

Rio Grande Sierran

NEWS OF THE RIO GRANDE CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB

MARCH/APRIL 2003

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 Taos 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 Benavidez wrote in his Memorial:

"All this land is very fertile, it gives forth with great abundance everything which is sown in it: corn, wheat, beans, lentils, garbanzos, fabas, peas, pumpkins, water melons, canteloupes, cucumbers; every kind of vegetable: cabbage, lettuce, carrots, thistles, garlic, onions, cactus fruit, pitahayas, apricots, peaches, nuts, acorns, blackberries and many others which I won't mention to avoid exaggeration. . . ."

Many scholars, in both 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.

(continued on page 7)



(photo by Christie 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.

Richardson, 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, or 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 options are limited! 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 the status of our "First Priority" issues, as we go to press at the end of February.

Protect Water Resources

Acequia Water Banking (HB302, SB124—new legislation) and **Compliance with Acequia Requirements** (HB303, SB123—new legislation)—These bills legally allow acequias to continue to share water within their individual ditch systems, and place these arrangements under each acequia's jurisdiction, no longer under the Office of the State Engineer.

Sponsors—Ben Lujan, Carlos Cisneros

Status—All have passed and are on their way to Richardson for his signature!

Action—Congratulate the NM Acequia Association!

(continued on page 3)

Rio Grande Chapter Priorities for the 2003 Legislative Session

First-priority Issues:

- ☒ Protect water resources:
 - Acequia water banking and transfers
 - Metering 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

- ☒ Promote 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 schools *page 10*
- ☒ Establish Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park
- ☒ Support Otero Mesa wilderness designation and other sound land-use initiatives *pages 4 and 11*

el Hotline

983-2703

...for daily updates on legislation and the calls to make in these very important, fast-paced last two weeks of the session.
If each of us makes one call, that's 6,000 calls!



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



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SIERRA CLUB STRUCTURE

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

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



www.riogrande.sierraclub.org

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SIERRAN

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Contributions are welcome from members. E-mail contributions preferred. Contributors' names and e-mail address will be included in the article, as a source of more information, unless the contributor specifies otherwise. Send to the editor (mpeale@newmexico.com • P.O. Box 315, El Rito, NM 87530). All submissions must be received by the 10th of the month prior to publication. (The *Rio Grande Sierran* is published in early January, March, May, July, September and November.) Photos, artwork and poems are also welcome. Letters and articles are subject to abridgement.

Editorial practices as developed by the Grand Canyon Chapter and adopted by the Rio Grande Chapter will be used in production of the *Rio Grande Sierran*. Letters to the editor over 500 words will be edited for length or returned to the author for editing. Submissions of Rio Grande Chapter members will take precedence over other submissions. Contents of Group pages are the responsibility of the editor for that group and any policies that are in place from the applicable Group.

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 415/977-5649 • address.changes@sierraclub.org

Thank You!

Gwen Wardwell and MaryBeth Morand—Chapter legislative/political chair and legislative coordinator, respectively—thank you! We recognize and appreciate your long hours researching bills and issues, attending hearings, staying in steady, personal contact with legislators and their key staffpersons, coordinating the Sierra Club members who call and write and attend hearings—and your unflagging good humor all along the way. Two more weeks to go until noon, March 22!

2003 SESSION OF THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATURE

NM Legislature 2003 (continued from page 1)

Domestic Well Regulation (new legislation)—Various proposals are attempting to stipulate:

- metering of wells,
- reduction of usage from 3 acre feet to 1 acre foot or less, and
- penalties for overuse.

Well meters can cost \$400-\$1,500. There are questions about whether enforcement is realistic.

Status—Various, and sometimes competitive, proposals are coming before house and senate committees.

Action/Needs—Continue to monitor proposals and negotiate for best terms. As soon as it is clear which bill will prevail, begin a phone tree to legislators.

Regulation of CAFOs in the NM Water Quality Act (HFB 654, no senate version)—Weakens the public-hearing and appeals process for water-quality permits.

Sponsor—John Heaton

Status—We're on the defensive. The bill met substantial opposition in the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee hearing on 2/21. Representative Heaton agreed to amend in consultation with the NM Environment Department and the New Mexico Environmental Law Center before the next hearing, in House Judiciary Committee.

Action/Needs—Continue to defend New Mexico water-quality regulations.

Energy

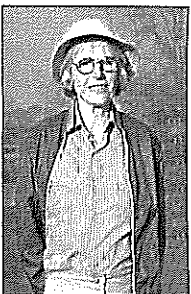
Solar and Wind Tax Credit (SB348, no house version yet—new legislation)—Proposes one-time-only tax credits for solar and wind installations: 15% of installation costs up to \$3,000.

Sponsor—Dede Feldman

Status—Passed through Senate Corporations on 2/7, next hearing is in Senate Finance Committee—date not yet known.

Action/Needs—Support.

(continued on page 18)



When Carolyn Keskulla died in January, we lost one of our most active and inspiring members. A tribute to Carolyn and her way of being in the world is included on the Northern Group pages (pages 15-16) and, as it turns out, in Norm's Outings column on the back page. Farewell, Carolyn. Thank you for choosing us (photo courtesy of G. Stalker).



Thanks to the generous help of Carolyn's Keskulla's son-in-law, George Stalker, a sampling of her art graces these pages, including this Utah water hole (1987).

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 Morand and Gwen Wardwell 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 west Texas.

One of the themes in this issue is the cultural cross-currents that are becoming more and more important in uniting the urban environmental community with that of the rural and indigenous communities that live on and steward our less developed lands. Some of the misunderstandings, 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



Rio Grande Chapter Chair
Doug Fraser

closer to and are more a part of the actual management of the resources upon which the biodiversity we hold dear depends. Paul Tractman's art and poetry (page 7) capture the spirit of our lives here, and Estevan Arellano reminds us (page 1) that many of us may hold a clue to the heritage that has taken root and borne fruit for centuries in this landscape.

I am tempted to say that the sterility of the urban communities is beyond redemption—but Jan Kindel's contribution (page 11), and Ken Hughes' piece on the

Popsicle Test for safe alternatives to high-speed automobile traffic (page 10), affirm that the urban-renewal movement is alive and well, striving creatively to revive a village quality of life, "drawing on the best from the past and the present." Sustainability itself is also clearly a cross-cultural initiative, as Moises Gonzales emphasizes in his article about the goals of the Mexican Education and Land Trust (page 9).

We must work for sustainability in the rural areas, or much too much will be lost.

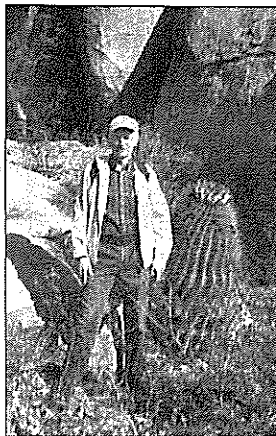
—Doug Fraser

Vice Chair Don Dearholt Creating a Library of Environmental Studies

Last December, Don Dearholt accepted the position of vice-chair of the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club. After more than 20 active years in the Sierra Club in both southern New Mexico and northeastern Mississippi, he says that he's "pleased—quite ecstatic, actually" about having moved back to Las Cruces in the summer of 2000.

Don has worked as an electrical engineer and computer scientist for a long time and is now semi-retired. He teaches occasionally, mostly working with individual students who are interested in his graph-based models for cognitive processes. He is working on a theory-based approach to asynchronous instruction (such as *via* the web), and other applications that have emerged over the past decade. His hobbies include music (playing a variety of instruments), hiking, jogging, finding interesting new places to explore, and (of course!) environmental activism.

He says, "my primary environmental concerns are the water, forest, grasslands, and wildlife of our country, and the ecological issues that are affecting so many aspects of all our lives now. I'm



very concerned that we are, as usual, overlooking some things that won't be evident, even to science, for perhaps decades."

Don is in the process of establishing a technical library of references for use in the many situations in which we environmentalists find ourselves. He says, "If you have any technical papers about damage done to the environment by, for example, drilling for gas or oil, or putting poison in the rivers, or putting roads through forest or grasslands, please either forward copies of these papers to me, or

send me the references so that I can make copies." (Don's contact information is included in the Masthead, on page 2.)

He continues, "We've already presented some of these papers to politicians and to forest service officials. It's my intent to provide them with important reading material that is more than just our opinions." And what about those who won't consider scientific information? As far as Don's concerned, "Then we have more than sufficient reason for opposing them, and for supporting other candidates or policies."

—Don Dearholt

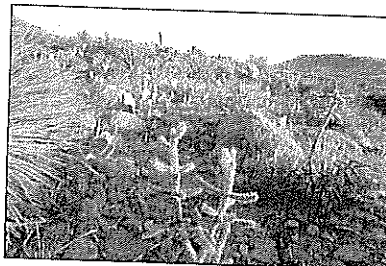
Richardson Writes to Support Otero Wilderness Designation Now It's Time for NM Senators to Speak Up for Us

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



Oil and gas is not the highest use for the 1.2-million-acre Greater Otero Mesa Area, 520,000 acres of which qualifies for wilderness designation, according to the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance (photo by Stephen Capra).

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 Whitford, 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 well pads should be considered as irreparable clearings within the grasslands."
- "The problem soils, commercial sources of seeds, and the potential genetic problems with reseeded rangelands combine to make the risk of inability to restore Chihuahuan Desert grasslands on Otero Mesa extremely high."

