Congressional Candidate Richard Romero Outlines Environmental Priorities

Richard Romero, candidate for Congress in New Mexico's First District, outlined his environmental priorities recently with local activists and Sierra Club members along the Rio Grande River. Romero has been endorsed by the Sierra Club in his bid to unseat incumbent Heather Wilson.

"I'm privileged to have lived my entire life in a state with unmatched natural beauty, and I care deeply about protecting the environment for our children and grandchildren," Romero said. "A healthy environment is a sacred trust— a gift—that must be passed on intact from generation to generation."

Romero pointed to his work in the New Mexico State Senate to kill an amendment that would have weakened the Hardrock Mining Reform Act and his work to preserve open space and approve the purchase of the Basa Ranch.

"If I have a record in Santa Fe as an independent leader who will stand up to the special interests to do what is right for our environment," Romero continued, "And now I want to take that same fight to Washington."

Romero outlined his priorities to protect the quality our air and water, preserve our public lands, and promote the use of renewable energy.

Protecting Air Quality—Clean air is a vital resource to New Mexicans and our quality of life—a part of our urban and rural areas. Romero works to keep the clear air in the strong and will fight attempts to let the polluters off the hook. He supports the reauthorization of the federal transportation bill with more money going toward public transportation.

Preserving Water Quality and Quantity—Agua es vida. In Congress, Romero will stand up to protect the quality of drinking water for all Americans. He supports strong, health-based standards for water quality that rely on sound research and empirical data. He believes the federal government should help our communities meet these health-based standards.

He opposes in-situ leach uranium mining in Crown Point, which would destroy the pristine quality of the ground water that the city agency NERCO rely on for drinking water.

Romero will work with state leaders to resolve water rights issues in our region and find new ways to conserve our most precious natural resource. He'll work to save water and protect our agricultural heritage by supporting Federal incentives and investments in low-water irrigation methods and infrastructure, which can help maintain agriculture in the middle Rio Grande Valley while making more water available for conservation and urban use and in-stream flow.

Safeguarding America's Public Lands—New Mexico and the West are blessed with wide-open spaces. Our public lands—national parks, forests, wildlife refuges, wilderness areas, and other lands—express the essence of our democracy. In Congress, Romero will fight to keep public lands public, to maintain their plants and animals, to protect these places as sources of inspiration, recreation and balanced use. Our national parks should be fully funded so that America's treasures endure forever. He'll work to protect our national forests in ways that restore their ecological health and reduce risks from fire. He supports efforts to protect more Bureau of Land Management areas in New Mexico as wilderness, but also seek to increase dialogue and bridge misunderstandings among affected parties. He opposes opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska to oil drilling.

Promoting Renewable Energy—New Mexico should be a national and global leader in promoting and utilizing renewable energy. Current events demonstrate once again that overdependence on fossil fuels is a serious national security, economic, and environmental issue. New Mexico ranks third among the 50 states for solar power potential, and sixth in wind power potential. With our abundant renewables and world-class intellectual resources at the national laboratories, renewable energy can lead the way to a sustainable energy future and new economic development. Romero believes that the federal government should invest more in alternative energy development. Romero also shows that conservation and more efficient energy use makes the best economic and environmental sense. He supports increasing vehicle fuel-economy standards.

Voting Early?
Other Endorsements:
Page 3

BILL RICHARDSON  
GLORIA TRISTANI  
NICK PEAIA  
MICHEL GARCIAS  
STEVE ARZAIMBE  
SHERRYL WILLIAMS STAPLES  
MINI STEWART  
J. PAUL TAYLOR  
NICHOLAS SALAZAR  
MAX COLL  
W. KEN MARTINEZ

Please direct correspondence to: Jim Hunman 207 Ricardo Road Santa Fe, NM 87501
Abq. Journal Concedes Misrepresentation of Sierra Club
by Jennifer de Garro, Chapter Conservation Organizer

On Thursday, 1 August 2002, the Albuquerque Journal ran an editorial ripping the Sierra Club. Chapter Conservation Organizer Jennifer de Garro was so stunned that she sent the editorial to Club representatives and called to see if we had really been part of such terrible insider deals. She confirmed that Bill Hume had gotten a number of key facts wrong. When de Garro called Hume to point this out, he insisted that he had gotten his information straight from the Sierra Club. When de Garro insisted that he tell her whether it was a letter from Carl Pope, a press release from EC or what, Hume went to his source and found that it was actually from The Wilderness Society and, when he began to read it aloud, found that what de Garro was telling him was also what The Wilderness Society had said. Hume then admitted that he must have gotten all his info from Dusche. He had made a number of very sloppy mistakes. He had no choice (by his sense of fair play, think god he has one) but to let the Club run an op-ed piece in response. It was printed in the Saturday, 3 August 2002 Journal. Humes also added a note of clarification from the Club’s associate press secretary. Below is de Garro’s response to Hume’s editorial.

South Dakota Consensus Didn’t Ignore Forest Rules
SATURDAY, 3 AUGUST 2002—The protection of communities threatened by forest fires is an issue important to all New Mexicans. But the Journal’s recent editorial (“Dusche, Sierra Club Do Back-Room Deal”) is on a very unique situation in the Black Hills National Forest needs clarification on:

• The impacts of Senator Dusche’s amendment on the Black Hills National Forest;
• The role that the Sierra Club, and other local stakeholders, played in the negotiated settlement;

Years of poor management by the Forest Service left the Black Hills National Forest, and many other national forests across the country, a mess. Local communities and homes face serious fire danger as the result of excessive logging and suppression of natural fire. The same practices have severely damaged environmental quality and wildlife habitat.

Faced with this problem in the Black Hills, local South Dakota Sierra Club members and The Wilderness Society joined many other local stakeholders—including the governor of South Dakota, Senators Tim Johnson (D-SD) and Tom Daschle (D-SD), local community government officials and the Forest Service—to work out a way to:

• Alleviate the fire danger for the communities around Sturgis, SD, and
• Improve environmental values by increasing protected wilderness areas in the Black Hills.

This approach was utterly different than the one proposed by Representative John Thune (R-SD) which would have simply allowed the Forest Service, which created the problem, to exacerbate fire danger by removing still more of the fire resistant large trees and leave behind the logging slash and brush that increases fire risk.

The agreement reached by all the parties would have allowed fire-prevention measures to begin immediately. However, the Bush Administration walked away from the table and sent the issue to Congress.

This is a unique solution to a very unique situation in the Black Hills National Forest, which is strictly limited in size and magnitude. Contrary to the Journal’s 1 August 2002 editorial, Sierra Club does not support the exemptions from environmental laws and judicial review contained in the legislation. While exemptions weren’t necessary to carry out the activities put forth in the revised settlement, they do only apply to the projects in the settlement, not across the entire national forest.

This negotiated solution is not perfect, but far better than Representative Thune’s extreme plan to allow the Forest Service to ignore all laws, continue irresponsible policies and log at will.

We appreciate the work of Senators Daschle and Johnson to bring all the parties together to ensure the safety of South Dakotans and continued protections for America’s national forests. This is how these matters should be addressed. It is unfortunate that a solid settlement agreement worked out by local stakeholders had to go to the Congress for resolution because the Bush Administration pulled out of the agreement.

Sierra Club members in New Mexico believe that protecting lives and communities by implementing fuel-reduction projects around homes and communities should be the focus of Forest Service activities. The Forest Service must get serious about protecting lives and communities.

We urge more spending by the Forest Service to reduce brush, create firebreaks around homes and communities, and expand controlled burning. We oppose practices that remove large, healthy, fire-resistant stands of older and replacement with slash, brush and overly crowded small trees. We favor appropriate thinning practices with a priority being near or around homes and communities. The Forest Service must move in a new direction that serves the public.

Chapter Endorses Candidates

The Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club has endorsed Bill Richardson for Governor, Gloria Tristani for United States Senate, and Richard Romero for United States Congress from District 1. Each of these candidates has been interviewed by some or all members of the Chapter Executive Committee. No of their opponents who were willing were also interviewed.

