

# CHAPTER

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# rio grande SIERRAN

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MAY/JUNE



East of the Sandias

Photo by Don Campbell

There's a silence  
I have not felt  
For so long  
Only a hum  
of a fly

A cry of a bird  
A tiny squeak  
It's raining  
No its the  
Falling water  
Sailing with the leaves

Ruth Lewis

# Gila Wilderness Celebrates Golden Anniversary

Ed. Note: This article was revised from a Forest Service News press release.

The United States celebrates a very special golden anniversary this year. On June 3, 1924, acting on the eloquent pleas of a colleague Aldo Leopold, the Forest Service set aside the nation's first tract of virtually untouched National Forest land, identified this naturalness as a resource—as much so as timber, water, forage, and wildlife—and called it Wilderness.

With the Gila an accomplished fact and the Forest Service behind him, Leopold set out with missionary fervor to increase America's stock of Wildernesses. "Cannot we for once foresee and provide?" he asked in an article published in the October 1925 issue of *American Forests and Forests and Wildlife*. "Must it always be hindsight, followed by hurried educational work, laborious legislative campaigns, and then only partially effective action at huge expense. Cannot we for once use foresight, and provide for our needs in an orderly, ample, correlated, economical fashion?"

The area in the southwestern corner of New Mexico that drew Leopold's attention as potential Wilderness was the wild land surrounding the headwaters of the Gila River. Between the time of his initial Forest Service appointment in 1909 until he left the Southwest in 1925, he had tramped all the National Forests in Arizona and New Mexico. There was nothing, he felt, to compare with the Gila.

## RICH IN HISTORY AND WILDLIFE

Until six million years ago, it was a land of violent volcanic activity that scrambled the landscape. This period of mountain building was comparatively recent, viewed in geologic time.

Man, according to archeologists, first entered the Gila country about 10,000 years ago. These members of the Cochise culture were hunters and gatherers of wild food who gradually became agriculturists. The hunters left behind campsites and stone flakes knocked from rocks as they were fashioned into spear points.

About 2,300 years ago, these same people learned pottery making, probably from distant neighbors in what is now Mexico, and took up permanent residence around most of the water courses in southwestern New Mexico. This became the Mogollon Culture. Their dwellings first were simply pit houses and finally the pueblo-type houses that appeared about 1,000 A.D.

The first Mogollon pottery dates from about 300 B.C., and was found along the Mimbres River a few miles southeast of the National Monument. Near the Gila Center, the oldest pottery found to date was made about 400 A.D.

The wildlife of the region is much the same today as it was 150 years ago. Recent additions to the extinct list are the wolf, the grizzly bear, Merriam's elk and river otter. The last Merriam's elk was taken for food about 1900, the last wolf in 1921, and the last grizzly in 1933, the same year management on the Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument, created in 1907, was transferred from the Forest Service to the Park Service.

In 1925, to reverse this trend, the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish and the Forest Service transplanted 24 Yellowstone elk from Wyoming. Another 254 elk were released near the Wilderness in 1954 and 1956. Recent estimates place the head at 600. Another species that has been replaced by transplant is the Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep. Still abundantly present are black bear, deer, fox, badger, skunk, weasel, mountain lion, and many other species.

The word "Gila" was coined by Spanish explorers who arrived in the region from Mexico in 1539. The Yuma Indians called the river Hah-quah-sa-el (running salty water) with the accent on the last syllable. The Spanish shortened the mouthful of sounds keeping only the last syllable, and Gila evolved.

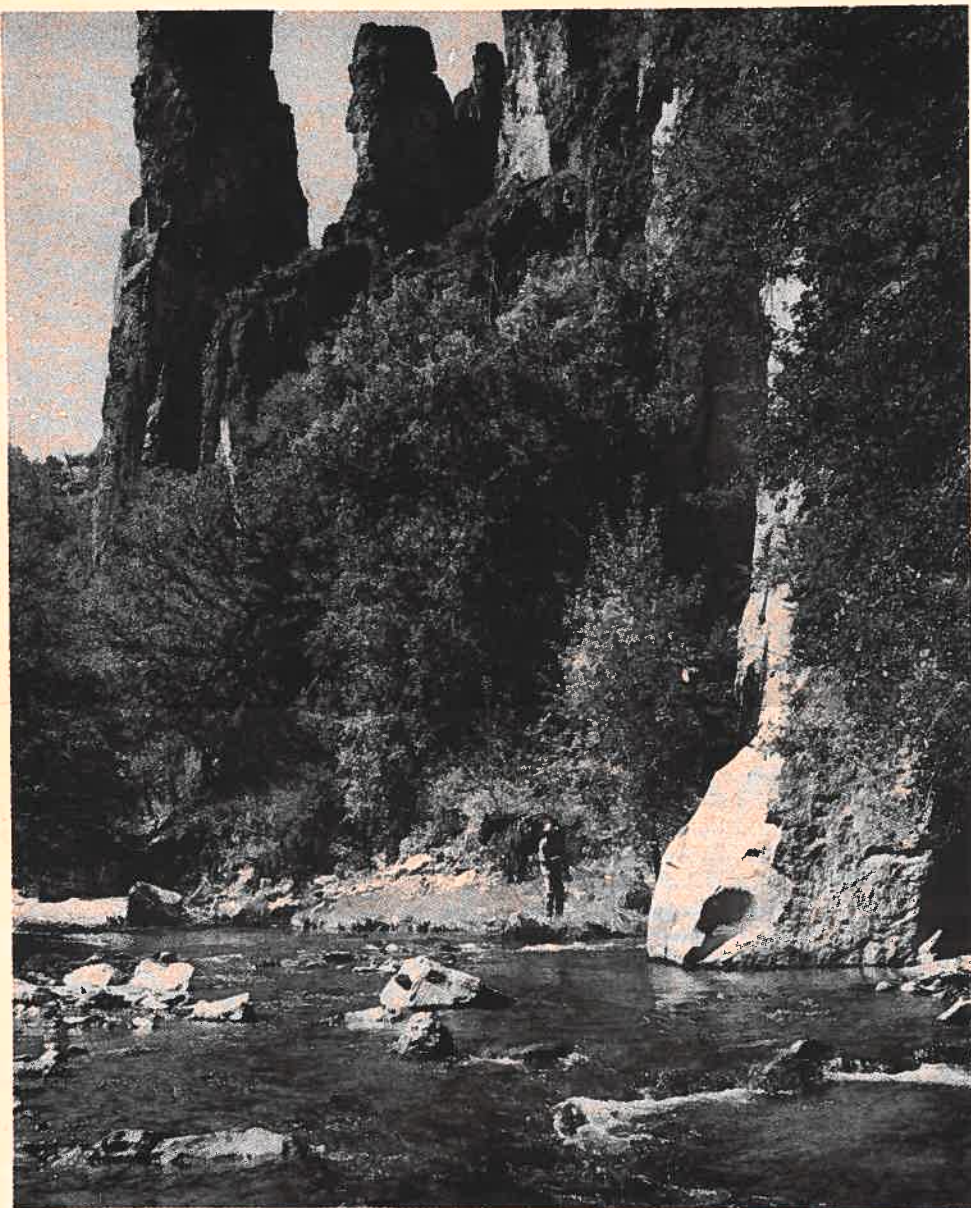
The European influence on the Gila began slowly. Following some initial exploration, the Spanish and later the Mexicans showed little interest except for the copper mines at Santa Rita near Silver City. Not until the early 19th century did American trappers begin to work the area. The major reason for the lack of interest was the presence of the feared Apaches, a people that appeared in the 13th century.

Despite the dangers, trappers were followed by prospectors and then stockmen and farmers. The influx stepped up after the war with Mexico and the Gadsden Purchase. Shortly before the close of the 19th century, gold and silver discoveries brought short-lived booms. Towns sprang up but faded into history as mine profits dropped. The gold saga was a repetition of every effort to tame the Gila country. No enterprise has ever

Lilley Mountain, Park, and Canyon bear the name of another settler, John H. Lilley. Two Irish brothers, William and Baxter McKenzie, built McKenzie Cabin near the junction of White Creek and the West Fork of the Gila.

As the Indian menace faded in the 1890's, more settlers came and new trouble arose. "As the Indians had quit killing people off," Woodrow wrote, "these later settlers, when they got tired of one another, the best man with a gun killed his neighbor and got him out of the way."

