Heritage Plants and Seeds from Camino Real to Grow at Embudo

For quite sometime, I've had a dream of recreating a Spanish Colonial Heritage orchard and garden. It has been a dream of mine to try and save the old varieties of fruits and vegetables that were common up to the 1950s. And there are still some hidden gems in orchards and gardens, not only in warmer climates of the upper Rio Grande such as the Española Valley, but also in places such as Rancho de Tres and Valdez, to name a few places at altitudes as high as 7,000 feet. When the first colonizers under the Spanish Crown made their way from Zacatecas to San Juan in 1598, under Don Juan de Oñate, with him came not only Spanish, but also French, Greeks, and Indians from the Mexico City—Tlaxcaltecas—who were master farmers and orchardists. Along with the people came seeds and possibly seedlings (or cuttings) of fruits that were not common to this area. As early as 1630, Fray Alonso de Benavides wrote in his Memorial: “All this land is very fertile, it goes forth with great abundance everything which is sown in it: corn, wheat, beans, lentils, garbanzos, fava, peas, pumpkins, water melons, cantaloupes, cucumbers; every kind of vegetable cabbage, luscious, carrots, celery, thistles, garlic, onions, cactus fruit, pinyahayas, apricots, peaches, nuts, squashes, blackberries and many others which I won't mention to avoid exaggeration.” Many scholars, both in this country and Mexico, claim the Camino Real extended from Mexico City to Santa Fe, but that is not the case. Although the “City Different” didn’t exist until 1610, what eventually became known as the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro existed since before the Spanish settled in Mexico.

(photo by Chrisi Green)

At the State Level, Many Opportunities to Support Good Bills

Inspired by the presence of a new governor with a strong environmental record, the NM legislature is introducing more “good bills” than our lobbyists are used to having the opportunity to support.

Rio Grande Chapter Priorities for the 2003 Legislative Session

First-priority Issues:

- Protect water resources
  - Acquies water banking and transfers
  - Monitoring and limiting the use of domestic wells
  - Pollution from concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs)
- Promote responsible use of energy
  - Renewable portfolio standard page 5
  - Solar tax credits
- Increase funding for Conservation Services
- Defend the NM Mining Act

Other Important Issues

- Protect other water-conservation initiatives (e.g., gray-water use, water-conservation appropriations) page 6
- Advocate for public transportation
  - Regional transit districts (RTDs)
  - Safe routes to school page 10
- Establish Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park
- Support Oso Oso wilderness designation and other sound land-use initiatives pages 4 and 11

Richmond, however, also has a pro-business track record. This is not inherently bad news, but his administration must hear from us about what kind of businesses we want to cultivate in New Mexico—Alternative energy, oil and gas? Water harvesting, or construction moratoria? Transit, bike paths and urban renewal, or SUV production and associated air-pollution mitigation? Mine-funded mine reclamation, or mining bankruptcies that leave taxpayers with the reclamation bills? And so on.

Don't let anyone persuade you that our opinions are anathema. We are keeping our sights set on the good alternatives, the solutions that make sense—and we're committed to keeping them on the front burner in the Legislature and on the Governor's desk. Here is a summary of some of our “First Priority” issues, as we go to press at the end of February.

- Protect Water Resources
  - Acquies Water Banking (HB834, SB122—new legislation) and Compliance with Acquies Requirements (HB834, SB123—new legislation)—Three bills legally allow acquirers to continue to share water within their individual ditch systems, and place these arrangements under each acquirer’s jurisdiction, no longer under the Office of the State Engineer. Spokesmen—Ben Luken, Carlos Ceninos
  - Status—All have passed and are on their way to Richmond for his signature!
  - Action—Congratulations the NM Acquies Association!

Sierra Club
Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

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What is the Sierra Club Structure and its role in the organization as outlined in the document? The Sierra Club has three structural levels: the National Board of Directors that sets the overall direction of the Club; the National Organization, which 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 Coordinator and a part-time lobbyist, followed by the printing and mailing of the newsletter.

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SILVER BELLS STRATEGY

T he 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 Coordinator and a part-time lobbyist, followed by the printing and mailing of the newsletter.

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SILVER BELLS PUBLICATIONS

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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, at the discretion of the editor. All submissions must be received by the 16th of the month prior to publication. (The Rio Grande Sierra is published in early January, March, May, July, September and November.) Photos, artwork and poems are also welcome. Letters and articles are subject to abridgment.

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Thank You!

You've been helping to make the Sierra Club a better organization for the past 100 years. Thank you for your continued support and membership.

MARCH/APRIL 2003
A Note From the Chair

The New Year is well on its way. By the time you read this, the New Mexico Legislative session will be in its final days, ending at noon on March 22nd. Please read the front-page article on our legislative coverage. The attacks on the New Mexico Hard Rock Mining Act (one of the best in the country) by some in the industry are demanding a lot of our time. MaryBeth Morris and Gwen Washdell have, however, been doing a yeoman's job. I've been spending fruitful time traveling throughout our area to attend Group executive committee meetings. We have some great leadership in both New Mexico and Texas.

One of the themes in this issue is the cultural cross-currents that are becoming more and more important in uniting the urban environment community with that of the rural and indigenous communities that live on and steward our less developed lands. Some of this misdirection, and even the hostilities, of the past are being set aside, if for no other reason than because the residents of the smaller, more rural communities live closer to and are more a part of the actual management of the resources upon which the biodiversity we hold dear depends. Paul Tracton's art and poetry (page 7) capture the spirit of our lives here, and Estevan Añez's photo on the back page of our 2002 Film/Earth series.
Richardson Writes to Support Otero Wilderness Designation
Now It’s Time for NM Senators to Speak Up for Us

It continues to be an uphill fight, but with the election of Governor Bill Richardson, the playing field just got a little more level. The fight is over oil and gas development in New Mexico’s Wildest Grassland—Otero Mesa. As we go to press, the Bureau of Land Management is in the process of editing the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Otero Mesa. Their decision could come as early as mid-March.

Many positive developments in the past few months give us serious hope for success on this controversial issue. First is the involvement of the Governor. On February 18, he wrote to Secretary of Interior Gale Norton and asked:

• for the designation of a significant wilderness area in the Greater Otero Mesa Area;
• for a “new wilderness inventory” and
to be part of any future negotiations involving the Greater Otero Mesa Area.

Even if an EIS concludes that major impacts would result, the managing agency may recommend that the proposed development proceed (e.g., the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recommendation in the Final EIS for proposed development of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge). At best, the EIS stop the planning process:

• encourages the managing agency to identify foreseeable minor and major impacts;
• puts that agency on record affirming or denying that individual and cumulative environmental losses amount to an unacceptable trade-off when weighed against the values of the proposed development.

Several scientific studies have also been completed that cast doubt on assumptions made by the BLM that this grassland can be restored if development occurs. The New Mexico Wilderness Alliance (NMWA) commissioned Dr. Walter Whithofe, a world-renowned grassland expert and former professor at New Mexico State University, to study the grasslands of Otero Mesa. His report includes the following observations:

• “Chihuahuan Desert Grasslands are the most endangered ecosystem or plant community type in North America.”

• “Oil and gas development will require construction of many additional miles of roads that will increase both wind and water erosion and potentially affect the survival of local vegetation.”

• “Cleared wells pads should be considered as irreparable clearings within the grasslands.”

• “The problem soils, commercial sources of seeds, and the potential genetic problems with restored grasslands combine to make the risk of inability to restore Chihuahuan desert grasslands on Otero Mesa extremely high.”

Whithofe’s report confirms that industry, not science, is guiding the Final EIS on Otero Mesa. While the science clearly shows us that this area cannot be restored, political pressure continues to push development forward. More expert reports addressing hydrologic, bird species, pasture dogs and pronghorns have been commissioned by NMWA.

NMWA also recently placed more than 47,000 newspaper inserts in eight southwestern New Mexico newspapers, illustrating how oil and gas development will destroy the wilderness potential of this grassland.

The Coalition for New Mexico Wilderness is compiling the names of hundreds of businesses and organizations that support wilderness, to demonstrate how broad the constituency for wilderness in New Mexico truly is (505/843-6956, PO. Box 27528, Albuquerque, NM 87125).

Otero Mesa campaign is beginning to take on both a national and international component. Several national groups have recently joined the coalition, including the National Wildlife Federation. Recently, the Otero Mesa issue was part of an international conference held near the Jornada grassland in Chihuahua, Mexico.

In late March 2003, Eco-Stewards, a faith-based conservation group, will be coming from their home in Santa Rosa, California to Otero Mesa for a three-day event to write a paper on faith and preservation. Members of the New Mexico Council of Churches and members from parishes of all denominations will take part.

Our focus now is on our Senators. In the time remaining, it is crucial to gain their support in our efforts to protect Otero Mesa. Senator Bingaman transmitted a resolution. Both Senator Domenici and Bingaman are the ranking members in their respective parties on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. Thus, they have tremendous power when it comes to protecting Otero Mesa. It is important that they hear from you!

• Ask them to delay implementation of the BLM’s Final EIS until the agency conducts a new Wilderness inventory of the Greater Otero Mesa Area and until sound science is factored into the final decision-making process.

• Ask them to join our Governor in helping to protect this important part of New Mexico’s Conservation Heritage.

• And please, write to Governor Richardson to thank him for taking a leadership role in protecting Otero Mesa.