Romero’s positions on environmental issues are featured on page 4 of this issue. More information about the environmental records and positions of these candidates, and what each of us can do to help get them elected, will be included in the Special Elections issue of the Rio Grande Sierra.

None of these candidates is a "shoo-in," each one "has a chance," and all of them need your help. Please give your time, and send your

NM House of Representatives Endorsements
• District 11—Rick Miera (incumbent), endorsed in the Democratic Primary
• District 14—Miguel Garcia (incumbent), endorsed in the Democratic Primary
• District 15—Steve Archibong, endorsed in the Democratic Primary
• District 19—Sheryl Williams Stapleton (incumbent), endorsed in the Democratic Primary
• District 21—Mimi Stewart (incumbent)
• District 33—J. Paul Taylor (incumbent)
• District 40—Nick L. Salazar (incumbent), endorsed in the Democratic Primary
• District 47—Max Coll (incumbent)
• District 69—W. Ken Martinez (incumbent), endorsed in the Democratic Primary

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2002
Sierra Club to Fund Mexican Grassroots Environmental Projects

Jenny Martinez and Javier Sierra

In early August 2002, the Sierra Club announced that it will fund environmental projects run by four Mexican grassroots organizations. The chosen projects are designed to address pollution and improve the working and living conditions of border communities.

"Environmental degradation, caused by the explosive growth of the maquiladora industry, has reached alarming levels throughout the border region," said Jenny Martinez, Sierra Club Program Officer. "Dangerous chemicals have poisoned the air, land and water that these communities rely on."

The grants, which range from $10,000-$25,000, are part of the Sierra Club’s Beyond the Borders project. A joint project of the Sierra Club and the Sierra Club Foundation, Beyond the Borders, Mexico is designed to support and strengthen grassroots environmental and community groups in Mexico. The groups will use the money for activities ranging from fighting illegal dumping and garbage burning, to monitoring the levels of ocean and drinking-water contamination, promoting recycling programs, or expanding outreach to the community through environmental education campaigns.

The following groups received funding:

- Centro de Estudios Frontieros y Promocion de los Derechos Humanos de Centro Reynosa, Tamaulipas;
- GAYAOTA of Centro Reynosa, Tamaulipas;
- Grupo Ecologista "Cajititlan" Playas de Tijuana, Baja California Norte; and
- Centro de Investigaciones y Solidaridad Obrera of Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua.

"We consider a healthy environment to be a human right," said Omelshin Lopez, Director of the Centro de Estudios Frontieros y Promocion de los Derechos Humanos, A.C. in Reynosa, Tamaulipas. "With this grant, we’ll be able to pursue legal and grassroots strategies to protect the environment and public health for the families and communities of the border region."

Mexican and Sierra Club border groups interested in applying for Beyond the Borders Mexico Project grants can find the application and grant guidelines on the Sierra Club’s bilingual web page (www.sierraclub.org/beyondtheborders/espanol/mexico/lineamientos.aspx/application).

For more information, contact Jenny Martinez (202/548-4597) or Javier Sierra (703/927-4750).

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An Alternative Vision for American Energy


www.truthout.com/01.24A.Kerry.Env.htm

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In recognition of changes that are urgently needed to manage our water use so that New Mexico in the future is the State we want it to be and need it to be, several local water activists have written an excellent 76-page publication outlining where we are and where we need to go. I highly recommend you request a copy of Taking Charge of Our Water Destiny: A Water Management Policy Guide for New Mexico in the 21st Century from 1003 Friends of New Mexico (848-8235; Alleta Bell), Consortium Bicentum and Frank (Flaco) Zevi; we owe many thanks for giving us an outline of what we need to do to fix a broken system.

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RIO GRANDE SHRIKM

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2002
DOT Solicits Comments About Sprawl and Public Transit

by Ken Hughes

Congress and the Administration will discuss the reauthorization of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century in earnest this Fall. The reauthorization will result in a major bill that will determine transportation policy for the next six years beginning in 2003. Policies and funding levels that impact highway, highway safety, transit and other transportation programs will be decided.

The Department of Transportation web site (www.dot.gov) provides an opportunity for people across the country to make their voices heard about reauthorization and transportation policy. The portion of the site devoted to collecting public comments allows individuals to tell DOT their story about a road project that has destroyed local wetlands or a transit project that makes the morning commute easier.

Visit the site and click on "Surface Transportation Reauthorization." Written comments may be sent to the Docket Clerk, USDOT, Room PL-401, Docket Number OST-2002-12179, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590.

The Sierra Club is asking concerned Americans to visit the DOT site and add an account of how transportation choices affect life in their community.

You might find the message below helpful in preparing your own statement. Once a person has registered, the site allows the user to enter a comment or attach a file. The site includes topic headings to organize site comments, so if you have many stories to tell, try to keep each comment geared toward a specific topic.

Transportation policy affects a multitude of facets in the daily life of Americans. The reauthorization will either encourage transportation options and smart growth or the continuing cycle of sprawl and road-building that has devasted many communities. Please take advantage of this opportunity to get the word out to DOT: Americans want alternatives to driving!

National Sprawl Campaign Draft Comments

Sprawl and a lack of transportation choices forces people to own and drive cars in order to reach most destinations. The average American driver spends 443 hours/year-the equivalent of 55 eight-hour workdays-behind the wheel. Residents of sprawling communities drive three to four times more than those living in efficient, well-planned areas, and can waste up to three times more energy from driving than better-planned, more efficient cities that offer more transportation choices.

In 2003, the federal transportation spending bill will be reauthorized. This large amount of money and how it is spent will be instrumental in determining whether our nation focuses on smart growth, or whether we will continue to sprawl.

In order to protect our communities and clean our air, water and environment, transportation policy should:

- Make significantly greater investments in non-motorized, public transportation
- Use resources to maintain existing roads before building new ones, and spend less tax dollars on new ear-only projects
- Maintain and strengthen clean air conformity provisions so that communities aren't left breathing unhealthy air
- Promote and support regional and state-wide planning that combines transportation, land use and environmental planning
- Build more affordable housing near transit and job centers
- Improve neighborhood walking and bicycling conditions and access to shopping and parks, and implement traffic calming measures
- Support public involvement in the transportation and land use planning process
- Fund innovative incentive-based programs for encouraging alternative transportation use, such as tax credits for public transit, walking or biking, parking cash-out and parking fees

By better balancing transportation spending between roads and less-polluting public transportation, like rail transit and clean buses, we can reduce the number of miles people have to drive, provide Americans more transportation choices, and better reflect America's priorities on a clean environment, good health and enhanced quality of life.

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Contact the Editor
News from the Chair

Don Dearholt

It's the political season now, and we've interviewed both candidates for the southern district for congress. Both candidates appear to be an improvement over the current congressman in terms of the environment, although neither candidate returned the questionnaire we provided—the one developed by our chapter committee, used as part of the decision-making process on endorsement. Also, neither candidate seems sufficiently sensitive to environmental issues to warrant the endorsement of the Sierra Club. However, both candidates seem interested in discussing any and all issues, so that is a plus. Furthermore, both seem interested in learning about the science associated with our concerns, so I intend to make some of that available to whomever is elected.

The following letter was submitted by Vicki Simons, a member of the Southern New Mexico Group, after hiking near Cloudcroft. Please be encouraged to make your concerns known to the Forest Service regarding the use of trails.

Motor Vehicles ruin forest experience.

A small group of us were hiking on the Rim Trail in the Lincoln National Forest near Cloudcroft in early July soon after fire restrictions were lifted. We were unpleasantly surprised by several motorcycles that zoomed past us on the trail and upon looking at the map saw that motorized vehicles were allowed on the trail. On our way out, we were stopped by a convoy of five large 4-wheel ATVs. They were not moving as the trail was very narrow at the point. (If they had been moving rapidly we probably would have been run over). They admitted that the trail was too narrow for their vehicles but that the ranger had said it was OK for them to use it.

