A Word From the New Chair

by Van L. Perkins

Three years ago, the proposed Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act (NREPA) became a hot issue among environmentalists. The proposed Act moved away from traditional "small" wilderness bills and daringly proposed an 18 million acre, five state wilderness plan. For comparison, the Montana Wilderness Bill gave wilderness protection to 1.48 million acres.

The Sierra Club (along with most national environmental organizations) declined to support NREPA, on the grounds that it was not politically feasible and might jeopardize the Montana Wilderness Bill. David Brower, longtime head of the Sierra Club who led the fight to prevent the damming of the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon, disagreed. He reminded us of the importance of wilderness, both spiritual and political. He reminded us that it was essential to preserve the wilderness for the next generation, and that we could not afford to lose it.

Administration, and pressure from within, the Sierra Club is changing. We now support NREPA, and have stifled our spirit on other issues. David Brower and Dave Foreman now sit on our national board.

The message is clear. We must defend the environment with all the resources at our command. And we must stand firm. Foreman put it succinctly: Environmentalists have tended to be moderate. Anti-environmentalists have tended to be extreme. Anti-environmentalists have tended to win. Or, to Brower's words: "Compromise is often necessary, but it ought not to originate with environmental leaders. Our role is to hold fast to what we believe is right.... If we cannot find enough vigor in us or our friends to win, then let someone else propose the compromise, which we must then work hard to coax our way."

Our resources are, primarily, people. If, again in Brower's words, we are "to make it politically possible for elected officials and agencies, if they appoint or condone, to care for the earth adequately," we need every concerned individual. We need to write letters, to make telephone calls, to oppose bad legislation and support good initiatives, to do the myriad things that have brought us success in the past. Next issue, I will have something on how you can join the effort. In the meantime, if you cannot wait to get started, call me at (505) 983-6901, or write me at Route 19 Box 1284, Santa Fe, NM 87505.

Chapter Prepares for 1996 Legislative Session

by Doug Brown, Sierra Club Lobbyist

The second session of the 42nd New Mexico State Legislature (the "short session") begins at noon Tuesday, January 16. Most of the Club's issues this year will hopefully involve only matters of adequate funding, i.e., Environment, Game and Fish, the Energy and Natural Resources Department will be seeking funding for their important programs.

We, unfortunately, have been hearing rumblings from within the Johnson administration that industry-backed weakening of the New Mexico Mining Act may be introduced by the Governor. Unless the constitution, only funding bills are to be considered in the short session, unless the Governor, in his message to the Legislature, issues a "special call" for legislation on a specific issue. Let us hope mining will not receive this special attention. Sue McIntosh will again be working on mining during the session. Chapter Chair Van Perkins, Chapter Vice-Chair George Grossman, Santa Fe Group Conservation Chair Courtney White, and Santa Fe Group Mining Issues Chair Eleanor Eisenmenger will also be volunteering their time during the session.

I just attended the annual meeting of the state's Sierra Club Activists/Lobbyists, at which we reviewed some depressing reports from other states as to the rollback of important environmental legislation. The good news: we have been much more successful than most. The bad: we should fully expect a more concerted effort by industry here as we become more isolated.

Additionally, we received a report of voters' views of environmentalists. The public is in its historically fondest mood both towards politicians and special interest groups. Unfortunately, environmentalists are now viewed as a special interest group. Interestingly, the public views individuals working in the conservation and protection of our natural resources positively. Query: Do the terms "environmentalist" and "conservationist" indicate a real difference or only a semantic one? In any case, and no matter what label you go by, anyone who is interested in getting involved as a Sierra Club volunteer, lobbyist or activist, please attend a legislative planning meeting in the new Santa Fe Group Office at 721 Old Santa Fe Trail, Suite 10, at 5:30 p.m. on January 11th.

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Dear Editor:

Our schools and lands are the big losers in the recent deal struck by the New Mexico Land Commissioner Ray Powell, Jr. to reject bids by environmental groups to lease state lands. Whether you are a parent of a school-age child, a fiscal conservative, or simply care about our environment, you have a stake in this matter.

The recently expired 10-year leases on 280,000 acres of state trust lands in New Mexico—about 12 percent of the state. Although long the exclusive domain of ranching interests, these are also the most promising lands. They were granted to New Mexico to support our schools and other public institutions. The duty of the Land Commissioner, as set forth in our state Enabling Act and Constitution, is to protect these lands and generate revenues, not to promote the interest of any particular industry or user group.

When Forest Guardians and the Southwest Environmental Center submitted competitive bids on nine leases encompassing over 4,000 acres this past September, we sought to use the marketplace to take advantage of dirt cheap prices to protect land instead of exploit it. We had that chance.

First, and foremost, we want to give the land a rest. Streamside ecosystems are arteries of life in the West, because they have been clogged with cattle for a century or more, they are in the worst "shape in history" according to the EPA. By keeping our cattle off this vital land, we can restore streamside habitats crucial to wildlife and the health of our watersheds. Secondly, we believe that these lands are underpriced, and the Land Office is not maximizing revenues from grazing leases. Ranchers pay an average of 10 cents per acre annually—less than the cost of a cup of coffee. Our groups offered to pay double that amount. When ranchers begrudgingly matched our bids, we demonstrated that more money can be raised for our schools, as is required by New Mexico's constitution.

And third, we sought to raise public awareness of the stakes and issues involved in the management of these lands, particularly the insulation paid by the Land Office to irresponsible elements of the state's natural heritage, such as streamside habitats and endangered species.

Under an outmoded system of "preferential rights," ranchers were able to hang on to their leases by matching our higher bids, which they did. But faced with the first time with a challenge by non-ranchers for state lands, they cried foul and demanded that the Land Office reject our bids altogether. Mr. Powell complied, thereby shutting us out of the bidding process and enabling ranchers to keep their stranglehold on state lands for the very few fees they had been paying.

Why did our bids invalidated? Powell was swayed by ranchers' complaints that we were "cherry picking" by bidding on certain parcels and not others. Others argued that we were going after the most valuable lands, the loss of which would cause them economic hardship and inconvenience. In a press release, Powell said he was worried that dividing leases into smaller pieces would lead to "chaos.

Clues for whom? Certainly not for our schools, which would have benefited from higher revenues, nor for our lands and wildlife, which would have been better protected. It is true that some of our bids were for partial leases, as expressly allowed under Land Office regulations. We targeted streamside habitats because the Land Office, which has only one biologist on staff, has yet to acknowledge the importance of these areas and hasn't even tried to protect them.

It was not our intention to harass ranchers or take land out of livestock production. Whether you are a parent of a school-age child, a fiscal conservative, or simply care about our environment, you have a stake in this matter.

If we win our lawsuit, Powell's decision to "carve leases into smaller and smaller pieces" rings somewhat hollow, considering the Land Office's willingness to carve up our grazing leases for oil and gas development, mining, and just about anything else that brings in more than four bits per acre annually, except potentially, conservation.

The irony is that ranchers, generally considered staunch advocates of the free market and minimizing government interference, seem willing to make an exception for their industry. Ranchers in Luna and Chaves Counties were quick to seek the help of their county commissions and state legislators in urging the Land Office to reject our bids.

The bottom line—Powell put the interests of ranchers ahead of school children and the environ-

ment. We played by the rules, we offered to pay more to protect the land, but the Land Office changed the rules in the middle of the game. An established competitive bidding process was suddenly found lacking when non-ranchers got in.

Ranchers may have won a temporary victory, but our schools, universities, and hospitals, and our schools and the land ultimately prevail. Sincerely,

Kevin kimby
John morning

[Note: Kevin kimby is the director of the southwest Environmental Center in Las Cruces and former Rio Grande Chapter Executive Committee. John Morning is watershed Protection Program Director for Forest Guardians in Santa Fe.]

Dear Editor:

I appreciate the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club giving me this opportunity to talk about two major causes of land use change and the issues behind them. I especially want to clear up some misapprehensions that have been made about our constitutional duties and the purpose of the state land trust grants.

The land grant trust generates nearly 20 percent of our public school budget. Without the revenues from the trust lands and the trust funds, every New Mexico income tax filer would have to pay an additional $900 a year just to support our public schools, universities and hospitals.

Our job is to look after 31.5 million acres of land that is set aside to benefit you and future generations of New Mexicans.

It is only partially correct to say that I am constitutionally required to make the most money possible from the trust lands. In the late 1800s, when the sole motivator was maximizing the dollar, little consideration was given to the long-term health and prosperity of land users and gas producers.

As a model of sustainability, the land trust helps our schools more by producing stable revenues in the long run, rather than unpredict-
able and irregular higher revenues in the short run. All of my decisions were made in full accordance with the law and in the best interest of the trust, to encourage stability and good stewardship.

It is the best interest of the trust means something special to me as a field biologist and veteri-
narian with a major interest in wildlife rehabilita-
tion. I carry out my duties with two major pur-
puses in mind:

- utilize our natural resources to gener-
ate revenues for our school children and other beneficiaries in a manner that sustains healthy land for future generations; and
- maintain an environment that pro-
vides our leases with economic opportunities to help support healthy rural communities.

As a result of the grazing lease renewal process, I reached one fundamental decision: Issu-
ing grazing leases for tracts that are carved out of existing leases is not in the best interest of the trust. As we go about revising our rules, partial leasing will be discouraged.

I rejected many partial leases because the smaller tracts were integral to the utilization of

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tion. Preferred format is via modem or on a Macintosh disc as Microsoft Word file. Other formats may be compatible—check with the Production Manager. Letters and articles are subject to abridgment.

Powell's reluctance to "carve leases into
Recently, I have been thinking about dwindling fish populations, bumper stickers, trash compactors, and the future of the environment and our society. And it's making me feel very uneasy.

Over the past year or so, a deluge of alarming stories have rained down on us, concerning the precipitous decline of wild fish populations in the world's oceans. Fish stocks have dropped so rapidly that many governments have been forced to impose moratoria on the harvest of particular types of fish for fear that these populations might actually go extinct. Needless to say, these decisions have created havoc in the fishing industry, which is in jeopardy of collapsing altogether, especially along the north-eastern coast of Canada. Many fishermen, in turn, have pointed their fingers at the environmental community, saying, in effect, "get off our back!"—a charge that baffles me entirely. It is, overall, a very distressing situation.

What alarms me most, however, is the lesson not being learned from this tragedy. The cause of the population decline—overfishing by humans—is beyond debate, and yet no one in the industry seems willing to admit fault, or share any responsibility. People would rather point fingers and swear oaths. But, the truth is, the fishing industry appears incapable of living within one simple rule: there must be a limit to the catch. Obviously, there are only so many fish in the sea; harvest them all, and everyone suffers. Conversely, if the fishermen chose to live and work within certain limits, then they could have their fish and eat it too, so to speak. It really seems that simple: fish together in moderation, or die together in exploitation.

Living Within Limits

If I had to boil down environmentalism's central thesis into a bumper sticker I would write: "Living within Limits." Everything we say and do as members of the movement, when we stop to think about it, comes back to this message. If we want to live in a healthy, attractive, and profitable world then we must abide by certain limitations on our wants and needs. We simply cannot have it all. This rule applies not only to Canadian fishermen, or to ranchers, loggers, and other commodity-based lifestyles, but to environmentalists too. A forest full of Spotted Owls, or a rangeland free of cattle, is, for a variety of reasons, simply an unrealistic goal. We must accept limitations to our dreams, and actions, as well. This is a lesson we can all share—living within limitations means striving for a balance of dreams and realities.

The trouble is nobody likes limits. Nobody likes to get their hand slapped when it is caught in the cookie jar. A stern parent, shaking a finger, saying "no, no, no" isn't anybody's idea of fun, or profit. For over a generation, the environmental movement has acted as this country's stern parent, shaking a finger at polluters and recalcitrant federal agencies (and occasionally striking them). It was a tough role to play, especially when the children threw nostril and more violent temper tantrums. But future generations deserve to know it is a job that must be done, if he or she intends for the child to grow into a healthy and productive citizen. If we don't, we were at least responsible for what we were attempting to accomplish.

But something has changed in the last five years, or so. The tantrums by natural resource users, and others, have grown to deafening proportions, inciting some, on a national political level, to attempt to dismantle the very limitations that are considered reasonable by most people. The stern parent has suddenly become a sad person; someone to be reviled as a totalitarian bent on imposing his or her will on our playground private rights. We see, suddenly, and in a heat, to resent any and all limitations on our behavior—and damn the consequences.

