

Rio Grande Sierran

NEWS OF THE RIO GRANDE CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB

MAY/JUNE 2002

Rio Grande Chapter Endorses Environmental Champion Cisco McSorley for State Land Commissioner

by Martin Heinrich

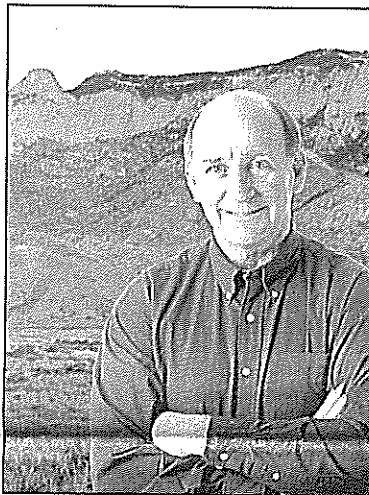
The Sierra Club is pleased to announce its endorsement of State Senator Cisco McSorley in the race for New Mexico State Land Commissioner. The office of Land Commissioner is especially important to the Club because it has so much impact on New Mexico's environment. Cisco McSorley was chosen because of his long and proven commitment to the environment. According to Sierra Club lobbyist Doug Fraser, "In both the House and Senate, Cisco McSorley has been a real champion on environmental issues. He has worked closely with the Sierra Club for 18 years to ensure that New Mexico's natural resources are protected."

That kind track record is critical for an office that manages 9,000,000 acres of public land and 13,000,000 acres of mineral rights for the citizens of New Mexico! Despite claims that environmental considerations threaten to decrease key public school revenues produced by the Land Office, the opposite has proven to be true. Land Office income has actually grown substantially during the conservation-minded administrations of Jim Baca and Ray Powell. Cisco McSorley is the only candidate in this race who has the proven ability to continue to build on the progress we have seen in this office.

One thing that sets Cisco McSorley apart from the other candidates in this race is the fact that he has such a long and distinguished record. For example, he was the author of the progressive Subdivision Act of 1995. This law put an end to a number of development practices that were not only environmentally damaging, but also irresponsible and dangerous. Sewage and infrastructure requirements, access for emergency vehicles, and limits on subdividing lots are now among the minimum requirements for developers operating in New Mexico.

"The New Mexico Mining Act was passed in 1993 in large part because of Cisco McSorley's guidance and determination," according to Sue McIntosh, principle Sierra Club lobbyist on the Mining Act. "That law required that

(continued on page 3)



Cisco McSorley has worked closely with the Sierra Club for 18 years to ensure that New Mexico's natural resources are protected. On June 4, 2002, we have an opportunity to vote for McSorley to be New Mexico's State Land Commissioner for the next four years.

Endorsements

Sierra Club endorsements
for other NM State
Democratic Primary Candidates—
see page 3

Water, Water Everywhere, But Not a Drop to Drink?

by Paul and Kerri Elders

As we all know, New Mexico is running out of water—and fast. And Eastern New Mexico, in particular, is directly in the firing line. The Ogallala Aquifer (also called the High Plains Aquifer), an underground supply, is the major source of water for eastern New Mexico and much of west Texas. According to the New Mexico State Engineer's Report 99-2, "Concentrated pumping in Curry and Roosevelt Counties in New Mexico as well as Bailey County in Texas will de-water large portions of the most productive areas of the basin [the Ogallala Aquifer] as early as the year 2010." That's right—in eight years.

And as our neighbors in eastern New Mexico are running out of water, a new industry has come to town: the large-scale dairy operation, or CAFO. CAFOs (Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations with over 1,000 "animal units") raise very real concerns about pollution and depletion of domestic drinking water supplies. Their impact on our state can be seen in Curry and Roosevelt Counties in eastern New Mexico and in the Las Cruces and Chaves County areas.

These CAFOs use a lot of water. According to Dr. Jack Van Horn (University of Florida), the average dairy cow on a dry lot in New Mexico uses 115 gallons of water/day. This means that

a 3,000 head dairy will use 345,000 gallons of water/day, just for the cows (that's more than an acre foot/day). In addition to this, huge amounts of water are required daily to clean pens and milking parlors to remove waste, and massive amounts of water will be used on the sprayfield to distribute this dairy waste onto the land.

Additionally, this industry encourages farmers to use more and more water to grow feed crops like corn.

And water usage is just part of the problem. According to the EPA, a single dairy cow produces 120 pounds of wet manure a day.

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SIERRA CLUB STRUCTURE

The Club has three structural levels. The National Board of Directors determines the overall direction of the Club. The National Organization is subdivided into Chapters, and each Chapter is further divided into Groups. One representative from each Chapter reports to the National Board through the Council of Club Leaders.

The largest part of the Chapter's budget goes to the salary and expenses for the Conservation Organizer and a part-time lobbyist, followed by the printing and mailing of this Newsletter.



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Contributions are welcome from members. E-mail contributions preferred. Contributors' names and e-mail address will be included in the article, as a source of more information, unless the contributor specifies otherwise. Send to jbuchser@earthlink.net • John Buchser • 223 N. Guadalupe #419 • Santa Fe, NM 87501. All submissions **MUST** be received by the 10th of the month prior to publication. (The Rio Grande Sierran is published in early January, March, May, July, September and November.) Photos, artwork and poems are also welcome. Letters and articles are subject to abridgement.

Editorial practices as developed by the Grand Canyon Chapter and adopted by the Rio Grande Chapter will be used in production of the Rio Grande Sierran. Letters to the editor over 500 words will be edited for length or returned to the author for editing. Submissions of Rio Grande Chapter members will take precedence over other submissions.

Contents of Group pages are the responsibility of the editor for that group and any policies that are in place from the applicable Group.

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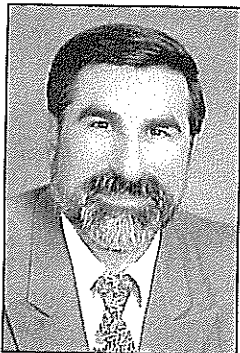
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415/977-5649

address.changes@sierraclub.org

Endorsements for the June 4, 2002 Democratic Primary State House of Representatives



Rick Miera

District 11

Rick Miera (incumbent) is a businessman serving his sixth term from a central Albuquerque district.

- 1011 Forrester NW
Albuquerque, NM 87102
- Phone: 843-6641
- house@state.nm.us

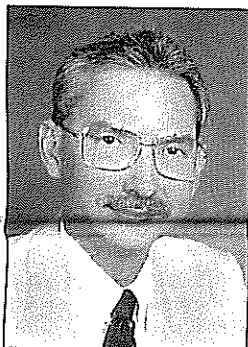


Nick Salazar

District 40

Nick Salazar (incumbent) has served in the House for 30 years. He represents a northern New Mexico district and lives at San Juan Pueblo. He is a member of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

- P.O. Box 1076
San Juan Pueblo, NM 87566
- Phone: 852-4178
- house@state.nm.us

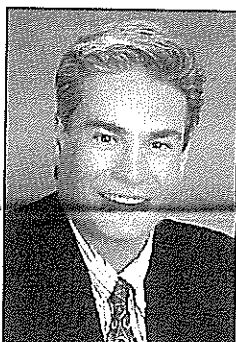


Miguel Garcia

District 14

Miguel Garcia (incumbent) is a teacher, representing a southwest Albuquerque district. He serves on the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

- 1118 La Font Road SW
Albuquerque, NM 87105
- Phone: 877-8131
- miguel.garcia@state.nm.us



W. Ron Martinez

District 69

W. Ken Martinez (incumbent) is a strong environmental presence for the Club. He is chair of the Judiciary Committee and also serves on the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee. Ken is an attorney representing the Grants area.

- P.O. Box 730
Grants, NM 87020
- Phone: 287-8801
- wken.martinez@state.nm.us



Sheryl Williams Stapleton

District 19

Sheryl Williams Stapleton (incumbent) is an assistant school principal. Sheryl represents a south central Albuquerque district.

- P.O. Box 25385
Albuquerque, NM 87125
- Phone: 986-4327
- sheryl.stapleton@state.nm.us



Steve Archibeque

District 15

Steve Archibeque (new candidate) is running to replace John Sanchez. Born and raised in the North Valley, Steve recently left the Public Defender's Office to work with Bill Gordon and Associates as a family law attorney.

- 10346 2nd Street, NW
Albuquerque, NM 87114
- Phone: 720-5964
- sarchibeque@billgordon.com

*S. Archibeque photo by John Yost, Marble St. Studio;
all others by Carolyn Wright, The Photography Studio.*

Cisco McSorley for State Land Commissioner (continued from page 1)

mining companies reclaim the mindless disasters created in the past. They must now post bonds on their operations, which prevents the practice of declaring bankruptcy and leaving the clean-up costs for the taxpayer." Cliff Larsen, Mining Campaign Chair for the Rio Grande Chapter, says that "New Mexico has one of the best sets of regulations controlling mining reclamation in the West."

Important environmental initiatives in McSorley's administration will include:

- developing wind-power potential on state trust lands;
- supporting Wilderness protection by pursuing land swaps that remove state lands from designated and proposed Wilderness areas; and

- raising the standards set for on commercial and residential development projects on state lands.

With so much at stake in this race, it is imperative that the environmental community be involved. You can help Cisco McSorley win his primary election. Call 505/247-1223 to find out about volunteer opportunities—and please, vote on June 4, 2002.

Senate Throws Away Chance to Improve Fuel Economy

On March 13, 2002, the U.S. Senate voted to do virtually nothing to improve the fuel economy of automobiles. The Senate passed an amendment removing language in the energy bill that would have raised fuel-efficiency standards for new autos—including SUVs, pick-ups, and minivans—to 35 miles per gallon by 2013. (The current standard is 27.5 for autos; 20.7 for SUVs, pick-ups, and minivans.)

Instead of supporting strong fuel-economy and safety language in the Senate energy bill (S. 517)—co-authored by New Mexico's Senator Jeff Bingaman and Senator Tom Daschle (D-SD)—the Levin-Bond amendment (s.2997) defers to the Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) without setting a target for oil savings. Levin-Bond also eliminates any of the tougher safety rules for the auto industry that would have been required by Kerry-Hollings.

"The Senate is handing our nation's energy security over to the auto industry," said Carl Pope, Executive Director of the Sierra Club. "It's unfortunate the Senate bowed to the pressure of the auto industry that waged a campaign of fear and falsehoods (see page 5). This vote means that after months of bipartisan calls to reduce our dependence on foreign oil, the Senate is instead voting to do virtually nothing."

NHTSA has failed to effectively implement fuel-economy regulations and enforce auto safety standards for the past 25 years. The Administration's close ties to the auto industry—including Chief of Staff Andrew Card's previous position as chief lobbyist for General Motors—are further indications that NHTSA will do little to increase CAFE standards.

"The Senate ignored a chance to make real progress in reducing our oil dependence, saving consumers money, and cutting global warming pollution," continued Pope. "The American people demand better from our Senators than this irresponsible vote to elevate the auto industry's short-term interests over Americans' safety and energy security."

In a separate vote in April 2002, the Senate once again refused to allow drilling for oil and gas in the pristine Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The Sierra Club is now urging Senators to strengthen language in the energy bill pertaining to the use of electricity from renewable sources like wind and solar power. The bill calls for a 10% increase by 2020. The Sierra Club believes 20% by 2020 is achievable (see *Rio Grande Sierran* March/April 2002).

For more information, contact Alex Veitch, Sierra Club Global Warming & Energy Program (202/675-7913; alex.veitch@sierraclub.org; www.sierraclub.org/globalwarming).

Cars, SUVs and other light trucks now consume eight million barrels of oil every day (mmbd). Raising fuel economy standards for new cars, SUVs and other light trucks [to an average of 40 mpg] will save nearly two mmbd in 2012 and nearly four mmbd by the end of the next decade—more oil than we import from the Persian Gulf each day and could expect to get from the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, combined. This responsible step would save consumers billions of dollars at the gas pump and reduce heat-trapping carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions that cause global warming."

—from *Increasing America's Fuel Economy Briefing Book* prepared by the Alliance to Save Energy, American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy, Natural Resources Defense Council, U.S. Public Interest Research Group, Sierra Club, and Union of Concerned Scientists (February 2002)
www.ase.org/policy/CAFEbriefingbk.pdf

Thank You To a Few

On March 13, 2002, the U.S. Senate passed (62-38) the Levin-Bond Amendment to the Senate Energy Bill (S. 517), abdicating our opportunity to phase in increased auto fuel-efficiency standards. The following Senators who voted correctly ("No") deserve our thanks:

Akaka (D-HI)	Inouye (D-HI)
Biden (D-DE)	Jeffords (I-VT)
Bingaman (D-NM)	Kennedy (D-MA)
Boxer (D-CA)	Kerry (D-MA)
Cantwell (D-WA)	Leahy (D-VT)
Chafee (R-RI)	Lieberman (D-CT)
Clinton (D-NY)	McCain (R-AZ)
Collins (R-ME)	Murray (D-WA)
Corzine (D-NJ)	Nelson (D-FL)
Daschle (D-SD)	Reed (D-RI)
Dayton (D-MN)	Reid (D-NV)
Dodd (D-CT)	Rockefeller (D-WV)
Durbin (D-IL)	Sarbanes (D-MD)
Edwards (D-NC)	Schumer (D-NY)
Feinstein (D-CA)	Smith (R-OR)
Graham (D-FL)	Snowe (R-ME)
Gregg (R-NH)	Torricelli (D-NJ)
Harkin (D-IA)	Wellstone (D-MN)
Hollings (D-SC)	Wyden (D-OR)

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The Honorable (full name)
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

After the Training: Change Comes One Voice At a Time

Hello Everyone! I want to take a moment to say how much I enjoyed the opportunity to meet everyone out in New Mexico and again thank you for participating in our training (see *Rio Grande Sierran*, March/April 2002). My interactions with all of you certainly added to my already glowing impressions of New Mexico and certainly made our training such a success.

I also want to personally extend the opportunity to you to get involved and make your voice heard on population and family-planning issues that are happening right now! We've made it easy for you.