On the remainder of our hike, we noticed the damage to the trail caused by their vehicles, exacerbated because the trail was wet. Ap- palled by the use of a hiking trail by ATVs, we stopped at the ranger station in Cloudcroft to complain. They informed us that they realized that the Rim Trail was too narrow for ATVs but that they are going to widen it to accommodate the vehicles.

We then wrote letters to Frank Martinez, Sacramento District Ranger. He replied to our letters informing us that over 80% of trails in Lincoln National Forest, Sacramento District, are open to all types of traffic, vehicular and other. He reminded us that the public's input was invited in the 1990's and that one of the most vocal and involved groups was the ATV/motorcycle community and that the Forest Service lands are governed by accommodating a spectrum of outdoor recreational opportunities to serve a broad segment of citizens who visit the national forest. Their land use plan will be revised in the next couple of years.

Our feeling is that there are many miles of old logging trails in that area that could be used by ATVs. In our opinion, use of hiking trails by ATVs is not only destructive to the forest but ruins the forest experience for others. We argue that just because a group of persons is loud and probably well-funded, the Forest Service shouldn't turn over use of most of the public forest land to these destructive vehicles. Evidently this is a lesson to Sierra Club members that they must be eternally vigilant in attending public hearings regarding land use.

Vicki Simons, Helen Zagona
Sierra Club members
Las Cruces

General Meetings

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

Coming Events

PROGRAMS:

Friday, September 13, 2002: The Second Gathering of the Green. This is a potluck dinner for all environmentalists in the region. At least 17 organizations are being contacted to invite their members. This provides a fine opportunity to network and learn what projects each organization is working on. It will begin at 6:00 p.m. in Preciado Park, on the NMSU campus; the park is on Gregg Street between Williams and Sweet, just south of the Education building (O'Donnell Hall). Bring a dish to share, your own tableware, and friends and family. A variety of beverages will be supplied.

October Something: Watch local news media for announcements! We're in the process of organizing a panel discussion on the midwest policies of the United States. The League of Women Voters is co-sponsoring, and there are likely to be more co-sponsors. This program will include at least the topics of (a) the costs of energy, (b) human rights, (c) environmental effects of our energy policy, (d) political aspects, and (e) media coverage.

November 14: The Albatrosses of Midway Atoll—Birds, Battles, and Tourists: Alex and Marjorie Eren. 7:00 p.m., new Southwest Environmental Center (SWEC) location at 275 North Downtown Mall (1/2 block south of Coe's My Bookstore) just south of Las Cruces Avenue on the mall.
El Paso Area Has So Much Going For It!

by Leon Metz

Lots of things put El Paso on the map. The El Paso Times of a week ago quoted John House as saying his equine statue of Juan de Oñate would put El Paso on the map. And that's probably true.

But El Paso has a lot of other attractions that put it on the map.

We are on the map with a university campus complete with Grecian architecture, and El Paso can't get much more unique than that.

Being a border town puts us on the map. Border towns anywhere in the world are unique places. Not only are we a border town, but we also form a unique cross-border partnership with Juarez. This is one of the largest pairings of adjacent international cities anywhere in the world.

El Paso has an internationally famous river in the Rio Grande. El Paso is on the map with its tall, beautifully proportioned mountains that bang right into the heart of the city, the map showing us being at the end of the Rocky Mountains in the United States and at the beginning of the Sierra Madres in Mexico.

The town is on the map by being easily conversant in two of the world's best-known languages: Spanish and English.

El Paso is on the map as the junction point of three states: New Mexico, Texas and Chihuahua.

El Paso is on the map because of the huge air-defense center at Fort Bliss, plus the nearby White Sands Missile Range.

El Paso is on the map because of its fine year-round weather. El Paso is on the map because, for the most part, it's easy to drive to the different parts of the city. Virtually any street in the city (except Lee Trevino Drive during rush hour) can be easily reached within minutes. Many other cities would love to have such convenience of travel.

El Paso is on the map because we have good schools, great teachers, fine doctors and excellent medical facilities. These folks aren't nationally known, but they are more than competent.

El Paso is on the map because it lives forever in the annals of country music with Marty Robbins' 1959 classic "El Paso," which 40 years later continues to be a global popularity.

El Paso is on the map because we have some of the best Mexican and American cuisine available in the civilized world.

El Paso is on the map because of its colorful 400-year-old local, state, national and international background. That background includes Indians, gunfighters, fatalities, politicians, trains, padres, businesses, wars, armies, explorers, stagecoaches, businessmen, revolutionaries, soldiers of fortune, shady ladies, bartenders, preachers, and the ordinary, run-of-the-mill screwballs.

This is another area where we keep so far and so rapidly ahead of other cities.

Four centuries of history is the story of El Paso, which, 40 years later continues to be a global popularity.

El Paso is on the map because it is one of the few historic places in the world that still doesn't realize what it is, where it is, where it has been, and where it is going.

So the other house may put you on the map "again," but until we finally start establishing an identity, and getting the word out, nobody around the world is going to care.

Leon Metz is an El Paso historian and writer

Selected Outings

Sep 21-22: West Fork Mogollon Creek Backpack

Place: Gila Wilderness near Cliff

Class: Moderate

Length: 12 miles

Elevation gain: 1100 feet

Leader: Rollin Wickkenden 855-6597 (H) rwckgila@aol.com

Note: camping Friday night at the Sequoia trailhead, we will drop into Rain Creek, hiking the canyon wall to the South, traversing and eventually descending in steps to a fine campsite along the beautiful West Fork of Mogollon Creek.

On 22 we will return to the steps to the vehicles.

Sep 28: Aden Crater Dayhike

Place: Potrillo Mountains, NM

Class: Easy

Length: 3 miles

Elevation gain: 200 feet

Leader: Mike Espinaca 584-9322 (H) mespinaca@siap.org

Note: craters lies just northwest of El Paso within the West Potrillo Mountains Wilderness Study Area. We will spend a few hours exploring the splatter-cone crater with its fascinating mottled rock deposit and surrounding lava flows.

Oct 5-6: Middle Fork Gila River Beginner Backpack

Place: Gila Wilderness

Class: Easy

Length: 6 miles

Elevation Gain: 700 feet

Leader: Mike Espinaca 584-9322 (H) mespinaca@siap.org

This backpack is suitable for beginners and those with little experience, or accomplished backpackers looking for an easy outing. We will follow trail #729 from Corral to our streamside campsite. On Sunday we retrace our steps to the cars. Time and interest permitting, we will visit the nearby Gila Cliff Dwellings.

Call for help planning your equipment and food needs.

Oct 21-24: Grand Canyon Backpack

Place: Grand Canyon National Park

Class: Strenuous

Length: 16.5 miles

Elevation Gain: 4970', loss: 4740'

Limit: 5

Leader: Rollin Wickkenden 855-6597 (H) rwckgila@aol.com

4 days, descending B. Kaibab to Bright Angel with a layover day, ascending Bright Angel to Indian Gardens with a side trip to Plateau Point, and out to the S. Rim. Must be experienced and in good condition. More detail on website.

October 25-26: Chiricahua National Monument Carcamp

Place: Chiricahua National Monument, AZ

Class: Easy

Length: 2.12 miles

Elevation: 500 feet maximum

Leader: Claude Christianen 582-4606 (H)

This outstanding National Monument, only three hours drive from El Paso, has several shorter hikes that we rarely do. This fall weekend would like to Echo Park Natural Bridge & Sugar Loaf. These hikes are especially ideal for newcomers, although everyone is welcomed.
Toxic Waste Dump May Have Radioactive Ants in Its Pants
By Sue Dayton of Citizen Action

Three independent reviews of a radioactive and hazardous waste dump known as the Mixed Waste Landfill located at Sandia National Laboratories have revealed that things are not always as they seem. The audits were commissioned as a result of a citizen group's requesting to be involved in the management of the landfill. The audits were thorough, the reviewers concluded, and found that the Mixed Waste Landfill was in serious trouble. The reviewers found that the site was not being managed properly, that the waste was not being treated adequately, and that there was a risk of radioactive contamination. The reviewers also found that the landfill was not being monitored properly, and that the waste was not being disposed of properly.

