

News of the Rio Grande Chapter Sierra Club
November/December 1997

Valle Grande: Is It Ours This Time?

by John Buscher, Chapter Chair

On Thursday, October 16, Senator Jeff Bingaman and invited guests toured the Baca Location Number 1, more commonly referred to as the Valle Grande. In the middle of the Jemez Mountains to the west of Santa Fe, it contains the largest caldera in the world. For the last several decades the Dunigan family cared for the property. Now they are offering to hold it available for sale to the government for two years, before putting it on the open market.

There is a mountain in the middle of the Caldera, and there are actually three large open meadows - Valle Grande, Valle Toledo, and Valle San Antonio. The part we see driving by on State Highway 4 is Valle Grande, only about one-third of the meadow area that exists. These meadows support large herds of elk, as well as sustainable summer cattle grazing. Logging that has occurred in past years, prior to the Dunigan's ownership, reduces the possibility of interest in commercial logging. Some of the world's most extensive geothermal fields underlie the entire area. Most of the roads are pretty minimal.

The property meets several environmental criteria which generally are considered important. Twenty-seven miles of streams are the headwaters for all the streams in Bandelier, as well as the Jemez River. The property provides habitat for 17 threatened, endangered or sensitive plant and animal species, including the Jemez salamander.

The Dunigan Family, their employees, and guests have had minimal impact on this 96,000 acre jewel - but giving the public access is a management challenge from an environmental perspective.

Last September 23, Senator Bingaman introduced a bill, SB1210, which would put this piece of property into the public domain. His bill is very brief, it grants the government the opportunity to purchase the property and to put it under the jurisdiction of the National Forest Service. It leaves some substantial concerns open, but it does focus the debate on public acquisition of the property. Jeff worked with the Forest Service and the National Park Service in drafting the bill.

Three decades ago, Senator Anderson tried to get this into public hands. Many environmental groups tried to get their input together, and worked very hard to get all of their concerns worked into the bill. After three years of attempts, Senator Anderson threw up his hands in dismay: the environmental community had so many concerns, in their attempts to protect the property, that consensus was not attained, and the property has remained in the private sector. If the Baca lands go up for sale on the open market, we can expect to lose forever the chance to save this land for wildlife and/or public recreation.

I encouraged the executive committee to support the bill, despite its weaknesses, and to express our concerns. A vote was taken, and the ExCom supported this proposal. Michael Smith, the chair of the Pajarito Group, and Doug Fraser, chair of the Santa Fe Group, went to the Valle Grande and met with Jeff, his environmental aide, Mark Edwards, two aides from President Clinton's staff, and numerous other VIPs, including leaders from several other environmental organizations. It became evident that other environmental organizations were reserving support for the bill until changes were made to it. We asked Mark to meet with us that evening, at which time we had the opportunity to discuss Jeff's strategy, and our concerns.

Jeff's primary goal is to get this bill through both houses of Congress to the President's desk. He believes that the leadership of the House will seriously consider this bill. He also hopes that Senator Domenici can be convinced that it is in this country's best interests to acquire this property.

Mark believes it is possible to make one change to the bill immediately that will not put it at any further risk than it is currently facing (in a rather difficult environmental arena with the current Congress.) There are about 17,000 acres that lie in the watershed of Bandelier National Monument - and the bill only indicates that the boundary will be studied, and recommendations be made. He thinks that the exact boundary can be clarified in the current bill.

Other concerns so far expressed include the means through which we will pay the Dunigan's for the property. The Land and Water Conservation Fund is the most obvious tool at the government's disposal. However,

the bill leaves open other options - contributions, or perhaps trading other government property. It does not establish the relative priorities of these fund sources. We certainly don't want to see the estimated \$150 million dollars it will take to acquire this property attained by selling off a million acres of BLM property. The government does own many bits and pieces of property that are not valuable from a wildlife or recreation point of view, and which might be attractive as a trade.

Of course, management of the property is a large concern. In a more friendly congress, we might well be considering making this a National Park. However, we are facing opposition in congress, specifically from the likes of Mr. Redmond, who has very clearly stated that he does not believe in expanding the role of the government in property management, and particularly does not believe in acquiring more. I think that Mr. Redmond has succeeded, in part, by being open to dialog with his constituency. I believe he can be convinced to support this bill as it stands, but too many additional requirements in it will make that too hard to accomplish.

The Forest Service is already required to generate a new management plan every 10 years. They are currently involved in the major process of planning for the Jemez National Recreation Area. The Valle Grande property is immediately adjacent, and may well be added at a later time. In any case, I think that between the public pressure to do a good job, and a very competent manager at the helm of the Santa Fe National Forest, Mr. Leonard Atencio, we will end up with a 10-year management plan that comes to at least 90% of where we think it should be.

Senator Bingaman needs to be thanked for taking initiative on this acquisition. We need to encourage Senator Domenici to support it as well. And we need a companion bill in the House. If this doesn't encourage you to write and call, take a drive and look at the beauty that can be ours! Then imagine it hacked up into mini-ranches with trophy homes and no trespassing signs. If we lose this chance to get these lands into the protection of public ownership, we have only ourselves to blame. Let's pull together so the Baca doesn't get pulled apart!

See Letters, page 2, for further comment on this issue

Wolves Shed Sheepskin

The Washington Report

by Richard Barish

Okay, so we like wolves, and it's not a very good metaphor, but you get the picture. After the 1996 elections once again demonstrated that the American public is not very tolerant of legislators who vote against the environment, anti-environmental Republicans in Congress reined in their attacks on the environment for a few months. However, there are debts to corporate

campaign contributors that have to be paid, and the war on the environment has now resumed with renewed ferocity.

I have not included the specific votes of our congressional delegation because, I am sorry to have to report, the votes were entirely predictable. Republicans Domenici, Skeen, and Redmond voted

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Cast Your Vote(s)
ExCom Ballot
on p. 16



Candidates'
Statements
Inside

Next Meeting
of the
Chapter
Executive
Committee
(ExCom)

Dec. 6 & 7
Kingston, NM

Guests:
Jeremy Kruger
Forest Alliance
Mark Edwards
Environmental aide,
Office of
Sen. Jeff Bingaman

All Members Welcome!

Group News

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Contributions are welcomed from members and non-members. Send to Editor, *Rio Grande Sierran*, Matt Allen, 607 Richmond Dr. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87106 or by E-mail to mallenabq@earthlink.net. Articles should be submitted by the 15th of the month prior to publication. (The *Rio Grande Sierran* is published in odd-numbered months.) Photos, artwork and poems are also welcome. Most computer formats should be compatible--check with the Editor. Letters and articles are subject to abridgement.

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Conservation	<i>OPEN</i>		

We Get Letters . . .

Once in a Lifetime Opportunity: Save Valle Grande

A once in a lifetime opportunity is before us. The Valle Grande is up for sale and the Dunigan family is seeking a buyer. What is truly remarkable is that this family would like to see this unequaled parcel of land be passed on to the public.

The Valle Grande (also known as Baca Location 1) is the 95,000 acre parcel of private land in the middle of the Jemez Mountains/Santa Fe National Forest. It is a truly unique and National Park quality piece of property. From the incredible wildlife that lives there, to its wonderful hot springs, to the unequaled opportunity it will give recreationists, hunters, fishermen and of course Sierrans, this is a parcel of land we cannot pass up.

Senator Jeff Bingaman (D) has introduced a bill to purchase the Valle Grande from the Dunigan family and put it under the management of the Forest Service. Senator Bingaman's legislation is in places weak, but his intentions are great and he should be publicly congratulated on his courage to make this step. While the bill itself needs some work before I can recommend its full support by conservationists, we should all do our part to make it clear to our public officials and to the press, that acquiring the Valle Grande should be priority #1.

We can all call our representative and Senator Domenici's office and tell them to support the acquisition of Valle Grande. We can also begin to write letters to the editor supporting the concept of the Baca Grant as public land.

If this piece of the Jemez were to be acquired as public land, it could facilitate much better management of the Jemez as a whole. Ecosystem management would be easier and many opportunities for righting the wrongs of the past could be corrected. For example pine martens have been missing for many years now in New Mexico. With the Valle Grande under public supervision, reintroduction of martens might stand a chance. There also may be opportunities for the conservation of species like the Jemez salamander (endangered by logging) and possibly even native fish. There is no telling what surveys of the old growth stands and headwaters streams in this area might turn up.

So please get involved as this campaign heats up. It is likely to reach an organizing fever not seen since the early days of the wolf reintroduction campaign. If you would like to start now, here is what you can do...

— Write a letter to the editor of your local paper supporting public acquisition of the Valle Grande.

— Write your Representative (especially Redmond) and Senator Domenici and tell them to support the purchase of the Valle Grande.

The Honorable (name here)
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Pete Domenici
US Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Write Senator Bingaman and ask him to strengthen his legislation by:

- 1 - Putting management provisions in the bill to prevent industrial energy development, logging and overstocking of cattle.
- 2 - Acquiring funds through Land & Water Conservation funds, not land swaps or federal land sell offs.
- 3 - Transferring 18,000 acres in the Bandalier watershed to Bandalier National Monument.

The Honorable Jeff Bingaman
US Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Martin Heinrich

Poetry, from our members

Pika/Marmot

Pika to marmot

among the sharp and heated stones
singing to each other's whim
one is high, one is low—
in winter time where do they go? . . .
to find a warm and private lair?
The rains and melt will come again.
the two will mark their places then.
with their concert in the air

Sabra Goodman

at Nambe Lake

in the Pecos Wilderness

Washington

(continued from page 1)

against the environment at every opportunity, while Democrat Bingaman supported the environment on all matters reported in this article. Rep. Schiff is still recovering from the effects of his treatment for skin cancer and has not been in Washington to vote, although this did not stop him from co-sponsoring a couple of bad bills.

Fast Track Trade Authority

President Clinton is seeking "Fast Track" authority to negotiate trade agreements with South American countries. Fast Track is a process by which Congress gives negotiating authority to the President with the understanding that when a trade agreement is reached, it will be considered by Congress without amendment in a straight "up or down" vote.

The President's Fast Track bill is fundamentally flawed because it fails to balance the interests of the environment with the interests of commerce. The bill provides, in essence, that environmental or labor issues cannot be addressed in the trade agreements, unless it is to remove regulatory requirements as "barriers to trade."

Trade agreements without environmental guarantees threaten the environment in a number of ways. First, the trade agreements would make it easier and safer (for investors) to make investments in South American countries where environmental protections are weaker than in the United States. Because environmental laws are weaker in these countries, the production of goods there rather than here will do greater environmental damage. Moreover, the threat of moving jobs out of this country will be used as an excuse to keep environmental standards low in order to prevent the flight of jobs.

Further, the Fast Track bill includes the authority to negotiate a Multilateral Agreement on Investment, which would allow foreign corporations with investments in the United States to sue for compensation if their property values are hurt by pollution or land protection laws. Such "takings" rules could result in the weakening of our pollution and land protection laws or in new environmental protection laws not being enacted because of concern about takings suits pursuant to the trade agreements.

Such suits are already cropping up under the provisions of NAFTA. This past April, Canada's legislature banned a hazardous gasoline additive, MMT, known to damage the nervous system. The producer of MMT, Virginia-based Ethyl Corporation, has sued Canada for \$250 million under NAFTA. Ethyl claims, in essence, that the MMT ban was a regulatory "taking" of its investment. The suit will be heard before a Paris-based trade court that bars public participation and that does not allow appeals.

