

# Rio Grande Sierran

NEWS OF THE RIO GRANDE CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2003

## Zuni Wins Battle to Save Zuni Salt Lake

**Salt River Project Pulls Plans Back for Fence Lake Coal Mine**

Over two-decades of battle to preserve the home of Ma'lokdyattsik'i (Salt Mother) has finally come to an end. Salt River Project (SRP) announced on August 4, 2003 to pull back plans on building the 18,000-acre open-strip Fence Lake Coal Mine.

Salt River Project's (SRP) Board of Directors voted to enter into contract with Powder River Basin (PBR) in Wyoming. According to SRP's press release, the company will now relinquish permits and coal leases back to the state and federal regulatory agencies. Currently, prices of coal in the open market make it favorable to buy from PBR, as opposed to building the Fence Lake Mine. Coal from PBR contains lower sulfur and ash content that will help SRP in meeting future air quality requirements.

Salt River Project planned to strip-mine over 80 million tons of coal for an estimated 40-50 years. SRP also planned to construct a 44-mile rail-line to carry coal from the Fence Lake Mine to the Colorado Generating Station in St. Johns, AZ. Though Zuni Salt Lake fluctuates between 1.5 to 4 feet in depth, SRP planned to pump 85 gallons of water per

minute from the Atarque Aquifer. Over 500 human burial remains are located within the area.

On August 7, 2003, the Pueblo of Zuni held a press conference at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center in Albuquerque, NM (see photo). Councilman Arden Kucate began the press conference thanking everyone for attending and gave the invocation. Governor Arlen Quetawki publicly thanked all those individuals for assisting the Pueblo of Zuni to stop SRP, especially the New Mexico Congressional Delegates for "stepping up to the plate in addressing Zuni's concerns regarding Zuni Salt Lake." Governor

Quetawki remarked, "This is a victory for all Native Americans." "There is still a lot of work to be done to finalize the close-out," said Head Councilman

Carlton Albert, Sr. Councilman Edward Wemytewa rallied behind the words of his colleagues.

Also present during the press conference were Attorney Albert Gonzales, Jaime Chavez (Water Information Network), Ron Solomon (CEO of Indian Pueblo Cultural Center), Mary Wiper (Sierra Club Associate Representative), and Barbara Dua, Executive Director of the New Mexico Council of Churches, who represents over 600,000 members. The decision of SRP pulling out sets a major example to Indigenous tribes throughout the world



*The Zuni Tribal Council at its August 7 press conference. From left: Councilman Edward Wemytewa, Councilman Arden Kucate (standing), Head Councilman Carlton Albert, Sr., and Governor Arlen Quetawki (photo by Brian Lallo).*

that protection of sacred sites can be done. As Head Councilman Carlton Albert, Sr. indicated, it will have a "ripple effect." Governor Bill Richardson stated, "I think it's important to protect the Native American religious sites." During his campaign in 2002, Richardson wrote, in a letter to the Pueblo of Zuni, "The Salt Lake is a sacred site, not only to the Zuni, but also to other pueblos and tribes in both

*(continued on page 10)*

## Negotiations Continue to Try to Resolve Silvery Minnow Suit

In the wake of the decision of the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals in June 2003, the silvery minnow lawsuit has been much in the news. Albuquerque Mayor Marty Chavez, feeling no obligation whatsoever to keep the river alive, has spoon-fed blatant mischaracterizations of the court's opinion to the media to fan the flames of citizen outrage. The mainstream media has, for the most part, done an exemplary job of falling in line to promote the Mayor's (and their own) unalloyed pro-development agenda by inaccurately portraying the decision and its consequences. Other politicians have joined in a chorus of righteous indignation at the effrontery of a bunch of primarily Republican judges in actually enforcing the law. As a predictable result, even people who identified themselves as environmentalists, when interviewed on television, said that the courts had gone too far this time.

Not surprisingly, the hysteria is not matched by the reality.

The decision of the 10th Circuit will not take 70% of Albuquerque's San Juan-Chama Project water as stated by Mayor Chavez. In fact, the 10th Circuit's decision did not require the use of any additional water. The decision merely affirmed that the U.S.

Bureau of Reclamation (BoR)—the federal agency that, in essence, runs the river—has the discretion to consider using San Juan-Chama water, as well as native Rio Grande water, for endangered species purposes. Endangered species obligations could also be met by other means, including voluntary leases of water.

The requirements for the silvery minnow are governed by a Biological Opinion (BiOp) issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The BiOp for the minnow was rewritten this Spring and now provides extremely minimal requirements for the fish. In dry years such as this one, the BiOp:

- requires that the river from Albuquerque downstream to the Isleta diversion dam be kept "wet" after June 15; and
- permits drying of the 100 or so miles of river between the Isleta dam and Elephant Butte Reservoir.

The problem with this approach is that almost all of the minnows are (or were) south of the Isleta

*(continued on page 9)*

by Richard Barish



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

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The Club has three structural levels. The National Board of Directors determines the overall direction of the Club. The National Organization is subdivided into Chapters, and each Chapter is further divided into Groups. One representative from each Chapter reports to the National Board through the Council of Club Leaders. The largest part of the Chapter's budget goes to the salary and expenses for the Conservation Organizer and a part-time lobbyist, followed by the printing and mailing of this newsletter.

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## A Question!

The term "environmental justice" appears with increasing frequency in discussions that range from lead pollution from ASARCO's smelter in El Paso, to advocacy on behalf of the tradition of grazing, to questioning the practice of charging fees for access to public lands. Sounds like a cross between environmental ethics and social justice. What do you think "environmental justice" means? Send your comments to the editor (mpeale@newmexico.com). We'll print them.

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## A Note From the Chair

Certainly, the most exciting thing I have participated in over the years has been the development of the group and Chapter programs which are covered, starting with an overview by Blair Brown on page 6. The time spent by everyone, both Chapter leadership and the project managers, was way beyond anything I've seen previously. I particularly want to thank Blair Brown, Chapter treasurer, and Lawson Legate and Mary Wiper from national staff for their extraordinary effort. Indeed, it has been a great Chapter-wide effort. We've had the good fortune to benefit from a basically one-time allocation from the national Club—we have the funds and, as you will read, the volunteer commitment to take action to safeguard and restore our environment. I hope that you will be as proud of our people as I am, and please if you agree, give them a call and encourage them in any way that you can.

Secondly, please thank Governor Richardson for modifying his earlier opposition to the court decision on the silvery minnow, which I talked to you about in our last issue. He is now taking a more positive approach in trying to negotiate a settlement which will ensure the protection of the minnow and its habitat, as well as address the needs of those of us who live along the rivers.

In this vein, please read Richard Barish's update about the situation (page 1) and also the article that Bernard Foy (Conservation Chair for Sangre de Cristo Audubon) wrote regarding the

minnow, which is a reprint from *The Santa Fe New Mexican* (page 9). It's the best discussion on this subject I have seen yet.



Next, the issue of mass transit is "moving along" thanks, in part, to the Governor's revival of the "bullet train," originally proposed by Governor Toney Anaya. His funding for this project will help to address issues related to mass transit in the state of New Mexico. Read Ken Hughes' open letter (page 4), and then join him in giving the Governor a big thank you and encouragement to continue along this "track."

The Club helped the Zuni Pueblo in their effort to preserve Zuni Salt Lake as nature envisioned (see our cover story).

A big thank you to Mary Wiper here.

The Valles Caldera Board of Trustees is in the process of opening the Preserve to wider public access. Although there are fees for most of this access, there is also a free trail into the Valle Grande—and the staff and trustees would like feedback. Please read Marty Peale's article on page 11.

Regarding the northwestern part of the state, which is often neglected in these pages (but never beyond our concern), please read Gloria Flora's article on page 18. Flora was a long-time Forest Service employee. Club members brought her to Farmington for her perspective on sustainable guidelines that we and our public land-management agencies could be using to make much better decisions than have been made to date.

—Doug Fraser

## Ilse Bleck Has Been Active for Decades, Contributing to the Protection of the Places She Loves

Ilse Bleck first discovered the Southwest in the late 1960s when she and her family moved to Boulder, Colorado. It was "love at first sight," particularly after becoming acquainted with the neighboring Indian Peaks Wilderness, where many weekends were spent camping and hiking with her husband Rainer and their two sons. Unfortunately, after only eight years, the Blecks left the Southwest so Rainer could take a position at the University of Miami. During those 23 years, Ilse taught high school and became involved in South Florida Sierra Club activities. Preserving the Florida Everglades from ever encroaching development was and still is a large issue. Ilse and Rainer led many canoe outings in the Everglades, introducing people to this threatened ecosystem and inspiring effective advocacy for regional environmental issues.

When another move brought the Blecks back to the Southwest, this time to Los Alamos, Ilse

immediately became involved in the Sierra Club's Pajarito Group. She is still involved today, having served as chair, and currently acting as vice-chair,



outings co-chair, and the Group's Representative in the Rio Grande Chapter. Her main interest is the Valles Caldera National Preserve (see page 11), and she represents the Chapter in the Valles Caldera Coalition, where she is co-chair of the Recreation Committee.

"The public is very fortunate to have acquired this beautiful land, and I fully support the governing Board's efforts to apply science-based management to all public-use areas," she says. As more and more programs such as grazing and hunting fall into place, she looks forward to expanded non-consumptive recreational opportunities in the future.

—Ilse Bleck

# Senate Passes Failed Energy Bill from the Last Congress

In a last minute deal, the U.S. Senate resurrected and passed its failed energy bill from the last Congress—a bill that:

- gives billions of dollars in subsidies to dirty coal and oil, and dangerous nuclear power;
- increases America's oil dependence;
- includes virtually no progress on renewable energy; and
- eliminates safeguards that protect consumers from Enron-like manipulations.

Passage of this bill sets the stage for a conference with the bill that the U.S. House passed earlier this year which:

- is even more environmentally damaging and polluting, and
- calls for drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

With this maneuver, the Senate has short-circuited a much-needed debate on America's energy future and failed to provide a responsible energy policy for the nation. The Senate neglected to adequately debate and vote on important issues such as:

- reducing global warming pollution;

**"Passage of this bill sets the stage for a Conference Committee meeting where the differences between the Senate and House versions must be ironed out."**

- closing the light truck fuel economy loophole;
- requiring increased use of clean, renewable energy sources; and
- providing consumer protections against energy market manipulation.

By passing this polluting energy bill in July 2003, the Senate bowed to special interests and failed to adopt solutions that would reduce America's oil dependence, save consumers money, and protect the environment. The Senate entrusted the nation's energy policy to a conference committee where special interests are likely to rule. For a comparison of the two bills, see the chart on the next page.

"Americans deserve better from their elected representatives, and this bill will only get worse in conference committee. Americans should demand that Congress reject this wrong-headed energy bill,"

added Sierra Club Associate Representative, Mary Wiper.

"There's a better way for America. We can reduce our dependence on foreign oil with more efficient automobiles. We can cut pollution by producing more of our electricity with clean, renewable energy like wind and solar power. At the same time, we can protect our special places and ensure that corporations do their part to protect our health and safety," said Wiper. "Please contact our New Mexico Senators to reaffirm that this is our position."

For more information, contact Sierra Club Associate Representative Mary Wiper in Albuquerque (see Masthead, page 2), and see the energy pages on the Sierra Club web site ([www.sierraclub.org/energy](http://www.sierraclub.org/energy)).

—Mary Wiper

## An Open Letter to Governor Richardson—Thank You for Investing in Rails

Dear Governor Richardson:

On behalf the Sierra Club Rio Grande Chapter, I want to thank you for dedicating \$1 million to the proposed Belen-Bernalillo commuter rail and an additional \$1 million to upgrade rail crossings and improve the track system that will one day provide service between Albuquerque and Santa Fe.

We also commend your stated support for additional rail initiatives including:

- interstate service between El Paso and Denver via New Mexico;
- intra-county service between downtown Santa Fe and the suburb of Eldorado; and
- urban light rail/bus rapid transit in Albuquerque, as additional funding is secured.

The Sierra Club completely supports the concept of multimodalism and welcomes efforts by the Department of Transportation to implement its stated policy of multimodalism. Access to diverse forms of transport is as vital to community health as species diversity is to forest health. Enrique Penalosa, the former mayor of

Bogota, Columbia, summed up this concept when he said that commuting to work must meet the real test of happiness—the "popsicle test," which is how far a seven-year-old can pleasantly and safely bicycle from home, buy a popsicle, and then cycle home again.



I have long dreamt of bicycling from my home in Santa Fe to the train station, boarding the train to Albuquerque's Alvarado Center, and biking to a meeting, lecture, or other engagement. Your actions and commitment to fully funding commuter rail service takes this dream one big step closer to reality.

Sincerely,

Ken Hughes  
Rio Grande Chapter Transportation Chair

*The governor's \$2 million is from the \$62 million that is New Mexico's share of the tax-cut bill. We urge you to write to the governor directly in support of his rail initiative.*

## Governor Supports Renewable Energy

Thank you, Governor Richardson, for supporting renewable energy in New Mexico!

At a press conference on 22 August 2003, Governor Richardson announced his decision to publicly support the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) for New Mexico. He also directed his staff to intervene in support of the RPS in the court case filed by El Paso Electric which challenges the RPS passed by the NM Public Regulation Commission last December.

The RPS requires utilities to obtain 5% of their electricity from renewables by 2006, and 10% by 2011. Although this rule went into effect on 1 July 2003, the Governor had previously remained neutral on whether such rules were required to jump-start the renewable energy industry in New Mexico.

This decision by the Governor represents a strong victory for the environmental community, which has sought for the past year to convince the Governor that New Mexicans will benefit from a diversified and cleaner energy supply. Bob Gallagher, President of the New Mexico Oil and Gas Association, sat at the Governor's side during the press conference, and spoke in support of the RPS, as well.

The Sierra Club, along with several other organizations, was recognized by the Governor at the press conference. Thanks to the Governor, and thanks to all of you who wrote or called the Governor on this issue in the past year.

—Gail Ryba  
Chapter Energy Chair



(artwork on pages 4, 5 and 7 by Carolyn Kesulla)

## A Comparison of the Senate and House Energy Bills

### Drilling in the Arctic Refuge

- S 517 does not allow drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.
- HR 6 opens the Arctic Refuge to oil and gas drilling.
- Drilling in the Arctic Refuge has been a cornerstone of the Bush Administration's Energy Policy.

### Cutting the Country's Dependence on Oil

- S 517 increases the country's dependence on oil.
  - Erects new regulatory barriers, making it harder to raise federal fuel-economy standards.
  - Extends the "dual-fuel" loophole which allows automakers to earn fuel-economy credits for vehicles that can, but rarely do, run on alternative fuels. Extending this loophole increases our gasoline consumption by 9 billion gallons by 2010.
  - Exempts pickup trucks from any future fuel-economy improvement.
- HR 6 fails to cut the country's dependence on oil. The only fuel-economy provisions direct the Department of Transportation to perform additional studies and develop alternatives to the current federal fuel-economy law.
- The Bush Administration has failed to provide the country with a policy that cuts our dependence on oil.

### Renewable Energy

- S 517 contains a Renewable Energy Standard of 10% by 2020. However, the standard could count municipal solid-waste incineration and some trees as "renewable energy."
- S 517 provides some funding for renewables research and development (R&D).
- HR 6 does not contain a Renewable Energy Standard.
- HR 6 provides some funding for renewables R&D.
- HR 6 has failed to set a national Renewable Energy Standard, even though Bush signed similar legislation while Governor of Texas.

