

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY: 1975

A proposed New Mexico Environmental Quality Act, sponsored by Rep. Ray Sanchez, which would have required various state agencies to prepare environmental impact statements on major state actions which would affect significantly the quality of the human environment, failed again this year. Again the primary opponents were State Engineer Steve Reynolds, State Land Commissioner Phil Lucero, Oscar Jordan of the State Land Office the N.M. Mining Association, the N.M. Oil and Gas Association, the N.M. Public Service Co., and the N.M. Cattle Growers' Association. Additionally, there was considerable opposition from the Rural Electric Cooperatives Association even though no REA in New Mexico has ever had to file an environmental impact statement under federal law.

The bill passed the House Natural Resources Committee. However it failed on the House floor because of the extremely heavy industry lobby. There was no indication of support from the Governor's office on this bill even though it had been a part of his campaign publicity.

An Energy Resources Board was created through legislation sponsored by Senator Aubrey Dunn. This Board is funded by an energy tax and takes over several existing state level energy agencies, including the Oil and Gas Conservation Commission. The Board will be made up of several state officials and three people to be appointed by the Governor. The Board has practically unlimited research authority and can be expected to look into energy company profits, energy supplies and reserves, and general business practices of energy development. The Act will become effective June 1. It is expected to be the focal point for a coordinated energy policy for New Mexico.

A bill was passed to tax the generation of electricity to support the construction of State Road 44. Some tax receipts are earmarked for energy supplements to low-income families. For constitutional reasons this tax will probably be court tested.

A bill to establish a land use information system failed in the Senate Finance Committee. It would have

provided for computerized storage, manipulation and retrieval of information regarding land use. The information system would have operated under the Natural Resource Conservation Commission. The bill contained no provisions for any planning authority or jurisdiction. However, it was sufficiently frightening to opponents of land use planning that they killed the bill.

Senator Fred Gross introduced a comprehensive land use planning act. It would have provided for studies of areas of critical environmental concern, and would have required counties to begin various land use planning activities. The bill was modeled closely after the federal land use planning act which died in Congress last year. The Gross bill was killed by the N.M. Senate Conservation Committee.

A bill to purchase the Little Chama Valley Ranch near Chama passed and was signed by Governor Apodaca. This bill provided funds to be matched with federal monies to allow New Mexico through the Department of Game and Fish to acquire this magnificent elk habitat area. We are grateful to the Nature Conservancy for its help in handling negotiations with the owners.

The Habitat Protection Act which allows the Department of Game and Fish to close some roads and areas to offroad vehicles was amended to permit agreements with private landowners for the same purposes.

Amendments to the Water Quality Control Act which failed were discussed in the last *Sierran* by Phyllenore Howard.

Amendments to New Mexico's Air Quality Act also failed. These would have funded Bernalillo County for a vehicle emissions monitoring program. Failure by the state to fund the program after it was turned down in an Albuquerque bond issue now means that the federal government will take over the air quality program in Bernalillo County at least as far as automobile emissions are concerned. The federal government will establish emission testing stations, formulate control strategy, run the program, and sue the State of New Mexico to reimburse federal monies expended. All similar suits by the EPA in other states have been successful. The House Appropriations and Finance Committee recommended a "do not pass" which was accepted by the entire House without dissent.

/ FRANK BOND

NUCLEAR POWER DISCUSSION BROADENS

Forty prominent scientists, including 16 Nobel laureates, have publicly expressed their positions on nuclear power. Ralph Nader and eight scientists joined in a letter to President Ford asking him to review and slow the pace of nuclear energy development. Hans Bethe and 31 other scientists issued a public letter encouraging development of nuclear energy. They believe we need both coal and uranium power, and see no practical alternatives to these before the turn of the century; they believe the safety problems can be solved.

A television program titled "The Plutonium Connection" presented some of Dr. Theodore Taylor's fears related to theft of plutonium, one of the major safety problems.

