdiction over the approximately 16,000 acres of upper Sanchez, Capulin, and Alamo Canyons.

On Saturday, October 16, Senator Bingaman, Senator Domenici, Congressman Udall and Congresswoman Wilson together announced the good news that a deal had been secured between the Dunigans and the federal government. However, they all stressed that this is only the beginning. Though we here in northern New Mexico fully appreciate the uniqueness of this property many in the rest of the state know little about it. Evidence of that is that Congressman Skeen was absent at the news release and his position on

the legislation has not been mentioned. Further, when the Dunigans earlier withdrew their offer to sell, the \$40 million that had been set aside for the down payment was used for other purposes. According to Mark Edwards, Senator Bingaman's legislative assistant, a \$40 million dollar appropriation was recently included in the Interior Department appropriation bill. But the remaining \$61million will still need to be appropriated.

A deal with the Dunigans and an appropriation of money, however, does not ensure passage of legislation authorizing the purchase. Without the legislation we have nothing. Therefore, it is imperative that the congressional delegations in other states be made aware of the importance of this property, not only to New Mexico but to the rest of the nation. It is extremely important that our New Mexico delegation hear from their constituents about the importance of the Baca Ranch acquisition. But just as importantly delegations from other states must also hear that message. If you want this purchase to happen, talk to your friends and family who live in other states and strongly suggest (plead if you must) they contact their congressional delegation.

Representative Regula (R-OH), usually a strong opponent of federal land acquisition, got behind this legislation after visiting the Baca Ranch last year. But Senator Murkowski (R-AK) and Representative Young (R-AK) must also be persuaded that this purchase is important.



Save the Baca

We Need Our Members Help to Save the Baca

By John Buchser and Dave Simon

In large part, the reason that we now have support for public acquisition of the Baca property in Washington is because you responded to our call for support last year. Now that we appear close to having the beginnings of a payment for the property, we must make the message clear that in addition to purchasing the property, we need to protect the property from an environmental perspective.

In terms of targets, Bingaman, Domenici, and Udall are the top priorities. Bingaman and Domenici need to hear oppo-

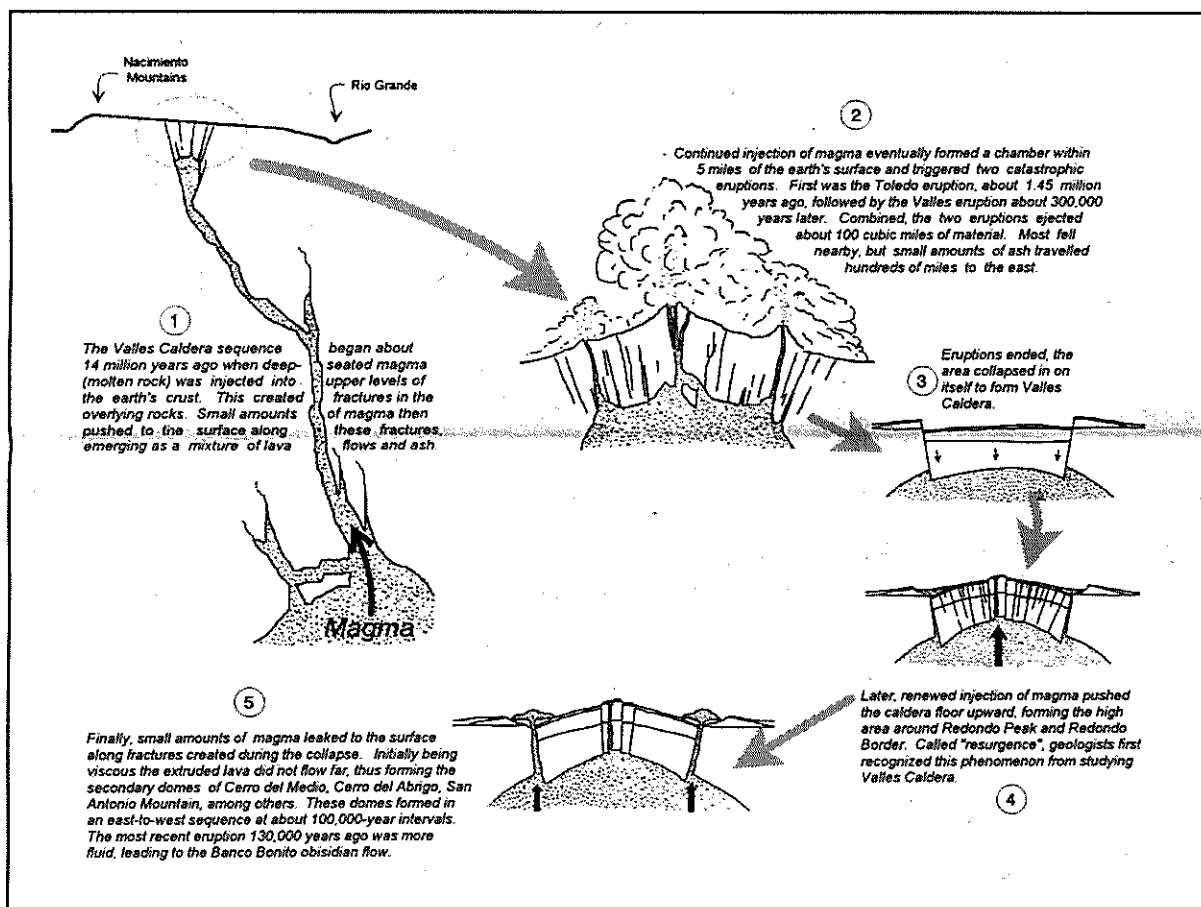
sition to the bad stuff, Udall must be told to be strong and fight for improvements.

Other targets for the "improve the bill message":

Senate: Democrats on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, including Bingaman (NM), Dorgan (ND), Graham (FL), Johnson (SD), Landrieu (LA), Bayh (IN), Lincoln (AR), Wyden (OR), Akaka (HI)

House: Republicans: Rep. Don Young (AZ), Speaker Hastert (IL), Rep. Hansen (UT), Rep. Regula (OH), Rep. Chenoweth (ID), all need to hear support protecting the Baca Democrats: Rep. Miller (CA), Rep. Vento (MN), Rep. Rahall (WV), Rep. DeFazio (OR), the two Udalls of course, Rep. Dicks (WA)

Please read Jennifer's cover article. Then, contact friends who live in the mentioned districts, and ask them to contact their legislators too.



Geologic History of Valles Caldera

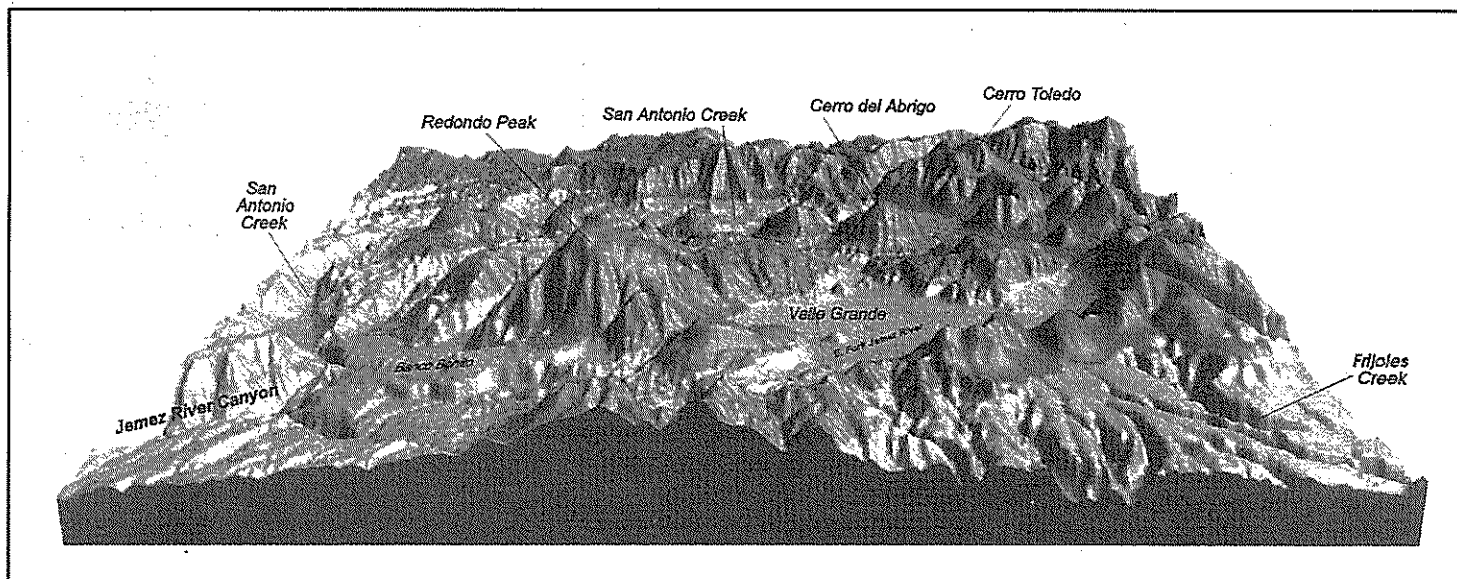
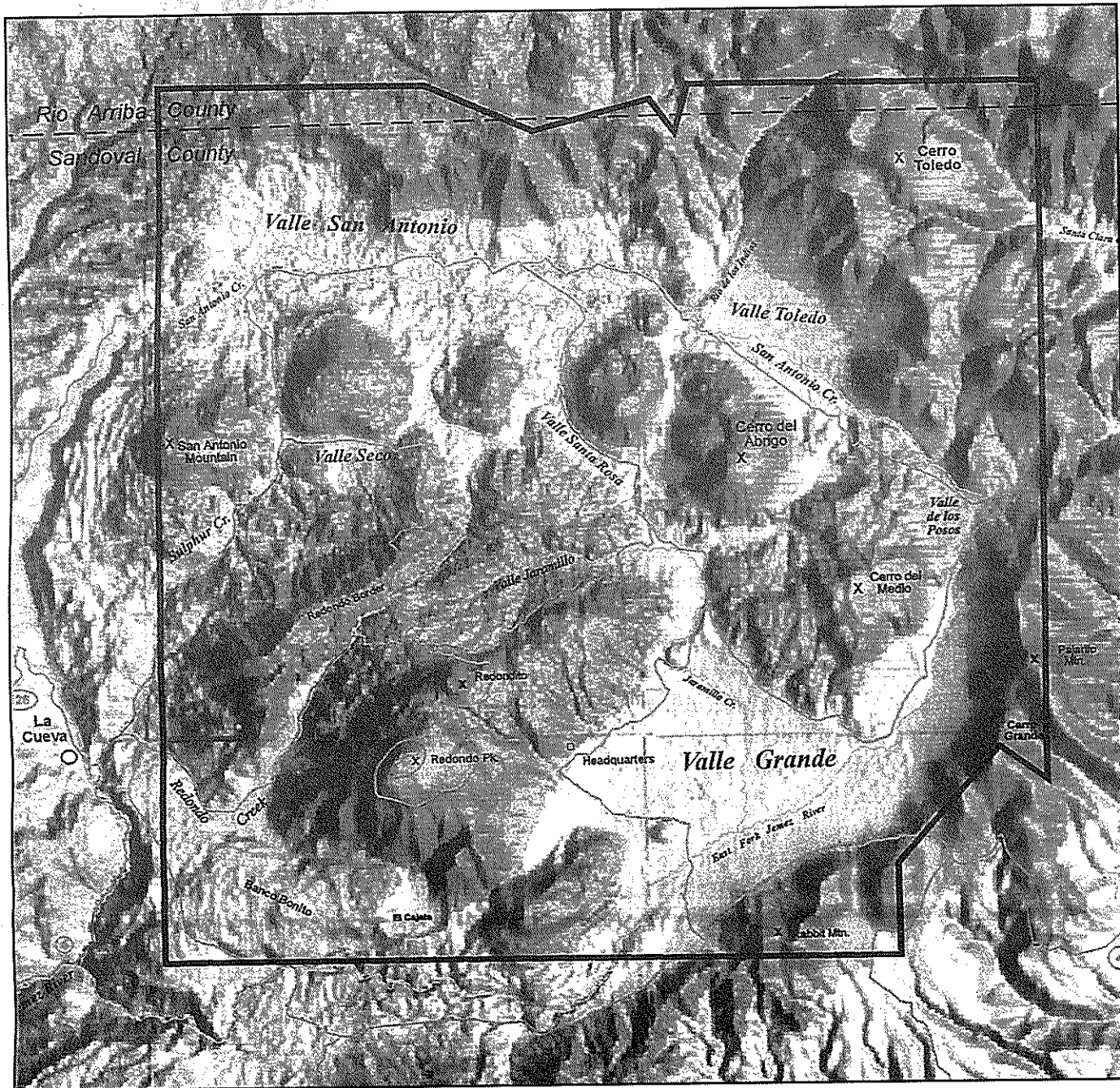
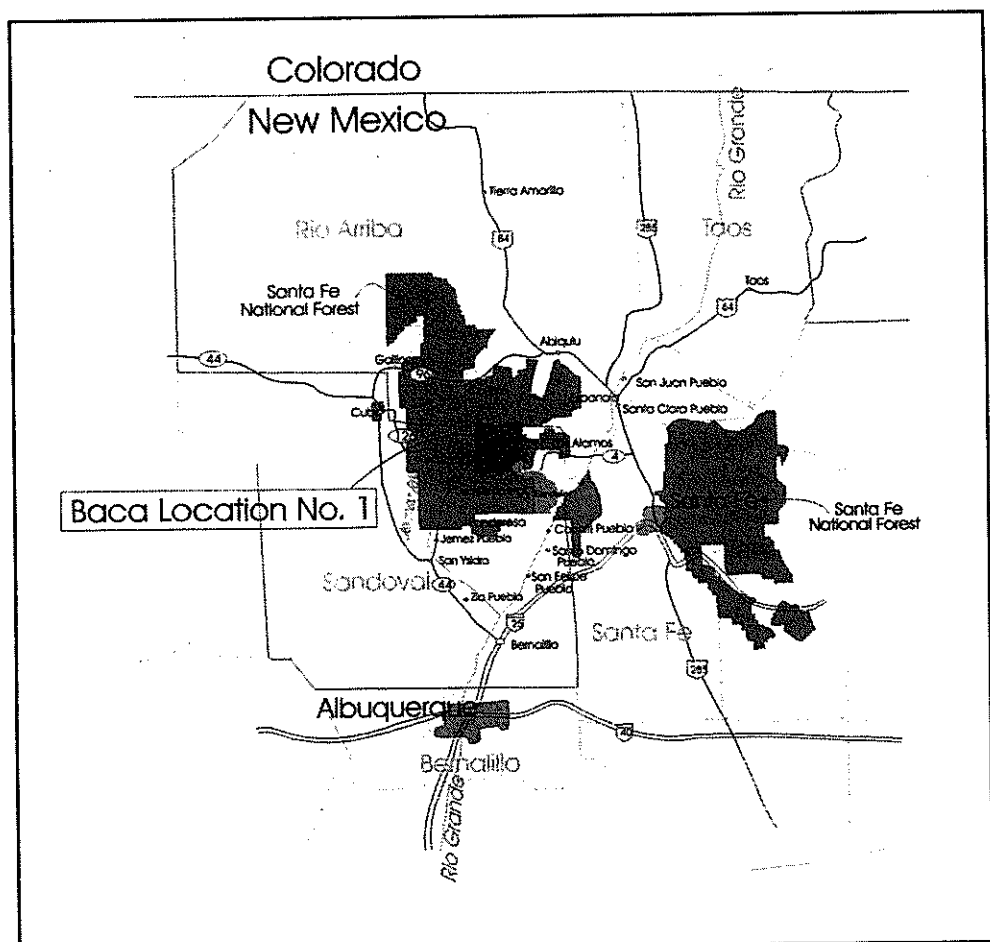


