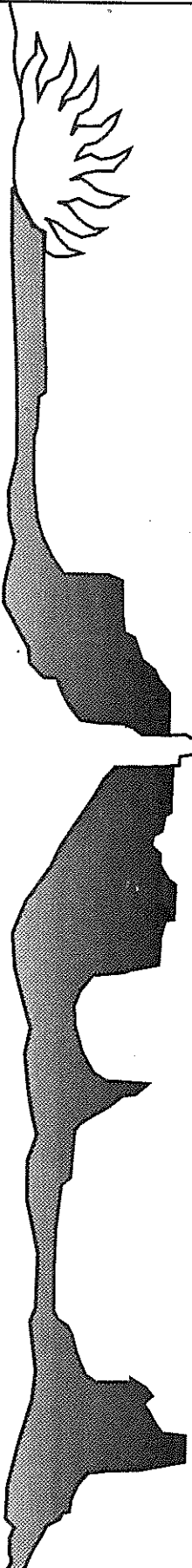


# Rio Grande Sierran



News of the Rio Grande Chapter Sierra Club  
September/October 1996

## Johnson and Bradley Caught Crying Wolf

by Julie Hicks

You probably won't believe this, but the Governor and Lt. Governor have once again blundered on the wolf issue. It began when Cindy Hee, an Albuquerque elementary school teacher, had a wolf educator come to her class. As a result, her class came to know the detailed saga of the Mexican wolf and they realized that the only wolves left in New Mexico are in captivity at places like the Rio Grande Zoo. Later when Ms. Hee had her class write public officials as an assignment, they decided to write to Secretary of Interior Bruce Babbitt and Governor Gary Johnson because of their outspoken views on wolves.

Before they began their letters, Cindy told her students that whatever they wrote would be important because letters really can make a difference.

This is Governor Johnson's response to them:

To Ms. Cindy Hee's Fourth Grade Class  
Douglas MacArthur Elementary  
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Dear Class:

I really appreciated all your letters regarding the wolf. As you know, the wolves you see at the zoo were put there so you can see what they look like.

Like you, when I go to the zoo I sometimes think it is not nice to put animals in cages. However, the zoo animals would probably die if they were turned loose because they no longer know how to hunt for food.

We have a lot of wolves in New Mexico that live in the wild. Most of them are in mountain areas. Wolves in the wild are predators, the same as coyotes and mountain lions. They kill other animals for food, like deer, antelope, and rabbits. You can not play with these wolves because they are wild. In fact, if you ever see a wolf in the wild, please tell your mom and stay away from it.

There are many different types of wolves, and some are trying to be reintroduced into the wild. We don't know if this will work, but we are watching the progress closely.

## Wilderness: the Foundation of Culture?

by John Wright, Wilderness Issues Co-Chair

The rich diversity of the world's cultures reflects a corresponding diversity in the wilds that gave them birth. Aldo Leopold, A Sand County Almanac.

Is there an environmental issue regarding public land management that the New Mexico cultures can agree on, and is that issue wilderness? This is one question we will be trying to answer as the New Mexico Wilderness Coalition and the Santa Fe Group of the Sierra Club hold a workshop on "Wilderness and Culture," in Santa Fe at the Unitarian Church, 107 Barcelona Street on Oct. 5 from 9 am to 4 pm.

Native American groups have had problems with some Wilderness designations in the past and it has also met opposition occasionally in Hispanic communities as well. On the other hand, Wilderness areas are widely used by both groups for traditional cultural activities. This conference will try to explore some of the cultural issues involving Wilderness designation on federal lands.

Perhaps the most notable "problem" with Wilderness designation

Thank you again for all your wonderful letters. I have included an autographed picture for your class, and I wish you the best of luck in the remaining school year. Study hard!

Sincerely,  
Gary E. Johnson  
Governor

Not only was Ms. Hee shocked to find out that there were "lots of wolves in New Mexico in the wild," but she had no idea that wolves were put in the zoo "so you can see what they look like." After a good laugh, Cindy sent the letter to me for "distribution." It wasn't long before it fell into the hands of conservationists and reporters alike.

was that of the sacred Blue Lake which was formerly in the Wheeler Peak Wilderness adjacent to Taos Pueblo. For many years, Taos Pueblo conducted a national campaign to return Blue Lake to tribal control. Blue Lake is integral to the Pueblo in its cultural practices and there had been serious conflicts with management of the area for recreational uses. Hispanic communities have also opposed some Wilderness designations even though their use of the areas was consistent with Wilderness management guidelines.

The New Mexico Wilderness Coalition is proposing that nearly 2.5 million acres of BLM lands be added to the Wilderness system. This is in response to a federally required inventory of BLM lands in which the BLM determined that only 500,000 acres should be designated Wilderness. In several specific instances, the Coalition has worked with native groups to protect cultural practices in Wilderness areas. These and others instances will be explored in an attempt to find out how the concept of Wilderness can be one that all cultures can embrace.

The workshop features several Native American and Hispanic leaders from North Central New Mexico such as Richard Deertack of Taos Pueblo, Malcolm Montoya of Sandia Pueblo, Lehua Lopez of the Native Lands Institute, former New Mexico Secretary of the Environment Judith Espinosa, Devon Pena of La Sierra Foundation, historian Orlando Romero, water rights activist Nicasio Romero, feminist writer Vera Norwood, Petuiche Gilbert of Acoma Pueblo. Congressman Bill Richardson has agreed to address the group, as has former BLM director Jim Baca.

The workshop is free and the public is invited. Lunch will be provided by the Santa Fe Group. The workshop is organized so there will be plenty of

Keith Easthouse of the Santa Fe New Mexican was the first to write a story and it landed on the front page of the Saturday edition with the headline "Bradley Gets Flak for Crying Wolf." Bradley? What about Johnson? It seems that Governor Johnson realized how ridiculous the letter looked and decided to do a little damage control. As a result, Lt.

(cont. on page 16)

## Inside

Letters	2
Uneasy Chair	3
Grazing Alert	3
Who Are The Real Radicals?	4
Los Alamos News	9
New Members	13
Word from Chair	13
War on Environment Update	14
Chapter Outings	15
Activist Profile	16

Group News	
Albuquerque	5-7
El Paso	8-9
Santa Fe	10-11
So. New Mexico	12



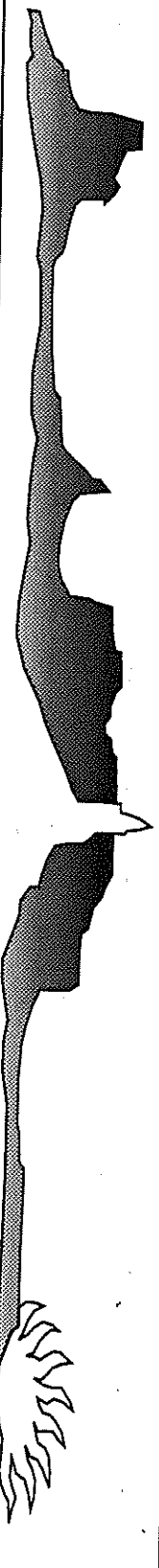
Rio Grande Chapter  
Sierra Club  
P.O. Box 9191  
El Paso, TX 79983

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

Chapter ExCom will  
hold its annual  
retreat  
September 14 & 15  
at

The Black Range  
Lodge in Kingston

All Members Welcome  
Call Chair Van Perkins for  
details, 505-983-8801



# RIO GRANDE CHAPTER DIRECTORY

## Executive Committee

Van Perkins, Chair, Council Delegate (505) 983-8801  
 van.perkins@sierraclub.org  
 George Grossman, Vice Chair (505) 982-1024  
 James Bell, El Paso Rep. (915) 581-8864  
 Blair Brown, Alb. Rep., Treasurer (505) 265-3231  
 bblairb@aol.com  
 Barbara H. Johnson, Santa Fe Rep. (505) 466-4935  
 barbara.johnson@sierraclub.org  
 Ted Mertig, Council Alternate (915) 852-3011  
 tmertig@aol.com  
 Craig O'Hare (505) 474-3842  
 Mike Seidensticker, Membership (915) 544-5741  
 76251.2520@compuserve.com  
 Margot Wilson, So. NM Rep. (505) 744-5860  
 margot.wilson@sierraclub.org  
 Jim Winder (505) 267-4227  
 jwinder@aol.com  
 John Wright, Secretary (505) 247-4353  
 wright@apsicc.aps.edu

## Issue Chairs

Conservation--Jack Humphrey/Kathy Love(505)243-5319  
 humphrey@unm.edu  
 Energy & Trans.--Ken Hughes (505) 474-0550  
 ekemper@igc.aps.org  
 Fundraising--Ford Robbins (505) 466-7665  
 Grazing--Gary Simpson (505) 298-3315  
 Inner City Outings--Ted Mertig (915) 852-3011  
 tmertig@aol.com  
 Military Issues--M. Thaele (505) 522-3421  
 marianne.thaele@sierraclub.org  
 Outings--Norma McCallan (505) 471-0005  
 mccallan@stlb.state.nm.us  
 Political--Craig O'Hare (505) 474-3842  
 Water--Eric Ames (505) 751-0351(W)  
 Wilderness--John Wright (505) 247-4353  
 wright@apsicc.aps.edu  
 Wildlife--Julie Hicks/Martin Heinrich (505) 982-1024  
 mtheinrich@aol.com

## Mining Oversight and Control Project

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

## Legislative Lobbyist

Douglas Fraser (505) 662-5204

## Rio Grande Sierran

Production Manager-B. Johnson (505) 466-4935

## Sierra Club Addresses:

<b>Albuquerque Group</b> 207 San Pedro Ave. NE Albuquerque, NM 87108 (505) 265-5506	<b>So. New Mexico Group</b> P.O. Box 3705 UPB Las Cruces, NM 88003 (505) 522-3421
<b>El Paso Group</b> 800 S. Piedras P.O. Box 9191 El Paso, TX 79983 (915) 532-9645	<b>Southwest Regional Ofc.</b> 516 E. Portland St. Phoenix, AZ 85004 (602) 254-9330 FAX: 258-6533
<b>Santa Fe Group</b> 621 Old Santa Fe Trail #10 Santa Fe, NM 87501 (505) 983-2703	<b>Sierra Club National</b> 85 Second St., 2nd Floor San Francisco, CA 94105 (415) 977-5500

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) 977-5649.)

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.

# We Get Letters...

## Logging Ban

Dear Editor,

As a loyal member of the Sierra Club for many years, and one who has often defended the Sierra Club's goals as non-extremist, I am writing in support of Courtney White's article "From the Uneasy Chair" in the July-August edition of the Rio Grande Chapter newsletter. This article concerns the Sierra Club's recent national referendum which established its policy against all commercial logging on public lands in the United States.

Courtney White's article used the terms "elitist" and "extremist" as expressions which the forest products industry and much of the general public would use concerning this Sierra Club policy. I believe, and I know many other knowledgeable people agree, that this stated policy is more naive, unrealistic and harmful to the important goals of the Sierra Club than it is extremist. It is harmful to the Sierra Club's proper and important environmental goals because it is so obviously unrealistic and uninformed that anyone knowing the least bit about national forests and the forest products industry, or the U.S. economy for that matter, would now reconsider all Sierra Club policy as suspect.

I feel certain that this "no public lands commercial logging" policy will now open all Sierra Club environmental goals to new criticism in the media as extremist because one policy goal is so obviously so.

What is needed is more informed dialogue and consensus between environmental groups, such as the Sierra Club, the general public, the forest products industry, and public forestry officials, toward reasonable, responsible and less harmful forestry and logging practices --not such unrealistic and naive positions as this total "no commercial logging on public lands" policy, which is indefensible, and will no doubt

result in a setback for many, if not all, other Sierra Club environmental policy goals for years to come.

Sincerely,  
 Joseph A. Whelan  
 121 W. Zia Road  
 Santa Fe, NM 87505

## Correction--Silvery Minnow

Dear Editor:

In the article on the Rio Grande silvery minnow in July/August issue of the Rio Grande Sierran, you imply that the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (MRGCD) advised the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMGF) that MRGCD diversion structures would divert all surface flow from the Rio Grande between the San Acacia Diversion and Elephant Butte Reservoir. To my knowledge MRGCD did not advise NMGF of this likelihood nor did it make any attempt to do so. Rather, NMGF was first made aware of the river drying by an alert NMGF conservation officer who advised his supervisors of conditions in the river in the vicinity of San Antonio. Personnel of NMGF then contacted individuals in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) to determine what was actually occurring. Since then (mid-April), NMGF has been working with USFWS and USBR to provide flows for the survival of the Rio Grande silvery minnow in its currently restricted range.

I would appreciate a correction of the "misstatement" regarding NMGF knowledge of MRGCD's diversion of all surface [water] in the Rio Grande in the vicinity of Socorro.... Thank you.

Sincerely,  
 David L. Propst  
 Endangered Species Biologist  
 New Mexico Department of Game and Fish  
 P.O. Box 25112  
 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504

## Sanctuary

Dear Editor:

Enclosed is a poem about my beloved redwoods where I grew up and spent many hours soaking up the beauties there.

It is a cinquain form of poem. . . This means each stanza has 5 lines and the lines must have 2, 4, 6, 8, [and] 2 syllables respectively.

**SANCTUARY**  
 Redwoods,  
 ramparts of green  
 Eden halcyon dreams.  
 Silence--softly nudged by whispered  
 twig snap.

Ferns lace  
 through oxalis  
 carpet, drape prone giant's  
 gnarled fingers, play frond sprays in cool  
 glass brook.

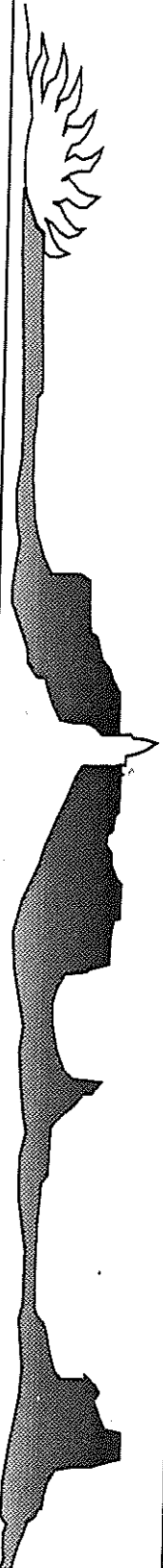
Squirrels  
 tiny claws zip  
 invisible trail--swish  
 of branches says runner swung free  
 across.

Sky-brush  
 tree-tops comb wild's  
 curls. Matted moss tendrils  
 spread quiet over massive sentinels'  
 earth realm.  
 \*\*\*\*\*

Saws scree-e-amm;  
 centuries' songs  
 retch and die. Blatting trucks  
 haul logs to slicer's paws for greed's  
 quick bucks.

Gray stumps  
 hunker down in  
 dry dust; drear eulogy  
 to Creation's own cathedral,  
 forest.

Arith Johnson  
 7236 Springfield Dr. NE  
 Albuquerque, NM 87109



Now that Hurricane Newt has been downsized to a tropical depression, I believe it is time to deliberate the damage it hath wrought and contemplate how we might avoid similar maelstroms in the future. We might need to do this quickly. Hurricane Newt may swing out to sea over the next few months, gather strength, and return to our coasts in full fury in early November -- a prospect that makes me extremely uneasy.

#### A Near Miss

A few weeks ago Congress passed a tolerable Safe Drinking Water Act, which President Clinton has promised to sign. It was, however, mostly a symbolic act. It signaled the conclusion, possibly temporarily, of the Republican leadership's strenuous effort to gut a generation's worth of environmental legislation. It also marked a 180 degree reversal from an earlier effort to write an Unclean Water Act, thus setting a World Record for the cynical depths to which politicians will descend when faced with overwhelming public sentiment. Thank heavens for election years. The shameless attempt to line the pockets of corporate fat cats in the name of a smaller and "more efficient" government was exposed for it was -- a fraud. Newt and Company took a direct shot to the jaw from an outraged citizenry for their malfeasance -- as well they should have. Unfortunately, it was not a knockout punch and I am beginning to wonder how many rounds this fight will go.