For more information, contact: Clapper Wilderness Chair Martin Heinrich (see Directory, page 2), or Stephen Capra at NMWA in Albuquerque (505/843-6956; steve@nmwild.org; www.nmwild.org)

—Stephen Capra

Join the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance and Help protect New Mexico’s natural heritage

- $20 Individual
- $25 Family
- $50 Supporting
- $10 Student/Senior

Name__________________________
City, State, Zip__________________
Phone______________________
E-mail______________________

Hybrid Cars Good for a Tax Break

In May 2002, the IRS announced that hybrid cars will qualify for a deduction of up to $2,000. The exact amount will depend upon the model and manufacturer documentation of the cost of installing the electric motor and related equipment. Owners do not need to itemize in order to claim this benefit. This benefit is retroactive (hybrids became available in 2000), and it is available through 2003, after which it is scheduled to decrease 25% each year until it is phased out at the end of 2006. Watch for new legislation to pick up where this leaves off.

According to the Electric Drive Transportation Association (EDTA), nearly 50,000 hybrid electric vehicles are on the road in the United States today, and roughly 100,000 worldwide. Since 1992, an energy law has allowed taxpayers who purchased new, fully electric vehicles to deduct $4,800.

For more information about cars and the environment, see the Environmental Defense web site (www.environmentaldefence.org). For more information about cleaner car choices, visit the Clean Car Campaign (www.cleanercamp.org). For more information about electric vehicles, see the EDTA web site (www.edtacar.org).
Outings Challenge El Paso City Dwellers to Expand Their Horizons

The mile-high pass in the Franklin Mountains State Park in El Paso, Texas was only the beginning of a climbing adventure for an Inner City Outings (ICO) group of teenagers in mid-January 2003. The Children’s and Adolescents’ Mental Health Program Services (ChAMPS) and the Post-Adoption program of Family Services of El Paso took on South Franklin Peak and successfully completed the goal of making it possible for every person to make it to the top—a climb of 2.5 miles and 1,400 feet in elevation.

ICO is an outreach program of the Sierra Club that provides wilderness experiences for those who have little access to the outdoors. This all-volunteer group in El Paso has taken children, adolescents, and their parents on many different events, such as camping, bicycling, hiking, fishing, backpacking, habitat restoration, Christmas tree hunting in the snow, and canoeing. The group’s chair, Ted Merrig, commented that ICO gives adolescents a chance to become successful in both social relationships and physical activities. At the same time, adults are rewarded with a chance to “see the world through a child’s eyes” and the knowledge that they have helped develop an awareness of the natural environment.

Recent activities included camping out by Radium Springs, New Mexico and canoeing down the Rio Grande in a race sponsored by the Boy Scouts. Although the scenery of El Paso affords little opportunity to practice paddling, the group of adolescents, parents, and adult volunteers finally made their way down the river in six canoes. A lost paddle, an overturned canoe, the rescue of a “bridge climber,” and a pet dog in a life preserver simply became good stories enjoyed over a picnic lunch at the end of the 15-mile event. Three canoe groups even won awards. Eidola got to Ryan Lane, Richard Rieden, and Jim Rogers for their paddling skills and ability to balance canoes on makeshift trailers.

Each summer, an instructive weekly bicycle program trains students to participate in the El Paso Bicycle Club’s annual “Culle Pepper Challenge,” a ride with routes of 15, 30, 40, 50, 62 and 100 miles. Although few have been able to cycle the entire “century,” all proudly finished the longest ride of their life. Bicycle safety expert and extremely patient trainer Ed Macbeth drives down from Las Cruces to transform neophytes into competent cyclists. Thanks to a gift from the El Paso Bicycle Club, all participants are outfitted with free helmets.

Although most ICO events have fewer than 15 participants, the prize for the largest turnout goes to the Post Adoption program’s April 2002 trip to White Sands National Monument. Fifty-two family members—from babies to grandparents—hiked, slid down the dunes, and just plain had fun. For most, it was a first-time visit to this famous destination. Other ICO groups have been high-school theater students, middle-school special education students, and youth day-home residence residents. Adult leaders are always welcome; if you’d like to volunteer, please contact Ted Merrig (915-532-3011; rmerrig@earthlink.net).

—Mary Lou Parker

Polls Confirms Wide Support; Now, Uphold New RPS Standard

According to a mid-February survey of 500 registered voters in New Mexico, conducted for the Natural Resources Defense Council, New Mexicans strongly embrace proposals to reduce power plans’ water use and to increase renewable energy technologies such as wind and solar power.

• By a margin of 85% to 13%, voters support a rule that requires utilities companies to generate 10% of their electricity from renewable sources by 2001 (see Stratus Jans/Pol 2003 and page 1 of this issue). Support for this proposal crosses partisan, ethnic, and geographic groups.

• By a margin of 88% to 7%, voters support a proposal that would require new power plants to use less water than existing plants use. This is also bipartisan and statewide support.

“Ideas are always on hold…to grow New Mexico’s economy have been high on the priority list for the State,” said State Representative Brian бил. “Policies to promote the growth of renewable energy in the State will aid this goal, and eastern New Mexico…need the investment…that these resources will bring.”

In December 2002, the NM Public Regulation Commission (PRC) adopted a renewable energy requirement (see Stratus Jans/Pol 2003): Public Service Company of New Mexico and other utilities appealed the ruling, but the PRC upheld it. The utilities are pursuing legislative challenges (see page 1), and may pursue court challenges, to the rule.

We urge residents to write to their state legislators, and to send letters to the editor, in support of the renewable energy rule, which requires utilities to provide 7% of their electricity from renewable sources by 1 January 2006, and 15% by 1 January 2011. Members should also support efforts at the national level to include a “20% by 2020” provision for renewable energy in the federal energy bill that Congress will work on this year.

Concern about utility water consumption stems from the fact that, according to the State Engineer, electric utilities consume 20 billion gallons of New Mexico water each year. This is equivalent to more than 50% of what the City of Albuquerque consumes. State legislators are considering a bill requiring tough water-conservation plans for new coal- and gas-fired power plants in New Mexico—plans that would have to consider a water-saving technology called dry cooling, which can cut power plant water use by more than 90%.

For more information, see the Coalition for Clean Affordable Energy web site (www.CACE.org), or contact Chapter Energy Issues Chair Gail Rysko (see Meet the Chair, page 2).

—Gail Rysko
Chapter Energy Issues Chair
Sumner Lake
The Challenge of Drought
What do we do with the water that flows in the Peñasco River, when the flow dwindles to next to nothing? The residents of Santa Fe and Fort Sumner, like others across the state, are up against a tough social and environmental dilemma that could pit one resident against another, or could bring us together to figure out a way to adjust to present circumstances.
Legislators are considering several bills to suspend "use-it-or-lose-it" rules pertaining to irrigation allocations. In the meantime, says Northern Group Conservation Chair Paul Paryski, it may be helpful to bear in mind that the "use-it-or-lose-it" rule has never been enforced in New Mexico; no one has ever lost irrigation rights because he or she did not use his or her allocation.
For more information, contact Paul Paryski in Santa Fe (992-1984; pparyski@sol.com).

Now, Help Move Gray Water Bills in Senate
Before the legislature this session are two bills designed to better facilitate gray-water use in New Mexico landscapes: the Espanola Bill (HB 114) sponsored by Representative Milini Stewart and Senate Bill (SB 113) sponsored by Senator Cisco McSweeney. This would be an essential step toward the kind of water-sustainability policy that we desperately need.
What Would HB114 / SB113 do?
HB114 / SB113 simplifies state code so that gray water can be used safely in the landscape. Currently state code does not differentiate between black and gray water (defined below). This makes gray water re-use prohibitively expensive. By making the necessary distinction and creating safe guidelines, we will take an essential step in conserving New Mexico’s most valuable resource for future generations. With essential no expense to the state, the positive effect of HB114 / SB113 would be immediate.
HB114 / SB113 would not undermine any local ordinances, because it allows for town squares, cirques, and courtyards to be more, rather than less, restrictive when it comes to gray water re-use.

What is Gray Water?
Technically, gray water is untreated household wastewater that has not come in contact with toilet water (black water). Primarily, gray water includes wastewater from bathtubs, showers, bathroom sinks, and clothes washing machines. HB114 / SB113 also stipulates that wastewater from kitchen sinks, dishwashers, and the washing of material soiled with human excrement to be "black water."

Is Gray Water Safe?
Yes. When handled properly, gray water is safe. HB114 / SB113 includes best management practices developed to protect public health and water quality.

Clearly, Gray Water Bill Creates Jobs
When he flipped open the front page of his Sunday New Mexico Times two days before the opening of his first legislative session as governor, Bill Richardson probably cringed. There, in color, was the silver lining and an article about how New Mexico has mostly ignored its water problem.
"Jeez!" he must have said, "How’s a guy, even a sweet-talker like me, gonna attract businesses here with my entire Pinto Pilot outside of the 505 area code just found out we’re out of water?"
Faced with defunding water reserves and a need to grow our economy, Richardson would have to apply the perennial principle that understands "problems" as solutions. Rather than seeing the water problem as a drag on our economy, we should be inspired by water-harvesting and recycling solutions that create jobs.

One such solution, which would ease regulations on residential gray water re-use, is pending in the legislature. . . . It has the support of many environmental advocacy and business-oriented groups as well as the City of Santa Fe.
It’s doubtful that either the hard working state task force that drafted the bill, or its lead sponsor, Representative Milini Stewart (D-Albuquerque), would say that the legislation is about economic development. It’s simply about making gray water (water that doesn’t go through the toilet, kitchen sink, or dishwasher) use in the landscape safer and more popular. . . .
No permit is required for gray-water use in the landscape, as long as 10 basic conditions are met (see article) . . . Many homeowners, if properly educated, will have no problem following these simple guidelines. There will, however, certainly be many who would like to use gray water effectively—but would prefer not to install the system themselves. This is where plumbing, landscaping, and irrigation jobs get directly created. In addition, the construction industry as a whole is poised when building need has water to provide sustainable options.

