

## CHAPTER'S RIVER TRIP

### MOVES

#### TO THE CHAMA



Cochiti Lake is being filled, and is expected to cover the last three rapids in White Rock Canyon by May. Worse, there will be six miles of rowing on "flat water" in the lake. Below El Vado the Chama River offers 30 miles of beautiful canyon, and a pine forest covers the river banks along much of the way. Rapids aren't as big as those in White Rock Canyon, but add interest.

Our Chama River trip will be made in rubber rafts. We start at the roadhead just below El Vado on Saturday morning, May 17, and end the trip Sunday afternoon, May 18, where the road to the monastery first reaches the river. Saturday night we camp in the pine forest along the river bank.

Everyone should have a sleeping bag and be prepared for freezing nighttime temperatures. Due to waterproof space limitations tents must be of the kind commonly used by backpackers, and down bags are preferred. Whether meals are arranged individually or in a "common commissary" will depend on the preferences of passengers and boatmen.

As in the past the trip fee will be set to just cover expenses, and is likely to be near \$15 per person. Persons requesting space must be Sierra Club members (on our membership list) and the space available will be assigned in order of priority on a first come, first served basis. All passengers must be able to get to shore unaided in case of upset.

The principal purpose of the R.G. Chapter's trip is to let members find out whether they like river running. Accordingly, the priority system will be:

Class	Previous river trip experience
A	None
B	Trips elsewhere, but not on a Chapter sponsored trip or a Chama trip.
C	Previous Chapter sponsored trip, highest priority for longest period since a previous trip.

To maintain a manageable party we will have less than fifteen boats, so it may be necessary to refuse some "attached party boats", if there is a lot of interest in this run.

Space requests can be made from Bob E. Watt, 1447 45th, Los Alamos, N.M. 87544, telephone # 662-3728, starting at 7PM ON APRIL 18, 1975. Letters requesting space will be opened in random order, and counted as arriving at the starting time.

BOB WATT

#### GUADS COMMITTEE PREPARING FOR INTRUSIONS

Membership in the Guadalupe Wilderness Committee (WC) is growing in number and geographical diversity, from Maine to California. Permanent officers recently elected are: Wesley Leonard - chairman; Rich Breisch vice-chairman; Marianne Smith - secretary; Paul Garland - treasurer; Edward Leonard - legislative chairman; and Gayle Eads - director of information.

Early this year the draft environmental statement for the Guadalupe Mountains National Park master plan was released. The most objectionable proposal were the Guadalupe Peak tramway and the west side desert developments. The committee sent out an alert requesting comment to the National Park Service emphasizing our position on the points. A second alert was

mailed in March concerning a part of the final environmental statement for the master plan of the Carlsbad Caverns National Park. In the mailing about Slaughter Canyon development, the committee supported alternative "A" which essentially is to leave the area as it is now with no further development.

GWC has sponsored several field trips to the Guads and have one scheduled for the midpart of March and one in early April. Anyone interested in going should contact Wes Leonard, 3500 Sun Bowl #24, El Paso, Tx. 79902 (915) 544-6340. Several members are doing some boundary revision work on the Guadalupe Wilderness as proposed by the New Mexico Wilderness Study Committee. Help in this area would be appreciated.

On April 4-5 Texas Tech in Lubbock is sponsoring a biolog-

ical symposium on Guadalupe Mountains National Park and GWC will be represented. Anyone wishing information should contact Wes Leonard at the aforementioned address.

A slide show is ready for presentation to clubs and organizations and a brochure is in the works. Our local organizing and political education campaign is gaining momentum. Meetings are being held with various governmental agencies, politicians, and regional planning agencies. A fund-raising drive is planned also for the near future.

Gayle Eads - Director of Information  
P.O. Box 12380  
El Paso, Tx 79912  
(915) 584-9629

Of the three levels of outings programs, national, chapter, and local, the local program, while the least spectacular, is the most difficult to plan and carry out. The members of the local group expect some sort of outing every month or two, and because of geographical considerations, the outings committee is hard-pressed to provide a variety of trips that will serve the needs of the Members. While a few regulars take part in almost every outing, newcomers to the club show up for them too and become regulars.

