Call US Senators About Bingaman’s Energy Policy Bill
by Jennifer de Garmo and Gail Ryba

As we go to press, the Bingaman-Daschle Energy bill is about to go to the Senate floor for debate. The Sierra Club has made the energy bill a priority for New Mexico. Senator Bingaman (D-NM) is the chair of the Senate Energy and Resources Committee and played a key role in drafting the bill. The House energy bill, HRA, passed the House last summer. The Sierra Club opposes many of the provisions in that bill—particularly the subsidies to the oil and gas industry, the nuclear industry, the coal-mining industry, and the uranium-mining industry. The bill also includes an amendment (supported by Albuquerque Republican Heather Wilson) to drill in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. For these reasons, the Sierra Club has been working hard to create a good, and clean Senate bill. Senator Bingaman and Daschle (D-SD) have been real environmental heroes while crafting this bill. Although the bill is good, it could be better. The Senate bill will need to be as strong as it can be, if the bill advances to conference committee, to work out the differences between the extremely bad House bill and the Senate bill. So, everyone, get your phone car ready, as the Senate begins debate on the following crucial environmental issues. We will need all the phone calls you can make.

Fuel Efficiency Standards
The biggest single step we can take to save oil and curb global warming is to raise Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards to 40 miles per gallon (mpg) for both cars and light trucks by 2012. A responsible energy policy must reduce our dependence on oil. American cars, SUVs and other light trucks now guzzle eight million barrels of oil every day (mbd). Raising fuel-economy standards for new cars, SUVs and other light trucks to an average of 40 mpg over

Speak Now—
For The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

When the time arrives for debate and the filibuster over the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, we will need your help keeping the phones lines hot:
• with calls of support to Senator Bingaman,
• with calls to Senator Domenici to let him know how New Mexicans feel about keeping the Arctic Refuge free from oil and gas development.

To participate specifically when debate comes up, sign up for our e-mail alert listserv. Contact Jennifer de Garmo (jennifer.degarmo@sierrane.org).
To get a head start, call your Senators now! Tell them that you support:
• 35-mpg CAFE standards,
• 20% RPS by 2020, and
• no drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Senator Bingaman
202-224-5531
senator_bingaman@bingaman.senate.gov
www.senate.gov/~bingaman/

Senator Domenici
202-224-6521
senator_domenici@domenici.senate.gov
http://domenici.senate.gov/

NM State Legislature Wraps Up
Chaotic 2002 Session
by Paul Porysli and Doug Foner

The 2002 session of the New Mexico Legislature ended with the usual chaos and confusion at 12:00 noon on February 14th, Valentines Day, with broken hearts for some and joyful hearts for others. This session was a "cotton" (30-day) session that normally is considered to be a budget session. The majority of the bills introduced, however, only nominally addressed budgetary concerns. The Senate introduced 621 bills and memorials and the House 664, resulting in an exceptionally hectic session.

Among the broken-hearted were those who had hoped the session would produce a state budget acceptable to the Governor and those whose legislation was not passed by both houses.

Our priority concern during the session was water and its sustainable management—and in fact, the issue of diminishing water resources was one of the "hot" topics at the session. New Mexico will probably not meet its water flow obligations under the Pecos River Compact—and perhaps even under the Rio Grande Compact—this year or next. These compacts require New Mexico to allow a minimum amount of river flow into Texas. Not meeting these obligations could result in a "priority call" by the State Engineer and costly litigation by Texas. A priority call would mean that some farmers and ranchers would lose their water rights and wells; some domestic wells would also be shut down.

In light of this situation, more than three dozen bills proposing solutions were introduced by legislators in both houses. Most of the bills included measures to eliminate saltcedar (Tamarisk sp.) and other phreatophytes along the riverbanks. Phreatophytes not only suck up enormous quantities of water, but also invade and eventually destroy native and endemic riparian ecosystems. Roger Peterson, The Club’s Grassroots Chair, Lesly Belin of the Alliance for the Rio Grande Heritage and David Henderson of the Audubon Society provided very useful information on this issue. The Club therefore supports the elimination of saltcedar and other phreatophytes and the restoration of native riparian ecosystems. We supported some of

(continued on page 12)
Water Issues Must Become a Priority—
For the Legislature and For Us All
by Representative Joe M. Stell

This article first appeared as an OpEd piece, "Water Fight Looms on State's Horizon" in the 8 February 2002 issue of The Albuquerque Journal.

Water is probably the biggest problem facing New Mexico. You wouldn't think so, given that it rarely makes the front pages of the newspapers or the evening TV news. And since the water always flows when it turns on the tap or the irrigation gate, most of us take it for granted that it will always be there. But the major threats to our water supply looming on the horizon may shake up the economy of the state, and soon we may all be worrying just as much about the quality and quantity and cost of our water.

The challenges to our water supply are multifold. One major threat looming on the horizon directly affects the southeast part of the state, but ultimately affects us all. New Mexico has gotten into a fight with Texas over Pecos River water, and the Supreme Court decreed that New Mexico must comply with the Pecos River Compact by delivering the specified amount of water to the Texas border every year. For the past several years, we have barely managed to make the delivery, but each year the threat of drought increases the likelihood that we will not have enough water. When that happens, the State Engineer will be forced to initiate a "priority call," taking water from existing water-rights holders in municipalities and in agricultural production.

The economic impact of this—estimated at hundreds of millions of dollars—will be catastrophic for that part of the state, but the rest of the state will be seriously affected as well when the tax revenues that support education, transportation and other vital state government services drop dramatically. This is not an idle threat—the Supreme Court has left New Mexico no choice but to do this. And the fallout will not only be loss of water for critical needs; it will initiate a deluge of litigation because the "junior" water rights, which legally should be the first called, are generally not for surface water, which is used by the agricultural industry and is what would need to be left in the river for delivery to Texas.

The solution to the Pecos delivery problem must be multifaceted, and the Legislature is currently considering a number of bills to address the issue. The State Engineer's Office asked me to carry one bill that would allow limits on domestic wells—both the number of wells and the quantity of water that could be pumped from new wells. A report by the State Engineer's Office estimates that domestic wells use less than 1% of available water in New Mexico, but at some point we will need to limit the "straws" going into our aquifer which can affect the amount of groundwater in our streams and rivers. This proposal was tabled due to opposition from various developer interests, but it is an issue that will need to be addressed in the future.

Several of us have also introduced bills to fund phosphorus removal along the Pecos and other waterways in the state. Phosphates are non-native plants, primarily Salix arctica (salt-cedar), which have invaded our waterways and are using our precious water. On the Pecos, it is estimated that phosphorus removal could make enough water available to meet our delivery to Texas. It will, however, require millions of dollars for the initial removal program as well as substantial funds to prevent regrowth—of which must come from the state's coffers.

The Pecos water delivery issue is the most pressing, but we are facing similar situations on the Rio Grande and the San Juan River. While neither is yet under a court decree, we need to act now to avoid that costly and probably inextricable fight—which means finding funds for similar programs in those areas.

We also need to rethink how we manage our entire watersheds, restoring them so that what little rain we get doesn't run off, but instead, goes to replenish our aquifers and keep our streams flowing. And all of our communities probably need to reconsider whether our water resources can support additional development. Water conservation needs to become not just a "feel good" issue, but one that every citizen of the state takes very seriously.

Fortunately, the Pecos crisis is forcing renewed and expanded interest in water planning. Regional water plans are being developed, as is a state plan to protect and defend our water resources. The Legislature has charged the State Engineer's Office with developing an accurate inventory of our water resources and current users, and we need to continue to resolve disputes about water rights. Our conservation districts are looking at ways to improve distribution systems and improve watershed. Our economic development organizations are beginning to understand that water planning is a priority, perhaps the priority for the next decade.

(continued on page 18)

Notice of Public Information Meetings for Upper Rio Grande Water O.I.S. Input

Do you suspect that future reservoir operations will continue to degrade river conditions? Do you believe there is a better way of doing the Rio Grande's water business? Want to be on solid ethical grounds when you're ready to challenge one aspect or another of the old planning system? Just want to know what the hell is going on? If so, plan to attend one of the following public meetings. Better yet, plan to attend two. If you come to Pilar on May 15, Steve Harris will treat you to BBQ.

For more information, contact Steve Harris of Rio Grande Restoration in Pilar, NM (505/231-1259; cell 505/770-2362; mnclep@laporte.org). To arrange carpools from Santa Fe to Española, Pilar or Abiquiu meetings, contact John Bucher (505-4201; johnbcr@earthlink.net).

The US Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation and Interstate Stream Commission are holding public information meetings to develop a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Upper Rio Grande Basin Water Operations. Meetings will be held:

- to describe draft alternatives, and
- to get feedback from the public before the alternatives are finalized.

The draft alternatives are being developed in an iterative process, which is why input from the public is so important. The meetings will begin with a presentation that describes the current operations, which is the draft "No Action Alternative." The public will be provided an opportunity to comment on the draft alternatives identified, using an informal open house. All meetings are 7:00-8:30 pm.

Albuquerque, NM • Tuesday, March 19—US Army Corps of Engineers, 4101 Jefferson Place NE
Santa Fe, NM • Wednesday, March 20—NM Dept. of Game & Fish, 1 Wildlife Lane
Española, NM • Tuesday, April 16—Rio Arriba County Complex, 112 Industrial Road
Abiquiu, NM • Wednesday, April 17—Abiquiu Elem. School, US Highway 84, Gate #21342
Alamosa, CO • Tuesday, May 14—USBR Alamosa Field Div., 1090 Highway 160 E.
Pilar, NM • Wednesday, May 15—HLM Visitors Center, Highway 68
(Meetings in Las Cruces, Truth or Consequences and Socorro, NM, and El Paso, TX took place in January and February 2002.)

For more information, contact Grant Stockton, US Army Corps of Engineers (505/342-3348; fax 505/342-3348; grl.t.stockton@spc02.usace.army.mil); Steve Kolb, Bureau of Reclamation (505/233-3134; fax 505/233-3134; skolb@wcc.usace.army.mil); and Allen Graham, Interstate Stream Commission (505/841-3949 ext. 128; fax 505/841-3949; rgraham@ice.state.nm.us).
the next ten years will save nearly two million barrels/day in 2012 and nearly four million barrels/day by 2020—more oil per day than we import from the Persian Gulf and could extract from the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, combined. This responsible step will save consumers billions of dollars at the gas pump and slash heat-trapping CO2 emissions that cause global warming.

Raising fuel-economy standards for new cars, SUVs and other light trucks to an average of 40 mpg over the next 10 years will save nearly two million barrels/day in 2012 and nearly four million barrels/day by 2020—more oil per day than we import from the Persian Gulf and could extract from the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, combined.

The History of Fuel Efficiency Standards
In 1975, Congress passed and President Ford signed the law establishing Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards. CAFE standards set the minimum average fuel economy that a manufacturer’s fleet of cars must meet. Congress required automakers to turn up their fuel economy 13.8 mpg by the late 1980s. Twenty-five years later, however, despite dramatic advances in technology, that standard is still in place. Congress asked the Department of Transportation to set light truck fuel economy. Light truck standards include pickups and SUVs, but have virtually stagnated for 20 years.

The Most Obvious Benefits
Raising CAFE standards will improve our energy security—We import 52% of our oil. Our cars, SUV’s and other light trucks guzzle 40% of the oil used in the United States every day. Current CAFE standards for autos save three million barrels/day compared to rates of consumption before 1989. Raising CAFE standards for new cars, SUV’s and other light trucks to 40 mpg is the simplest single step we can take to curb our oil dependence.

Raising CAFE standards will save consumers money, stimulate our economy and create jobs—CAFE standards already save consumers money at the gas pump. Because fuel economy for cars doubled between 1975 and the late 1980s, a new car purchaser saves thousands of dollars at the gas pump over the lifetime of the car. Now, it is time for Detroit to pass on savings to SUV owners. Increasing the Fuel Explorer’s efficiency, for instance, from 19 mpg to 34 mpg would cost $353 in technology—but would save the owner $790/year on gas. Raising CAFE standards for new cars, SUV’s and other light trucks to 40 mpg over the next 10 years will save consumers $16 billion annually by 2012.

Consumers will spend this money at home, rather than sending it overseas to oil-producing nations, thus stimulating our economy, improving wages and creating jobs. A 1997 report by the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy concluded that raising CAFE standards would translate into a net increase of 244,000 jobs nationwide, with 47,000 of those in the auto industry.