—Dave Devine
Santa Fe Pervercutors, Inc.

excerpted from a longer article that first appeared in the Santa Fe New Mexican Real Estate Guide.

The only water in Lake Sumner is pooled against the dam (top); a state parks deck is high and dry at Abiquiu (center); a hill with above the dam; an outlet that is usually 10 feet under water is shown with a channel that the last water cut through lake-bottom sediments; thousands of dead fish litter the shore below the dam (photos courtesy of Jerry Cohee, 355-6923).
Heritage Gardens (cont. from page 1)

On the Caminos Real came all types of fruits and vegetables that have since disappeared, or we assume they are no longer available.

For that reason, I became interested in at least attempting to locate the old varieties of fruits and vegetables, but for the past 15 years, I have found no institution interested in such a project. When I worked at the Oñate Center, I attempted to start such a project on a small scale, but I soon learned that politics and culture don’t mix.

Then last year, when the community within the Embudo Valley Library opted to give the use of the irrigated land to anyone who came up with a good idea, I presented the idea of the heritage orchard—and that got the ball rolling.

Next, I contacted Edmund Gomez, director of the Sustainable Agriculture Center at the experimental station operated by New Mexico State University in Algodones, and he liked the idea. I had previously mentioned this idea to Mr. Geenes and he set up a meeting with Dr. Ron Weber, fruit specialist with the Extension Service.

They then came to Dixon to look at the place and discuss the idea with me. What we decided to do was get out a story in the press. For this, Kevin Robinson de Avila from the information services at the extension service was contacted. He came and did an interview and took pictures.

Soon the article he wrote appeared first in the Albuquerque Tribune, then the Santa Fe New Mexican.

Since it has appeared in papers in Oklahoma, Prescott, Arizona; and even in Tennessee.

A lady, originally from Ranchos de Taos, now married in Dixon, called to let me know about a very old orchard in her family that family documents from the late 1800s mention the orchard. If any reader knows of an old orchard, an old variety of chile, calabaza en cascada, melons or squash, etc., you can contact me at 505/579-4037 or e-mail me at Extremo_2002@yahoo.com.

The dream is to eventually establish such a repository of genetic diversity that the project can serve to diversify the economy, so farmers can make money and thus save the acquis waste. Also, this idea ties in with the farmers markets sprouting throughout the State.

Hopefully, now that Mayor Penelas will become Secretary of Tourism, the powells mortclos can work with him in preserving cultural tourism along the Camino Real and breathe new life onto this ancient road that has been forgotten since 1848.

Juan Esteban Aviles

This article first appeared in the Taos News column, "Oñate Notes."
Wolf Reintroduction Still Faces Political, Biological Hurdles in NM

The gila wolf is an endangered species, Canis gila, that is native to the southwestern United States. In 1995, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in cooperation with the states of Arizona and New Mexico, released five gila wolves into the wild. However, since then, fewer than ten gila wolves remain in the wild, and the species is still endangered.

In 1996, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in cooperation with the states of Arizona and New Mexico, released four gila wolves into the wild. However, since then, fewer than ten gila wolves remain in the wild, and the species is still endangered.

Volunteers Help Track Wolves

In 1996, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in cooperation with the states of Arizona and New Mexico, released four gila wolves into the wild. However, since then, fewer than ten gila wolves remain in the wild, and the species is still endangered.

Volunteer Opportunities

If you are interested in long-term or short-term volunteer opportunities to help track Mexican wolves in the wild, contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service field office in Alamosa, CO (719-589-4533, alamosawolf@fws.gov).

The Gila wolf is a unique species of Canis lupus that is native to the southwestern United States. In 1995, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in cooperation with the states of Arizona and New Mexico, released four gila wolves into the wild. However, since then, fewer than ten gila wolves remain in the wild, and the species is still endangered.

Wildlife management, a 21st-century style, is an endeavor that is neither entirely managed nor entirely wild. Biologists and volunteers capture and release wolves to help manage the population of these animals. They use radio collars to track these wolves, and sometimes use them to assist in the process of reintroducing wolves to their natural habitat.

Between 1998 and 2001, over 20% of the wolves that were released in the wild died due to human causes. Between 1998 and 2001, about 20% of the wolves that were released in the wild died due to human causes. The survival rate of these wolves was about 80% in the first year.

To help reduce human-wolf collisions, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the states of Arizona and New Mexico have developed a program to reduce the number of wolves that are killed by vehicles. This program involves the use of remote cameras to capture images of wolves, which are then analyzed to determine the cause of death. The program has been successful in reducing the number of wolf deaths caused by vehicles.

Public opinion in New Mexico strongly supports wolf reintroduction. In a statewide telephone survey sponsored by the League of Women Voters in 1995, nearly 90% of the people said they would feel a positive benefit “knowing that Mexican wolves rounded the wilderness area.” Only 28% were opposed to any reintroduction.

Predators play an important role in maintaining the balance of all species. The Mexican wolf, a species truly unique to the American Southwest, has had its numbers reduced by almost 20,000 wolves. What would it take for the rest of us to make enough room for viable populations of wolves to continue roaming the Southwest with us?

For more information, contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in New Mexico, or visit their website at http://www.fws.gov.

Sue M. Sifcles
Southern Group Chair
March/April 2000

Stephanie Posinbly, volunteering with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, tracks the radio signals of wolves released in the Apache National Forest of Arizona (Photo by L. Dorn).
New Approach to the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo and the Ejido System in New Mexico

In June of 2002, members of various community land grant came together to discuss the need for developing a comprehensive strategy to improve conditions in Chicano land-based communities in northern New Mexico. Many individuals feel that the land-grant movement is much broader than most people realize, and that it is impacted by many issues such as environmental justice, forest management, economic development, land management, and sustainable development—but that the media portray land-grant activism only as militant victim complaining about the past. As a result of many such conversations, the Mexican Land Education and Conservation Trust (Mexican Land Trust)—has been created to address issues pertaining to land grants and the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.

The mission adopted by the Mexican Land Trust is "to work for the recognition of our communal lands, a sustainable environment, and the respect for the land rights protected under the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo." We feel that our organization has an obligation to:

- represent community land grants in dealing with land reform, especially in communities that lose all communal lands;
- to develop tools in existing community land grants to conserve land and water resources for future generations.

Today, 22 Community Land Grants in 10 counties throughout the State manage more than 150,000 acres of lands at the headwaters of many watersheds. For example:

- the Coléllanas and Antonio Chico Grant alone accounts for more than 100,000 acres of land;
- in Río Arriba County, the Tuxcart, Abiquiu, Juan Bautista Valdez, and Bartolome Sanchez Grant accounts for about 25,000 acres of land; and
- on the east side of the Sandia and Manzana Mountain ranges, six community land grants actively manage communal lands.

In the past decade, for the first time in history, the loss of acreage has reversed, and many community land grants are pursuing land recovery and land-acquisition programs to increase communal land holdings such as the Cacique and Chilli Grant.

We have, therefore, developed a strategy:

- to assist community land grants in long-range planning and
- to develop tools to deal with economic development, housing, and resource sustainability.

On the other side of the coin, in many Chicano land-based communities in northern New Mexico, the loss of community land has limited communities to small land holdings along river corridors. As a result of Court of Private Land Claims decisions,

(continued on the next page)

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Protecting Southwestern Forests and Communities:
An Opportunity for Common Ground

A Sierra Club Workshop • Saturday, 26 April 2003 • Albuquerque, NM

Arizona and New Mexico have become engaged in a national debate over how to manage forest lands to protect communities from fire. A century of logging the largest fire-resistant trees, grazing, and fire suppression has created a forest dominated by dense stands of small fire-prone trees. Two years of drought-fueled fires has focused national attention on the issues of forest protection and community protection.

Unfortunately, in the rush to respond to perceived wildfire threats, many land managers are endorsing projects that will not provide community protection and will have destructive effects on old-growth ecosystems and habitats for imperiled species such as the Mexican Spotted Owl and Northern Goshawk.

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Unfortunately, the rush to respond to perceived wildfire threats, many land managers are endorsing projects that will not provide community protection and will have destructive effects on old-growth ecosystems and habitats for imperiled species such as the Mexican Spotted Owl and Northern Goshawk. Fortunately, community organizations, scientists, the public, and even some land managers, are common ground on how to proceed with resolving the many forest-healthy and community-protection issues surrounding management of our National Forest lands. This Southwest Forest Alliance program outlines the major areas of agreement and identifies the issues yet to be resolved. The workshop covers:

- the ecological need to save old-growth and large-diameter trees;
- community protection and thinning the wildfire-urban interface;
- salvage logging;
- the public's role in land-mangement issues; and
- the politics of fire.

Activists participating in the training workshop will be provided with information necessary to advocate for:

- preserving old growth and large-diameter trees that will become the next generation of old growth;
- focusing forest-thinning and community-protection projects on thinning small-diameter trees that create the greatest fire risk;
- an appropriately focused definition of the Wildland-Urban Interface.

The workshop will also provide positive examples of community protection efforts, restoration projects, and materials to help counter the politics of fire. Participation in the workshop is free, space is limited. For reservations, contact John Bucher in Santa Fe (505-202-0201; Bucher@Earthlink.net).

For more information, see the Southwest Forest Alliance website (www.swfa.org), or contact Outreach Director Razzie George in Flagstaff, AZ (928-774-6514; razziegeorge@swfa.org).