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The committee tries to plan trips that would meet a few basic requirements. First, the trip has to be one that is within the abilities of the "average member" -- that is, it must be difficult enough to provide a challenge and a sense of accomplishment, but it must not require exposure to great danger. Second, the trip must be inspirational or educational, or both. If a hiker doesn't develop an appreciation of wilderness and its values, he'd be just as well off in a city park. Third, the trip must be of a nature that it can be completed during a normal weekend or a short vacation. Fourth, the trip should have some purpose other than just getting out into the wild. The more of these requirements a trip can fill, the greater its chances of success will be.

While any number of areas and trails might meet all of the above requirements, the trip will not "go" unless someone is willing to be the leader. He must be experienced in the type of activities planned and must know the terrain. If necessary he might have to make a recon of the route before the actual trip. None of the leaders on chapter and local trips is paid for his time and trouble, and few are compensated for transporting members to and from the trailhead.

Once the trip is under way, the leader must be sure that the party follows the route and that the tail of the column doesn't get strung out too far and that everyone practices good wilderness manners and that the campsite is reached in time and ... and ... and. He must be a doctor, a mother hen, a drill sergeant, a babysitter, a native guide, and an inspiration. He's the last to bed and the first up, and if he doesn't cover much of the trail at least twice, he's extremely lucky. He needs the diplomacy of Henry Kissinger, the strength of Samson, and the patience of Job. And while not mandatory, the ability to leap tall buildings with a single bound would be useful.

The leader is the most important part of any outing, for without him there would be no outing. As difficult and thankless as the job is, there are a few things every member can do to make it a little easier:

First, know your capabilities and limitations and don't undertake a trip that is too difficult for you. If you must turn back to the roadhead, someone must accompany you, and while no one would object if you were ill or injured, few would appreciate having their outing cut short for other reasons. If in doubt as to the roughness of the trail or to your own ability to handle the outing, call the leader and talk to him. That's what he's there for. He would be more than happy to talk to you and help you.

Second, stay with the group unless you and the leader reach a definite understanding about a side trip. The leader should know where you're going, when you'll rejoin the group, and all pertinent details. You, in turn, are obligated to do exactly what you agreed to do. If you should wander off without informing the leader, you cause a great deal of anxiety at least, and you could cause an extensive and expensive search for which you could be billed by the agencies involved.

Third, do what the leader tells you and the group to do. If the leader leaves the marked trail, he usually has a good reason, and you should follow his lead. Unless you have definite knowledge of the country, don't make a big deal of where the group is heading. Also, once a campsite is selected, stay in it unless you have a good reason for leaving it; then, tell the leader what you plan to do, and if he agrees, do exactly that.

Fourth, learn wilderness manners and techniques and practice them. If you don't know what to do or how to do it, ask for help, but pay attention and learn. No one minds helping a newcomer, but it gets a little wearing to have to repeat instructions too often or to have to do someone else's work.

Fifth, when you get back to the trailhead and you have that wonderful feeling of having done something out of the ordinary, tell the leader that you appreciate what he's done for you. While "Thank you" won't put frijoles on the table, it will make him feel a lot better about all the trouble he's gone through to make the trip possible.

One last thing, if you know of an interesting trip that the group might enjoy, volunteer to lead it. The outings committee will help you, and maybe someone will tell you "Thank You" at the end of a good trek.