Image of Valles Caldera

Save the Baca



Geographic Features



Graphics on pages 3,4, and 5 courtesy of US Forest Service, report on Baca USGPO # 1998-674-946



Water and Sprawl

Water Planning Underway In Santa Fe, Espanola, Los Alamos Area

By Estevan Lopez

*Santa Fe County Utilities Director
Chair, Jemez y Sangre Regional
Water Planning Council*

Regional water planning in north central New Mexico is about the things that matter most in the life of our communities: land, climate and culture. During the next two years, people from Santa Fe, Espanola, Los Alamos and surrounding communities will talk about those things in light of our most important natural resource - water. In the Jemez y Sangre Regional Water Planning Region, we can no longer assume there will be enough water for all of the people who could be living here in 2060. The region extends from Embudo in the north to Madrid in the south, from the Jemez Mountains on the west to the Sangre de Cristos on the east. People in communities throughout the region will have numerous opportunities to participate in the creation of the regional water plan.

The Jemez y Sangre Regional Water Planning Council was formed in response to the need for New Mexico to understand its water supply and present and future uses. The need came to light nearly 20 years ago when the City of El Paso claimed water from New Mexico. The judge in the lawsuit ruled that New Mexico could only prevent the export of water if it had a plan for its use. Ultimately, the Jemez y Sangre plan and 15 other regional water plans will be unified in a state water plan by the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission.

The task of the Council is three-fold: First, the Council will gather data showing how much water is available for use in the region, taking into account snowfall, rain, runoff and recycling, as well as the various legal restrictions and allocations that exist. The data will also show present usage for city residential, agricultural, environmental and industrial uses. The Council will then attempt to reach agreement on population projections and fu-

ture water uses of water within the region. This crucial step will reveal whether there is currently an imbalance in the supply and demand of water or if an imbalance is likely to develop.

Second, the Council has defined 10 sub-regions in the region to include every watershed and community, and will convene meetings about water and the public welfare with the residents of those sub-regions. In two series of meetings, residents will have their say about what is important to them, their families, their jobs and their cultures.

Third, residents will help the Council identify what alternatives exist if there is a serious imbalance between supply and demand, and what choices may have to be made to make sure there is enough water to support the projected demand. The questions may be difficult or impossible to answer: What effect do domestic wells have on a community's overall water supply, and when would a community system be beneficial? What kind of interaction over the use of water should occur between growing cities and rural areas? Under what criteria should competing uses of water be evaluated? The Council may not be able to settle every question.

The local governments in the region will have to give final approval to the plan and ultimately the plan will be subject to state and federal law. Residents of the region can help the Jemez y Sangre Regional Water Planning Council formulate and possibly answer these tough questions. The Council meets at 3 p.m. on the second Monday of every month at Northern New Mexico Community College in Espanola. Residents can also get on the Jemez y Sangre mailing list to stay abreast of the planning process. Any resident who would like additional information about the Jemez y Sangre Regional Water Plan may call me at 986-6210 or Amy Lewis, water resources planning coordinator, City of Santa Fe, at 954-7123.

Sprawl Begins with "Improved" Roads

By Jennifer Johnson

Vice-Chair, Rio Grande Chapter

For over twenty years the State of New Mexico has been trying to widen and straighten a route cross the Jemez Mountains of northern New Mexico. Though two highways presently serve to access the west side of the mountains from the east, the plan to cut an improved highway through the mountains persists. It is presumed the route across the mountains will bring tourist traffic between Farmington and Los Alamos because the route appears shorter but in fact it saves only about 20 miles and about 10 minutes driving time.

The proposed project lies in the Jemez Mountains, between the west side of the Jemez Plateau and the east slope of the Nacimiento Range. The Jemez Plateau is composed of overlying volcanic flows originating from debris from the Valle Grande. The Nacimiento Range is a narrow, complexly folded and faulted mountain belt that has moved westward over an over-thrust fault. The Rio de Las Vacas forms the physiographic boundary between the two.

New Mexico Highway 126, located in the Jemez Mountains, runs between highway 4 at La Cueva on the east and highway 44 in Cuba on the west. It is also designated as New Mexico Forest Highway 12. Its earliest beginning was probably as a portion of a game or hunting trail, but by the 1890's some sections had become two track wagon roads constructed by early homesteaders. The present alignment became a state highway in 1929 and was improved by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930's. Except for grading, the highway alignment has not been changed for 70 years and appears today much as it originally did.

The Forest Highway Program maintains a continuing schedule which annually selects forest highways for reconstruction based on their need for improvement and their benefit to the state, or county. In the 1970's about 8 miles on the east end, between La Cueva and Fenton Lake, and about 8.5 miles at the west end from Cuba to Senorita Divide were paved. The 20 mile section in between was also evaluated for project development and a Draft Environmental Impact Statement was completed. But in 1978 the "no build" alternative was selected because there was little demand for the project, and there was considerable opposition, including from Sandoval County Commissioners.



See Road Sprawl on Page 7



Sprawl

Road Sprawl from Page 6

Ten years later, FHP decided to restart project development and held Inter-agency and public meetings in 1989. It was decided that an Environmental Impact Statement should be done. Public scoping meetings for the NM Highway 126/Forest Highway 12 project were held in Albuquerque, Jemez Springs, Cuba, Santa Fe, and Seven Springs in 1989, 1991, and 1995. The Draft EIS was released in September 1997, and hearings were held to obtain input concerning the document. At the time the Draft EIS was written, the reconstruction was only 30% designed. The Final EIS was expected to be completed in May 1999 but due to debate concerning the presence of the threatened Jemez Mountain Salamander the release has been delayed.

In 1993 a small group of area business owners formed the Jemez Valley Business Association with the primary purpose of generating additional tourist traffic in the Jemez. Most of these businesses had recently changed hands or were newly created and the owners felt that they had a new look to offer the visitors. Taking their cue from the Turquoise Trail on Highway 14, they created the concept of the Jemez Mountain Trail, on Highway 4.

Looking for money to print a brochure to promote the Trail they contacted the Sandoval County tourism director, Debbie Scott-Graham. She told them that financial resources would be available if the Trail was nominated as a New Mexico State Scenic and Historic Byway. They proceeded with this and in 1994 a grant was awarded and a brochure created.

However, probably because Scott-Graham worked for Sandoval County and because the town of Cuba had been seeking tourist promotion due to economic hard times there, the Byway proposed was changed to run from San Ysidro up to La Cueva on Highway 4, across Highway 126 to Cuba and down Highway 44 back to San Ysidro. According to Scott-Graham the Byway did not include Highway 4 east from La Cueva to Los Alamos, but according to the state Byway administration, it did. State Scenic and Historic Byway status was awarded in 1994.

Scott-Graham also applied for a grant from the National Scenic Byway Program through the New Mexico State Highway and Transportation Department, Scenic and Historic byways Program to produce a "Corridor management Plan" for future tourism promotion in the Jemez, which was produced by Seely and Associates, a Washington, DC consultant.

In 1997 Sandoval County was awarded a grant through the Scenic Byways Program from the National Scenic Byways

See Road Sprawl on Page 8

By Ken Hughes

Transportation Chair

The Sierra Club hosted talks by Bob Yuhnke, a Boulder Co. attorney who specializes in fighting bad highway projects, in October in Santa Fe. His cogent words are excerpted in this article.

Highways are the frameworks for expanding communities, though they are usually thought of as impacts on existing neighborhoods. They need to be reviewed on both a regional and global scale, too.

Year 2020 truck traffic increases, coming from Pacific port cities as well as from Mexican & Canadian border crossings, will fill all affected interstate road space. Year 2010 global emissions due to highway impacts increasing sprawl may likely exceed air quality caps, with major impacts on not just road but development projects.

The standard argument has been that highways don't pollute, cars do, and highways are needed for people. A new EPA report refutes this argument by showing that the phenomena of "induced demand" causes a 25 percent increase in global warming gases, due to new and expanded roads.

Beyond fighting individual highway projects, it is essential that we build coalitions to demand honest regional planning, based on a vision that says that transportation services are needed that just do not trap people in cars. The last fifty years, however, have trapped people in cars.

Those who are too young, too old, too infirmed or too stubborn to drive make up 30 percent of America, and this 30 percent is virtually left unserved by our transportation system. They are deprived of meaningful mobility, for jobs, for recreation, for shopping, etc.

The right of access to jobs, to public space, to mobility in a culture that demand you be mobile: these are all civil rights issues.

Quality of life for all, use of land, amount of agriculture lands and of wild lands converted, loss of habitat: all are determined by the choices in how we build towns and mobility choices therein. Some of these are legal choices. Portland's allows transit to serve lots of people through land use choices.

Statutes — Clean Air Act Amendments; TEA-21; National Environmental Policy Act; and Title VI Civil Rights Act — are not applied by citizens enough, as tools to reshape local planning decisions. The planning process requires thinking and acting regionally, yet it imposes no outcome. This allows much input to shape that outcome. The Clean Air Act's mandate to control ozone meant controlling auto tailpipes, through de-

sign standards and 20 year transportation plans that must set air pollution targets and consequences for not reaching them. NEPA goals have been thwarted by myopic views of highway lobbyists. Thus, EI statements fail to look cumulative impacts, especially the effects on the entire region. New lawsuits throughout the USA are now challenging the adequacy of these NEPA reviews. The Chicago outer loop, to ease trucking congestion yet causing sprawl through cornfields, was sued successfully by the Sierra Club. Such court challenges can stir up the public on why it is not always the best approach to continually add new roads further and further from town.

Title VI applies to recipients of federal aid. The funds cannot be used to affect people of color or the poor in a discriminating way. The key here is to educate folks on the discriminating nature of highways.

Yuhnke was the successful lawyer in a May 1999 lawsuit in Atlanta, stopping \$700 million of road projects. Political leaders never felt anyone would challenge them. The immediate reaction was to reprogram \$90 million into transit, bicycle and other non new road projects. Also, US Dept. Transportation is looking at the discriminating effects of Atlanta roads, such as the pollution effects on the poor living next to freeways.

Who gets to make transportation choices? Untold to us by the highway departments, it is at the metropolitan level. Only recently has this been realized, and that you can tell the state no thanks to that proposed road, we would rather get bus and rail service. This tension between state old ways and regional realizing new ways is occurring all over the nation.