Raising CAFE standards will protect the environment—Raising CAFE standards would curb global warming. Carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions from our cars and trucks add to the CO2 blanket around the earth, which prevents heat from leaving the atmosphere, causing global warming. American cars and trucks alone emit more CO2 than all but four countries in the world—the United States as a whole, China, Russia and Japan. Each gallon of gasoline burned pumps 28 pounds of CO2 into the atmosphere. Thus, the more efficiently the vehicle, the lower the CO2 emissions. Raising CAFE standards to 40 mpg would slash our CO2 emissions—greatly reducing our contribution to global warming.

Technology Advances and Safety
The technology exists to provide Americans with safe, efficient vehicles that curb global warming pollution. More efficient engines and transmissions, and better aerodynamics could dramatically increase the fuel economy of our cars. Hybrid gas-electric engines offer even better gas mileage. So far, only Japanese manufacturers are using this technology. Three hybrids are currently in production—the Toyota Prius, Honda Insight and Honda Civic Hybrid—all of which get more than 50 mpg.

While CAFE standards doubled fuel economy from 1975-1989, the highway fatality rate dropped by 50%. Modern technologies can bring us even safer and more fuel efficient vehicles today.

There are currently two senate proposals for CAFE standards—Senator Kerry (D-MA) has proposed a 25-mpg standard, Senator McCain (R-AZ) a 35-mpg standard. Both proposals contain problematic CO2 trading—anybody’s within the auto industry, McCain’s global. Trading CO2 credits defeats the purpose of CAFE standards and does not accomplish significant reductions of the gases causing climate change.

Senator Bingaman has said he will support Senator Kerry’s proposal for a 35-mpg CAFE standard, which will be proposed as an amendment to the bill. There are indications that there will not be enough votes to pass a strong CAFE standard, and there are threats of a filibuster if a strong CAFE standard is included in the bill.

20% by 2020—Electricity Generated By Renewable Sources
A Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) is a market-based mechanism that requires utilities to gradually increase the portion of electricity produced from renewable resources such as wind, biomass, geothermal and solar energy. Sierra Club supports a national RPS to provide 20% of US electricity from renewable sources by 2020.

Twenty percent by 2020 is achievable. A recent study by the Union of Concerned Scientists confirms that renewable energy can supply 20% of US electricity by 2020. Renewable energy sources are already providing thousands of megawatts of power around the country, and they have immense potential for becoming a major source of energy in the near future.

We estimate that the states of South Dakota, North Dakota and Texas alone have enough wind to provide electricity for the entire country. The price of wind power has decreased 90% in the past 20 years, is currently very competitive with other types of energy and is becoming even cheaper. Solar power is already used by 200,000 homes in the United States. We have installed geothermal generating capacity of about 2,700 megawatts—the equivalent of approximately 28 million barrels of oil—that provides enough electricity for 3.7 million people. By 2010, biomass power (converting carbon from organic matter into energy) could provide an additional 3,000 megawatts of electric capacity in the United States—enough electricity for more than 13 million people.

A 20% RPS Has Environmental and Economic Benefits
Electricity generated from power plants accounts for over 40% of total CO2 emissions—the principal global warming pollutants. Because an RPS of 20% by 2020 could eliminate the need for 273 of these dirty plants, it has the potential to stabilize US CO2 emissions from electricity generation at Year 2000 levels. Eliminating all these power plants would also significantly reduce emissions of nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide and mercury, which are linked to acid rain, smog, respiratory illness and water contamination.

A recent study by the US Department of Energy’s Energy Information Administration shows that an RPS of 20% by 2020 would cost energy consumers about nothing. When combined with energy-efficiency improvements, costs to consumers would decline by hundreds of billions of dollars. One system that converts solar energy into heat—and is used to heat the buildings of Ford, General Motors and Federal Express—is already saving approximately $400,000/year in avoided fuel costs, and reducing annual CO2 emissions by 10 million pounds.

The current Bingaman-Daschle bill includes a 10% RPS by 2020. Senator Jeffords (I-VT) will introduce an amendment to raise RPS to 20% by 2020. While Senator Bingaman was unconvinced that we can do better than 10%, he remains strong on the 10% goal and says that this is one of the Senate initiatives that senators in conference committee should insist be included in the final energy bill.

No Drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
Senator Bingaman and Senator Daschle remain firm in their support of the preservation of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. They will actively oppose proposals to include drilling in the Arctic in the Senate Energy bill. It is anticipated that an amendment to drill in the Arctic will be brought to the floor by Alaska Senator Frank Murkowski (R-AK). There are currently not enough votes in the Senate to keep the amendment from passing, Senators Kerry (D-MA) and Lieberman (D-CT) are planning to filibuster during the debate on the amendment. Senator Bingaman supports the filibuster and is planning to participate by speaking on behalf of the Arctic during the filibuster.

For more information, contact Clipper Conservation Organizer Jennifer de Garmo (jennifer.degarmo@sierrachub.org) and Chapter Energy Chair Gail Byba (gbyba@cybermiss.com).

March/April 2002
Hannan, Hughes, Brown on ExComm

by Jim Hannan

In December 2001, the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club elected Jim Hannan, Ken Hughes and Blair Brown to serve on the Chapter Executive Committee for the next three years.

Jim Hannan, current Chapter chair, works at the Santa Fe Community Housing Trust, a nonprofit affordable housing provider in Santa Fe. He has been active in green building issues, particularly energy efficiency and water conservation. Jim has also served as Chapter Political chair, helping out with candidate endorsements and state lobbyist oversight.

Ken Hughes works at the New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration, in the Local Government Division. Ken previously served as the Chapter Energy chair, and currently serves as the Transportation chair. Ken has also been active in sprawl issues, helping to produce our award winning sprawl report. He is also the author of a DEA report on the costs of growth.

Blair Brown recently retired from the Museum of New Mexico Foundation. Blair has served as the Chapter treasurer for many years. He has been active in Almaguerque water and sustainability campaigns.


Join Us for Chapter Conservation and Executive Committee Meetings

The Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club invites all club members to attend our next quarterly meetings. The meetings are a great way to meet Chapter activists—and we welcome your input. We will be meeting at the Sevilleta Wildlife Refuge on 10-17 March 2002. The Refuge is located about an hour south of Albuquerque.

The Conservation Committee meeting will start at 9:00 am on Saturday. Current conservation items include:

- wildlife issues,
- Pecos River water rights, and
- Chisos Basin.

The Executive Committee meeting will:

- present a proposal to join the newly formed Wilderness Alliance;
- discuss current Game and Fish Department issues, including the expanded cougar hunt;

- discuss how the Club can be an effective part of the Pecos River water rights debate, which was a major part of the 2001 State Legislative session;
- hear an update from Clovis resident Paul Ekker on the Clovis dairy farms, which have become a major issue for the Club.

In addition, the Conservation Committee will receive updates from our four conservation campaigns—wilderness, water, sand and gravel mining, and sprawl.

The Executive Committee will meet on Saturday, beginning at 8:00am. The Excom will:

- review the lobbying effort at this year's legislative session;
- consider several political endorsements in federal and state races.

Overnight accommodations at the Refuge are limited. If you are interested in staying overnight on Friday or Saturday, please contact Jim Hannan (505/598-5760; jhannan@nmsu.edu).

NM Sierra Student Coalition Offers Environmental Training for NM High-School Students

by Alena Latiker

New Mexico’s Sierra Student Coalition is offering a Student Environmental Training Academy (SETA) for high-school students in New Mexico. The SETA is a weekend activist training on skills essential to effecting environmental and social change. Some of the best trainers from around the country will come together to train students on how to develop strong and effective groups. The SETA will focus on basic activist essentials:

- how to start and run an effective group at your school;
- methods of recruitment;
- how to train leaders who can carry on the torch, once you and others have graduated;
- how to say what you mean, with confidence and persistence (be it to the media, fellow group members, or the public);
- how to plan and run a campaign to effect real environmental change;
- lobbying;
- working with media;
- learning about national and local environmental issues with which your group can get involved.

Of course, the SETAs are not all-work-and-no-play. No Sir! No ma’am! The weekend is filled with:

- hanging out with good folks,
- meeting activists from all over the State,
- hearing from experienced guest speakers from the environmental movement,
- relishing good food,
- enjoying the breathtaking landscape of New Mexico, and
- relaxing to live music performed by students from the College of Santa Fe.

Who is invited? One or two representatives from your high school.

Where will it take place? Nestled in the foothills, in fully furnished adobe huts on the Sevilleta Reserve.

How do I register? Contact the Student Coalition State Coordinator (see below). Registration before March 8 is $15/person; after March 8, it is $20. Registration covers lodging, food, campaign materials and a membership with the Sierra Student Coalition. Space is limited. For more information, contact New Mexico’s first-ever Sierra Student Coalition State Coordinator, Alena Latiker (505/733-5823; alena@sierranews.com).

March/April 2002
The Nature Conservancy Signs Agreement to Buy the 97,000-Acre Baca Ranch

by Jan Peterson

The Nature Conservancy announced in late January 2002 that it had signed an agreement to purchase the Baca Ranch, approximately 97,000 acres—an associated water right—sitting along the Great Sand Dunes National Monument and Preserve in the San Luis Valley, in southwestern Colorado. At $31.28 million, this is the Conservancy's most expensive acquisition ever in the Rocky Mountain West. The agreement was made possible through interim financing provided by a unique consortium of private, state and federal partners.

"This project represents conservation and partnership at a truly heroic scale," said Steve McCormick, The Nature Conservancy's President and CEO. "Not only will the protection of the Baca Ranch create a protected area large enough to sustain the area's natural diversity for the long term, but it brings together an unprecedented coalition of local, state and federal partners, all aligned with the same goal in mind—the conservation of this awe-inspiring place."

"This agreement was more than five years in the making," affirmed Nature Conservancy President and CEO Steve McCormick. "And it would not have been possible without the enthusiastic support of many of Colorado's leaders, including Governor Bill Owens, Senator Wayne Allard, Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell, and Representative Scott McInnis."

The law creating the new national park—the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve Act of 2000—was cosponsored by Senator Allard and Representative McInnis and enacted in November 2000.

The Ecosystem

At just over 151 square miles, the Baca Ranch—also known as the Luis Maria Baca Grant No. 4, an 1824 Mexican land grant—is one of the largest, intact, unfragmented landscapes in the State of Colorado. It supports important wildlife, including many rare and at-risk plant and animal species. The elevation ranges from 7,300 feet on the valley floor to 14,165 feet at the top of Kit Carson Peak.

The purchase of the ranch and its water rights will protect the very existence of the Great Sand Dunes. A significant portion of the dunes occur within the boundaries of the ranch. Streams and wetlands on the ranch play an important role in the creation and preservation of the dunes themselves. Additionally, acquisition of the water rights ensures that the ranch's water will remain available to sustain the dune ecosystem.

The San Luis Valley, roughly the size of Connecticut, is one of Colorado's most biologically significant regions and provides habitat for more than 70 species of rare plants and animals. The Conservancy's 100,000-acre Medano-Zapata Ranch, adjacent to the Baca Ranch and the Great Sand Dunes National Monument, is home to nearly 2,000 species, large herds of elk and significant bird populations. Several plant and animal species found at Great Sand Dunes National Monument and on the Baca and Medano-Zapata ranches—including the Great Sand Dunes tiger lily—are found nowhere else in the world.

"The acquisition of the Baca Ranch was the centerpiece of our effort to preserve the Great Sand Dunes ecosystem in its totality," said Congressman Scott McInnis. "With the Baca, the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve will be second to none in natural beauty and ecological diversity. Equally important, the purchase puts an end to the San Luis Valley's water wars once and for all."

"The Nature Conservancy has been working with local communities for years to preserve the magnificent natural wonders of the San Luis Valley," said Mark Burget, The Conservancy's Colorado State Director. "Preservation of the Baca Ranch has long been the community's most important goal. We are honored to be able to play a role in the establishment of a new national park for Colorado, especially with the bipartisan support of so many people in the San Luis Valley and across the State."

Collaborative Funding

The Conservancy's financing includes:

- an existing $10.2 million appropriation from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund;
- a $7 million low-interest loan from the David and Lucille Packard Foundation;
- a $5 million partial purchase by the Colorado State Land Board;
- a $3 million loan from the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund; and
- private fundraising by The Nature Conservancy.

Through the efforts of Senator Allard, additional funds to support acquisition of land for the new park were expected from Yale University. Yale is one of the principal advocates in the partnership that currently owns the ranch.