At their January, 1974 meeting the Club's Board of Directors adopted a nuclear energy policy stating, "The Sierra Club opposes the licensing, construction and operation of new nuclear reactors utilizing the fission process, pending:

1. development of adequate national and global policies to resolve problems resulting from energy over-use and unnecessary economic growth;
2. resolution of the significant safety problems inherent in reactor operation, disposal of spent fuel and possible diversion of nuclear materials capable of use in weapons manufacture;
3. the establishment of adequate regulatory machinery to guarantee adherence to the foregoing conditions."

A subcommittee of the Club's Energy Committee, the Nuclear Energy Policy Committee, has been organized to gather public and Club member's opinions, study the technical and social problems in detail and advise the Board of Directors as requested. An article in the February issue of the Rio Grande Sierran by Bob Watt gave some of the details about nuclear wastes. Many Chapter members answered the request for opinions and their letters are much appreciated.

Bob is now serving as Co-chairman of the Nuclear Energy Policy Committee and would like to have your opinions on the other two problems, reactor safety and diversion of nuclear materials. The "nuclear park" idea could be used to greatly reduce both of these hazards. An adequate discussion of the complex problems and possible solutions can't be compressed to fit the pages of The Sierran. If enough members are interested, meetings could be arranged to discuss the pros and cons of energy from nuclear fission and competing sources.

So far no one has carefully discussed the organizations needed to make a much expanded nuclear industry safe and efficiently regulated. Properly designed insurance requirements, including inspection by technically competent specialists from the insurance companies, would probably be a useful feature. More discussion of the social aspects of nuclear materials diversion is needed.

Send your comments or questions to Bob at 1447 45th, Los Alamos, N.M. 87544.

BOB WATT

Wild & Scenic Rivers System, states studies required under the Act. Also, management and impact problems on wild rivers and an inventorying program will be discussed. For more information, check next Sierran and/or write Betsy Barnett, Chmn. SWRCC, 338 E. deVargas, Santa Fe, NM 87501 (505/982-4349).

GLEN CANYON WILDERNESS HEARINGS

May is a special month in the canyon country of southern Utah -- flowers bloom, the air sparkles, and the ambience comes alive with renewed freshness.

This May, however, the air will be filled with an important question, shall we protect Glen Canyon National Recreation Area in the National Wilderness Preservation System or not? And, if so, how much?

If you are scheduling a spring outing into southern Utah, why not begin or end your trip at one of the hearings where you can express your views on this issue. The National Park Service will hold hearings on the master plan and wilderness proposals for the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area on May 14 in Page, Arizona; on May 15 in Kanab, Utah; on May 17 in Salt Lake City, and on May 19 in Phoenix.

Because wilderness designation will conflict with proposals for oil and gas development and highway construction, widespread opposition to wilderness in the Escalante region and elsewhere within Glen Canyon NRA is expected. The National Park Service will present six wilderness alternatives at the hearings, ranging from 78 per cent to 0 per cent of the Recreation Area within Wilderness. Over a million acres qualify and deserve this protection -- they represent the major unaltered remnant of Glen Canyon, such as Escalante Can-

yon's spectacular ecosystem. Most of the area is contiguous to National Park wilderness proposals in Canyonlands and Capitol Reef, or to BLM lands that qualify for Primitive Area status.

SIERRAN WINS TWO LOSES TWO

The Rio Grande Sierran is once more impacted by changes. We are losing our typist, Jolene Parkinson, to sunny California. She has struggled through the transition to a monthly newsletter, through the maze of typos, some downright indecipherable graphological horrors, last minute inserts and deletions, and harried deadlines. We thank her for her short-lived but nonetheless invaluable assistance and we wish her good fortune in her transition.