Evidence of this attitude can be seen by Wilderness hikers at another marked grave. William Grudgings is buried just south of the site where the Grudgings family built a cabin. William and Tom Grudgings were shot down by another settler, Thomas J. Wood, after the Grudgings killed Wood's son. Beside the



Middle Fork of the Gila River

completely prospered in the Mogollons. The cliff dwellers left after some 800 years; homesteaders, like the miners, came and went. The country seems to insist on remaining wild.

As people attempted to wrest wealth from the land they drew heavily on the resources of the forest. The elk was the first major species to disappear into the pot. Timber for mines and lumber was cut indiscriminately. To stop the destruction, President McKinley, March 2, 1899, proclaimed the Mogollon Mountains and the surrounding area the Gila River Forest Reserve.

The modern Forest Service came into being in 1905, and the Forest Reserves became National Forests in 1907. The word "reserve" implied that the land was withdrawn from use which was not the case.

Henry Woodrow joined the Forest Service in 1909 as a fire guard and later became Ranger for McKenna Park District of the Gila, a District that now lies within the Wilderness. From his diary and from what he learned about earlier times, he compiled *The History of McKenna Park District*.

Place names were of particular interest. Prior Canyon, Woodrow wrote, was named by homesteader Thomas C. Prior in the 1880's.

Grudging's Wilderness grave is another occupied by a rancher named James Huffman. He was shot during a dispute over cattle. Another grave belongs to James F. "Bear" Moore who tangled with a bear and was left so disfigured he chose to live far from other people.

## SPAWNING GROUNDS OF THE INFAMOUS

During this period, as mining towns and ranches grew, outlaws made an appearance. Among the residents of Graham, a mine-mill town that once stood at the western edge of what is now the Wilderness, were Mr. and Mrs. William Antrim. Antrim was the town blacksmith. The couple's only claim to fame came through Mrs. Antrim's infamous son, best known as Billy the Kid.

The Wild Bunch, led by Butch Cassidy, were known in the Gila area in the 1890's only as hard working cowhands employed by the WS Ranch near Glenwood. But when they felt the need for cash they terrorized the country as far north as Wyoming with robberies and killings. On one of their forays, the Wild Bunch were careless in covering their tracks. Pinkerton detectives trailed them to Alma, another nearby mining town. The Bunch, also

known as the "Hole in The Wall Gang," was forced to hide out in Whitewater Canyon. Apache Chiefs Geronimo and Nana and their bands also were known to use the craggy canyons. Those wild, bloody days dimmed quickly into history as civilization moved west. Only the wild country remained.

Leopold entered the scene in 1909, fresh from the Yale School of Forestry. Timber reconnaissance work took him over much of the Gila National Forest and he realized that some of this land should be protected from man's encroachment.

After promotions through various levels to Assistant District (now Regional) Forester in Albuquerque, Leopold made frequent inspection trips to the Gila, and in the heart of the Forest found what he felt should be set aside for future generations. His inspection report of November 2, 1922, reflected his feelings and was convincing enough to bring action two years later. The area included what are now the adjacent Gila and Black Range Primitive Areas, a total roadless area of 733,663 acres. Several boundary and designation changes were made during the 1930's but the total Wilderness remained essentially intact.

## NATIONAL PARK CONVERSION EFFORTS FAILED

An attempt to turn the Wilderness into a National Park was successfully opposed. The reasons for the opposition were detailed in a January 5, 1938, letter from Regional Forester Pooler to the Chief of the Forest Service in which Pooler said:

...A kaleidoscopic picture of the march of time would depict many of life's tragedies resulting from contacts of one wave of civilization with another. At night when one is alone he can build in his mind's eye a real hair-raising murder story as he thinks of the numerous known killings that have occurred within the area since white men began to run trap lines.

But the very thing that we see and love above everything else in the Gila Wilderness—its solitude, its backwoods setting and atmosphere, would be lost forever, I fear, if a national park should be created. Today the man with jittery nerves who jumps at the toot of a horn may find solace even in the thought of the Gila where he may go to fish, hunt, ride, walk or just rest without fear of being hit by a speeding auto, and without the discordant notes that typify civilization. If a high-powered road should be constructed so as to make the Gila "available" to the people, it would be goodbye wilderness forever...

In 1944, 5,150 acres containing deposits of fluorite, needed in the war effort, were excluded from the Wilderness. Reclassification again occurred in 1953 when the separate Gila Wilderness with 438,626 acres and the Gila Primitive Area with 137,388 acres were formed. At this point, these two areas were roughly recognizable as they are today.

Following passage of the Wilderness Act in 1964, the Gila Wilderness became a unit of the National Wilderness Preservation System. The same Law required that Primitive Areas, including the Gila and Black Range be studied for possible inclusion in the System, a process that is now underway. It is its recommendation for Wilderness classification for the Black Range Primitive Area, now before Congress, the Forest Service proposed that the name be changed to the Aldo Leopold Wilderness.

The honor would be well placed. But Leopold lived to see the major monument to his life in conservation—the entire Wilderness System which continues to grow through the efforts of new leaders who build on the foundation so carefully laid 50 years ago.

## COLORFUL SPEAKERS AND FESTIVITIES

Summer will be issued in June 2 & 3 with a whiz bang celebration of the Gila's 50th anniversary. Arts and crafts will be exhibited

(Continued on Page 4)

By BRANT CALKIN  
CCH

## Lujan and Runnels Vote for Industry Strip Mining Bill

At a very important meeting of the House Interior Committee last February 27th, New Mexico representatives, Harold Runnels and Manuel Lujan, voted for the industry version of the strip mining legislation in Congress.

It was at this meeting of the House Interior Committee that Representative Craig Hosmer of California attempted to substitute the industry strip mining bill for the strip mining bill which had come out of the House Interior subcommittee. Because the industry bill which Hosmer was sponsoring was so completely adverse to environmental interests, a successful substitution of this bill, as the Committee mark-up vehicle, would have essentially killed all hopes of decent strip mining legislation in this Congress. The committee vote to substitute Hosmer's bill was close. There were 19 votes for the Hosmer bill and 21 votes against. Voting to substitute the industry bill were Manuel Lujan and Harold Runnels.

## Runnels Votes Against National Land Use Bill

The House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs favorably reported out of Committee H.R. 10294 or the Land Use Planning Act of 1974. This bill, which closely resembles S. 268 sponsored by Senator Henry Jackson, is considered extremely important by environmental organizations, almost all of whom strongly recommended that it be supported.

In the Committee's roll call vote on January 22, Representative Harold Runnels of New Mexico voted against a favorable recommendation from the Committee. Congressman Manuel Lujan of New Mexico was reported as not voting. The Land Use Planning Act is currently stalled in House Rules Committee because of an adverse vote.

## Dig, Hike, and Just Plain Loaf

By JOHN COLBURN

Seventeen hardy souls are needed July 8-18 to rebuild some three miles of Miller Springs Trail through the Ponderosa pines of the Gila Wilderness. Water bars must be installed, switchback cuts eliminated, and portions of the trail need re-routing. The work crew will set up a base camp five miles from the road head and will hike out along the trail to the work site. The actual trail work will be under the supervision of a Forest Service trail foreman.

The trip will not be all work, however. Alternate days are set aside for rest and relaxation, and some of the possibilities include hiking, exploring relatively untouched cliff-dwellings, pine-cone football, cloud watching, and just plain loafing. Everyone is expected to help with communal chores and cooking on a rotational basis.

Personal gear is limited to twenty pounds per person, and everyone is expected to pack his own gear and a part of the group equipment. The Forest Service might assist by packing in some of the food and heavy equipment and tools.

The trip is open to Sierra Club members, age sixteen or older, who are physically and mentally capable of living and working under wilderness conditions. The cost will be \$60.00 which will cover food, group equipment, insurance, and administrative expenses. Only seventeen applicants will be accepted, and final acceptance will be made by the trip leader. Please contact John Colburn, 7317 Parkland Dr., El Paso, Texas 79925.

Attempts may be made in the next several weeks to bring it out of House Rules Committee for floor action.

## Domenici in General Agreement with Views on Predator Control

Because Senator Domenici of New Mexico was a co-signer of a recent letter along with 20 other Senators to Rogers Morton critical of Morton and the Administration's stand on Predator Control, the chapter Executive Committee recently sent a letter to the Senator explaining the Sierra Club policy in this regard.

This policy, which opposes the use of poisons for predator control, but does not oppose the controlled use of traps and shooting to take individual predators brought the comment, "I am in general agreement," and "I would never support the indiscriminate use of poisons," from Senator Domenici. Future correspondence with Senator Domenici and other members of the Congressional Delegation will be prepared. We should determine, for example, what Senator Domenici means by "indiscriminate."