- Thanks to the efforts of Wendy Balazik, whom you met at our training, we have recently placed on our web site sample letters to the editor about the Global Gag

Rule (www.sierraclub.org/population/global_gag_rule/letters.asp). Background information to refresh your memory is also provided. If you want a bit of assistance, don't hesitate to contact me or Wendy.

- Also, I want to request that each of you send a fax to the President from the Club's "Take Action" site (at no cost to you) requesting that he release our U.S. support for the United Nations' international family planning efforts. Let's not let partisan politics and erroneous facts stand in the way of saving women's lives and protecting the environment! Take Action to Restore Funding for the United Nations' International Family Planning Programs at:

<http://whistler.sierraclub.org/action/tamain?alid=45>

Each action you take and conversation you begin about population, family planning, and the environment carries us one step closer to securing a better future for all of us.

Best Regards,
Annette Souder

For more information, contact Annette Souder at the Sierra Club in Washington, DC (202/675-7901; fax 202/547-6009; annette.souder@sierraclub.org; www.sierraclub.org/population).

Annette Souder is the Sierra Club Senior Washington Representative to the Global Population and Environment Program.

U.S. Senate Caved In to Lies From the Auto Industry

by Carl Pope, Executive Director of the Sierra Club

I am ashamed. On Monday, March 11, 2002 thousands of watts of light from 88 searchlights pierced through the New York haze to mark the six-month anniversary of the tragedy of the World Trade Center. This, New York seemed to say, was the moment to remember—and honor—those who struggled, and those who lost, heroically, on September 11.

But already, as the green beams thrust skyward, a stain of fear and deceit was spreading across America. Powered by the transmitters of dozens of television stations across rural America—a few hundred watts in Fargo, a few thousand in Omaha, or perhaps a thousand in Butte—television station by television station, a superbly orchestrated, sleekly packaged campaign of dishonesty was telling rural Americans that at this moment, six months after the war on terrorism began, their government was coming to take away their pick-up trucks. Earnest farming faces stared out from the ads—millions of dollars worth of ads, saturation in places like Rapid City, South Dakota—and declared, "It's awfully hard to load the hay in a subcompact."

Only the analysis in the *New York Times* business section alerted us that the anxious farming faces were from "stock photos" and the quotes from family farmer General Motors.

According to General Motors, who was coming to repossess the family pick-up? Two war heroes, in fact—Senator John McCain, (R-AZ), and Senator John Kerry (D-MA)—who, on the day of the fuel-economy vote, came together to say that Americans deserve to drive cars, and SUVs, and yes pick-ups, engineered with the very best technology Detroit can muster, engineered to reduce our dependence on oil, to weaken the connection that deprives our foreign policy of freedom of action in the Middle East, to ease the load of CO₂ exhaust that threatens both our lungs and the climate of the planet. Kerry and McCain had offered a compromise—one that gave the auto industry time, ample time, and flexibility—perhaps a tad too much.

They said, "Enough is enough. We want to drive cars that don't threaten our national security, give asthma to our children, or threaten the world with global warming. You have the technology to do it. Fifteen years is long enough to install it in the vehicles you sell."

Kerry and McCain want the Ford Explorer to get 34 miles to the gallon instead of 19. They want better transmissions, more efficient tires, a wider choice of hybrid vehicles, more streamlined hoodlines, multi-valve engines.

They had suffered in our wars and knew that, when it came time to fight, America demanded the very best for its troops. They simply thought that if technology could make fighting less likely, and less necessary, we owed that to our troops as well.

I am ashamed. Detroit had a choice. It could have followed Henry Ford, and led the world with a new way of making cars, but it followed the path of the early 1970s: it concluded that beating the Japanese auto companies in improving technology is just too hard. It chose to luxuriate in the fat \$20,000 mark-ups it makes on that 19-mpg Explorer—profit margins bloated by the lack of investment in new technology. And it covered up its laziness by proclaiming that only Detroit was defending the hard-working plumber, the farmer, the window-glass installer, who otherwise would be reduced by Kerry and McCain to loading their tools onto—well perhaps the Ford Aspire that I drive, since I don't have to carry anything bulkier than a briefcase to work.

Six months after the assault on the World Trade Center, as American troops died closing in on yet another El Qaeda stronghold in Paktia Province, as American envoys traveled the Middle East trying to figure out how to keep the oil flowing while staunching the bloodshed, Detroit decided. It chose the past.

William Clay Ford himself had traveled to Washington to urge McCain to wait. When McCain refused, the lies began. In an unprecedented blitz, the auto industry set out to terrify rural America, claiming that if fuel-efficiency standards were increased, SUVs and pick-ups would vanish from their production lines. Panicked voters produce the requisite "flood" of telephone calls to Senators from rural states. (Polls had previously shown that pick-up owners in states like Nebraska strongly favored higher fuel-economy standards—after all, they pay the gas bills. But a few hundred emotionally charged phone calls are a lot more frightening than a poll.) Those Senators who were patriotically prepared to stand with Kerry and McCain and defend America's long-term energy, security, economic and environmental interests, suddenly found a higher calling—defending soccer moms. Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) rose and said, "American women love their SUVs and minivans... because of their safety." (Mikulski has met, in her career, with insurance indus-

try actuaries. She knows better.) Senator Christopher Bond of Missouri proclaimed, "about the only way we could get there is to put everybody into glorified golf carts." (Bond knew that everyone listening to him knows better.)

I am ashamed. Panicked, the Senate voted, overwhelmingly, to defeat Kerry and McCain. A great victory for the American auto industry? Not everyone thought so.

One thoughtful lobbyist for the industry emerged, ashen, like a man given a death sentence. He knew that his bosses had just opted for a short, profitable future for Detroit—until the foreign manufacturers take over the SUV and pick-up market with better technology (and fuel economy.) They'd opted for a future just long enough—like Enron's—to secure executive pensions, but a future with fewer and fewer opportunities for American workers.

I called a Detroit auto executive who has been working with environmentalists for several years to try to move the American manufacturers into a position of technological, and environmental, leadership. The executive did not support Kerry-McCain. He felt that the industry needed more time, that capital was short, that relief was needed from pension and health care costs. But he never pretended that the issue was the industry's ability to produce SUVs and pick-ups that met tougher fuel economy standards.

So our conversation should be sobering to shareholders in the Big 3.

I began by saying, "We need to talk about these ads."

"They disgusting aren't they," he said.

"Yes, they are," I replied.

"And they aren't true, are they," he said.

"No, they're not. But your company paid for them, didn't it."

"Yes, we did."

"You've really decided that you can't compete with the Japanese for quality, haven't you."

"Yes, we have."

So, I am ashamed. I am ashamed that, six months after the attack on the World Trade Center, the U.S. Senate caved in, not to Osama bin Laden, but to lies from the auto industry.

But while I am ashamed, I am not going to despair. I am also angry. And today, talking to my 31-year-old son, or a friend's 16-year-old daughter, I know that millions of other Americans are angry.

I hear the fury in the voice of that auto executive, or the determination of the lobbyist who told the Sierra Club, "We still have to talk. We have to make this happen." I believe Americans must, can, and will demand leadership from our leaders. We cannot let our future be shaped by those who care only about their present.

One by one, neighbor to neighbor, letter to the editor by letter to the editor, post card by post card, and finally, vote by vote, we can shape an energy future that will make our grandchildren proud—not ashamed. The Sierra Club is, the Sierra Club has been, and the Sierra Club must be, part of that struggle.

I may be ashamed as an American, but I am proud to be one of you.

CAFE protects American jobs. If CAFE is weakened now, come the next energy crunch, American manufacturers will not be able to meet the demand for fuel-efficient cars... again. And American workers—both in the Auto Industry and in the other industries that serve it—will be out on the street. Many of their jobs—as was true for the last two times around—will disappear forever.

—Chrysler Advertisement, *New York Times* (August 1, 1985)
from Increasing America's Fuel Economy
Briefing Book prepared by the Alliance to Save Energy, American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy, Natural Resources Defense Council, US Public Interest Research Group, Sierra Club, and Union of Concerned Scientists (February 2002)
www.ase.org/policy/CAFEbriefingbk.pdf



Working For Common Ground on the Valles Caldera—89,000 Acres of It

by Ernie Atencio, Coordinator of the Valles Caldera Coalition

An unusual opportunity has drawn together an unusual alliance from across the environmental spectrum. The Valles Caldera Coalition is a broad-based collective of organizations and individuals advocating for ecologically sound and sustainable stewardship of the new Valles Caldera National Preserve. The diversity within the Coalition stretches so broadly as to be nearly unwieldy at times, but in that diversity also lies its strength. Members are usually willing to set aside blanket political and philosophical positions to work together toward the best possible management of 89,000 acres of some of the most beautiful and ecologically productive land in the region—not always easy, but still worth the effort.

The original group came together in 1997 as the Baca Coalition, at first just to advocate for federal purchase of the Baca Ranch in the Jemez Mountains above Los Alamos, New Mexico. The Coalition also supported Santa Clara Pueblo's acquisition of about 5,000 acres of the ranch in the upper reaches of the Santa Clara watershed. Then began debate over the status of this new piece of the public domain—Would it be just another tract of U.S. Forest Service land, a National Park, some other specially protected landscape?—and not everyone was satisfied with the final product. That the Preserve is supposed to eventually become financially self-sustaining has been a particularly thorny issue.

According to the July 2000 Valles Caldera Preservation Act, the purposes of the Preserve are:

- "to protect and preserve for future generations the scientific, scenic, historic, and natural values of the Baca ranch, including rivers and ecosystems and archaeological, geological, and cultural resources;
- to provide opportunities for public recreation;
- to establish a demonstration area for an experimental management regime adapted to this unique property which incorporates elements of public and private administration in order to promote long term financial sustainability consistent with the other purposes enumerated in this subsection; and
- to provide for sustained yield management of Baca ranch for timber production and domesticated livestock grazing insofar as is consistent with the other purposes stated herein."

The broad contours of this mandate offer unprecedented potentials for a new model of public lands management, but just as many pitfalls if it's not done carefully.

The preserve is managed by a nine-member Board of Trustees representing a variety of interests and expertise (see box). Chairman Bill deBuys is also a founding member of the Coalition and is responsible for a lot of the early work to support the acquisition and establishment of the Preserve.

Once the Board assumes management of the property from the Santa Fe National Forest (possibly sometime in May 2002), it has two years to develop and implement a comprehen-

sive program to accomplish all the management objectives described in the legislation. The most important decisions that will set the tone and template for long-term management will be made during this period—the public participation process to develop a grazing program is already underway—and this is the time interested members of the public should be involved.

The Board also has about 13 years to become financially self-sustaining, but the sky won't fall if it doesn't reach that goal. The Trust might eventually be extended or terminated, the Preserve might revert back to the Santa Fe National Forest, but in the meantime we hope it firmly establishes a progressive new management model for public lands, here and everywhere.

To that end, the Valles Caldera Coalition supports a science-based adaptive management

- The Nature Conservancy,
- New Mexico Audubon Council,
- New Mexico Wilderness Alliance,
- Pajarito Environmental Education Center,
- The Quivira Coalition,
- Rocky Mountain Youth Corps,
- Santa Fe Winter Sports Alliance,
- Sierra Club-Rio Grande Chapter and Pajarito Group,
- Trout Unlimited-Truchas Chapter,
- Wild Turkey Federation-Albuquerque Chapter,
- The Wilderness Society,
- The Wildlife Society-New Mexico Chapter, and
- individuals with interest and expertise in everything from wildlife biology and cultural resources to forestry and ranching.

"The diversity within the Coalition stretches so broadly as to be nearly unwieldy at times, but in that diversity also lies its strength."

program for all activities and resource use on the Preserve, in which ecosystem health, including healthy watersheds, streams, grasslands, forests and wildlife, is the guiding principle in all management decisions. If done right, sustainable livestock grazing and small-diameter timber thinning—a working landscape—along with recreation, hunting and other public access, are not incompatible with that goal.

Current Coalition members include:

- Amigos Bravos-Friends of the Wild Rivers,
- Audubon-New Mexico,
- Defenders of Wildlife,
- National Parks Conservation Association,

We also informally stay in touch with land-based community interests and local tribes.

One Coalition member recently said that a true coalition is always right on the edge of total collapse because of the constant tension of trying to incorporate so many diverse values, opinions, and perspectives. It's a different approach to environmental advocacy to match a new model of public lands management—it might be a slower and rougher road, but we'll probably all end up in a better place at the end of it.

What can you do? Support the reappointment of three Trustees whose terms end in January 2003. This Board of Trustees is a progressive, conservation-minded, creative group, and it's important that they all stay in place at least until planning is complete and programs are underway.

Support generous federal funding as long as needed to get this grand experiment off to a good start. The Board of Trustees has requested \$3.15 million for the next fiscal year funding cycle, and we could put even more than that to very good use.

For more information about the Coalition, contact Ernie Atencio, Coordinator of the Valles Caldera Coalition (505/776-1882; atencio@vallescalderacoalition.org; P.O. Box 9314, Santa Fe, NM 87504), or contact any of the member organizations.

For information about the Preserve or management planning, contact Gary Ziche, Executive Director of the Valles Caldera National Preserve (505/438-7892; www.fs.fed.us/r3/sfe/valles/index.html; P.O. Box 1689, Santa Fe, NM 87504).

Note: A slightly different version of this article first appeared in the March 2002 issue of La Jicarita News.

Members of the Valles Caldera Board of Trustees

- Bill deBuys, Chair**
Cultural and Natural History
- Bob Armstrong, Wildlife Management**
- Leonard Atencio**
Santa Fe National Forest Supervisor
- Karen Durkovich**
Nonprofit Conservation Group
- Palemon Martinez, Livestock Grazing**
- Stephen Stoddard**
Business Management
- Thomas Swetnam, Sustainable Forestry**
- Dennis Vasquez, Bandelier National Monument Superintendent**
- David Yepa, Local Government/Jemez Tribal Member**

Charter Forests and the Valles Caldera Don't Mix

Dear *High Country News*,

While there's no question that U.S. Forest Service management and decision making could use some progressive reform, the Bush administration's proposal to establish "charter forests" takes it in the wrong direction (*HCN*, 3/18/02: "Can 'charter forests' remake an agency?"). Putting the future of our public national forests in the hands of any narrow collection of interests opens the door for all manner of mischief.