Life in a Trash Compactor

I'm not a sociologist but I will hazard one explanation for this dramatic turn of events: we act as if we lived in a trash compactor. It might be true; all indications we are being squeezed on four sides: by shrinking base of natural resources, by stagnant wages, by a breakdown in cultural norms and values, and by a complete loss of faith in the political process to make a constructive impact on our lives. Slowly, and inexorably, the compactor keeps squeezing us, resulting in a great deal of anger. A convenient target for this rage is the stern environmental parent. A resentment has begun to build about our message, living within limits. Because it is not what we want to have to do, but what we are forced to do. It is a little like being pressed into a little ball of trash. It is a great good message, of at least one, I believe, that will allow us ultimately to climb out of the compactor, but that may not be the point any more.

Cynical attitudes about the corporate motives of the Republican leaders in Congress aside for the moment, I believe that the attack on environmental regulations at the state and federal level is rooted in this "compaction" of American life. The anger appears to be genuine, as does the resentment, and it would be a serious error on the part of the environmental community to dismiss them as the illogical rantings of a lunatic fringe. There is more substance to this complaint then we realize. People are hurting, frustration is mounting, and the environmental movement, as a consequence, runs the risk of irrelevancy. We must turn our attention to the problems at hand, we must find a new way of articulating our message—to accept limits as a form of salvation—so that it means something to the majority of Americans. Right now, we're not doing that.

And it's making me very uneasy.

Sierra Club Calls for Boycott of Shell in Death of Nigerian Activist

On November 10, the military government of Nigeria executed Oguland writer Ken Soro-Wiwa and 8 other environmental and community activists, who had been tried and convicted without due process. Sierra Club Board of Directors has condemned the Nigerian government's actions and has called for a boycott of Royal Dutch Shell for its complicity in Nigeria's human rights and environmental abuses.

Royal Dutch Shell has a documented record of polluting Oguland with its operations and of ignoring the Nigerian government's attempts to control environmental and other citizen activists, like Ken Soro-Wiwa, who have organized to oppose the pollution of their communities, their drinking water, and their farmland.

The boycott should continue until Royal Dutch Shell has:
- decreased or eliminated pollution in Nigeria from its oil and gas development projects;
- agreed that future operations in Nigeria will conform to standards no weaker than those it would be required to meet in the U.S.; and
- paid fair compensation directly to those people adversely affected by its activities in Nigeria.

Royal Dutch Shell should also suspend plans for any new construction in Nigeria which might contribute to additional pollution until it has met the above conditions.

The Sierra Club has also called upon all oil companies operating in Nigeria to use their obvious influence on the Nigerian government to stop the environmental and human abuses. In addition, the Sierra Club has called upon the United States government and all other governments to impose sanctions against the government of Nigeria, including asking the World Bank, the International Financial Corporation, and other lending agencies to withhold funding of all but humanitarian projects in Nigeria until:

- the Nigerian dictactor Sani Abacha resigns and steps are taken to restore a democratic government in Nigeria;
- the bodies of the 9 executed Oguland activists are returned to their families for burial; and
- Royal Dutch Shell meets the conditions for ending the boycott against it.

Until these conditions are met, the Sierra Club urges that the following sanctions be applied:

1) International economic sanctions, including a boycott of Nigerian petroleum products.

2) Investigation by the Hague's War Crimes Tribunal of the November 10 executions.

3) Barring of Nigerian nationals from participation in international sporting events.

4) Freezing of personal assets and bank accounts of Nigerians involved with the Nigerian military regime.

5) Denial of visas to Nigerians directly involved or closely associated with the Nigerian military regime.

6) Withholding of financial support by international lending agencies for any development in Nigeria, except for humanitarian projects.

The Sierra Club believes that international, national, and individual actions are necessary to stop Nigeria's assaults on environmental and human rights. On December 22, the United Nations voted to condemn the Nigerian government for human rights violations stemming from the November executions.

See Sample Letter to the Editor on Page 15
Mining is Silly

by Sue McNelis

Top: A view of the Continental Mine near Ferro in Grant County, showing waste dump on the left, pit in the center and tailings facilities on the right.

Bottom: Ferro Church, which is surrounded by the existing mine and threatened by the proposed expansion.

Since this column last appeared, I've heard from a couple of people that perhaps the title is inappropriate. Well, is mining silly? Keep in mind that just being politically incorrect or annoying to the industry does not make the title inaccurate. Is the truth inappropriate? Judge for yourself, and let me know what you think. If you can think of a better title, send it up to me. Only painfully humorous titles will be considered. In the meantime, let's talk about mining. By the way—if the truth scares you, do not read this column.

In the last issue, we talked about Copar Pumice Company's demand to be allowed to mine pumice in San Juan Canyon in the Jemez Mountains at the cost of a high quality perennial headwaters creek and watershed, so that Levi Strauss canstowne jeans. On December 9th, we took a dozen interested folks up to look at San Juan Canyon where Richard Cook—oops, Copar Pumice Company—planned to dig up our pumice. (As of December 19, 1995, according to the State of New Mexico Corporation Commission, Richard P. Cook remains the President and Director of Copar Pumice Company. Mr. Cook candidly denies that he has anything further to do with Copar.) We talked about how the Canyon would change if mining was allowed as proposed. It was a very successful trip and we will offer another field inspection of the Copar proposed mines this spring. Stay tuned.

Perhaps some folks might argue that Copar's plans are not silly. One thing that the proposed Copar South Pit is NOT however, is a minimal impact mine. According to a decision of the state Mining and Minerals Division, Copar does not qualify for this less rigorous permit review process under the New Mexico Mining Act (NMMA), because the mining will occur in a critical habitat for the Mexican Spotted Owl, and because the mine, including its haul route, will directly and adversely impact the headwaters of San Juan Canyon. Minimal impact standards would have enabled Copar to proceed without gathering baseline data, and therefore without analyzing the impact the mine and haul route will have on the Canyon and without public notice and comment. For obvious reasons, this privileged provision is offered only to operations which are certain to have but a "minimal impact" on the environment. Copar's mine is not one of those.

So, the jig's up for Copar, and now they will have to come back into the permitting process as a regular mine. This requires increased permitting review, baseline data collection and analysis, full public notice and opportunity for a public hearing and other necessary prerequisites to permit approval.

Copar's initial comments to the press regarding denial of their coveted minimal impact status might give the impression that Copar was being less than forthright in its initial submission of a 97 acre mine plan, which was conveniently below the 10 acre limit for minimal impact consideration. Following the denial, Copar's mine proposal swelled to 40 acres in the press.

Take a Trip To Coparland

Copar has other irons in the fire in the Jemez Mountains, including the proposed new 125 acre El Cajete mine, which is located in the Santa Fe National Forest in the Jemez Mountains. Before we talk about this new mine, though, we must all escape reality and step into the fantasy world of Coparland, where Pumzor to king, Copar runs the show and the state Mining and Minerals Division does as it is told.

You see, Copar says that the new El Cajete mine isn't a new mine at all. Instead, it is nothing but a "logical extension" of Copar's existing Los Conchas mine (which happens to be almost 3 miles away from the currently undisputed site of the proposed El Cajete mine). And so, Copar has advised the Mining and Minerals Division that El Cajete is, in Coparland, actually an "existing mine," which should be "grandfathered" under less protective provisions of the mining act.

Never mind that El Cajete is a NEW proposal to mine 135 acres of previously unmined land that is at least two miles distant from any other mine. Never mind that the United States Forest Service has determined that permitting El Cajete would be a major federal action which is likely to significantly affect the human environment, and is now producing a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for their consideration of this NEW mine. The New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division is about to treat El Cajete as only an addition to Copar's existing mine, two miles away. And with no further ado, standoff reality, and give Copar a sweet grandfathered deal.

The thing that troubles me is that El Cajete is not proposed in Coparland, it is proposed in the Santa Fe National Forest, and it is a new mine with new disturbances and new decisions to be made. It should be held to the standards of today's modern mining act, as required by the mining act, not grandfathered in back room politics.

Mining and Minerals Division needs to hear from its real constituents on this El Cajete business. Call them at 950-257-2970. Let them know whether you live in the real world where water and wildlife are important and the government works for all of us.

Copper—A Man's Mineral

Well then I was talking about that goofy little pumice rock again, when last time, I promised you Copar—A Man's Mineral. Alright, here it is.

Hold on a minute. I must preface the following remarks with a word of caution. I think of the Rio Grande Chapter and our fine former chairperson, Gwen Wardwell, who have all been sued by Copre Mining Company. The cause, as far as I can tell, is this: the Sierra Club filed a Notice of Intent to file a pollution (lawsuit) against Copre Mining Company and against the Mining and Minerals Division. Really, that is it. The reader should be aware that I have not even read all my remarks due to debilitating fear of further punishment by Copre's legion of attorneys. Having said that, let us proceed.

[Note: Copre is in violation of the NMMA for failing to file an adequate site assessment as required by the NMMA. Because the Mining and Minerals Division has done nothing to cause Copre to abide its violation, that agency is itself in violation of the act. That is our theory, supported, we believe, by the weight of evidence. The NMMA provides in its entirety for just such litigation, and mandates a responsibility to provide 60 days worth of notice to Copre, MMD and others, as well as anything short of litigation may resolve the outstanding issues. The Sierra Club complied with its duties by filing the notice of intent to suit. In response, Copre has sued the Sierra Club and Ms. Wardwell personally, for the act of doing what we are required to do and have an absolute right to do, under the New Mexico Mining Act.

[Copre's lawsuit was filed in Grant County, an obviously more favorable forum for a mining company who is seeking the easiest audience to hear exactly what it has done. It is a "declaratory judgement action," which seeks to preempt Sierra Club's ability to bring suit against Copre in the future, in the Santa Fe forests allowed by the Mining Act, and instead gives the matter over to a hometown court for a nice warm pot on the back for the mining company. The Sierra Club has launched a defense, and is now well aware of the kind of mining company Copre Mining Company is. We already had a pretty good idea.]


While ads on the T.V. assure us all that the copper of Phelps Dodge surrounds us, the copper of Cobre Mining Company seems to be flowing from Hawzoner Creek, east Silver City. Of course, the law says Cobre is supposed to keep a closed system on the mine. However, toilet contaminants generated at their big old copper mine, but you know how those things go. Now, it is becoming increasing obvious that some heavy metals are getting away from Cobre at their Continental Mine, fouling local water resources both on and off site. And it's not only copper, but preliminary evidence exists of unbury mercury, cadmium, cobalt and zinc as well.

So what is the Continental Mine, and who is Cobre Mining Company, and why can't they keep their heavy metals to themselves? Glad you asked. Cobre's Continental Mine is located approximately 3 miles north of the town of Hanover in Grant County, New Mexico. The mine produces copper ore from underground workings and an open pit. The ore is crushed and milled on site, with the resulting copper concentrate shipped to an off-site smelter. Tailings from the milling process are discharged to tailings ponds via slurry pipelines. Waste rock is deposited on site, and profits are used to line the pockets of a small handful of appreciative mine owners.

The mine is situated on both public (BLM) and private lands. Establishment of the Continental Mine has been dated at 1964, although historic underground mining has occurred in the area since the middle 19th century. The mine shut down in 1982, when the operator, Sharon Steel, fell into bankruptcy troubles, laying off about 40 miners. Around 1990, Bayard Mining Company began to sell cash in the Continental copper reserves, and reinitiated development at the mine. In 1992, Cobre Mining Company came of the bench and is currently in the hot seat.

NEPA in the Hands of Miners

The first issue is a NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) question. NEPA requires investigations and disclosure of environmental and health-related impacts on projects involving BLM land, among other things. Typically, we see this investigation in the form of an "environmental assessment" (EA) or "environmental impact statement" (EIS). One purpose of NEPA is to provide an unbiased and honest assessment of the true impacts to public land of proposed management actions, prior to approving such actions.

According to federal law, mining operations which disturb public lands can occur only after compliance with the mandates of NEPA and after approval of a Plan of Operations (POO) by the land management agency, here, the BLM. We should only approve and allow that which we fully understand. Reasonable.

So what NEPA investigation has occurred at the Continental Mine and when was a POO approved? Cobre finally got around to filing a Plan of Operations on June 21, 1993, despite the fact that they had been mining for some time. The POO was prepared entirely by Cobre consultants, and Cobre's lawyer. Although Cobre claims their proposed POO was approved by the BLM in January 1995, BLM officials don't believe that is quite right. BLM's best guess is that maybe the POO was approved sometime in 1993, but no one at BLM has been able to lay their hands on that darned approval document.

