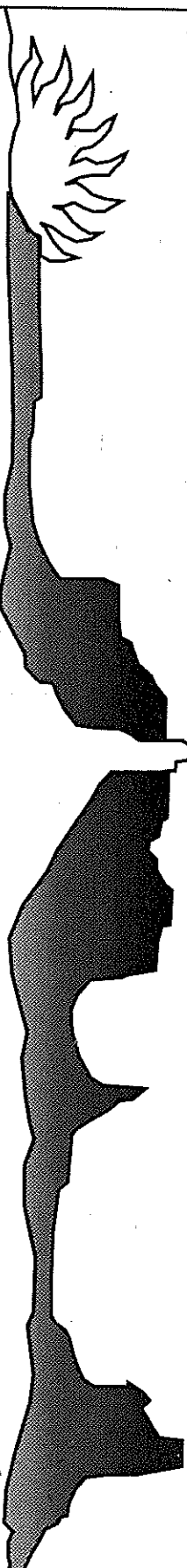


# Rio Grande Sierran



News of the Rio Grande Chapter Sierra Club  
May/June 1996

*Environmental Politics in New Mexico and West Texas*

## Chapter Gears Up for an Important Election Year

*by Ned Sudborough*

Well, it's an election year and that means that the Sierra Club's political committees are looking at the candidates

and deciding on endorsements. This year, all races will be critical, as we try to reverse the anti-environmental trend of the 1994 election.

### *Southern New Mexico*

Look to Las Cruces for the election with the greatest potential to improve environmental politics in New Mexico. Shirley Baca is there. Shirley Baca carried a Sierra Club endorsement in her two terms as a State Representative. Now she springs unopposed through the June Primary Election to try to wrestle the 2nd Congressional District seat away from three-term Congressman Joe Skeen.

The League of Conservation Voters, in its NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SCORECARD, regards any score below 30 as an "environmental zero." For each of his terms, it has registered Rep. Skeen at 4, 3, and 0. His most recent rascality is a proposition to turn over Elephant Butte State Park to the local Conservancy District, a move, unopposed, even to Gov. Johnson. Coming down from Utah to help him has been environmental maverick, Congressman Jim Hansen.

If Ms. Baca is elected, we will have more than a change in congressional counting. Her election would turn heads in the State Legislature, encourage Sen. Bingham to revisit some corners of closed thought, discourage Sen. Domenici's participation in the War on the West, back-up Rep. Richardson's great commitment, and help Albuquerque's Rep. Schiff to accelerate his incremental environmental enlightenment.

The above public servants have the following ratings on the NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SCORECARD: Sen. Bingham, 49, 62, 86; Sen. Domenici, 7, 10, 7; Rep. Richardson, 96, 100, 92; and Rep. Schiff, 18, 22, 27. Read it again, remembering that "below 30 is an environmental zero."

**Santa Fe pp 10-11**

**So. New Mexico p 12**

the ExCom. The committee is trying to recruit a couple of Hispanics. El Paso is 75% Hispanic.

Spring comes early in El Paso. The Primary Elections were on March 12, and when it rains, they have a Run-off Election. This year it rained on the run-off. The Texas 16th Congressional District race was important because of the retirement of environmental champion Rep. Ron Coleman (Environmental Scorecard: 72, 91, 100). The Group invested significantly in Club-endorsed Jose Luis Sanchez, who reached the run-off, and nearly won it. By just a thousand votes, Silvestre Reyes became the man likely to go to Washington. The Group leadership believes Mr. Reyes may be receptive to our message. He should be, if only because Jose Luis Sanchez carried an environmental message to within a thousand and one votes of winning. We win not just by winning, but by being in the game.

From the Texas Legislature's 29th Senate District, the Rio Grande Texans are losing a friend, with the retirement of Peggy Kossin. They are presently poking around the run-off herd to cut out someone for the Sierra Club brand.

So with local results clear, and a positive response in hand, our El Paso Sierrans look toward a November showdown between well-financed Sen. Phil Gramm (Scorecard: 10, 3, 7), an affront to environmentalists, and Victor Morales, who surprised the big state by winning a primary election from long-term Congressman John Bryant of Dallas. Mr. Morales picked up his votes by driving around the state in his pick-up truck.

### *Albuquerque*

Up north, the Albuquerque Group obtained approval from the Chapter Executive Committee to "fast-track" endorsements for 14 State legislators. Here they are: SENATORS by District Number: 10, Janice Paster; 16, Cisco McSorley (changing from House 18); 17, Shannon Robinson; 18, Ann Riley; 21, Tom Wray; 22, Leonard Tsoie; and 29, Michael Sanchez. REPRESENTATIVES by District Number: 5, Robert Pederson; 10, Henry "Kikki" Saavedra; 15, Ray Sanchez; 21, Mimi Stewart; 22, Jerry Lee Alwin; 25, Janice Picraux; and 65, James Roger Madalena. Time to scramble for your district.

The Albuquerque Group is also now picking a new Political Committee Chairperson so Ron Grotbeck can more readily focus on State elections. In the meantime, the new chairperson gets to organize consideration of candidates in another dozen legislative races. And, the Group has done some political hiking, hanging campaign literature on district doorknobs. Club members from Santa Fe joined the effort.

### *Santa Fe*

In Santa Fe, the Group is aglow with politically and environmentally experienced, knowledgeable leaders, eight of whom in two recent sessions of

## ANNUAL FUND APPEAL UPDATE

The Box Score, to date:

Donations	Dollars
1996	132 \$4555
Compare:	
1995	161 \$6930

The message: Less donors, less dollars.

A big "thank you" to all who have contributed.

We are well behind last year, and \$4000 short of our goal. If you haven't made your contribution yet, please consider your gift. We would like to include you as a Partner in Activism.

## Group News

**Albuquerque pp 5-7**

**El Paso pp 8-9**

**Santa Fe pp 10-11**

**So. New Mexico p 12**



Rio Grande Chapter  
Sierra Club  
P.O. Box 9191  
El Paso, TX 79983

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
El Paso, TX  
Permit No. 2370

inventive cooperation prepared an 18-part questionnaire for State Legislature candidates. Thirty-one copies have been mailed to Northern N.M. legislative candidates, and additional copies were sent to Club political leaders around the State for inspiration, or for piracy.

The Political Committee now has 10 members; we expect to gather more. Four members have previously chaired the Committee, which can thank its immediately preceding chairman, Ken

(cont. on page 16)

## Inside

*From the Chair* 2

*Uneasy Chair* 3

*Ski Expansion* 3

*Mine Tales* 4

*War on Environment Update* 13

*Electronic Sierra Club* 13

*Chapter Outings* 14

*New Members* 15

*Activist Profile* 16

## Chapter ExCom and Conservation Committees Meet

**June 1 and 2, 1996**

**at The Commons on**

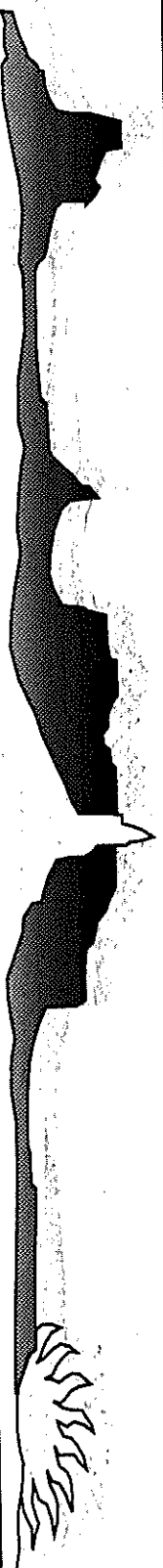
**Alameda**

**in Santa Fe**

**Potluck Supper, 6:30 pm,**

**June 1**

**All Members Welcome  
Call Chair Van Perkins for  
details and free lodging  
information, 505-983-8801**



# RIO GRANDE CHAPTER DIRECTORY

## Executive Committee

Van Perkins, Chair, Council Delegate (505) 983-8801  
 van.perkins@sierraclub.com  
 George Grossman, Vice Chair (505) 982-1024  
 Blair Brown, Alb. Rep., Treasurer (505) 265-3231  
 bblairb@aol.com  
 Ron Grobeck (505) 296-0944  
 Barbara H. Johnson, Santa Fe Rep. (505) 466-4935  
 barbara.johnson@sierraclub.com  
 Ted Mertig, Council Alternate (915) 852-3011  
 tmertig@aol.com  
 Craig O'Hare (505) 474-9842  
 Mike Seidensticker, Membership (915) 544-5741  
 76251.2520@compuserve.com  
 Gary Williams, El Paso Rep. (915) 562-3540  
 Margot Wilson, So. NM Rep. (505) 744-5860  
 Jim Winder (505) 267-4227  
 jwinder@aol.com  
 John Wright, Secretary (505) 247-4353  
 wrigh@aapsic.apcs.edu

## Issue Chairs

Conservation--Jack Humphrey/Kathy Love (505) 243-5319  
 humphrey@unm.edu  
 Energy & Trans.--Ken Hughes (505) 474-0550  
 ekemper@jgc.apc.org  
 Fed. Facilities/DOD--M. Thaele (505) 522-3421  
 mthaele@wilma.nmsu.edu  
 Fundraising--Ford Robbins (505) 466-7665  
 Grazing--Gary Simpson  
 Inner City Outings--Ted Mertig (915) 852-3011  
 tmertig@aol.com  
 Outings--Norma McCallan (505) 471-0005  
 mcallan@silb.state.nm.us  
 Political--Ron Grobeck (505) 296-0944  
 Water--Eric Ames (505) 751-0351(W)  
 Wilderness--John Wright (505) 247-4353  
 wrigh@aapsic.apcs.edu  
 George Grossman (505) 982-1024  
 Wildlife--Julie Hicks/Martin Heinrich (505) 345-7832  
 mtheinrich@aol.com

## Mining Oversight and Control Project

Sue McIntosh, Director (505) 983-4254  
 sierram@aol.com

## Legislative Lobbyist

Douglas Fraser (505) 662-5204

Rio Grande Sierran (505) 466-4935  
 Production Manager-B. Johnson

## Sierra Club Addresses:

**Albuquerque Group** **So. New Mexico Group**  
 207 San Pedro Ave. NE P.O. Box 3705 UPB  
 Albuquerque, NM 87108 Las Cruces, NM 88003  
 (505) 265-5506 (505) 522-3421  
**El Paso Group** **Southwest Regional Ofc.**  
 800 S. Piedras 516 E. Portland St.  
 P.O. Box 9191 Phoenix, AZ 85004  
 El Paso, TX 79983 (602) 254-9330  
 (915) 532-9645 FAX: 258-6533  
**Santa Fe Group** **Sierra Club National**  
 621 Old Santa Fe Trail #10 730 Polk St.  
 Santa Fe, NM 87501 San Francisco, CA 94109  
 (505) 983-2703 (415) 776-2211

The Rio Grande Sierran is published by the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club as a benefit for Sierra Club members living in New Mexico and West Texas. (Make address changes by calling Membership Services at (415) 923-5653.)

Non-member subscriptions at \$10 per year are available from the Treasurer, Blair Brown. Send checks to 2226B Wyoming NE #272, Albuquerque, NM 87112. Please allow 8 weeks for processing.

The opinions expressed in signed articles in the Rio Grande Sierran are the opinions of the writers and not necessarily those of the Sierra Club. Articles may be freely reprinted for nonprofit purposes, provided that credit is given to the author and the Rio Grande Sierran. Please let us know. Products and services advertised in the Rio Grande Sierran are not endorsed by the Sierra Club.

Contributions are welcomed from members and non-members. Send to Rio Grande Sierran, B. Johnson, 1 Encantado Loop, Santa Fe, NM 87505 or by E-mail to barbara.johnson@sierraclub.org. Articles should be submitted by the 15th of the month prior to publication. Preferred format is via modem or on Macintosh disc as Microsoft Word file. Other formats may be compatible--check with the Production Manager. Letters and articles are subject to abridgement.

Printed on 100% post-consumer waste newsprint by PrintWorld in El Paso.

# A Word From the Chair

by Van L. Perkins

I write this on April 21, John Muir's birthday. Tomorrow, April 22, is Earth Day. The conjunction of the two dates has a special meaning for Sierra Club members. It is almost as if Earth Day was set to take a special note of John Muir's key role in the long series of events that led up to it. And it should remind us of the continuing, crucial role the organization he founded--the Sierra Club--is playing in a determined effort to make sure that future Earth Days will be causes for celebration, not occasions for mourning what we have lost.

A year ago, it seemed likely that those who would reverse more than a hundred years of effort to protect the environment would have their way. Now the prospects are considerably brighter. With only a handful of setbacks--the salvage logging rider comes to mind--we are now in a position to win this War on the Environment. We can win because you, the members of the Club, have sent a clear and strong message to your representatives in government: Their attempt to destroy your right to a safe and healthy environment, and to enjoy your public lands, is not acceptable.

Stan Greenberg, President Clinton's pollster, recently noted that issues of most concern to the public, since the last election, had been social and economic issues, especially Medicare and Social Security. This winter, that changed. Protecting the environment became the number one issue, Greenberg found, and both the President and the Congress have responded accordingly.

That does not mean we have won! We need to be make sure that protecting the environment continues to be the broad

message. And we need to fight each individual battle as the wrecking crew in this Congress continues to press its agenda. Hardly a day goes by without an urgent cry for help in stopping one bad idea or another. I rest a little easier knowing there are so many of you willing to help. Thank you for that, and for your patience as you are literally bombarded with requests.

Thanks, too, to you who have recently joined the effort, in part in response to this column. I have talked with all of you personally, and I am impressed with your dedication. (If you have not heard from me, it is because I did not receive your coupon--or whatever. Please try again. I do not want to miss anyone!)

If you have not previously responded, please do so now. As I said in the last issue, the Club's ability to make a difference always depends on the ability of our membership to make itself heard. But we never have enough individuals who are willing to join the effort. So please join us. Become an ACTIVIST FOR THE EARTH!

Fill out the "coupon" you will find below. Mail it to me at Rt. 19 Box 128H, Santa Fe, NM 87505. (Or, if you prefer, call me at 505-983-8801.) I promise you I will personally contact you to learn something about your interests, the level of involvement you would feel comfortable with, and how we might best communicate with you. You choose the level and kind of activity: write a letter, make a telephone call, or whatever. That is all there is to it, but the outcome of this war depends on such efforts.

A REMINDER: If you have not yet sent in a contribution in response to our recent (once a year) appeal, please do so now. Money is second only to people in this war.

Yes! I want to become an Activist for the Earth. I want to hear from you, Van, so I can learn how to help.

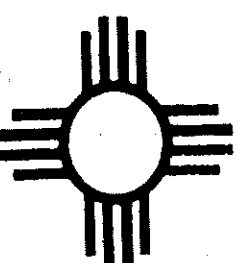
name \_\_\_\_\_  
 address \_\_\_\_\_  
 phone number \_\_\_\_\_

# 1996 Legislature Finally Ends

by Doug Fraser, Sierra Club Lobbyist

As was reported in the last Sierran, a new trails bill was amended in committee and supported by both political parties and the Administration. It passed both houses without one dissenting vote. But then, the Governor changed his mind. His primary reason for this, as stated in his veto message, is that the bill places "onerous and litigious environmental restrictions..." on the trails program. (Emphasis, mine.) Oh well, even his wife's bills get vetoed.

We should take note of the brief flare-up of activity at the Special Session when Sen. Tom Rutherford (D-Bernalillo) introduced SJM 1 to "expedite" the transfer of the regulation of oil and gas hazardous wastes from the Environment Department



to the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department. A true "fox guarding the hen house" scenario. During a rather hectic 24-hour period, with an assist from Environment Department Secretary Mark Weidler and Gregory Green of the Conservation Voters Alliance, we were able to convince the Senator to withdraw the proposal. He did so on the Senate floor and apologized for any misunderstanding. He originally thought it was innocuous but, following a Senate Rules Committee hearing, became convinced it was a bad idea.

So ends the 1996 Legislative fray.

I returned recently from an annual meeting of professional archaeologists where a number of the papers delivered and theories discussed have set me to thinking, and worrying, about the state of things environmentally.

Much of what archaeologists do, and write about, involves the environment. There are two reasons for this: First, environmental variables are relatively easy to discern in the prehistoric record. Tree-rings tell us a great deal about changes in climate, such as the onset of a drought, over a long period of time. Pollen analyses reveal what plants were in bloom, when, and how frequently. Animal bones talk of wildlife. Human artifacts talk of agriculture.

Secondly, the environment played a huge role in all prehistoric, and most historic, people's lives. Living "close to the land" really meant something a thousand years ago. In order for an archaeologist to truly understand a culture, he or she must come to grips with the dynamic of human-environment interaction. In many ways it is the key to what happened so many years ago. I believe it is a useful key for us today.

#### *The Lesson of Prehistory*

Contrary to popular expectation, what most archaeologists will tell you about the relationship between prehistoric cultures and the environment is this: *It was rough, far from being an Eden-like, harmonious balance of give-and-take between nature and culture, it was mostly take-take-take by humans.* Most often prehistoric peoples would move into a particular region, exhaust its natural resources—water, wood, and wild game—and move on. It was a cycle as "natural" as the seasons.

Sometimes this cycle took two centuries, sometimes it took a lot less. Sometimes it ended spectacularly, such as what happened at Chaco Canyon, where a rapid rise in population put tremendous stress on scarce natural resources. When Chaco Canyon entered a prolonged drought the whole social structure collapsed in a heap. Communities broke up and scattered across the landscape. A grand experiment in social aggregation, much like what we are trying today in our big cities, proved environmentally unsustainable.