JOHN COLBURN  
OUTING CHAIRMAN



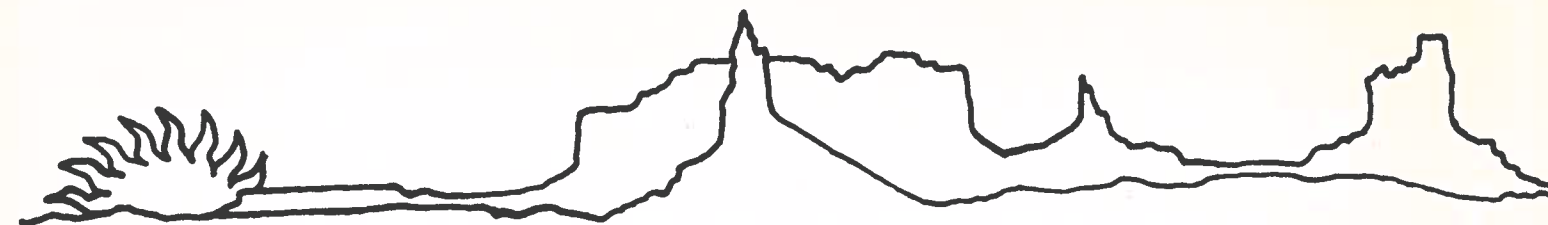
Dear Sir:

There was an error in your report in the March 1975 Rio Grande Sierran concerning NMCCA&W's support of the Coalition Against Strip Mining (CASM) resolution of January 19th, 1975. NMCCA&W does support the point concerning "conderation of regional differences", but there were other

portions of the CASM resolution that we did not support. Therefore, we formulated our own position concerning the federal surface mining control legislation. This was the resolution that was also adopted by the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club.

Sincerely,

George E. Dials.



## THE RIO GRANDE CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB

ALBUQUERQUE GROUP  
NEWSLETTER

April, 1975

Bill Bishop, Editor

### MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Thursday, April 10, 1975, 7:30pm, First National Bank Building, Central and San Mateo NE. Group general meeting. Film GLEN CANYON, see article below.

Monday, April 14, 1975, 7:30 pm, 2513 Kimberly Ct. NW, home of Ray Bahm. Energy Committee meeting. See article on page 2.

Tuesday, April 22, 1975, 7:30 pm, 1522 Stanford NE, home of the Howards. Conservation workshop -- Wilderness study.

Thursday, April 24, 1975, 7:30 pm, 7913 Charger Trail NE, home of the Sussmanns. Group Executive Committee Meeting. Group members welcome.

### GLEN CANYON

Glen Canyon was a uniquely beautiful stretch of the Colorado River. Everything in the Sierra Club film, Glen Canyon, is now beneath the surface of Lake Powell--lost for this and future generations. This loss could have been avoided by using alternate means of power generation which would have left Glen Canyon intact. Glen Canyon is a beautiful visual and emotional experience.

After the film, there will be a discussion of the current threats to the beauty and solitude of southeastern Utah -- Kaiparowitts power plant, strip mining and highway development of Escalante Canyon. Don't miss this meeting. Thursday, April 10, 1975, 7:30 pm, First National Bank Hospitality Room.

THE FLEA MARKET IS  
NOT  
JUST FOR FLEAS

On April 19 and 20, the Albuquerque Group will conduct a sale at the Fairgrounds Flea Market.

Motive; To raise money for the Group.

Participation: All member and, we hope, some non-members.

Requirements: Donation of items for sale -- tools, furniture, jewelry, utensils, camping equipment, curios, art, handicrafts or anything which might sell for 5¢ to \$5.00.

(con't)

Donations can be dropped off at the April 10th general meeting or at Phyllenore Howard's home, 1522 Stanford NE. OR bring donations by Phil Sussman's home, 7913 Charger Trail NE. OR drop things off at Bill Trebilcock's home, 8805 Hilton NE.

The sooner we can receive donations, the better. We need them no later than April 15th, however.

Volunteers are need to help price and sell items. Call Phyllenore Howard, 268-8185, or Phil Sussmann, 821-0230.

This is a painless way to help fund necessary Club expenses and, at the same time, clean out your garage, attic, nooks and crannies. Help the Club to have more financial flexibility.

#### WORKSHOP

New Members or anyone interested in Wilderness activism should attend the monthly environmental/conservation workshop for beginners on Tuesday, April 22, 1975 at the home of Phyllenore Howard, 1522 Stanford NE.