—Sharon Gallewash
Southwest Forest Alliance
The Popsicle Test and the 5% Solution

It's springtime and municipalities' thoughts turn toward their budgets. By the end of June, they must adopt a budget for their next fiscal year. This is an important job. They must allocate funds for the needs of the community. Yet, let's be honest: the process is not always straightforward. In fact, it can often be quite challenging. This is why the Popsicle Test is important. It asks us to consider how easily a community can afford to provide services. Let's say you have a community that provides services like parks, libraries, and schools. The Popsicle Test would ask us to consider how much a popsicle costs in the community. If it's too expensive, then the community needs to find other ways to fund its services. This is important because it helps us ensure that all communities have the resources they need to thrive.

Mexicano Land Education and Conservation Trust (continued from page 9)

communities have had to rely on small irrigated parcels of land for residential development. For example, according to a recent report by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) regarding the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, the federal government failed to pass common lands to the land-grant communities of Santa Cruz, Ojo Caliente, and Petaca. As a result, the private land base in these communities is now too small to sustain their residents. Children and grandchildren inherited land in the riparian and floodplain corridor, where orchards and native nongenerically stored rice fields make way for single-wide trailers in Marfa, Texas. Therefore, the mission of the organization is also:

- to develop a public policy argument to develop alternative in which the federal government could provide justice to community land grants that lost land and have valid title granted by the governments of Mexico or Spain.

Again, so many times, the media has portrayed the idea that a resolution to the land-grant question would result in negative impacts to the environment. The final GAO report on the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo will make recommendations on a range of remedies for Congress to consider. The Mexican Land Education and Conservation Trust has taken the position that a range of alternatives could be developed to:

- address the unjust loss of community land; and
- improve ecologically conditions.

Many land grants have already begun developing creative remediates. The Caruso Land Grant, for instance, has developed a scenario that would:

- reduce its 90,000-acre claim against the federal government for a settlement of a 1,000-acre natural resource reserve for the community;
- set aside an additional tract for housing and economic development; and
- set up a trust fund in the U.S. Department of Treasury, wherein the land grant could use only the interest for land conservation and economic development.

In Rio Arriba County, there is a proposal to purchase Black Mesa, a large private tract with thousands of acres, which is being mined by a local business. The U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) would own the land, and in return, relocate portions of land to the Santa Cruz and Ojo Caliente Grants for sustainable planning communities that would reduce the impacts of housing in the floodplain. Again, a sustainable development trust fund could be set up for those communities to develop site built energy efficient hoites.

RIO GRANDE SIERREAN

The tradition Mexicanas dance (photo courtesy of M. Gonzales).

Recently, the Mexican Land Trust has been engaging environmental organizations such as Forest Trust, Amigos Bravos, the Rio Grande Chapter of Sierra Club/Northern Group, and 1000 Friends of New Mexico to assist in developing creative solutions to the land-grant question. Approximately 50 land-grant representatives from communities all over the State are planning a trip to Washington, D.C. In April 2003, to meet with New Mexico congressional leaders to discuss how to proceed with remedies and recommendations that came out of the GAO report. In addition, Representative Tom Udall is expected to reintroduce the Mexican American Land Claims Act. All of the Hispanic Caucus has agreed to co-sponsor the legislation.

I believe that it is time for New Mexicans to move on from the debate about whether the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was violated, and commit ourselves to figuring out creative ways to resolve the issue. My vision is to see how remediation could include resources for land grants to create:

- energy-efficient affordable housing;
- community development using alternative fuel generation; and
- community-based economic development.

We feel that education of the Chicano community in northern New Mexico on these topics will generate community solutions in which political support on land-grant and acequia issues makes real public policy sense. Governor Bill Richardson echoed such support in early February 2003 at a Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo commemoration event held at the State Capitol, sponsored by the Land Grant Forum, the California Association, and the national organization. The Governor pledged to support an executive order that would assign a liaison from his office to work with community land grants in addressing ongoing issues. A coalition of New Mexico legislators is currently carrying several pieces of legislation to improve bond structures and conditions on community land grants, including pledges of support from both Sens.

The legislative bills include everything from assisting land grants in securing re-examined bonds for economic development, establishing a committee to improve the land grant governing structure, to developing a program in the Environmental Department to assist community land grants in dealing with illegal dumping issues. Over the years, the land-grant community has evolved and continue to evolve land conservation tools needed to be part of the evolution to which the Mexican Land Trust is committed. We recently received a grant from the National Forestry Foundation to begin working on forest policy with community land grants. One of the major focuses will be to create community Land Grants to apply for funds from the Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP), which is administered $10 million for 10 years to restore forest lands on federal, tribal, county, and municipal lands. (The process failed to include community land grants, which could have made a tremendous impact on the forest health.)

My grandfather's generation were members of the nene vega, curing the fences of the lands and the forest service to protect the taking of land-grant land. My father's generation—the Alamos and Tijeras—staged the Court House raid in Tierra Amarilla, after which the governor sent in the National Guard to round up land-grant activists. My generation has the opportunity to be included in the decision-making process and invited into the governor's mansion. I feel that my generation will be remembered as a land-grant movement based on cultural, social, and ecological sustainability that is founded on community-based democracy.

For more information contact, Moises Gonzales at the Mexican Land Education and Conservation Trust in Española (927-0402; moises@cybermesa.com).

—Moises Gonzales

MARCH/APRIL 2003
Demand for Planned Developments Exceeds Availability

The Second Annual New Partners for Smart Growth Conference on Building Safe, Healthy and Livable Communities was held in New Orleans in late January 2003. Approximately 750 individuals from all over the United States attended, representing architects, planners, local government employees and elected officials, public transportation, parks and recreation, public safety, and schools of public health.

All of these concerned groups are working from a set of design principles, called the Ahwahnee Principles (see box), that were created by a group of architects and presented in the Fall of 1991 to some 100 elected officials at a conference at the Ahwahnee Hotel in Yosemite National Park.

It was most gratifying to hear the stories of so many communities that are applying the principles and achieving great success. In each case where developments are following these guidelines, demand far exceeds the available supply.

Sites in New Mexico that have been developed using the Ahwahnee Principles include parts of downtown Albuquerque (contact Chris Leibenger at the Historic District Improvement Company, 988-7600); and downtown Areca (contact Deanne Contnelly at the City of Areca, 746-9077).

For more information, contact Rio Grande Chapter Sprawl Issues Chair Jan Kindel at Santa Fe (474-7207; jankinder@gmail.com).

—Jan Kindel
Chapter Sprawl Issues Chair

The Ahwahnee Principles

Preamble:
Existing patterns of urban and suburban development seriously impair our quality of life. The symptoms are:

• more congestion and air pollution resulting from our increased dependence on automobiles;
• the loss of precious open space;
• the need for costly improvements to roads and public services;
• the inequitable distribution of economic resources; and
• the loss of a sense of community.

By drawing upon the best from the past and the present, we can plan communities that will more successfully serve the needs of those who live and work within them. Such planning should adhere to fundamental principles.

Community Principles:

1. All planning should be in the form of complete and integrated communities containing housing, shops, work places, schools, parks and civic facilities essential to a daily life of the residents.
2. Community size should be designed so that housing, jobs, daily needs and other activities are within easy walking distance of each other.
3. As many activities as possible should be located within easy walking distance of transit stops.
4. A community should contain a diversity of housing types to enable citizens from a wide range of economic levels and age groups to live within its boundaries.
5. Business within the community should provide a range of job types for the community's residents.
6. The location and character of the community should be consistent with a larger transit network.
7. The community should have a central focus that combines commercial, civic, cultural, and recreational uses.
8. The community should contain an ample supply of specialized open spaces in the form of squares, greens and parks whose frequent use is encouraged through placement and design.
9. Public spaces should be designed to encourage the attention and presence of people at all parts of the day and night.
10. Each community or cluster of communities should have a well defined edge, such as agricultural greenbelts or wildlife corridors, permanently protected from development.
11. Streets, pedestrian paths and bike paths should contribute to a system of fully connected and interesting routes to all destinations. Their design should encourage pedestrian and bicycle use by being small and spatially defined by buildings, trees, lighting and by discouraging high-speed traffic.
12. Wherever possible, the natural terrain, drainage, and vegetation of the community should be preserved with superior examples contained within parks or greenbelts.
13. The community design should help preserve resources and minimize waste.
14. Communities should provide for the efficient use of water through the use of natural drainage, drought-resistant landscaping and recycling.
15. The street orientation, placement of buildings and the use of shading should contribute to the energy efficiency of the community.

Regional Principles:

1. The regional land-use planning structure should be integrated within a larger transportation network built around transit rather than freeways.
2. Regions should be bounded by and provide a continuous system of greenbelt/wildlife corridors to be determined by natural conditions.
3. Regional institutions and services (government, schools, universities, etc.) should be located in the urban core.
4. Materials and methods of construction should be specific to the region, exhibiting continuity of history and culture and compatibility with the climate to encourage the development of local character and community identity.
News from the Chair
Don Dearbolt

It's a busy time for environmentalists, and I urge all of us in the movement to persevere in the face of so many strong attacks, sometimes even by people or agencies which should know better, and should be more conscious of environmental aspects of their operations. One such example, it seems to me, is reflected by the letter below, by Stephen Siegfried, on poisoning fish in the Animas. Please read that carefully, and consider writing a letter or calling the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission and the Department of Game and Fish to make your views known on this topic.

Our programs these next two months reflect some of our most serious concerns-water quality and quantity, and the effects of global climate change, both presented by experts in the respective areas. We hope you will attend both meetings, and help us find ways to be effective in promoting good practices in maintaining and even improving our environment, difficult as it is in these times! If you're interested in becoming more active in the Sierra Club, we'll welcome your participation—please give me a call at 522-3035.