The archaeological record is replete with similar stories of boom-and-bust. Prehistoric New Mexico, in fact, can be viewed as one long migration flowing from northwest to southeast, with communities flourishing and expiring in regular order according to differing rates of environmental exhaustion. Ask an archaeologist. This cycle was broken only by the arrival of the Spanish and enforced settlement.

From my own experience as an archaeologist, reinforced by what I have read and heard over the years, the lesson of prehistory appears to be this: humans are predisposed to short-sighted exploitation of natural resources.

Unless a social or environmental check is put into place somehow, such as economic self-restraint, or a drought, the human inclination to take-take-take and damn the consequences will cause ecological damage and social displacement. It is a lesson we have refused to learn, or chosen consciously to ignore.

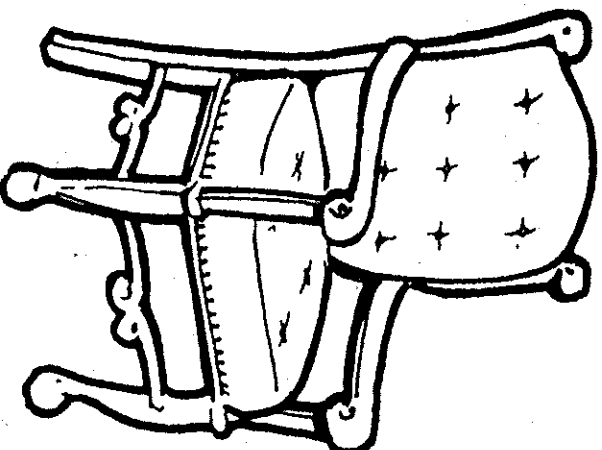
#### *Moderation*

Everything, as Einstein once despaird, has changed except the way we think. This especially applies to technology—another area of intense archaeological investigation. Resource exploitation was tolerable in prehistoric times because populations were small, open space was abundant, and technology was simple. Of course all three of these conditions have changed profoundly by 1996, but none more than technology. Our ability to affect nature by technical means has leaped forward by light-years. Our thinking, however, remains Neolithic. Technology-bashing, of course, is not the answer to our current conundrum—despite its faddishness. Instead, our thinking needs to evolve. We need to come to grips with our predispositions, and profligate habits, and make decisions about how we want to live our lives. We don't need to roll back technology, as some suggest. Rather, we need to roll forward our thinking and priorities: reuse our waste, for example; open space over "No Trespassing" signs; *self-health over self-abuse*.

I think one answer is moderation. This is a radical idea, when you think about it. Everything in our culture points directly at excess: eat what you want, buy more than you can afford, curse public officials as loudly as possible, expose every fetish on TV talk shows. There is nothing too outrageous anymore. Urged on by TV advertisements, we seem to have thrown all restraint, and caution, to the wind.

So it is with the environment. Regulations that protect the safety of our air and water have suddenly, according to some lawmakers ("lawbreakers" would be more accurate), become "burdens." They are obstacles to future growth and profit, i.e., continued excess and waste. They are impediments to the American Dream, now only affordable by a small handful of citizens. The environment, it seems, has come to symbolize a wet blanket to a society determined to just "Do It."

That's all right. Environmentalism's lesson is, or should be, moderation and self-restraint. Moderation is not the same thing as a monastic life, or a Neolithic one, however. Rather, it means putting strong curbs on our appetites—less growth, less consumption, and generally treading more lightly. It means breaking our predisposition to take-take-take. It means giving something back, and slowing down. It means changing the way we think *—before it gets changed for us.*



## The Uneasy Chair

by  
Courtney White

## Santa Fe Ski Expansion Halted

The head of the U.S. Forest Service in the Southwest, Regional Forester Charles "Chip" Cartwright, ordered Santa Fe National Forest Supervisor Al Defler to review his December decision to permit Santa Fe Ski Co. to expand its operations by 231 acres into the Big Tesuque Basin, a bowl-shaped watershed immediately south of the existing ski area.

Cartwright identified possible adverse impacts on the religious activities of Tesuque and Nambe Pueblos as the main reason behind his decision. He noted that Defler had tried to reduce the impact on cultural sites in and near the Big Tesuque, but that "the Pueblos did not feel that the mitigation plan adequately addressed their broader concerns."

Defler had announced in December that he supported Alternative 4, an expansion option that calls for building a chairlift in the Big Tesuque. In his decision notice, Cartwright said, "I am not persuaded that the portion of Alternative 4 allowing expansion into Big Tesuque provides the best balance between additional development at the ski area and protection of Pueblo cultural and religious practices."

In addition to asking Defler to reconsider his decision, Cartwright ordered Defler to make sure that State water rights issues related to existing ski area operations are resolved "prior to implementation of any activities requiring additional water."

Alternative 4 would expand the ski area's size by 52%, boost its capacity from 4,150 to 5,980 skiers, and more than double the number of parking spaces. Defler's controversial December decision was based primarily on the contention that such an expansion would promote greater skier safety by spreading skiers out and allowing ski patrols to more closely monitor the basin.

Cartwright's ruling upheld five formal appeals protesting Defler's decision, filed by the Ski Area Containment Coalition, the City of Santa Fe, the County of Santa Fe, Tesuque Pueblo, and the Sierra Club. Defler is required by the ruling to redo his Record of Decision, the document summarizing the rationale for his choice of Alternative 4. This will take two or three months. When the new Record of Decision is released, new appeals can filed.

In his decision notice, Cartwright indicated that he preferred Alternative 3, the option initially chosen by Defler in March 1994. It would permit the ski area only a small expansion within the watershed it currently occupies.

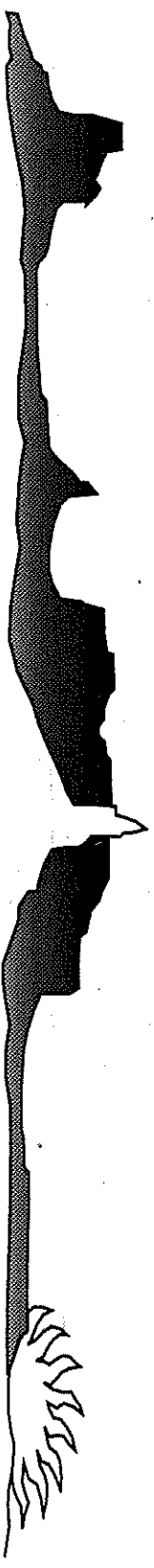
"Alternative 3 gives (the) Santa Fe Ski Co. and the Forest Service a point to begin making changes that will greatly enhance visitor enjoyment and safety," Cartwright wrote. Defler originally saw Alternative 3 as a compromise solution, but dropped it when it failed to win support from either the community or the ski area operator. The Santa Fe community has vocally supported an alternative which doesn't allow any expansion.

## You Can Make A Difference



In March, we mailed each of our members an appeal for funds. These contributions really make a difference to us, and are an important part of our chapter's budget. When you make a donation to the chapter, you support the Sierra Club's work in your own backyard. You allow us to continue our work to protect wilderness and wildlife, to improve the quality of life in our cities, and to promote the enjoyment of nature.





# MINE TALES A Journal of Destructive Subsidies

by  
Sue McIntosh

This time, we are moving the tales of destructive subsidies (we do have some) to the back of the article, and starting with some good news. First of all, the Mining Oversight and Control Project (MOCP) has reached and quietly slid past the ripe old age of six months. It is amazing and encouraging how many people have helped the MOCP on its way, simply by doing good, hard work for the land and water and wildlife. So, the first order of business is to thank all of the great people who are out there working on mining issues. You know who you are. Thank you.

Second, since we are now over six months old, it seems like time to LAUNCH AN INITIATIVE!

We have come up with the mother of all initiatives. If it is entirely successful, it will end the mining project as we now know it. If this initiative is successful, there will be so many people watching what is going on between agencies and the mining industry and industry and the environment, that the laws will have to be enforced, and resources will have to be protected. Or else, ¡¡¡ZAP!!! some interested member of the public will slap the system back into compliance. That's the plan.

We were going to call this initiative the "Adopt - A - Mine" project, but it is really not the mines that need extra care. Rather, it is the surrounding community of life that faces the dire threats caused by the mines, to which we should turn our attention. If the mine is the wolf, and the environment is the lamb, and the regulating agencies are back home in the farm house not paying enough attention, what do we need???

No, not Animal Damage Control. We need a GUARD DOG.

## OPERATION GUARD DOG

Operation Guard Dog will rescue the community of life from degradation and destruction at the hands of renegade lawless mines and weak regulators. Here is how it works:

MOCP signs up volunteers (that's y'all) to pick a mine from the great variety of mines we have been blessed with in New Mexico. The volunteers will then monitor the enforcement of law and regulation at their mine, and monitor the impact the mine is having or is likely to have on the natural and cultural environment. When things go wrong, our team of volunteers (big dogs that bite) will come off the porch and make sure things get done right. It is quite a job. The bigger the mine, the bigger the job. For many mines, we will set up teams for monitoring. But, it all depends on one little tiny thing: YOU!

This initiative cannot work if people just sit there. You have to act. If you have just a little time, let us know, and we will get you on a team with other folks who will share the work on a mine. If you are a lone wolf guard dog, pick your own mine and do it yourself. There are also options in between. And MOCP will provide all the training and materials for you to get started.

The good news is, actually, this program is already up and running, in an informal way, for several existing and proposed new mines throughout the state. At these mines, there are excellent public watchdogs and, sometimes, big chunks of entire communities are involved. Yet there are many mines where no one is watching the shop. These are the operations on which we will focus with Operation Guard Dog.

There are big mines and little mines, in many parts of the state. There are all kinds of mines, too. There are copper, gold and silver mines; there are kitty litter mines and there are several very creative scan mines—those would be fun.

## Fun with Mining

So, give us a call at (505) 983-4254 or e-mail us at [sierranm@aol.com](mailto:sierranm@aol.com) and we will send you your Operation Guard Dog "Key to Fun with Mining" starter kit.

Each kit includes:

—A list of available mines to monitor and a little something about each one, so you can pick your favorite one to work on.

—Notice of upcoming training sessions, meetings and other pertinent information you will need to get started as a Guard Dog.

—Our sincerest gratitude.

—Your own commemorative sample of New Mexico mine waste, guaranteed to contain significantly elevated levels of at least one, possibly several, dangerous heavy metals capable of producing acid mine drainage in home experiments.

So, get off the porch and have some fun with your government. Just call MOCP and say, "I can't wait to get started on Operation Guard Dog!! Grrrrrrrr." We'll take it from there.

## Pumice Promenade

February/March were busy months for oversight of pumice mining in the Jemez Mountains. The comment period on the proposed El Cajete mine's Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) ended on 11 March, so a major milestone was to develop a concrete, detailed, and effective Chapter document on this matter. Our comments went out on 7 March and represented the Chapter's legitimate concerns about the mine's impacts on the environment, on roadway safety, and on the local culture and communities.

The El Cajete mine is particularly controversial due to its being located smack-dab in the middle of the Jemez National Recreation Area. Its adverse impacts on the environment, on roadway safety, and on the local culture and communities are serving to enlist a broad-based coalition of opponents, including not only the Sierra Club, but local residents of Sierra Los Pinos, local residents and the mayor of the town of Jemez Springs, and other environmental organizations (including the Audubon Society and Save the Jemez). In the view of the Club and those other publics, the DEIS was seriously deficient in documenting and analyzing those impacts. We will give this issue

constant attention in the coming months and hopefully will arrive at a sounder EIS in the next iteration.

On 4 March, the Los Alamos County Council heard an informational briefing from Bob Crostic (Jemez Ranger District/Santa Fe National Forest) on the El Cajete DEIS. The Council chambers were packed with opponents of the mine, including Mayor David Sanchez of Jemez Springs, and the public-comment period provided a useful forum for the Council to be educated on the mine's serious traffic-safety problems, including those posed by three of Route 4's sharp turns within Los Alamos County, where the haul trucks cannot legally negotiate the road. All the Council members present that evening, eventually expressed grave reservations about the pumice-haul plans for this mine, and the Council passed a motion expressing these reservations and concerns.

## South Pit

Another issue for serious attention is the proposed South Pit pumice mine, near Forest Road 10 in the southern Jemez Mountains. Like El Cajete, this project has serious impacts on the environment, on roadway safety, and on the local culture and communities. The Forest Service is now responding to public comment on the Environmental Assessment (EA) issued last September on South Pit. If anything, the transportation-safety issues are even more serious than for El Cajete. The Club will treat South Pit as seriously as it treats El Cajete.

Thankfully, further public comment and oversight avenues are provided by the New Mexico Mining Act. The Act contains several provisions to protect the broader community interests of the State of New Mexico. Basically, we are now involved in essentially preliminary skirmishes to get the El Cajete and South Pit mines properly managed according to New Mexico law. In the case of El Cajete, the skirmish consists of seeing that the mine be considered a "new mine" rather than an existing operation (which it would-be operator, Copar Pumice Co., is attempting to package it as). In the case of South Pit, the pertinent skirmish is to ensure that the mine not be allowed to bypass State law by being considered a "minimum-impact mine." Both of these issues are being worked on with the Mining and Minerals Division and its parent, the New Mexico Mining Commission.

## Tactics

Finally, just a little note about the tactics Copar Mining Company is capable of.

The Santa Fe *New Mexican* carried an article on April 13th regarding issues associated with the proposed El Cajete mine, located in the heart of the Jemez National Recreation Area. According to the article, Copar has told the State Mining and Minerals Division that most (65%) of El Cajete's pumice would be mined as aggregate used

## MOVING?

Attach current mailing label here and write in new address below. (Please allow 4-6 weeks processing time.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

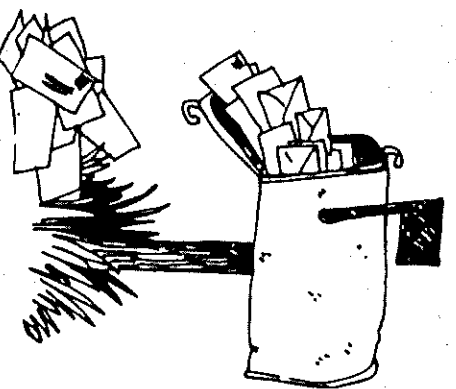
Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:

**Sierra Club**  
P.O. Box 52968,  
Boulder, Colorado,  
80322-2968



## Environmental Education

# Listenin' to What's Happenin'

by Susan Gorman

The members of the New Mexico Communities Environmental Education Project Team have been traveling through New Mexico, listening to folks at Teacher Roundtables and Community Conversations. We're listenin' to the stories... the successes and challenges and, yes, concerns relating to environmental education. We're learning about local environmental education initiatives and ideas and also the needs for resources and support.

The attendees are teachers who have incorporated education about the environment into their social studies, literature, art, journalism, science, and math programs, new teachers seeking ideas and networking opportunities and resource providers sharing information about their programs. We've had a smattering of parents and others interested in environmental education, too.

The idea is to establish working relationships and communication networks among environmental education providers, teachers, students, universities and colleges, state and local government agencies, non-profit organizations, libraries, businesses and individuals statewide.

So far, the Team has held events in Four Corners, Southwestern, South Central, Central and Southeastern New Mexico.

### Preliminary Conclusions

This is a very ambitious project, envisioned to require two years of intensive work. Now at the midpoint of the Project's first phase, Team members are convinced that a solid and positive beginning has been made and that there is much more to be done. Here are some preliminary conclusions:

**Home Grown Initiatives Work Best!** The concept of community capacity assessment, that is the process of seeking local assets and capacities to find local solutions and create "home grown" initiatives, has been enthusiastically embraced by a broad base of people in each region and the Team members believe that we are creating an opportunity for people to talk and share ideas. We offer people with diverse ideas, interests and concerns a "neutral space" to seek areas of common interest.

**Resources Galore!** There is a very large number of resources available to educators to use to teach about the environment, such as

curriculum guides, lesson plans, books, packets, boxes, kits, tapes, videos, video uplinks, laser disks, CD ROMs, Worldwide Web sites, people, organizations, places, camps, programs, projects, facilities.... Well, you get the picture!

**Teachers Face BIG Challenges!** We have discovered teachers who are making extraordinary efforts to really incorporate environmental and ecological lessons into their teaching. Other teachers are asking to be enabled to do more. We have also found teachers who are not aware of these resources or do not understand how to integrate these resources into their teaching.

### What's Environmental Education, Anyway?

We ask attendees to tell us what they think of when they think "Environmental Education." The results are very local indeed, reinforcing the concepts of Community Capacity Building and Home Grown Initiatives. The content question, that is, what constitutes Environmental Education, is a local, even personal one. We are telling people that we are coming to listen and we mean this sincerely.

### The Next Steps....

The Team members have completed the first phase of visits to communities and have come home to compile, analyze, count, record, sort, digest, think, conclude and write. We'll be continuing to build communication networks with the folks we've met and help them talk with each other. We will emerge from this process with a report detailing the conclusions about what we have found and providing Guidelines for the future.

### What YOU Can Do....

Become an Information Gatherer, send us information about resources and people you know. TO CONTACT US:

NEW MEXICO COMMUNITIES ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROJECT  
2226B Wyoming NE, Suite 272  
Albuquerque, NM 87112 USA  
TEL: 505-265-3231 FAX: 505-256-0373  
EMail: bblairb@aol.com

## Checking Albuquerque's Vital Signs

by Susan Gorman

The Sustainable Albuquerque Team has been working hard to focus on the real essence of sustainability and to figure out what it really means on the ground.

### Mesa del Sol

We began by doing what Sierrans do best... we took a hike! Guided by Harry Reiken and Jim Callahan of the New Mexico State Land Office, we walked the rolling hills of the Mesa del Sol site. The views from the mesa tops of the Sandias, the Bosque, the escarpment and volcanoes and out to the West Mesa and Mount Taylor are spectacular. Much of the property has abundant and diverse plant life and probably wildlife as well. It's great out there!