The Good Guys won, that much is clear. What is less obvious, however, is the moral of this fable. What is the lesson we have learned? Not to elect Republicans? Not much of a lesson there. Pardon the pavement and get out the vote? Possibly, but Democrats don't always bring a brighter sunrise either. Keep the heat on Washington? Better, but waging a constant defensive campaign is exhausting. Get in touch with the grassroots? Good, but this is hard work and most environmental organizations seem more eager to focus on capitol houses. Blame the Bad Guy? This is effective and makes us feel good, but does not accomplish much in the long run. Beg for more money? I don't think so.

#### World War I

What have we, as citizens concerned about the environment, learned about this near miss? One thing seems crystal clear -- it's World War I out there. Both sides have dug deep and elaborate trenches, hunkered down, and now refuse to come out. The Big Bertha's of both sides rain bombs of incendiary rhetoric down over the field, igniting any flammable material. Poisoned emotions flow across No Man's Land like a gas, choking combatants and neutral civilians alike. Futile charge and counter-charge are mounted, resulting in carnage.

It's war out there, right vs. wrong, good vs. bad; and the

casualty list keeps climbing. A famous general, when asked which ideological position he stood for in the war, responded wearily: "I just want to win." That describes Hurricane Newt's philosophy well, I think -- but it also describes our own. Winning, it seems, is all that matters anymore.

Certainly winning is important, mostly because the price of losing is so high. Newt simply had to be defeated, no ifs, ands, or buts. Now that we have succeeded, at least for the time being, what next? A truce? A treaty? Or more fighting? Do we continue the Great War of Attrition at all costs? Do we, as Tacitus once observed about the Roman invasion of Britain, make a devastation and call it peace? Do we sit in our trenches, catching our breath and mending our wounds while waiting for the next round of bombardment, or do we look for a way out of our labyrinth? Is there such a thing as peace with honor anymore?

#### Solutions

When Senator Bill Bradley of New Jersey announced his retirement from Congress last year, he said that the 1994 elections had been fundamentally misunderstood by both sides. The electorate, he said, wanted solutions to problems, not another round of finger-pointing and name-calling. The Democrats had failed to solve fundamental concerns, such as the deficit, low wages, and an uncertain financial future. So they were tossed. The Republicans, in turn, thought they had the solutions, but these proved to be even more unpalatable than Democratic attempts to change things. What people wanted, Bradley said, was a coming together to solve mutual problems mutually. He saw, however, little or no hope of this being accomplished, so he quit. This is an option that has undeniable attraction.

How can we find solutions to the economic and environmental conflicts that are strangling the West, and the country? The trenches are deep and intractable and very few

seem willing to climb out, for fear of being shot. Recently I have been accused of being a member of the Wise Use movement. My last Uneasy column, which attacked the Sierra Club's new policy calling for a ban on all commercial logging, prompted one of the bar's authors to call and chew me out in no uncertain terms. He asked if I worked for the timber industry. I told him I did not, and then I told him I was simply trying, in my column, to understand how we got to this place and time, and what role we, as environmentalists, might have played in digging such deep trenches. I told him this war is unhealthy for everything -- it's bad for the land, for wildlife, for rural economies, for trees, and for our future. He disagreed and hung up. I think he simply wants to win.

Can we find solutions? If so, can we do so before Bob Dole becomes president and a handful of extremists dismantles legislation the public so obviously cherishes? Probably not. If Dole wins, then there will be just two options: full-out conflict or despair. There can be no compromise with the sort of administration that Dole will lead, especially if Newt still rules the congressional roost. That much is clear. If Clinton wins, however, I think serious efforts should be mounted to find solutions to these problems.

I am not exactly sure what those solutions are, but I am willing to look. Are you?

The first place we must look, I believe, is in our souls. Since I am not a member of the Wise Use movement, the only place I can do some soul-searching is in the environmental community. What is it we are trying to accomplish exactly, other than winning? I am not sure I know anymore. I know what I am opposed to: polluted air, dirty water, bad ranching, clearcuts, subdivisions, destruction of open space. But what am I for? Clean air? Of course, but it must be more than that. Perhaps this is the moral of our near miss in Congress -- to renew, and possibly reconsider, our goals.

## GRAZING ALERT

by Gary Simpson, *Rangeland Issues Chair*

#### Boehlt Bill

The foes of environmentalism are at it again with a serious attempt to pass an extremely bad grazing bill in the House of Representatives with the strong backing of Speaker Gingrich. This bill is being falsely touted as a "compromise" that protects fish and wildlife. This is not the case, and we must contact our representatives to kill this bill. Especially important to contact is Representative Schiff who may have a tight reelection race. The bill is scheduled to be voted on, either as a stand-alone bill or attached to the omnibus parks bill, in mid-September. Rep. Boehlert of New York introduced the bill at the request of Speaker Gingrich.

Briefly, the bill:

--Undercuts existing environmental safeguards (already too weak) designed to protect rangelands from overgrazing.

--Severely limits the application of NEPA to site-specific actions (i.e., allotments):

--Eliminates the ability of State agencies to affect grazing decisions, including the Departments of Environment, Game and Fish, etc.;

--Severely limits public involvement and eliminates it at the site-specific level;

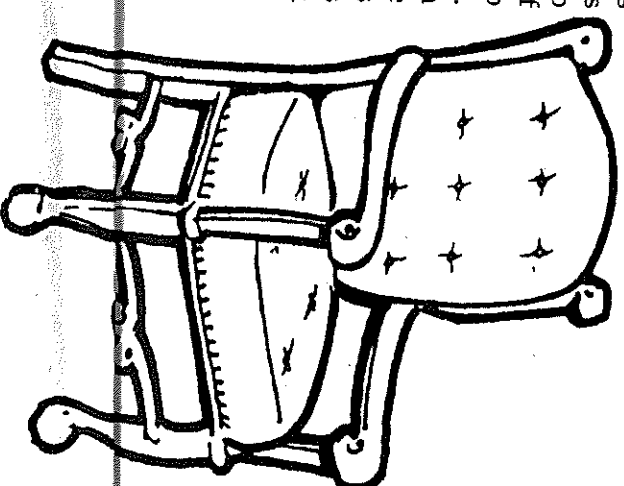
--Restricts the public's ability to appeal decisions on public lands;

--Gives private ranchers title to range improvements -- setting the stage for "takings" lawsuits that would discourage agencies from taking action to protect the range, if indeed they would even have that ability under this act. In other words, taxpayers would have to pay ranchers to protect fish and wildlife on public lands!

Call your representatives immediately and urge them to oppose the Boehlert bill. (For phone numbers, etc., see the Box on page 14.) This bill would put ranching above environmental law, effectively creating a federally subsidized ranching within wilderness

## The Uneasy Chair

by  
Courtney White



of the environmental consequences and with no checks and balances.

Contact the President at 202-456-1111 and tell him that you expect him to veto S.1459 or any similar legislation.

#### Resource Advisory Committee Tries Again

In other news, the Resource Advisory Committee responsible for adopting BLM standards and guidelines for livestock grazing has decided to try again. We must bring all pressure to bear on the board members to not adopt any rules as environmentally destructive as the ones originally proposed. Of special concern is the section dealing with the "Human Environment." New Mexico was the only state to have such a section, and we must work hard to eliminate it from consideration this time around. Stay tuned for details.





# WHO ARE THE REAL RADICALS?

by Chad Hanson and Carl Pope

*The battle we have fought, and are still fighting for the forests is a part of the eternal conflict between right and wrong, and we cannot expect to see the end of it.*

—John Muir, Founder and first President of the Sierra Club

Wherever John Muir is, he is smiling. His fighting spirit is still very much alive in the nation's oldest and largest grassroots environmental advocacy organization, the Sierra Club.

[In April, Sierra Club members voted by a wide margin to put the organization on record in support of legislation to stop all commercial logging of this nation's national forests and other federal publicly-owned lands. This position was immediately denounced by the timber industry and its allies as a radical approach to conservation. But let's stop and take a look at the situation.

What is the more "radical" position?

The Sierra Club says that national forests and other public lands should be managed for recreation, wildlife habitat, watershed protection, firewood gathering, hunting, fishing, photography, wilderness preservation, scientific research and other public purposes. We advocate that destructive commercial logging should be excluded from the public's forests. Timber production for lumber, paper and other commercial purposes should occur on private lands.

In contrast, a look at their legislative agenda indicates that the timber industry advocates taxpayer subsidized logging, logging levels that are not sustainable, logging of our last remaining ancient forests,

logging of wilderness areas, logging that does not comply with existing environmental protection statutes, and barring citizens from protecting their public forests in a court of law.

Hike through or fly over any national forest in the country and witness for yourself the massive clearcuts, eroded hillsides, and streams filled with silt and logging debris that are the legacy of commercial logging of our public heritage and then answer the question—who are the radicals?

The timber industry executives will likely issue their usual protestations and accusations. Their high-powered public relations firms will be working overtime in a desperate attempt to maintain the "jobs vs. environment" myth.

The timber barons have made quite a business out of pitting environmentalists and workers against one another, while they get rich. Of course, if these executives cared at all about workers' jobs, they wouldn't be putting tens of thousands out of work through automation, and exports of raw logs and unprocessed wood. Over the last decade, far more jobs have been lost to automation and log exports than to reduced logging levels.

Between 1980 and 1991, the logging program on national forests operated at a net loss to taxpayers of \$7.3 billion, and continues to lose enormous amounts of our money. The reason for this is that we taxpayers subsidize logging, road construction, as well as replanting and restoration costs. We even pick up the tab for the court expenses when the agencies violate environmental laws.

They get the profits. We get the bill. Why not stop commercial

logging our public forests, and redirect these enormous timber subsidies, and other corporate subsidies, into a sweeping ecological restoration jobs program for workers? Not one more timber sale in our public forests; and not one more job lost. Of course, the politicians whose re-election campaigns are funded by timber executives will predictably object.

Who's radical? Ninety-five percent of this nation's original forests have been logged off and hauled to the mill. That's radical. What little pristine forest remains is almost entirely on federal public lands. And, it is being clearcut at a terrifying rate, especially now that the timber industry pressured Congress and the President into suspending our public forest protection laws. And we the taxpayers are being forced to subsidize this destruction of our own land.

A majority of Americans who expressed their opinion in response to the Forest Service's own nationwide poll said that there shouldn't be any commercial resource extraction from public lands—period. After all, it's our land.

What's more, Forest Service figures show that only 12% of the nation's timber supply comes from national forests. We could more than make up this amount through increased efficiency and recycling alone, not to mention reducing exports or increasing use of alternative fiber sources for paper. The vast majority of U.S. timberland is privately owned. We simply don't need to conduct commercial logging on our national forests and other public lands.

The timber barons are now arm-twisting for continued logging of fragile national forests even in the aftermath of recent severe flooding in the Northwest, which we now know was caused largely by rampant logging. Clearcut slopes on public land have stripped watersheds of their ability to absorb water or hold topsoil. Preliminary conservative estimates put the damage at several hundred million dollars which, again, will come from taxpayers' pockets. Once again, who's extreme?

But the timber executives don't care how much damage is caused by floods. They don't care how much we the people have to pay to clean up their messes. It's of no concern to them whether our kids grow up in a world where forests—real forests—are only a memory, passed on to our children and grandchildren as mere tales of a happier more hopeful time that we let slip into the past. They just want their profits.

The burden of proof is not on the Sierra Club and the many others who want to end the logging of this nation's public forests; it is on those who suggest that it continue. One thing is clear, the timber industry has badly overstayed its welcome on our federal public lands.

It is time to protect America's public forests, for our families and for our future.

## The State Integrated Water and Resource Planning Committee--"Why Are They Here?"

by Robert Schneider

*As we told you in the last Sierran, the New Mexico Legislative Interim Integrated Water and Resource Planning Committee has begun to meet monthly to discuss the present drought and how the State should address the matter.*

*We asked for a few good water volunteers to track this emerging legislative emphasis on the conservation, planning, and allocation of our very limited water resources. The Chapter needs to know the legislative concerns and, perhaps more importantly, the interests of the individual legislators regarding water. This is only the second year of this Interim Committee and the first regular 60-day session for the Legislature to look hard at this issue following extensive summer and fall deliberations.*

*Robert Schneider of Santa Fe attended the August meeting in Santa Fe and filed the accompanying report.*

*If you would like to follow this Committee or to work on other aspects of the water issue, please call George Grossman (982-1024) or Doug Finser (662-5204).*

Having been asked by Lionel Soracco of the Santa Fe Group to monitor these meetings for the Sierra Club, I attended the August 8 meeting in Santa Fe. Since I gleaned very little from the meeting, my comments are brief.

Shortly after I sat down, I asked myself the question, "Why am I here?" By the meeting's end, the question had expanded to "Why are they here?" It just wasn't clear to me after some five hours what the various Committee members had picked up from the participants.

Perhaps Tom Turney, the State Engineer, did dispense some significant information regarding what his office was planning to do regarding the reworking of water laws in the State of New Mexico.

Jennifer Salisbury, Secretary of Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources, sought to describe the Governor's "Drought Response Policy." After listening for an hour and a half, I was unable to discern what that policy might be. Repeatedly throughout her presentation, she pleaded for the Committee's input. But I did learn that the Governor has issued some sort of executive order regarding water conservation in which the Interstate Stream Commission was assigned an important role.

The Interstate Stream Commission was ably represented by J. Phelps White, the Chairman, who gave a presentation in which he described the Commission's role, duties, responsibilities, and authority. It would seem to me that this fundamental boilerplate information could have been passed on in written remarks and the time perhaps better spent in discussing more timely issues before the Commission. When asked later by one of the Committee members how the Commission intended to respond to the role assigned them by the Governor, Mr. White asked, "What executive order?" Typically, the Governor's office had apparently failed to consult with the affected agency before issuing the order!

## New Mexico Congressmen Strongly Support Mexican Wolf Reintroduction

by Julie Hicks

During the recent appropriations debates, representatives from New Mexico and Arizona led the fight for continued funding of the Mexican wolf recovery program. Bi-partisan support from the southwest was obvious as New Mexico's Steven Schiff (Rep., 1st Dist.), New Mexico's Bill Richardson (Dem., 3rd Dist.), and Arizona's Ed Pastor (Dem., 2nd Dist.) all wrote letters to House Chair of the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, Ralph Regula, stating their support for the program and requesting appropriate funding to keep the program on track. The funding mark-ups in both houses contain adequate budgets for the recovery program to move forward.

Special thanks to all the Sierra Club activists who made these letters possible. It was your letters and phone calls that showed our representatives how important wolf reintroduction is to their own constituents. Keep up the good work and, if you haven't already done so, call and thank your representative for his support.

### What Happened to the Final EIS?

The US Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) is now a full two and one half years behind the court-declared schedule for a final decision on wolf reintroduction! After moving the target date for completion of a reintroduction plan from May 1994 (as agreed upon in court) to March 1995 and then to spring 1996, we finally thought they were serious when the FWS repeatedly announced that the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) would be released in July of 1996.

As of this printing, no such plan has been released.

The monitoring committee, which was set up as a result of the 1990 Wolf Action Group lawsuit to oversee the progress of the recovery program, sent an informal notice to FWS expressing their concern over the delays. After several months, there has been no response.

As you can see, there is clearly something political going

on here. Could it be that 1996 is an election year?

Regardless of the motivation behind the inaction at FWS they are now jeopardizing the program. Each additional year these wolves spend in captivity puts their future more at risk. In addition, if we don't get a Record of Decision (ROD) this year, we might never see wolves back in the wildlands of New Mexico!