UP-COMING PLANNING MEETINGS AND PROGRAMS:

**Note that the state legislature is still in session for a couple of weeks after this meeting, and that water issues appearing before the legislature will be covered!!! Please attend and bring friends!!**

Wednesday, March 5—PLANNING MEETING: ExCom and interested members and guests of the SNM Group, 6:30 p.m. at the new Southwest Environmental Center (SWEC) location at 275 North Downtown Mall (1/2 block south of Coa's My Bookstore), just south of Las Cruces Avenue on the mall. Please enter the west door, just south of Day's Hamburgers. We have a long and important agenda, including a visit from chapter chair Doug Fraser.

Thursday, March 13—PROGRAM MEETING: 7:00 p.m., Current Issues and Future Prospects for Increasing Water Supplies in New Mexico and the Western U.S., by Karl Wood, Director of the Water Resources Research Institute, NMSU. The program will be at the new Southwest Environmental Center (SWEC) location at 275 North Downtown Mall (1/2 block south of Coa's My Bookstore), just south of Las Cruces Avenue on the mall. Please enter the west door, just south of Day's Hamburgers.

Wednesday, April 2—PLANNING MEETING: (ExCom and interested members and guests of the SNM Group), 6:30 p.m. at SWEC (see location information above). Please enter the west door, just south of Day's Hamburgers. We'll have another long agenda

Thursday, April 10—PROGRAM MEETING: 7:00 p.m., Global Climate Change: Whither the Rio Grande and Other Matters, by Vince Gutschick, Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, NMSU. The program will be at SWEC (see location information above). Please enter the west door, just south of Day's Hamburgers.

Coming events:

Outings
March 22 - Cooke's Peak Climb. This is rated strenuous. Some trail, some rock scrambling. Call Ben Zarberry at 526-7811 for info on starting place and time. Four-wheel drive vehicles may be needed.

March 29 - Hike to Indian Hollow in the Organ Mts. near Las Cruces. This is a moderate hike over semi-rowdy terrain. Call Paul Bronson at 525-1935 for info on place and time to start.

April 12 - Fillmore Canyon hike in the Organs. This hike is rated moderate but does include a substantial elevation gain. Call Paul for time and place of departure at 525-1935.

April 26 - Kibbly Hole hike southwest of Las Cruces. No trail for most of this hike over one of the more interesting geological features in this area. Rated moderate. Call Ben Zarberry at 526-7811 for time & place of departure.

And if you'd like to lead an outing, please call Ben at 526-7811.
The Battle for El Paso - A New Beginning

-Taylor Moore

Dr. Philip Landrigan is a world leader in the field of pediatric environmental health and epidemiology. An interview with Dr. Landrigan in a recent issue of E Magazine concluded with this question, “What advice would you give to environmental and children’s health advocates?” The seasoned warrior replied, “Work for the battles you can win.” Part of his philosophy originated in El Paso, studying what would later term “Epidemic Lead Absorption Near An Ore Smelter” in an article for the New England Journal of Medicine. The smelter referred to is the one owned by ASARCO, which has operated here for 112 years. The lead contamination to which Landrigan alluded is still with us.

ASARCO is now owned by its former subsidiary, Grupo Mexico. It has staggering potential product and environmental liabilities, no surprise from a company that processes heavy metals. Many creditors insist that ASARCO is disposing of assets before taking advantage of U.S. bankruptcy laws to escape liabilities to those who may have been hurt by its products. Many communities where ASARCO operated smelters are now trying to determine how badly the local environment is contaminated, what remediation can be done, and how to confront the public health issues ASARCO leaves behind. Children who absorb lead can be affected for the rest of their lives.

In 1972 the Center for Disease Control sent Dr. Landrigan to El Paso to respond to a plea for help from the El Paso City County Health Department. The department had just received ASARCO’s report that over 600 tons of lead had been emitted into El Paso’s atmosphere during calendar year 1970 alone. After thorough investigation, the CDC reported epidemic lead absorption was found in the blood of children who lived within 0.6 km of the smelter. The highest levels of bone lead absorption were found closest to the smelter.

Thirty years after the CDC sounded the alarm the EPA was formed to conduct soil tests. Results showed unacceptable levels of lead and arsenic in residences within a two-mile radius of the smelter. Many unfortunate residents had lived and worked with poisons that they could neither see, taste, nor smell for many, many years.

El Paso remains in a precarious position with regards to lead contamination. It is last in a waiting-line of cities needing reparations from ASARCO, with no guarantee that ASARCO will be responsible to the city. There is still the need for government by second, later to shoulder responsibility for the damages incurred by heavy-metal ingestion, or to help with clean-up. The battle to clean up El Paso’s lead contamination has not yet been won. But, as Dr. Landrigan might attest, it can and should be won.

Lawyer Taylor Moore is an El Paso Regional Group activist.

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**Selected Outings**

**March 17-21: Spring Break Backpack**
- **Place:** Grand Canyon National Park
- **Class:** Easy/Moderate
- **Length:** 20.0 miles minimum
- **Elevation gain:** 4,500 feet
- **Limit:** 2 openings due to cancellations
- **Leader:** Rollin Wickenden 855-6697 (rwickenden@aol.com)

This is a 5-day backpack to the Toroweap area of the Grand Canyon using the North Kaibab Trail. The second most difficult trail descending from the North Rim. It has “considerable exposure” and in one place one must dive down an 8-foot ledge over large boulders. We will have a layover day at Bright Angel, with an optional day hike to Livingstone's Point, followed by the climb out the long and relatively straightforwards. The group will break up for most of the hike to the North Rim. Participants must be strong hikers and in good physical condition. Last campsite required.

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**March 23:** Upper Benas/Asatec Cave Dayhike
- **Place:** Franklin Mines State Park
- **Class:** Easy/Moderate
- **Length:** 2.54 miles
- **Elevation:** 500-1000 feet
- **Leader:** Kathy Sunday 584-9301 (kathy.sunday@plante.com)

Come with us to search for blooming cactus. The extra walk up to the caves is optional.

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**March 29-30:** Potrillo Moutains Garwood Camp
- **Place:** NW of Santa Teresia, NM
- **Class:** Easy
- **Length:** 0.2 miles
- **Elevation gain:** none
- **Leader:** Betty Fishback 285-0174 (bfishback@tiac.net)

Join Audubon leaders and Sierra Club leaders for a relaxed overnight in the desert near Monse Con and Blyes. There’ll be cooking out and conversation around the campfire Saturday night with lots of time Sunday morning to explore for signs of the Indians who lived on this plain hundreds of years ago. There are several outstanding mesitas nearby.

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**April 5-6:** Trails End/East Fork Backpack
- **Place:** Gila National Forest
- **Class:** Moderate
- **Length:** 2 miles
- **Elevation gain:** 400 feet
- **Leader:** Rolin Wickenden 855-6697 (rwickenden@aol.com)

Following a Friday night camp off Forest Road #226, we will drive to the trailhead west of North Star Road. The backpack is short but involves a descent into the canyon of the East Fork and a wet feet or cross. There will be an optional day hike to White Rock, about 10 miles round trip. Sunday morning we will rescue our packs up out of the canyon of the East Fork to our cars.

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**April 19-20:** Indian Hollow Loop Backpack
- **Place:** Organ Mountains east of Las Cruces
- **Class:** Easy/Moderate
- **Length:** 8 miles
- **Elevation gain:** 1000 feet
- **Leader:** Laurence Gibson 594-7342 (lgibson@utep.edu)

This wonderful riparian area is sticky to find and consequently quite pristine at last visit. The rocky glow of Sugarleaf in the Easter morning sunrise should make the bewildering worthwhile.

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**2003 El Paso Regional Group Directory (Area Code 915)**

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**Inner City Outings**

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**Outings**

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**Webmaster**

- Terry Sunday | 584-9301 sunday@plante.com |
National Sierra Club’s Clean Water Campaign Plans for 2003-2004

Last year was the Year of Clean Water – the 30th anniversary of the Clean Water Act! This year is the year the Bush administration has chosen to launch the most radical effort to weaken clean water rules in the law’s 30-year history.

The Sierra Club’s National Clean Water Campaign Committee believes this Bush threat to CLEAN WATER is the most urgent water quality issue in America today and they are asking us to help.

On January 15, 2003, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Army Corps of Engineers issued an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and policy guidance. The guidance removes Clean Water Act protections from many navigable, interstate and so-called “isolated” waters, protected up until now as “waters of the United States.” The rulemaking threatens to exclude even more of the nation’s waters from Clean Water Act protection, by allowing congress an additional jurisdictional change that should be considered. It is probable that industry will press the Administration to remove Clean Water Act protection from many of our waters, including small streams, natural ponds and nearby wetlands.

What can you do for the waters of New Mexico? The EPA estimates that the guidance could remove Clean Water Act protection from as much as 20 percent, or some 29 million acres, of the nation’s wetlands, in New Mexico, where each wetland is a treasure, we would not want to risk the loss of protection afforded by the Clean Water Act for each one. Waters excluded from Clean Water Act protection by the guidance and changes in rules defining “waters of the United States” would be subject to unrestricted pollution, dredging and filling. Even the few states with state-level protections lack the full authority and resources to safeguard all of their waters.

The Clean Water Campaign is pursuing several strategies to stop the weakening of Clean Water Act protections, to generate support for amending the Clean Water Act to protect all of the nation’s waters and to achieve better enforcement of the laws. These strategies will include reaching out to members of Congress to help stop the Administration’s assault, generating comments on the planned rulemaking, writing letters to the editor, informing and engaging other concerned citizens and the general public in protecting their water, and holding lawmakers accountable if they fail to support full protection of the nation’s waters.

We are asking members to participate in the Sierra Water Sentinel program. As a Water Sentinel, you will be the guardian and advocate for a specific river or stream segment, a wetland or stream reach. This is the time for every Sierra Club member to take a stand for (and stand beside) a specific water body.