Attacks on our environmental laws through the provisions of trade agreements pose the single greatest threat to our environmental laws. What the advocates of takings legislation and other anti-environmental measures have not been able to achieve directly, they may yet accomplish through trade agreements. An integral part of the core text of all trade agreements must be provisions to ensure that environmental protection laws are not compromised, and environmental protection must be a part of the negotiating authority and objectives of any Fast Track proposal considered by Congress.

Endangered Species Act

An unremitting and deceptive public relations campaign financed by timber companies, mining companies, developers, and corporate agribusiness has created a myth that the Endangered Species Act is broken and in need of radical reform. On Sept. 16, Sens. Kempthorne, Chafee, Baucus and Reid introduced an ESA reauthorization, S. 1180, that, although promoted as a "compromise," would severely hamper species recovery efforts.

Among the worst provisions of S. 1180 are the following:

— S. 1180 allows landowners to enter into long-term "Habitat Conservation Plans" that absolutely exempt them from any further conservation obligations for up to 100 years, even if it turns out that the HCP is contributing to the decline of a species or that conditions have changed elsewhere and the species is headed toward extinction.

— S. 1180 severely weakens science-based recovery planning. The bill would allow HCPs, Memoranda of Understanding, and even Forest Plans to serve as "functional equivalents" of recovery plans, thereby eliminating scientific recovery teams, public notice and comment, and recovery goals.

— The bill allows the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to refuse to designate critical habitat (lands important to the recovery of an endangered species) on the grounds that such habitat is "not determinable."

— Under current law, a "watchdog agency," the FWS, must evaluate the impact on endangered species and concur in actions by other federal agencies such as timber sales or dam construction before the actions can proceed. Under S. 1180, notoriously anti-environmental agencies such as the Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Corps of Engineers assess the impacts themselves. The FWS then has sixty days to "beat the clock" and object to the agency's decision, or the project may proceed, regardless of its harm to species. An unfriendly Congress could make it impossible for the FWS to do its job by withhold funding for the consultation program, and an unfriendly agency can submit multiple actions at once, overloading the FWS and making it impossible for them to evaluate all of the actions within the sixty day period.

— S. 1180 allows the Secretary of the Interior to grant anyone immunity from prosecution under the ESA by signing a "No Take" agreement. There are no standards for the issuance of a "No Take" agreement, no requirement that impacts be minimized or mitigated, and no public participation.

— S. 1180 adds burdensome and time-consuming new procedural requirements that will delay listing decisions and recovery planning, including extensive and speculative economic analysis on the costs (but not the benefits) of all recovery strategies considered. The economic analysis provision requires that estimates be made of effects on the value of property, which may then be used as the evidentiary basis for takings lawsuits.

The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee approved S. 1180 by a vote of 14-3, and Committee Chairman John Chafee (R-RI) said he will try to arrange a vote on the Senate floor "as soon as we can." The Clinton administration has reportedly endorsed the bill with some changes. No companion bill has yet been introduced in the House.

Quincy Library Group Bill

The Quincy Library Group is a group of timber industry representatives, local

elected officials, and a handful of local "environmentalists" who met at a library in Quincy, California and developed a "Community Stability" proposal to dictate how to manage vast tracts of three California National Forests. The plan did not include all stakeholders and does not therefore represent a real consensus. Unfortunately, however, the proposal got the attention of one of Congress' eco-thugs, Rep. Wally Herger (R-CA), who introduced a bill based on the QLG proposal, The Quincy Library Group Forest Recovery and Economic Stability Act of 1997, H.R. 858. Conservation activists in Plumas County and throughout the Sierra Nevada oppose the legislation, as do virtually all regional and national conservation organizations.

The bill increases logging in several National Forests two to four times over current levels by allowing logging to create huge fuel breaks. Although the ostensible purpose of the fuel breaks is to provide fire protection, it is believed that the fuel breaks would increase, not decrease, fire danger. The brush and small trees that sprout on a fuel break, combined with the slash left behind by logging operations, would leave the breaks very prone to catastrophic, high intensity fires.

More critically, this bill would set a dangerous national precedent by legislating exclusive control of our National Forests to local entities that do not adequately represent environmental interests and that are not required to produce science-based plans for the forests or comply with environmental laws. The QLG Bill makes a mockery of the Environmental Impact Statement process, which is designed to provide information on the environmental consequences of various alternatives so that decision-makers can make informed choices as to the best course to pursue. The QLG Bill, however, requires that the plan outlined in the bill be implemented, regardless of whether the EIS identifies better alternatives and notwithstanding any new information that may be discovered in the course of preparing the EIS. The QLG bill also preempts a management plan currently being prepared for the entire Sierra Nevada region for the California spotted owl.

Congress has apparently gotten caught up in the incorrect notion that this bill is the result of a true collaboration between loggers and environmentalists. The bill passed the House of Representatives by an overwhelming majority. Its companion bill, S. 1028, is under consideration in the Senate.

Interior Appropriations Bill

The Interior Appropriations Bill agreed to by the conference committee contains numerous harmful environmental provisions. The Interior Appropriations Bill normally funds logging roads, which degrade untouched wild lands, fragment wildlife habitat, and create sediment that pollutes waters and damages fisheries. Once again this year, efforts were made to cut back or eliminate both direct appropriation for the construction of timber roads and the "purchaser credits" program, which gives logging companies credits against the cost of buying trees for money spent constructing roads associated with the timber sales. These efforts failed by marrow margins in both the House (a 211-209 vote) and the Senate (a tie vote).

Despite the considerable sentiment in favor of eliminating the logging subsidies, the Interior Conference Report proposes to eliminate the cap that currently exists on the use of Purchaser

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Federal Legislative Summary

(continued)



Washington

(continued from page 1)

Credits, giving the Forest Service a blank check to trade millions of dollars worth of trees for environmentally destructive logging roads.

The Interior Appropriations Bill also provides funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The LWCF uses revenue from off-shore oil and gas leases to purchase public lands. The fund theoretically receives \$900 million annually, but over the past dozen years, Congress has appropriated less than a third of these funds for land acquisition.

The Conference Report appropriates \$700 million to the LWCF, but is objectionable in a number of other ways. Funds to purchase the Headwaters Forest in California and the New World mine site near Yellowstone would have to be authorized by both the House and Senate. This could set the stage for Congress to insist that all LWCF acquisitions have specific enacting legislation — even though general authorization exists — and thereby result in the loss of conservation opportunities. The report also allows scarce LWCF funds to be used for maintenance, rather than acquisition, of land, which is inconsistent with the law.

The Conference Report marks the reemergence of the anti-environmental riders so prevalent in the last Congress. Among the numerous anti-environmental riders attached to the bill, a rider added by Sen. Pete Domenici would delay implementation of a federal court order restricting environmentally damaging grazing on National Forests in New Mexico and Arizona. Another rider

would prevent the Forest Service from undertaking new forest planning activities until the Clinton Administration releases proposed revisions to the planning regulations. This rider is an effort by Sen. Larry Craig (R-ID) to force the administration to release regulations drafted in the 1980s that would substantially limit the public's involvement in forest planning and that would weaken key environmental provisions, such as the requirement that species be maintained in viable populations across their range. The Clinton Administration has been working to improve the regulations.

As of the writing of this article, the Interior Appropriations Conference Report has not yet been filed because of ongoing negotiations between the Administration and Republican leadership over the Headwaters and New World Mine acquisitions.

Other Actions

Under a compromise Tuna/Dolphin Bill, the effects on dolphins of encircling nets that do not have ways for dolphins to escape will be studied. However, the bill gives scientists only a year and a half to complete the study despite statements by the scientists that it would take at least three years of field study to reach any conclusions. . . While most of us are worried about the increase of global temperatures, Congress acted to prevent the President from raising the Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency (CAFE) standards for the third year in a row, ensuring that carbon dioxide emissions from automobiles will not decrease. . . The House once again adopted the so-called "Mexico City" funding restrictions in its version of the Foreign

Operations Appropriations Bill. The Mexico City policy prohibits funding for international family planning organizations that counsel or perform abortions. The conference committee is reportedly deadlocked over this issue.

The House has passed the National Monument Fairness Act, H.R. 1127, which requires the House and Senate to specifically approve Presidential designations of National Monuments of more than 50,000 acres within two years. This bill attacks the power granted by the Antiquities Act that was used by President Clinton to designate the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument last year and that has been used by other presidents to originally protect the Grand Canyon, Zion, national parks in Alaska, and many other areas. . . The Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1997, H.R. 1270, would authorize the shipment of high level nuclear waste to Yucca Mountain, Nevada. The bill was passed out of the House Commerce Committee's Energy and Power Subcommittee on a 21-3 vote.

Rep. Smith (R-OR) has introduced The Forage Improvement Act of 1997, HR 2493, which creates a new bargain-basement grazing fee formula, gives ranchers a virtual veto power over proposed actions to address resource damage, and limits the ability of others to participate in resource management decisions. The bill could come to the House floor for a vote before the end of October. Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt has stated that the President will veto the bill should it reach his desk. . . Both the House and the Senate voted to continue funding for the Animas-La Plata project.

"I see nobody on the road," said Alice.

"I only wish I had such eyes," the King remarked in a fretful tone. "To be able to see Nobody! And at that distance too!"
-Lewis Carroll,
Through the Looking Glass

There is not one word in this bill that says anything about black helicopters.
-Helen Chenoweth (R-ID)

Amid talk that the United Nations "world government" is running roughshod over private property rights, the House passed the American Land Sovereignty Act, which would block U.S. funding of the United Nations World Heritage Convention and Biosphere Reserve programs. Reps. Schiff, Redmond, and Skeen all co-sponsored this bill.

On The Bright Side

The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee approved a reauthorization of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act, S. 1173, that preserves critical funding for transportation projects designed to improve air quality in congested urban areas. . . Rep. George Miller (D-CA) has introduced The Endangered Species Recovery Act, a good reauthorization of the Endangered Species Act.

Use information at bottom left to contact your representative on these issues

Contact your Representatives

Call the Capitol Switchboard and ask for your Congressman or Senators:
(202) 224-3121
Call President Clinton at
(202) 456-1111
Call Newt Gingrich at
(202) 225-0600

Write your representatives at these addresses:

Congressman Steve Schiff (R-NM)
Congressman Joe Skeen (R-NM)
Congressman Bill Redmond (R-NM)
Congressman Silvestre Reyes (D-TX)
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RAINBOW EXPEDITIONS II

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WINTER 1998

COPPER CANYON BURRO TREK

Jan 21 - 30 (Sponsored by Adventure Specialists) \$1470
Burras carry our gear on a six day trek in a remote part of Mexico's Grand Canyon, with hot springs, tropical birds and small Tarahumara houses clinging to steep ledges. A seasoned Mexican and Tarahumara staff handles burros and camp chores. We have guided over 100 outings here.
Moderate. (10 days, from El Paso, Texas)

SONORAN DESERT BACKPACK

Feb 7 - 14 Superstition Wilderness \$445
Led by renowned international guide Susan Thiele, this outing in the wild eastern Superstitions traverses a variety of desert scenery, ranging from cacti in the canyons to Ponderosa pine at 5,000-feet.
Moderately Strenuous. About 40 miles in rough country.