## Entire Congressional Delegation Supports Use of Toxaphene

A comment in an agricultural newspaper recently indicated that the entire state Congressional Delegation had been active in seeking EPA authorization to use Toxaphene to control range caterpillars in New Mexico.

Toxaphene is a persistent chlorinated hydrocarbon much like DDT and its use has been opposed by environmentalists in New Mexico. Ranchers, however, prefer Toxaphene to more expensive alternative chemicals.

## Runnels' Gila Wild River Bill is a Trick

Last year Congressman Harold Runnels introduced a bill to study the Gila River for inclusion in the Federal Wild Rivers system.

Many people thought that Congressman Runnels might, therefore, be sympathetic to the idea of placing the Gila River in the Wild Rivers system. The real motive it turns out was to expedite the construction of the notorious Hooker Dam which would back water 19 miles through the Gila Primitive Area and into the Gila Wilderness.

The Hooker Dam, which is a pork barrel adjunct to the Central Arizona Project, was opposed by environmental organizations all over the country when it came up for congressional consideration in 1968. Congressman Runnels recently sent a letter to the residents of Grant and Catron Counties in which he explained "I...undertook a personal study of methods to speed up the project (the Hooker Dam) based on the opinion that New Mexico should not have to wait for the Arizona Project to be completed..." He found that among the choices for speeding up the project was to "use legislation calling for a study of the Gila River for inclusion in the Wild Rivers system for the purpose of gathering factual information on the need for flood controls." Runnels' letter further went on to say:

"The Wild Rivers Study Bill would provide the information needed to support acceleration of the Hooker Project. Once the desired goal of the Study was obtained, New Mexico would be in the position of having factual information to get the project underway."

The laws of adhesion and Rubber Cement work their way on mankind. In the last issue of THE SIERRAN a by-line slipped off unnoticed and the delightful art work was unidentified. Our apologies and thanks to Linda Ray, whose sketches will be appearing in THE SIERRAN now and then.



Is the Sierra Club's ability to achieve its goals in Congress diminishing? This disturbing question pervaded the April meeting of the Southwest Regional Conservation Committee (SWRCC) in Durango. According to John McComb, the Sierra Club's Southwest Staff Representative who spends a significant amount of time in contact with southwestern congressmen, our impact on national legislation needs improvement. McComb pointed out that we haven't really used our clout in Congress since the defeat of the SST. He informed us that congressmen reported receiving very little mail on the national land use legislation issue (which was tabled by the House Rules Committee as a result of heavy last-minute lobbying by industry and labor). Land use planning is one of the national priorities of the Sierra Club and this legislation was the subject of a number of mailers to the entire membership.

Sierra Club and this legislation was the subject of a number of mailers to the entire membership.

In addition to land use planning, energy policy and wilderness classification are national priorities of the Sierra Club. Energy-related actions in Congress reflect the currently difficult climate: profiting from apprehension brought about by fuel shortages, the opposition has succeeded in hastening through Congress poorly conceived Alaska oil legislation, is taking repeated jabs at clean air provisions through "emergency energy" bills, and reasonable strip-mining legislation narrowly escaped decimation in the House Interior Committee. With respect to wilderness, Congress and conservationists face the enormous task of acting on 300-400 proposals of which only those few which are noncontroversial are likely to be approved in omnibus legislation.

Are the American people, including Sierra Club members, less strongly committed to environmental safeguards than they were a few years ago? Judging by national public opinion polls and our membership numbers which are beginning to rise again, this is not the case. What then are the problems and what can we do about them?

In the last few years, the Club has decentralized in an effort to better involve its large membership and to cope with their myriad concerns. Although this approach has solved some problems, it has created another, that of spreading ourselves very thin. Directives on national efforts have to compete with local members' interest in local problems. A remedy discussed at SWRCC was that the Club, from the national to the group level, should narrow its undertakings. Wielding our full clout in Congress will require local concerns to yield temporarily to the time and effort needed to prevail at the national level.

As to the problem of lack of letters to congressmen, SWRCC participants tended to infer that members are wearing down after years of frequent appeals for letters. Nonetheless, it is hard to avoid the fact that our past successes have derived from our ability to counter well-funded industrial lobbying by our ability to flood Congress with mail. We will need to re-examine our letter-getting techniques: via new membership, tapping yet-unused sources of letters, improving phone chains and rotating the letter-writing load so that we do not rely on the same members for every issue.

## BLM Lands In Limbo

**Ed. Note: This is a statement of Brant Calkin, Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club, on H.R. 5441, the National Resources Lands Management Act of 1973, before the public lands subcommittee, committee on interior and insular affairs, House of Representatives, in Albuquerque, New Mexico on January 9, 1974.**

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

My name is Brant Calkin and I am a member of the Executive Committee of the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club. It is on behalf of that organization that I am appearing here today. The Rio Grande Chapter encompasses the State of New Mexico and El Paso and Hudspeth Counties in Texas and has over 1,100 members who are interested in resource management and environmental quality.

We in New Mexico are inextricably linked economically, environmentally and socially to the public domain lands which lie within our borders. The public domain lands in New Mexico amount to over 13 million acres. While these lands are national in their ownership, it is true that New Mexico received particular benefit from this vast acreage. Just to give you an idea of how important the public domain lands are to New Mexico's agricultural economy, I should point out that over 2,000 livestock operators currently hold grazing permits and that the public domain lands account for over a million and a half animal unit months per year of forage utilization. This does not count the more than 40 thousand big game animals which also inhabit public domain lands.

In this period in history, when the nation is looking toward domestic energy reserves, New Mexico's public domain lands represent a national energy asset of considerable value. I think the committee should be aware that New Mexico's public domain lands have oil, gas, coal and uranium under lease. It is also true that some of the public domain lands in New Mexico may prove to be suitable for the utilization of solar energy when the appropriate technology is available. In the

meantime, the over 199,000 acres which the Bureau of Land Management already has leased for coal development is an interim energy source.

But we are not only concerned about the public domain for its agricultural and mineral energy capabilities, but because we also utilize public domain for recreation. The public domain lands in New Mexico had over three million visits last year and, thus, contributed some unknown but appreciable amount to the State's 400 million dollar annual tourist revenues. Outstanding recreational, archaeological and wildlife resources are currently being administered by the Bureau of Land Management in New Mexico. Several pieces of particular importance would include the Bisti area near Farmington, the duck habitat of the San Simon Cienega and the cathedral-like scenic beauty of the Organ Mountains, all of which lie in Congressman Runnels' district.

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Bob Howard, 1522 Stanford NE, Albuquerque, 87106—Brant Calkin, Secy., c/o Central Clearing House, 338 E. de Vargas, Santa Fe 87501—Mike Williams, Rt. 5, Box 229A, Santa Fe 87501—Frank Bond, 540 Camino Rancheros, Santa Fe 87501—Bob Watt, 1447 45th St., Los Alamos 87544—Phil Shultz, Box 66, Tesuque 87574—John Gavahan, Box 36, Montezuma 87731—Dave Foreman, P.O. Box 157, Glenwood 88039—Sherron Kirkpatrick, Treas., 228 El Conejo, Los Alamos, 87544.

## Candidates on the Environment

Ed. Note: Candidates for forthcoming gubernatorial and congressional offices were invited to submit a brief statement on the environment to THE SIERRAN. ALL candidates registering prior to March 29 were contacted, with the following responding. Gubernatorial candidates were asked to comment on what they would do if faced with a repeal of the 1974 legislative action which rendered the state Environmental Quality Act dead. Candidates for both offices were also requested to comment on what they considered priority issues in the state and how they should be handled.

### SEN. JERRY APODACA, CANDIDATE FOR GOVERNOR

The most pressing environmental concern we have is the enactment of a new Environmental Quality Act, unwisely repealed this year by the governor. The legislature also acted foolishly in not passing the CEQ's proposal on environmental impact statements.

I supported the original SB 62, introduced by Sen. John Rogers. As written, the bill only required state agencies to do what the federal government has mandated for itself. It was a reasonable bill.

Environmental impact statements are necessary to protect the quality of the New Mexico environment. As governor, I would propose and support a new Environmental Quality Act, along with a bill requiring state agencies to file impact statements. This time, these bills, will get the firm support of the new governor.

The development of a sound land use plan for the state is another top priority. We need to protect scenic and wilderness areas, prime agricultural lands and wildlife habitats. The land use plan must be geared to control out-of-state development schemes in particular.