Central Group News

Toxic Waste Dump May Have Radioactive Ants in Its Pants
By Sue Dayton of Citizen Action

Three independent reviews of a radioactive and hazardous waste dump known as the Mixed Waste Landfill located at Sandia National Laboratories have revealed that things are not always as they seem. The audits were commissioned as a result of a citizen group's requesting to be involved in the management of the landfill. The audits were thorough, the reviewers concluded, and found that the Mixed Waste Landfill was in serious trouble. The reviewers found that the site was not being managed properly, that the waste was not being treated adequately, and that there was a risk of radioactive contamination. The reviewers also found that the landfill was not being monitored properly, and that the waste was not being disposed of properly.

Action Alert - REVOLTING REVOLUTIONS TRY TO SNUFF CONSERVATION DISTRICT

If you want to conserve our state's most precious resource - WATER
If you want our area's natural resources to continue to be managed professionally, efficiently and wisely
If you are concerned about soil, water, plants and wildlife issues in your community

Mark September 17th on your calendar, and vote AGAINST dissolving your conservation district.
For over fifty years, a little-known entity, the Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), has diligently worked to preserve our natural resources in Barrington and southern Sheridan Counties. The Colored SWCD receives and administrates grants for urban expansion, erosion control and drainage, water quality and availability, and education regarding these matters. Colored has been the catalyst for funding to restore our streams, to create a conservation project to save farmlands and wetlands, to combat climate change, and to utilize in-stream and riparian areas as wildlife corridors. The Colored SWCD has also been a leader in the fight against drought, and has been a driving force in the battle against climate change. The Colored SWCD has been a leader in the fight against drought, and has been a driving force in the battle against climate change.

Outings

Wednesday, September 4 - Three Guns Springs Hike
Meet at Franklin Plaza (near West & Central) at 9:30 AM. A fun hike for those not wanting to hike all day. The pavement is a great place to begin your adventure.
Leader: Rick Hurley (229-8910), Hurley@isb.com

Saturday, September 6 - Nighttime Hike at White Mesa
We'll find our way through a small brushy canyon with a sculptured apron on the north side of White Mesa, aimed only by some primitive light sources for the evening effect. We'll see in to an open badlands area where we can view a very dark night sky before heading back. Roundtrip distance will be about 4.5 miles with less than 200 feet of elevation gain. Bring food, water, and flashlights.
Leader: Rick Hurley (229-8910), Hurley@isb.com

Saturday, September 13 - Badlands Cliffs to Agate Hills
Meeting at 9 AM at the Museum (Sandia and Academy). The north side of the Sandia Plateau has a nice stand of aspen (which may be changing color) and a beautiful piece of rock, with some water features in the area. We'll also be looking for some great photo opportunities.
Leader: Rick Hurley (229-8910), Hurley@isb.com

Saturday, September 20 - Buege Trail at Canyon Lake
We will do a shuttle hike on the southern end of Buege Peak in the Mountains, with a fair chance of viewing sheep or even changing color. Good views as well as a good workout in the crisp autumn air. Bring boots, lunch, water and sunscreen. Hitch: About 3.5 miles, with elevation gain of about 1,000 feet. Drive about 100 miles. Call for meeting time and place.
Leader: Rick Hurley (229-8910), Hurley@isb.com

Wednesday, September 24 - Stargazing Hike
We'll drive out a short distance (~15 miles) off old Route 66 to forest service lands in the Mountains and take a short (~1 mile) walk to an open field to view the stars. A bit experimental since the leader has not attempted stargazing in this area before. Dress warm, bring along some snacks or whatever telescopes you have (if you have them) along with water, snacks and a good photo story.
Call for meeting time.
Leader: Rick Hurley (229-8910), Hurley@isb.com

Tuesday, September 12th and Sunday, September 27th - Desert Exploration Hike
Come and visit some of New Mexico's most incredible and beautiful landscapes hidden in it's desert places. Strangely eroded and colorful rocks, badlands, prairie grassy plains, outcrops, caves, mysterious narrow and winding canyons, geological sites, petrified logs and other fossils, historic ruins, stone walls, pinyon, phytophagy and petroglyphs are some of the discoveries we have made on these hikes in the past. These hikes are not physically difficult. Typical distance traveled is between 4 and 6 miles and we usually gain less than 100 feet of elevation. Contact leader by previous Wednesday for information on specific hike locations and meeting time. You may also request to be included on an E-mail list for advance info on hike location and meeting time.
Meeting time will vary from 9:30 AM to 10:00 AM. Meeting place will always be at Smith's, Cordova and Monument, next to Cordova, heading out on the Cottonwood Trail. Leader: Tom Petrosini 271-9928 tempomos@aol.com

Peace Camp - Working for Our Survival
Sierra Club is co-hosting a meeting of regional people committed to working for a sustainable society, building a world free of nuclear and waste sites, and creating peace and justice. It is an opportunity for people to meet, network and create a better future. Individuals, groups, families and friends are invited.
The other co-hosts included Citizens for Alternatives to Radioactive Dumping (CARD), the Peace and Justice Center, the Water Information Network (WIN), BI-Northeast Coalition Costa Verde Taskforce and the Environmentalist and Almanteo Environmentalists.
Saturday's events include a bird walk, rock walk, 11-19 Workshop on Creating a Sustainable Society, soil test, pocket foraging and a workshop on transitional food. Future, dinner, cooking, music and entertainment were included if conditions allowed. Sunday's events include Breakfast, Group meeting, open forum (sharing ideas), lunch, and hiking. The workshops will have presenters from these basic groups as well as others attending the event.
Blankets, if you're camping, also bring your camping gear, firewood and musical instruments. The campground has outhouses, toilets and showers. Dogs are welcome on leash.
Saturday, September 27th is for Sierra Club members. For more information, visit the Sierra Club website or call 941-2325.

September/October 2002
Sierra Club Endorses Richard Romero for Congress

This speech was given August 7th on the banks of the Rio Grande in Albuquerque. Senator Romero spoke afterward.

Good Afternoon. My name is Dr. Richard Johnson. I am Chair of the Sierra Club's Central Group, which is based in Albuquerque. Today, we are announcing the Sierra Club's endorsement of Richard Romero for the US House of Representatives. Before we invite Senator Romero up here, I have a few opening comments.

We have decided to endorse Senator Romero for two reasons. First, he is fair. He may not be a great warrior. And, we do not expect him to win the way we would want on all conservation issues. But we believe he will weigh conservation issues fairly and make decisions that are best for the people of New Mexico. We know that when legislators put the interests of the people first, they will vote the right way on conservation issues. They will vote for clean air, clean water, preservation of wilderness, and manageable growth.

The second reason we are endorsing Senator Romero is his independence. Time and again, he has shown his willingness to stand up to special interests and even his party to do the right thing. In Washington, there is always pressure to do the wrong things, especially when it comes to conservation issues. We believe Richard Romero will have the courage to look at the facts and make decisions that put New Mexicans first. Again, when legislators put people first, then they tend to vote the right way on conservation issues.

Senator Romero's fairness and independence stands in stark contrast to his opponent's record. This morning, as I was preparing for this press conference, I looked over Heather Wilson's record in Congress. There is only one word to describe her performance on conservation issues—shameful! Whenever she is faced with a choice about our environment, she consistently votes for the polluters and against the interests of New Mexicans.

Vote on November 5th

We Urge You to Support the Club's Endorsed Candidates

Bill Richardson for Governor of New Mexico
Gloria Trujillo for U.S. Senate
Richard Romero for U.S. House of Representatives, District 1
Tom Udall for U.S. House of Representatives, District 3
New Mexico House of Representatives:
• Rich Moya in District 11 (Central Albuquerque)
• Miguel Garcia in District 14 (Southwest Albuquerque)
• Steve Archuleta in District 15 (Albuquerque North Valley)
• Sheryl Williams-Stapleton in District 19 (South Central ABQ)
• Mimi Stewart in District 21 (Santa Fe County)
• J. Paul Taylor in District 33 (Don Ana County)
• Nick L. Salazar in District 40 (Santa Fe, Taos, Mora Counties)
• Max Caff in District 47 (Santa Fe County)
• W. Ken Martinez in District 69 (Chihuahua & McKinley Counties)

Danny Hernandez for AAMACFA, District 1

Absentee voting starts September 26th.