Once Congress has appropriated the full $31.28 million, the ranch will be transferred to the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to create the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve and the Baca National Wildlife Refuge. Parts of the ranch will be transferred from the National Park Service to the USDA Forest Service for inclusion in the Rio Grande National Forest.

At the request of San Luis Valley citizens, the Conservancy has set up a fund to raise approximately $500,000 to help cover costs associated with acquiring the Baca Ranch.

To make a tax-deductible contribution to the Baca Ranch Fund, contact the Conservancy's Colorado chapter (303/444-2990). For more information about the Baca Ranch, contact The Nature Conservancy's work in Colorado see the web site (nature.org/colorado).

The Nature Conservancy

The Nature Conservancy is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive.

For more information about The Nature Conservancy, see their web site (www.nature.org).

---

Once Congress has appropriated the full $31.28 million, the ranch will be transferred to the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to create the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve and the Baca National Wildlife Refuge. Parts of the ranch will be transferred from the National Park Service to the USDA Forest Service for inclusion in the Rio Grande National Forest.

At the request of San Luis Valley citizens, the Conservancy has set up a fund to raise approximately $500,000 to help cover costs associated with acquiring the Baca Ranch.

To make a tax-deductible contribution to the Baca Ranch Fund, contact the Conservancy's Colorado chapter (303/444-2990). For more information about the Baca Ranch, contact The Nature Conservancy's work in Colorado see the web site (nature.org/colorado).

The Nature Conservancy

The Nature Conservancy is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive.

For more information about The Nature Conservancy, see their web site (www.nature.org).

---

Once Congress has appropriated the full $31.28 million, the ranch will be transferred to the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to create the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve and the Baca National Wildlife Refuge. Parts of the ranch will be transferred from the National Park Service to the USDA Forest Service for inclusion in the Rio Grande National Forest.

At the request of San Luis Valley citizens, the Conservancy has set up a fund to raise approximately $500,000 to help cover costs associated with acquiring the Baca Ranch.

To make a tax-deductible contribution to the Baca Ranch Fund, contact the Conservancy's Colorado chapter (303/444-2990). For more information about the Baca Ranch, contact The Nature Conservancy's work in Colorado see the web site (nature.org/colorado).
The 89,000-Acre Valles Caldera National Preserve—An Experiment in Public Lands as a Working Ranch

by Kay Matteson and Mark Schiller

This article first appeared in the February 2002 issue of La Jicarita News. It is reprinted with permission of the outdoor and La Jicarita News (news@lajicarita.org; www.lajicarita.org).

Many New Mexicans have been following the recent news reports regarding the Valles Caldera National Preserve, the 89,000-acre tract of land in the Jemez Mountains purchased by the federal government in 2000. The Preserve is managed by a Board of Trustees, comprised of representatives from Santa Fe National Forest, Bandelier National Monument, environmental groups, ranching organizations, and various other interests. The board is responsible for hiring management staff and setting management policy, but the concept of the Preserve as a “corporation” or “working ranch” was the brainchild of Republican Senator Pete Domenici, who made it clear from the outset that he would not back out of the Preserve unless it was managed to eventually become self-sustaining conservation.

Although the Preserve remains subject to federal lands-management acts like NEPA and the Endangered Species Act, the board has a much freer hand in determining policy than if it were a national forest or monument. Of course, this freer hand also means that special interest groups will be jockeying for position in management decisions. These include ranchers and loggers, recreationists, conservationists, Indian pueblo and land grant members, and hunters and fishermen. The battle lines are already being drawn.

Recreationists are unhappy that, instead of immediately opening up the Preserve to recreation, the board is preparing to issue grazing permits as soon as this summer. They claim that recreation fees could actually help support Preserve management, while grazing has always been a subsidized use of public lands.

Cruizers, including both Native Americans and Hispanic land-grant heirs, claim that traditional uses must be incorporated into management policy to ensure access to land-based people. They would like to see the Preserve also used as a grassbank, a concept that is being successfully employed on both the Carson and Santa Fe national forests.

New Mexico hunters are concerned that the permit process, to be implemented this fall, not discriminate against local hunters if opened up to the highest bidder. Managers intend to initially issue 90 elk permits by lottery at $25 a pop. Winners—either in-state or out-of-state—would then have to purchase a New Mexico hunting license.

Logging is also on the horizon. Although, under the previous ownership of the Dunigan family, the Preserve was heavily logged, small-diameter thinning projects aimed at restoration may be made available to local loggers like the Jemez Pueblo forestry crew. Some conservationists think that until greater attention is given to developing a management program based more on science and less on politics, activities like logging should be held in abeyance.

A group called the Valles Caldera Coalition is attempting to bring these diverse interests to the table. Members include the Quivira Coalition, National Audubon Society, Truchas Trout Unlimited, Amigos Bravos, The Wilderness Society, Winter Sports Group, The Nature Conservancy and the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps.

La Jicarita has asked Ernie Atencio, coordinator of the Coalition, to write an article for the March 2002 issue, describing the work his group is doing. Meanwhile, we think it is important for readers to learn the strange history of how the Valles Caldera passed from the public domain into private hands and back into the public domain.

An account of the Bacca Location No. 1 as a private land grant was written by Malcolm Eblight for the Sesquicentennial Symposium of 1848-1998 sponsored by the Dona Ana County Historical Society. An account [in the February 2002 issue of La Jicarita News] is part of a longer article that Eblight wrote to demonstrate how the application of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo to land grants in New Mexico led to five different outcomes:

1. Valid grants were rejected entirely;
2. Some valid grants were partially rejected;
3. Some valid grants were confirmed to the wrong people;
4. Some valid grants were confirmed to the right people; and
5. Some invalid grants were confirmed.

According to Eblight, the Bacca Location No. 1 is the "most flagrant example" of this last category. In future issues, we will continue to cover management decisions regarding the Preserve and offer a forum for the various interests to voice their concerns.

If you would like to contact the Valles Caldera National Preserve Trust to add your voice to the euphony, you may write them (Valles Caldera National Preserve Trust, P.O. Box 1689, Santa Fe, NM 87504), or e-mail the newly hired director, Gary Ziehe (gziehe@fs.fed.us).

Youth in Wilderness Project Expands to New Mexico

by David Cook

The Sierra Club and The Sierra Club Foundation are pleased to announce the expansion of the Youth in Wilderness Project to New Mexico. This Project funds schools, after-school programs, outdoor schools and other nonprofit organizations to provide outdoor-learning and wilderness opportunities for economically disadvantaged youth.

The Youth in Wilderness Project began its grant-making effort in California in 2000. The program met with great success and expanded to Arizona and Colorado in 2001. In 2002, the Youth in Wilderness Project will give children in New Mexico greater opportunity to experience nature and wilderness first hand.

The Youth in Wilderness web site offers summaries of funded projects; proposal-writing tips; and photos, drawings and letters from some of the thousands of youth who have participated in a quality outdoor education program funded by the Youth in Wilderness Project.

Applications for the first round of funding were due March 2002; applications will be considered for submission on 24 May 2002. Applications for the second round of funding are due 26 September 2003; notification will be sent on 19 December 2003.

The Youth in Wilderness Program has also begun accepting transportation mini-grant applications from public schools in New Mexico. These proposals for transportation costs of $1,000 or less are accepted on an ongoing basis with no fixed deadline for submission. Mini-grant applicants are notified in writing within six to eight weeks.

For more information, see the Youth in Wilderness web site (www.sierraclub.org/youthinwilderness), or contact Program Officer David Cook (dcook@sierraclub.org or youthinwilderness@sierraclub.org).

March/April 2002
Central Group News

Central New Mexico Group News

Otero Mesa - New Mexico's Wildest Grassland
By Stephen Capra

Located in the south-central portion of New Mexico on the Texas border lies one of the wildest parts of our state. Just look on a road map east of the McGregor Range, between Las Cruces and Carlsbad, and you'll find the largest empty spot on the New Mexico state map - the rolling hills, mountains and grassland flats that comprise the Greater Otero Mesa Area.

Long used by a handful of independent cattle ranchers, this is the land of the pronghorn, the mountain lion, mule deer, elk, raptors and countless species of migratory songbirds. Many threatened or endangered species such as Baird's Sparrow, Lark Bunting, Cassin's Sparrow and Burrowing Owls are found in this remote grassland. Many southern species from South America and Mexico look to this area for refuge. In recent years, the Aplomado Falcon, once thought gone from New Mexico, was seen in this area.

This past summer The New Mexico Wilderness Alliance conducted a survey to evaluate the wilderness potential of the area. Several months of fieldwork led to the realization that over 400,000 acres of the Greater Otero Mesa Area qualify for wilderness designation. This area remains some of the finest remnant Chihuahuan Desert grassland in the state. In recent months, a coalition of Sportsmen and Conservation groups have joined to influence ranchers, politicians and many neighboring communities.

Like the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska, this is a landscape on a grand scale. Sadly, like the Arctic Refuge, Otero Mesa is a very threatened landscape - threatened by oil drilling.

This is a wild landscape in need of our help. America has only 3% of the world's reserves of oil and gas. In contrast, Middle Eastern countries have roughly 64%, so it is clear we can never drill our way to energy independence. Hence, there is no reason to destroy wild places such as Otero Mesa for the short-term profit of a handful of oil and gas companies.

The Bureau of Land Management will soon release its Final Environmental Impact Statement relating to the Greater Otero Mesa Area. Originally, there were three alternatives offered which would have opened anywhere from 97% to 98% of the area to oil and gas development. Now a fourth alternative has been added that would allow drilling with little or no restriction, which if approved would leave Otero Mesa a landscape dramatically fragmented by roads, pipelines, power lines and toxic waste holding ponds. The effects on wildlife could likely be severe.

The BLM is looking to publish a record of decision on the Greater Otero Mesa Area by June 1. In order to protect this wild New Mexico Grassland, citizens are encouraged to write our Senators and the Las Cruces office of the BLM. Ask our Senators to delay the implementation of the BLM's Final Environmental Impact Statement. Also ask that the BLM undertake a new and comprehensive Wilderness review of Otero Mesa. The addresses are:

Senator Jeff Bingaman, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510 or email to Senator_Bingaman@Bingaman.Senate.Gov
Senator Pete Domenici, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510 or email to Senator_Domenici@Domenici.Senate.Gov
Ms. Amy Luders, Bureau of Land Management, Las Cruces Field Office, 1800 Marquesas, Las Cruces, NM 88005

(Our General Meeting on March 19th will be a slideshow on Otero Mesa. See the listing on the next page.)

Central Group Folks Meet with Club President Jennifer Ferenstein
By Blair Brown

Back on January 24th, members of the Central Group were pleased to meet with Jennifer Ferenstein, Sierra Club President, on her visit to New Mexico. Ferenstein was in New Mexico to attend the Workshop on Population and Global Warming put on by the Club in Albuquerque on Saturday, January 26th.

The Central Group folks briefed Ferenstein on the critical local issues we are facing - protection of Petroglyph National Monument, water issues in the Middle Rio Grande Region, protection of the Rio Grande, and sprawl and the growth we have seen for Smart Growth.

Ferenstein told us of the Club's "Care for America the Beautiful" campaign, which urges President Bush to match his commitment to safeguard our borders against terrorism with a renewed effort to protect our homeland - and the wild places that make it so special - against pollution, drilling and other development by the energy, mining, and logging industries. She referenced Club Executive Director Carl Pope's comments, "Now, more than ever, Americans want to defend the land that shapes our character, nourishes our spirits, and needs our protection. We call on the President, as Chief Steward, to care about and care for America, to show leadership and independence in protecting this unique heritage - for our families, for our future."

We thanked Ferenstein for her visit and invited her to return to New Mexico, our special place, whenever she could.

Central New Mexico Group
PO Box 25342
Albuquerque, New Mexico, 87125-3342

Executive Committee (area code 505)
Jeff Brodrick
359-7190
jeffbrodrick@msn.com
Blair Brown
843-3696 x163
sca4er@swm.org
Steve Carg
843-3696 x163
sca4er@swm.org
Richard Currie
694-2807
richardc@comcast.net
Richard Johnson
843-2892
richardj@comcast.net
Edward Sullivan
259-5966
sullivan@swm.org

Conservation Chair
Steve Carg
359-7190
sca4er@swm.org

River Issues
Richard Darrah
232-3013
edwardc@swm.org

Outings
David Till
350-5555
grebf@att.net

Programs
Open

Water
Open

The Central New Mexico Group of the Sierra Club
depends on the efforts of volunteers.
To join us, give any of us a call.