COPPER CANYON BACKPACK

Feb 17 - Feb 28 Batopilas to Urique Backpack \$950
From the subtropical backcountry mining town of Batopilas, in one of the deepest canyons in North America, we backpack across the forested heights of the Sierra Madre and descend into Copper Canyon upstream from Urique.
Strenuous. Equivalent to hiking in the Grand Canyon on steep unmaintained trails. (12 days - from El Paso, Texas)

BACKCOUNTRY SKIING

Feb 9 - 14 Hut to Hut in the Colorado Rockies \$480
We'll spend our nights in comfortable, heated cabins, while skiing through legendary Colorado powder by day, in some of the most beautiful country in the Colorado Rockies.
Moderately Strenuous. Open to novice backcountry skiers who are fit. Alpine touring equipment can be rented in ski shops; we'll provide information and prices.

WILD ESCALANTE CANYONS BACKPACK

Mar 22 - 28 Canyons of the Waterpocket Fold \$500
Intrepid canyoneer Bruce Chesler leads through seldom seen terrain: from Middle Moody Creek up onto the Waterpocket Fold, into Stevens Canyon, through a pass and several Escalante canyons, along a ledge route with superb vistas of the sandstone and shale wilds of the Moody Canyons.
Strenuous. A challenge for experienced backpackers.



EXCITING MUSIC!
TOP ARTISTS!
GREAT PRICE!

1997-1998 SEASON

Thursday, November 13, 1997, at 8:00 p.m.
St. Francis Auditorium, Santa Fe

Thursday, March 19, 1998, at 8:00 p.m.
Santuario de Guadalupe, Santa Fe

Thursday, May 21, 1998, at 8:00 p.m.
James A. Little Theater, Santa Fe

Wednesday, June 17, 1998, at 8:00 p.m.
Santuario de Guadalupe, Santa Fe

Information: P.O. Box 2631, Santa Fe, NM 87504 / Phone 505-820-6401/Fax 505-995-0941
Tickets: Nicholas Potter Bookseller, 211 E. Palace Ave. / Rare Bear, 1716 St. Michael's Dr.

All tickets are only \$5.

BLM to designate 6 Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs)

by Marianne Thaeler

While Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, lands dominate northern New Mexico, the Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management, lands dominate in southern New Mexico. The Las Cruces District, Caballo Resource Area of the BLM will be signing the Decision Notice by January next for the designation of 6 new Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) in Otero, County which borders Texas. ACEC designation is the highest level of protection that the BLM can give with out going to the Congress for Wilderness designation.

The new ACECs will be: Three Rivers ACEC, Sacramento Escarpment ACEC, Cornudas Mountain ACEC, Alamo Mountain ACEC, and Wind Mountain ACEC.

Although not perfect, these ACECs have had the support of local ranchers, environmentalists, and hunters alike!

Our El Paso Regional Group made very meaningful comments during the NEPA process for these designations, showing where there can be future improvements.

As one who has objected often to the management of public lands in southern New Mexico, it pleases me no end to be able to speak positively, GOOD JOB CABALLO! Most of the credit goes to Tim Murphy the Resource Area Manager. Tim was promoted this fall to District Manager in Montana (where billboards at city limits say "Federal Employees NOT Welcome.") We already sorely miss Tim. Perhaps he will be an example to other BLM employees to always put the resources first.

And speaking of BLM employees worthy of commendation, Ron Dunton, the Las Cruces District, Socorro Resource Area Manager, has also been promoted and has left New Mexico. Ron has put in charge of the Fire School in Idaho. Ron worked hard with our New Mexico Land Commissioner to perfect State/Federal land exchanges in the proposed Continental Divide Wilderness Study Area, with the full support of our Sierra Club members in Socorro and the BLM Wilderness Coalition.

Los Alamos National Labs Plans Workshop on Sustainability Science

Scientists at Los Alamos National Laboratories are planning a one-day workshop to explore sustainability science. The workshop is open to all and features an impressive list of nationally recognized speakers.

December 16, 1997

Sweeney Center, Santa Fe

Purpose: Dialogue on sustainability science Shared understanding and vision of sustainability roadmaps Communication of commitment to sustainability and results

Speakers

John Elter, Vice President, Xerox Corporation: Pollution Prevention and Design for the Environment;

Gil Friend, Gil Friend & Associates: The Natural Step - Strategic Sustainability.

Mark Weidler, Secretary, New Mexico Environment Department: Welcome and New Mexico's "Green Zia" Program;

Jessie Harris, DOE Deputy Assistant Secretary for Technology Policy and International Technology: Administration Policy on Global Sustainability (If nominated and confirmed, Mr. Gee, DOE Assistant Secretary for Policy will give the presentation); and

Michele Leslie, The Nature Conservancy: Conserving Biodiversity.

For more information or to register, contact Ware Hartwell or Bob Vocke, TEL 505-665-1284, EMail vocke@lanl.gov

Thinking about the Future of the Middle Rio Grande Basin

by Susan Gorman

The San Mateo bus was nowhere in sight. One of the other waiters, a Native American man who turned out to be a jewelry maker from Santo Domingo, and I started talking about Mesa Verde.

He said that scientists still ask "What happened to the Anasazi?" and that's a silly question. "Why?" I asked. "Because we are the descendants of the Anasazi, the Santo Domingo people." "But why did they leave Mesa Verde?" I persisted. "Oh, for water", he said. "They grew, there were so many people and then there were many dry years. They needed more water so they moved to the river."

His words made me thoughtful. Could the Mesa Verde story be an allegory for Albuquerque? Will we grow and then, in some future time, when there are many dry years will we all move away? That does not seem likely. After all we have technology. We have a pipeline to move water over the Continental Divide to replenish the river. We have powerful pumps to lift water from the aquifer and send it to our homes. We have other ways to move water from the river, systems to purify it so we can drink it, and pumps to send it to our homes. Things are different now.

Still, his words stay in my mind. After we have built the systems to deliver all of the water from the San Juan-Chama Diversion Project to our homes and businesses, after we have reached the 30% conservation goal, after we have reduced our pumping from the aquifer to save it for a drought reserve, will we have the sustainable water supply which eluded the Anasazi? Not necessarily!

Because when all of that has been accomplished, we will have all of water there is for us; we will still have a finite water supply. We must not grow so large that we need more water than that finite supply. So, we must think carefully about how many people, homes, businesses, farms and other water using amenities we have here. We must reserve a portion of the water to keep the river and the bosque alive. Perhaps that means limiting growth.

But is that really possible?

The Middle Rio Grande Basin cannot build a wall around itself and stop growth. How can we modify the home grown increase in population and lessen the number of people who want to come here? This is a major question which we must someday answer, before there are so many of us that there is no longer enough water for all.

I write these words reluctantly. For the past 20 months, I have been spending many hours reading about ways that communities are working to become sustainable. I have been working with the other members of the City's Sustainable Community Committee to research and write sustainability indicators for Albuquerque. Our report has been submitted to the City Council for approval and we are looking forward to its publication and wide distribution. The sustainability indicators provide the baseline data needed to understand where we are now, the trends to explain how we arrived here and, as time goes on, to measure whether we are changing conditions in ways which enable future generations to enjoy healthier and happier lives.

And yet... Even while I have been working so hard to help everyone to understand what we must do if we are to become sustainable, deep in my soul, I question whether we can really succeed.

Why am I writing this, I wonder. I do not want everyone to become discouraged or to stop trying. It's just that it is so essential for us to acknowledge that we are not sustainable. In fact, we are consuming resources faster than they are renewed, producing more wastes than natural systems can process and we rely on distant sources for our basic needs. Once we freely acknowledge this, we can begin to work together to make changes that will move us toward sustainability.

Right now is a great time to begin. We have just elected a new Mayor for Albuquerque and Jim Baca shares our vision of a sustainable community. There are three major initiatives that offer opportunities for participation in regional planning:

1. The Middle Rio Grande Council of Governments' regional plan, Focus 2050, which will take a truly long range view of the region's potentials for growth and sustainability.
2. The Middle Rio Grande Water Planning Process, which is a process for inclusive, integrated strategic water planning.
3. The Regional Transit Plan, which is designing the transportation system of the future.

So, let's not be disheartened! We must boldly take action to ensure that Albuquerque will continue to be a good, safe and healthy place to live with a vital economy and enough pure water, clean air and energy to sustain us and our children and their children.

Get involved! Contact Susan Gorman, TEL: 505-265-3231, FAX: 505-256-0373, E-Mail bblairb@aol.com

New Mexico Recycles Day Saturday, November 15 Keep Recycling Working: Buy Recycled!

This is a wonderful opportunity to learn about the many ways recycled materials are converted back into useful products. Come to the Balloon Fiesta Park on Saturday, November 15 from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM and join the fun!

For more information Call Gail Minneman, Waste Management of New Mexico, 892-1200.



Albuquerque Group ExCom Candidates Individual Statements

David Ther

I have been a member of the Sierra Club since 1979. During the 1980's I was active with the Puget Sound Chapter, leading outings and supporting wilderness and wildlife issues, including the successful campaign for The Washington Wilderness Act of 1984. I am especially interested in endangered species protection.

I have lived in New Mexico since 1987 and have become familiar with local issues and politics. I look forward to an opportunity to serve on the ExCom.

Gary Simpson

I am running for the Executive Committee of the Central New Mexico Group of the Sierra Club. I hold a Masters Degree in Biology from the

University of New Mexico and have served as the Rangelands Issues Chair for the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club for the past 1.5 years and on the ExCom of the Rio Grande Chapter for 1 year. I am a past president of the New Mexico Chapter of Wilderness Watch.

We of New Mexico, like most of the West, are at the nexus of several forces that will determine the future quality of life for New Mexicans and its wildlife for decades to come. Water, wildlife, wilderness, soil, air and all things wild are being threatened as never before by increasing population pressure and increased exploitation. We must stand firm for the wildness of New Mexico and articulate how these threats will adversely affect our quality of life in New Mexico. It will take an organized, concerted, impassioned effort to resist the forces that propel us towards becoming a fractured, artificial society. The Sierra Club cannot by itself resist these forces, but we can do our part to restore wildness to our state. We must focus on what is important to the Sierra Club, namely wild places, environmental integrity, habitat quality and quantity and most importantly, proper watershed management. I hope if elected, I will be able to contribute to this effort.

Matt Allen

I'm a recent transfer to New Mexico and a long-time active Sierran, having served as an officer at the Group level in Virginia. I'm a Technical Writer at UNM and have recently volunteered to serve as the Interim Editor of the *Rio Grande Sierran* (with mixed results).

Powell Submits Mesa Del Sol Master Plan To City Of Albuquerque

by Ed Moreno

New Mexico Commissioner of Public Lands Ray Powell has submitted to the City of Albuquerque the initial master plan for the development of Mesa del Sol. Mesa del Sol is the 13,000-acre parcel of state trust land that is bounded on the north by Tijeras Arroyo, on the west by Interstate 25, on the south by Isleta Pueblo and on the east by Kirtland Air Force Base.

"Mesa del Sol is one of the best alternatives Albuquerque has for 'close-in' development, which will be needed to satisfy the need for employment centers, affordable housing, recreation and urban open space," Powell said.

"Most of Albuquerque's population growth will be our own children and grandchildren."

The first public meetings on the plan are before the Environmental Planning Commission, beginning with a study session on December 4, and the first public hearing on December 11. If the plan is approved, it will be forwarded to the Albuquerque City Council.

The Level A Master Plan for Mesa del Sol is the first ever submitted to the City of Albuquerque under the Planned Communities Criteria adopted by the city several years ago. It was annexed by the city in 1993 in exchange for then-land commissioner Jim Baca agreeing to abide by the Planned Communities Criteria. All income from the land development will benefit The University of New Mexico and the state public school system. The Planned Communities Criteria is a performance-based development code that emphasizes sustainable growth.