### Oil and Gas Drilling on Public Lands

- S 517 does not contain any provisions to open new public lands to oil and gas drilling.
- HR 6 opens public lands to oil and gas drilling.
- HR 6 exempts oil and gas drilling sites from water-pollution requirements that other construction activities must follow.
- HR 6 creates incentives for logging national forests.
- HR 6 undermines provisions in existing law that provide for public participation in land-use decisions.
- The Bush-Cheney Energy Plan called for more oil and gas drilling on our public lands.

### Electricity Market Manipulation

- S 517 repeals the 75-year old Public Utilities Holding Company Act (PUHCA), which is the cornerstone of consumer protection in the electricity market. Repealing this law will allow more Enron-esque market manipulation to occur.
- HR 6 repeals PUHCA.
- HR 6 encourages further electricity market deregulation by facilitating "Standard Market Design."
- Enron CEO Kenneth Lay was instrumental in shaping the electricity provisions of the Bush-Cheney Energy Plan, which leaves consumers vulnerable to the type of market manipulation and soaring electricity prices caused by Enron's schemes.

### Nuclear Power

- S 517 extends the Price-Anderson Act through 2012. This is bad news.
- S 517 instructs the Department of Energy to aggressively pursue construction of a new nuclear power plant by 2010.
- S 517 reverses a long-standing U.S. policy against reprocessing irradiated nuclear fuel—the same refining process that North Korea is currently pursuing.
- HR 6 extends the Price-Anderson Act through 2017.
- HR 6 authorizes the Bush Administration's Nuclear Power 2010 program that aims to build 50 new nuclear reactors within 20 years.
- HR 6 reverses the long-standing policy against reprocessing spent nuclear fuel.
- The Administration's Nuclear Power 2010 program showers billions of dollars in subsidies to the nuclear industry with the aim of building 50 new reactors by 2020, even though not a single new nuclear power plant has been built in the United States since 1973.

### Ethanol

- S 517 sets a renewable fuels standard of 5 billion gallons by 2012.
- S 517 bans MTBE.
- HR 6 requires a renewable fuels standard of 5 billion gallons by 2015.
- HR 6 allows the use of the gasoline additive MTBE, which has been found to contaminate drinking water across the country.
- HR 6 provides a liability exemption for both MTBE and ethanol manufacturers that allows them to evade lawsuits stemming from their defective products.

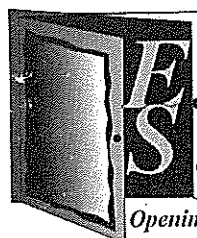
### Subsidies to Polluting Industries

- S 517 provides \$4.9 billion to the coal industry, including subsidies for "clean-coal" technology. "Clean-coal" is a myth. Billions of our taxpayer dollars have already failed to bring us clean coal.
- S 517 provides \$4.6 billion to the oil and gas industry, including tax credits that benefit coal-bed methane development, which has already contaminated water and ruined land throughout the West.
- S 517 provides \$1.1 billion in subsidies and tax incentives to nuclear power.
- HR 6 provides \$2 billion to the coal industry, including subsidies for "clean-coal" technology.
- HR 6's \$18.1 billion dollar tax package includes credits for "marginal" well oil and gas production, allows royalty in-kind payments and royalty relief.
- HR 6 provides \$1.7 billion in subsidies to the nuclear industry.
- The Bush Administration has championed its "Clean Coal" Power Initiative which seeks to channel millions of dollars in subsidies to the coal industry. Coal power plants are responsible for 40% of U.S. carbon dioxide emissions, 66% of sulfur dioxide, 33% of mercury, and 33% of nitrogen oxide emissions. These pollutants contribute to global warming, asthma attacks, acid rain and smog.
- The Bush Administration has also championed increased subsidies for other polluting industries like oil and gas, nuclear, and utilities.

—Mary Wiper

Say "No" to (No) Clear Skies

(see page 19)



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## Chapter Approves Substantial Investment in Grassroots Projects

At its June 2003 meeting, the Rio Grande Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) tentatively approved spending \$95,000 of our available funds on a wide range of projects over the next two years. These funds accumulated over the past few years from two major sources—a number of one-time contributions, and a change of policy at National Headquarters that increased the level of support to Chapters. Before the June meeting, the ExCom invited Chapter activists to submit proposals that could utilize these funds. Eleven proposals were presented at the meeting. As the total amount requested did not exceed the available funds, all were approved. These are described in eight summaries below.

The proposers must now refine their proposals to comply with the Club's *Grassroots Planning Matrix*, which requires increased detail on the nature of the work being proposed, the results expected and how we know that the intended results of the project are being met. Once the Matrix is satisfactorily completed, the project will receive final approval and funds made available for planned expenditures.

—Blair Brown  
Chapter Treasurer

### El Paso Group

#### ASARCO Responsible for Contamination

On 22 July 2003, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released the results of studies conducted around the American Smelting and Refining Company (ASARCO) smelter in El Paso. According to authorities who analyzed samples collected within three miles of ASARCO, "84% of the arsenic [and] 53% of the lead was produced from emissions from a smelter source." Both the University of Texas at El Paso and the poor community of Anapra, Mexico are within the contaminated zone.

In the 1970s, ASARCO tried to avoid responsibility for lead contamination (see *Sierra* May/June 2003); the company is doing the same today. It is saying that lead and arsenic around its property today is due to paint and pesticides.

According to the EPA, the \$7 million allocated so far for El Paso remediation is enough to clean up 220 homes. That leaves 540 contaminated homes unaccounted for. The total projected cost for residential clean up alone around the El Paso site is \$27-37 million. It is uncertain where the rest of the money will come from. In a recent settlement with the U.S. Department of Justice, ASARCO agreed to pay \$100 million for environmental clean up around 40 of its properties in the United States that have been declared contaminated. Texas Governor Rick Perry has until Fall 2003 to ask the EPA to place the El Paso site on the National Priorities List for federal clean-up dollars.

Chapter funding will support the El Paso Group's campaign to educate residents on both sides of the border about how to prevent, detect, and treat lead and arsenic poisoning. If you are interested in helping this campaign in the form of donations (money or office supplies), or as a volunteer, please contact José Escobedo (see below). To apply for the paid position of project coordinator, please submit a cover letter and resumé.

To see photos and maps, see the following pages on the EPA web site:

- [www.epa.gov/earth1r6/6sfl/pdffiles/residential\\_locations.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/earth1r6/6sfl/pdffiles/residential_locations.pdf)
- [www.epa.gov/earth1r6/6sfl/pdffiles/overview\\_map.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/earth1r6/6sfl/pdffiles/overview_map.pdf)
- [www.epa.gov/earth1r6/6sfl/pdffiles/el\\_paso\\_photos.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/earth1r6/6sfl/pdffiles/el_paso_photos.pdf)

For more information, contact José Escobedo, Environmental Justice Chair for the El Paso Group (915/751-1834; [escobedo25@hotmail.com](mailto:escobedo25@hotmail.com)).

—José M. Escobedo

### Southern Group

#### Keep Otero Mesa Free of Oil and Gas

Proposals to drill for oil and gas in Otero Mesa represent the anti-environment, corporate agenda of the current administration (see *Sierra* May/June 2003). Our project goals are:

- to prevent drilling in Otero Mesa;
- to protect its rich ecological and cultural diversity.

Collaboration is central to our strategy. The Chapter's El Paso and Southern groups have been working closely with the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance (NMWA), Rocky Mountain Energy Consortium (RMEC), Southwest Environmental Center (SWEC) and others. We will now build on these relationships to generate extensive public comment, especially during the upcoming Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process.

We will concentrate on organizing public meetings, carrying out media education, and involving membership in letter-writing campaigns to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (the agency with jurisdiction over Otero Mesa) and legislators, urging Congressional protection of Otero Mesa. We will help SWEC monitor BLM leases to document compliance and ecological impacts. We will also contribute to NMWA's efforts to educate the public about Otero Mesa's unique and rare ecological and cultural treasures.

We are also working together to monitor the flora and fauna, so that we have baseline data, in case drilling should occur. Wildlife ecology graduate students will help us carry out baseline aerial surveys of pronghorn antelope. Funds are available for four surveys, which are tentatively scheduled to begin in Fall 2003 and run through 2006.

Please contribute your talents and energy to this important campaign. We need your help to convince the Administration to listen, stop raiding our last, wild places, and develop a sustainable energy plan.

For more information, contact Chapter Vice-Chair Don Dearholt in Las Cruces (see Masthead, page 2).

—Don Dearholt

### The Nutt Grasslands

As the Bush Administration rolls back environmental regulations to favor the energy industry, New Mexicans are witnessing an unprecedented threat to their wild lands. The push to open up public lands for massive oil and gas development endangers special places such as Otero Mesa, Gila Lower Box, Bitter Lake Wildlife Refuge, and the Nutt Grasslands.

This all-out assault is orchestrated by Cheney's Energy Task Force at the White House, Interior Secretary Gale Norton, BLM New Mexico Director Linda Rundell and others in key posts. Norton has struck deals with energy companies which, when implemented, will have devastating effects on New Mexico's lands and the cultures that are integral to our open rangelands.

In southern New Mexico, between the towns of Hillsboro and Deming, a vast rangeland is now in the sights of the oil and gas industry. The Nutt Grasslands is an 180,000-acre mosaic of state, federal and private land, still untouched by development. These Chihuahuan desert grasslands remain much the way they were when the first settlers moved into the area. With very little shrub encroachment and few roads, the rangeland still supports a large variety of wildlife as well as cattle from local ranches.

When word came in January 2003 that leases for oil and gas exploration on the Nutt Grasslands were available, local residents were shocked—and determined to protect the grasslands. Residents, scientists, ranchers and landowners from Sierra and Luna counties asked organizations like the Southern Group of the Sierra Club and the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance for help—and we received educational workshops (see *Sierra* May/June 2003) and financial support to form the Chihuahuan Grasslands Alliance (CGA).

The Chapter has offered the Southern Group funding to run a campaign to draw public attention to the threatened Nutt Grasslands. The Sierra Club will aid CGA with manpower, political connections and financial assistance. Through targeted mailing,



The Nutt Grasslands comprise some 180,000 acres of state, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, and private land on both sides of New Mexico Highway 27 from Hillsboro in Sierra County south into Luna County (photo by Barbara Pearlman).



radio spots and newspaper ads, CGA can broaden its message, connect with policy-making individuals, and influence the national debate on energy policy.

We are promoting a vision that protects these lands—our children's inheritance—and develops energy policies that invest more in renewable energy.

For more information, contact CGA Chair David Farrell in Hillsboro (895-3352; dafarrell@hotmail.com).

## Central Group

### Sacred Lands Initiative

The Nov./Dec. 2002 issue of *Sierra* highlighted threatened sacred lands in the United States, including three sites—Zuni Salt Lake, Petroglyph National Monument, and the Sandia Mountains—within the Central Group's area of influence. Inspired by that perspective, the Group voted to focus its efforts on Sacred Lands, because it seemed to be an issue that was of natural concern to our membership.

Since then, there has been some good news. Late last year, federal legislation protected the Sandia Mountains, and as we go to press, the Zuni people have sustained a major victory for the Salt Lake (see page 1). In comparison, the threat to Petroglyph National Monument is increasing. Club activists are working with SAGE Council, 1000 Friends of New Mexico and others to defeat a bond issue that would fund roadbuilding through the monument (see p. 14-15).

Sacred Lands are landscapes and sites (e.g., churches, temples, cemeteries) that hold spiritual significance for any people—Indigenous and non-Native alike. Sites that are threatened by development are of particular concern, but perhaps even more important is an overall loss of respect for land as sacred and worth preserving.

Our mission is to help preserve and protect Sacred Lands in central New Mexico by raising awareness and helping restore respect for their important roles in our cultures and spiritual beliefs. Threatened Sacred Lands are our first concern, but we are interested in preserving and protecting all lands held sacred in our area. We will work to:

- raise awareness of sacred sites in our area;
- offer political support to peoples who are preserving their sacred sites;
- identify sites that are held sacred by one or more cultures, especially those that may become threatened in the future; and
- develop an understanding of how sacred sites are bellwethers for appraising human relationships with nature.

More specifically, we are looking forward to:

- forming alliances with others;
- preparing educational programs for teachers, students, and their parents;
- developing a media campaign; and
- using traditional Sierra Club activities (e.g., outings, general meetings, conferences) to bring members into contact with the places and people involved in Sacred Lands issues.

We have decided to be supporters of Sacred Lands actions, rather than interventionists. We will lend support, including funding and legal action, when our support is requested.

Certainly, our ideas and this work plan will evolve as we become more familiar with the subject.

—Blair Brown

## Northern Group

### Exploration of the Variability of County Land-use Regulations in New Mexico as Applied to Sand & Gravel Mining

Land-use ordinances, zoning and the like are painfully weak in New Mexico. For homeowners, this can result in finding that a nearby property has been

converted overnight into a gravel pit. While there are weak regulations that attempt to monitor air quality on a mine site, there are rarely regulations that control noise, dust, traffic and reclamation. Nor is a site examined for suitability. Often, a site is simply abandoned, leaving a scar on the landscape and a continuing blowing-dust problem. The easy access to subsurface gravel has resulted in a landscape dotted with gravel pits.

While obtaining support for a statewide law similar to the Mining Act of 1993 has not been possible, there appears to be an opportunity to correct this defect on a county-by-county basis. The Sierra Club, in conjunction with the New Mexico Environmental Law Center, has decided to pursue this approach. The first step is to describe the existing regulations in each of New Mexico's counties and examine the process in each county by which new regulations are promulgated.

The Chapter has authorized the funding of expenses for an externship for the Fall of 2003. A University of New Mexico student will be selected to obtain and compile the relevant regulations and processes on a county-by-county basis within the state.

Of the 33 New Mexico counties, only two—Rio Arriba and San Miguel—have adopted adequate regulations. Santa Fe and Bernalillo counties have adopted weaker regulations. It is expected that New Mexico counties with either the largest or the fastest-growing populations will be most amenable to considering adoption of the Rio Arriba model in the future. That will be our follow-on objective.

Project supervision will be divided between:

- Clifford Larsen, Chapter mining issues co-chair (operations/budget), and
- Rod Ventura, staff attorney for the New Mexico Environmental Law Center (review of law/evaluation).

For more information, contact Chapter Mining Co-Chair Cliff Larsen (see Masthead, page 2).

—Cliff Larsen

### Environmental Justice and Stewardship Project with Traditional Hispanic Communities

Traditional Hispanic communities manage a great deal of the land in New Mexico. Most of these lands are what remains of the original land grants established by the Spanish and Mexican governments in the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries.

Under the Treaty of Guadalupe Hildago, which gave New Mexico to the United States, the land grants were protected. A Supreme Court decision, *United States vs. Sandoval*, invalidated many of the land grants, ruling that they had, in fact, been owned by Mexico or Spain. The U.S. government thus claimed some two million acres of land. Many New Mexico land-grant communities are seeking redress for these losses.

The Mexican Land Education and Conservation Trust (MLECT) is organizing a series of meetings between the New Mexico land-grant communities and environmental groups. These meetings/workshops seek to help land-grant communities better manage the environment of their existing lands, and prepare for the environmentally appropriate management of any new land they may acquire.