There are two routes to redirect transportation funds into projects we desire. The first is confrontational, that is, we don't want to spend money on bypasses and beltways but on transit and bikeways. This forces the process to respond. The second route is consensus, which takes in all stakeholders and a long time. But ultimately all can agree on the path that satisfies both land use and transportation objectives.

As an example of what citizens can do: contact your local council of governments (In Albuquerque, it's MRGCOG at 247-1750; El Paso and Las Cruces are covered by the El Paso MPO; and Santa Fe is done by the city's planning department, 984-6625) and find out the next chance for public input on any and all transportation planning documents. Testify on the adequacy, or inadequacy, of alternatives to building more roads.

Los Anamalitos

Road Sprawl from Page 7

Program to be used for signs, kiosks, and Audio/visual promotion tapes and a feasibility study. June 9, 1998 the Jemez Mountain Trail was designated a National Scenic Byway.

There are numerous reasons the middle twenty miles of Highway 126 were not paved when the east and west sections were paved in the 1970's. But probably the major factors are the rough terrain, wildlife habitat, and the summer community of Seven Springs. Besides the presence of the Jemez Mountain salamander along the proposed route, the road bisects elk habitat cutting between calving areas and summer pastures. It also will cut through a grove of old growth forest, forest which is vastly different from the managed forest the public generally encounters. In order to appease the Seven Springs community an alternative by-pass road will ascend and descend an 8% grade through National Forest land. Where the road crosses out of Calaveras Canyon into Telephone canyon the route will widen the curve and deposit approximately 60 feet of fill in spotted owl habitat.

Several months ago the New Mexico Heritage Preservation Alliance ran an article concerning 11 areas that are the most endangered places in New Mexico. It included, besides buildings, the state's entire night sky. Doesn't a road that has remained virtually unchanged for 70 years warrant historic status and protection similar to buildings which are only 50 years old? The remaining, unimproved section of Highway 126 is unique in its hydrology and geology which accounts for the Scenic Byway designation. However, besides the historic aspect of the alignment, it also has the remains of historic structures along it, which accounts for the Historic Byway designation. Something needs to be done to preserve this road.

The draft EIS has as its preferred alternative widening the road to almost double its present width (which would remove several of the historic ruins), reconstructing bypasses of various portions of the road (obliterating the historic alignment), and realigning the road (which would take out the present scenic geologic structures). The road, instead of being a scenic Byway, would become a through road between Los Alamos and Cuba (which according to the EIS would increase traffic by nearly 150%).

[Author's Note: From JARA Report, a quarterly publication of the Jemez Area Residents Association, Spring 1998, and the draft EIS.]

1999 NM Conference for the Animals "Uniting for New Mexico's Animals"

Animal Protection of New Mexico, Inc. (APNM) is uniting the state's animal activists and caring individuals for their 1999 Conference for the Animals. The event is scheduled for November 5, 6, 7 at the Radisson Hotel & Conference Center on Carlisle Blvd in Albuquerque. The conference aims to strengthen effective animal activist networks, as well as educate the public about issues affecting domestic and wild animals.

Prominent speakers include:

- Roger Fouts, co-director of the Chimpanzee and Human Communication Institute of Ellensburg, Washington, caretaker of the sign-language speaking chimp Washoe, and author of *Next of Kin*;
- Steven M. Wise, animal rights attorney, professor of the first animal rights course at Harvard University Law School and soon to be published author of *Rattling the Cage -- Towards Legal Rights for Animals*;
- Gary Kowalski, minister, president of the Unitarian Universalists for the Ethical Treatment of Animals and author of *The Souls of Animals* and *Goodbye, Friend: Healing Wis-*

dom for Anyone Who Has Ever Lost a Pet;- Alan Green, journalist and author of *Animal Underworld: Inside America's Black Market for Rare and Exotic Species*, a just released four-year investigation of the trafficking of animals unwanted by the nation's zoos, labs, and theme parks;

- Linda Hogan, acclaimed Chickasaw poet and novelist, raptor rehabilitation volunteer, author of the awarded *Mean Spirit* and co-editor of *Intimate Nature: The Bond Between Women and Animals*.

The three-day conference will provide seminars on legal rights for animals, wildlife and wilderness, vegetarianism, animal overpopulation, animal disaster planning, intro to animal rights, as well as Native American animal/environmental activists. The event will conclude with Linda Hogan participating in a special panel of diverse regional experts who will discuss assaults on the region's wildlife and the wilderness they depend on for survival. Vegan food will be served. Contact APNM at 265-2322 for a complete agenda and registration form or visit www.apnm.org.



The Choco Challenge

In memory of Choco, a chocolate-colored Burmese who recently concluded his ninth life,

ANIMAL PROTECTION OF NEW MEXICO
will match gifts up to a total of \$3000
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The Choco Fund will contribute to:

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for companion animals of the low income elderly
- ♥ foster care
for companion animals of domestic abuse victims

Please mail your contribution to:

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P.O. Box 1215
Santa Fe, NM 87504

Contributions are tax deductible to the extent provided by law.
Please indicate that your gift is for The Choco Challenge.
Thank You!

Wilderness & Sprawl

Volunteering for Wilderness

Edward Sullivan

New Mexico Wilderness Alliance

As the winter season comes on, many of you may be looking for more fun things to do in the outdoors. The winter is a great time to get out and explore some of the places down south that are just too oppressively hot during the summer, and the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance is organizing volunteer outings to work in some of these areas.

The Alliance is a grassroots membership organization that is proposing to protect over 2.5 million acres of additional Wilderness areas in the Land of Enchantment. They are undertaking a state-wide inventory of possible Wilderness areas to help decide exactly what should be included in the NM Citizen's Wilderness Proposal. They do monthly overnight and day trips to one of the fifty proposed Wilderness areas throughout the state to perform field work and mapping to gather information about the areas.

The work is not strenuous, nor is it rocket science. It is, however, a great opportunity to get to know some of the more remote and wild areas in New Mexico, and keep volunteering through the winter months. Please see below for a listing of their upcoming Inventory weekends, and a coupon to send in if you wish to become a member. For more information on the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance or directions to one of the volunteer outings, call 255-5966, x.106, or visit their website at www.nmwild.org.

Upcoming events:

Nov 5-7 Socorro East Wilderness Study Areas Inventory

Dec 3-5 Caballo Mountains Wilderness Study Area Inventory (N. of Las Cruces)

Jan 7-9 West Potrillo Mountains WSA Inventory (W. of Las Cruces)

National Sprawl Report Released

By Carl Pope

Executive Director, Sierra Club

Growth is good. At least that's been the American credo up to now. Blessed with lands that seemed limitless, challenged to "go west" and tame the wilderness, our history, our "manifest destiny," has been to clear the forests, cut roads through rock, pave and plow our country, and create cities. The American mission to conquer and settle the land shaped our character. And we got good at it. Too good.

Now at the start of a new century and a new millennium, Americans no longer reflexively equate progress with development. In fact, because the costs and consequences of poorly planned development have become clear and common, Americans are clamoring for better, smarter ways to grow.

The good news is that suburban sprawl is not inevitable. We are not doomed to a future of traffic congestion, air pollution, overcrowded schools, abandoned city centers, and lost open space and farm land. America does not have to be known as a nation of parking lots, subdivisions and strip malls. There are solutions. Right now, communities and states across the nation are working hard to rein in sprawl and manage growth so that it enhances and does not undercut our quality of life.

In 1998, voters passed over 70 percent of some 240 local ballot initiatives that sought to tame sprawling growth and created over \$7.5 billion in new funding to protect open space. Governors and legislatures across the country are launching smart-growth commissions and passing smart-growth legislation.

[Editor's note: For the rest of this, and other excellent coverage on sprawl, please log into the Club's web page at www.sierraclub.org/sprawl]

Sprawl Costs & Sprawl Solutions

for New Mexico & El Paso

By Ken Hughes

"Sprawl Costs/Sprawl Solutions for New Mexico and El Paso", the Chapter's major report on sprawl, will be released just after Thanksgiving.

The report delves into the fiscal, social and, most importantly, environmental costs of sprawl type of development. Equally important are solutions to sprawl the report lays out and applicable both locally as well as state-wide. Copies of the report will be available from Sierra Club group offices.

The report will be released in conjunction with a series of Tours de Sprawl to be led by local Sierra Club and other pro-managed growth activists. Highlighted will be the good side of development — the places we cannot bear to lose — but also the bad and the ugly. Sites include: El Paso, Las Cruces, Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Taos, Silver City and Farmington. Check with your local group for time and location of each tour.

If you are interested in receiving a copy, please contact Ken Hughes or Gwen Wardwell (refer to page 2 for contact information).

Development Threatens our Environment

From Sprawl Report

www.sierraclub.org/sprawl

Poorly planned development is threatening our environment, our health, and our quality of life. In communities across America "sprawl" - scattered development that increases traffic, saps local resources and destroys open space - is taking a serious toll. But runaway growth is not inevitable. Hundreds of urban, suburban and rural neighborhoods are choosing to manage sprawl with smart growth solutions.

Join the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance!

It's easy!!

- 1) Fill out the form below
- 2) Select your membership class
- 3) Clip this coupon and send it in!

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*Add \$5 each for "Household" Memberships

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Protect Wilderness -- New Mexico's Natural Heritage





Chapter Election

Rio Grande Chapter Executive Committee Candidates

By David Bouquin

Nominating Committee Chair

We have an excellent slate of candidates for the executive committee of the Rio Grande Chapter. The chapter executive committee is the official decision-making body on our chapter's conservation priorities, conservation funding, lawsuits, and organizational policy. In general, they are in charge of the effective operation of our chapter. This is major responsibility. We have 3 positions open so please vote for no more than 3 candidates mentioned below. The new executive members will serve for three years from January 1, 2000 to December 31, 2002. The two current executive committee members whose term expires at the end of the year are Norma McCallan and Barbara Johnson, the other seat is currently vacant. You have strong candidates to choose from. Please read each candidate's statement carefully and **SEND IN YOUR VOTE!** Thank you.

Cecily Vix

I enthusiastically submit this candidate statement with the hope of consideration for a position on the Executive Committee of the Rio Grande Chapter. A Sierra Club activist for six years, I am currently the New Mexico Coordinator for the Accountability Project, a coalition of organizations working to set the record straight about the environmental, social, and economic consequences of the major legislation considered by Congress. Although a newcomer to New Mexico, I have been active with the Sierra Club for a number of years. At Brown University, I ran the Sierra Student Coalition's High School Network, coordinating the affiliated high schools' environmental campaigns. After graduation, I participated in Green Corps, an intensive year-long grassroots leadership training program where I worked with several environmental organizations. I served as the organizer for National Audubon Society's Wildlife Refuge Campaign in Washington, DC and then ran the outreach office for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation in Richmond, VA. After Green Corps, I worked for Bob Bingham, National Field Director of the Sierra Club, as the National Conservation Organizer. Although I paid rent in DC, my home was in the "field." I spent about 70% of my time working with chapters and groups across the country, launching or developing environmental and voter education campaigns on sprawl, wildlands, wetlands, environmental justice, and water quality. Through this incredible experience, I learned the ins and outs of organizational development, campaign strat-

egy and tactics, and how to run effective grassroots campaigns. I wish to bring these experiences and insights to the Rio Grande Chapter. By offering youthful energy, a good amount of grassroots organizing experience, a commitment to environmental protection and social justice, and a passion for strengthening the public interest community in New Mexico, I ask Sierrans to consider me for the Executive Committee.

Ted Mertig

I have been active in numerous positions in the Sierra Club since 1981. I have served as chairperson of the El Paso Regional Group for several years. I have also served on both the El Paso regional group and the Rio Grande Chapter executive committee for several years. I firmly believe that it is time to protect our public lands from the abuses of all the extractive industries. If I am elected to the Rio Grande Chapter executive committee I will contribute my time and effort toward - Eliminating cattle grazing from all public lands! Ending commercial logging on public lands! Ending mining and oil and gas drilling and their destructive practices on public lands! It is time to take strong positions to save public lands for future generations.

Blair Brown

I have been a Sierra Club member since the mid 80's. After moving to Albuquerque in 1991, I became active in Club efforts here and have served on the Central New Mexico Group Executive committee for the past 6 years. I am currently Secretary of the Central NM Group and am serving as the Group's representative to the Chapter. I also serve as Chapter Treasurer. I have been active in Political efforts, Rio Grande River issues, Water issues in the Middle Rio Grande region, and in city planning and land use efforts in the Albuquerque area. I believe that the New Mexico/West Texas area is still a unique and special place. I believe that the many members of the Rio Grande Chapter care very much for what we have and would like to continue enjoying this place we call home. Yet there are many who are threatening our special place - those that would cut down our forests, dig mines in our mountains and pollute our rivers and streams. I believe that the Club needs to intensify our efforts to not only defend our special places against these attacks, but to also move forward to protect these places so they will be here for our children and grandchildren to experience. With this goal in mind, I believe we need to intensify our efforts in the following areas: * We need to protect our Wilderness areas NOW so they are not lost. If they are lost, we can never get them back. * We need to protect our forests while there are still areas of grand old growth trees. * We need to protect the Rio

Grande river. * We need to re-orient the development in our urban areas so we strengthen the vitality and diversity within our cities and not destroy the open spaces on the edges.