Powell said the Mesa del Sol plan preserves natural land features, requires optimum energy and water conservation and provides an integrated trail system. At the same time, the code minimizes the need for automobiles for internal transit and provides designated corridors for mass transit, which will result in less infrastructure cost and help preserve the air quality of Albuquerque. More than 4,000 acres will be open space, said Powell. Powell said the plan will be implemented in sustainable stages, beginning with recreation, then jobs, then housing. The result is that most of the residents of Mesa del Sol will be able to live within walking or bicycling distance of their jobs. The plan was developed by NMSLO planner Tom Leatherwood. Interested parties can call him at 505-827-5724 for more information.

CALENDAR

Unless otherwise noted, meetings take place at the Albuquerque Group's Sierra Club office, 207 San Pedro NE

Nov 15	New Mexico Recycles Day, Balloon Fiesta Park, 9AM to 2PM - see notice below
Dec 3	Open House At Earthwares, the Sierra Club Store, 11200 Montgomery NE, 5:00-7:00 PM
Dec 3	Deadline for agenda items for Group Excom Meeting Call Jack Humphrey, 243-5319
Dec 8-9	Chapter Excom Meeting, Kingston, New Mexico All Members are invited. Call John Buchser at 820-0201 to let us know you are coming.
Dec 8	Group Excom Meeting, 7:00 PM
Dec 9	Sustainable Albuquerque Team Meeting, 7:00 PM
Dec 15	Deadline for submission of <i>Sierran</i> articles
Dec 16	Sustainability Workshop for Los Alamos National Laboratory. Call Susan Gorman, at 265-3231

Calling All Editors!

Anyone with editing or newsletter production experience (or anyone who wishes to learn) who would like to help produce a newsletter for the Albuquerque Group should contact Matt Allen, 255-9028. This is one of the most important functions of the Group. We need your help to do it effectively. Thank you!

Group Directory

1997 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

207 San Pedro NE

Albuquerque, NM 87108

Office Telephone: 265-5506 Fax: 256-0373

Jack Humphrey, Chair	243-5319	kjl@swcp.com
Martin Heinrich, Conservation	345-7832	mtheinrich@aol.com
Blair Brown, Secretary	265-3231	bblairb@aol.com
Kathy Love, Treasurer	243-5319	kjl@swcp.com
Richard Barish	247-8079	rdbarish@aol.com
Julie Hicks	345-7832	mtheinrich@aol.com
Jamie Grebosky	821-6455	
	71203.2762@compuserve.com	
Beth McDonald	254-2010	

The Albuquerque Group of the Sierra Club depends entirely on the efforts of volunteers. To help, call any of us!

ADMINISTRATION		
Administrative Assistant	Barbara Ford	246-8490
	truffula@usa.net	
Books/Calendars	Barbara Ford	246-8490
	truffula@usa.net	
Information Technology	Blair Brown	265-3231
	bblairb@aol.com	
Media Coordinator	Julie Hicks	345-7832
	mtheinrich@aol.com	
Membership	Barbara Stone	265-5304
	Barbara_Stone@somasf.unm.edu	
Outings	Tom Leck	256-7217
	Thomas_Leck@nmenv.state.nm.us	
Phone Tree	Barbara Ford	246-8490
Political Chair	OPEN	
Programs	Sustainable Albuquerque Team	

CONSERVATION		
Conservation Chair	Martin Heinrich	345-7832
	mtheinrich@aol.com	
Campaign Team Leaders		
Bosque Protection	Richard Barish	247-8079
East Mountain	OPEN	
Petroglyph National Monument	Ike Eastvold	255-7679
Petroglyph Protection Coalition	Julie Hicks	345-7832
Sustainable Albuquerque	Susan Gorman	265-3231
	bblairb@aol.com	
War on the Environment	Richard Barish	247-8079
Western New Mexico	Barbara Leonard	862-7915
Wilderness	Jack Humphrey/	
	Kathy Love	243-5319
	John Wright	247-4353
	wright@apsicc.aps.edu	
Wildlife	Martin Heinrich	345-7832

Volunteer Opportunities

The Albuquerque Group needs an Administrative Assistant! Barbara Ford has discovered other ways to work for the planet so we need someone to replace her.

Here's our wish list of duties and responsibilities for this position. The Administrative Assistant would be in charge of:

- Taking messages from answering machine and scanning mail, notifying people via phone or EMail when necessary, otherwise distributing to boxes
- Recording greeting, outings, other announcements on answering machine
- Preparing and mailing information packages to potential members
- Forwarding member info and address change requests to Membership Chair
- Organizing the phone tree
- Assisting as needed with books and calendar sales
- Providing assistance as needed to the Excom, Chair, Program Planner, Membership Chair and other activists

We also need an Outings Coordinator, too! Tom Leck has served his term as Outings Coordinator so we need someone to take over this important position!

Duties and responsibilities include: Urging outings leaders to plan their outings and write up descriptions. Compiling the outings schedule for listing in the *Sierra* every two months.

If you can help out with any or all of these important tasks, contact Susan Gorman TEL: 505-265-3231, FAX: 505-256-0373, EMail bblairb@aol.com

Air Quality Trust & Partnering Workshop

The next meeting of the Air Quality Trust & Partnering Workshop will be Dec. 17 starting at 1:00, in Albuquerque at a facility tbd. Contact the Group office (246-8490) for more info.

Outings may be cancelled or changed due to weather or other reasons, please call leader before outing. You must bring appropriate shoes, clothes, pack, rain gear, and water. If you plan on driving, please have your gas tank full prior to arrival at the meeting place. Please do not bring pets unless approval is given by the Trip Leader. Thanks.

Sat 15 Nov Moderate Miles: 10
Car: 160 Hike-Tapia Canyon We will hike up Tapi Canyon to enjoy the Anasazi petroglyphs and the beautiful slot canyon there. If time permits we will also visit Guadalupe Ruins. Please call the trip leader for further details.
Leader: Tom Leck 256-7217

Sat 6 Dec Moderate Miles: 5-6
Car: 180 Hike-Badlands of Mesa de Cuba A nice piece of BLM land on the westside of Mesa de Cuba with lots of large pieces of petrified wood. We will explore some of the more interesting areas at a slow pace. Please call the trip leader for the meeting time and place.
Leader: Tom Petencin 255-1497

Albuquerque Group News - Outings

You're invited !

**Come to the Christmas Open House
at**



Earthwares

Natural Goods & Clothing
11200 Montgomery NE at Juan Tabo
♦ 323-7207 ♦

and

Sierra Club Store



**Tuesday, December 3 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM
We'll have munchies and Holiday Cheer
to help you catch the spirit !**

**The 1998 Sierra Club Calendars are in and
they are especially beautiful !**

We feature organically grown cotton and natural fiber hats and clothing from Blue Fish, Ecosport, Maggie's Clean Clothes and others. We also have a selection of bed & bath, aromatherapy, recycled papers, baby & toddler wares and unique gifts. And, of course, we sell Sierra Club books, cards and T-shirts!

Earthwares offers you two ways to help the planet...

- by purchasing our natural, recycled and earth friendly products
- by purchasing special books, cards and T-shirts from the Sierra Club Store

Half of the earnings from the Sierra Club Store support the efforts of the Sierra Club members in the Albuquerque area to protect our Wildlands, wildlife and our children's health and future.

Please note: Leading an outing is strictly voluntary. Your current Outings Chairperson has a long list of potential outings leaders who are being contacted bimonthly. Your current Outings Chairperson, however, absolutely refuses to coerce or cajole anyone into leading a hike. Hence there will be times when the outings list will be rather short. As you can probably tell, both November and December fall into this category. Anyone out there who may be interested in leading hikes is encouraged to give me a call and I will add your name to the list of those to contact. Rest assured that your arm will never be twisted by me. If no one wishes to voluntarily lead a hike, there will be no hikes. If lots of you wish to volunteer to lead hikes, there will be lots of hikes. What there is or isn't, with regard to the frequency of hikes, is strictly up to each of you. Tom Leck - 256-7217.

Water Waste
Hotline 768-3640

Remember! If you see water running in the street, call the Hotline.

Be sure to provide address and time of your observation.

Upcoming Meetings

The following Committee Meetings will take place at 7 P.M. at the Environmental Center, 800 South Piedras in El Paso:

- November 4: Inner City Outings. Contact Richard Rheder at 544-5659 (H).
- November 5: Executive Committee. Contact Gary Williams at 593-3624 (H).
- November 12: Conservation Committee. Contact John Sproul at 532-9645 (W).

Outings

Oct 25: Trail of 1000 Steps/Comanche Peak Loop Dayhike

Place: Franklin Mountains
 Class: Moderate
 Leader: Richard Rheder: 544-5659 (H)
 We will meet at the head of Robinson Street. We'll follow a bicycle trail to a large metal reflector, then go up the Trail of 1000 Steps to the ridge below Ranger Peak. We'll walk the road back to our starting point.

Nov 8-9: McKittrick Canyon Dog Canyon Loop Backpack

Place: Guadalupe Mountains National Park
 Class: Moderate to strenuous
 Leaders: Rollin Wickenden 534-6594 (W)
 Laurence Gibson 594-7342 (H)
 Come view beautiful McKittrick Canyon during the foliage color change. This trip is comprised of two hiking groups: one starting at Dog Canyon Campground and the other starting at the McKittrick Canyon Parking Lot. The groups will meet at McKittrick Ridge Campsite, exchange car keys, and continue on Sunday morning in different directions. The Dog Canyon group, led by Rollin, will leave El Paso Friday evening. The McKittrick Canyon group, led by Laurence, may leave early Saturday morning. Each group will ascend into the back country on Saturday morning and camp Saturday night at McKittrick Ridge Campground. Total mileage for both groups is 13.1 miles. Elevation gain is about 1,500 feet from Dog Canyon, 2,900 feet from McKittrick Canyon.

Nov 15-16: Williams Ranch Backpack

Place: Guadalupe Mountains National Park
 Class: Strenuous
 Leader: Alice Anderson: (505) 523-5179

Nov 28-30: Big Hatchet Car Camp & Day Hikes Thanksgiving Special

Place: Big Hatchet Mountains, NM
 Class: Moderate
 Leader: Alice Anderson: (505) 523-5179

Dec 5-7: West Fork of Mogollon Creek Early Winter Backpack

Place: Gila Wilderness, Sacaton Trailhead
 Class: Moderate to strenuous
 Leader: Rollin Wickenden 534-6594 (W)
 We will depart from El Paso on Friday evening and drive to our campsite at the Sacaton Trailhead. On Saturday, we'll follow Trail 189 down into and out of the canyon of Rain Creek. We'll continue up and over the high ridge between the creeks and drop into the West Fork of Mogollon Creek, where we'll make

Candidates for Executive Committee

Bill Phillips

I am a retired printer by occupation and an environmentalist by inclination. Member of Sierra Club for 17 years, co-editor of the LORAX for 9 years. Have served past stints as ExCom member, Membership Chair, Outings Chair, Nominations Committee Chair and other posts. At present I am the assistant Outings leader. I believe in the Sierra Club and its goals "To Preserve, Protect and Enjoy". As an ExCom member, I would work to further these principles.