Fragmenting forest management and forest ecosystems, smoothing the way for corporate abuse or reducing environmental safeguards will serve very few of us. Citizen advisory councils and collaborative planning are potentially good ideas, as is a streamlined (if sound and accountable) decision-making process, but do we want to just hand over management authority to anyone who asks?

Here's one example of local management gone askew: County commissioners in northwest Colorado have proposed a Working Landscape Trust to manage all federal lands in Moffat County. Their proposal explicitly states that they do not support any wilderness protection for public lands in their domain. People are entitled to their opinions, but that doesn't mean an agenda-driven group like this is entitled to manage anything on behalf of the American public.

Trying to bring substance to its ambiguous charter forest proposal, the administration makes a direct reference to the Valles Caldera National Preserve on the Santa Fe National Forest. The new preserve

is a "model," according to the proposal (and according to *HCN*'s caption under a photo of the preserve), but the administration is way off the mark.

The Valles Caldera National Preserve came into the federal estate under unique circumstances. The former "Baca Ranch" had been a private working ranch for generations. After years of negotiations with the willing sellers, the ranch was purchased using federal Land and Water Conservation Fund dollars because of the significant cultural and natural values it could provide to the American public. The nine-member Trust does operate outside of the normal Forest Service structure, but clearly within all the requirements of federal law. The Trust is a wholly owned government corporation, whose members are appointed by the president, not a special-interest group who petitioned the government for a piece of land.

This preserve is truly an experiment on a grand scale, but we won't see the results on the land for years or even decades. We hope it eventually proves to be a model of progressive, holistic, science-based public-lands management, which is a lot more than we'd see from a "charter forests" model.

—Sara Scott
New Mexico Program Director
The Wilderness Society
Denver, CO

The Future of New Mexico's Peregrines Still Uncertain

by James A. Bailey

Terrell Johnson's recent report to the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish on the current status of peregrine falcons in our state contains ample evidence for continued caution in the management and recovery of this species. Johnson has been observing peregrine falcons and compiling annual status and trend information for years. He reports New Mexico peregrine data from 1960-2001.

Peregrine numbers plummeted in New Mexico and elsewhere from approximately 1960 through 1980. Much of this decline has been attributed to cumulative effects of DDT in the peregrine food chain. Domestic use of DDT was banned in 1972, but exports continued until 1977. Total U.S. production of all insecticides declined between 1980 and 1984, but after 1984, production of insecticides—including substitutes for DDT—again began to increase. Numbers of New Mexico peregrines began to increase steadily after 1980, although the rate of increase has declined since about 1993. Johnson believes that the drop in the rate of peregrine recovery in New Mexico may be related to the increased hemispheric production and use of insecticides since 1984.

Most disturbing is that the number of young fledged per adult pair in New Mexico has declined slowly since the mid-1980s, when hemispheric use of insecticides began to rise. Moreover, adult female peregrines that had the lowest rates of reproduction also had the lowest survival rates. Johnson suggests that current production rates are barely adequate to sustain our current state population. His numbers show a marked population sensitivity to rather small changes in production. Using a simple linear regression model, and a more complicated

demographic model, Johnson estimates that the average of 1.59 young fledged per adult pair for 1997-2001 is close to the level below which the population is predicted to decline.

It has been suggested that the decline in peregrine production is merely a natural density-dependent response to the increasing numbers of peregrines in New Mexico. This might occur if adult pairs were facing increasing competition

for food, or if the "new" pairs have been forced to use territories of lower quality, compared to the territories that have been in use since the 1980s. Johnson, however, analyzed a subset of data for long-established peregrine territories that have been most separated from other peregrine territories—and found a similar rate of decline in young fledged per adult pair. This is not consistent with the density-dependence hypothesis. Perhaps density-dependence is related to competition among peregrines on their winter ranges, but there appear to be no data for evaluating this hypothesis.

The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish downlisted the peregrine falcon from an endangered species to a threatened species in 1996. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service delisted the peregrine in 1999. A federal monitoring plan was proposed in 2001 but has not yet been implemented.

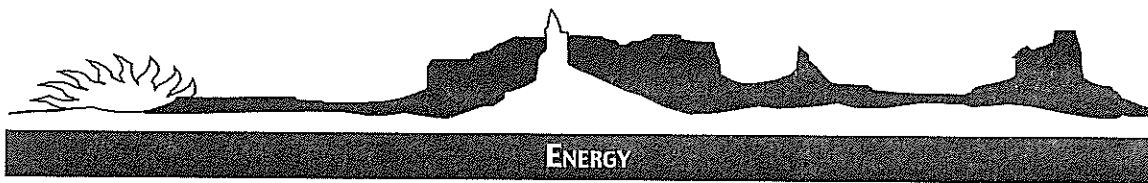
In response to the reduced status of peregrine falcons under the New Mexico Wildlife Conservation Act and the federal Endangered Species Act, falconers have been pressing for New Mexico to allow limited take of nestlings for use in falconry. (A listing as "threatened" under the state law does not prohibit regulated or unregulated take of a species. Other laws, however, prohibit unregulated take for some species,

"The bottom line is that productivity of New Mexico peregrine falcons has been declining slowly since about 1985, and we aren't sure why."

including falcons.) Larry Bell, Director of New Mexico Game and Fish, has said that New Mexico will not allow regulated take of peregrines without having an approved management plan.

The bottom line is that productivity of New Mexico peregrine falcons has been declining slowly since about 1985, and we aren't sure why. Further, despite considerable annual sampling effort, annual estimates of the average number of young fledged per adult pair have fairly wide confidence limits. Consequently, we will need a series of 5-10 years of positive productivity data before we can be sure that productivity of New Mexico's peregrines has stabilized or begun to increase. In this situation, Johnson urges continued protection of peregrine nestlings and peregrine habitat.

For more information, contact James Bailey (jabailey34@aol.com).



The First Six Months Of George W. Bush

Whatever your beliefs, know what your President is doing. Here is a sample of his accomplishments in his first six months:

Appointments

- Chose a Vice President quoted as saying, "If you want to do something about carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions, then you ought to build nuclear power plants" (Vice President Dick Cheney on *Meet the Press*).
- Appointed Kay Cole James—an opponent of affirmative action—to direct the Office of Personnel Management.
- Appointed John Negroponte—an undicted high-level Iran Contra figure—to the post of United Nations ambassador.
- Appointed Otto Reich—an undicted high level Iran Contra figure—to Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs.
- Appointed recycling foe Lynn Scarlett as Undersecretary of the Interior.
- Nominated David Lauriski—an ex-mining company executive—to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Mine Safety and Health.
- Appointed Diana "There is no gender gap in pay" Roth to the Council of Economic Advisers (*Boston Globe*, March 28, 2001).
- Nominated Ted Olson—who has repeatedly lied about his involvement with the Scaiffe-funded "Arkansas Project" to bring down Bill Clinton—for Solicitor General.
- Appointed John Bolton—who opposes nonproliferation treaties and the U.N.—to Undersecretary of State for Arms Control and International Security.
- Nominated Linda Fisher—an executive with Monsanto—for the number two job at the Environmental Protection Agency.
- Nominated Harvey Pitts—lawyer for teen sex video distributor—to head SEC.
- Nominated J. Steven Giles—an oil and coal lobbyist—for Deputy Secretary of the Interior.
- Forced out Forest Service Chief Mike Dombeck and appointed a timber industry lobbyist.
- Nominated Bennett Raley—who advocates repealing the Endangered Species Act—for Assistant Secretary for Water and Science.
- Nominated Michael McConnell—leading critic of the separation of church and state—to a federal judgeship.
- Nominated Terrence Boyle—ardent opponent of civil rights—to a federal judgeship.
- Will no longer seek guidance from the American Bar Association in recommendations for federal judiciary appointments.

Education/Literacy

- Eliminated funding for the "We the People" education program which taught school children about the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and citizenship.
- Proposed elimination of the "Reading Is Fundamental" program that gives free books to poor children.
- Cut federal spending on libraries by \$39 million.
- Blocked rules that would require federal agencies to offer bilingual assistance—

this, from a candidate who would readily fire-up his Spanish-speaking skills in front of would-be Hispanic voters.

Health & Social Services

- Cut \$35 million in funding for doctors to get advanced pediatric training.
- Reduced by 86% the Community Access Program for public hospitals, clinics, and providers of care for people without insurance.
- Closed White House Office for Women's Health Initiatives and Outreach.
- Gutted White House AIDS Office.
- Cut \$15.7 million earmarked for states to investigate cases of child abuse and neglect.
- Cut a program that provided prescription contraceptive coverage to federal employees (though it still pays for Viagra).
- Earmarked \$4 million in new federal grant money for HIV and drug abuse prevention programs to go only to religious groups and not secular equivalents.
- Cut \$60 million from a Boy's and Girl's Clubs of America program for public housing.
- Cut \$700 million in capital funds for repairs in public housing.
- Reduced by 40% the Low Income Home Assistance Program for low-income individuals who need assistance paying energy bills.
- Cut program to provide childcare to low-income families as they move from welfare to work.
- Cut \$200 million of work force training for dislocated workers.
- Helped kill a law designed to make it tougher for teenagers to get credit cards.
- Signed a bill making it harder for poor and middle-class Americans to file for bankruptcy, even in the case of daunting medical bills.
- Proposed a \$2 trillion tax cut, of which 43% will go to the wealthiest 1% of Americans.

Environment/Energy

- Cut Environmental Protection Agency budget by \$500 million.
- Took steps to abolish the White House Council on Environmental Quality.
- Is pushing for development of small nuclear weapons to attack deeply buried targets—weapons, which would violate the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.
- Pulled out of the 1997 Kyoto Treaty global warming agreement.
- Abandoned campaign pledge to regulate carbon dioxide (CO₂), the waste gas that contributes to global warming.
- Rescinded rule that mandated increased energy-saving efficiency regulations for central air conditioners and heat pumps.
- Cut by 50% funding for research into renewable energy sources.
- Cut funding by 28% for research into cleaner, more efficient cars and trucks.
- Canceled 2004 deadline for automakers to develop prototype high-mileage cars.

- Revoked rules that reduced the acceptable levels of arsenic in drinking water.
- Suspended rules that would require hardrock miners to clean up sites on Western public lands.
- Refused to fund continued cleanup of uranium-slag heap in Utah.
- Refused to fund continued litigation of the government's tobacco company lawsuit.
- Suspended rules that would have strengthened the government's ability to deny contracts to companies that violated workplace safety, environmental, and other federal laws.
- Rescinded a proposal to increase public access to information about the potential consequences resulting from chemical plant accidents.
- Proposed to curtail the ability of groups to sue in order to get an animal placed on the Endangered Species List.
- OK'd Interior Secretary Gale Norton to proceed with a controversial plan to auction oil and gas development tracts off the east coast of Florida.
- OK'd Gale Norton to send out letters to state officials soliciting suggestions for opening up national monuments for oil and gas drilling, coal mining, and logging.
- Announced intention to open up Montana's Lewis and Clark National Forest to oil and drilling.
- Proposes to re-draw boundaries of nation's monuments, which would technically allow oil and gas drilling "outside" of national monuments.
- Proposes that \$1.2 billion in funding for alternative renewable energy come from selling oil and gas lease tracts in the Alaska National Wildlife Reserve.
- Proposes to ease permit process—including environmental considerations—for refinery, nuclear, and hydroelectric dam construction (*Washington Post*, May 18, 2001).
- Proposes to give government the authority to take private property through eminent domain for power lines.
- Proposed to eliminate new marine protections for the Channel Islands and the coral reefs of northwest Hawaii (*San Francisco Chronicle*, April 6, 2001).
- Abandoned a campaign pledge to invest \$100 million for rainforest conservation.
- Allowed Interior Secretary Gale Norton to shelve citizen-led grizzly bear re-introduction plan scheduled for Idaho and Montana wilderness.
- Proposes to reverse regulation protecting 60 million acres of national forest from logging and road building.
- Eliminated funding for the Wetlands Reserve Program, which encourages farmers to maintain wetlands habitat on their property.
- Significantly eased field-testing controls of genetically engineered crops.
- Plans to serve genetically engineered foods at all official government functions.

WATER

CAFO: Water & Dairies (continued from page 1)

This is equivalent to the waste produced by 20-40 human beings. This means that one 3,000-head dairy will produce the same amount of waste per day as 90,000 humans—*twice* the amount of waste as the entire human population of Curry County, New Mexico—and Curry County currently has 19 operational dairies, with more moving into the region. Do the math, and hold your breath.

This manure is stored in open cesspools, euphemistically termed a "lagoon" by the dairy industry. In New Mexico, these are often clay-lined, allowing untreated waste to seep into the ground and, eventually, into the groundwater supply. These "lagoons" also can flood during heavy rains, polluting neighboring areas and the underground water supply, if this runoff flows into a playa lake. Wastewater, urine, and manure are collected from these "lagoons" and sprayed onto fields, releasing odors and bacteria into the air. Here, the waste is vulnerable to surface water runoff, polluting neighboring fields planted with commercial crops, as well as residential areas.

Unfortunately, large-scale dairy operations have a checkered past. Chino Valley, California has placed its dairy industry under a Cease and Desist Order because of groundwater and surface water pollution. California estimates that, at a cost of \$320/ton of salt removed, the total annual cost of removing the salt load dairies have added to groundwater in the Chino Basin will be roughly \$8.8 million/year. And the City of Waco, Texas is suing CAFOs in Erath County, Texas for polluting the Bosque River.