As we do this, I feel there are situations where the Club needs to take a tougher stance and I would support such actions. If we don't, there is too much to lose. I offer my continued dedication to the efforts of the Club, both to the Central NM Group and the Chapter and would be honored to continue as a member of the Executive Committee.

Norma McCallan

I am a recently retired librarian (New Mexico State Library) who has lived in New Mexico 24 years. I deeply cherish our unique Southwest landscape, and lament its increasing degradation.

Currently on the Rio Grande Ex Com, I served 2 terms several years ago. Besides being the long time Chapter Outings Chair, I have been Secretary, and involved in various administrative, conservation and political activities. I serve on the national Sierra Club Group & Chapter Outings Committee, which has provided the opportunity to talk to Sierra leaders around the country. At the local level, I have been on the Group Ex Com many years, and there, too, have been extensively involved in numerous administrative, conservation & political tasks. I have been Santa Fe Outings Co-Chair for an equally long time, and lead an outing every month.

I deplore the infighting and name calling prevalent in the Club the last several years. I fervently hope we can direct our considerable energies to constructive conservation projects and rejuvenating outings. Our biggest weakness is a lack of activists. I hope to work next year with the rest of the Ex Com in achieving more involvement from our members.

Michael Norte

Although I have been a Sierran off and on for many years, I began as a trout conservationist. Over time, however, it was my love for coldwater fisheries that inevitably forced me to recognize what John Muir understood over a century ago, that there is a vital connectedness between trout, clean water, undisturbed geology, intact riparian systems, healthy watersheds, and all of the symbiotic plant and animal interrelationships that keep an ecosystem in balance. In fact, this principle is one of the two fundamental touchstones upon which Muir founded the Sierra Club, an organization that he hoped would do something for wildness and make the mountains glad. Times change; people and organizations must meet the challenges of the times.

Continued on Next Page

Chapter Election

Continued from Previous Page

Yet, Muir's teachings truly are timeless and it is fitting and proper that, from its inception in 1892, the Sierra Club has remained, first and foremost, an institution dedicated to, defined by, inseparable from the fundamental conservation mission that Muir envisioned for it. I believe in and am intensely proud of this conservation heritage. It is the reason, the only reason, that I am a Sierran. Today, the fundamental conservation mission of the Sierra Club seems continually under siege, sometimes even from within the organization itself. As we strive to meet these challenges, we will win some battles and suffer some defeats. On some occasions, we will choose the right path and, sometimes, only hindsight will make us wiser. Yet, I very firmly believe that, through it all, it can only be the validity of our fundamental conservation mission that can keep us strong; only our fundamental conservation mission that will prove truly timeless.

Thus, I ask to be elected to the Chapter Executive Committee because I want to try to help all of us remember the source of our organization's enduring strength, its timeless purpose, and its moral and ethical substance. Oh yes, you still want to know the other fundamental touchstone upon which Muir founded the Sierra Club. It was the principle that he articulated in his discussions with Teddy Roosevelt and Gifford Pinchot. It is the principle that undisrupted nature and unspoiled wildness have intrinsic value that is separate from and does not depend upon any material value that they might have to any human community. It is the principle that says that a tree does not need to be anything but a tree; a river does not need to be anything but a river; a mountain can simply be a mountain.

Barbara Johnson

I have been a member of the Sierra Club since 1989, and I was active in the Angeles Chapter before moving to New Mexico in 1991. I have been a writer and editor for almost 20 years, over 10 as a legal editor, working in the area of land use litigation. I was Editor of the Rio Grande Sierran for over three years, during which time it received the Sierra Club's Newsletter of the Year Award. I have been a member of the Santa Fe Group Executive Committee for over four years, and was its representative to the Chapter ExCom before I was elected to the Chapter ExCom in 1996. I have been the Santa Fe Group's Vice-Chair for the past two years and edited its newsletter, Northern New Mexico Sierra Club News. I edited the Group's mining manual,

Avoiding the Shaft, which was honored with the Sierra Club's Special Achievement Award. I have been the Chapter's delegate to the national Council of Club Leaders for two years.

After living in Los Angeles for many years and seeing its gradual environmental degradation, I know that I do not want to see that happen in New Mexico. Although I believe that uncontrolled growth may be one of the most pressing problems facing New Mexico, there are other important issues which need to be addressed as well -- water, wilderness, wildlife, and mining, to name a few. That is why I work in the Sierra Club -- because it addresses the many issues which affect our environment and because it contains and encourages a diversity of opinion on those issues. I am committed to continuing the Sierra Club's hundred-year-old policy of effective grassroots environmental activism.

Membership

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

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Contributions, gifts or dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

	INDIVIDUAL	JOINT
INTRODUCTORY	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	
REGULAR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35	<input type="checkbox"/> \$43
SUPPORTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60	<input type="checkbox"/> \$68
CONTRIBUTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$120	<input type="checkbox"/> \$128
LIFE	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
SENIOR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$19	<input type="checkbox"/> \$27
STUDENT	<input type="checkbox"/> \$19	<input type="checkbox"/> \$27
LIMITED INCOME	<input type="checkbox"/> \$19	<input type="checkbox"/> \$27

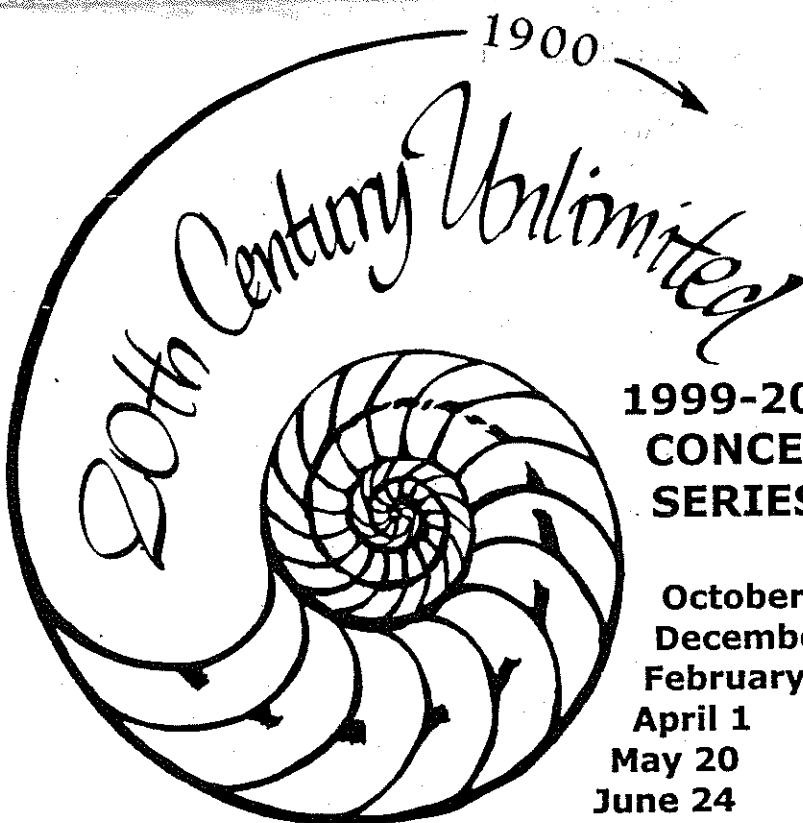
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Sierra Club

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Water & Population

Y6B -- The Year of 6 Billion

Imagine a River

By John Buchser

Water Issue Chair

The October 11 issue of *High Country News* features the Rio Grande. Two major feature articles, A home-grown Water War, by Bruce Slecraig, and A tiny fish cracks New Mexico's water establishment, by Greg Hanscom, are excellent reading.

You can read these articles on-line at www.hcn.org, or you can subscribe to this excellent publication by calling 800-905-1155.

By John Buchser

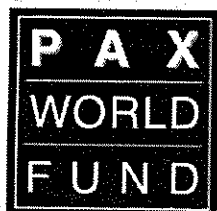
We keep hearing about Y2K. I suppose it is worthwhile evaluating how our dependence on technology needs to be inspected. The difficulty of programmers over the last several decades to deal with a few more digits to represent 2000 just amazes me. How did this turn into a crisis?

Much more scary to me is the other, less heard of acronym, Y6B. Six billion people on this planet as of October of the current year.

We need to think about how many of us there are, and the pressures we put on the planet. If we are going to protect this planet and its other critters, we need to have respect for its ability to carry so many of us.

Family planning is yet one aspect of the equation.

Resource usage is another. How much gas do you use each week commuting? How big of houses do we need to heat? Are we using renewable resources as much as we can?



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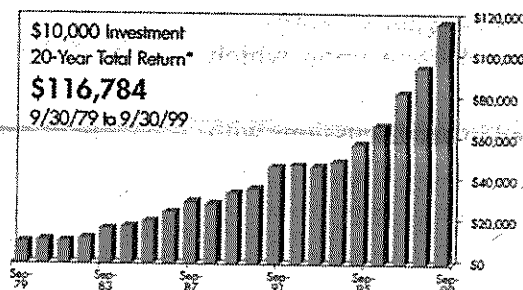
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Morningstar™ Risk-Adjusted Star Ratings**
Overall, 3-Year, 5-Year & 10-Year Ratings as of September 30, 1999



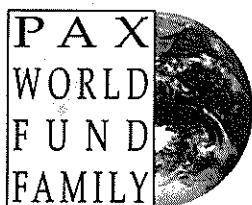
Pax World Fund was ranked #9 of the 200 balanced funds (top 5%) tracked by Lipper Analytical Services for total return for the 5-year period ended 9/30/99.*



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Group Directory

Southern N.M. Group Executive Committee

P.O. Box 3705 UPB
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88011

Cheryll Blevins,
Chair

526-6220(day)
524-4861

spotblev@greatwhite.com

Margo Wilson,
Chapter Representative

744-5860
hshs2@riolink.com

Marianne Thaeler,
Conservation Issues/Vice Chair

522-3421
marianne.thaeler@sierraclub.org

David Farrell,
Legislative Issues

895-3352
dafarrelli@hotmail.com

Robin Heard,
ICO Chair

522-1275

Lesa Wilson,
Treasurer

647-4298

Outings Leaders:
Barbara Coon
Ron Gordon

522-1576
522-4527

Outings

The Sou. N.M. Group has been active with various area outings, thanks to our tireless outing leaders. It's possible, some outings didn't make it in the Newsletter, so call Ron Gordon for Summer updates.

Nov. 6 & 7, Sat. & Sun. Guadalupe Mountain Weekend.

Saturday: McKittrick canyon dayhike. Sun. Guadalupe Peak day hike
Car camp or motel option up to participant. Call ron at 522-4527 for more information.

Nov. 14, Sunday Baylor Peak in the Organs. Meet at K-Mart on N. Main 7:30 a.m. We will carpool. this is a strenuous hike, mostly off-trail with rock scrambling. Only hikers in good condition should attempt. Bring lunch and water, call Ben Zerbey at 526-7811 for leader approval and for more information.

Nov. 20, Saturday Baylor Pass in the Organs. 12 mile moderate hike; we will hike from East trailhead to Aguirre Springs and back. Call Ron at 522-4527.

Dec. 4, Saturday Organ Needle in the Organs. Strenuous day hike, call Barbara at 522-1576.

Dec. 11, Saturday Dog Canyon in the Sacramentos near Oliver Lee State Park. Day hike call Ron 522-1576.

Jan. 8, Saturday Day hike or Cross country skiing weekend in Cloudcroft- depending on snow available.
Call Barbara at 522-1576.

Jan. 22, Saturday Cooke's Peak north of Deming. Day hike rated strenuous, Barbara 522-1576.

Jan. 29, Saturday Bishop's Cap in the Organ Mountains. Day hike; call Ron for details, 522-4527.

Executive Committees are typically the first Weds. of the month - all members are welcome to attend. Call Cheryll at 524-4861 for time and place.

Special Program

Tuesday, November 9

Hiking the Southwest and Beyond. Avid hiker Barbara Coon will share slides and highlights of her many hikes over the years around the Southwest. Come get some ideas for your next hike or just arm-chair adventure! Everyone welcome, 7:30 p.m. at Science Hall NMSU Room 107. For more information call Cheryll at 524-4861.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CANDIDATES

Cheryll Blevins:

I have been an active participant in the Southern N.M. Group since 1986 and chair since April 1998. I would like to continue to help keep the group active in Southern N.M., as I feel it is important that there be as much environmental presence in the area as possible. There are numerous issues that we face in Southern N.M. that differ greatly from the rest of the country. Our border region is an area unique and diverse in habitat and wildlife. Population increases and our proximity to the border will put further on our public lands, water, air quality and environment. I urge other members to take some time out of your busy lives to get involved in issues that are important to you...your help and input can make a difference.

Robin Heard:

I have been a Sierra Club member since 1996 and a member of the excomm since 1998 and have been a special ed teacher in the Las Cruces elementary schools for the past 5 years. I moved from Boston where I was involved in the Appalachian Mtn. Club and grew up hiking and camping in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. I have spearheaded the Sierra Club Inner City Outings program in Las Cruces that offers area youth outdoor opportunities. This fills an important niche in our community when there are no other organizations offering these services. I have always wanted to involve youth in enjoying the outdoors and feel that ICO helps kids learn to appreciate our natural world.