Joe A. Rodriguez

I have been an active member of the El Paso Regional Group of the Sierra Club for over seven years, as well as a member of other environmental organizations. My goals and objectives are in the area of conservation as they related to public lands. I am on the Board of the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance, an organization created to protect and preserve federal public lands in the state of New Mexico. I would like to promote and urge local members of the Sierra Club to take a more active role in the participation of local and regional conservation issues.

Ann Falknor

Though better suited to be a drone, I step forward this year and offer myself for membership approval to serve on the ExCom in an at-large capacity. I have served the Sierra Club El Paso Group as a member of the steering committee for the Inner City Outings Program (ICO) and have fulfilled all requirements to be an ICO outings leader. Also, I have been active in the El Paso Group outings program as a leader and participant.

GROUP DIRECTORY

Executive Committee

Chair (Revolving)	Gary Williams	593-3624
Vice Chair	Jim Bell	581-8864
Treasurer	Kathy Sunday	584-9301 sunday@pogo.den.mmc.com
Member	Laurence Gibson	594-7342 gibson@ece.utep.edu
Member	Ted Mertig	852-3011 tmertig@aol.com
Member	Bill Phillips	772-6503
Member	Gary Williams	593-3624
Member	Joe Rodriguez	833-9655

Administration

Chapter Rep	Liz Walsh	584-1471 ewalsh@utep.edu
LORAX	Sally Savage	833-6899
Secretary	OPEN	

Project Chairs

BLM Wilderness	Joe Rodriguez	833-9655
Enviro. Center & Franklin Mtns	John Sproul	545-5157 ae494@rgfn.epcc.edu
Grazing & Timber	Liz Walsh	584-1471 ewalsh@utep.edu
Membership	OPEN	
Outings	Laurence Gibson	594-7342 gibson@ece.utep.edu
Political Action	Jim Bell	581-8864
Programs	Gary Williams	593-3624
Publicity	Gary Williams	593-3624
ICO Chair	Richard Rheder	544-5659 af303@rgfn.epcc.edu

Sierra Club Environmental Center
 800 South Piedras @ Paisano
 Phone: 532-9645
 Fax: 532-4876

LORAX Information:
 Sally Savage
 829 Cloudburst Drive
 El Paso, TX 79912
 Phone: 833-6899

camp. Participants should be prepared for cold, wet winter weather, with possible wind-driven rain or snow. A sturdy tent is required, as well as wool or polyester pile clothing. Participants should expect nighttime temperatures below freezing. Round trip trail mileage is about 12 miles. Elevation gain is about 1,000 feet.

Dec 13-14: Cooke's Peak International Dinner Campout

Place: Cooke's Peak Ridge
 Class: Moderate+
 Leader: Joe Rodriguez: 833-9655 (H)

Cooke's Peak Range is an area designated by the Bureau of Land Management as a wilderness study area. Joe urges members to join the group on this fun issues outing. On Saturday we'll drive to the campsite. Please bring your camping stoves, firewood, wine or beer, and fixings to prepare a gourmet international dish to be shared with others at this adventurous outdoor dinner party. We'll give away a bottle of premium white wine for the most exquisite dish. On Sunday morning, those who want to will ascend the peak. Expect to see great views from the top. Please call with recipe choice preferences or select one from the list of recipes.

Gary Williams

I have been a Sierra Club member since 1983 and have served on the ExCom for a total of 10 years. Offices held include Chairman (four years) and Program Committee (eight years.) I am employed as the Executive Director of the El Paso Rehabilitation Center, a non-profit organization that serves children with disabilities. My goals include: 1) working closely with the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance on public land issues in New Mexico and 2) to increase participation by our members in group activities, especially outings, monthly programs and any programs which serve to involve the greater community in the Club's mission "To Preserve, Protect and Enjoy".

Liz Walsh

An Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences at The University of Texas at El Paso, I focus my research on the ecological and evolutionary genetics of freshwater invertebrates. I am the faculty advisor for the Environmental Conservation Organization (ECO) at UTEP (1995 to present). I have been a member of the Sierra Club for 18 months and I am a member of Rainforest Action Network, The Nature Conservancy, National Wildlife Federation, Forest Guardians, Gila Watch, Southwest Center of Biodiversity, Wildlife Damage Review, and West Texas Toxic Watch. I believe people need to apply in their personal and political lives what they ask society to do. I want to serve on the ExCom to gain experience in environmental matters which are of importance to me and, ultimately, to society. I would like to help the Club meet its potential to be the greatest grassroots force for environmental conservation in the U.S. ExCom members make decisions on activism priorities, and are responsible for motivating members on these issues by setting examples of active participation.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

P.O. Box 945, Los Alamos, NM 87544

Chair	Michael Smith	662-2380
Vice-Chair	Walt Matuska	672-9212
Secretary	Stephany Bouchier	662-6867
Treasurer	Guthrie Miller	662-5545
	Barbara Calef	662-3825
	Warren Lieb	662-7966
	Miriam Oudejans	672-0414

Pajarito Group ExCom Candidates: Individual Statements

Bill Atkins

I have lived in Los Alamos 8 years and have become involved with the Sierra Club since the local chapter was formed. I have been impressed with the enthusiasm and efforts of the local chapter, and I want to help. I spend a lot of time outdoors, hiking, kayaking, and canoeing, and I have a strong interest in conserving and improving the environment.

I would like to see the local chapter continue to concentrate on local issues. I think this is where our power lies, and our local area - the Jemez Mountains, the Rio Grande, and the rest of Northern New Mexico is worth as much effort as we can muster. It seems that in sparsely populated areas like ours, local residents' opinions are easily drowned out by commercial interests. I'd like the club to grow, and to maintain a respected reputation as a resource and a voice in the community.

Karla Atkins

As a lifelong nature lover and SC member since 1979, I harbor a deep concern for human impacts on the environment and have always been an advocate for preservation of natural resources, wilderness, and wildlife. In the past year, I have participated in efforts to stop the indiscriminate slaughter of the Yellowstone bison herd and, more locally, to obtain state Fish and Game policy that might offer new conservation for the New Mexico black bear. As one fortunate enough to live in northern New Mexico, and in particular Los Alamos, I see an increasing need for public involvement regarding local growth issues. In a small community like ours, seemingly small changes in population and infrastructure can have significant impacts on quality of life. Through a position on the Pajarito Group ExCom, I hope that I can make a greater contribution as an environmentalist and provide much needed support for other club members who are working so hard to make a difference.

PERMANENT COMMITTEES

Several Committees have been identified and Chairs have volunteered. All the committees need volunteers! The Committees and their Chairs are:

Conservation	OPEN	
Environmental Education	Janet Gerwin	662-9568
Membership	Terry Phillips	662-4838
Newsletter	Edwina Lieb	662-4013
Outings	Jennifer Johnson	662-3023
	Warren Steckle	672-0414
Phone Tree	Lonna Evans	662-2621
Political	Michael Smith	662-2380
Publicity	Janet Gerwin	662-9568

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE NEWS

The Conservation Committee has identified 7 focus issues. There is now only one issue which needs a member to take responsibility for it. Thanks to Beth Walter for taking on Wildlife.

Community Planning	Michael Smith	662-2380
Mining	Abe Jacobson	662-9579
Forest	Steve Koch	662-9423
Bandelier	Sue Barns	662-9423
Water	Janet Gerwin	662-9568
Grazing		
Wildlife	Beth Walter	

Beth Gerhardson Walter

I have been a member of the Sierra Club since 1991, but was not active until the formation of the Pajarito Group. I currently monitor wildlife issues for the group. I have lived in Los Alamos for 4 years and truly appreciate the surroundings in which we live. I hope to help preserve our community so we can continue to enjoy our quality of life. I believe the Sierra Club has an obligation to act as a watchdog for the environment not because I believe that the government and industry are inherently bad, but because without such watchdogs the rules often become bent and are eventually broken. I also believe the Sierra Club has a responsibility to the communities in which we are active. We must educate the public about the virtue of our goals and allow them to be active participants in the decision-making process. As an ExCom member, I will strive to keep public education a priority.

Upcoming Meetings

All meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. at Mesa Public Library, upstairs.

The Conservation Committee meets on the second Wednesday of each month, and the Executive Committee on the third Wednesday. Both meetings are open to all, and members are encouraged to attend.

General Meetings

General meetings take place on the first Wednesday of the month; upcoming topics follow.

Wed., December 3, 7:00: Craig Allen, Ph.D., USGS. Dr. Allen will speak on "Fire Ecology in the Jemez Mountains."

Wed., January 7, 1998: Speaker to be determined; watch your newspapers for more details.

Wed., February 4, 1998: Ray Powell, State of New Mexico Commissioner of Public Lands for the State of New Mexico, will speak about "Mining Reform."

Mat Johansen

I have an ongoing and earnest interest in issues of conservation, land use, recreation, wilderness, ecology and human interaction, etc. I've been active in some Jemez Mountain issues and am sure that membership on the executive committee of the Pajarito Group would motivate me to become more involved. My professional experience consists of about ten years of environmental cleanup and compliance, particularly at nuclear sites, and hydrology & water resources.

Miriam Oudejans

A recent newcomer to Los Alamos and New Mexico (four years), I've had a life-long concern for the environment. During my college years I worked summers as an interpretive naturalist in three Canadian provincial parks. My work as a student biological technician for the Canadian Wildlife Service, as a volunteer ranger in an Australian National Park and locally at Bandelier National Monument, has given me insight and experience in a variety of conservation and resource issues. Now a technical writer, I am a leader on the outings committee, an interim executive committee member, a birder and an outdoor enthusiast. I see the Sierra Club as instrumental in continuing to educate the community about the importance of conservation and preservation, and I want to be an active participant in this process.

Outings

Nov 16, Sunday. Stone Lions. Leader, Barbara Calef 662-3825. This is a 12.8 mile strenuous hike. The limit is 12, reservations are required.

Contact Michael Smith (662-2380) for updated outings information.



Group Directory Executive Committee

P.O. Box 3705 UPB Las Cruces, New Mexico 88011	
Wayne Suggs, Jr., Chair	523 - 5635 (H)
Mexican Wolf	526 - 5442(W) coues@aol.com
Cheryll Blevins, Vice Chair	526 - 6220(W) 524 - 4861(H) spotblev@jaws. greatwhite.com
Kiki Suggs, Secretary	523 - 5635 (H) 526 - 5442(W) coues@aol.com
Lesa Wilson, Treasurer	647 - 4298 dwilson@totacc.com
"Dutch" Salmon, Rural Forum, Political Issues	388-3763(H) 388 - 5705(Fax)
Larry Hughes, Outings Chair	522- 4600 ext270(W) larry@tcisoft.com
Lolina Alvarez, Outings Co-Chair	521-1152(H) jalvarez@nmsu.edu
Mario Ruiz, Inner City Outings Chair	589 - 4622(H) mruiz@nmsu.edu
Margot Wilson, Warm Springs Section, Chapter Delegate	744 - 5860(H) 894 - 7152(W) hshs2@riolink.com
Jimi Ikes, Chihuahuan Desert Protection	525 - 2059 jickes@nmsu.edu
Marianne Thaeler, Military Affairs	522 - 3421 marianne.thaeler@ sierraclub.org

Outings

Sunday, November 22 - Organ Needle Dayhike

Place: Organ Mountains
Class: Strenuous
Limit: 12, reservation and leader approval required
Leader: Larry Hughes 522-4600 ext. 270, larry@tcisoft.com
or Lolina Alvarez 521-1152, jalvarez@nmsu.edu

We will hike to the Organ Needle via Fillmore Canyon. This is a strenuous dayhike with some 4th class scrambling. About 3500ft. elevation gain, most of it in the last 2 miles. Call for more information.