8 RIO GRANDE SHERMAN
MARCH/APRIL 2002
Waste Diversion in New Mexico Needs YOUR Help
by Jay Morrow, President of the New Mexico Recycling Coalition

The latest report from the EPA on waste generation shows that over all, the national average of waste generated per person per day is falling slightly from 4.5 pounds per person per day to 4.3. This includes everybody. Me, you, baby brother, grandma, everybody. This figure is derived from annual tonnage of all landfills divided by population (2000 census). Every one should realize that there is always an opportunity to show numbers as they give you statistics favorable to your cause, but generally this is what we in the Solid Waste field use to gauge our progress.

The Solid Waste Bureau of the New Mexico Environment Department's annual report shows that last year New Mexico topped out at over 9 (9,000) pounds per person per day making us the most wasteful state. As usual there are plenty of targets for that blame but laying blame does not get things done. The current character Pages, dressed for battle with his iron pot helmet and wooden sword, made a startling discovery one day. He had finally found the enemy! Dressed in battle gear he had peeked into the pond and had seen a reflection of himself. Ultimately I can only blame myself and maybe you.

The waste diversion effort has been beaten down to a state of complacency. Most entities who champion land filling as the best method of waste management had hoped that this recycling nonsense would die out by Y2K. Most governmental decision-makers will not put pressure on the business community to reduce or divert if they protest. Residential collection is perceived as not cost effective. In New Mexico we can always go out and buy cheap "wormless" desert land and build cheap landfills, so somebody can stand up and say "SEEI! It is cheaper and less complicated to just bury the stuff". Private landfills, which are most common, make their money by burying as much as they can.

The New Mexico Recycling Coalition is taking a stand against this tide of wasteful practice. But we need help and we need the help of the Sierra Club. You are one of the strongest environmental entities in the state. You have many voices. When spoken as one, your voice is so strong that those head of hearing can get the message. We have doubled our membership in the past year and have assembled a very talented and energetic board of directors who has taken on an undaunted role of bringing waste diversion to the forefront of the state's solid waste program.

In June of this year (5%, 7%) we are going to host a state wide Recycling Conference. There will be programs on State Policy, Residential and Municipal Composting, Waste Reduction and Diversion, Computer and Electronic Recycling, Campus Recycling, Household Hazardous Waste, Building Green and others. We are looking for speakers, exhibitors, and attendees. Please contact Nancy Judd, our Executive Director, in Santa Fe at 505-983-7470 or info@namarecycle.org if interested.

Update on the Campaign to Protect Petroglyph National Monument

Most of our effort to stop Paso del Norte from bisecting Petroglyph National Monument the past two months centered around stopping a number of Capital Outlay bills in the New Mexico legislature that would have funded the road. The Sierra Club, through our legislative lobbying efforts and our legislative and Congressional e-mail alert listserve, made the difference and got those bills tabled till they die from inaction when the session ended. Thank you to everyone who called legislators about this important issue.

The session did not end with no possibility of money going to Paso del Norte road however. Some legislators chose to include unrelated projects in their discretionary project monies for the road through Petroglyph. In the end, we expect Governor Johnson to veto most of these items.

If you would like to sign up for our legislative and Congressional e-mail alert list, please e-mail us at jennifer.degrasso@sierranm.org. If you have signed up for this in the past and have not received e-mail alerts, re-send your e-mail address to be sure we have it correct.

Now, we return to our efforts in cooperation with SAGE and others in Albuquerque. Attend our General Meeting on April 15th to learn more (see General Meeting listing below).

General Public Meetings

Monday, March 18th at 7:00 PM
OTIRO MESA SLIDESHOW
Steve Capra, member of our Executive Committee and staff with the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance will present a slides show on the glories of Otero Mesa and how we can protect it. (see related article)
Where: The Unitarian Church at 3701 Carlisle NE, at the corner of Comanche, in the Social Hall.

Monday, April 15th at 7:30 PM
PETROGLYPH NATIONAL MONUMENT CAMPAIGN UPDATE
Come and hear what we are doing, what's next and how to help.
Where: The Unitarian Church at 3701 Carlisle NE, at the corner of Comanche, in the Social Hall.

"Eliminating wildlife habitat for economic reasons is like burning Renaissance paintings to cook dinner." Edward O. Wilson

Outings

Sunday, March 17th - Embudo Canyon to Three Gun Spring Trail
Sandia Mountain Wilderness Hike. Excellent conditioning hike to view points. Depending on conditions, may go as far as Oso Pass. Approx. 7 miles round trip, 2000 ft. elevation gain.
Contact David Thor, 260-1553.

Saturday, March 23rd and 30th
Desert Exploratory Hikes
Come and visit some of New Mexico's most incredible and beautiful landscapes hidden in its desert places. Strangely eroded and colorful rocks, badlands, precipice cliffs, outstanding vistas, mysterious narrow and winding canyons, archeological sites, petrified forests and other fossils, historic structures, stone tools, pottery, pictographs and petroglyphs are some of the discoveries we have made on the Desert Exploratory Hikes in the past.

These hikes are not physically difficult, but will require a sense of adventure on the part of participants, there will be a trail and the route will vary at different times. Sometimes we scramble over rock surfaces (non-technical climbing) and walk narrow ledges, but this is only a few options. Typical distance traveled is between 4 and 8 miles and we usually gain less than 1000 ft. elevation.
Contact leader by previous Wednesday for information on specific hike location and meeting time. You can request to be included in an e-mail list for advance info on hike location and meeting time. Hiking time will vary from 8:00AM to 10:00AM. Meeting place will always be in the Carlisle and Main area, near to Carlisle.
Joint outing with OFA for Singles.
Leader: Toni Petencin (271-9928 or tonipetencin@juno.com)

Saturday, March 30th - Lamy Brook Badlands Hike
Meet 8:30AM at Bank of America, 580 Main and Academy. Joint outing with Outdoor Adventures For Singles.
Leaders: Rich Harley (293-8401, richharley@comcast.net) or Tony Petencin (271-9928, tonipetencin@juno.com)

Saturdays April 6th and 20th, and Sunday, April 14th
Desert Exploratory Hikes (see above for info)
Sunday, April 14th - Pino Trail, Sandia Mountain Wilderness Hike.
Approx. 6 miles round trip, 2500 ft. elevation gain.
Contact David Thor, 260-1553.
The Dale Ball Trail system was built by the foothills Trail Trust through the generosity of an anonymous donor and a grant from the McCune Foundation. The trails are on land owned by the City of Santa Fe, Santa Fe County, The Nature Conservancy and several private individuals who have given trail easements to the City of Santa Fe.

By resolution of the City and County, the trail system is named after Dale Ball, who conceived the idea, worked on it for seven years, secured the funding and followed through by directing the construction of the trails. Twenty miles of trails are already open, including the entire North and Central Sections and approximately five miles of the trail system's South section. The remaining four to five miles will be finished this summer.

Update

Construction work on Santa Fe's new Dale Ball Trails shut down for the winter at the end of November 2001. The plan is to start up again in mid-April 2002 and complete the trail system. Still to be built are:

- the connection between the Dale Ball and Dorothy Stewart trails,
- a connection to the parking area on Cruz Blanca, and
- a trail between the top of Picacho (Taqua) and the top of Atalaya.

The entire trail system should be completed in July 2002.

Using the Trails

These trails are intended for the enjoyment of hikers and bicyclists. No motorized vehicles or horses are allowed. When bicyclists and hikers meet, the hikers have priority. We have tried to protect lines of sight, so that no one should be surprised by the sudden appearance of another trail user.

The City has provided an area across Sierra del Nono from the south parking lot where dogs can run free. They must be on a leash when away from trails, however, and we ask that people clean up after their dogs. There are trash receptacles at the trailheads.

The City of Santa Fe has built two parking lots to serve the trails. As the map on the left shows, one is at the intersection of Sierra del Nono and Hyde Park Road. The other is at the intersection of Cerro Gordo Road and Upper Canyon Road. Trailhead parking is available within the enclosed area of both lots. Cars parked outside the fence are subject to parking by the City of Santa Fe, which will police the area. Please take your valuables with you. There have been a few break-ins

within the parking lot.

All of the trails in the North and Central Sections are designed for easy to moderate hiking. For bicyclists, the trails are rated moderate to difficult. In most places, the grade is no greater than 6%; a few places, such as switchbacks, are steeper for short distances.

Many of the trails in the South Sections are more difficult, with an average grade of more than 8%. Only expert bicyclists should attempt the South Section trails. Even experts find them difficult.

Trail Volunteers

The foothills Trail Trust has organized a volunteer group to do light trail maintenance. Each volunteer has adopted a section of the trail and has taken on these responsibilities:

- walk the section every two weeks;
- pick up trash;
- watch for any damage to the trail through either usage or erosion—if the damage is minor, it can probably be fixed on the spot; and
- report serious damage to the trails.

If you'd like to become a trail volunteer, please send your name, address, and phone number to Mike Wirth (161-D Calle Chino Fe, Santa Fe, NM 87505) or call him (983-9050). Mike designed the individual trail segments and supervised the construction crew. He is training and coordinating the volunteers and is responsible for maintaining the trails. The work of the trail volunteer is greatly appreciated! They are keeping the trails in good condition for all who use them.
Water and Elections in a Dry Land
by Lindsey Grant

This article first appeared as an OpEd piece in the 20 January 2002 issue of The Santa Fe New Mexican. It is reprinted by permission of the author.

Tensions rise when we begin to hit the stops. Water shortages are becoming an issue, worldwide, as populations grow. The State Engineer reports that New Mexico is falling behind the deliveries to Texas mandated by the US Supreme Court. He has warned the cities along the Pecos and Santa Fe that they may lose some of their surface water to meet that commitment. He is restricting new wells in the Estarian Basin, including southern Santa Fe County. He has told the Pueblos of Pueblo that it thinks it is using more water than it is entitled to. Española has a temporary moratorium on construction. El Dorado had one, which is being nibbled away.

Santa Fe is running out of water, and the battle is joined between those who see the limits and those who oppose any constraints on growth. The county’s population grew 2.8% year in the 1990s, faster than the Census Bureau expected. We have probably passed 135,000. The city water company is relying on the San Juan-Chama diversion to rescue the city for a decade or two, but it is lowering its expectations as to how much additional water that will provide. It now must begin to look beyond San Juan-Chama for new water sources.

To top it off, some environmentalists (but by no means all of them) threaten to sue the US Forest Service to stop a thinly-veiled program intended to avert a disastrous fire in the watershed, imperiling Santa Fe’s surface water supply.

San Juan-Chama is not faring too well. The test collector on the Rio Grande at San Ildefonso pueblo is now running, and the water is being tested. But the city cannot invest in a major water system without a perceived commitment from the pueblo, and the pueblo remains noncommittal. Senator Donizio says that a regional water system with federal aid might (continued on page 19)

Endorsements for Santa Fe City Elections on March 5th

The Santa Fe Group has endorsed the following candidates for Mayor and City Council in the 5 March 2002 Santa Fe City Election:

• Frank Montano—Mayor
• David Pfeffer—Council District 1
• Carolyn Sigstedt—Council District 2
• David Cress—Council District 3
• Carol Robertson Lopez, Council District 4

The Santa Fe Group Political Committee distributed questionnaires with 31 questions, and conducted interviews with most of the candidates. The Political Committee spent 11+ hours reviewing the questionnaires and interviewing. The Group believes that these are all outstanding candidates who will work hard for Santa Fe. We hope that their leadership delivers a Santa Fe that:

• effectively confronts sprawl,
• creatively redevelops under-used lots within the city,
• allows residents to use renewable powered electricity, and
• limits growth according to the tests of:

  the City’s master plan policies; efficient use of water, land and infrastructure; and
  proven supplies of water.

Caution! Districts Have Shifted
You may have been moved to a new city council district. To find out your new district and where to vote, call the Santa Fe City Clerk (955-6521).

Mayor—Frank Montano
A Santa Fe native and member of the Santa Fe City Council since 1991, Frank has consistently demonstrated courage and leadership in his introduction and support of environmental protection measures. He championed the bus line, the mountain ordinance, water conservation measures including water-collection systems for new construction, and clean-up of the Baca Street well by the Public Service Company of New Mexico. Frank co-sponsored the original Early Neighborhood Notification ordinance, requiring neighborhood involvement in zoning and development decisions, proposing that infill development follow a master plan, working with those affected, and ensuring that developments meet zoning requirements. Frank was a strong supporter of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) as an alternative to pesticide use and was instrumental in getting the City to adopt IPM.