Is there currently an approved POO for the Continental Mine? BLM cannot say for sure right now. We have yet to see evidence of any approval. BLM has called in an "adjudicator" to sort out their troubles, and the Sierra Club has requested a copy of the entire Continental Mine file so we can see for ourselves.

Is it possible that the BLM does not know whether or when the POO for the Continental Mine was approved? The whole thing is kind of like a three ring circus with dancing elephants and bears going on in the Vatican chapel, and nary a single cardinal nor the pope actually knowing if or when such activity was approved. We will keep you updated.

Also on June 21, 1995, the NEPA document, which is intended to provide an honest, thorough and unbiased investigation of the impacts of the mining activity, was issued. According to the list of preparers included in the EA, that document was also authored by Cobre's consultants and lawyers, and it was all given to the BLM, authored and prepackaged for convenience, by the mining company, who has the most profit to gain.

Trespass and Violations on Your Land

Next, note that during the period 1992-1994 at least, Cobre mined copper, processed it on site, slurried the tailings to ponds on unpatented BLM claims and deposited waste on unpatented BLM claims, all without an approved Plan of Operations. There are laws against that. BLM regulations call it trespass. What has BLM done about it? Nothing. We are trying to figure out why.

Going right ahead, it looks like Cobre is in significant violation of their approved/unapproved POO. We are in the process of nailing this down, and no, BLM has not officially determined that violations of the POO are occurring, but then again, the BLM never bothered to stop Cobre from operating in trespass during the first half of this decade, either.

The POO includes no site specific standards for the Continental Mine. There are, however, several "measures to prevent unnecessary and undue degradation" included at Section 5.0 of the POO. Based upon research conducted thus far, Cobre Mining Co. appears to be in violation of 9 of the 9 measures which have been identified. The Sierra Club is currently taking steps to further verify and characterize these potential violations through discussions with BLM and the New Mexico Environment Department. We have compiled a preliminary report regarding these potential violations as well as other issues having to do with the EA and POO. Call 983-2763 for more information.

Until next time, ponder this question. If you robbed banks from 1992-1994, and you finally got caught in 1995, would the cops let you go if you promised that you would never rob banks again? I say probably not. So, if a mine operates in trespass on our public lands from 1992 - 1994...

As John Prine is apt to explain, "Oooh baby! It's a big ole goofy world."

TO MAKE A MINE YOU'VE GOT TO BREAK A FEW ROCKS

A Workshop on Mining and Its Effects on Public and Private Land

Saturday, January 13, 1996, 9am to 4:30pm
Main Hall, Unitarian Church, 107 W. Barcelona Street, Santa Fe

9:00 - 10:30am MINING 101. Everything you always wanted to know about modern mining but were afraid to ask.
Speakers: Dr. Art Montana, Chairman of the New Mexico Mining Commission, and Dr. Val Green, mining engineer and consultant, formerly on the NM Mining Commission.
10:30 - 10:45 Break
10:45 - Noon THE RULES OF THE GAME. A review of the significant Federal and State laws that govern mining activity, including New Mexico's Hard Rock Mining and Reclamation Act and the infamous 1872 Mining Law.
Speakers: Aimee Boulanger of the Mineral Policy Center in Washington, D.C., Sue McIntosh, Rio Grande Sierra Club Noon - 1:15 Lunch (provided by the Sierra Club—donations accepted)
1:15 - 2:15 CLIMBING IN THE RING. The basics of mining activism—what one needs to know to start the fight, where to go and how to keep from being knocked out.
Speaker: Jeanne Cragin, Santa Fe County mining activist extraodinaire
2:15 - 2:30 Break
2:30 - 3:30 WHAT'S HOT. A panel discussion of the most pressing mining issues in New Mexico, including attempts to weaken the mining law in the upcoming legislative session, new mines, bad mines, and the role for the State in reform of the 1872 Mining Law.
Speakers: Doug Fraser, Sierra Club lobbyist, Sue McIntosh, Aimee Boulanger, and Courtney White, moderator
3:30 - 4:30 LET'S TALK! A wrap-up discussion based on questions from the audience.

For further information and registration, call Sue McIntosh (466-2001) or Courtney White (982-5502).

Mining is Silly (can't I)
Ski Report

John Turnbull

1. Author, demonstrating that discretion (and parapets) is often the better part of valor. West of Tres Piedras, near Vallecito overlook.

2. A two-punt landing off a cornice near Chamis. Challenge determines need for technique. Others elected to go around cornice.

3. A nice telemark turn on firm snow surface, near Brazos Cliffs. Thirty feet away, breakable crust would make the technique very difficult, requiring a conservative stemmed christy.

4. A group of intermediate and advanced skiers on easy terrain near Cloudcroft. Having a good time on a moonlight trip, while heading for breathtaking overlook of Twilaressa Basin. Challenge isn't everything in skiing.

5. A fun trip on scenic and easy touring terrains on the East Fork, Jemez River. The same year this spot. On the steepest side, two skiers in this picture fell in love and were married. It does happen!

Advancing from beginner to intermediate level involves new skills, for sure, but probably more importantly is it in the judgment of what technique is suitable for the particular snow conditions. This you will naturally learn in class, because, unhesitatingly, to you, the instructor has selected optimum snow conditions for you. The perfect wedge, essentially a firm, smooth surface, is impossible in deep snow. And few classes ever deal with how to manage downhill acceleration in a set of tracks a foot or two deep. Or breakable crust. Or a dozen other circumstances typical in the backcountry.

With a background of about 16 years of instruction, I've concluded that the best way to advance from backcountry beginner to backcountry intermediate is to spend time skiing with people who possess solid intermediate or advanced skills, and who don't mind sharing their knowledge and helping you out. Be nice to these people. The Sierra Club outings program is particularly valuable in this respect. It gets the beginning skier out on the trail in company of a more experienced leader. As changing terrain and snow conditions present themselves, there is someone to suggest what you are looking at, with your individual level of skill, should adjust. Talk to the leader in advance. Describe to them what your snow level is, determine if the trip is appropriate to you, and most importantly, inquire if the leader is willing to help you master what you will encounter. Some will. Soon. Unfortunately, won't be bothered. Stick with the former.

Beginning skiers frequently are misguided into thinking that there is one specific skill applicable to a specific challenge. In fact, there are many ways to handle a situation. The advanced skier may blast straight down the hill. The intermediate skier may execute a series of sets or stemmed christies. The beginner may select an uninitiating zig-zag traverse back and forth across the slope, changing direction with kick turns or snowplows. Ultimately, all get to the bottom successfully. Short of descending the Matherhorn, or a Taos chute, there usually is a way, often simple if not elegant, for managing any hill, up or down. And should a person feel inferior with the less-than-elegant back and forth traverses, take a cue from mountaineers whose lives may depend on avoiding a fall. Take no showing off or fancy technique when lives are at risk. That's for the Alpine "downhill" crowd, with the Ski Patrol standing by to save them. The most common turning techniques in severe conditions on the high peaks, where the skier's fate is in his/her own hands alone, are the humble stem turn and the stemmed christy. What confronts the mountaineer on the peak and the beginner on the hill is essentially the same. Each on his own skill level. The safe, controlled technique they utilize is, surprisingly, almost identical— and as old as skiing itself.

Thinking about it. Perhaps more than any other sport, skiing is a matter of getting out and doing it— at whatever skill level you possess. Technique follows need. Until you challenge yourself, you probably won't need much more technique than you have already. But, in looking up from the golf course to the ridges and peaks above, it's enticing, and a challenge, and those achievements will require new techniques. And many years and many ridges later, when you're old and gray, you'll relinquish such challenges and be happy and satisfied skiing across the golf course as you did decades before. Ask any Norwegian or Swede. Skiing is a mirror of one's life.

(The author is a former chairman of the Santa Fe Grub, a long-time Nordic skiing instructor of NordicWest, a cross-country ski magazine published in Bend, Oregon, and has conducted ski clinics and ski tours for the Rio Grande Chapter for many years.)
New Subcommittee Forming on Transportation, Air Quality, Land Use and Growth Management

The Albuquerque Group invites our members to a discussion group on Transportation and Land Use Issues. The intent is to form a core group, led by Lon Lumsden, to focus our attention on the environment and quality of life elements that make up livable communities.

We are concerned about the mobility choices being made that can either preserve our air quality or contribute to its deterioration. We are concerned that the methods we use to accommodate growth directly impact transportation, air quality and land use.

Our January meeting will review some possible initiatives we may take, including but not limited to:

- Developing a community preference survey to identify our common visions of development.
- Creating an alternative transportation analysis into Paseo De Norte through the Petroglyph National Monument, focusing on light rail, transit, ridepool and bicycle alternatives.
- Adapting an urban bike trail section and creating a dialogue with businesses to support bike commuting and parking.
- Mapping out and analyzing the trends in open space and farmland losses due to sprawl growth.

We will discuss how to cultivate decisionmakers critical information on successful projects elsewhere in the country.

Please call Ralph Wroes 275-0856 (Emergency) or Stefan Venckus 888-3379 or 2703-2299 to reserve our first meeting on Wednesday, January 10, 1996 at 7:00 pm, at 2700 Espanola NE, corner of Espanola and Phoenix NE, North of Menaul and East of Louisiana NE.

What a Year! A Report from the Chair

by Susan Gorman

It's that time of year when looking back to see where you've been and looking forward to see where you're going is appropriate. It's the January thing, I guess. So, I looked back through minutes of Excom meetings and checked out other records of the past year and just got lost in thought... What have we accomplished and what's next??

The year began with a news report that Bruce Babbit and Pete Domenici had teamed up to pass legislation to enable construction of Paseo De Norte Freeway through Petroglyph National Monument. We mobilized the phone tree and letter writers and asked Sierra Club President Robert Conner to come present the Club's position. The resulting citizen outcry caused Babbit to make a strong statement in opposition to the road and the bill evaporated.

This was the first of a continuing barrage of assaults against preservation of the Monument. This campaign has continued for 10 years and is not over yet. Thus, Environmentalists find itself in a position where it is endeavoring to lead the way toward environmental and economic development.

We're trying to emulate to Los Angeles... a bleak prospect! The debate over the Westside Strategic Plan has continued through the year and will require sustained efforts in the future. This plan, as presently drafted, sets the stage for rampant development of the vast West of Albuquerque and Bernalillo County. During the year, Bruce Bates led our participation in the process by getting technical and written comments. But it is clear that this alone will not convince the Mayor and the developers to stop large-scale development, with little concern for the cost of the infrastructure and the water supply. As they look out to the West Mesa, they see dollars, not sprawl.

To seek a more effective way to bring sanity to development in Albuquerque, the Sustainable Albuquerque Coalition has held several meetings with grassroots organizations that have collected a list of folks who want to help and will be having workshops to share ideas and educate ourselves about the alternatives to sprawl.

We lost a major campaign when the bulldozers began clearing cottonwoods in preparation for the construction of Montano Bridge. In spite of our efforts, led by Richard Besen and others, the decision that the paved road up Las Huertas Canyon will not be built. We are still hopeful that the money will be found to purchase the land at Tres Peñas National Trail.

We joined a dozen other environmental organizations to turn out supporters for the Lobo. At a hearing before the US Fish & Wildlife Service, over 100 people spoke against destruction of the Lobo, amid wolf howls of approval. This was a great event because we dominated the hearing and because we demonstrated that environmentalists can and will work together. We need to do much more of this.

The success of the Wolf hearing was due in part to the Wildlands Conference, which brought together environmentalists from New Mexico, Colorado, Utah and Arizona to share information and techniques. We hope this is the first of many such conferences. We plan to initiate another one in 1996.

Through the year, we continued to fight the War on the Environment being waged in Washington DC. Supported by the National Club, we have waged a continuous war of words... letters, calls, faxes and E-mail to Senators Domenici and Bingaman and Congressmen Schaffer, letters to the Editor, alerts to distribute on Earth Day and recently at Wild Oats articles in the Sierra to let members know what's going on in Congress. There have been some victories, but as I write this, we are hoping for Presidential vetoes to prevent disasters like oil drilling in Alaska, EPA and Department of the Interior budget cuts, construction of the Animas-La Plata water diversion, a bill is still alive and will be coming to the Senate floor for a vote soon. Domenici's Grazing bill, the Ecotourism/Recreation Act, is set for a comeback, with only cosmetic improvements... The War continues!