Whitford'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 hydrology, bird species, prairie dogs and pronghorn have been commissioned by NMWA.

NMWA also recently placed more than 47,000 newspaper inserts in eight southern 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 (505/843-8696; P.O. Box 27528, Albuquerque, NM 87125).

The 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 Jano's 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 based on faith and preservation. Members of the New Mexico Council of Churches and members from parishes of all denominations will take part.

Our focus is now on our Senators. In the time remaining, it is crucial to gain their support in our efforts to protect Otero Mesa. Senator Bingaman remains uncommitted. 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 Chapter Wilderness Chair Martin Heinrich (see Directory, page 2), or Stephen Capra at NMWA in Albuquerque (843/8696; steve@nmwild.org; www.nmwild.org)

—Stephen Capra

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Washington, DC 20510
202/224-5521

Senator Pete Domenici
328 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
202/224-6621

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

- | | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Supporting | <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 Student/Senior |



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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 manufacturers' 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 \$4,000.

For more information about cars and the environment, see the Environmental Defense web site (www.environmentaldefense.org). For more information about cleaner car choices, visit the Clean Car Campaign (www.cleancarcampaign.org). For more information about electric vehicles, see the EDTA web site (www.electricdrive.org).

—Environmental Defense
and Electric Drive Transportation Association

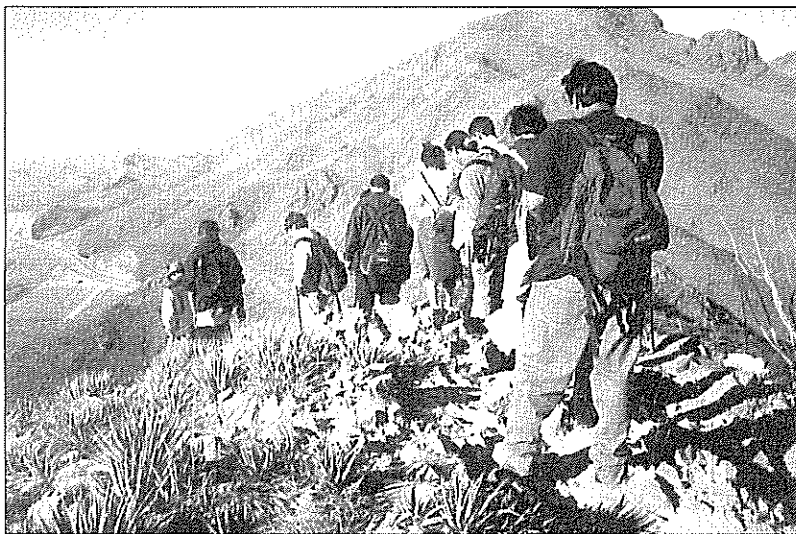
Outings Challenge El Paso City Dwellers to Expand Their Horizons

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 caving, bicycle riding, hiking, fishing, backpacking, habitat restoration, Christmas tree hunting in the snow, and canoeing. The group chair, Ted Mertig, 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 desert of El Paso affords little opportunity to practice paddling, the group of adolescents, parents, and adult volunteers gamely 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. Kudos go to Rick Lane, Richard Rheder, and Jim Rogers for their paddling skills and ability to balance canoes on makeshift trailers.

Each summer, an intensive weekly bicycle program trains students to participate in the El Paso Bicycle Club's annual "Chile Pepper Challenge," a ride with routes of 15, 32, 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



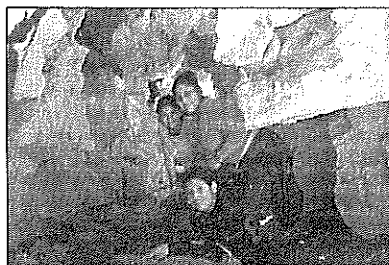
The ChAMPS unit and Post Adoption group head down South Franklin Peak after making it up to the TV towers at 6,810 feet. This January ICO outing in Franklin Mountains State Park, El Paso, Texas had 11 adolescents and was led by Richard Rheder, Jim Rogers, Yashti Pussman, and Amanda Vaca (photos by Richard Rheder). "We like to think we can do some good for children who have had a rough time," says another ICO trip leader, Mary Lou Parker. "It's amazing how little they know about nature." About an outing in mid-February, she writes, "Yesterday, we had a 'reluctant' crew of two eighth graders on a hike in the Franklin Mountains to see the site of a crashed bomber that's 50 years old. Partway up the mountain, they turned to Richard and told him what fun they were having. He replied, 'You've made my day!'"

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-arts students, middle-school special education students, and youth detention-home residents. Adult leaders are always welcome; if you would like to volunteer, please contact Ted Mertig (915/852-3011; tmertig@earthlink.net).

—Mary Lou Parker



A family group peers out from a "lava tube" at Aden Crater in Dona Ana county, New Mexico. The ICO January 2003 outing on BLM land was led by Richard Rheder, Jim Rogers, and Amanda Vaca with six children from ChAMPS and the Post Adoption group.

Polls Confirms Wide Support; Now, Uphold New RPS Standard

According to a mid-February survey of 509 registered voters in New Mexico, conducted for the Natural Resources Defense Council, New Mexicans strongly embrace proposals to reduce power plants' water use and to increase renewable energy technologies such as wind and solar power.

- By a margin of 85% to 12%, voters support a rule that requires utility companies to generate 10% of their electricity from renewable sources by 2001 (see *Sierra* Jan/Feb 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 on how . . . to grow New Mexico's economy have been high on the priority list for the State," said

State Representative Brian Moore. "Policy to promote the growth of renewable energy in the State will aid this goal, and eastern New Mexico . . . needs the investment. . . that these resources will bring."

In December 2002, the NM Public Regulation Commission (PRC) adopted a renewable energy requirement (see *Sierra* Jan/Feb 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 5% of their electricity from renewable sources by 1 January 2006, and 10% by 1 January 2011.

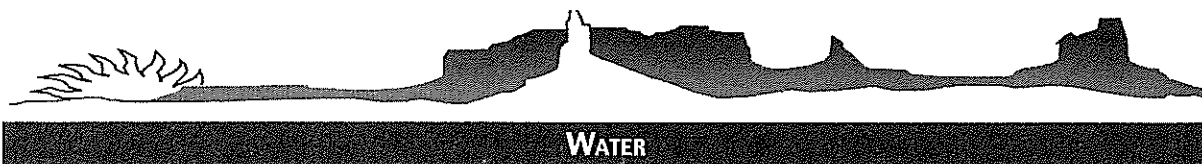
Members should also support efforts at the national level to include a "20% by 2020" provision

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.ccae.org), or contact Chapter Energy Issues Chair Gail Ryba (see Masthead, page 2).

—Gail Ryba
Chapter Energy Issues Chair



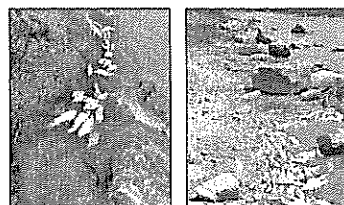
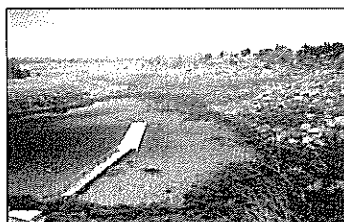
WATER

Sumner Lake The Challenge of Drought

What do we do with the water that flows in the Pecos River, when the flow dwindles to next to nothing? The residents of Santa Rosa 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 s/he did not use his/her allocation.

For more information, contact Paul Paryski in Santa Fe (992-1984; pparyski@aol.com).



The only water in Lake Sumner is pooled against the dam (top); a state parks dock is high and dry at Alamo Cove a half mile above the dam; an outlet that is usually 18 feet under water is shown with a channel that the last water cut through lake-bottom sediment; thousands of dead fish litter the shore below the dam (photos courtesy of Jerry Crabb, 355-6972).

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 these are House Bill (HB) 114 sponsored by Representative Mimi Stewart and Senate Bill (SB) 113 sponsored by Senator Cisco McSorely. 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 essentially 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 towns, cities, and counties 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 waste (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.

Arizona and Texas already have gray water regulations similar to HB114 / SB113.

What does HB114 / SB113 require?

- Every gray water distribution system must provide for overflow into the sewer.
- Gray water storage tanks must be covered.
- Systems must not be sited in floodways.
- Gray water must be stored at least five feet above the ground water table.
- Pipes must be clearly identified.
- Gray water must not run out of a homeowner's property.
- Contact with people or domestic pets must be minimized.
- Ponding of gray water is prohibited.
- Spraying of gray water is prohibited.
- Gray water must not be discharged to a watercourse.
- Use of gray water must comply with local ordinances.
- No more than 250 gallons of gray water can be used in a given day.

To date, HB114 was passed unanimously by four House committees. SB113 has passed the Senate Conservation Committee and is scheduled to be heard at the Senate Judiciary Committee.

To read these bills please go to <<http://legis.state.nm.us>>. Go to "Bill Finder," and enter SB113 or HB114. **Please contact your Senators and urge them to support SB113!**

For more information, contact Northern Group Conservation Chair Paul Paryski (660-4077; pparyski@aol.com), or Melissa McDonald at Santa Fe Permaculture, Inc. (424-4444; mcl@spermaculture.com).