The long-term goal of this project—the New Mexico Community Land Grant Environmental Justice Project (NMCLGEJP)—is to establish a lasting dialogue between the environmental community and traditional Hispanic communities to cultivate solutions for the environmental challenges associated with the sustainable management of land grants.

It is virtually impossible to protect the environment and provide for the environmentally appropriate stewardship of New Mexico's land and ecosystems without the proactive participation of traditional communities. Too often in the past, environmental organizations—which are in large measure

white, middle-class groups—have ignored traditional communities and even considered them as sources of conflict over land use.

The Chapter and the Northern Group are taking the initiative to build bridges and cooperate with these communities, in part by funding (\$6,500) and participating in the Environmental Justice Project.

Other groups contributing funding include Amigos Bravos, the McCune Foundation and the Healy Foundation. Participating groups include:

- The Quivira Coalition,
- 1000 Friends,
- Forest Trust, and
- the Sonoran Institute.

The initiative also has the support of Congressman Tom Udall.

The first workshop is scheduled for 19 September 2003.

For more information, contact MLECT Director Moises Gonzales in Española (927-0402; moises@cybermesa.com) and Paul Paryski, Conservation chair for the Northern Group (992-1984; pparyski@aol.com).

### Domestic Well Regulation

Roughly half of the water used in New Mexico is from aquifers (deep reservoirs of groundwater). An astonishing 90% of our drinking water comes from regional aquifers. As we find ourselves in the grip of a new drought cycle, and hopes of recharging our aquifers diminish, we must pay increasing attention to the demands that are placed on these sources. Despite the need for caution, sprawling developments in suburban and semi-rural areas of the state have steadily increased the demand for domestic wells.

Over the past 50 years, New Mexico Statute 72-12-1 regulating domestic wells has provided that the state engineer must approve all domestic-well permit applications. New domestic well permits are currently being granted at the alarming rate of 20-30 per working day—a total of nearly 6,000 per year.

Unfortunately, the current domestic-well statute also permits a right of use of up to three acre-feet/year (afy)—nearly one million gallons. Even though this is an excessive amount for the actual needs of any single residence, exploitation of this allowance is easy, since there is no requirement for metering or monitoring domestic-well usage. Therefore, a mining facility, agribusiness venture (e.g., an orchard), or multiple residences could consume vast amounts of water under a single residence domestic-well permit. This generous and generally unregulated 3-afy right to use does not encourage water conservation or an accurate analysis of permittees' actual usage patterns.

Despite the increasing urgency to monitor and limit consumption by domestic wells in areas where they are having negative impacts, legislative initiatives to this effect have been defeated in the past two legislative sessions. Thus, the Chapter Conservation Committee has identified the adoption of domestic-well legislation as its priority issue. In general, conservationists and agricultural communities support domestic-well legislation. However, homebuilders, other real-estate developers, and people who are protective of private-property rights vehemently oppose changes in current domestic-well regulations.

The leading role of the Office of the State Engineer is key to changing current domestic-well statutes. This agency's ability to bring forward legislation with convincing legal and policy arguments will be critical to achieving success. Thus, the environmental community, and other allied organizations, should provide the Office of the State Engineer the political and public-relations support that would be required to realize the changes.

In order to participate effectively in efforts to revise domestic-well statutes, the Chapter will support a staffperson to:

(continued on page 10)

## Colorado Residents Collaborate on Rio Grande Headwaters

Language is a slippery entity. The function of language is to communicate our thoughts, ideas and desires. However, we all filter language through our own experiences. The word "restoration" is tossed around like a beach ball. We play with it, but it is too large to really hold on to. "Restoration" is used today to describe myriad potential projects. We can restore riparian habitats to:

- accommodate wildlife, vegetation, stream flow, aquatic species, and aesthetic beauty;
- improve diversion structures and water delivery systems; and even
- restore and preserve traditions and cultures.

When I think of restoration, I think of restoring an area to its original condition. In the framework of our culture, society and economic system, however, today's concept of restoration identifies specific attributes of a degraded area and attempts to repair what mankind has done. The intentions are usually good, but the results are often devastating.

The Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project (RGHRP) started as a brainstorming session with landowners, farmers, ranchers, city and county officials, federal and state agencies, and environmentalists. We all wanted what we had before the days of multiple diversions, vacation homes crowding the rim of the river, cattle grazing down the vegetation, and endangered species dominating our perspectives. This group hoped to devise a plan to protect the communities threatened by flood. We dreamed of pristine gold-medal trout-fishing rivers, wildlife corridors connecting wild places, and river music waltzing over cobblestones and crashing against boulders.

We looked at outdated projects that straightened portions of the river 60-70 years ago and cut off the sinuosity required to water the riparian zone and disperse overflows during high water. We examined areas where vegetation had been either cut or grazed down, leaving behind concrete-hard land and stream banks incised into four-foot walls. We identified antiquated diversion structures. We all realized Colorado's immense responsibility to deliver on Rio Grande Interstate Compact commitments. With this reality before us, the task at hand often seemed overwhelming, and meetings occasionally became a bit unwieldy.

The San Luis Valley Water Conservancy District obtained funding from the Colorado Water Conservation Board for a study of a 91-mile stretch of river beginning at the township of South Fork, Colorado and ending at the Alamosa/Conchos County line. Public meetings were held in each community along the river to determine the appropriate

study focus. Montgomery Watson Harza carried out the study, with technical assistance from Agro Engineering, Lidstone and Associates, and SWCA Environmental Consultants. The scope of this work was:

- to conduct a river inventory,
- to examine specific river issues,
- to develop an enhancement and monitoring plan, and
- to create a comprehensive report that would assist in the development and coordination of future objectives and projects.

Participants who had been active in the study process formed a Technical Advisory Committee. The group was an interesting mix of concerned individuals prepared to hash out differences. Slowly, we began to recognize our similarities. While there are still some who refuse to join the conversation, the overwhelming majority of local citizens came to consensus on the project objectives to assess and enhance the ability of the Rio Grande to fulfill the following historical functions:

- maintain channel and floodplain capacity,
- provide flood protection,
- maintain and enhance riparian habitat,
- deliver Rio Grande Interstate Compact commitments,
- improve irrigation diversions, and
- improve channel stability.

We then developed a River Task Force and committees. One committee formed to scrutinize potential structural projects (e.g., such as flood protection, diversion consolidations and improvements) and channel-floodplain restoration projects. A non-structural committee formed to address much-needed riparian buffer ordinances in Rio Grande and Alamosa counties. Constituency building with ranchers for improved grazing practices was ongoing. River channel cleanup, fish habitat enhancement, beaver management and sediment/watershed study were also duties of the committee. The important

(interview by Carolyn Kerkula)

### The Mission

The mission of the Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Task Force is to restore and conserve the historical functions and vitality of the river for optimal agricultural water use, riparian health, wildlife habitat, community safety and interstate water obligations.

task of locating funding for our projects became the responsibility of the Funding Committee; the Task Force and Funding Committee are actively seeking funding for a biologist/hydrologist and a restoration consultant.

The successes of the Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project are many, including:

- convening meetings with the Rio Grande County Land Use Administrator and County commissioners to develop language for a stream-buffer ordinance that can be integrated in the Master Plan to be updated in 2004;
- implementing several streambank-stabilization projects with Natural Resource Conservation Services (NRCS);
- supporting the Rio Grande Soil Conservation District's application for funds to enhance the riparian corridor and improve fish habitat;
- encouraging local landowners to take advantage of cost-share programs to stabilize riverbanks and remove destructive debris from the river.

Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust (RIGHT) continues successfully to help landowners put ranches and farms into conservation easements, further protecting the riparian corridor. RGHRP and RIGHT co-hosted a Proper Functioning Conditions workshop to educate and guide landowners interested in further improving their grazing lands. The San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council has joined the efforts of the Alliance for Rio Grande Heritage in supporting a national campaign for river restoration from the headwaters in Colorado to Candelaria, Texas using the RGHRP study document as a template for collaborative efforts. The Structural Committee is currently exploring ways to improve irrigation diversions as well as negotiating with willing sellers for the purchase of water rights and land.

After five years of meetings with such a diverse mix of stakeholders, I have come to believe that collaboration is truly a form of enlightenment. What we envision can come to be. It will take money and lots of it. It also will take many years of commitment on the part of informed decision-makers to see this ambitious project continue. But, the results will be a healthy, living river and corridor, where all citizens are stakeholders in river restoration.

For more information, please contact Kate Booth Doyle in Del Norte, CO (719/588-2907; patsykate.doyle@hotmail.com), Karla Shriver in Monte Vista (719/852-3080; dshriver@fone.net), or Mike Gibson, general manager San Luis Valley Water Conservancy District in Alamosa (719/589-2230; slwvcdmhg@amigo.net).

—Kate Booth Doyle

## Spraying the Rio Grande Is a Toxic Non-Solution

Before the end of September, if nothing is done to stop it, Northstar Helicopter Co. will spray up to 15,200 acres of tamarisk (salt cedar) along the Rio Grande with an unregistered herbicide known as Arsenal (Imazapyr). This will be the second year of intensive spraying in an attempt to control tamarisk along New Mexico's major waterways.

In 2002, the herbicide lobby successfully hijacked the entire \$5 million appropriation for tamarisk eradication along the Rio Grande and Pecos rivers. As a result, alternative tamarisk-removal techniques were not researched. The New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts allocated \$1.6 million to Northstar Helicopter to spray 185 miles (9,100 acres) of private land along the Pecos River. Whole pastures were poisoned, forcing some ranchers to

destock. Although the appropriation came with language that required development of revegetation plans and monitoring, these do not yet exist. The key issue of maintenance was not even addressed.

### Background

In 2002, Texas began to put the heat on New Mexico to fulfill its agreements and deliver Rio Grande and Pecos river water. The State Engineer's office and the Interstate Stream Commission bought into science—by Charles Hart of Texas A&M Extension Service—that has been questioned by others and recommended that the legislature fund spraying to remove tamarisk as part of the solution.

Before Hart's study, a U.S. Geological Survey report (USGS Professional Paper 655-J, 2002) answered a critical question for policy-makers: How

much water does killing tamarisk release? The report summarizes studies that USGS had done to quantify the water savings that could be achieved by removing tamarisk—the equivalent of about 1.5-2.0 acre-feet/year. This study took into account:

- the water that replacement vegetation would consume, and
- evaporation from nearly bare ground.

Include those factors, and the water saved by tamarisk removal is so small that it is within the margin of error—not statistically significant. Hart, however, omitted those factors and arrived at a figure of 5-7 acre-feet/year of water that could be saved for every acre of tamarisk that does not grow. This is the estimate upon which the State Engineer and the Interstate Stream Commission based their decision to

(continued on page 10)



## More Than a Minnow Is at Stake

Many are saying that saving the Rio Grande Silvery Minnow is in direct conflict with using water for drinking and growing crops—but is it?

The recent decision by the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals is being distorted by just about everybody. The first problem is that this simple dichotomy, as in so many issues, is effectively wrong. The second problem is that most people hold to their beliefs, blissfully ignorant of the history of the Rio Grande. The third problem is that a few of our elected officials seem bent on inflaming emotions rather than proceeding on the basis of the facts. In the case of the Rio Grande Silvery Minnow, misinformation is abundant and wisdom is almost non-existent.

First, saving the fish does not require shutting down irrigated farming along the middle Rio Grande or "taking water from the mouths of Albuquerque's children," as

Mayor Chavez snarled. It will, however, require farmers to use water more efficiently, however unsavory the idea. Huge amounts of water are wasted in leaky ditches and antiquated irrigation equipment and practices. Farmers seem to forget that the precious water they use belongs to the public; they are answerable to us, not merely themselves. Likewise, the City of Albuquerque could greatly reduce consumption with very little effort, instead of battling the ruling with pricey lawyers. With little cost and no pain, the City could:

- use only native grass in landscaping,
- recycle industrial water for manufacturing, and
- enforce strict rules for outdoor watering.

The City's web site vows to cut today's water use by almost half over the next 10 years; that will free up a substantial amount of water for use by wildlife. Ensuring future city water supplies will be easy if we go about it intelligently.

The major oversight in the "fish vs. farmers" dichotomy, however, is that there is much more than fish at stake. Water used to save the minnow will sustain hundreds of species of wildlife and nourish a dying riparian ecosystem that is unique and vulnerable. Collectively, these are assets that the public values extremely highly, and for which many of us are prepared to sacrifice convenience.

Second is the neglect of history. Those who find a three-inch fish uncharismatic may not realize that we already annihilated four of the five original Rio Grande minnows. Before we kill off the last minnow—once abundant from Española to the Gulf of Mexico and now hanging by a thread—perhaps we should stop and think. The most vocal critics of the court ruling are ignoring the fact that the San Juan-Chama Project, built at great expense by the tax-

payers, was intended to carry city water and to provide for fish and wildlife, as stated in the original legislation. And more recently in history, irrigators abruptly diverted the entire Rio Grande in 1996 without notifying wildlife officials or anybody else, forcing a hapless and costly rescue effort. That flagrant act of abuse of public resources prompted the lawsuit against the federal government, drawing support from thousands of the most moderate conservationists.

The final problem is the knee-jerk response of some elected politicians, unelected irrigation officials, and editorialists who can't be bothered to examine the facts. How much water will Albuquerque and Santa Fe realistically lose in the coming years as a result of this

**"That is the beauty of the lawsuit and the 10th Circuit decision: it is forcing all parties to the table to examine old assumptions and plan for the future, as never before in history."**

decision? There is no set amount, but it's a good bet that it will be vanishingly small, depending on a host of economic, environmental and political factors. Since both cities are encouraging conservation, what is the problem? Responsible leaders should not resort to absurd hyperbolic predictions and inflammatory threats. Instead, they should realize that business as usual is over, and water management must be reformed.

It took a few centuries to drain, ditch, defoliate and nearly destroy the Rio Grande. We all participated: the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the State Engineer, cities and towns, farmers, ranchers and urban landscapers. Fixing the problem—or just turning back the damage a little bit—demands cooperation, communication and conservation from all of us. That is the beauty of the lawsuit and the 10th Circuit decision: it is forcing all parties to the table to examine old assumptions and plan for the future, as never before in history. Senator Pete Domenici said that the decision, "threatens to undo water law... in much of the West." If he's right, that's not such a bad thing: after catastrophic losses to wildlife over the past century, our whole system of water management is in need of overhaul.

—Bernard Foy

Conservation Chair, Sangre de Cristo Audubon Society

This article first appeared in The Santa Fe New Mexican on 12 July 2003. Bernard Foy can be reached in Santa Fe (820-1658; bdfoy@newmexico.com).

### Silvery Minnow (continued from page 1)

Diversion Dam. For reasons that are not well understood, few minnow exist in the reach of the river that is to be kept wet north of the dam. The BiOp thus requires that the river be kept wet only in a stretch of the river that does not provide adequate minnow habitat. The BiOp thus appears to be a political, not scientific, document that is entirely inadequate to ensure the survival of the species.

However, because of the minimal nature of the requirements for the minnow, less water will be needed than under the previous BiOp. There is a significantly reduced likelihood that the BoR would need to take water from unwilling sellers to meet the requirements of the BiOp. It now appears that no water from Albuquerque will be needed this year.