This, of course, means we must begin anew the search for a typing pool which would consist of, hopefully, four rotating typists (out of necessity, they must be located in Albuquerque) to contribute several hours a month. Gushing sentimentality and effusive plea bargaining aside, get involved -- become part of our typing pool. The backbone of any volunteer organization is the behind-the-scene people who perform often menial chores of licking, sticking, typing, tying, trucking, etc. Rewards don't have a dollar sign tacked in front of them. But, if we apply Odum's theory of net energy -- for every 850 calories you expend with aforementioned activities, you are providing about 1000 newsletters for concerned New Mexican environmentalists, who in turn may expend 487,006 calories trucking, pontificating, listening to lobbyists generating more calories (possibly taking more in than

they are expelling), which in turn may -- I say may -- result in passage of an environmental quality act or defeat of legislation that would have opened up mountain lions to needless slaughter. This began as a plea for typists and ended with a tangential lecture on the expenditure of energy, but it is hoped you picked up a thread of consistency throughout: HELP!

While we are on the subject of resignations, I am submitting mine as editor of The Sierran. My three years of service have been enjoyable, enlightening, and at times frustrating and exhausting; but certainly not without rewards. Every editor lends his or her own touch to a publication. My purpose has been threefold: to disseminate information on SC activities; to condense data from voluminous sources that readers probably don't have time to pore over; and, to interject a sometimes light, sometimes poetic note into often ponderous material. It is time for someone else to add a new touch. I hope Bill Bishop, president of the New Mexico Coordinating Council, will agree to do so.

The Sierran considers itself fortunate to have added Don Campbell del Sur (the epithet is used to distinguish him from Don Campbell del Norte of Santa Fe--SC ExCom member). Don is our new Circulation editor and is in charge

RIO GRANDE CHAPTER GETS ALLOWANCE

A fund appeal letter for the benefit of the chapter will soon be in the mail. Income from our annual fund appeal is a significant source of funds for the chapter budget, and past fund drives at the chapter level have netted between \$2500 and \$6000. The following shows how the Club computes annual chapter subventions and will give an idea of how important fund drive monies are as a source of chapter income.

- 1. Flat grant to each chapter \$200
- 2. Grant per chapter member (Rio Grande has about 1250 members) 2.10
- 3. Grant based on chapter's square mileage: square root of chapter's area 1.65
- 4. Grant per group (Rio Grande has 3 groups) \$163

Income to the Rio Grande Chapter based on this formula will amount to about \$3800 in FY '75.

Both chapter and national fund appeals solicit two kinds of contributions: tax-deductible and non-deductible. At the national level, tax-deductible monies go to the Sierra Club Foundation which was set up in 1960 to finance legal, publishing and public education programs for the Sierra Club and other organizations. Chapter fund appeal letters include project descriptions

AIRPORT PLANS INVADE IDYLIC TA

Plans are beginning to be made in Tierra Amarilla to build a jetport. A committee formed by the Mayor of Chama, New Mexico, is attempting to sell the idea to the State Aviation Agency, the F.A.A., and the people of the area.

The idea is that an airport of this sort will open the area up to tourism which will in turn benefit the economy of the region (and the economy of the original airport committee - who all are either anglo ranchers with immense holdings or owners of tourist-oriented business).

A citizen's group, La Gente Unida Para El Progreso Controlado, (The People United for Controlled Progress) would like a lot of questions answered before this jetport goes any further. Would the people in general be benefited economically? Would the environment be degraded by the airport itself and the expected influx of tourists? Would the culture of the region be able to survive the dramatic changes that can be expected from the change from an agricultural economy to a tourist-based economy?

At present La Gente Unida is informing the people of the area as to the facts we have found. We are also beginning a letter writing campaign and are in the process of circulating leaflets and petitions and speaking with the federal and state agencies involved.

For further information please contact La Gente Unida Para El Progreso Controlado,

and indicate whether or not they are tax-deductible. The Chapter holds its tax-deductible contributions in a special Sierra Club Foundation account until the particular project is implemented.