—Melissa McDonald
member of the City of Santa Fe
Water Conservation Committee
and co-owner of Santa Fe Permaculture, Inc.

Clearly, Gray Water Bill Creates Jobs

When he flopped open the front page of his Sunday *New York Times* two days before the opening of his first legislative session as governor, Bill Richardson probably cringed. There, in color, was the silvery minnow 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 when my entire Palm Pilot outside of the 505 area code just found out we're out of water?"

Faced both with dwindling water reserves and a need to grow our economy, Richardson would be wise to apply the permaculture 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 Mimi 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, irrigation, and landscaping jobs get directly created. In addition, the construction industry as a whole is boosted when buildings need less water to provide curbside appeal.

—Nate Downey
Santa Fe Permaculture, Inc.
excerpted from a longer article that first appeared in the
Santa Fe New Mexican Real Estate Guide.

Heritage Gardens (cont. from page 1)

On the Camino 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 Ofiate 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 communities within the Embudo grant got together to fundraise and acquire the property that housed the old Zeller Store, which included about an acre of acequia irrigated land, I thought this might be the place to finally bring the project to fruition.

During a community meeting to get ideas about the use of the property, I immediately planted the idea of a colonial heritage orchard as part of the library as a learning center, and immediately I noticed the idea had struck a sympathetic cord with the audience.

Then, when the steering committee set up by the board of 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 Alcalde, and he liked the idea. I had previously mentioned this idea to Mr. Gomez and he set up a meeting with Dr. Ron Walser, fruit specialist with the Extension Service.

They then came to Dixon to look at the place and discuss the idea further. What we decided to do was get out a story in the press. For that, Kevin Robinson of 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 Rancho 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, calabazas mexicanas, maíz concho, etc., you can contact me at 505/579-4027 or e-mail me at Estevan_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 acequia water. Also, this idea ties in with the farmers markets sprouting throughout the State.

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

—Juan Estevan Arellano

This article first appeared in the Taos News column, "Otras Voces."



Rio Los Bravos Watershed

Wolves had the run of this watershed, and shepherds herded their flocks for months across common lands without a fence, and there was wood for the winter fires and acequias kept the pastures wet enough to yield two cuttings of alfalfa, and to grow a year's supply of flour for a family, with enough left to take some south to trade for apples, and to keep a good kitchen garden, and to raise a crop of potatoes. And there was no lack of game to hunt.

Now this watershed is endangered, long ago fenced, rented, bought and sold for profit, not for posterity, and the old saying, "water is life," is less a sacred truth than a cry of small farmers struggling to survive.

The scientists arrive to study the overgrazed grass, eroded soils of the streambanks, the cutthroat trout vanishing in the high country. But science can't save what we're losing, only loving the land again can. To use the land without affection betrays life, betrays the watershed and turns the water into money. "Water is life" is the sacred truth only as long as life is sacred.

Vertiente del Rio Los Bravos

Lobos corrían por la vertiente y pastores cuidaban sus atajos por temporadas a través de terrenos comunes y sin cercos, y había leña para fuegos invernales y las acequias saturaban las vegas para realizar dos cortes de alfalfa, para producir la harina necesaria para la familia, con la cantidad adicional cambiada por manzana más al sur, y para una productiva huerta hogareña, y para cosechar papas suficientes. Y no había escasez de animales de caza.

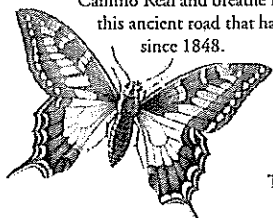
Ahora esta vertiente se ve en peligro, cercada por años, alquilada, comprada y vendida por ganancia, y no para la posteridad, y el antiguo dicho, "el agua es vida", es una verdad menos sagrada que el llanto de aquel pequeño agricultor luchando por la vida.

Llegan los científicos a estudiar los pastos talados, los ríos desbarrancados, la trucha nativa desapareciendo de los riachuelos de montaña. Pero la ciencia no puede salvar lo que perdimos, únicamente el amor de la tierra lo puede lograr. El uso de la tierra sin amarla es traicionar la vida, traicionar la vertiente y ferir el agua por dinero. "El agua es vida" es una verdad sagrada pero solamente cuando la vida es sagrada.

—Linoleum block print and poem by Paul Trachtman

Spanish translation by Nicholas P. Abyeta

Posters available from Paul Trachtman (505/588-7807; paulinta@aol.com; P.O. Box 148, Los Ojos, NM 87551). Free to residents of the watershed; \$20 for others who love the land as well.



Wolf Reintroduction Still Faces Political, Biological Hurdles in NM

Eco-tourism is being promoted in many parts of the world, both as a way of saving endangered wildlife and as creating jobs. Since reintroduction of the grey wolf (*Canis lupus*) in Yellowstone National Park in 1995, some 20,000 visitors have observed wolves. The program has been the basis of economic benefits to the area, and has also provided many opportunities for education, including the importance of maintaining intact ecosystems.

In 1976, New Mexico signed a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service agreeing to participate in efforts to reintroduce the Mexican gray wolf (*Canis lupus baileyi*)—but the reintroduction program in the Southwest has encountered enormous biological and political challenges.

The recovery area comprises 4.4 million acres, split between the Apache National Forest in Arizona and the Gila National Forest in New Mexico. Unlike Yellowstone and central Idaho, more than two-thirds of the Mexican wolf recovery area is grazed by cattle.

The Gila contains three-fourths of the recovery area and the largest chunk of ungrazed terrain.

In 1998, Arizona released wolves directly from the captive population of approximately 200 wolves. Five packs totaling 25-40 wolves have established themselves, and several litters of pups were born in 2001. In Spring 2002, two additional pairs were released in New Mexico, but they have been recaptured. As of 31 January 2003, there were only two bonded wolf pairs in New Mexico, apparently not with pups—poor results, considering that the Gila contains three-fourths of the recovery area.

There is some evidence that the disruption of pair bonding is one of the causes of breeding failure. Consider Rio, for instance. The first time he and his partner were released, the female was killed by a mountain lion. His next two mates were recaptured for not showing enough fear of humans. His fourth mate displayed suitable wild behavior by avoiding people and domestic animals, but the pair crossed

the recovery area limits and had to be recaptured. After four months, the pair was re-released in the Gila Forest, but they did not establish permanent bonding. Three other pairs have been released in Arizona but recaptured, and only two of those pairs have been re-released. Both pairs split apart after being re-released.

We don't know why, but repeated recaptures and re-releases apparently stress the bonding.

The political turmoil caused by the reintroduction of the predator complicates prospects for wolf survival. Reintroduction has met with considerable resistance from the ranching industry. At a recent conference, for instance, the executive director of the New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association likened Mexican wolves to sexual predators roaming the neighborhood!

Only 1% of livestock losses throughout the West, however, are due to predators such as cougars, lynx, and bears. This means that 99% of livestock losses are due to other causes (e.g., bad weather, illness, starvation, dehydration, deaths at birth). In spite of this fact, and the fact that ranchers are reimbursed for wolf-related deaths, the New Mexico Game Commission, whose membership is dominated by the livestock lobby, strongly and unequivocally opposes any wolf reintroduction. Because of their political pressure, wolves were released only within the Arizona portion of the recovery area, with allowance for translocating animals into New Mexico following their recapture from the wild.

The reintroduction program as it is currently practiced in New Mexico is unprecedented in two respects:

- First, wolves that establish territories outside of the recovery area—even on other public lands and even if they are not killing livestock—must be removed.
- Second, there are no provisions requiring livestock operators to assume any responsibility whatsoever for cleaning up the carcasses of cattle that die from any cause. It is entirely natural for wolves to feast upon carcasses. Punishing wolves for this behavior is unethical and irrational.

Public opinion in New Mexico strongly supports wolf reintroduction. In statewide telephone survey sponsored by the League of Women Voters in 1995, nearly 50% of the population said they would feel a positive benefit "knowing that Mexican wolves roamed the wilderness areas." Only 28% were opposed to any reintroduction at all.

Predators play an important role in preserving the balance of all species. The Mexican wolf, a species truly unique to the American Southwest, has had his nose in the wind for more than 20,000 years. 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 Chapter Wildlife Issues Chairs Liz Walsh and Roger Peterson (see Masthead, page 2), see the USFWS web site (<http://southwest.fws.gov>), or visit the Center for Biological Diversity web site (www.biologicaldiversity.org). For information about the extent of grazing, and grazing subsidies, see www.publiclandsranching.org.

For updates about the movements and fates of the wolves, see <http://mexicanwolf.fws.gov>.

—Sue M. Seftis
Southern Group member

Volunteers Help Track Wolves

In Alpine, Arizona, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is now entering its sixth year of a program to reintroduce the Mexican gray wolf. Reared on roadkill and kept in pens until they are ready to be released, the wolves have been successful in the wilderness and they have demonstrated that nature, if given a chance, takes care of its own. But modern society being what it is—fearful of wild things and economic loss—government agencies don't just release wolves and forget about them.

Volunteer Opportunities

If you are interested in long-term and short-term volunteer opportunities to help track Mexican wolves in the wild, contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service field office in Alpine, AZ (928/339-4329; alpinewolf@fws.gov).



Stephanie Provinky, 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. Donnan).