Nonetheless, Senator Pete Domenici has had a rider attached to the Senate Energy and Water Appropriations Bill that does two things:

- First, it prohibits the BoR from using San Juan-Chama water for endangered species purposes, unless the water has been purchased from a willing seller.
- Second, it legislatively declares that the BiOp meets the requirements of the Endangered Species Act ("sufficiency language"), thus preempting the roles of science and the courts.

The sufficiency language is probably broad enough to exempt any present or future project in the middle valley from the Endangered Species Act.

Representative Heather Wilson also introduced a rider during the floor debate on the House Energy and Water Appropriations Bill. Wilson's rider is even worse than Domenici's:

- it prohibits use of San Juan-Chama water for endangered species; and
- it also prohibits the use of native Rio Grande water.

Wilson's rider took everyone by surprise and passed after only five minutes of debate, with only Representative Tom Udall standing up and making a valiant effort to prevent its passage.

In the meantime, the Sierra Club and other parties to the minnow suit have been engaged in negotiations, conducted under the auspices of the office of Governor Richardson, in an effort to achieve a true solution to the minnow suit. As of mid-August, no resolution has been reached.

The best chance for the minnow under the present circumstances appears to be a combination of measures. To keep at least a portion of the river wet, we must drastically improve the efficiency with which we use our limited water resources. All sectors must engage in some serious belt tightening:

- The Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District—which delivers water to farmers in the middle valley—still diverts from the river an extraordinary quantity of water compared to the amount actually needed by farmers.

- Possibilities must also be explored for on-farm efficiency improvements.
- Urban water-use improvements have stalled well short of the old goal of 175 gallons/day/person and nowhere near the new goal of 150 gallons/day/person that would bring us in line with other conservation-oriented southwestern cities.

In addition to efficiency gains, we can improve minnow habitat in the areas that will remain wet, and we can reintroduce minnows outside of the middle valley where there may be appropriate habitat.

The underlying concerns, if not the exaggerations, expressed by the City and farmers are legitimate and should not be dismissed. Albuquerque needs a reliable municipal water supply, and farmers need water for their livelihood and food production. But we need to find a way to meet those needs without destroying our beautiful Rio and bosque. Waste should no longer be an option. The question before us is: Are we willing to engage in serious water planning, conservation, flexibility and even sharing, so that the needs of some do not have to be sacrificed to meet the needs of others.

For more information, contact Chapter Legal Chair Richard Barish in Albuquerque (232-3013; rdbarish@aol.com).

—Richard Barish

Zuni Salt Lake (continued from page 1)

New Mexico and Arizona and must be protected. The sacred sites of New Mexico's indigenous people are an irreplaceable and precious part of our heritage and I am committed to honoring that heritage. My commitment to the protection of the sacred lake itself is absolute."

Gallup Mayor Robert Rosebrough, in a telephone interview, extends his congratulations to the people of Zuni. "I am very happy for the people of Zuni Pueblo. This is a joyous occasion that there is no longer a threat to the Zuni people and the Zuni way of life."

The Zuni Salt Lake Coalition kept ongoing campaigns to stop the Fence Lake Coal Mine, which received support from hundreds of thousands of people across the country, who added their voice for the protection of Zuni Salt Lake. On July 19, 2003, The ZSLC hosted "The People's Hearing" in Zuni, where over 500 people attended to give testimony for the protection of Zuni Salt Lake. The Zuni Salt Lake Coalition consists of the Pueblo of Zuni, Center for Biological Diversity, Citizens Coal Council, Sierra Club, Water Information Network, TonaTierra, Seventh Generation Fund, etc.

"So many people have supported us in this struggle and there is no word that can express our appreciation to those who have given us help in the struggle. In my heart, I am glad we have come this far and have defeated SRP. It has been 20 years of mental anguish," said Head Councilman Carlton Albert, Sr.

Earlier during the year, the National Trust for Historic Preservation listed the Zuni Salt Lake to the 2003 list of "America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places," which also led to a documentary aired on the History Channel.

July 1, 2003 New Mexico Congressional Delegates wrote to Department of Interior regulators expressing their concerns to temporarily suspend from any further activity until hydrological studies could be verified and analyzed concerning the Atarque Aquifer.

New Mexico State Land Commissioner Pat Lyons, in an interview with *The Santa Fe New Mexican* in mid-summer, deeply criticized the congressional delegation for supporting the Pueblo of Zuni.

For the long-term, Councilman Arden Kucate indicated the Zuni Tribal Council would utilize all avenues to protect the Zuni Salt Lake and the Sanctuary Zone. In that way, the issue will not be re-visited in the future. "Nature has its own way of looking at applying the eco-system of how it's in the best interest of nature, especially if it's something so

**"Though the two-decades of ongoing battle has been exhausting, it has served as a learning process for future generations to remember. The Zuni Salt Lake issue is an educational source for young people to learn and remember—the future is uncertain."**

significant. In the Zuni way, when you look at things in spirituality and cultural aspects, it's beyond our control for nature to go its own course. With that, I'm very grateful that everything turned out the way it is now, having SRP pull out," said Councilman Kucate.

Preliminary survey work for the rail-line resulted in SRP unearthing seven human remains, currently still in the possession of SRP. According to Councilman Kucate, the best possible process needs to be looked at so the human remains will be returned back to the earth. Cal Seciwa, Zuni Salt Lake Coalition member, stated, "Those bodies need to be reburied where SRP found them before SRP walks away completely in order to respect our ancestors."

Fence Lake Coal Mine, which has been in the works since 1981, has faced increasing opposition from native tribes, environmental groups, church groups, etc. which drew international attention. In the Phoenix area, SRP serves approximately 800,000 customers.

"SRP had to be very careful and project an image of stewardship. In the case of Zuni, this was not an image of stewardship. This was an issue of cultural

destruction that would have left behind SRP a tail, a legacy of shame," said Jaime Chavez, Zuni Salt Lake Coalition member. "This victory is a testament to the spirit of the Zuni people," said Andy Bessler, Salt Lake Coalition Member.

Though the two-decades of ongoing battle has been exhausting, it has served as a learning process for future generations to remember. The Zuni Salt Lake issue is an educational source for young people to learn and remember, the future is uncertain.

"Have faith in yourself and your religion. Our religion is the backbone of our livelihoods. Longevity and prosperity are gifts of life, as long as our children keep it alive," said Councilman Kucate.

Indeed, the two-decade battle has come to an end.

However, there is still much work that needs to be done to finalize the closeout to ensure another incident, such as the case with SRP, will not occur in the future. The home of Ma'lökk'yattsi'ik'i (Salt Mother) will remain undisturbed for future generations to come.

—Brian Latio  
Staff, The Shiwi Messenger

*This article first appeared in The Shiwi Messenger on 11 August 2003. Brian Latio can be reached at The Shiwi Messenger in Zuni, NM (782-4403; shiwi\_messenger@yahoo.com).*

Not Herbicides (continued from page 8)

spray herbicides.

Those who doubt Hart's work argue that he used a questionable experimental design and that his significantly divergent finding should have led to further studies.

An Evapotranspirational (ET) Task Force formed several years ago to study how much water tamarisk uses, drawing on advanced Light-Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) technology from Los Alamos. The ET's findings (about to be published) support the earlier USGS findings of 1.5-2.0 acre-feet of water saved per acre of cleared tamarisk. To date, the USGS has found no evidence that tamarisk removal has resulted in more water in the Pecos River. (New Mexico taxpayers will soon be asked to pony up some \$83 million to meet this obligation to Texas.)

According to goat advocate Jack Noel (see *Sierra* May/June 2003), "The spray program proposed for the Rio Grande should be stopped. There is no justification for spraying Arsenal, an unregistered herbicide, on New Mexico's rivers and tributaries. Chemicals should only be used as a last resort, especially if there are less risky alternatives. And there are."

These vital riparian areas need holistic, long-term solutions that reflect the complexity of natural systems, including whole watersheds—not politically expedient quick fixes. Habitat and watershed-health analyses should be integrated into New Mexico's Water Plan. This plan should outline the state's vision and goals—and a strategy for achieving them.

With hundreds of millions of dollars earmarked for restoration by the Legislature in early 2003 (see *Sierra* April/May 2003), we have the chance to meaningfully address these challenges. We need to nudge New Mexico's watersheds and riparian ecosystems back to health with humility, good science and a willingness to work together.

For more information, contact Jack Noel in Monticello (743-0242; lastnoel@starband.net).

—Jack Noel

(work by Carolyn Kesbulla)

Chapter Funds Group Initiatives (continued from page 7)

- serve, in part, as a liaison with legislators;
- build relationships with a wide variety of stakeholders;
- lead an educational campaign;
- heighten the involvement of Chapter members and activists;
- conduct a focused media campaign; and
- explore new and creative ways to fundraise.

For more information, contact Chapter Conservation Chair John Buchser (see Masthead, page 2).

—John Buchser

National and State Elections

President Bush and the present Congress have succeeded in diluting or gutting a number of long-standing environmental laws and regulations. In order to restore these and go forward with improved or new environmental laws and regulations, the Chapter's Legislative/Political Committee has plans to play our part in blocking the re-election of Bush and change the composition of Congress. We will be contacting all our members to make sure that we are registered, will vote, and will find at least five like-minded friends who will also register and vote. We will be asking for activists in communities throughout the state to identify important local issues and to help with the register and vote effort. Although the Sierra Club has not yet endorsed presidential or

congressional candidates, we want to be ready to support any Club-endorsed candidates in the primary and general elections.

On the state level, we are already working with other environmental and smart-growth groups to pass some important water-conservation bills and to defeat any bad environmental or growth bills. At the close of the legislative session, we will review the environmental voting records of state legislators to help us determine whom the Chapter will endorse in the primary and general elections. Again, we will be asking all of our members to help identify local issues and elect endorsed candidates.

After the elections, we will turn our attention to making sure that our environmental champions are busy restoring, improving, and/or passing good environmental laws and regulations.

Busy, busy, busy! But we will not be alone. As one of 17 states which are likely to be presidential battlegrounds, we expect to be working with a broad national coalition of labor, environmental and women's organizations, America Votes, and Americans Coming Together. Stay tuned. We will be calling you.

For more information, contact Chapter Political/Legislation Chair Gwen Wardwell in Santa Fe (438-3060; g.wardwell@worldnet.att.net).

—Gwen Wardwell

## PAJARITO GROUP NEWS

### MEETINGS

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

#### OCTOBER 1

##### GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Steve Capra of the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance will give a slide presentation on Otero Mesa. His focus will be on energy. Special guest Mary Wiper, Associate Regional Field Representative for the Sierra Club, specializes in energy issues.



#### NOVEMBER 5

##### GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Mathew Johansen and Danny Katzman of Los Alamos National Laboratory will present "A Burning Question: What happens to contaminants in the environment following forest fires?" They will focus on movement of contaminants by surface water following landscape fires. Their information on this "hot" topic comes from many locations around the Western United States as well as from the Cerro Grande Fire of 2000.

### ISSUES

The Pajarito Group follows local environmental and political issues. We invite members to become involved in areas of personal concern.

**Cutthroat Trout Reintroduction**—Several agencies are working on reintroduction of the native cutthroat trout to the Jemez River; one method involves the use of the biocide Fintrol to kill competing (and all other) species. Contact Ilse Bleck (662-2368).

**Pit Production**—Five sites have been chosen for Pit Production Facilities; one is in Los Alamos (LA). These facilities will produce triggering devices for up to 450 nuclear weapons per year. Contact Jody Benson (662-4782).

**Pesticides and West Nile Virus**—LA County is formulating plans for mosquito abatement and pesticide use, specifically for the West Nile virus. Contact Sharon Scarlett (662-7286).

**Siting of New Landfill**—The LA Landfill will soon reach its capacity. The U.S. Department of Energy and LA County are working on a new location. LA County is trying to include issues such as lifespan, recycling, litter spread, and pollution prevention. Contact Chuck Pergler (661-6169).

**Wal-Mart**—LA Schools and the County are negotiating a plan to transfer the schools' administration area to free up space for a "big box" store (a 140,000-square-foot Wal-Mart Superstore is proposed). Contact Jody Benson regarding this and other sprawl and development issues (662-4782).

**Valles Caldera Preserve**—We have members on the Valles Caldera Coalition, which advises and assists the Valles Caldera Preserve on issues of concern and policy. Contact Carole Jacobson (672-9579).

### OUTINGS

**Thursday, September 18 • Fall Highway Clean-Up**—We will meet at Ponderosa Campground at 4:30PM and carpool up to the Valles. Bring work gloves; we have bags. It is a good time to work, watch the elk, and afterwards eat dinner back in Los Alamos.

**Friday evening-Sunday, October 10-12 • 4th Annual Conejos Car-camp and Day-hike Weekend**—We will meet Friday evening at a campground in the Conejos River Valley. We will day-hike both Saturday and Sunday. Trail choices will match group preferences and the weather. It's a great time to be out in the southern San Juans! Guaranteed: No bugs! Register by 3 October. Call Abe Jacobson (672-9579) in September.

**Saturday, October 25 • Hike Ancho and Frijoles Canyons**—For a close-up look of the Rio Grande, join us on a descent through beautiful Ancho Canyon to Ancho Rapid. Continue hiking along the Rio Grande to the mouth of Frijoles Canyon, and return via the Falls Trail to the Bandelier parking lot. Meet at 8:00AM in the White Rock Visitor Center parking lot on Route 4. Moderate hiking, approximately 6 miles. Call Rainer and Ilse Bleck (662-2368).

For more outings in the area, see pages 12-13.



(artwork by Carolyn Keokille)

## Pajarito Group Directory

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

### Executive Committee

Carole Griffiths Jacobson, <i>Chair</i>	672-9579
carole.jacobson@att.net	
Ilse Bleck, <i>Vice Chair &amp; Chapter Rep.</i>	662-2368
ibleck@yahoo.com	
Kim Manley, <i>Secretary/Treasurer</i>	662-6163
manlk7@aol.com	
Chuck Pergler, <i>Conservation Chair</i>	661-6169
pergler@att.net	
Abe Jacobson, <i>Forests/Mining/Political</i>	672-9579
abe.jacobson@att.net	
Mat Johansen, <i>Genetic Engineering</i>	662-9763
mjohansen@lanl.gov	

### Project Leaders

Ilse and Rainer Bleck, <i>Outings Co-Chairs</i>	662-2368
ibleck@yahoo.com	
Janet Gerwin, <i>Water</i>	662-9568
gerwin@losalamos.com	
Jody Benson, <i>Publicity/Sprawl</i>	662-4782
benson@lanl.gov	
Position vacant, <i>Webmeister</i>	

## PUBLIC LANDS MANAGEMENT

### Valles Caldera Is Open for Business

For better than 150 years, the 90,000-acre Baca #1 Land Grant in the Jemez Mountains was off-limits to the public, but it's now public land and open for business as the Valles Caldera National Preserve (VCNP).

Since mid-June 2003, hikers have had access to five very different trails and fishermen have been relishing the solitude on the Upper San Antonio.

VCNP managers anticipate developing many more recreational opportunities, as archeologists complete the prerequisite surveys, and as the staff and trustees assess the use, appreciation, impacts and economics of these preliminary programs.