Prior to the late 60's, the Sierra Club was classified by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501-c-3 organization. That is, we, like the Tuberculosis Association, Audubon Society, etc., were tax-deductible as well as tax-exempt. (Tax-exempt means we don't pay tax on our income; tax-deductible means donors can deduct their contributions for personal income tax purposes.) However, in 1966 when the Club waged a major newspaper advertising campaign against legislation which would have authorized dams in the Grand Canyon, the IRS hand-delivered notice of the Club's loss of tax-deductible status for devoting a "substantial" portion of its income to influencing legislation.

The Sierra Club is now classified as a 501-c-4 organization (tax-exempt only). In contrast, many other organizations such as the American Medical Association and National Rifle Association, who lobby intensively for the advancement of their own interest, have 501-c-3 status. The Sierra Club has investigated legal and legislative remedies to correct this inequity, so far, to no avail.

GRIN AND BEAR IT BY LIGHTY



" Eventually, we will run out of food to feed ourselves, fuel to warm ourselves, and air to breathe... This is something we must learn to live with. " (Publishers-Hall Syndicate)



LUJAN UNDECIDED ON LAND USE BILL

The key vote determining whether land use legislation passes this Congress will probably come in the House Interior Committee in May. With the new make-up of the House, both opponents and supporters feel that if a bill emerges from Committee, there is a good chance for passage.

Opponents of the land use bill, led by "Slippery Sam" Steiger (R-AZ) and ex-Congressmen Kuykendall and Towell, are expected to wage an intensive lobbying campaign to make it appear that there is a large grass roots opposition to this legislation. Our own Manuel Lujan is on the list of ten "undecideds" and these votes are pivotal in the battle to get a bill to the floor. Incidentally, Sen. Montoya is a co-sponsor of the Senate version, S.984. Although the administration has not yet introduced land use legislation, White House spokesmen have indicated that even though there are no major objections to the Udall bill, the President will oppose it because it falls within his prohibition against new spending programs other than those directly related to energy or the economy. Among industry and agriculture supporters are the National Grange, a number of State Farm Bureaus, the National Association of Conservation Districts, and nominal support from the National Association of Realtors. Cattlemen and timber interests still opposed.

PLEASE TAKE A MINUTE TO WRITE TO REP. LUJAN EXPRESSING YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE UDALL BILL, H.R. 3510.

SWRCC PLANS RIVER RUN & WORKSHOP

If you're planning a river run this summer, the SC Southwest Regional Conservation Comm. is planning a wild & scenic rivers workshop June 14 or 21 that will include a 2 or 3 day float on either the Green or Dolores River.

Among some of the topics to be discussed are the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, subsequent amendments, existing components of the National

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New Mexico, or La Oficina De
Ley Del Pueblo, P.O. Box 160
Tierra Amarilla.

/BOB STANIS /

ENERGOMICS IN NEW MEXICO

ED. NOTE: The views expressed in this article are not necessarily those of the Sierra Club.

The demise of New Mexico's Environmental and Water Quality Acts of 1975 will surely accelerate planned development by those who wish to avoid meeting environmental guidelines. Decisions made by these public and private "planners" will affect the quality of N.M.'s environment for generations to come. The Apodaca administration, supposedly advocates of this legislation, and N.M. environmentalists, were remiss in their deadly silence, failing to inform the public of the legislation's significance. A classic failure in public relations.

NEW MEXICO A WASTELAND?

Note the first explosion of the hydrogen bomb (White Sands). Note the 4 Corners area electricity plants which feed California swimming pools and Arizona golf carts. (See chart this and coming issues to compare ownership of plants.) Note the storage of vast amounts of nuclear warheads (Manzano Mtns.). Note the present drilling in salt beds near Carlsbad for storage of nuclear wastes.

(Drilling was attempted by the AEC in Lyons, Kansas, salt beds. But, in 1971, after 750,000 gallons of water disappeared from a working salt mine near the proposed site, they shelved the project.) And, note present Navy probing near White Sands under the name Project Seafarer for a massive radio communications site for nuclear-powered submarines. (Michigan & Wisconsin have already rejected this one.)