Due to the month necessary for printing and posting in the Federal Register and the thirty day minimum period between release of the FEIS and the ROD, we probably won't see a decision until after the election and possibly not until next year. If Dole were to appoint the next Secretary of the Interior, the effect would likely threaten the very existence of a Mexican Wolf Recovery Program. We can avoid that unacceptable outcome, but we need everyone's help.

### Write a Letter

Please write a strong, yet polite letter to the Assistant Secretary of the Interior, George Frampton. Ask him to look into the delay of the Mexican Wolf Final EIS and urge him to use his influence to seek the immediate release of this document. Tell him how frustrated you are with this delay and stress the importance of getting the Mexican wolf, the rarest and most critically endangered wolf in the world, on the ground in the Spring of 1997. Ask him to use his influence to make an expedient and long overdue final decision on Mexican wolf reintroduction. His address is:

George Frampton  
Assistant Secretary of the Interior  
Department of Interior  
1849 C St., NW  
Washington, DC 20240  
(202) 208-7351



## Sustainable Albuquerque News--Building Momentum

by Susan Gorman

The possibilities for involvement in the Sustainability movement are expanding at a great rate! Interest in sustainability is growing as more people become aware of the impacts of continuing growth on the Albuquerque Area. The story in the July/August *Sierra* briefly covered the plans for regional transit, the Cost of Growth Study and South Valley initiatives. It ended with a report on the progress the Sustainable Albuquerque Team is making.

The Team members have completed the writing of the position statement and the Albuquerque Group ExCom has given approval (see page 6 for full text). We also have developed an action plan with tasks of all sizes and complexities. We could sure use some more help, so if you want to keep Albuquerque livable, join us!

### Regional Transit Coming Soon?

If you are wishing for a way to leave your car at home or avoid buying a new one, come to the General Meeting on September 16. The City of Albuquerque Transit Department will discuss Regional Transit, answer questions about the exciting plans being formulated, and explain how we can help. Come and bring friends! Meanwhile, try riding the bus.

### What's the Cost of Growth?

To respond to the Memorial passed by the 1996 Legislature, the Local Government Division of the Department of Finance and Administration is continuing to study the costs and benefits of growth in New Mexico.

At the initial Roundtable Discussion held in early June, participants worked to create a common set of information about population growth and economic development in New Mexico communities. We each provided information based on personal knowledge and world view. We each told stories to illustrate the role of state, regional and local agencies in the growth and development process and to identify what works and what doesn't. We finished with a discussion of the costs and benefits of growth.

Everyone felt that the Roundtable had generated plenty of ideas and good dialogue and that more discussions like this would be useful and productive. The Local Government Division compiled a list of resources and distributed notes from the meeting.

The Sustainable Albuquerque Team plans to follow up with Ken Hughes, Local Government Division, as the study continues.

### The Search for Sustainability Indicators

The City of Albuquerque's Sustainable Community Committee has been meeting since February and, after a slow start, is getting

organized. The Committee will gather information about initiatives and projects within the City Departments which address sustainability, develop sustainability indicators for Albuquerque, and learn what other communities are doing to become more sustainable. Based on this research and on public input, the Committee will make recommendations to the City Council and the Mayor to move Albuquerque toward sustainability.

As the *Sierra* goes to press, the Committee has organized a special workshop on sustainability with presentations from nationally known experts to enable the Committee members, City Councilors, Heads of City Departments, County Commissioners and other community leaders to learn together.

As the Albuquerque Group's representative on this Committee, I am working to be an effective voice to encourage adoption of a position as close as possible to the one we have just adopted.

### Mesa Del Sol

The State Land Office agreed to respond to our tough questions about the plans for the Mesa Del Sol development. The Sustainable Albuquerque Team is optimistic about the possibility that development of this 13,000 acre site can offer alternatives to continuing the westward sprawl toward the Rio Puerco.

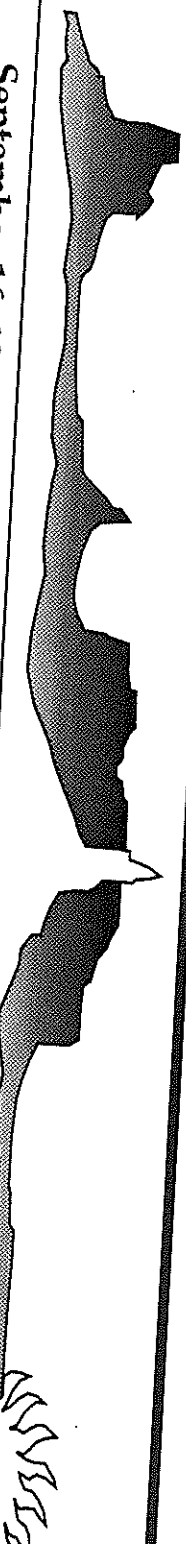
Look for more on Mesa Del Sol in the next *Sierra* and plan to attend the General meeting in November to hear what Tom Leatherwood and Harry Relkin, the coordinators for the project, have to say.

The Sustainable Albuquerque Team is building momentum and we need YOU! Contact Susan Gorman, 2226B Wyoming NE, #272, ABQ, NM 87112, phone 505-265-3231, FAX: 505-256-0373, Email bblaitb@aol.com

### Parking Lot Fundraiser Starts Sept. 6

The State Fair will be in Albuquerque September 6 to 22. As we do every year, we will man the parking lot to raise funds for the work of the Albuquerque Group.

Volunteers are still needed. If you can spare a few hours to help the Albuquerque Group, please call the office, 265-5506, and leave your name and number.



**September 16, 1996 General Meeting**  
**7:30 PM, UNM Law School, Room 2401**  
**Regional Transit Coming Soon!**

If you are wishing for a way to leave your car at home or avoid buying a new one, come to this meeting! Ann Watkins, Director of the City of Albuquerque Transit Department, will discuss Regional Transit, answer questions about the exciting plans being formulated and explain how we can help.

Come and bring friends! Meanwhile, try riding the bus.

**General Meetings are held on the third Monday of every month at 7:30 PM at the UNM Law School, 2401, on the corner of Mountain Road and Stanford NE. UNM is currently enforcing parking restrictions. I park at the metered slots (bring quarters!) or on the street or buy a one-time only permit (\$3) at the Law Lib. Bring your own cups for refreshments during the break.**

## **Position on Sustainability**

### *Definition:*

Sustainability shall be defined as the capability to meet the vital human needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own vital needs, while preserving and protecting the area's ecosystems, cultural and natural resources. Sustainability means that we must live within the limits of the resources in the Albuquerque area.

### *Principles:*

We support the basic ecological principles of Preservation, Conservation and Restoration.

We acknowledge the essential need to preserve and protect healthy ecosystems, cultural and natural resources and traditional communities. We acknowledge that the finite supply of many resources necessitates constraints on growth and limits on satisfaction of non-vital human demands.

### *Mission:*

-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.

-Establish a set of policies to be used as guidelines in developing this Strategy.

### *Goals:*

-Foster pride and love of Albuquerque, built and natural, by all citizens of the area.

-Move towards recognition that we must live within the ecosystem, not beyond it.

-Strive to preserve the biological diversity of ecosystems within the area--more is better!

-Advocate City, Regional and State-wide Land Use Planning.

-Advocate changes, in other laws and institutions, which are identified as being necessary to promote sustainability.

-Encourage innovation in architectural design and community planning.

## **CALENDAR**

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

Sept 3	Sustainable Albuquerque Meeting, 7:00 PM. Call Susan Gorman, 265-3231
Sept 4	Mexican Wolf Coalition, 7:30 PM
Sept 4	Deadline for agenda items for Group ExCom. Call Susan Gorman at 265-3231
Sept 6-22	State Fair--Parking Lot Fundraiser. See article, page 5.
Sept 9	Group ExCom, 7:00 PM
Sept 14-15	Chapter ExCom Retreat, Black Range Lodge, Kingston.
Sept 16	General Meeting, UNM Law School, Rm 2401, 7:30 PM.
Sept 18	Anne Watkins, Director of City Transit Department, on the Regional Transit Plan. See notice on this page.
Sept 23	Deadline for agenda items for Conservation Committee.
October 2	Call Richard Barish, 247-8079
October 5	Conservation Committee Meeting, 7:00 PM
October 5	Mexican Wolf Coalition, 7:30 PM
October 9	Wilderness and Culture Workshop, Santa Fe. See article on page 1.
October 9	Deadline for agenda items for Group ExCom. Call Susan Gorman at 265-3231
October 14	Group ExCom, 7:00 PM
October 15	Deadline for articles for Nov/Dec <i>Rio Grande Sierran</i>
October 19	<i>Dia del Rio</i> --Celebrating the Rio Grande River. Call Julie Stephens of the NM Riparian Council (505-877-7716) for more information.
October 21	General Meeting, UNM Law School, Room 2401, 7:30 PM. John Talberth on Southwestern Wildlands. See notice on this page.
October 23	Deadline for agenda items for Conservation Committee.
October 28	Call Richard Barish, 247-8079
Nov. 5	Conservation Committee Meeting, 7:00 PM
Nov. 5	Election Day--Be Sure to Vote!

**October 21, 1996 General Meeting**  
**7:30 PM, UNM Law School, Room 2401**  
**Return Engagement!**  
**Mapping Southwestern Wildlands**

The Forest Conservation Council is coordinating the Southwestern Initiative to develop map-based wildlands recovery strategies for each of the Southwest's 16 distinct bioregions. A broad-based alliance of 25 scientific, community and environmental organizations in Arizona, Colorado, and New Mexico is involved in this initiative. Come and join John Talberth, Director of the FCC, to learn more about this exciting project and how you can participate.

## **1997 Executive Committee Election**

Julie Hicks and Jack Humphrey constitute the Albuquerque Group's Nominating Committee for the Executive Committee election. If you are interested in running for the Albuquerque Group Executive Committee, contact Julie at 7832 or Jack at 243-5319.

## **Group Directory**

### **1996 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

207 San Pedro NE  
 Albuquerque, NM 87108  
 Office Telephone: 265-5506  
 Fax: 256-0373

Group Chair	Susan Gorman	265-3231
Vice Chair	Nick Persampieri	281-7844
Secretary	Blair Brown	265-3231
Treasurer	Kathy Love	243-5315
	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!

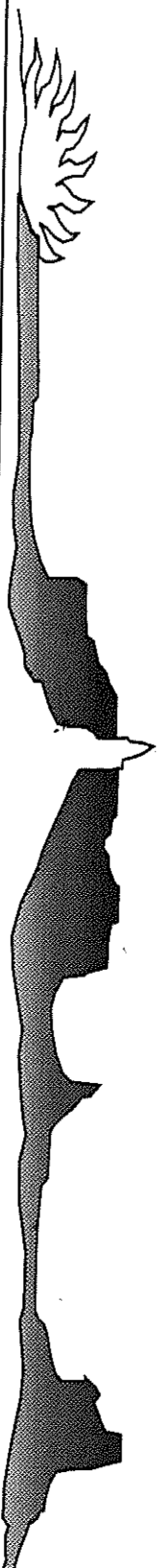
### **ADMINISTRATION**

Office Organizer	OPEN	
Books/Calendars	Larry Compton	899-0679
Information Technology	Blair Brown	265-3231
Media Coordinator	Julie Hicks	345-7832
Membership Newsletter	Barbara Stone	265-5304
Outings	OPEN	
Phone Tree	Stan Kauchak	839-4301
	Jean Valentine	869-2090
Political Chair	Co-Chair--OPEN	
Programs	Ron Grobeck	296-0944
	Leslie Lazaga	296-0944

### **CONSERVATION**

Conservation Chair	Richard Barish	247-8079
Campaign Team Leaders		
East Mountain	Nick Persampieri	281-7845
Petroglyph National Monument	Ike Eastwood	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	243-5319
	Kathy Love	247-4353
	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.

Sun 15 Sep Leisure Miles: 3 Car: 3

Boca Negra Arroyo Hike

Petroglyph National Monument

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

Sat 14 Sep Moderate Miles: 4-6 Car: 120

Ponderosa Exploratory Hike

There is some interesting landscape just west and north 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 Petenich 255-1497

Sun 15 Sep Leisure Miles: 3 Car: 3

Oxbow Hike, Rio Grande Bosque

Various waterfowl, some hawks, and other wildlife can be seen in this wetland within Albuquerque.

## Sierra Club To Participate in Petroglyph Coalition

by Nick Persampieri,  
Vice-Chair

The Albuquerque Group has agreed, subject to Chapter and National approval, to participate in a coalition of Native American, social justice, and environmental organizations created to protect Petroglyph National Monument.

Other groups which have been participating in the Coalition's meetings include Friends of the Albuquerque Petroglyphs, the National Indian Youth Council, Youth Action, Southwest Organizing Project, Tonantzin Land Institute, Central New Mexico Audubon, National Parks and Conservation Association, In Defense of Animals, and Sandoval Five Indian Pueblos.

The Coalition has adopted the following statement of purpose:

*The purpose of the Petroglyph National Monument Protection Coalition is to promote protection and public understanding of the natural, cultural, and spiritual resources and values of Petroglyph National Monument, which have profound importance to indigenous peoples and the nation as a whole. We oppose desecration of this area, which will contribute to cultural and spiritual genocide of indigenous peoples.*

The Coalition intends to concentrate its initial efforts on stopping the City of Albuquerque's plans to build Paseo del Norte and Unser Boulevard through the Monument. It is the Coalition's position that construction of the roads would desecrate an area that is sacred to Native American peoples, violate the Congressional act which established the Monument and other laws governing National Parks and sacred sites, create a dangerous precedent for other National Parks and promote speculative, unsustainable sprawl development.

Ike Eastvold and I are serving on the Coalition's coordinating committee and Ike is also serving on the Coalition's education committee. Assistance of Club members is needed. Anyone interested in becoming involved is encouraged to call Ike at 255-7679 or me at 281-7845.

Three hours long, the hike will begin at 9:00 AM. Contact leader for details. Leader: David Morrison 344-8693

Sun 22 Sep Leisure Miles: 3 Car: 3

Piedras Marcadas Hike

Petroglyph National Monument

Tremendous variety and unique petroglyphs not found elsewhere in the Monument. Meet at 9:00 AM. Bring camera, binoculars and sturdy shoes. RSVP. Leader: Ike Eastvold 255-7679

Sun 6 Oct Leisure Miles: 3 Car: 3

Rinconada Canyon w/Volcanoes Option Hike, Petroglyph National Monument

We will hike up Rinconada Canyon to view thousands of petroglyphs. Hikers can return to their cars, or take the option of continuing to the volcanoes. Bring sack lunch for the volcano option. Meet at 9:00 AM. Bring camera, binoculars and sturdy shoes. RSVP. Leader: Ike Eastvold 255-7679

Sun 13 Oct Leisure Miles: 3 Car: 3

Geological Windows Hike

Petroglyph National Monument

The petroglyphs were first created about 1000 BC. The age of petroglyphs can be estimated from the darkness of the patina; comparison of style, content, and execution to the rock art of other areas; comparison of pottery design to petroglyph design; and the superimposition of one petroglyph on top of another. This area of the park is secluded in a near wilderness like setting. Meet at 9:00 AM. Bring camera, binoculars and sturdy shoes. RSVP. Leader: Ike Eastvold 255-7679

Sat 19 Oct Moderate Miles: 4 Car: 120

Las Conchas Trail Hike

A beautiful hike in spring, summer, fall and X/C ski in winter, expect an invigorating hike and crisp

## ACTION ON PROPOSED GOLF COURSE DELAYED

by Nick Persampieri,  
Vice-Chair

Members of the Albuquerque Group residing in the East Mountain Area have teamed up with other East Mountain groups to battle plans for a golf course at the infamous Pa-Ko subdivision on State Highway 14, North of Sandia Park. The developer plans to utilize water purchased from the Estancia Basin to irrigate the proposed 27 hole course, which would be located in the Sandia Basin.