We learned that the State Land Office really is committed to the New Urbanism model and is willing to try innovative development techniques as long as the Mesa del Sol development remains competitive.

Access to the development will be automobile-oriented with light rail and bus access included. This is clearly an area where we need to work with them to make certain that they focus on public transit options. Access via an extension of University Ave. will open up areas along Tijeras Arroyo to development, and we need to examine the risks to the watershed and assist the Land Office to consider innovative options.

The Land Office wants the advocacy of the Sierra Club. We have a great opportunity to work with them to create a really innovative development which will be a model for the whole Central New Mexico area.

### 1000 Friends

Next, we met with Jim Norton, Executive Director of 1000 Friends of New Mexico. Jim's a friend, formerly with the Wilderness Society, and it was good to see him again. 1000 Friends of New Mexico is a new organization, working to increase awareness of the problem of sprawl and to recommend viable solutions. 1000 Friends is dedicated to sensible land use planning, growth management and sustainable development. They succeeded in having a memorial passed in the 1996 Legislative Session which initiated a study of land use, and they are working to draft and introduce legislation for statewide land use planning in the near future.

Jim explained that the founders of 1000 Friends came together because they believe that the current land use policies (or lack thereof) allow development to occur in rural and urban areas with little or no planning for the future. The result is development sprawl that threatens the environment and cultures of New Mexico. Sprawl gobbles up open space and wildlife habitat, increases traffic, pollutes the air and water, and damages communities. Sprawl costs each of us more than development in existing communities and increases housing costs beyond the reach of some New Mexicans.

Jim told us that he and the Board members realize that they need to build solid relationships with other organizations which share their vision, and he asked us to consider ways for the Sierra Club to participate with them in making this vision a reality.

One way we can help is by joining them in their advocacy of a carefully designed development impact fee structure. The Development Impact Fee Act of 1993 authorizes municipalities to collect fees to cover the costs of new infrastructure such as roads, sewers, drainage and parks. The City's Capital Improvements Advisory Committee is working on its report to the Mayor and City Council to address the impact fee structure. After that, there will be public meetings and we need to participate. 1000 Friends will help us learn more about the issues involved so that we can participate actively.

We agreed to continue to communicate and to develop a strategy for educating Sierrans and encouraging participation in the process.

### City's Sustainable Communities Committee

At City Hall, the City's Sustainable Communities Committee has convened and met three times now. We elected officers and began to develop an action plan. Victor Chavez, Albuquerque Economic Development, is Chair and I am Vice Chair. The Committee will begin by developing indicators of sustainability to check Albuquerque's vital signs. Where we go from there is not yet clear. Stay tuned!

### Definitions

Meanwhile, the Sustainable Albuquerque Team is discussing our definition of sustainability and principles, mission and goals. So far, we have adopted the "standard" definition:

**Sustainability is:** To meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

**The Principles:** We support the basic ecological principles of Preservation, Conservation and Restoration.

**The Mission:** To build an inclusive coalition of individuals and organizations in the Greater Albuquerque Area to work together to develop and implement a long-term Sustainability Strategy.

**And the Goals--to:**

- Identify, document and acknowledge the local carrying capacity.
- Move towards recognition that we must live within the ecosystem, not beyond it.
- Strive to preserve the biological diversity of area ecosystems.
- Emphasize pedestrian and other non-motorized transportation modes.
- Encourage innovation in architectural design and community planning.
- Foster pride and love of Albuquerque.

This is a Work In Progress.... Come join us and help! Contact Susan Gorman, 2226B Wyoming NE, #272, ABQ, NM 87112, phone: 505-265-3231, FAX: 505-256-0373, EMail: bblairb@aol.com



## May 20, General Meeting 7:30pm INNER CITY PROGRAM FOR OUR YOUTH

Ted Mertig of the El Paso Group Executive Committee will showcase the El Paso Inner City Outings program for youths. Members can learn what is involved in organizing, maintaining, and promoting community partnerships for a program here in Albuquerque. Ted will be accompanied by kids who have participated in the El Paso program.

General Meetings are held on the third Monday of every month at 7:30 pm at the UNM Law School, Room 2401, on the corner of Mountain Rd. and Stanford NE.

Bring your own cups for refreshments during the break.

## HELP WANTED

The Albuquerque Group has an immediate opening for an office volunteer. Can you spare one hour a week or more? Duties include: mail sorting, answering phone calls and messages, and sending membership packets out per request. This is a great way to get to know your Group Executive Committee and local issues. Please call Leslie Lazaga at 296-0944 if you'd like to help!

## HELP WANTED

A volunteer coordinator for the Albuquerque Group phone tree is needed. The phone tree is established and team coordinated. Coordinators and members have been active in calling, writing, e-mailing, and faxing President Clinton and our state's representatives here and in Washington D.C. about issues concerning our environment. You can make a difference by getting involved!! Please call Jack Humphrey and Kathy Love at 243-5319 to volunteer.

## ANNUAL SUMMERTIME PICNIC

To help plan the Albuquerque Group Summertime Picnic (in July or August) please call Leslie Lazaga at 296-0944.

## Campaign Training Conference

A meeting is being planned for all those interested in hearing about what took place at the political campaign training conference in Washington DC in February. Jack Humphrey will relay information that was shared during what he felt was an excellent, informative conference. There will be taped excerpts from the conference of the famous speakers such as Ed Mahe, the founder of the modern Republican political movement. He gave the "enemy's" perspective on what they do to fight us so successfully.

Many professional campaigners gave insight to campaign management tactics, getting the word out, media training, fundraising, and the importance of "breeding" and grooming our own politicians. An announcement will be made about the meeting time soon. We are waiting on video tapes from DC. If you are interested, call Jack Humphrey at 243-5319.

## CALENDAR

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

May 1	Mexican Wolf Coalition, 7:30 PM
May 4	Wildlands Workshop, Santa Fe. (See article, page 16.)
May 8	Deadline for agenda items for Group ExCom. Call Susan Gorman at 265-3231
May 10-11	Regional Gathering of Sierra Club Activists, Colorado Springs, CO. (See article, page 13.)
May 13	Group ExCom, 7:00 PM
May ??	Sustainable Albuquerque Meeting, 7:00 PM. Call Susan Gorman, 265-3231
May 17-19	Citizens Protecting America's Parks Conference, Shertaton Uptown (formerly, Ramada Classic), Albq.
May 20	General Meeting, UNM Law School, Rm 2401, 7:30 PM
May 22	Deadline for agenda items for Conservation Committee. Call Richard Barish, 247-8079
May 27	Conservation Committee Meeting, 7:00 PM
June 1-2	Chapter ExCom Meeting, Santa Fe
June 5	Mexican Wolf Coalition, 7:30 PM
June 5	Deadline for agenda items for Group ExCom. Call Susan Gorman at 265-3231
June 10	Group ExCom, 7:00 PM
June 15	Deadline for articles for July/August Rio Grande Sierran
June 17	General Meeting, UNM Law School, Rm 2401, 7:30 pm
June 19	Deadline for agenda items for Conservation Committee. Call Richard Barish, 247-8079
June 24	Conservation Committee Meeting, 7:00 PM

## June 17, General Meeting 7:30pm BACKYARD HABITAT FOR WILD BIRDS

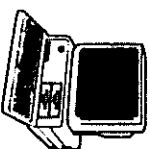
Peter Teare, Wild Birds Unlimited backyard habitat specialist and educator at Highland High School, will present a slide show and answer your questions about our region's wild birds. Come learn how to identify birds, what foods attract them, and how to create a safe and inviting backyard habitat.

## Western New Mexico Section

The Western New Mexico Section is now combining monthly meetings with short hikes. They include a visit to Indian ruins near Fort Wingate and a hike to Cottonwood Gulch. Planned hikes for May and June are:

May 11 to Upper Nütra Lake near Zuni.  
June 9 to Mt. Sedgewick near Bluewater Lake.  
Call Barbara Brandt (505) 488-5233 or Barbara Leonard (505) 862-7915.

## Make Better Business Decisions.... COMPTON RESEARCH SERVICES



- ◆ Company Intelligence
- ◆ Market Research
- ◆ Legal Research

899-2975  
Fax: 898-9570

## Group Directory

### 1996 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Office Telephone: 265-5506  
Fax: 256-0373

Group Chair	Susan Gorman	265-3231
Vice Chair	Nick Persampieri	281-7845
Secretary	Blair Brown	265-3231
Treasurer	Kathy Love	243-5319
	Richard Barish	247-8079
	Ron Grobeck	296-0944
	Julie Hicks	345-7832
	Jack Humphrey	243-5319
	Barbara Leonard	862-7915

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

### ADMINISTRATION

Office Organizer	OPEN	
Books/Calendars	Larry Compton	899-0679
Information Technology	Bruce Batson	828-2570
	bhatson@ninet.net	
	Blair Brown	265-3231
	bblairb@aol.com	
Media Coordinator	Julie Hicks	345-7832
Membership Newsletter	Barbara Stone	265-5304
Outings	OPEN	
Phone Tree	Stan Kauchak	839-4301
	Jean Valentine	869-2090
	Jack Humphrey/	
	Kathy Love	243-5319
Political Chair	Ron Grobeck	296-0944
Programs	Leslie Lazaga	296-0944

### CONSERVATION

Conservation Chair	Richard Barish	247-8079
Campaign Team Leaders		
East Mountain	Nick Persampieri	281-7845
Petroglyph National Monument	Ike Eastvoid	255-7679
Sustainable Albuquerque	Susan Gorman	265-3231
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
Wildlife	Martin Heinrich	345-7832



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.

Sat May 11  
Car: 3

**Rinconada Canyon Clean-up,  
Petroglyph National Monument**  
Join us as we continue our quest to remove all the trash, litter, and debris deposited in the monument over the years. Clean-up will begin at 9:00 AM and end at 1:00 PM. All volunteers are welcome. Contact Ike for details.  
Leader: Ike Eastvold 255-7679

Sat May 11 Leisure  
Miles: 3-6

**Zuni Indian Ruins**  
Scenic hike to a lake near the Pueblo of Zuni, to include bird watching and a visit to Indian ruins. Meet at 10 AM at the Blue Corn Restaurant in Ramah, Route 53 from Grants or Gallup. Bring lunch. Call Barbara Brandt 488-5233 or Barbara Leonard 862-

## THE WASTE OF THE WEST

by Julie Hicks & Susan Gorman

Sierrans hit the streets to spread the news that federal logging programs are hitting the pocketbooks of Albuquerque residents!

"No Taxation for Deforestation" was the message delivered door to door as members of the Sierra Club Albuquerque Group and the University of New Mexico Sierra Student Coalition (SSC) mobilized with members of Sangre de Cristo Animal Protection and New Mexico PIRG on Saturday, April 13, to distribute 25,000 doornangars. Southwest Forest Alliance organized the event with plenty of essential help from members of the local organizations.

Early Saturday morning we groaned to see the normally sunny New Mexico sky suddenly overcast and gloomy. The wind was intense and COLD and necessitated the use of heavy objects to keep doornangars, maps and even small children from blowing away! Perhaps the gray skies discouraged many from attending, but the hearty ones showed up with jackets and high spirits. Several local businesses contributed much appreciated food and soda for the rally, and a group of drummers helped attract bystanders and increase enthusiasm. Organizer Don Kimball told both activists and reporters about the Waste of the West. Former State Land Commissioner and BLM Director, Jim Baca, was the guest of honor and he braved the weather to urge us to oppose destruction of our public lands.

Two TV stations carried the event and the local NBC affiliate followed a group of young activists to catch the action as they hit the streets with several hundred of the 25,000 doornangars. It was great to see kids, students and older folks working together to get the doornangars out. In the end, most of the cards made it onto the doors of Albuquerque homes.

Monday, April 15, TAX DAY, dawned a better day, weatherwise, at least! A press conference was held to reinforce the message. Speakers were Green Party senate candidate and NM Forest Guardian director, Sam Hitt; NM PIRG director, Jean Barrett; Southwest Forest Alliance representative, Don Kimball; New West president, Pat Wolf; Sierra Club, Albuquerque Group Excom member, Jack Humphrey; and Sierra Student Coalition Coordinator, Kathy Love. Unfortunately, our message was competing with a local plane crash which dampened press coverage. The *Albuquerque Journal* carried the story.

The week before, Kimball was interviewed by KUNM, the local NPR Station, which encouraged more participation in the doornanger delivery and also educated listeners about the impacts of federal logging programs.

These impacts are significant: Below cost timber sales by the US. Forest Service have cost taxpayers \$1 billion in the past three years. In New Mexico and Arizona, this was a loss of \$54.6 million. This was precisely the message intended to hit taxpayers in the wallet as they finished mailing in tax forms with checks for the IRS.

We still have a few doornangars left so if anyone wants to hit the streets,...

7915 for details.

Leader: Kathryn Gallagher

Sat-Sun May 11-12 Moderate  
Miles: 4-8 Car: 120

Let's Go to Ojito Carcamp;

An Adventure to Dinosaur Land

Let's explore this magical land where our own dinosaur, now at the Natural History Museum in Albuquerque, once lived. The area contains prehistoric sites related to Spanish settlement prior to the 18th century, petrified wood and plant fragments, and dinosaur bones. There are raptors, swallows and swifts, quail and mourning dove to be seen. The landforms in this region include mesas, multicolored rock formations, canyons, arroyos and sculptured badlands. We will leave Albuquerque at 8:00 AM, to rendezvous with the Santa Fe Group in San Ysidro. Bring plenty of water, lunches for 2 days, day pack, sunscreen, snacks, dinner for one night (pot luck style), lounge chair, and breakfast for one morning. Contact leader for more information.  
Leaders: Georgia 881-9365 (Albuquerque) and John Turnbull (Santa Fe).

Tues - Mon May 21-27

Gila Wilderness Service Project

We will take a day and a half to hike 15 miles from the Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument up Little Creek to the scenic McKenna Spring area. Log and rock waterbars and check dams will be constructed to control erosion on badly eroded trails in the area. Volunteers can elect to participate less than the full seven days. Call Carol or Glen Kepler at 296-0402, or Kevin Balciar at 293-1477 for information and to sign up for this project.

Sun May 26 Moderate

Miles: 4-6 Car: 120

Ponderosa Exploratory Hike

There is some interesting landscape just west and south of the town of Ponderosa in the Southern Jemez Mountains. We will hike a ridge line in and then descend into a nice canyon to return. It could be hot this time of year so bring sunscreen and plenty of water. If it is hot we will seek shade and rest often. RSVP by day before hike for meeting time and place. (Joint outing with Outdoor Adventures for Singles)  
Leader: Tom Petencin 225-1497

Sun June 9 Leisure-Moderate

Miles: 2-5

Mt. Sedgwick Hike

Hike down a woods road next to a stream in an evergreen forest and meadow to Mt. Sedgwick, the highest point in the Zuni Mountains (9,256 ft). The climb is at the end of the road and is gradual. Meet at 10 AM at the Thoreau exit off I-40 at the parking lot for the Flea Market. We will carpool past Bluewater Lake to Forest Road 504. Bring lunch.  
Leader: Barbara Brandt 488-5233

Sun June 9 Leisure

Miles: 2 Car: 225

El Morro NM Hike

Located about an hour south of Grants, Inscription Rock stands as a tribute to those early peoples who

shaped New Mexico and the American West. (At the expense of most Native Americans.) See petroglyphs, names and notations carved into the sandstone walls of El Morro. Bring a picnic lunch, sturdy shoes, a camera, and the family. (Supervised children please.)  
Leader: Stan 839-4301

Sat-Sun June 22-23 Leisure to Moderate  
Miles: 12 Car: 240

Astronomy Car Camp,

Magdalena Mountains

Out high in the mountains where the stars blaze, far away from the glare of the city, we set up chairs and a telescope and watch the night float by. During the day we will take a couple of hikes into the surrounding area.  
Leader: Tom Leck 256-7217

Sat-Sun June 22-30

Pecos Wilderness Service Project

From the Iron Gate Campground, we will hike in an easy 3 1/2 miles on the Hamilton Mesa Trail to our camp site. We will do trail maintenance on the lower portion of the trail from the mesa down to Beatty's cabin, mostly installing water bars and doing tread work. Volunteers can elect to participate less than the full nine days. The America Hiking Society may be working with us on this project. Call Kevin Balciar at 293-1477 for information and to sign up for this project.