It looks like we're headed toward the Hathaway philosophy that develop-

Capacity (in megawatts)
and in-service dates
(I=In-service)
(U=Under construction)
(P=Planned)

Name of Plant Location	Capacity (in megawatts) and in-service dates (I=In-service) (U=Under construction) (P=Planned)	Ownership	Source of fuel	Source of Cooling water
ARIZONA				
Cholla near Joseph City, Ariz.	Unit #1 115 (I-1962) Unit #2 250 (U-1976) Unit #3 250 (U-1977) Unit #4 350 (P-1978)	Arizona Public Service (100%)	Strip Mine near Gallup, N.M. via railroad.	Groundwater near plant site.
Navajo near Page, Arizona	Unit #1 770 (I-1974) Unit #2 770 (U-1975) Unit #3 770 (U-1976)	Salt River Project (21.7%) LA Dept. of Water & Power (21.2%) Arizona Public Service (14.0%) Nevada Power (11.3%) Tucson Gas & Electric (7.5%) Bureau of Reclamation (24.3%)	Strip mine on Black Mesa via 80-mile railroad	Lake Powell (Colorado River)
Coronado near St. Johns, Ariz.	Unit #1 350 (P-1978) Unit #2 350 (P-1979) Unit #3 350 (P-1982)	Salt River Project (100%)	Strip Mine near Burnham, New Mexico	Groundwater near plant site.
NEW MEXICO				
Four Corners near Fruitland, N.M.	Units #1 & #2 350 total (I-1963) Unit #3 225 (I-1964) Unit #4 755 (I-1969) Unit #5 755 (I-1970)	Units 1-3 Arizona Public Service (100%) Units 4&5 Arizona Public Service (15%) Southern Calif. Edison (48%) Public Service Co of N.M. (13%) Salt River Project (10%) Tucson Gas & Electric (7%) El Paso Electric (7%)	Strip Mine nearby	San Juan River
San Juan near Fruitland, N.M.	Unit #2 340 mw (I-1973) Unit #1 340 mw (U-1976) Unit #3 500 mw (P-1978) Unit #4 500 mw (P-1979)	Public Service Company of New Mexico (50%) Tucson Gas & Electric (50%)	Strip Mine nearby	San Juan River

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Environmentalists are citizen-catalysts with a dual role; acting as watchdogs of errant public officials and attempting to heighten the general public's environmental awareness. The environment has no convenient boundaries and thus demands a highly coordinated and standardized approach to protect it. Jurisdictional disputes and overlap of authority have not only hampered a solution by bureaucrats, but recently, during the EQ Act's brief consideration, also by environmentalists. Fractionalization of environmentalist goals thwarted a concerted effort to alert the public; instead, they relied upon the incestual circulation of information among the already informed.

Are environmentalists "elitists" or "intellectual hobbyists"? Do their ideals represent those of all social strata? Peter Montague says that many N.M. legislators believe that environmentalists are elitists -- a

small segment of the electorate with no real political clout with the voting public. The recent performance by our state legislature gives this idea some credence.

Few New Mexicans realize the seriousness of the conflict between ill-planned and poorly regulated energy and economic development (energomics) and our fragile N.M. environment. Who knew that the E.Q.A. was before our legislature; let alone its content and purpose? The media, public officials, and environmentalists failed to bring the issue before the public.

Politics As Usual

Instead, environmentalist leaders by-passed the citizen and resorted to diplomatic socializing and backroom lobbying tactics, choosing to compete against a traditional strength of narrow special interests who have the resources for this sort of antiquated activity.