I'm tired of people saying we have to forget our environmental goals because of the energy crisis. We should not do permanent damage to the environment because of a temporary problem. I favor state funding of research projects in solar and geothermal energy. But I do not favor relaxing environmental standards during the energy crisis. I do favor strong controls on strip mining, for example.

I would also like to see more state money to expand the state trails system, with the proper funding for the Rio Grande Trail, the Pecos River Trail and the Dona Ana Trail. These horseback, hiking and bicycle trails will promote the health and well-being of all our citizens.

### JOE SKEEN, CANDIDATE FOR GOVERNOR

One of our greatest assets is our clean air, plus our clean water. Both of these natural gifts must be protected and preserved and this should be our No. 1 priority.

The repeal of our Environmental Control Act must be overturned. I am sure that we can produce a new control act which will not only protect our environment, but which at the same time will not impose too rigid restrictions on our farmers and ranchers in the intelligent use of our lands.

Our State Legislature can produce such an act and render it unnecessary for the Federal Government to impose an act upon us which might prove detrimental to this state which has problems different from most other states.

As Governor I would work closely with the Legislature to produce a workable, fair and equitable act.

That would mean a control act which would not only insure the protection of our environment, but would enable us to produce the items we need to exist and to provide adequate incomes for us all.

### SEN. ODIS ECHOLS, CANDIDATE FOR GOVERNOR

In general, I believe that concern for the quality of New Mexico's environment should take a very high priority in the administration of our State Government. New Mexico is blessed with a beautiful and healthful environment that is threatened in a variety of ways. These trends must be reversed if we are to continue to have a New Mexico environment that is habitable.

More specifically, I believe that laws relating to the preservation of our environment should be strengthened by increasing the penalties provided for violation of them. At the same time, I believe that certain governmental incentives should be provided to encourage polluting industries to put their own houses in order. It is important that we consider short range gains only in the context of long range economic and environmental impact. I was disappointed in the repeal of the Environmental Quality Act by the 1974 legislature. As Governor, I would support re-establishment of a workable Environmental Quality Act.

As Governor, I would make a point of consulting frequently with those citizens interested in, and those agencies charged with, the quality of the environment. I have been impressed with the diligence of those groups which have worked on environmental issues in the years that I have been in the legislature, and I would welcome an opportunity to work with them while serving as Governor of New Mexico.

### LT. GOV. ROBERT MONDRAGON, CANDIDATE FOR U.S. CONGRESS

Industry in New Mexico presents a serious dilemma. Much of New Mexico, especially in the north, has chronically high unemployment rates. Some form of additional employment is needed in the area.

First, we must continue to encourage industry in New Mexico which utilizes as much local labor as possible. The importation of large numbers of outside personnel increases the service liabilities of local governmental units without increasing the tax base sufficiently to offset the liabilities. Second, no industry should be allowed which will not meet strict environmental standards.

A policy of "no growth" is a strategic error because population and earning power continue to rise in New Mexico. We cannot decide that any area should permit no new industry when there is a real need for additional jobs and revenue in that area. On the other hand, a policy of welcoming any industry which wishes to move in is plainly immoral and most likely a severe economic mistake. I believe that there needs to be a reasonable compromise of the total environmental picture—emissions, tax bases, water pollution, employment, quality of life and the like.

I favor federal legislation which would require effective land reclamation of areas which are being strip mined. I feel that this is a burden which we must bear.

I wholeheartedly endorse the resolution which passed the State Democratic Convention in Albuquerque which calls for an Environmental Quality Act which would require an environmental impact statement by state agencies whose actions would significantly affect the quality of the human environment. I would favor re-instating the Environmental Quality Act, which was repealed at the last session, as soon as possible.

### SEN. TIBO J. CHAVEZ

The natural beauty of our land gives the phrase "quality of life" a special meaning for New Mexicans. Our priceless environment is fragile and must be protected, and environmentally aware groups like the Sierra Club have made an invaluable contribution by heightening public consciousness of environmental issues.

New Mexico's clean air and magnificent vistas represent one of the state's greatest assets and should be treated as such. But at the same time, the state's per capita income is the fifth lowest in the nation. We must seek industrial development to create new and better jobs for our citizens—but it must be the kind of clean, modern development that will strengthen our economy while respecting the land. We must also assure that our unique cultural and historical sites are preserved for posterity.

As we seek development, we must also reject pressures toward economic growth at any social price. We must insist on careful planning that will help prevent problems such as urban sprawl, air and water pollution, social alienation and resultant drug abuse and heavy crime. It's far easier to prevent such problems than to try to cope with them once they appear.

The people have a reverence for the land here. We have a moral obligation to pass along not only that feeling of respect and love for the land, but the Land of Enchantment itself, to our children.

(Continued on Page 4)

## COMING



## EVENTS

endangered species, we are keenly aware of their scientific, educational, aesthetic and recreational values to man, though these may be difficult to express in monetary terms. For other species, their benefits to man may be as yet unrecognized.

The richness of life on earth has sprung from genetic diversity, and man's influence has destroyed increasing numbers of gene pools. With man's present power to destroy life-forms and habitats, it is well to remember Aldo Leopold's advice that the first principle of intelligent tinkering is to save all the pieces.

Saving an endangered species has other values for mankind. Some persons will feel ethical rewards in not destroying a species that man could not recreate. It is, moreover, an act of self-denial for man to set aside living space in his increasingly crowded world for a life-form he might survive without. His act becomes an exercise in self-discipline, a quality that may well determine man's own future.

## Are You Delinquent?

Under present Sierra Club procedure, each member receives a dues notice a month before his membership expires—that is, on the anniversary of his joining. If dues are not paid, he receives a reminder letter about a month later. A month after that a second letter is sent. If, after all this, dues are not received, a third letter goes out and the member's name is placed on inactive status. If the member renews after that, his name must be reinstated on all appropriate lists in the Club office, as well as on Chapter and Group lists. The last two are done by volunteers and cost only their time. But it costs the Club nearly \$5.00 for all the mailings, computer changes, etc., which might have been used for conservation.



NEW MEXICO'S FINEST

## River Runners, Get out your Life Jackets

By BOBE E. WATT

River rafters have only about a week to apply for the May 18 White Canyon run. This year's trip will be somewhat restricted by the closure of Cochiti Dam. The takeout point we have used in the past, the beach at the old Dam area, is now flooded so we must make do with a much smaller and steeper bank near the road. A dozen boats will fill the available space so we must drastically reduce the size of the party. (Last year there were 85 participants and 35 boatmen.)

We will not have room for "attached parties" and encourage them to go another day. There are other trips scheduled in May; George Bell is leading one on May 6 and invites competent rafters to join his party. Make arrangements directly with George: his telephone number is 662-2554 and his address is 794 43rd, Los Alamos, NM 87544.

Our primary goal in these annual whitewater runs is to introduce Sierra Club members to the pleasures of river travel and, since passenger space will be limited,

priorities will be: persons who have never been on a river trip before and were turned down last year; new applicants who have never been through White Rock Canyon by raft, but may have been on some other river trip; members who have been on a previous SC raft trip through White Rock Canyon, with the highest priority going to those with the longest time since their last trip.

For many reasons we can accept only Sierra Club members and their minor children. All passengers must be able to take care of themselves if they are thrown out of the raft or if the raft capsizes.

Persons interested may contact Bob E. Watt starting May 3rd at 6:30 p.m., phone: (505) 662-3728; address: 1447 45th, Los Alamos NM 87544. Letters arriving before the above date will be opened in random order and will be counted as arriving at the starting time. Usually there are twice as many requests as we have passenger spaces, so write promptly!

## NEW MEXICO MINE NEWS

A new director of New Mexico Bureau of Mines and Mineral Resources Div. of the New Mexico School of Mining and Technology has been appointed out of more than 50 applicants. Dr. Frank Kottowski has been with the bureau since 1951 and had been serving as acting director since the resignation of Don Baker, Jr. last July. The bureau investigates and reports on the geology of New Mexico and on mineral resources.

The Navajo Tribal Council has agreed to allow uranium exploration of 400,000 acres of land near Four Corners by Exxon Corp. The

BIA and Dept. of Interior must give final approval before exploration may begin. According to Chmn. Peter McDonald, the benefits to the tribe over the next 10-15 years would be \$100 million.

Gallup Gomerco Coal Co. of NM. has signed an option which would lease on a long-term basis its McKinley County coal reserves to California Portland Cement Co. The out-of-state company will begin immediately testing reserves to determine quality and quantity of the coal deposit. Approximately 150 million tons are estimated as recoverable reserves.