Saturday, December 13 - Dog Canyon Dayhike

Place: Sacramento Mountains at Oliver Lee State Park
Class: Strenuous
Limit: 12, reservation and leader approval required
Leader: Larry Hughes 522-4600 ext. 270, larry@tcisoft.com
or Lolina Alvarez 521-1152, jalvarez@nmsu.edu

Starting from Oliver Lee State Park, 20 miles south of Alamogordo, we will hike up Dog Canyon to the old cabin. From there we will go up and out of the canyon gaining great views of the Tularosa Basin. About 13 miles round trip with 3000ft. elevation gain. Call for more information.

ICO UPDATE

Our Inner City Outings Program is under way. This is what Mario Ruiz, the ICO Chair, has to say: "I am proud to be part of ICO. Every time I get the chance to go out into the wilderness ... well, it's just like the first time. I am still in awe of nature. What makes ICO worthwhile is the fact that we are able to share the wilderness with others. Sharing our forests, rivers, and mountains with grown-ups and kids alike, are the reasons why everyone in the ICO program works so hard. All the work pays off when newcomers speak enthusiastically about their adventures and can't wait to tell others about them. So join us and let's share a sunset." If you or someone you know would like to become an ICO volunteer or if you have

outdoor equipment to donate, contact Mario at 505-589-4622 or mruiz@nmsu.edu.

Warm Springs Section Report Some Thoughts on Sustainability

by Margot Wilson

Recently, I have obtained a copy of the Task Force Report on Population and Consumption put out by the President's Council on Sustainable Development. It contains many items already known to impact the environment, but it also includes some surprises and revelations.

We all know of many practices that are not sustainable and are harmful to the environment. For example, soil erosion, depletion of groundwater, degrading rangelands, destruction of habitat, loss of species, depletion of the protective ozone layer, and over harvesting, are certainly not sustainable and are harmful to the environment. This is not surprising. Environmentalists have been trying to curtail these practices for years.

There are many economic practices that are also known not to be sustainable. Among them, a negative trade balance, deficit spending, inefficient use of resources and production of large amounts of waste, are practices that undermine our economy. Big corporations often claim that solving these problems will be a drain on the U.S. economy. In the long run, ignoring these and other problems will be much more of a drain on the economy than investing now to solve them.

Surprisingly, the Report points out that there are aspects of our social lives that are not sustainable. Perhaps this is the area where many of us can make significant changes in our behavior, which will greatly contribute, not only to sustainability, but also to personal satisfaction. For instance, the Task Force urges us to be fiscally responsible and to live within our means. There are many people in the U.S., who need to save more money rather than spending all they earn and then some. Those who value savings and know how to save money understand sustainability at a personal level.

The Report also points to a need to change our work patterns. Almost all of us feel rushed and overworked. We have to learn that the excessive accumulation of material goods, to the exclusion of nonmaterial sources of satisfaction such as family and community connections, is not sustainable. Coincidentally, we would also save resources, produce less garbage, the environment would be less impacted and, perhaps best of all, we would be happier. This is an unexpected and welcome link to sustainability.

You can obtain a copy of the Task Force Report on Population and Consumption by calling 202- 408-5296.

Looking for a few good activists

Have you ever been by the Rio Grande in winter and wondered where the water was? Do you think that your city should expand its recycling program? How about politics; are you interested in making national, state, and local politicians more aware and supportive of environmental issues? Are you concerned about seemingly uncontrolled development in Southern New Mexico? By volunteering a few hours, you can make a difference in these and other issues facing Southern New Mexico. Become a Sierra Club activist and make a difference. Come to our meetings, on the second Monday of each month at 6:00 pm in the Southwest Environmental Center, 1494 S. Solano Dr. in Las Cruces. Or contact Larry or Lolina at 521 - 1152(H), 522 - 4600 ext. 270(W), jalvarez@nmsu.edu or larry@tcisoft.com.

Getting to know each other

The Southern New Mexico Group is organizing a group get together for early next year. We are considering a wine and cheese party or a picnic. If you have any suggestions or would like to help, contact Larry or Lolina at 521 - 1152(H), 522 - 4600 ext. 270(W), jalvarez@nmsu.edu or larry@tcisoft.com. Stay tuned for more information.

TOO MANY BEARS?

Tuesday, November 18, 7 PM

Wally Houseman is the Big Game Research Coordinator for the New Mexico Department of Game & Fish, a position he has held for 14 years. He holds BS and MS degrees in Wildlife Science from New Mexico State University and has been a wildlife biologist with Game & Fish for 23 years.

Wally has been directing an 8-year study of black bears in New Mexico, which may prove critical in determining the future of our bears. As we go to press, State Game & Fish is considering significant moves to reduce the number of female bears taken during the 1998 hunting season. Whether these changes are too little, too late or an impediment to finding a longer-lasting answer is the center of a growing controversy.

Come and hear about the future of the black bear, our designated state animal.

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



ANNUAL HOLIDAY POTLUCK

Sunday, December 14, 6:30 PM

Join old and new friends and acquaintances at one of the best holiday parties of the season — excellent food, song, and celebration at the Unitarian Church.

For the potluck, each person please bring eight servings worth of a casserole, vegetable dish, meat dish, salad, dessert, bread or rolls. If you don't feel like cooking, bring beer, wine, fruit juice, sodas, or appetizers such as chips and dip. *Everyone is welcome!*

There may be a speaker or entertainment of some sort, details TBD. Our annual silent auction as a Group fundraiser will be held. Services, such as massage, landscaping or whatever talent you have, are popular, and remember that one man's trash is another's treasure! So bring that unused present you received from Aunt Minnie last year. We'll also collect warm clothing and blankets for St. Elizabeth's Shelter.

Call Courtney White (982-5502) or Norma McCallan (471-0005) for more details.

The Membership Meeting and Holiday Party will be held at the Unitarian Church at 107 W. Barcelona Street (between Gallisteo and Don Gaspar).

Santa Fe Group of the Sierra Club

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

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

Doug Fraser

UNFINISHED BUSINESS !!

I only wish to emphasize John Buchser's article on the Valle Grande, elsewhere in this newsletter. As Stewart Udall, former Secretary of the Interior, said at our Tuesday, October 21, meeting, this remains the one natural environmental jewel from the '60s which never got resolved. Our own Senator Anderson tried — and got many other natural scenic gems protected.

Now, Senator Jeff Bingaman takes the baton. This remains in Udall's words "unfinished business." Please call Courtney White, Conservation Chair, if you wish to help. We can't lose this time.

GEORGE GROSSMAN APPOINTED TO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

George Grossman, longtime activist and one of our most influential and knowledgeable members, has agreed to come onto the Group's Executive Committee and fill the position vacated by the resignation of Jeff Regenold. Welcome back, George!

ELECTION TIME AGAIN !!

It's time to vote for Group and Chapter Executive Committee members. Please peruse the statements for the Santa Fe Group candidates which follow the January outings and use the ballot at the end of the newsletter. It only takes a few minutes and a 32¢ stamp. DO IT NOW!

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE Courtney White, Chair

The Conservation Committee will not meet in November. Its December meeting will be Tuesday, December 9, the Sierra Club Office, at 7 PM. Everyone is welcome. Come talk about the Valle Grande, Petroglyph National Monument, bad mines (are there good ones?), clean air, trees, grass, water, wildlife and anything else! For more information, contact Courtney (982-5502).

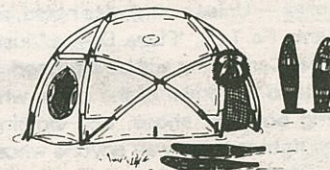
HELP SAVE THE VALLE GRANDE !!

Perhaps the most important conservation opportunity in a decade or more now confronts us: how to get the magnificent Valle Grande property into public lands. The owners are willing to sell, legislation has been introduced in Congress, editorials are being published. But the push is just beginning! PLEASE HELP the Sierra Club preserve this land. If you are interested in joining a Valle Grande Task Force, please call Courtney (982-5502), or come to our next Conservation Committee meeting in December. Thanks!!

WILDLIFE CHAIR STILL NEEDED

The Conservation Committee is still looking for someone to fill its Wildlife Chair. Got a yen to save the birds and bees? Want to raise a fuss in front of the Game Commission? Or would you rather write letters from the peace of your home? This may be a job for you!

Please help. No experience is required. Only enthusiasm. Call Courtney (982-5502).



IMPORTANT OUTING NOTES

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

Group Conservation Committee meets:

Tuesday, December 9, 7 PM

Group Executive Committee meets:

Tuesdays — December 2/January 6, 7 PM

♦ ♦ SANTA FE GROUP OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS ♦ ♦

Chair — Doug Fraser *	474-7615	Outings — Norbert Sperlich	983-1962
Vice-Chair — Barbara Johnson *	466-4935	— Norma McCallan*	471-0005
Secretary/Treas — Lionel Soracco*	983-6715	Political Committee — Ned Sudborough*	474-4055
Answering Machine — L. Soracco*	983-6715	Membership — Ned Sudborough*	474-4055
Chapter Representative — TBD		Fundraising/Education/Office/Welcome	open
Conservation — Courtney White*	982-5502	Don Goldman *	473-2821
National Parks — Courtney White*		George Grossman *	982-1024
Sustainability — Barbara Johnson*		John Buchser *	820-0201
SF National Forest — Greg Pollock			
Carson National Forest — George Grossman			
Mining — Cliff Larsen		* Member of the SF Group Executive Committee	
Newsletter Editor — Kay Carlson	982-3926	Terms expire	
Publicity — Kay Carlson	982-3926	12/97: Buchser/Goldman/McCallan/Soracco/White	
Phone Tree — Norma McCallan*	471-0005	12/98: Fraser/Johnson/Grossman/Sudborough	

SANTA FE GROUP OUTINGS

Sat Sun November

- 1 John Jasper (466-8572, 986-4613w) Moderate Hike in SF National Forest. Call for details/reservations.
- 2 Art Judd (982-3212) Moderate Hike in Bandelier National Monument. Leave 8 AM. Split parking fee.
- 8 Carolyn and Arnold Keskulla (982-9570) Easy Hike in the Cerrillos Hills. Leave 9 AM from Villa Linda Mall.
- 9 Lee Sullivan (662-6185) Moderate Hike in the Jemez Mountains, 8 miles. Carpool from Santa Fe office at 8 AM, or meet leader 9 AM at the Los Alamos National Bank, across from McDonald's, on Trinity Drive.
- 15 Julie Montoya King (438-7197) Easy Hike up La Bajada. Slow pace. Leave 9 AM.
- 16 Bob McKee (672-3426) Moderate Hike in Bandelier National Monument. Call for details. Carpool from Santa Fe office at 8 AM or meet leader at 9 AM, Smith's parking lot in White Rock.
- 22 Ned Sudborough (474-4055) Easy Hike in the near foothills of Santa Fe. Leave 9:30 AM.
- 23 Norma McCallan (471-0005) Moderate Loop Hike on D.O.E. land near Bandelier. Dogs allowed. Leave 8 AM.
- 29 Jeff Regenold (661-6707) Moderate Hike near Cabezon Peak, to Guadalupe Cinder Cone and Cerro Cuarte. May climb Guadalupe, as desired. A remote Wilderness Study Area, interesting to explore. Dogs allowed.
- 29 Lionel Soracco (983-6715) Moderate/Strenuous X-Country Ski Tour wherever the snow is good, or hike if no snow. Call leader!!
- 30 Norbert Sperlich (983-1962) Moderate Hike into Alamo Canyon in Bandelier National Monument. Leave 8 AM. Call leader if not familiar with hike.