At a hearing of the Bernalillo County Planning Commission on August 7, 1996, hydrologist Grace Haggerty, planning professional Barbara Herrington, other concerned citizens, and I convinced the Commission to defer action on the developer's request for a special use permit for the golf course pending the developer's submission of more detailed information concerning water use and site design. The developer's agent was unsuccessful in seeking to justify the proposed water use on the grounds that the water, which would come from the King family ranch, is currently being used to grow corn!

Area residents are concerned about the proposed profligate water use, potential groundwater contamination from runoff of pesticides and fertilizers, increased traffic, and possible destruction of native vegetation. Residents also oppose the plan because it includes residential lots which violate the minimum lot size requirements of applicable County plans and ordinances. The lot sizes can only be justified by giving the developer credit for the golf course acreage as open space! This would create a dangerous precedent. Anyone interested in joining the battle is encouraged to call me at 281-7845.

temperatures. Lunch at Los Oplos in Jemez springs. Leader: Stan 839-4301

Sun 20 Oct Leisure Miles: 3 Car: 3

Rio Grande Bosque Hike

We will hike to the bosque north of Central. Three miles and three hours. Hike will start at 9:00 AM. Contact leader for details. Leader: David Morrison 344-8693

Sat-Sun 26-27 Oct Leisure-Moderate

Miles: 5 Car: 400

White Sands National Monument

Full Moon Camp Out

This is an exceptionally easy hike through the sand dunes to the park's only back country camping area. Expect the full moon to magically light the dunes on this one-of-a-kind camp out. Sunscreen and sun glasses are a must for the hikes that will be taken during the day. Contact the leader for more details. Leader: Tom Leck 256-7217

## June 30, 1996 WILLIAMS LAKE TRAIL

by Georgia Jannuzzi

Fourteen very compatible trail "trekkers" representing Magdalena, Albuquerque, Gallup, Los Alamos, El Prado and Arroyo Seco started the day with breakfast at Michael's Kitchen in Taos. We started the hike just below Al's Run at the Taos Ski Basin. Large clouds obscured the sun, making it a very pleasant day to enjoy the mountains. From the time we left the parking lot, the wild flowers became more spectacular the further we went.

We encountered cool sparkling waters cascading over rocks, a most delightful sound. As there at last had been rain after our dry spell, the forest smells were delectable, clean and fresh. This hiker had only been here when fluffy white stuff covered the ground, hiding all of the summer wonders. This was a whole new experience. Among the sights were colorful green rocks, fantastic hues of yellow, orange, and brown mixed with some greenlichen in tree stumps left standing from avalanches. There were many scenic photo-ops. As you approach the top ridge which overlooks the lake, one is surrounded by giant peaks of beauty. It was here that Mother Nature sprinkled some of her life-giving moisture, but everyone had been prepared.

The exquisite tall pines in the area acted as our umbrella while we enjoyed lunch. Someone before us had left behind a loaf of bread which the birds were making a great feast of. This enabled us to view some different species that I am sure we otherwise would not have seen. Time passed too quickly in this serene valley, and all too soon it seemed we had to return down the mountain, bringing wonderful memories with us.

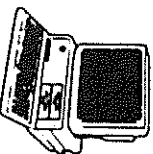
I would like to thank Mary Ann Elder for helping us identify plants and rocks along the way, and Michael Brown for choosing this remarkable place of beauty to explore.

If you were not there, we hope you will join us on our next venture.

## Western New Mexico Section

The Western New Mexico Section will be planning some activities at the last minute during the next two months. Included are a Mount Taylor hike and a camping trip to Chaco Canyon in October. For information, or to add your own suggestions, call Barbara Brandt at 488-5233 or Barbara Leonard at 862-7915.

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



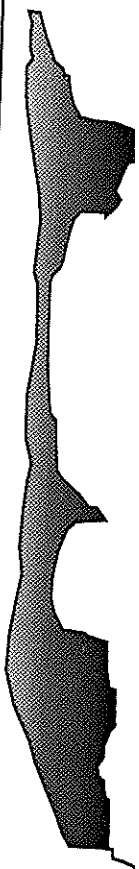
- ◆ Company Intelligence
- ◆ Market Research
- ◆ Legal Research

899-2975  
Fax: 898-9570

## Wet Pavement? Out of Control Sprinklers?

Call the Wasted Water Hotline

768-3640



## From the Outings Chair Don't Get Lost Before The Trailhead

by Kathy Sunday, Outings Coordinator

We left El Paso early Saturday with 11 eager hikers, bound for a 12-mile dayhike in the Railroad Canyon area of the Gila Wilderness. At the trailhead, only nine people were still with us. How this happened teaches a few lessons for trip leaders and participants alike.

Our caravan was six vehicles. On the Interstate north from El Paso, we pretty much drove at the speed limit (okay, the speed limit plus five miles per hour or so). We stayed fairly well together, and all six vehicles made the Hillsboro exit within a minute of each other. We were together when we started west on Highway 152 toward the mountains.

My husband Terry was driving the lead vehicle. He really enjoys driving on winding mountain roads. When we hit Kingston, he went into serious sports car mode (in a Runner!). Upshifting, downshifting, double-clutching, heel-and-toeing, he was driving like Michael Schumacher at the Nurburgring. The rest of the group was left far behind. We stopped at Emory Pass to let everyone catch up. The Railroad Canyon trailhead is only a few miles further on, and it's marked by a small sign. The spirited drive from the pass to the trailhead again separated the group. The first three vehicles made the turn into the trailhead parking area. The second three, who were a switchback or two behind, missed it and went sailing on toward Silver City. Realizing that half the group had missed the trailhead, we set off in hot pursuit and managed to intercept two of the vehicles. We never caught the third.

It's important to remember that each hike officially begins and ends at the trailhead. The trip leader is not responsible for getting people to the trailhead, nor for anything that happens on the drive to or from the trailhead. However, to help make outings enjoyable for everyone and to avoid disappointments, consider these guidelines:

- 1) Carpool as much as possible. Not only does this reduce the chances of the group getting separated, it's also easier on the environment. Remember, it's customary for each rider to contribute a fair share of fuel costs.
- 2) If you are caravanning, make sure the group is together at each road intersection. In our case, we could have stationed someone along the road to make sure everyone made the turn to the trailhead parking area.
- 3) Brief everyone thoroughly at the meeting place on the directions to the trailhead, and update progress at every opportunity thereafter. Give each driver a map of the route to the trailhead, and make sure she or he knows what landmarks or signs to look for along the way. Each time you stop, point out on the map where you are and where the next turn is.
- 4) Remember that Murphy's Law applies on your trip to the trailhead just as surely as it does in most other things: If anything can go wrong, it will go wrong. Your best bet is to anticipate the unexpected and plan for it as much as you can.

## OUTINGS

**August 30-Sept. 2 - Labor Day Middle Fork of the Gila Backpack**

Place: Gila Wilderness, New Mexico

Class: Moderately Strenuous

Limit: 12, Reservations and Leader Approval Required

Leader: Laurence Gibson, 594-7342

We will depart El Paso Friday night and drive to our trailhead at Double Springs. On Saturday, we will hike trail 53 to the Meadows where we will spend the first night. On Sunday, we will climb out of the canyon of the Middle Fork on trail 28 and then follow trails 156, 29, and 730 past Garcia Spring to our campsite on the Middle Fork, below Clear Creek. On Monday, we will hike out trail 101 to our cars. Both backcountry campsites will be on the Middle Fork of the Gila, a dependable water source. Come celebrate the end of summer with a stroll through the heart of the Gila Wilderness.

**Aug. 30-Sept 2 - Latir Peak Exploratory Backpack**

Place: Latir Peak Wilderness, New Mexico

Class: Moderate +

Limit: Reservations and Leader Approval Required

Leader: Wesley Leonard, 747-6649

Although most hikers will depart El Paso on Friday for the long drive to northern New Mexico, the outing will officially start early Saturday morning at the trailhead outside Questa, NM. It is anticipated that trail mileage will average 7-10 miles per day with the maximum elevation gain being in the 2000-3000 range. This will be an alpine hike with elevations reaching more the 12,500, in above timberline conditions. Although the El Paso Group has never visited this area, it is supposed to be one of the most scenic in northern New Mexico. This should be a good outing for the more experienced backpacker who wants to explore new areas. This outing is sure to be filled, so please call early for reservations.

**Sept. 8 - Sleeping Lady Hills Dayhike**

Place: West of Las Cruces, NM

Class: Easy

Limit: 16, Reservations and Leader Approval Required

Leader: Alice Anderson, (505) 523-5179

The Sleeping Lady Hills are a low, gently rolling desert range west of Las Cruces. We will start at the north end and follow an intermittent cow path along the ridge line. Distance is from 2 to 5 miles round trip, depending on group interest. The weather may be hot, so participants should bring 2 liters of water per person. Sudden thunderstorms are possible.

## GROUP DIRECTORY

<b>Chairman</b>	Wesley Leonard	747-6649
<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/Publicity</b>	Ted Meritt	852-3011 tmeritt@aol.com
<b>Member/Admin.</b>	Bill Phillips	772-6503
<b>Member</b>	Richard Rieder	544-5659 ar303@rgfn.epcc.edu
<b>Member</b>	Trish Puente	833-7585
<b>Franklin Mtns</b>	John Sproul	545-5157 ae494@rgfn.epcc.edu
<b>Hospitality</b>	Barbara Meritt	852-3011 tmeritt@aol.com
<b>Inner City Outings</b>	Richard Rieder	544-5659 ar303@rgfn.epcc.edu
<b>Interns</b>	Ron Sissel	533-7723 rkissel@utep.edu
	Chris Gibson	591-4100
<b>LORAX</b>	Betsy Julian	544-5741 76251.2520@compuserve.com
<b>Membership</b>	Bill Phillips	772-8508
<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
	Ted Meritt	852-3011 tmeritt@aol.com
<b>Wildlands Project</b>	Joe Rodriguez	833-9655
<b>Chapter ExCom</b>	Ted Meritt	852-3011 tmeritt@aol.com
	Mike Seidensticker	544-5741 76251.2520@compuserve.com
	Jim Bell	581-8864

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

### Membership:

SIERRA CLUB  
800 S. Piedras  
El Paso, TX 79983

### LORAX information:

Betsy Julian  
615 E. Baltimore  
El Paso, TX 79902

**Sept 21 - Rim Trail Dayhike**

Place: Sacramento Mountains, New Mexico

Class: Moderate/Strenuous

Limit: 12, Reservations and Leader Approval Required

Leader: Jim Bell, 594-2501 (W); 581-8864 (H)

This will be an early fall dayhike on a 14 mile stretch of the beautiful Rim Trail south of Cloudcroft. While this is a long dayhike and at elevations of 8,500 to 9,000 feet, the pace will be moderate and suitable for many hikers anxious to hit the trails after a long, hot summer. Please call Jim for more information and reservations.

**Sept 21-22 - Chiricahua National Monument Carcamp**

Place: Chiricahua National Monument

Class: Easy

Limit: Reservations and Leader Approval Required

Leader: Ann Falknor, 833-9162 (H)

We will leave El Paso at around 7am and drive approximately 260 miles (4 1/2 hours) to our campsite. We will arrive at 10:30-11am having gained an hour of time (Arizona does not observe daylight savings time). We will claim our campsites where we will find tables, grills, restrooms, and potable water. We will spend the day Saturday and Sunday viewing the unusual rock formations on the easy and well maintained trails of the monument. We can expect pleasantly warm days and cool nights. This is a great outing for families.

**Sept. 28-29 - 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 will camp overlooking the Tularosa Basin thousands of feet below. On Sunday, we'll hike another 17 miles along the crest and then drop 27 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 those more experienced wanting a leisurely and scenic weekend.

**Oct. 5 - Crest Trail Key Exchange Dayhike**

Place: White Mountains Wilderness, New Mexico

Class: Moderate/Strenuous

Limit: 16, Reservations and Leader Approval Required

Leader: Jim Bell, 594-2501 (W); 581-8864 (H)

This key exchange dayhike in the alpine country outside of Ruidoso, N.M. sold be especially lovely as fall arrives this October. One group will start at the Crest Trailhead below Monjeau Lookout while the other group will begin at the trailhead near the Ski Apache parking area. Distance is approximately 5-6 miles at elevations of 9,000 to over 10,000 feet. Please call Jim for more information and reservations.

**October 11-19 - Thunder River-Deer Creek Falls Backpack**

Place: North Rim, Grand Canyon National Park, AZ

Class: Moderately Strenuous +

Limit: 6, Reservations and Leader Approval Required





9

Leader: Rolin Wickenden, 534-6594 (W)

We will depart El Paso on Friday evening and drive to the North Rim of the Grand Canyon. After a day of dayhiking and touring the North Rim scenic view points, we will drive on dirt roads to our remote trailhead at Monument Point (7200 feet). The backpack is a 5 day loop, spending 4 nights in the Canyon. Campsites will be at Upper Tapeats camp, Lower Tapeats camp, and two nights camping at large in Surprise Valley. Our two nights in Surprise Valley will be a dry camp, and we will have to carry water. Scenic points of interest include Thunder River, one of the shortest rivers in the world, and beautiful Deer Creek Falls. This is a moderately strenuous to strenuous backpack on unmaintained trails in a remote part of the Grand Canyon. Mileage is about 28 miles with a 5200 foot loss and a 5200 foot gain. If we get a large response, a lottery may be necessary to decide who will go on the trip.

#### Oct. 20 - Florida Peak

Place: Florida Mountains, NM

Class: Strenuous

Limit: 8, Reservations and Leader Approval Required

Leader: Alice Anderson, (505) 523-5179

This outing will take us to the 7,448 foot peak of the rugged Florida Mts. south of Denning. We will follow Windmill Canyon on the NE side. Distance is about 3 miles round trip; elevation gain is 2,600 feet. The upper part is very steep and covered with loose rock at the angle of repose, so participants must be light-footed and must have good balance.

#### October 26-27 - Meyers Cabin/Vicks Peak Backpack

Place: Apache Kid Wilderness, New Mexico

Class: Moderately Strenuous

Limit: 10, Reservations and Leader Approval Required

Leader: Wesley Leonard, 747-6649

We will leave El Paso early Saturday morning for the three-and-a-half hour drive to the trailhead in the Apache Kid Wilderness. The last part of the drive is on a primitive dirt road where high clearance or 4x4 vehicles will be required. Our hike to the camping spot at Meyers Cabin is steep and rough with 2500 feet of elevation gain. After setting up camp, we will then dayhike to the summit of San Mateo Mountain to enjoy spectacular views of the Gila country to the west. Sunday will feature an early morning off trail climb of Vicks Peak

with equally spectacular view to the east. Our return to the trailhead will be after lunch via the same route we took coming in. Water must be carried either all or part of the way depending on the condition of the springs. Please call early for information and reservations.

#### October 27-31 - Grand Canyon Backpack

Place: Grand Canyon National Park

Class: Strenuous

Limit: 6, Reservations and Leader Approval Required

Leader: Ann Falknor, 833-9162 (H)

We will start at the Bright Angel Trailhead at 9am on Sunday October 27 and hike approximately 4.6 miles to our campsite for 2 nights at Indian Garden. We can spend the remainder of the day and Monday hiking to Plateau Point, the Colorado River, nearby ruins, etc. Tuesday we will hike via the Tonto Trail approximately 11 miles to our campsite at Monument Creek. Wednesday we will hike via the Tonto Trail approximately 3.5 miles to our campsite at Hermit Creek. We can spend the remainder of the day hiking and resting for the Thursday 7.8 mile hike out of the canyon via Hermit Trail. This is a strenuous hike for experienced backpackers only.