Sun June 30 Moderate

Miles: 8 Car: 350

Williams Lake Trail Hike

A moderate hike through lush forest to an alpine lake at the base of Wheeler Peak, about 8 miles from Taos Ski Valley trailhead. Contact leader for more information.  
Leaders: Michael 292-8408 & Georgia 881-9365

Thur-Sun July 4-7 (give or take a day)

Moderate-Strenuous

Miles: 8-9 Car: 450

Uncompahgre Peak Climb/Carcamp

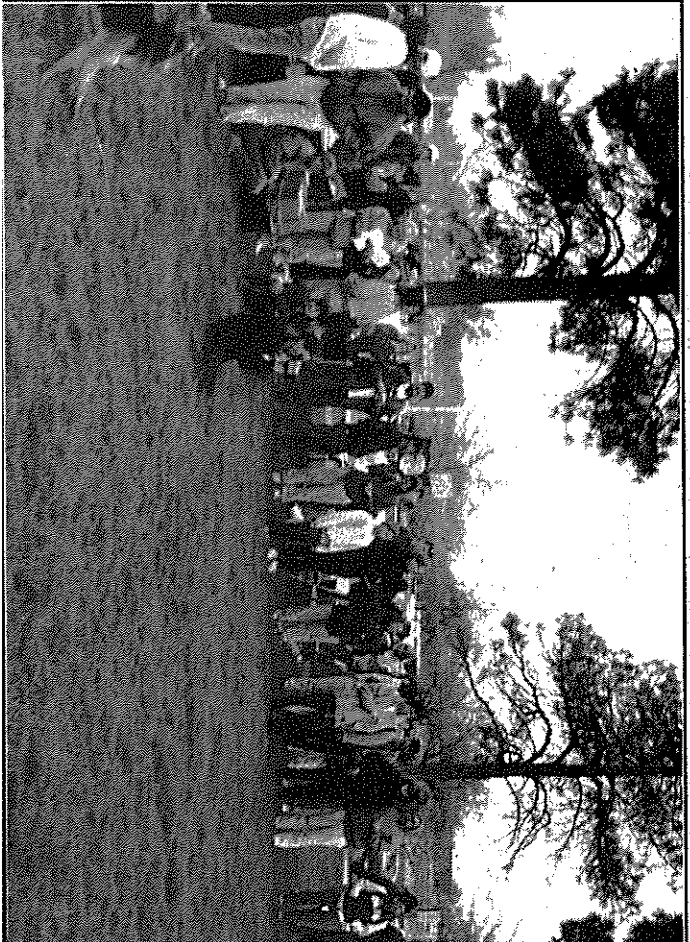
Over the 4th come with us to climb the 6th highest peak (14,309 feet) in Colorado. This will be a 3-day/2-night trip. We will car camp at Nellie's Creek campground and day hike to the top. Because extreme conditions must be expected, participants must contact leader to ensure they have proper equipment for the climb.  
Leader: Tom Leck 256-7217

Sun-Sat Aug 4-10 Strenuous

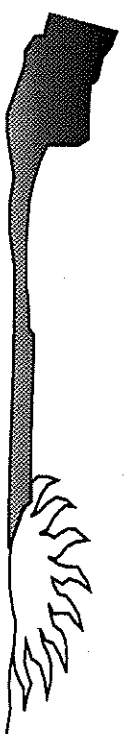
Miles: 46 Car: 450

Continental Divide Backpack

We'll go from Cumbres Pass 46 miles to Elwood Pass along the Continental Divide Trail. Enjoy the beauty of this wild and scenic area over this 6 1/2 day hike. Come see the elephants! Limit 10 experienced backpackers only. Contact the leader for more information.  
Leader: John Thomas 298-5234.



Cold but  
intrepid  
New  
Mexicans  
gather to  
hear Jim  
Baca and  
Don Kimball  
speak about  
the Waste of  
the West on  
Saturday,  
April 13



## May 20, General Meetin INNER CITY PRO

**OUR**  
Ted Merig of the El Paso Inner City Outreach is involved in organizing partnerships for kids who stars we share to Moderate  
(At the expense of most Native Americans carved the sandstone walls of El Morro. Bring a lunch, sturdy shoes, a camera, and the supervised children please.)  
shaped New Mexico and the American West.

of planned. Also, joining us on a hike. Remember one of the ways the Club attracts its Regulations." In the meantime, dig your boots out on the outside. See you on the trail!

ne the ne ck ill as ving g and attains, driving , offered vantage we have rested in nally been

"Rules and

oset and get

## UPCOMING OUTINGS

### May 4 - Mount Cristo Rey Dayhike

Place: Mount Cristo Rey

Class: Easy

Limit: Reservations and Leader Approval Required

Leader: Ann Falknor, 833-9162

This easy dayhike to the prominent peak on the Texas-New Mexico-Chihuahua junction covers about 3 miles round trip on well developed trail. We will meet at the UTIEP parking lot on the corner of Schuster and Prospect at 7:30am. Security will be provided at the Cristo Rey parking area.

### May 4-5 - Indian Hollow Backpack

Place: Organ Mts., New Mexico

Class: Easy

Limit: 12; Reservations and Leader Approval Required

Leader: Alice Anderson, (505) 523-5179

Saturday morning we will begin hiking from Aguirre Springs on the north side of the Organ Mts. Our 3-mile route will be partly on an overused and much abused trail, partly on a way trail, and partly off-trail. Our campsite is tucked under Sugar Loaf, which, if we are lucky, will turn a glorious pink for a few minutes at dawn. Sunday we will dayhike in the morning, have hot nettle soup for lunch, and pack out in the afternoon, taking our time to enjoy the scenery. Come join us for a leisurely, relaxing weekend.

### May 11 - Baylor Peak Traverse Dayhike

Place: Organ Mts., New Mexico

Class: Strenuous

Limit: 8; Reservations and Leader Approval Required

Leader: Alice Anderson, (505) 523-5179

After setting up our car shuttle, we will begin hiking at San Agustin Pass on US Highway 70. We will go over several false summits, encountering loose rock, spanish bayonet, and panoramic views, and then drop into the infamous notch, from which there is an easy scramble to the summit. We will descend on the south ridge and exit on the Baylor Canyon Trail. Participants must be able to carry 1 gallon of water each, as this is a full-day hard-work hike and the weather will be warm.

### May 12 - First Annual Singles Dayhike in the Franklin Mtns.

Place: S. Franklin Peak, Franklin Mts. State Park

Class: Moderate

Limit: 20; Reservations and Leader Approval Required

Leader: Joe Rodriguez, 833-9655

We would like to take this opportunity to invite our members and their friends to our first annual dayhike for singles. The Franklin Mtns. provide an ideal outdoors environment for meeting people and making new friends. Our dayhike will include a 2.5 mile ascent to South Franklin Peak with about 1,500 ft elevation gain. The trail is rocky in places, so wear good footwear. Also bring a sack lunch, at least 1 qt of water, and dress for weather. Call Joe early for reservations and details.

### May 17-19 - Exploratory Backpack to the Datil Mountains

Place: Datil Mountains, Cibola National Forest, New Mexico

Class: Strenuous

Limit: 8; Reservations and Leader Approval Required

Leader: Tony Rullen, 775-3386

In this trip, we will explore the Datil Mountains north of the Plains

## GROUP DIRECTORY

<b>Chairman</b>	Wesley Leonard	747-8649
<b>Vice Chair/Program</b>	Gary Williams	562-3540
<b>Secretary</b>	Mike Seidensticker	544-5741 76251.2520@compuserve.com
<b>Treasurer</b>	Kathy Sunday	584-9301 sunday@pogo.den.mmc.com
<b>Member/Publisher</b>	Ted Merig	852-3011 tmerig@aol.com
<b>Member/Admin.</b>	Bill Phillips	772-8503
<b>Member</b>	Richard Rheder	544-5659 as303@grfn.epcc.edu
<b>Member</b>	Trish Puente	833-7585
<b>Franklin Mtns</b>	John Sprout	545-5157 ae494@grfn.epcc.edu
<b>Hospitality</b>	Barbara Merig	852-3011 tmerig@aol.com
<b>Inner City Outings</b>	Richard Rheder	544-5659 as303@grfn.epcc.edu
<b>Intern</b>	Ron Sissel	533-7723 rkissel@utep.edu
<b>LORAX</b>	Betsy Julian	544-5741 76251.2520@compuserve.com
<b>Membership</b>	Patricia Wood	542-0553
<b>Outings</b>	Kathy Sunday	584-9301 sunday@pogo.den.mmc.com
<b>Phone Tree</b>	Mike Seidensticker	544-5741 76251.2520@compuserve.com
<b>Political Action</b>	Jim Bell	581-8864
<b>Population</b>	Ed Van Thuyne	751-6366
<b>Public Lands</b>	Wesley Leonard	747-6649
<b>Wildlands Project</b>	Ted Merig	852-3011 tmerig@aol.com
<b>Chapter ExCom</b>	Joe Rodriguez	833-9655
	Ted Merig	852-3011 tmerig@aol.com
	Mike Seidensticker	544-5741 76251.2520@compuserve.com
	Gary Williams	562-3540

Sierra Club Environmental Center  
800 S. Pedras @ Paisano  
532-9645, 532-4876 fax

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

**LORAX information:**  
Betsy Julian  
615 E. Baltimore  
El Paso, TX 79902

of San Agustin. We will backpack up a canyon north of Wood Spring Canyon to the top of Madre Mountain. While the hike is only 2 miles long, the elevation rise is about 1,400 feet and we need to carry at least 3 quarts of water. Madre Mountain (9,556 ft.) is the highest peak in this range and should provide us with some beautiful sights of the Plains of San Agustin to the south, red rock canyons to the north, and the Very Large Array to the east. The canyon hike promises interesting rock formations and the vegetation at the top should be mainly gambel oak and ponderosa pine. We will drive to Datil Friday evening and camp in the Datil Well campground a few miles north of Datil. The distance is about 160 miles or 4 hours of driving. On Saturday, we will backpack up and spend the night on the ridge. Sunday morning we will backpack out, and, if we have time, we will explore either the red rock canyons up north (Remuda Canyon) or visit the VLA site.

### May 19-24 - Gila River Leisure Backpack

Place: Gila Wilderness, New Mexico

Class: Easy - Moderate

Limit: 12; Reservations and Leader Approval Required

Leader: Laurence Gibson, 594-7342

Join us for a relaxed trip down the Gila River from Grapevine Campground to Turkey Creek. We will leave El Paso Sunday morning and average about 6 miles per day. Water should be low but fishing good. Hopefully we will exit in time for those wishing to join the Memorial Day Backpack.

### May 24-27 - Memorial Day Key Exchange Backpack

Place: Gila Wilderness, New Mexico

Class: Strenuous

Limit: 12; Reservations and Leader Approval Required

Leader: Wesley Leonard and Laurence Gibson, 747-6649

We will depart El Paso Friday night for a campsite near Glenwood N.M. On Saturday morning, the groups will go to their respective trailheads. Wesley's group will start on Little Whitewater Creek, then climb 4,000 feet over Nabor's Mountain and drop down to Tennessee Meadows. On Sunday we will hike 2,000 feet (plus) up the East Fork Trail over Spider Saddle and down Winn Canyon to Whitewater Creek. Monday will feature a hike down Whitewater Creek and a climb up the Goldilust Trail to our Whitewater Mesa final destination. Laurence's group will follow the same route in reverse. Each day for both groups will involve 8-10 miles of hiking and significant elevation gain, the main difference being that Wesley's group will have the 4,000 foot climb on the west side of Nabor's Mountain. This outing is for experienced backpackers prepared for long uphill days. Call early for reservations and more information.

### June 1-2 - Redstone Park Backpack

Place: Gila Wilderness, New Mexico

Class: Moderate

Limit: 10; Reservations and Leader Approval Required

Leader: David Robertson, 598-7554

Please call for details and reservations.

### June 8 - Rim Trail Dayhike

Place: Sacramento Mts., New Mexico

Class: Easy - Moderate

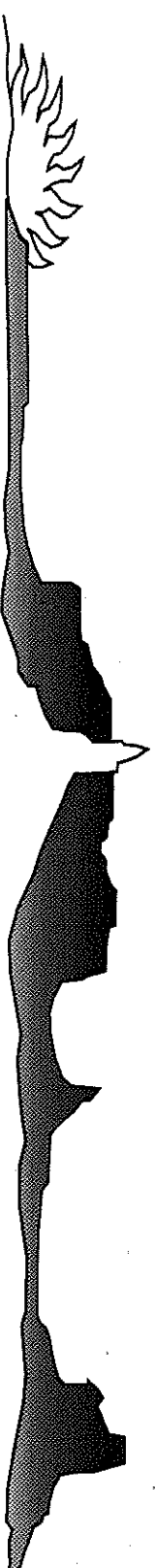
Limit: 20; Reservations and Leader Approval Required

Leader: Jim Bell, 594-2501(w) 581-8864(f)

We will take an easy to moderate 8-mile hike out and back on the beautiful Rim Trail south of Cloudcroft. This will be an enjoyable hike for both beginning and more experienced hikers.

# the LORAX - El Paso





### June 8-9 - White Mountain Wilderness Backpack

Place: White Mountain Wilderness  
Class: Easy +

Limit: 12; Reservations and Leader Approval Required  
Leader: Gary Williams, 562-3540 (H) 544-8484 (W)

We will depart El Paso early Saturday morning for our drive to the trailhead near Bonito Lake. Our hike will take us past Nogal Peak and then for approximately 4 miles along the crest to Argentina Springs where we'll camp overlooking the Tularosa Basin thousands of feet below. On Sunday, we'll hike another 1+ miles along the crest and then drop 2+ miles down Little Bonito Canyon to our final destination. This hike involves moderate trail mileages, very little elevation gain and is suitable for the less experienced backpacker as well as the more experienced wanting a leisurely and scenic weekend.

### June 15-23 - Gila 8-day Backpack

Place: Gila Wilderness, New Mexico

Class: Moderate - Strenuous

Limit: 8; Reservations and Leader Approval Required

Leader: Laurence Gibson, 594-7342

This year's trek will range from Mogollon Baldy to White Creek Flat for a day of swimming and fishing, through the Jorby mountains back to Bursum Road. We will car camp in the high country on the first and last days. We will begin with shorter days and work up to 8 or 9 mile segments.

## OUTINGS REPORTS

### El Capitan Dayhike - February 17, 1996 (Jim Bell)

An unusually beautiful day of warm sunshine and cool breezes welcomed our group to the Guadalupe Mountains. We hiked along the El Capitan trail toward the starkly impressive sheer rock wall of El Capitan and then proceeded to the Salt Basin Overlook for lunch and rest before returning to the trailhead and our cars. Great weather, friendly companions, both new and old, and the rugged beauty of the Guads made this a special outing for Cynthia Salgado, Cheryl Frey, Ian Hanna, Willie Gutierrez, Ben and Gene Collins, and Jim Bell.

### North Franklin Dayhike via South Ridge - March 10, 1996 (David Robertson)

Our group of Chuck Butler, Toby Young, Linda Groeken, Rosette McCullough, Jim Peck, Daniel Zubiarte, Steve Aron, Lydia Padilla, Kathy and Terry Sunday, and David Robertson left Trans-Mountain Pass early Sunday morning. The weather was great and the views outstanding. Not to be outdone were Chuck's two Australian Shepherds, Cody and Koko, who helped lead the way and made sure that no lunch was left on top.

## ANNUAL SIERRA CLUB PICNIC CHAMIZAL NATIONAL MEMORIAL MAY 29

Mark Wednesday, May 29th on your calendar. This is the date of the Annual Sierra Club Picnic which will take the place of the regular general meeting. The fun starts at 6:00 pm at the Chamizal National Memorial. The Club will provide a main dish. Sodas and beer will be available for a small donation. Please bring your own lawn chairs and silverware, as well as a salad, vegetable or dessert to share with the group. For information call Gary Williams at 544-8484 (W) or 562-3540 (H).

## CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Conservation Committee meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the Environmental Center, 800 S. Piedras at 7:00 pm. Please attend and learn how you can become involved in the critical environmental issues facing this region. For more information, call Ted Mertig (852-3011) or Wesley Leonard (747-6649).

## NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

by Wesley Leonard

As many of you know, the El Paso Group is refocusing its energies on critical regional environmental issues, particularly public lands in southern New Mexico and west Texas. In the past, the Group has been instrumental in key environmental victories, such as the creation of the Franklin Mountains State Park and the establishment of various wilderness areas in southern New Mexico. These victories would not have occurred without the hard work and dedication of El Paso Sierrans, many of whom are still active in the Group. It was nice to hear National Sierra Club Board Member Dave Foreman recognize our contributions in his talk at the recent John Muir Dinner.

With the virulent anti-environmental sentiment now sweeping the region, it's more important than ever for the Group to assume responsibility for protecting our natural heritage. Although a number of veteran leaders, such as John Sproul and Ted Mertig are still active, others, such as the late Tom Brasfield and now Oregonian LeBron Hardie, are gone. The most important work of the Group over the coming months, therefore, will be to recruit new activists from the ranks of our members to work on critical environmental issues. A first step in this effort was the formation of a new Conservation Committee to provide leadership in this area. Co-chairs are Ted Mertig and myself, and the Committee meets the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Environmental Center (800 S. Piedras).

At the first meeting, those present agreed on a set of conservation priorities for 1996. These priorities, in no particular order, are listed below, along with a contact person and phone number:

- \* Gila NF Salvage Timber Sales - Liz Walsh 587-1471
- \* Diamond Bar Cattle Allotment - Ted Mertig 852-3011
- \* BLM Wilderness/Wildlands Project - Joe Rodriguez 833-9655
- \* Franklin Mtns State Park/Rio Grande - John Sproul 545-5157
- \* S. New Mexico Mining - Ron Sissel 533-7723

No one person can be responsible for each of these issues. If you would like to help, please contact one of the coordinators. You do not need great knowledge or experience. All that is needed is some of your time and a desire to make a positive difference in the environmental future of our region. If you would like general information on how to get involved, please feel free to contact me at 747-6649.

I feel that the Group is off to a great start in 1996. Our general meetings have been well attended; we've had two outstanding social events (the Wine & Cheese Party and the John Muir Dinner); our outings schedule is full; we've been heavily involved in trying to get environmentally-friendly political candidates elected; the ICO is flourishing; and we are starting to address a number of major conservation issues. All we need is more participation from the members. If this happens, 1996 can truly be a year to remember. I hope to see you at a meeting or on the trail soon.