(his reference to strip mining) in arid areas "does not, in my opinion, create environmental hazards." Deserts are not wastelands, however. Their ecosystems require such a delicate balance that any disturbance would take years to rectify. As the 6/74 Sierra Club Bulletin expressed, in the desert more than any other natural landscape, can we "sense the antiquity of the forces that have shaped this earth and the unimaginable journey life has made from its forgotten beginnings"

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Too much time has been spent cultivating and maintaining social ties with unenlightened legislators (and public officials) who may ultimately depend on the full-time lobbyist's organization to finance and publicize their campaigns.

Environmentalists lack the capital resources required to reach more people and hire needed expertise. Concerts not only can be successful fund-raising activities; they are good public relations and reach people not normally attracted to the environmental movement. Montague bemoans the lack of a Southwestern "tradition of philanthropy funding social needs". He offers the following solutions for increased funding: philanthropic donations from established foundations and yet untapped N.M. sources, foundation and business grants, and EPA grants to qualified environmentalist organizations.

The populous regions of the U.S. whose energy needs are instrumental in the despoilation of the Southwest, should assist in the reclamation and protection of our physical and cultural environment. Economically, they can do so by paying higher fuel and electricity prices; and by financially supporting the southwestern environmentalist. It follows that some of this support could come from other Sierra Club chapters, particularly those in Southern California and the Northeast.

Why the dearth of natural scientists, with their intimate grasp of ecological concepts, in the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club? Dr. James Gosz, plant ecologist with the UNM Biology Dept., who is studying the feasibility of revegetating strip mined lands, monitoring of watersheds, and the effects of winter salting on roadside aspen vegetation, says, "I detest politics." Dr. Gosz admits that natural scientists could play an expanded role at environmental hearings, though he reminds us, "This academia is a full-time business". More applied research grants geared toward solving pressing environmental problems, while still allowing the scientist to pursue original (pure) research, might be a partial solution.

Whither From Here?

Dr. Montague and Jon Samuelson, a natural resource planner with the State Planning Office, both feel Dr. Grace Olivarez could ably administer SPO resource inventorying and land use chores. Jon believes N.M. has "somebody more sympathetic (to environmental concerns) in the driver's seat," though he believes there has been "no real test case" to gauge the present administration's environmental consciousness. Mr. Samuelson candidly admits, "There will be energy exploitation (in N.M.)," but further states that

it "must be contained." On energomics, N.M.'s scarce water supplies, and the role of the State Engineers Office: Samuelson believes Steve Reynolds "has a handle" on the amount of water in and allocated to New Mexico. Yet currently there is no one to interpret the implications of decisions made by the SEO on long-term N.M. land use policy -- if, indeed, such policy even exists.

The role of the State Planning Office in directing N.M. development has yet to be determined; its fate is still in the hands of the Apodaca administration and an uninspired, and not particularly noteworthy, state legislature.

This would seem to be the right time for N.M. to create a strong and independent SPO to inventory the state's renewable and non-renewable resources, and to begin statewide long-term land use planning. A necessary first step, according to Dr. Montague (and this writer) is "the breaking down of social atti-



tudes like the "sanctity of private property" and the recognition of the limitations of its ownership.

Recent decisions by the EPA and the U.S. Supreme Court that deadlines for meeting Clean Air Act standards may be extended for socio-ECONOMIC reasons dictate that New Mexicans keep a wary eye on special interests that have to date been highly influential in N.M. politics. New Mexicans must set their own tough environmental guidelines; as of yet little national sympathy has been shown the Southwestern environment by those outside the region who desperately need our resources.

Water looms as N.M. biggest land use problem. There will be increased pressure on this arid region's farmers and ranchers to sell their water rights to industrial users and municipalities. Reclamation of strip mined lands will require still more water -- and energy. More agricultural land will be sacrificed for recreational and second-home development. For instance, the Taos and Kachina ski basin expansion proposal would have involved the transfer of downstream agricultural water rights to upstream developers. A horrendous precedent.

Samuelson says, "We're not being bowled over right now (by energomics)." Let's hope not.