Frank Montano for Mayor
P.O. Box 29874 • Santa Fe, NM 87502
660-7938 • frank@mayor@sfd.com

City Council District 1—David Pfeffer
An architect, planning commissioner and activist, David has been a leading voice for sensible and community-sensitive development. He supports individual water budgets for households and businesses, affirming that, "We have to plan for serious conservation, retrofitting, water harvesting, efficient recycling and finding new supplies." David recognizes the importance of protecting the Santa Fe watershed, for forest and riparian habitat preservation and for a healthy water supply. David Pfeffer for City Council—District 1
305 Montezuma • Santa Fe, NM 87501-3026
983-5834 • pfeffer@sfd.com

City Council District 2—Carolyn Sigstedt
A long-time resident and community activist, Carolyn raised her three children in Santa Fe, taught in its school system, and is a small business owner. She recognizes that our water and land-use decisions must be considered on a regional basis, and that the City and County must work together on resource issues. She is committed to working with the two governments to link growth and water, and supports the development of a regional water budget and the elections of a regional water and waste board.

Carolyn Sigstedt for City Council—District 2
P.O. Box 500 • Santa Fe, NM 87504
820-1731 • cbstatedc@aol.com

City Council District 3—David Cress
A life-long Santa Fe resident, David has spent his career in environmental and natural resource protection. Currently the Director of Field Operations at the New Mexico State Land Office, David has served as a water-resources professional and union organizer at the New Mexico Environment Department, and is the head of the Rio Nuevo project to restore and protect the Santa Fe River on state trust lands. He rides the bus to work.

Contact 721 to Elect David Cress
2014 Osowie Road • Santa Fe, NM 87505
988-7973 • otowi@email.com

City Council District 4—Carol Robertson Lopez
A Santa Fe City Councilor since 1998 and southside resident for 22 years, Carol acts as Mayor Pro Tem and Chair of the City Finance Committee. A former chair of the Santa Fe Planning Commission, she recognizes the need for community dialogue in resource sustainability, and believes that there should be one City/County water system and a regional water authority to conduct water planning. Her achievements include her efforts on behalf of the Dale Ball Trail system, the planning of the Santa Fe watershed, the financial stability of the bus system, and the landscape and water conservation ordinances. She also worked to stop the I-25 project on the bypass.

471-9118 • crolopezlopes@gmail.com
SANTA FE GROUP 2002 MEETINGS

Tuesday, March 19, 7 PM

AN EVENING OF ROCK ART WITH DENIS SLIFER

Well-known local rock art expert Denis Slifer will present a slideshow of the Rock Art of the Upper Rio Grande. Denis is currently the archeologist for the Highway Department and involved in all environmental impact statements for highway construction. He has done extensive fieldwork throughout the Southwest, mapping and photographing rock art, and is the author of four books: Kokopellis: Flintplayer Images in Rock Art, Signs of Life: Rock Art of the Upper Rio Grande, Guide to Rock Art of the Utah Region, Sites with Public Access, and his most recent work Serpent and Sacred Fire: Fertility Images in Rock Art. Denis also guides trips and lectures extensively.

Join us for a delightful evening and bring your questions about the meaning and background of these haunting images. Denis will have his books to sell and autograph.

Tuesday, April 16, 7 PM

GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATE WATER FORUM

All of the candidates running for the nomination of Governor in the June primary, both Republicans and Democrats, are being invited for a panel discussion on issues relative to water. As this is proving to be a very hot topic in our State, you can be sure we will all want to hear what our future Governor will have to say about water.

For further details about the meeting and which candidates have accepted our invitation, please watch for the “News of the Santa Fe Group” that will be mailed to you the beginning of April.

From the lack of snowpack in our mountains, we know that water is going to be a key topic in the coming elections and this will be a good discussion.

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

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

SANTA FE GROUP OF THE SIERRA CLUB
621 Old Santa Fe Trail, Suite 10, Plaza Desira, Santa Fe, NM 87505
505 983-2703

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR—Doug Fraser

As you will read in the first portion of the newsletter, Paul Paryski and I spent a very busy time lobbying for environmental issues on behalf of the Sierra Club at the legislative session. Many of the same issues will be recurring during the 2003 session, particularly matters relative to water. Water concerns are now on the front burner for legislators.

As a result of our work, Tom Turney, New Mexico State Engineer, spoke before the Group at our general meeting on February 10th. The topic of water and all of its related issues was well presented and received by a capacity crowd. The question and answer period was most informative. It was interesting to note that the legislature threw more money at this subject than the Office of State Engineer asked for or can possibly spend. That is a first. The Club has been watching these matters for years—new people are becoming aware of its importance. In fact, there is a chance that the State will deliver its Pecos River water obligations, pursuant to Compact, this year (or perhaps next), which could necessitate a special legislative session just on water matters.

Tom also talked about the water problems facing the City of Santa Fe. If this turns out to be a dry year—hang on to your hat! We could be in for very serious problems for the whole region. Even the local officials are talking water...water...water. We may invite Tom back soon for another discussion of these matters.

CONSERVATION CHAIR—Paul Paryski

Cliff Larsen, Conservation Committee Chair, has resigned—leaving behind a legacy of fine initiatives and accomplishments. Cliff plans to concentrate his efforts and many skills on mining issues, both on the state and national levels. Paul Paryski, Conservation Vice-Chair, is temporarily heading the chair until a new chair can be chosen.

The major issue discussed by the committee was the so-called bear scare. Lack of natural food in the high mountains and hills forced New Mexico's black bears to forage for food in lower areas and near to urban areas and farms. Many people requested that the bear hunting season be greatly extended and include hunting with dogs. The Club opposed this, and, happily, the seasons were not greatly modified.

The same pressure has been brought on the State concerning cougars. Ranchers feel that cougars are too numerous and attack and kill sheep and cattle. The issue is still being debated.

We are happy to report that a House Joint Memorial on Black Tailed Prairie Dogs was passed during the 2002 Legislative Session. This memorial sponsored by Representative Mike Stewart (D-Abq), a friend of the environment and Wild Friends, a school children's group. The memorial proposed the continuation of the Black Tailed Prairie Dog Working Group, an exemplary group of ranchers, farmers and environmentalists all working together to preserve the prairie dog and save it from becoming endangered, which would negatively affect ranchers. The Club participated in writing and passing the memorial and will participate in the working group.

LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD PEOPLE

The Growth Committee is primarily concerned with containing sprawl and helping preserve the beauty and culture of the Santa Fe area. Interested? Call Jan Kindel (474-7207).

*SANTA FE GROUP OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Chair — Doug Fraser * 474-3615 / 663-4124 fax
Vice-Chair — Barbara Johnson * barb@intel.com 466-4915
Secretary/Treasurer — Lionel Sorzano 583-6715

Political Committee—Susan Marlin * smarlin@intel.com 988-5206
Membership/Activity Outings—Nanima McCullum * nanima@minespring.com 471-0005
Newsletter/Publicity — Kay Carlson scarnell@minespring.com 926-3925
Phone Tree — Berta Hens 424-1435
Chapter Ray — Doug Fraser * 474-7015

Outings — Nebert Spanish 474-4354
Fishing — Paul Paryski * anch@intel.com 920-2844
Mining — Cliff Larsen * paryski@intel.com 992-1984
Water/John Busbee * elements@intel.com 406-2125
Rangeland-George Peterson johnbusbee@earthlink.net 820-0200
National Parks—Courtney White * rogetre@intel.com 982-7502
Conservation—Mike Stewart (D-Abq) 982-1034
Anti-Wolf Outings-Merene McCullum * raccoon@minespring.com 471-0005
Growth—Eleanor Boesinger * nonecellar@minespring.com 820-0400

*Santa Fe Group Executive Committee

Rio Grande Shirman

March/April 2002
**SANTA FE GROUP OUTINGS FOR 2002**

**SANTA FE GROUP NEWS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sat</th>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>March 2002</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>Snow Sledding (or Hiking) at Wild Rivers Rec Area north of Questa. Bring sleds and something to drink. Sandra Newton (505-758-1678 or sm@tليك.com)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>Easy Petrosedilia Hike, some scrambling, limit of 15, call for imprecise. Gail Bryant (505-757-6654)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>Pottery Dinner to discuss activities in Taos area (hiking, backpacking, singles group, diner, horseback riding, llama trekking). A pre-dinner wine tasting is $10. Shijing at Taos Inn on Sunday at 6:45 PM (505-758-1678 or sm@tليك.com)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>Easy/Moderate Hike new Central Section of the Dale Ball Trail (including Cerro Colorado between Hyde Park &amp; Cerro Gordo Rd). 6 miles. Dogs (on leash) okay. If too much snow in footfall, we'll do Arroyo Chamita. Norma McCallan (471-0005)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
<td>Moderate Hike. Heather Linton (982-9715)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td>Easy Hike to Fray Trail in Bandelier. Leave 9 AM or meet in White Rock with prior arrangement. Vicki Ayres (438-8435)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td></td>
<td>Easy Hike to Tent Rocks. Leave 9 AM. Jeff Jones (666-2389)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td></td>
<td>Easy Birdwatch Walk – bring binoculars. Ron Duffy (582-2899)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td></td>
<td>Easy/Moderate Hike to Ghost Hostel in Glorieta. If too much snow, an alternative hike will be planned. Leave 9 AM and meet leader at north end of Glorieta Overpass at 9:30 AM. David Bryant (505-757-3477)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td></td>
<td>Storm Drain Hike in Bandelier. Norbert Sperlich (983-8624)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
<td>Easy Petrosedilia Hike. Some scrambling, limit of 15, call for time/place. Gail Bryant (505-757-6654)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Arroyo Climb-up Cabezon peak, exposure to falling, not for fear of rain. Tolkien Onish (202-2874) or Steve McKeef (505-757-3583)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td></td>
<td>Easy/Moderate Hike (or Snowshoe Trip) DOE lands near White Rock. Little elevation gain. Carpool from Sierra offices in SF's 8:30 AM. Meet leader 9:30 AM parking lot of Smith's Supermarket, White Rock. Dogs okay. Bob McKee (672-3246).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>**Sat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td>Moderate Hike near Ojo Caliente. Bring swimwear for optional soak in the hot springs afterwards. For details, call Marcia Skillman (982-4676 b, 983-7723 w)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td>Moderate Hike in high country. Leave 9 AM. For reservation, call Art Judel (582-3213)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
<td>Easy Hike for details, call Gail Bryant (505-757-6654)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
<td>Storm Drain Hike to Sierra Negra (near Apahill). Rough terrain, no trail, 2000' elevation gain. For reservation, call Norbert Sperlich (974-4354)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td></td>
<td>Storm Drain Hike on Atalaya-Sierra Pecos Loop, 11 miles roundtrip, 2500' elevation gain. Dogs allowed. For details, call Tolkien Onish (820-2844).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td></td>
<td>Moderate Hike on Dockwall Trill, trails condition permitting. 5 miles roundtrip, 1700' elevation gain. Leave at 8:30 AM in Santa Fe, meet leader at 9 AM at north end of Glorieta Overpass. For reservations, call David Bryant (505-757-3477).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td></td>
<td>Easy Birdwatch Walk – bring binoculars, call for time/meeting place. Ron Duffy (582-2899)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td></td>
<td>Moderate Hike to Kitchen Mesa (Ghost Ranch) and beyond. Some scrambling required. Leave 8:30 in Santa Fe, meet leader in Española. For reservation, call Michael DiRossi (663-0648).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td></td>
<td>Moderate Hike to Rio en Medio. Leave 9 AM. For reservation, call Heather Linton (982-9715).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SANTA FE GROUP NEWS**

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

For additional outings in Northern New Mexico, please check the Pajarito Group page(s) in this newsletter.

**OUTING LEADERS GET TOGETHER**

We are planning an evening get together mini workshop for Outing Leaders and potential leaders on Thursday, April 11, or Wednesday, April 17, at the Sierra Office from 6:30 to 9:30 PM. If you have ever thought about leading hikes, this is an excellent time to find out how it is done.

Please call Tolkien (820-2844), Norbert (983-8624) or Norma (471-0005) for details, and to let us know which evening is better for you.