The Wildlands Conference was just one part of a comprehensive effort to develop more activists. During the year, we put a Headquarters for the Rio Grande Chapter on the World Wide Web, initiated a discussion list for folks on the Animas-La Plata water diversion, and initiated a letter writers group. These efforts will continue during 1996 and everyone is invited, no, urged, to participate... We NEED YOU!

A Backpacking Vacation in the Gila

by Susan Gorman and Blair Brown

Back in the Spring, the Albuquerque Group received a letter from Germany requesting information on places to spend a vacation hiking in untouched wilderness areas such as the Gila Wilderness. We supplied them with maps and a guidebook and as their planning progressed, specific information on sources of food and water and the towns in the Gila region.

They called us to report that they had completed their hike and had a wonderful time. We asked them if they would write an article for the Sierra, which is printed below.

As you read their article, reflect on their comment, "and this, we can only find in the USA."

Loning for wilderness which we couldn't find here in Europe, we came up with the Gila in New Mexico. With the aid of the Albuquerque Sierra Club, we were able to realize our plans during late Spring of this year.

We started on May 15 on Emory Pass, hiking north along the Crest Trail of the Black Range in partially strong winds, freezing temperatures at Mimbres Lake, and across Reeds Park to Squaw Spring. We had some problems finding water, which was unusable for us coming from the Alps, where clear cold mountain rivers provide water in abundance. Yet with some detours and plenty of canyons, we survived.

From Squaw Spring, we descended down to the Black Canyon, following the river westbound until it merges with the Gila East Fork. In the Lower Black Canyon, we had to do some bushwacking, since there was only a partial cow trail and lots of damage from the winter floods. We had never hiked Cairns before, so it was kind of challenging. The upper Canyon was very beautiful, the lower part rather frustrating. Here, position fixing along the river was difficult, because neither the altimeter, nor trail intersections, nor landmarks provided reliable clues. But we could rely on the river to take us to our destination. It did work out, and after about a week of mostly enjoyable and scenic highlights we reached the Gila Visitors Center and Ranger Station, where we had deposited our supplies for the following 10 days.

We spent a night at the Lodge on the Hot Springs Trail, before we started out hiking the Gila West Fork. We were absolutely fascinated by the beautiful scenery and the botanical diversity. Here the water was clear, the cliffs were steep, and nowhere a trace of civilization. Of course, at times our group was so large that the ranger had warned us, but we had no problem finding the trail and cooling off at the river crossings. We took our time hiking, made camp early and one day we started off for the Mogollons, but didn't move camp at all.

It took us two days across the Mogollon Mountains with extensive snow-covered stretches. That we did not expect to come across in New Mexico, but the range at Gila Cliffdwell told us. We were relieved after reaching Red Stone Park on the Whiteraker, a beautiful spot, where we stayed another day. We very much enjoyed the creek, sitting on the rocks in the warm sunshine watching numerous butterflies, and bathing in the ice cool fast flowing Whiteraker.

The end of our vacation was close. Now that we were in better physical condition, we enjoyed every hiking mile. Positively, we returned into civilization across the Cave Creek, had a tent at the picnic ground and walked the 5 miles to Glenwood rather tidily... did we really want to return into the neon world? Now, three months afterwards, we know that we will come back to the Gila Wilderness. It is the contrast and diversity in canyon and mountain scenery that has fascinated us, something we had not experienced before, and this we can only find in the USA. We will be grateful for the help by Susan Gorman (of the Albuquerque Group) and the Forest Rangers at the Gila Visitor Center. We’ll certainly pass on our positive experience to fellow hikers here in Bavaria.
It's a Railvolution!!!!!

There is good news on the transportation front. Stefan Vechtinskis, tGroup Transportation Chair, recently attended a national conference on Light Rail and Commuter Rail systems in Portland, Oregon. He learned that cities in some areas have invested in moving people instead of moving cars. Virtually all of these "rubber wheeled" systems have a few distinguishing characteristics. They move people quickly and quietly to major destinations and urban centers, freeing up land subsidized by the communities that install them, but the lifespan are two to three times greater than costly buses and roads trying to accomplish the same movement of people. They generally are also much safer than building even car pool lanes on urban freeways. They work extremely well as a focus of an integrated transit system and cities that have taken such an approach have seen significant increases in system use from the date of first installation.

The best part? Being in a community where you can, if you want, decide not to own a car! Portland will have three light rail routes in operation by 2005, covering some 45-50 miles! Some of the conference materials are already impacting both the proposed revisions to the City master plan and the State of New Mexico's Mesa del Sol Project. And then there was this neat free train whistle. Wow! Wow!

Notes from the Transportation Chair by Stefan Vechtinskis

Winning some more! Bicycle Issues

Money has been allocated to build the bicycle path connection from the Paseo del Norte/New North Division Channel Trail under I-25 and Montgomery to hook up to the Paseo del Norte bike trail that goes to sundial. Construction is to begin in early 1996.

The city's bicycle committee has agreed to send a letter requesting our congressional delegation to support the continuation of a critical transportation act known as ISTEA. This act allows for a great deal of local control in how funds are allocated and has allowed for significant funding of transportation alternatives.

Road Issues

We helped cancel a study of unnecessary freeway style interchange at Fairway and Fairmont. We are able to get the Alameda Corridor Study from 1-25 significantly reduced in scope despite the new standards. "But we need it! It's in the Long Range Street Plan!" Analysis showed that traffic volume does not justify running a major arterial design past schools and low-density residential areas. This will discourage sprawl and focus housing back toward the urban centers.

We were unsuccessful at stopping the Urban Transportation Policy and Planning Board from including in the Federal National Highway Extension through the Petroglyph National Monument. This will place additional pressure on the National Park Service to build a "Higher Federal Need."

The investigation of the underfunding of our local street systems Albuquerque currently is understanding about $15 million a year. This will spiral within the decade to over $35 million a year. It appears that the

CALENDAR

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

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 3</td>
<td>Mexican Wolf Coalition, 7:30 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 8</td>
<td>Deadline for agenda items for Group ExCom Call Susan Gorman at 265-3231</td>
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<td>Jan 9</td>
<td>Group ExCom, 7:00 PM</td>
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<td>Jan 15</td>
<td>Deadline for agenda items for Conservation Committee Call Richard Barish, 524-6709</td>
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<td>Feb 7</td>
<td>Mexican Wolf Coalition, 7:30 PM</td>
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<td>Feb 12</td>
<td>Deadline for agenda items for Group ExCom Call Susan Gorman at 265-3231</td>
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<td>Feb 15</td>
<td>Deadline for articles for March/April Rio Grande Chapter ExCom Meeting, 7:00 PM</td>
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<td>Feb 21</td>
<td>Chapter ExCom Meeting, Black Range Lodge, Kingston</td>
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<td>Feb 26</td>
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Group Directory

1996 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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<tr>
<td>Chair</td>
<td>Susan Gorman</td>
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<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Blaire Brown</td>
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<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Richard Barish</td>
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<td>Newsletter</td>
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CONSERVATION

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<tr>
<td>Conservation Chair</td>
<td>Richard Barish</td>
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<td>Heidi Fleischmann</td>
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<td>Transportation</td>
<td>Michelle Meeches</td>
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<td>Stefan Vechtinski</td>
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January 15th - General Meeting

Our January guest, Jim Jones, is a photographer, nature writer and birders who teaches natural history photography workshops throughout New Mexico. Jim will present a slide show and discussion the University of New Mexico. Jim is an outdoorsman and wildlife photographer with an interest in promoting the Rio Grande to limited wild lands.

Jim's home is in Taos, New Mexico, but for the last 25 years he has been a part of his home in the northern watersheds of the Rio Grande.

February 19th - General Meeting

To be announced. The February General Meeting topic announcement will be available by calling the Albuquerque group office at 265-5936.

General meetings are held at the UNM Law School, room 2401, on the corner of Mountain Rd. and Stanford N.E.

BRING YOUR OWN CUPS FOR REFRESHMENTS DURING THE BREAK

Alternative Transportation Meeting

Attention: alternative transportation advocates!

People in the Albuquerque Metro area drive over 11 million vehicle miles every day! These same vehicles contribute over 75% of the carbon monoxide and nitrogen oxides that contribute to global warming and acid rain.

Some of us are concerned that the current land use policy reforms, making all forms of alternative transportation viable. The ad hoc Land Use and Transportation Group will meet starting in January, the third Wednesday of the month – January 17 for the first meeting at the Sierra Club Office.

Every month that goes by, we fall further into debt. Be a part of the solution.

ADMINISTRATION

Office Organizer | Leslie Lazaga |
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contact</td>
<td>Larry Compton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phone</td>
<td>265-5944</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fax</td>
<td>899-0679</td>
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<tr>
<td>Website</td>
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Media Coordinator | Julie Hicks |
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(see other page)
Creating the Strategy for a Sustainable Albuquerque
by Susan Gorman

We can do it! We can create the Grand Strategy for a Sustainable Albuquerque.

The components are falling into place. Shared Vision’s Transportation and Land Use Town Hall started us talking together, the Sustainable Community Committee has been appointed, the Middle Rio Grande Council of Governments is initiating a visioning process for the region. There are hopeful signs and indications that many folks in Albuquerque and the surrounding areas are concerned about our future and are willing to work together to find alternatives to becoming like Las Vegas or Los Angeles.

To quote from my story in the September/October Sierra, “We must recreate the Grand Coalition like we had before to develop the Grand Strategy for a Sustainable Albuquerque. This strategy must reflect the reality that we live in a fragile desert with a limited water supply and carrying capacity. It must acknowledge the strong pressures for development of the Westside and support a responsible set of policies to keep growth from destroying the unique beauty of the Santa Fe.”

Agricultural terraces were built along the escarpment to catch water and hold soil. Exciting fish and parrot figures together with some of the oldest petroglyphs in the Monument. Meet at 9:00 AM. Bring camera, binoculars and sturdy shoes. RSVP: Leader: Ike Eastwood 255-7679

Announcing
February Grand Opening of
Earthwares
Natural Goods & Clothing
El Dorado Square, 11200 Montgomery NE
Bedding, bath, casual wear, recycled papers & many other earth friendly items

10% off recycled office supplies with this ad thru February 28
Bring your Sierra Club card for additional discounts!
January 31—GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
"Our Public Lands—What is at Stake?"
Kevin Diaz, Director of the Southwestern Environmental
Center in Las Cruces, will provide an overview of critical issues
concerning public lands in southern New Mexico. He will focus on
the onrushing movement. This is a great opportunity to learn
about some of the conservation issues/issues in our area.
Come in to meet the speaker and learn how you can influence the future use
of nearby public lands. Many members meet at Jaxons on Alino for
dinner before the meeting to discuss conservation issues and talk
with the evening speaker; please join us at around 5:30 or 6.

Friday, February 2—WINE AND CHEESE SLIDE SHOW
6:30 to 7:30?? Polly Harris Center, 450 Wallenberg Drive, off Mesa
Hills, southeast of Sunland Park Mall.
Bring 10 or so of your favorite bottles, a slide of wine
and some cheese to our annual Wine and Cheese Slide Show. This is a
purely social event featuring lots of good conversation and a captive
audience as you show slides from last summer’s vacation. These
members are particularly encouraged to attend since it provides an
opportunity to meet “old” members in an informal atmosphere.
Although we call this a “Wine and Cheese” party, don’t let the name
limit the type of beverage or snack food that you choose to bring.
There is a $3 charge. For further information, call Bill Phillips, 772-6093.

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UPCOMING OUTINGS

January 6-7, 1996—Blue Dog Loop Backpack
Place: Guadalupe Mountains Nat’l Park
Class: Strenuous
Limit: 12—Leader Approval Required
Leader: Mike Booska, (505) 685-3209
Please call leader for specific trip details and information.

•

January 13-14, 1996—Bosque Del Apache Wildlife Refuge Carcamp
Place: Bosque Del Apache Wildlife Refuge, San Antonio, NM
Class: Easy
Limit: 12—Leader Approval Required
Leader: Dale Harris, 544-7149
Please call leader for specific trip details and information.

January 12-15, 1996—Rancheras Loop Trail Backpack
Place: Robelico Mountains, Big Bend State Natural Area, near Presidio, TX.
Class: Moderately Strenuous
Limit: 8—Reservations and Leader Approval Required
Leader: Rollin Wickenden, 835-6806(F), 534-6919(WK)
We will depart El Paso Friday evening and drive through Texas to St.
Lezon State Park. We hope to get a permit to do this trip on Saturday.
There is no reservation system. The hike is a 3 day, 19 mile backpack loop
trip into the heart of the Big Bend Ranch State Natural Area. We will camp
next to water sources each night. There are no fires allowed. Most recent
information indicates a backcountry use fee of $16 per day. Holders of the
Texas Conservation passport pay $3 per vehicle, one per reservation.
First day elevation gain is 1,500 ft. Second day elevation loss is 300 ft. Third
day elevation loss is 1,800 ft. Please call Rollin early for reservations and
details.