Sat Sun January 1997 HAPPY NEW YEAR !!

- 3 Norbert Sperlich (983-1962) Moderate Hike near La Bajada. Call if not familiar with area. Leave 8:30 AM.
- 4 Lee Sullivan (662-6185) Moderate Hike. Call for details.
- 10 Carolyn and Arnold Keskulla (982-9570) Easy Hike St. John's arroyo. Leave 9 AM.
- 11 Matt Gervaise (466-3479) Moderate/Strenuous X-Country Ski Tour Call for details and time.
- 11 Norma McCallan (471-0005) Easy/Moderate Hike along the railroad tracks (newly acquired as a Public Trail!). Leave 9:30 AM. Dogs allowed.
- 17 Jeff Jones (466-2389) Easy Hike Cañada de Los Alamos. Leave 9 AM. Children encouraged.
- 17 Lionel Soracco (983-6715) Moderate X-Country Ski Tour wherever the snow is good. Call leader for details.
- 18 Bob McKee (672-3426) Moderate Hike in White Rock area. Meet Sierra office in Santa Fe 8 AM to carpool, or meet Bob at Smith's Market in White Rock at 9 AM.
- 24 Lionel Soracco (983-6715) Moderate/Strenuous X-Country Ski Tour wherever snow is good. Call leader.
- Saturday and Sunday, January 24 and 25
Margo Wilson (1-505-744-5860) Annual Get Together at T or C to enjoy warmer climes. "Camp" at Margo's, enjoy a moderate hike in area on Sat. and a shorter hike Sun. to allow for drive home. May visit the Armandaris Ranch. Pot luck supper at Margo's Sat. night. Local contact Norma (471-0005). Drive down Friday PM.
- 25 Victor Atyas (438-9434) Easy Hike Diablo Canyon. Leave 9 AM.
- 31 Sherry Evans (473-9632) Moderate Snowshoe Tour Call for details of destination and time.

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

Sat Sun December

- 6 Carolyn and Arnold Keskulla (982-9570) Easy Hike on trail near railroad tracks at 9 Mile Road. Leave 8:30 AM at Sierra Club office. Call leaders for details.
- 7 Victor Atyas (438-9434) Easy Hike in Cerrillos Hills. Meet in front of Walgreens at Villa Linda Mall. Leave 9 AM.
- 13 Sherry Evans (473-9632) Moderate Snowshoe Trip if enough snow, otherwise moderate hike. Call leader for information.
- 13 Lionel Soracco (983-6715) Moderately Strenuous X-Country Ski Trip. Call leader for information. Leave 8 AM.
- 14 Julie Montoya King (438-7197) Slow/Easy Hike from Diablo Canyon to Rio Grande. Extension of hike to Buckman Mesa, if weather permits. Leave 8:30 AM. Call leader for reservation.
- 20 Jeff Jones (466-2389) Easy Hike to Tsankawi Ruins. Kids welcome. Leave at 9 AM.
- 20 Matt Gervaise (466-3479) Moderate Telemark Ski Trip. Call leader for information.
- 21 Bob McKee (672-3426) Moderate Hike on mesa top near White Rock, about 7 miles RT. Call for reservation. Meet leader at 9 AM at Smith's Market in White Rock or carpool from Santa Fe office at 8 AM.
- 27 Lionel Soracco (983-6715) Moderately Strenuous X-Country Ski Trip. Call leader for information. Leave 8 AM.
- 28 Norma McCallan (471-0005) Easy Hike on Nuns Corner Loop. Wear boots (snow possible). Dogs allowed. Leave at 10 AM.

★ SANTA FE GROUP ★ CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

JOHN BUCHSER — The last two years as a member of the Santa Fe Group ExCom has been enjoyable. I have had the opportunity to further develop working relationships with some great environmentalists and want the opportunity to continue for another two years. The SF Group has lively discussions, which are (mostly) thought-provoking, and a level of camaraderie that has enriched my personal life.

A large part of what I hope to do for the Santa Fe Group is tied into my goals for the Chapter. I believe it is crucial for us to unseat Bill Redmond from his position in Washington. The past endorsement of many of the Democratic candidates for this seat will likely put us in a position to not endorse any candidate in the primaries. I believe we can provide an essential member and public service by helping folks make their primaries decision.

Earlier this year, I observed a near-miracle when the SF City Council voted unanimously to support the City's new water ordinance. Thank you to fellow Sierran Craig O'Hare for his excellent presentation to the Council in his role as an employee of the City. SF now has some policies that are comparable to that perennial example of good water policies, Tucson. We have further work to do here on water, and I hope to be able to help.

I would like to thank Courtney White for his efforts, both paid and volunteer, for the SF Group. He has brought to SF a number of excellent workshops over the last several years. I'd like to offer some workshops on water issues, and I'm sure Courtney and the SF Group will help.

One of my goals is to take my personal perspective of the functioning of the SF Group ExCom to the other Groups, compare how they function, and share their strengths. We are fortunate to have a steady stream of new members, and I'd like to encourage the work of Ned Sudborough in his role as membership chair.

My background in conservation is about four years of activities with the SF Group, and more recently, chair of the Chapter. I hold a full-time job with the State General Services Department supporting their web servers and geographic information system.

My nearly 20 years in the Sierra Club have been involved, until recently, primarily in leading local hikes and National trail maintenance trips with my wife Linda. She and I have been fortunate to receive two awards for our efforts, 2nd place in Take Pride in America and Vice President Gore recently awarded us the Hammer Award (we were hammered!) for our efforts in maintaining the Southwest's trails.

TURN PAGE FOR MORE GROUP CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

Santa Fe Group Candidate Statements (Continued)

ELEANOR C. EISENMENGER —

Place of birth: New York City

Education:

Barnard College (Columbia University) New York
Mozarteum Music Academy, Salzburg, Austria
Salzburg University
Salzburg Summer Academy

Profession: Musician (conductor), now executive director of 20th Century Unlimited (Santa Fe Music Series)

Environmental Background: Sierra Club, Berkshire Chapter, Massachusetts. Active in Berkshire environmental groups. Moved to Santa Fe in 1994 and worked as lobbyist for Sierra Club in legislature in 1995 and 1996.

Statement: My mission is to improve the general quality of life in the Santa Fe area, both culturally and environmentally, since I feel that these two factors are the most crucial in maintaining those qualities which have heretofore given Santa Fe its unique place among American cities.

COURTNEY WHITE — I am seeking reelection to the ExCom because I feel there is a ton of unfinished business to complete. In the last two years, I have been one of the principle organizers of four educational workshops: on mining, wildlife, wilderness, and grazing. We are planning at least two more this year. As chair of the Conservation Committee, I have tried to bang the drum steadily on numerous fronts — national parks, wildlife, mines, wilderness in Southern Utah, etc. I was recently asked by the Club to author Congressional testimony opposing the Paseo del Norte extension through Petroglyph National Monument. This term I would like to focus on economic and ecological sustainability in Northern New Mexico. I respectfully request your support for this, and other, good work.

★ VOTE ★ VOTE ★ VOTE ★ VOTE ★ VOTE ★

NORMA McCALLAN — I have been on the Group's ExCom a number of years and seen a lot of good people come and go. I have been our Outings Co-Chair (with Norbert Sperlich) for quite some time and also stay active with the Political, Conservation and Membership Committees and the phone tree. I again serve on the Chapter ExCom, where I am also Outings Chair, and am currently on the National Group and Chapter Outings Committee.

I have lived in Santa Fe 22 years and worked at the State Library almost that long. Manning the Southwest Reference Desk and being responsible for State Publications is a harmonious fit with my long-term interest in SW environmental issues and in the geography/topography of the SW.

In addition to our ongoing conservation issues and need to strive hard to get environmentally good political candidates into office, there are three things I would like to see the Group concentrate on in the next several years: 1) In an era of accumulating environmental problems and less federal and state money available to remedy them, it behooves us to work as closely as possible with the various other environmental and citizen groups and organizations in the state. 2) We bemoan our lack of activists within the Group and Chapter and need to figure out more sustainable ways of getting our members involved. 3) I see too much backbiting and infighting among members at all levels of the Club. We need to be kinder and gentler with each other and to remember that, although we may disagree on individual issues, we all care deeply about the environment.

LIONEL SORACCO — I have been a member of the Sierra Club since 1967. Since coming to Santa Fe in 1989, I have been active with the local Group. For the past few years, I have been Group Secretary/Treasurer, an outings leader, and in charge of distributing the Group's hiking book. I hope to continue in these activities and ask your support.

★ VOTE ★ VOTE ★ VOTE ★ VOTE ★ VOTE ★

See additional SF Outing listed below

Santa Fe Group News

Get Out There! The Outings List

Saturday

November 29

GUADALUPE CINDER CONE, near CERRO CUATE & CABEZON PEAK
Jeff Regenold 661-6707.

Moderate hike in a little visited BLM WSA, with optional climb to top. Dogs allowed. Call leader for time & meeting place.

Friday-Sunday

November 28-30

BIG HATCHETS

Alice Anderson 505-523-5179.

Thanksgiving weekend car camp & moderate day hikes in this remote & fascinating BLM WSA. Call leader for reservations.

Sunday

November 30

BIG BEND BASH, Alpine, Texas.

Joint get-together of Rio Grande & Lone Star Chapters. See write-up, my column, previous newsletter. Also opportunity to join one of several Texas Group outings in Big Bend N.P. Thanksgiving weekend. Call Todd Nichols 817-472-0710 for details.

Saturday

December 6

MESA DE CUBA BADLANDS

Tom Petencin 505-255-1497.

Another little known section of BLM land, this one on west side of Mesa de Cuba. Lots of large pieces of petrified wood. 5-6 miles r.t. to explore the more interesting features. Call leader for time & meeting place.

Saturday-Sunday

Dec 13-14

Cooke's Peak Range WSA car camp.
Joe Radriquez, 915-833-9655.

Explore this remarkable landmark and enjoy an international food cookout Sat night. Call for details/see writeup El Paso group page.

Sunday

January 4

Lee Sullivan

Moderate hike, 7-8 miles, Embudo area, weather permitting. Call Santa Fe Group for time/meeting place.

Saturday-Sunday

January 24-25

TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES AREA
HIKING

Margot Wilson 505-744-5860.

Enjoy the balmy air of Sierra County, "camping out" at Margot's house, sharing pot luck supper Sat night, and exploring nearby lands, with a longer moderate hike on Sat, and shorter hike on Sun. Possible visit to Armendaris Ranch. Call leader for details, reservations.

Outings Leaders

The National Group & Chapter Outings Committee (of which I am a member) is making revisions to the Outings Leaders' RED BOOK. They are soliciting comments & suggestions re information to add, items to delete, clarification of unclear wording, etc. Please send me any ideas by mail (2918 Viaje Pavo Real, Santa Fe 87505), phone (505-471-0005), fax (505-827-3888). Since National has run out of copies, and needs to reprint soon, the sooner I receive your suggestions, the better. --Norma.