**OUTING LEADER TRAINING WORKSHOP - May 17-19, 2002**

Rocky Mountain Village of the Easter Seals Empires, Colorado - 40 mile west of Denver Hosted by Sierra's Outdoor Activities Training Program and only $45, includes meals (Friday dinner to Sunday lunch) and bus-technology lodging Friday and Saturday nights. Contact Steven Shevach at steven.shevach@sierraclub.org or (415) 977-5711.

**GROUP COMMITTEE MEETING DATES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group Executive Committee</th>
<th>Group Conservation Committee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, March 5, 6:30 PM</td>
<td>Tuesday, March 26, 7 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, April 2, 6:30 PM</td>
<td>Tuesday, April 23, 7 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, May 7, 6:30 PM</td>
<td>Water Pot-Luck (John Buckler's house) (582-0811)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, March 12, 6:30 PM</td>
<td>Monday, April 8, 6:30 PM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**RIO GRANDE SIERRAN ON THE 'NET !!**

http://www.rigrande.sierranet.org/insatbate/html

**Outings Notes** - Unless otherwise noted, all outings leave from the Sierra office, 621 Old Santa Fe Trail, "Pines District," just south of Namaste Grocery at the corner of Old 599 Trail and Pinosa Drive. Contact will be arranged. Each leader should be prepared to pay a $5 to the driver of the car in which you ride. Bring a lunch, water, study aids, hiking boots or shoes, and clothing suitable for the weather. Leaders reserve 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 inadequate numbers of participants. The company reserves the right to make decisions and permit/s to participate. All permit/s to participate must be available at the Sierra Club office. Dogs are permitted on hikes unless noted otherwise. Telephone leader for details of the individual hike. To participate, you will need to sign a liability waiver. If you would like to read a copy of the waiver, see http://www.sierranet.org/bulbings/chapeciv/forne.html

March/April 2002

**PHONE TREE MAIL-MAIL TREE**

A Great Way To Reacht Our Leaders And Officials!

Berita Haan has graciously agreed to take over our phone tree and is currently looking for others who might like to do so. John Buckler has the small tree up and running. If you would like to be on either tree to receive and act upon conservation alerts, please contact Berita (242-6355) or John (john@nordicweb.net). Our environmental alerts have been increasing, and public interest and money is focused on the War on Terrorism. We need everyone's help, and this is a good way to start getting involved.
Cougars and the Precautionary Principle

by Janie Newlin

Lisa Jennings of APNM will give us a presentation on the management of cougars in New Mexico. Management because, according to the best available science, the cougar population is about half the number being shot by the NM Department of Game and Fish to establish kill quotas. Management because the total kill allowed is about three times the sustainable limit, according to the best available science. State allowed cougar kill quotas have now reached the point where the yearly kill may be large enough to crash the entire cougar population of New Mexico...according to the best available science.

Which brings us to the precautionary principle. Roughly translated the precautionary principle tells us “Don’t gamble with what you can’t afford to lose.” It is far easier to decide to live and manage within limits now, than to exceed limits and then have to travel the hard road back to ecological security. This applies to cougar management as well. Do we really want to create another endangered species in the region? We don’t have to, yet the new cougar quotas violate all sense of the precautionary principle, based on the best information available to us at this time.

Website News

Lost your Lorax? Need a membership application? Log on to our outstanding website for these and more details on El Paso Regional Group activities. The El Paso Regional Group earns credits for new members entering through http://www.sierratrad.org/elpaso

March General Meeting
Grazing the Southwest with
Kiersten Stade
Forest Guardians

Confused about what cows actually do to your public lands? The ranchers figure the desert will support one cow per section per inch of yearly precipitation. Ms. Stade will give us an overview of the effects of livestock grazing on our desert environment.

Wednesday, March 27th, 7:30 PM
University and Wiggins on the UTEP campus
Centennial Museum

Selected Outings

Mar 23: Bishop Cap Dayhike
Place: Organ Mountains, east of Vado
Class: Moderate
Length: 3-4 miles
Elevation gain: 1000 feet
Leader: Ed Stoner (575) 587-8720 (e) elstonery@elpasogroup.net
Bishops Cap is interesting esthetically, historically and geologically. It is the site of Cook’s Cave, where bones of bison and mammoths have been found. There are outcroppings of fluorite, horrite and scheelite, although there has been no significant mining. There are no established trails, so the hike will be across open terrain. How far we go depends on the interest of the group and the weather. We have the option of exploring the prospect holes, looking for the cave, and climbing the Cap.

Mar 30-31: Dog Canyon Car Camp
Place: Guadalupe Mountains NP
Class: Easy
Length: 0-5 miles
Elevation gain: 0-500 feet
Leader: Earl Harkowsky (915) 755-3909 (h)
Dog Canyon in the Guadalupe Fossil beds a few steps south of the state line at the park’s northern border. The drive in is somewhat circuitous, but the solitude gained is more than enough for a car campground. There are several excellent trails leading up gently into the hills. One can simply lounge around the camp and observe the wildlife, which seems to know it’s protected once across the park boundary.

Apr 6-7: Indio Ranch Service/Car Camp
Place: SE of Sierra Blanca, Texas
Class: Easy to Medium
Length: 20 miles
Elevation gain: 0-1000 feet
Leader: Liz Walsh (584-1471) ewalsh@utep.edu
Owned by the University of Texas at El Paso, Indio Ranch is in the hills above the Rio Grande down close to the Hudspeth/Cabrera County line. The road is not suitable for passenger cars. The accommodations are limited to a bunkhouse and an outhouse. We’ll arrive around noon on Saturday and spend some time clearing out a good campsite away from the spring. The next morning we’ll take the whole camp on an all day trip to explore a nearby outhouse and a picnic area among the ruins from over a thousand years ago at the Satukil Trail along the high ridge of the Chihuahua to beautiful Amistad Park. After spending Saturday night at the high, cool place, we will return our steps north to the Satukil Trail and then descend some 3000 feet to our autos.

Sierra Club - El Paso Regional Group
Directory (Area Code 915)

http://texas.sierratrad.org/elpaso

Chair
Laurence Gibson: 594-7342
lgibson@ute.edu

Vice Chair
Janie Newlin: 584-1471
chaetuna@juno.com

Secretary
Ann Falknor: 833-9102
afalknor@prodigy.net

Treasurer
Kathy Sunday: 584-9301
sunday@zi.net

Editor
Lawrence Gibson: 594-7342
lgibson@ute.edu

Members
Ted Metrig: 852-3011
metrig@earthlink.net
Jesse Escobedo: 872-8422
jesse@esi.net
Greg Watson: 532-7273
vegetuxm@aol.com
Liz Walsh: 584-1471
ewalsh@utep.edu

Chapter Delegate
Ted Metrig: 852-3011
tmetrig@earthlink.net

Chap Del - Alternate
Liz Walsh: 584-1471
ewalsh@utep.edu

Webmaster
Terry Sunday: 584-9301
sunday@zi.net

Insur City Outings

Outings
Laurence Gibson: 594-7342
lgibson@ute.edu

Outings
Rollin Wickenden: rwickenden@aol.com

Membership
Ted Metrig: 584-7342
lgibson@ute.edu

Website
Terry Sunday: 584-9301
sunday@zi.net
News from the Chair

Don Dearholt

The fine programs have continued, with the programs on Watershed Problems in New Mexico, by Karl Wood, and Border Environmental Health Problems in Southern New Mexico, by Vicki Simons, particularly relevant and full of interesting and important information. Our programs this year are being selected to help us in establishing priorities for our conservation work. Please note that the next programs scheduled are also very timely and important, and please attend if at all possible, so that you can help us decide where to put our resources to the best advantage! Our Christmas potluck was great fun, and is the beginning of a new tradition—we expect to have another one next year.

Perhaps you've heard that an oil company has applied for a permit to drill for oil and gas wells on Otero Mesa, and all the environmentalists who know and appreciate the quality and extent of the grasslands, with its unique wildlife and ecology, would like to give the BLM many good reasons not to approve this request. Call Jim Scanlon at 527-9962 for further information, and see the program for April below!

General Meetings

Executive Committee Meetings are typically the first Wednesday of the month—all members are welcome to attend. Call Cheryl at 524-4861 for time and place.

Programs

Thursday, March 14: Decentralization: A Giant Step Toward Restoring the Rio Grande—Kevin Bixby, Director of the Southwest Environmental Center, Las Cruces, NM. 7:00 p.m., SH 107, on the NMSU campus.

Thursday, April 11: Oil and Gas Drilling on Greater Otero Mesa: New Mexico's Version of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge—Steve Capra, Media Coordinator for the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance. 7:00 p.m., SH 107, on the NMSU campus.

****** We expect this program will be within the comment period for the BLM proposal, so we expect to have information on possible action(s) we might be able to take relating to this potential disaster!!!

(To find the programs, Science Hall is the L-shaped building just north of Stewart Street, and west of Williams and the tennis courts; it is across from O'Donnell Hall, the education building. SH 107 is in the east wing of Science Hall, which is the part of the L that extends north and south.)

For more information, call Don at 522-3035.

Coming Events

Outings

March 2, Saturday: Hike Broad Canyon in the Las Uvas Mnts. Trip is rated moderate - maybe we'll see some petroglyphs along the way. Call Ron @ 522-4327 for info.

March 30, Saturday: Cooke's Peak - Struensous hike up this prominent peak north of Deming. Site of BLM WSA. 3,000 ft. elevation gain. Call Ron @ 526-7811 for info.

April 6, Saturday: Achenboch Canyon hike in the Organ Mnts. Rated moderate—maybe some spring wildflowers if we're lucky. Call Ron @ 522-4327 for info.

April 27, Saturday: Time to do Hillburno Peak again. This is a moderate hike of 10 miles on trails over relatively easy terrain. 1,800 ft. elevation gain. Call Ron @ 526-7811 for info.
Group Directory

Pajarito Group of the Sierra Club

Iise Bleck
Chair
662-2358
ibleck@yahoo.com

Kim Manley
Vice Chair

Matt Beaver
Member
829-3645
heavenr@csn.nevada.com

Carole Jacobson
Sec./Treasurer
672-9579
rbe.jacobson@worknet.att.net

Chuck Perrier
Conservation
661-6169
perrier@worldway.net

Fred Harline
661-9621
fishard@earthlink.net

Abe Jacobson
672-9579
abe.jacobson@worknet.att.net

Sallie McNutty
661-7174
mmacandy@swsp.com

Iise Bleck
Chapter Representative
662-2358
ibleck@yahoo.com

General Meetings

All meetings are held in the upstairs rooms of the Mesa Public Library at 7:00 PM, and are open to the public. General meetings are on the first Wednesday, Conservation Meetings on the second Wednesday, and Escam Meetings on the third Wednesday of each month.

Other Meetings:

March 6, 7:00 PM
Discussion on Area G: The Los Alamos Study Group requested that the Pajarito Group endorse a petition to close Area G (the nuclear Hot Dump) at Los Alamos National Laboratory. Due to the complex issues, both scientific and political, however, we decided to schedule a panel that will address the operation and potential closure of Area G. Panel members participating will be: Ray Hahn from the Lab's Solid Waste Operations, Merlin Wheeler, a retired hydrologist and environmental scientist Greg Mello from the Los Alamos Study Group, and potentially a member of the New Mexico Environmental Department.

April 3, 7:00 PM
Review of Los Alamos Comprehensive Plan: Los Alamos is revising its Comprehensive Plan. The project, begun in 1999, was put on hold, first because of many protests against the Plan as submitted (no land use designation including open space was included), and then the Cerro Grande Fire. Once again the plan is moving forward; this time the process includes community participation and visioning. Carl Moore, one of the planners, will present an overview of the process and procedure and the findings to date.

Outings Questionnaire

To help us make our outings program more attractive, please provide some guidance by filling out the following questionnaire.

Check all that apply to you.

I am not interested in outings however,
I am interested in:

- Short hikes with little elevation gain lasting half a day, in the vicinity of Los Alamos.
- Moderate day hikes in the vicinity of Los Alamos.
- Moderate to strenuous day hikes in northern New Mexico.
- Weekend car camping trips with moderate to strenuous hikes.
- Backpacking trips.
- Float trips.
- Family outings.
- Outings on which pets are welcome.
- Cross-country ski trips.
- Outings on mountain bikes.
- I would like to be an outings leader.