Here’s what you can do to help:
- Contact Amanda Hirsh at amanda.hirsh@sierranews.org to be placed on our Clean Water Defense e-mail list to receive alerts and updates.
- Check the Sierra Club Clean Water Campaign website at http://www.sierranews.org/cleanwater for sample letters to members of Congress, comments and letters to the editor.
- If you have a favorite water body that you’d like to adopt, contact Chapter Water Chair John Boulter at jodboulter@earthlink.net

Embudo Trail Service Outing

The Central New Mexico Group has adopted the Embudo Trail in the foothills of the Sandias. It’s a beautiful trail, and we are fortunate to be its caretakers.

On Saturday, April 12th at 9 AM, we are planning an outing to pick up litter and other debris along the trail to get it ready for the summer hiking season. We can use your help so come out and join us if you can. Be sure to bring gloves, water to drink, and dress for the weather.

To find the trailhead, follow Tramway to Montgomery and turn right. Turn left on Glendon Hills Boulevard. Turn right on Tramway Street. The trailhead is just up the street with plenty of room for parking. See you there.

General Public Meetings

Monday, March 17th at 7:30PM
Andy Besler, a Sierra Club activist from Arizona, will talk about efforts to protect the Zuni Salt Lake from a proposed coal mine.

This discussion is part of the Central New Mexico Group’s Sacred Lands campaign, described in the January/February 2003 issue. Those and the issues involved are described in an excellent article in the November/December 2002 issue of the Sierra magazine, starting on page 44.

Monday, April 21st at 7:30PM
Richard Lebrecht, the “Bugman,” will discuss environmentally-friendly ways to control pests in and around your house.

Monday, May 19th at 7:30PM
Denis Fonte, a UNM Law School Professor, will talk about legal issues involving water in New Mexico.

Monday, June 16th at 7:30PM
Michael Robinson from the Center for Biodiversity will offer a presentation on wolf reintroduction and ranching in New Mexico.

All meetings will be at the First Unitarian Church on the corner of Carlisle and Corrales, in the Social Hall. All are FREE and open to the public. Coffee, drinks, and snacks are provided.

Want a Meeting Reminder - Let Us Know

Due to the agencies involved, we regret that we must discontinue sending the monthly newsletters of meeting reminders to all Central Group members.

Yet we are happy to send you a card if you find the cards useful and informative and would like to continue receiving one. To stay on our mailing list, just let us know.

Send an e-mail to bbhlk2@uol.com or drop us a note to our address in the directory on the page to the left.

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Mark Dopke 765-1559 marien@nmsu.edu
Richard Johnston 277-4144 rejohnston@nmsu.edu
Michal Madd 834-3215 mmadd@nmsu.edu
Maribeth Theisen 228-4355 littlejohn@nmsu.edu
Sherry Wolf 254-2190 wolf@nmsu.edu

The Executive Committee normally meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:30PM. 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
Mark Dopke 765-1160 marien@nmsu.edu
Membership/Publicity
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Outings David Tier 260-1553 grellish@sat.worldnet.net
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Programs Richard Johnson 277-4144 rejohnston@nmsu.edu
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River Issues Richard Barish 232-3013 rbarish@nmsu.edu
Water Issues Mark Dopke 765-1160 marien@nmsu.edu
Wildlife Sherry Wolf 254-2190 wolf@nmsu.edu

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

14 RIO GRANDE SIERRAN

March/April 2003
Celebrate Earth Day (and Spring)

Spring is starting to show herself. That means Earth Day, April 22, is just around the corner. The Central NM Group will be setting up a display table at the Earth Day celebration hosted by the La Montanita Co-op Natural Foods Market in Nob Hill on Sunday, April 16th. The celebration takes place behind the co-op on Silver Street between Carlisle and Atrisco.

Earth Day started in 1970 when Senator Gaylord Nelson decided that a grassroots movement was needed to protect the environment. He announced that April 22 would be celebrated as Earth Day and invited people around the nation to stage events and demonstrations on behalf of the environment.

According to Nelson, "The response was enormous. It took off like gangbusters. Telegrams, letters, and telephone inquiries poured in from all across the country. The American people finally had a forum to express concern about what was happening to the land, rivers, lakes, and air and they did so with spectacular exuberance."

We will carry on that tradition of exuberance at this year’s Earth Day celebration. Please visit our table on April 13th between 10AM and 5PM. If you can volunteer some time at the table, please contact Rick Johnson at rjohnson@unm.edu or just stop by and say hello. See you there.

Rapid Transit in Albuquerque

Comments Needed

Now is our chance to speak out in support of transportation choices for Albuquerque.

The City of Albuquerque is undertaking the Rapid Transit Project, a study of new rapid transit service along the Central Avenue corridor. Alignments are proposed that go from the West Side, through downtown to Uptown. Both light rail and Bus Rapid Transit are being considered.

The first of the public information meetings is on Wednesday, March 9th at 6:30PM at Highland Senior Center on 131 Massac NE. If you can’t make that meeting, the plan is presented on the website http://www.hbtp.net along with a list of folks you can contact for more information, to take a look. But, time is short, so don’t delay - the comments are due by March 21st.

Electric Vehicle Guide Now Available

The US Department of Energy’s Clean Cities Program has published a guide to available technologies, relevant policies and legislation, and accounting methodologies for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions associated with Electric Vehicles (EV) and Hybrid Electric Vehicles (HEV) projects.


The full report is available online at http://www.cclea.gov/international/climate_change.html.
NORTHERN NEW MEXICO (alias Santa Fe) GROUP 2003 MEETINGS

Tuesday, March 18, 7 PM

ZUNI SALT LAKE
AND OTHER SACRED LANDS ISSUES

Andy Bessler, with the Sierra Club's Environmental Justice Program in Flagstaff, will talk about the Zuni Salt Lake Coalition's efforts to save the sacred lake from the Salt River Project's (SRP) proposed Fence Lake Coal Mine. SRP would pump 85 gallons of water a minute from the same aquifer that feeds the lake (only 11 miles away), home to the Zuni's important deity, Salt Mother. The Navajo, Hopi and other Pueblo Indians have made pilgrimages to the lake to collect salt for domestic and ceremonial purposes since time immemorial. In addition to depletion of the aquifer, the project would employ draglines, bulldoze huge open pits, and build a 44-mile railroad and highway corridor across the pilgrimage trails to transport the coal to a generating station in Arizona. Andy will also discuss his work with the Navajo and Hopi to combat the Peabody Coal Company's draining of their diminishing springs for coal slurry water, and his successful battle to save sacred land near the San Francisco Peaks.

Tuesday, April 15, 6 PM

WATER MATTERS

Water remains the most pressing environmental problem facing New Mexico. As a state we consume twice as much water as we receive, since we are using our remaining aquifers. Many small towns such as Cerillos have run out of water, and water must be trucked in every day. The development of our state and all our lives depend on water. What is the actual situation and what can we do? The newly appointed State Engineer, John D'Antonio, and the newly appointed Interstate Stream Commissioner, Estevan Lopez, who are responsible for the management of New Mexico's water and rivers, will try to give us answers. Don't miss this important discussion!

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

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

Northern New Mexico Group of the Sierra Club
621 Obd Santa Fe Trail, Plaza 621, Suite 10, Santa Fe, NM 87505
505-983-2703

CAROLYN KESKULLA
In Memory Of One Of Our Most Dedicated Activists

Carolyn Keskulla died on January 15, 2003, four days short of her 91st birthday. To her last days she wrote letters and sent contributions on behalf of pressing environmental issues. Daily, she and her husband of 64 years, Arnold, walked the mile or so down their steep, rutted road to get their mail. Until five years ago, they continued to lead hikes for the Santa Fe Group, as they had done since shortly after their move to Santa Fe in 1976. For many years they hiked, car camped and backpacked extensively throughout New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado and Utah; in the latter years, the distances got shorter, the pace more leisurely. They experienced some of our standard hikes, such as Bayo Canyon and Deception Peak, and contributed hikes and editing skills to earlier editions of the Group's successful fundraising publications, Day Hikes in the Santa Fe Area. One of the lasting memories of everyone who went on a hike with the Keskulla's was Carolyn's keen interest in and knowledge of birds and wildflowers. It was a rare plant that she couldn't identify.

Carolyn's activism carried over to the administrative side of the club. She was first elected to the Group Executive Committee in 1980 and continued in that office through 1992. Among other responsibilities, she initiated a recycling program (before the days of curbside recycling), whereby members would take their bags of cans, bottles, and newspapers to the local recycling center, which would weigh them and credit the Club with the modest revenue. She put together a slide show of local issues that she took out to the schools to educate fifth and sixth grade students about environmental concerns and the Club's goals. As the Office Volunteer she manned the office on a regular basis and kept it well ordered (a feat not since matched, as volunteers quickly come and go).

Carolyn was also an artist of considerable note. She was educated as a painter and art teacher at the Art Students' League, NYU, and Pratt Institute and taught art in the public schools of New Jersey for many years. Her watercolors, woodcuts and etchings were exhibited in museums, galleries, colleges and libraries across the United States, including the Library of Congress; and her work is in public and private collections throughout the country. See one of her paintings elsewhere in this newsletter (and a few of her drawings on these two pages).

Long ago, when we played the Christmas tree game at our annual holiday party, Carolyn's contribution of a painting was always the most sought after present. We will miss her enthusiasm and dedication, her deep and reverent connection to nature and the outdoors. Her long and full life is a superb role model for the rest of us, young and old alike.

The months ahead will not be easy for Arnold, who is nearly blind; he would appreciate phone calls and visits from friends and colleagues.