The dairy industry in New Mexico continually defends its pollution record, stating that our geography and climate helps prevent the disasters that have befallen other areas. However, New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) employee Maura Hanning stated in the *NM Business Journal*, "Of the roughly 194

permitted dairies, about 61 have recorded discharges exceeding state regulations." The track record in New Mexico includes the following:

- On November 26, 2001, NMED issued an administrative compliance order assessing a \$445,275 civil penalty against Gary Porte, the owner of P-2 Dairy, located near Dexter in Chaves County, for 25 violations of the State Water Quality Act and for allegedly violating an NMED-issued permit. In addition to the civil penalty, the order requires the dairy to submit an alternative plan for wastewater disposal and a corrective action plan to address contamination of groundwater.
- In 2001, the Dairy Farmers of America, Inc. (DFA) in Lovington agreed to pay \$100,000 for violations of the state Water Quality Act. In April 2001, waste from the DFA's cheese and whey plants in Lovington was overflowing directly from City of Lovington manholes onto private property because the City's wastewater system was unable to handle the volume of waste that had been illegally discharged by the DFA.
- In February 2002, Hector Villa, III—an environmental consultant with Frontera Environmental in El Paso, a former federal representative to the Pecos River Commission, and a former Regional Director of the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission (TNRCC; the Texas equivalent of our own NMED)—was found guilty of eight Water Quality Act violations for illegal dumping and failure to report illegal dumping. According to the New Mexico Attorney General's office, Villa and five other individuals, including Larry Gorzeman, owner of Gorzeman Dairy, participated in the illegal dumping of at least 70 tanker loads (as much as 280,000 gallons) of rendering-plant waste in two locations. This rendering-plant waste included animal

bone, hair, blood, fecal coliform, nitrates, and other waste left from the processing of dead animals. More than half of the waste was placed directly into the East Drain of the Elephant Butte Irrigation System behind the Gorzeman Dairy between August 1997 and July 1999. The remaining wastewater was illegally dumped on a landfill on the mesa west of Las Cruces.

Frightening as these violations are, this is only part of the story. The heavy concentration of these large CAFOs can lead to virtually irreversible pollution of our water supply. Nitrates are a natural by-product of cow manure. The EPA's MCL (maximum contaminant level) for nitrates in drinking water is 10 milligrams/liter (mg/l) or 10 parts per million (ppm). Even the EPA standard, however, may not be fully protective of the public health. According to a recent study completed at the University of Iowa, women whose average exposure to nitrates in drinking water was greater than 2.46 mg/l were 2.83 times more likely to develop bladder cancer than were women whose exposure was less than 0.36 mg/l. Nitrates cannot be removed from water by standard filtration methods or by boiling (which merely concentrates them). Nitrates can be removed from water by only three methods:

- reverse osmosis,
- anion exchange, or
- commercial distillation.

Dairies in New Mexico are already far exceeding the EPA's MCL (maximum contaminant level) for nitrates (10 mg/l). The Queso Grande Dairy in Roswell has recorded nitrate levels of 200 and 220 mg/l—more than 20 times the EPA MCL—in its monitoring wells. McCatharn Dairy in South Albuquerque also tested at 200 mg/l, and the Sun Valley Dairy in Berino recorded a nitrate level of 292 mg/l in one of its monitoring wells in June of 1999.

How do we handle this threat to our health and our quality of life? By becoming informed and becoming involved. Knowledge is power:

- learn all you can,
- write letters to the editor of your local paper, and
- contact your local officials and make them tell you what they are doing to protect your water supply.

We took action by founding a non-profit corporation, Concerned Citizens for Clean Water (CCCW), in January of this year. Our group now has more than 600 members and is actively working to help educate the public and state, local, and federal officials about water quality and quantity issues. Visit CCCW's web site (www.SaveOurWaterSupply.com) to learn more about these issues and how you can help—and think before you drink.

For more information, contact Paul and Kerri Elders in Clovis, NM (505/985-2180; wordpros@wordpros.com).

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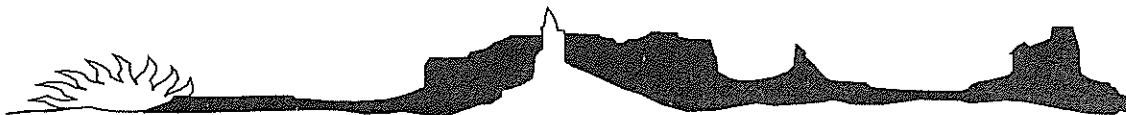
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REGULAR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$47
SUPPORTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
CONTRIBUTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
LIFE	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,250
SENIOR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
STUDENT	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
LIMITED INCOME	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39

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 \$7.50 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletter.

Drought Site

<http://drought.unl.edu/dm>



SOUTHERN GROUP NEWS

News from the Chair

Don Dearholt

The programs on decanalization of the Rio Grande (by Kevin Bixby of SWEC) and on the prospects for stopping drilling for oil and gas on Otero Mesa (by Steve Capra of the NMWA) were outstanding, and we really appreciate the knowledge and expertise of both of these fine environmentalists. On the morning after the latter meeting, we held a strategy meeting on Otero Mesa, and NMWA is leading a letter-writing campaign. At the Earth Day festivities on the NMSU campus (on Monday, April 22), NMWA and the Southern NM Group of the Sierra Club set up at adjacent tables, and we managed to get at least 20 people to sign letters and petitions on Otero Mesa, so we are hopeful that this will help launch a landslide of letters opposing drilling on Otero Mesa. If you haven't yet contacted the BLM office in Las Cruces to oppose drilling for gas and/or oil on Otero Mesa, then please write to:

Amy Lueders
Bureau of Land Management
1800 Marquess St.
Las Cruces, NM 88005

Our recent victory in the Senate on drilling in the ANWR is significant, and we may have some momentum; but it's crucial that we absolutely bombard the decision makers in the BLM with our views on the short-sighted, wrong-sited prospects for drilling on Otero Mesa!

I attended a CURB (Citizens United for Recycling Benefits, I think it is) meeting on April 17, and it appears that the city of Las Cruces is about to hire a recycling expert who believes he can increase the recycling done here considerably. This work is being led by Jeff Steinborn, field representative to Senator Jeff Bingaman in the Las Cruces office. The hopes are to expand the materials that can be recycled here, and to begin curb-side service. I'll keep you posted on this.

Earth Day had two celebrations here—one on Saturday, April 20, at the Mt. View Market (the local food co-op), and the one organized by the Environmental Sciences Student Organization on campus, on April 22. I took info on Sierra Club and on Otero Mesa (this was supplied by NMWA) to both, and played some music at the first one (psaltery, zither, and hammer dulcimer). The students of ESSO did a great job organizing the first Earth Day celebration on campus in at least a few years, and I'm looking forward to the one next year already!

The activities of the SNM Group will diminish somewhat over the summer, as most people have some travel and vacation time scheduled. We will be having a couple of planning meetings, however, and expect to organize and host the Gathering of the Green again in early September. We also expect to make progress in organizing a panel discussion on the mid-East policies of the U.S., to include aspects of energy and human rights, and possibly other topics. More information will be forthcoming as these plans are developed.

General Meetings

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

Coming Events

Outings

July 20 - Hike the Rim Trail in the Sacramento Mtns.
This will be a moderate hike of about six miles. Bring lunch & water.
Call Ben @ 526-7811 for further info and to reserve space.

Group Directory

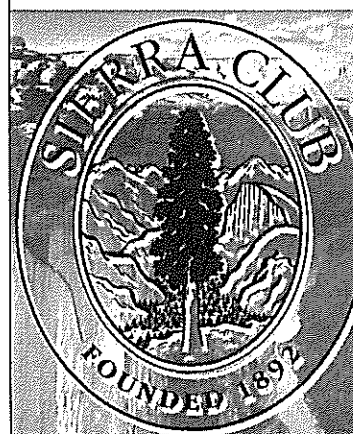
Southern N.M. Group
Executive Committee
P.O. Box 3705 UPB
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88003

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Cheryll Blevins
Treasurer/Secretary
524-4861
spotblev@earthlink.net

David Farrell
Legislative Issues
895-3352
dafarrelli@hotmail.com



You Can Make A Monumental Difference!



EL PASO GROUP NEWS

May General Meeting

Annual Picnic

Friday, May 31st, 5:30 PM

Come join fellow Sierrans for good chow and conversation. We will provide burgers, veggie burgers, hot dogs, buns, condiments, and ice. You bring everything else, including sodas, utensils, and a salad, covered dish, or dessert to be shared. Plan on a small donation to cover the cost of the burgers and dogs. We'll light the grills about 6:00, but come whenever you can.

**Leech Grove-University of Texas at El Paso
Across from Centennial Museum
University and Wiggins**

Castner Range Vulnerable

Castner Range, the 7,000-acre former military firing range on the east side of the Franklin Mountains, includes some of the most scenic and ecologically significant parts of the mountains. Once cleared of old artillery shells, it should be added to Franklin Mountains State Park. But until that happens, the land remains vulnerable to piecemeal development.

Such development may start soon. The U.S. Border Patrol has requested 40 acres on Castner Range for a new station and sector headquarters. This proposal is being evaluated in an environmental assessment (EA) now nearing completion. The EA is also looking at 2 alternate sites not on Castner Range. The Franklin Mountains Wilderness Coalition has recommended that one of those sites, at McCombs and U.S. 54, be selected rather than the Castner Range site.

Want to help protect Castner Range? Get on the mailing list for the EA, then submit comments as soon as it becomes available. The comment period will be brief (30 days), so time is of the essence. To be put on the mailing list, contact:

Mark W. Horner
USACE Albuquerque District
4101 Jefferson Plaza NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109
505-342-3187 mark.w.horner@spa02usace.army.mil

Builders' Impact Fees Coming? -John Sproul

Scene: March 27 Public Service Board meeting.

Action: El Paso Water Utilities' GM Ed Archuleta advocating that "Growth should pay for growth." in the form of impact fees of between \$2500 and \$4000 per new home. Bob Bowling, Tropicana Homes, rushes forward to protest the City trying to put him out of business. The PSB postpones action for two months. The Mayor has also promised to present his plan for future land sales within that time frame, including the 1300 acres between the Resler extension and Franklin Mountain State Park. Surely these happenings indicate that El Paso is coming of age with a new awareness that growth *does not* pay

for itself; we do. Certainly the PSB and Mayor Caballero will be pressured daily for the next months by those who are in the business of building on our lands. How can we volunteers possibly counteract? Most important is to somehow let our elected officials know that we do vote, that there are many of us, and that our small contributions will make up for the loss of those large gifts. Attend your Councilperson's breakfast meeting. Attend the next PSB meeting, signing in as a Sierra Club member. Send the Mayor an email. The next two months will be crucial.

-Laurence Gibson

Upcoming Outings

May 11 Pine Tree Trail Dayhike

Place: Aguirre Springs Recreation Area
Class: Easy to Moderate
Length: 4 miles
Elevation gain: 1000 feet

Leader: Liz Walsh 584-1471 (H) ewalsh@utep.edu

The BLM's Aguirre Springs Recreation Area is a beautiful and popular spot tucked away on the eastern flank of the Organ Mountains, so named for their fluted, cathedral-like rock formations. From the parking area a good trail loops up over promontories with great views over White Sands and down through shady arroyos, past the springs which named the place, and eventually returning to the trailhead.

May 25-27 Memorial Weekend Mineral Creek Backpack

Place: Gila National Forest
Class: Easy to Moderate
Length: 14 miles
Elevation gain: none

Leader: Laurence Gibson 594-7342 (H) lgibson@utep.edu

This easy trip is downhill all the way along a beautiful little creek on unmaintained trails, culminating in a charming slick-rock canyon. Saturday morning we'll set the shuttle from our exit point near Cooney's Tomb to our entrance into the Mineral Creek drainage up past Sandy Point on the Bursum Road. Saturday's overnight is at a picturesque old mining camp.

June 1 Hunter Peak-Bowl Dayhike

Place: Guadalupe Mountains National Park
Class: Moderate
Length: 8.5 miles
Elevation Gain: 2500 feet.

Leader: Mike Episcopo: 584-9322 (H) mepiscop@episd.org

This dayhike is a scenic loop utilizing the Tejas, Bowl, and Bear Canyon trails. Our route will take us from a shrub desert biome up and into a dense coniferous forest populated with a wide variety of birds, mammals, and reptiles. Hunter Peak, at 8368 feet, provides one of the most rewarding vantage points in the park. We will leave early Saturday morning for the Pine Springs Trailhead.

June 8 Mount Cristo Rey Dayhike

Place: Sunland Park, New Mexico
Class: Easy
Length: 5 miles
Elevation Gain: 800 feet

Leader: Mike Episcopo 584-9322 (H) mepiscop@episd.org

Cerro de Cristo Rey is an exposed 47 million year old andesitic magma intrusion. It rises to 4675 ft. and offers an excellent view of the El Paso/Juarez metroplex. The 42 ft. high sandstone cross on top has been there since its completion in October 1939. For this relatively easy dayhike we will begin early and return before the heat of the afternoon.

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Albuquerque's Planned Growth Strategy

The City of Albuquerque and the Bernalillo County recently issued a major new study, the PLANNED GROWTH STRATEGY, which has the potential to make significant improvements in the quality of life in Albuquerque.

Seven Principles for urban planning were established.

1. Local government should play a proactive role in managing growth. Growth should not be addressed in a reactive and piecemeal way, but would be guided by a plan based on well considered principles.
2. The plan should include the phasing and timing of growth by location. The outcome of growth should be community, whether at the fringe or in existing neighborhoods.
3. We should build new neighborhoods at the fringe, not just bedroom suburbs.
4. The infrastructure (streets, water and sewer systems, etc) in existing neighborhoods should be maintained and deficiencies should be corrected as a matter of the highest priority.
5. Urban growth should occur first where urban infrastructure already is in place.
6. Don't just plan - implement!
7. Involve the community not only in planning, but also in carrying out the growth plan.

The STRATEGY is comprised of two parts.

Part I, The Findings Report is a study of land development since 1990, which highlights a number of problems in Albuquerque.