An endangered species, *Canis lupus baileyi* was all but eliminated from the American Southwest by the 1950s. The Mexican gray wolf is a genetically unique subspecies of the slightly larger gray wolf found in Yellowstone National Park and the Rocky Mountains of Idaho and Montana. Males generally weigh 65-80 pounds, females 50-65 pounds. Elk is their primary prey.

The eight packs of Mexican gray wolves in the southwestern United States have names that recall the landscape they inhabit—the Luna, Gapiwi (a combination of packs that were recaptured and reintroduced, including Gavilan, Pipestem, and Wildcat), Bonito Creek (on the White Mountain Apache Reservation), Bluestem, Francisco, Saddlepack, Cienega, and Hawk's Nest. The wolves' primary recovery area is in Arizona. They are free to venture into New Mexico on their own.

All eight packs known to be roaming eastern Arizona and western New Mexico had pups in 2002, and seven gave birth to pups in the wild, according to Colleen Buchanan, spokeswoman for the program at the Sevillera National Wildlife Refuge in New Mexico, where the wolves are raised.

Wildlife biologist Dan Stark, at the Alpine field office, estimated there are about 40 Mexican gray wolves forming packs, killing prey, and avoiding humans in the Apache and Graves national forests of Arizona and the Gila Wilderness of New Mexico. "We've been catching animals that have been wild-born. . . . These animals are doing . . . what we would expect of a wild wolf population. And being able to document the pups is pretty significant."

Wildlife management, 21st-century style, is an endeavor that is neither entirely managed nor entirely wild. Biologists and volunteers recapture and release wolves if they become a problem for humans, put radio collars on them to monitor their whereabouts, vaccinate them, feed them roadkill during drought, and draw blood from pups born in the wild to determine lineage. On the other hand, wolves are free to roam and take down prey, as long as they mostly stay away from people and livestock.

Between 1998 and 2001, slightly more than half of the wolves in the wilderness died by human causes—

(continued on page 20)

New Approach to the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo and the Ejido System in New Mexico

In June of 2002, members of various community land grants 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 many issues such as environmental justice, forest management, economic development, land management, and sustainable development—but that the media portray land-grant activists only as militant victims complaining about the past. As a result of many such conversations, the Mexicano Land Education and Conservation Trust (Mexicano Land Trust)—has been created to address issues pertaining to land grants and the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.

The mission adopted by the Mexicano 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 lost all communal lands; and
- 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 Cebolleta and Anton Chico grant alone accounts for more than 100,000 acres of land;
- in Rio Arriba County, the Truchas, Abiquiu, Juan Bautista Valdez, and Bartolome Sanchez grants account for about 25,000 acres of land; and

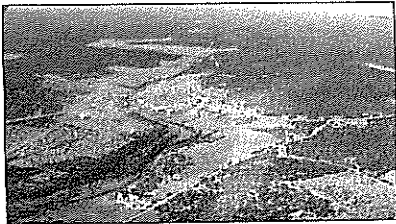
- on the east face of the Sandia and Manzano Mountain ranges, six community land grants actively manage communal lands.

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 Carnue and Chilili Land Grants. We have, therefore, developed a strategy:

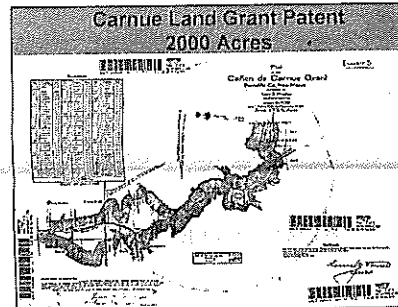
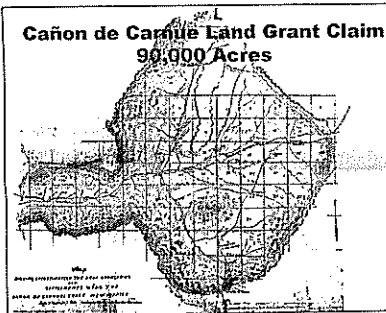
- to assist community land grants in long-range planning; and
- to develop tools to deal with economic development, housing, and resource sustainability.

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)



As a result of decisions that did not transfer complete land grant holdings, growth of the community of Chilili (above) is confined to the fertile Rio Chama corridor north of Española. Chilili and other land-grant communities are proposing creative ways to resolve such old injustices and establish environmentally sound policies (figures from M. Gonzales).



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 restoration and community protection.

Unfortunately, in the rush to respond to perceived wildfire threats, many land managers are endorsing thinning projects that will not provide community protection and will have destructive effects on old-growth ecosystems and habitat for imperiled species such as the Mexican Spotted Owl and Northern Goshawk. To take advantage of available funding, many logging projects are simply being billed as urban-interface treatments.

Among conservation organizations, scientists, the public, and even some land managers, there is common ground on how to proceed with resolving the many forest-thinning and community-protection issues surrounding management of our National Forest lands. This Southwest Forest Alliance program outlines the major areas of agreement and explores the issues yet to be resolved. The workshop covers:

- historic and current forest conditions in the Southwest;
- the role of natural processes such as fire, insects, and pathogens in a healthy ecosystem;

- the ecological need to save old-growth and large-diameter trees;
- community protection and thinning the wildland-urban interface;
- salvage logging;
- the public's role in land-management 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 risks;
- 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 limited. For reservations, contact John Buchser in Santa Fe (820-0201; jrbuchser@earthlink.net).

For more information, see the Southwest Forest Alliance web site (www.swfa.org), or contact Outreach Director Roxane George in Flagstaff, AZ (928/774-6514; roxanegeorge@swfa.org).

—Sharon Galbreath
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 2003, they must adopt a budget for their next fiscal year that is balanced and meets the needs of its citizens. And yet consistently, one need for four out of ten citizens goes unmet—safe and sufficient non-motorized ways to get around town.

Let's call it the "Popsicle Test"—can an eight-year old child can bike safely from her home to a store and back to get a popsicle? All too often, our neighborhoods and communities flunk this test. Nearly every New Mexican community would also flunk these tests:

- How easy and safe is it for grade-school kids to get to school?
- Are the handicapped and elderly served by the bus system?
- Are streets mindlessly widened into SUV sewers, or do they safely accommodate bike commuters?

Perhaps 2% of trips made daily are by means other than motorized vehicles. It should not be a stretch to double or triple that number, but it takes resources to set up the facilities that pedestrians, bicyclists, and bus-commuters deserve.

That is why the Sierra Club is calling upon its members to contact their village/town/city councilors and mayors to demand the "Five Percent Solution"—in the FY2004 budget, pledge to set aside 5% of the public works/roads budget for pedestrians, bicyclists, and bus-mobility options.

It is certain that communities that take this pledge will very quickly see a noticeable increase in their livability and quality of life—and that, essentially, is why communities exist.

—Ken Hughes
Chapter Transportation Issues Chair

Mexicano Land Education and Conservation Trust (continued from page 2)

communities have had to rely on small irrigated parcels of land for residential development. For example, according to a recent report by the Government Accounting Office (GAO) regarding the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, the federal government failed to pass commons lands to the land-grant communities of Santa Cruz, Ojo Caliente, and Petaca. As a result, the private land base in these communities is one mile wide along the river. Children and grandchildren inherit land in the riparian and floodplain corridor, where orchards and native non-genetically altered chili fields make way for single-wide trailers manufactured in Houston or Phoenix. Therefore, the mission of the organization is also:

- to develop a public-policy argument to develop alternatives 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 Mexicano 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 ecological conditions.

Many land grants have already begun developing creative remedies. The Carnue 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 then
- 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 petroglyphs, which is being mined by a local businessman. The U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) would own the land, and in return, release portions of land to the Santa Cruz and Ojo Caliente Grants for sustainable planned communities that would reduce the impacts of housing in the floodplain. Again, a sustainable-development trust fund could be set up for these communities to develop site-built energy-efficient housing.



The traditional Matachinas dance (photo courtesy of M. Gonzales).

Recently, the Mexicano 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, DC in April 2003, to meet with New Mexico congressional leaders to discuss how to proceed with remedies and recommendations that come 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 remedies could include resources for land grants to create:

- energy-efficient affordable housing;
- community development using alternative fuel generation; and
- community-based economic development wherein cultural preservation of the Chicano community can meet sustainable 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 Acequia Association, and the our 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 both state relations and conditions on community land grants, including pledges of support from both Senate Pro-tem Richard Romero and Speaker of the House Ben Lujan. The legislative bills include everything from assisting land grants in securing state-backed loans for economic development, establishing an interim committee to improve the land-grant governing statutes, to developing a program in the Environment Department to assist community land grants in dealing with illegal dumping issues.

Over the years, the land-grant community has evolved and will continue to evolve; land-conservation tools will need to be part of the evolution to which the Mexicano 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 focus issues will be to qualify Community Land Grants to apply for funds from the Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP)—in which Congress allocated \$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 forest health.)

My grandfather's generation were members of the *mano negra*, cutting the fences of ranchers and the forest service to protest the taking of land-grant land. My father's generation—the Alianza and Tijerina—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 now 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 Mexicano Land Education and Conservation Trust in Espanola (927-0402; moises@cybermesa.com).

—Moises Gonzales

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 employers and elected officials, public transportation, parks and recreation, public safety, and schools of public health.