## OUTING REPORT

#### McKnight Peak - July 19-20 (Alice Anderson)

July rains produced a kaleidoscope of wild flowers on McKnight Ridge on 19-20 July. We counted 34 species, comprising 7 white, 5 pink, one red, 4 scarlet, one orange, 8 yellow, and 8 blue-flowered species. There had not been enough rain to fill the lake, however, the lowest part of the lake contained only wet mud, clumps of a soft, short, bright green grass, and a green tree frog. A brief afternoon thundershower drove us into our tents. We enjoyed bright sunshine after dinner before another thundershower sent us to bed. On our way on Sunday, we stopped to enjoy the view from McKnight Peak and, further on, to eat the wild raspberries we had skipped over on our way in. Participants were Ian Hanna, Cheryl Frey, Barbara Richardson, Julie Schmidt, Rafaela Schuller, and leader Alice Anderson. Thanks to everyone for good cheer and good group spirit.

# News from the Pajarito (Los Alamos) Group

## STATUS

The Pajarito Group is to report to the Chapter ExCom at the Chapter Retreat, September 14-15, in Kingston, NM, with our Bylaws and a list of Officers. Further organization will then be determined by the Chapter ExCom. Members interested in attending the retreat should contact Michael Smith (662-2380).

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The 7 members of an interim Executive Committee have been selected, and the Committee has chosen its officers. Committee members and officers are:

Chair, Edwina Lieb (662-4013)

Vice-Chair, Walt Mataska (672-9212)

Secretary, Abe Jacobson (672-9579)

Tinka Gammel (662-4856)

Terry Phillips (662-4838)

Cathrie Miller (662-5545)

Michael Smith (662-2380)

ExCom members will hold office until January 1997. Elections will be held in the Fall of 1996 to determine the new Group ExCom.

## PERMANENT COMMITTEES

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

Conservation: Steve Koch (662-4856)

Environmental Education: Janet Gerwin (662-9568)

Membership: Terry Phillips (662-4838)

Newsletter: Michael Smith (662-2380)

Outings: Tinka Gammel (662-4856)

Phone Tree: Lonna Evans (662-2621)

Political: Michael Smith (662-2380)

Publicity: Janet Gerwin (662-9568)

Anyone with a strong interest in forming another Committee, please notify Michael Smith (662-2380).

## CONSERVATION COMMITTEE NEWS

The Conservation Committee has identified 7 issues. They, with the member responsible for each, are:

Community Planning - Michael Smith (662-2380)

Mining - Abe Jacobson (672-9579)

Forest - Steve Koch (662-4856)

Bandelier - Sue Bams (662-4856)

Water

Grazing

Wildlife

Two other issues of immediate concern are the salvage logging in the

Santa Fe National Forest after the Dome fire, and the Elk Meadows Subdivision development in the watershed above Bandelier.

## OUTINGS NEWS

Ghost Ranch Hike/Tour, Saturday, October 5, 1996. For more information, contact Warren Lieb (662-7966).

Erosion Control and Firebreak Maintenance in the Jemez Mountains, with Bill Armstrong of the Espanola Ranger District, in October, dates/time to be scheduled. For more information, contact Michael Smith (662-2380).

An outings leader training course will be organized in the early Fall. Call Tinka Gammel (662-4856) if you are interested in becoming a leader.

## MEETINGS

### September

*General:* Wednesday, September 4, 1996, 7:00 PM at Mesa Public Library. Dorothy Hoard of the Los Alamos Pathways Association will present a slide show/talk titled The Los Alamos Trails Network.

*Conservation Committee:* Wednesday, September 11, 1996, 7:00 PM at Mesa Public Library.

*Executive Committee:* Wednesday, September 18, 1996, 7:00 PM at Mesa Public Library.

### October

*General:* Wednesday, October 2, 1996, 7:00 PM at Mesa Public Library. Aubrey Owen of Ghost Ranch will present a slide show/talk titled Relating To The Community To Solve Environmental and Ecological Issues.

*Conservation Committee:* Wednesday, October 9, 1996, 7:00 PM at Mesa Public Library.

*Executive Committee:* Wednesday, October 16, 1996, 7:00 PM at Mesa Public Library.

## MISCELLANEOUS

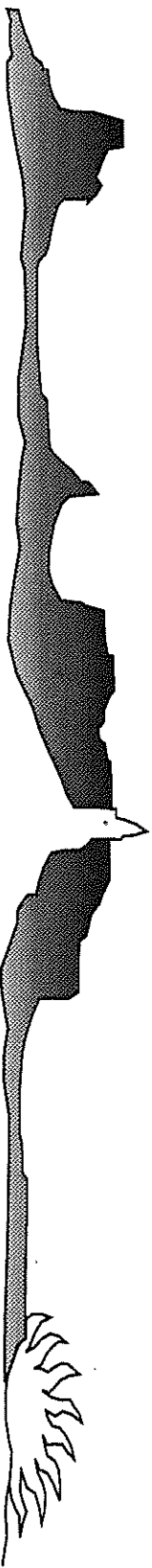
*Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup Program in Los Alamos!* The Pajarito Group is organizing to Adopt-A-Highway in the County. Call Sherry or Terry Phillips (662-4838) if you are interested in participating.

*Help save our Forests!* An e-mail list to notify people of meetings, topics of interest, has been formed. Send e-mail to Terry Phillips (phillips@concentric.net) if you wish to be informed via e-mail.

If anyone is interested in what the Los Alamos Pathways Association is doing, or wants to know who to write to help LAPA get things done in LA County, call Janie O'Rourke (672-1489).

For further information on the Pajarito Group and how to get involved, contact Janet Gerwin (662-9568) or Michael Smith (662-2380).

the LORAX - El Paso



## SANTA FE GROUP MEETINGS

### SANTA FE'S WATER

#### WILL IT BE THERE TOMORROW?

Tuesday, September 17, 7 PM

Craig O'Hare, City of Santa Fe's new water conservation manager, will discuss many aspects of the water crisis facing the city, including issues of growth, conservation, new ordinances, and the future. Craig also sits on the Sierra Club's Chapter Executive Committee, so he will bring an environmentalist's perspective to the meeting. Bring your questions and concerns about the city's future!

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



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

### ELECTIONS 1996

Tuesday, October 21, 7 PM

Here's an opportunity to get know your state candidates for office. We have invited our *Environmental Hero* Congressman *Bill Richardson* and the local New Mexico State Legislators whom we have endorsed: *Max Coll, Roman Maes, Nick Salazar, Nancy Rodriguez* and *Carlos Cisneros*.

Please bring yourself (most importantly!), your thoughts and questions on subjects such as these New Mexico issues of 1996:

- ☞ Water! Research and planning, mandatory statewide conservation, instream flow
- ☞ Mining Act of 1993: Defending a better law
- ☞ Abandoned mine sites: Reclaiming
- ☞ Waste dumps: Ethnicity
- ☞ Oil: Recycling
- ☞ Pollution: Criminal penalties
- ☞ Payers for development: Taxpayers? Developers? (new home owners)
- ☞ "Takings" bills
- ☞ Solar power
- ☞ New Mexico's Endangered Species list

# Santa Fe Group News

### Santa Fe Group of the Sierra Club

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

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

Chair — John Buchser *	474-7044	Political Committee—Ned Sudborough	820-1270
Vice-Chair — Jerry Bober*	827-2385	Phone Tree — Norma McCallan*	471-0005
Secretary/Treas — Lionel Soracco*	983-6715	Fundraising — Education }	open
Answering Machine — L. Soracco*	983-6715	Office — Welcomer }	positions
Chapter Representative — Barbara Johnson*	466-4935	Martha Anne Freeman *	438-0697
(alt.) Norma McCallan*	471-0005	Don Goldman *	473-2821
Conservation — Courtney White*	982-5502	* Member of the SF Group Executive Committee	
Membership — Pat Stevens	982-5051	Terms expire	
Newsletter Editor — Kay Carlson	982-3926	12/96: Bober/Freeman/Johnson/Wardwell	
Publicity — Kay Carlson	982-3926	12/97: Buchser/Goldman/McCallan/Soracco/White	
Outings — Norbert Sperlich	983-1962		
— Norma McCallan*	471-0005		

#### GROUP EXCOMM

#### ELECTIONS

Nominations for 1997 Santa Fe Group ExComm needed! A committee composed of George Grossman (982-1024), Courtney White (982-5502) and Norma McCallan (471-0005) has been named to seek candidates for our annual November election. If you are interested in running or know someone who would be a good candidate, please call one of the committee.

#### COMMITTEE MEETINGS

<b>September</b>	
24 — Conservation Committee	(Courtney White, 982-5502)
<b>October</b>	
1 — Executive Committee	(John Buchser, 474-7044)
22 — Conservation Committee	(Courtney White, 982-5502)
<b>November</b>	
5 — Executive Committee	(John Buchser, 474-7044)

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

#### WORKSHOP! WORKSHOP! WORKSHOP!

Wilderness:  
The Foundation of Culture

Multicultural perspectives on wilderness in New Mexico will be addressed in a workshop designed to promote dialogue on a proposed BLM wilderness bill for the state.

Speakers include Rep. Bill Richardson, Jim Baca, Devon Pena, Vera Norwood, Malcolm Montoya, Richard Deerrack, Lehua Lopez, Bill Calkins (BLM State Director) and many others. This should be a lively discussion!

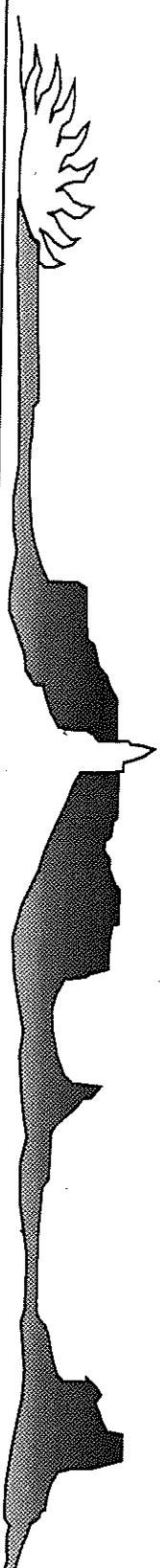
October 5, 8:30 AM to 5 PM in the Unitarian Church. For more information call Courtney White (982-5502).

#### CHANGE IN LEADERSHIP !!

Don Goldman, Chair of the Santa Fe Executive Committee, has regrettably resigned as chair, due to extensive travel in his job. Thank you, Don, for your leadership and vision.

John Buchser has been unanimously elected to fill out the rest of Don's term. Welcome, John!





## SANTA FE GROUP OUTINGS

### Sat Sun September

#### Friday, September 6 Work Day at Orilla Verde Recreation

Area (near Pilar) to remove tamarisks. BLM will supply tools. Bring gloves and lunch. Meet Orilla Verde 9 AM, or check Sierra Club office parking lot at 8 AM for carpooling. For directions, call Roberta Salazar, BLM Taos (758-4726); Dennis Peterson (586-0318, Questa)

7

Courtney White (982-5502) Archaeological Field Trip & Moderate Hike "Tipping," Classic Period Anasazi Ruin in the Jemez, near Pederal. One of the largest ruins in No NM; BLM permit limits group to 20. Dogs allowed. 4x4 vehicles needed. Call leader.

8 Art Judd (982-3212) Moderate Hike high country. 8 AM. Call leader for location.

8 Steven Janus (988-4137) Moderate (some steep slopes) Mountain Bike on "Shirley MacLaine's Road" near Atalaya. See damage and revegetation. Leave 8:30 AM.

14

Caroline Keskulla (982-9570) Easy Hike Cancelled

14

Lionel Soracco (983-6715) Strenuous Hike Pecos Baldy Lake, via Panchuela Campground. Leave 7:30 AM.

14

**\*\* Note change of date \*\*** Bob McKee (672-3426) Moderate Hike Guaje Ridge Trail, 9 mi. RT, 2500' elevation gain. Meet at pkg lot by Ashley Pond in LA at 9 AM. Meet 8 AM at Sierra office to carpool from SF.

15

Jeff Regenold (h 661-6707; w 662-9412) ISSUE HIKE

Boca del Oso Wilderness Study Area Easy/Moderate North of San Ysidro. Call for time and meeting place.

21

Norrine Sanders (984-0386) Strenuous Hike Rancho Viejo Loop, near Ski Basin. Leave 8 AM.

21

ISSUE TRIP Bill Armstrong, Española FS Ranger Distr. Drive forest road west from State Police HQ in Española, to a high saddle at 10,000' near Chicoma Peak. Easy/Moderate, much off-trail. See good & bad examples of forest health & forest mgmt practices, including fire suppression. Call Martha Anne Freeman (438-0697) for more info/time/place to meet.

### Sat Sun October

5

Lionel Soracco (983-6715) Strenuous Hike Sierra Pelada. Off-trail hiking. Leave 8 AM. Call leader for reservation.

6

Lee Sullivan (662-6185) Moderate/Strenuous Hike to Cerro Los Griegos. 8 mi. RT, 1700' elevation gain.

Leave 9 AM from Los Alamos, parking lot behind fire station on W. Jemez Rd, west of Diamond Dr, or carpool from Santa Fe at 8 AM from Sierra Club office.

6

ISSUE TRIP John Wright (1-505-247-4353) Boca Del Oso Wilderness Area Easy/Moderate Hike Call leader.

#### Friday, October 11 to Monday, October 14

Courtney White (982-5502) Norma McCallan (471-0005) Archaeological Field Trip to Fable Valley/Beef Basin, SE Utah. Take an exploratory look for Anasazi Ruins with two professional archaeologists. Moderate Day Hikes in various side canyons of Fable Valley. Possible one night backpack into the main canyon, depending on water availability. Limit 15 people. Call for reservations. Leave Thursday PM.

12

Arnold and Carolyn Keskulla (982-9570) Easy/Moderate Hike on Aspen Vista Road. Leave 8:30 AM.

13

Art Judd (982-3212) Moderate Hike in high country. Leave 8 AM. Call for destination.

19

Caroline Klick (984-3184) Strenuous Hike in Pecos Wilderness. Dogs allowed. Call leader for reservation.

20

Jeff Jones (466-2389) Easy Hike to a mesa top near Los Alamos. Kids welcome. Leave 9:30 AM.

20

John Jasper (466-8572 or 1-505-244-1481) Strenuous Hike Lake Johnson Loop. 15+ mi. RT. Leave 8 AM.

Call leader.

26

Norrine Sanders (984-0386) Moderate Hike near Ojo Caliente. 8 mi. RT. Leave 8 AM. Hot baths afterwards optional.

27

Elizabeth Altman (471-8490) Easy/Moderate Hike to Tent Rocks. Leave 9 AM.

27

Peter Otto (986-5840, 982-8385w) Strenuous Hike to Stewart Lake. 10.5 mi. RT. 2500' elevation gain. Leave at 8 AM. Call leader if not familiar with hike.

**Outings Notes** — Unless otherwise noted, all outings leave from the Sierra office, 621 Old Santa Fe Trail, "Plaza Desita," just south of Old SF Trail Bookstore & Coffee House. Carpooling will be arranged. Each hiker should come prepared to pay \$6 a mile to the driver of the car in which s/he rides. Bring a lunch, water,

### ↓ SEPTEMBER CONTINUED ↓

22 Norbert Sperlich (983-1962) Moderate/Strenuous Hike Pederal. Off-trail, rock scramble, 9 mi. RT, 1900' elevation gain. Leave 7 AM.

22

ISSUE TRIP George Grossman (982-1024) Easy Walk La Manga Timber Sale. Second chance to see the best of the last old growth forest left in No New Mexico.

Friday, September 27

Work Day at Orilla Verde Recreation Area

(near Pilar) to remove tamarisks. See September 6.

28

Caroline Klick (984-3184) Strenuous Hike Johnson Lake in Pecos Wilderness. Dogs allowed. Call for time.

28

John Buchser (820-0201) Atalaya Trail Maintenance Work Moderate/Strenuous Bring lunch and work gloves; FS provides tools. Meet St. John's parking lot 9 AM.

29

Elizabeth Altman (471-8490) Moderate Hike to La Vega. Leave 9 AM.