January 20, 1996—North Franklin Peak Dayhike
Place: Franklin Mountain State Park
Class: Moderately Strenuous
Limit: 10—Reservations and Leader Approval Required
Leader: Kathy Sunday, 584-5501
Beginning early Sunday morning at Tom Mays Park, we will hike up to the
7100 ft summit via the ridge line. The approximate roadtrip mileage is 8
miles with a 2500’ elevation gain. Come view the surrounding Franklin
Mountains State Park from an unequalled vantage point. Call Kathy early
for reservations.

January 28—Magdalena Peak dayhike
Place: Las Uvas Mountains
Class: Moderate
Limit: 8—Reservations and Leader Approval Required
Leader: Patsy John, 581-2696
Mounds are located about 20 miles Northwest of Las
Vegas. This is the highest point and boasts an observatory on
the same for specific trip details and information.

GROUP DIRECTORY

Chairman: Wesley Leonard
Vice Chair: Gary Williams
Secretary: Mike Seidenstocker
Treasurer: Kathy Sunday
Member: Ted Mertig
Member: Bill Phillips
Member: Richard Rieder
Inner City Outings: Richard Rieder
Env. Quality: OPEN
Franklin Mtns: John Spaul
LORAX: Betsy Julian
LORAX Action: Jim Bell
Population: OPEN
Public Lands: Bill Phillips
Env Center: OPEN
Mail: Barbara Mertig
Hospitality: Patricia Wood
Membership: Joel O’Hara
Office Rep.: Neil O’Hara

Sierra Club Environmental Center
800 S. Pecos Rd., El Paso, Texas
532-9645, 532-4876

Membership:
SIERRA CLUB
409 Robinson Rd
El Paso, TX 79902

security numbers of all participants, two weeks in advance. In
warm clothes, a hat, and sun protection. Call early for reserva-

Feb. 10 - 11 - Middle Fork of the Gila backpack
Place: Gila Wilderness
Class: Moderate
Limit: 5—Reservations and Leader Approval Required
Leader: Kathy Sunday, 584-6001(F), 778-6030(WK)
We will leave the trailhead at T.J. Corral in the Gila and hike 7
miles to our campsite on the Middle Fork of the Gila. Be prepared
for wet conditions with the possibility of snow. Call early for details.

Feb. 17 - El Capitan Dayhike
Place: Guadalupe Mountains
Class: Moderate
Limit: 10—Reservations and Leader Approval Required
Leader: Jim Bell, 581-2694
This hike will cover the El Capitan Trail for 8-10 miles with mc
gain. Call leader for details.

Feb. 17-18 - Upper Painted Grotto Backpack
Place: Carlsbad Caverns N.P.
Class: Moderate
Limit: 10—Reservations and Leader Approval Required
Leader: Wesley Leonard, 747-6649 (days)
We will depart El Paso early Saturday morning for the 150 mile
Our hike is involves 1000’ elevation gain and approx 40-
distance. All water must be carried and no campfires are permitted
We will hike to the Grotto and see some of the most unusual pi
Southwest, and then return to our vehicles via the same route
Call Wesley for more details.

Feb. 24 & 25 - OX Canyon Dayhike and Carcamp
Place: Cookie Range, New Mexico
Class: moderate
Limit: 12—Reservations and Leader Approval Required
Leader: Alice Anderson, (505) 233-4179, Joe Rodrigues
We will leave town early Saturday morning and drive to the OX
Canyon Range near Deming, NM. After walking a mile or so on
as steep climb, we will pick up a mule trail near the canyon and
The trail is very rocky, so good boots are necessary. We
can stay over for the carcamp and climb of Cookie Peak on Sun

March 1 - Mt. Riley Dayhike
Place: Mt. Riley, southern NM
Class: Moderate
Limit: 12—Reservations and Leader Approval Required
Leader: Wesley Leonard, 747-6649 (days)
We will drive the 60 miles from west El Paso early Saturday morn
in approximately 4 miles off trail to the summit of the Peak. The
desert west of El Paso from this vantage point is some of the most
unusual. Be prepared for loose rock and rough footing. Carry water and
Call Wesley for more details.
March 16 - 21 - Grand Canyon Backpack Place: Grand Canyon National Park.
Class: Moderate +
Limit: 11- Leader Approval and Reservations Required
Leader: Mike Episcopo, 833-3070

The Grand Canyon is an awesome spectacle of nature's grandeur. The multi-colored layers of the tremendous mesa created in a timeless panorama. Join me over spring break on a 6-day journey through 2 billion years of Earth's history. Call early for details and reservations.

OUTINGS REPORTS

Three Rivers Trip (Roy McClung)

Eight of us had perfect weather for our easy backpack up Three Rivers trail. The scenery is a good one by the noisy streams with plenty of water. We even more perfect. The happy hikers were Barbara Richmond, Pat Wood, Bill and Shirley Phillips, and Roy McClung. We hoped to attract more new hikers, but only Wes had been there with us before. People missed a good trip.

Robby Park Dayhike - October 14, 1995 (Ced G. Horkowska)

Canyon city is the entrance to the deep, rocky cliffs to Robby Park. Our hike was facilitated by the lack of flowing water, and the warm pleasant weather. After reaching lunch we headed north and down for water and some horseback riders. On the way back we

McKlitcrick Canyon Dayhike, Guadalupe Mtns - Oct 21, 1995 (Ray Hamilton)

the relatively warm weather has caused the usual fall foliage to be late this year. But the hillside array of colors, golds, yellows, and rusts did not disappoint. The.

Early Winter Little Creek BackPack - December 1-3, 1995 (Rollin Wickendez)

While December often brings rain, snow, and freezing temperatures to the little hut. However, the trees and shrubs are covered with snow. The little creek is the best of the season, with snow on the ground and a

L.C.O. CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY

New Mexico Volunteers Sought

by Richard Rheder, El Paso ICO Coordinator

The El Paso Inner City Outings group celebrated the national program's silver anniversary year with a slide show featuring recent outings at the El Paso Sierra Club December general meeting.

As of this writing, the El Paso Group has conducted 30 events with I.C.O. projects or environmental activities for those who normally would not have access to them (children, disabled, etc.). Many ICO volunteers, leaders, and participants attended and joined in cooperative environmental activities after the schedule changed the dates. Many others attended in different locations. Thanks to "veterans" and future Sierra Club members who came out.

Vernon Spencer represented the Sierra Club at the meeting attended by leaders who led on an ICO trip in 1993 in a

Truckee. Potential new recruits included a large contingent from Tim Dillons' group at Hands on High School.

Diddi Duncan, who represented the YWCA's Transitional Living Center and Thousand Oaks, spoke on behalf of the CHAMPs, students at Guilin Middle School.

Ann Roscoe of SAFE 2000 Community Partnership, a substance abuse prevention program, thanked the ICO/Sierra Club for its help and support.

Outings Reports

Volunteer Events

Anyone interested in becoming involved with ICO is invited to a three-day training workshop on Saturday, March 14. The next training session is scheduled for May 16-18 at the Sierra Club National Park's headquarters in Silver City, New Mexico.

Recent ICO Events

The Schuster House Residents took off on a Thanksgiving day and returned to El Paso on an ICO backpack trip. The trip was a success, and the group is encouraged to attend. The cost for the weekend is $98 and includes lodging, food, and equipment.

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**SANTA FE GROUP MEETINGS**

**RALLY AGAINST THE SKI AREA EXPANSION**

Tuesday, January 16, 7 PM

Victor Martinez Jr., Coordinator of the Ski Area Containment Coalition will be our featured speaker. You all know that the Forest Service has chosen Alternative #4, which means a great deal of expansion for the ski area, including a ski run and lift in the Big Tesuque. Here’s a quote from The New Mexican:

Defler said the Forest Service believes that as many as 30,000 people visit the Big Tesuque during this time period [spring, summer and early fall].

“How come it’s OK to have all those folks up there in the summer but it’s not OK to have the ski area in there in the winter?”

Defler asked.

When we hike the Big Tesuque we follow a two-foot-wide trail. Picture what it will look like with one-third of its trees gone and a ski lift up the center.

Help us help the Coalition overturn the recent Forest Service decision to expand skiing into the Big Tesuque basin!

There will also be a discussion about the upcoming Legislative Session and possible environmental bills.

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**PLEASE NOTE NEW STARTING TIME OF 7 PM FOR THE MEETINGS**

**SANTA FE GROUP OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

- Chair — Don Goldman* 475-2821
- Vice-Chair — Jerry Bobe* 827-2365
- Secretary — Norma McCallan* 985-6715
- Treasurer — Lionel Soraco* 983-8715
- Answering Machine — L. Soraco* 983-8715
- Chapter Representative — Barbara Johnson* 466-4935
  (at) Norma McCallan* 471-0005
- Conservation — Courtney White* 982-5502
- Membership—Deer Green Wardwell* 984-8560
- Newsletter Editor — Kay Carlson 982-9326
- Office — Carolyn Rosskull 982-9270
- Publicity — Kay Carlson 982-5926

Outings — Norbert Sperlich 993-1962
  — Norma McCallan* 471-0005
Political Committee — Ken Hughes 757-2284
  — Susan Banks 471-0005
Phone Tree — Norma McCallan* 471-0005
  — Member of the SF Group Executive Committee
  — Marta Anne Freeman 474-0744
  — John Buche* 498-0697
  — Terms expire 1996: Bobe/Freeman/Johnson/Wardwell
  — 1997: Buche/Goldman/McCallan/Soraco/White

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**COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

- **January**
  - 23 — Conservation Committee
  - (Courtney White, 982-5502)

- **February**
  - 6 — Executive Committee
  - (Don Goldman, 473-2821)
  - 27 — Conservation Committee
  - (Courtney White, 982-5502)

- **March**
  - 5 — Executive Committee
  - (Don Goldman, 473-2821)

The Executive and Conservation Committee meetings are held at our new office at 621 Old Santa Fe Trail, Suite 10 (Plaza Desira)

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**SANTA FE GROUP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTION RESULTS**

Congratulations to incumbent members Don Goldman, Norma McCallan, Lionel Soraco and Courtney White on their reelection and to John Buche on his election to the Santa Fe Group Executive Committee. Please give these members your support and be sure to let them know how you feel about issues and how you think they can serve the membership better.

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**SANTA FE GROUP OF THE SIERRA CLUB**

**IS THE SPOTTED OWL JUST A PAWN?**

**What do New Mexicans want from their National Forests Anyway?**

Tuesday, February 20, 7 PM

Speakers have been invited from the Environmental Community, National Forest Service, and Community Activists.

This panel discussion will inaugurate the Santa Fe Group's dialogue project entitled *Search for Common Ground*. In this meeting, and others to follow, we will try to find common areas of agreement between traditional adversaries in an attempt to create dialogue and resolve disputes. Active public participation by Sierra Club members and friends is encouraged.

Membership Meetings are held at the Unitarian Church on Barcelona Street (between Galisteo and Don Gaspar).

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**PHONE TREE PARTY**

Sunday, January 20, 5-5 PM

All Sierrans are encouraged to attend our annual Phone Tree gathering, learn more about the legislative process and likely state legislative issues from our lobbyist Doug Fraser, and meet phone tree members.

Jo Kenney will host the event at her lovely home at 954 Santo Nino Place. Beverages and munchies will be served. (continued →)
SANTA FE GROUP OUTINGS

Saturday, January 27 and 28 – CHAPTER ISSUE, OUTING AND DAY HIKE / CAMP OUT + at T or C. Escape the cold and snow and go south for the weekend!

ISSUE OUTING with Jim Winder (1-505-267-4227), rancher and environmental activist, at his model ranch near Tucumcari. Meet at his sunrise at noon.

Margo Wilson (1-505-744-5860) Moderate Hikes up Turretback Mountain, near T or C. Dogs allowed. Note: Participants can stay at Margo’s house Sat night and have a potluck supper. Call Norma McCallan (471-0005) to arrange carpooling from Santa Fe on Sat morning.