My favorite outing is: ________________________________________________________________

Comments/suggestions: ______________________________________________________________

Please send completed questionnaires to:
Rainer & Iise Bleck
1007 Big Rock Loop
Los Alamos, NM 87544
A Letter From the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

This narrative was written by Mark Herndon, an eelman from Oklahoma who has worked with us for many years on our murrelling projects as a volunteer. He spent a month trekking in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). Read what he has to say. Pass it on to your friends, if you are so inclined.

—Erik Ramussen
Cooperative Institute for Mesoscale Meteorological Studies
NSSL/Oklahoma University

I everyone. I returned yesterday from a month along the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in far northeastern Alaska. I took 25 pounds and basically feel like I have been hit with a really tough trip. I want to share a little bit about the place with you, while it is still fresh in my mind—things that I feel are very important. I want to grab you by the lapels and tell you a few things that are true, because I have seen them.

ANWR is probably the biggest chunk of absolute wilderness left in this country. I've been in Gates of the Arctic National Park and Noatak National Preserve, two other large protected areas in the Brooks Range. ANWR is huge compared to these places; it's a place where you could walk your whole life and never see it. All contrary to what you may have heard in the media, it is not a vast grassland. It is like heaven on earth that hasn't been touched by man. There is not a single building, not a single trail, in an area that I've heard is comparable to South Carolina. It's 19 million acres—and there aren't even visitors.

Very few people go there. It is difficult and committing to get there. Since I have been there, and given the current political situation about ANWR's coastal plain, I emphatically want to tell you what it is like. And feel free to tell your friends.

First, I paddled the Canning River, on the west side of the Refuge. I started out on the glacial-carved Brooks Range and hiked for a few days—icy mountains and a two-day snowstorm on the 4th of July. It looks wilder than the wildest part of Colorado without the trees. That part of the Refuge is far north of the tree-line. As I floated down, I saw grizzly bears, polar bears, muskox, and wolves and wolverines. I hiked up side valleys that were miles wide and absolutely flat tundra covered with lichens and arctic poppies. A close examination of the tundra reveals hundreds of tiny flowers and lichens. Everywhere, old caribou antlers and skull grips stuck up through the tundra. Wolf-killed caribou skeletons also dot the tundra, often skulls with huge antlers attached. I saw more musk ox and managed to walk past pretty close to some of them, before they got a little agitated.

Along the coast, the boundary between state land and the coastal plain, I began to see caribou in earnest—more than you could ever count. It was like being in a herd in Africa. This is where I came out of the wilderness part of the Refuge, and the river became the boundary between state land on the left (where oil exploration goes on) and ANWR on the right bank. On the state land, I began to see many abandoned fuel drums, and huge tracks on the tundra where car trains shoot seismics in the winter. The tracks don't go away any time soon. After a while, I saw abandoned drums constantly on the frozen land.

On the coastal plain, I saw many smaller caribou herds and began to see lots of birds—geese, ducks, tundra swans, and strange types of birds (I have no idea what they were), probably migrating up from Hawaii or Chile to rest.

All this time, I saw more and more garbage on the left bank. Most of the animals were on the right bank. In this day and age, I would think that BP-Amoco, Exxon, and Phillips would go clean up all that crap.

I made my way to the delta of the river where it empties into the Beaufort Sea and, in the 2000-foot hill in the wind, paddled a roundabout 10 miles across the fowl-ward lagoon to an island that is about six miles long. There were many small icebergs about 30 feet across. I saw old sleds that the Eskimos used to live on in the island, and I found that the entire north side of the island was still fast against the sea ice which continues to somewhere in Russia, I guess. I walked out on it for a while; it was really rough. One day, through binoculars, I watched ringed seals (polar bears' staple food) running on the ice. I saw a huge set of polar bear tracks around the lagoon side of the island, but they were pretty old. The island was just a few miles outside of the ANWR boundary, and Exxon had drilled a dry hole on it in the past two years. It was one of the fishiest locations I have ever seen in my 15 years working in the oil industry. I was really surprised, because Exxon drills in the lower 48 are usually the cleanest of them all. I was not impressed with what I saw of the oil industry in Alaska.

Then my bus plane landed on a sand spit and took me to the headwaters of the Jago river, which is supposed to be one of the most beautiful places on earth. I spent ten days in this valley, hiking up to the glacier-topped peaks at the headwaters. Part of the Porcupine Caribou Herd had gone south up the valley a couple of days before my arrival—there were millions of animals. I spent my evenings watching the two-mile party that was the beginning of the arctic peaks at the headwaters. Part of the Porcupine Caribou Herd had gone south up the valley a couple of days before my arrival—there were millions of animals. I spent my evenings watching the two-mile party that was the beginning of the arctic peaks at the headwaters.

On the Jago, I was trapped for two days waiting for a small-wheeler riverboat to come down. I had fallen in the same river on the way up, and my gear up there is serious trouble because of the cold. The only way to describe this valley is to take the prettiest valley in Montana or Idaho and double it. It just took my breath away. It was so different that it may as well have been the moon. One night while I slept, a gravelly walked by my tent—a set of fresh tracks hadn't been there the night before. I heard him cry out. He said me no mind.

Anyway, I was picked up on a gravel bar on the lower river and flown out to Kaktovik, on the coast. I heard there were nine white people in Kaktovik, but the Inupiat Eskimos who live there were very nice people. You'd see someone cleaning a freshly killed bearded seal in the front yard of their house. A leenal hunter (they basically all hunt and whale) had I'd been on the Canning said, they hadn't seen a seal for ten years. They're a very nice people. You'd see someone cleaning a freshly killed bearded seal in the front yard of their house. A leenal hunter (they basically all hunt and whale) had I'd been on the Canning and she said we were a lot skin on where the caribou still were. From there, I made all of the flights home.

Before I went to see ANWR for myself, I had some preconceptions. After last year in Alaska, I thought that modern oil exploration could be done responsibly. Certainly most Alaskans were for it—they each got $1,600 each last year from the North Slope oil money.

Before seeing ANWR—seeing that coastal plain myself—I realized that there are a lot of lies being told about this place. It is not a vast wasteland. It is achingly beautiful, and if you value wild places, the Refuge could be considered a sanctuary or a candle from the coast. To me, it was an intense experience, far beyond what I expected. I have been going to wild places most of my life, but I have never been to a place like this—this is more than ever in lower 48. There are a few places that are just not appropriate for large-scale oil exploration. This place is far more famous than Yellowstone or Grand Teton, but it is far away and far from where we put a bunch of drill pads on that coastal plain, we will be making a terrible mistake. Our country will never again be energy independent anyway. These numbers don't lie. Drilling in ANWR will only help about four major oil companies and the State of Alaska (which is completely addicted to the oil field). It will only make a few percent difference to the nation.

This morning, I read in the paper that the House-approved drilling in ANWR. I felt like crying. That coastal plain is very narrow, and the most environmentally sensitive exploration would put a giant blot on it. Most of you will never meet anyone else in your life who has actually been to ANWR or who have crossed the coastal plain. I emphatically urge you to listen to what I am saying and take it into account as you form your own opinions. The vote to open ANWR still has to be made through the Senate. Those of you in Oklahoma are writing paper by writing to our senators; to those of you in other states, maybe you can help.

And remember—I am in the oil industry. I'm still for drilling in many, many places. Not here. The price is way too high. I can't emphasize enough how special this place is. I don't believe the promise that they will only drill on 2,000 acres. When they get through drilling seismic in that place, it will look like a supermarket from the air. It's kind of like a football field. Twenty-two players standing on their feet probably occupy far less than 100 square feet of that football field—but they sure do make an impression. The coastal plain is the living part of the Refuge. The rest is very mountainous and almost sterile by comparison. To go stumping on the coastal plain with a series of industrial rites is just too much.

I don't want to have to say that I saw ANWR way back before it got all messed up.

Thanks for listening.

—Mark Herndon
these bills but insisted, in collaboration with the Alliance for the Rio Grande Heritage, that very strict controls and limits be established on the use of herbicides. This required long negotiation with the dairy, rancher and farmers' associations—all of which finally agreed to our proposals. This negotiation process, and our support of their water concerns, helped mend fences and build bridges with the farming community.

In the end, we must all fight to preserve the natural resource base on which we depend.

After long hours in various committee meetings discussing the various bills, the senators and representatives concerned agreed to a package bill of $30 million to devise and implement a program to restore water to the Pecos River in order to meet New Mexico's obligations. Apparently the Governor has signed this legislation and includes the restoration of watered-down riparian areas. We may also work to propose a riparian ecosystem restoration bill this year that now probably would get the support of the ranchers, farmers and dairy farmers, a new alliance.

We did not succeed in getting a domestic well bill passed, although we tried very hard. The proposed bill, introduced in the House by Representative Stoll (D-Eddy), Chairman of the House Agriculture and Water Resource Committee, would have given the State Engineer the right to deny new permits:

- in areas of the state that are considered critical for water; and
- in areas where wells would have a negative effect on the state's ability to meet its obligations.

After the House bill was tabled, however, we were able, with the help of Senator Cisco McSorley (D-Albuquerque) and Senator Doce Feltman (D-Albuquerque), Chair of the Public Affairs Committee, to get a similar bill introduced in the Senate. Senator McSorley showed great courage in introducing the bill, since it was highly controversial and vigorously opposed by conservatives and libertarians. This bill was also tabled, largely after an extensive discussion during which the committee senators agreed that a new bill should be presented at the next session. Council of 1000 Friends tirelessly fought the capital shows to pass these bills.

Among those who lost with broken hearts was the mining industry, led by Phelps Dodge. Using their considerable resources, they pushed to enact an amendment, Senate Bill 386, to the 1993 Mining Act. This amendment would have eliminated the legal requirement that mining companies obtain surety bonds to:

- guarantee the cost of reclamation of closed-out mining sites, and
- eliminate any pollution these sites might cause.

The amendment would have given mining companies the right to establish subsidiaries holding parent-company shares to provide this financial guarantee. The mining companies argued that the cost of providing surety bonds through third-party establishments has become prohibitive.

The environmental community, however, feels that the amendment would allow a mining company to bankrupt its necessary subsidiary and escape financial liability, leaving the State of New Mexico and, therefore, its taxpayers with huge cleanup costs. While other mining states (e.g., California, Alaska, and Oregon) insist on bonds, some states without third-party bonding have been saddled with huge costs (e.g., Montana, which paid $40 million to clean up one site).

We lobbied long and hard, even during the night, along with other environmental groups such as the Conservation Voters' Alliance and the New Mexico Environmental Law Center, to stop this environmentally unacceptable legislation. The Senate Conservation Committee put the bill aside strong arguments from both sides. Due to our efforts and those of the other environmental lobbyists, however, the bill never reached either the Senate or House floor. Senator Richard possono (D-Albuquerque, pro-environment President Pro Tem of the Senate) herself supported us on the Senate floor. Senator Shannon Robinson (D-Albuquerque), who is instrumental in passing the original 1993 Hard Rock Mining Act, also helped on the floor. Cliff Larsen, the Charter Mining Co-chair, testified against the bill before the Senate Conservation Committee and was ready to assist the State Engineer in the next session.

We did agree to meet with the mining industry during the interim to discuss the problem of high bonding costs. House and Senate memoral also proposed further discussion.

A number of good bills were passed during the session:

- A series of bills provided for tax and other incentives for alternate energy production, including an Energy Memorials bill, House Joint Memorial 98, introduced by Don Trigg (R-El Paso). This bill will establish an interim committee to study the effects of new power plants in New Mexico. Charter Chair Jim Hamman and Energy Chair Gail Pryba helped draft the bill, along with Charles Bentzinger and Dick Kump of Border Ecology Project. Les Crowder, an activist from El Paso, testified in favor of the bill. Senator Michael Sanchez (D-Velasquez) supported the initiative.
- We helped the NM Environment Department get $2 million included in the state budget as matching funds for an EPA superfund grant of $5 million to clean up five polluted sites in New Mexico.
- The admirable work of a rancher-environmentalist Black-Tailed Prairie Dog Restoration and Protection Working Group was extended.
- Used oil was classified as a toxic waste. The purchase of alternate-fuel vehicles by the State was promoted.
- A bill proposing a special license plate to help fund wildlife programs made it through committee.
- A bill funding the use of biomass for energy generation made it through committee.
- Joint resolutions were passed to recommend the establishment of an offshore wetland instead of dumping effluent into the Rio Grande.

The bill "locating" will indicate whether these measures passed in the confined final days of the session and were signed by the Governor.