- Backlogs in infrastructure rehabilitation and maintenance of nearly \$1 billion in the existing parts of the city.
- Declining property values of homes within the city, as the construction of subdivisions with publicly-financed services, contribute to a supply of housing that exceeds demand.
- Inequitable conditions for development, as builders in the downtown face cumbersome regulations that make it difficult to capitalize on the existing qualities of the area while also having to pay infrastructure fees equal to building on unserviced land beyond the city limits.
- A mismatch between the supply and demand for schools, as rapidly increasing enrollments on the West Side result in overcrowded schools while declining enrollments result in vacancies and possibly school closings in other parts of the city.
- Increasing traffic delays as people confront longer commutes between residences on the West Side and places of employment in town.
- Perhaps the key finding is that the city must be managed as a single, integrated unit - what is built at the urban fringe has a direct impact on existing neighborhoods in other parts of the city. By the same token, stabilizing and improving conditions in these older neighborhoods, through the constructive actions of neighbors, is necessary to slow the costly movement to the fringe.

Part II develops a Preferred Scenario and outlines of policy measures necessary for implementation.

Party for Cisco McSorley,
Candidate for State Land Commissioner.

When: Thursday, May 9th from 5 - 7 PM.

Where: Homes by Marilyn office located at 2017 Yale SE, Suite A.

The Sierra Club has endorsed and is working hard to support Cisco McSorley because we believe that he will build on the record of unquestioned ethics and environmental commitment that was begun by Jim Baca and continued by Ray Powell in the Land Office. Cisco McSorley is the only candidate whose record proves he will continue to manage these lands with the best interests of the public in mind.

We hope that you will come and meet Cisco McSorley on May 9th.

We also hope that you will support Cisco's campaign, with financial resources and volunteer time. It is very important that he is elected and with our support, he can win.

The benefits of the Preferred Scenario include:

- Growth and development are guided to achieve community goals through the direct participation of neighborhoods and communities.
- Positive neighborhood solutions to community problems are adopted through community-based policing, community education, informal helping networks, and renewed local planning efforts.
- Development pays for itself as funds are provided to stay current with infrastructure rehabilitation needs and to catch up with the back-log.
- Our built environment becomes more attractive and provides a greater sense of neighborhood; Albuquerque retains its unique southwestern identity.
- Older neighborhoods are stabilized and improved through public reinvestment, ensuring that the investments of individuals in homes and businesses are protected and increase.
- Residents in new homes are served in a timely manner with adequate streets, parks, schools, and other infrastructure.
- Neighborhoods, not just residential subdivisions, are built at the urban fringe.
- The natural environment is protected and incorporated into developments with design standards.
- Home, work and commercial areas are integrated in mixed-used development, making it is easier to get to work, school, shopping and recreation.
- Walking, biking and transit use increase, improving health and the quality of life.
- As a result, the local economy is stronger and more diversified with more and better paying jobs.

The PLANNED GROWTH STRATEGY is currently being considered for legislation by the City Council, with introduction as early as mid-May. It is likely that negotiations concerning the details of the plan will continue for several months.

A coalition of supporters, including the Sierra Club, has been formed to promote the Planned Growth Strategy. This coalition needs your help, to speak with school and community groups, to speak with elected officials, and to represent your community at public meetings. Get involved by calling 1000 Friends of New Mexico at 848-8232 or writing email to Jessica Ciddio (jessica@1000friends-nm.org).

Editors Note: Sprawl is one of the Rio Grande Chapter's major Campaigns. Efforts are underway in Albuquerque and elsewhere to address the problems of Sprawl.

Central New Mexico Group

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Albuquerque, New Mexico, 87125-5342

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Steve Capra	843-8696 x103	scapra@nmwild.org
Marilyn Cooper	294-2987	
Richard Johnson		rsheehan@unm.edu
Edward Sullivan	259-5966	sully@nmwild.org

The Executive Committee normally meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7PM. We meet at various locations, so please contact one of us for the meeting location, or if you have issues you would like to discuss. The meetings are free and open to all members.

Project Leaders (area code 505)

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Conservation Chair

Steve Capra 843-8696 x103 scapra@nmwild.org

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Outings

David Ther 260-1553 grelbik@att.worldnet.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.



CENTRAL GROUP NEWS

A Member Writes About Otero Mesa

Editor's Note: The following letter was received from a Club member from Las Cruces

Pioneers traveled westward looking for new lands, the frontier ever in front of them. They might settle and find prosperity, but if not, there was always a beyond.

Now there are no beyonds to escape to and inspire us unless we keep them, re-create them, recognize and preserve them.

Such a place is Otero Mesa on our southernmost edge, and such a place is the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge on our northernmost boundary. Both are under assault for extraction of 'natural resources'. Who defines 'natural' - what are they? Animals, plants, birds, humans find in these disparate regions places supremely natural, resources supremely necessary to their survival.

For short-term benefit, (and incalculable long-term destruction will follow) it isn't necessary to despoil these fragile areas north and south. It isn't necessary that this special place - Otero Mesa - hear the sounds of drilling and pumping, of generators, of trucks grinding over new roads. It isn't necessary to have patchwork search and destroy activity over this land. Reclamation? - a hollow word when birds have lost their wintering grounds and fly-ways, when the endangered Aplomado Falcon cannot re-establish, when the recovery in slow desert-time of this last pristine grassland is stopped, when these exceptional pronghorn herds have gone - to where? Needed is ongoing evaluation and study, a wilderness inventory, and a policy of protection.

Look at Artesia, at Carlsbad, at the Farmington area. Oil and gas development has been there, done that. In those times that technology was all we knew, all we considered. It had to happen.

But it doesn't have to happen here - not to Otero Mesa.

General Public Meetings

Monday, May 20th at 7:30PM

Citizens for Nuclear Waste will talk to us about the Sandia Mixed Waste Landfill, and the steps being taken to clean up the area. 1st Unitarian Church, 3701 Carlisle NE at the corner of Commanche, in the Social Hall.

Monday, June 17th at 7:30PM

Talk on CAFO's (Confined Animal Feeding Operations) Paul Elder of Concerned Citizens for Clean Water will tell us about a CAFO being considered for the Clovis area and the threats to air quality and groundwater supplies caused by these operations.

1st Unitarian Church, 3701 Carlisle NE at the corner of Commanche, in the Social Hall.

July - Summer Vacation - No Meeting Scheduled

What Do You Want Albuquerque to Look Like in 10 or 20 Years?

All of us can dream of a more livable Albuquerque and now we can all participate in making it happen.

Albuquerque's Strategic Management process is based on the City's goals. But, who sets the goals? We do!

Every four years there is a Goals Forum and everyone is invited to attend to hear a report on progress since the last Goals Forum, and to validate the vision and review the Goals. This is your opportunity to describe your dream for the future and to hear other dreams as well. Everyone's dreams are then translated into Desired Community Conditions, precise statements that reflect conditions that would exist if each Goal were achieved.

There are seven Goal areas: Human & Family Development, Public Safety, Public Infrastructure, Sustainable Community Development, Environmental Protection & Enhancement, Economic Vitality and Community Building.

The City of Albuquerque invites you to participate in Goals Forum 2002 to share your ideas about your Albuquerque and what you want conditions in the community to be in the future.

When: June 15, 2002, 8:30 AM to 1:15 PM

Where: Albuquerque Convention Center

For more info and to register, call Shared Vision at 764-6078, sharedvis@spinn.net.

You're Invited to Participate in Children's Water Festival 2002!

The Festival will be held on Thursday and Friday, October 17th and 18th at the Albuquerque Convention Center. 1000 4th Grade students will come learn about water and its relationship to human and other natural resources in a fun and interactive atmosphere.

The Festival is looking for folks to present an activity for the students. An activity should be 'hands-on' and 'brains-on', appropriate for 4th graders, fun and interesting, factual, and not just science (Art, History, Theatre, Math, Geography, etc.).

If you would like to be a presenter but need some ideas of "hands-on" water activities, please let us know. We have plenty of ideas that may interest you.

For more information, contact Jennifer at 505-246-2664, Email: mccabe@newmex.com, or check the Festival's website at www.pioneervest.net.

Editor's Note: The Sierra Club is a financial supporter of the Children's Water Festival.

Outings

Saturday, May 11 - Magdalena Hike

Meet at 8:30 AM at Smith's (Carlisle & Menaul). We'll be hiking in the Magdalena mountains, just east of Socorro, near the Langmir Lightning Lab, where we will stop for a short visit. Possibility for outstanding views of the Plains of St. Augustine from the 10,000' ridgeline. Expect dinner in Socorro and late return. Hike: 10 miles, at most, RT. Elevation: ~1000' mostly on return, Drive: 200 miles RT, some on rocky road (high clearance helpful). Weather could force us to new location (call for more info the week before).

Contact: Rick Hurley (299-8401, RickHurley@aol.com)

Wednesday, May 15 - Oso Corridor Hike

Meet at 5:45 PM at Franklin Plaza (Juan Tabo & Central). A hike requiring true commitment! We will start this one way-hike from Tree Springs and wind our way down hill (700' drop) to Doc Long Picnic ground. It might get dark at the end, so bring a flashlight, along with hiking essentials (water, snack, good shoes, dress for weather). Hike: 3.7 miles minimum. Drive: ~30 miles.

Leader: Rick Hurley (299-8401, RickHurley@aol.com, no calls on day of hike, I won't be able to get them).

Sunday, May 19: Embudito Trail to South Peak, Sandia Mountain Wilderness.

This is a somewhat strenuous but rewarding hike to the highest point of the south Sandias. Approx. 8 miles round-trip, 3500 ft. elevation.

Contact: David Ther, 260-1553.

Saturday, June 8 - Knife Edge of the Shield Hike

Meet at 8:30 AM at Franklin Plaza (Juan Tabo & Central). This hike offers a great overlook of this notable Sandia Mountains feature. Good photo op. Elevation gain less than 1000'. Hike about 4 miles RT, on trail to North Peak, then a significant off-trail scramble (0.5 miles each way) to and from the Shield. Drive less than 50 miles RT. Should be done by mid-afternoon. Bring boots, water, snack, dress for the weather. Contact: Rick Hurley (299-8401, RickHurley@aol.com).

Sunday, June 9 - Manzano Crest Trail Brush Clearing and Hike

We will do a loop hike in the Manzano Mountains that will take us along some portion of the Crest Trail where we will clear brush as we go. Exact location to be determined later. Bring lunch, snacks, water, and some work gloves. Tools will be provided. Joint outing with Outdoor Adventures for Singles. Contact leaders by June 5. Rick Hurley 299-8401, rickhurley@aol.com or Tom Petencin, 271-9928, tompencin@juno.com

Wednesday, June 12 - Wednesday Night Hike

Meet at 5:45 PM at Franklin Plaza (Juan Tabo & Central). We'll be doing a 3-5 mile RT hike on the East side of the Sandias (1000' or less elevation gain, moderate pace) to break the mid-week stress. Bring boots, water, snack, flashlight (just in case) and dress for the weather. Alas, the full details are not available at press time, so feel free to contact Rick Hurley (299-8401 RickHurley@aol.com) at least a few days before the hike to get further info.



PARAJITO GROUP NEWS

Meetings

All meetings are held in the upstairs rooms in Mesa Public Library at 7:00 pm and are open to the public. General meetings are on the first Wednesday, Conservation meetings the second Wednesday, and ExCom meetings the third Wednesday.

OPEN MEETING

"THE NEW LOS ALAMOS LANDFILL"

JUNE 5, 7:00 PM (TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED)

MESA PUBLIC LIBRARY, UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOMS

The Los Alamos County Landfill is filling up. Because the Ojo Caliente Regional Landfill plan did not materialize, Los Alamos and LANL must find an alternative. The Sierra Club will present a panel to discuss:

- Why a new landfill?
- Where should it be?
- Are there alternatives?
- How can we get the community involved?

The proposed participants for the Landfill Information and Community Involvement Meeting are:

- Ray Sisneros, Solid Waste Division Manager for Los Alamos County;
- Steven Booth, LANL; and
- Cory Cruz, Manager of the DOE Office of Los Alamos Site Operations.

Volunteer Opportunities with the Forest Service

Fresh air, serenity, beautiful scenery, opportunities for wildlife viewing in the Jemez Mountains! The Jemez Springs District of the Santa Fe National Forest has tentative volunteer opportunities for several 2002 projects:

Kids Fishing Day—Assist at registration and education booths, take photos, distribute refreshments; set-up and clean-up tables, tents and area. Setup is May 31; Fishing Day is June 1, 8:00 am-2:00 pm.

Willow and Aspen Planting Along Streams—Cut willow slips, dig small trenches next to stream, and bury the slip in trench with cut end or root in stream. Project dates: Seven to ten days in July or August.

Gilman Area Dumpsite Cleanup—Raking, and hand-pickup of miscellaneous household trash in a 25-year-old dumpsite (mostly cans, bottles). Gloves and rakes provided. Project dates: One to two days in June.

Construct a Buck-and-Pole Fence Along Riparian Meadows on FR 376—Project dates: Five to seven days in August or September. Place rock and tree barriers to discourage vehicle traffic from crossing streams and meadows. Project dates: Four to five days in June or July.

Rehab a Quarry Site to Prevent Erosion—Rake and seed a two-acre site. Project dates: One day in May or June.

Monitoring Water Holes—Sit quietly and observe animal use of water holes (bird I.D. skills helpful). Project dates: May through November.

Stream Surveys—Help with data entry, photography, and snorkeling in various streams throughout the Forest. Project dates: All summer.

High Lakes Inventory in the Pecos Wilderness—Help with fish surveys, photography, collecting plant samples. Project dates: Five days in September.

Contact Jo Wargo to set up volunteer agreements. (Participants under 18 years of age need parental permission.)

Jo Wargo

Santa Fe National Forest

P.O. Box 150

Jemez Springs, NM 87025

505/829-3535

jwargo@fs.fed.us

OUTINGS

Thanks to everyone who responded to our outings questionnaire. We will try to provide you with the types of outings that you requested. We could use more outings leaders; please let us know if you're interested. Rainer and Ilse bleck (662-2368).

May 10th • Highway Cleanup—Help us clean up our stretch of highway on SR4 along the Valles Caldera National Preserve. Meet at 4:45 pm at the Ponderosa Campground. Two hours maximum. Then let's meet for dinner. Contact Carole Jacobson (672-9579).