Phone Tree Party — Continued

This is a time of extraordinary political ferment and grave threats to our environment. Even if you’ve never written a letter or called a senator’s office, now is the time to take that first step and join the San Fe Group phone tree. The “Tree” is a mechanism for getting out an alert fast on a critical environmental issue when there is no time to place it in the newsletter. The more members we can get on the Tree, the more calls will be made to our elected officials, and those calls can make a critical impact.

Yes, you can make a difference! For more information on the party or the tree, call Norma McCallan (471-0005) or Dorothy Grossman (962-1024).

SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 1975

Phone Tree Party — Continued

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Outings Notes — Unless otherwise noted, all outings leave from the PERA parking lot at the corner of Paseo del Pueblo and Old Santa Fe Trail (across the street from the State Capitol). Carpools will be arranged at the parking lot, and each hiker should come prepared to pay the fare to the driver of the car in which hiker rides. Hikers are advised to 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 the trip due to weather, unessential 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.

Phone Tree Party — Continued

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GROUP DIRECTORY
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Marianne Thaiher, Chair  522-3422
Subhanfar Baranjee, Vice Chair and
NMSU Student SC. Advisor  521-3022(H)
Margot Wilson, Warm Springs Section
and Chapter Delegate  744-8860(H)
Jim Windes, Secretary  267-4227
Elizabeth Hernandez, Treasurer  521-1606
Cheryl Blevins, Publicity  526-6230(W)
Jim Basler, Outings  521-4882
Margaret Katze  524-4815

FROM THE CHAIR:
In January, the election of new Executive Committee will be certi-
fi ed and the new ExCom members will elect new of cers. I have enjoyed my
first two years as the Chair of the Southern New Mexico Group. It has been a lot
of work, and I do not regret it. But there will be a new Chair elected from
amongst the ExCom members at the January 11 meeting. Therefore, I want to
thank everyone who has helped and supported me. Without you, I could not
have survived. I am an environmental activist, so Conservation took most of
my time and will in the future. I am not leaving the Sierra Club. Presently I
serve on the National Land Management Policy Committee, the Southern Deserts
Ecology Task Force representing the Chihuahuan Desert, the Rio Grande
Chapter’s Military Issues Chair, and, if that wasn’t enough, I represent the National Sierra Club as the Western Governors Association’s
Military Muliunits Waste Working Group for Innovative Technology Transfer.
I am the Alford Interest on 14 grazing units on BLM Caballo Resource Area
Joint Management Team. So, you see, it is time for me to leave the
Chair, and give others the chance to take the reins.

ANNOUNCING THE SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO GROUP’S RURAL FORUM

The Southern New Mexico Group can be proud of its successes. Most
notable was the formation of the Warm Springs Section in Sierra County. This
could not have been done without the initiative of Margot Wilson and James Wells. They had 40 people at their December General
Meeting on Mining.

Building on the successes of the Warm Springs Section, a proposal
was written to fund an outreach program to give education and tools to people who live in rural
southern New Mexico a voice. Partial funding has already been secured.

Based on the concept that rural people (members) know best how to
bring a voice to a resolution of the environmental issues generated in
their area, the Rural Forum will provide opportunities for identified rural
environmental leaders to communicate with each other, the media, and
governmental land management agencies, to attend regional meetings, and to gain
courage and support from each other. This Forum is rural people talking to rural people about environmental issues and solutions.

So, in the year to come, expect to hear more about this effort. The
Rural Forum will organize after the first of the year, and some of you may be
hearing from them.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!
SCHEDULED EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

The Southern New Mexico Group operates on a semester basis, following the
New Mexico State University calendar year. So, the annual Spring Kick-off
Picnic is the first event!

PICNIC (Pot luck) - bad weather or no. JANUARY 13, 1996, Saturday.
Students invited, free food, the rest of us are bringing a little extra. PLACE: Dripping Springs - all the way out Las Cruces’ University Avenue east to the Organ Mountains, go straight all the way. SITE: Behind the Visitor Center. TIME: Cars with room for students meet at Pan Am north parking lot at 10:30 AM. We’ll meet the rest of you at the Picnic Site at 11 AM. Hopefully the weather will be good enough to hike to the ruins before lunch, others may want to hike up Fabens Mountain. SEE YOU AT THE SITE!

Tour begins at noon. Meet at North Pan Am parking lot at 10:45 AM to
caravan. Or, since this is a Chapter Tour, meet at the ranch house. Directions
from Las Cruces: I-25 north to Hatch exit. Take Highway 26 towards Deming.
Drive 18 miles to Nutt, watch carefully - the sign on the right and small and turn
north on Hwy. 77. In 1.585 miles I-25 mile, you will see a house off the road to the
left, the first house, the only house. (Beck on mailbox.) Drive to the house. Driving
time 1 hour from Las Cruces. Overnight camping available on the property for
those who wish to stay over for Turtleneck Mountain hike. Bring lunch and water and wear hiking boots or sturdy shoes.

HIKE, January 28, 1996, Sunday, a climb to Turtleneck Mountain.
If you are interested, you must call Margot Wilson, Elephant Butte, at 267-4227.
Other hikes and meetings will be announced in the Las Cruces papers.

NMSU STUDENT CONTACTS
S. Raghavan (Ragh)  522-4595
Tony Garcia  524-7301
See NMSU Roundup for announcement of spring organizational meeting.
Check Web home page at http://nmsu.nmsu.edu/sierra/anc.html
(Make sure you get the address exactly as above.)

LET’S GIVE RANCHERS WHAT THEY WANT

by Karl Hess, Jr. and Jerry L. Hoochek

Here’s a trick question. What do public-land ranchers fear most on
federal ranges?

If you guess more government and more regulation, you are thinking
pro-Republican when people revolve. Back then, when Vice President Al Gore still spoke the
"e" word and Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt still spoke for environmen-
talists, ranchers were fighting for their economic and political lives. Now
the tables are turned, western stockmen feel threatened by big government, but green demands for free market reform of public land
grazing. Last month the National Resources Defense Council, the Wilderness
Society, Friends of the Earth, The Audubon Society teamed up with over 50 western environmental
groups, including New Mexico’s Forest Guardians, to issue a statement on range reform. They agreed to these principles: all, based on letting markets, no
environmental regulation, fix an eiling federal livestock program.

In brief, the principles called for 1) letting ranchers voluntarily rent
public lands from livestock grazing. (Today, ranchers face loss of their range
permits if they fail to make substantial grazing use of them.) 2) Given all
Americans equal opportunity to acquire, hold and use rangeland permits.
(Today people who want to buy permits on the open market and voluntarily
devote them to wildlife, fisheries, endangered species and wilderness, can’t)
Cutting the federal grazing defi cit by trimming costs, not raising grazing fees.
(Today taxpayers pay almost $500 million a year to keep the Forest Service and
BLM grazing programs afloat.)

These principles, we thought, were tailor-made for ranchers. After all,
voluntarism, free markets and cutting federal spending are not just environ-
mental slogans; they are core American values. But we were wrong. Where we
imagined stockman support, we found fear.

In part, it was a fear of green motion. When Sen. Danforth, R-NE,
met with members of the Forest Guardians this past summer in the wake of his
range reform fl acus, he accused them of using the free market as a Trojan Horse
for more land regulation. He called them hypocrites, false fiscal conservatives
those true agenda was and is intimal to the livestock industry. His fear was
dead wrong, but to him it was prudent and understandable given the angry,
embattled history between environmentalists and the range.

Mostly, though, it was a fear of the free market voiced by people
who represent western stockman and who, by inclination or training, should
know better. Alan Schoelberg, executive director of the Western Stock
Growers, is prime to chide government for intruding into ranchers’ lives. Yet
what comes to range reform on federal lands he rarely misses a chance to label free markets “pie-in-the-sky” and to fight the right of The Nature Conservancy “to
buy up grazing permits.”

John Fowler, economics professor and head of the New Mexico State
University Range Improvement Task Force, counts on the range.
He discourages market-based range reform because markets only work “in a perfect society, and
we don’t have a perfect society.” Presumably, only government is perfect in an imperfect world.

Something is topsy-turvy on the western range. Environmentalists
are acting out of character. They are talking about—taking to heart—free markets,
deregulation and fiscal responsibility. They are sounding a lot like the Republican class of ’94, but that can’t be true.

Ranchers are also acting out of character. They are willing to say no to
self-reliance and no to a heritage of independents, and yes to a federal umbrella
shielding them from market forces and yes to sticking taxpayers with the bill
for their chosen lifestyle. They shout like ghosts from Lyndon Johnson’s Great
Society, but that can’t be true.

We are puzzled by this upside down world. Could it be that green
just don’t understand free markets? We doubt it. It was the Environmental Defense
Fund—not industry—that pioneered America’s successful free market strategy
to curb air pollution. It was greenies—not truckers—who pioneered the use
of water markets to conserve water in California’s Central Valley for farmers,
urban dwellers and rural wildlife. And it was groups like The Nature Conserv-
ancy—not private property rights organizations—that pioneered the practice
of making free markets the handmaiden of land conservation.

A more likely answer rests with ranchers. They—or at least those who

The Log-So, New Mexico Group News
FORESTS LOSE MONEY

According to the Southwest Center for Biodiversity in Phoenix, U.S. Forest Service subsidy losses totaled $91.6 million for fiscal 1992-1993 in the Southwest.

The Forest Service Distribution of Timber Sales Receipts Fiscal Years 1992-1994. In Arizona, the losses for the period by individual National Forests were $22,650,287. In New Mexico, the losses for the period were $20,162,399. Additionally, the Regional Office in Albuquerque lost $6,782,314 for the period to provide for timber sale support.

The subsidies allow for the continuance of the 450 logging jobs in Arizona dependent on wood from National Forests in Arizona (ASU Center for Environmentally Sustainable), and 256 logging jobs in New Mexico dependent on wood from National Forests in New Mexico (N.M. Labor Department). The subsidy losses amount to $73,506,76 per logging job period for the period 1992-1994 or $23,976,92 per logging job per year in Arizona and New Mexico.

Sample Letter to the Editor about Shell Boycott

Dear Editor:

What a tragic world we live in, where oil profits and political power win over human rights. In November, Nigeria's military government executed activist Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight of his colleagues for allegedly "insulting" murder during a protest against the tremendous environmental damage done by Royal Dutch Shell in the Ogoni region of Nigeria.

Mr. Saro-Wiwa and his organization, the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People, have fought for fair treatment for residents who have suffered from pollution and inadequate access to land. He was killed for speaking out against Shell's activities, but his legacy lives on.

Despite the violence, Ogoni residents continue to demand justice for their suffering. We must support these brave people in their fight against corporate greed and environmental destruction.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]
FALLING DEBRIS OUTSIDE WSMR!

by Marianne Theay,
Military Issues Chair

The Theater Missile Defense (TMD) Extended Test Range program is presently funded by Congress. The Theater Missile Defense (TMD) Flight Test Environmental Assessment (EIA), which resulted in a Finding of No Significant Environmental Impact from TMD flight test activities at White Sands Missile Range (WSMR), determined that all debris would be contained within WSMR-controlled areas, including the expansion areas. However, recent analyses by WSMR and U.S. Space and Strategic Defense Command show there is a probability that debris could exceed WSMR-controlled areas and existing airspace for Theater High Altitude Areas Defense intercept missions. These missiles are to be lobbed at targets. Therefore, a TMD Supplemental EA (SEA) was prepared and released Nov. 15, 1995. Again, there was a Finding of No Significant Environmental Impact. BUT, this SEA does include a map showing required additional restricted airspace needed for aircraft safety due to falling debris. See "Proposed Temporary Restricted Airspace" below. This SEA also shows maps for six scenarios and risk to population. In each scenario, there are areas north of Tularosa and south of I-10, 380 (east of WSMR’s existing boundary) that are considered "debris containment contour for risk to population." The risks to houses, cars, livestock, etc. are not delineated.

Examples of the force of the falling debris are given as a baseball thrown at 75 miles per hour, or a bowling ball dropped from 4 feet. At Sea, page 3-11, it states, "Under the proposed activities, debris could fall on land subject to the existing agricultural, recreational, and residential uses. However, the current land use would not be restricted, and activities associated with the land use would continue uninterrupted." This statement is considered by this author to mean that the public will not be notified. To continue the quote, "In addition, the proposed activities would not change the goals and objectives of the Federal, regional, state, and local plans, policies, and controls that have been used to create the current land uses." Again, no public notices or evacuations or coordination with other government land management agencies, and no WSMR changes.