For much more information about recreational opportunities, to register for hikes and fishing, and to comment on these and other Preserve programs and activities, see the VCNP web site ([www.vallescaldera.gov](http://www.vallescaldera.gov)), or call the switchboard in Los Alamos (661-3333).

The VCNP is technically a unit of the National Forest System, but the enabling legislation set it up in late 2001 as an experiment in public-land management—the Preserve is a federally owned corporation with a mandate to become financially self-sufficient within 15 years. The legislation also mandates

that the Trust be managed to:

- protect the diverse resources of the ecosystem, including the cultural resources; and
- provide for timber harvest, ranching/grazing and recreation, including hunting and fishing.

Instead of being managed by the Forest Service, the Trust is managed by a nine-member board of trustees appointed by the U.S. president.

Environmentalists, concerned that this administrative structure and set of mandates could be a recipe for disaster in the wrong hands, formed the Valles Caldera Coalition in 1997. They are coordinating their efforts to influence the course of this experiment ([www.vallescalderacoalition.org](http://www.vallescalderacoalition.org)).

By all accounts, the VCNP staff and board are sincere, dedicated to their stated goals of adaptive, ecosystem management and, thus far, doing an exemplary (and cautious) job of gathering baseline data and launching pilot programs.

The Board of Trustees is currently developing long-term management guidelines. They will welcome public comments at a public meeting in Santa Fe on 12 September 2003.

—Marty Peale

Valles Caldera Coalition Coordinator



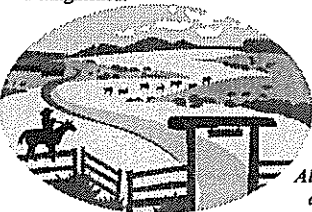
## NORTHERN GROUP NEWS

Tuesday, September 16, 7 PM

### AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT Common Causes

Russell Grider, CEO of Synergy Resource Marketing, progressive rancher and noted cowboy, will speak on Agriculture and the Environment, Common Causes, a discussion of how the two communities can collaborate to preserve and restore the natural resource base on which they both depend and defend against threatening global and national trends.

The perceptions of the environmental community about the agricultural community and vice versa are often based on misinformation and perceived conflict. Come see and hear what a real cowboy says about the local, national and international trends that threaten us all. You may be surprised and enlightened.



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).

Tuesday, October 21, 7:00 PM

### REWILDING NORTH AMERICA

The indomitable DAVE FORMAN is coming! In his new position as director of the Rewilding Institute, an offshoot of the Wildlands Project he has been spearheading for some years, he will discuss his goal of continental conservation (all of North America), and how he hopes to achieve it. He is writing a book on this topic, to be published by Island Press in 2004. As you may remember, Dave was an original member of Earth First! He has been working on conservation issues his entire adult life, was a director of the Sierra Club some years ago, and has written three books: *The Lobo Outback Funeral Home*, *Confessions of an Eco Warrior*, and *The Big Outside*. He will have copies of *Lobo Outback* available for sale and signing.



### FALL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTION

PLEASE CONTACT any member of the nominating committee to voice your interest in running for the Group Excom. Now's your chance to play a leading role. John Buchser, chair; Lionel Sorocco and Kay Carlson. (see contact info below)

For election information, please refer to the article elsewhere in this newsletter. The group election committee members are the same as those for the chapter.

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



### GROUP COMMITTEE MEETING DATES

Group Executive Committee:  
Tuesday, October 7, 7 PM  
Tuesday, November 4, 7 PM

Group Conservation Committee:  
Tuesday, September 23, 6:45 PM  
Tuesday, October 28, 6:45 PM

Water Pot-Luck, Wednesdays, 6:30 PM, John Buchser's house (820-0201)  
September 10 - Conci Bokun, 1,000 Friends of New Mexico  
October 15 - Bruce Gollub, E.R.O.S. and ISIS Medicine  
November 5 - TBD (suggestions?)



### YARD SALE

While you're doing your fall cleaning, start saving your elephants, both pink and white, for our yard sale to be held in the spring.

### SPECIAL SLIDE SHOW

Norbert Sperlich will present a slide show with beautiful pictures of day hikes with the Sierra Club on Saturday, November 22, from 5-6 PM, at the Travel Bug, 328 South Guadalupe (at Montezuma).

### SANTA FE RIVER NEAR DOWNTOWN ADOPTED BY NORTHERN GROUP

We are excited to have a new project - one that is easy for you to help the River with a little of your time. We will start by picking up trash and developing a management plan. As we move along, you will learn how to identify invasive species.

The Northern Group of the Sierra Club has adopted the stretch of the Santa Fe River between the DeFouri Street bridge and St. Francis Drive. In addition to providing \$1,000 to help Santa Fe Watershed Association manage the entire River, we will be helping to clear trash, control invasive species, and lobby our government leaders to provide resources to help restore the river to a more attractive place for us to enjoy.

### Schedule for September and October:

Saturday, September 13 - 9 AM-12 noon - trash pick-up

Wednesday, September 17 - 5:30-7 PM -

development of management plan

Saturday, October 18 - 9 AM-12 noon - trash pick-up

All of these activities will meet at the Closson Street footbridge over the Santa Fe River. You can park on Lower Alto Street, at the north end of Closson Street. For more information contact John Buchser (820-0201) or Chris Calvert (992 8097).

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

Chair - Jan Kindel *	jankindel@aol.com	474-7207	Outings - Norbert Sperlich		474-4354
Vice-Chair - Barbara Johnson *	lunah3@aol.com	466-4935	- Tobin Oruch	oruch@lanl.gov	820-2844
Secretary/Treas - Lionel Sorocco		983-6715	Conservation - Paul Paryski *	pparyski@aol.com	992-1984
Political Committee-Susan Martin *	smartin@lanl.gov	988-5206	Mining-Cliff Larsen *	clarsen1@ix.netcom.com	466-2128
Membership/Activist Outings-Norma McCallan *	nmccallan@mindspring.com	471-0005	Water-John Buchser *	jbuchser@comcast.net	820-0201
Newsletter/Publicity - Kay Carlson	kcarlsonvp@earthlink.net	982-3926	National Parks & Rangelands-Roger Peterson	rogpete@aol.com	983-7559
Web Master - Gina Aranda	garanda@cnsf.com	424-1615	Carson Nat'l Forest-George Grossman *		982-1024
Phone Tree - Berta Hanna		424-1435	Activist Outings-Norma McCallan *	nmccallan@mindspring.com	471-0005
Chapter Rep - Doug Fraser *	fraser@thumtek.net	474-7615	Land Use-Elleanor Eisenmenger		820-6401
* Member of the SF Group Executive Committee			Toxics-Jim Hannan	jhanman305@aol.com	988-5760
			Genetically Engineered Food-Jim Hannan	jhanman305@aol.com	988-5760

# NORTHERN GROUP NEWS

## GROUP OUTINGS FOR 2003

### Sat Sun September

- 6 **Moderate/Strenuous Hike** Deception Peak, Lake Peak optional. 2000' elevation gain. Leave 8 AM. Michael Goldey (820-7302)
- 7 **Beginner Easy Hike** on Aspen Vista Road. Fabulous views! No dogs. Hiking boots required. Leave 8 AM. Alan Karp (424-8764)
- 13 **Moderate Hike** to Hamilton Mesa. 7 miles RT, 1000' elevation gain. Limit 15. Gail Bryant (1-505-757-6654)
- 13 **Strenuous Hike** Wheeler Peak, 10-13 miles, 3400'+, leave 7 AM. Limit 15. Leave 7 AM. *Must call:* Dan Rusthoi (690-8967)
- 13 **Santa Fe River Cleanup** Picking up trash 9 AM-12 noon. See article on opposite page for more info. John Buchser (820-0201 or jbuchser@comcast.net) or Chris Calvert (992 8097)
- 13 **Cerrillos Hills Park Bike & horse day**, 9 AM. Chris Reece (474-0074 or bikefun@nets.com)
- 14 **Moderate Hike** in high country. Leave 8 AM. Art Judd (982-3212)
- 20 **Easy Birdwatch Walk** with Audubon Society, bring binoculars. Ron Duffy (982-2890)
- 20 **Strenuous Hike** to Placer Mountain, highest point in Ortiz Mountains. Done jointly with Santa Fe Botanical Garden in their Ortiz Mountain Educational Preserve - \$5 donation requested. Limit 20. Steep slopes, no trail, rough terrain. About 2000' elevation gain, 7 miles RT. Eliza Schmid (474-5846)
- 21 **Moderate Hike** Apache Canyon Loop. 6 miles RT, 800' elevation gain. Some dogs allowed. Leave 9 AM. Lionel Soracco (983-6715)
- 27 **Easy (but steep) Hike** on Hyde Park Circle Trail. 5 miles RT, 1000' elevation gain. Moderate pace. Dogs with leash allowed. Leave 9:30 AM. Bob McKee (471-0005)
- 27 **Moderate/Strenuous Fall Color Hike** in Jemez, probably in Cebolla Canyon, Calaveras Canyon area. Leave 7 AM. Call for meeting place Michael DiRosa (663-0648)
- 28 **Moderate/Strenuous Fall Color Hike** to Tesuque Peak, up by way of Tesuque Creek, down by ridge route. Dogs allowed. Moderate pace. Norma McCallan (471-0005)
- 28 **Cerrillos Hills Park Tour** 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century mining techniques and history. Bill Baxter (424-3574 or wbaxter@ix.netcom.com)

### Sat Sun November

- 1 **Santa Fe River Cleanup** Remove brush and pick up trash 9 AM-12 noon. Meet Closson Street footbridge (parking along lower Alto). John Buchser (820-0201 or jbuchser@comcast.net)
- 1 **Easy/Moderate Hike** on Chamisa Trail, 5 miles, 1240' gain. Leave 9 AM, dogs okay, bring leash, Eliza Schmid (474-5846)
- 2 **Moderate Hike** Banderlier. Lv 8:30 AM. Art Judd (982-3212)
- 2 **Strenuous Hike** up Cabezon, volcanic plug NW of Bernalillo. Lots of off-trail scrambling and some exciting unroped rock climbing. 4 miles, 1300' gain. Limit 13. Marcia Skillman (474-7414)
- 8 **Easy Walk** from Forest Road 79 via Arroyo Hondo to Watershed Boundary, 6 mi. Guest leader Paige Grant, director of SF Watershed Assoc (820-1696w) will discuss the ongoing forest thinning project along the fence line to prevent a catastrophic fire in our city's primary water source. *Meet 8:15 AM BLM OFFICE on Rodeo Road to carpool.* Dogs okay. Bob McKee (471-0005)
- 8 **Bike Ride Loop** up chiseled Cochiti Canyon and down Bland Canyon, with a stop at the ghost town of Bland if open. 16 miles RT. 1300' gain, and several stream crossings along (mostly) hard-packed gravel roads with some single track make this a technically intermediate and moderately strenuous ride, but worth it. Leave 8:00 AM. *Must call* Michael Di Rosa (663-0648 h, 667-0095 w)
- 9 **Moderate Hike** up Atalaya Mountain in town, 7 Mi, 1800' gain, dogs okay. Dan Rusthoi (690-8967)
- 15 **Easy Birdwatch Walk** jointly with Audubon Society, bring binoculars, Ron Duffy (982-2890)
- 15 **Easy-Moderate Hike** Gail Bryant (1-505-757-6654)
- 15 **Strenuous Hike** Glorietta Baldy and Ghost Town Loop, 12 miles, 2800' gain, fairly fast pace. Alternative hike if snowpacked. Tobin Oruch (820-2844)
- 16 **Easy/Moderate Hike** from Nun's Corner along Penstemon Ridge, 7.5 miles, approx. 900' gain. Moderate pace. Dogs okay. Leave 9 AM. Norma McCallan (471-0005)
- 22 **Strenuous Hike** Queen Mary and Otowi Mesas below Los Alamos. Hike New Mexico's version of Moab slickrock! Approx. 10 miles, 1500' gain, mostly off-trail, significant rock scrambling and some exposure. Fairly fast pace. Indian steps ascent optional. Leave 8:30 AM; *must reserve people and dogs by 8 PM night before.* Stephen Markowitz (505-797-5833 stephenmarkowitz@comcast.net)
- 23 **Easy Hike** Diablo Canyon, 6 miles, 400', Victor Atyas (438-9434)
- 29 **Easy Hike** to Tent Rocks near Cochiti Pueblo, 2 miles, 350' gain. Leave 9 AM, dogs okay on leash, Eliza Schmid (474-5846)
- 30 **Strenuous Hike** San Miguel Ruins in Banderlier, 11 miles, 2000'+ gain, rough terrain, some off-trail, Norbert Sperlich (474-4354)

### Sat Sun October

- Saturday, October 4, to Sunday, October 12
- Moderate/Strenuous Day Hikes** in the Maze District of Canyonlands Nat'l Park, UT; must reserve early. See complete writeup on Central (Albuquerque) Group page.
- 4 **Strenuous Hike** Jicarita Peak (elev. 12,835') in the northern Pecos Wilderness with possible side trip to Serpent Lake, 11-12 miles, 2700', fairly fast pace, limit 15, Lavi Malhotra (995-8547 or lavim@ix.netcom.com)
- 5 **Moderate Hike** above SF Ski Basin. Lv 8 AM. Art Judd (982-3212)
- 11 **Strenuous Hike** in Banderlier, Frijoles Canyon/Upper Crossing, fall colors likely. 13 miles, 1600' gain. Norbert Sperlich (474-4354)
- 11 **Cerrillos Hills Park** 9 AM. Sigmund Silber (ssilber1@juno.com)
- 12 **Easy Hike** Tsipin Pueblo ruins on Polvadera Mesa: Hike to pueblo ruins in tuff bedrock in Santa Fe Nat'l Forest near Abiquiu, lunch on mesa ridge overlooking deep valley. The northernmost and largest of the Classic Period Pueblos (1200AD-1350AD). 5 miles RT, 800' elevation change. Limit 15. Michael Goldey (820-7302)
- Wednesday, October 15, to Sunday, October 19
- Moderate/Strenuous Backpack** in Paria Canyon and Buckskin Gulch, UT; must reserve early. See complete writeup on Central (Albuquerque) Group page.
- 18 **Santa Fe River Cleanup** Pick up trash 9 am-12 noon. Meet at the Closson Street footbridge over the Santa Fe River. Park on Lower Alto St, at the north end of Closson. Bring work boots and gloves. See article on opposite page for more info. John Buchser (820-0201 or jbuchser@comcast.net) or Chris Calvert (992 8097)
- 18 **Easy Birdwatch Walk** jointly with Audubon Society, bring binoculars, Ron Duffy (982-2890)
- 18 **Very Easy Rock Hop** looking at petroglyphs, leave 9:30 AM, Gail Bryant (1-505-757-6654)
- 18 **Bike Ride Loop** around Cabezon Peak, 23 mi, 500' gain, rolling dirt roads in Puerco Valley. Technically easy, very scenic, but long ride requiring an advanced level of biking fitness. Leave SC office at 8:00 AM. *Must call* Michael Di Rosa (663-0648h, 667-0095w)

### October Hikes (cont'd)

- 19 **Strenuous Hike** up Pederal, famous Abiquiu area mesa. Scrambling and rock climb at very top. 9 miles, 2000' gain. Marcia Skillman (474-7414)
- Saturday and Sunday, October 25 and 26
- Manzano Mountains Car Camp & 2 Moderate Day Hikes** (1) Kayser Mill/Crest Trail/Ox Canyon with side trip to Manzano Peak, 8 mi RT; (2) Red Canyon/Crest Tr/Spruce Springs, 7 mi RT; about 1500' gain each day. Moderate pace. Dogs okay. Stay at Red Canyon C.G., leave Friday PM. Norma McCallan (471-0005)
- 25 **Strenuous Hike** up Gold Hill (elev 12,711') above Taos. 10 miles, 3420' gain, early start, dogs okay. Dan Rusthoi (690-8967)
- 25 **Moderate Hike** SF area, dogs okay. Lionel Soracco (983-6715)
- 26 **Easy Hike** in the Cerrillos Hills, under 1000' gain, Victor Atyas (438-9434)
- 26 **Moderate/Strenuous Hike** to Nambe Lake, 7 miles and 2100' gain, steep in places. Dogs okay. Les Drapela (438-3306)



### ALWAYS:

**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.*

**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>, or contact the Outings Department at (415) 977-5528 for a printed version.