A couple of capital-outlay measures funding at the enlargement of Paso del Norte in the early days were proposed. Because the enlargement would threaten a number of First Nation petroglyphs, we fought to stop the proposal. Capital-outlay projects are buried in the budget; we will not know whether this measure received funding until a budget is finalized passed.

During the entire session, we worked closely with the Conservation Voters Alliance (CVA) and the Alliance for the Rio Grande Heritage, promoting environmentally friendly bills and fighting bills that would negatively impact the environment. Recognizing that such collaboration is invaluable, we would like to thank Helga Schmitt, Mary Feldbom, Zoe Van Raan and Linda Taylor of CVA; and Ninie Olgain and Slam Ray, lobbyists of the Alliance for the Rio Grande Heritage, for their collaboration and friendship during this short and tiring session.

During the 2003 legislative session, we plan to present a pro-active program to promote our goals:

- water-resource protection,
- wildlife/wildland protection, and
- stopping sprawl.

We hope we can count on the support of all active Sierra Club members.

Rep. Stell on Water (cont.)

Fighting over water was commonplace in the Old West, but in the past century, we have grown accustomed to our water—both the supply and the quality. Now we are again faced with a serious threat to our water, our life blood.

"Whiskey is for drinking, water is for fighting."

—a saying from the Old West

our way of life—and we are again fighting over water, this time in the courts. It is up to all of us—city dwellers, ranchers, farmers, protectors of wildlife, developers, business owners—to take this issue very seriously. It should be on the front page of every newspaper just about every day, it should be part of school curriculums, it should be at the top of the agenda of every county and municipality in this state, and it should be a topic of conversation for all of us.

The more we ignore the problem, the more likely we are to end up fighting, and that will cost the state, and us as citizens, money and time that could be spent solving the problem.

The Legislature is working on ways to deal with these problems, but the solution will depend on all the citizens of the state, because this is a problem that affects us all—not just farmers, not just a few citizens or counties, but not just a few regions of the state. Cooperation, vision and new thinking—not fighting—are the key to protecting our water. And protecting our water is the key to protecting our economic security and preserving our quality of life.

For more information, contact Representative Joe M. Stell (D-Edify), Chairman of the House Agriculture and Water Resource Committee, in Carlsbad, NM (785-2185; house@state.nm.us).
NM Legislature Passes Promising Energy Legislation

by Guyl Roya

Some favorable bills pertaining to energy passed the Legislature this session and are awaiting the Governor's signature. Senator Sue Wilson Befford's SB 187 and Representative Ben Lujan's HB 233 both provide a tax credit of 0.03/kWh for energy from wind and solar facilities that generate 20 MW or more. This will benefit only big wind farms at this point; hopefully, it will encourage the construction of these facilities in New Mexico. The Legislature passed Senator Lyona's and Representative Lujan's bills (SB 376 and HB 377) providing grants receipt tax exemptions to wind turbines, blades and auxiliary equipment for wind power plants. This exemption could save a $10-million wind farm about $500,000 in initial capitalization costs. Because there was concern about losing gross receipts taxes for construction equipment and related projects in general, a compromise limits the exemption to "government sales" of equipment. This ties the exemption to only those wind farms financed through industrial revenue bonds—in effect, a "government sale" of equipment.

Senator Lyona and Representatives Gobellins and Lujan passed bills providing for the extension of industrial revenue bonds in all counties in New Mexico for use in power plants. The bill would allow the bonds for both conventional and renewable energy plants, but Senator Lyona has indicated he was most interested in promoting wind farms in Eastern New Mexico. Senator Feldman's bill promoting the use of alternative fuels passed.

Finally, two memorials were passed (SIM-96, HJM-98) that will require all future gas power plants be reviewed by an interim committee for their impacts on water and other natural resources. Hopefully, this will at least guide power-plant construction to use the air-cleaning technologies that use almost no water. Memorials do not require the Governor's signature.

For more information, contact Chapter Energy Chair Guyl Roya (groya@cybermesa.com).

Lindsey on Water (cont. from page 11)

bring the pueblo aboard and solve the water problems in northern Santa Fe county, but how does that create more water? And how long would it take? We could tap into the river at Buckman. That alternative is becoming more attractive to the city, the county and Las Campanas. The State Engineer and the US Forest Service demand that there be just one tap into the river, not three. The principals are negotiating, but they have yet to iron out their differences as to what pays for what and how they share the water.

Completion of that project would be three years away, but no decision has been made whether to go for Santa Fe or Buckman. Or both—and at what price?

The city authorized an average of 654 new connections to the water system annually from 1996 to 2000, and 973 through November 2001. Mayor Delgado said in August 2000 that the city must match the demand for water with the supply—and he has stuck to it despite criticism—but the city cannot deny building permits on the grounds of insufficient water unless the Council gives it that authority. (The company now offers new hookups only on a highly conditional one-year basis, but that has not deterred the developers.) Councilors Bushue, Chavez, Heldinger and Montoya have proposed a Water Budget. Logic would seem to call for a memorandum, since the water company says that water is already insufficient for dry years. But this was a more modest proposal, simply limiting annual hookups to the 1996-2000 average. Nevertheless, it generated a firestorm from the development community. The spokesman for the Realtors Association and Chamber of Commerce called the proposal "a monster" and predicted economic turmoil. Developers said they would have to dentil their own wells or go bankrupt. Espanola also wants to drill more wells. But the State Engineer long ago said that the aquifer is already completely committed.

The Water Budget is being put on hold until a consultant studies its potential economic impact (and thereby puts off the issue until after the coming election.) I hope the analysts look at what would happen to business if we have a prolonged water crisis.

Most of the growth is occurring outside the city, and the county government has no systematic process for reconciling growth and available water. It hoped that it could tap in on Sun Juan-Chama water, but the city has said no, it needs all that water.

When builders overbuild the water supplies, the pressures become intolerable to the aquifers and defer the crisis for a few years, when it will be worse. In fact, the choice is not a free one between unfeathered economic growth and no growth. Slow growth, with water, would probably suit most Santa Feans better than running growth followed by a crisis.

Water has become the major issue that the city and county governments must face—and they don't want to. If they do, they can avoid a water crisis only if they demand proof that developers have the water, even in dry years, and will pay for its delivery to their developments. Even this is a rather bleak compromise.

Cities can forgo agricultural use for water. They will change the land we know, if the market is allowed to work.

The only real solution is to keep the effective demand below the point at which the bidding wars get serious. That could be achieved only through zoning and land-use policies to hold total development at levels commensurate with available water supplies. The County 1980 Master Plan envisaged such policies, but it was circumvented.

The race for city and county offices is on. The public interest demands a willingness by its elected officials to insist on matching our demands to our water supplies. Some of the candidates are committed to the idea. What do we hear from the others?

Lindsey Grant is a writer on population/resource issues and a former US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Environment and Population (lindseygrant@earthlink.net).

Ansel Adams

© 2001 Rondal Partridge

He didn't just photograph the wilderness.
He fought for it.

Most people don't know that Ansel Adams was a member of the Sierra Club for over five decades. A fierce environmentalist, Adams wanted to help preserve the Earth for future generations—not just to celebrate it on film. And the Sierra Club shared his vision. Shouldn't your grandchildren have more than photos to remind them of the grandeur of our land? The Sierra Club is dedicated to protecting our wilderness for generations to come. Join us. You'll be in good company.

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!

My Name__________________________
Address______________________________
City_________________________State____Zip___________
email______________________________

☐ Check enclosed, made payable to Sierra Club

☐ Please charge my☐ Mastercard☐ Visa

Exp. Date______________
Cardholder Name_____________________
Card Number_________________________

Membership Category: ☐ INDIVIDUAL ☐ FAMILY

INTRODUCTORY ☐ $25

REGULAR ☐ $39 ☐ $47

Contributions gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible. They support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include $7.00 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and $1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

P.O. Box 52556
Boulder, CO 80322-2556

© Sierra Club

March/April 2002

Rio Grande Sierra

19
It's Spring When We Wake To the Sun Again

Sunlight popping through my bedroom window now awakens me instead of the clock radio. It is light 'til 6 am, and by the time you read this, spring flowers will be pushing through the warming soil (assuming we get at least a little snow and rain). Spring is a joyous time of reawakening and hope. We need the outdoors even more than usual, after the horrors of September 11; we need its calming magnificence and sense of permanence. We need to revisit our special places, and discover new ones. How lucky we are to live in a state so blessed with such a diversity of scenery, geology, plants, animals and cultural artifacts. And after we have renewed our energies, we need to work hard to save these special places—even more likely than before to be trampled in the rush for new oil and gas production, the diminished caretaking budgets our already under-funded land agencies will see as monies get funneled to the war on terrorism, the ever-increasing interest in motorized recreation.

The Pajarito (Los Alamos) Group has no offerings this month but, instead, a questionaire designed to elicit suggestions on how to broaden their outings program (see page 16). If you live in that area, or might be interested in hiking in that general vicinity, please fill it out and send it in. All phone numbers are area code 505 except as noted. Check each Group's pages for further information, and additional trips—and be sure to call the outing leader to confirm time and meeting place.

Sierra Club Outings in March-May 2002

Sunday, March 17 • Embudo Canyon Trail/Three Guns Spring Trail—Excellent moderate conditioning hike to fine viewpoints in the Sandia Mountain Wilderness. David Tibb (260-1553).
Saturday, March 22 • Bishop's Cap, Organ Mountains Day Hike—Short hike across open terrain in the Condolling's Cave area, where boson sopelous bisco have been found. Ed Storey (915-587-8720).
Saturday, March 29 • Cooke's Peak Climb—Stronuous hike up this prominent peak near Deming, site of a BLM Wilderness Study Area (WSA). Ben Zerby (526-7811).
Saturday, March 29 • Cabezon Peak Climb—Stronuous climb up this landmark volcanic plug near Cabezon. (630-2844).
Saturday, March 30 • Petroglyph Peak, La Cienega—Easy hike to this petroglyph area south of Sante Fe. Limit 15. Carl Bryant (575-6604).
Saturday/Sunday March 30-31 • Dog Canyon Car Camp—Easy hikes on trails out of this remote and very scenic campground in Guadalupe Mountains National Park. Corin Hoskowitz (915-757-3598).
Saturday, April 6 • Ojo Caliente Day Hike—Moderate day hike to the area above this historical hot springs. Marsha Skillman (983-7523, h 992-4967).
Saturday, April 6 • Achenback Canyon Hike—Moderate hike in the Organ Mountains. Ross or Annie (525-4527).
Saturday-Monday, April 13-15 • Bandelier National Monument Backpakc—Moderate backpack to a basecamp in Capulin Canyon, and exploratory day hike on Sunday. Robert McKee (672-3426).
Saturday, April 27 • Hilltops Peak Hike—Moderate trail, 10 miles round trip, on easy terrain to a prominent peak on the Continental Divide in the Black Range. Ben Zerby (526-7811).
Saturday, April 27 • Kitchen Mesa Hike—Moderate hike up to Kitchen Mesa, and beyond into the scenic red rocks of Ghost Ranch country. Michael diRosa (663-0648).
Saturday, May 5 • Pedernal Peak Climb—Stronuous hike to this prominent peak of Georgia O'Keefe fame. March Skillman (983-7233, h 992-4967).
Saturday, May 11 • Carlist in the Desert Monastery Bike Trip—Moderate bike ride to this remote site on the Chama River. Michael diRosa (663-0648).
Sunday, May 26 • Gloreuta Baily Hike—Stronuous hike on good trail to this 10,000' peak southwest of Santa Fe. Jeff Jones (466-2389).

Ansel Adams on PBS—Sunday, 21 April 2002

Sierra Club Productions and Steeplechase Films invite you to join us for "Ansel Adams: A Documentary Film," on PBS's American Experience on Sunday, 21 April 2002. This project, produced in cooperation with the Ansel Adams Publishing Rights Trust, is the first comprehensive biography of the legendary photographer. The film explores the meaning and legacy of Adams' life and work within the context of the great themes that absorbed him throughout his career—beauty and fragility of "the American earth," the inseparable bond of man and nature, and the moral obligation that the present owes to the future.

Producer/director Eric Burns of Steeplechase films is known for his award-winning PBS series "New York," as well as "The Donner Party" and "Coney Island." Sierra Club Productions creates diverse, quality dramatic and nonfiction film and television entertainment that reflects the belief that every person in connected to, inspired by and responsible for the natural world.