### Sat Sun November

2

John Jasper (466-8572, 986-4613w) Strenuous Hike Winsor-Borrego-Nambe-Rio en Medio Loop. Leave 8 AM. Call leader for details.

2

Bob McKee (672-3426) Moderate Ramble in White Rock area. Call for time/meeting place.

3

ISSUE TRIP ME to spring 1996 ME burn in the Jemez Mountains. 4 mi. Easy Trek thru intensely and moderately burned areas to observe regeneration and what can be done in the future to ameliorate dangerous fire conditions in the Nat'l Forest. Leaders are Matt Reidy (Cuba & Jemez Timber Staff Officer), John Peterson (Jemez Dist. Ranger) and Regis Cassidy (Forest Silviculturist). Limited to 20 participants. Call Martha Anne Freeman (438-0697) for reservations by October 30.

9

Jeff Jones (466-2389) Easy Hike to Tent Rocks. Children encouraged. Leave 9:30 AM.

#### Saturday, Sunday, Monday, November 9-10-11

John Buchser (474-7044) Moderate/Strenuous Backpack, northern NM weather permitting, otherwise down south. Leave 5 PM Friday. Call for details.

10

Norbert Sperlich (983-1962) Moderate Hike Buckman Mesa/Otowi Peak. Mostly off-trail. Call if not familiar with trip. Leave 8:30 AM.

16

Peter Otto (986-5840, 982-8385w) Moderate Hike to Ancho Rapids. Leave 9 AM.

17

Norrine Sanders (984-0386) Easy Combo Hike in Banderlier N.P. In the morning, hike Frey Trail, out of Juniper C.G. (5 mi. RT). After lunch, check out Overlook Trail Loop (2 mi. RT).

#### Saturday, Sunday, November 16-17

Jeff Regenold (661-6707) Issue Backpack San Mateo Mtns. to check out possible enlargement of Apache Kid Wilderness. Explore the beautiful terrain in this little used wilderness. Live after work on Fri. Carolyn & Arnold Keskulla (982-9570) Easy Hike in Tesuque Hills. Leave 9 AM.

23

Steven Janus (988-4137) Strenuous Hike Location TBD. Call leader.

24

Norma McCallan (471-0005) Moderate Hike on Tunnel Springs Trail (near Placitas) to Picnic Rock. 10 mi. RT. Dogs allowed. Leave 8 AM.

30

Lionel Soracco (983-6715) Moderate/Strenuous X-Country Ski Trip if good snow available. Otherwise Moderate/Strenuous Hike, perhaps to Shaggy Peak. Call for details. Leave 8 AM.

### \*\* Outings notes continued \*\*

sturdy hiking boots or shoes, and clothing suitable for the weather - leader reserves the right to turn away anyone whose equipment or experience appears unsuitable. Leader has right to alter destination of hike or cancel trip due to weather, unfavorable conditions, or insufficient numbers of participants. Unaccompanied minors must have written permission from parents or guardians to participate; permission forms are available at the Sierra Club office. Dogs not permitted on hikes unless noted otherwise. Telephone leader for details of the individual hike.





## GROUP DIRECTORY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

Jim Winder, Chair Newsletter Editor	267-4227 jrwinder@aol.com
Cheryll Blevins, Vice Chair	526-6220(W) 524-4861(H) spotblev@aol.com
Margaret Katze, Secretary	521-1475(H)
Lesa Wilson, Treasurer	647-4298 nmclimber@aol.com
"Dutch" Salmon, Rural Forum, Political	388-3763(H) 388-5705(Fax)
Kiki Suggs, Mexican Wolf	523-5635(H) 526-5442(W) cunes@aol.com
Wayne Suggs, Outings	523-5635(H) 526-5442(W) cunes@aol.com
Marianne Thaeler, Military Affairs	522-34221 marianne.thaeler@sierraclub.org
Margot Wilson, Warm Springs Section, Chapter Delegate	744-5860(H) 894-7152(W) margot.wilson@sierraclub.org

## FROM THE CHAIR

by Jim Winder

### OUTINGS

As you may see, we have begun to schedule outings and programs for the fall and winter months. A close look at the schedule shows a variety of events designed for individuals and families. The idea behind this is to make the Sierra Club a little more fun, and to make the activities easier for members to attend. Let's take our families and ourselves out and enjoy nature on its own terms. Look through the schedule. If you see an outing that you would enjoy, make a point to attend. If you want to see something different, call our Outings Chair, Wayne Suggs, at 523-5635 and offer your suggestions. I don't know if Wayne is a moderate or a radical but he knows how to schedule excellent outings.

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

Nominations are now being accepted for four positions on the group Executive Committee. Please call any nominating committee member [Dutch Salmon (388-3763), Kiki Suggs (523-5635) or Lolina Alvarez] with the name of your nominee.

### INNER-CITY OUTINGS (ICO)

Ted Mertig and Richard Rheder of the El Paso Group will present a program on Inner-City Outings at our membership meeting October 24th. ICO is an excellent program where urban kids are given the opportunity to experience nature with supervision from Sierra Club members. This is a tremendously rewarding opportunity for both the kids and the adults. Many of us work on issues where it is impossible to tell if we are actually making any difference. ICO is a program where members can reap the rewards of their efforts and measure progress from the kids' smiles.

We are looking for Club members who are actively involved with kids in schools, churches or other groups and are interested in assisting with outings. If you are interested in educating the environmentalists of the future, please call Wayne Suggs at 523-5635 and/or attend the October meeting for more details.

### KUDOS

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank several Southern New Mexico Group members for their hard work. Sally Smith has mixed dignity with persistence in her efforts to introduce sanity to riparian management on Gila Forest allotments. Margot Wilson is spending the time and energy necessary to keep the Warm Springs Section up and running. Cindy Roper manages to find the time between business and involves to be instrumental in the establishment of a section in Otero and Lincoln Counties. It was not enough for Wayne and Kiki Suggs to work for wolf-re-introduction and organize our outings, they will now chair our Inner-City Outings program. Then there is Marianne Thaeler. What can I say about Marianne except that she has earned the respect of the most powerful army the world has ever known. To these people and the many others like them who toil for us in anonymity, thank you.

## General Meetings

September 19, 7:30 p.m., Science Hall Room 107 NMSU  
ECOLOGICAL ROLES OF BATS, Our Second Most Common Mammal.  
Presented by Donna Howell, biologist. Live bats will be present, so no beehive hairdos!

October 24, 7:30 p.m., Science Hall Room 107 NMSU

INNER-CITY OUTINGS. Ted Mertig and Richard Rheder will show us how we can help introduce urban kids to nature and develop the next generation of environmentalists.

## Outings

September 7, 1996 - Dayhike at White Mountain Wilderness

Class: Strenuous

Limit: 15, Reservations and Leader Approval Required

Leader: Lolina Alvarez & Larry Hughes, 505-521-1152 (H), 505-522-4600 (W) (Larry)

We will meet in the North parking lot of the Pan American Center in Las Cruces at 7:00 a.m. We will carpool to the Three Rivers trailhead where we will begin our hike. After a one mile on the Three Rivers Canyon trail, we will take the Dry Canyon trail up to the White Mountain crest trail. We will then head southeast on the Crest trail for approximately 2 miles to the junction with the Three Rivers Canyon trail which we will follow back to the cars. This is a very strenuous dayhike that is invigorating and very scenic. Bring plenty of water and food. Hope to see you there!

September 14-15, 1996 - White Water Creek via catwalk, Family-oriented Backpack in the Gila Wilderness

Age: Children ranging from 1 to 101 years of age

Class: Easy

Limit: 15, Reservations and Leader Approval Required

Leader: Wayne Suggs Jr., 505-523-5635 (H), 505-526-5442 (W)

Friday night on the 13th (yikes!) of September, we will carcamp at the trailhead of the catwalk. If you would prefer to meet us at the trailhead Saturday morning, that's fine. We will hit the trail at approximately 8:30 a.m. and proceed up White Water Canyon following the historical and fascinating (for children and adults alike) catwalk. The multi-trunked, white-barked sycamore trees against the glowing canyon walls are truly a sight to see. We will spot trout and water ouzels in the rushing waters and witness spectacular waterfalls surging off giant boulders. We may possibly even see some big horn sheep among the cliffs. After hiking through the catwalk to the end, (approximately 1 mile), we will proceed up the trail following White Water Creek for an additional 1 1/4 miles to where the South fork of White Water Creek joins with White Water Creek. We will make camp in this area for the night and will return to our cars on Sunday, the 15th. A simple day pack (school backpack) is all that's needed for a child to carry his or her sleeping bag and rain gear and it gives them such a sense of accomplishment. This will be a fun trip for all ages. Please call leader for more details and reservations.

September 21, 1996 - Dayhike in Fillmore Canyon, Organ Mountains

Class: Moderate

Limit: 15, Reservations and Leader Approval Required

Leader: Lolina Alvarez & Larry Hughes, 505-521-1152 (H), 505-522-4600 (W) (Larry)

We will meet at the North parking lot of the Pan American Center of Las Cruces at 8:30 a.m. We will hike up Fillmore Canyon trail through the juniper dotted mountains. There are many scenic rocky outcroppings where we may spot mule deer and quail. We will hike through the narrows where we will get into old growth ponderosa pine. The exploring is limitless from there. Bring plenty of water and food. Contact Larry for more information.

September 28-29 1996 - White Mountain Wilderness Backpack

Class: Moderate

Limit: 15, Reservations and Leader Approval Required

Contact: Lou Celusniak, 1-800-416-3908, 505-257-3908

We will rent a van in Las Cruces and leave Friday evening (contact Lou for time and place). People from El Paso who are interested can meet in Las Cruces. We will proceed to Alamogordo and pick up anyone interested from there. We will then proceed to Ruidoso and stay overnight at Lou's lodge. We will eat breakfast Saturday a.m. at the best restaurant in town (across from Lou's lodge). After breakfast we will arrive at the trailhead at the end of F.R. 107 at the end of Bonito reservoir. From that point we will hike up trails 36 and 35 to the crest trail near White Horse Hill. This is a great place to camp and watch the sunset. The hike in is approximately 4 1/2 miles. Sunday a.m., we will return by the way of the South Fork trail to South Fork campground. We will then return to the lodge to take showers before the van returns the hikers to Las Cruces. Expenses: Approximately \$86: Gas - \$10, lodging/showers - \$25, Sierra Club Donation - \$30, Miscellaneous - \$5, meals not included. These expenses are based on 12 people attending. This trip will save fuel and bring in money for our local chapter of the Sierra Club and will be a great time for all. We look forward to your participation.

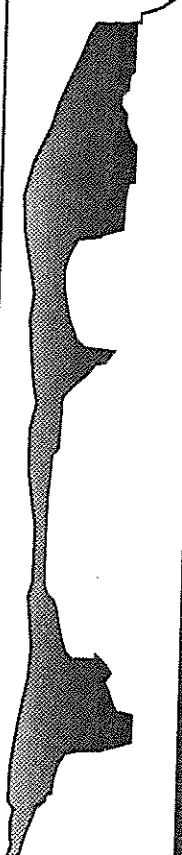
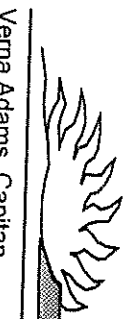
October 13, 1996 - Sacramento Mountains Dayhike

Class: Moderate

Limit: 15, Reservations and Leader Approval Required

Leader: Jack Zirker, National Sierra Club Outings Leader, 505-434-6307 (H), 505-434-7000 (W)

We will meet at the Allsup's convenience store in Cloudcroft, NM at 9:30 a.m. and carpool to the trailhead. We will proceed down Wayne's Canyon and explore Russia and Kerr Canyons. Approximately 8 miles round trip. This is a wonderful time of year to explore the Sacramentos due to the fall foliage. Make sure to bring lunch, plenty of water, rain gear, and your camera. Good time to be had by all.