Don Campbell of the Central Clearing House will describe areas near the Pecos Wilderness which need study for possible inclusion into the Wilderness. There'll be time devoted to how to do a Wilderness Study. Bill Bishop, Group Misanthrope, will discuss backpacking equipment, clothing and various means of keeping body and soul from separating irrevocably.

Remember that everyone had to learn the basics at one time or another. It's not too late to start now.

#### ENERGY COMMITTEE

Participants at the first Albuquerque Group energy committee meeting discussed ways in which Sierra Club members can contribute to the environmentally sound development of energy resources in New Mexico. Since New Mexico has virtually all energy resources--coal, oil, gas, geothermal, uranium, sun--we have a unique opportunity to be involved in this important field. The energy committee members are striving to develop their personal knowledge and awareness of the environmental consequences of each type of energy production. It's the committee's desire to be able to serve as liason among scientists, engineers and political leaders all of whom will be required to make decisions about environmental safeguards, regulations and legislation.

The next meeting of the committee will be at the home of Ray Bahn, 2513 Kimberly Ct. NW. The date is Monday April 14 and the time is 7:30 pm. Give Ray a Call at 831-3911 for directions -- or check in last month's Newsletter.

#### EQA

The Environmental Quality Act died in the New Mexico House. Thanks to all those who wrote their representatives. The Club intends to try again in two years for passage. See this issue of the Rio Grande Sierran for how your legislator voted.

WEST

#### LITTLE NEPA GET

four chapters in the Southwest region of Colorado, New Mexico, and Arizona were stunned to find that the first Regional Environmental Impact Statement (SWRCC) had been more open to the public than senators, and lobbyists were gearing themselves for strong senate opposition when the March 3rd defeat stopped them dead in their tracks.

The following is a tally of the votes.

- + = For (27)
- = Against (36)
- 0 = No Vote (6)

Since The Sierran must go to press before the legislature ends on March 22nd, we will include our legislative summary in the next issue (May) along with an article by Frank Bond on the second defeat of "Little NEPA".

- AIELLO, Arthur F. (R/Chaves/59)
- + APPELMAN, Ruby V. (R/Bernalillo/20)
- + ARAGON, Bennie J. (D/Bernalillo/13)
- BACA, Leroy (D/Catron, Socorro & Torrance/49)
- BARNARD, H.B. (D/Curry 64)
- BERRY, Dan C. (D/Lea/61)
- BIGBEE, John F. (R/Guadalupe, DeBaca, Torrance & Lincoln/50)
- BROWN, T.E. (Tom) Jr. (D/Eddy & Chaves/56)
- BRYAN, Walker M. (D/Eddy/55)
- + CARBAJAL, Richard A. (D/Valencia/9)
- + CASTILLO, Alvino E. (D/Colfax & Union/68)
- GATES, Brad (R/Bernalillo/27)
- 0 CAUDELL, James A. (R/Bernalillo/28)
- CHAPLIN, Ronald L. (R/Bernalillo/25)
- CINELLI, Adele P. (D/Bernalillo/14)
- COOK, Cecil W. (D/Roosevelt/66)
- CRAWFORD, Von Rue (R/Hidalgo & Luna/32)
- DURAN, Bobby F. (D/Taos/42)
- FETTINGER, George E. (D/Otero/53)
- FOY, Thomas P. (D/Grant/39)
- + GARCIA, Robert N. (D/Bernalillo/17)