May 25th • Cerro Pedernal Day Hike—Approximately 9 miles hiking distance, but strenuous because of more than 1,800 feet of uphill climbing. Enjoy spectacular views from this landmark near Youngsville, in the vicinity of the Abiquiu Dam. Meet at 8:00 am at the "Wye", 1/2 mile NE of the Tsankawi spotlight. Bring plenty of water, lunch, snacks, sunscreen, protective clothing. Contact Rainer Bleck (665-9150 days, 662-2368 evenings).

June 22nd • Sunset/Moonlight Hike on Otowi Mesa—Meet at 7:00 pm at the end of Los Pueblos Drive on Barranca Mesa. Easy hike. Contact Rainer and Ilse Bleck (662-2368).

The Pajarito Group's Link to the Sierra Club Web Site

Pajarito can be accessed at:

<http://riogrande.sierraclub.org/pajarito/>

Matt Heavner is the webmeister.

Pajarito Group of the Sierra Club Directory

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SANTA FE GROUP 2002 MEETINGS

Tuesday, May 21, 7 PM

WATER — WHAT ELSE ???

Craig O'Hare, water program administrator for the City of Santa Fe, will present the current state of the City's water system and its policies. The City is now in stage 3 drought restrictions with only once-per-week watering allowed, and we should all be putting our own usage under the microscope. Here is an opportunity! In addition to his extensive knowledge of available water-wise technologies, Craig is familiar with where the City is headed and how we might be able to help.

Our watershed is in a 10-year-long thinning program. Low-flow toilets are all the rage. Planning for diverting water out of the river is proceeding, and a SF County quarter-cent tax increase will start in January to help fund projects countywide. The demand from continued growth is putting pressure on traditional uses like farming.

Can we avoid stage 4? Can our community survive? Come get a professional's view.

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).

Sunday, June 23, 6 PM

SUMMER SOLSTICE PICNIC
The Commons, 2300 West Alameda

What better way to celebrate one of the longest days of the year than with friends, old and new, enjoying scrumptious food and great conversation.

Bring eight servings of one of the following: appetizer, salad, main dish, cooked veggies, casserole, bread, dessert. If you aren't able to cook anything, bring beer, wine, fruit juices, or soft drinks. Serving dishes, silverware and plates will be available, as will a refrigerator and oven for warming items.

For further info call Ken Hughes (474-0550) or Norma McCallan (471-0005). Our exciting after-dinner program will be announced in our bi-monthly flyer.



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

The US Senate gave us a great present two days before Earth Day when they voted to preserve the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from oil development. The risk to the porcupine caribou herd was much too great compared to the potential benefit of limited oil reserves. We do not want to start the new century with any possibility of the decimation similar to that of the North American buffalo, which was also perpetrated in the name of progress. In any event, time will let us learn more about the porcupine caribou and its environment, while a valuable resource is preserved and alternative fuels and better extractive processes developed. Please send Senator Bingaman a thank you note.

Earth Day celebrations on April 20th went well at Fort Marcy Park. Thanks to those who stopped by.

Reflection. I hope a few of you got to watch Ken Burns' documentary on the great wilderness photographer Ansel Adams on Channel 5's *American Experience*, Sunday, April 21. Partially funded by the Sierra Club, introductory and concluding remarks were made by Executive Director Carl Pope. It made me pause and reflect on the reasons why I, and many others, dedicate our time and energy to these conservation issues. Certainly, it is to experience and appreciate the beauty around us and preserve it for our children. Ansel felt that. Because we are mostly a seeing animal, through his pictures, we can visualize and feel vicariously the ever-shrinking wilderness from which we came and are becoming ever more removed. The video is worth obtaining.



♦ ♦ SANTA FE GROUP OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS ♦ ♦

Chair — Doug Fraser *
Vice-Chair — Barbara Johnson *
Secretary/Treas — Lionel Soracco

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Membership/Activist Outings — Norma McCallan * nmcallan@mindspring.com 471-0005

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Chapter Rep — Doug Fraser * 474-7615

* Member of the SF Group Executive Committee

CONSERVATION CHAIR

Paul Paryski

Given the worsening drought affecting New Mexico, water has become our major concern. The Interstate Stream Commission has predicted that this year will bring a record drought with its concomitant conflicts, litigation over River Compact compliance, and economic woes. A hopeful note is that the legislature passed House Bill 451, allocating \$30 million to help maintain stream flow in the Pecos and to meet required water flow into Texas. We hope to have a role in deciding how this money is spent.

This past April 16th, the Group sponsored a wonderfully entertaining presentation on how goats can be used to eliminate noxious weeds and thin forest understory to prevent wildfire. Goats can also be used to eliminate the notorious salt cedar, which sucks up enormous quantities of water in riparian areas and destroys natural riparian ecosystems. Goats are infinitely preferable to spraying with herbicides, the generally accepted methodology. And the byproducts of goats — angora wool, cheese, milk and organic fertilizer — are significant.

Wolves and their reintroduction are again becoming a subject of discussion. We would welcome the views of any of our members on this subject. Wolves are very much a symbol of wilderness and healthy ecosystems, as well as touching a deep spiritual root.

Finally, the federal courts ruled that the San Juan-Chama water should be used to assure the survival of the silvery minnow — a victory for the fish and the environment.

Outings — Norbert Sperlich
— Tobin Oruch

Conservation — Paul Paryski *

Mining — Cliff Larsen *

Water—John Buchser *

National Parks—Courtney White *

Rangelands—Roger Peterson

Carson Nat'l Forest—George Grossman

Activist Outings—Norma McCallan *

Growth—Eleanor Eisenmenger

— Jan Kindel *

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SANTA FE/NORTHERN GROUP NEWS

SANTA FE GROUP OUTINGS FOR 2002

Sat Sun May 2002

- 4 **Easy Hike** for details call Gail Bryant (505-757-6654).
- 5 **Strenuous Hike** to Cerro Pedernal. 9 miles roundtrip, 1900' elev gain. One rock scramble. Marcia Skillman (474-7414).
- 11 **Moderate Hike** in Tent Rock area. Dogs allowed. Leave 8 AM. For details, call Bob McKee (672-3426).
- 11 **Moderate Mountain Bike Trip** to Christ-in-the-Desert Monastery. About 30 miles roundtrip on a dirt road. Leave Santa Fe at 8:30 AM, meet leader in Española. For reservation, call Michael Di Rosa (663-0648).
- 12 **Moderate Hike** to Rio en Medio. Leave 8 AM. For reservation call Art Judd (982-3212).
- 18 **Strenuous Hike** to Shaggy Peak. Mostly off-trail, rough terrain, some scrambling, 3000' elevation gain. Dogs allowed. For details, call Tobin Oruch (820-2844).
- 19 **Moderate Hike** to Hamilton Mesa. Leave at 8:30 AM in Santa Fe, meet leader at 9 AM at north end of Glorieta overpass. For reservation, call John Jasper (505-263-5466).
- Saturday, May 25 through Sunday, June 2
A week in Grand Staircase/Escalante National Monument. Moderate/Exploratory Backpack(s) and Day Hike(s) in the remote upper Paria Canyon/Bull Valley Gorge area of South Central Utah. Dogs allowed. Norma McCallan (471-0005).
- 25 **Easy Birdwatch Walk** - bring binoculars, call for time, meeting place. Ron Duffy (782-2890).
- 26 **Moderate Hike** in Jemez. For reservation, call Norbert Sperlich (474-4354).
- 26 **Strenuous Hike** to Glorieta Baldy. 11 miles roundtrip, 2800' elevation gain. Leave Santa Fe at 8:30 AM. Meet leader at the entrance booth to Glorieta Baptist Center at 9 AM. For reservation, call Jeff Jones (466-2389).

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

Sat Sun July

- Thursday, July 4 **Very Strenuous Hike** to Santa Fe Baldy, possibly via Lake Kathryn with scree scramble from there, 14 miles, 3600-3900' gain. Dan Rusthøi (690-8967).
- 6 **Strenuous Hike** to Horsethief Meadow from Panchuella CG in the Pecos, 11 miles/2500', dogs okay. Tobin Oruch (820-2844).
- 7 **Moderate/Strenuous Hike** Nambé Lake, 6-7 miles, 2100' gain. David Bryant (505-757-3477 / dabryant@cybermesa.com).
- 13 **Moderate/Strenuous Hike** Aspen Vista trail to rocky overlook or towers, 10-12 miles/2000' gain. Heather Liston (982-9715).
- 14 **Moderate Hike** in high country, leave 8 AM. Art Judd (982-3212 or AJudd@aol.com).
- 20 **Easy/Moderate Hike** dogs okay. Lionel Soracco (983-6715).
- 21 **Moderate/Strenuous Hike** East Fork Box in Jemez, walking in river near end, 8 miles/800' gain. Norbert Sperlich (474-4354).
- 27 **Very Strenuous Hike** to Wheeler Peak, 14 miles, 4300' gain, Marcia Skillman (474-7414).
- 27 **Easy Birdwatch Walk** bring binoculars. Ron Duffy (982-2890).
- 28 **Strenuous Hike** Round Mountain/Beatty's cabin loop in Pecos Wilderness from Jack's Creek trailhead, 12 miles/1600' gain. Leave 8 AM. Dogs okay. John Jasper (505-263-5466 lve mess.)

LECTURE OF INTEREST

Wednesday, June 19, 7:30 PM
James A. Little Theater

The Santa Fe Institute is hosting a talk by John Harte of UC Berkeley entitled "Predicting Climate Change in a Complex Biosphere: A Daunting Challenge." Dr. Harte presents evidence from ice-core studies and other investigations showing a strong feedback between Earth's climate and terrestrial ecosystems. A consequence of such feedback is that current climate models may be greatly underestimating the magnitude of impending global warming. The theater is on the campus of the New Mexico School for the Deaf, 1060 Cerrillos Road.

GROUP COMMITTEE MEETING DATES

Group Executive Committee:	Group Conservation Committee:
Tuesday, May 7, 6:30 PM	Tuesday, May 28, 7 PM
Tuesday, June 4, 6:30 PM	Tuesday, June 25, 7 PM
Tuesday, July 2, 6:30 PM	

Water Pot-Luck (John Buchser's house [820-0201]):
Second Mondays at 6:30 PM
May 13, June 10, July 8

RIO GRANDE SIERRAN NOW ON THE 'NET !!

<http://www.riogrande.sierraclub.org/santafe/home.html>

Sat Sun June

- 1 No outing.
- 2 **Easy Hike** East Fork of the Jemez River, car shuttle, 4.5 miles, 400' gain, leave 9 AM or call to meet in Los Alamos. Stephen Markowitz (505-797-5833 / stepdov@hotmail.com).
- 2 **Strenuous Hike** Penitente via un-named canyon and steep climb (off-trail), return via Puerto Nambé, 12 miles, 2500' gain. **Must call Rich Capua (473-1948)**
- 8 **Strenuous Hike** Holy Ghost to Spirit Lake in Pecos (exploratory), 14 miles, 2800' gain. Heather Liston (982-9715).
- 9 **Moderate/Strenuous Hike** to Nambé Lake, 7 miles, 2100' gain, leave 8 AM. Marcia Skillman (474-7414).
- 15 **Field Trip** Beneficial Farms; **Easy Hike** to ghost town of Ojo de la Vaca; locally grown meal with farm volunteers (see article). **Reserve by Thurs 6/14.** Norma McCallan (471-0005).
- 15 **Strenuous Hike** to Brazos Cabin near Truchas, 12 miles, 2600' gain, dogs okay. Tobin Oruch (820-2844).
- 16 **Strenuous Hike** to Deception Peak, site of proposed ski lift, 7 miles, 2200' gain. **Must contact David Bryant (505-757-3477 or dabryant@cybermesa.com)**
- Wed to Sat, June 19 to 22 — **Moderate Backpack** Pecos, 30-mi loop from Jack's Creek CG. Dogs OK. Robert McKee (672-3426).
- 22 **Easy/Moderate Hike**, dogs okay. Lionel Soracco (983-6715).
- 22 **Moderate-to-Strenuous Bike Loop** up Bland Canyon and down Cochiti Canyon. 15 miles, 1,500' elevation gain. Possible stop at ghost town of Bland. Michael Di Rosa (663-0648).
- 23 **Strenuous Hike** to Trampas Lakes and viewpoint, 12-13 miles and 700' gain. Norbert Sperlich (474-4354).
- 29 **Easy Birdwatch Walk** bring binoculars. Ron Duffy (982-2890).
- 29 **Moderate/Strenuous Hike** to Puerto Nambé, 9 miles and about 1200' gain. **Must call Les Drapela (438-3306)**
- 30 **Easy/Moderate Hike** to Grass Mountain meadow from Iron Gate in Pecos valley, 5 miles, 500' gain. Leave 9:00 AM. Dogs okay. John Jasper (505-263-5466 - leave message)

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

COMMUNITY SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE (CSA) PROJECT

Saturday June 16, 8 AM

During this field trip to BENEFICIAL FARMS on Rowe Mesa, we will take an easy hike to the ghost town of Ojo de la Vaca (where there is a controversial proposed lot split in the works), then return for a tour of the bio-dynamic farm and share a bountiful lunch of locally grown organic foods (both vegetarian and non-veg) with farm volunteers. Cost of lunch is \$8 per person. The Club supports small local farms, which help to prevent urban sprawl and treat the land kindly; this is your chance to visit one just on the outskirts of Santa Fe and see what CSAs are all about! Please RSVP Norma McCallan (471-0005) by June 14.

WILDERNESS FIRST AID (WFA)

Saturday and Sunday, June 1 and 2

This training course is being offered by the American Red Cross (ARC), Tierra del Sol (Santa Fe) Chapter, 1213 Mercantile Street (off Rufina behind Home Depot). Contact them at santafe@crossnet.org, 424-1611 or 877-983-9171, <http://www.arcsantafe.org>

Payment of \$100 is required in advance (cash, check, Master Card and VISA accepted). Santa Fe Sierra Club will reimburse our outings leaders \$60 towards any WFA course. Cancellation is required 24 hours in advance or class fee is non-refundable.

NOTE: Another WFA course is being planned by Tobin Oruch (820-2844) for mid-June. Call if interested.