Marianne H. Thaeler:

A Sierra Club member since 1986. served as Chair of Executive Committee, Membership chair, conservation Chair, and Hike leader for the Southern N.M. Group. Presently serving as the Group Representative to the Chapter Executive Committee, and as Chapter Military Issues Chair. "If elected, I will continue to work to protect and preserve the wild lands of New Mexico and habitat for the animals and plants that live and grow there. We must work to protect our air and water from pollution, insure adequate drinking water, and work to control sprawl. I enjoy working with others and encourage all those like mind to join in protecting the environment through the Sierra Club."

Statement of Purpose
"To explore, enjoy and protect the wild places of the Earth; to practice and promote the responsible use of the Earth's ecosystems and resources; to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment; and to use all lawful means to carry out these objectives."

SOUTHERN N.M. GROUP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BALLOT

please mail no later that December 15

VOTE FOR AS MANY AS 4

- ☐ Robin Heard
- ☐ Marianne Thaeler
- ☐ Cheryl Blevins
- ☐ write in

Place your mailing label or membership # here:

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(please do not mail to chapter address)

Have you 1) voted, 2) put the correct address on the envelope, 3) attached your mailing label from the Sierran or your member #? THANKS!!!

The Log (cont.)

Group Directory

Pajarito Group of the Sierran Club Executive Committee

Abe Jacobson, Chair	672-9579
Miriam Oudejeans, Vice-Chair	672-0414
Karla Atkins, Secretary	
Terry Phillips, Treasurer	662-4838
David Bouquin	662-3741
Guthrie Miller	662-5545
Gordon Spingler	662-9481

Conservation Committee

Michael Smith, Chair	662-2380
Janet Gerwin, Co-Chair	662-9568
Jody Benson, Sprawl/Water	662-4782
Janet Gerwin, Water	662-9568
Abe Jacobson, Mining	672-9579
Carole Jacobson, Adopt-A-Highway	672-9579
Jennifer Johnson, Jemez Mountains Issues	662-3023
Chuck Pergler, Grazing	661-6169
Michael Smith/Gordon Spingler, DOE Land Transfer	662-2380/662-9481
Michael Smith, Forests	662-2380
Wildlife OPEN	

Administration

David Bouquin, Chapter Rep.	662-3741
Janet Gerwin, Publicity	662-9568
Newsletter OPEN	
Guthrie Miller, Membership	662-5545
Warren Steckle, Outings	672-0414
Website and Email Administrator OPEN	

General Meetings

All general meetings are held on the first Wednesday of every month at Mesa Public Library, 7 PM and are open to the public.

November 3, 1999 Max Cordova will describe the approach of Truchas-area residents to managing the forest environment near them.

December 1, 1999 Carl Newton has spent part of the summer at Denali, and he has lots of slides, stories and environmental issues to share with us.

Other Meetings:

Conservation Committee meetings are on the second Wednesday and Executive Committee meetings are on the third Wednesday of the month. All meetings are at Mesa Public Library, 7 PM and are open to the public.

Executive Committee Election:

1. Fill out the ballot on the last page of the newsletter.
2. Mail to Secretary, Pajarito Group of the Sierra Club, P.O. Box 945, Los Alamos, NM 87544.
3. All ballots must be received by December 10, 1999.

Executive Committee Candidate Statements:

Bev Hartline:

As a newcomer to Los Alamos, who moved here late last fall from the east coast metropolitan area, I especially value the rich and varied wildlands within easy walking, driving and viewing distance. The lesson from other parts of the country is that it takes enormous and persistent investment of time and energy by committed people to resist or redirect the exploitation that often masquerades as improvement in today's society. In those areas a lot has been lost that cannot be reclaimed. As a member of the Executive Committee of the Pajarito Group, I would invest my efforts in our common cause to preserve the balance and inspirational beauty here that cannot be taken for granted.

Fred Hartline:

I am a lifelong advocate for (and participant in) the outdoors... the wilder the better, a former Sierra Club activist and trip leader in the Boston area, and a booster of environmentally responsible land-use and economic development policies. While I am open to considering nearly all constructive, non-violent methods to further environmental causes, realistically I favor striving to build and maintain coalitions of people & use-groups sharing common interests, goals and/or values. I believe that single-issue battles can and must be fought and won locally and regionally, in conjunction with sustained efforts to raise public (and youth) awareness of environmental issues. We must develop and offer attractive alternatives to unbalanced economic (and population) growth and to the continued exploitation of public lands!

Carole Jacobson:

I believe that the current assumption widely held in Los Alamos, that our community is surrounded by phantom neighbors, needs to be updated. The Pajarito Group has an opportunity to reconcile environmentalism with inter-cultural sensitivity. The Pajarito Group also offers an opportunity for action through volunteerism. The club could be pivotal in building bridges with the Forest Service and the Native American and Hispanic communities. For example, at a time of diminishing funding, the Forest Service uses volunteers to alleviate potential abuse of archaeological sites by recreational and traditional users. We already have volunteer projects in road and canyon clean-up, and in habitat restoration. The Pajarito Group should work to initiate still more creative volunteer programs.

Michael G. Smith:

I served previously on the Pajarito Group ExCom from 1996-1998, and was Chairman in 1997 and 1998. I am the 1999 Conservation Committee Chair. I am running for Excom principally for one reason: if I don't run, the Chapter and National organizations will want me to do things for them, and there are too many things to do locally. If elected to the ExCom I would work on increasing membership and strengthening member participation in outings and conservation activities.

SANTA FE GROUP MEETINGS

PRAIRIE-CHICKEN PROSPECTS

Tuesday, November 16, 7 PM

Long-time Group member Roger Peterson will speak (with slides) on conservation of New Mexico's prairie grouse and the controversy over its "threatened species" status in New Mexico. (Roger, an ecologist, says that he ordinarily avoids birds because he doesn't want to be confused with Roger Tory Peterson, but the critical problems of this species take precedence.) As usual, when wildlife is in trouble, the causes are (1) habitat, (2) habitat, and (3) habitat.

In addition to prairie-chickens themselves, discussion will focus on ecology and management of the unusual vegetation in which they nest, a mixture of two-foot oak shrubs and three- to six-foot grasses called the shinnery.

All meetings, outings, and activities are FREE and open to the public.

All the meetings are held at the Unitarian Church 107 W. Barcelona St (between Galisteo and Don Gaspar).

HOLIDAY POT LUCK PARTY

Saturday, December 18, 6 PM

The Commons
3800 West Alameda

Join us for our annual holiday get-together. Bring your appetite, because the food is always great! Bring a friend to introduce to your Sierra buddies! Bring yourself for a jolly good time!

Our after-dinner speaker will be Victor Atyas, long-term local outings leader and intrepid international traveller, who will show a selection of slides from recent hiking/camping trips he has taken to the **French and Austrian Alps, Italian Dolomites, European Arctic (Finland, Sweden, Norway, Lapland), and an island off the coast of Holland!**

Everyone please bring for the potluck at least 8 servings worth of one of the following: casserole, vegetable dish, meat entree, salad, appetizer, bread, dessert, and (if you don't feel up to cooking) beer, wine, juice, soft drinks. Coffee and tea and dishes and silverware will be provided. There is an oven for warm-ups.

We will be collecting warm clothes and blankets for St. Elizabeth's Shelter - so clean out those closets.

Questions? Call Norma McCallan (471-0005) or Ken Hughes (474-0550).

Santa Fe Group of the Sierra Club

621 Old Santa Fe Trail · Suite 10 · Plaza Desira · Santa Fe · New Mexico · 87501
505 · 983-2703 · www.santafescene.com

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

Doug Fraser

It is a pleasure to announce that the new edition of *Day Hikes in Santa Fe* will be coming out soon. This is the fifth edition of what has become a classic in the Santa Fe area for local hikers and for hiking tourists.

This new edition features 49 hikes, of which seven are new hikes not listed in previous editions. All hikes and supplemental materials have been reviewed, revised, and brought up-to-date. This edition also features quotations on the outdoors and the benefits of hiking and a greatly expanded hike summary table, giving key data on each hike: page number, length, elevation gain, driving time, special features/problems.

As always, this invaluable book, which supports the conservation work of the Santa Fe Group, can be purchased from the Group at its general meetings. It can also be found in most area bookstores and hiking outfitters, and we want to thank these area stores for their continued patronage: Ace Mountain Wear, Active Endeavors, The Ark, Audubon Society, Borders, Carson and Steed, Collected Works, Dumont Maps, Eldorado Hotel, Garcia Street Books, Hasting's, Hilton of Santa Fe, Horizon's, La Fonda Newsstand, the Museum Shop, Otowi Station (Los Alamos), Popular Stores (Albuquerque), Public Lands Information Center, R Books (Los Alamos), Sagebrush Gift and News (Albuquerque Airport), Santa Fe Mountain Sports, St. John's College, Tee's and Skis, Travel Bug, Waldenbooks, and Wild Mountain Outfitters.

We hope to announce a "book signing" in the local papers to be held at one of these fine stores when the book is published.

We would also like to thank all of you who have purchased the other four editions of this book. You have helped contribute to the Sierra Club's ongoing work for the environment — and we know you've had a good time doing it!

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Cliff Larsen

Please join us at our regularly scheduled Conservation Committee meetings the fourth Tuesday of every month. We are still looking for a volunteer to do publicity and to work on wildlife issues. Contact Cliff Larsen (466-2128) or Doug Fraser (474-7615).

♦

SANTA FE GROUP YEAR 2000 ELECTION

The following brave souls have volunteered to run for the Executive Committee for the upcoming election:

- John Buchser
- Eleanor Eisenmenger*
- Norma McCallan*
- Dee Ann Sands
- Lionel Soracco*
- Gwen Wardwell*
- Courtney White*

*current member of the ExComm

Please see page 17 for the candidate statements. Then turn to page one for filling out your ballot and mailing instructions. The ballot is due by November 30.

Submitted by the Nominating Committee,
George Grossman · Cliff Larsen · Susan Martin



♦ ♦ SANTA FE GROUP OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS ♦ ♦

Chair — Doug Fraser * 474-7615 / 662-4104 fax
Vice-Chair — Barbara Johnson * 466-4935
Secretary/Treas — Lionel Soracco* 983-6715

Conservation — Cliff Larsen*, Mining 466-2128
Water-John Buchser 820-0201
National Parks-Courtney White* 982-5502
Rangelands-Roger Peterson 983-7559
Sustainability-Barbara Johnson* 466-4935
SF National Forest-Greg Pollak 988-7650
Carson Nat'l Forest-George Grossman 982-1024
Activist Outings-Norma McCallan * 471-0005

Newsletter/Publicity — Kay Carlson 982-3926
Phone Tree — Jean Winterfelt 989-9224
Chapter Rep — Doug Fraser* 474-7615
Outings — Norbert Sperlich 983-1962
— Norma McCallan* 471-0005
Political Committee—Susan Martin* 988-5206
Membership — George Grossman* 982-1024
Eleanor Eisenmenger * 820-6401
Gwen Wardwell * 438-3060

* Member of the SF Group Executive Committee

GROUP COMMITTEE MEETING DATES

Group Conservation Committee meets:
Tuesday, November 26, 7 PM
Tuesday, December 28, 7 PM
Group Executive Committee meets:
Tuesday, November 2, 7 PM
Tuesday, December 7, 7 PM

Santa Fe Group News

SANTA FE GROUP OUTINGS

Sat Sun November 1999

Saturday and Sunday, November 6 and 7

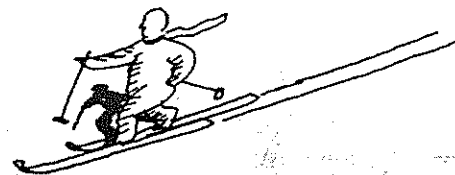
- Norma McCallan (471-0005) Two Moderate to Strenuous Loop Hikes in Manzano Mountains (Kayser Springs-Ox Canyon loop and Red Canyon-Spruce Springs loop) with car camp. Dogs allowed. Leave Friday evening.
- 6 Jeff Jones (466-2389) Easy Hike in Tent Rocks. Children encouraged. Leave 9 AM.
- 7 Art Judd (982-3212) Moderate Hike with car shuttle. Atalaya Peak to Audubon Center. Leave 8 AM.
- 13 Carolyn and Arnold Keskulla (982-9570) Easy Hike to the Cerrillos Hills. Leave 9 AM sharp from Walgreens, Villa Linda Mall. Wear hiking boots.
- 14 Lionel Soracco (983-6715) Moderate Hike up Dockwiller Trail, Pecos Wilderness. Dogs allowed. Alternative hike if early snow.
- 20 Lee Sullivan (662-6185) Moderate Hike in the Santa Cruz Reservoir area. 7 miles RT. Meet at Cities of Gold Casino, Pojoaque, at 9 AM or carpool from SF Sierra office at 8:30 AM.
- 20 Greg Pollak (988-7650) Field Trip to look at progress made in the Santa Fe Watershed Demonstration Project, which is attempting to deal with overall forest health and wildfire prevention. Call to confirm, since weather conditions, or lack of progress may negate trip.
- 21 Victor Atyas (438-9434) Easy Hike down Diablo Canyon. Leave 9 AM.
- 28 Norbert Sperlich (983-1962) Strenuous Hike in Bandelier. Leave 8 AM.