# Welcome New Members!

Joining from  
May 1 to August 10



Verna Adams, Capitan	Barbara Herrera, Albuquerque	Jinx & Jim McNamara, Las Cruces	Sally Savage, El Paso
Diane Albert, Los Alamos	Patricia Hinebusch, Los Alamos	Ty Medler, Fort Bliss	Melissa Savage, Santa Fe
Mary Allegre, Albuquerque	Barbara Hoffman, Albq.	Nelda Mier, Santa Fe	Ken Saville, Albuquerque
D. Anderson, El Paso	Andrew Horwitz, Santa Fe	E. Miller, Albuquerque	James Scaranino, Albq.
Stella Baca, Santa Fe	Don Hosson, Albuquerque	Erin Milikin, El Paso	Tanya Schroeder, Hobbs
Henry Bahnsen, Santa Fe	Cory Houck, Los Alamos	E. Leslie Mitiguy, Albuquerque	Paul Scott, Santa Fe
Dan Bales, Albuquerque	Edwina Hubert, Albuquerque	Mary Morarity-Cook, Albq.	Elizabeth Simmons, Raton
Seale Ballenger, Velarde	Sarah Huffman, El Paso	Leah Morton, Santa Fe	David Simons, Los Alamos
Jeff Barker, Cerro	Douglas Hunsicker, Ruidoso	Margaret Munda, Albuquerque	L.J. Slankard, Albuquerque
Fernando Barreto, Las Cruces	Isabella Johnson, Farmington	Mary Nadeau, El Paso	Richard Sons, Albuquerque
Dwight & Cleone Barrus, Los Alamos	Denise Johnson, Santa Fe	James Nakovic, El Paso	Caroline Spaeth, Santa Fe
Danny Bauer, Las Cruces	Marion Jones, Corrales	Michelle Nawrocki, Santa Fe	Jerney Spiegel, Albuquerque
Ron Beauchamp, Albuquerque	Steven Jones, Tijeras	Christine Nevarez, El Paso	Solange Springer, El Paso
Miss Marta Bechoffier, Albq.	Theodore Karki, Los Alamos	Lisbeth Nickle, Rio Rancho	Jim Standifer, Hobbs
Greg Beck, Pueblo Of Acoma	Gordon & Elizabeth Keating, Los Alamos	J. Norenberg, Albuquerque	Harold Sterfeld, Santa Fe
E. C. Bennett, Los Alamos	Virginia Kelley, Los Alamos	Steve Noseworthy, Santa Fe	Jeremi Stevens, Cerro
Roger Billau, Albuquerque	Bonnie Kelly, Albuquerque	Susan O'Brien, Santa Fe	Danna Strech, Albuquerque
Mary Billington, El Paso	Holly Kenney, Santa Fe	Juliana Olsen, Albuquerque	Rene Tabet, Albuquerque
Susan Binnemag, Las Cruces	Junius Kerr, Albuquerque	Gimny Olson, Santa Fe	Heather Taylor, Los Alamos
Jerl Bishop, Los Alamos	Mary Kesner, Albuquerque	Armenie Oregian, Santa Fe	Weldon Throckmorton, Dona Ana
Cheryl Bizzard, Albuquerque	Donald Kethro, Albuquerque	Joshua Orozco, Las Cruces	Carol Tilley, Albuquerque
Heidi Bjorklund, Los Alamos	Steven Koch & Susann Bams, Los Alamos	Kimberly Owen, Los Alamos	Dr. Kristine Tollestrup, Albq.
Edward Blackman, Albq.	Hanna Krieger, Santa Fe	Georgeann Owens, Arenas Valley	Luchia Torres, El Paso
Jane Bluestein, Albuquerque	Joan Krohn, Las Vegas	George Parmenter, Albq.	Nilah Tripp, Ruidoso
Mike Boren, Albuquerque	David Kubala, Albuquerque	Barbara Peters, Albuquerque	Barbara Van Gundy, Albq.
Judy Bowker, Ojo Caliente	Pat Lake, Santa Fe	Chris Pflum, Carlsbad	Gerry Vezzey, Los Alamos
Dr. Elean Bral, Portales	Judi Landis, Espanola	Betty Pritchard, Bernalillo	Joel Villademoros, El Paso
Sheri Brautigam, San Cristobal	Eugene Langner, El Paso	S. R. Quintana, Albuquerque	Linda Vlack-Troh, Albq.
Howard Bremond, Tyrone	G. Emerson Learn, Albq.	Carolyn Raney, Santa Fe	K. Waters, Santa Fe
Dennis Brockway, Los Alamos	Marianne Lemmon, Gallup	Jane Reed, Albuquerque	Weinstein & Judy Lafleur, Los Alamos
Sky Brooks, Santa Fe	Robert Leuthouser, Albq.	Dale Rich, Santa Fe	Elizabeth Weisbrod, Los Alamos
Travis & Cheryl Brown, Los Alamos	Jeremie Levitt, Tucumcari	Rickey Richardson, Cedar Crest	Alahna Weller, Los Alamos
John Brown Jr., El Paso	Warren & Sharon Lieb, Los Alamos	Margaret Rickert, Albuquerque	Verner Westerberg, Albq.
James Brown MD, El Paso	Imogene Lindsay, Albq.	Rebecca Rivas, El Paso	Pauline Wilder, Los Alamos
Elizabeth Bushlow, El Paso	Ann Lintz, Carlsbad	Guy Robinson, Los Lunas	Sylvia Williams, Los Alamos
Lillian Bymark, El Paso	Robert Love, Albuquerque	Honora Rodgers, Bosque	Tara Williamson, Rio Rancho
Joan & Wayne Byron, Albq.	Ronald Madrid, Los Alamos	Timothy Rogers, Albuquerque	Lesa Wilson, Las Cruces
Robert Cahoon, Tijeras	Roy Malpass, El Paso	H. Roller, Santa Fe	Larry Winn, Gallup
Mr. & Mrs. Earl Cartland, Tyrone	Debra Martin, Santa Fe	Ruth Rose, Albuquerque	Rose Woodell, Taos
Marion Chase, Santa Fe	Steven Marx, Las Cruces	Lovina Rowley, El Paso	Wright, Los Alamos
Earle Chew, Santa Fe	Phyllis Mazo, Cerrillos	Jose Sanchez, El Paso	Lee Whitcamp, Bosque Farms
Robert Christner, Albuquerque	Donna McDaniel, Santa Fe	Mary Sanchez-Norris, Albq.	
Paul Chynoweth, Albuquerque	Melvina McDonald, Albq.	Joe Sandberg, Albuquerque	
Fladder Clark, Albuquerque	Claudia McIntosh, El Paso	Janice Sanders, Los Alamos	
Jaine Cobb, Santa Fe		Harriet Sass-Cole, Los Alamos	
Joan Cole, Santa Fe			
Frances Cole, Santa Fe			
Ruth Conner, Albuquerque			
Stuart Converse, Silver City			
Frances Corkin, Chama			
Howard & Sara Lehr Corry, Albuquerque			
Mary Cotter, Los Alamos			
Ellen Couper, Albuquerque			
Laura Cowan, Santa Fe			
Christopher Crawford, El Paso			
James Damour, Albuquerque			
Nora Daniel, Albuquerque			
Cynthia Davie, Los Alamos			
Emily Davis, Santa Fe			
Vernon Davis, Cloudcroft			
Lara Decaro, Arroyo Hondo			
Marita Delaney, Thoreau			
John Dewitt, Albuquerque			
Laurie Dickerson, Santa Fe			
Bertha Dingman, Deming			
Rosemary Dunn, Deming			
Richard Duplantis, Santa Fe			
Vick Eason, Rio Rancho			
Jade Easton, Santa Fe			
Cheryl Emmons, Albuquerque			
Marjorie Ewan, Albuquerque			
Jill Fahrenholtz, Albuquerque			
Linda Fair, El Prado			
Howard Farber, Bosque Farms			
Thomas Farrar, Albuquerque			
Evelyn Fenner, Albuquerque			
John Fernin, Albuquerque			
C. Fitzpatrick, Gallup			
Kent Frazier, Las Cruces			
Sirpa Freccia, Albuquerque			
William Gaines, Brownwood			
Hugh Genin, Las Cruces			
Janelle Gibson, Albuquerque			
Any Good, Albuquerque			
Cynthia Griffee, Albuquerque			
Winifred Griffin, Albuquerque			
Ward Halaby, El Paso			
Gary Hampton, Los Alamos			
Jim Hannan, Santa Fe			
Nancy Haverkos, Santa Fe			
H. W. Heffelfinger, El Paso			

## A Word From the Chair

by Van L. Perkins

Elsewhere (page 2) in this newsletter you will find a formal call for nominations for the Executive Committee of the Chapter. Any member of the Chapter is eligible for election to the ExCom (as it is frequently called). Nor is experience a key requisite. We specialize in on-the-job training. So, if you are just itching to become involved in Chapter activities, why not jump in at the top?

Or, if you would rather be involved at a more local level, there are similar opportunities, and a similar process, at each of the Group levels. Check the Group pages.

The elections underscore a number of facts about the Rio Grande Chapter and its Groups. Everyone who works on Sierra Club matters in the Chapter and its Groups is a volunteer. There is no paid staff. The Executive Committee of the Chapter represents and speaks for the entire membership. It does so because its members are elected directly by the entire membership (nine

members), or appointed by the Group ExComs (at present four members), which are in turn elected by each Group's entire membership.

Thus the Chapter and the Groups, like the entire Sierra Club, might be described as a representative democracy. The members elect the ExCom members; the ExCom speaks for the membership. It formulates policy, makes political endorsements, budgets funds, chooses conservation campaigns; in short, it does all the business of the Chapter in the name of its members.

Occasionally I hear complaints about actions the Chapter has taken. Frequently the person objecting wants to know how the ExCom can decide for her or him to take a particular position, or endorse a particular candidate for the Legislature. The answer is simple: The ExCom does so because it was elected by the members to do so.

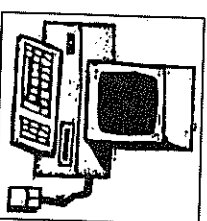
That suggests that there are at least two reasons why you might want to run for the ExCom. You might

see that participating in Chapter governance can be interesting and worthwhile. Or, you might not like the way things have been going in the Chapter, and might want to be involved in changing things.

Either way, you will be welcomed as a candidate. As I have noted before, we have too few people who are willing to take an active part in our affairs. We suffer from having too few candidates, not too many. Give one of the members of the Nominating Committee a call. They will be pleased to hear from you.

If becoming a candidate is more than you want to undertake, then at least be sure to vote in the upcoming Chapter (and Group) elections. Not to do so is to make doubly certain that your voice will not be heard in the conduct of the Chapter's business.

One way or the other, join our effort to: "Protect America's Environment. For Our Families, For Our Future."



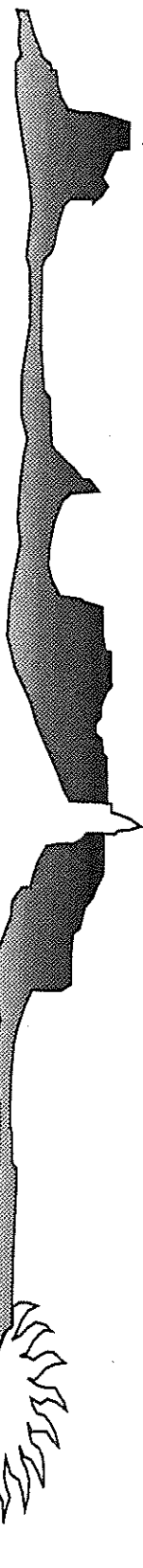
Visit our homepage on the World Wide Web:

<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)





# Washington Update:

## Good News, Bad News,

by Richard Barish

Here are some highlights from the last two months of environmental battles in Washington:

### Clearcut Rider Repeal

Representatives Furse and Porter sponsored an amendment to stop funding of the clearcut rider, also known as the salvage logging rider. The clearcut rider allows for the sale of healthy as well as damaged timber without compliance with any environmental laws and with no recourse to administrative or judicial review of the sales. The Furse/Porter amendment was narrowly defeated by a vote of 211-209. Rep. Richardson voted in favor of the amendment, while Rep. Schiff voted against it.

In another effort to limit damage from the clearcut rider, Secretary of Agriculture Glickman issued a directive that reportedly attempts to restrict sales in roadless areas and ensure that sales are truly motivated by forest health concerns. This directive has apparently resulted in the cancellation of the HB (Eagle Peak) sale in the Gila. However, this directive has only had a small impact nationwide. Efforts will continue to repeal the clearcut rider.

We need to persuade Rep. Schiff to vote in favor of repeal. Contact his office and express your displeasure at his support of the rider in no uncertain terms.

### Contact your Representatives

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

Write your representatives at these addresses:

Rep. Bill Richardson (D-NM)  
Rep. Steve Schiff (R-NM)  
Rep. Joe Skeen (R-NM)  
Rep. Ron Coleman (D-TX)  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Write the President at  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM)  
Sen. Pete Domenici (R-NM)  
Sen. Phil Gramm (R-TX)  
Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX)  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Fax to these numbers:  
Sen. Bingaman (202) 224-2852  
Sen. Domenici (202) 224-7371  
Rep. Richardson (505) 988-7296  
(ask them to forward to Washington)

On the Internet:  
Jeff Bingaman:  
Scriber\_Bingaman@bingaman.senate.gov  
Newt Gingrich:  
georgiag6@h.house.gov  
The White House:  
http://www.whitehouse.gov

House initially passed Rep. Joe Kennedy's amendment to eliminate funding for forest logging roads.

However, the next day, the result was reversed on a re-vote that resulted in a 211-211 tie. Does this vote just represent an attempt by some Republicans to get in a few pro-environment votes to show off to constituents in this election year, or are a few House Republicans actually retreating from the hypocrisy of a fiscal conservatism that allows for the elimination of welfare for poor children at the same time that corporate welfare proceeds unabated?

Time will tell. Rep. Richardson and Rep. Schiff voted in favor of the Kennedy amendment on both votes.

### Nuclear Waste Policy Act, S. 1936

This bill would allow for the interim storage of high-level nuclear waste at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. The waste would be shipped on highways around the country. The bill passed the Senate.

However, there were enough votes in opposition, 37, to sustain a promised presidential veto. Sen. Bingaman deserves our thanks for voting against this bill. Contact his office and let him know that you appreciate this vote.

### International Dolphin Conservation Act, H.R. 2823

This bill would allow tuna to bear the "dolphin safe" label even though the tuna were caught by encircling dolphins with nets. The

## NMWRRI 1996 Water Conference to be Held in Farmington

### Forest Road Funding

By a vote of 211-210, the

The 41st annual Water Conference of the New Mexico Water Resources Research Institute will be held September 19-20 in Farmington. This will be the first time the Water Conference has been held in northern New Mexico. This conference, at San Juan College, will focus on Integrated Water Resources Management, the new paradigm of the '90's for water resources planners and managers.

Topics to be discussed include the Geology and Hydrogeology of Northwestern New Mexico, Water Resources Issues of the Four Corners

Region, Current Bureau of Reclamation Policies Affecting the Colorado River Region, an Overview of Endangered Species Recovery Efforts in the Upper Colorado River Basin, Water and the Extractive Industries, Regional Water Planning, and Animas-La Plata.

In addition, field trips to the Animas-La Plata Project, the Navajo Indian Irrigation Project, and the Four Corners Power Plant Project are planned. Registration is \$125. Anyone interested in attending the conference should call 505-646-1195 or 505-646-1813.

## Alternative Fuels Vehicle Network

The Alternative Fuels Vehicle Network, a non-profit trade group, has opened its doors in Albuquerque. The purpose of the Network is to:

- advance the use of alternative fuel vehicles and the development of alternative fuel vehicle technology;
- improve the quality of the environment through the expanded use of alternative fuel vehicles;
- assist communities in meeting the mandates of the Clean Air Act of 1990 and the National Energy Policy Act of 1992;
- promote the economic and energy security benefits that alternative fuels have over traditional gasoline and diesel fuels;
- support federal and state incentives and remove the barriers to the expansion of associated technologies;
- provide educational and institutional information regarding alternative fuels and their many benefits; and
- assist the product-development of associated alternative fuel industries.

Partners in the Network include the State of New Mexico, the City of Albuquerque, the Santa Fe Community College, the Alliance for Transportation Research, the New Mexico Propane Gas Association, PNM, and other associated companies and individuals. For more information, call Executive Director Frank Burcham at (505) 856-8585.

bill passed in the House of Representatives, with both Rep. Schiff and Rep. Richardson voting in favor.

Although the Sierra Club opposes this bill, the bill has split the environmental community. The World Wildlife Fund, Greenpeace, and the National Wildlife Federation support the bill in the belief that, on balance, the bill (and the international agreement it ratifies) will overall result in fewer dolphin deaths. Sens. Boxer and Biden have promised a filibuster in the Senate. President Clinton supports the bill.

### Safe Drinking Water Act

In the last issue, I reported that Congressional Republicans had finally allowed a good piece of environmental legislation, the Safe Drinking Water Act, to come to a vote. You knew it was too good to be true, didn't you? They passed the bill—but they deleted funding to implement the act. This action typifies what some have been calling "greenscamming": anti-environmental Congressmen trying to trick their constituents into thinking they are pro-environment by taking actions that are superficially pro-environment (such as attending Earth Day celebrations, tree plantings, and the like), but that in reality mean little and that disguise appalling environmental voting records.

### Animas-La Plata

The Animas-La Plata project is a hugely expensive project that would provide water to southwestern Colorado, as well as parts of northwestern New Mexico. The project would jeopardize endangered fish and would only return about forty cents for each dollar spent. The House stripped funding for this project, but funding was provided in the Senate bill. If the conference committee provides funding for the project, both houses of Congress will vote on this matter again. Reps. Richardson and Schiff and Sens. Bingaman and Domenici all voted in favor of funding for this project. Contact their offices and express your opposition to this environmental and financial disaster.

### Scorecard

The National Sierra Club has tabulated the votes of all congressional representatives on five bills, covering a variety of environmental issues. Rep. Richardson had a perfect 100% pro-environment voting record on these five votes. Rep. Schiff voted pro-environment a paltry 20% of the time, and Rep. Skeen—need I say it?—voted against the environment at every opportunity. For more information on the specific votes that were scored, see <http://www.sierraclub.org/politics/charts.html>

Visit the "Alerts" section of Sierra Club home page at <http://www.sierraclub.org> for daily updates on happenings in Washington.





Between 1957 and 1986, the US Army forced the sale of ranchers' homes and property in New Mexico for the creation of White Sands Missile Range, Holloman AFB, and portions of Fort Bliss. BLM lands were also acquired. All are considered military deeded lands. They did not get BLM lands called McGregor although ranchers were forced to sell private lands.

#### Pristine Grasslands

McGregor is approximately 600,000 acres of pristine grasslands and uplands, approximately 300,000 acres of which are managed as BLM grazing units. McGregor is located south of Alamogordo and east of Hwy 54 in Otero County. It includes Culp Canyon Wilderness Study Area, 4 officially designated Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, archaeological sites, historic sites, wintering areas for eagles, trophy antelope, deer, prairie dog colonies, and endangered aplomado falcon habitat. McGregor was used illegally by the Army to test Nike Hercules and other missiles between 1957 and 1986. In 1986, the US Congress recognized what had been happening, held hearings, and passed Public Law 99-606. PL 99-606 gave specific management instructions. McGregor was withdrawn from such use for 15 years, it was temporarily to be managed jointly by BLM Las Cruces District and US Army Ft. Bliss for the purpose of clean-up, and an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was to be prepared before 2001 for McGregor's return to full BLM management by the year 2001.