The above activity is neither sponsored nor administered by the Sierra Club. The Sierra Club has no information about the planning of these activities and makes no representations or warranties about the quality, safety, supervision or management of such activities. They are published only as a reader service because they may be of interest to the readers of this publication.

Outings Notes - Unless otherwise noted, all outings leave from the Sierra office, 621 Old Santa Fe Trail, "Plaza Desira," just south of Kaune's Grocery at the corner of Old SF Trail and Paseo de Peralta. Carpooling will be arranged. Each hiker should come prepared to pay \$5 a mile to the driver of the car in which s/he rides. Bring a lunch, water, sturdy hiking boots or shoes, and clothing suitable for the weather - leader reserves the right to turn away anyone whose equipment or experience appears unsuitable. Leader has right to alter destination of hike or cancel trip due to weather, unfavorable conditions, or insufficient numbers of participants. Unaccompanied minors must have written permission from parents or guardians to participate; permission forms are available at the Sierra Club office. Dogs not permitted on hikes unless noted otherwise. Telephone leader for details of the individual hike. To participate, you will need to sign a liability waiver. If you would like to read a copy of the waiver, see <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms>

Northern Group Members Vote On Revised By-Laws

If your mailing label has a "1704", you are in the Santa Fe (Northern) Group—which includes the northern part of the state. Please vote "For" or "Against" ratification of these revised bylaws (a ballot is printed on the back page), and return your ballot (postmarked by June 10, 2002) to:

Please

Lionel Soracco, Secretary
Santa Fe Group, Sierra Club
643 Camino de la Luz
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Vote!

These bylaws have been revised to adhere to the guidelines of the National Sierra Club so that there is consistency among all groups across the country. They have been approved by the Santa Fe Group (soon to be the Northern Group) and by a national committee that is reviewing all the group bylaws. The process began years ago; the last step is a vote by the members of this group.

1. Organization

1.1 Name. The name of this Sierra Club unit is the Northern New Mexico Group of the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club (Club).

1.2 Establishment. This Group is established by action of the Executive Committee of the Rio Grande Chapter (Chapter ExCom), and is governed by these Bylaws, consistent with the provisions of the Bylaws and Standing Rules of the Chapter, by applicable law, and by the policies and directives of the Board of Directors (Board). This Group is an integral part of the Sierra Club and the Chapter and is not a separate legal entity.

1.3 Purpose. The purpose of this Group is to foster within its territorial limits the purposes of the Club. The Group is authorized to undertake activities that are consistent with the purposes of the Club and are not prohibited by the Chapter or the Board by a general rule applicable alike to all chapters. The Group shall act on questions of public policy only in pursuance of Chapter and Board policies or in a manner consistent with them.

1.4 Boundaries. The territorial boundaries of this Group shall be as specified from time to time by the Chapter ExCom, with due consideration of the wishes of Club members residing therein.

2. Membership.

2.1 Members. Group members shall be those Club members of record who reside within the Group boundaries, except that upon written application to the principal office of the Club, a member may join any chapter and any group within that chapter. No member shall belong to more than one chapter and group. Only Group members in good standing may vote or hold Group office. Only Sierra Club members in good standing may act on behalf of the Group.

2.2 Powers of Members. By voting in annual or special elections, members shall elect and may recall members of the Group Executive Committee (ExCom) and may determine Group policy. Through petition, members may require the ExCom to call membership meetings.

2.3 Membership Meetings. Upon petition by 2% of the members, the ExCom shall call a membership meeting with at least fourteen (14) days written notice to the members stating time and place to consider subjects specified in the petition. No binding action may be taken at a membership meeting, but resolutions addressed to any Club entity may be adopted. The quorum for a membership meeting shall be 2% of the Group members.

2.4 Election Petitions. The members may petition for a special election by obtaining signatures from 5% or more of the Group members. Petitions shall state separately each issue to

be decided. If the issue is the recall of ExCom members, candidates who shall take office if the recall is successful may be nominated in the same petition.

3. Executive Committee (ExCom).

3.1 Number. Subject to the powers of the members as provided by these Bylaws, the management of the affairs and activities of the Group shall be in the hands of an ExCom of nine (9) members elected by the Group membership for terms of two (2) years.

In any election, up to five (5) members may be elected for full terms, as long as the size of the ExCom does not increase as a result and no fewer than four (4) terms will expire in any future year.

When filling vacancies in unexpired terms by election, longer terms shall be awarded to candidates with more votes. The candidates who win the higher number of votes shall receive any available full terms and the others shall receive the unexpired remainders of the vacated terms.

Members elected shall take office at the first meeting of the new calendar year.

If not otherwise members of the ExCom, the Secretary and Treasurer shall serve as non-voting members.

3.2 Powers. Only the ExCom or those specifically authorized by it or its designees shall act in the name of the Group. The ExCom shall have the authority to make rules and regulations for carrying out the provisions of these Bylaws. If any appeal arises concerning any act or decision of the ExCom, the Chapter ExCom shall have the power to determine the procedures to be followed. Group actions must be consistent with Club purposes and the policies and directives of the Chapter ExCom and the Board or its designees.

The ExCom may call meetings of the Group membership at large with fourteen (14) days written notice to the membership stating time, place, and subjects to be considered. Notices shall be published in a Group or Chapter newsletter or other publication provided to all members.

The ExCom may call and conduct special elections in accordance with these bylaws.

The ExCom may establish and dissolve sections and committees as provided in these Bylaws.

The ExCom may appoint and remove Group officers, representatives, and committee members at any time. The ExCom may fill vacancies in its elected membership.

3.3 Responsibilities. The ExCom shall assure that the activities and services provided for the benefit of the members by the Group and its

sections and other entities comply and are consistent with these Bylaws and any Group Standing Rules, policies and directives of the Chapter or the Board or its designees, the Bylaws and Standing Rules of the Club, and applicable law. Such activities may include but are not limited to financial management, membership services, production of publications, and conservation, outings and political programs. Authority may be delegated to carry out such activities, but the ExCom shall retain overall responsibility and control.

3.4 Vacancies. The ExCom shall have the power to fill a vacancy in any elected or appointed office. A vacancy in an elected position shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term by vote of the remaining ExCom members.

3.5 Officers. The ExCom shall elect from its members the following officers, who shall also be Group officers: a Chair, a Vice-Chair, and at its option, a Secretary and a Treasurer. The ExCom may appoint from outside its membership any other Group officers it considers necessary, including the Secretary and Treasurer. All such officers shall be Group members.

At the discretion of the ExCom, offices may be combined, provided there are at least two distinct officers. Assistants to these officers may be designated from among Group members.

Notice of the officers and appointees of the Group shall be provided to the Board with a copy to the Chapter annually upon selection, or as required by the Board or its designees.

A vacancy in any Group officer position may be filled by a majority vote of the voting ExCom members present at any regularly scheduled ExCom meeting.

Any Group officer may be removed by a two-thirds majority vote of the voting ExCom members present at any regularly scheduled ExCom meeting.

3.6 Representatives. The ExCom shall elect from among its members a voting Group Representative and Alternate to the Chapter ExCom.

The ExCom may instruct the representative and the alternate before each Chapter ExCom meeting. Representatives or alternates shall report to the ExCom after each such meeting.

3.7 Committees. The ExCom may establish and dissolve standing and special committees for such objectives as it may set, including standing Conservation, Membership, Political, Nominating, and Election Committees. Subject to ExCom approval, the Chair shall appoint committee members from among Group members.

The Chair (or another ExCom member designated by the Chair) may be designated as a voting member of all Standing Committees, with two exceptions. The Chair may not be a voting member of the Nominating and Election committees.

The Chairs of the Conservation, Membership, and Political Committees are ExOfficio members of the ExCom, without vote. All Committee Chairs shall regularly report to and consult with the Chair and the ExCom. Each committee shall submit an annual report to the ExCom.

Standing committees shall be appointed annually. Except for the Nominating and Election Committees, the ExCom may add, remove, or replace members of any committee at any time. The ExCom may fill vacancies on the Nominating and Election Committees.

(continued on the next page)



SANTA FE/NORTHERN GROUP BYLAWS

Bylaws (continued from page 17)

3.8 Open Meetings. All meetings of the ExCom and its committees shall be open to attendance by any Club member, but the ExCom or its committees may convene in private session for the consideration of any sensitive matter, provided that any vote or final action is taken in open session.

3.9 Quorum. A quorum for ExCom meetings shall be a simple majority of its voting members. An ExCom member shall be considered present at a meeting if physically present in the meeting room at the time. Only ExCom members physically present may vote.

3.10 ExCom Meetings. The ExCom shall hold regularly scheduled meetings at least four (4) times per year at times and places communicated in advance to all Group members.

3.11 Special Meetings. ExCom business may, if necessary, be conducted at a Special Meeting. A Special Meeting may be called by the Chair or any four (4) ExCom members with at least 48 hours electronic notice or four days' notice by first class mail, unless all ExCom members waive this notice requirement.

3.12 Absences. Any ExCom member who misses three regularly scheduled ExCom meetings over any continuous twelve-month period shall be automatically removed from the ExCom. The ExCom may reinstate the member by a unanimous vote of the voting members present at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

3.13 Standing Rules. The ExCom may establish Standing Rules governing operation of the Group. The ExCom shall approve the Standing Rules annually.

4. Nominations and Elections

4.1 Annual Election. An Annual Election shall be held in the fourth quarter of each year to choose ExCom members. This election and any special elections shall be conducted by secret written ballot mailed to all Group members of record at least four (4) weeks before the closing date of the election, and shall be conducted in such a manner as to ensure facility of voting and tabulation, and secrecy of ballot. The ballot shall allow each voter to vote for as many candidates as there are positions to be filled. A voter may not cumulate votes for any candidate.

The ExCom shall specify the calendar dates and deadlines for appointing the Nominating Committee (NomCom), production of eligible voter lists, receipt of names for consideration by the NomCom, receipt of ballot issue petitions, the NomCom report of names of nominees, receipt of candidate petitions, appointment of the Election Committee, printing and mailing dates for ballots allowing at least four (4) weeks for return of the ballots, receipt of returned ballots, and the date, time and place for counting ballots.

The ExCom shall provide written notice of this schedule and of the opportunity to nominate candidates by petition to all Group members.

4.2 Nominating Committee. A Nominating Committee (NomCom) of at least three (3) Group members, at least one-third not ExCom members, none of whom may be a candidate, shall be appointed annually by the ExCom Chair, and ratified by the ExCom, not later than four (4) months before the designated closing date of the election. Sufficient opportunity shall be given for Group members to submit names for consideration by the NomCom. The NomCom shall attempt to nominate at least two (2) more candidates than the number of ExCom members to be elected, and shall report the nominees' names

to the ExCom at least two (2) weeks before the deadline for submission of nomination petitions and five (5) weeks before the scheduled mailing of the ballots. Nominees shall be Group members who give their consent. If the NomCom chooses not to nominate a willing candidate, the NomCom shall promptly inform that candidate of the opportunity to seek nomination by petition.

4.3 Petition Candidates. The name of any Group member proposed in writing by at least 3% of the Group members prior to the deadline for submission of petitions, and who gives consent, shall also be included on the ballot. The nomination petitions shall be retained until the ballots are destroyed.

4.4 Election Committee. An Election Committee of at least three (3) Group members, at least one-third not ExCom members, shall be appointed annually by the ExCom Chair and ratified by the ExCom prior to the scheduled date of mailing of ballots. Alternatively, the Group ExCom may designate the Chapter Election Committee as Election Committee for the Group. No candidates may serve on the Election Committee. The Election Committee shall cause the ballots to be prepared and mailed, and shall count the returned ballots. Challenges of the conduct of candidates or their campaigns shall be referred to the Election Committee. Decisions of the Election Committee may be appealed to the ExCom.

4.5 Mailing Ballots. Ballots shall be mailed to all Group members of record according to the voter list obtained prior to the election.

4.6 Return of Ballots. Ballots shall be returned to the Election Committee as directed in the ballot instructions. Return of a minimum number of valid ballots shall not be required for the validity of an annual or special election.

4.7 Counting Ballots. The Election Committee shall count the ballots on the closing date of the election, or as soon as practical after the closing date of the election. The candidates or their authorized representatives shall be permitted to be present. The candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected. Any tie shall be resolved immediately, first by a recount, then if necessary by lot at the ballot counting.

The Election Committee shall immediately notify the candidates, the ExCom members, and other interested parties, and shall report the results to the ExCom at its next meeting. New ExCom members will be announced to the membership in the next Chapter or Group newsletter. The ballots and nomination petitions shall be retained until their destruction is directed by the ExCom.

5. Functions and Services.

5.1 Functions. The Group shall provide functions and services required by the Board, its designees, the Chapter ExCom, or the Group members. The ExCom shall define from time to time the methods and procedures by which these functions and services shall be delivered.

5.2 Publications. The ExCom shall arrange for Group publications to be distributed regularly by print or electronic means to all Group members, giving notice and reporting proceedings of the ExCom, Group meetings, elections and other news, including announcements of social events and outings. This requirement may be satisfied by use of a Chapter publication.

5.3 Conservation Program. The Group Conservation Program shall further the conservation

objectives and priorities of the Club within Group boundaries, assist in international, national and regional Club actions, and provide for the development and execution of specific conservation strategies and action programs authorized by the ExCom.

There shall be a standing Conservation Committee which will administer the Conservation Program. The membership of this Committee shall be determined by the ExCom.

The Chair, with the approval of the ExCom, shall appoint a Conservation Chair who shall provide a point of contact for the public and other Club leaders, and assist the ExCom in conservation planning, budget decisions, resolving conflicts, training, and implementation of the Conservation Program.

The Program shall be coordinated with other Club entities. Group leaders shall not make a statement or take a position publicly that is contrary to a policy or position established by the Chapter ExCom, the Board of Directors, the duly authorized chapter, group, committee or other Club entity, or the Club membership through referendum, nor shall Club leaders or staff members mention their Sierra Club affiliation if they, in their own names, make a statement or take a position contrary to established policy.

Conservation actions may not include civil disobedience. No chapter, group, nor other Club entity shall encourage, request or direct any person to violate the law.