# GROUNDWORK LAID FOR ROADLESS STUDIES

by Shirley Alsop

Small wonder that the Holiday Inn East survived the April 20th weekend what with realtors meeting in one room and wilderness freaks in the next. (The realtors were the ones with the plastic covered, typewritten name tags.)

Two excellent slide presentations, background sketches, a panel consisting of land agency officials and conservation reps, and small informal topic discussions served as hors d'oeuvres on Saturday. But the main course came on Sunday (by this time the number of participants had dwindled to around 100).

Symposium staff members discussed specific methods for wilderness activists. Dave Foreman gave a slide presentation on How to Conduct a Wilderness Study (and Have Fun While You're Doing It), and regional groups again formed for work sessions on their areas of interest.

Thanks to the herculean efforts of Debby Sease, Dave Foreman, Don Campbell, Bob and Phil Howard, and Phil Tollesrud, the industry bill were Manuel Lujan and Harold Runnels.

## Runnels Votes Against National Land Use Bill

The House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs favorably reported out of Committee H.R. 10294 or the Land Use Planning Act of 1974. This bill, which closely resembles S. 268 sponsored by Senator Henry Jackson, is considered extremely important by environmental organizations, almost all of whom strongly recommended that it be supported.

In the Committee's roll call vote on January 22, Representative Harold Runnels of New Mexico voted against a favorable recommendation from the Committee. Congressman Manuel Lujan of New Mexico was reported as not voting. The Land Use Planning Act is currently stalled in House Rules Committee because of an adverse vote.

## Dig, Hike, and

will study area for wilderness or BLM will study area for primitive area designation

(continued from Page 1)

and backpacking demonstrations and a musical concert will accent the occasion. John Denver is reported to be composing a special ballad and the Forest Service is "still working on him to come to the celebration." Commemorative Medallions, decorative stamps, and bumper stickers will also be issued. The Wilderness Society will present a bronze plaque to the Forest Service recognizing their efforts to preserve wilderness.

Sunday, June 3 there will be an official ceremony at the Gila Cliff Dwelling National Monument Visitors Center. Arthur Godfrey will be Master of Ceremonies; Ear Butz, Secretary of the Dept. of Agriculture, will be the main speaker, and special guests will include Sigrid Olson, past President of the Wilderness Society, Senator Anderson, members of the Aldo Leopold family, Congressional delegates, and Governors of Western states. Sunday afternoon there will be a big barbecue at the Visitor's Center put on by the Hurley and Silver City Kiwanis Clubs.

There are a variety of motels and hotels offering accommodations in Silver City, and the Forest Service maintains several campgrounds in the area. Conservationists are urged to mark this weekend with a red star on their calendars and plan to attend the festivities as a demonstration of their support of the wilderness concept. People in the southwestern part of New Mexico have not been generally in support of wilderness designations. This is our opportunity to show them that wilderness can be an economic boom to their communities. See you there!

SE:  
White Mtns. Additions 1

Cornudas #1  
Mescalero Sands #1  
SW:  
Big Hatchet Mtns. #1

A-Four Area 1

Organ Mtns. #1

Blue Range Mtns. 4

CENTRAL:  
Ladron #3

Guadalupe 2/Mt. Taylor 1

Congressional Delegation will be prepared. We should determine, for example, what Senator Domenici means by "indiscriminate."

## Entire Congressional Delegation Supports Use of Toxaphene

A comment in an agricultural newspaper recently indicated that the entire state Congressional Delegation had been active in seeking EPA authorization to use Toxaphene to control range caterpillars in New Mexico.

Toxaphene is a persistent chlorinated hydrocarbon much like DDT and its use has been opposed by environmentalists in New Mexico. Ranchers, however, prefer Toxaphene to more expensive alternative chemicals.

## Runnels' Gila Wild River Bill is a Trick

Last year Congressman Harold Runnels introduced a bill to study the Gila River for inclusion in the Federal Wild Rivers system. Many people thought that Congressman Runnels might, therefore, be sympathetic to the idea of placing the Gila River in the Wild

NW:  
Simmon Canyon #0  
Negro Canyon #0  
Rattlesnake Canyon #0

Paul Kiebel, 705 Fitch, Socorro 87801 (835-0759); John Colburn, 7317 Parkland Dr., El Paso 79925 (915-778-5620)

See above  
Bill Bishop, 705 Palomas SE, Abq. 87108 (266-0735)

John Blagbrough, 4745 Southern SE, Abq. 87108 (268-4871); Doug & Linda Rhodes, 1307 Bonita Circle SW, Abq. 87105 (873-2703)

Dave Foreman, PO Box 157, Glenwood 88039 (539-2697)

Jim Christensen, C214 Garcia NMSU, Las Cruces 88001 (646-4493); Glen Banks, Rm C121 Garcia, NMSU, Las Cruces 88003 (646-3252)

Ad Hoc Comm. being formed for home work; Tony Wolfe, Box 58, Luna 87824

Phil Tollesrud, 11408 Golden Gate Ave. NE, Abq. 87111 (299-1659)

Jan Cummings, 1618 Bayita Lane NW, Abq. 87107 (344-4090)

Harry McDonald, 620 Sierra SE, Abq. 87108 (265-2842)

Harold O'Hayre, 8306 Apache NE, Abq. 87110 (294-6056) during summer; Steve Miller, Dept. of Phys. Rec. NMT, Socorro 87801 (835-5131) for fall

Protho Hoard, 117 Sherwood, Los Alamos 87544 (672-3356) for all Jemez areas

Don Campbell, 338 E. deVargas, Santa Fe 87501 (982-4349); Ron Grotbeck, 2083B Edw. Pl. SE Abq. 87118 (268-7085); John Lavahan, Box 36, Montezuma 87731 (25-8813)

George Grossman, 1391 Santa Rosa Dr., Santa Fe 87501 (982-1024); Milo Conrad, 601 Haines NE, Abq. 87112 (298-2989) for all Carson areas

Don Lyngholm, Box 998, Shiprock 87420 (368-4841); Belva Christensen, 715 W. Apache, Farmington 87401 (325-5566 evenings) for all NW areas

Continued from Page 3

## REP. HAROLD RUNNELS

The problems facing our society have never been more complex than they are today. Nowhere is this more true than the area of the environment.

For too many years, we were guilty of ignoring the environmental problems. Our reappraisal of old ways was long overdue in many cases and in recent years both state and federal governments have passed new legislation designed to establish new environmental direction.

No longer can we afford to be obsessed with development at any cost. Nor can we allow our environmental concern to stop progress altogether. The problems of meeting our needs, while maintaining a quality of life that is provided by a clean environment, can be solved provided Americans work together to get the job done.

New Mexico, as a leading national supplier of raw materials related to energy, has a very definite interest in the government regulation of the environment. In my opinion, the state has a responsibility to take the lead in regulating the use of our air, water, land and other natural resources. However, if the state fails to maintain the condition under which man and nature can exist in harmony, you can be sure that the federal government will seek to impose its will on the citizens of New Mexico.

I personally feel that the citizens of New Mexico are in the best position to know and solve their own environmental problems. I am convinced that local and regional concerns are best resolved at that level—especially where regulations are created.

Because I feel so strongly in state's rights, I am hopeful that the citizens of New Mexico will support the development of policy that allows continued growth, with proper environmental protection.

This is not the time for two sides to square off, draw a line in the dirt, and dare the other to cross it. It is the time for all of us to work together as society has made its position known. Society wants both economic growth and environmental protection.

(As stated in attached letter: ... and believe they [the citizens of New Mexico] should consider self-determination as they are called upon to voice their position on the New Mexico Environmental Quality Act.)