The temporary restricted airspace for falling debris would be a 4-hour period in the early morning and late evening for 2 days per month. No mention is made as to how many years this would be in effect.

The TMD program may contend that there are No Significant Environmental Impacts, but it is easy to conclude that there is risk to public safety both to humans and their belongings from US Space and Strategic Defense Command planned activities at WSMR.

It is our fervent hope that some action will be taken to stop these activities as presently designed. Calls to Congress’s Washington Representative would be appropriate.

Also, future uses of the space shown on the Map are envisioned—SEA pp. 1-2. Recent analyses by the National Range Operations Directorate at WSMR and independent analyses conducted by USASDC have shown the probability that some of the debris from future missions will exceed WSMR-controlled areas." Again, call or write Congress.

(Note: The Sierra Club, in order, has no policy on military issues. This report is made for informational purposes.)

Forest Service Decides to Expand Santa Fe Ski Area

On December 18, 1995, Al Defter, Supervisor of the Santa Fe National Forest, reversing his preliminary decision of March 1994, announced that he will permit the Ski Area Operator to expand into the Big Tesuque Basin with a ski lift a mile long. By selecting Alternative #4 (the Ski Area Operator’s choice) from the alternatives in the Environmental Impact Statement, the Forest Service is allowing the Ski Area to have access to 891 acres, from the existing 585 acres (a 52% increase), permitting the number of skiers at one time (SOAT) to increase from 4750 to 9800, an additional 1580 (a 45% increase), allowing total snow-making capability to rise from today’s 57.6 acres to 110.1 acres (an 81% increase), allowing the construction of a three-level terraced parking lot with 896 spaces (which will increase the total parking to 1643 from 7485 today)—750 spaces now used on the access road will be eliminated through the discontinuance of the present “cattle car" shuttles, allowing the development of commercial mountain biking on 19.3 km of trails (more is permitted now), and expanding existing support facilities and buildings.

The Santa Fe Ski Area Containment Coalition (SACC) is the umbrella group of local organizations opposed to this radical expansion. Members include the Santa Fe Group of the Sierra Club, the Sangre de Cristo Audubon Society, various acquires and ditch associations, Forest Guardians, La Tierra Villas, Forest Conservation Council, La Raza Forum, and the Tesuque Pueblo Tribal Council as well as other local business groups. SACC was organized in 1992 and has been fighting the expansion for almost 4 years. After the preliminary decision for Alternative #3 was announced in March 1994, SACC developed a "Citizen’s Alternative," a responsible approach to the expansion. Support for the "Citizen’s Alternative" was given to SACC by Senator Jeff Bingaman and Representative Bill Richardson, the Santa Fe City Council, the Board of Santa Fe County Commissioners, the Eight Northern Indian Pueblo Council and a large number of local citizens. It is significant that Al Defter ignored this support and cited only Governor Johnson’s letter supporting the expansion during his press conference announcing his decision December 18.

SACC has a current lawsuit filed against the Santa Fe National Forest, seeking an immediate halt to the illegal diversion of water for domestic purposes. This illegal diversion by the Ski Area Operator has been going on every year since 1986, with the full knowledge of the Forest Service, in violation of a federal court order. SACC intends to file an administrative appeal of Defter’s decision with the Regional Forester in Albuquerque. Should that not succeed in reversing this decision, SACC intends to go to the courts in the matter.

There will be a fundraiser at La Fonda in Santa Fe on the evening of February 23 to help raise the money needed to fight this expansion. This will be a good opportunity for our members to support SACC. Tickets are $50.00. For further information, contact Bill Matey at 989-7289.
It's been over 20 years since Bill Koch won a silver medal at the 1974 Winter Olympics, and there hasn't been anything like it since. There wasn't much to look forward to, either. At least not from the U.S. Nordic (cross-country) Team. The unimpressive performance of the U.S. teams in international competitions is all the more strange considering the growth of Nordic skiing in the U.S. Today, Nordic skiing, and particularly ski-touring, is growing in popularity faster than Alpine downhsill skiing, and, to the chagrin of resort operators, significantly faster even than snowboarding, the presumed salvation of the Alpine resort industry. Nordic skiing, however big, does not extend across American society at large. It is almost exclusively a pursuit of the middle-aged. American children are not a part of it, honor the absence of U.S. medals in the youngish sphere of ski competition.

In contrast, the Scandinavian child will be on skis by age three or four. Everyone in the Scandinavian world gets around on skis, for travel to the corner shop or for Sunday sport, and the kids, emulating their elders, and with commingled opportunity and encouragement, learn early. Motor skills—things we do without thinking, like balance—are learned early, up to age seven. By age 11 or 12, that stage of development is essentially past. That's unfortunately, in about the age at which most American children will first be introduced to skiing.

Controlling your speed while sliding is a motor skill. It may derive from ice skating, skiing, sledding, or even using icy sidewalks for fun. Happily, most middle-aged people didn't have the opportunity to learn to ski as children. Skis, in fact, develop some of the requisite motor skills of other means, and do often become proficient skiers. But the easy, fluid, grace-in-motion that characterizes the exceptional skier, ballet dancer, or gymnast—almost entirely was learned early in life. When children learn to control their body in space and in motion, it's a skill which is not only permanent, but transferable. It gives the child potential in many directions, and throughout his/her life.

If asked why a child should ski, the Sven's Club member/parent usually will emphasize the value of experiencing the winter world. Observing the majesty of God's creation. But what could be more elegant than to cultivate these spiritual values at the same time we cultivate the child's highest physical potential: grace-in-motion? What greater gift could one generation give to the next?

As a practical matter, however, we don't live in Scandinavia, and our children don't automatically develop the desire to ski. Even if we've decided to make the effort to teach them, we're faced with the matter of motivation. American kids are saturated with pitches for effortless achievement and unearned rewards. We need to get a head start on TV seduction; we need to capitalize on our children's natural desire in early life to be with us, to go where we go, and their capacity for having fun doing simple things. We need to tailor the activity to the child's individual level, to avoid frustration and resistance. And we need a bit of patience. Putting a child on skis before they're ready is the worst thing that can be done. But that doesn't mean they can't be out on the snow watching what others are doing.

Before an infant has reached the walking stage, parents commonly will carry them in back slings. In Africa and Asia, children have been riding in Mom's back for eons. Why not on a ski tour? The important considerations are to select a route and exercise enough judgment to prevent backward falls and to select a back sling with enough tubular reinforcement to protect the child at a fall in any direction should it occur. It's all about safety without saying that the infant should be adequately dressed for the temperature. Frequent checks should be made to assure that sleeves and legs haven't ridden up, exposing delicate skin. Be aware that bright sunlight on snow is no easier on baby's eyes than on your own. Consider a cap with peripheral shielding, or a cloth draped over the infant's head.

As an alternative, if money permits, consider taking the infant along in a pulk, or, for the purist, a "pulka"? A small lightweight sled which can be towed behind either Mom or Dad. Pulks have been around for centuries, hauling everything from firewood to groceries to babies. Modern versions are ultralight, frequently with a canopy to protect from sunlight and snowfall and, besides accommodating baby, can carry lunch and extra clothing as well. Naptime comes and goes as usual, and diaper-changing is easy.

In a recent evaluation that I conducted in California, I found that even slightly-baldy-built women could tow a pulk easily, utilizing either classical striding or ski technique. We found in a series of trials, contrary to the assertions of some, we could not overturn the test models, even in severe ski turns. Deep tracks in newly fallen, loose, dry powdery snow, however, may cause the pulk to tip to the side and to create additional drag, making a back sliing a better choice for those conditions. For parents uncertain of their own skills or the weather, pulks are a very safe choice in most instances. With a little care, pulks last forever. Your grandparents will use the one you buy today.

As children grow, they become more adventurous. Their first active sliding endeavor might be on your skis. Find a small hill or bump, then stand your child on your skis ahead of you. Assume a crouching position, securely holding your child, and slide down the hill and on to a gradual stop. Always select a slope with a clear runout at the bottom and, if possible, position someone at the bottom for emotional as well as physical security. Tired snow is going to be firmer, more naturally or through your fancy footwork, bring along a light, inflatable plastic tube or piece of cardboard. Children aren't funny about what they slide on. Sizing is a lot less scary than standing, and all of it contributes to confidence and motor skills.

Eventually the day will come when you will be able to take the child down the little hill, not on a tube, but on their own short skis. Position them between your skis, in well-defined tracks, securely hold them, and slide down the hill together. With sufficient positive experience they will want to do it themselves, without Mom or Dad hanging on and, at that point, you've succeeded!

The key is positive experience.

1. Naptime on the ski trail. The child's ski, if the right moment arises, are attached.

2. The designer of the Oregon-built lightweight pulk during evaluation session last year. His own two children were the original test yachts. Note complete canopy installed, with washout for visibility.

3. A smiling young lady from New England with test pulk loaded with case of soda. Rigid straps prevent pulk overlying skiers or sloops. Evaluators were not able to overturn pulk even in sharp turns.

4. How fast can you go treking a pulk? The question. A ski instructor and racer from California shows off a 5U-state-model.

5. A young Mom (training from Sweden) with baby in a back sliing. Note around baby's round of safeguards for protections in falls.
A Year Ago, the Electronic Sierra Club Was Just a Vision--We've Come a Long Way!

By Bruce Batson (batson@enlnet & Blair Brown @blair@bsool.com)

The vision for the Electronic Sierra Club began over breakfast one Saturday morning back in October 1994. Since then, the vision has become a reality.

The Rio Grande Chapter’s Hompage provides vital information about our activities and, through Hyperlinks, transports folks to the National Sierra Club Hompage and to other great sources of information. Check it out - the address is: http://www.nmc.com/~sierra/

The Chapter List Serve has over 30 activities on it now, and we’re adding more daily. Being on the List is a great way to receive alerts and information about the latest urgent issues. So far, we have been sending the Club’s regular War on the Environment newsletters, which give you plenty of facts so you can write powerful letters to Congress, the President, and the editor of your local paper. List Serve members can also send out their ideas, comments, concerns, and pleas for help and information on local issues. If you want to be added, just E-Mail us a request.

That’s pretty good, you say, but now you want to know what’s going to happen next.

The most significant event we see is happening at the National level, in the wake of the Board of Directors’ approval to develop a comprensive electronic communication system for the Club. This system will utilize many of the new electronic tools currently at our disposal:

- E-Mail between members will be expanded to include any member with an Internet address.
- The Club will maintain an on-line directory so that users will be able to find the E-Mail addresses of other members. (We would like to encourage everyone with a computer to consider getting a modem and signing up with an Internet Provider so they can become a part of this network.)
- A fax network for members who don’t have E-Mail, but have a fax machine available to receive messages and alerts.
- A ‘Fax-Back’ service that you can call to request faxed statements of Club policy and alerts.
- We will keep you advised of their progress in future columns.

Within the Rio Grande Chapter, the Information Technology Committee is working hard to improve both the Home Page and the ListServe. In response to the feedback we’ve been getting, we will be adding a ‘local news’ section to the Home Page, which will include listings of upcoming local events, meetings and reports on local conservation activities.

The more people who help with this, the more effective it will be. Send us E-Mail messages or floppy disks with reports on what’s happening and what you’re doing. We’ll put them on the Home Page and, when immediate action is needed, we’ll also put them on the ListServe, so many others will know.

We hope Santa brought you a new computer or modem so you can be a part of the Electronic Sierra Club. Have a Great New Year!!
The hearings are fi-
nally done and the Fish and Wildlife Service has stopped taking comment on whether or not to reintroduce the rare-
est of American wolves to New Mexico and Arizona. One would think that, after the lopsided turn at hear-
ings in favor of wolf reintroduction, we could now all relax and let the FWS do their job.

Don't even think about it! Unfortunately, our job has just begun.

What should have been a deal done by now has started to fray around the edges from continued and focused assaults by Wise Use and Livestock Interests in the South west. The latest round of attacks began when Gover-
nor Johnson sent his com-
ments to the FWS even though the deadline had passed. He related his con-
cern that wolves would devas-
tate his range and that the federal government was stick-
ing its nose where it didn't belong. To prove his points, he commissioned a
poll. The idea was that rural residents would overwhelm-
ingly state their opposition to the reintroduction and buy Johnson's popularity with its rural constituency. When the Governor got wind that the poll was not as strong as he once thought, he got cold feet and canceled the poll. This is where things get interesting. The League of Women Voters picked up Johnson's poll and implement-
it statewide, while taking his position on rein-
forcement themselves. The results spoke for themselves. Residents of the four coun-
ties which were supposed to be the heart of the opposition favored reintroduction of wolves to New Mexico by 52% to 34% margin.