- + GRACE, Julian (D/Santa Fe/47)
- GRANT, Philip R. (Bob) Jr. (R/Bernalillo/26)
- 0 GURULE, Frank P. (D/Bernalillo/12)
- HARTMAN, Ralph D. (D/Dona Ana/34)
- HAYS, John (D/Curry/65)
- HILL, Stuart C. (R/Bernalillo/31)
- HOBSON, Maurice (R/Lincoln & Otero/52)
- + HORAN, Thomas J. (D/Bernalillo/22)
- + KENNEDY, Stephen W. (R/McKinley/5)
- + KERR, Vernon N. (R/Los Alamos/43)
- + KLOEPEL, Richard J. (D/Sandoval/44)
- LINARD, Sharlyn (D/Dona Ana/37)
- + LOPEZ, Edward J. (D/S.F./48)
- + LUCERO, Chris M. (D/Bernalillo/16)
- + LUJAN, Ben (D/S.F./46)
- + LUNA, Fred (D/McKinley & Valencia/8)
- + LYON, Daniel (D/Bernalillo/11)
- + MALRY, Lenton (D/Bernalillo/18)
- + MARTINEZ, Walter K. (D/McKinley & Valencia/7)
- + McBRIDE, Abel E. (D/Bernalillo/29)
- McMILLAN, Colin R. (R/DeBaca & Chaves/57)
- MEDINA, Reynaldo (Rey) S. (D/Taos & Rio Arriba/41)
- + MERCER, Joseph H. (R/Bernalillo/24)
- MERSHON, John J. (D/Lincoln & Otero/51)
- + MONTOYA, Ricardo A. (D/Sandoval & S.F./45)
- MORAN, Robert M. (R/Lea/62)
- MORELAND, C.L. (Cliff) (D/Quay & Union/67)
- OCKSRIDER, Charles B. (R/Bernalillo/30)
- O'DONNELL, William (D/Dona Ana/35)
- OTTS, James K. (D/Eddy/54)
- PATTISON, Hoyt (R/Lea, Roosevelt & Curry/63)
- + PENA, Dennis S. (D/Bernalillo/23)
- PENNINGTON, George (Red) (D/San Juan/3)
- 0 ROMERO, Louis J. (D/McKinley/6)
- + ROYBAL, Ben (D/Valencia & Bernalillo/10)
- + RUSK, David (D/Bernalillo/19)
- RYAN, Murray (R/Sierra & Grant/38)
- 0 SALAZAR, Nick L. (D/Rio Arriba/40)
- 0 SALMAN, David M. (D/Mora, Harding & San Miguel/69)
- SALOPEK, Frank (D/Dona Ana & Luna/33)
- SAMBERSON, C. Gene (D/Lea/60)
- + SANCHEZ, Raymond G. (D/Bernalillo/15)
- SANDEL, Jerry W. (D/San Juan/1)
- SCOTT, Boyd F. (R/San Juan/2)
- STALLINGS, Clayton (D/Chaves/58)
- TOMLIN, John R. (D/Dona Ana/36)
- + VIGIL, Samuel F. (D/San Miguel/70)
- + WARREN, William E. (D/Bernalillo/21)
- 0 WATCHMAN, Leo C. (D/San Juan & McKinley/4)

Sierra Club, 220 Bush St., San Francisco, Calif. 94104 Date \_\_\_\_\_

I have informed myself about the purposes of the Sierra Club and wish to support them. I hereby apply for membership and enclose \$\_\_\_\_\_ as total payment (See schedule below.) Additional members other than spouse, please use separate forms.

Print Name(s) Mr. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Miss \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. & Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_

Print Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_

School (if student) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

Please allow four to six weeks for processing.

	Dues	Total
<input type="checkbox"/> Life	\$400.00	\$400.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Contributing	50.00	55.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting	25.00	30.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Regular	15.00	20.00
<input type="checkbox"/> with spouse	22.50	27.50
<input type="checkbox"/> Junior (thru 14)	5.00	5.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Student (thru 23)	8.00	8.00
<input type="checkbox"/> with spouse	13.00	15.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior (60 and over)		20.00

Dues include subscription to the Sierra Club Bulletin (\$5.00), and chapter publications (\$1.00).  
 \*Admission fee is waived for junior members, full-time students through age 23, and life members.