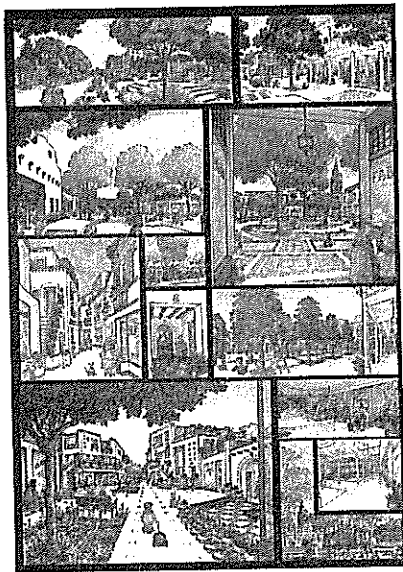
All of these concerned groups are working from a set of design principles, called the Ahwahnee Principles (see box), that were created by a group of architects and presented in the Fall of 1991 to some 100 elected officials at a conference at the Ahwahnee Hotel in Yosemite National Park.

It was most gratifying to hear the stories of so many communities that are applying the principles and achieving great success. In case after 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 Leinberger at the Historic District Improvement Company, 988-7600), and downtown Artesia (contact Deanne Connelly at the City of Artesia, 746-9877).

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

—Jan Kindel
Chapter Sprawl Issues Chair



The architects' rendering of the setting that the Solana Center could provide, after renovation (figure courtesy of Sakal & Hood).



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.

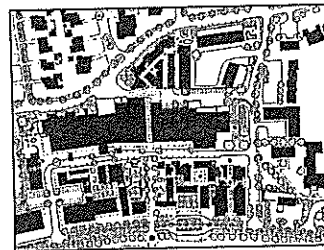
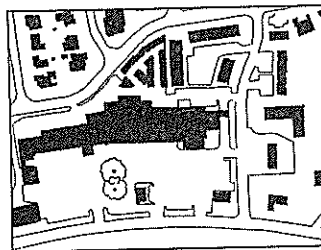
By drawing upon the best from the past and the present, we can plan communities that will more successfully serve the needs of those who live and work within them. Such planning should adhere to fundamental principles.

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 the 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. Businesses 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 center 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 hours 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 conserve resources and minimize waste.
14. Communities should provide for the efficient use of water through the use of natural drainage, drought-tolerant 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, stadiums, museums, 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.



The figure on the left is the plan view of Solana Center as it was in 1998. On the right is a design commissioned by the Planning and Land Use Department of the City of Santa Fe. For this design, Sakal & Hood Architecture and Urban Design won the 1999 Ahwahnee Award of Honor for Regional Planning in the 14 Western States. For more information, contact Sakal & Hood, formerly of Santa Fe, now in Chicago, IL (773/529-4773; sakal.hood@earthlink.net).



SOUTHERN GROUP NEWS

News from the Chair

Don Dearholt

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:

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.

***** 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, 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 Zerbey 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-rough 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 - Kilbourne 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 Zerbey at 526-7811 for time & place of departure.

And if you'd like to lead an outing, please call Ben at 526-7811.

The following is a letter regarding the prospects for poisoning fish in the Animas Creek.

Subject: Animas/Sierra, by STEPHEN SIEGFRIED

The New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission has approved a request by the Department of Game and Fish to apply the fish poison Fintrol in the Animas Creek drainage within the Aldo Leopold Wilderness in preparation for restocking the streams with pure-strain Rio Grande cutthroat trout.

The piscicide, with the toxic agent antimycin A, is to be applied along 29 miles of streams including Animas Creek, Holden Prong, Sid's Prong and Cave Creek to remove trout that genetic studies have determined to be less than 100 percent pure-strain cutthroats. The piscicide interferes with oxygen transfer at the cellular level, killing fish, invertebrates and other gilled organisms. The department anticipates poisoning the streams as many as three times before it is stocked with cutthroats from the Seven Springs Hatchery near Jemez. The project which is partially funded by the Turner Foundation is being undertaken "for recreational and ecological purposes," according to Peter Wilkinson, Department of Game and Fish assistant chief of fisheries.

Wilkinson said cutthroats now in the drainage have been hybridized by rainbow trout, which is why they are to be exterminated. The department has set a 100 percent purity standard for native trout. Advised that Holden Prong already has a healthy cutthroat population, Wilkinson said the suitability of the habitat is the reason that stream was selected for renovation.

Stockings by the Department of Game and Fish in the 1960s of hatchery cutthroats believed to be pure-strain led to the genetic makeup of the fish now in the drainage, along with rainbow trout from a trout pond on Ted Turner's Ladder Ranch. Genetic analysis of the cutthroats now in the creek indicate they are 84 to 90 percent pure-strain. Environmentalists, fishermen and residents of the area, including some members of the Sierra Club, have taken issue with the proposal from a number of angles. During a public hearing in September, testimony was given that too little was known about the long-term effects of Fintrol; that the compound is a known carcinogenic and mutagenic, and the state of California prohibited its use; that native minnows and insects would be killed; that the project violates the principles of the Wilderness Act and Clean Water Act; that mistakes have been made in three of eight previous applications in the state resulting in ecological damage outside the target area; and that the request violates the Endangered Species Act because federally listed Chiricahua leopard frogs are within the target area. In addition, area anglers have been concerned about the stocking of fish in the Gila National Forest since the discovery of whirling disease in state hatcheries. The Seven Springs Hatchery is among five state hatcheries to previously experience outbreaks of whirling disease.

Water Quality Control Commissioner Howard Hutchinson of Glenwood, who voted against the Game and Fish request, called it "ironic" that the department created the problem by stocking nonnative fish in the streams.

"We are losing many species, especially aquatic ones, mainly as a result of poor management activities, including the poisoning of streams. This is an isolated area which may contain distinct populations," said Hutchinson, in calling on the department to consider alternatives other than poisoning. He said the project possibly could cause "extensive harm," and that he has been "uncomfortable" in voting to approve previous petitions to use the piscicide.

Others have called the department's 100 percent standard unrealistic, and suggest poisoning of the entire watershed and destruction of the southern most population of wild cutthroats for the sake of a few percentage points of genetic purity is bad science. Perhaps the question left begging is how far wildlife management programs should go to fix past mistakes. And whether managing habitat for a single species that is neither threatened or endangered ignores what is known about the interdependence of organisms in an ecological system that has been balanced over time. Nature, we should know by now, is not so easily reversed as she is undone.

The Department of Game and Fish has also petitioned the commission to use the piscicide to remove wild, nonnative brown and rainbow/Gila trout hybrids along 21.3 miles of streams in the West Fork of the Gila River and its tributaries in preparation for stocking the streams with endangered Gila trout, also from a hatchery.

Group Directory

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P.O. Box 3705 UPB • Las Cruces, New Mexico 88003

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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 he 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 611 tons of lead had been emitted into El Paso's atmosphere during calendar year 1970 alone. After a thorough investigation, the CDC reported epidemic lead absorption was found in the blood of children who lived within 6.6 km of the smelter. The highest levels of lead absorption were found closest to the smelter.

Thirty years after the CDC sounded the alarm the EPA was forced 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 around 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.

Selected Outings

March 17-21: Spring Break Backpack

Place: Grand Canyon National Park
Class: Very Strenuous
Length: 20.9 miles minimum
Elevation gain/loss: 4,550 feet
Limit: 2 openings due to cancellations
Leader: Rollin Wickenden 855-6697 (H) rwickgila@aol.com
This is a 5-day backpack to the Tonto Plateau of the Grand Canyon using the Boucher Trail, the second most difficult trail descending from the South Rim. It has "considerable exposure" and in one place one must down-climb over large boulders. We will have a layover day at Boucher Creek, with an optional dayhike heading west on the Tonto for a few miles. The last night will be at Hermit Creek Campsite followed by the climb out the long but relatively straightforward Hermit Trail back to the South Rim. Participants must be experienced backpackers in good physical condition. Instep crampons required.

March 23: Upper Sunset/Aztec Cave Dayhike

Place: Franklin Mins State Park
Class: Easy/Moderate
Length: 2.5-3.5 miles
Elevation: 500-1000 feet
Leader: Kathy Sunday 584-9301 (H) sundayt@zianet.com
Come with us in search of blooming cactus. The extra walk up to the caves is optional

March 29-30: Potrillo Mountains Carcamp

Place: NW of Santa Teresa, NM
Class: Easy
Length: 0-2 miles
Elevation gain: none
Leader: Betty Fisbeck 581-0174 (H)
Join Audubon leaders and Sierrans Weldon and Betty Fisbeck for a relaxed overnight in the desert near Mounts Cox and Riley. 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 playa hundreds of years ago. There are several outstanding metates nearby.

April 5-6: Trails End/East Fork Backpack

Place: Gila National Forest
Class: Moderate
Length: 2 miles
Elevation gain: 400 feet
Leader: Rollin Wickenden 855-6697 (H) rwickgila@aol.com
Following a Friday night carcamp off Forest Road #226, we will drive to our trailhead west of North Star Road. The backpack is short but involves a descent into the canyon of the East Fork and a wet-foot river crossing. There will be an optional dayhike to Whiterocks, about 10 miles round trip. Sunday morning we will retrace our steps up out of the canyon of the East Fork to our cars.