Sat Sun December 1999

- 4 Ned Sudborough (474-4055) Moderate/Strenuous Hike to Sierra Pelada. Leave 8 AM.
- 5 Carolyn and Arnold Keskulla (982-9570) Easy Hike on Rail Trail. Wear hiking boots. Meet at BLM building on Rodeo Road. Leave 9 AM.
- 11 Lionel Soracco (983-6715) Moderate X-Country Trip if there is snow, otherwise moderate hike. Leave 8 AM.
- 12 Norma McCallan (471-0005) Easy Hike on Nun's Corner. Wear boots. Dogs allowed. Leave 9:30 AM.
- 18 Bob McKee (672-3426) Easy Hike in town along Arroyo Chamiso. Leave 9:30 AM.
- 19 Victor Atyas (438-9434) Easy Hike to Cerrillos Hills. Meet in front of Walgreen's at Villa Linda Mall. Leave 9 AM.
- 25 Tobin Oruch (820-2844) Moderate Hike along Tesuque Creek. Dogs allowed. Call leader for information.
- 26 Norbert Sperlich (983-1962) Moderate Hike to Blow Hole. Some bushwhacking. Leave 8 AM.

**PLEASE ALWAYS CALL THE OUTINGS LEADER
PRIOR TO A HIKE
FOR CONFIRMATION AND DETAILS.**

Most especially call the leader for X-country or snowshoe outings, not only to find out about snow conditions, but to be sure that you have the proper equipment and conditioning.



Sat Sun January 1999 *Ready or not, Y2K is here!!*

- 1 Tobin Oruch (820-2844) Moderate Hike up Rio en Medio Trail to the waterfalls. Dogs okay. Leave 10 AM. Alternative hike if weather/snow prohibits.
- 8 Bob McKee (672-3426) Moderate Snowshoe Trek to Ghost Hotel (near Glorieta Baptist Center). Leave 9 AM. Alternative hike if insufficient snow.
- 9 Victor Atyas (438-9434) Easy Hike in the Cerrillos Hills, where open space advocates hope to establish a 40,000 acre park. Leave from Walgreens in Villa Linda Mall at 9:15 AM.
- 15 Lionel Soracco (983-6715) Moderate Cross Country Ski Trek. Leave 8 AM. Call for destination and further information.
- 16 Norma McCallan (471-0005) Easy Hike Frey Canyon and ruins, Bandelier National Monument. Leave Santa Fe office 9 AM or meet at main Bandelier turnoff on Route 4 beyond White Rock at 10 AM.
- 22 Gordon Spencer (672-3707) Cross Country Ski Workshop for skiers with limited experience who want to improve their techniques, including downhill, speed control and confidence in backcountry touring. Call by January 20 for reservations. Time permitting, lessons will be followed by a short ski tour.
- 23 Norbert Sperlich (983-1962) Moderate Hike to the Santa Fe River Canyon. Petroglyphs likely. Leave 8:30 AM.
- 29 Carolyn and Arnold Keskulla (982-9570) Easy Hike along Santa Fe Rail Trail. Meet at the intersection of Old Las Vegas Hiway and 9 Mile Road/Route 60. (from town, take Old Pecos Trail to Old Las Vegas Hiway, turn left - 9 Mile is the 3rd road coming into the hiway from the right). Leave 9 AM.
- 30 Phil Somervell (473-4797) Strenuous Snowshoe Trek up Ravens Ridge to Deception Peak. Must call for reservations.

ATTENTION: Local newspapers do not always provide information (accurate or otherwise) about upcoming hikes. If you intend to go on a Sierra Club outing, keep this page as reference.

Outings Notes — Unless otherwise noted, all outings leave from the Sierra office, 621 Old Santa Fe Trail, "Plaza Desira," just south of Old SF Trail Bookstore & Coffee House. Carpooling will be arranged. Each hiker should come prepared to pay 5¢ a mile to the driver of the car in which s/he rides. Bring a lunch, water, sturdy hiking boots or shoes, and clothing suitable for the weather - leader reserves the right to turn away anyone whose equipment or experience appears unsuitable. Leader has right to alter destination of hike or cancel trip due to weather, unfavorable conditions, or insufficient numbers of participants. Unaccompanied minors must have written permission from parents or guardians to participate; permission forms are available at the Sierra Club office. Dogs not permitted on hikes unless noted otherwise. Telephone leader for details of the individual hike.

REQUIEM FOR BASE CAMP

Back in '73, Al Heddon started an Army-Navy store on West San Francisco Street, which was purchased in 1975 by Phil Nelson (one of the founders of the Santa Fe Group of the Sierra Club) and transformed into a classy outings store. For some years, Base Camp, just a block from the Plaza enjoyed great popularity, appealing to tourists, serious hikers and skiers. In '91, Phil sold out to one of his staff, Scott Geary, who continued the good service patrons had come to expect.

Alas, the greed of a Plaza landlord (who demanded ever higher rents and a percentage of the profits) drove Scott to move the business to Montezuma Street. Because of historic building restrictions, he could not put up large signs or lighting on the old house. Fewer residents were coming downtown to shop, tourism was slacking off a bit. The sporting goods business, according to Scott, was also changing — more high tech equipment, less emphasis on environmental issues, consumerism the goal, not appreciation of the land.

It just wasn't fun anymore being a small, independent store. The final straw was the total lack of snow last winter, ski equipment being the cash cow for this kind of business. In January, Scott marked everything at half price; in February, he closed the doors.

However busy, knowledgeable Base Camp staff always had time to point out the good and bad features of a piece of equipment, time to tinker with a glitch in something purchased months before, time to pull out maps and suggest good hikes across the Southwest landscape.

Their presence is missed.

- Norma McCallan





SANTA FE GROUP CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

John Buchser

I believe the Sierra Club is strong, not just from its size, but because of the diversity of its membership and their willingness to work together.

In my time in leadership roles of the Chapter and the Santa Fe Group, I have experienced firsthand what I would term a "hostile takeover attempt." To many environmentalists, the continued poor management practices on our public lands demand severe reactions from the environmental community. I concur with them on their concern, but I do not on the approach.

I prefer to work with other groups, including particularly the traditional structures, such as the acequia associations and ranching community, to reach common goals that include environmental protection. My vision is to keep water in the river and keep the bosque alive. I don't want to have to dodge cowpies in riparian areas. It is sometimes necessary to make compromises to reach goals. Human over-population of the earth is the biggest pressure.

Some of the leadership of the National Club is pushing on the local leadership to sail the ship in their direction. It is true that the whole navy has to act together, but I don't think we all have to go in the same direction — the pressures on the environment are many. I believe the local groups should be given considerable flexibility in their decision-making.

My goals for the local group for the next two years are (1) Get the Baca property in public hands and get the management plan improved; (2) Make a focus on Water a priority for the Group's money, time, and energies; (3) Keep our membership involved in environmental issues, and (4) Offer support to the ongoing Sprawl Campaign.

Dee Ann Sands

I have a BS in botany and plant science from the University of Delaware. Working for the Delaware State Highway Department, I identified and used naturalistic landscape design and native plants to enhance scenic roads and the DuPont Barley Mills Plaza. After that, I worked for the Roy F. Weston Environmental Engineering firm as a wetlands delineator. I have been a long-time member of the Sierra Club, and my interest is in helping the Club in whatever capacity is possible, particularly in conservation and wildlife.

Lionel Soracco

My duties with the Santa Group over the past several years include the following:

- Executive Committee member, Secretary/Treasurer
- Editor of *Day Hikes in the Santa Fe Area* Edition V
- Co-Distributor of the hiking book
- Telephone message monitor for Sierra office
- Outings leader

I would enjoy continuing in these roles and ask for your support.

Gwen Wardwell

I have been a member of the Sierra Club since 1985, on the Group Executive Committee at various times since 1988, and on the Chapter Executive Committee from 1989 through 1995 and in 1999.

As Chapter Chair from 1991 through 1995, I organized a planning retreat and devoted subsequent fall meetings to setting conservation goals and developing plans for their achievement. By focusing our efforts, we achieved our goals: passage of a hard-rock mining bill, funding for water planning, funding and statutory authority for wildlife and habitat protection, and passage of a tire recycling bill.

As Chapter Chair in 1999, I have started the process of setting goals and developing action plans. Water goals are being refined, and objectives for our Stop Sprawl goal are being developed.

I am running for Group Executive Committee because I have found that participation at both Chapter and Group levels is useful to both.

Eleanor Eisenmenger

I feel that I can make a contribution to the activities and projects of the Sierra Club, since I am very much in touch with the community as a whole through my work as Executive Director and Chairman of the concert series, 20th Century Limited. I moved to Santa Fe in 1984 and have been involved with the environmental community (especially the Sierra Club) ever since my arrival here.

Norma McCallan

I have lived in Santa Fe 24 years and recently retired from the New Mexico State Library where, as a reference librarian, I had the opportunity to get a good sense of the state, its issues, peoples, and lands.

I have been an elected member of the Group ExComm for many years, held a variety of offices, and long guided (along with Norbert Sperlich) the Outings program. I lead an outing a month, from Utah backpacks to easy winter hikes. I stay active on our Conservation and Political Committees, hiking book, and phone tree. I am also serving my third term on the Chapter ExComm. Appointment to the National Sierra Club's Group and Chapter Outing Committee has provided the chance to meet National leaders.

I would like to see our Group take a more active role in the many environmental issues confronting Northern New Mexico and work harder to get our members more involved.

Courtney White

Since becoming a member of the Executive Committee of the Santa Fe Group in 1995, I have been involved in a variety of Club activities, including organizing a series of educational workshops on mining, wildlife, wilderness, and grazing.

Beginning in 1996, I was intimately involved with the creation of "Avoiding the Shaft: A citizen's guide to New Mexico's Hard Rock Mining Act." In 1998, the Sierra Club rewarded our work on this manual by singling out the Santa Fe Group for a national award.

Recently, I have concentrated on building bridges to new constituencies in northern New Mexico. For example, in order to secure the federal purchase of the Baca Ranch in the Jemez Mountains, I have helped open lines of communication between the environmental community and the Hispanic ranching community.

In the next two years, I hope to continue to build on these early successes. I am committed to outreach and education. In order to be a more effective advocate for the environment, the Sierra Club needs to create new alliances, especially with rural residents.

I hope you will consider reelecting me to another term. Thanks.

Be An
Environmental
Hero.



Santa Fe Group News

Group Directory

207 San Pedro NE
Albuquerque NM 87108

Phone: 505-265-5506 Fax 505-256-0373

1999 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Richard Barish	247-8079	rdbarish@aol.com
Blair Brown <i>Secretary</i>	265-3231	bblairb@aol.com
Martin Heinrich <i>Vice-chair</i>	232-7151	mtheinrich@aol.com
Petra Hegger	890-0331	pfmh@laughingdesert.com
Jeremy Kruger <i>Chair</i>	242-8022	kruger7@aol.com
Jon Maaske	256-1393	110745.1312@compuserve.com
Mike Norte	844-0935	norte@earthlink.net
Gary Simpson <i>Treasurer</i>	898-6249	garyksimpson@juno.com
David Ther	260-1553	grelbik@worldnet.att.net

The Central New Mexico Group of the Sierra Club depends totally on the efforts of volunteers. To help, call any of us!

ADMINISTRATION

Petra Hegger <i>Administrative Asst.</i>	890-0331	pfmh@laughingdesert.com
Blair Brown <i>Information Technology</i>	265-3231	bblairb@aol.com
Julie Hicks <i>Media Coordinator</i>	232-7151	mtheinrich@aol.com
David Ther <i>Outings</i>	260-1553	grelbik@worldnet.att.net
Richard Barish <i>Political Chair</i>	247-8079	rdbarish@aol.com

CONSERVATION CAMPAIGN TEAM LEADERS

Mike Norte <i>Conservation Chair</i>	844-0935	norte@earthlink.net
Richard Barish <i>Bosque Protection</i>	247-8079	rdbarish@aol.com
East Mountain <i>Sustainable Albuquerque</i>	OPEN	bblairb@aol.com
Susan Gorman	265-3231	bblairb@aol.com
Julie Hicks <i>Petroglyph National Monument</i>	232-7151	mtheinrich@aol.com
Barbara Leonard <i>Western New Mexico</i>	862-7915	
Martin Heinrich <i>Wilderness/Wildlife</i>	232-7151	mtheinrich@aol.com



OUTINGS

NM Wilderness Inventory Outings: Those of adventurous heart must apply! The New Mexico Wilderness Alliance is photo-surveying over 2.5 million acres of public lands in NM for recommendation as wilderness in the coming year. Existing structures (roads, tanks, mines, etc) are photographed/mapped and qualitative evaluation of what the area has to offer is documented.

Tom Petencin (255-1497, tompeten@juno.com) and Rick Hurley (299-8401, RickHurley@aol.com) would like to adopt a local area, with the help of SC members. Similar efforts in Utah increased wilderness recommendations from 3.2 million acres (original BLM) to 5.7 million acres. Some back road driving, exploratory off-trail hiking, map reading, GPS skills. Date of outings flexible to accommodate the weather/schedules of those interested.