**Your guide for today's backpacking . . .**

. . . the new fifth edition of

## BACKPACKING

by Robert C. Rethmel. You know what backpacking's like today. It's changing. One thing hasn't changed, though--and that's the dependable, competent advice you'll find in Bob Rethmel's BACKPACKING. The fifth edition takes a hard look at the new equipment, pointing out important features and construction methods to check for in new boots, packs, sleeping gear, and tents. For outdoor families, there's a new chapter on backpacking with children.

(1974; 8 1/2 x 11"; 185 pages; illus.; paper; \$4.95.)

Available at backpacking and mountaineering supply stores or by mail from  
 Burgess Publishing Co. / 7108 Ohms Lane / Minneapolis, MN 55435

Alaska is one of the greatest challenges that has ever faced environmentalists. The challenge is immediate for those people living in Alaska, but it is just as crucial for the rest of us. This is the best and perhaps the last chance for us in the United States to develop sane and responsible methods for handling vast tracts of wilderness.

We as concerned citizens must take an active part in formulating land use policies for Alaska. The Sierra Club has established a communications system between its members in Alaska and the "lower 48" to keep members informed of developments. There are several things that we need to be aware of this month.

As the work on the Trans-Alaska Pipeline goes into full swing, the town of Valdez is being inundated by thousands of workers looking for jobs. As Valdez starts more and more to resemble a gold rush town of the 1860's, the original citizens of the town are starting to have second thoughts about the desirability of the pipeline. The shortage of accommodations has become so acute that the prostitutes have been forced to ply their trade in house trailers! However, later this year when the scenic highway next to the pipeline is constructed, they will be able to buy Winnebagoes and take their show on the road so to speak. Shades of Steve Canyon! That's right, it seems that we will not only have a pipeline, but a highway as well.

On April 29, 1974, construction began on a haul road which was the first step in the pipeline construction. The gravel road, of secondary highway quality, will link the lands of the North with the Richardson Highway which connects Valdez and Fairbanks. A contract between the State of Alaska and Alyeska (the construction agents) stipulated that the haul road would be so constructed that it could be incorporated into the Alaska State highway system after the pipeline was completed. It is an alarming fact that two roads will exist within one hundred yards of each other. There will be the highway and a "work

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OR bring donations  
OR drop things of!**

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pad" to be directly adjacent to the pipeline. The permanent frost will bear the scars of construction forever. Two roads will mean twice the disruption to a very fragile ecosystem. Yet another alarming fact is that no less than six bus companies have bid to conduct tours from Fairbanks to the North Slope.

Another situation of great interest is the proposed natural gas pipeline. There are an estimated 26 trillion cubic feet of natural gas on the north slope and another 7 trillion cubic feet in the MacKenzie Basin. Three major companies are competing for the right to remove this valuable resource. They are Gas Arctic, Foothill Pipelines Ltd., and El Paso Natural Gas. Public hearings have begun in Canada and the United States regarding proposed routes for the pipeline. The Sierra Club and other environmental organizations wish to intervene in these hearings to protest some of the proposed routes. Arctic Gas has proposed a pipeline corridor that would cross the calving grounds of the Porcupine Caribou herd in the Arctic National Wildlife Range (ANWR). It is but one of five proposed routes, but it is the cheapest. A route that would have followed the Trans-Alaska Oil Pipeline route and the original plan which would have missed the ANWR completely has been dropped.

These are just two of the problems facing environmentalists in Alaska. In future issues I hope to shed more light on these and other current problems. If your concern prompts you to want to take some action, write to the Governor of Alaska or Senators Domenici and Montoya.

#### LEGISLATURE FAILS TO AMEND AIR QUALITY ACT

A bill amending the NM Air Quality Act failed to pass during this legislative session. It was killed by the House Appropriations and Finance Committee before that committee heard any public testimony. The amendments would have allowed Bernalillo County to begin to set up an automobile emission testing program. This program is necessary as one way of controlling automobile related air pollution in Albuquerque.

The New Mexico Air pollution control implementation plan will thus be rejected by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). According to federal law, EPA must now promulgate regulations for the state (including the auto emission testing program) and go to court to force the state to implement these regulations.