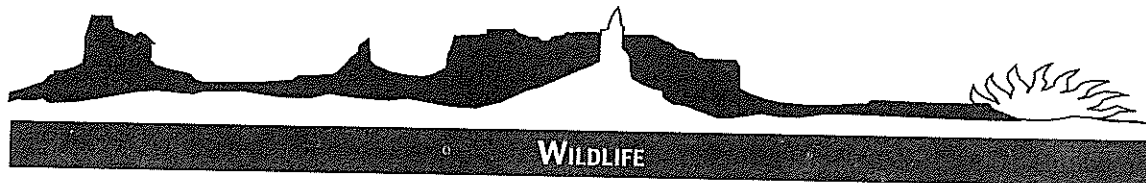
The Conservation Program shall provide an opportunity for sections, other Group entities, and individual members, to become involved in conservation activities. The program shall also provide for recruiting and training activists to develop the necessary skills and judgment, for publication and discussion of conservation issues, and for networking and alert systems, such as phone trees and electronic mail.

5.4 Membership Program. The ExCom shall provide for a membership program that keeps a copy of the roster of current members, assists in efforts to recruit and retain members, and is responsible for recruiting and welcoming members and encouraging them to participate in Club and Group activities.

5.5 Outings and Activities. The Group ExCom shall manage any outings and activities programs in cooperation with any Group subentities that conduct such outings and activities. Such management shall include but is not limited to the establishment of codes of conduct appropriate to each type of activity, provisions for approval and publication of notices, training and certification of leaders, screening of participants, compliance with insurance restrictions and other Club policies, handling of reservations and fees, restricting group size and environmental impact, and investigation of incidents and complaints. All outings and activities shall be sanctioned in advance.

5.6 Political Action. The Group's political program shall include evaluating political issues and positions, planning and conducting the endorsement and support of candidates for public office, and developing and leading the efforts necessary for those processes. This program may include federal, state, provincial, territorial, and local government races as well as ballot initiatives, and shall be conducted in compliance with applicable law and the Club's electoral compliance guidelines.

(continued on next page)



New Mexico Game Commission Reaffirms Opposition to Wolf Recovery

by James A. Bailey

At a March 2002 meeting in Socorro, the New Mexico State Game Commission unanimously reaffirmed its opposition to reintroduction of Mexican wolves in the Gila National Forest, including the Gila Wilderness. The Mexican wolf reintroduction program began in Arizona in 1998 and is being conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

Commission action was supported by live-stock interests including the New Mexico Cattle Growers, the New Mexico Farm Bureau and several individuals. Those supporting wolf recovery in New Mexico noted that three random surveys of public opinion in the past 20 years have shown that a majority of New

Mexicans support wolf reintroduction. Commissioner Steve Padilla complained that most poll respondents resided in Albuquerque. This is not surprising, since most New Mexicans reside in urban areas, especially Albuquerque.

In 1999, the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish concluded that wolf reintroduction was not practicable, because no potential wolf release site could provide the biological and societal elements necessary for success, including support of local residents. The State Game Commission agreed. Currently, there are six established packs of 2-3 wolves, including one in New Mexico. At least four wolves have been killed by gunshots.

The gray wolf, including the Mexican subspecies, is listed as endangered under the New Mexico Wildlife Conservation Act. The Act directs the NM Department of Game and Fish and the Game Commission to participate in species recovery. It states that endangered species should be managed to the extent possible to enhance their numbers and that recovery of endangered species is a benefit to all of society. The Game Commission seems to be ignoring the wishes of a majority of New Mexicans, and its mandate under the Wildlife Conservation Act.

Comments on the Commission action may be submitted to the NM Department of Game and Fish (505/476-8008; www.gmfs.state.nm.us).

Bylaws (continued from page 18)

6. Groups Sections.

6.1 Sections. With ExCom approval, Group members interested in special activities consistent with Club purposes, or other appropriate subsets of Group members, may form sections, subject to approval of section operating procedures. Because section membership is optional, sections may assess dues and also charge for activities, as permitted by the Group ExCom.

6.2 Reports. Each section shall submit an annual report of its activities to the Group ExCom.

6.3 Suspension and Dissolution. By two-thirds vote, the Group ExCom members present at a regular or special meeting may suspend or dissolve a section, if, in the judgment of the ExCom, such action is in the best interest of the Club. Such action shall not affect the standing of the individual members as members of the Club or Group. Suspension or dissolution shall only take place after written specification of the grounds for the proposed action are furnished to the members of the section affected and to the Chapter ExCom or its designees. At the same ExCom meeting, Group members shall have an opportunity to comment on the proposed action. Upon dissolution, all remaining assets of the dissolved section shall revert to the Group. As an alternative to dissolution, the Group ExCom may require new elections to be held for section office.

7. Finances.

7.1 Receiving and Expending Funds. The Group may receive funds from Club entities and may receive contributions directly. The Group may not assess or collect dues from its members. Expenditures shall be consistent with all rules, policies and directives of the Board and its designees.

7.2 Fundraising and Fees for Outings and Activities. Consistent with rules, policies and directives of the Chapter ExCom and the Board or its designees, the Group may conduct fundraising and other activities, including outings, that require members and others to pay a fee to participate. Such fees may include both direct and indirect costs and provide for operating reserves.

Announcements of fundraising events shall indicate the intended use of the proceeds.

7.3 Authority Over Deposited Funds. The ExCom shall have authority over all funds deposited in accounts in the name of the Group and its entities. Every bank, savings, or investment account must have on the signature list for that account at least two signatures, including the signature of a Group ExCom officer, generally the Treasurer or Chair.

7.4 Requirement to Deposit. Unless otherwise specified by the ExCom or the Board or its designees, all monies received by Group entities shall be deposited promptly in an account bearing the name of the entity, the Group, and of the Sierra Club.

7.5 Delegation of Authority. The ExCom may delegate financial authority to Group entities. The Group shall retain responsibility and control. Group entities must provide satisfactory accounting at least quarterly to the Group Treasurer, including all reports required to satisfy Club requirements and applicable laws.

7.6 Prohibitions. The Group and its entities may not borrow money, own real estate, or contribute from its general funds to political campaigns, candidates, or their parties.

7.7 Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of the Group shall coincide with that of the Club.

7.8 Books and Reports. The Group Treasurer shall keep proper books of account, and shall report balances, revenues, and expenses of the Group and its entities to the ExCom at least quarterly, and to the Chapter Treasurer or designee at the end of the fiscal year. The Group Treasurer shall either file, or provide the Chapter Treasurer with timely information and funds required to file, all reports and returns required to satisfy Club requirements and applicable laws.

7.9 Review. As soon as practicable after the close of the fiscal year, the ExCom shall cause a review to be made of the books, including those of all Group entities. The results of the review shall be submitted to the ExCom for their approval.

8. Construction and Amendment.

8.1 Interpretation of Bylaws. All questions as to the construction or meaning of these Bylaws are

first to be referred to the Group ExCom for decision. Appeals from such decisions may be taken to the appropriate level, as established by rules of the Chapter ExCom and the Board of Directors. The decision of the highest of these entities that chooses to act shall be final. All procedures not prescribed by the Bylaws and Standing Rules of the Club, these Bylaws, or the Standing Rules of the Group, shall be governed by the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, newly revised.

8.2 Amendment. These Bylaws are fundamental and shall not be added to, amended or repealed except by a two-thirds vote of the Group ExCom and a two-thirds vote of all mail ballots cast in an Annual or Special Election. After proposed bylaw changes have been approved by the Group ExCom, and before they are submitted to a vote of Group members, they shall be submitted to the Chapter ExCom or its designees and the Board or its designees for review and approval.

If an amendment expands the size of the ExCom, but the annual election was held for fewer members, the ExCom may appoint members or hold a special election to fill the new positions. If the amendment reduces the size of the ExCom, the elected members receiving the most votes shall serve.

Approval by vote of the members is not required for amendments needed to keep these Bylaws consistent with changes in the Club Bylaws, directives of the Board or its designees, or to correct inconsequential errors or omissions. Such amendments shall require only a majority vote of the ExCom.

A current copy of these Bylaws shall be filed with the Secretary of the Chapter and at the principal office of the Sierra Club.

8.3 Signatures and Effective Date. These Bylaws and any amended versions shall be signed and dated by officers acting on behalf of the ExCom and by the national entity designated to approve bylaws. These Bylaws as amended shall take effect on January 1, 2001 or when the signed copy is filed at the principal office of the Sierra Club, whichever is later. A copy of the signature page shall be returned to the Group, and shall be attached to all reproduced copies.



OUTINGS & MEETINGS

Outings Outlook—Safe, Happy, and Inspired

Here we are approaching the longest days of the year, which provide the greatest opportunity to get out on long jaunts and really steep oneself in the magnificence of our New Mexico landscape. It is also a good time to reflect how all of us as individuals can help preserve our special places.

In March 2002, I attended one of the National Sierra Club's outing leader training sessions, which are being offered in various geographical venues across the country. This one took place at a Girl Scout Camp near Austin, Texas and attracted some 50 group and chapter, inner city, and national volunteers. Two themes were stressed in the day-and-a-half-long sessions:

- ensuring that all leaders follow certain basic guidelines of safety and leadership responsibility, probably long-overdue, given the great diversity of Sierra programs and practices around the country; and
- bringing a sense of conservation values and issues to all outings, not just those

specifically designed to visit threatened areas or toxic spots.

This is a broad goal that will take years to totally implement. Conservation folks in the Club are used to pursuing their worthy projects without necessarily thinking of outings as one way to alert members to pressing environmental issues, while outing leaders are busy scouting trails and making sure their participants get back to the trailhead safely.

But outings are social events as well as good exercise, and afford many opportunities for conversation. And where do you fit in? If you are already working on an issue, you could offer to plan a field trip, with your local outing chair, that would allow participants to personally view the endangered locale, and make suggestions as to whom they could contact to help resolve the problem. You could also write up a brief outline of the issue, with contact names, to be distributed by outing leaders. You can come along on any outing and mention any one of the many pressing national issues that surround us, and

ways to take action. The overall goals of the national Outdoor Activities Training Program (OATP) are for outing participants to be **SAFE**, **HAPPY**, and **INSPIRED**. Our outing leaders have long worked to make their trips safe, and generally participants come away very happy with the new scenery they have hiked through and the congenial conversations they have enjoyed with other participants. Now is the time for all of us to think of creative and non-confrontational ways to help our outings inspire participants to take action on one or more of our pressing environmental issues.

Below are listed some of the outings planned for the upcoming weeks. They will take you to a number of very diverse and scenic areas. Be sure and call leaders to confirm trip plans, and look at the Group pages for additional trips, since unfortunately I was unable to make contact with two of our Groups. All phone numbers are area code 505, unless otherwise noted.

—by Norma McCallan

Sierra Club Outings in May–July 2002

Sunday, May 5 • Hillsboro Peak Dayhike—Moderate hike up this 10,000' peak on the crest of the Black range, with a still operating fire tower. Carolina Greenfield (915/594-7342).

Friday, May 10 • Cleanup on SR 4 next to the Valles Caldera—Two-hour cleanup on Pajarito Group's stretch of highway, while enjoying the ambience of the Valles Caldera, followed by dinner in a local restaurant. Carole Jacobson (672-9579).

Saturday, May 11 • Mountain Bike Trip to Christ in the Desert Monastery—Enjoy a moderate 30-mile bike trip through some of New Mexico's finest red rocks. Mike di Rosa (663-0648).

Saturday, May 11 • Pine Tree Trail Hike, Aguirre Springs Recreation Area—Easy hike with great views on the eastern flank of the Organ Mountains. Liz Walsh (915/584-1471).

Saturday, May 25 • Cerro Pedernal Dayhike—Strenuous hike to the top of this prominent landmark near Abiquiu. Rainer Bleck (662-2368).

Saturday-Monday, May 25-May 27 • Memorial Weekend Mineral Creek Backpack—Moderate trip, downhill all the way, to a little visited spot in the Gila National Forest. Laurence Gibson (915/594-7342).

Saturday-Sunday, May 25-June 2 Grande Staircase/Escalante National Monument Exploratory Backpack/Dayhikes—Explore the remote Upper Paria, Bull Valley Gorge area near Kanab, Utah. Norma McCallan (471-0005).

Saturday, June 15 • Field Trip to Beneficial Farms—Visit this local, organic, community-supported-agriculture project on Rowe Mesa, and enjoy an easy hike to the nearby Ojo de las Vacas ghost town. Norma McCallan (471-0005).

Sunday, June 16 • Deception Peak Hike—Strenuous hike up Deception Peak, site of proposed large ski lift near the Santa Fe Ski Basin. David Bryant (757-3477).

Saturday, June 22 • Sunset/Moonlight Hike on Otowi Mesa—Easy hike offering a new perspective on our landscape. Rainer and Ilse Bleck (662-2368).

Saturday, July 22 • Wheeler Peak Hike—Very strenuous hike up our highest mountain, 14 miles; 4,300' gain to 13,000'. Marcia Skillman (474-7414).

Chapter Meetings in June 2002

The Chapter Conservation and Executive Committees will meet on June 8-9 in Santa Fe at The Commons, a co-housing project located at 2300 W. Alameda, about two miles west of downtown Santa Fe.

The Conservation Committee will meet on Saturday, 9:00am-5:00pm, to review our four major conservation campaigns and other issues of note.

The Excom Committee will meet on Sunday, 8:00am-noon, to discuss staff issues, the quarterly financial report, and other administrative issues. The Excom also takes action on items approved by the Conservation Committee.

Both meetings are open to Sierra Club members. If you are interested in attending, contact Jim Hannon in Santa Fe (988-5760; jhannon505@aol.com).

Santa Fe (Northern Group) Bylaws Ballot

(vote by June 10, 2002)

Your Name (as it appears on mailing label) _____
casts a vote:

☐ For ☐ Against

approval of the amended Bylaws printed on pages 17-19 in this May/June issue of the Rio Grande Sierran.

Please return ballot to: Lionel Soracco, Secretary • Santa Fe Group, Sierra Club • 643 Camino de la Luz • Santa Fe, NM 87505