Early Voting starts October 16th. Check with your County Clerk for location and times.

Check elsewhere in this newspaper for more information on the candidates.

Update on the Planned Growth Strategy

By Blair Brown

Since the July/August issue, much continues to happen with the PGS.

At the August 5th City Council meeting, we learned that the original ordinance has been replaced by a substitute ordinance and two Council resolutions.

On Thursday, August 4th, the City Council "Committee of the Whole" took public input on the PGS in its new form. The comments were a mixed bag. Some were in support of the PGS, while others (mostly business people) were concerned that it would impact their economy. Still, the most important impact to the community was the concern of businesses in the past (mostly developed) to soften their opposition and grant support with reservations, as suggested above.

Changes to the Ordinance and Resolutions continue to be made. We strongly support the "PGS Task Force," which includes City Councilors, City staff, and representatives from neighborhood groups, developers and others continue to meet at least weekly to improve the language in all three pieces of legislation so that they will accomplish the vision that the PGS promises.

At the August 15th meeting, we also learned that the City Council has put off immediate consideration of the amendment due to continuing work on amendments. They have now scheduled a special City Council meeting on September 23rd for consideration of the PGS essence. Many, including me, are urging the Council to have copies of the revised Ordinance and Resolutions available before the September 23rd meeting so we can make meaningful contributions. We feel the concepts and benefits of the PGS are consistent with the City's position on Smart Growth as an alternative to continued sprawl, and therefore will continue to push for a strong PGS that accomplishes those benefits. Other public meetings on the PGS are continuing to happen. Check the newspapers, the City's website, and your neighborhood newsletters for locations and dates, and attend the September 23rd meeting. Watch for our next updates in the next Sierra.

Call for Nominations to the ExCom

The Nominating Committee of the Central New Mexico Group is seeking candidates for election to the Group Executive Committee (ExCom). If you would be interested in being considered for candidacy or know someone who is, please contact Nominating Committee members Sherri Wolf, or Richard Johnson (contact info below).

Central New Mexico Group
PO Box 25342
Albuquerque, New Mexico, 87125-5342

Executive Committee (area code 505)
Blair Brown 259-7190 bblairb2@cox.net
Steve Capa 943-8699 x103 scapa@amwild.org
Marilyn Cooper 943-0183
Mark Daphne 708-1160 markdaphne@yahoo.com
Richard Johnson 277-4144 rjohnson@lun时间和home.edu
Michael Mudd 884-3315 michael_mudd@icloud.com
Sherry Wolf 254-2190 wolf@law.unm.edu

The Central New Mexico Group of the Sierra Club depends on the efforts of volunteers.

To join us, give us a call.

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2002

Volunteers Needed for Children's Water Festival 2002!

This year's Festival will be held on Thursday and Friday, October 17th and 18th at the Albuquerque Convention Center. 1,000 volunteers will come to learn about water and its relationship to humans and other natural resources in a fun and interactive atmosphere.

With so many students gathering, there are lots of things that lots can do, like: known for positive quality. Assistants for activity presenters, photographer, sound gear, Traffic managers and all around helper. It's easy (we'll show you what to do) and a lot of fun. For more information, contact Co-Chair, at 589-6506, or wolfaart@aol.com.

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

RIO GRANDE SIERRA
NORTHERN NEW MEXICO (alias Santa Fe) GROUP 2002 MEETINGS

Tuesday, September 17, 7 PM

THE ENDANGERED RIO GRANDE

Everyone concerned with the fate of New Mexico’s unique but beleaguered natural environment and ecosystems is invited to attend a conference with Bob Salmich, Campaign Director, Alliance for the Rio Grande Heritage.

The Rio Grande sustains human settlement in much of New Mexico, Colorado, Texas and northeastern Mexico. As the endgame of western water allocation proceeds, the fate of this great river hangs in the balance, as does, by extension, the environmental character of the region it serves. The years immediately ahead will determine...

- The extent to which the Rio Grande’s remnant native systems will be preserved, and
- The extent to which formerly damaged systems can be restored.

The Alliance for Rio Grandes Heritage is dedicated to providing strong, affirmative answers to both questions. The choice is between a living river and a dead ditch.

Mr. Salmich, a seasoned environmental attorney who led fights to protect California coastal ecosystems and to grant justice to those injured by the Bhopal gas disaster, will describe the innovative program of the Alliance and how it is building bridges between the various and often conflicting communities in New Mexico, Colorado and Texas to save one of the great and historic rivers of North America.

Santa Fe Group of the Sierra Club
621 Old Santa Fe Trail, Plaza 621, Suite 10, Santa Fe, NM 87505
505-983-2703

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

Doug Fraser

Again! Again! The monsoon was a vast disappointment. The Inner Mountains are presently burning, our wells are going dry, our pitholes are drying, and a slim majority of our county and city political leadership continues to authorize more and more new construction, both commercial and residential. We must begin to manage our precious water resources, but rather as Rome burned, we diddle!

There may be a glimmer of hope; if we set and if our political leadership gets the message. Colter County Commissioners Bob Sullivan and Paul Campos say “thank you” for their attempts to stop development of the college area south of the City until water is “discovered,” and ask how you can further their efforts. Club activities appeared at the last County Commissioners meeting and spoke in favor of stopping further development, at least using caution.

City of Santa Fe residents can call Councilors Pat Burns, David Coss, Miguel Chavez and Karen Hildreth to thank them for their efforts. And please call Mayor Delgado.

State Engineer Tom Turpen proposed before the State’s legislative interim judicial committee a discussion draft of a State water court to speed the adjudication of water rights along our state’s water courses. This is long overdue, considering the length of time it now takes. Commensurate with the present water shortage, Tom has taken steps to answer many water issues never addressed before. An appointed state official with rare vision and fortitude. You see, there is hope. As he has demonstrated at some risk to himself, there must be positive action.

Visualize rain and leadership!

State Announced for 2003 ExCom Election

There are four seats open on the Executive Committee of the Northern New Mexico Group. Each term is two years. The Nominating Committee, Chair Paul Paryski, Lionel Sorensen and Jim Kinder, has announced its slate for the election:

- Gina Aranda
- Doug Fraser
- Barbara Johnson

CLIFF LARSON *incumbent *

Any member of the Northern NM Group in good standing as of September 1 (i.e. dues paid) may run for election by a petition presented to the Nominating Committee no later than October 15 of this year. The petition must contain the signatures of at least 3% of the membership of the Group (approximately 63 members). Include a statement to be published in the Rio Grande Sierran detailing your conservation philosophy and goals for the Group.

CONSERVATION CHAIR

Paul Paryski

Water remains the priority issue for the Northern NM Group. As the drought progresses, water is becoming the most important political issue in NM. It is also a global issue, with supplies of potable drinking water decreasing and the acquisition of national and international water companies and water rights by multi-national corporations changing the nature of water from a public good to a marketable commodity.

The Group has concentrated its water efforts on getting the Santa Fe City Council to pass a strong water budget ordinance linking all further development in the City to the availability of water. Councilors Pat Burns, David Coss, Karen Hildreth and Miguel Chavez have proposed a strong water budget ordinance that creates a mechanism for planning, managing and allocating water resources while allowing some minimal construction for the first year. Another ordinance, dubbed the “unbudget bill” allows holders to pay a toilet retrofit tax to have older buildings refitted with low flush toilets in return for a permit to build new structures. This proposition also does not set up a mechanism to budget water, although it pays lip service to the principle of a water budget.

The Group’s continuing campaign is composed of a full page ad in The New Mexico; putting together water chair John Buchter, letters to the editor, letters and telephone calls to councilors, and testimony at the relevant City Council committees. Late on August 28th, the “unbudget bill” was passed 5-4 when Mayor Delgado cast a tie-breaking vote. Other options might include a citizens’ ordinance, a relatively difficult undertaking. John Buchter and Doug Fraser have fought courageously with me on this issue.