April 19-20: Indian Hollow Backpack

Place: Organ Mountains east of Las Cruces
Class: Easy/Moderate
Length: 6 miles
Elevation gain: 1000 feet
Leader: Laurence Gibson 594-7342 (H) lgibson@utep.edu
This wonderful riparian area is tricky to find and consequently quite pristine at last visit. The rosy glow of Sugarloaf in the Easter morning sunrise should make the bushwhacking worthwhile.

2003 El Paso Regional Group Directory (Area Code 915)

<http://texas.sierraclub.org/el Paso>

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CENTRAL GROUP NEWS

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 nonnavigable, intrastate 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 inviting comment on additional jurisdictional changes that should be considered. It is probable that industry groups will press the Administration to remove Clean Water Act protection from many of our waters, including small streams, natural ponds and nearby wetlands.

What could this mean 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 20 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 even 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 estuary or pond. 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 Ananda Hirsch at ananda.hirsch@sierraclub.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.sierraclub.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 Buchser at jbuchser@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 Glenwood Hills Boulevard. Turn right on Trailhead 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 Bessler, 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. These areas 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 Fagerlund, the "Bugman," will discuss environmentally-friendly ways to control pests in and around your home.

Monday, May 19th at 7:30PM

Denise Forte, 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 Comanche, 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 expense involved, we regret that we must discontinue sending the monthly postcards 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 us an email to bblairb2@aol.com or drop us a note to our address in the directory on the page to the left.



Central New Mexico Group

PO Box 25342

Albuquerque, New Mexico, 87125-5342

Executive Committee (area code 505)

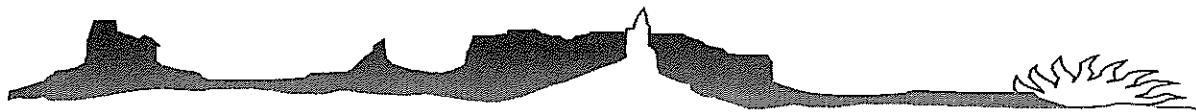
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Sherry Wolf	254-2190	wolf@libra.unm.edu

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.

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Water Issues		
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Wildlife		
Sherry Wolf	254-2190	wolf@libra.unm.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.*



CENTRAL GROUP NEWS

Is the "Traditional Neighborhood" an Impossible Dream?

By Susan Gorman

Last week we took a walk, an urban hike, through the neighborhood just northwest of downtown Albuquerque. This is roughly the area between downtown and Old Town. The homes are older, perhaps 40 to 60 years old and they have front porches, are set rather close together and close to the sidewalk and have alleys in back for the cars. The sidewalks are shaded by big trees and with few cars parked on the street, it is pleasant to walk there. This area is a "traditional neighborhood", the predecessor of the car-oriented suburban neighborhoods like those found in most of the rest of Albuquerque.

As we walked along and looked at the homes and mature landscaping and large trees, we speculated about whether it would really be possible to build neighborhoods like this today. In a world where high value is placed on convenient access to one's vehicle, preferably without venturing outside, and where the right and necessity of driving to absolutely everything is taken on faith, would there be a market for homes in neighborhoods like this one? Would enough people treasure the ability to walk to the food market or the drug store, to walk safely along the shady sidewalk greeting neighbors who are sitting out on their porches, to walk several blocks to the bus stop to travel to work, to provide a real market for homes like this?

We also asked ourselves what the economics of developing such a neighborhood would be. If a developer built modest sized homes on smaller lots with alleys in back and streets a bit more narrow and sidewalks a safe distance from the street, would the average family be able to afford the homes?

Perhaps these are the questions that developers like Forest City-Covington, the partnership that signed the contract to be the Master Developer of Mesa del Sol might be asking themselves. The plans for Mesa del Sol call for development of traditional neighborhoods in villages with stores within walking distance, plenty of open space, bike and walking trails, and employment centers just a short bus ride away. As we understand their plans, it's like creating neighborhoods like the one where we took our urban hike.

This is very appealing to us and we have thought for a long time that we'd like to live at Mesa del Sol someday. So on a recent trip, we visited two developments that follow this "Traditional Neighborhood Design" concept, Daniel Island, near Charleston, SC and Seaside, FL along Florida's northwest gulf coast. We were amazed to discover that it is pretty difficult to create a traditional 1940s neighborhood in the 21st century! The homes of Daniel Island are large, too far from any shopping for residents to walk to, very expensive and it appears that residents are just as car-dependent as if they lived in a traditional suburban neighborhood. The homes of Seaside are mostly beach homes for the wealthy residents who live and work somewhere else and come to Seaside for holiday. The nearest food store is miles away.

Is the "Traditional Neighborhood" an impossible dream? Why is it so difficult to return to that time before cars began to dominate our lives - that time when community building came naturally because people could meet and interact with each other with ease as they went out for walks in the evening or as they walked to the food store or as they played in the park. As we, along with a growing part of the population, look ahead to a time when we are older and we'll be less able to drive, we believe we will value being able to live where we can walk a short distance to provide for our needs so that we can remain independent longer.

So, we wish Forest City-Covington success! We are among the hopeful folks who imagine that a "Traditional Neighborhood" is indeed possible and that it will happen in our lifetime out there on that lovely mesa just south of Albuquerque called Mesa del Sol.

Be Sure to Vote!

The election of members to the Board of Directors of the Sierra Club will be happening soon. In a few weeks, you should receive a mailing which includes a ballot and candidate statements.

We hope you'll take a few minutes to read the candidate statements and decide which of these folks you would like on the Board. The Club is a true grassroots organization and it's important for us all to participate in the selection of our leaders.

Outings

Saturday, March 15th - Desert Exploratory Hike

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

These hikes are not physically difficult, but will require a sense of adventure on the part of participants. There will rarely be a trail and the route will be very rocky and uneven at times. Sometimes we scramble over rock surfaces (non-technical climbing) and walk narrow ledges, but this is quite often optional. Typical distance traveled is between 4 and 8 miles and we usually gain less than 1000 feet of elevation.

Meeting time will vary from 8:30AM to 10AM. Meeting place will always be Smith's, at Carlisle and Menaul, nearest to Carlisle.

Contact leader by previous Wednesday for info. on specific hike location and meeting time. Most are joint outings with Outdoor Adventures For Singles. Leader: Tom Petencin 271-9928 tompeten@juno.com

Sunday, March 30th - Desert Exploratory Hike

(See March 15th listing for description)

Sunday, April 6th - Pino Trail in the Sandia Mountain Wilderness Hike

Approximately 6 miles round-trip with 2500 ft. elevation change. Contact David Ther at 260-1553 for meeting time and place.

Saturday, April 12th - Embudo Trail Service Outing

Meet at 9AM at the trailhead (see notice on the page to the left for directions). We'll go out in small groups to pick up litter and ready the trail for the summer hiking season. Bring gloves and water and dress for the weather. Contact Rick Johnson at rsheehan@unm.edu

Sunday, April 13th - Earth Day Celebration at LaMontanita Coop

(See related article on this page for more information)

Saturday, April 19th - Desert Exploratory Hike

(See March 15th listing for description)

Sunday, April 27th - Desert Exploratory Hike

(See March 15th listing for description)

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 13th. The celebration takes place behind the co-op on Silver Street between Carlisle and Amherst.

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 electric. 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 its 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 rsheehan@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 last of the public information meetings is on Wednesday, March 5th at 6:30PM at Highland Senior Center on 131 Monroe NE. If you can't make that meeting, the plan is presented on the website <http://www.hctcp.net> along with a list of folks you can contact for more information, so 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 Vehicle (EV) and Hybrid Electric Vehicle (HEV) projects.

The 108-page document, "Battery-Powered Electric and Hybrid Electric Vehicle Projects to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions: A Resource Guide for Project Development," includes comparisons of EVs and HEVs with comparable gasoline-powered vehicles and lifecycle cost analyses.

The full report is available online at http://www.ccities.doe.gov/international/climate_change.shtml.

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 mining 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 Old 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 16, 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 later years, the distances got shorter, the pace more leisurely. They pioneered 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 publication, *Day Hikes in the Santa Fe Area*. One of the lasting memories of everyone who went on a hike with the Keskullas 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 duly 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 speedily 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. But 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, facilitation and conflict resolution. 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.