## Inner City Outings News NATIONAL TRAINER TO VISIT; ELECTIONS

by Richard Rheider

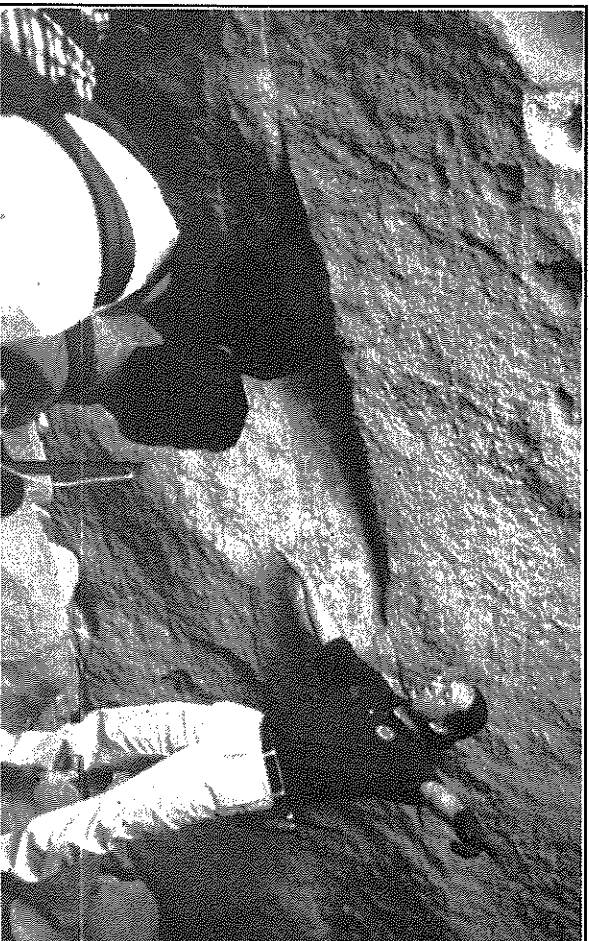
The El Paso Sierra Club's Inner City Outings (ICO) program formally adopted by-laws on April 3 and will elect a steering committee during its April 30 meeting. All current El Paso Sierra Club members who have been on two or more official ICO events during the past twelve months may vote for and serve on the steering committee.

Please set aside Sunday, May 19, for a potluck brunch and meeting with Amy Martin, our National ICO Recruiter/Trainer, to be followed by an optional day hike in the late afternoon with Project VIDA. Amy provided much of the drive behind formation of the highly successful Seattle ICO program. She will come to El Paso for a series of three seminars on leader training and recruitment; May 19 will be her first. New Mexico Sierrans interested in starting up an ICO program are also welcome. Please call Trish Puente at 833-7585 to RSVP and receive details.

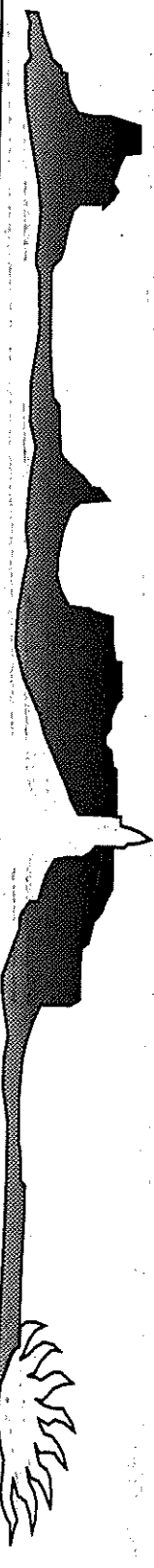
Fifteen ICO volunteers from El Paso, Tucson, and Los Angeles attended our regional retreat at the American Museum of Natural History's Southwest Research Station near Portal, AZ, on March 15-17. In addition to sharing "war stories" about each other's programs, attendees took a hike led by Laura Kerr of Tucson — highlighted by learning new games and tips on leadership techniques. Mary Lou Parker gave a cooking demonstration of inexpensive backpacking foods that children will eat.

Ten children ages seven to nine from El Paso's Project VIDA's "afterschool program" discovered the joy of bird watching on March 10 with ICO and the Trans-Pecos Audubon Society. Not all of the young participants were true "latchkey" kids because some do have stay-at-home moms. However, poverty, lack of transportation, and other factors meant that none had ever experienced bird watching before. Under the guidance of Barbara and Ted Mertig and Richard Rheider of ICO, 12-year-old David Gonzalez, a fledgling ICO youth leader, and Rebecca Rivas and Patrick McClary, Project VIDA staffers, the group enjoyed an urban encounter with wildlife now seldom seen in El Paso. David also checked on the coyote willows that he had planted on an earlier ICO habitat restoration trip to the lake. He is now trying to get a wilderness program going at his school. Thanks also to birder Bob Johnson of Audubon, who patiently answered a barrage of questions from his youthful pupils. Project VIDA's staff were amazed at the children's insatiable appetite for information about the environment.

Six children from the Juvenile Probation Department's First Time Offender Program discovered the difference between urban graffiti and their cultural heritage during visits to Three Rivers Canyon and Hueco Tanks State Park, both well-known petroglyph sites near El Paso, and to the bowl in the Guadalupe Mts. National Park, March 9, 16, and 30. All three trips were firsts for most participants. Hueco State Park Ranger Alex Mares gave an especially effective talk that enabled children to see that defacing the petroglyphs is destroying their own culture. Alex, who is proudly half Navajo and half Mexican, urged the Mexican-American children in the group to take pride in their own "first nation" roots and protect these natural and cultural resources. Tales from the "pioneer heritage" such as the Butterfield Stage and the El Paso Salt War lent multi-cultural balance to the series of hikes.



Hueco Tanks State Historical Park Ranger Alex Mares makes a point about Tlaloc, the rain god, during a cultural heritage talk to an ICO group on March 23.



# Santa Fe Group News

## SANTA FE GROUP MEETINGS

### SEEKING A MILAGRO

Tuesday, May 21, 7 PM

Author John Nichols (of "Milagro Beanfield War" fame) will address the rift between environmentalists and the traditional rural communities of Northern New Mexico. Questions from the audience will be welcomed. We will be looking for ideas to solve the increasingly bitter divisions between groups that should be natural allies in Northern New Mexico.

[This speaker was originally scheduled for the April meeting.]

Membership Meetings are held at the Unitarian Church at 107 W. Barcelona Street (between Galisteo and Don Gaspar).

### ANNUAL SUMMER POTLUCK

Get your calendar out and circle Sunday, July 14, for our popular annual summer potluck party. No details yet, but we know how busy everyone can get — so reserve that space !!

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

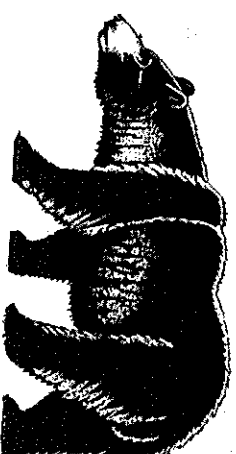
**Santa Fe Group of the Sierra Club**  
621 Old Santa Fe Trail · Salte 10 · Plaza Desira · Santa Fe · New Mexico · 87501

505 · 983-2703

### PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT

Tuesday, June 18, 7 PM

Group vice-president Jerry Bober will give a short, but exciting, introductory lesson on the NEPA process — critical knowledge for anyone wishing to comprehend, or challenge, the way public land is managed by the federal agencies. Jerry promises not to be boring!



### LIONS AND TIGERS AND BEARS

OH MY!

At the May meeting, Janet Cohen will take a few minutes to introduce BearWatch, an organization dedicated to positive interactions between bears and humans. Features include public education, a wildlife steward program and a newsletter. Janet is beginning BearWatch in Santa Fe and seeking volunteers. Come to the meeting and learn how to join or contact her at Route 10, Box 94-U, Santa Fe, NM 87501 (473-7753).

### ♦ ♦ SANTA FE GROUP OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS ♦ ♦

Chair — Don Goldman*	473-2821	Political Committee—Ned Sudborough 820-1270
Vice-Chair — Jerry Bober*	827-2385	Phone Tree — Norma McCallan* 471-0005
Secretary/Treas — Lionel Soracco*	988-6715	Fundraising — Education } open
Answering Machine — L. Soracco*	983-6715	Office — Welcomer }
Chapter Representative — Barbara Johnson*	466-4935	Martha Anne Freeman *
(alt.) Norma McCallan*	471-0005	John Buchser *
Conservation — Courtney White*	982-5502	* Member of the SF Group Executive Committee
Membership — Pat Stevens	982-5051	Terms expire
Newsletter Editor — Kay Carlson	982-9826	12/96: Bober/Freeman/Johnson/Wardwell
Publicity — Kay Carlson	982-9826	12/97: Buchser/Goldman/McCallan/Soracco/White
Outings — Norbert Sperlich	983-1962	
— Norma McCallan*	471-0005	

### SAVING WILDLANDS

#### SAVING OURSELVES

... Protecting Southwestern Wildlands Through Citizen Action — A free, public workshop sponsored by Santa Fe Group of the Sierra Club and the Forest Conservation Council. Saturday, May 4, 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM, in the Unitarian Church (107 W. Barcelona) in Santa Fe. Its focus will be on wildlife and the Wildlands Project. Featured speaker is Prof. Michael Soule, conservation biologist from U of C Santa Cruz. More info? call Courtney White (982-5502)

### NOTE

UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED ALL OUTINGS starting June 1, 1996 — will leave from the new Santa Fe Group office, 621 Old Santa Fe Trail, in a complex of offices called Plaza Desira, just south of the Old Santa Fe Trail Bookstore & Coffeehouse. Cars can be parked in the field beyond the office buildings.

### TAMARISK REMOVAL

Various environmental groups and concerned citizens in Northern New Mexico are planning a series of work days to help eradicate the tamarisk along the Rio Grande at Orilla Verde Recreation area, near Pilar. Cutting off shoots of already downed trees is the alternative to eradication by herbicides. The work is under the supervision of the Taos BLM office, coordinated by Roberta Salazar (758-4726)

The BLM will supply the tools. Participants should bring gloves and lunch. Complimentary deserts provided by local restaurants.

Workdays are Saturday, June 22, Saturday, July 27 and Saturday, August 24. Meet at Orilla Verde Recreation area at 9 AM. (From Santa Fe take Highway 285 to Espanola, route 68 towards Taos, and turn left by Pilar on route 570 to the Recreation area visitor center, 1½ miles down the dirt road.

Santa Fe participants can check at the Sierra office parking lot that morning to see if anyone wants to carpool up. For more information and more precise directions, contact Roberta Salazar.

### COMMITTEE MEETINGS

<b>May</b>	
28 — Conservation Committee	(Courtney White, 982-5502)
<b>June</b>	
4 — Executive Committee	(Don Goldman, 473-2821)
25 — Conservation Committee	(Courtney White, 982-5502)
<b>July</b>	
2 — Executive Committee	(Don Goldman, 473-2821)

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

### CONSERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT

In the past two months the Conservation Committee of the Santa Fe Group has discussed a wide variety of topics, including: power lines in Tesuque, wildlife workshops, the BLM wilderness bill, grazing on public lands, the Atalaya Trail, issue hikes, topics for general membership meetings, Congressional bills, mining in New Mexico, financial support for other conservation groups, bears and forest health. If any of these topics interest you, please join our rather lively meetings (see above for dates and location).



## SANTA FE GROUP OUTINGS

Sat Sun May

- 4 Forest Field Trip Martha Ann Freeman (438-0697) Borrego Mesa, Esp Rngr Dist. Observe forest health and historic land use patterns. Call for reservations.
- 4 John McClure (986-1949) Easy Hike Apache Cyn. 9 am.
- 5 Norbert Sperlich (983-1962) Moderate Hike Otowi Ruins & Queen Mary Mesa. Rough terrain, some scrambling. Call leader if not familiar with area. Leave 8 AM.
- 5 \* **ISSUE OUTING** \* John Wright (247-4353 ABQ) Cabezon Wilderness Study Area (2nd attempt) explore its special features in an Easy Hike with optional strenuous climbs of Cabezon Peak. Norma McCallan (471-0005) local contact for carpooling.
- 11 Carolyn & Arnold Keskulla (982-9570) Easy/Moderate Hike up Penstemon ridge. Leave 8:30 AM.
- 11 Caroline Glick (984-3184) Strenuous Hike to Giorietta Baldy. Dogs allowed. Call for reservations and time.
- 12 Norrine Sanders (984-0386) Easy Hike along the Rio Grande from Embudo to Velarde. Leave 8:30 AM.
- May 18 to 24, Saturday through Friday

- Bob McKee (672-3426) Moderate 5-day Backpack Paria River Canyon on UT-AZ border, a premier SW canyon, 37 miles. Perhaps do spectacular Spencer Trail after. Lve early 5-18, return 5-24. Call leader for reservations. Depending on wishes of participants, trip can be pushed back one day to May 17-23. If weather conditions make Paria impassable, an alternate canyon hike will be led.
- 18 Atlatla Trail Maintenance with John Buchser (474-7044) Bring work gloves, lunch, water. Tools will be provided. Meet at St. John's parking lot at 9 AM.
- 18 Joe Whelan (984-0746) Easy/Moderate Hike Rim Vista Trail. May bushwack for some views. Leave 8:30 AM.
- 19 Steven Janus (988-4137) Strenuous Hike Sheephead Pk via San Leonardo Lake and Jicarilla Peak. Leave 7 AM. If too much snow, an alternate trip will be offered.
- 19 Jeff Jones (466-2389) Easy Hike Leave 9 AM. Small kids with parents encouraged.
- 25 Lionel Soracco (983-6715) Moderate/Strenuous Hike somewhere near Santa Fe. Leave 8 AM.
- 26 Elizabeth Altman (471-8490) Easy Hike Coya Bonito. Lx 9 am

Sat Sun July Hikes leave from 621 Old Santa Fe Trail

- 6 Arnold and Caroline Keskulla (982-9570) Easy Hike up Aspen Vista Rd to large rock outcropping. Lve 8:30 AM.
- 6 Jeff Jones (466-2389) Very Strenuous Hike Santa Fe Baldy — Lake Katherine — Spirit Lake Loop. 15 miles, great elevation change. Leave 7:15 AM. Call leader!
- 7 Norbert Sperlich (983-1962) Moderate/Strenuous Hike East Fork of the Jemez. Bring sneakers and swimsuit.
- 13 George Grossman (982-1024) La Manga Timber Sale Field Trip This proposed sale (now on appeal in the courts) would destroy what many consider the most significant stand of old growth forest in Northern NM. Explore this remote area, north of Vallecitos & La Madera, with George and a forest expert. Easy-level hiking. Leave 7:30 AM. Plan on an all-day trip due to the driving time. May stop for supper on return.
- 13 Lionel Soracco (983-6715) Moderate/Strenuous Bicycle Trip in Jemez above Cochiti, near Dixon Apple Ranch. Leave 8 AM.
- 14 Jeff Regenold (661-6707-h; 662-9412-w) Easy Hike to lovely Canaada de Bonita, near Los Alamos. Explore area closed to grazing for 50 years and in excellent condition. Grazing Issues Field Trip #1. Call for meeting place.
- 14 Robert McKee (672-3426) Moderate Hike up Raven's Ridge to the false peak of Lake Peak, about 2,000' elevation change. Lve 8 AM. Call leader after 6:30 PM.
- Friday, July 19 to Tuesday, July 30

- Norma McCallan (471-0005) 10-day Backpack on CO Continental Divide Trail Jones Pass south to Independence Pass, 97.6 miles. Re-supply point Copper Mtn. 1st part 43.6 mi; 2nd part 54 mi. Experienced backpackers only. Drive Fri PM, return Tues PM. **PLAN B IF SNOW PERSISTS:** 5-day backpack on CO C.D. Trail Spring Creek Pass to Stony Pass. 34½ miles on C.D. and 12-13 out on jeep road. Cross 13,214' peak, 3rd highest on C.D. Trail. Leave Fri PM. Optional dayhikes in the area after the backpack. Call leader!!
- 20 Caroline Glick (984-3184) Steve Janus (988-4137) Orienteering Field Trip Brush up on your scouting skills. Vicinity of Atlatla Peak. Bring compass, pencil/pen, and *Map of the Mountains of Santa Fe* (Drake Mountain Maps) available in local book & camping stores. Leave 8:30 AM. Call leaders for info.
- 20 John Jasper (466-8572-h; 986-4613-w) Easy Hike Tesuque-Ski Basin-Back Loop. Leave 9:30 AM.
- 21 Jeff Regenold (661-6707-h; 662-9412-w) Moderate Hike to Peralta Creek, a lovely spot in the Jemez across from the Valle Grande, lots of wildflowers, elk & wild turkey. Unfortunately it is also a heavily grazed riparian area. Grazing Issues Field Trip #2. Call for meeting place.
- 27 Work Day at Orilla Verde Recreation Area (near Pilar) to remove Tamarisks. See separate insert for details.

Sat Sun May (continued)

- May 25-26-27, Saturday-Sunday-Monday
- Margot Wilson (744-5860) TorC Car Camp & Moderate Day Hike west side of San Mateo Mtns, explore the lovely, little used Apache Kid Wilderness. Dogs allowed. Norma McCallan (471-0005) SF contact for carpooling.