Chapter Outings Notes from Norma

by
Norma
McCallan

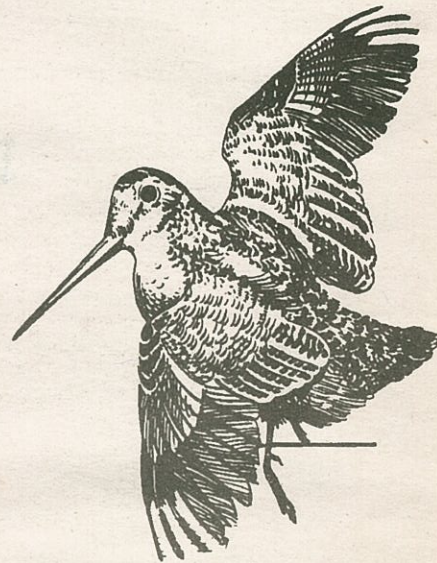


Visit our homepage on the World Wide Web:

<http://www.nm.org/~sierra/>

You can contact other activists via E-mail by using our List Serve:

sierra@www.nm.org



Rio Grande Chapter Elections

Rio Grande Chapter Executive Committee Candidates Individual Statements

Barbara Leonard

My name is Barbara Leonard. I live in Continental Divide, New Mexico, near Gallup. I have been a member of the Sierra Club for over 20 years. I was active with SC groups in Baltimore and the metropolitan D.C. area in the past. Currently I am co-founder and co-chair of the Western New Mexico Section.

I am now interested in becoming a member of the Executive Committee of the Rio Grande Chapter. As we approach the millenium we face a number of critical environmental issues. I would like to work with the Chapter as it focuses on how to best use its resources to deal with problems that have increasing urgency: water conservation, wilderness and wildlife protection, and sustainability in both rural and urban environments. I would like to see us use an ecological, integrated approach as we become more aware of how each issues and geographic area impacts the others. In addition, I would be a voice to bring the issues of Western New Mexico into the overall picture.

I thank you for your vote.

Larry Hughes

Hello. My name is Larry Hughes. I am currently a member of the Executive Committee of the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club. I was appointed by the Executive Committee to fill a vacancy and I would like to have the opportunity to continue serving on the Executive Committee. I am also Outings Chair of the Southern New Mexico Group. I have lived in Las Cruces since 1979; spent a dozen or so years as an undergraduate and graduate student at NMSU, earning a Ph.D. in mathematics. For the past 5 years, I have been working as a programmer for a company called TCI Software Research. We produce a scientific word processor. Even though I work as a programmer, I am not a computer nerd, in fact I don't even own a computer. I joined the Sierra Club 3 or 4 years ago mainly to go hiking. My wife Lolina and I (and our dog Toto) are hard core hikers. We love to walk in wild lands. Over the last few years we have become more and more concerned about threats to our wild lands and the environment in general. This has lead to our increased involvement with the Sierra Club.

I believe that one of the biggest challenges facing the Sierra Club in general and the Southern New Mexico Group in particular is the recruitment of activists. I have made it a priority for myself to recruit activists. There are many areas of environmental concern in Southern New Mexico, for example, water conservation, sustainability, recycling, mining, desert dumping. I believe that in order to have a viable group in Southern New Mexico and to make a difference we need more activists.

In the past few months as a member of the Executive Committee, I have been very impressed with the members of the Executive Committee and the activists throughout the Chapter. They are a very knowledgeable, extremely smart, savvy and dedicated group. There is much I

can learn from them and I would be grateful for the opportunity to do so. To quote John Muir, if elected to the Executive Committee, I will do my best "... to make the mountains glad".

John Buchser

The coming year is going to be a very important one for the Rio Grande Chapter. We could end up with all three seats in the U.S. House of Representatives being replaced with new faces. We have a governor's race which will (probably) be essentially determined during the primaries. There are numerous local races that have major implications for local communities and the manageability of urban growth.

My personal priorities, if re-elected to the ExCom, will be

(1) to seek re-election to the chair's position for another year,

(2) to seek leadership for the political committee of the chapter, and encourage political leadership in each of the groups,

(3) to ensure that our mining manual gets printed and distributed,

(4) to raise the visibility of water issues, both to the public and to the legislative and the executive branches of government,

(5) to keep our issue committees visible, viable, and functioning,

(6) to encourage active local groups, and to personally meet with them, and

(7) to maintain active and lively discussion of the issues within the ExCom.

Barbara Johnson has been spearheading an effort to find sufficient funding for a permanent full-time employee. There are two major areas which require continued attention—conservation and political. To do this, we need the backing of the National Club (we have that) and fiscal backing (we're looking for that.) We'll need monies out of our own budget, and some creativity—like publishing a Chapter book on hiking in New Mexico—to insure the longevity of funding (the Santa Fe Group largely supports its activities through its hiking book!)

My background in conservation is about four years of activities with the Santa Fe Group, and more recently, chair of the Chapter. Prior to that, I worked on forest management and wilderness issues about 20 years ago, during the RARE-II days. I was elected to chair the Santa Fe Group ExCom about a year ago, and this June I took on chair of the Chapter (and resigned as chair of the Santa Fe Group ExCom). Chairing the Chapter has been a considerably larger challenge. I hold a full-time job with the State, in the General Services Department, supporting web services and geographic information systems. The chair of the chapter can be a full-time job—but I hope to successfully structure the task into a job that is possible to do successfully part-time—which I hope will result in other folks being interested in the position.

My nearly 20 years in the Sierra Club have been involved, until recently, primarily in leading local hikes and Na-

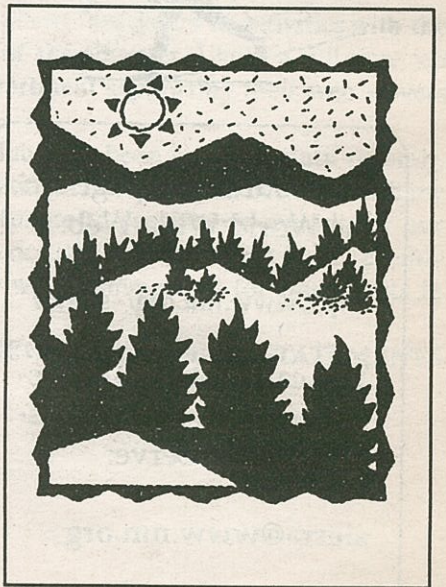
tional trail maintenance trips with my wife, Linda. She and I have been honored to receive two awards for our efforts, 2nd place in Take Pride in New Mexico, and more recently, Vice President Gore awarded us the hammer award (we were hammered!) for our efforts in cooperating with the U.S. Forest Service to maintain the SouthWest's trails.

John Wright

Over the past several years I have worked on several issues for the club but have primarily focused on Wilderness issues. Most recently I have been working on the Petroglyph Protection Project. I think that it is important for the Club to develop a multi-cultural approach especially to public lands issues. I have worked to develop ties with various people throughout New Mexico. I will continue to work towards a true grassroots effort on environmental issues if re-elected.

Liz Walsh

An Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences at The University of Texas at El Paso, I focus my research on the ecological and evolutionary genetics of freshwater invertebrates. I am the faculty advisor for the Environmental Conservation Organization (ECO) at UTEP (1995 to present). I have been a member of the Sierra Club for 18 months and I am a member of Rainforest Action Network, The Nature Conservancy, National Wildlife Federation, Forest Guardians, Gila Watch, Southwest Center of Biodiversity, Wildlife Damage Review, and West Texas Toxic Watch. I believe people need to apply in their personal and political lives what they ask society to do. I want to serve on the Chapter ExCom to gain experience in environmental matters which are of importance to me and, ultimately, to society. I would like to help the Club meet its potential to be the greatest grassroots force for environmental conservation in the U.S. ExCom members make decisions on activism priorities, and are responsible for motivating members on these issues by setting examples of active participation.



BLM Statewide Resource Advisory Council To Meet In Albuquerque

The New Mexico Resource Advisory Council, the 15-member council of New Mexico citizens that advises the Bureau of Land Management on public land issues in the state, will meet in Albuquerque on November 20-21, 1997. This will be the first meeting to include the 10 members (eight of whom are new, two were reappointed) selected to New Mexico's Council this fall.

The two-day meeting will be held at the Amberley Suites Hotel at 7620 Pan American Freeway NE in Albuquerque, beginning at 9:00 a.m. on November 20, and at 8:00 a.m. on November 21. The public is invited to observe the meeting, and may call the BLM in Santa Fe at (505) 438-7514 for more information. For anyone wishing to address the Council, a public comment period is scheduled for Thursday, November 20, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

The meeting will include a transition and orientation session for new members. The Council members will review the past work of the Council and hear

briefings by BLM staff. As its first order of business, the Council will approve the agenda for the meeting, which tentatively includes:

- Update on planning process: Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management EIS
- Discussion of past Council actions and future events
- Off highway vehicle use
- Noxious weeds
- Updates on current BLM field office issues
- Recognition of past Council members

Contact: Rem Hawes

Phone: (505) 438-7514

DECEMBER 15 & DECEMBER 15
(Say it twice,  fast)

BALLOTS
due Dec. 15!
Chapter/Group elections
Don't forget to mail yours in.

CONTRIBUTIONS
due Dec. 15!
for the next issue
of the *Rio Grande Sierran*
(Jan/Feb. '98 issue)
Guidelines for contributors
appear on page 2.

Chapter Executive Committee

Instructions:

Vote for no more than 3 candidates for Chapter Executive Committee. Two boxes are provided so that each member of a joint membership may vote. Blank lines are for write-ins.

You may vote in both the Chapter election and the election for your Group. (The Group Ballot for the Southern New Mexico Group will appear in a future issue of the *Sierra*.) Do not cut this page—it contains your mailing label for verification (which will be removed before your vote is tallied) along with the Group ballots. (Any member who did not get this issue in the mail may submit a ballot with the membership information written on it for verification.)

Return this page to:

Ned Sudborough
2755 Via Caballero del Sur
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Ballot must be postmarked by December 15, 1997

John Buchser

☐☐

Larry Hughes

☐☐

Barbara Leonard

☐☐

Liz Walsh

☐☐

John Wright

☐☐

Group Executive Committee

Members of the Rio Grande Chapter can vote for both the Chapter ExCom and for their Group ExCom (one group only, as indicated by the code on your mailing label. Again the Southern New Mexico Group ballot will appear in a future issue of the *Sierra*.) Candidates' statements appear in the Group sections of this newsletter.

Two boxes are provided so that each member of a joint membership may vote. Blank lines are for write-in candidates. Do not cut this page. It contains your mailing label for verification. It will be removed before your vote is tallied. Any member who did not receive this issue in the mail may submit a ballot with the membership information written on it for verification. Return this page to Ned Sudborough, 2755 Via Caballero del Sur, Santa Fe, NM 87505, by December 15, 1997.

Albuquerque Group (1701)

Vote for no more than 3 candidates

Gary Simpson

☐☐

David Ther

☐☐

Matt Allen

☐☐

x _____

☐☐

x _____

☐☐

Santa Fe Group (1704)

Vote for no more than 3 candidates

John Buchser

☐☐

Eleanor C. Eisenmenger

☐☐

Courtney White

☐☐

Norma McCallan

☐☐

Lionel Soracco

☐☐

El Paso Group (1702)

Vote for no more than 3 candidates

Bill Phillips

☐☐

Joe A. Rodriguez

☐☐

Ann Falknor

☐☐

Gary Williams

☐☐

Liz Walsh

☐☐

Pajarito Group (1708)

Vote for no more than 3 candidates

Beth Gerhardson Walter

☐☐

Bill Atkins

☐☐

Karla Atkins

☐☐

Mat Johansen

☐☐

Miriam Oudejans

☐☐

Rio Grande Chapter
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