## Environmental Ethics

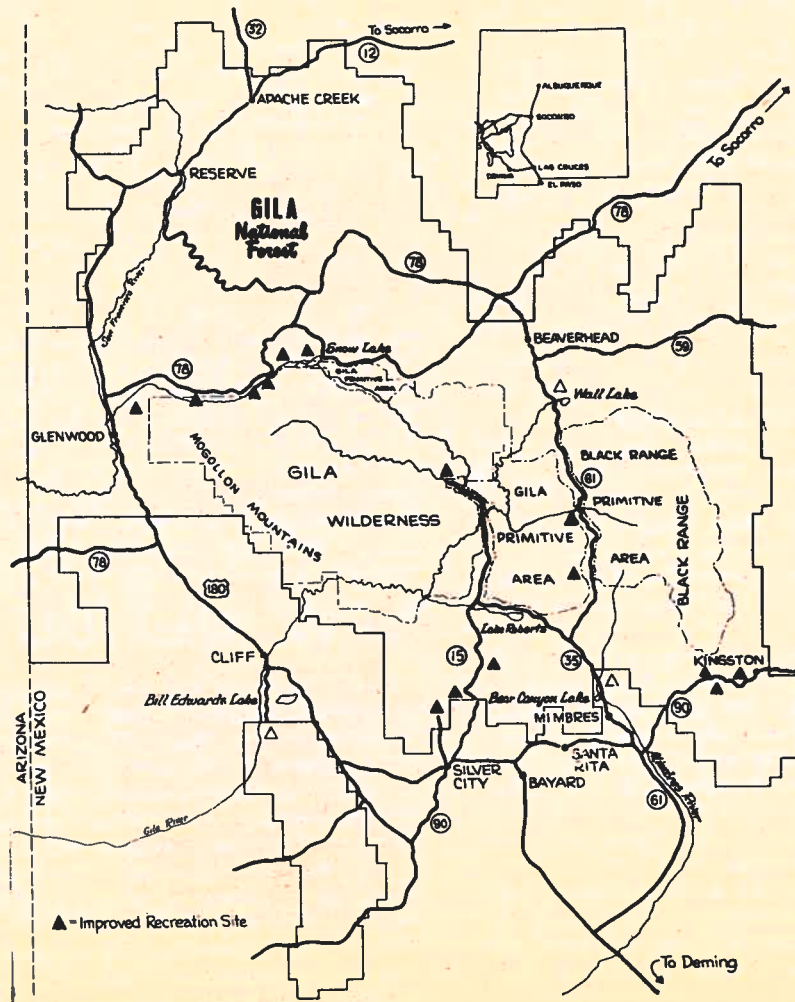
by RICHARD TRIBBY, JR.

Since the Industrial Revolution, the accelerating growth of science and applied technology has given us increased power and new tools to use this planet as we choose. Our skill and ingenuity in manipulating the environment have produced tremendous benefits to human life. We used our scientific discoveries and our technological wonders for the purpose of enhancing life, but in the process we gave too little thought to the second- or third-order consequences of our actions. We failed to anticipate the fact that environmental modifications which have accompanied our good intentions, have a global impact on human health and welfare in direct and indirect ways and on the generations to follow.

The wave of indignation about problems of pollution which crested in the late 1960's has led our society to the discovery that we are dependent on and part of an eco-system that we did not invent and must not destroy. Perhaps no environmental problem illustrated more clearly than that of pollution the complex interactions that take place throughout the ecosystem, and the caution that must be exercised to be sure that beneficial changes made by man in one part of the system do not create serious damage in another.

Now, more and more people within our society want to participate in the development of a new environmental ethic (a way of life which will allow us to retain and improve the life enhancing features of technology without repeating and intensifying the mistakes of the past). All over America, change is taking place—change that challenges the pessimistic view that man is helpless to control the technological forces he has set in motion:

Continued on Page 7



## Endangered Species Bill Funded

By NORMA AMES  
ASST. CHIEF, GAME MAN.

The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish has existed for the purpose of keeping certain wildlife populations in productive condition for the recreational use of humans. Our conservation and management efforts have been directed primarily toward the species that are hunted and fished because we lacked legislative authority to manage other species and we operated on funds paid by sportsmen for the production of hunting and fishing opportunity. Other wildlife species, however, have benefitted incidentally from our work, especially when we preserved and improved wildlife habitat.

Very few endangered species came within our jurisdiction. These few include the Gila trout and the Mexican duck through their legal status as game species and the black-footed ferret through its legal designation of "nonpredator fur-bearing animal." In 1971 the peregrine falcon was added through legislation protecting hawks, owls and vultures. Through harvest regulations and administration of collecting permits, the Game Department has banned or severely limited the taking of these species. In addition, two of them, thus far, have been afforded restorative measures: habitat protection and development for the Mexican duck and transplants to additional protected habitat for the Gila trout. Beneficial measures have also been possible for certain other species considered rare, though not endangered: the Rio Grande cutthroat, the prairie falcon and the lesser prairie chicken.

Department personnel, however, have long recognized a need for work to help other kinds of wildlife possibly threatened with extinction. In September 1972, the Department hosted a symposium on the rare and endangered wildlife of the southwestern United States. This provided much information important to the future management of many species both within and outside the jurisdiction of the Game Department. For the work for the latter group, however, the Game Department has lacked both legislative authority and funding.

### FUNDS FOR STUDIES AND MANAGEMENT FINALLY LEGISLATED

Legislation introduced at the 1973 session of the New Mexico Legislature would have extended legal protection, as well as the Game Commission's authority for management, to all wildlife of New Mexico and would have provided an appropriation from the General Fund for this work. The bill as passed, however, merely extended the Game Commission's authority to "conduct studies of programs for the management of endangered and non-game species of wildlife," using income from hunting and fishing license sales for these studies.

The same legislature passed Senate Memorial No. 26. This directed the Game Department to conduct a study and prepare a management program for endangered and non-game wildlife and to hold public hearings to garner opinions on the importance of such wildlife and of its management to the various segments of New Mexico's society and business.

The ten hearings were attended by over 300 persons representing federal agencies concerned with management of wildlife and wildlife habitat, state agencies, boards, universities and legislators, professional societies, environmental and nature organizations, agricultural associations, sportsmen's groups, and business, as well as many other interested individuals. In general, these people favored a non-game program, supported by a General Fund appropriation and managed by the Department of Game and Fish. In response to the further requests in the memorial, the Game Department also prepared a management plan and budget for non-game work and delivered these and the report on the hearings to the 1974 New Mexico Legislature.

Again in 1974, a bill was introduced before the Legislature that would extend the State Game Commission's authority and responsibility to other species of wildlife, including mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, mollusks, and crustaceans. This time, however, the bill excluded non-game wildlife that is not endangered. It asked for a General Fund appropriation of \$102,731 for the 63rd fiscal year (1974-1975); this was amended to \$45,000 for the 62nd and 63rd fiscal years. The Wildlife Conservation Act passed and was signed on February 26, 1974.

### STUDIES BEGIN TO IDENTIFY SPECIES

The first job that the act assigns to the Game Department is development of a list of those species of fish and wildlife whose prospects of survival or recruitment within New Mexico are in jeopardy or likely to become so in the foreseeable future because of habitat destruction or modification, overutilization, disease or predation, or other natural or man-made factors. This list is to be confirmed by regulation of the State Game Commission no later than February 26, 1975. Species investigated for inclusion in the list will, of course, encompass any already classified as endangered or threatened in the U.S. lists included in the Endangered Species Act of 1973. The list adopted by the Commission, however, may exclude such of these as the investigations show are not endangered. The New Mexico list is to be reviewed and updated every two years. The Wildlife Conservation Act also provides for establishment of management programs by the Game Department for the protection of endangered species through research, habitat acquisition, law enforcement, and other measures.

At the time of this writing, we are drawing up budgets, hiring personnel, and writing the project proposals that will enable us to augment substantially the authorized \$45,000 with federal monies through its use in approved Federal Aid projects. We have, however, a much-needed running start from our past work, which has included consultations and searches for information about species listed in the "Red Book" of the U.S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife and cooperative planning and work with federal agencies with responsibilities toward wildlife and wildlife habitat.

We will continue to consult with recognized experts in universities and colleges and in public agencies managing wildlife and wildlife habitat, as well as with private organizations and individuals known to be active in gathering pertinent data. We will also continue to search the considerable literature already amassed. And we will, of course, go to the field to search for answers to the still-unresolved questions and to verify some of the information already gathered. We will inventory, if possible, and study the abundance, distribution, population trends and biotic potential of the species involved. We will study critical habitats and the species' habitat requirements. We will seek the ecological causes for decline and possible saving remedies.

When our endangered species and their needs have been identified, our efforts will be channelled into protection and, if at all possible, restoration, although research will continue to monitor the status of the various species and to learn as much as possible about

them, also to identify additional candidates for the endangered list. The protective and restorative measures will include: acquisition of suitable habitat and cooperative management agreements with individuals and agencies controlling critical habitat; reintroduction and supplementing of existing populations through trapping and transplanting or releases of captive-raised stock; law enforcement and surveillance; and monitoring of proposed habitat alterations that would affect any endangered species. We also plan educational efforts to encourage awareness of the problems and the values of endangered species and support for restorative efforts.