Sat Sun June Hikes leave from 621 Old Santa Fe Trail

- 1 Norrine Sanders (984-0386) Moderate Hike on Aspen Vista Road to rock outcrop. About 8 miles RT, 1,400' elevation gain, highest point 11,400'. Leave 8:30 AM.
- 2 Art Judd (982-3212) Strenuous Hike to Santa Fe Baldy, 13 miles RT, 2,760' elevation gain, highest point 12,622'. Call leader if not familiar with hike. Leave 8 AM.
- June 5-10, Wednesday to Monday
- Norma McCallan (471-0005) 5-day Exploratory Backpack Slickhorn Canyon, UT. Lve Wed PM; return Mon PM. Relatively unknown canyon south of Grand Gulch, many side canyons, a combination of backpacking and dayhiking from 2 base camps. In some places hiking is slow due to rocks and vegetation. Call Norma !!
- June 8-9, Saturday and Sunday
- Ted Mertig (915-832-3011, El Paso) Eagle Peak Timber Sale Field Trip (near Reserve) See "Chapter Outings Notes from Norma" elsewhere in newsletter. Call Norma in SF (471-0005) for carpooling down on Saturday AM.
- Steven Janus (988-4137) Strenuous Hike to Wheeler Peak by way of Williams Lake. Sleep. Highest point 13,161', about 4,000' elevation gain. Call leader.
- 9 Julie Montoya King (438-7197) Moderate Hike Giorietta Ghost Town. 6.5 mi. RT, 950' elevation gain. Lve 8 AM.
- Carolyn and Arnold Keskulla (982-9570) Easy Hike Borrego Trail — Chamisa Trail. Leave 9 AM. Call leader.
- Caroline Glick (984-3184) Strenuous Hike Stewart Lake 10.5 mi RT, 10,332', 2,500' elevation gain. Dogs allowed.
- 16 Lee Sullivan (662-6185) Moderate Hike Peralta Rdg area (Jemez Mtns) 7 miles RT, 800' elev gain, some off-trail hiking. Lve 8:30 from L.A. pkg lot behind fire station W. Jemez Rd, w. of Diamond Dr or carpool from S.F. Tr, lve at 7:30 AM.
- JUNE CONTINUED ↓

JUNE CONTINUED ↓

- 22 Lionel Soracco (983-6715) Strenuous Hike Holy Ghost Campground — Santa Fe Ski Basin. Two parties will hike in opposite directions w/a car swap. Total length about 12.5 miles, highest point 10,060', elev gain: Holy Ghost — Ski Basin about 3,500'; Ski Basin — Holy Ghost about 1,400'. Leave 7:30 AM.
- 29 Work Day at Orilla Verde Rec Area (near Pilar) to remove tamarisks. See separate insert for details.
- 23 John McClure (986-1949) Easy Hike to Tent Rocks. Leave 8 AM. Call leader if not familiar with hike.
- 29 Jeff Jones (466-2389) Easy Hike from Ski Basin up on service road. High elev. Kids welcome. Lve 8:30 AM.
- 29 John Buchser (474-7044) Strenuous Trail Maintenance in Santa Barbara Canyon Bring work gloves. Tools provided. Lve 8 AM.
- 30 Ned Sudborough (820-1270) & Norma McCallan (471-0005) Moderate Hike Chicoma Peak (in Jemez) 11,561' (short bushwack) Return either by looping west along an old trail which follows the ridge line or bushwack up Pokradera Peak (11,232') just to the north of the road. Dogs allowed. Wear sturdy boots. Leave 7:30 AM. May eat in Española on return.
- 30 John Jasper (466-8572 or 1-505-244-1481) Moderate Hike Osha Loop (Sandia) 7.2 miles, elev 10,000-10,600'. Leave at 8 AM.

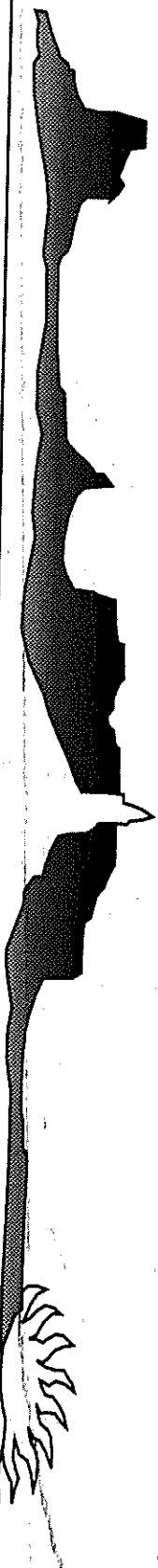
Sat Sun July (continued)

- 27 John Buchser (474-7044) Strenuous Hike & Trail Maintenance in Santa Barbara Canyon. Bring work gloves; tools provided. Leave 8 AM.
- 28 Art Judd (982-3212) Moderate Hike in the high country. Leave 8 AM. Call for details.



**Outings Notes** — Unless otherwise noted, after June 1, 1996, all outings leave from the Sierra office, 621 Old Santa Fe Trail, "Pleza Destira," just south of Old SF Trail Bookstore & Coffee House. Carpooling will be arranged at their, and each hiker should come prepared to pay \$5 a mile to the driver of the car in which hiker rides. Hikers should bring a lunch, water, sturdy hiking boots or shoes, and clothing suitable for the weather — leader reserves the right to turn away anyone whose equipment or experience appears unsuitable. Leader has right to alter destination of hike or cancel the trip due to weather, unfavorable conditions, or insufficient numbers of participants. Unaccompanied minors must have written permission from parents or guardians to participate; permission forms are available at the Sierra Club office. Dogs not permitted on hikes unless noted otherwise. Telephone leader for details of the individual hike.





# The Log--So. New Mexico Group News

## GROUP DIRECTORY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Jim Winder, Chair	267-4227
Newsletter Editor	jrwinder@aol.com
Vice Chair	OPEN
Margaret Katze, Secretary	647-4328
Elizabeth Hernandez, Treasurer	521-1606
Margot Wilson, Warm Springs Section, Chapter Delegate	744-5860(H) 894-7152(W)
Cheryll Blevins, Publicity, Conservation	526-6220(W) 524-4861(H)
"Dutch" Salmon, Chair, Rural Forum, Political	388-3763
Marianne Thaele, GIS	522-34221
Subhankar Banerjee, Faculty Student Advisor	521-3022(H)
Outings	OPEN
Membership	OPEN

## FROM THE CHAIR

by Jim Winder

I am sure that most all of you have heard about the death of Tony Merten last month. With Tony's passing, the duties of Group Chair have fallen upon me. This is an appropriate time to introduce myself and to discuss the present and future conditions of our Group. I am a member of the Chapter Executive Committee and am in my second term on the Group Excom where I have served as Vice-chair and Secretary. I am married to Katrina and have two daughters, Shae age 7, and Peyton, 18 months. The only thing unusual about this is that I am a full-time rancher.

A few people are bothered by the fact that I am a rancher and a Sierra Club activist. I have always maintained that the world would be a better place if all ranchers were Sierra Club members. While I may be labeled a moderate environmentalist (most ranchers find me quite radical), I certainly appreciate the need for diversity in the Sierra Club. We need all the voices we can get to frame the debate and to clarify our goals. Moderates need not be afraid of stretching their ideas and radicals need not fear compromise. This is what makes our Club evolve and grow.

Our membership has grown substantially in recent months to 450 group members and 6400 for the chapter. For this I have to credit a Republican congress, they have awakened us from our complacency. A group of members in the Alamogordo/Ruidoso area are interested in forming a section and taking charge of activism in their area. This has been very successful in the Sierra County area through the formation of the Warm Springs Section. Those of you interested in this new section should attend a meeting to be held in Alamogordo on May 21, at 7:30 p.m. at Together We Frame, 1600A Tenth Street. Please call Cindy Roper (W:434-4494 or H:434-1344) if you require more information. Anyone in the Silver City area interested in forming a section should contact Dutch Salmon at 388-3763.

I ask that each of you look inward and examine your moral obligation to act for the environment. Can you spend a little time each week to help the environment at home in your own community? Even though membership is up, activism is not. The same handful of members have been rowing the boat for years, and we are a little tired. Instead of a few working constantly, can't we have many working occasionally? We have a variety of compelling issues, certainly one of them is your special concern. Lead a hike, write a letter, or just vote. For new members, this is a chance to learn and grow, for veteran members, a chance to lend us your experience. Please give me or any of the other Executive Committee members a call and find out how you can get involved. If you don't do it, who will?

## CHIRICAHUA SALVAGE TIMBER SALE

The Southwest Center for Biodiversity has appealed a Tucson, AZ Federal Judge's decision to allow logging in the Chiricahua Mountains in SE Arizona. The logging site is in a burn area in the Rustler Park area near the crest and surrounds Threatened Mexican spotted owl territory. According to the SWCB, a) the site was conveniently deleted by the Forest Service to allow for the sale; b) the US Fish and Wildlife Service is opposed to the sale, and has not been allowed to consult on the sale or on the deletion of the territory. This is the first logging to take place there since the 1960s.

The Salvage Timber provision allows "logging without laws," i.e. no public input or compliance with existing environmental laws that a regular timber sale would be subject to. Urge your congressmen and senators to repeal "logging without laws" as soon as possible.

## Channelizing the Gila River?

The Grant and Hidalgo County Soil and Water Conservation Districts has requested an Army Corps of Engineers 404 permit that if issued, would allow channelizing the Gila River from above Cliff, N.M. to the Arizona border (Clean Water Act 404 Permit application no. NM95-50090). The proposal is somewhat vague and the Corps of Engineers has received very negative responses from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, EPA, NM Game and Fish as well as a number of individual and organizations. The biological information given by the Corps of Engineers is very different from biological information presented by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the NM Dept of Game and Fish, the US Environmental Protection Agency, and the NM Environment Department and many citizens.

The proposal seemed dead when the Grant County Soil and Water Conservation District invited staff from Senators Domenici and Bingaman and Congressman Skeen's offices to meet with them. However, local environmentalists and the Nature Conservancy seemed to be left out of this invitation. At the insistence of Senator Bingaman's office, the Nature Conservancy and other environmental interests were invited to a meeting on March 29 as were agency personnel.

At this meeting, the agencies stood firm, and it is possible that the permit request may be withdrawn in favor of local community dialogue and requests for site specific projects to control flooding. However, the permit does not appear to be withdrawn yet. It would be worthwhile to contact Senators Bingaman and Domenici and Congressman Skeen to ask them to not support the proposed "Clean Water Act permit application NM95-50090" as it now stands as the biological information given by the Corps of Engineers is in direct conflict with information from other agencies. Other local input and options should be considered to address specific flooding problems.

## WARM SPRINGS SECTION REPORT

by Margot Wilson

On the one year anniversary of the Warm Springs Section, I want to take a few minutes to thank James Wells, a local physician with a young family, for making the Sierra Club a viable happening in Sierra County, home of the People For the Preservation of Caballo Mountain and a stronghold for the People For the West. Now Sierra County can offer two conservation groups: The Warm Springs Section and The Animas-Percha Alliance. Great! James has been one of those lone workers for conservation causes, who writes letters to the Sierra County *Sentinel* and the *Herald*, and speaks out at public meetings for the reintroduction of the wolf. James has gotten out notices for general meetings and done all kinds of nitty gritty things that are necessary to launch a small group like ours. In addition, James has been active in supporting the Hot Springs High School Biology Club. He is generous with his time and money when it comes to helping kids.

Personally, I want to thank him for asking me to "Get a Sierra Club group going here." And so we began. Something about talking with James and other Club members gave me the courage to become more active in the Club and community. All the credit for this first year goes to James. Thanks.

The Warm Springs Section, besides offering an outpost to environmentalists, has done a lot to educate itself and members of the community, and me especially. We've done a lot of education through our general meetings, with speakers like the Forest Service's Jerry Payne and BLM's Russ Jentian. Marianne Thaele spoke at our first meeting on military and environmental issues in southern New Mexico. Sue McIntosh spoke on Copper Flats and its DEIS. We've had a lot of support from the Chapter, the Mining Oversight and Control Project, and the Rural Forum. We've sent off lots of letters on the Grazing Bill, Copper Flats and other mining concerns. We've had outings to heighten our knowledge on grasslands: to the North Palomas and Hermosa allotments, the Beck Ranch and Lake Valley Ranch with Jim Winder and a visit to the USDA Jornada Experimental Range. We've visited some WSAs: Presilla, Las Canas, and Stallion with Paul Kreibhel. (Sadly, the photographs are in a sorry state and soon will be swept away by the wind.) We've had a lot of fun and laughs too, with Chet and Mern Warwick shipping and sliding around the Mud Caves by candle light. Some thought that the best outing ever!

The coming year will be another year of hard work, growth and fellowship too. We plan to be more effective in our communications, with Mary Katherine Ray working to get out announcements and letters. With the Rural Forum we will be more informed and responsive, networking with others like the Animas-Percha Alliance. We have good outings planned too! I think Hellen Keller expressed my philosophy, "Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much."

## Outings Schedule:

May 18: Moderate to strenuous hike with Chet Warwick. 894-6427, a loop from Emory Pass to Railroad Canyon with a good possibility of including Hillsboro Peak. Leave Furr's parking lot at 8:00 AM or rendezvous at the Hillsboro General Store at 8:45 AM.

May 25, 26, 27: Leave Furr's parking lot at 8:30 AM Saturday morning and meet others at Bear Trap Campground in the San Mateo Mountains. It's OK to arrive later in the weekend. Three days of outings with Margot Wilson (744-5860) and Norma McCallan. Scrabble at night or bring your favorite board or card game.

June 9: Meet at Furr's parking lot at 3:00 PM for an easy dog hike and picnic supper at Spring Time Campground.

June 15: Hike the high country with Bull Bussmann (473-3841). Rendezvous at the Hillsboro Store at 8:00 AM.

## We win one! WAR ON THE ENVIRONMENT UPDATE

by Richard Barish

A victory in the battle over Utah wilderness! Right in the backyard of New Mexico, the sandstone canyon country of southern Utah abounds in huge, deep river canyons, narrow slot canyons, breathtaking drop-offs, and massive and stunning landforms. The Sierra Club and a coalition of over 70 other organizations have been pursuing wilderness designation for about 5.7 million acres of this awe-inspiring country. H.R. 1500, co-sponsored by over 70 representatives, has been introduced in the House of Representatives to accomplish this goal.

Anti-wilderness conservatives have introduced their own bills to co-opt H.R. 1500. The bills, H.R. 1745/S. 884, designate less than two million acres and do not even create true wilderness. The bills would allow for considerable development, including dams, transmission lines, and pipelines. The bills also contain "hard release" language that would have the effect of precluding the designation of more wilderness in the future.

Senate supporters of the S. 884 attempted to force passage of the bill by sticking it in an omnibus bill containing many good measures. However, Senator Bill Bradley (D-NJ) led a filibuster of the omnibus bill, and the cloture vote fell nine votes short of the 60 needed to break the filibuster and bring the bill to a vote.

Although we won an important battle, we cannot rest until a good Utah wilderness bill has been passed. Contact Senators Bingham and Domenici and Representatives Schiff, Richardson, or Skeen and let them know of your support for H.R. 1500 and your opposition to H.R. 1745/S. 884.

**Anti-environmental riders redux.** Last year, radical conservatives in Congress tried to sneak many anti-environmental measures through by attaching them as riders to spending bills and other bills necessary to the operation of government. By attaching them as riders rather than introducing them as stand-alone bills, they hoped to avoid debate and public scrutiny of these measures. By and large, this sneak attack failed in the wake of a public outcry in support of our environmental laws and in opposition to these riders.

The anti-environmental forces are now at it again. The last four appropriations bills for this fiscal year have been combined into one omnibus appropriations bill. This bill contains numerous anti-environmental riders, including riders which would continue the moratorium on new listings under the Endangered Species Act, prevent the designation of new Superfund sites, and many other measures detrimental to the environment.

The omnibus spending bill has passed both houses of Congress in slightly different forms. As of this writing, the bill has not yet been reported out of the conference committee. If the bill still contains the anti-environmental riders when it comes out of the conference committee, please contact Bingham, Domenici and Schiff, Richardson, or Skeen and ask them not to vote for the bill. Please also contact President Clinton and urge him to veto the bill if it arrives at his desk with the riders still attached. Please feel free to call the author (247-8079) for information on the status of the bill.

**Ranchers reign on public lands: Domenici's grazing bill passes Senate.** On March 19, the Senate voted to pass Pete Domenici's Public Rangelands Management Act. This atrocious bill is simply a special interest giveaway to ranchers and a huge slap in the face to all other public lands users. Among other things, the bill gives new rights to ranchers to ensure that cattle numbers cannot be reduced and prevents land managers from managing public lands for the ecological health to the lands. The bill has not yet been heard in the House. Contact Representative Schiff and ask him to oppose the House version of this bill. Also, contact Senator Bingham and thank him for his opposition to this bill, and contact Pete Domenici and express your outrage at the environmental damage that this bill will cause and the special treatment and subsidies that it gives to ranchers.

Senator Pete Domenici  
328 Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20510-3102  
202-224-6621 505-766-3481 (ABQ)  
FAX: 202-224-7371  
senator\_domenici@domenici.senate.gov

Senator Jeff Bingham  
703 Hart Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20510-3102  
202-224-5521 505-766-3636 (ABQ)  
FAX: 202-224-2852  
senator\_bingham@bingaman.senate.gov

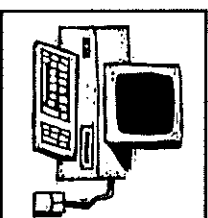
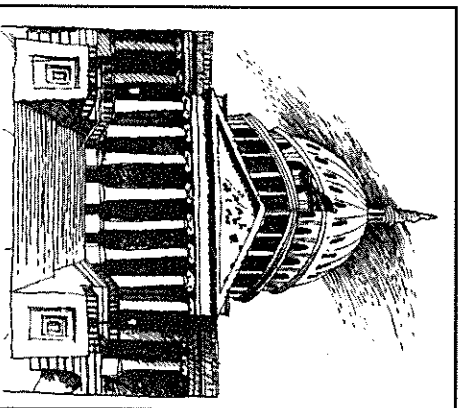
Representative Steve Schiff  
2404-RHOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
202-225-6316, 505-766-2538 (ABQ)  
FAX: 202-225-4975

Representative Bill Richardson  
2209-RHOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
202-225-6190 505-988-7230 (S Fe)  
FAX: 202-225-1950

Representative Joe Skeen  
2367-RHOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
202-225-2365 505-527-1771 (Las Cruces)  
FAX: 202-225-9599

President Bill Clinton  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20500  
202-456-1111 202-456-1414  
FAX: 202-456-2461  
president@whitehouse.gov

Note: You may also try to reach the Capitol switchboard at 800/962-3524 or 800/972-352.



## Electronic Sierra Club On the World-Wide Web

by Bruce Batson (bbatson@ni.net) and  
Blair Brown (blairb@aol.com)

About a year ago, we wrote describing what you need to do to access the World Wide Web. Since then, a lot of new members have joined and a lot of others have become interested, so we thought an update of that information would be a good idea.