NORTHERN GROUP NEWS

GROUP OUTINGS FOR 2003

Sat Sun March 2003

- 1 **Moderate Hike** eagle traps in Bandelier, 8 miles, some off-trail, call before 8 PM. Stephen Markowitz (stepdov@hotmail.com)
 - 2 **Mod/Stren Hike** Lavi Malhotra (995-8547; lavim@ix.netcom.com)
 - 8 **Moderate Bike Ride**, perhaps Caja del Rio area off Bypass, 15-20 miles, Michael Di Rosa (663-0648)
 - 9 **Moderate Hike** to Cerro de La Cosena, most easterly peak in Cerrillos Hills, dogs ok. Lve 9AM. Norma McCallan (471-0005)
 - 9 **Strenuous Snowshoe** Raven's Ridge. Marla Skillman (474-7414)
 - 15 **Easy Birdwatch Walk**, bring binoculars. Ron Duffy (982-2890)
 - 16 **Moderate Hike** to Window Rock near Espanola, 8 miles, -1000' gain, walking in sand. Leave 8 AM. Les Drapela (438-3306)
- Friday, Saturday, Sunday, March 21, 22, 23
- Strenuous XC Ski Weekend**, skiing to/staying at Bull of the Woods Yurt (east of Taos Ski area), \$40 for yurt, call John Buchser (820-0201) to reserve space. Only four openings left! (for pix/maps/info: www.southwestnordiccenter.com)
- 22 **Intermediate XC Ski Trip**. Lionel Soracco (983-6715)
 - 23 **Easy-Moderate Hike**. Gail Bryant (1-505-757-6654)
 - 23 **Very Strenuous Snowshoe** on Gold Hill Loop (Taos Ski Valley), 10 miles, 3400' gain, some trail breaking. Early start, dogs welcome. Sharon Angert (982-1055)
 - 29 **Strenuous Hike** on Red Dot/Blue Dot trail loop near White Rock, 7 miles, 1000' gain. Dan Rusthoi (690-8967)
 - 30 **Easy Hike** to Diablo Canyon near Santa Fe. 6 miles, 400' gain, walking in sand. Victor Atyas (438-9434)
 - 30 **Moderate-Strenuous or Strenuous Hike** near Abiquiu, some off-trail. Norbert Sperlich (474-4354)

PLEASE ALWAYS CALL THE OUTINGS LEADER PRIOR TO A HIKE FOR CONFIRMATION AND DETAILS.
For additional outings in Northern New Mexico, please check the Pajarito Group page(s) in this newsletter.

Sat Sun April

- 5 Take me to the river! **Strenuous Hike** White Rock Canyon. Down Ancho Canyon and White Rock Canyon, up Frijoles Canyon to Bandelier Visitor Center. Some steep off-trail. 9-10 miles total, 700' elevation gain. Michael Di Rosa (663-0648)
 - 6 **Moderate Hike**. Leave 8 AM. Call Art Judd (982-3212)
 - 12 **Strenuous Exploratory Hike** Ladron Peak (NW of Socorro). Rough terrain, all off-trail. 6-8 miles RT, 3000' elevation gain. Lavi Malhotra (995-8547; Lavim@ix.netcom.com)
 - 13 **Moderate Loop Hike** near Madrid. 6-7 miles RT. Local guide Peter Hodge will talk about history and culture of the area. Dogs allowed. Leave 8 AM in Santa Fe or meet 9 AM at ball field in Madrid. Norma McCallan (471-0005)
- Saturday-Sunday-Monday, April 19-20-21
- Exploratory Backpack** in Cochiti Canyon area. Sat: hike 9 mi up Cochiti Canyon. Sun: day hikes. Mon: return to cars at Dixon's apple orchard. Dogs allowed. Bob McKee (471-0005)
- 19 **Easy Birdwatch Walk** Bring binoculars. Ron Duffy (982-2890)
 - 19 **Moderate Loop Hike** in La Bajada area. 7-8 miles RT, 600' elevation gain. Some rough off-trail sections. Dogs allowed. Tobin Oruch (820-2844)
 - 20 **Moderate Hike** into Apache Canyon. 6 miles RT, 800' elevation gain. Leave 8:30 AM. To reserve call Les Drapela (438-3306)
 - 26 **Strenuous Hike** to Picacho (Dome Wilderness). Rough terrain, some off-trail. 12 miles RT, 2500' elevation gain. Norbert Sperlich (474-4354)
 - 27 **Easy Hike** in Cerrillos Hills, leaving from Walgreens parking lot in Villa Linda Mall at 9 AM. Victor Atyas (438-9434)



Sat Sun May

Thursday, May 1 to Friday, May 9

- Exploratory 5-day Backpack** Upper Pariah Gorge. Traverse this little-frequented canyon in the Grand Staircase National Monument from Cannonville to Highway 89, Utah. Many side canyons to explore with several day hikes in slot canyons afterwards. Dogs okay. Call Norma McCallan (471-0005)
- 3 **Moderate Hike** 6 miles RT. Gail Bryant (1-505-757-6654)
 - 4 **Strenuous Hike** in Pecos (exploratory), location depends on snow conditions. Dogs welcome. Sharon Angert (982-1055)
- Saturday and Sunday - May 10 and 11
- Car Camp and Moderate/Strenuous Hike** Mt Taylor (11,301'), trail conditions permitting. 6.5 miles RT, 2100' elevation gain. Leave Saturday afternoon. Michael Di Rosa (663-0648)
- 10 **Strenuous Loop Hike** to Hermit Peak, El Porvenir Canyon, trail conditions permitting. 14 miles RT, 2800' elevation gain, many stream crossings. Alternative hike: Caballo Peak. Leave 7 AM. For reservation, call Dan Rusthoi (690-8967)
 - 11 **Easy/Moderate Hike** on Frey Trail (Bandelier). Leave 9 AM. Victor Atyas (438-7434)
 - 17 **Easy Birdwatch Walk** Bring binoculars. Ron Duffy (982-2890)
 - 17 **Moderate Hike** along Tesuque Creek. Dogs allowed. Leave 9 AM. Lionel Soracco (983-6715)
 - 18 **Moderate Hike** Dogs allowed. Tobin Oruch (820-2844)
 - 24 Check next schedule for hike on this date!
 - 25 **Strenuous Hike** to Santa Barbara Peak, trail conditions permitting. About 16 miles RT, 2400' elevation gain. Lavi Malhotra (995-8547; lavim@ix.netcom.com)
 - 31 **Strenuous Hike** to Shaggy Peak and Deer Creek. 13 miles RT, 2000' elevation gain. Mostly off-trail, some rough sections. Norbert Sperlich (474-4354)

SATURDAY, JUNE 7 RAIL TRAIL ALL DAY CELEBRATION

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

GROUP COMMITTEE MEETING DATES

Group Executive Committee:	Group Conservation Committee:
Tuesday, March 11, 7 PM	Tuesday, March 25, 7 PM
Tuesday, April 1, 7 PM	Tuesday, April 22, 7 PM
Tuesday, May 6, 7 PM	

Water Pot-Luck, Wednesdays, 6:30 PM, John Buchser's house (820-0201)
March 12 - Santa Fe Water Coalition
Nurseries and landscaping contractors concerned about conservation
April 9 - Santa Fe Watershed Association, Caring for the Santa Fe River
May 14 - New Mexico Acequia Association, Protecting Our Heritage

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

RIO GRANDE SIERRA NOW ON THE 'NET !!
<http://www.riogrande.sierraclub.org/santafe/home.html>

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

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Vice-Chair — Barbara Johnson * lunah3@aol.com 466-4935
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Political Committee — Susan Martin * smartin@lanl.gov 988-5206
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Chapter Rep — Doug Fraser * fraser@thunet.net 474-7615
* Member of the SF Group Executive Committee

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— Tobin Oruch oruch@lanl.gov 820-2844
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Genetically Engineered Food-Jim Hannan jhannan505@aol.com 988-5760

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 Habitat/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, petroleum persons, scientists—disciplined by two facilitators, wrestled with the balance between habitat for prairie-chicken and sand-dune lizard 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 wild-

life professor and endangered-species biologist, will represent conservationists.

Stephanie Harmon of FWS delivered a strong power-point talk on what prairie-chickens need, why they don't have it, and what is needed to avert a decision to list the bird as "threatened." She gave damage to habitat from oil-and-gas development equal billing with the more generally recognized shortage of tallgrass for hiding nests. She and others expressed dislike—for some, fear and loathing—for listing.

Other major speakers were:

- Larry Bell (the welcomer) and Bill Dunn of NMDGF;
- Terry Riley and Len Carpenter of the Wildlife Management Institute, and
- Ed Roberson of BLM.

The most poignant contributions came from ranchers, and especially Bill Marley. He argued to 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-chickens—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 proposed 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 reforms to part of the prairie-chicken range. We proposed actions to be taken throughout the sand shinnery habitat, mainly:

- long grazing deferrals, and
- some permanent enclosures.

Big bucks for the petroleum industry and lifestyle traditions of the livestock industry are at stake in this effort to restore prairie-chicken habitat. Eight years of effort have done little to mitigate the birds' 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 Peterson (see Masthead, page 2).

—Roger Peterson

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 panders to the religious right.

For instance, we face:

- another year with no U.S. support for United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA) family-planning programs (www.sierraclub.org/population/UNFPA);
- attacks on U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) family-planning programs (www.sierraclub.org/population/usaid.asp);
- anti-family-planning policies, like the Global Gag Rule (www.sierraclub.org/population/global_gag_rule/); and
- threats to comprehensive sexuality education, with an increased push for abstinence-only programs (www.plannedparenthood.org/library/facts/AbstinenceOnly10-01.html); 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 us 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 in 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 reach out to newly elected members of Congress to explain why population is an environmental issue and stress the importance of U.S. support for family planning programs.

For more information, contact Annette Souder, Senior Washington Representative for the Sierra Club's Global Population and Environment Program, in Washington, DC (202/675-7901; annette.souder@sierraclub.org).

—Annette Souder

Pajarito Group Directory

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

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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 *Sierra* Jan/Feb 2003). **Sponsors**—Michael Sanchez (SJM 51—new legislation); Richard Romero (SB836—new legislation). We oppose Senate Joint Memorial (SJM) 51, which asks the PRC to suspend the RPS pending further study by the Legislature. SJM 51 passed the Rules Committee on 2/24.