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



## Update on the Threat to Petroglyph National Monument

Since the July/August issue, the threat to the Petroglyph Monument has worsened.

In August, in an attempt to put the Petroglyph Road question squarely in the hands of the citizens of Albuquerque, a measure was proposed in the City Council that would have separated the funding for the Petroglyph road from the much larger Road Bond Issue that includes money for roads all over the City. Unfortunately this measure failed, in spite of the numerous studies that indicate a majority of the people in Albuquerque do not support roads through the Monument.

Therefore the election for voters to consider this Bond Issue will occur on Tuesday, October 28th. Between now and then, the Club will be working with groups such as the League of Women Voters, the National Parks and Conservation Association, All Indian Pueblo Council, 1000 Friends of New Mexico, SAGE Council and other groups to defeat this Bond Issue.

Financial considerations are the primary reason that the citizens of Albuquerque should vote against this Bond Issue. In this election, Albuquerque voters will decide whether to tax themselves \$21.5 million dollars for this project. What they may not know is the \$21.5 million dollar price tag is only the beginning of the \$66 million dollars it will take to complete this project. This funding request comes at a time when basic city services are not being met, as evidenced by the Albuquerque Police and Fire departments asking voters for an additional 1/4 cent tax to help them meet basic services.

If built, these roads will fast-track new development West of the Monument, leaving existing Albuquerque taxpayers to foot the bill for even more new roads and infrastructure, on top of an already existing \$1.9 billion dollar infrastructure deficit. In addition, Albuquerque taxpayers will pay the full \$66 million dollar cost since the city is refusing to request federal matching funds (customarily at least \$33 million), in order to avoid triggering the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process.

If that wasn't enough, there are other reasons why the Petroglyph road project should be abandoned.

- Albuquerque's compliance with SHPO (State Historic Preservation Office) is not in conformity with New Mexico State law.

As recently as May 19, 2003, Governor Richardson's State Historic Preservation Officer, Ms. Katherine Slick, again alerted the city they have not yet done an adequate study of the alternatives to the road, as required by New Mexico state law. Although, SHPO continues to notify the city of their legal obligations, the private developers and the Pro-road Mayor Chavez are boldly moving ahead, ignoring New Mexico state law.

- The Environmental and Ethnographic Studies required for such projects are woefully inadequate. Former NM State Historic Preservation Officer Tom Merlan, called the 1992 Environmental Impact Study (EIS) "woefully inadequate" citing numerous reasons that the EIS was not sufficient. Many other groups also weighed in on the insufficient information given in the original EIS.

### How you can help save the Petroglyphs

- Vote Against the Bond Issue on October 28th
- Ask all your friends to vote against the Bond Issue
- Volunteer with the Central New Mexico Group or SAGE Council to defeat the Bond Issue. Call any of the Excom members listed below to help.
- Call Mayor Chavez at 505-768-3000 and let him know that the Petroglyph National Monument is a National treasure that deserves to be respected and protected in its entirety. He'll probably tell you that "not one Petroglyph will be harmed", a statement which is hard to believe, considering that there are over 1,000 Petroglyphs that exist in the 8.5 acre corridor (according to the National Park Service mapping).

## Call for Nominations to the ExCom

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

## Volunteers Needed for Children's Water Festival 2003!

This year's Festival will be held on Thursday and Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> at the Albuquerque Convention Center. 1,000 4th Grade students will come to learn about water and its relationship to human and other natural resources in a fun and interactive atmosphere.

With so many students gathering, there are lots of things that folks can do, like be Guides for student groups, Assistants for activity presenters, Photographer, Snack servers, Traffic managers and All around helper.

It's easy (we'll show you what to do) and alot of fun. If you can help, contact Carrie Chandler at 505-293-6969, or waterfestival@hotmail.com.

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

## General Public Meetings

**Monday, September 15th at 7:30PM**

V. B. Price, celebrated columnist with the Albuquerque Tribune, will share his views on some of the environmental and other challenges that confront Albuquerque.

**Monday, October 20th at 7:30PM**

Pam Flowers will present her slide show on the pleasures and challenges of Arctic Dog Sledding.

**Monday, November 17th at 7:30PM**

Hawks Aloft will come with a slide show and a few of their 'feathered friends'.

**December - Solstice Party**

See the November/December issue for details

We will be sending a reminder postcard to folks interested in attending, so email us at bblairb2@aol.com to be added to the mailing list. See you there.

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 everyone. Drinks and snacks are provided.

## Central New Mexico Group

PO Box 25342

Albuquerque, New Mexico, 87125-5342

### Executive Committee (area code 505)

Alma Rosa Silva Banuelos		almarosa6@yahoo.com
Blair Brown	259-7190	bblairb2@aol.com
Marilynn Cooper	842-0185	marilynncooper@qwest.net
Mark Doppke	768-1160	marckdoppke@yahoo.com
Richard Johnson	277-4144	rsheehan@unm.edu
Michal Mudd	884-3315	mudd_pi@mac.com
Mike Puelle	301-5915	mikepuelle@mac.com
Maribeth Theisen	238-4535	littleddeer@littleddeermusic.com
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.

### Project Leaders (area code 505)

#### Chapter Representative

Marilynn Cooper	842-0185	marilynncooper@qwest.net
Conservation Chair		
Mark Doppke	768-1160	marckdoppke@yahoo.com
Membership/Publicity		
Michal Mudd	884-3315	mudd_pi@mac.com
Newsletter		
Blair Brown	259-7190	bblairb2@aol.com
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Political		
Richard Barish	232-3013	rdbarish@aol.com
Programs		
Richard Johnson	277-4144	rsheehan@unm.edu
Sherry Wolf	254-2190	wolf@libra.unm.edu
River Issues		
Richard Barish	232-3013	rdbarish@aol.com
Water Issues		
Mark Doppke	768-1160	marckdoppke@yahoo.com
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.*

## Sierra Club Endorses Martin Heinrich for Albuquerque City Council

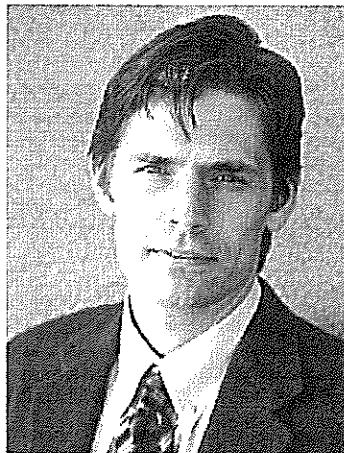
It is rare that one of our own runs for public office and rarer still that a Sierra Club member or avowed conservationist is considered the front runner for public office. In Albuquerque's District 6, we are fortunate enough to have long-time environmental activist Martin Heinrich running for City Council. Even more exciting is that many community leaders, activists and political pundits agree that he is the likely front runner.

Martin was instrumental in the release of Mexican wolves into the New Mexico/Arizona borderlands in the 1990s and he ran Cottonwood Gulch, a well respected environmental education program, for over five years. He has served on Albuquerque's Open Space Advisory Board, his neighborhood association board, and is active on revitalization issues in Albuquerque.

Martin has worked with groups as diverse as ranchers, labor unions, Native American tribes, and neighborhood associations. Part of his strength is that while he has strong positions on matters ranging from urban planning to protection of the Bosque and defending Petroglyph National Monument from sprawl, he can still work effectively and respectfully with groups who do not share his views. Martin would bring real diplomacy and balance to the often rancorous Albuquerque City Council.

Your help can help make Martin's campaign successful, so call 842-5539 and volunteer. If we are ever going to make New Mexico a more sustainable place, we will need advocates in local office who care about New Mexico's people and environment.

The City Council Election is Tuesday, October 28th.  
BE SURE TO VOTE !



## Peace Camp 2003

Working For Our Survival  
Friday to Sunday, September 12-14

Peace camp is an opportunity for people to meet and network to help influence our future. The Peace Camp invites groups and individuals committed to Peace Camp's purpose, their families, and friends.

The program includes Workshops and Strategy Sessions on Economic Justice, Nukes, Toxics, and Water, Creating Peace in Violent Times, Returning to a Sustainable Society, Non-violent Communication Training and Hands on Art.

Events include Community Building, Herb Walk, Kids' space, Children's Peace Pow Wow, Camping, Music, Food, and Campfire activities.

Peace Camp is free. Suggested donation of \$5 or more. No one will be turned away. Wheelchair accessible. Dogs must be on leashes.

Cedro Peak Campground: From Albuquerque head east on I-40, south at Cedar Crest/Tijeras exit, onto highway 337, south 5 miles, turn east (left) on Juan Tomas Rd, north (left) at the Cedro Peak campground road. Robin Loop on the left.

Please RSVP to CARD at 266-2663 or 266-7567 as soon as possible. Car-pooling can be arranged.

Note: The Central New Mexico Group is a co-sponsor of Peace Camp 2003.

## Outings

### Saturday, September 27th - Cat Mesa Crossover Hike

We will do a one-way hike from a point in the Jemez River Canyon, South of Jemez Springs and end in San Juan Canyon to the North of Ponderosa. This will be a strenuous off-trail semi-exploratory hike of 8 to 9 miles in length and a cumulative elevation gain of at least 2000 feet.

The route will cover some of the prettiest landscapes in the Southern Jemez. We plan on doing this hike at a reasonable pace, so we can enjoy the sights along the way. There is a chance that we may run into darkness, so bring a light.

Call the leaders for further info. Rick Hurley, 299-8401, Sirspurious@aol.com or Tom Petencin, 271-9928, tompeten@juno.com

### Saturday, October 11th - Manzanos Fall Color Hike/Cookout

We'll venture south and set up a car shuttle between two lesser visited trailheads in the North Manzano Mountains (one will be the Bosque Trail, weather may determine the other) to experience New Mexico's Fall Color (maple-red and aspen-yellow). Stunning views along the Manzano Crest trail will be enjoyed. Bring water, lunch, hiking attire. Long pants for brushy trails would be handy. Rick is thinking about an informal cookout after hike (call for info). Hike: 7-8 miles (almost all on trail), Elevation: 1600'. Drive: ~ 60 miles, last portion on dirt roads.

Contact Rick Hurley, 299-8401, sirspurious@aol.com, David Ther, 260-1553, or Tom Petencin, 271-9928, tompeten@juno.com for meeting time/place.

### Saturday, October 4 to Sunday, October 12 - Car Camp with Moderate/Strenuous Dayhikes in the Maze District of Canyonlands N.P., Utah.

We will car camp for 7 nights at various campsites along the Spanish Bottom Road. We'll be exploring the South and Pictograph forks of Horse Canyon, Shot Canyon, Water Canyon, Pete's Mesa, Errics Country and its canyons, the Doll House area, and Spanish Bottom in Cataract Canyon of the Colorado River. Our goal will be to absorb as much as we can of these places (can't ->)

## Great News - Zuni Salt Lake is Saved

Salt River Project, an Arizona power company, has announced that they have abandoned plans to build a coal mine near Zuni Salt Lake, the lake held sacred by the Zuni's and other Native American tribes.

This decision apparently brings to a close a two-decades long battle that pitted the Zunis, other tribes, environmentalists, religious leaders and - eventually - New Mexico's congressional delegation against the power company and the federal government, which had granted mining permits.

The Zuni's have long contended that the mine would jeopardize what the tribe believes is the home of Salt Woman, their central deity.

The tribe and its ally, the Zuni Salt Lake Coalition (the Sierra Club is a member), used a hard-driving publicity campaign and legal maneuvers in court to keep the mining venture at bay. Opponents of the mine got a major boost recently when members of New Mexico's congressional delegation sent a letter to the Interior Department requesting a temporary suspension of the power company's mining permit.

'Ongoing momentum got to a point of critical mass' said Jaime Chavez of the Zuni Salt Lake Coalition. 'And that critical mass is the power of native tribes coming together, the power of spirituality, the power of people with convictions coming together.'

'There's going to be a party' Zuni Lt. Gov. Carmelita Sanchez said after the utility's decision.

Tribal and coalition leaders say they will continue working to have the salt lake area made a sanctuary zone so the Salt River Project or some other company does not try to mine there in the future.

during our time there. About 100 miles and 5000 feet of elevation change. The total permit fee will be shared equally between the group. Designed for adventurous, energetic, sociable, and spirited hikers. The permit is limited to 6 hikers and 3 4WD, high clearance vehicles.

Contact Tom Veto, 345-9923, redrockboy@attglobal.net

### Wednesday, October 15 to Sunday, October 19 - Moderate/Strenuous Backpack in Paria Canyon and Buckskin Gulch, Utah.

This hike is a canyon country classic. We'll start at Wire Pass trailhead and make our way down the 12 mile long spectacular narrows of Buckskin Gulch to its confluence with Paria Canyon. From the confluence, we'll explore the upper narrows of Paria before starting our 30 mile walk down beautiful and photogenic Paria Canyon to Lee's Ferry by the Colorado River. We'll be walking through lots of mud, especially in Buckskin, so expect to wear footwear that will probably be trashed by the end of the hike. For those who enjoy a good mud bath, this hike should not disappoint. We'll also do side hikes to places like Wreather Arch, one of canyon country's largest. About 40 miles and 1700 feet of elevation loss. The total permit fee will be shared equally between the group. Designed for adventurous, energetic, sociable, and spirited hikers. The permit is limited to 6 backpackers.

Contact Tom Veto, 345-9923, redrockboy@attglobal.net.

### Saturday, October 25th - Embudo Trail to South Peak, Sandia Mountain Wilderness.

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

Contact David Ther at 260-1553.



## SOUTHERN GROUP NEWS

### NEWS FROM THE CHAIR

*Don Dearholt*

There are many good things going on now, in spite of BLM's lack of foresight and good judgment on their EIS for Otero Mesa. The response of the chapter and our group will be determined soon, beginning with discussions taking place at the chapter ExCom meeting on September 6 and 7.

### PLANNING MEETINGS

**Wednesday, September 10:** 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 the three foci recently decided upon--the Nui Grasslands, Otero Mesa, and assuring that the current representative to congress from District 2 is retired after one term.

**Wednesday, October 8:** ExCom and interested members and guests of the SNM Group, 6:30 p.m. at the new Southwest Environmental Center (SWEC). For directions, please see the preceding paragraph.