/MIKE DORRINGTON/

TIDBIT

Here's a little tidbit from the May issue of Playboy: Details, details. A land developer in Arizona was ordered to stop selling lots when it was discovered that the property reports he had filed were incomplete. For one thing, he neglected to mention that the tracts were located in the immediate area of a bombing range.

THE RIO GRANDE SIERRAN

Published monthly by the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club, P.O. Box 25271, Albuquerque, N.M. 87125. Sierra Club annual dues are \$15 (1st year \$20) of which \$1.00 is for subscription to The Sierran for all members residing in New Mexico and the El Paso area. Subscription rate for non-members is \$2.00. Please send remittance to Sherron Kirkpatrick, Treas., 228 El Conejo, Los Alamos NM 87544. Although members receive The Sierran as part of annual dues benefits, we would appreciate a donation to help defray the cost of publication. Send to treasurer Sherron Kirkpatrick, at above address.

Volume XII, No. 5

Send editorial material and letters, typed, double-spaced to: Shirley Alsop, Ed., The Sierran, 1305 Princeton St. S. S.E., Alb 87106, (268-8757) or Bill Bishop, Assoc. Ed., The Sierran, 705 Palomas S.E., Alb 87108, (266-0735).

ADOPT A ROADLESS AREA PROGRAM TO BE UP-DATED

Stealing a successful idea from Oregon, New Mexico/West Texas conservationist, including the Sierra Club, instituted the "Adopt a Roadless Area" program last year. This program has tried to involve more individuals actively in wilderness conservation, especially in helping with the actual wilderness study of potential areas in field.

It began January, 1974, with the sending out the "Adopt" questionnaire in the Rio Grande Sierran and other conservation newsletters. The spring '74 New Mexico/West Texas Wilderness Symposium pulled in over 200 participants and got the wilderness study effort in various regions of the state better organized. Study teams were formed and field trips planned into many de facto wilderness areas around our area. A number of detailed and helpful brochures and pamphlets were prepared to aid citizen conservationists in wilderness preservation work.

During the spring, summer, and fall of 1974, wilderfreaks dove into boundary studies of their favorite areas. Under the auspices of Don Lyngholm and Belva Christensen, the 4 Corners Wilderness Workshop presented some well prepared proposals on a number of BLM areas near Farmington. The Carson Region Group of the New Mexico Wilderness Study Committee, with Milo Conrad and

George Grossman at the helm, worked to finish up the Wheeler Peak Wilderness Additions, Cruces Basin, and others. Don Campbell of Central Clearing House led the troops in inventorying additions to the Pecos Wilderness. John Colburn and Marianne Smith of the El Paso area Sierra Club worked on additions to the White Mountain Wilderness. Many others from all around our area worked hard on their special areas too.

October, 1974, saw El Paso hosting the Guadalupe Escarpment Wilderness Workshop. Over 70 participants attended. This workshop formed the Guadalupe Wilderness Committee and elected Wes Leonard of El Paso as Chairman. Financial and other support from the Sierra Club and Central Clearing House were of major import to this workshop.

In November, Wilderness Workshops were held in both Socorro and Silver City under the auspices of the Socorro Wilderness Committee and the Gila Wilderness Committee, respectively. Study teams were formed to look into local areas of interest.



capitol-isms

The moratorium on FPC action on utilities applications to build two dams on the Middle Snake River -- thereby flooding all the main Hells Canyon -- expires Sept. 11, 1975. This moratorium was to give Congress time to consider preserving the Middle Snake River as a wild river. Congressmen from western Oregon and Washington, where the energy would be used, and from Idaho favor preserving the river. The people not only oppose the dams, but have proven that other alternatives work -- they have conserved energy so much that forecasts of future demands have had to be reduced this year! Your congressmen are being enlisted for support. Hells Canyon is not a local issue -- write Runnels and Lujan supporting H.R. 30.