### SAVE ALL THE PIECES

It is something new for the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish to be involved to this extent in the protection and management of wildlife species that are not hunted or fished. It is something new for the work of the Game Department to be supported by money from the State General fund. There may be some who will not favor the use of public revenue for protection of one kind of creature or another. For some endangered species, we are keenly aware of their scientific, educational, aesthetic and recreational values to man, though these may be difficult to express in monetary terms. For other species, their benefits to man may be as yet unrecognized.

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## EIS Primer Available

Because environmental impact statements are being prepared for such a number of federal projects now and public participation has been so successful, the Sierra Club has prepared an informative primer. It will facilitate understanding and criticizing draft statements when they are made available by federal agencies. For a copy of the primer, write: Information Services, Sierra Club, 1050 Mills Tower, 220 Bush St., San Francisco CA 94104.



## Are You Delinquent?

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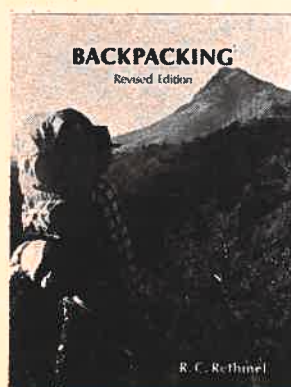
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# Subdivision Regs Grandfathered

By JOE TWICHELL  
CCH

After many years of public demand for meaningful laws to regulate the subdivision industry in New Mexico, the 1973 legislature enacted the N.M. Subdivision Act. Ignoring public opinion polls which indicated overwhelming support for control of subdivisions at the state level, the new law gave regulatory authority to individual county commission with state agency expertise being regulated to advisory positions only.

The greatest defect of the current law is that it applies only to subdivisions seeking plat approval after counties have enacted regulations as required by the 1973 Act. Thus, the subdivision abuses which created the demand for regulation remain free to continue those abuses. They are, in legislativeese, "Grandfathered" from the requirement of the new law.

THE GENERAL PHILOSOPHY behind allowing individual counties to enact regulations was that individual counties have unique problems, and uniform regulations would be inequitable or inappropriate. While this is indeed true in some respects, in others it is not. Air sheds and water basins do not, for instance, conform to county boundaries. Lack of uniformity in county regulations may encourage development in counties with weak regulations, thus perpetuating unplanned sprawl.

A complete comparative analysis of individual county regulations has not been completed, but we can offer here some contrasts in regulations in selected counties. The subdivision law itself does not specify how counties will enforce their regulations after giving plat approval to a developer. It is still early to determine what problems have or will surface as a result of this weakness in the law.

Following is a brief contrast of subdivision regulations in some of our counties.

In the north central area of the state, San Miguel, Mora, Taos and Santa Fe Counties use a form starting with general provisions followed by the procedures necessary for plat processing and then become increasingly specific, listing data required for plat applications and the specific regulations regarding water, liquid and solid waste, streets and disclosure statements.

Taos, Mora and Santa Fe County regulations are very similar in content as well as format. All three use a three-step application procedure involving pre-application, preliminary and then final application procedures. This multi-step method was meant to extend the too short time limits set out in the Act for plat approval. All three sets of regulations also require very complete information to be supplied to the county, including environmental and economic impact statements if desired by the county commissions.

Community water and sewer systems are required for certain density subdivisions based on the size of and number of proposed lots. A special feature of the regulations in these three counties is that lot size may be controlled according to the slope of the land.

San Miguel County regulations are comparatively weak. The information asked for in the application is not as complete, community water and sewer systems are not required for any kind of subdivision, and water quality provisions are weakened. In the area of terrain management, plans are requested, but no required standards are defined. In effect, terrain management concerns were set aside.

Rio Arriba County mirrors San Miguel. Their regulations require less information than Santa Fe et al and set no standards for terrain management. Community water systems are required only when there are at least 25 lots of less than one acre each or at least 100 lots of between one and two and a half acres each. Community sewer systems are required only when there are at least 100 lots of less than an acre apiece.

In all five counties, a clause reserving jurisdiction to the county after plat approval

was added. Clauses closing the succeeding subdivision loophole in the law was added only by the first three counties.

Most other counties used the format provided by the Association of Counties in their booklet entitled **County Handbook of Model Regulations and Information**. This format has only brief application procedures. Counties are advised to design their own preliminary procedures and final application procedures are brief as set forth in the Act itself. Application procedures are followed by plans which must be submitted concerning water supply and quality; liquid and solid waste disposal and terrain management. Finally, there are required standards for these same areas and disclosure statement forms.

Catron and Sandoval Counties used this format, but with very different results. Catron County stayed very close to the model regulations of the Association of Counties with one remarkable exception—they required community water systems for all types of subdivisions!

THE CONTRAST between Catron County and Bernalillo County, where much subdividing occurs is startling—NO community water systems are required except where there is on site sewage disposal on small lots.

Finally, Chaves County's regulations are notable for two things. The first is a requirement for an environmental impact statement as a condition of plat approval and second a prohibition of individual domestic wells in subdivisions (under section 75-11-1 of N.M. statutes). Subdividers must provide water for all uses in all types of subdivisions except in low-density subdivisions not located within a declared water basin.

In other areas, the regulations are also strong. Liquid and solid waste disposal and terrain management are well covered and clauses covering reservation of jurisdiction and succeeding subdivisions are included. In general, these regulations are strong and the Chaves County should be commended for its willingness to use innovative techniques which directly address the problems in the area of water availability that have been created by poor subdivision practices.

We have just added a new subscriber to our non-member list at his request: Mr. W. Lloyd, Supervisor of the Cibola National Forest. We welcome this opportunity to communicate with the Forest Service and hope this is just the beginning of bridging the gap.

I climbed  
The hill  
To the silent  
White world  
Of jewels  
That blanket  
Brown pebbles  
Of earth

The sun  
Unveiled  
Trickling  
Streams  
Bursting  
Buds  
Worms  
Paths  
&  
Majestic  
Trees

Ruth Lewis

## Switch Brewing

The Bureau of Land Management has agreed to look for alternatives to a proposed land exchange involving the Grants lava flows. The agreement came at the end of a two-day meeting of the Bureau's 15-member multiple use advisory board in Albuquerque at the end of March.

The board is composed of representatives of several groups of public land users including grazing, mining, oil and gas, recreation, city, county and state government, conservation environment and wildlife. Sierra Club leader Brant Calkin is on the board.

Discussion of the proposed lava flow land exchange took about four hours during the business portion of the board's deliberations. It followed a tour the preceding day of portions of the affected lands.

During its deliberations on the proposal, the board received statements from proponents, which included the Grants Chamber of Commerce, and from opponents, which included three ranchers in the Mesa del Oro area west of Los Lunas.

It was determined that alternatives might be sought which would make possible an exchange acceptable to all affected parties. The Board agreed unanimously the BLM point of view that complete federal ownership of the lava flow area is desirable and should be pursued. It did not find, however, that all alternatives had been explored sufficiently and suggested that action on the exchange be deferred until more study could be given to unexplored alternatives.

The exchange proposal was advanced informally by the New Mexico-Arizona Land Company. The company owns some 40,000 acres in checkerboard pattern in the lava flow area. It has offered these lands in exchange for federal lands checkerboarded in the Mesa del Oro in which the company also has holdings.

The Bureau plans to designate the Grants lava flow area Outstanding Natural Area, and to preserve it as a scenic attraction. The BLM proposal would allow and continue existing multiple uses of the flows so long as they do not conflict with the overall aims of preservation. Development of facilities would be designed to meet public need without destroying the natural features.

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## SKINDIVING OUTINGS NOW AVAILABLE

Skindiving vacations for novice and experienced divers are offered by the Sierra Club's Outing Committee. An opportunity to explore and learn about the ocean "wilderness," the 1974 trips will take Sierra Club members to Hawaii, the Virgin Islands and Grand Cayman in the Caribbean, and car-camping along the Gulf of California in Mexico. A first-ever diving trip to the legendary Galapagos Islands is included.

Places are still open on most trips. Details can be had from the Sierra Club Outing Department, 220 Bush St., San Francisco CA 94104.

Basic scuba instruction is offered on some trips. Some are planned for snorkelers, others for experienced divers.

All trips are ecology oriented, with a marine naturalist on the staff of each. Observation and photography are stressed. Strict conservation policies are followed.

One trip to Grand Cayman for divers offers an optional course in "Tropical Reef Biology" for credit if desired. Another offers a course in Underwater Photography. All are designed for water fun for ocean buffs of all ages and skills.