### PROGRAM MEETINGS

We expect to have a fantastic program in October, one which is co-sponsored by other organizations as well, but have not settled on a time and place yet. The topic is narrowed to either global climate change, or ANWR. Please watch for the publicity as October nears, and come and bring friends!

### OTERO MESA HAPPENINGS:

**Saturday, September 13th: Community Organizing Event in Carlsbad, NM.** This event will last all day. Perhaps a tour of Otero could occur on Sunday the 14th of September (for more info. about this event, please contact either Nathan Newcomer or Stephen Capra, at 505-843-8696).

**Beginning Friday night (campout) the 26th, Saturday & Sunday, September 27-28th: Science Research weekend.** This, in my opinion, would be the perfect opportunity for all to not only get a sense of Otero Mesa, but to also help in gathering important data on the fragile black grama grasslands, and the habitat of songbirds, raptors, and prairie dogs (for more info. about this event, please contact Nathan Newcomer or Stephen Capra, at 505-843-8696).

**Saturday, October 4th: General outing to Otero Mesa.** Exploring the petroglyphs and fantastic plant diversity on Alamo Mountain (for more info. about this event, please contact Greta, at greta@nmwild.org, or 505-527-9962).

**October 17-19th: Otero Mesa Religious Retreat & the creation of an interfaith Advisory Statement.** This will be a time of prayerful reflection and working as a group to better comprehend and express Otero Mesa's value and meaning (for more info. about this event, please contact Stephen Capra, at 505-843-8696).

#### Group Directory

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

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Margo Wilson  
Vice Chair, Chapter Rep.  
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David Farrell  
Legislative Issues  
895-3352  
dafarrelli@hotmail.com

### OUTINGS

**October 18 (Saturday): Hike to Sawyer's Peak.** Meet at the general store in Hillsboro at 8:30 a.m. This will be a slow, easy hike appropriate for arthritic knees, although having arthritis is not a prerequisite! Call Margot Wilson if you'd like more information, at 505-744-5860.

There is another and new opportunity to get out in our wonderful southwestern countryside, and here is some information on letting four legs do the work instead of just two!

#### Fall Trail Rides 2003: Celebrate the Desert

*Billy Prewitt, Medicine Hat Basin Horse & Mule Company*  
*Mike Coombs, High-Range Equestrian Connections*

>From Saturday October 18th through Sunday December 14th, the Medicine Hat Basin Horse & Mule Company plan to run 1/2 - 1 day rides into the mountain desert west of the Mesilla Valley. Living in the green fertility of our irrigated valley, we can forget the true nature of this Country. Just beyond our planned suburban streets, with their illusion of limitless water, electricity and access, lies the real Southwest.

The Mesilla Valley has long been a place of respite: from the Jornada Del Muerto or Mexican Chihuahua desert; from the Tularosa Valley or fractured landscape of the Basin and Range Province. Travelers would be always aware of the fragility of their 'oasis'. In modern times, however, it is all too easy to ignore the desert context of our lives.

The mountains west of I-25 are a perfect place to become reacquainted with the desert; and the Fall is the perfect time to do it. We are planning rides on BLM land, including: \* landmarks on the Butterfield Trail - the canyons of the Sierra De Las Uvas, the Sleeping Lady Hills, Cooke's Peak, the Rough and Ready Hills, and \* landmarks of El Camino Real-Tonuca and the Robledo Mountains.

At this time, we plan to take groups of 4 - 10 persons at a cost per person of around \$50 for a 1/2 day and \$100 for a full day. A meal can be provided at the trail head at a small additional charge.

If you would like to join us, please call Mike Coombs at 382-7510, or email him at mmc@highstream.net. Since there are many possible formats for a ride, we would like to hear from you and plan the trip to suit your specific interests. No riding experience is necessary; we have gentle stock.

Billy Prewitt was born in Hatch and moved to Fresno CA to make a life in the trucking business and as a cowboy. He is now retiring back to New Mexico to run his Horse & Mule trail business and introduce those new to the desert to the landscape of his childhood. Mike Coombs was born in London UK and moved to the Computing Research Laboratory at New Mexico State University. He became acquainted with desert riding while conditioning English horses.

## The Battle for El Paso: Chapter II

### The **JOBE** Antitrust Issue

by Taylor Moore

Where does a polluter get the clout to capture governmental regulators? Part of Jobe Concrete Products clout comes from illegal monopoly power.

The antitrust laws of the United States, Texas and New Mexico all provide that "Every contract, combination, or conspiracy in restraint of trade or commerce is unlawful." Substantial civil and criminal penalties can and should be imposed for violation of these statutes.

In 1989 Jobe Concrete Products, Inc. acquired El Paso Sand Products, Inc. for approximately \$12 million and obtained a monopoly on El Paso's sand and gravel market, the ready mixed concrete market, and the hot mix market. Jobe paid for the purchase of El Paso Sand with hot checks. Jobe was not prosecuted for anti-trust violations, but Stanley Jobe, the father, and others were prosecuted and convicted for money laundering. Stanley Jobe served six months in jail. He was pardoned on President Clinton's last day in office.

In 1999 Jobe's monopoly was sold to The RMC Group, the largest ready mixed concrete company in the world, which is reported to have a market value of \$2.3 billion. RMC paid \$116.8 million to acquire Jobe and Reno Sparks Ready Mix.

RMC has a long, sordid history of antitrust violations. In 1970 it was caught violating England's antitrust laws and was ordered to cease such activities. The company promised not to do it again, but walked out of the courtroom and continued to collude with its competitors. The fine imposed on RMC's companies for this offense was far greater than the fine imposed on any of its competitors. The judge stated that continuation of the agreements into the 1980s showed a "blatant, persistent and widespread disregard of court orders which strikes at the heart of the rule of law and the public interest". He called the situation "intolerable," and ridiculed the companies' defense that they expressly forbade cartel activities by their employees by calling it a "paper exercise".

In 1999 RMC was caught in Germany. While promising the German regulators it had stopped its monopolistic conduct, RMC it was busy acquiring the Jobe monopoly in the El Paso-Southern New Mexico region.

Today, antitrust activities by building materials firms are a world-wide phenomenon and are the subject of unprecedented probing by anti-trust authorities. But not in El Paso. As recently as October 31, 2002, RMC eliminated another competitor by acquiring substantially all of the assets of Rio Grande Materials, which operates in Texas and New Mexico. As usual RMC continued to attempt to preserve the illusion of competition by failing to change the company name over the door when it made the acquisition—ignoring mounting criticism of this technique.

Has this polluter captured the regulatory agencies in your community too? If so, what are you going to do about it?

*El Paso Group Activist Taylor Moore is a retired Houston lawyer who speaks and writes frequently against corruption in government and industry.*

## Selected Outings

### Sept 13: Railroad-Gallenas Canyon Loop Dayhike

Place: Gila National Forest west of Kingston, NM

Class: Strenuous

Length: 13 miles

Elevation gain: 1800 feet

Leader: Carl Horkowitz (915) 759-2606 (W) [chorkow1@elp.rr.com](mailto:chorkow1@elp.rr.com)

Just over Emory Pass from Kingston, the Railroad Canyon trailhead offers easy access to beautiful streamside trails leading up to the crest above the wildest part of the Gila wilderness. Bring a lunch to eat at the wilderness boundary as we traverse over to Gallenas Canyon for our descent back to the trailhead.

### Sept 27-28: Argentina Canyon Backpack

Place: White Mountain Wilderness

Class: Easy/Moderate

Length: 7 miles

Elevation gain: 1200 feet

Leader: Carolina Greenfield (915) 594-7342

The White Mountain Wilderness above Bonito Lake is one of the wonderful treasures available to El Pasoans. High altitudes with great vistas over the Tularosa Basin enable a city dweller to "get away from it all" in short order. This great loop backpack climbs steeply up through Argentina Canyon to the crest, then descends gently using the spectacular Crest Trail to the Spring Cabin area, featuring huge grassy tent-sites under stately pines. Descent to the trailhead is through picturesque Little Bonito Canyon.

### Oct 4-6: Wheeler Peak Backpack

Place: Wheeler Peak Wilderness, NM

Class: Moderate +

Length: 20 mile loop

Elevation gain: 3800 feet

Leader: Mike Episcopo (915) 584-9322 [mlepisco@episd.org](mailto:mlepisco@episd.org)

We'll stay in the Santa Fe area Friday night, continuing early Saturday to the East Fork trailhead within Carson National Forest. After spending Saturday night camped below Horseshoe Lake, we will rise early on Sunday and dayhike 3 miles to the peak. Our return is via the Lost Lake trail.

### Oct 17-19: Twenty-Five Yard Spring Backpack

Place: Apache Kid Wilderness, San Mateo Mountains, NW of Cuchillo, NM

Class: Moderately Strenuous

Length: About 12 miles

Elevation Gain: 2260 feet

Leader: Rollin Wickenden 855-6697(H) [rwickgila@aol.com](mailto:rwickgila@aol.com)

We will depart Friday evening and drive to Springtime Campground, 17+ miles west into the mountains on FR 225 from I-25 at the Red Rock exit. The planned hike leaves from Springtime campground on Saturday morning and ascends trail #43 to the crest of the San Mateo's at Bill Phillips saddle. The trail then turns north, descending into Smith Canyon. We will continue north to Twenty-five yard spring, our backcountry campsite, in the shadow of Apache Kid Peak. Sunday we will retrace our steps to the cars. This is a hike into a remote area that we have not done in several years. The color change of the trees should be evident, with the aspen turning a burnished gold color. Come join us on a moderately strenuous hike to a remote corner of the San Mateo Mountains, one of New Mexico's least-visited mountain ranges.

### Liability Waiver Reminder

All participants on Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read the liability waiver before you chose to participate on an outing, please go to: <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/>, or contact the Outings Dept. at (415) 977-5528 for a print version.

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

<http://texas.sierraclub.org/elpaso>

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## Apply Sustainable Paradigms in Public Land Management

*This is an excerpt from a talk given in May 2003 in Farmington, New Mexico by Gloria Flora, a former forest supervisor who now directs Sustainable Obtainable Solutions, a non-profit organization dedicated to the sustainability of public lands and the communities that depend on them.*

Globally to locally, the principles of sustainability are the same. Science, experience and historical evidence have helped us define the system conditions that sustain the earth and its inhabitants over time. When we apply these principles to traditional industry and the management of public lands, new perspectives show us alternatives to current unsustainable practices. The first step, though, is to acknowledge that the existing practices are unsustainable.

That is challenging when we are asking the wrong questions or using the wrong analytical tools. For example, we measure short-term cash flow but don't examine the long-term relationships between people and natural systems. We speak as if maintaining the supply and quality of natural resources were central to public land management. In reality, however, our predominant social paradigm of growth and consumption actually directs what happens on public lands today. Natural systems are collateral damage.

The missions of the largest land-management agencies—the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM)—are similar:

- conservation,
- multiple use, and
- sustainability.

The sustainability mission is inherent, since federal lands are intended to benefit the public in perpetuity. No other land stewards have the legal (and moral) obligation to manage for future generations. Unfortunately, this responsibility is frequently abrogated for decisions that favor oversimplified economic goals, the desire for quick returns, and mitigation efforts that are merely band-aids.

This decision-making approach neatly sidesteps long-term impacts and the cumulative, downstream consequences of policies. No one has to wait to cash a check at the bank. As a result, our bank of natural capital is overdrawn—a direct violation of the missions and mandates that direct federal land-

management agencies to protect and conserve resources for future generations.

Why? Our society craves rapid gratification, and all natural resource decisions are social decisions. Thus, we continue to sustain growth and consumption rather than natural systems.

### The Effects of Social Pressure on People

Within public agencies, people are interpreting mandates and making decisions. The responsibilities of a line officer call for vision and leadership skills—courage, integrity, honesty and the ability to bring out the best in others. When these qualities give way to concerns of career preservation, ego and political

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"flexibility," sustainability of the natural resource is the first casualty.

Most agency employees are professional, dedicated people, but they are overworked, whipsawed by internal change, computer-bound, budget-driven, under-appreciated and threatened. For instance, a recent Executive Order requires BLM employees to report any mitigation measures, public-involvement processes or other "obstacles" that slow energy permitting—and they must list their name as the responsible official. Meanwhile, the Forest Service and Park Service are busily "outsourcing"—turning career positions over to the lowest bidder in the private sector (see *Sierra* July/August 2003).

Employees who would pursue sustainable practices face an uphill struggle inasmuch as:

- they lack training;
- there is no social or institutional emphasis, on or reward system for, sustainable practices; and
- they face increasing management complexity.

Battle-worn and defensive, employees see public involvement as simply inviting more work and more conflict. Again, the path of least resistance beckons.

The internal politics and pressures that drive policy remain largely hidden from the eyes of the public. The frustration of trying to introduce change hints at the magnitude of the forces that support the status quo. History shows us that calls for sustainability are ignored until draconian legal challenges command attention. Communities witness continuing, incremental, irretrievable losses of landscapes and lifestyles that agencies dismiss as necessary trade-offs (with no value attached) to create jobs or achieve targets. No wonder there's so little trust.

### Regulation Without Ecological Awareness

Although Congress has enacted a plethora of environmental laws over the past 140 years, few in Congress actually understand:

- the nature of what those laws strive to protect, or
- the ramifications of those laws.

Public-opinion polls and election-cycle politics drive policy, but neither the public nor the politicians understand ecosystems and their

vulnerabilities. When Congress does try to affect change, it too may be frustrated and resort to threats, punitive management through budget hijinks and demanding reports in infinitesimal detail. Occasionally, they target individuals; the list of relocated line officers is long.

U.S. politics are slick with oil. George W. Bush is a multi-millionaire thanks to oil. Dick Cheney receives millions annually in severance pay from Halliburton (a global oil-industry player that is equally at home in Farmington, NM and Iraq). After a long history of lobbying for and representing industry, Gale Norton heads the U.S. Department of the Interior. Her assistants are Steve Griles, a recent lobbyist for the coal and oil industries, and Rebecca Watson, a pro-industry lawyer.

In the U.S. Department of Agriculture, there's the same strong support for industry and, with one exception, a significant lack of natural resource experience—an agricultural economist, a timber lobbyist, and a young lawyer who has never worked outside the Beltway hold the top three positions.

It's no surprise that we are seeing dogged pursuit of unsustainable practices, bulldozing of environmental regulations, and a disquieting exclusion of the public from decision-making.

### Incomplete Economics

Our ability to achieve sustainability is on thin ice, because we use incomplete economics to measure the costs and benefits of policies and projects. When we fail to account for associated environmental and social costs, we are left with expensive realities—Superfund sites, disease, habitat destruction and species loss are unaccounted costs of many projects.

It has become routine to justify unsustainable activities by citing job creation and industry profit. The public hears assurances that stipulations, regulation and monitoring will protect the environment as these activities proceed, but a line officer can waive stipulations upon request—and they do, 85% of the time, according to a recent study.

Monitoring occurs rarely, and even when it does, declines in ecosystem quality rarely trigger penalties.

Carrot-and-stick regulations are fundamentally flawed and have limited effect on environmental protection. Incentives and subsidies are based on the assumptions of unlimited supply and demand (willingness to pay); instead of encouraging better

(continued on the next page)

## Residents Getting More Informed and Involved in Northwest New Mexico

Northwest New Mexico is a region where extensive oil and gas exploration and development have been occurring for years (see *Sierra* July/August 2003). Residents are increasingly concerned about related air pollution, surface- and groundwater pollution, grassland and habitat destruction, and other social impacts.