RIDDLE: Who said "Man cannot live by pure air or water alone"? Who sought variances in air pollution controls "wherever necessary to social and economic development in the state"? Who pushed strip mining and premature

Rio Grande Chapt. of
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P. O. Box 25271
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87125

The Alamogordo Wilderness Workshop took place in December and formed the Alamogordo Wilderness Committee. Study teams were set up for such areas as the Carrizozo Malpais, Sacramento Escarpment, Little Dog, and Guadalupe Escarpment.

Throughout the winter, lower elevation areas managed by the BLM, Forest Service, and Park Service, were investigated by local wilderness study teams. The El Paso group of the Rio Grande Chapter Group played an especially active role here.

In February, 1975, the New Mexico National Resource Lands Workshop was held in Las Cruces. BLM primitive and natural areas were discussed at this workshop with an attendance of over 100. Study teams were established and field trips were planned for many of the roadless BLM areas. As a spin-off from this workshop, a nucleus for a Las Cruces Wilderness Committee was formed.

Last year, saw a great deal of work towards the preservation of our remaining wilderness accomplished--

oil shale development, while pursuing a massive coal leasing program on state lands. Who defended predator poisoning programs that were being phased out by the federal government? Who opposed further additions to the wilderness and wild river systems in his state and backed timber industry demands for increased logging on public lands? Who supported increased development (including a jet airport) in Grand Teton & Yellowstone Natl. Parks? ANSWER: *Wm. J. Hathaway, U.S. Representative*

Write letters to Montoya & Domenici urging them to vote against Hathaway's confirmation as Interior Secretary. Point to his past record of opposing conservation laws. Point to the Senate's task of overseeing presidential appointments.

Congressman Al Ullman recently sponsored H.R. 5005, creating a massive Energy Trust Fund of \$10 billion per year to support energy

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through the active participation of many concerned citizens in our area. It seems, though, that our task is growing with every year. The Forest Service has begun land use planning in earnest. It is through this process that they will develop recommendations for or against wilderness on the dozens of roadless areas identified a couple of years ago. The BLM is also involved in land use planning for the lands it manages. Again, the fate of hundreds of thousands of acres of de facto wilderness is being determined. Only action by you -- the individual citizen conservationist -- can insure that the wilderness values of the public land are not overlooked. In addition, your action is critical this year as Congress will take up proposals for the Aldo Leopold, Blue Range, and Gila Wilderness proposals. In each of these cases, the Forest Service has proposed decreasing the protected acreage, while the Sierra Club has urged protection of larger amounts of wild country.

If you have any questions about the "Adopt a Roadless Area" program, please let me know. Also, don't forget the WILDERNESS LEADERS CONFERENCE, May 16,17,18 at Camp Thunderbird in the Gila National Forest. For those of you who attended the spring '74 New Mexico/West Texas Wilderness Symposium and the following regional study group and hiking sessions and wish to become more involved, this is for you. Conceptual processes will be studied -- what an EIS is, how to use NEPA, what planning units will be studied, how the legislative process relates to wilderness, how to conduct a wilderness study, organization of local committees, and regional planning sessions. Plan to attend and thanks for all your help. If you did not receive the forms in the mail, please contact me at P.O. Box 157, Glenwood, NM 88039 (505-539--2645).

Dave Foreman, Vice-Chairman
Rio Grande Chapter of the
Sierra Club

research & development as well as price supports for synthetic gas. Also included are mass transit subsidies, environmental protection programs and research, and solar, geothermal, and energy conservation R&D. The Sierra Club strongly opposed this behemoth in a letter, concluding, "Having just eliminated a major subsidy to the energy industry (the oil depletion allowance), an energy trust fund would restore to the energy industry -- in monumental fashion -- a subsidy which would make the depletion allowance look insignificant by comparison."

Letters are urgently needed to Chmn. Ullman & members of House Ways & Means Comm. opposing creation of the Energy Trust Fund established in H.R. 5005.