Other issues that the Conservation Committee (ConCom) has acted on are:

1. Forest Guardians’ Lower Santa Fe River riparian restoration project: the ConCom voted to take no action at the present time although it expressed support for FG’s actions. A possible testimony in favor of the project at the next appropriate City Council meeting was discussed.

2. The ConCom continues to oppose new roads and new building old roads for logging of downed trees in the Vivash fire area.

3. The ConCom recommended that the ExCom approve a letter to Senator Bingaman to condemn his stance against any exceptions to NEPA for the thinning of federal forests. The Bush administration is pushing to allow commercial timber companies to clearlog national forests without satisfying NEPA regulations. Senator Daskalos (D-Texas) had also requested an exemption to allow thinning of national forests in the Black Hills of South Dakota.
NORTHERN GROUP NEWS

GROUP OUTINGS FOR 2002

Sat - Sun - September 2002

1. Strenuous Hike to Wheeler Peak. 14 miles RT, 4300' gain. Marcia Shillman (474-7414)
2. Easy/Intermediate Hike: Spring Creek. 8 miles RT, 800' gain. Earl Eggert
3. Easy/Intermediate Hike: Great Basin. 10 miles RT, 500' gain. Earl Eggert
4. Easy/Intermediate Hike: Las Vegas. 6 miles RT, 200' gain. Earl Eggert
5. Easy/Intermediate Hike: Cave Creek. 6 miles RT, 200' gain. Earl Eggert

Sat - Sun - October

6. Easy/Intermediate Hike: Spring Creek. 8 miles RT, 800' gain. Earl Eggert
7. Easy/Intermediate Hike: Cave Creek. 6 miles RT, 200' gain. Earl Eggert
8. Easy/Intermediate Hike: San Joaquin. 10 miles RT, 1000' gain. Earl Eggert
9. Easy/Intermediate Hike: Spring Creek. 8 miles RT, 800' gain. Earl Eggert
10. Easy/Intermediate Hike: Cave Creek. 6 miles RT, 200' gain. Earl Eggert

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

For additional outings in Northern New Mexico, please check the Pajarito Group pages in this newsletter.

ANNUAL SIERRA YARD SALE
Saturday, October 8, 8 AM to 3 PM
1809 Camino de Peral (see directions below)
Come check out our outdoor gear, and bring a friend or two! Sockin' donation of all SALEABLE items (no computers, please). Appliances must go. Bring items to Camelback's home any time after September 23; sell it yourself when she is there. 1809 Camino de Peral - second side street on the right going south on Galisteo Street between Zia Road and Redondo Road - look for a large railroad trestle on the left.

The following talks could use volunteers:
1. Someone to work with.
2. Pricing items at Camelback's house, Friday, October 4, 1 to 5 PM.
3. Setting up Saturday morning at 7 AM, putting up signs, naming tables from 8 AM to 3 PM (first-time skills available).

Contact: Call Camelback (471-7679), Kathy Fraser (474-7615) or Norma McCallin (471-9005)

MAPS NEEDED!
Outings leader plan to maintain a collection of topo and other maps of the Santa Fe area at the office. Old maps can be useful, too, since they sometimes show details or old trails left off of more recent versions. To move your area maps or guidebooks (birds, wildflowers, geology), call Tobin Oros (282-394) or Norman McCallin (474-4354).

GROUP COMMITTEE MEETING DATES
Group Executive Committee: Group Conservation Committee: Monday, October 1, 6:30 PM
Tuesday, September 29, 7 PM Wednesday, September 28, 6:30 PM
Tuesday, October 2, 7 PM

Water Purification (for location call 282-6091)

Outings - Norman McCallin
Tobin Oros
Contact: [information]

Northern Group Executive Committee:

Chair - Doug Faccy
Vice-Chair - Barbara Johnson
Secretary/Treas - Lillian Soracco
Political Committee - Susan Martin
Membership/Outings - Sharon McCallin
Newsletter/Publicity - Judy Carbone
Web Master - Gina Arceda
Phone Tree - Darla Huaman
Chapter Reps - Doug Faccy

* Member of the SF Group Executive Committee

September/November

2. Moderate/Strenuous Hike: Spring Creek. 8 miles RT, 800' gain. Earl Eggert
3. Easy/Intermediate Hike: Cave Creek. 6 miles RT, 200' gain. Earl Eggert
4. Easy/Intermediate Hike: Spring Creek. 8 miles RT, 800' gain. Earl Eggert
5. Easy/Intermediate Hike: Cave Creek. 6 miles RT, 200' gain. Earl Eggert
6. Easy/Intermediate Hike: Spring Creek. 8 miles RT, 800' gain. Earl Eggert
7. Easy/Intermediate Hike: Cave Creek. 6 miles RT, 200' gain. Earl Eggert
8. Easy/Intermediate Hike: Spring Creek. 8 miles RT, 800' gain. Earl Eggert
9. Easy/Intermediate Hike: Cave Creek. 6 miles RT, 200' gain. Earl Eggert
10. Easy/Intermediate Hike: Spring Creek. 8 miles RT, 800' gain. Earl Eggert
11. Easy/Intermediate Hike: Cave Creek. 6 miles RT, 200' gain. Earl Eggert
12. Easy/Intermediate Hike: Spring Creek. 8 miles RT, 800' gain. Earl Eggert
13. Easy/Intermediate Hike: Cave Creek. 6 miles RT, 200' gain. Earl Eggert
14. Easy/Intermediate Hike: Spring Creek. 8 miles RT, 800' gain. Earl Eggert
15. Easy/Intermediate Hike: Cave Creek. 6 miles RT, 200' gain. Earl Eggert
16. Easy/Intermediate Hike: Spring Creek. 8 miles RT, 800' gain. Earl Eggert
17. Easy/Intermediate Hike: Cave Creek. 6 miles RT, 200' gain. Earl Eggert
18. Easy/Intermediate Hike: Spring Creek. 8 miles RT, 800' gain. Earl Eggert
19. Easy/Intermediate Hike: Cave Creek. 6 miles RT, 200' gain. Earl Eggert
20. Easy/Intermediate Hike: Spring Creek. 8 miles RT, 800' gain. Earl Eggert
21. Easy/Intermediate Hike: Cave Creek. 6 miles RT, 200' gain. Earl Eggert
22. Easy/Intermediate Hike: Spring Creek. 8 miles RT, 800' gain. Earl Eggert
23. Easy/Intermediate Hike: Cave Creek. 6 miles RT, 200' gain. Earl Eggert
24. Easy/Intermediate Hike: Spring Creek. 8 miles RT, 800' gain. Earl Eggert
25. Easy/Intermediate Hike: Cave Creek. 6 miles RT, 200' gain. Earl Eggert
26. Easy/Intermediate Hike: Spring Creek. 8 miles RT, 800' gain. Earl Eggert
27. Easy/Intermediate Hike: Cave Creek. 6 miles RT, 200' gain. Earl Eggert
28. Easy/Intermediate Hike: Spring Creek. 8 miles RT, 800' gain. Earl Eggert
29. Easy/Intermediate Hike: Cave Creek. 6 miles RT, 200' gain. Earl Eggert
30. Easy/Intermediate Hike: Spring Creek. 8 miles RT, 800' gain. Earl Eggert
31. Easy/Intermediate Hike: Cave Creek. 6 miles RT, 200' gain. Earl Eggert

RIO GRANDE GRIFFIN
11
Pajarito Group Members: Vote on Revised Bylaws

If your mailing label has a "1768," you are a member of the Pajarito Group. The bylaws have been revised to adhere to National Sierra Club guidelines to provide more consistency among groups around the country. We now need your vote as the final step of approval.

1. Organization
1.1 Name. The name of this Group is the Pajarito Group of the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club.
1.2 Establishment. This Group is established by action of the Executive Committee of the Chapter (Chapter ExCom), and is governed by these Bylaws, consistent with the provisions of the Bylaws and Standing Rules of the Club, the Bylaws of the Chapter, by applicable law, and by the policies and directives of the 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 by the Board by a general rule applicable alike to all chapters. The Group shall not 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.