December 11: Tent Rocks, or Christmas Trees? Enjoy a leisurely 3-4 mile hike through picturesque rock formations and an interesting slot canyon. Bring hiking shoes, water, a snack. Dress for weather (stocking caps acceptable). May be a little scrambling, but worth it. Elevation: 700', if we climb to overlook. Driving distance: 110 miles round trip. Meet at 9:30am at SC parking lot, 207 San Pedro NE,

between Central and Lomas (across from the fairgrounds). Contact: Rick Hurley (299-8401)

Nov. 14, 28 and Dec. 12, 26: Sunday Desert Hikes

Let's explore some of the beautiful desert places within a day's drive from Albuquerque. Most, if not all, outings will be exploratory in nature and a trail will be a rare sight. The walking distance will vary between 5 and 7 miles and elevation change will be less than 1000'. Driving will vary from 20 to 120 miles one-way. Smiths at Carlisle and Menaul will be the meeting place and the meeting time will vary from 8:30AM to 10:00AM, so be sure to call leader by previous night for meeting time. Tom Petencin 255-1497 (tompeten@juno.com)

Joint with OAFS (Outdoor Adventures For Singles)



CALENDAR

Unless otherwise noted, Sierra Club meetings take place at the Central NM Sierra Club Office, 207 San Pedro NE.

Nov. 8	Group Excom Meeting, 7:00PM
Nov. 18	Desert Places Slide Show (see below)
Dec. 13	Group Excom Meeting, 7:00PM

Desert Places of New Mexico--A Slide Show!

Meet at the Sierra Club office (207 San Pedro NE) at 7pm on Nov 18 for a 1-hour slide show. Lovely pictures, colorful commentary. Petroglyphs from Tapia Canyon and Ojito/Empedrado WSA are included, along with other little-known places in the state. A good way to meet other club members in a relaxing atmosphere. Have outing ideas? Bring 'em. If enough interest, club outings to these areas may be scheduled at a later date.

Rick Hurley (299-8401, RickHurley@aol.com)
Tom Petencin (255-1497, tompeten@juno.com)

"The chief reason so many people are fleeing the cities at every opportunity to go tramping, canoeing, skiing into the wilds is that wilderness offers a taste of adventure, a chance for the rediscovery of our ancient, preagricultural, preindustrial freedom. Forest and desert, mountain and river, when ventured upon in primitive terms, allow us a sort of ... recapture, however superficial and brief, of the rich sensations of our former existence, our basic heritage of a million years of hunting, gathering, wandering. This elemental impulse still survives in our blood, nerves, dreams and desires, suppressed but not destroyed by the mere five thousand years of agricultural serfdom, a mere two hundred years of industrial peonage, which culture has attempted to impose on what evolution designed as a feeling, thinking, liberty-loving animal."

Ed Abbey, *Down the River*, 1982

Group ExCom Candidate Statements –

See ballot on last page

Martin Heinrich

I have been an active advocate for conservation in New Mexico for a number of years now. You may know me from my work on Mexican wolf reintroduction, my Wilderness articles, or my Wilderness slide shows. I hope to continue this activism within the Sierra Club and as an executive committee member. Your vote is sincerely appreciated.

Blair Brown

I have been a Sierra Club member since the mid 80's. After moving to Albuquerque in 1991, I became active in Club efforts here and have served on the Central New Mexico Group Excom for the past 6 years. I am currently Secretary of the Central NM Group and am serving as the Group's representative to the Chapter. I also serve as Chapter Treasurer. I have been active in political efforts, Rio Grande issues, water issues in the Middle Rio Grande region, and in city planning and land use efforts in the Albuquerque area.

I believe that the New Mexico/West Texas area is still a unique and special place. I believe that the many members of the Rio Grande Chapter care very much for what we have and would like to continue enjoying this place we call home. Yet there are many who are threatening our special place - those that would cut down our forests, dig mines in our mountains and pollute our rivers and streams.

I believe that the Club needs to intensify our efforts to not only defend our special places against these attacks, but to also move forward to protect these places so they will be here for our children and grandchildren to experience. With this goal in mind, I believe we need to intensify our efforts in the following areas:

- We need to protect our Wilderness areas NOW so they are not lost. If they are lost, we can never get them back.
- We need to protect our forests while there are still areas of grand old growth trees.
- We need to protect the Rio Grande.
- We need to re-orient development in our urban areas so that we strengthen the vitality and diversity within our cities and not destroy the open spaces on the edges.

As we do this, I feel there are situations where the Club needs to take a tougher stance and I would support such actions. If we don't, there is too much to lose.

I offer my continued dedication to the efforts of the Club, both to the Central NM Group and the Chapter, and would be honored to continue as a member of the Executive Committee.

Cecily Vix

Although a newcomer to New Mexico, I have been active with the Sierra Club for a number of years as a volunteer and staffperson, most recently working as the National Conservation Organizer. Although Washington, DC was homebase, I spent most of my time on the road, working with chapters and groups throughout the country launching or developing grassroots environmental and voter education campaigns on such issues as sprawl, environmental justice, and wetland and wildlands protection.

In Albuquerque, I am the New Mexico Coordinator for the Accountability Project, a coalition of consumer, environmental, labor, and senior groups, working on federal legislative issues and their impact on New Mexico.

I wish to bring a good amount of grassroots organizing experience and youthful energy to the Central Group.

Livestock Grazing Propaganda Disseminated by the Sierra Club

That propaganda supportive of the livestock industry is uncritically published in Western newspapers and periodicals is not unexpected; that it is now appearing in Sierra Club publications is quite disturbing. An article by Courtney White, Executive Director of the Quivira Coalition, a proponent of "environmentally sensitive ranching," recently appeared in the newsletter of the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club. I present it below annotated with my comments (italicized).

--Mike Hudak, Susquehanna Group, Atlantic Chapter

Rio Grande Sierran:

News of the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club, September/October 1999, p.7

Spread the News: Conservation Ranching Works
by Courtney White

Lost among the sound and fury surrounding the grazing debate in the American West is the news that a small group of conservation-minded ranchers are quietly taking charge of their destiny. These ranchers, whose numbers probably total less than 5% across the region, practice a new brand of ecologically sensitive ranch management that allows them to profit economically and environmentally at the same time. Amid the lawsuits, finger pointing, and stock reductions, these ranchers are restoring rangelands to health, protecting endangered species, bringing riparian areas back to life, and shielding open space from destructive development. And they are making a profit while doing so.

One example is Jim Winder, who ranches in southern New Mexico. In the twelve years since he switched to ecologically-sensitive management, he has doubled the size of his herd, increased his forage in riparian areas ten-fold, stopped shooting predators, and discovered new markets for his beef. Here are some techniques ranchers like Jim are employing:

-- Dormant season grazing: Most of the conflict between ranchers and environmentalists is focused on riparian (streamside) zones - areas critical to the survival of wildlife. Traditionally, these areas are grazed by cattle year round, with destructive consequences. Progressive ranchers, however, avoid this conflict by grazing riparian areas in winter, when plants are dormant. The result is a healthy riparian area that protects biodiversity while increasing forage for all grazing animals.

Although Mr. White presents dormant season grazing as a superior alternative to year-round grazing, recent research suggests this is not always the case. In their article "Heavy Winter Grazing Reduces Forage Production: An Observation," (Rangelands, 21(4), August 1999, pp. 18-21) authors Dee Galt, Greg Mendez, Jerry Holechek & James Joseph found that "... one year of heavy use on shortgrass rangeland in New Mexico during dormancy (winter and spring) can reduce forage production the following growing season as much as 50% compared to conservative or moderate use." (pp.20-21)

One might also consider the findings reported in the article: "Compatibility of Livestock Grazing Strategies with Fisheries" by Willaim S. Platts, (Practical Approaches to Riparian Resource Management: An Educational Workshop, May 8-11, 1989, edited by Robert E. Gresswell, Bruce A. Barton, Jeffery L. Kershner. Printed by U.S. BLM, 222 N. 32nd St., POB 36800, Billings, MT 59107; pp. 103-110). Platts states: "Heavy [winter] grazing can eliminate the streambank vegetational mat needed to prevent soil erosion due to winter-spring floods or ice events and to transfer grazing from grasses to shrubby species, unless controlled." (p. 107)

In Table 2, "Evaluation and rating of grazing strategies based on the author's personal observations, as related to stream-

riparian habitats" Platts ranks on a scale of 1 (poorly compatible) to 10 (highly compatible with fishery needs) various livestock grazing strategies. Continuous season-long cattle grazing rates "1" with a "poor" in every category used for evaluation (control of animal distribution; streambank stability; brushy species condition; seasonal plant regrowth; stream-riparian rehabilitative potential), while total exclusion to livestock ranks "10" with "excellent" in each of the above categories. Moderate-to-heavy winter grazing rates "5" with "fair" in 3 categories and "good" in 2 of them. But we're dealing with public lands; why should we settle for anything less than the "excellent" condition afforded by total exclusion of livestock?

Although from a different Western ecosystem than the one about which Mr. White is writing, bluebunch wheatgrass (*Agropyron spicatum*) in the Great Basin has been found to react negatively to grazing while dormant. Ronald H. Sauer (Effect of Removal of Standing Dead Material on Growth of *Agropyron spicatum*, *Journal of Range Management*, 31(2), March 1978, pp. 121-122) writes: "Removing standing dead material decreased the weight of the new generation of leaves and culms by 28%, decreased the loss of standing dead by 21%, decreased leaf length by 25% ..." (p. 121) "Standing dead appears to be beneficial to bluebunch wheatgrass." (p. 121)

And bluebunch wheatgrass is not the only grass to react in this way. In their article "Herbage Production Following Litter Removal on Alberta Native Grasslands" (*Journal of Range Management*, 39(6), November 1986, pp. 536-539), Willms, Smoliak & Bailey report that "Removing standing dead plant litter and mulch over a 3-year period resulted in ... lower yields in the Mixed Prairie." (p. 538) Specifically, "Under more arid conditions in the Mixed Prairie at Manyberries, herbage yields were depressed to about 43% of the control plots over a 3-year period where litter was removed. Both grass and forb yields declined ($P > 0.05$)." (p. 538)

-- Grass Banks: Overgrazing occurs when a plant is not given sufficient time to "recover" after being bitten by a grazing animal, including elk and deer. Conversely, too much rest can cause a plant to decay and lose vigor.

The claim that "too much rest can cause a plant to decay and lose vigor" is contradicted by experimental findings. In their article "Cover of Perennial Grasses in Southeastern Arizona in Relation to Livestock Grazing" (*Conservation Biology*, 7(2), June 1993, pp. 371-377) authors Carl Bock & Jane Bock report on the condition of a southeastern Arizona grassland ungrazed by livestock for 22 years compared to areas currently grazed. They state: "Total grass canopy cover was greatest on the ungrazed portion of each of the eight sites. Two short stoloniferous species (*Hilaria belangeri* and *Bouteloua eriopoda*) were the only taxa substantially more abundant on grazed quadrats overall. Among these and eight taller bunchgrasses, there was a strong positive correlation between potential height and response to release from grazing, with the three tallest species showing the greatest increases on ungrazed treatments (*Bouteloua curtipendula*, *Bothriochloa barbinodis*, and *Eragrostis intermedia*). *Bouteloua gracilis*, the most abundant grass in the region, showed an intermediate response to livestock exclusion. Grama grasslands at the Arizona site have changed more and in different ways following livestock exclusion than those on the Central Plains of Colorado. Contributing factors may include: (1) greater annual precipitation at the Arizona site, (2) the much larger size of the Arizona livestock enclosure, and (3) the absence of extensive grazing by native ungulates in the Southwest since the Pleistocene. Livestock grazing appears to be an exotic ecological force in these southwestern grasslands, and one destructive of certain components of the native flora and fauna." (p. 371)

Commenting on the type of "ecologically sensitive ranching" promoted by Mr. White and the Quivira Coalition, i.e. grazing based on the theories and practices of A. Savory as described in his book *Holistic Resource Management* (Island Press, Washington, D.C., 1988) Bock & Bock conclude: "Assertions

about overall negative consequences of livestock exclusion (such as Savory 1988) are unwarranted for western grasslands as a whole, and for the Appleton-Whittell sanctuary in particular." (p. 376)

A grass bank helps end overgrazing (and overrest)

As pointed out above, "overrest" of these western grasslands is a concept without merit.

by making an empty allotment available to cattle for multiple years

As an example of how long recovery from grazing can take, consider bluebunch wheatgrass, which may require up to 6 years of rest after onetime removal of 50% of the shoot system during the active growing period even in a climate with greater than 17 inches annual precipitation. (Rate and Pattern of Vigor Recovery in Idaho Fescue and Bluebunch Wheatgrass. W. Mueggler. 1975. *J. Range Management*, 28:198-204)

while the home allotment is restored to health by prescribed burning, temporary rest, and progressive management. The typical response of land management agencies to degraded rangelands has been to cut the number of cattle. Grass banks, however, restore land without hurting the rancher financially.