The San Juan Citizens Alliance was instrumental in bringing Gloria Flora to speak to residents in the Farmington-Bloomfield area in July 2003. Jan Rees explains, "With the decisions we will be facing in the future, those of us concerned about air quality in San Juan County need to be informed and vocal. I would welcome the opportunity to visit with other concerned Sierra Club members."

The ozone pages of NMED's web site ([www.nmenv.state.nm.us/ozonet/index.html](http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/ozonet/index.html)) may be of interest to those who like to dig deeper. They include:

- PowerPoint presentations;
- the non-binding list of ozone control strategies that was submitted in June 2003 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as part of the Early Action Compact; and
- a copy of the compact.

For information about ozone, including a brochure developed by the University of New Mexico Community Environmental Health Program, see the San Juan Citizens Alliance web site ([www.sanjuancitizens.org](http://www.sanjuancitizens.org)).

For information about the Four Corners Ozone Task Force, contact Steering Committee member Jan Rees in Bloomfield (632-8335; [jrees@acnet.com](mailto:jrees@acnet.com)). Anyone can become a member of the Task Force.

—Jan Rees



## Sustainability (continued from the previous page)

practices, they encourage consumption. Punitive regulations encourage adversarial "cops and robbers" relationships. Entire staffs of lawyers work to circumvent agencies while the damage continues.

Regulations meant to discourage environmental destruction are effective only when applied consistently and when fines for infractions are large enough to hurt. The degree to which regulatory requirements are currently applied and enforced depends on the political and economic clout of the offender, rather than the letter of the law. Threats of job losses bring quick agency retreat.

In summary, most environmental regulations rarely keep pace with social dynamics and, as implemented:

- are profoundly influenced by industry;
- fail to account for the triple bottom line;
- are activated by violation, not compliance;
- have an inconsistent basis in science; and
- have no relationship with sustainability.

## Industrial Use as a Priority

Despite the mantra of multiple use, agencies are now directed to give highest priority to industrial use, especially energy development. Trying to move toward sustainability with that directive is akin to wearing snowboots for a swim.

The industry model takes a utilitarian view of resources. With economics as a yardstick, obtaining raw materials with as few limitations as possible is a logical goal. Revenue and growth are the primary indicators of success. Regulations dictate the minimal environmental behavior that is acceptable. Do less, if the savings offset the fine, or better still, if you can get away with it. Logical yes, sustainable no.

The economics-only paradigm rewards short-term profits and a strong quarterly bottom line. Industry disavows or covers up the cumulative destructive effects of its actions. Mergers, bankruptcies and highly-paid lawyers obfuscate the trail of responsibility, in part by using political contributions to buy regulatory changes.

Ethics aside, this focus on economic returns assumes that natural capital and the services that nature provides are free and in infinite supply. The value of a tree's ability to produce oxygen and absorb CO<sub>2</sub> is not part of the economic equation in a

timber sale. The values of groundwater and of cryptogamic soils to resist erosion are not part of the economic equation when we consider drilling for natural gas. Toxic wastes and by-products "disappear" under a thin layer of dirt. There is no value placed on people's relationship with landscapes, our sense of place.

The other fundamental flaw of the economics-only paradigm is this assumption: All growth is good. Natural systems temper growth by maximizing ecosystem health—we don't. Growth in the United States requires increasing consumption of natural resources. The overall trend worldwide is a decline in productive habitats juxtaposed to an ever-increasing population with greater demands for natural resources. If this is so obvious, why haven't we, as a society, asked logical questions about the industrial paradigm that dominates our public lands—our national treasure chest of natural resources.

The answer isn't easy. We really don't want to change our own lifestyles. When we do try, we don't find super-efficient transportation and housing; clean, renewable energy; comprehensive recycling and re-use programs; or local, organic produce readily available.

## Action Based on Sustainability

When we apply the principles of sustainability to public lands and traditional industry, we can act in effective ways:

- First, demand better alternatives. Be insistent and persistent. In the meantime, demand that agencies follow the law and the mitigation measures prescribed in environmental documents, including monitoring.
- Second, stay politically aware, and vocal, and involved. Vote.
- Third, vote again, this time with your dollars. Manage your consumption; stop buying what you don't need. Every dollar you spend sends a message that you support and condone what was done to others and the environment to enable you to have this product.

Public land-management agencies will change when society does. Only then can we ensure that our public natural capital principle is well protected and that we are living off the interest—sustainably.

For more information, contact Gloria Flora, executive director of Sustainable Obtainable Solutions,

in Helena, MT (406/495-9661; gflora@solutions.org).

—Gloria Flora  
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August 2003

Say "No" to  
(No) Clear Skies

Enforcement of the Clean Air Act of 1970, has significantly curbed emissions of major pollutants, resulting in tremendous improvements in air quality across the United States. On 20 August 2003, however, the Bush Administration signed a rule that exempts old power plants from a requirement that they install modern pollution-control technologies when they make changes that increase the pollution they produce.

For more information, see the Clean Air pages on the Sierra Club web site ([www.sierraclub.org/cleanair/](http://www.sierraclub.org/cleanair/)).

—Mary Wiper

Rio Grande Chapter  
Quarterly Meetings

The Rio Grande Chapter will meet next on 6-7 September 2003 at the Sevilleta Wildlife Refuge just south of Socorro. The Conservation Committee will meet on Saturday; the Executive Committee will meet on Sunday morning.

All members are invited. If you would like to attend, please contact Chapter Chair Doug Fraser; to arrange carpools, please contact Group Chairs (see Masthead, page 2).

The Chapter's winter meeting is scheduled for 6-7 December 2003, also at Sevilleta.

Rio Grande Chapter  
2003 Election Schedule

The Executive Committee (ExCom) is required to specify dates and deadlines for the annual election. They are as follows:

- ExCom ratified a Nominating Committee (NomCom—D. Farrell, Chair; K. Hughes, M. Mudd, T. Mertig, A. Jacobson) and an Election Committee (M. Mudd, Chair) at the June 2003 Chapter meeting.
- NomCom must receive names for consideration by 9/6.
- NomCom reports names of nominees to ExCom by 9/15.
- Candidate petitions and ballot-issue petitions must be received by 9/22.
- Chapter must deliver eligible voter lists to printer by 10/8.
- Ballots must be printed and mailed by 10/10 (allowing at least four weeks for return).
- Returned ballots must be postmarked on or before 11/20.
- Ballots will be counted at 7:00PM, 11/24 in Albuquerque.

Join us!

Sign up on-line

[www.sierraclub.org/membership](http://www.sierraclub.org/membership)

or return this form:

My Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Check enclosed, made payable to:

Sierra Club  
P.O. Box 52968  
Boulder, CO 80322-2968

Please charge my ☐ Mastercard ☐ VISA

Cardholder's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

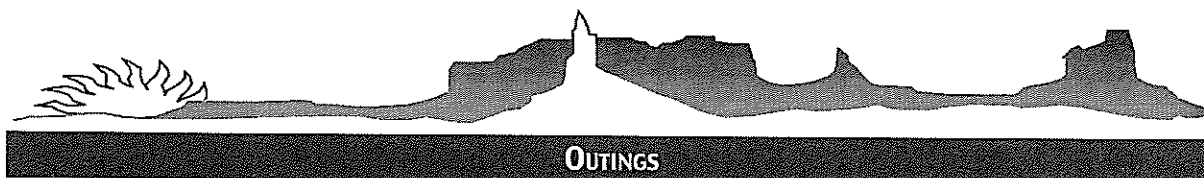
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## MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

	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.



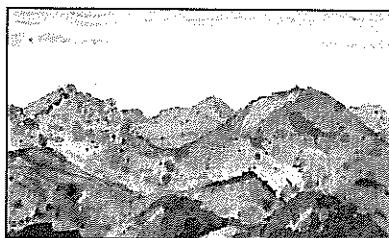
## OUTINGS

# Let the Great Outdoors Play Its Part in Fitness and Well-being

Several months ago, I received a call from a graduate student who was part of a UNM team working with the New Mexico State Parks Division on its five-year update of the State-wide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). Numerous public meetings failed to draw many people, so she was calling representatives of a number of organizations, including the Sierra Club, to get our input directly.

The first of the four questions she asked was: How have trends in New Mexico outdoor recreation been changing? After thinking about it, I concluded that the biggest change (all over the country, not just in New Mexico) is that America's love of machines and speed is spreading further and further over the land.

Besides the ubiquitous car and pickup truck, SUVs, ATVs, motorcycles, motor boats, jet skis and snowmobiles are roaring all over the countryside spewing fumes and noise, polluting the air and the water, eroding fragile landscapes and consuming large amounts of gasoline. The impacts in this manner become political, as the Bush Administration embroils itself in complexities like Middle Eastern politics and uses scare tactics about dwindling oil



reserves to open all of our public lands to drilling, even some of the last wild places, like the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

This type of recreation impacts more than environmental health, it also impacts human health. The driver may be recreating and enjoying the outdoors but s/he gets little or no exercise through these motorized pursuits. Article after article in recent months has pointed out that we are becoming a nation of the obese. Our very technological successes and breakthroughs over the past 50+ years have made many of us unfit and overweight.

Now I am sure that many of you don't fit this stereotype, but you probably have friends who do. And even when people are fitness-minded, many drive to gyms and health spas. Not to denigrate these activities and businesses that play a useful role in keeping our bodies firm and supple, but these are indoor, and often costly, pursuits. Simply walking and hiking on a regular basis can maintain our health and sanity.

One can, of course, tramp over the hills alone, and we all have done it on countless occasions. But participating in a group outing provides not only good exercise, but also good camaraderie, and the opportunity to learn about new trails and see new scenery (hopefully unblemished by clouds of exhaust smoke). Check out one or more of our Sierra outings, and bring along a friend! Hiking has one of the least impacts on the land of any outdoor activity, it's free, and gets us outside under that deep blue sky!

—Norma McCallan

\* SCORP is also soliciting individual comments through its online survey ([www.enr.state.nm.us/nmparks/PAGES/scorp/SCORP.htm](http://www.enr.state.nm.us/nmparks/PAGES/scorp/SCORP.htm)).

## Selected Sierra Club Outings for September, October and November 2003

**Saturday, September 6 • Chihuahuan Grasslands Field Trip**—Visit Jim Winder's ranch near Nutt, with Chris Havstad from the Jornada Research Station. Margot Wilson (744-5860—T or C).

**Saturday, September 13 • Railroad/Gallenas Canyons Loop**—Strenuous hike near the wildest part of the Gila Wilderness. 13 miles. 1,800' elevation gain. Carl Horkowitz (915/759-2606—El Paso).

**Saturday, September 13 • Wheeler Peak**—Strenuous hike up New Mexico's highest mountain. 3,400' elevation gain. Dan Rusthoi (690-8967—Santa Fe).

**Thursday, September 18 • Fall Highway Cleanup along the Valles Caldera**—Ilse Bleck (662-2368—Los Alamos).

**Saturday, September 20 • Placer Mountain, Ortiz Range**—Strenuous and steep hike to the highest point of the Ortiz Range, with a guide from the Santa Fe Botanical Garden, which now oversees the former Gold Mine property. Eliza Schmid (474-5846—Santa Fe).

**Saturday, September 27 • Cebolla/Calaveras Canyons, Jemez Mountains**—Moderate/strenuous hike in fall colors. Mike DiRosa (663-0648—Los Alamos).

**Saturday-Sunday, September 27-28 • Argentina/Little Bonito Canyons, White Mountain Wilderness**—Easy/moderate backpack loop to Crest Trail. Great vistas. Carolina Greenfield (915/594-7342—El Paso).

**Sunday, September 28 • Willi White Trail, Lincoln National Forest**—Easy hike on abandoned railbeds switching through green meadows and forests near Cloudcroft. Ann Falknor (915/833-9162—El Paso).

**Saturday-Monday, October 4-6 • Wheeler Peak**—Backpack via East Fork trailhead, camp at Horseshoe Lake, and return by Lost Lake Trail. 20-mile loop. 3,800' elevation gain. Mike Episcopo (915/584-9322—El Paso).

**Saturday, October 4 • Jicarita Peak**—Strenuous hike to this 12,835' landmark. 11 miles. 2,440' elevation gain. Lavi Malhotra (995-8547—Santa Fe).

**Saturday-Sunday, October 4-12 • Maze District of Canyonlands NP**—Car-camp and strenuous day hikes in this remote redrock wilderness. 100 miles. 5,000' elevation gain. Tom Veto (345-9923—Albuquerque).

**Sunday, October 12 • Tsipin Pueblo Ruins**—Easy hike to the largest Classic Period Pueblo, on Polvadera Mesa near Abiquiu. Michael Goldey (820-7302—Santa Fe).

**Friday-Sunday, October 10-12 • Conejos River**—Car-camp and hikes. This is a beautiful time to enjoy the South San Juans. Abc Jacobson (672-9579—Los Alamos).

**Wednesday-Sunday, October 15-19 • Paria Canyon & Buckskin Gulch**—Strenuous backpack through these connecting spectacular slot canyons. 42 miles. Side hikes including Wrather Arch. Tom Veto (345-9923—Albuquerque).

**Friday-Sunday • October 17-19 • Twenty-five Yard Spring, Apache Kid Wilderness**—Backpack from Springtime Campground. 12 miles. 2,260' elevation gain. Lovely fall colors in a remote corner of the San Mateo Mountains. Rollin Wickenden (915/855-6697—El Paso).

**Saturday, October 18 • Cabezón Peak Bike Ride**—23-mile loop. 500' elevation gain on rolling dirt roads. Mike Di Rosa (663-0648—Los Alamos).

**Sunday, October 19 • Pedernal**—Strenuous hike up Georgia O'Keefe's icon. 9 miles. 2,000' elevation gain. Scrambling at top. Marcia Skillman (474-7414—Santa Fe).

**Saturday, October 25 • Ancho Canyon to Frijoles Canyon, Bandelier NM**—Moderate 6-mile hike via the Rio Grande. Rainer Bleck (662-2368—Los Alamos).

**Saturday-Sunday, October 25-26 • Manzano Mountains**—Car-camp and moderate hikes: Kayser Mill/Ox Canyon and Red Canyon/Spruce Springs Trails. Camp Red Canyon Campground. Leave Friday afternoon. Norma McCallan (471-0005—Santa Fe).

**Sunday, November 2 • Cabezón Peak**—Strenuous hike up this prominent volcanic plug. Lots of off-trail scrambling. 4 miles. 1,300' elevation gain. Marcia Skillman (474-7414—Santa Fe).

**Saturday, November 8 • Watershed-thinning Field Trip**—Easy/moderate hike to view the thinning project along the Santa Fe Watershed boundary with guest leader Paige Grant, Santa Fe Watershed Association. Bob McKee (471-0005—Santa Fe).

**Saturday, November 8 • Cochiti Canyon/Bland Canyon Bike Loop**—16 miles. 1,300' elevation gain. Mike Di Rosa (663-0648—Los Alamos).

*Please check the five Groups' pages for more information on these trips, and for additional activities. All area codes are 505, except as noted.*

*Watercolors on this page are by Carolyn Keskulla.*

*For more of her work, see her web site ([www.carolynkeskulla.net](http://www.carolynkeskulla.net)).*