The wide support for wolf rein-
forcement exceeded opposi-
tion by a margin of two to one. It is now clear, New Mexicans want wolves even if their elected officials are too pig-headed by spe-
cial interests to come along.

Where Are We Now? 
So where does this all leave us? On shaky ground at best. While public opinion is certainly on our side, it would be very easy for US Fish and Wildlife to get cold feet right now. With inter-de-
partmental politics, it would take all of us to rally the troops on the Mexi-
can wolf reintroduction pro-
gram, we have to keep pres-
sure on FWS to do the right thing. That means not only releasing wolves, but doing it in the right place. Wolves are released in White Sands only and then the budget is cut, it will amount to a death certificate for a continuing population. Now would be a fine time to write the FWS Regional Director and Secre-
tary of Interior Bruce Babbit, to expose the virtues of Mexican wolves running free in the Blue Range of Arizona rather than just in White Sands.

Probably even more important are letters to Sena-

Where do New Mexicans want wolves free and wild, not pacing back and forth in a zoo. We can still win this one and, if we do, a species that is the very spirit of wilderness will have a second chance in our backyard.

Addresses for Action:

The Honorable Pete Domenici 
US Senate 
Washington, DC 20510 
(202) 224-6621 DC 
(505) 324-3578 NM

The Honorable Jeff Bingaman
US Senate
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-5223 DC
(505) 324-3578 NM

Department of Interior
Secretary Bruce Babbit
Main Interior Bldg.
1849 C St. NW
Washington, DC 20540
(202) 514-7300
(202) 514-7376

by 
Martin T. Heinrich

Public Dem-

Mandates Wolves, 

Politicians Ain't 

So Sure

Welcome New Members!

Marilyn Adams, Santa Fe
Lawrence Alal, Albuquerque
Ted Allen, T or C
G. Alvarado Clp, El Paso
M. C. Archuleta, T or C
Jason Adams, El Paso
Dr. David Aubrey, Los Alamos
Jonathan Babione, Santa Fe
Sanford Bailey, Albuquerque
William Balasani, Albuquerque
Cindy Baltes, Clovis
Mrs. Barbara Barnes, Deming
Ellen Reisiglesias, Los Lunas
Mark Bennark, Albuquerque
Bo Eric Bangeman, Silver City
Kathleen Birembau, Albuquerque
Cheryl Black, Albuquerque
Elizabeth Blackmon, Belen
Dr. M. & Mrs. William Bohm, Roswell
William Bohm, Roswell
Miriam Boxner, Albuquerque
Ms. Susan Brown, Rilo Ranch, Mary Bradshaw, Santa Fe
Joyce Bray, Las Cruces
Kathryn Brainer, El Paso
Raul Isoo, Albuquerque
Dr. M. & Mrs. Ted Brown, Santa Fe
John Brown, El Paso
Jerry Grogan, Santa Fe
Deano Duke, Albuquerque
Tom Bunz, Carlsbad
Jean Carrell, Albuquerque
John Carter, Albuquerque
Rosemary Casasanta, AB
Dr. William Chamura, Carlsbad
Manny Chaya, El Paso
Denise Chavinsing, Placitas
Christina Clements, Albuquerque
Robert Cleppner, El Paso
Donal Duke, Albuquerque
Chris Crewe, Santa Fe
Tanya Cole, Albuquerque
Nichol Condos, El Paso
Samuel Cordowin Phd, Santa Fe
J. Conde, Los Gatos
Janis Cox, Santa Fe
J. Cristle, James Springs
Sharon Cowan, Roswell
Angela Connors, Tucson
Lawrence Daggio, Albuquerque
Elizabeth Delarue, Santa Fe
Yvonne DeLameter, Los Alamos
Dr. Margaret Diaz, Santa Fe
Ross Dougall, Roswell
Franklin Dippery, Aztec
Kathy Dixon, Santa Fe
John Doxide, Fruitland
James Dreng, Albuquerque
Dobson Dunn, El Paso
Tim Eddinger, Santa Fe
Luis Echevarri, Albuquerque
Stephen Edwards, Albuquerque
Sandi Ecklund, Albuquerque
Sally England, Rilo Ranch
Dr. Michael Feldman, Roswell
Brian Ethridge, Las Cruces
Dr. Brendan Fields, Albuquerque
Dr. D. & Mrs. Fitzgerald, El Paso
Mary Florkin, Albuquerque
Kathie Fincher, Santa Fe
Eleanor & Carl Philips, El Paso
William Floral, Albuquerque
Lisa Fugli, Albuquerque
Dr. Lawrence Ganswein, Santa Fe
Thomas Garcia, Santa Fe
Kelly Gannor, Albuquerque
David Gartner, El Paso
Rita Getty, Albuquerque
Cissie Gilbert, Albuquerque
Margaret Giober, Albuquerque
David Goverson, Santa Fe
Sandra Coles, Albuquerque
Denise Grey, Albuquerque
Sue & Jack战胜ing, Tijeras
John Good MD, El Paso
Hildi Guzman, El Paso
Saw Hapola, Albuquerque
Holly Hansen, Santa Fe
Patricia Hack, Albuquerque
Charles Halt, El Paso
Mr. Charles Hall, El Paso
Ala Hogsett, Tucson
Paul Hartmann, Roswell
M. Heath, Abq
Richard Hepple, Santa Fe
Teresa Holla, Española
William Howie, Albuquerque
Matt Hughes, Las Cruces
Rose Hurd, Portales
Dr. Edith Iwan, Santa Fe
Scott James, Santa Fe
Jodi Johnson, Tijeras
Sharon Johnson, Placitas
Jack & Joy Johnson, Santa Fe
Owen Jones, Las Cruces
Sherry John, Alamogordo
G. Kathleen, Tijeras
Susana Kazimiercz, Bernalillo
Karen King, Santa Fe
Mary Klark, Elephant Butte
Ivan Knopp, El Paso
Duane Koons, Albuquerque
Juanita Ladymie, Albuquerque
J. Lafferty, Las Vegas
John Lago, Alamogordo
Ricardo Landy, El Paso
Linda Larson, Albuquerque
Richard Laubender, Las Cruces
Dr. Frances Laughlin, Thesau
Linda Lebowitz, Albuquerque
Cathy Lemon, Lesbian, Albuquerque
Laura Lewis-Roth, Albuquerque
Art Libroza, Albuquerque
Robert Loben, Albuquerque
Ken Lott, Albuquerque
Robert Loughridge, Albuquerque
Ms. Diana Ludwig, Santa Fe
Jan Larsen, Tijeras
James Lyon, Portales
James May, El Paso
Mary Mach, Albuquerque
Michelle Martinez, Albuquerque
Evelyn Mathay, Albuquerque
Claude Matia, El Paso
Dr. Andrew Macnaught, New Mexico
Ray Robert May, Albuquerque
Jim Mo Sweeney, Santa Fe
Rog & Pam Millet, Cerrito
Erica Miller, Abq
Ray Miller, Tucson
Jefee Moos, Santa Fe
Mrs. Margaret Moore, Abq
Orval Moore, Hobbs
Martha Morales, El Paso
Glenda Morris, Albuqquerque
Susanne Mostad, Las Vegas
Sara Murphy, Abq
George Myers, El Paso
Thomas Neale, Abq
Mrs. Darlene Noose, Las Cruces
S. Neesh, Farmington
Thayer Nichols, Albuqquerque
Laser Nightry, Santa Fe
Michael Oberg, Abq
Luis Ocepee, Las Cruces
Francie Ogasoviciu, Abq
Mrs. Richard Pabloczky, Embudo
Nora Padilla, Abq
Lisa Pasenau, Abq
Deborah Parmasol, Albuqquerque
Jim Parker, Abq
Pauline Patraw, Santa Fe
Cheryl Payne, El Paso
Barbara Pease, Albuqquerque
Eva Peritch, Roswell
Alex & Klady Peterson, Socorro
R. Pat DOWN, Abq
Arva Petrosky, Albuquerque
Linda Polet, Rilo Ranch
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Ponz, Grants
Mr. Harding Pond, San Fidel
Mr. Russell Porter, Albuquerque
Thomas Pratt, Albuquerque
Die Pérez, Tijeras
Gary Pezinn, Alamogordo
Jazaira Jelg, Roswell
Dr. Socorro, Albuqquerque
Mr. Wesley Reeves, Silver City
Greg Reche, Placitas
Gary Remer, El Paso
Joe Reil, Albuquerque
Manuel Reuel, Santa Fe
Dora Roberts, Silver City
Margaret Rogers, Silver City
Robert H. Roth, Albuqquerque
Jim Root, Albuquerque
Mrs. Bred Rucci, Socorro
Bennett Sanchez, Socorro
John Samuels, Los Alamos

(c) on page 20
Activist Profile

Courtney White

by Gwen Wardwell

Courtney is from Phoenix and says that watching what happened to his hometown has been a model to him of what to avoid in the West. He says that "the guys in the black hats today are real estate developers; the architects of urban sprawl." The Santa Fe Group appointed Courtney to fill a vacancy on its Executive Committee in August, and his appointment was confirmed in the recent election. He is the new group Conservation Chair where his goals are to increase the level of activism and to get results. At his first meeting as chair, he got consensus on a more structured approach to conservation, which involves having issue chairs and places of action for each issue.

Philosophically, Courtney believes that the environmental movement is "dead in the water" and "needs to get beyond the angry rhetoric on both sides." He has seen "traditional adversaries choking each other to death while the land we both love continues to be assaulted. Ranchers and environmentalists, for example, have more in common than differences, and we need to acknowledge that and act on it to protect the land." Courtney is committed to finding common ground.

By now it should surprise no one to learn that Courtney is a writer, but he is also a photographer. He is trying to find a publisher for a book of his photographs of the West entitled Living Frontier. It includes a foreword by Wallace Stegner.

Readin’, ‘Ritin’, ‘Rithmetic and…. Tree Huggin’?

by Susan Gorman

Close your eyes for a moment and think back to your school days. Remember the basics—readin’, ‘ritin’ and arithmetic? Then there was social studies (what did that mean, anyway?), and English, science, history, economics, literature, a foreign language. Everything in the world fit into a neat box with a subject label. That’s called classical education. The theory is that students should be taught the facts of each subject and then they’ll figure out how all of the facts in these neat boxes are really interconnected and overlapping after they get out of school…like on the job training for life.

Can you remember any courses you have taken which hinted at the interconnectedness of everything? Were you ever taught to think about how the decisions you make through life have broad-based and far-reaching effects? Were any of the courses you took aimed at helping you understand how science, politics, economics and culture combine in real life to create situations and processes? The point is that traditional education doesn’t do a very good job of training people to live in the real world.

There are many thoughtful people who have figured this out and are thinking and talking and writing about education reform and many of these experts have come to an important conclusion: teaching students about the environment, both natural and built, is the best way to educate them about the interconnections, to help them understand the broader implications of actions and to make informed life decisions. This is called trans-, inter- and intra-disciplinary education.

In the last few years, as education reform has focused on the environment, many states have initiated projects to determine what’s happening in the schools to incorporate education on the environment into the K-12 curriculum and to find out what degree programs exist at local colleges and universities to teach teachers to teach students about the environment.

Now New Mexico has joined these progressive states! On November 1, the State Land Office announced that a contract had been awarded to Pioneer West to carry out an assessment of Environmental Education in the state. So the New Mexico Communities Environmental Education Project was born. This project will be having Community Conversations to listen to folks to find out what’s happening, now, what more should be happening, and what resources would be needed to make it happen.

The project team members, Leslie Lazaga, Patricia Pettit and Susan Gorman, will be visiting Four Corners, Southwestern NM, South Central NM, Southeastern NM and Albuquerque/Bernalillo County in the first phase. The data, information, contacts, resources, and ideas will be compiled and used to develop a statewide Action Plan for Environmental Education.

If you are interested in Environmental Education and want to get involved, there are lots of opportunities! Most immediately, Information Gatherers are needed in the five regions. Information Gatherers will be collecting information about what’s happening now. Your great ideas on resources, curricula, programs and projects are needed, too.

To learn more or to volunteer, contact Susan Gorman, New Mexico Communities Environmental Education Project, 2228 WYoming NE, Suite 272, Albuquerque, NM 87112, TEL: 505-265-3331, FAX: 505-226-0373, Email: bblair@iol.com.