(continued on next page)

MEETINGS

All meetings are held in the upstairs rooms in Mesa Public Library at 7:00pm and are open to the public. General meetings are on the first Wednesday, conservation and executive committee meetings the second Wednesday, September's general meeting is Wednesday, September 4. October's general meeting is Wednesday, October 2.

OUTINGS

Saturday, September 14 • Mountain Bike Tour on Carson National Forest Gravel/Dirt Roads—Technical level: Beginner. Stamin level: Moderate. Length: 20 miles. Mean altitude: 9,500'. Altitude climb: 1,000'. We will meet for carpooling at the Los Alamos "Wy'e" (1/2 mile NE of Tsankawi) at 7:30am and will return there by 5:30pm.

Contact Carolie and Abe Jacobson (672-9757).

Saturday, September 21 • Cerro Grande Dayhike—Moderate/strenuous, 8.9 miles, 2,000’ elevation gain, off-trail and exploratory, easy pace. Call Robert McKee for time and meeting place (672-3426).

Friday evening-Sunday, October 4-6 • 3rd Annual Smith San Juan Car-camp Hiking Weekend—We will camp at Lake Fork Campground on the Conchas River and will hike Saturday in the headwaters of the Conchas, Sunday up Conchas Peak (summit 13,000’). Contact Carolie and Abe Jacobson (672-9757).

Pajarito Group of the Sierra Club Directory

Ike Bleck, Chair & Chapter Representative
Ibbeck@yahoo.com
662-2368

Kim Mauley, Vice Chair
kmtegela@a.netcom.com
662-6163

Carole Jacobson, Secretary/Treasurer
abe.jacobson@worldnet.att.net
672-9757

Chuck Percier, Conservation Chair
percier@att.net
661-6169

Jody Benson
667-8465
Jody.Benson@la.nm.gov
benson@jemez.com

Matt Heavner
629-3645
heavner@jemez.com

Abe Jacobson
672-9759
abe.jacobson@worldnet.att.net

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

Pajarito can be accessed at:
http://riogrande.sierriclub.org/pajarito/

Matt Heavner is the webmaster.

OPEN MEETING

ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS, A MORAL IMPERATIVE?

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4 • 7:00PM
MESA PUBLIC LIBRARY • UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOMS

Environmental responsibility embraces the ideals of social equity, economic prosperity, and ecological integrity when addressing such issues as global warming, land degradation, species extinction, deforestation, toxic waste generation and disposal, energy and resource use, rapid urbanization, and corporate and social responsibility.

Many people believe that organized religion deals solely with humans and their spiritual—and in extension, personal and social—well-being. However, most issues important in the environmental-responsibility movement are similar to those that are important to religion. Are there points at which these two ideals merge? A panel consisting of:

• Rabbi Gerald Winkler (the Waldensick Foundation based on re-infusing the Mosaic tradition with Earth-honoring traditions).

• Reverend Taibha Arnold (minister of Santa Fe United Church), and

• Reverend Dale Arminck (minister of Los Alamos Unitarian Church)

will offer insights into how various religions view environmental responsibility. Each panel member will give a short presentation followed by questions and discussion.

OPEN MEETING

RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENTS IN NEW MEXICO

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2 • 7:00PM
MESA PUBLIC LIBRARY • UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOMS

This talk will consist of an overview of renewable energy technologies, their status, cost and advantages, followed by an overview of renewable energy policy issues in New Mexico. The latter will include discussion of the proposed Renewable Portfolio Standard, or RPS, which would require regulated utilities to start including certain percentages of renewable energy in their mix, ramping up to 10% by 2007.

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2002
Pajarito Group Bylaws (continued from page 12)

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 or any group within that chapter. No member shall belong to more than one chapter and group. Only Group members 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 25 members, the ExCom shall call a membership meeting within 14 days of the petition, members stating time and place to consider subjects specified in the petition. No binding actions may be taken at a membership meeting, but resolutions addressed to any Club entity may be adopted. Petitions for membership meetings shall be 25 Group members.

2.4 Election Petitions. The members may petition for a special election by obtaining signatures of 25 members. Petitions shall state separately such issues 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

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 seven (7) members elected by the Group membership for terms of two years.

In any election, up to four (4) members may be elected for full terms, as long as the size of the ExCom does not exceed a maximum of seven (7) and one (1) member for each (1) term 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 highest numbers of votes shall receive any available full terms and the others shall receive the unexpired remainders of the vacated terms.

Meetings shall be held at the office of the ExCom or at any place selected by the Executive Committee.

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. Any member may file a written petition with the ExCom, but the 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 Board or its designees.

The ExCom may call meetings of the Group membership at large with 14 days written notice to all Group members, 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 Responsibilites. The ExCom shall assure that the activities and services provided for the benefit of the members of the Group and its sections and other entities comply and are consistent with these Bylaws and any Board 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 educational 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 ExCom.

3.5 Officers. The ExCom shall elect as its officers 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 one or more outside its membership any or other Group officers it considers necessary, including the Secretary and Treasurer. All such officers shall be Group members.

At the discretion of the ExCom, officers 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 offices and officers of the Group shall be provided to Chapter headquarters annually upon election, or as required by the Board or its designees.

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 representatives and alternates 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 each objective as it may set. Subject to ExCom approval, the Group Chair shall appoint committee members from among Group members.

The Group Chair, or another ExCom member designated by the Chair, may be designated as a voting member of each committee, except the Nominating and Election committees.

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

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 able to participate fully and simultaneously by means approved by the ExCom.

3.10 ExCom Meetings. The ExCom shall hold regularly scheduled meetings at least three (3) times per year at times and places communicated in advance to all Group members.

3.11 Special Meetings. The ExCom business may, if necessary, be conducted at a Special Meeting. A Special Meeting may be called by the Chair or any three (3) ExCom members with at least 14 days notice to personal contact or electronic means.

3.12 Emergency Meetings. A quorum of the ExCom may act in an emergency only when the Chair determines that quick action is necessary and there is insufficient time to arrange a Special Meeting, or if prior authorization to do so is made. In this case, the ExCom members shall be notified and asked to attend in advance to all Group members. The ExCom shall decide whether to remove a member at any regularly scheduled meeting following the third missed meeting.

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 ballots mailed to all Group members of record at least four weeks before the closing date of the election, and shall be conducted in such a manner as to ensure privacy of voting and tabulation, and secrecy of votes. The ballots shall allow each voter to vote for as many candidates as there are positions to be filled. A vote may not cumulate votes for any candidate.

The ExCom shall specify the calendar dates and deadlines for accepting nominations and electing officers. In the election of each year, the secretary and treasurer shall hold an annual election of officers and shall provide for a secret ballot. The ballots shall be cast by secret ballot and counted by an impartial person. The results of the election shall be announced at the first regular meeting of the new ExCom.

The ExCom shall provide written notice of the election to the group and the opportunity to nominate candidates by petition to all Group members. The Nominating Committee. A Nominating Committee (NOMCom) of at least three (3) Group members, at least one (1) not an ExCom mem- ber, none of whom may be a candidate, shall be
appointed annually 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 nominata 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 nominations. Petitions and five (5) weeks before the scheduled mailing of the ballots. Nominations 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 15 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 (1) not an ExCom member, shall be appointed annually 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. 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, events, and other news, including announcements of social events and outings. This requirement may be satisfied by use of a chapter publication.

5.3 Conservation Programs. The Group Conservation Program shall further the conservation objectives and priorities of the Club within Group boundaries, assist in international, national and regional Club activities, and provide for the development and execution of specific conservation strategies and action programs authorized by the ExCom.

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 make a statement or take a position publicly that is contrary to a policy or position established by the Chapter ExCom, 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, or 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 dissemination of conservation issues, and for networking and alert systems, such as photo 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 program 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 local initiatives, and shall be conducted in compliance with applicable law and the Club's election compliance guidelines.