The original appropriation sought in the bill was \$1.5 million. Realizing the impossibility of obtaining that amount, sponsors of the bill were prepared to start out this year with a request for \$150,000 if the Act had passed. The House Appropriations and Finance Committee never considered this amendment to the bill and blatantly indicated no interest in the air pollution problems of Albuquerque.

PHILLENORE HOWARD

#### INTERESTED IN SOUTHWEST REGIONAL PROBLEMS?

In February the four chapters in the Sierra Club's Southwest Region (Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico including El Paso, and Utah) approved a reorganization of the Club's Southwest Regional Conservation Committee (SWRCC). Previously, each state had designated four delegates who were responsible for both administration and regional policy formulation. It was felt efficiency and effectiveness could be improved if responsibility for administration was delegated to a four-member SWRCC Executive Committee composed of one member from each state.

Among its duties, this four-member SWRCC Executive Committee is responsible for planning topical meetings on problems of regional concern. The sorts of problems which require attention at the regional level include energy issues (Power plants in the Four Corners area, coal gasification, oil shale development), water resources (weather modification, Colorado river salinity, west to east slope diversions in Colorado, Central Utah and Central Arizona Projects), wildlands (classification of wild and scenic rivers, protective status for the Escalante drainage, Grand Canyon master planning, High Uintas wilderness, etc.), predator control, vegetation manipulation, etc. In addition, workshops on media use and land planning activities and procedures of federal agencies are being considered.

The topical meetings being planned for this summer are a wild and scenic rivers workshop, perhaps including a short

#### RIO GRANDE CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EX COM):

BOB HOWARD, Chmn., 1522 Stanford Dr. NE, Alb, NM 87106; Dave Foreman, V. Chmn., P.O. Box 157, Glenwood, NM 88039; Don Campbell, Secy., 338 E. deVargas, Santa Fe, NM 87501; Hildreth Barker, 8421 Aztec NE, Alb, NM 87111; Betsy Barnett, 4269 Ridgeway, Los Alamos, NM 87544; Frank Bond, 540 Camino Rancheros, Santa Fe, NM 87501; Brant Calkin, 338 E. deVargas, Santa Fe, NM 87501; John Gavahan, P.O. Box 36, Montezuma, NM 87731; Bob Watt, 1447 45th St., Los Alamos, NM 87544.

float trip with appropriate agency personnel in southern Colorado or Utah, and a session on weather modification covering the state of the art, environmental impacts (particularly in wilderness), Sierra Club policy and strategy.

SWRCC is very anxious to get notice of these activities to all Sierra Club members in the region who may be interested. An effort will be made to notify chapter and group chairmen and conservation chairmen several weeks in advance of topical meetings. Any member who wishes may request to receive all SWRCC meeting notices (or just those pertaining to subjects in which he is particularly interested,) by writing to me or to his chapter's SWRCC delegate, listed below:

Betsy Barnett, 4269 Ridgeway, Los Alamos, NM 87544; Ruth Frear, 1458 East Ninth South, Salt Lake City, UT 84105; Terry Lane, Box 87, Corataro, AZ 85230, Marty Sorensen, Rt 2, #7 Spruce Canyon Circle, Golden, CO 80401.

BETSY BARNETT, Chairman  
Southwest Regional Conservation  
Conservation Committee

#### CLUB ESTABLISHES A NEW COMMITTEE ON ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Of all the world's resources, our atmosphere is the most important. A complex interplay of many factors determines the climates all over the world, and atmospheric scientists are finding reasons to believe that human activities are already affecting both the local and global climates, as well as the visibility of yonder mountain.

Internationally respected public voices are needed and the Sierra Club has earned high marks in the past by carefully studying a problem and promoting accurate public discussion. The Board of Directors has estab-

lished a new committee on atmospheric pollution, and President Kent Gill has asked Bob Watt to serve as Chairman, probably due to his letter campaign proposing such a committee. Organizational details have not yet been worked out, and will in part depend on interest shown in the various Regional Conservation Committees and Chapters.