We support SB836, **Renewable Energy Programs**, introduced on 2/20 in support of the RPS. It states in part, "...Renewable Energy Program Commission—additional duties—The commission

shall adopt rules and develop a renewable energy program applicable to public utilities providing electric services and may include:

- requirements for voluntary programs;
- renewable energy portfolio standards;
- a renewable energy credit trading system;
- educational programs;
- source and emissions disclosure requirements;
- net metering requirements;
- interconnection standards; and
- customer interest surveys."

Status—Although the Governor's office swears that it is in strong support of the RPS, Sanchez introduced SJM 51, and it passed Senate Rules Committee on 2/24. There is a possibility that this

(continued on next page)

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 Sycamore National Wildlife Refuge near Socorro.

The Conservation Committee will meet on Saturday, March 29; the Executive Committee will meet on Sunday morning, March 30.

All members are invited. Overnight lodging at the Refuge is available.

If you are interested, please contact Chapter Chair Doug Fraser, or Treasurer Blair Brown (see Masthead, page 2).

NM Legislature 2003 (continued from page 19)

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

Action/Needs—We're urging senators to oppose SJM 51 and to support SB836.

Wildlife

Background—Funds originally designated in HB6 are insufficient for the Conservation Services Department. Through various measures, 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; Begaye (HB240), McSorley (SB329), and Coll (HB943—new legislation) Personal Income Surtax for Wildlife Programs; Stewart (HB656—new legislation) Wildlife License Plates

Status—We are waiting to see if our amendment, a "committee add" of \$125,000, is rolled up into the final appropriation for Game and Fish. The original "Personal Income Surtax for Wildlife Programs bill (HB240) did poorly in its most recent committee hearing. However, the mirror SB329 has yet to be introduced, and a duplicate HB943 has just been introduced by Representative Max Coll, the Chairman of the House Appropriations and Finance Committee. Stewart's HB656 provides funding for game protection through wildlife license plates. The first hearing for this was on 2/20.

Action/Needs—Follow committee hearings. When it is determined which bill prevails, we will be calling legislators to voice support.

Mining

Background—Defend the 1993 NM Mining Act

Amendment—We strenuously 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 Environment Department (ED) to Mining and Minerals Department (MMD);
- allow self-bonding, financial self-assurance.

Status—Despite rumors that the Governor asked Phelps Dodge not to submit this bill, Senator Alamilano introduced an amended Mining Act bill (SB473) 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 Larsen is also joining us in meetings with individual senators on the Conservation Committee to lobby against the passage of SB473.

Action/Needs—Prepare a phone tree/ mailing 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 MaryBeth Morand (400-3048; mbmorand@aol.com).

—MaryBeth Morand and Marty Peale

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MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

	INDIVIDUAL	JOINT
INTRODUCTORY	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	
REGULAR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$47
SUPPORTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
CONTRIBUTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
LIFE	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,250
SENIOR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
STUDENT	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
LIMITED INCOME	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39

Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax-deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletter.

National Club Election Coming Up in March

The annual election for the Club's Board of directors is now underway. In March, you will receive in the mail your national Sierra Club ballot. This will include information on the candidates for the Board of Directors.

The Club is a democratically structured organization at all levels that requires the regular flow of views on policy and priorities from its grassroots membership in order to function well. Yearly participation in elections at all club levels is a major membership obligation. Your Board of Directors is required to stand for election by the membership. This Board sets club policy and budgets at the national level and works closely with the staff to run the Club. Voting for candidates who express your views on how the Club should grow and change is both a privilege and responsibility of membership.

Members frequently state that they don't know the candidates and find it difficult to vote without learning more. You can learn more by:

- asking questions of your group and chapter leadership and other experienced members you know; and
- visiting the Club's election web site (www.sierraclub.org/bod/2003 election), which includes candidate responses to questions posted by various Club entities.

Please take several minutes to read the ballot statement of each candidate, make your own decisions, and then cast your votes. You will find that our ballot is quite straightforward and easy to mark. You can even cast your vote electronically.

Directors whose terms expire in 2003 are: Phil Berry, Robbie Cox, Michael Dorsey, Chad Hanson and Lisa Renstrom.

"The Club . . . requires the regular flow of views on policy and priorities from its grassroots membership in order to function well."



Candidates for 2003-2006

Nominating Committee	Petition
Robbie Cox (NC)	Connie Hanson (CA)
Lisa Force (AZ)	Doug LaFollette (WI)
Betsy Gaines (MT)	Emma McCauley (MO)
Gordon LaBedz (CA)	Patrick Murphy (IL)
Nancy Rauch (PA)	Michele Perrault (CA)
Lisa Renstrom (NC)	Dick Schneider (CA)
Adam Werbach (CA)	Paul Watson (AK)
Don Young (NY)	
Bernie Zaleha (ID)	



OUTINGS

Each of Us Can Leave a Legacy of Outings, Learning, Activism

About a month ago, one of our long-time activists and hikers died. For many years, Carolyn Keskulla and her husband Arnold led hikes and went on hikes, exploring the mountains, deserts, and canyons of our beautiful Southwest. There 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 badlands that I hadn't visited in a while. Part way through, I remembered that I had learned this hike from the Keskullas, 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 Keskulla hike years ago across piñon-juniper flats, up a ridge to the old cemetery, and along the old railroad bed. Alas, in this case, new houses popping up across what had been open countryside have obstructed the route with fences and no-trespassing signs, and I gave up on Madrid. But my friend pointed out that there is still a do-able route, encompassing a new wilderness area designated with county 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 musing 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 cause 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, history, 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.

—Norma McCallan

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

Saturday, March 8 • Cumbres Pass Ski/Snowshoe—Enjoy New Mexico's best snow. Abe and Carole Jacobson (672-9579—Los Alamos).

Sunday, March 9 • Cerrillos Hills—Moderate hike to Cerro de la Coseña, the most easterly of the peaks. Norma McCallan (471-0005—SFe).

Saturday(s), March 15 and 30, April 19 and 27 • 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. Tom Petencin (271-9928—Albq).

Monday-Friday, March 17-21 • Grand Canyon National Park—Strenuous backpack down the Boucher Trail, across the Tonto, and up the Hermit Trail. Rollin Wickenden (915/855-6697—El Paso).

Saturday, March 22 • Cooke's Peak—Strenuous hike up this prominent landmark near Deming. Ben Zerby (526-7811—Las Cruces).

Sunday March 23 • Cabra Trail—Moderate hike in the Jemez. Dick Opsahl (662-9404—Los Alamos).

Sunday, April 6 • Pino Trail, Sandia Mountain Wilderness—Six miles round trip. 2,500 feet elevation gain, great views. David Ther (260-1553—Albq).

Saturday April 12 • Ladrone Peak—Strenuous exploratory hike to this prominent peak between Albuquerque & Socorro. 3,000 feet elevation gain. Lavi Malhotra (995-8547—SFe).

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

Saturday, April 12 • Cerro Pedernal—Strenuous hike up this Georgia O'Keeffe landmark. 1,800 feet elevation gain. Ilse and Rainer Bleck (662-2368—Los Alamos).

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

Saturday-Monday, April 19-21 • Cochiti Canyon—Moderate, exploratory backpack, with day hike on Sunday. Dogs OK. Bob McKee (471-0005—SFe).

Saturday, April 26 • Picacho Peak and Dome Wilderness—Strenuous hike. 2,500 feet elevation gain. Norbert Sperlich (474-4354—SFe).

Thursday-Friday, May 1-9 • Upper Paria Gorge—Exploratory five-day backpack down this scenic canyon in the Grand Staircase National Monument. Many side canyons, several day hikes. Norma McCallan (471-0005—SFe).

Saturday, May 10 • Hermit's Peak/El Porvenir Canyon Loop—Strenuous hike, 14 miles round trip, numerous stream crossings, near Las Vegas. Dan Rusthoi (690-8967—SFe).

Saturday-Sunday, May 10-11 • Mount Taylor—Car camp. Moderate/strenuous hike to this very prominent peak, sacred to the Indians. Mike di Rosa (663-0648—Los Alamos).

Sunday, May 25 • Santa Barbara Peak—Strenuous hike to this 12,000' peak. 2,400 feet elevation gain, 16 miles round trip. Lavi Malhotra (995-8547—SFe).

Please check the five Groups' pages for more information on these trips, and for additional activities.

All area codes are 505, except as noted.

(painting by Carolyn Keskulla, New Mexico 1981)

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 distemper, and three of parvovirus.

Last year, male wolf 578 wandered south from the Gila Wilderness of western New Mexico during 2002, crossed into Mexico, failed to encounter any lupine señoritas, turned around, headed north again, and was recaptured.

The White Mountain Apaches in Arizona are partners with the FWS on the wolf reintroduction project. Their neighbors to the south, the San Carlos Apaches, are less enthusiastic, but the FWS hopes to partner with them eventually.

After a long period of quiet, in the spring of 2002, the Pipestem pack killed at least two calves from among hundreds or possibly thousands

of cows. FWS recaptured the pack on the Plains of San Augustin 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 jaw, can identify individuals.

The majority of ranchers worry about their livestock, but not all are opposed to the presence of the wolves. U.S. FWS volunteer Stephanie Provinsky is friends with a local horse-ranching family that is supportive of the wolf-reintroduction project. Guests 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 Doran