To begin with, getting on the "web" is pretty easy to do. You don't need to be a computer nerd to "surf the web" with the best of them.

What do you need to get started? Almost any computer running today will do the job. However, to take best advantage of the graphic images available, you should get as much speed and power as you can afford. You will also need a modem, which is the gadget that allows your computer to talk to other computers over a phone line. Again, the faster the better (9600 baud is the minimum you should consider and 14,400 or even 28,800 baud would be even better). You will also need Internet application software, which you should get from your "Internet service provider."

What is an "Internet service provider" you say? A "provider" is an organization (could be commercial or a university) with a computer that's connected to the Internet. Those with access to the computer systems at the universities like UNM, UTEP, NMSU are already connected directly to the Internet. For the rest of us, there are "dialup" providers which are accessed over your phone line using a modem. You can choose from major online services such as America Online (AOL), CompuServe and Prodigy or the huge selection of direct providers, such as Network Intensive, RT66, AT&T, and MCI (just check in a computer magazine or ask at your computer equipment store). Most all are accessible by a local phone call to most Chapter members and include E-Mail. To access the Web, make sure you get SLIP/PPP service and ask for a Web browser software such as Netscape or Mosaic. Your provider can help you with the software installation and setup.

How much will all this cost? Of course, how much you spend on a computer, modem and

software is up to you. The good news is that software and monthly connect fees charged by the "providers" can be very economical indeed, anywhere from free for the software and as little as \$5 per month for 5 hours of connect time to \$25-35 per month for 100+ hours. Some communities even have free services. How can you beat that for access to all the information in the world?

Once you're ready to browse, start with the Chapter's homepage at: <http://www.unm.net/~sierra/> That's the Chapter's URL (Uniform Resource Locator), a form of address common to almost all Internet sites.

As you discover sites with environmental information that you'd like to share with others, just send either of us an E-mail message with the site address and we'll add it to the list on the Chapter Home Page.

From there, the world is yours.

## Keep Public Lands in Public Hands

Sierra Club activists from 13 states are gathering this May 10-12 in Monument, Colorado (near Colorado Springs) to get the training and information needed to combat the wise use movement and its corporate and political allies.

The registration fee is \$25 per person, which includes meals (a Friday evening reception with buffet, all meals on Saturday, plus Sunday breakfast and lunch).

Lodging is at the Falcon Lodge in Monument, Colorado, about 15 miles north of Colorado Springs. Lodging cost for the weekend is \$46 per person double occupancy, paid to the hotel at time of checkout.

Workshop subjects include The Yellowstone Ecosystem, Mining, Water, Utah, Grazing, Forest Planning, Newsletters, Legal, Media, Political Action and Membership.

To obtain further information or a registration form: 1) Call 303-798-3226. Leave a postal address to have a brochure mailed to you. 2) Send an e-mail to [coriez@netone.com](mailto:coriez@netone.com). Also include a postal address for a brochure. 3) Visit our webpage: <http://www.sierraclub.org/chapters/co/regional.html>

If you're interested in carpooling, call Susan Gorman at 505-265-3231.

# Chapter Outings Notes from Norma

by  
Norma  
McCallan

Sunday, May 5--  
WILDERNESS STUDY AREA  
OUTING — John Wright 247-4353  
(Albq).

Explore the special features and beautiful rock formations of the CABEZONWSA south of Cuba. Easy hiking, and an optional strenuous climb up Cabezon Peak, a prominent landmark for miles around. Call John for time & meeting place, in Bernalillo.

Saturday/Sunday, June 8/9  
- EAGLE PEAK TIMBER SALE field trip — Ted Mertig 915-852-3011 (El Paso).

Eagle Peak is New Mexico's premiere example of the destructive consequences of the Salvage Logging Laws. In July 1995 President Clinton signed the ill-advised Salvage Rider into law, effectively permitting logging without environmental review in our national forests. That very day a fire (arson?) began on Eagle Peak, near Reserve, which burned 13,000 acres. Now the Forest Service plans to log the entire area, which will fragment the largest remaining roadless area in the northern Gila ecosystem, devastate critical Spotted Owl habitat, and violate a Zuni religious site. Meet at 12:00 pm Saturday at the Forest Service Ranger Station in Reserve. The group will drive in on dirt roads about 20 miles, spend the afternoon exploring the area with Ted and a local expert, car camp in the area Saturday night, and then explore another nearby area Sunday morning. Drive home Sunday afternoon. The hiking should

be at an easy level, the discussions intense and the scenery beautiful.

Saturday, July 13--LA  
MANGA TIMBER SALE field trip - George Grossman 982-1024 (Santa Fe).

This proposed timber sale (now on appeal in the courts) would destroy what many consider the most significant stand of old growth forest left in northern New Mexico. Explore this remote area, north of Vallecitos and La Madera, with George and a forest expert. The hiking will be easy. Leave 7:30 am from the SF Sierra Club Office, 621 Old Santa Fe Trail. This will be an all-day trip because of the long drive; the group may stop at a restaurant for supper on the way home. If coming from the north, call George for a meeting place on the way. If coming from the south, Norma offers her house to stay at the night before (call 471-0005).

As more and more environmental problems come to light, and the challenges of confronting the destructive tactics of our current Congress continue, the concept of issue-oriented outings becomes ever more important. John deCock, Associate Director of Conservation for the Sierra Club has written a good lead article in the latest *Group & Chapter Outings Newsletter* on "Activist Outings at the Chapter & Group Level," with good ideas for implementation and follow-through. I will be glad to xerox a copy for anyone interested.

## Los Alamos Attempting to Form Group

A new division of the Sierra Club is being formed in Los Alamos. A couple of months ago, area members began calling each other to assess the interest in organizing and working on local environmental issues.

More than 80 people expressed interest in the possibility, and a meeting was set up to explore the matter. About 40 members came to the meeting, and about half of those present indicated that they would be willing to put time and effort into operating a Section (of the Santa Fe Group) or a full-fledged Group, as officers, Executive Committee members, or activists. Further meetings have been held, and the group is now holding General Membership meetings once a month.

Anyone interested in joining the forming Los Alamos group, or in attending meetings, becoming active in issues, or just offering suggestions, should call Michael Smith at 662-2380 or contact him by e-mail at smith@esa.lanl.gov

## Los Alamos General Meeting Schedule

May 1 7pm  
Mesa Public Library  
Ranger Chris Jordan of Bandelier will be speaking on "What Smoke Never Told You," about fire ecology and the need for prescribed burns.

June 12 7pm  
Mesa Public Library  
There will be a Roundtable Discussion about the Department of Energy's plan to transfer land to the County of Los Alamos for economic development. Speakers will include County Councillor Jim Greenwood, Director of Los Alamos Economic Development Corporation, County Councillor and restaurateur Denise Smith, who was involved in the negotiations with DOE, and Susie Haveman, Executive Director of the Los Alamos Chamber of Commerce.

## Membership

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Optional) ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Check enclosed, made payable to Sierra Club

☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa

Cardholder Name \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

## MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

	INDIVIDUAL	JOINT
REGULAR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35 <input type="checkbox"/> \$43	
SUPPORTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50 <input type="checkbox"/> \$58	
CONTRIBUTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100 <input type="checkbox"/> \$108	
LIFE	<input type="checkbox"/> \$750 <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	
SENIOR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15 <input type="checkbox"/> \$23	
STUDENT	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15 <input type="checkbox"/> \$23	
LIMITED INCOME	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15 <input type="checkbox"/> \$23	

F94Q W1700-1

W99901

Sierra Club

P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO, 80322-2968

ONE EARTH, ONE CHANCE®



# Grand Opening of Public Lands Information Center

As government budgets shrink and citizens' desires to use public land skyrocket, a new multi-agency information center is opening June 1 in Santa Fe that addresses both trends. The Public Lands Information Center (PLIC) will host a ribbon-cutting ceremony and reception to officially inaugurate a new service concept built over the past year by officials of the federal Bureau of Land Management and the non-profit Southwest Natural and Cultural Heritage Association (SNCHA).

"The PLIC idea is simple," states facility manager Richard Atkinson. "We want to provide the public with some piece of information, a map, a book or a referral number for anybody who wants to do anything legal on any public lands in New Mexico. Whether it's state or Federal land, BLM or National Forest rarely matters to the public. We just want them to have an enjoyable experience wherever they go on public lands."

The June 1 ceremony at the Center in BLM's New Mexico State Office will feature an open house from 1 to 5 pm and the ribbon cutting at 2 pm. "We've asked all the participating agencies to attend and bring their latest displays and information," Atkinson says. "Plus we'll have refreshments, live music and some special appearances by folks like our elected officials, noted authors and Smokey Bear."

Besides BLM, participating

agencies include the federal National Parks, Forests, and Fish and Wildlife Services, plus the Bureau of Reclamation and Corps of Engineers. State of New Mexico cooperation comes from the Game and Fish, State Parks and Recreation, Tourism and Land Offices. "All of these agencies are feeling the budget squeeze," Atkinson concedes, "but by centralizing all this information in a one-stop outlet, we'll make both information retrieval and tax-saving a little easier for our citizens."

"We've spent the winter setting up this facility," Atkinson says, citing two separate government shutdowns as impediments, "but now the highway signs are going up, our rack cards are being distributed, and the book and map inventory is up to speed." More than just a bookstore, the Public Lands Information Center also provides answers to questions for local residents and tourists alike, issues permits, passes and licenses for public activities or facilities and conducts an extensive nationwide phone and mail order service. "Going on-line is our next priority."

A two-week Grand Opening Sale on all books and many other items plus a series of special lectures and book-signings begins May 28 at the Center. "The public is invited to attend all events," Atkinson adds, "especially the June 1 reception and ribbon cutting ceremony."

## Sierra Club Members and Friends

Join Us For The  
GRAND OPENING OF THE  
NEW MEXICO PUBLIC LANDS  
INFORMATION CENTER

Saturday, June 1, 1996  
BLM New Mexico State Office  
1474 Rodeo Road, Santa Fe

BOOK SALE FOOD MUSIC  
PHOTO EXHIBIT

MEET THE AUTHORS  
RECREATION INFORMATION  
& DISPLAYS

## REGISTRATION:

1 to 5 pm

## OPEN HOUSE

Refreshments

Entertainment

Demonstrations and Displays

Book Sale and Signings

New Mexico's Public Lands -

a photo exhibit by

Brooks Bedwell

2 pm

## RIBBON CUTTING

Welcome Remarks

Ribbon Cutting

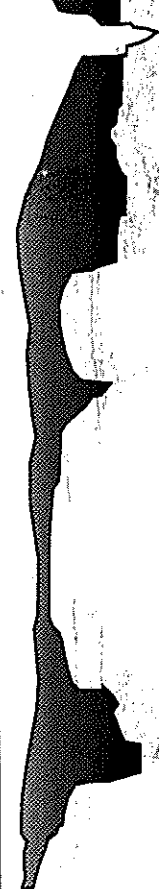
Happy 50th Birthday, BLM

Door Prizes Will Be Awarded

Every Hour

(A Project of the Southwest Natural and Cultural Heritage Association (SNCHA), a non-profit cooperating association established to support the educational and interpretive programs of all Federal Land Management agencies including Forest Service, Fish & Wildlife and BLM.)





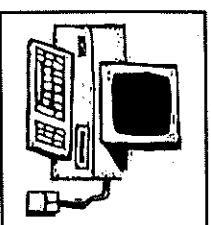
# Welcome New Members!

We wish to extend a big hello and thank you to these new members who have joined us from February 1 to March 31 of this year.

There may have been some new members in the last six months who did not get acknowledged in these pages, due to space constraints. Please accept our apologies and let us assure you, we value each and every one of you.