#### German Bombing Range

The deadline for filing a Notice of Intent in the Federal Register to prepare the required EIS was last spring. This did not happen. Instead, the US Air Force, Langley AFB, Virginia, filed a Notice of Intent to do an EIS for a bombing range for the German military on McGregor. The proposed bombing range is to be used by Tornado jets, which, according to a German representative at a Las

Cruces Chamber of Commerce meeting, have been outlawed because of noise by all the countries of Europe, including Germany. These planes fly at altitudes of 100-300 feet above ground on autopilot, and are extremely noisy.

The US Air Force held public "Scoping Meetings" August 5-9, each evening at 6 PM, in Alamogordo, El Paso, Carlsbad, Carrizozo, and Las Cruces for what was advertised in local newspapers as "Expansion of German Air Force Aircraft Operations at Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico." No mention was made that this means a proposed bombing range on BLM lands!!!!!!

Local elected officials, representatives of the Forest Service, National Parks Service, and the Bureau of Land Management, business leaders, leaders of organizations, and local citizens all testified at the official court-reorder recorded hearings in **OPPOSITION** to the bombing range on McGregor. Only Pete Alexander, Director of the Aviation Division of the State of New Mexico Highway Department, testified in favor of the proposal. He appeared unaware that his off-the-cuff remarks were being officially recorded, and that the proposal involved the closure of St. Hwy 506, the only access to El Paso or the Otero County Seat in Alamogordo for people with homes in the Timberon-Pinon-Weed areas of the Cloudcroft District, Lincoln National Forest, and area residents east of McGregor. Sierra Club representatives testified in **OPPOSITION**. Individual Sierra Club members testified in their own behalf, and all who attended appreciated their insightful comments and probing questions. One most interesting and telling question was, "Could Fort Bliss force the Air Force to abandon the bombing range after construction?" The Air Force representative's reply was, "Yes."

So, what is going on?

#### Expansion of "Roving Sands"

The US Army in the meantime, Forces Command, Ft. McPherson,

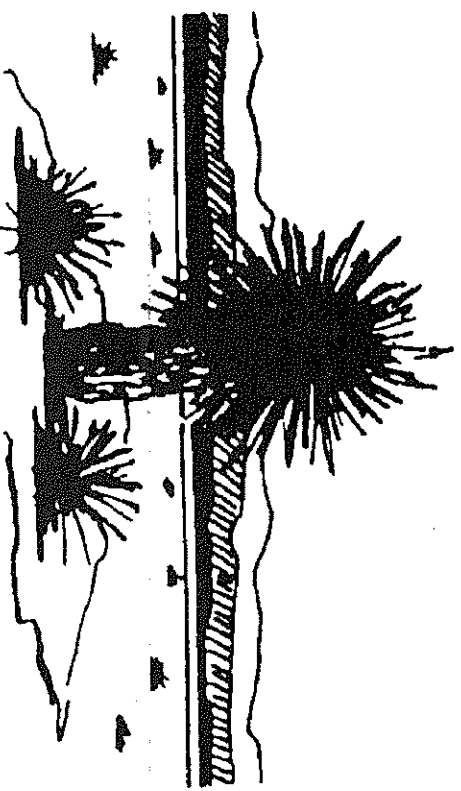
Georgia, has made it known that it plans to expand the joint multi-national forces Spring mock war exercises, called Roving Sands, to include use of McGregor. In the past, Roving Sands has involved 15,000 troops. In 1997, it is expected 35,000 to 42,000 troops will be involved, depending on how many countries sign up to participate. It is proposed to put Patriot Missile Battalions on McGregor.

Again, what is going on?

As Military Issues Chair of the Rio Grande Chapter, I have questioned the motivations and need for the use of McGregor since sites exist on the abandoned tank training areas of Ft. Bliss in New Mexico, there are 2-3 existing bombing ranges on White Sands Missile Range which are presently used by the Air Force, and other sites exist on military deeded lands.

As this goes to press, we are awaiting responses to our letters of inquiry and concern sent to Chairman John Shalikashvili, Joint Chiefs of Staff, which have been routed to Chief of Staff for the US Air Force, General Fogelman.

The National Sierra Club, the Rio Grande Chapter, and the Southern New Mexico Group have all taken official policy positions in support of the military, but in **OPPOSITION** to this kind of military expansionism.



## ARMY AND AIR FORCE CONSPIRE AGAINST NEW MEXICO... AGAIN?

by Marianne Thaele,  
Military Issues Chair

## Chapter Outings

## Notes from Norma

by  
Norma  
McCallan

**Sunday Sept 15 - BOCA del OSO WILDERNESS STUDY AREA FIELD TRIP** - Jeff Regenold 661-6707 (Los Alamos). Explore this little known and starkly beautiful WSA north of San Ysidro. Easy/moderate hiking. Call for details.

**Sunday Oct 6 - BOCA del OSO WSA FIELD TRIP #2** - John Wright 247-4353 (Albq). As a follow up to the Wilderness Workshop on Saturday October 5, John will visit a different section of this important WSA. Easy/moderate hiking. Call for time and meeting place.

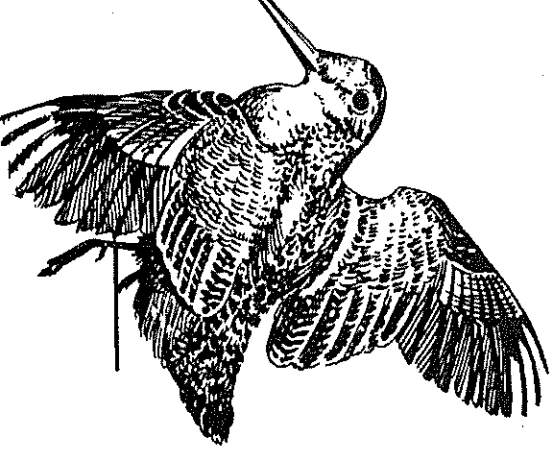
**Friday/Monday Oct 11-14 - FABLE VALLEY, UTARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD TRIP** - Courtney White 982-5502 (SF). Exploratory trek into remote canyons rich in Anasazi ruins with 2 professional archaeologists. Car camp, moderate day hikes with possible 1 night backpack. Call for reservations/15 person limit. Leave Thursday night.

**Saturday Nov 2 - DOME FIRE FIELD TRIP, JEMEZ MTNS** - Martha Ann Freeman 438-0697 (SF). Forest Service staff will lead an easy 4 mile trek through some intensely and moderately burned areas to see

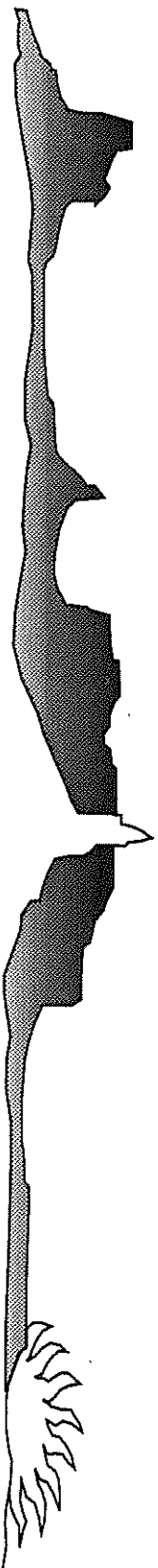
what has and has not regenerated and to discuss what could be done to ameliorate dangerous fire conditions. Call for reservations by October 30.

**Saturday/Sunday Nov 15/16 - APACHE KID WILDERNESS BACKPACK** - Jeff Regenold 661-6707 (Los Alamos). There is hope for expansion of the existing wilderness in this lush and little used section of the San Mateo Mountains. Check it out! Call for details.

**CONTINENTAL DIVIDE TRAIL HIGHS** - I finally got back on the CDT Trail in July, too much snow having cancelled last year's trip. Our group of 4 enjoyed a fine trek across alpine mesas in near to perfect weather. In 9 days of backpacking we saw not a single CDT marker, though there were numerous Colorado Trail signs (whose route coincided a good part of the way). There is a new organization whose mission--badly needed--is to promote, construct and manage this National Trail along the Divide. They are seeking volunteers and financial help. You can get on their mailing list by calling or writing Continental Divide Trail Alliance, Box 628, Pine, Colo. 80470, 303-838-3760. On the down side, a recent article in the *New*



*Mexican* (8/11/96) noted problems with designating the CDT in New Mexico. Not only is there opposition from Indians, where it would cross their lands, and massive anti-government sentiment in Catron County, but antagonism from Northern New Mexico Hispanics who fear the Trail will destroy their way of life, and from small loggers who worry that it will shut them out of the National Forest--an unexpected fallout of the continuing controversy surrounding the La Manga timber sale.



## Activist Profile Craig O'Hare

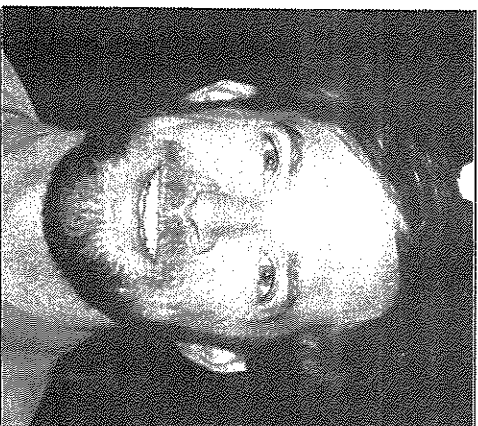
Craig finds himself in the enviable position of being able to match deeds with words as an environmental activist. As the newly hired Water Conservation Manager for the City of Santa Fe, Craig is the point-person in the city's campaign to promote water conservation, reuse, and reclamation. He sometimes is referred to as the "Drought-Buster." It is a job he obviously relishes.

One of Craig's goals is public education and outreach (he will be speaking to the Santa Fe Group in September). His mission is to promote a concept he calls "Live-In-Place", meaning, if we live in a desert then we should act accordingly. "We should get people to adjust their behavior to reflect where they live," he says. Of course, our current drought has made Craig's message all that more urgent.

Craig developed his interest in water conservation while attending college at UC Santa Barbara. The intense California drought of '77-'78 brought home to him the need to curb our wasteful habits. His concern, combined with a love of backpacking and sailing, led him to study the earth sciences as a major. He graduated with degrees in physical geography and economics before migrating to Tucson for graduate work at the University of Arizona in water resources management.

Eventually, Craig took a job with the state to help implement Governor Bruce Babbitt's pioneering 1980 Ground Water Code act. It was invaluable experience but, after five years, Craig needed a change of pace. He went to work next for a progressive Tucson City Councilwoman as her environmental specialist. In the meantime, he served as the Chair of the Conservation Committee of the Grand Canyon Chapter of the Sierra Club and helped the Club wage a successful, and precedent-setting, fight against an awful Takings Bill in 1994.

In January 1995, Craig landed in Santa Fe. "I loved Tuc-



son," he says, "but got tired of the heat." By which he means the temperature. Craig was immediately hired by the Conservation Voters Alliance to lobby the New Mexico Legislature, which he did with great alacrity and energy. "It was a breath of fresh air," he says, "compared to Phoenix. There's a fighting chance here and not a prayer in Arizona."

It was also a great crash course in New Mexico politics and culture. Craig did his job so well he was rehired this year to help CVA again in its lobbying activities.

Craig currently serves on the Rio Grande Executive Committee, a position to which he was elected last fall. He also serves as the Chapter's Political Committee Chair. In addition to water and politics, Craig's interests extend to sustainable economics and renewable energy. Craig, as one can see, is a very busy man.

Despite all this activity, or perhaps because of it, Craig remains upbeat and optimistic about the future. His new job allows him to act proactively on environmental concerns, rather than defensively, as so many of us do. "We need to get at the front-end of the problem," he insists, "rather than constantly deal with the back-end results." He believes he can do this for the city and intends to try.

Despite his busy schedule, Craig finds time to hike with his dog, Brandaux. His only apparent regret is that his African drumming teacher has moved out of town. "I have to find a new teacher," he says, "before I get rusty."

## Albuquerque Provides Water for Silvery Minnow

by Richard Barish

The Rio Grande Silvery Minnow is a federally listed endangered species. A large percentage of the remaining Silvery Minnows were killed this spring when the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (MRGCD) diverted virtually the entire flow of the Rio Grande from the channel of the river into its irrigation canals. Federal agencies have since been working to obtain adequate water to keep wet a significant portion of the critical reach of the river south of San Acacia.

The City of Albuquerque has now agreed to provide sufficient water to ensure that there will be water for the minnow through the end of the 1996 irrigation season. The City had previously released all of its uncontracted water for 1995 and 1996 from the San Juan-Chama project for use for the Silvery Minnow. The City has now agreed to allow federal agencies to use up to an additional 25,000 acre-feet of San Juan-Chama project water that the City has in storage in Abiquiu Reservoir. The City will be able to replace this water from future San Juan-Chama project deliveries, since it will be years before the City puts its San Juan-Chama project water to full use.

However, the Bureau of Reclamation and the MRGCD disagree on how much water will be lost through evaporation and other causes in transporting the water to San Acacia. The Bureau believes that transportation losses are 50%, while the MRGCD claims 75%. The amount of water obtained for the Silvery

minnow this year will only be adequate if transportation losses do not exceed 50%. In the event that transportation losses are ultimately agreed to exceed 50%, the Bureau will be obligated to provide additional water to the MRGCD at a future time to make up for water that will have been left in the river this year for the minnow.

The Bureau now faces the difficult task of securing water supplies for future drought years. Planning for future years is in the preliminary stages. The Bureau is currently looking at the following options:

--The Bureau could lease water from the MRGCD or individual farmers. It is very roughly estimated that this option might cost between \$1.5 and \$2 million. It is unclear where this money would come from.

--Applications have been made to the State Engineer for five small wells, which would either provide water directly to the river for the minnow or would provide water for use by the MRGCD, which would in turn leave an amount of water equal to the output of the wells in the river at San Acacia. This option would only provide about 20% of the water required for the minnow.

Finally, the US Fish & Wildlife Service has completed its investigation of the events that led to the deaths of the minnows in the spring, but has not decided if it will seek civil or criminal penalties from the MRGCD. The results of the investigation have not been made public.

## Crying Wolf

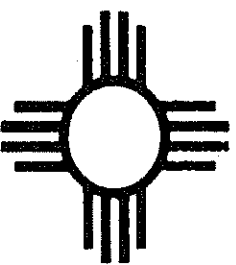
(con't from page 1)

Governor Bradley got blamed for writing the letter. This is despite the fact that the letter bears the letterhead and signature of the Governor! I guess Johnson figured that after Bradley referred to women as "quality merchandise" this issue couldn't make him look any more incompetent.

The interesting effect of this development was that it called into question the Governor's whole position on reintroduction. You see it was Lt. Gov. Bradley who claims to have reviewed volumes of information on wolves to form the Governor's wolf policy. This self-proclaimed "expert" on wolves stated in the Easthouse article that he wasn't claiming that there were Mexican wolves in New Mexico, but rather a subspecies called "the lobo." I have to wonder at this point if the subspecies Bradley had heard about plays college basketball or just roams the mountains and forests of his imagination. He went on to explain that the main difference is skull size.

Pressed for details on where he acquired his information, Bradley admitted that it came from a rancher. Maybe that's where he got his volumes of information on wolves as well.

After the Johnson/Bradley incident made the rounds on the Associated Press wire service, we scored again with a front page *Albuquerque Journal* article headlined "Bradley's Wolf Letter Spreads Myth." This article pointed out that the Johnson administration's opposition to wolf reintroduction was based on the potential economic impacts of wolves and "the absence of credible information" in the reintroduction plan. It is difficult to see how wolf reintroduction can have such a negative economic impact when there are already a lot of wolves in New Mexico. It's now clear that the absence of credible information is in the Governor's office.



## Special Issue Will List Election Year Endorsements

The Chapter has made a number of political endorsements so far this election year (which were announced in the May/June and July/August issues). More are coming.

The Chapter will announce all its endorsements, for State as well as National races, in a special issue of the *Sierran* which will probably arrive on your doorstep around October 1.