6. Group 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 sections operating procedures. Because section membership is optional, sections may assess dues and also charge for activities, as permitted by the Group ExCom. Sections shall operate under bylaws approved by the Group ExCom.

6.2 Suspension and Dissolution. By majority vote the ExCom may suspend any section 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 designee. 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 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 designee, 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 (2) 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 the Group 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 financial statements (continued on next page)
Pajarito Group Bylaws

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 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 Club 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 the Board or the Chapter President or by 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 members of the Group ExCom present at an Annual or Special Meeting. 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 designee and the Board of Directors 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, decisions of the Board or its designees, or to correct inconsequential errors or omissions. Such amendments shall require only a majority vote of the ExCom.

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, 2003, 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.

Pajarito Group Bylaws Ballot

Vote by 30 September 2002

Your name (as it appears on mailing label)

☐ For ☐ Against

approval of the amended bylaws, as they appear in this issue of the Rio Grande Sierran.

Send your ballot to:
Pajarito Group • P.O. Box 945 • Los Alamos, NM 87544

Image by Ansel Adams. Protection by you.

Join us!

Sign up online:
www.sierachclub.org/join

or return this form:

My Name ____________________________
Address ______________________________
City __________________ State ______ Zip ______
e-mail ________________________________
☐ Check enclosed, made payable to:
Sierra Club
P.O. Box 52968
Boulder, CO 80322-2968

Please charge my ☐ Mastercard ☐ VISA
Cardholder's Name ____________________________
Card Number ____________________________
Exp. Date ____/____ 1700

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Introduction $25
Regular $39 $47
Supporting $75 $100
Contributing $150 $175
Life $1,000 $1,250
Senior $24 $32
Student $24 $32
Limited Income $54 $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.
Let's Get Good People Elected In the First Place
by Norma McCollan

The sky is a brilliant blue, the sun still quite warm—in fact some what warmer than normal for late August when we usually experience a heavy buildup of clouds in the afternoon and sporadic thundershowers. Quite different than the spectacular but chilly Arctic environment I recently was in on a national Sierra Club tour of Spike-bergen Island, only 10° from the North Pole, and dominated by vistas of ice floes, ice bergy, glaciers and steep snowy peaks. I am glad to be back in our welcoming climate, but distressed that the drought is still with us. It is sapping the strength of our plants and wildlife. Large numbers of pinyon and ponderosa are dying in northern New Mexico, weakened by too little moisture and susceptible to the ravages of the bark beetle. We need to treat our landscape gently. In addition to the normal precautions of the Club’s Leave No Trace philosophy—like staying on the trail and carrying out all garbage—we need to make sure that land-use decisions are made thoughtfully, with an awareness of the larger picture, the entire ecosystem, the health and well-being of the land and the people who live upon it. One of the best ways to ensure that is to get good people elected to public office in the first place, so that we are not always feeling dismayed by the exploitive decisions of our elected officials and the harmful actions of the administrators they appoint. Each election season, the Club goes through a lengthy endorsement process, looking at the records of candidates, and picking only those with an environmental vision and the viability to win. There are some in our outings programs who say they don’t want to get involved in the political process. But to not get involved, at least for the basic step of voting, is to let others make all the decisions about our favorite places. I would urge our outing community to read the write-ups on some of our endorsed candidates in this issue, and carefully peruse a special edition of the newsletter which will come out in a month or so with all the Rio Grande Chapter’s endorsed candidates. Then on Election Day, do vote—and take along a friend or two.

We have a great selection of outings this issue below are listed a sampling from around the State. Be sure to call the leader to get details, and look at the Group pages for additional trips. All phone numbers are 505, except as noted.

Sierra Club Outings in September—November 2002

Saturday, September 14 • Carson National Forest Moun-tain Bike Tour—20 miles on groomed dirt roads. Creole and Abe Jacobson (672-9579–Los Alamos).

Sunday, September 15 • Exhbitio Trail to South Peak, Sandia Mountain Wilderness—An 8-mile round-trip trek to the highest peak of the south Sandias. David Thor (200-1553–Albuquerque).

Sunday, September 22 • Sandia Mountains Dayhike—Strenuous hike. Stephen Markowitz (797-5833–Albuquerque).

Wednesday-Sunday, September 27-29 • West Fork Mogollon Creek Back-pack—Moderate 12-mile trip in a remote corner of the Gila Wilderness. Rollin Wickendon (915-559-6697–El Paso, rwickend@gmail.com).

Saturday, September 28 • Indian Hollow Dayhike—Moderate to strenuous hike in the Organ Mountains. Paul (525-1935–Las Cruces).

Saturday, September 28 • Aten Crater Dayhike, West Per-tilla Mountains—Easy hike to the WPA near El Paso, where over 1.50 cinder-cone volcanoes have been identified. Mike Eppes (915-858-0352–El Paso).

Saturday, September 28 • Organ Mountains Educational Preserve Tour—Easy hike in to a previously off limits gold mine property now owned by the Santa Fe Botanical Garden. Norms McCollan (471-0005–Santa Fe).

Sunday, October 5 • Wheeler Peak Climb—Strenuous hike up our highest peak, 13,161’. Phil Somervell (473-4797–Santa Fe).

Friday-Sunday, October 4-6 • South San Juan Mountains Car Camp—Hike Saturday in the headwaters of the Concho River, and Sunday up Concho Peak, 13,000’. Abe and Christie Jacobson (672-9579–Los Alamos).

Tuesday-Monday, October 8-14 • Abiquiu Mountains Car Camp—Explore moderate day hikes and our camping in the La Sal National Forest, at the edge of southeastern Utah’s magnificent red rock country. Norms McCollan (471-0005–Santa Fe).

Saturday, October 12 • Manzano Peak Dayhike—Strenuous hike to the highest peak in the Manzanos Mountains, 10,798’. Michael DeGraaf (603-0540–Santa Fe).

Saturday, October 19 • Pilar Mountains—Moderate hike in the Organ Mountains. Paul (525-1935–Las Cruces).

Saturday, October 19 • Piedra Larga Peak Dayhike—Strenuous hike to this landmark near Las Vegas (or to Caballo Peak near Los Alamos). Dustee (600-8967–Santa Fe).

Saturday-Sunday, October 20-21 • Grand Canyon National Park Back-pack—I day, 16-mile trip down the South Kaibab and up the Bright Angel trails. Rollin Wickendon (915-559-6697–El Paso, rwickend@gmail.com).

Saturday, October 26 • Picacho Peak, Dome Wilderness—Strenuous hike near Cochiti. Norbert Speith (474-5454–Santa Fe).

Saturday, November 2 • Cochiti Canyon Dayhike—Moderate hike in a beautiful canyon, Michael DeGraaf (603-0540–Santa Fe).

Sunday, November 10 • Seven Springs, near San Ysidro—Moderate hike to unique travertine formations. Rich Lipina (473-1948–Santa Fe).

WANTED:

Lobbyist

The Chapter is seeking a lobbyist for the upcoming NM legislative session—January 15–March 31. The position requires strong interpersonal and organizational skills. Send resume and references by 9/15 to: Lobbyist Committee, P.O. Box 31042, Santa Fe, NM 87594.

WANTED:

Conservation Organizer

The Chapter is seeking a part time, temporary organizer to help with conservation campaigns, political outreach and Chapter administrative work. The position requires strong people skills and the ability to communicate effectively. Send resume and references by 9/15 to: Personnel Committee, P.O. Box 31042, Santa Fe 87594.

Rio Grande Chapter Meeting

The Rio Grande Chapter will meet on December 7-8 at UNM’s research station at Socorro National Wildlife Refuge near Socorro.

Saturday, December 7 • Paul Bucknell, the Club’s National Loyalty Coordinator from Washington, DC, will lead a planning strategy seminar.

The Conservation Committee will meet on Sunday morning, December 8. The Executive Committee will meet during the late morning and early afternoon of the 8th.

The cost of lodging is $20/room/night. All members are invited. If you are interested, please contact Chapter Chair Jim Hansen (jimhansen505@aol.com; 988-5760).