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR ... Jan Kindel

I would like to introduce myself as the new Chair of the Northern New Mexico Group. For the past 10 years I have been working in the areas of community and organization development, conflict resolution and conflict. These skills may be useful as I assume this leadership position.

My participation in the Sierra Club has been a gradual transition from simply taking a few hikes, to becoming involved in sprawl issues, being elected to the Executive Committee and now Chair. This process has worked for me and may work for you as well. We need new people to join with us in whatever special interest you might have in protecting and regenerating the environment.

Check under Conservation for all the issues we are currently following and join one of these committees or create a new one. Urgent needs are in the areas of wildlife, Santa Fe National Forest and parks. Let your voice be heard, become more involved with your community and region and have fun with other committed members. We look forward to your increased participation.

A big round of applause to Doug Fraser for the great job he has done these last few years as Chair of this Group. Doug, we all wish you well in your new position as Chair of the Rio Grande Chapter and we're very glad you will still be working with us on the Group Executive Committee.

March/April 2003
## GROUP OUTINGS FOR 2003

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Outing Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 March</td>
<td>Moderate Hike: eagle traps in Bandelier, 8 miles, some off-trail, call before 8 PM. Stephen Markowitz (<a href="mailto:steppod@hotmail.com">steppod@hotmail.com</a>).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 March</td>
<td>Moderate Hike: Pecos (895-8547, <a href="mailto:liviot@ix.netcom.com">liviot@ix.netcom.com</a>).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 March</td>
<td>Moderate Hike: perhaps Cape Roca area off Piuas, 15-20 miles, Michael Di Rosa (663-6548).</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 March</td>
<td>Snowshoe Snowshoe Rabbit's Ridge, Marca Killi(dre (471-7414).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 March</td>
<td>Easy Hike to Window Rock near Zampulch, 8 miles, 1000' gain. End at 8 AM. Leave 10 AM. Les Drakep (435-3300).</td>
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</tbody>
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**PLEASE ALWAYS CALL THE OUTING LEADER PRIOR TO A HIKE FOR CONFIRMATION AND DETAILS.**

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

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## SATURDAY, JUNE 7

**RAIL TRAIL ALL DAY CELEBRATION**

Put this event on your calendar. It includes 5 train rides, free buses, a fair in Lamp, a Sierra hike from 9 Mile to Lamp, returning on the train. Bike events, and free snacks on route.

**GROUP COMMITTEE MEETING DATES**

- March 17, 7 PM
- April 7, 7 PM
- May 5, 7 PM

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**RIO GRANDE SIERRA NOW ON THE "NET"!!**

http://www.niogrande.sierrclub.org/santafe/home.html

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**NORTHERN NEW MEXICO GROUP OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>588-7470</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**OUTINGS NOTES**

- Unless otherwise noted, all outings leave from the Sierra office, 621 Old Santa Fe Trail, Plaza 621, just north of New Mexico's gateway at the corner of Old Santa Fe Trail and Paseo de Peñas. Carpooling will be arranged. Each hike should be prepared to pay for a ride to the driver of the car in which the ride. Bring a lunch, 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 either designate or cut-off any due to weather, area condition, or insufficient numbers of participants. Unaccompanied children must have written permission from parents or questions 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/advisers/chapter/forms

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Stakeholder Process Revisits Prairie Chicken Negotiations

Most of us have attended conferences, workshops, and working-group meetings...but have you ever attended a Stakeholder Process? In late February 2003, the Shinnery Oak-Dune Habiat/Lesser Prairie Chicken Stakeholder Process convened in Roswell, New Mexico. The meeting was instigated by the Wildlife Management Institute and sponsored by the NM Department of Game and Fish, the NM State Land Office, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). Some 33 agency people and about that many others—conservationists, hunters, petro-lem persons, scientists—disciplined by two facilitators, wrestled with the balance between habitat for prairie-chicken and sand-dune fowl on the one hand, and economics on the other.

Or rather, we wrestled with “process”—how should we address that balance? The upshot was a decision to constitute a smaller body of approximately 30 people (mostly ranchers and oil men, as it turned out) to “negotiate” a balance through a series of six monthly meetings. Jim Bailey, a retired wildlife professor and endangered-species biologist, will represent conservationists.

Stephanie Harmon of FWS delivered a strong power-point talk on what prairie-chicken need, why they don’t have it, and what is needed to secure a decision to list the bird as “threatened.” She gave damage to habitat from oil-and-gas development equating billions with the more generally recognized shorntage of tallgrass for hiding nests. She and others expressed disfike—for scene, fear and loathing—for listing.

Other major speakers were:
- Larry Bell (the welcome) and Bill Dunn of NMUDG;
- Terry Riley and Les Carpenter of the Wildlife Management Institute, and
- Ed Robertson of BLM.

The most provocative contributions came from ranchers, and especially Bill Mosley. He argued for good effect that processing of a December 2002 petition from Forest Guardians (signed also by Audubon, Chihuahuan Desert Conservation Alliance, and others) to create an “area of critical environmental concern” (ACEC) for prairie-chicken—and in that area to seriously curtail livestock grazing—undermines the trust that is needed between ranchers, conservationists, and BLM if the stakeholder process is to work. In response, conservationists pro-posed to delay part of the ACEC petition process. The Rio Grande Chapter did not sign the ACEC petition. We have no objection to an ACEC, but we argued that BLM should not limit its returns to parts of the prairie-chicken range. We proposed actions to be taken throughout the sand-shiny habitat, mainly:
- long grazing deferrals,
- some permanent exclusions.

Big boots for the petroleum industry and lifestyle traditions of the live-grazing industry are at stake in this effort to restore prairie-chicken habitat.

Eight years of effort have done little to mitigate the threats plight since the 1995 “listing petition.” ”Let us hope that the Stakeholder Process is more than just process.

For more information, contact Chapter Wildlife Issues Chair Roger Petersen (see Masthead, page 2).

—Roger Petersen

Neither Bush Nor the House Set to Support Family Planning

The shift of power that resulted from the 2002 congressional elections has radically changed the political landscape in Washington, especially for population, environment, and women’s rights advocates. Anti-family-planning members increased their numbers in the House and Senate, posing great challenges for the next two years. Population and family-planning programs took a direct blow from the Bush Administration before the November elections and now face an even more uncertain future, with reproductive health care and policies an obvious target. House and Senate leaders will most likely try to strip away funding for international and domestic family planning, contraceptive equity, and comprehensive sexuality education, while Karl Rove points to the religious right.

For instance, we face:
- another year with no U.S. support for United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) family-planning programs (www.unfpa.org/population/unfpa);
- attacks on U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) family-planning programs (www.usaids.org/population/usaid.asp);
- anti-family-planning policies, like the Global Gag Rule (www.italia.org/population/global_gag_rule); and
- threats to comprehensive sexuality education, with an increased push for abstinence-only programs (www.plannedparenthood.org/library/fact/AbstinenceOnly10-01.htm; Feature story "Just Say No!").

On 4 February 2003, President Bush sent his annual budget proposal to Congress, kicking off the FY2004 appropriations process. The President’s budget request for FY2004 guaranteed no funding for UNFPA and no increase for USAID’s international family-planning programs, driving the United States further away from its previous family-planning commitments. We now look to Congress, and in particular the Senate, to increase these funding levels through their appropriations bills and put our sense on track for a more sustainable future.

It is clear from the Bush Administration’s blatant efforts in 2002 to roll back the rights of women, withdraw from international agreements, and jeopardize the health of families and our shared environment, that collectively we need to make our voices heard. 2003, Global Population and Environment: Program staff have been working with staff from Audubon, National Wildlife Federation, Population Action International, and Izaak Walton League to outreach to newly elected members of Congress to explain why population is an environmental issue and areas the importance of U.S. support for family planning programs.

For more information, contact Arinn Seadler, Senior Washington Representative for the Sierra Club’s Global Population and Environment Program, in Washington, DC (202)675-7900; annete.seadler@sierraclub.org.

—Arinn Seadler

Pajarito Group Directory
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Chuck Pergler, Conservation Chair
661-6109
Jody Benson
662-4782
Mark Haver, Webmaster
829-9465
Abi Jacobson
672-3979
Maj Johnston
662-9763

NM Legislature 2003 (continued from page 3)

Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) Background—in December 2002, the NM Public Regulatory Commission (PRC) passed a rule requiring the four major electric companies to generate 5% of their electricity from renewable sources by 2006 and 10% by 2011 (see States Jnl/Feb 2003). Among the sponsors: Michael Sanchez (SJ 51—new legislation); Richard Remose (SB35—new legislation)

We oppose Senate Joint Memorandum (SJM) 51, which asks the PRC to rescind the RPS pending further study by the Legislature. SJM 51 passed the Rules Committee on 2/7/03.

Support SB35, Renewable Energy Programs, introduced 2/20 in support of the RPS. It states in part, "...Renewable Energy Program...add additional duties—The commission shall adopt rules and, develop a renewable energy program applicable to public utilities providing electric service and may include:

A. requirements for voluntary programs;
B. renewable energy portfolio standards;
C. a renewable energy credit trading system;
D. educational programs;
E. source and emissions disclosure requirements;
F. net metering requirements;
G. interconnection standards; and
H. customer interest surveys.

Status—Although the Governor’s office states that it is in strong support of the RPS, Sanchez introduced SJM 51, and it passed Senate Rules Committee on 2/7/03. There is a possibility that this..."
**2003 Session of the New Mexico Legislature & Energy**

**Rio Grande Chapter Quarterly Meeting**

The Rio Grande Chapter will meet on March 29-30 at UNM's Research Station at Southeast National Wildlife Refuge near San Juan. The Conservation Committee will meet on Saturday, March 29; the Executive Committee will meet on Sunday morning, March 30. All members are invited to overnight lodging at the Refuge if available. If you are interested, please contact Chapter Chair Joe Prizzi at Treasurer Blair Brown (Joe/MaJrfield, page 2).