East of the Sandias

Photo by Don Campbell

# ABQ Standards—Still In The Air

by Harry Davidson

resources Mgr., Env. Health Dept. In Albuquerque the TRW firm contract to evaluate transportation strategies which, if implemented, reduce the air pollution generated by cars and light trucks to the point that Albuquerque would stop exceeding the Ambient Air Standards. At this time air quality frequently exceeds the CO and ozone standards for an 8 hour average. In the month of December we were on the verge of declaring the Alert or first of our Emergency Action Plan during a stagnation forecast.

During these periods of stagnation air is trapped with a heavy inversion layer above the metropolitan area, Albuquerque has sufficient capability to pollute the air to exceed the standards and reach dangerous levels. During Alert and Warning phases, this office (Air Resources Div. Environmental Health Dept.) attempts to obtain citizen and corporate cooperation to reduce the amount of automotive emissions by voluntary use of carpooling and reduction of individual driving. During our Alert episode in January of this year the multiple occupancy of vehicles going to the Sandia-Kirtland jumped from 11% to 15%. This probably does not represent the maximum if it did, under a prolonged stagnation condition it is not likely that car pooling at a low level would be sufficient to prevent reaching the Emergency levels.

When an Emergency condition is proclaimed by the City and County Managers, we are in effect a state of martial law. During this phase all places of business, except those directly involved in providing food, medical services and utilities would be required to close. All automobile traffic, except those persons directly involved in providing these necessary services would be prohibited. Public cooperation and understanding at this phase will be especially critical. It is very likely that this will require the support of the State Police to route traffic around Albuquerque and of the National Guard to assist in the restriction of traffic and in patrolling of areas to prevent crime.

Albuquerque does not have the capability to reduce CO by curtailment or cessation of industrial operations. The industrial contribution to the CO problem is at or below 5% of the total problem. The only feasible solution is to stop all but the absolutely necessary traffic. This will result in great inconvenience and considerable loss of salaries and sales in the commercial-industrial sector. This loss could amount to millions of dollars per day and, therefore, represents a very painful alternative. On the other hand, the dollar value of the endangerment of the public's health is more difficult to determine.

The price of providing alternate means of transportation not only during one of these episodes but throughout the year will be in the millions of dollars. However, the losses which can be incurred in one or more episodes will exceed the cost of prevention.

The steps which need to be taken to reduce air pollution caused by transportation need to be accomplished. Also, better City/county planning will result in the reduction of the consumption of natural resources. This will require the understanding and cooperation of all citizens. A properly tuned vehicle produces the least amount of air pollution and simultaneously burns the least amount of gasoline. A car pool of 2 or more people also accomplishes both goals as well as reduces the congestion on our highways and streets. Carrying out these transportation control strategies will also result in better land use planning and control. The benefits to the general public will also be accrued by a reduction in the waste of personal income to provide the transportation necessary for work, shopping and recreation.

Suggestions as to how to better implement these measures will be appreciated and are requested by our Department. Please give us the benefit of your ideas as well as your support at home, at the office and at public meetings.

## Energy Funding Hiatus

By LORE NEEDLER  
ALB. GROUP ENERGY CHMN.

In spite of various continuing problems with nuclear reactors now in operation and in the planning stages; and in spite of the relative simplicity, safety, and lack of pollution of solar energy, it is still not being funded on a large scale.

Dr. Dixie Lee Ray's report on Dec. 1, 1973, "The Nation's Energy Future", reprinted in the Congressional Record of Dec. 12, 1973, allots a total of 32.5 million dollars for solar energy. This category includes direct solar heating and cooling, other direct-solar energy extraction attempts, sea/thermal and wind energy, and others for fiscal 1975. Yet the same budget will give \$737.7 billion to "validate the nuclear option," and \$145 billion for fusion, an attractive idea but one with as many, if not more, bugs to work out than solar energy. Geothermal energy, another promising alternative with minimal pollution and safety hazards, is allotted \$40 billion for 1975.

With the various safety problems they present, nuclear reactors have been faced with frequent and often prolonged periods of inactivity. The difficult problems associated with them—especially those of transportation and safely burying hazardous wastes for millions of years and the dangers of sabotage—are unmatched by any other energy source. Although fusion sounds attractive and can give us limitless power from sea water once the process has been worked out, most experts agree the year 2000 will be the earliest we will see it in operation.

By contrast, energy sources such as solar, sea/thermal, wind, geothermal, create little or no pollution, use only natural elements, contain no chemical pollutants, and can be produced safely in from 8-20 years. Given these factors, why then the discrepancy in federal funding?



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(Continued from Page 2)

It is for these reasons that we are particularly interested in the implications of H.R. 5441. Generally, we are pleased that Congress has this legislation under consideration. We believe that the Organic Act is long overdue and should be quickly passed. The nation recognizes that what was once considered the left over lands are now rightly regarded as legitimate parts of the national land treasure. These lands should be managed with full appreciation for their current and future values.

As it is now, there is not really a comprehensive, statutory policy for the BLM to follow in the administration of the public domain lands. The Classification and Multiple Use Act expired in 1970, leaving the management policy for much of the public domain in a management limbo. We hope this will be replaced by a modern organic act which we believe should embody the following concepts:

1. Establish a national policy of retention of public domain lands. There are exceptions which can be made to retention policy without damaging the national interest, but these exceptions should be carefully controlled.

2. The Bureau of Land Management should be designated by the Congress as the managing agency with the tools and responsibilities commensurate to the management task.

3. The management policies which Congress wishes should be clearly stated so that the Bureau of Land Management has proper guidance.

Those laws which conflict or unnecessarily complicate the proper management of the public domain lands should be amended or repealed.

5. The existing Primitive Areas should be placed in the Wilderness System immediately and the Bureau of Land Management should be required to expand its inventory of public domain resources to identify and study those lands which could be put into the Wilderness System later. The lands so identified should be offered to Congress for consideration as parts of the Wilderness System.

H.R. 5441 does a number of the things which I just set forth. We are pleased to note, for example, the declaration that the public domain lands are assets and should be retained. We note, however, that Section 104 permits the sale of public domain lands or their transfer out of public ownership solely on the initiative and approval of the executive branch of government. These opportunities for the disposition of so-called isolated lands or those that are difficult to manage, should not be left to criteria so vague. A phraseology that indicates that transfers or sales can be made when it will "serve important public objectives" is similarly defective. We suggest that exchange authority is appropriate for the Secretary of the Interior, but we urge that Congress retain its jurisdiction over sales or other disposals. This would mean that the public domain land dispositions would have the same congressional scrutiny as do the Forest Service lands.

All segments of the public should be pleased that Section 101 of H.R. 5441 indicates that the Secretary shall provide maximum opportunities for the public to

participate in decision making. This could be more carefully spelled out by requiring the Secretary to advertise or otherwise provide notice of all proposed trades, sales or conveyances of mineral interests. Since advance notice is a prerequisite for any kind of sound planning, this would also give local government and adjoining land owners and agencies an opportunity to develop comprehensive plans which would not be inconsistent with plans for the public domain.

There is a particular problem which public domain managers and the Congress will have to face regarding the Mining Law of 1872. Until this law is repealed or amended, public land managers cannot be assured of the integrity of the plans which they and the public prepare. It is my understanding that Congress may choose to remedy problems caused by the 1872 Mining Law in separate legislation. We do feel, however, that the Organic Act is an ideal place to begin revamping the antiquated, century-old mining legislation.

We are pleased that we have had this opportunity to offer our comments and suggestions for H.R. 5441 and we hope that our comments will be useful. We would like the Committee and Congress to hear one other comment and perhaps an unusual one. We, in the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club, have sometimes been in sharp disagreement with the personnel or the policies of the Bureau of Land Management here in New Mexico. This does not prevent us, however, from stating that we believe that the New Mexico Office of the Bureau of Land Management is equitable and professional in its management of the public domain lands. We believe that they will measure up to the congressional mandates of an organic act.

We will continue to follow the congressional consideration of H.R. 5441 and again, we appreciate the opportunity to present our views at this point in the Committee's deliberations.



from page 4

change growing out of a new ecological perspective which transforms a new environmental ethic into environmental action. People all over the country are insisting that society abandon the psychology of blind bulldozer; that society cease from paving over the whole world; that society stop polluting the air and the water and the earth.

A key then to a sensible environmental ethic is to determine, within the limits of our knowledge, what changes are tolerable or useful and which must be banned or limited as harmful.

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