-- Herding: The key to progressive ranch management is to gain control of the cattle and manage the timing, intensity and frequency of their impact on the land. Herding is a good example. By congregating cattle together and moving them every day under the watchful eye of a professional herder

For most ranchers this is not an option due to the extra cost of personnel. Also, herding results in cattle gaining less weight than non-herded cattle, resulting in less profit per animal.

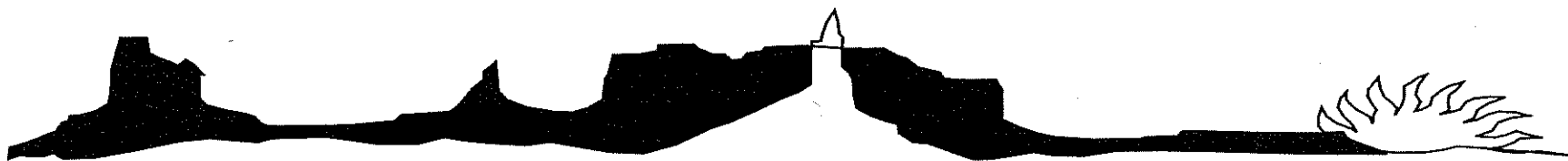
overgrazing is easily avoided. For ranchers, herding also relieves the pressure from building fences, low weaning weights, hungry predators, declining forage, conflicts over riparian areas, and seasons being shortened because of lack of spring grazing. Herding has other economic benefits as well. One award winning grazing association in Colorado has been so successful at ecologically-sensitive herding in a federally designated wilderness area that the forest service actually allowed them to increase the size of their herd this year.

--Holistic management: It is important to remember that grazing is a natural process. Some ecosystems in the West evolved in a symbiotic relationship with grazing animals over hundreds of thousands of years.

But, for the most part, areas west of the Rocky Mountain front range have been ungrazed by large herds of large ungulates (even bison) in Holocene times (the past 10,000 years or so) (Page 637 in "Ecological Costs of Livestock Grazing in Western North America" by Thomas L. Fleischner. *Conservation Biology*, 8(3), Sept. 1994, pp. 629-644). Consequently, for the regions about which Mr. White is speaking, his claim is untrue.

As a result, some soil types are quite resilient to periodic disturbance; they retain health and vigor, and respond positively to the effects of fire or the hoof action of grazers.

Numerous studies of holistic grazing have tested the claim that the hoof action of cattle is beneficial to the soil (and, in fact, is desirable to hasten the advance of plant succession). However, as reported by Pieper & Heitschmidt ("Is Short-Duration Grazing the Answer? *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* 43(2), March/April 1988, pp. 133-137): "... a considerable number of scientific studies have been completed that specifically address the effects of short-duration grazing [a major component of the holistic method] on above-ground forage dynamics, hydrologic integrity, and livestock performance. ... In general, these studies do not support the claims that prompted the research." (p. 135)



Holistic management effectively manipulates grazing as an ecological process by employing cattle (which are much easier to control than elk or deer) as tools of range restoration.

Again quoting from Fleischer 1994: "In summarizing a symposium on the topic [of using livestock as an ecosystem management tool], Severson (1990) clarified that such applications may be very limited, and that what benefits one species may prove detrimental to another. Because two species in the same community may vary in their response to grazing (Hobbs & Huenneke 1992), determination of its success or failure as a management practice depends on which species is used as a criterion." (p. 636)

Nearly all progressive ranches employ some form of holistic management, and do so profitably.

Mr. White does not explain what he means by "profitably"--he may mean it in some spiritual sense, for example. But of the few published examples of ranchers who use holistic management, i.e. those profiled in Dan Dagget's book, *Beyond the Rangeland Conflict: Toward a West That Works* (Gibbs Smith, Layton, UT, 1995) Tom Fleischer had this to say in his book review: "What do we make of the fact that most of the profiled ranch operations are underwritten by inherited wealth, or external funding?" (*J. Wildlife Management*, 61(2), 1997, pp. 582-584) (p. 583).

Jim Winder, the rancher about whom Mr. White writes at the beginning of this article, is reported to also not entirely depend on ranching for his income. Michael Sauber, in a letter to the *Silver City Daily Press* (NM) (Jan. 1998), commenting on a presentation given by the Quivira Coalition (of which Mr. White is Executive Director) stated: "Quite interestingly, Jim Winder, the rancher involved in forming this group, and put up on a pedestal as the new 'model rancher,' is a subdivider/developer himself. I'm confused by the logic. Why would a group who joined forces to oppose subdividing ranches into developments use a ranch subdivider as the model?"

--Ecology and monitoring: Progressive ranch managers understand that range ecosystems are complex and ever-changing; as a result, they have become environmental experts. By studying the interplay between sunlight, photosynthesis, water and mineral recycling, and energy flow, they have greatly enlarged their capacity for effective range management.

They also constantly monitor the results of their work. Additionally, a healthy range means ranchers can make money from bird-watchers, campers, hunters, and, perhaps, even the protection of endangered species!

--Partnerships: Scientists, environmentalists, ranchers, public lands managers, and others each hold a different piece of the grazing puzzle.

By building bridges between these groups, information and energy begin to flow. Many successfully managed ranches employ a team approach; one public lands ranch in Arizona convenes over 30 team members twice a year to review its success at economic and environmental sustainability.

The positive results of conservation ranching are irrefutable.

Based on the evidence I've provided above, I'll let the reader be the judge.

By gaining control of their cattle and employing one or more of the techniques described above, these ranchers have seen environmental health rebound in their riparian areas and uplands.

The scientific studies I've quoted above indicate otherwise.

Most have seen their bottom line rebound too. And these ranchers are succeeding in every type of ecosystem across the Southwest, from desert grassland to mountain meadow.

Where are the independent studies that support this?

Although not presented as "scientific proof" against this claim of Mr. White, I offer the comments of Shane Jimerfield <sjimerfield@sw-center.org>, Assistant Director of the Southwest Center for Biological Diversity. Writing on Rangenetlist (20 August 1999), an on-line listserve devoted to grazing issues, Mr. Jimerfield said of Mr. Winder and another holistic rancher: "Jim Winder and another rancher, Will Holder, here in AZ have been gaining some momentum in drawing support from enviros around the southwest. Holder markets his product as organic and wolf friendly. They both claim to be doing "conservation ranching." Yes, their allotments look better than their neighbors, but in reality they are just doing less damage. What is also happening is that several enviro groups have taken these two ranchers and placed them up on a pedestal. Using them as examples of how grazing can be done. I have two basic problems with this.

1) the reason that they promote these ranchers is largely due to their stance on the wolf and other charismatic mega-fauna. They do not consider impacts to other non-charismatic micro-fauna such as the loach minnow, spikedace, flycatcher, etc.

2) as well, the schemes that Holder and Winder use are very complicated, and expensive. This is not a real alternative for the majority of ranchers. Also, Winder does not depend on his cattle operation for his livelihood, thus is able to do alternative things.

As more and more ranchers are looking to these ideas as a way to stay in business and heal the land, all of us in the "radical center" -environmentalists, ranchers, land management agencies, and especially the public -should start shaking hands and working together to protect what we all love: the west's wide open spaces.

Author and historian Wallace Stegner once labeled the American West as "the native home of hope."

Let's prove him right.

Numerous scientific studies (many more than I've quoted here) have shown the ecological benefits of total livestock removal from Western ecosystems. Given that

* U.S. taxpayers subsidize the Western livestock industry to the extent of \$500 million annually (Karl Hess & Johanna H. Wald. 1995 (2 October). *Grazing Reform: Here's the Answer*. *High Country News*, 27(18)),

* Western federal public lands contribute only 2% of U.S. beef supply (Committee on Government Operations. 1986. *Federal Grazing Program: All Is Not Well on the Range*. U.S. Government Printing Office)

* federal public lands ranching contributes only 0.06% of the jobs and 0.04% of the income in the 11 Western states (*Lost Landscapes and Failed Economies: The Search for a Value of Place*, Thomas Michael Power, Island Press, Washington, D.C., 1996, pp. 184-185),

Why should we tolerate ANY degradation to our federal public lands by the livestock industry?

Editor's note: Mr. White is Executive Director of Quivira Coalition. He has also been involved in leadership roles within the Sierra Club. This piece was previously published in the *Santa Fe New Mexican* and *The Albuquerque Journal*, and is published here with the author's permission.

Election Notice for El Paso Group Members:

Use the Ballots in this Issue of the
Rio Grande Sierran to Vote for Chapter Reps.

There Will Be a Separate Ballot in the November
LORAX for Electing Group ExCom Members.

El Paso Agency Receives National SC Award

By Sally S. Savage

The Sierra Club and Planned Parenthood joined together to mark October 12, 1999, the day the United Nations estimated the global human population reached 6,000,000,000, by honoring an El Paso agency with the Earthcare Award.

Federación Mexicana de Asociaciones (FEMAP) was cited as an organization that has successfully combined environmental conservation, community development, and women's empowerment and reproductive health care. FEMAP is known in English-speaking circles as the Mexican Federation of Private Health and Community Development Associations.

Even more impressively, this is the first time since 1991 that the Sierra Club has presented the Earthcare Award.

According to Sierra Club Executive Director Carl Pope, "The rate at which we are consuming water, forests, wildlife, fish, and other natural resources cannot continue. That's why the Sierra Club is working to slow population growth."

The Club's announcement of the award concluded that "It has been proven time and time again that in countries where women are educated, where they have a chance to work or receive a loan to start their own business, and where women, men and adolescents have information and access to comprehensive reproductive health care, population growth slows and the environment is protected."

For more info, contact Lucy West at FEMAP: (915) 544-4151.

ICO Rides in Chile Pepper Challenge

By Mary Lou Parker

Nine members and supporters of Inner City Outings (ICO) set out to challenge themselves by riding in the El Paso Bicycle Club's Century Ride on Sep 26. One — Victor Smith — rode the entire 100 miles, and several — Larry Escobar, Tony Maldonado, Robert Schreiber, and Alex Aguirre — rode their longest ride yet of 40 miles. Riding with the Life Management Center (LMC) youths were Richard Rheder and Ed MacBeth; supporting them in a van were Laura Tourville and Lu Apple. This annual event has raised money for ICO for three years.

In another challenge, Richard and Laura led LMC teenagers on a quest to conquer Aztec cave in the Franklin Mountains. While Dominick Turnipseed and Larry Escobar remained with Richard's harmonious harmonic playing, the music inspired Laura and Justin Charles to quickly forge ahead in the lead.

Steering Committee to Meet Nov 2

The ICO section of Sierra Club leads environmentally aware outings for those who don't ordinarily have the chance to explore the outdoors. If you would like to volunteer, contact Ted Mertig at 852-3011 or come to a steering committee meeting at 6:30 PM, Nov 2, at the El Paso Zoo.

Outings (Area Code 915)

Oct 30-31: Dog Canyon Car Camp

Place: Guadalupe Mountains National Park
Class: Easy
Approximate length: Hiking optional
Elevation gain: Optional
Leader: Carl Horkowitz: 755-3968 (H)

Nov 6-7: Pine Springs to McKittrick Backpack

Place: Guadalupe Mountains National Park
Class: Strenuous
Approximate length: 21 miles
Elevation gain: 2,500 feet
Leader: Ann Falknor: 833-9162 (H)

Nov 13-14: Slaughter Canyon Backpack

Place: Carlsbad Caverns National Park
Class: Strenuous
Approximate length: 17 miles
Elevation gain: 1,850 feet
Leader: Dave Zucconi: 542-0512 (H)

Nov 20: Geology Trail Day Hike

Place: Guadalupe Mountains National Park
Class: Moderately strenuous
Approximate length: 10 miles
Elevation gain: 2,600 feet
Leader: Gary Williams: 593-3624 (H)



Nov 27: Organ Needle Day Hike

Place: Filmore Canyon, Organ Mountains East of Las Cruces
Class: Very strenuous
Approximate length: 8 miles
Elevation gain: 3,300 feet
Leader: Dave Robertson: 598-7554 (H)

November 28: South Franklin Peak Day Hike

Place: South Franklin Peak, Franklin Mountains State Park
Class: Moderate
Approximate length: 5 miles
Elevation gain: 2,000 feet
Leader: Terry Sunday: 584-9301

Apr 28 - May 2: Grand Canyon Backpack/Day Hike

Place: Grand Canyon, South Rim
Class: Moderate to strenuous
Approximate length: 15+ with pack; 12 for day hike
Elevation loss: 4,800 rim-to-river
Leader: Dave Zucconi: 542-0512 (H)
Interested hikers: call Dave before the end of November for details and to submit your non-refundable share of Grand Canyon backcountry fees (\$15).

El Paso Regional Group Directory

Executive Committee (Area Code 915)

Chair

Laurence Gibson: 594-7342, lgibson@utep.edu

Vice Chair

Jamie Newlin: 584-1471

Treasurer

Kathy Sunday: 584-9301

Members

Ann Falknor: 833-9162

Ted Mertig: 852-3011, tmertig@earthlink.net

Shirley Phillips: 772-6503

Sally S. Savage: 833-6899

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Administration

Chapter Rep

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