NM Legislature 2003 (continued from page 19)

memorial may be "pulled" into another committee that will not be as friendly to these delaying tactics.

**ActNow!** We urges senators to oppose SJM 51 and support SB456.

**Wildlife**

Background—Funds originally designated in HB6 are insufficient for the Conservation Services Department. Through various means, including a Sierra Club-sponsored amendment to the annual Game and Fish Appropriation (HB6), we are attempting to increase Funding for the Game and Fish Department, Conservation Services Department.

Sponsors—Mimi Stewart (HB6—amendment) Game and Fish Appropriations Act; Begay (HB240), McConnaughey (SB529), and Coll (HB945—new legislation) Forest and Insect Surveys for Wildlife Program; Stewart (HB168—new legislation) Wildlife License Plates

Status—We are waiting to see if our amendment, a "committee add" of $12,500, is rolled up into the final appropriation for Game and Fish. The original "personal income survey for Wildlife Programs bill (HB240) died poor in its most recent committee hearing. However, the mirror SB529 has yet to be introduced, and a duplicate HB945 has just been introduced by Representative Max Coll, the Chairman of the House Appropriations and Finance Committee. Stewart's HB168 provides funding for game protection through wildlife license plates. The first hearing on this was on 2/20.

**ActNow!** Follow committee hearings. When it is determined which bill prevails, we will call legislators to voice support.

**Mining**

Background—Defend the 1993 NM Mining Act Amendment—We successfully oppose SB473, the Phelps Dodge Company's attempt to:

- establish sacrifice zones (their language is "highest and best use");
- shift air and water regulation from the Environmental Department (ED) to Mining and Minerals Department (MMD);
- allow self-bonding, financial self-assurance.

Status—Despite rumors that the Governor sided Phelps Dodge not to submit this bill, Senator Altamirano introduced an amended Mining Act bill (SB472) on 2/4. The amended bill has been scheduled for Senate Conservation and Senate Corporations committees. We would like to see it assigned to Senate Judiciary and Senate Public Affairs. We are circulating a fact sheet and meeting with key senators. Cliff Laren is also joining us in meetings with individual senators on the Conservation Committee to lobby against the passage of SB473.

**ActNow!** Prepare a phone call/letter to use as soon as we know when SB473 is assigned to the committee.

For more information about the status of these and other bills and memorials, call the Chapter's Hotline (983-2703), or contact Chapter Legislative Coordinator Mary Beth Mora (505-8048; mbenora@sol.com).
Each of Us Can Leave a Legacy of Outings, Learning, Activism

About a month ago, one of our long-time activities and hikes died. For many years, Carolyn Kruddick and her husband Bernard led hikes and went on hikes, exploring the mountains, deserts, and canyons of our beautiful Southwest. Theirs was often the first outing a new member went on, and they discovered many routes that became part of our Group’s repertory. A week or two ago, I took an afternoon walk with a friend across some buildings that I hadn’t visited in a while. Part way through, I remembered that I had learned this hike from the Kruddicks, and I probably would not have discovered it on my own.

In preparation for my April outing for this schedule, I decided to accept a colleague’s offer to help guide us around the old mining town of Madrid.

where he lives. I have led a Waldo-to-Madrid loop hike several times in recent years, carefully scouting out what I remembered from a Kruddick hike years ago across prairie-juniper flats, up a ridge to the old cemetery, and along the old railroad bed. Also, in this case, new houses popping up across what had been open countryside have obstructed the route with fences and no-crossing signs, and I gave up on Madrid. But my friend pointed out that there is still a doable route, encompassing a new wilderness area designated with canyon-open space bond monies, and a piece of the old tracks. The landscape has changed, but the concept of a pleasant day’s jaunt around this historic town remains.

Carolyn always shared her knowledge of wildflowers with the group, explaining carefully the difference between a red penstemon and a scarlet gilia, and amusing upon the subtle differences within the huge composite family. And she persevered to her final days in writing her Congressmen and agency directors about the damage that proposed bills and administrative actions would do to our special lands.

We all can leave a legacy of our love of the outdoors. Share a newly found wild area with your hiking companions; on your next Sierra outing, bring along a friend who might not want to venture out on his/her own. If you know about the geology, botany, wildlife, or plants of a particular area, share that.

Then urge your friends and colleagues to stay vigilant—and write, phone, or fax when these favorite places are threatened with ORVs, gas and oil drilling, or new and unnecessary roads.

Selected Sierra Club Outings in March, April, and May 2003


Sunday, March 9 • Cerrillos Hills—Moderate hike to Cerro de la Cosa, the most easterly of the peaks. Norm McCollum (471-0005-LF).

Saturday-Sunday, March 15 and 16 • Desert Exploratory Hikes—Visit some of our most incredible and beautiful landscapes hidden on remote BLM lands, all off trail, sometimes rocky footing, always outstanding vistas. Ben Petescin (271-9928-AL).

Monday-Friday, March 17-21 • Grande Canyon National Park—Strenuous back pack down the Boucher Trail, across the Tonto, and up the Peavine Trail, Rollin Wickenden (919-5815-6007-JL Paul).

Saturday, March 22 • Cabezon Peak—Strenuous hike up this prominent landmark. Note: Ben Zerby (536-781-1-Los Alamos).


Sunday, April 6 • Pinos Trail, Sandra Mountain Wilderness—Six miles round trip, 2,500 feet elevation gain, great views. Daniel Zieb (205-1559-AL).

Saturday April 12 • Ladder Peak—Strenuous exploratory hike to this prominent peak between Albuquerque & Socorro. 3,000 feet elevation gain. Lavi Melzer (205-8547-LF).

Saturday, April 12 • Fillmore Canyon, Organ Mountains—Moderate hike, substantial elevation gain. Paul Brown (525-1935-Los Cruces).

Saturday, April 12 • Cerro Pedernal—Strenuous hike up this Geologic O’Keefe landmark. 1,800 feet elevation gain. Bill and Rainier Bock (622-2900-Los Alamos).

Sunday, April 13 • Madrid Loop—Moderate hike around the old mining town with a local guide explaining the history and culture. Norm McCollum (471-0005-LF).

Saturday-Monday, April 15-17 • Cachita Canyon—Moderate, exploratory backpack, with day hike on Sunday. Doro and Bob McKee (471-0005-LF).

Sunday, April 20 • Pacheco Peak and Doavar Wilderness—Strenuous hike, 2,500 feet elevation gain. Norbert Speltich (474-2354-LF).

Thursday, May 1-9 • Upper Pajarito Pass—Exploratory five-day backpack down the scenic canyon in the Grants National Monument. Many side canyons, several day hikes. Norm McCollum (471-0005-LF).

Sunday, May 10 • Hermit’s Peak/Eldoradon Canyon Loop—Strenuous hike, 14 miles round trip, numerous stream crossings, next Las Vegas. Dan Rushall (959-8967-LF).

Sunday-Saturday, May 10-11 • Mount Taylor—Car camp. Moderate/strenuous hike to this very prominent peak, access from the Indian. Mike de Roos (663-6058-Los Alamos).

Sunday, May 25 • Santa Barbara Peaks—Strenuous hike to this 12,000’ peak. 2,500 feet elevation gain, 16 miles round trip. Lavi Melzer (205-8547-LF).

Plenty check the free Group’s pages for more information on these trips, and for additional activities.

Volunteers and Wolves (continued from page 8)

six by gunshot wounds and three by moving vehicles. One was killed by a mountain lion, perhaps in a fight over prey or a carcass. One died of a brain tumor, two of dancer, and three of paraworks.

Last year, male wolf 578 wandered south from the Gila Wilderness of western New Mexico during 2002, crossed into Mexico, failed to encounter any lapez serpientes, turned around, headed north again, and was recapacitated. The White Mountain Apaches in Arizona are partners with the PWS on the wolf reintroduction project. Their neighbors to the south, the San Carlos Apaches, are less enthusiastic, but the PWS hopes to partner with them eventually.

A few long periods of quiet, in the spring of 2002, the Pfeiffer pack killed at least two calves from among hundreds or possibly thousands of cows. PWS recovered the pack on the Plains of San Agustin in New Mexico, a vast expanse of nearly 6,000 square miles of private and state-owned grassland southwest of Socorro. Wildlife activists challenged a proposal to kill the wolves.

Exactly how many cows have been killed by wolves is a matter of some dispute, but wildlife managers can get a realistic count of the number of wolf-kills based on a variety of forensic techniques. For instance, mountain lions go for the neck, or for the muzzle, whereas wolves will generally attack from the rear. Wolves’ powerful jaws create a species-specific pattern of bruising in the body tissues of their prey, causing more hemorrhaging than coyotes, mountain lions, and bears. And wolves scrape hides with their teeth. In fact, the spaces between their teeth, and the bite radius of their upper and lower jaws, can identify individuals.

The majority of ranchers worry about their livestock, but not all are opposed to the presence of the wolves. U.S. PWS volunteer Stephanie Provinsky is friends with a local beaver-ranching family that is supportive of the well-reinforcement project. Guest at the ranch are excited to see the wolves. Hunters are usually supportive of the program. Although one or two have complained about competition for elk, the majority have told Provinsky that they hope to hear or see the wolves.

Provinsky thinks the wolves have a reasonably bright future if they have enough territory to roam freely in pursuit of elk and deer. 'I think it'd be good if they had more places to go. With reproduction happening out here, it's going to get crowded eventually. And something's going to have to happen so they can have more territory.”

—Linda Davis

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