Brian Allen, Albuquerque	David Faurett, Albuquerque	Mr. Robert Lister, Albuquerque	Mrs. Anita Ricka, Carlsbad
Timothy Alexander, Santa Fe	Brent Fawns, Albuquerque	Jeffrey Locke, Santa Fe	Nancy Rietz, Albuquerque
Lieu Anquyen, Albuquerque	Richard Federici, Santa Fe	Scott Lorenz, Clovis	Kurt Riley, Albuquerque
Bill Armstrong, Santa Fe	Patrick Feehan, Santa Fe	Patrick Lonnrie, Santa Fe	David & Karen Roberts, Santa Fe
M. G.F. Arneal, Albuquerque	Martin Fell, Albuquerque	Manuel & Jolene Lopez, Santa Fe	Pam Roberts, Santa Fe
Susan Ashler, Santa Fe	Martina Finch, High Rolls Mount	Kathy Lovelock Humphrey, Albuquerque	Roger Roberts, Santa Fe
Rosemarie Bagin/Tom Brooks, Santa Fe	Nelson Firstad, Santa Fe	David Loveless, Arroyo Seco	Ms. Frances Robertson, Albuquerque
Robert Baker, Santa Fe	Gary Scott Fisher, Santa Fe	Alma Lozano, Canutillo	June & Leslie Rochester, Las Cruces
Betty Baldwin, Santa Fe	Mr. Raymond Flores, Cloudcroft	Ida Lujan, Santa Fe	Donna Romero, Albuquerque
Chandra Bates, Albuquerque	Richard Fluke, Grants	Peter L. & Yvonne Luna Lee, Santa Fe	Linda Ross, Santa Fe
John Banister, Albuquerque	Mr. John Foster, Gallup	Thomas Lynch, Silver City	Sibylla Rossetti, Santa Fe
Gary Barth, Albuquerque	Malinda Fowler, Santa Fe	Mary Lyon, Santa Fe	Jim Rossi, Santa Fe
Seanna Barton, Caballo	Steve Fowles, Albuquerque	James Madl, Cloudcroft	Mr. Robert Roth, Albuquerque
Robert Beauchamp, Santa Fe	D.G. Francis, Albuquerque	Linda Maestas, Albuquerque	Kristi Rowland, Albuquerque
Melanie Beck, Santa Fe	W. Frank, Bosque Farms	Polly Matchir, Santa Fe	Vivian Rudeen, Albuquerque
Vincent Beck, Santa Fe	Wade Fraser, Santa Fe	Rebecca Magee, Albuquerque	Janet Ruggles, Albuquerque
Richard Becker, Santa Fe	Louise Garcia, Rio Rancho	Joan Malone, Santa Fe	Ms. Anita Rusk, Rio Rancho
Rick Belford, Santa Fe	Michael Gardner, Albuquerque	Mrs. Mary Mark, Magdalena	James Satz, Santa Fe
Deborah Below, Albuquerque	Bill Gee, Santa Fe	Summer Manoff, Santa Fe	Laura Sammons, Albuquerque
Barbara Benzequen, Santa Fe	Mr. Robert Ghorinley II, Albuquerque	Jan Maples, Albuquerque	Maria Samuel, El Rito
Sam & Margaret Bertram, Santa Fe	Joseph Gianlvaro, Pecos	Joshua Margolis, Santa Fe	Ben Sanchez, Santa Fe
Joseph Black, Santa Fe	David Gifford, Santa Fe	Christopher Martell, Santa Fe	Bob Sarr, Santa Fe
Joanna Blackburn, El Paso	Virginia Gistrap, Santa Fe	Enilia Martinez, Albuquerque	Marlene Scally, Santa Fe
Daniel Boteler, Shiprock	J. Glenner, Alamogordo	Adrian Martinez, Santa Fe	Karyn Schmitt, Santa Fe
E. Bowers, Albuquerque	Bernique Gidden, Santa Fe	Mark Martinez, Rio Rancho	Anne Schwartz, Albuquerque
Ann Boylan, Anthony	Barry Goldfarb, Santa Fe	C. Herman Mauney, Albuquerque	Stephen Shaw, Santa Fe
Doris Braunstein, Santa Fe	Paul Golding, Tesuque	Cassandra Mayshark, Santa Fe	Leona Shelton, Albuquerque
Tina Broder, Albuquerque	Leopoldo Gomez, Santa Fe	Ken McDermis, Alamogordo	Charles & Dianne Shintoiser, Santa Fe
Mr. Bill Bromberg, Albuquerque	Joseph Goodwin, Santa Fe	William McArthur, Santa Fe	Mark Shouse, El Paso
David Brooks, Albuquerque	Peter Goodwin, Santa Fe	Joann McCaffrey, Santa Fe	Linda Siegle, Santa Fe
Ms. Susan Brodan, Las Cruces	Laurel Goodwin, Socorro	Lauren McCain, Santa Fe	Lisa Silva, Albuquerque
D. Brown Jr., Santa Fe	Mrs. Rita Gove, Las Cruces	J. Todd McElroy, Santa Fe	Grace Silva, T Or C
Randy Burge, Santa Fe	Laird Graesser, Santa Fe	Mary McGee, Santa Fe	Leada & Richard Silver, Santa Fe
William Burgfield, Albuquerque	Shelia Greaney, El Paso	Mr. Michael McGuire, Portales	Susan Simmons, Albuquerque
Carol Burleson, Las Cruces	Cally Green, Santa Fe	Idalia McKelvey, Santa Fe	Richard Sisneros Jr., Santa Fe
Betty Bustamante, Santa Fe	Wyla Green, Albuquerque	Cherry McKenzie, Santa Fe	Rita Sjunnesson, Albuquerque
Yvonne Butcher, Albuquerque	Karen Gregory, Taos	Lionel & Athelia McKinney, Albuquerque	Dr. Celeste Skardis, Santa Fe
Joe Butler, Cedar Crest	Rose & Joe Griego, Santa Fe	Slacy McNeese, McKinney, Albuquerque	Ms. Cherie Skinner, Santa Fe
Lionel Calanche, El Paso	Marjorie Grinnel, Chamsisal	Stacy McNeese, McKinney, Albuquerque	Mrs. Vivien Slazak, Albuquerque
Nancy Caldwell, Albuquerque	Sterling Grogan, Albuquerque	Ms. Sylvia McNeil, Gallup	Marlin Small, Albuquerque
Luigi Calicchia, Albuquerque	Laura Gutierrez, Santa Fe	Donna McWilliams, Santa Fe	J. Smith, Santa Fe
Scott Cameron, Albuquerque	Mr. Robert Hamel, Albuquerque	R. McHenry, T Or C	Elizabeth Smith, Santa Fe
Ms. Bobby Cannon, Albuquerque	Pamela Hamilton, Santa Fe	Diane & Neil Melien, Tome	Patricia Smith, Santa Fe
Margot & Ed Cantrill, Santa Fe	Susan Harris, Santa Fe	Joe Menapace, Santa Fe	Douglas Smith, Santa Fe
S. Cammichael, Los Alamos	Rae Hardwick, Santa Fe	Joseph Meyette, Deming	Philip & Ellen Snyder, Albuquerque
Betty Caprona, Albuquerque	Ms. Lisa Harrell, El Paso	Rudolph Miller, Santa Fe	Hydie Sobel, Albuquerque
Rebecca Carner Smith, Santa Fe	Susan Harris, Santa Fe	Paul Minogue, Santa Fe	Ken Solomon/Lance Lakey, Santa Fe
J. Andrew Carter, Tijeras	Ms. Margaret Harrison, Santa Fe	E.A. Model, Ranchos De Taos	Rusan Spence, El Paso
Joel Castellanos, Albuquerque	Catherine Harvey, Santa Fe	Elizabeth Mondragon, Albuquerque	Rebecca Stamm, Santa Fe
Marlene Cecutan, Santa Fe	Lynn Hasenbank, Santa Fe	Kim Montague, Farmington	Susan Stanke, Santa Fe
Landra J. Chapman, Albuquerque	Hylen Hechler, Rio Rancho	Michael Montoya, Santa Fe	Carol Ann Stelzer, Albuquerque
Maxine Chelini, Santa Fe	Mark Hedge, T Or C	Orlando & Maicia Montoya, Santa Fe	Blair Stephenson, Santa Fe
Ms. Denise Clearys, Albuquerque	Sharon Herzog, Santa Fe	Jerry & Tracy Montoya, Albuquerque	Peter Stephenson, Santa Fe
Thomas Clark, Santa Fe	John Hiatt, Santa Fe	Jen Moore, Santa Fe	Kathy Stenberg, Santa Fe
Julia Cohen, Santa Fe	Bruce Hills, Albuquerque	Doris Moore, El Paso	Mr. J. Stewart, Santa Fe
Edward Collier, Albuquerque	Victor Hogsett, Santa Fe	Donald Moore, Santa Fe	Carol Ann Stelzer, Albuquerque
Nancy Collins Johnson, Santa Fe	J. Hooker, El Paso	Amranda Morgan, Albuquerque	Blair Stephenson, Santa Fe
Janice Comeau, Santa Fe	James Howard III, Albuquerque	Nona Morris, Albuquerque	Peter Stephenson, Santa Fe
R. Lewis Cook, Albuquerque	Debra Howard, Los Lunas	Sue & Clifford Morris, Santa Fe	Kathy Stenberg, Santa Fe
Brain & Monica Cooke, Albuquerque	David Huertas, Santa Fe	John Morrison, Santa Fe	Mr. J. Stewart, Santa Fe
Marilynn Cooper, Albuquerque	Marc Hunter, El Paso	Matthew Moses, Albuquerque	Carol Ann Stelzer, Albuquerque
Dennis Cooper, Santa Fe	Dent Hurley, Santa Fe	Richard Moss, Santa Fe	Blair Stephenson, Santa Fe
Mr. Gus Corazon, Albuquerque	A. Imman, Albuquerque	Dr. David Munsch, Albuquerque	Nancy Terry, Santa Fe
Emily Cornelius, Albuquerque	Kathryn Ives, Farmington	Mrs. Cecilia Munoz, El Paso	Rita Tessmann, Albuquerque
Karen Cotton, Santa Fe	Joan Jamison, Albuquerque	Dorothy Munson, Flora Vista	Alyson Thibodeaux, Albuquerque
William Coupon, Santa Fe	Julian Jaramillo, Santa Fe	Gael Murphy, Las Cruces	Ursula Thibodeaux, Santa Fe
Constance Cox, Albuquerque	Mr. Harry Jennings, Santa Fe	Toil Murray, Albuquerque	Kate Thomas, Santa Fe
Elen Crowley, Santa Fe	E.J. Jennings, Santa Fe	Cynthia Narayan, Santa Fe	Janice Thompson, Albuquerque
Mary Csanadi, Gallup	Jochiem, Santa Fe	Pam Nareyanti Stein, Santa Fe	Ms. Mary Thompson, Santa Fe
William Cummings, Albuquerque	Buchanan Johnson, Las Cruces	Kelly Nash, Santa Fe	Bruce Thompson, Santa Fe
Kristin Cunner, Albuquerque	Peggy Johnson, Socorro	Ann Navarro, Edgewood	J. Thompson, Williamsburg
Carla Cuino, Santa Fe	Toby Johnson, Santa Fe	Karen Nesbit, Albuquerque	G. Tillet, Las Cruces
Carolyn D'Alessandro, Santa Fe	Mary Johnston, Taos	Sara Noble, Santa Fe	Deborah Tompary, Albuquerque
Ms. Janice Dailey, Santa Fe	Donald Jones, Santa Fe	Vickie Nohi, Santa Fe	Cynthia Travis, Santa Fe
Les & Eudice Daly, Santa Fe	Greg Jones, Albuquerque	James Norris, Santa Fe	Jeanne Treece, Gallup
Murray Davis, Santa Fe	P. Jones, Santa Fe	James Norris, Santa Fe	Lon Trinity, Las Cruces
Susan Davis, Albuquerque	Carol Jones, Santa Fe	Bridget Nurock, Santa Fe	Gwynne Trujillo, Santa Fe
Chris Davis, Albuquerque	Dominique Jones, Albuquerque	Mr. J. Odeil, Albuquerque	Daniel Valdes, Santa Fe
Brenda De La Garza, Albuquerque	June Lumey, Los Alamos	Hope Ogden, Albuquerque	Anselmo & Elaine Valverde, Santa Fe
Mr. Peter Debeneditis, Santa Fe	Katharine Juul, Albuquerque	Mrs. Helen Olan, Albuquerque	Marabelle Van Alsbury, Santa Fe
Craig DeForest, Santa Fe	Dixie Kalinoda, Santa Fe	Mr. E. I. Opland, Albuquerque	Deborah Van Hecke, Santa Fe
George Del Gaudio, Santa Fe	Barry & Tammy Karch, El Paso	Laura Olson, Albuquerque	Keith Vanderstys, Albuquerque
Lillian Dennis, Santa Fe	Julia Keating, Albuquerque	Mr. E. I. Opland, Albuquerque	E.I. Varney, Santa Fe
Betty Deupree, Canutillo	Mr. Bruce Kelley, Albuquerque	Edmund Oppenheimer, Santa Fe	Gary Vaughn, Albuquerque
Melissa Divine, Santa Fe	Julia Kilgore, El Paso	Robert & Mary Owens Jr., Albuquerque	Billy Vigil Jr., Albuquerque
Lowell & Rosalind Doherty, Santa Fe	Andrew Konneht Jr., Rio Rancho	Ken Owens, Santa Fe	Marlene Villan, Albuquerque
Stella Domes, Santa Fe	Jim Koster, Los Alamos	Aaron Park, Santa Fe	Kim Vivan, Santa Fe
Iora Dog, Santa Fe	Mark Kozubel, Los Alamos	Mr. J. Parker, Santa Fe	Christine Von Briesen, Santa Fe
Donna Dotts, Albuquerque	Melvin & Dorothy Kriegel, Santa Fe	Jerrold Patton, Albuquerque	Daniel Voothees, Roswell
Kate Dow, Santa Fe	Robert Krueger, Santa Fe	Gene Kuntz, Santa Fe	Diane Voyles, Espanola
Mary Drake, Santa Fe	Gene Kuntz, Santa Fe	Ms. April Lander, El Paso	James Weber, Santa Fe
Carol Dumont, Santa Fe	Rachel Larson, Albuquerque	Andrew Lay, Santa Fe	Claire Magenblast, Belen
Cdr D. Dunham Usn, El Paso	Andrew Lay, Santa Fe	Phyllis Leavitt, Santa Fe	Lura Wallace, Las Cruces
David Duperaut/Raven King, Albuquerque	Jiles Lee, Santa Fe	David Lantest Pnd, Albuquerque	W. Wallace, Roswell
Anthony Duren, Albuquerque	Ms. Stacey Lengyel, Los Alamos	Arnold Lerner, Albuquerque	Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Waleman, Santa Fe
Cory & Adam Eakes, Albuquerque	Jay Leutwyler, Albuquerque	Remy Levy, Santa Fe	Roger Webb, Santa Fe
Andres Ebell, Roy	Remy Levy, Santa Fe	Duane Lichtler, Santa Fe	Phyllis Weiland, Santa Fe
David Ehsan, Albuquerque	Francisella Lieurance, Albuquerque	Beverley Lincoln, Albuquerque	Tim Weydevid, Santa Fe
Robert Ellis, Albuquerque	Erick & Joy Lindman, Los Alamos	Fransine Lindberg, Taos	Mr. Del Wilkinson, Santa Fe
Donna Enchilas, Santa Fe	Melanie Lindeberger, Albuquerque	Bob Richardson, Santa Fe	Margie & T. Samuel Williams, Albuquerque
Tashtif Elter, Gallup			Nancy Williams, Santa Fe
Carla Feder-Castell, Santa Fe			C. Williams, Las Cruces
Scott Fadrowski, Albuquerque			Bill Williamson, Albuquerque
Andrew Fair, El Paso			Barbara Winslow, Albuquerque
Andrey&Tillman Farley, Van Horn			

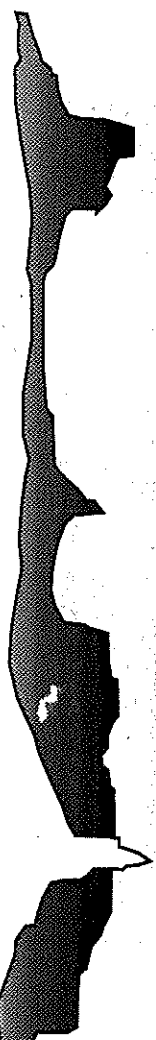


Visit our homepage on the World Wide Web:

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

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

[sierra@technet.nm.org](mailto:sierra@technet.nm.org)



## Activist Profile Margot Wilson



huge mine, it would dramatically impact the landscape, including drawing down the water table by an estimated 30 feet!—a fact that has caught the attention of Ted Turner's foreman at the nearby Ladder Ranch. The Warm Springs Section, assisted by Sue McIntosh, has been leading the fight against the mine. It's a fight that has drawn a number of unusual allies to the side of the Sierra Club, and changed some attitudes. As Margot puts it: "We're showing people we're not ogres."

Margot has done some rather remarkable things in Truth or Consequences. In a region well-known for its open antagonism to conservation activities, Margot has organized the 40-person strong Warm Springs section of the Sierra Club. She also serves as the Southern New Mexico Group's representative to the Chapter's Executive Committee. It hasn't been easy, she says.

When Margot moved to T or C nine years ago, to take a job as the librarian at Hot Springs High School, she knew her conservation interests might get her into hot water, so to speak. In fact, as she became more active with the Club, she began to fear for her job. "People are scared," she says, "and don't want to speak out." Even being a vegetarian, she notes, causes suspicion. "It's something people up north have no idea about."

Actually, the response in the area has been surprisingly pro-environment.

"There are lots of closet conservation types," she says, "even among the business community. They're just afraid to speak out." This response has been a source of inspiration. Margot has worked hard to develop a 90-person mailing list and the section holds monthly meetings which draw, on average, 25 people.

One of their main concerns is the proposed Copper Flats mine, near Kingston. A

Raised in California and

Michigan, Margot developed her love for the outdoors from her father, who was a professional cartographer. Eventually Margot moved to Santa Fe and ran, for a while, a native plant landscaping company called Green Jeans. One day, however, while hoisting yet another 40lb. bag of sod by herself, she decided to change careers. She earned an M.A. degree in education from UNM and headed south for her current job.

She took with her a love of plants and animals, especially birds. Every day after work she went to a new place to look and listen. After a year or two, she began to lead hikes in the vicinity for the Club, which had no formal presence in T or C. This was a situation that she, and another Club member, decided to change. They co-founded the Warm Springs section only one year ago.

Margot appreciates the "tremendous human resources" of the Sierra Club and has leaned on people such as Sue for help. So far, despite local resistance, the Sierra Club experience in T or C has been a good one, she says.

Margot's goals are modest and yet important: she wants to raise the consciousness of her fellow townspeople, and try to do some good work. She's proud that people will approach her on the street now and confide in her about conservation issues. People don't frown as much now when they squint at the Sierra Club pin she wears on her lapel. She takes that as a good sign of things to come.

## Mine Tales

(con't from page 4)

for construction and should, therefore, fall under a specific exemption from the New Mexico Mining Act.

So, as Tom Rbe of *Sare the Jemez* has pointed out, the question is, how stupid does Copar (i.e. Richard Cook) think we (and the regulators) are??? You see, the federal legislation which established the Jemez National Recreation Area and directs management decisions within the NRA, specifically prohibits the mining of construction-grade punice from anywhere within NRA boundaries. If Copar uses 65% of El Cajete's punice for construction purposes, as they say they will, Copar will be in violation of federal law.

Mr. Cook has announced his intention to violate federal law in order to get out of complying with a state law. Hmm. Interesting tactics. I wonder if Cook has given or gotten lessons from those Freeman boys up in Montana?

### Rebuild Fierro!

Rebuild Fierro!! This is the cry that the Cobre Mining Company has heard loud and clear from former residents and friends of the beleaguered little community of Fierro on Hanover Creek in southern New Mexico. Over the years, various operations at the Continental Mine have dismantled this village piecemeal. What is left standing, the church and cemetery, face grave threats in the future. What is remarkable about Fierro is its friends, who refuse to abandon the future of the village and its history in the face of new mining plans from Cobre Mining Company. Many different people are fighting in many different ways to protect the future for this land.

The Sierra Club has appealed the substandard environmental assessment and plan of operations for the Continental Mine's existing operations to the Department of Interior Board of Land Appeals (See *Rio Grande Sierran*, March/April edition). Although we petitioned the Board for a stay of mining operations during the pendency of the appeal, the Board pointed to 295 Continental Mine employees as a reason for allowing the mine to continue operations temporarily.

In its order, the Board said: "The instant appeal arises from a tangled factual basis. Thus, while the ROD and FONSI were not signed until January 26, 1996, the record indicates that the plan of operations had been approved on January 11, 1995. The record contains no explanation as to why approval of the plan of operations preceded issuance of the ROD and FONSI by over a year, nor does it indicate what actions, if any, were taken to solicit the opinions of those who might be interested in the proposal before approval was given."

It appears that the IBLA gets at least part of the story. We await the Board's decision on the general merits of our appeal.



## Politics

(con't from page 1)

Hughes, for loyal, committed help.

At Executive Committee request, we interviewed candidates for a March 5 City Council election. We recommended that it endorse three people—one of them won, Pat Bush. We regard our support of Jim Hannon and Miguel Chavez as good political and personal investments. We are now in the process of interviewing all candidates in a County Commission race. We obtained "fast-track" endorsements for just two State Legislators. They are Rep. Max Coll, and Sen. Liz Stefanics. A half dozen of us worked Max's 47th District for primary election signatures; we will soon be telephoning in Ms. Stefanics' 39th District. Committee members like George Grossman and Ken Hughes sneak out and help our candidates additionally.

We are also proud of—all New Mexicans should be proud of—our Congressman, Bill Richardson, who is certain of re-election.

### Opportunities

This spring view of where we are in political preparation should suggest that we have opportunities for members of the Rio Grande Chapter to provide thinking, leadership, and footwork to bring environmental caring into law through political activity. We have public opinion on our side—the present Congress is at least partially being symtied by voter resentment of its anti-environmental bias—but the public needs instruments of expression and we are one of those.

Join our political effort in its planning stages, and believe that it is American as well as Environmental to help our candidates in June Primary Elections. We can fold and stuff, telephone, deliver campaign literature and contribute money. By doing this through the Club, you tell our candidates why you are there, and augment our lobbying access between elections, when the laws are actually passed.

That is true even when our candidate loses, because our effort tells the winner that we are in the game, and that we will be back. It encourages pro-environmental attitudes in the candidates of future elections. Politicians act within the range of possibilities the public grants them; give them the freedom to be green. Ask your group Political Chairperson what you can do.

For El Paso: Jim Bell, 915-581-8864.

For Southern New Mexico: "Dutch" Salmon, 505-388-3763.

For Albuquerque: Ron Grotbeck, 505-296-0944.

For Santa Fe: Ned Sudborough, 505-820-1270.

## Free "Saving Wildlands"

### Workshop, May 4, in Santa Fe

The Santa Fe Group of the Sierra Club and the Forest Conservation Council are co-sponsoring a free, public workshop entitled **SAVING WILDLANDS, SAVING OURSELVES: Protecting Southwestern Wildlands Through Citizen Action.**

It will be held between 8:30am - 4:30pm on Saturday, May

4th in the Unitarian Church (107 W. Barcelona Street), in Santa Fe.

Its focus will be on wildlife and the Wildlands Project. Its featured speaker will be Prof. Michael Soule, a conservation biologist from University of California, Santa Cruz.

For more information, call Courtney White at 982-5502.