BOB WATT



LEGISLATURE FAILS TO AMEND WATER QUALITY ACT

Amendments to the NM Water Quality Act -- which would have strengthened it and allowed the State to take over administration of a federal water pollution permit program -- were killed by the House Appropriations and Finance Committee during this session of the legislature.

The permit program is called the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amedments of 1972 any person responsible for the discharge of polluted water to surface streams and rivers must obtain a permit from the Environmental Protection Agency. This permit specifies the quality of water which may be discharged, and outlines a time frame of years which will be allowed for that quality to be achieved. The permit also requires the discharger to monitor the quality of his effluent, and report the water quality information to EPA.

The objective of the permit program is to clean up the nation's waters in a nationally uniform, orderly fashion.

Minimum effluent water quality conditions have been developed by EPA which take into consideration current available technology and the cost of implementing the technology. These water quality conditions are different for each category of point source discharge. Such categories are municipal sewage plants, paper pulp mills, steel foundries, oil refineries, mines, power plants, food processing plants. If water pollution regulations are uniform for each category nationwide, industries will not be able to seek the state which has the weakest way as well.

On April 29, 1974, construction began which was the first step in the pipeline. The gravel road, of secondary highway connects the lands of the North with the Richardson connects Valdez and Fairbanks. A contract stipulated that the haul road would be introduced in the State of Alaska and Alyeska (the contract stipulated that the haul road would be corrected in the it could be incorporated into the Alaska system after the pipeline was completed) staff to draft ing fact that two roads will exist with Natural Resources of each other. There will be the high testimony from (including the ments. Municipal try even supported industry wanted a ere saying let us get away with, with

LEGIS

A bill passed killing the committee testimony Berna mobil is nec mobile

The Nation Enviro ing to regula emissi force

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BAN ON POISON IS THREATENED

The National Woolgrowers Association is launching an all-out letter-writing campaign to persuade President Gerald Ford to cancel the Executive Order ban on the use of poisons for predator control on public lands which was instituted by President Nixon.

The Defenders of Wildlife has strongly supported the presidential ban on poisons and believes that its overturn would be a catastrophic blow to the cause of wildlife conservation.

It appears that the woolgrowers will submit alternatives to the President involving the "use of toxicants" which could mean Compound 1080 and

Rio Grande Chapter  
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BULK RATE  
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The bill amending the Water Quality Act left the Natural Resources Committee without recommendation for passage - but at least without a recommendation fo DO NOT PASS. When the bill was redirected to the House Appropriations and Finance Committee, the chairman called upon two state agency heads to present testimony. These men strongly oppose the a permit system. The committee heard no other testimony; they didn't understand the bill; but they killed it.

The Sierra Club supported the amendments for several reasons. 1) A state-administered permit program would involve less time and red tape for the person seeking a permit. 2) State agency personnel are much more familiar with the particular water pollution problems and economics of New Mexico than are EPA staff in Dallas. The state agency would have some flexibility in the specific conditions and time limits in a permit which are not exercised by EPA in Dallas. 3) The state agency personnel would be able to help local permittees in meeting their permit conditions. At the present time, the EIA has limited resources for such activities. 4) The amendments to the state act would have strengthened our act aside from enabling local administration of the permit program.

The New Mexico Water Quality Act is very weak, and it remains that way after the legislative session. Fortunately, we have federal laws which help to protect our environment. However, industry and developers still run this state, and until each of us, individually, decides to buck their power, they will continue to exploit New Mexico for their profit alone. A few hard-working representatives of the Sierra Club cannot do the job by themselves.

PHILLENORE HOWARD

strychnine, as well as the M-44 cyanide device, which is now being permitted under "emergency" and "experimental" conditions.

The Defenders of Wildlife recommends that you write, at once, to: President Gerald Ford, The White House, Washington, D.C. 20500; and also to: The Honorable Rogers C.B. Morton, Secretary of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20242. Ask each to support the presidential ban on the use of poisons to kill predators on public lands.